

# THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

The Trustees of the Hospital for Sick Children present the twenty-first annual report of the Hospital, and in so doing call the special attention of the public to the resume of the results attained and the amount of good accomplished in the twenty-one years during which the work has been carried on.

The Hospital opened on the 1st of March, 1875, in a small house, No. 31 Avenue street, Toronto, with six cots. The revenue for the first year was \$1,573.20, all expended on maintenance and treatment of 31 patients, being an average of \$50.77 for each. There is no data for the average daily number for the year, but it must have been small, not more than three or four patients.

From 1875 the record is one of progress in the various locations and capacity of the Hospital buildings, until it was established in its present handsome building in 1891, with accommodation for nearly 200 patients.

From 1875 to 1891 there had been spent in maintenance and professional treatment of 1,874 children in the Hospital, and in free advice and medicine, etc., to 2,042 outdoor patients, the sum of \$76,201.65. Apportioned amongst the fourteen and a half years, this represents an annual outlay of \$5,255.28, or a daily expenditure of \$14.40. Of the internal patients 741 were cured, 685 were improved and 378 were unimproved, and there were 70 deaths.

It is, however, from October 1st, 1891-96, that we can more plainly justify the wisdom and beneficence of a generous public in so freely giving to that "sweetest of all charities," the support of sick and suffering children.

The record already compared is one of fourteen and a half years; that which we have now to consider is one of six, viz., 1891-6.

From 1st October, 1891, to 30th September, 1896, the amount expended for maintenance and treatment of 2,717 children in the Hospital and for free advice and medicines, etc., to 10,135 outdoor patients, aggregated the sum of \$138,175.09, representing a yearly outlay of \$23,029.18, or a daily expenditure of \$63.00.

Of the intern patients 1,611 were cured, 365 improved, 128 unimproved, and there were 113 deaths.

The results of these twenty and a half years are summarized as follows:

Expended for maintenance and treatment of 4,591 intern patients, and for free advice and medicine to 12,177 outdoor patients the sum of \$211,352.59, being an average yearly expenditure of \$10,309.88, or a daily outlay of \$28.25.

Of these 4,591 intern patients there were cured 2,352; improved, 1,550; unimproved, 506, and 183 died.

Of this army of sick children, amounting to 16,768, including indoor and outdoor patients, much the greater number have been cured or improved, and but a very small percentage unimproved, while the proportion of deaths among intern patients is in the ratio of only 4 to 100.

Since its establishment, in 1891, in the present building on College street, the work of the Hospital has greatly extended, as shown by the figures for the last three years, viz.:

| Year   | No. of patients | Cost of maintenance | Average daily patients | Cost of patients per year | Daily per capita |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1894.. | 528             | \$26,242            | 80                     | \$328                     | 89.86c           |
| 1895.. | 534             | 25,481              | 78                     | 324                       | 88.76c           |
| 1896.. | 597             | 26,067              | 90.45                  | 288                       | 78.90c           |

The cost of maintenance would be one-fifth less if the debt were liquidated and the trust relieved of the interest thereon.

The reduction of expenditure per patient per annum effected in 1896 is due partly to lower prices obtained by an improved system of purchase, partly to a proper method of distribution, and also to a close oversight of the consumption of all supplies.

For the year ending September 30th, 1896, there were received from the city of Toronto 474 patients, and from other portions of the country 123. The aggregate number of days for the 474 city patients is 23,505, which, at the usual hospital rate of 40 cents per patient per day, comes to \$9,402. The grant received from the city is \$5,000 for the year; so that if the city were paying at the usual rate, it would have to provide a further \$4,402. A similar calculation for the past five years shows that if city patients had been paid for at the hospital rate, it would have involved an expenditure by the city of \$15,000 over and above the city grants. It is gratifying to note that the Hospital is increasing in the esteem of the people of the province. There is a certain amount of prejudice with