

**Second annual report on the Workhouse Hospitals / Charles Cooke,
Medical Officer to the Workhouse.**

Contributors

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12, Princess Square,
PLYMOUTH.

21st January, 1896.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second annual report on your Workhouse Hospitals.

The number of cases treated during the past year is much in excess of the number for 1894 and, so far as I can learn, in excess of that for any recent years - the total for the hospitals alone being 963 as against 925 last year for the hospitals, asylums and bedliars' wards.

All the following figures refer simply to the Male and Female hospitals not including asylums & Bedliars' Wards.

| | Recovered | Relieved | Died | Under treatment | Total |
|---|-----------|----------|------|-----------------|-------|
| I. INCURABLE DISEASES including old age and its affections, consumption, cancer, etc. | | 103 | 62 | 73 | 248 |
| II. CHRONIC DISEASES capable of some relief, including Chronic chest complaints, Chronic bone and joint diseases & ulcerated legs &c. | | 79 | 21 | 48 | 148 |
| III. ACUTE and ORDINARY diseases | 421 | 80 | 12 | 54 | 567 |
| | 421 | 262 | 95 | 175 | 963 |

A medical register has been carefully kept, and the exact number

1938

1938

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to extend my second annual report on your
 Fortunate Hospital.

The number of cases treated during the past year is with in
 excess of the number for 1937 and, to the best of my knowledge, in excess
 of that for any recent years - the total for the hospital alone
 being 963 as against 920 last year for the hospital, including and
 bedlams, etc.

All the following figures refer simply to the hospital and bedlams
 hospital not including bedlams - Bedlams, etc.

| Recovered | Under Treatment | Total |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| 102 | 78 | 180 |
| 97 | 88 | 185 |
| 80 | 84 | 164 |
| 82 | 143 | 225 |

I. ACUTE and CHRONIC diseases

II. CHRONIC diseases capable of cure

III. INCURABLE DISEASES including old age and its associated conditions, consumption, cancer, etc.

of cases of any given disease may now be easily ascertained. It will be seen that whilst as in all Infirmaries the element of incurable disease figures largely, it is quite a mistake to suppose that the incurable and the aged form the bulk of the sick for a still larger number of ordinary curable cases pass through the wards in the course of the year, including such serious diseases as Pneumonia of which we have had 32 cases, Acute Bronchitis 20 cases, Rheumatic Fever 7 cases, Influenza and Bronchial Catarrh 70 cases.

We are better provided for the nursing of such cases as these than formerly but the hospitals are still understaffed.

The proportion of nurses to patients seems to be in general hospitals 1 to 10 or 15; in the leading Infirmaries about 1 to 14 or 15; - in smaller well equipped Infirmaries 1 to 18 or 20 while with us it is about 1 to 40.

The large and increasing number of cases of venereal disease is striking; no fewer than 140 persons suffering from them have been treated during the year or nearly 14 per cent of the total, and there can be no doubt that many of the diseases classified under other heads are directly or indirectly attributable to this cause so that it may be confidently stated that from 20 to 25 per cent of the disease in the Infirmary is of this character. It is, of course, a matter of great importance that the treatment of these cases should be thorough and one great difficulty is the absence of legal authority to detain them; persons in an infectious state from scarlet-fever or Small-Pox can be dealt with under the Infectious Diseases Act and some power is sadly needed to enable Boards of

1898

I have the honor to submit my second annual report on your
 Workhouse Hospital.
 The number of cases treated during the year is given in
 annex of the number for 1897 and, so far as I can ascertain, in excess
 of that for any recent years - the total for the hospital alone
 being 983 as against 925 last year for the hospital, including and
 soldiers' wards.
 All the following figures refer simply to the hospital and female

| Recoveries | Deaths | Total |
|------------|--------|-------|
| 101 | 73 | 248 |
| 97 | 48 | 145 |
| 80 | 24 | 104 |
| 208 | 143 | 351 |

I. ACUTE and ORDINARY diseases
 II. CHRONIC diseases capable of cure
 III. incurable diseases including old age and its attendant conditions, consumption, cancer, etc.

A further report has been prepared and is being prepared.

Guardians and other bodies to check the spread of the Contagious Diseases.

The treatment of Epileptic patients is another question worthy of consideration; we have had 18 cases in the hospitals and some 20 to 25 cases in the Asylums the past year; all the hospital cases and many of those in the asylums are capable of useful employment at intervals; but without special supervision they cannot be suitably employed at those outdoor occupations which are often the best for them.

The hospitals have been full the greater part of the year, and at times it has been a matter of difficulty to find room for fresh cases. If the number of admissions should shew any material increase the question of increased accommodation will have to be considered.

Improvements have been effected during the year in the hot water supply; in means of communication between the wards, and in the re-flooring of one of the childrens' wards and when the new Laundry arrangements are completed a better system as regards the hospital linen may be hoped for.

In conclusion I venture to suggest whether a small hospital committee could not be formed for the present year; there are many details connected with the work which would, I believe, be best dealt with by such a body.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Charles J. Cooke

Medical Officer to the Workhouse.

1904
 1898

I have the honor to submit my second annual report on your
 The number of cases treated during the past year is with in
 excess of the number for 1904 and, so far as I can ascertain, in excess
 of that for any recent years - the total for the hospital, however, and
 being 923 as against 920 last year for the hospital, and
 All the following figures refer simply to the male and female
 hospitals not including asylums & Bedlides, Warms.

| Recovered | Number | Total |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| 102 | 73 | 253 |
| 79 | 48 | 148 |
| 80 | 57 | 207 |
| 202 | 143 | 383 |

A further report has been submitted...