



NEW FEVER WARDS. LIBRARIES.

STEELE'S WARD.
HARRISON'S WARD.

MATRON'S ROOM.

BOARD ROOM. HOWSILL STREET ENTRANCE.

ETIC

S. E. VIEW OF THE WHITEHAVEN AND WEST CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY.

Report of the ~~Trustees~~ ^{Baroness de Sternberg} & ~~Trustees~~ ^{Rev Thomas Dalton, B. D.} Cumberland Infirmary,

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FOR THE YEAR 1860.

It is gratifying to the Committee to report that the number of Subscribers has been increased during the past year, and that the affairs of the Infirmary are in a very satisfactory state. The New Fever Wards are completed and present a striking contrast to the old building, which was badly ventilated, and ill-adapted for the reception of patients. The cost of the New Wards has been £1487 18s., whilst the amount received for their erection is only £1245 1s., leaving a debt of £242 17s, which it is desirable should be liquidated as soon as possible.

The sum of One Thousand Pounds, bequeathed by the Baroness de Sternberg for the employment of a chaplain, has in accordance with her request been invested in Consols, and the Trustees have appointed the Rev Thomas Dalton, B. D. Chaplain. A Samaritan Society has been formed in connexion with the Infirmary and Fever Wards, and will be placed under the joint management of the Trustees and general Committee, contributions to this Society will be thankfully received, donations amounting to five Pounds or upwards will be invested, and the Interest thereon, with that on the bequest of the Baroness de Sternberg, will be applied to the relief of those poor convalescent patients, who, after leaving the Infirmary, may be unable to labour for their own support.

It affords the Committee much pleasure to bear testimony to the humane and kind attention of the house Surgeon, and Matron; they have been assiduous in their efforts to promote the recovery and comfort of the patients, and their conduct justly merits the approbation of the Governors.

MEDICAL REPORT.

OUT-PATIENTS.—At the commencement of the year there were 105 cases under treatment, and 1456 have since been admitted, making the total number of out-patients attended during the year 1501; of these 794 were visited at their own homes. In the last years' Report, the high rate of mortality over the three preceding years was especially noted, but this year the mortality is even higher, no less than 98 deaths having been registered.

It has elsewhere been observed that the rate of mortality is not necessarily a proof of the amount of sickness that may be prevailing. That during a wide-spread epidemic there may be but few deaths, and conversely, that cold and bleak weather in winter and spring may carry off old persons, and infants, whilst there shall exist very little sickness among the people at large. This year we have experienced no wide-spread epidemic; cases of Hooping Cough, Scarlatina, and other diseases incidental to children, have occurred, but not to any great extent. During the summer season there was very little sickness, and the health of the town, with the exception of the first few weeks, has this year been above the average. The unusually cold, and prolonged rainy weather in the spring and summer months, was very fatal to old people. At least five deaths occurred, in persons between the ages of 73 and 79, and in June 2 deaths are registered at the respective ages of 83 and 84. In December a child died at the advanced age of 94. During the year there were 28 deaths from consumption, and 3 from burns. An infant aged about 7 months died from an over dose of Lanthanum, incautiously administered by a female friend of its parents. There are 67 cases remaining on the Books.