

serviceable but it will be noticed that the upward trend is observable in nearly all.

TABLE II.—Average Cost of Provisions per Occupied Bed (England, Scotland, Ireland).

	1891	1893	1897	1901	1902	Remarks
ENGLAND (Provincial)						
Leeds General Infirmary ...	£ 19	£ 18	£ 19	£ 22	£ 21	
Birmingham General ...	18	20	24	21	20	
Liverpool Royal Infirmary	21	18	13	14	14	
Manchester Royal Infirmary	18	19	18	22	21	
Newcastle Royal Infirmary	21	19	19	22	23	
Bristol Royal Infirmary ...	18	18	22	22	23	
Sheffield Royal Infirmary...	22	24	25	29	29	
Liverpool Royal, Southern	17	18	17	17	17	
Addenbrooke, Cambridge	22	32	25	28	29	
Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford	24	23	20	20	22	
Birmingham Queen's ...	20	19	18	19	18	
Average	29	20	20	21	21	
Total of occupied beds ...	2121	—	—	—	2374	
SCOTCH						
Edinburgh Royal Infirmary	20	20	19	22	20	
Glasgow Royal Infirmary...	19	19	19	19	20	
Glasgow Western Infirmary	20	21	21	25	25	
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary	13	17	16	14	14	
IRISH						
Belfast Royal Hospital ...	16	16	15	17	17	
Meath General Hospital ...	17	20	22	21	21	
Adelaide Hospital, Dublin	22	22	28	28	26	

It must be remembered, in comparing the cost of provisioning these London hospitals with that of others in various parts of the kingdom, that these are all hospitals with medical schools attached, and of sufficient size to

require the services of a large staff of resident medical officers. They show, therefore, the average cost of food in hospitals where all the elements of a hospital household, patients, servants, nurses, doctors, are to be found. University College Hospital, where the nurses have only recently been boarded in the hospital, and Westminster Hospital, where only a proportion of the nurses are boarded, are omitted from the list. In calculating expenditure on the basis of occupied beds it may be necessary to point out that the larger the number of beds occupied in a given year, the smaller will be the cost, because the board of all the extra persons included in the household is divided among an increased number of patients. It is not true that large hospitals can be victualled at less cost than small ones. But if a new ward be opened, or a larger proportion of beds be used in a year, it ought to result in a decrease of cost per occupied bed by increasing the divisor out of proportion to the increase in the dividend.

Now it is to be observed in Table I. giving the cost for provisions per occupied bed in various years, that the number of occupied beds in these ten hospitals has increased from 3,154 in 1891 to 3,578 in 1902; yet the result is an increase of £2 instead of a decrease in the cost of provisions per occupied bed.

It will be generally considered that £7,000 is a large extra sum to spend on provisions in ten hospitals without any striking changes to account for it. Reckoning, however, that on an average there are about half as many other inmates as there are patients, the sum of £2 per bed per annum does not amount to as much as a penny a day for each person, and we are brought face to face with the tremendous importance of little sums in dealing with the hospital commissariat.

BRITISH INSTITUTIONS FOR THE CARE OF THE INEBRIATE.—IX.

BY OUR OWN MEDICAL COMMISSIONER.

(Continued from page 13.)

NORTHLANDS RETREAT, WANDSWORTH, LONDON.

In dealing with a morbid state such as inebriety, occurring as it does in both sexes, at all ages, and in every rank of society, much variety is necessary in the form of institution selected as a retreat. In some instances, where monetary considerations do not prevail, a country residence with extensive grounds and ample opportunities for an unrestricted outdoor life may be available, but for many with limited means, or dependent on the generosity of friends, an institution in or near a busy centre is frequently necessary.

"Northlands" is a retreat belonging to the latter class. It is conveniently situated, and consists of two old-fashioned houses in a terrace, with a shrubbery and carriage-drive in front. The address is 10-12 North Street, Wandsworth, S.W. The Misses Round are the resident licensees; their brother, Mr. John Round, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., is the medical licensee; and Dr. W. G. Dickenson is the visiting physician. "Northlands" was licensed in 1893 under the Inebriates Act, and is intended for a limited number of female cases, who are strongly recommended to seek admission under legislative provisions, although any lady may enter the Retreat as a private patient. The house, although lacking in the conveniences of modern construction and presenting much of an old-world air, has a comfortable and homely appearance. There is a morning-room, a dining-room, two drawing-rooms, and a number of bedrooms. Accommodation is provided for 18 patients.

Although the house is hemmed in by neighbouring building, there is a pleasant old-fashioned garden, with small lawn, and the back of the house has a venerable aspect with its training vine, clinging ivy, and drooping wisteria.

As far as we could judge in the course of our inspection the Home is conducted in accordance with rational views. Dr. W. G. Dickenson examines every case on admission and visits regularly once a week, and generally directs treatment.

Total abstinence from alcohol is strictly enforced. The licensees exercise a constant supervision, and accompany their charges on shopping excursions and visits to places of interest, and have all their meals and spend their evenings with the patients. During the summer months excursions are made to the numerous places of interest in the district, and in winter one of the principals accompanies any patients who may care to go to concerts and other entertainments. The neighbourhood is healthy, and many interesting walks are available. Putney Heath and Wandsworth, Clapham, and Wimbledon Commons are all quite near; and Hyde Park, Kensington, Richmond Park, Kew Gardens, etc., are easily reached by omnibus or tram.

All the servants are abstainers. No working patients are received.

The shortest time for which an inebriate is received is six months. The six months' patients are not allowed to go out alone. If a year's patient has done well, she is permitted to go for walks by herself when she has completed eleven months' residence. Patients frequently enter for a year, and remain for a further period of six or twelve months with their liberty. In only one instance has a patient been known to betray the trust in being allowed to have her liberty.

