

Annual report : 1949 / Stone House.

Contributors

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

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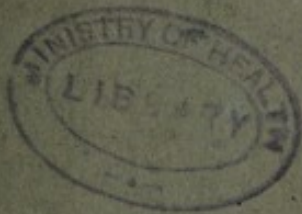


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STONE HOUSE



EIGHTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT
1949



Presented to the

DARENTH & STONE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

PHYSICIAN SUPERINTENDENT, STONE HOUSE.

May, 1950.

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, 1949.

On the 1st January, 1949, there were on the books of the Hospital the names of 178 male patients and 336 female patients; total 514.

During the year 48 males and 91 females, of whom 3 males and 1 female were Temporary, and 36 males and 74 females were Voluntary patients, were admitted, making in all 653 patients under treatment.

Of this number there were discharged 29 males and 74 females, of whom 26 males and 59 females were Voluntary patients, 1 male and 2 females were transferred to other Mental Hospitals.

The deaths were 34 in number, 13 males and 21 females, the mortality rate being 6.7 per cent. of the average number resident.


On the 31st December, 1949, there remained on the books the names of 183 males and 330 females; total 513 patients. Of these 131 were Voluntary.

The following is a brief analysis of patients who were discharged during 1949. Of the total 105 discharged cases 29 were males and 74 females. 47 (12 males and 35 females) were classified as recovered, 47 as relieved and 9 not improved, giving a recovery rate of 34 per cent. calculated on the direct admissions, 34 per cent. improved; a total of 68 per cent. discharged, recovered and relieved.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The general health of the patients has been very satisfactory. A noticeable change has been evident in the increase in weight of patients probably associated with increased dietary intake. No severe infectious diseases have been encountered and the total number of patients excreting Dysentery organisms during the year has been only 9 (8 females and 1 male). No serious epidemics have occurred.

The incidence of Tuberculosis has been low (see also below with regard to the Mass Radiography report). One female patient died as a result of tuberculous infection and 1 male patient was found to have died as a result of massive spread of this disease. Two male patients were admitted suffering from the disease - 1 has since been discharged home, and the other has made a good recovery from



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his nervous illness and was subsequently transferred to Sanatorium for further treatment of the tuberculous disease. The gross total of known sufferers from this disease amongst the patients at the end of 1949 is 5 (4 males and 1 female), and precautionary measures with regard to prevention of spread of infection are being undertaken.

The number of serious accidents (involving fractured bones) was 11 but of these only 2 were fractures of the femur, which compares favourably with the number reported last year (6).

No inquests were held by H.M. Coroner during the year.

Four major operations were performed at the hospital whilst 1 patient was transferred to a general hospital for operative treatment. A number of patients were referred to West Hill Hospital, Dartford, for specialist opinion and treatment.

Mr. G.W. Lochrie has continued to hold a weekly dental clinic on Wednesday mornings, whilst Dr. T.G. Shand continues to attend the hospital once monthly to see ophthalmic cases.

SPECIAL TREATMENT

The departments of the hospital concerned with special treatments have been active during the year. Twenty-three patients (10 males and 13 females) have received deep insulin therapy; 3 patients modified insulin, 5 patients modified insulin plus electric convulsant therapy. Fifty patients (38 females and 12 males) have received courses of electric convulsant therapy, whilst 2 patients (1 male and 1 female) have been treated with electric convulsant therapy modified by premedication with decanethonium iodide - a recent advance of considerable magnitude in psychiatric therapy. Ten patients have been treated by prefrontal leucotomy, 8 of these being female patients.

The results of such special measures are not easy to collate with the general measures adopted at the hospital in the general regime. On the whole the results of such therapy have been satisfactory and in many cases shock therapy has clearly hastened the patient's recovery and in some instances has probably even saved life.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY.

In December 1949 a Mass Radiography Unit visited this hospital and during a period of 2 days made a rapid and comprehensive survey of the patients and staff at Stone House. 75% of the total staff and 90% of the patients were submitted to X-ray examination. The 'abnormals' were submitted to a more intensive examination on a larger screen, and 'suspicious cases' were evaluated in consultation with the chest physician. No member of the male or female nursing, or other staff have been ascertained to be suffering from tuberculosis by this modern means. Likewise, and rather surprisingly, no member of the female patients has been ascertained to be tuberculous by the enquiry. On the other hand on the male side 9 patients out of a total of 169 radiographed were found to have abnormal findings and after careful scrutiny and examination, 2 of these were found to be tuberculous.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It also mentions the scope of the study and the limitations of the study.

The second part of the paper discusses the methodology used in the study. It mentions the data sources and the data collection methods used in the study.

The third part of the paper discusses the results of the study. It mentions the findings of the study and the conclusions drawn from the study.

