

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

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THE Directors, in submitting the Fourth Annual Report, avail themselves of the opportunity it offers of congratulating the friends of the charity on the success which has attended its operations through another year, and of pointing with satisfaction to the instance it furnishes of the alleviation of a large amount of suffering by an economic use of a small amount of funds, combined with gratuitous service.

At the last Annual Meeting, the Infirmary feature of the Institution had been only recently assumed ; and although enough had then been ascertained to augur hopefully for the future, time only could verify these expectations.

Now that the Infirmary has had a full year's trial, it is not too much to say that the results have justified every anticipation.

The advantages of having a building specially adapted to the treatment of this class of the afflicted poor, suitable diet, the enforcement of strict rules as to cleanliness and general habit, of being within easy and frequent access to the surgeon in critical cases, or in cases where surgical operations are needed, cannot be overestimated in their tendencies to bring about favorable results to the patients.

It certainly is no cause of satisfaction that the year shows a large increase in the number of patients, at the same time it serves to indicate the prevalency of diseases of the Eye and Ear, among the 'indigent poor, who, but for the existence of this and kindred Institutions, must have continued to suffer, resulting in many cases in blindness and helpless dependence.

The Directors refer to the accompanying report of the Surgeon for the detailed Statistics of the Medical Department of