

Annual report : 1948 / Stone House.

Contributors

Stone House Hospital (Dartford, England)
Darenth & Stone Hospital Management Committee.

Publication/Creation

[Dartford] : [Stone House], 1948

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STONE HOUSE

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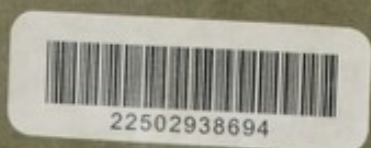
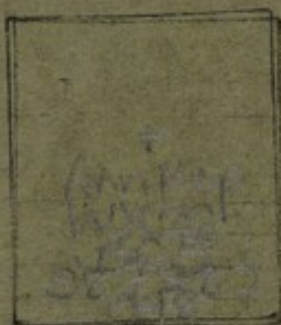


EIGHTY-THIRD
ANNUAL REPORT
1948



Presented to the

DARENTH & STONE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



E I G H T Y - T H I R D A N N U A L R E P O R T

BY THE

PHYSICIAN SUPERINTENDENT, STONE HOUSE.

April, 1949.

To the Darenth and Stone Hospital
Management Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the following Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

On the 1st January, 1948, there were on the books of the Hospital the names of 184 male patients and 342 female patients; total 526.

During the year 39 males and 64 females, of whom 1 male was a Temporary patient, and 28 males and 48 females were Voluntary patients, were admitted, making in all 629 patients under treatment.

Of this number there were discharged 29 males and 47 female patients, of whom 22 males and 37 females were Voluntary patients. Five females were transferred to other Mental Hospitals.

The deaths were 34 in number, 16 males and 18 females; the rate of mortality being 6.6 per cent. of the average number resident.

On the 31st December, 1948, there remained on the books the names of 178 males and 336 females; total 514 patients. Of these 118 patients were Voluntary, and 1 Temporary.

The following is a brief analysis of patients who were discharged during 1948. Of the total 76 discharged cases, 29 were males and 47 females. Twenty-seven (13 males and 14 females) were classified as recovered, 40 as relieved and 9 not improved, giving a recovery rate of 28 per cent. calculated on the direct admissions, 41 per cent improved; a total of 69 per cent. discharged, recovered and relieved.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The general health of the patients on the whole has been satisfactory. However, an outbreak of Flexner's dysentery occurred in the Infirmary ward in the autumn, and over a period of two months (September - November), twenty-one patients were infected, all cases being proven bacteriologically. The customary precautions and the accepted methods of treatment were carried out, and it was finally considered that a patient working in the ward kitchen, handling food, who was only found to be infected on routine testing, was a responsible agent in the dissemination of the disease.

Eight further cases of dysentery occurred during the year but these occurred in the Isolation block in Newstone House or amongst patients who had previously been infected.

Three patients died during or shortly following infection but in no case was dysentery considered to be the primary cause of death.

No fresh cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed during the year.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO: THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
FROM: THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

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17. [Illegible]
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19. [Illegible]
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21. [Illegible]

Ten serious accidents occurred (involving fractured bones), nine amongst females and one male. Six of these were fractured femurs. Three out of the 10 occurred as a result of being pushed by another patient or as a result of an altercation with another patient; the rest were accidentally determined.

The male patient referred to above, and who sustained a fractured femoral neck, died shortly afterwards. At the subsequent Inquest, H.M. Coroner returned a verdict of misadventure and the cause of death due to bronchopneumonia associated with uraemia due to chronic cystitis due to myoadenomatosis of the prostate.

Four major operations were performed at the hospital. Six patients had operations in general hospital and a number of patients were sent as out-patients to general hospital for diagnosis and treatment.

Mr. G.W. Lochtie continued to hold the weekly dental clinic, and Dr. T.G. Shand attended ophthalmic cases when required.

SPECIAL TREATMENT.

During the course of the year, an Insulin Coma Unit was established at Truscott House for the treatment of suitable Schizophrenic cases. The same Unit was used for modified insulin treatment. Nine patients have received full courses of insulin coma treatment and seven modified insulin.

Twenty-one patients received courses of Electro-convulsive therapy, and eight patients had a prefrontal leucotomy performed by Mr. G.C. Knight, the consulting neurosurgeon.

LABORATORY and MORTUARY.