The fourth part of the paper discusses the implications of the study. It mentions the practical implications of the study and the theoretical implications of the study.

The fifth part of the paper discusses the limitations of the study. It mentions the limitations of the study and the limitations of the study.

The sixth part of the paper discusses the conclusions of the study. It mentions the conclusions of the study and the conclusions of the study.

The seventh part of the paper discusses the recommendations of the study. It mentions the recommendations of the study and the recommendations of the study.

The eighth part of the paper discusses the future research. It mentions the future research and the future research.

The ninth part of the paper discusses the acknowledgments. It mentions the acknowledgments and the acknowledgments.

The tenth part of the paper discusses the references. It mentions the references and the references.

The eleventh part of the paper discusses the appendices. It mentions the appendices and the appendices.

The twelfth part of the paper discusses the index. It mentions the index and the index.

The thirteenth part of the paper discusses the glossary. It mentions the glossary and the glossary.

The fourteenth part of the paper discusses the bibliography. It mentions the bibliography and the bibliography.

The survey on the whole proved to be reassuring with regard to the possible dangers of 'hidden' tuberculous infection in the hospital. The female side has been to all intents and purposes provided with a 'clean bill', whereas the incidence of infection on the male side is definitely a factor, but probably of less significance and import than in the average mental hospital.

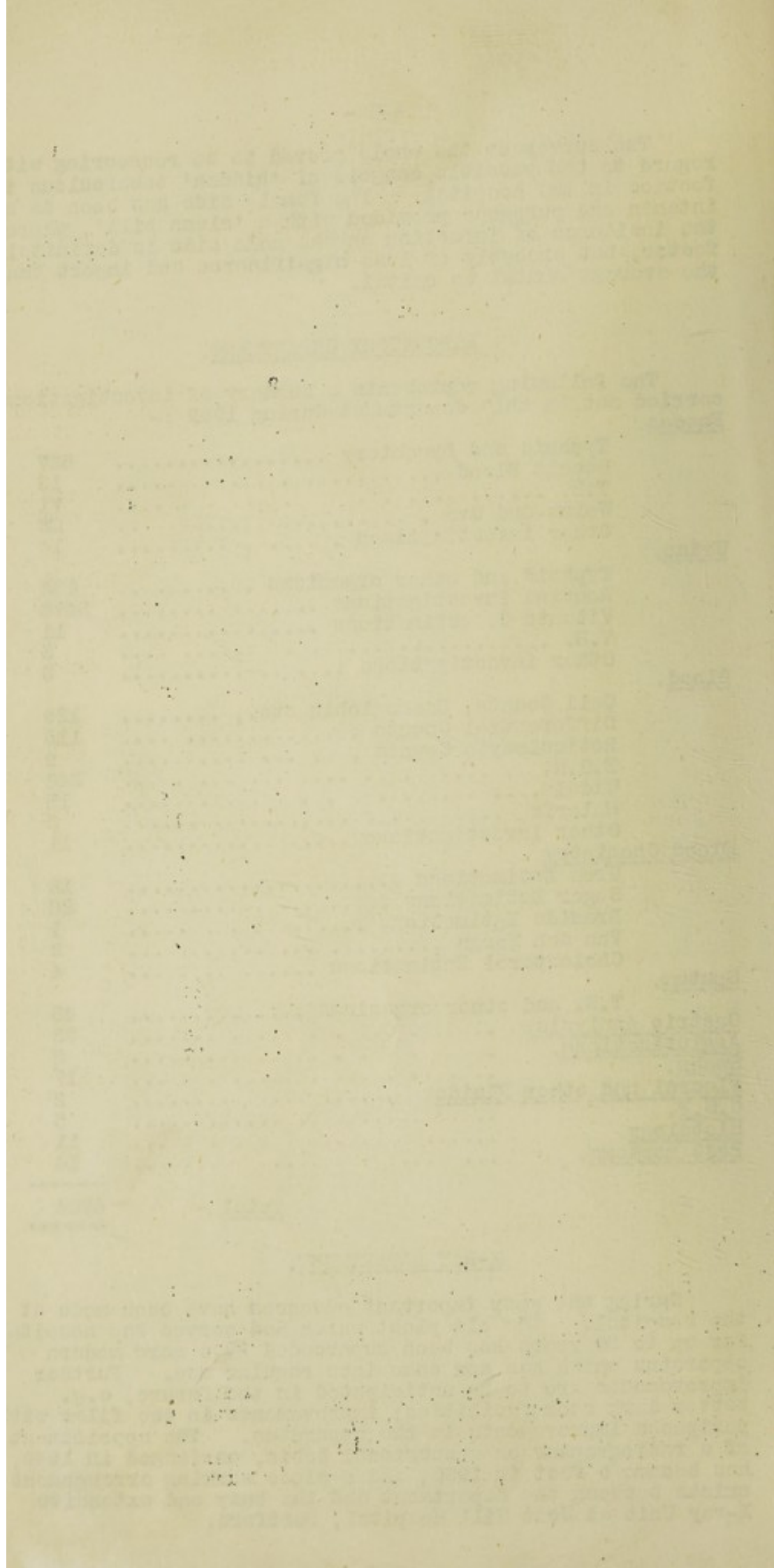
LABORATORY DEPARTMENT.

