

REPORT MEDICAL BOARD.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The Medical Board take pleasure in presenting the annual report for the year 1898-99.

Although on the whole the general health of the Home has been good, unfortunately during the year there have been several epidemics of contagious diseases, notably scarlet fever and whooping cough. These visitations impress us more and more with the necessity of an isolation ward, where suspicious cases might be kept under observation until a positive diagnosis could be made. Children also who are admitted should be isolated until the incubation stage of the most common contagious diseases has passed. You are all aware a child may be admitted in an apparently healthy condition, and yet have lurking in the system some little microbes which are steadily at work, and whose presence may not become manifest for some time after admission.

Notwithstanding all our precautions, disease will break out in our midst from time to time, and there is no doubt in the minds of the Board that in most instances the contagion has been brought into the Home through the carelessness and ignorance of friends of the children. But in the face of these facts, are we justified in permanently closing the Home from visitors? We think not. Love in the case of the poor to their offspring is just as strong as in the case of the rich, and it would seem cruel to prevent parents seeing their children.

We have said it before, and we repeat it, we can only do our best to prevent disease from entering our portals, and use every means to eradicate it when it does enter. The fight is oftentimes long and arduous, but in the end we generally succeed.

On looking over the causes of death, it will be noticed that the greater number occurred during the heated term of summer. This is one of the most trying periods of the year, especially on bottle-fed children.

We need a new and larger Home, with modern improvements. With better tools we can do better work. "All things come to him who waits." The new building and the modern improvements and the isolation wards will come. We have a Ladies' Committee, not a committee merely in name, but a working committee, one far-reaching in its influence. With the combined force of such a committee almost anything is possible.

The Board would take this opportunity of expressing the high esteem in which they hold Miss McIntyre, our matron, and how much they appreciate her untiring efforts to promote the interests of the Home. It was with sincere regret we saw her laid aside through illness. We extend to her a cordial welcome upon her return