

ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting this their thirty-eighth annual report, the Directors feel that the year just closed has been an unusually eventful one in the history of the hospital.

Early in the fall of last year typhoid fever broke out in Ottawa and the surrounding district, as the season advanced the number of cases increased until the epidemic became very alarming and widespread. The Hospital was soon crowded with fever patients, and it was not until the winter was nearly over that the dangerous scourge showed signs of abatement, though in some cases the disease was of a most virulent type. The Directors are thankful to say that comparatively few deaths occurred in the Hospital.

The alarm caused by the fever was scarcely over, when about mid-day on the 6th of June during the storm which did so much damage throughout the County of Carleton and some of the adjoining counties, the west end of the building above the public wards was struck by lightning and took fire. The patients were removed as speedily as possible into the convalescent wards and the private rooms.

For a while, notwithstanding the exertions of the city fire brigade, who were promptly on the spot. The destruction of the building appeared almost inevitable.

The Fire Brigade worked with intelligence and great industry, and succeeded in quenching the flames, but not until a large amount of damage had been done to the roof and the attic above the wards.

The damages having been assessed by a competent board of arbitrators, the amount fixed was promptly paid by the insurance companies, and the necessary repairs were at once proceeded with. In addition to the repairs several much needed improvements were made during the summer. The Vice-President giving daily attention to, and constant supervision of the work.

A number of cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever have been treated in the Hospital for infectious diseases, but the Directors are glad to say that there has not been during the year a single case of that most dreaded of all epidemics—small-pox.