

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

THE close of the year is generally regarded by reflecting minds as a proper season for thoughtfulness. To review the past is calculated, in an eminent degree, to promote improvement. Errors are frequently committed by those who possess great talent and distinguished ability, while success sometimes crowns very humble exertions. It is our highest wisdom to allow these results to influence our conduct: the one to serve as a beacon to warn—the other as a light to guide on our journey through the mazes of that future which still lies before us. It seems a wise arrangement that the close of the year, by general consent, should be fixed upon as a fit time for the discharge of duties so important. Annual revolutions may very justly be considered as so many stages on the journey of life, at which we should acknowledge the invisible hand that has led us, as well as to refresh for further labour. To my mind, I know of nothing more calculated to bring home with force the brevity of human existence, than to mark the extreme rapidity with which a year passes. Multiplying these very short periods of time by the largest number which you can imagine the most healthful organism to carry on the machinery of life, and what is it?—"It is even a vapour." If, then, we would leave a trace of our existence in the improvement of the society with which we mingle, or by promoting the welfare of the institutions in the land in which we dwell, it is absolutely necessary that our actions be at once decided and energetic. Public benevolent institutions may, like individuals, be regarded as having interests peculiarly their own; and at a season such as the present, it is our highest wisdom to review our conduct in reference to their management. If we have, by ought that we have done, injured them, it is our duty to re-