

history, the most injurious foods, and even intoxicating liquors were seized and confiscated. Passing the inspector, the mother goes on board and meets a doctor and nurse, who satisfy themselves as to the eligibility of the patient, and assign it to its proper department. There the child is placed under the care of the physician and nurse who are to be responsible for its welfare during its stay on the hospital."

This year there were 1,558 treatments to 895 patients for about fifty diseases. In all 3,546 persons received the benefits of the work on the thirteen trips made this year.

We now come to the fourth year of this unique work, the year 1897. No sooner did one season close than preparations commenced for the succeeding one on advanced lines, as experience demanded. We quote from the hospital history: "From the first, it had been evident that the barge used as a hospital should be completely under the management of the hospital enterprise—in fact, that it should belong to the society. Contributions were solicited for its purchase; and with the advent of the summer of 1897 this had been accomplished. Upon its transfer to the control of the managers, the barge was refitted, according to plans and under the direction of Mr. W. H. Brainerd, architect, bath-rooms for hot and cold salt water baths were constructed, and very many valuable additions to the provision and arrangement of the wards and decks made. A room for surgical operations was fitted up, and wards A, B, C and D established. The feature of memorial beds was introduced within this season, and before its close twenty-one beds had thus been set apart. Upon payment of \$100, any person may endow a bed upon this hospital, and name it. Or, by the payment of the same amount, one may name any particular trip; and six of the trips of 1897 were thus named. Return checks were given to patients requiring more than a day's treatment, and in the more serious cases, the patients were kept on board over night, with the mothers, with physicians and nurses in attendance. Twenty-five trips were made, and the augmented service enabled the hospital to care for 771 individual cases, the total number of treatments being 2,018, and more than 4,600 people received the benefits of the work. A system of house-to-house visitation was instituted and successfully carried out by the house physicians, 586 calls being made. The number of deaths was six during the hospital season."

The season of 1898 found matters so advanced that a new work was undertaken, that of making the barge a permanent hospital for the season. Only the most urgent cases were to remain over night, but the first ward assigned to this class of cases was quickly outgrown and another one added

to the permanent department. This necessitated a further reorganization of the work, and an establishment of what is now properly called the Floating Hospital, anchored in a favourable position, receiving patients for night as well as day treatment. A sick baby can be received as a permanent patient at any hour of the night or each time the boat is at the day wharf, while mothers of permanent patients are allowed to make a day's trip with their children whenever they so desire. The children who have been permanent patients are not lost sight of after their return to their homes, but are visited by some one of the hospital force and their progress reported.

The rapid development of the Floating Hospital work from year to year has been phenomenal. The season of 1898 was excessively warm and it became apparent to the hospital force that some artificial means of cooling the air must be invented. After much study and discussion a plant was established which has the power of giving an atmosphere of an even temperature and of a certain degree of moisture, irrespective of weather conditions outside. This was used for the first time during the season of 1899, and has demonstrated its great value as a life-saver.

To illustrate the actual working of the atmospheric plant a few figures from the daily hospital record are taken: "August 8th, 1900, when the natural air conditions were, average temperature, 69 degrees F., and the average relative humidity, 88, the wards were maintained at an average humidity of 56 and an average temperature of 75 degrees F. August 10th, natural air condition, average temperature 85 degrees; ward condition, average temperature 74 degrees F. August 14th, natural air condition, average temperature 63 degrees F.; average relative humidity 77; ward condition, average temperature 74 degrees F., average relative humidity 50."

It will thus be seen that the air is either warmed or cooled, according to the natural air conditions. The machinery is operated night and day, and frequent observations are taken with instruments of precision as to the condition of the air.

The air furnished the wards is drawn by the suction of a fan down a duct from above the upper deck into a receiver in the hold. In this receiver is placed two series of coils, one series being connected with the brine tank and through which circulates brine at a temperature of about ten degrees F., and the other series being joined to an exhaust steam pipe, enabling steam to be used or heating when necessary. The air when entering the receiver passes over the brine coils and a large per cent of its moisture is condensed on the coils. Then the air passes over the steam coils, is heated to any desirable temperature and then forced by the fan through ducts into the

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