

Hospital might be kept solely for the admission of patients from outside—patients whom there would be some prospect of benefitting beyond ordinary custodial care. Being Protestants, their reception could hardly be avoided, but none the less it is a matter for regret, since, with our limited capacity, it must very shortly lead to the refusal of acute, and perhaps curable cases.

When we take into consideration the fact, that of the 144 admissions, 10 were of from 1 to 2 years standing, 6 of from 2 to 3 years, 11 of from 3 to 5 years, 4 of from 5 to 10 years, 9 of from 10 to 15 years, 5 of from 15 to 20 years, 8 of from 20 to 30 years, 4 of from 30 to 40 years and over, while 7 were congenital, it can readily be seen that much of the material, furnished for treatment during the year, held out little or no hope of restoration to mental health.

DISCHARGES.

The total discharge rate on admissions, exclusive of transfers, was only 57.50, as against 68.93 percent in 1893, but the recovery rate was higher, being 49.16 percent as against 46.60 percent.

Of the 59 patients discharged recovered, 49 had been insane less than a year prior to admission, in 25 the attack being under a month's duration. No more striking illustration of the importance of early hospital treatment could be asked for than this.

The average length of residence of those discharged in the year was a little over 7 months, the shortest time under treatment being 9 days, the longest 4 years, 2 months and 22 days.

DEATHS.

The death rate was considerably lower than in 1893, being only 5.32 percent on the number under treatment as against 8.62.

Of the 18 deaths in the year, one was due to accident. A patient engaged with a number of others in getting out shale for road-making was so badly injured by a mass of frozen earth falling upon him that he died shortly after. The relatives of the patient being satisfied that death was purely accidental, and that no blame was attributable to anyone, the Coroner, who had been notified, did not deem it necessary to hold an inquest.

The average period of residence of those who died was a trifle over 2½ years, and their average age a little under 43 years.

COST OF MAINTENANCE.

The total revenue for the year, exclusive of subscriptions paid to Treasurer, was \$38,113.92, made up as follows:—from private patients, \$15,266.61; from Government for public patients, \$22,357.73; from articles sold, \$489.58.

The total expenditure connected with the direct working of the Hospital was \$40,315.50, of which \$37,548.05 was for maintenance, and \$2,767.45 for improvements, extraordinary repairs, &c., therefore properly chargeable to capital account.