The following represents a summary of investigations carried out in this department during 1949 :-

<u>Faeces.</u>	Typhoid and Dysentery	527
	Occult Blood	13
	T.B.	71
	Worms and Ova	22
	Other investigations	14
<u>Urine.</u>	Typhoid and other organisms	132
	Routine investigations	5478
	Vitamin C. estimations	11
	T.B.	3
	Other investigations	3
<u>Blood.</u>	Cell Counts, Haemoglobin etc.,	129
	Differential Counts	116
	Reticulocyte Counts	9
	E.S.R.	248
	Widal	15
	Malaria	3
	Other investigations	11
<u>Blood Chemistry.</u>	Urea Estimations	12
	Sugar Estimations	28
	Bromide Estimations	1
	Van den Bergh	2
	Cholesterol Estimations	4
<u>Sputum.</u>	T.B. and other organisms	43
<u>Gastric Analysis.</u>	.....	32
<u>Agglutinations.</u>	.....	8
<u>Swabs.</u>	.....	17
<u>Pleural and other Fluids.</u>	.....	2
<u>C.S.F.</u>	.....	5
<u>Histology.</u>	.....	11
<u>Post mortems.</u>	.....	14
<u>Total -</u>		<u>4984</u>

X-RAY DEPARTMENT.

During the year important advances have been made at the hospital. The old plant which had served the hospital for up to 30 years has been superseded by a more modern apparatus which has now come into regular use. Further improvements are to be anticipated in the future, e.g. better dark room facilities; improvements in the films with peripassu improvements in the apparatus. The appointment of a radiographer on a sessional basis, envisaged in 1949, has become a fact in 1950, and a close working arrangement exists between the department and the busy and extensive X-ray Unit at West Hill Hospital, Dartford.



OUT PATIENT ACTIVITIES.

During 1949 Dr. Bernard Cates has continued his out-patient clinic at St. John's Hospital, Lewisham, and owing to the increased work at that hospital has had to increase the weekly sessions. He continues to be responsible for the psychiatric out-patient department at the Livingstone Hospital, Dartford.

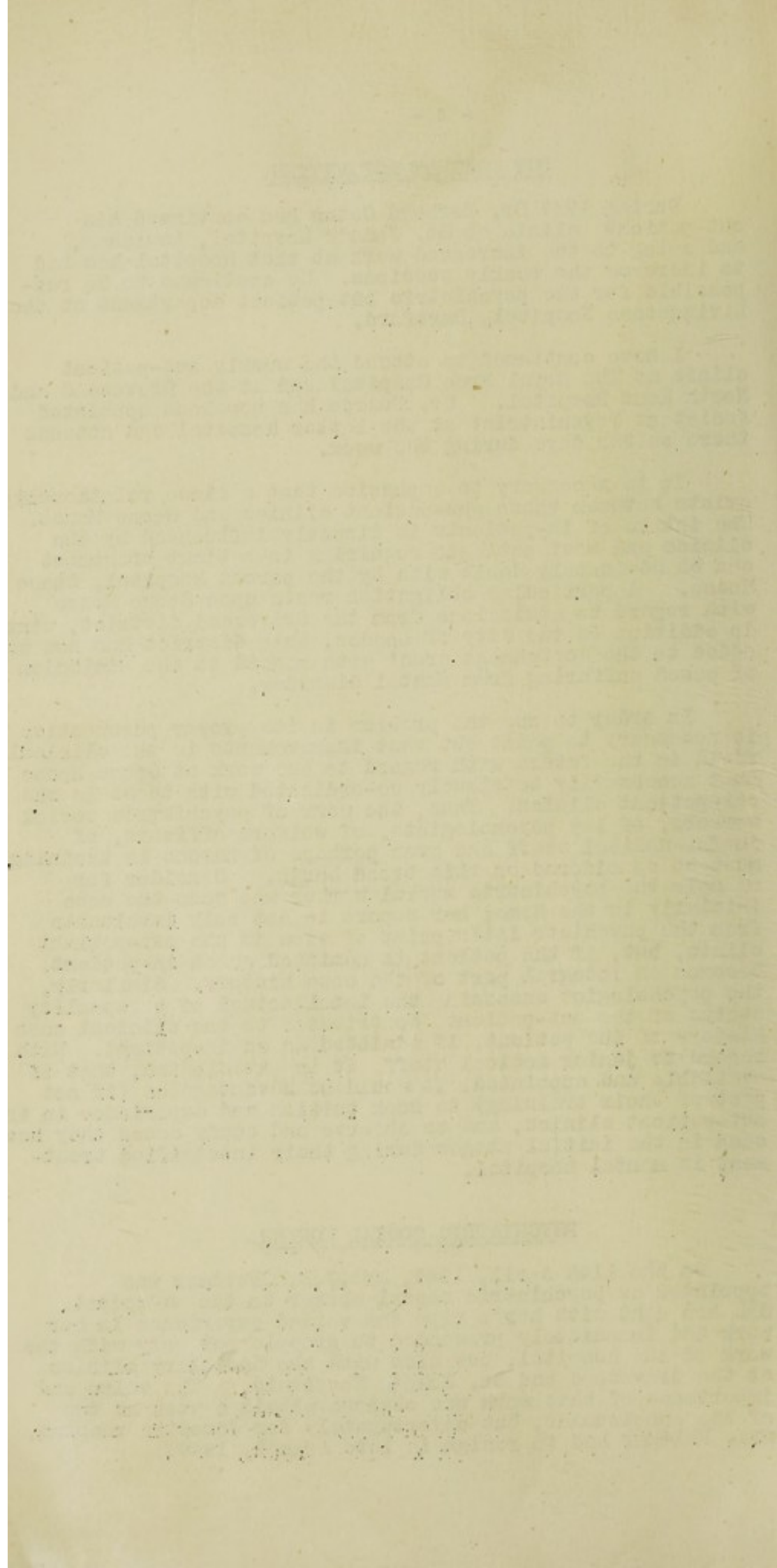
I have continued to attend the weekly out-patient clinic at The Royal Free Hospital and at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital. Dr. Pearce has now been appointed Assistant Psychiatrist at the latter hospital and attends there on two days during the week.

