

# OSBORNE.

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## REPORT

BY THE

### HOUSE GOVERNOR AND MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

For the Year to 31st MARCH, 1907.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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## HOUSE GOVERNOR AND MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

For the Year to 31st MARCH, 1907.

## A. STATISTICS AND MEDICAL TRANSACTIONS.

The accommodation provided at Osborne during the year was for 43 officers and five ladies, the same as during the previous year. The occupation was increased as is shown in the following tables. It will be observed that 330 officers and ladies were admitted, giving an average daily number in residence of 40.2. The average duration of each case of illness was 40.3 days or under six weeks.

TABLE I.

Year.	—	Remaining, 31st March.	Admitted to 31st March.	Remained, 31st March.	Average daily number.	Average duration of each case, in days.
1904-5 ...	Officers ... ..	—	208	37	26.72	—
	Ladies ... ..	—	34	5	4.0	—
	Total ... ..	—	242	42	30.72	—
1905-6 ...	Officers ... ..	37	249	42	34.77	44.36
	Ladies ... ..	5	51	5	4.4	31.5
	Total ... ..	42	300	47	39.17	—
1906-7 ...	Officers ... ..	42	277	40	35.5	40.3
	Ladies ... ..	5	53	5	4.7	29.6
	Total ... ..	47	330	45	40.2	—

The largest number of admissions (more than a half) consisted of officers from the Home Army.

The ratio of the admissions from the Navy and Army was as 1 to 7 respectively, whilst the ratio of the strengths of the Navy and Army, from the latest figures obtainable, was 1 to 2.1 (or 6,286 : 13,327).

More than half the admissions (148) were for diseases contracted in India and the Colonies.

TABLE II.

Of the 277 admissions :—

- 37 belonged to the Royal Navy and Marines.
- 11 " " West African and Nigerian Forces
- 4 " " West India Regiments
- 2 " " Colonial Forces (Victoria Mounted Corps)
- 158 " " Indian Army.

165 belonged to the Home Army, most of whom were serving in and invalided from India and were distributed amongst the different Arms as follows :—

Cavalry and Imperial Yeomanry...	...	...	6
Royal Artillery ...	...	...	38
Royal Engineers ...	...	...	15
Foot Guards ...	...	...	5
Infantry of the Line (45 Regiments)	...	...	68
Army Service Corps ...	...	...	5
Royal Army Medical Corps ...	...	...	15
Other Corps, Retired Officers, &c.	...	...	13
			165

TABLE III.

The following table shows that the greater number of patients came from the Tropics, chiefly India :—

<i>Stations where Diseases were Contracted.</i>							
Home	...	...	...	...	...	86	
India	...	...	...	...	...	94	
Colonies	{	Malta ...	...	...	9	} 148	
		Egypt	...	...	5		
		South Africa ...	...	...	11		} 54
		West Coast ...	...	...	4		
		Nigeria	...	...	8		
		Various	...	...	17		
Retired Officers	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Royal Navy (no particulars)	...	...	...	...	...	37	
						277	

The following Table 4 will show the nature of the diseases from which patients were convalescent. Of these admissions 23 were of Officers admitted a second time after further operation, or for other diseases for further treatment.

TABLE IV.

It will be observed :—

(a) That the largest number of admissions were due to :—*Infective Diseases* (58), contracted mostly in the tropics, such as dysentery (19), enteric (18), and Malta fever (12), malaria (7), and Blackwater fever (2); to *operations* for appendicitis (24), hernia (12), piles (14), and loose cartilage in knee (9); to *Local Injuries* (32) and to *Nervous Disorders* (26); total 175.

(b) Three Deaths occurred :—One from sarcoma and rapid secondary infection of the lungs; the second from valvular disease of heart, from which the deceased had been suffering for three or four years previously. The third death was due to acute broncho-pneumonia, which developed during deceased's journey from Ireland to Osborne, and death occurred within five days of admission.

