

445

OSBORNE.

REPORT

BY THE

HOUSE GOVERNOR AND MEDICAL
SUPERINTENDENT

For the Year to 31st MARCH, 1908.

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



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For the Year to 31st MARCH, 1908.

A.—STATISTICS AND MEDICAL TRANSACTIONS.

Admissions.—The accommodation provided at Osborne is for 43 officers and five ladies. The occupation during the year is shown below in Table I. There were 298 admissions of officers and ladies, with an “average daily number in residence” of 33·9. The “average duration of each case of illness” was 36·9 days, or 5 weeks and 2 days. The number of admissions of officers was 30 less than last year, owing to:—(1) The closure of Osborne for the month of September, for the purpose of cleaning and executing repairs and new works; (2) marked diminution of Malta fever cases from the Mediterranean, where this disease has now been practically stamped out; (3) fewer admissions of Naval officers.

TABLE I.

Year.	—	In residence on 31st March, 1907.	Admitted to 31st March, 1908.	In residence on 31st March, 1908.	Average daily number in residence.	Average duration of each case, in days.
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	—
1907-8	Officers ...	40	247	29	29	36·9
	Ladies ...	5	51	4	4·9	26·5
	Total ..	45	298	33	33·9	—

Distribution of Admissions.—Tables II. and III. will indicate the distribution of the admissions in the Navy, the various Forces and Arms in the Army, and the countries where the diseases were contracted. By far the largest number of officers admitted (65·5 per cent.) belonged to the Home Army, and nearly half the total number of admissions (44 per cent.) were for diseases contracted in India.

TABLE II.

Of the 247 admissions :—

16 belonged to the Royal Navy.			
7	”	”	West African and Nigerian Forces.
4	”	”	West Indian Regiments.
3	”	”	Colonial Forces (Victoria Mounted Rifles).
55	”	”	Indian Army.
162	”	”	Home Army.

Most of those in the Home Army were serving in and invalided from India, and were distributed amongst the different Arms as follows :—

Cavalry of the Line (4 Regiments)	...	...	4
Royal Regiment of Artillery	...	...	35
Royal Engineers	...	...	14
Infantry of the Line (39 Regiments)	...	...	82
Army Service Corps	...	...	7
Royal Army Medical Corps	...	...	10
Other Corps, and Officers on half pay	...	...	10
Total	...	...	<u>162</u>

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>						
Royal Navy	...	...	...	...	...	16
Home	...	...	...	...	...	86
India	...	...	...	...	...	109
Colonies :—						
Malta	...	...	...	...	...	4
Egypt	...	...	...	...	...	8
South Africa	...	...	...	...	...	10
West Coast of Africa (Nigeria, 3)	...	...	...	...	...	7
						<u>29</u>
Various	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total	...	...	...	...	...	<u>247</u>

CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES.

It will be observed from the classification of diseases in Table IV. that :—

- (a) The largest number of admissions was due to :—Infective diseases (50), including 13 cases of dysentery, 6 of malaria, and 4 of plague.

Nervous Diseases (14), including 6 of neurasthenia.

Diseases of the Digestive System (45), including 24 cases of appendicitis or colitis and 11 of liver abscess contracted in the Tropics, and 1 case of sprue.

Local Injuries (49), including 17 cases of internal derangement of knee joints.

- (b) There were no deaths.

TABLE IV.

Nomenclature Number.							Number of Admissions.
INFECTIVE DISEASES—							
3	Blackwater fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
11	Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	13
13	Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...	8
20	Arthritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
21	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	4
25	Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	6
27	Malta fever	...	...	...	...	...	3
31	Plague	...	...	...	...	...	4
32	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3
37	Rheumatic fever (and rheumatism)	...	...	...	...	...	2
39	Septicæmia	...	...	...	...	...	2
44	Tuberculosis (early stage)	...	...	...	...	...	3
GENERAL DISEASES—							
66	Diabetes (early stage)	...	...	...	...	...	2
68	Gout	...	...	...	...	...	1
71	Lymphadenoma	...	...	...	...	...	1
74	Osteo-Arthritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
CERTAIN MORBID CONDITIONS, &c.							
79	Non-malignant new growth	...	*	...	...	...	4
DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM—							
86	Neuritis	...	...	...	...	...	4
86 <i>b</i>	Multiple neuritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
90 <i>b</i>	Inflammation of spinal cord (local)	...	...	...	...	...	1
110 <i>b</i>	Hemiplegia	...	...	...	...	...	1
131	Neuralgia	...	...	...	...	...	1
143	Neurasthenia	...	...	...	...	...	6
DISEASES OF THE EYE—							
180	Iritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
199	Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	1
225	Diplopia	...	...	...	...	...	1
DISEASES OF THE EAR—							
276	Deafness	...	...	...	...	...	1
DISEASES OF THE NOSE—							
278 <i>g</i>	Deviation of septum	...	...	...	...	...	2
283	Inflammation of accessory sinuses	...	...	...	...	...	2
DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM—							
294	Inflammation of the myocardium	...	...	...	...	...	1
298	Dilatation of heart	...	...	...	...	...	1
305	Disordered action of heart	...	...	...	...	...	2
309	Endarteritis obliterans (intermittent claudication)	...	...	...	...	...	1
329	Varix	...	...	...	...	...	6
DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM—							
338	Asthma	...	...	...	...	...	1
426	Empyema	...	...	...	...	...	3
DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM—							
475	Inflammation of tonsils	...	...	...	...	...	1
490	Ulceration of stomach	...	...	...	...	...	2
498 <i>b</i>	Dilatation (stricture of pylorus)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Carried forward							101