It is necessary to emphasise that a close relationship exists between these out-patient clinics and Stone House. The intake of in-patients is directly influenced by the clinics and most patients requiring in-patient treatment can be adequately dealt with by the parent hospital, Stone House. A particular obligation rests upon Stone House with regard to admissions from the Gravesend district, since in addition to the City of London, this district has now been added to the 'catchment area' with regard to the admission of cases suffering from mental disorder.

In order to see the problem in its proper perspective it is necessary to point out that improvements in the clinical field in the future with regard to the work at Stone House must necessarily be closely co-ordinated with those in the out-patient clinics. Thus, the work of psychiatric social workers, of lay psychologists, of welfare officers, of junior medical staff and even perhaps of nurses in training, must be considered on this broad basis. Consider for example the psychiatric social worker who sees the case initially in the home; her report is not only invaluable from the psychiatrist's point of view in the out-patient clinic, but, if the patient is admitted as an in-patient, becomes an integral part of the case history. Similarly, the psychologist assessing the intellectual or personality status of the out-patient, contributes to the clinical case history of the patient, if admitted as an in-patient. With regard to junior medical staff, it is anticipated, that if available and appointed, it would be advantageous (if not part of their training) to seek tuition and experience in the out-patient clinics, and to observe and study cases they have seen in the initial stages during their intensified treatment in mental hospital.

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER.

On the 11th April, 1949, Mrs. J.E.M. Feldmar was appointed as psychiatric social worker to the hospital. She brought with her a ripe and varied experience in her work and immediately proceeded to grapple not only with the work of the hospital, but also with the ancillary clinics at the Gravesend and St. John's Hospitals. The value and importance of this work was obvious within a week or two of the appointment, but unfortunately for domestic reasons, Mrs. Feldmar had to resign in late August, 1949.



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES.

On the 9th December, 1949, a meeting of the local Branch of the British Medical Association was held in the Recreation Hall, on the subject 'Angina Pectoris'. An illustrative film was shown on this occasion.

Publication : "Neufosis in General Practice"
Mag.Roy.Free Hospital School of
Medicine, VI, 2, 1949, by myself.

OCCUPATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL THERAPY.

This department has continued to progress during the year and the number of patients attending classes in occupational therapy has steadily increased. In May, 1949, a reorganisation was effected by moving the main male department upstairs in the Occupational Therapy block. This change has proved to be of advantage particularly in that classes of both sexes are now under closer surveillance by the Occupational Therapist. A further advance has been effected by the creation of a separate and new occupational therapy class for more retarded and difficult types of male patients on the ground floor of the Occupational Therapy block. The staff nurse in charge of this sub-department is producing some promising work despite difficulties. It is most encouraging to see patients who were formerly lackadaisical or even idle, now performing useful work.

