

## GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF.

The foregoing statistical report read by the secretary of the acting staff suffices to show the continued advantages afforded the more needy population by the existence of this institution. The classes of cases treated are very numerous. In the indoor department, besides the more common ailments which do not incapacitate patients from finding their way to the dispensary, cases of fractured arms and ribs and acute inflammatory diseases of the lungs are met with. In the outdoor department many cases of severe acute disease have been treated, including a large number of cases of diphtheria. This last disease which, invades all ranks and districts is particularly prevalent owing to the filth, improvidence and ignorance of the poorest classes, and during the past year the outside staff have had almost uninterruptedly a number of cases upon their hands. In the earlier months of the year and coexisting with the epidemic of diphtheria came the expected and long heralded "influenza." This disease was for a time ripe among all classes and temporarily made considerable demands upon especially the outside staff. The drug most used in the treatment of influenza was "antipyrin" which happens to be an expensive article. This may partly account for an increased drug bill compared with other years.

In this connection it may be stated that it is undoubtedly true that new and especially expensive drugs should not be too readily prescribed by the staff until their value and necessity are well proved.

It is therefore suggested that the directors might pass a by-law to the effect that no new drug should be ordered by any physician or the dispenser until its addition to the dispensary pharmacopœa has been sanctioned by a majority of the staff at a meeting of that body.

Another matter of very considerable importance is the question of abuse of dispensary privileges.

The evils to the recipients arising from indiscriminate charity are becoming well known.

Free medical attendance given to people who are well able to pay a medical man is not charity. The effect is—must be, injurious to the character of the recipient, and give a false and poor idea of the value of medical service. Were this to