Nomenclature Number.		Number of Admissions.
	Brought forward	101
	DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM— <i>cont.</i>	
499	Indigestion	1
515	Inflammation of intestines (appendicitis and colitis) ...	24
516	Ulceration of intestines	4
526	Sprue	1
528	Hernia	9
536	Obstruction, intestinal	2
540	Diarrhœa	1
547	Periproctitis (ischio rectal abscess)	2
548	Ulceration of rectum	1
550	Fistula in ano	7
556	Piles	9
568	Inflammation of the liver (abscess tropical)	11
569	Perihepatitis	1
576	Inflammation of gall bladder	1
581	Gall Stones	1
	DISEASES OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM—	
605	Inflammation of the lymphatic glands	1
606	Suppuration of the lymphatic glands	1
	DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM—	
651	Acute nephritis	1
652	Bright's disease	3
663a	Calculus, renal	1
676	Inflammation of bladder... ..	4
693	Hæmaturia	2
	DISEASES OF THE GENERATIVE SYSTEM—	
750	Hydrocele	1
752	Varicocele	3
760	Atrophy	1
	DISEASES OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION—	
885	Periostitis	1
	DISEASES OF THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE—	
953	Abscess	1
	DISEASES OF THE SKIN—	
966	Carbuncle	2
	LOCAL INJURIES—	
1089	Wound of scalp	1
1091	Fracture of vault of skull	1
1092	Fracture of base of skull	2
1096	Concussion of brain	3
1101	Gunshot wound (head)	4
1116	Contusion of eyeball	1
1165	Concussion of spinal cord	2
1169	Wounds of parietes (abdomen)	1
1189	Fracture of pelvic bones... ..	2
1205	Fracture of bones of forearm	1
1209	Dislocation of humerus	1
1218	Gunshot wound (upper extremity)	2
1220	Sprain (knee)	1
1221	Internal derangement of knee joint (slipped semilunar cartilage and other derangements).	17
1222	Contused wound (lower extremity)	1
	Carried forward	238

Nomenclature Number.							Brought forward ... 238
<i>LOCAL INJURIES—cont.</i>							
1228	Fracture of patella	...	...	...	...	...	1
1229	Fracture of tibia ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
1230	Fracture of fibula	...	...	...	...	...	2
1231	Fracture of tibia and fibula	...	...	...	...	...	3
1237	Dislocation of foot	...	...	...	...	...	1
1244	Gunshot wound (lower extremity)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total							<u>247</u>

During the past year an epidemic of influenza attacked the nursing staff and some members of the domestic staff. In one case the disease was complicated with acute pneumonia. With this exception the general health of the staff was satisfactory.

Treatment Cases.—A large number of surgical dressings have been carried out, as surgical convalescents are often admitted early (10 to 14 days) after operation. Owing to relapses or the development of complications, in a few instances patients have been transferred back to London or elsewhere for further treatment.

The Professor of Pathology and the officers serving under him at the Royal Army Medical College Laboratories have, as hitherto in a great many instances, carried out special investigations which have been of the greatest value to us, and for which we have felt most grateful.

Weights.—During the year 20 patients gained over one stone in weight. One patient convalescent from dysentery gained 45 lbs during 15 weeks. The average weight gained by each patient was 6 lbs. 11 ozs. Only six patients lost weight, and in each case there was a special reason for the loss, such as the persistence of sprue, fevers due to malaria, &c.

Massage, Electricity, and Baths.—Massage and various forms of electrical treatment, baths, and exercises were carried out by the Masseur with most beneficial results. Table V. will indicate the massage and electrical treatment carried out. The charge for special treatment is borne by the patient.

TABLE V.

Treated by massage and electricity	...	...	126 cases.
" Alliance Ray baths	...	...	8 "
" Dowsing electric baths	...	...	18 "
" medicated baths	...	...	1 case.
" hydro electric (4 cell temporised)	...	...	5 cases.
" douche baths	...	...	12 "
Other special cases for male nursing	...	...	3 "
Total			<u>173</u> "

Results.