(c) In one case, Blackwater fever developed in a very acute form whilst at Osborne, and the patient was dangerously ill for three days.

(d) Amongst diseases of the Digestive System will be observed cases of sprue pancreatitis and liver abscess. One case of sprue did not improve.

(e) Of the 32 Local Injuries, 7 were injuries of the head and 6 were gunshot wounds received in action.

TABLE V.  
Classification of Diseases.

Nomenclature Number.	Disease.	Total.
	<b>INFECTIVE DISEASES—</b>	
3	Blackwater fever ... ..	2
11	Dysentery ... ..	19
13	Enteric fever ... ..	18
21	Influenza ... ..	3
25	Malaria ... ..	7
27	Malta fever ... ..	12
35	Rabies ... ..	1
37	Rheumatic fever (and rheumatism) ... ..	2
39	Septicæmia ... ..	2
42	Haemoglobinuria ... ..	1
42	Auditory aphasia ... ..	1
44	Tuberculosis ... ..	3
	<b>GENERAL DISEASES (not included above)—</b>	
61	Anæmia ... ..	2
68	Gout ... ..	1
	<b>CERTAIN MORBID CONDITIONS, &amp;c.—</b>	
79	New Growth, non-malignant ... ..	2
80	New growth, malignant (Sarcoma scapula 1; Carcinoma neck 1).	2
	<b>NERVOUS SYSTEM—</b>	
86	Neuritis (inflammation of nerve) ... ..	4
90	Inflammation spinal cord ... ..	3
94	Degenerations of spinal cord—	
	(a) Of anterior cornua (P. Musc, Atrophy) ... ..	1
	(b) Of lateral columns (primary lateral sclerosis) ... ..	1
	(c) Of posterior columns (locomotor ataxia) ... ..	1
	(e) Of lateral and posterior columns (ataxic) ... ..	1
	<b>NERVOUS DISORDERS, &amp;c.—</b>	
110	(a) Paraplegia ... ..	1
	(b) Hemiplegia ... ..	1
127	Vertigo ... ..	1
143	Neurasthenia ... ..	12
	<b>DISEASES OF THE EYE—</b>	
180	Iritis ... ..	1
192	Glaucoma ... ..	1
	<b>DISEASES OF THE EAR—</b>	
265	Inflammation mastoid cells (c) suppurative ... ..	3
	<b>DISEASES OF THE NOSE—</b>	
278	(g) Deviations of septum ... ..	1
283	Inflammation accessory sinuses ... ..	2
	<b>DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM—</b>	
293	Valvular disease ... ..	2
316	Aneurism ... ..	1
324	Phlebitis ... ..	1
329	Varix ... ..	8
	<b>DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM—</b>	
413	Broncho-pneumonia ... ..	2
425	Pleurisy ... ..	1
	<b>DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM—</b>	
489	Inflammation of stomach (gastritis) ... ..	1
498	Stricture of pylorus ... ..	1
499	Indigestion ... ..	2
508	Paresis of stomach ... ..	1
515	Inflammation of intestines—	
	(1) Enteritis catarrhal ... ..	2
	(2) Appendicitis ... ..	24
	(3) Colitis ... ..	2
	Carried forward ... ..	160

TABLE V.—cont.

