

departure. The committee of management had, therefore, to select as physicians men unconnected with other hospitals; nor was the rule altered till, in 1869, being anxious to secure the services of Burdon Sanderson as physician, who had retired from the office of assistant physician in 1863, they rescinded the rule. Since then the staff numbers many physicians who have for years been attached to general hospitals.

The Hospital for Consumption was established at Brompton in 142, and at first contained 30 beds. In 1846 there were 90 beds, and in 1856, 200. In 1882, the new building being completed, there were and are now 321 beds. The locality was first chosen, no doubt, from the consideration that it was then suburban, and surrounded by gardens and fields. This condition has long since ceased, for the growth of London has extended for miles farther west, and new buildings, for the most part of high class, have changed the character of the place. The soil is gravelly, no doubt of riparian origin, and the writer can remember seeing the tidal influence of the Thames shown in several narrow inland drains within a mile of the hospital. The idea was also that the air was sedative and relaxing, in accordance with the views then held regarding the treatment of phthisis.

The death-rate from phthisis in England and Wales in 1838 was 38 per 10,000 living; in 1894, as shown further on, it had fallen to 14.

There is some interest in studying the results of treatment in the hospital during its early years, and I give the following summary from two reports made in 1849 and 1863 by the physicians.

It may be stated at once that there was no attempt or pretence at any specific treatment of phthisis, but all cases were treated on the general principles of practical medicine, and this, of course, varied with the individual views of the physician in charge. The diet was good and nourishing in all cases, and extras, including luxuries, adapted to the capricious appetite of the sick—such as chicken and oysters—while wine and other stimulants were supplied in quantities ordered by the physician. The bedding was good, with special spring arrangements for the worst bedridden cases, and open fires in winter and comfortable sofas and chairs contributed no little to the comfort of the wards. The arrangements for ventilating, heating, and cubic space are noticed further on.

In studying these results it must be remembered that the cases admitted were in all stages of the disease, and for the most part presented well marked symptoms on admission. It was natural that an institution open for the first time for consumption, to which only subscribers gave admission, should be so filled. Here was found a refuge for incurable cases, and those of doubtful nature, which in after years were found in the wards were put aside, from charitable motives, to admit sufferers of the more urgent class.

The first medical report in 1849 gave the results of six years' experience of in-patients, the cases being divided into three stages—consolidation of lung, softening, and cavity. The results are stated as "relieved," "much relieved," and "arrested."