Recovered	...	...	...	85 cases.
Improved	...	...	...	54 "
Transferred for further treatment to:—				
Queen Alexandra Hospital	...	...	...	3 cases.
Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley	...	...	...	3 "
King Edward VII. Hospital	...	...	...	1 case.
Royal Hospital, Haslar	...	...	...	1 "
Princess Christian's Home	...	...	...	1 "
				9 "
Under treatment	...	...	...	7 "
Total			<u>155</u> "	

(Some of these had combined treatment.)

The Masseur is a fully trained nurse and, in addition to massage and electricity, takes charge of all serious cases when they require male nursing, and of cases when travelling from Osborne on transfer to other hospitals or elsewhere.

It is a great pleasure to again report that these duties have been carried out most thoroughly and conscientiously.

B.—SANITATION.

The Home was closed for one month during last September, for the first time since it was opened in April, 1904, for the purpose of thorough cleansing and carrying out repairs and alterations.

1. The *water supply* continues excellent. The results of analyses made every half year show it to be good drinking water. The softening apparatus (Maignen's) reduces the hardness to about 7° Clark's scale.

2. *Milk supply* is obtained from Barton Farm. During the past year a systematic quarterly inspection has been made of the entire dairy herd at Barton Farm by a Veterinary Inspector of the Board of Agriculture, and of the farm buildings and their surroundings by a Medical Officer of Public Health. Their reports have been submitted and their recommendations have been carried out. Any animals suspected of tubercle, or found ill, are at once separated and placed under observation, or otherwise disposed of according to the circumstances of the case. The farm buildings have been limewashed, with the addition of 2 ozs. of chloride of lime to each gallon of limewash, twice a year. The water supply is from Newport, and is of the same high standard as that supplied to the Home.

3. *Drainage*.—The whole of the soil pipes, drains, and manholes were tested with the water test during the year, and were reported upon as perfectly sound, clear, and in good working order. The septic tank has been working satisfactorily.

4. *Domestic refuse* is disposed of by burning in an incinerator, whilst the kitchen refuse is sold at a profit.

C.—ADMINISTRATION.

1. *Matron's Department*.—The duties in this department have been carried out as heretofore with great tact and zeal, and a high standard of nursing, both surgical and medical, has been maintained. An epidemic of influenza which attacked the entire nursing staff dislocated the duties for a time and necessitated additional temporary help being obtained.

2. *Steward's Department*.—The work of this department has been satisfactorily carried out. The ledgers and stores are periodically inspected. The supplies obtained have been up to standard, and satisfactory.

3. *Miscellaneous*.—There were 56,176 visitors to the State apartments during the year, the average for the last three years being 59,963. The gardens and pleasure grounds at Swiss Cottage have been extended during the past winter: and they afford much interest and pleasure to the visiting public.

4. *Fire practice* has been carried out at intervals, and any defects observed at once remedied.

5. The following members of the Consulting Staff who had completed their period of appointment (four years) retired during the past year:—

Sir Francis Laking, Bart., G.C.V.O., M.D.
 Sir James Reid, Bart., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., LL.D.
 Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O., M.D.
 Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., G.C.V.O., C.B., LL.D.
 Sir Patrick Manson, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., M.D.
 Anthony Bowlby, Esq., C.M.G., F.R.C.S.
 Rickman Godlee, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.

In their place the following appointments were made :—

Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., G.C.V.O., C.B., LL.D., Chairman.
Professor Sir T. Clifford Allbutt, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.,
LL.D.
Sir William H. Bennett, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S.
Lieut.-Col. Sir R. Havelock Charles, K.C.V.O., M.D.
Sir W. Watson Cheyne, Bart., C.B., F.R.C.S., LL.D.
David Ferrier, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., LL.D.
James F. Goodhart, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., LL.D.
A. Pearce Gould, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.

A member of the Consulting Staff visited Osborne for the purpose of inspection and consultation every month during the past year.

I beg to invite attention to the great benefit which has been derived from these visits. In addition to the official reports submitted by the Consultants and the invaluable assistance given to me personally by them in consultation, they have shown great consideration for the welfare of the patients at other times as well as on the occasions of their visits. Not only have members of the Consulting Staff invariably taken personal interest in the patients; they have also freely given additional advice and treatment to many convalescent officers by arranging appointments in London, by performing operations, and in many other ways.

It is scarcely necessary to point out how great is our indebtedness to the Consulting Staff for the help so freely and gratuitously given.

6. In closing this Report, I beg to record my appreciation of the diligence and ability with which all the members of the staff at Osborne have performed their duties during the past year.

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

May 9th, 1908.