The following investigations were carried out in 1948 :-	
<u>Faeces.</u>	
Typhoid and dysentery	922
Occult blood	2
T.B.	16
Other investigations	4
<u>Urine.</u>	
Typhoid and other organisms	113
Routine	1507
Vitamin C. estimation	8
Urea	5
Diastatic index	
<u>Blood.</u>	
Cell counts, haemoglobin etc.,	116
Differential Counts	87
Reticulocyte Counts	4
E.S.R.'s	58
Kahns	17
Cultures	3
Other investigations	7
<u>Blood Chemistry.</u>	
Urea	26
Sugar	20
Bromide	8
Van den Bergh	3
Cholesterol	1
<u>Sputum.</u>	
T.B. and other organisms	17
T.B. (cultures)	4
<u>Gastric Analysis</u>	22
<u>Agglutinations</u>	79
<u>Swabs</u>	8
<u>C.S.F.</u>	9
<u>Histology</u>	10
<u>Total -</u>	<u>3153</u>

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Fifteen post mortems were carried out.

X - RAYS.

With the X-ray plant considered too dangerous for use, X-ray examinations were either performed at West Hill Hospital, Dartford, or when necessary, Portable X-rays (British Red Cross) were utilised, and the patients concerned were thereby X-rayed at Stone House.

OUT-PATIENT ACTIVITIES.

A considerable number of patients 'on trial' or discharged from hospital care have attended the clinic at 5, Church Passage, Guildhall. There is no question, to my mind, of the usefulness of the work of this clinic in the rehabilitation and follow-up of patients.

Dr. Bernard Cates has continued his out-patient work at St. John's Hospital, Lewisham, and at the Livingstone Hospital, Dartford. I have continued my weekly out-patient clinics at the Royal Free Hospital and at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital. Dr. J. Pearse assists me at the latter hospital.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES.

Clinical staff conferences were instituted and held on most Saturday mornings.

During the latter part of the year, medical students of the Royal Free Hospital attended Stone House for clinical demonstrations given by myself.

Two clinical meetings organised by the local British Medical Association were held at the hospital :-

July 6th Dr. Worster Drought on Intracranial Tumours.

July 22nd Dr. P. Thompson Hancock on Carcinoma of the Stomach.

Publication : "The Role of Vitamin Deficiency in Nervous and Mental Disorders" The Medical Press March 10th 1948, by myself.

OCCUPATIONAL and RECREATIONAL THERAPY.

The number of patients attending the Occupational Therapy Centre has been satisfactory and has tended to increase during the year. Approximately, 30 to 50 patients of each sex have attended each week-day. Ward classes have been operative for some years past and although the activities in the female Admission ward and Ward 2 are satisfactory, there is still ample scope for improvement throughout the hospital as a whole. In essence, the improvements should be effected by an increase in suitably trained staff and a concomitant increase in materials. There would appear to be a strong case for increase in the establishment of the Occupation Therapy Department.

During the year, the Occupation Therapist has introduced physical training classes for the female patients and these have proved popular. Country dancing classes have been held each week, with male and female patients taking part. During the summer, Miss Giles commenced a beginners' class in Tennis. Indoor ball games have been introduced for less active patients. A musical afternoon has been held in the "Games Room" (of the Occupation Therapy Centre) every Monday for male and female patients, when games, old time dancing and singing form part of the activities.

The Occupation Therapist reports that new varieties of craft work have been introduced so that some 22 different crafts are now being taught at the Centre. The latest crafts to be taught are Catalin plastics, Rug and Table loom Weaving and coloured Lino printing.

LIBRARY.

The hospital library which was formerly housed in a small, dark room near the hospital entrance, has been removed to more spacious accommodation in the old 'Services' room. Shelves have been erected, suitable lighting installed, and the books have been reclassified. Tables and chairs have been provided, periodicals and newspapers increased, and the library has been open to patients at any time on weekdays. Much help has been provided by the Library department of the British Red Cross, and their system of allocation and distribution of books both at the centre, and through the wards, has been adopted. A ward trolley was provided and other equipment. Under the loan library scheme and by means of the 'request book', it is possible for a patient to make an individual request for a special book he or she desires to read. The stock of books has been augmented by supplies provided by the British Red Cross.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Cinema shows have been held weekly throughout the year. Dances and whist drives are held on alternate weeks except in the summer months. In the winter the Brentstonian Football Club provide a football match every Saturday afternoon, and in the summer the hospital cricket team had a full fixture list. Outings were organised for the patients - theatre parties in the winter and coach drives in the summer. A successful garden party was held in June which was attended by the Chairman and other members of the old Visiting Committee.