The number of crafts has been increased, book binding, cloisonne work and French polishing being amongst the new crafts recently introduced. A total of 28 crafts are now being taught in the department.

Social and musical afternoons continue to be popular and are well attended.

A successful sale was held in the department during the summer.

The general comment made in the last report still applies, viz. that better and more varied work is to be anticipated with increase in establishment, in tools and in accommodation.

LIBRARY.

The library department continues to be active in the life of the hospital and staff as well as patients have continued to utilise its services. A feature of the library is that it is open for patients daily between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. although books can only be exchanged at limited periods when the librarian is present. Several willing male patients assist in the organisation of the work of this department. A number of modern literary works have been purchased and added to the library stocks. Further improvements are to be looked forward to in the future. I would like to feel that any patient at Stone House had the same opportunities with regard to library facilities as any citizen outside of hospital and can see no reason why this state of affairs should not, in due course, come about.

ADULT EDUCATION SCHEME.

After consultation with the Head of the local Technical College in the Spring of 1949, a programme of lectures was inaugurated for the Autumn season of 1949. Weekly classes were arranged for the patients at the hospital, lectures being provided by experts under the Kent Education Committee scheme in various subjects. The following were chosen as suitable subjects after due deliberation - Musical Appreciation, Drama and Dramatic Art, Literature and Civics. Each lecture lasted some one-and-a-half hours. The attendances were gratifying and suitable patients undoubtedly appreciated this completely new departure and innovation. The Musical Appreciation course with its practical side showed the greatest response, but the interest in Civics ran a close second and interestingly exemplified the need for some dynamic contact between patients and the outside world. It must be emphasised that 1949 is the inaugural year of this scheme which promises to bear much fruit. There are so many activities in the intellectual and practical sphere which can now it seems be brought to the very door of the patient who must have been awaiting such an opportunity perhaps for many years.

PATIENTS' SOCIAL CLUB.

A general meeting between patients and members of the senior nursing, medical and administrative staff was held in October and a patients' social club was inaugurated. An outline of the envisaged scheme was presented to the patients, who thereupon took matters into their own hands and elected their own committee, chairman and secretary. The social club has since that time met regularly on evenings over the week-ends (as no other day during the week has been available). Their general activities have consisted of whist drives, discussions, various competitions, table tennis, darts, and community singing. The patients have greatly appreciated the generous grant towards their activities made so expeditiously by the Management Committee. The club has many potential uses in the future. They have already made for example suggestions with regard to books desired in the library. They are arranging a 'summer programme'. They will appreciate the use of the new electrical gramophone for recitals and dances.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

During the year, entertainments for the patients have been increasing. On an average, the patients enjoy a weekly film and stage show during the winter months, and in addition have a dance or whist drive (alternate weeks). A detailed list of stage shows has not been reported this year. The hospital has had at its disposal the services of a number of organisations such as the New Theatre Group, the Old Dartfordians and the Guildhall Players, who have provided some excellent plays; the Council for Music in Hospitals, which has provided high class musical entertainment in the form of piano, song recitals, chamber music and choir performances; the Crayford Municipal Musical Society, the Dartford Symphony orchestra, Mr. S.T. Ryder's Light Orchestra and the Brenda Farrell Piano Trio, who have supplied many splendid musical evenings; and the Women's Voluntary Service who have been responsible for a number of concerts. I would like to make special

reference to the link which appears to have been established with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. It is to be hoped that the students of their preparatory school at Highgate will continue to provide shows at the hospital in the future, at least once each year.

FARM AND KITCHEN GARDEN.

The Farm and Garden operations throughout the year 1949 were moderately successful. The dry summer resulted in a good harvest of corn, hay, and particularly oats which yielded 10 qrs. to the acre. On the other hand, fruit and vegetables suffered owing to the very dry weather, but nevertheless, a fair supply was maintained.

The changing of the herd from Shorthorns to T.T. Ayshires is proving a success and the milk yield has increased.

Some very useful young stock are being reared.

HOSPITAL GARDENS AND PLAYING FIELDS.

Considerable improvements have been made, particularly in the outer gardens during 1949, which had suffered some regrettable neglect during the war years. The lawn facing the Dining Hall has continued to provide facilities for tennis for the patients, and the further central lawn adjacent to the Canteen has had to be made into a second grass court as the demand amongst the patients proved so popular. Croquet has been restarted on the lawns adjacent to the Hollies and the female Admission ward. A considerable amount of attention has been paid to the bowling green and cricket pitch. The football field has been fully utilised during the season - for the first time since the war as it had previously been ploughed up. The Sports Pavilion has reverted to its original use.

Some new flowering trees and shrubs have been provided as replacements in the Hollies garden.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT.

Bow Arrow Villa.

