

### The Dublin Hospital World.

The annual report of the Board of Superintendence of the Dublin Hospitals is once more a record of efficiency and good management. As in preceding years, the Board, under the chairmanship of Sir Francis W. Brady, made an inspection during the twelve months ending on March 31st last of all the local hospitals which receive grants from Parliament. In no single case was any cause found for adverse criticism or comment. The detailed notes of visits to individual hospitals contain here and there a suggestion which will probably meet with early adoption, if effect has not already been given to the Board's opinions. In the case of the Cork Street Fever Hospital, for instance, the members of the Board state:— "We examined the several departments of the institution, and found them, especially the wards and corridors, clean, warm and well ventilated. The bed linen, however, appeared discoloured, as if it had been imperfectly washed; we were, however, informed that the discolouration was due to the use of the Poodle River water in the laundry. We strongly recommend the substitution of the Vartry water in lieu of this supply, and we would suggest that economy be practised in some other direction. Sheets washed in water so deeply impregnated with organic matter are unsuitable for hospital use."

Some features call for special notes of approval from the Board. Thus in connection with Steevens' Hospital the visitors say:— "We were much pleased with the open-air verandah which has been recently constructed on the sunny side of the hospital; it is roomy and well designed, and should prove a great acquisition in promoting the convalescence of patients. The Governors of the Hospital, we are informed, purpose providing a commodious apartment for the reception of accident cases, which is to take the place of the room now used for that purpose."

In reporting on the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, the Board of Superintendence take occasion to make the following observations:— "The wards, day rooms, and the culinary department are very satisfactory, and we cannot but regret that the example of providing day rooms is not followed by the general hospitals of our city; day rooms do much to keep the dormitory wards sweet, and they allow of convalescing patients spending their days in a purer and sweeter atmosphere. It is contrary to hygienic principles to have such patients eating and living surrounded by patients con-

· fined to bed, who are vitiating the air by their respiratory function, and by the emanations incidental to their sickness, and are, in turn, labouring under the disadvantage of having their breathing space crowded with their convalescent patients, and further vitiated by the food smells, &c."

In noting the satisfactory condition of the House of Industry Hospitals, which include the Hardwicke, Whitworth, and Richmond Hospitals, the authors of the report say:— "The Governors, at our recommendation, have shown great judgment and liberality in constructing in the Whitworth Hospital, during the past year, a well-equipped bacteriological laboratory, wherein morbid secretions are examined, and the diagnosis of doubtful zymotic diseases is demonstrated by the most modern and approved methods. Adjoining this department, we observed with great interest a number of patients undergoing treatment by inoculations of vaccine, controlled by the observation of the opsonic index, according to Professor Wright's method. The patients were the subjects of tubercular pneumococcus and staphylococcus, and the administration of the corresponding vaccines was attended with most satisfactory results."

One paragraph in the report of the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital gives evidence of the continued growth of that admirable institution. The report says, in this connection: "Owing to the increase in the number of patients during the past three or four years, and the consequent congestion in the maternity wards, the Governors decided on the erection of an additional wing or suite of apartments to relieve the congestion, and to allow of the thorough disinfection of each ward in rotation."

Dealing with the general question of the usefulness of the city hospitals, the report informs us that on April the first of the present year there were 957 patients in the hospitals under the supervision of the Board. During the year covered by the report, the number of patients admitted was 11,601, making the whole number under treatment 12,226, of whom 11,052 left the wards either cured or relieved, or were discharged for other causes, and 469 died. Exclusive of incurables, the mortality was 3·74 per cent. on those treated to a termination. The total daily average number of beds occupied in the hospitals throughout the year was 940·02. The time spent in hospital by each patient under treatment (omitting the patients in the Royal Hospital for Incurables) averaged 23·74 days.

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