

typhoid fever treated during the year is not more than half the number admitted in the preceding year; although a similar diminution has not been observed in the case of dysentery.

On the other hand, that loathsome disease, small-pox, has been unduly prevalent during this winter, and fifty-seven (57) subjects of that disease have been treated during the year, against twenty-one (21) in the preceding year. In a few instances the disease spread from the small pox wards to the patients in the general wards.

With the view of meeting an important public want in this large city, the Board, at the last annual meeting of the Corporation, announced its intention of erecting a building for the reception of small-pox and other contagious diseases; so that the unfortunate victims of those maladies might obtain the care and attention the serious nature of their complaints required, while at the same time the citizens generally might be saved as much as possible from exposure to those dangerous diseases, the infectious fevers. The Board has now the pleasure of reporting that the Fever Hospital is completed, and will be ready in a few days for the reception of patients. It contains two public wards capable of accommodating forty patients, and several private wards for persons whose means may enable them to pay for the convenience and comfort of good nursing and isolation from their friends, when suffering from contagious disease.

The cost of the erection of this building has been defrayed from the "permanent fund" of the Society, with the exception of the munificent sum of \$5,000 contributed for that purpose by Wm. Molson, Esq., and nothing but the urgent need of such a refuge for the sick would have induced the governors to have touched that fund; and they feel confident that when the citizens are called on for subscriptions to restore to that fund the money so expended—and they will be called upon during the summer—they shall not only subscribe enough to pay for the building, but do something towards creating an endowment for its yearly maintenance.

Several important improvements in the Hospital have been effected during the past year. The old operating room, which was very defective, has been rendered much more capacious and convenient by an entire alteration in the arrangement of the seats, by enlarging the sky-light and introducing hot and cold water into the room. A complete system of pipes for heating the entire building by steam has been introduced into the Hospital, in connection with the apparatus just placed in the Fever Hospital, and it is supplied by the same furnace.

The old buildings which recently occupied the now vacant ground opposite the Hospital and fronting upon Dorchester and St. Dominique Streets, have been removed, and a new fence has been put up about this