The following summarises some of the entertainments provided during the year :-

10th May	.....	Guildhall Players "Bird in Hand".
25th "	.....	Dartford Musical Society (Mrs. Lindsey's Quartette).
11th June	.....	Dartford Presbyterian Church Players Three One Act Plays.
16th July	.....	Dartford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society "100 Years Old".
16th October	.....	Mr. Pilling's Concert Party.
6th November	.....	New Theatre Group - Three One Act Plays by George Bernard Shaw.
10th November	.....	City of London Police Choral Society.
24th November	.....	Concert - Women's Voluntary Services.
16th December	.....	Dartford Amateur & Dramatic Society - "The Man who came to Dinner".
4th December	.....	Recital given by Students of Guildhall School of Music.
13th December	.....	Recital given by Maurice Cole - (Council for Music in Hospitals).
20th December	.....	Mike Rogan's Concert Party - (Women's Voluntary Services).

FARM and GARDEN.

The Farm and Garden operations throughout the year have been very satisfactory, partly owing to the ample rainfall. Apples and plums were plentiful and the soft fruit of satisfactory quality.

Potato crops were very good, and the corn and hay crops satisfactory. The supply of milk decreased towards the end of the year with the change over to the T.T. attested herd, and there was a period of two months with no supply coming direct from the farm (whilst the buildings were being cleaned and renovated preparatory to receiving new stock). Sheep and pigs did very well and supplied the hospital with home killed meat. The poultry had a very good year, the supply of eggs being above average.

ENGINEER and CLERK OF WORKS DEPARTMENT.

A considerable amount of maintenance and repair work has been carried out at the Farm, such as new roof lights and windows, made and fixed as required, to the main cowshed. The tiled roof of the same cowshed has been extensively repaired and retiled.

External redecorations have been effected to the Administrative Section, the Laundry, and at the same time repairs have been carried out to the roof lights and windows at these sections.

The wardrobes which were previously installed at Hill House have been refitted in The Hollies.

The Annexe Dayroom and Kitchen have been completely redecorated. A new lavatory has been installed in the Dormitory.

In the Male Dormitory private washing accommodation has been provided for Student Male Nurses.

The whole of the Male Hospital has received internal redecoration.

Additional storage space has been provided in the General Stores basement for stationery.

Additional Office accommodation has been provided in the Administration Section.

A large section of the Deputy Superintendent's flat has been redecorated.

The main corridor leading from the Administration Section to the Dining Hall has been redecorated.

The dormitory of the Female Infirmary has been completely redecorated and the floor has been re-surfaced.

The kitchen and cupboards at Newstone House have been redecorated.

One single room of female Ward 4 has been replastered and redecorated.

A considerable amount of repairs has been effected to the Cottage property, namely repairs to roofs, internal and external redecorations, and new fireplaces where required.

Repairs and re-surfacing to the road from the greenhouses to Upland Villas has been carried out.

The full-sized Bowling Green for the use of patients and staff has been completed and is in use.

The maintenance work in connection with the Engineering Plant, Laundry Machinery, Electrical Services, etc., and the daily repairs to the fabric, ward repairs and furniture renovations have been fully maintained, often under great difficulty owing to the shortage of materials.

The following works are in progress at the date of this Report:-

One Cowshed at the Farm is being completely remodelled, and adjacent to same a new Dairy is being fitted up with steam sterilizing appliances.

Works contemplated at the time of this Report :-

The reinstatement of Bow Arrow Villa to its original condition, after War damage.

The construction of an office in the Main Central Stores.

The provision of a bathroom for the Student Male Nurses.

...the supply of eggs being above average.

REMARKS AND OTHER FACTS CONCERNING THE

The following remarks are made in connection with the results of the work done during the year 1911. The first of these is that the supply of eggs was above average. This was due to the fact that the birds were in better health than in previous years. The second remark is that the birds were in better health than in previous years. This was due to the fact that the birds were in better health than in previous years.