## Classification of Diseases—cont.

Nomenclature Number.	Disease.	Total.
	Brought forward ...	160
	<b>DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM—continued.</b>	
516	Ulceration of intestines... ..	2
526	Sprue ... ..	2
528	Hernia ... ..	12
540	Diarrhœa ... ..	2
546	Inflammation of rectum ... ..	1
550	Fistula in ano ... ..	2
556	Piles ... ..	14
561	Pancreatitis ... ..	2
568	Inflammation of liver ... ..	2
	Abscess of liver ... ..	3
571	Congestion of liver ... ..	1
	<b>DISEASES OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM—</b>	
606	Suppuration of lymphatic glands ... ..	1
	<b>DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM—</b>	
652	Bright's disease ... ..	4
668	Renal colic ... ..	2
673	Calculus in ureter ... ..	1
687	Calculus in bladder ... ..	1
	<b>DISEASES OF THE GENERATIVE SYSTEM—</b>	
752	Varicocele ... ..	6
	<b>DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION—</b>	
885	Periostitis ... ..	1
903	Synovitis... ..	3
904	Stiff joint... ..	1
905	Dislocation of inter-articular cartilage ... ..	2
906	Loose body ... ..	9
916	Curv of spine ... ..	1
927	Atrophy (muscle) ... ..	1
929	Rupture of muscle ... ..	2
933	Contraction of fasciæ ... ..	1
	<b>DISEASES OF THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE—</b>	
952	Inflammation of connective tissue ... ..	1
953	Abscess ... ..	2
	<b>DISEASES OF THE SKIN—</b>	
962	Eczema ... ..	1
265	Boil ... ..	2
	<b>LOCAL INJURIES—</b>	
1091	Fracture of vault of skull ... ..	1
1092	Fracture of base of skull ... ..	2
1096	Concussion of brain ... ..	4
1158	Sprain, muscles of back ... ..	1
1161	Fracture of spine ... ..	1
1164	Dislocation of spine (without fracture) ... ..	1
1195	Contusion (shoulder) ... ..	1
1202	Fracture of clavicle ... ..	1
1204	Fracture of humerus ... ..	3
1219	Contusion (toe) ... ..	1
1220	Sprain (knee) ... ..	1
1231	Internal derangement of knee joint ... ..	1
1227	Fracture of femur ... ..	1
1228	Fracture of patella ... ..	2
1229	Fracture of tibia... ..	1
1230	Fracture of fibula ... ..	2
1231	Fracture of tibia and fibula ... ..	1
1235	Dislocation of tibia ... ..	1
1244	Gunshot wound ... ..	6
	Total ... ..	277

*Treatment Cases.*—About 45 per cent. of the cases required treatment, and of these some 15 per cent. were acute cases of illness.

Massage and various forms of electrical treatment, Nauheim and other baths were most effectively and extensively carried out by the Masseur, as is shown by the following table:—

*Massage and Electrical Treatment.*

Number of cases recovered	...	...	...	...	100
"    "    improved	...	...	...	...	65
"    "    no improvement	...	...	...	...	4
"    "    to hospital for operation	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    still being treated	...	...	...	...	12
Total number of cases treated					182
Treated by massage and electricity	...	...	...	...	176
"    Alliance Ray bath...	...	...	...	...	10
"    Dowsing Ray bath	...	...	...	...	7
"    Nauheim treatment	...	...	...	...	3
Total					196

(N.B.—Some of these cases had two or more kinds of treatment.)

The Masseur, who is also a trained nurse, takes charge of all serious cases when they require male nursing or when travelling from Osborne. The additional expenses incurred for massage, special nursing, &c., have been recouped from the patients so treated. He has carried out his duties most thoroughly and conscientiously.

As the *surgical convalescents* have been admitted, sometimes as early as 10 to 14 days after operation, a large number of surgical dressings have been carried out.

In a few instances patients have been transferred to London for operation or further treatment owing to relapses or development of complications.

A large number of *bacteriological examinations* were carried out by the Professor of Pathology at the Royal Army Medical College. These investigations were made in cases of enteric and Malta fevers, malaria, dysentery, tubercle, suspected diphtheria and various other conditions. It is hardly necessary to say of what invaluable assistance such investigations have been and how greatly we are indebted to the officers concerned.

*Weights.*—256 patients gained in weight, average gain being  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. One officer increased 37 lbs. and another 39 lbs. in weight.

21 patients lost weight, average loss being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. and includes one officer who was banting and succeeded in reducing himself 20 lbs.

