

*To the members of Corporation of the Protestant Infants'
Home.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

When the last yearly Report was presented from your Medical Board, the hope was somewhat confidently expressed, that under better and more satisfactory hygienic conditions and surroundings, the mortality amongst the inmates [hitherto much too high] would almost certainly be diminished. It is, therefore a matter of considerable satisfaction, and a ground for encouragement, to find that such decrease has indeed occurred. In former years, the percentage of deaths has usually been about 24 or 25. This year, as will be seen by reference to the figures which follow, it has amounted to only 16.8.

There were 36 infants remaining in the Home at the beginning of the year, and 65 have been received since that time, making a total of 101 that have been under the medical care, or supervision of the Board during the year just closed.

During the year 17 infants have died, being a death-rate of 16.8 per cent. Amongst these it is to be borne in mind that several were brought in, in a hopelessly weak and diseased condition. It would perhaps be advisable, on another occasion, to exclude such from the general bill of mortality.

The numbers that died in each month were as follows:—

In April.....	0
May.....	0
June.....	1
July.....	6
August.....	2
September.....	2
October.....	2
November.....	2
December.....	0
January.....	0
February.....	1
March.....	1
Total.....	17