This Villa seriously damaged during the War has been almost completely restored to its original condition. The whole of the roof has been tiled. One sanitary annexe rebuilt and fitted with bath, lavatory basins, pedestal pans, and all services. All the ceilings have been renewed, and all damaged walls have been demolished and rebuilt, or rebonded and plastered. The necessary joinery-window frames and sashes, doors and frames, dresser and cupboards have been made and fixed. The damaged hot water system has been renewed. New fire places fitted where necessary. Complete new drainage system has been provided to the damaged section. New tiled floors laid where required. The internal and external redecorations are almost complete.

The Farm.

A sterilising room and milk cooling room have been provided, and the necessary drains connected to the main sewer. These two rooms and the two adjoining cowhouses have been completely redecorated.

Main General Stores.

The redundant cupboards and wood partition have been removed and a Stores office erected on the site, constructed with the materials recovered.

Male Dormitory.

A bathroom for the use of the Student Male Nurses has been provided in an existing lavatory. A four bedded room has been adapted as a supper room and kitchenette, fitted with sink, draining board, and gas hot plate, and the room redecorated.

Male Hospital.

A lavatory basin has been installed in the Sick Dormitory. Two emergency rooms, one bathroom, and one sanitary annexe have been redecorated.

Male Ward No. 2.

The whole of this Ward has been redecorated.

Newstone House.

A new lavatory has been built in the garden.

Occupational Centre.

A partition between two rooms has been removed for the purpose of providing a Pottery Room, a sink and shelves have been installed, and the room decorated. The sluice room has been converted into a staff lavatory.

The Annexe.

A lavatory basin has been installed in the sanitary section.

Female Ward No. 1.

A private room has been adapted as a Clinical room by the provision of a lavatory basin. The whole of this Ward including dayroom, gallery, sanitary section, kitchen, dressing room, office, and shoe store has been decorated.

Female Admission and Female Infirmary Wards.

A lavatory basin has been installed in each dormitory.

Main Kitchen.

The whole of the Kitchen has been redecorated.

Nurses' Home.

Smoke doors have been fitted to the staircase at ground and first floor levels. The small Recreation Room has been decorated.

Recreation Hall.

The whole of the stage scenery has been fire-proofed. The skylight made to open from stage level.

Sports Pavilion.

This Pavilion has been decorated throughout.

Dispensary Stores.

A fire-proof door and wall have been fitted.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

Several buildings have been re-wired for lighting, with a view to the ultimate change from D.C. to A.C. Buildings still requiring alteration are :-

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

Male 1 Ward, Male Hospital Ward, Male and Female staircases, Church, Recreation Hall, Front Hall, and Offices, Committee Rooms, Laundry, Dining Hall, General Stores, Cotton Lane Lodge, The Hollies, and Upland Villas (2).

Certain work has been carried out under fire regulations -

- (a) An iron door fitted to Dispensary Stores;
- (b) In Cinema projection room -
Lights altered with flameproof fittings; Trip gear installed to drop iron shutters over projection apertures from outside Cinema room.

Farm. A milking machine and sterilising plant have been installed. Cowsheds repaired and drinking bowls provided; steam boiler replaced, and tanks fitted for boiling pig feed. Also an electric shearing machine has been provided.

A heating system has been fitted in the emergency rooms in Male Ward 5.

Three new refrigerators have been installed in Male Hospital, Female Hospital, and Female Admission Wards, and six vacuum cleaners for use in Male and Female Wards. Three electric food trolleys are in use in Male Hospital, Female Hospital, and Female Admission Wards. Extra light fittings have been provided in the Nurses' Home. A new portable amplifier for gramophone records has been supplied for use in the Wards. A new heating boiler at Bow Arrow Villa is being installed.

VISITORS.

On the 18th January, 1949, Dr. T. R. Forsythe and Mr. N. C. Croft-Cohen, Commissioners from the Board of Control, paid their annual statutory visit.

S T A F F.

During the course of the year the following medical men acted as locum tenens :- Dr. T. R. S. Thompson, Dr. C. Key and Dr. G. M. Tucker.

(a) CHANGES IN SENIOR STAFF.

- - - - -

The following members of the staff retired on pension :-

Miss Emily Joy, Needlework Mistress,
after 34 years service.

Miss Agnes Dora Jarvis, Laundryroom Mistress,
after 35 years service.

Mr. Charles Edward Clayton, Hospital Engineer,
after 49 years service.

Mr. Frederick James Bennett, Deputy Chief Male Nurse,
after 37 years service.

Mr. Nathan Bourne, Deputy Charge Nurse,
after 36 years service.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

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REFERENCE

[illegible text]

DISCUSSION

[illegible text]

CONCLUSION

[illegible text]

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

[illegible text]

LITERATURE CITED

[illegible text]

APPENDIX

[illegible text]

Miss Elsie Milne McKinnon, Matron, left on the 17th August, 1949, to take up a similar appointment at Gartloch Mental Hospital.