#### B.—SANITATION.

The *water supply* continues excellent. Chemical and bacteriological analyses made twice yearly at the laboratories, Royal Army Medical College show it to be pure soft drinking water of about  $7^{\circ}$  (Clarke's scale) of hardness.

The *enlarged septic tank* has been capable of dealing with the entire sewage of Osborne and the Royal Naval College.

An improvement has been effected in the method by which domestic refuse is disposed of. The dry refuse is burnt in a furnace and the wet or kitchen refuse is sold at a profit and removed daily by the contractor.

*Disinfection.*—Lingner's formalin disinfectant has been frequently used to disinfect rooms.

The house has been open the whole year. The cleansing and disinfection of rooms and passages have been carried out when necessary.

### C.—ADMINISTRATION.

(a) *Matron's Department*.—The matron is responsible for the discipline, detail of duties, and interior economy of all that appertains to the nursing staff and female servants.

I have much pleasure in reporting that these duties have been carried out with great tact and zeal. The high standard of efficiency in nursing has been well maintained.

A dining room superintendent has been introduced in lieu of a head parlourmaid. Her duties comprise supervision of the service of all meals to the invalid officers in the dining room and to the female servants. She is a medium of direct communication between the dining room and kitchen staffs so that any difficulties that may arise are at once made known and remedied.

(b) *Steward's Department*.—The steward is responsible for all supplies, and for the discipline and duties of the male staff and the kitchen staff. The duties of this department have been admirably carried out; the ledgers kept posted accurately up to date, many economies effected and efficiency maintained at a high standard.

Numerous gifts of game were received during the year from H.M. the King, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Home, Viscount Iveagh, Marchioness of Londonderry and others, and were very highly appreciated by all the patients.

*Kitchen*.—The kitchen staff is sufficient for ordinary requirements, but when the house is full and some patients requiring special diets, the work entailed is very heavy. The cooking has been satisfactory, but several changes were necessary before an efficient head cook could be obtained.

The new gas oven for pastry, and the reconstruction of the pastry kitchen has been found to conduce to greater efficiency and economy.

The meat and vegetable larders have been thoroughly renovated, tiled, and painted with white enamel paint. The steward's office has been improved and centralised, leading to greater supervision and economy in work.

A new provision store has been organised adjoining the steward's office.

(c) *Clerical Department*.—This is in charge of the clerk, assisted by a junior clerk. This office has been very much improved, everything is in excellent order. All the duties connected with pay of staff, officers' accounts, correspondence, requisitions, library, &c., have been accurately and punctually carried out. The work in this department has been very greatly increased, although every endeavour is made to reduce the work to the minimum essential for efficiency.

The new system of keeping accounts instituted early last year has enabled the keeping of the accounts to be carried out much more clearly and satisfactorily, although an increased amount of work has been involved.

(d) *Miscellaneous*.—63,918 of the public visited the State Apartments and Swiss Cottage during this year. The average for the last three years being 66,459.

The library has been rearranged and a catalogue drawn up. Many presentations of valuable works, chiefly on Military History and English Classical Literature have been made by F.M. Earl Roberts, Hon. J. Fortescue, Messrs. Bumpus & Co., Mr. H. J. Elwes and others.

A portable enamel reclining bath on wheels has been obtained for the use of Patients unable to proceed to the bath rooms.

The motor car has continued to be of great benefit.



Fire practice has taken place at intervals. The Rules have been further revised and the fire apparatus improved.

During the past year the expenses of administration have been greatly decreased, while at the same time, the efficiency has considerably improved. Officers have continued to derive great benefit by their residence at Osborne during convalescence, and in numerous instances have been able to return fit for duty at a much earlier period than they otherwise could have done.

One member of the Consulting Staff has visited Osborne each month. Their advice and help in the management of cases has been invaluable and very greatly appreciated by all.

C. R. KILKELLY, Lieut.-Colonel,  
*House Governor and Medical Superintendent, Osborne.*

Osborne,  
April 25th, 1907.