A large percentage of patients who have remained in the Home for a year are now said to be doing well in their own homes.

The terms are from one to two and a half guineas a week, according to bedroom selected. Laundry expenses are extra. Patients are received for short or long periods, or permanently.

The following "regulations and orders" are enforced at "Northlands," and go far to indicate the manner and methods of the institution:

1. The applicant on becoming an inmate of the Northlands Retreat for Inebriates will be required to conform to the regulations of the institution.
2. The admission paper must be filled up and signed by the person responsible for payment before the applicant enters the institution.
3. All letters written by the patients must be given to the principals, who will post them, unless they shall have good reason to know that they are written for the purpose of obtaining stimulants and drugs.
4. Patients may open their own letters or parcels if they contain neither stimulants nor drugs.
5. Patients may not enter any bedroom except their own.
6. Patients are not permitted to go out alone except in the garden.
7. Patients must be responsible for their books, papers, work, etc., if left in the sitting-rooms.
8. Patients may not have more than 2s. 6d. a week pocket-money without permission of the principals, and if they try to buy stimulants or drugs the pocket-money will be suppressed.
9. Patients must neither give, lend, nor borrow money.
10. Visitors are not allowed to bring stimulants or drugs into the retreat.
11. A patient may not take any stimulant or drug without special written authority from the medical attendant of the retreat.
12. Patients may go to see their friends, but the friends must fetch and bring them back, and patients must not be absent even for one night without due permission.
13. Patients may go to concerts, etc., with an attendant.
14. All patients are required to attend daily prayers and Church services on Sundays, except Roman Catholics or Jewesses.
15. Punctuality in respect to the hours of meals and other household arrangements to be strictly observed.
16. Suitable and sufficient clothing must be provided by the friends of each patient during her residence at the retreat; patients must find their own table-napkins and chamber-towels.

The daily routine is as follows:

Rise, 7.45 A.M.; breakfast, 9 A.M.; dinner, 1.30 P.M.; tea, 5 P.M.; supper, 9 P.M.

There are morning prayers at 8.45 A.M., and evening prayers at 9.30 P.M.

THE HOSPITAL LIBRARY AND CHARITIES BUREAU.

Inquiries of the librarian are answered in this column free of charge. Inquiries to be answered promptly by post must be accompanied by a fee of 2s. 6d.

The Librarian announces the addition of 24 volumes of the Encyclopædia to the Library for the use of members.

Practical Points. Cost of Out-patients.

If the cost of 1,000 out-patients equals that of one constantly-occupied bed, what is meant by an out-patient? Does it mean 1,000 attendances of patients, or does it mean 1,000 individuals who may attend several thousand times?

Attendances are not out-patients, and never can be. The only way to arrive at the cost of the out-patient department is to keep all the expenditure properly chargeable to the out-patient department distinct in the books from all other expenditure. Then, by dividing the whole number of out-patients into the total expenditure, you arrive at the actual cost of each out-patient.

HOSPITAL MEETINGS.

ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL.

THE thirty-sixth annual meeting of Governors of St. Peter's Hospital for Stone and Urinary Diseases, Covent Garden, was held on Tuesday, March 29th, the chair being taken by Mr. Edwin Fox, one of the trustees. There was a good attendance.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts for 1903, alluded to the absence, owing to family bereavement, of the treasurer, Mr. F. A. Bevan, who it had been hoped would have been able to preside over the annual meeting. On behalf of the governors he desired to express their sympathy with Mr. Bevan and the hope that he would be able, on a future occasion, to take his customary place in the chair. The report, the chairman continued, showed a very material improvement, not only in the work accomplished, but also in the finances of the hospital. It would be observed that 556 patients had been admitted during the year, nearly all of whom were either cured or relieved, while the number of deaths was only 28. The number admitted showed an increase of 75 on that of the previous year, so that it would be evident that the resources of the hospital had been strained to their utmost. Indeed, the want of additional accommodation was felt by the committee to be so urgent that they had asked Mr. Frederick W. Hunt, F.R.I.B.A., for his advice as to the best means for enlarging the capacity of the building, and Mr. Hunt, having kindly given his services as honorary consulting architect, plans for adding perhaps a dozen or more beds were now under consideration. For this, of course, funds were required, and, having a small balance in hand, the committee proposed to take the initial steps, regarding this sum as a nucleus, to which it was hoped additions would be made by the subscribers and other friends. The sum of £700, received in legacies since the beginning of the current year, had been allocated to this purpose, and he invited the supporters of the hospital to rally round the committee, and enable them to carry out this most necessary work. As a proof of the increase of work done in the hospital, he might mention that it had been found necessary to engage a second resident medical officer; a junior house surgeon had therefore been appointed. A special feature of the work of this hospital was the appreciation shown by medical and surgical practitioners of the opportunities for attendance at operations; there had been an increase of 140 over the numbers for the previous year the attendances being 1,141 during 1903. It was of the very highest importance that knowledge concerning the special branch of surgery practised at this hospital should be disseminated throughout the profession, and the increase in numbers to which he had alluded was therefore very encouraging. Turning to the question of the accounts, the chairman said he thought the governors might consider themselves fortunate, in these days of depression, since the contributions, both from patients and subscribers, showed an increase, the figures being some £400 in excess of those for the previous year. The annual subscriptions amounted to £1,391, while patients' payments reached the sum of £2,490, of which £2,398 was made up of voluntary contributions from out-patients. The committee desired most cordially to thank the governors and their friends for the very generous way in which they had responded to their appeal for funds, and at the same time to acknowledge the zeal with which the secretary and staff had worked to bring about such a satisfactory result. He hoped, however, that the help already given was only an augury of further assistance during the coming year. The task of enlarging the capacity of the hospital would necessarily be an expensive