(b) APPOINTMENTS.

Miss Maggie May P. Cameron, Matron,
7th September, 1949.

Miss Emily Taylor, Night Superintendent,
23rd February, 1949, and promoted to
Deputy Matron on 1st December, 1949.

Miss Dorothy Weekes, Laundry Superintendent,
6th October, 1949.

Mrs. Kathleen Barbara Harris, Needlework Mistress,
12th December, 1949.

Mr. Percy Horace Haydon, Resident Engineer,
1st November, 1949.

Mr. Glyndwr Jones, Deputy Chief Male Nurse,
22nd August, 1949.

(c) SISTER TUTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

The following summarises the examination results during the past year :-

G.N.C. Preliminary : Entries 4.
 Successful candidates 3.

G.N.C. Final : Entries 4.
 Successful candidates 4.

R.N.P.A. Final : Entries 1.
 Successful candidate 1.

(d) HEALTH OF STAFF.

The general health of the staff has on the whole been satisfactory. A male student nurse was suspected of having developed pulmonary tuberculosis, but subsequent investigation in Sanatorium was inconclusive; eventually he left the hospital to take up a post as a student nurse in a Sanatorium. A female German domestic also contracted tuberculosis and up to date is receiving her treatment under the supervision of a chest specialist at the hospital.

A notable advance has been effected during the latter part of the year, when by collaboration with the local chest physician, all members of the staff below the age of 30 were subjected to the Mantoux test - with their consent. Negative reactors have been retested and carefully screened from possible infection and will be offered later B.C.G. vaccination if persistently negative. Arrangements have been made whereby all newly joining members of the nursing and domestic staff will be offered the facility of Mantoux testing and of subsequent prophylactic inoculation if deemed necessary. These measures should theoretically prove of advantage in minimising the contraction of tuberculous infection in hospital from an infected patient.

When the British Government, in 1945, took the decision to send a mission to the Soviet Union, it was a decision of great importance.

MEMORANDUM

(a)

1. The mission was headed by Sir Bernard Moxley, who was then a member of the Foreign Office.

2. The mission was composed of a number of experts in various fields, including economics, science, and culture.

3. The mission's task was to study the Soviet Union's economic and social conditions, and to report on them to the British Government.

4. The mission's findings were of great value to the British Government, and helped to shape its policy towards the Soviet Union.

5. The mission's work was carried out in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill, and its findings were made available to the Soviet Government.

6. The mission's work was a landmark in the history of British-Soviet relations, and its findings continue to be of great value.

THE MISSION'S FINDINGS

(b)

The mission's findings were of great value to the British Government, and helped to shape its policy towards the Soviet Union.

1. The mission found that the Soviet Union's economy was in a state of stagnation, and that its growth rate was very low.

2. The mission found that the Soviet Union's social conditions were poor, and that its people were living in poverty.

3. The mission found that the Soviet Union's scientific and cultural achievements were impressive, but that its scientific research was largely confined to the military and space fields.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(c)

The mission recommended that the British Government should continue to maintain a policy of cooperation and goodwill towards the Soviet Union, and that it should continue to provide technical assistance to the Soviet Union in various fields.

A possible objection to this recommendation is that the Soviet Union's economy is in a state of stagnation, and that its growth rate is very low. However, the mission found that the Soviet Union's scientific and cultural achievements were impressive, and that its people were living in poverty. Therefore, the mission recommended that the British Government should continue to maintain a policy of cooperation and goodwill towards the Soviet Union, and that it should continue to provide technical assistance to the Soviet Union in various fields.

(c)

UNIFORMS.

A considerable change has been effected in the patterns of uniform for various grades of staff in 1949, after careful deliberation and consultation of the staff themselves, and in conjunction with our sister hospital, Darenth Park. To date uniforms for the senior members of staff only have been provided and these have proved more than satisfactory. In due time the new uniforms will be available for other members and grades of staff and it is anticipated that the change will be salutary, beneficial and generally appreciated by all concerned.

STAFF SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB.

The membership of the Club remains steady and reflects the continued interest of the staff. The total membership is over 150. The General Committee has met at regular intervals during the year, and through its sub-committees was responsible for directing the numerous activities of the Club as a whole. These included football, cricket, bowls, tennis, indoor games, badminton, dances, whist drives, socials and organised visits to theatres. It is hoped to form a table tennis section next season.

Sports Day : the combined sports day organised for both patients and staff was an outstanding success in 1949 and it is anticipated that a like event in 1950 will bring similar pleasure and enjoyment to all those who are able to participate.

