

mental disorder, namely, true ephemeral mania. The latter, a case of chronic mania, being far advanced in phthisis, was removed by her friends that she might die at home, and was written off our registers as unimproved.

DISCHARGES ON TRIAL.

Of discharges on trial there were 43, resulting as follows:—Permanently discharged, 36, viz., 28 recovered, 7 improved, 1 unimproved; returned to hospital, 4; still out on trial, 3.

It is to be regretted that the law as now constituted forbids the release on trial of any patient admitted from a gaol. Such cases are very often the ones for whom this system is best adapted, giving, as it does, the friends a chance to try them ere permanently discharged, with the option of returning them without the trouble and expense of getting out fresh papers should their behavior outside prove unsatisfactory. I would not for a moment advocate the expediency of discharge on trial for a patient who had been imprisoned for any major offence, but only those committed to gaol for short periods on account of minor offences, such as the non-payment of fines, vagrancy, etc.

DEATHS.

The death rate for the year was 8.23 per cent. on the number under treatment, an increase of 1.80 per cent. over 1896. This increase was not due to any unusual occurrence, but to the existence of wasting, incurable disorders, such as phthisis, epilepsy, general paresis, etc., or to old age, over one-fourth of those who died having reached or passed the allotted three score and ten years.

Phthisis was the most frequent cause of decease accounting for eight of the thirty-four deaths, while general paresis stood second as the cause of six, and old age third as giving rise to five. One patient succumbed, four days after admission, to an attack of acute delirious mania following measles.

The average time in residence of those who died was a little over two and a-third years, and their average age fifty-one and a-half years.

VACCINATION.

In view of the prevalence of small-pox in the city during August and September, it was deemed advisable, as a matter of precaution, to vaccinate all our patients and employees. Of over three hundred and fifty persons operated upon, 81 per cent. of the females and 70 per cent. of the males "took." In one successful case the patient had previously had an attack of genuine small-pox in infancy.