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The provision of electric lights over ten beds in the Nurses' Home.

Mr. C.E. Clayton was appointed Group Hospitals Engineer during the period under review.

VISITORS.

On the 31st May, 1948, two Commissioners from the Board of Control paid their annual statutory visit.

S T A F F.

CHANGES IN SENIOR STAFF.

The vacancy of Senior Assistant Psychiatrist was filled on the 15th March, 1948, when Dr. J. Pearse was appointed to this post.

During the course of the year, the following medical men acted as locum tenens :- Dr. C.F. Norris, Dr. B.M. George, and Dr. R.T.S. Thompson.

The following members of the Nursing staff retired on pension:-

Mr. Alfred William Fletcher, Chief Male Nurse, after 36 years service.

Mr. George Ernest Young, Charge Nurse, after 29 years service.

Mrs. Edith Mary Larke, Ward Sister, after 32 years service.

Miss Edith Ann Quinn, Ward Sister, after 25 years service.

Miss B. Conway, Night Superintendent since the 23rd August, 1944, resigned on the 29th September, 1948, and was succeeded by Mrs. K.H. Osgood.

Mr. Thomas John Phillips, late Chief Male Nurse at the Isle of Wight Mental Hospital, was appointed Chief Male Nurse to this Hospital on the 4th December, 1948.

On the 31st July, 1948, the Revd. Walter H. Richards, M.B.E., resigned his post as Non-Conformist Chaplain, on his being appointed to overseas work. He was succeeded by the Revd. L.F. Webb.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES AMONGST NURSING STAFF.

February

G.N.C. Preliminary examination Part I Nurse N.E.M. Lewis.

G.N.C. Preliminary examination Part 2 Nurse R.M. Johnson.

G.N.C. Preliminary examination
Parts I and 2 Nurse Hannah Drinan.

June.

G.N.C. Preliminary examination Part I Nurse R.M. Johnson.

October.

G.N.C. Preliminary examination Part I Nurse Ronald N.
Butcher.

G.N.C. Preliminary examination Part 2 Nurse J. Owen.

THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JANUARY 1, 1900
SIR:
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, in relation to the matter of the appointment of a chaplain to the 1st Cavalry, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. [Signature]

December.

Irish G.N.C. Final examination in
Mental Nursing Nurse Margaret Gleeson.

November 1948.

R.M.P.A. Final examination Nurse Frederick Mossop.

HEALTH OF STAFF.

The general health of the staff has been satisfactory. One student nurse developed pulmonary tuberculosis. She has responded to treatment and has been able to resume her duties.

One student nurse and two part-time nurses contracted dysenteric infection.

SHORTAGE OF FEMALE NURSING STAFF.

Although the Annual Reports from a number of other mental hospitals indicate some improvement in the recruitment of female student nurses, there has been no such tendency at Stone House. Although a large number of part-time staff fill the breach the situation constitutes a very serious problem for the future. The proportion of full-time staff to total female nursing staff is approximately 1 : 4, and these figures speak for themselves. Thus, when vacancies occur for senior nursing posts in the hospital in the future there will be few and not enough suitably qualified staff at the hospital to fill them. A small number of German girls seeking nursing tuition and experience in this country have been engaged at the hospital, in the first instance on the domestic staff.

STAFF SPORTS and SOCIAL CLUB.

The Staff Sports and Social Club has had an active year. The present membership is 158, an increase of 26 during the year. Dances, whist drives and social evenings have been held at frequent intervals. Theatre parties have also been arranged. The Indoor Games Section provided two teams for the competition promoted by the Dartford Games Association, thus ensuring a home match each week. Badminton matches have also been played on a home and away basis. Reference has already been made to the Football and Cricket Sections. The staff look forward to the provision of adequate facilities for Tennis in the future.

CONCLUSION.

I would like to record my appreciation to my medical colleagues, to the heads of departments and to the staff generally for their co-operation during the past year. I wish to make special reference to Mr. L.T.Feldon, Secretary, who has continued to freely administer counsel and advice based on his wide experience. In retrospect, the change over as from July 5th has proved a smooth one as far as the hospital generally is concerned.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to you Mr. Chairman, and to all the Members of the Darenth and Stone Management Committee for the guidance and help given to me.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

S.W. Hardinge

Physician Superintendent.

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