Finances : the finances of the Club are healthy and the £100 grant from the Management Committee has been very greatly appreciated and will be utilised in the best possible way.

SPIRITUAL CARE.

Chaplain's Report.

The Chaplain's duties have been carried out by the Revd. A.A. Burrows as assistant chaplain working under the direction of the Revd. P.C. Collins, Vicar of St. Alban's, Dartford, who is the official Chaplain. The Revd. A.A. Burrows is the senior assistant Curate of St. Alban's, Dartford, and has had a long connection with the Hospital Chapel extending for more than twenty-five years.

Apart from attendances at Services, the Hospital has been visited 118 times during the twelve months ended December 31st, 1949, by the Clergy, and as a rule these visits are extended throughout the establishment.

Calls for special visits to individual patients have received due attention.

60 Services, either Matins, Evensong or the Holy Eucharist, have been held during the year on Sundays at 10 a.m. or 5.45 p.m. Special music is provided on Good Friday, at Easter and Christmas and for the Harvest Thanksgiving; this has included portions of Stainers' "Crucifixion", Carols and Anthems, and is provided by the

Hospital choir under the direction of Mr. L. Carter, the organist. The choir members are mainly on the staff of the Hospital. Their efforts and those of kind friends from outside are very much appreciated.

The Blessed Sacrament has been administered thirteen times to patients in the Wards and the total number of communicants in Chapel at the usual services was 1096.

Mr. G. E. Livernore, a patient, is Sacristan and carries out his honorable duties with much interest. Mr. Wiltshire, another patient, acts as Lecter.

Owing to Hospital staff exigencies, it is only possible to hold one service usually on Sundays.

The Chaplains have officiated at 6 Interments either in the Hospital or Stone Cemeteries.

The Revd. H. Boston and Messrs. F. Tanner, R. Norris, J. Ellisson and W. L. Parry, Lay Readers, have assisted in the Chapel Services at various times.

The total collections made during the year, in the boxes provided, amounted to £48. The money thus collected is distributed to various charitable organisations and is also used to purchase vestments etc., at the discretion of the Chaplain.

The average attendance at Chapel Services is about 80.

The Clergy acknowledge with much pleasure the courtesy and readiness to help given by all members of the staff, and especially they would like note made of the work and interest of the Organist and Choir.

P. CHURTON COLLINS. Chaplain.
ARTHUR BURROWS. Assistant
Chaplain.

Roman Catholic Chaplain's Report.

The Roman Catholic Chaplain held a weekly Service for the Catholic patients every Wednesday, in the morning at 9.15 o'clock on the first Wednesday of the month, and in the afternoon on the other weeks. Those patients who were unable to attend the Services were visited and interviewed in the wards each week. The Chaplain also visited the Hospital to see patients when they were ill, and administered the Last Sacraments when necessary.

Report of Nonconformist Chaplain.

During the year a Service was held regularly every Friday afternoon for Nonconformist patients. The average attendance was about 15. At the services the singing was accompanied by one of the patients and the various events in the Church calendar were observed. The carol service at Christmas time was appreciated. After the Service each week I have spent about an hour visiting the wards. In this work my visits have not been restricted to people whose names were on my list. I have tried to speak a word of help and cheer to all whom I have contacted. Special visits have been paid to people on sick note. It has also been a privilege to attend some of the concerts arranged for the staff and patients.

LEONARD F. WEBB. Chaplain.

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Report of Jewish Chaplain.

From February until December, 1949, I made one visit each month and one emergency visit. On these visits I held Services and met the Jewish patients. With kind permission, Matzos were permitted for my charges at Passover; and on our festivals of 'New Year' and 'Day of Atónement' my patients were granted a holiday from all duties. Some time ago I received an official request as to the need for kosher dietary, but on making inquiries I found there was no demand, and notified the authorities accordingly.

M. FLETCHER. Jewish Visiting Minister.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I would suggest that in general some worth while improvements have gone forward in the past year. It is clear that a great deal has to be done in the future, but the spirit is there, and complacency can be overcome. The bogey of staff shortages is still present and the problem is yet to be solved. This is not a mere matter of words but very hard fact in the running of the hospital. I consider that the chief nursing officers and their staffs have performed a highly creditable task in carrying out their increased duties during the past year. The pressure of work has, however, been felt throughout all departments of the hospital, but I feel confident that the great majority of the staff are not only meeting the increased demands but giving of their best. I would beg leave to especially thank my medical colleagues, and the heads of the administrative departments for their loyal co-operation, and particularly Mr. L.T. Feldon, secretary, for his unfailing support.

Finally, may I express my gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, and all the members of the Management Committee for that keen interest and understanding shown which is so much appreciated by all your staff.

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

S. W. Hardwick

Physician Superintendent.



