

ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT, 1897-98.

The Medical Staff is pleased to be able to present a gratifying report of the health of the children in this Home, through what has certainly been an unusually trying year among the children in the West end of the city.

When we remember that during this past winter, that dread disease of childhood, diphtheria, was so epidemic and severe, that most of the schools in the West end, and especially those in the immediate neighborhood of the Home, were closed for a longer or shorter period, and recall the fact that this Home escaped without a single case, and afforded the children the advantages of an uninterrupted school term, we feel that we have just reason to congratulate the Management and friends of the Institution on such a satisfactory showing.

A mild outbreak of chicken-pox (Varicella) in December among the nursery children—some twelve cases in all—and in April, some fifteen cases of measles, none of which involved any of the ordinary sequelae, sums up the extent of infectious diseases in the Home during the year.

This record is all the more gratifying in view of the fact, that many of the children in the Home are the orphans of parents who, dying of consumption, cancer, or similar more or less hereditary troubles, have transmitted to their offspring constitutions but ill adapted to resist the onset of disease. It is only just to add that their good record is largely due to the vigilance and energy of the matron, and her help, in the Home. They have learned thoroughly the value of the proverbial "ounce of prevention," and to their intelligent carrying out of the rules of Hygiene, we owe much of the health and comfort enjoyed by the children.

The thanks of the staff are due to the Managers for the pains they have taken to carry out such suggestions as we have found it advisable to make from time to time; their unvarying courtesy to us, and the untiring interest they display in the welfare of their charges, coupled with the generous devotion of their time and energies to the interests of the Home, has rendered the discharge of our duties both easy and pleasant.

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