

## DISCHARGES.

There have been two discharges during the year. The first case was that of a boy who showed many of the symptoms of the oncoming of general paralysis. After being returned by me to his parents, he became gradually worse, and was sent on to Seaclyff Mental Hospital.

The second case was that of a boy who was reported to be entirely unmanageable, as giving way to fits of uncontrollable temper, and as showing suicidal tendencies. I kept this boy under close observation for five months and a half. He proved to be an entirely docile lad, a willing worker, and capable of continuing his education in one of the other institutions under the Education Department. He was accordingly transferred. I have just received an account as to this boy's progress since his transference. The officer in charge of the institution states, "He has been a very good boy since he was admitted. He has not exhibited the temper that caused so much trouble to his foster-parents. All my people speak well of him. The teacher reports that he is a good boy in class, is weak in arithmetic, but equal to the average in reading, spelling, and other subjects in Standard II. Unless the lad takes a turn he will get on here."

## GENERAL HEALTH.

During the past year the general health of the children has been excellent; there has been no serious illness or accident, and no deaths have occurred. This is very gratifying considering that many feeble and delicate children have been admitted during the year.

The healthy site of the school, with its extensive and sheltered grounds, enables the children to obtain fresh air and exercise in all weathers, which is a great factor in promoting their physical well-being. The judicious use of drill, physical exercises, and manual work in the open air also materially contributes towards this desirable state of affairs.

We have also been fortunate as far as infectious diseases are concerned. The only case was one of cutaneous erysipelas; but, owing to the prompt measures taken in isolating this case, no further development took place. We had one or two cases of ringworm—one of the most troublesome diseases of institutional life. On the whole, however, we have had a most satisfactory year.

In connection with the general health of the children, it is interesting to note the increase in their weight since their admission. I append a list giving details of the weights of the thirty-one boys in residence during the past year:—

Age.	Date of Admission.	Weight on Admission.	Gain.	Age.	Date of Admission.	Weight on Admission.	Gain.
		St. lb.	lb.			St. lb.	lb.
21 ..	18/1/09	7 9	11	16 ..	1/5/09	7 5	21½
16 ..	1/5/09	9 7	12¼	19 ..	13/1/10	6 4	2¾
12 ..	1/5/09	5 3	1	17 ..	5/2/10	5 11½	3¼
23 ..	19/1/09	7 6	9½	14 ..	10/6/08	4 1	23
19 ..	23/7/09	9 1	*	18 ..	13/1/10	9 9	No change
22 ..	5/2/10	7 1¼	7½	14 ..	10/11/08	3 9	10¼
20 ..	13/1/10	8 4	13¾	13 ..	4/2/09	4 1	14
12 ..	5/2/10	5 8	3¼	11 ..	13/1/10	4 6½	9¾
12 ..	1/7/09	5 3	10	12 ..	31/10/08	4 0	14
14 ..	13/1/10	6 11	No change	7 ..	13/1/10	3 5	4¾
13 ..	22/4/09	4 6	17	13 ..	1/5/09	4 1	17½
15 ..	3/2/09	5 1	23	9 ..	5/2/10	3 10¾	5¾
11 ..	24/9/09	3 11	5	14 ..	17/12/09	4 9¾	2¼
12 ..	8/7/09	3 12	4¾	8 ..	13/1/10	2 7½	7¾
7 ..	1/5/09	2 8	12½	19 ..	5/2/10	9 5	3
18 ..	24/11/08	7 6	15				

\* Lost 4½ lb.

I am convinced that the weighing of the children at regular intervals is the best method of detecting disease in its early stages. During the first year of their residence the boys frequently gain considerably in weight, but, of course, the gain varies considerably according to the disposition of the individual.

## SCHOLASTIC AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

I am glad to be able to report that we have made a commencement with our school work. Of the 31 boys in residence, 10 boys are able to read more or less fluently, 17 are beginning to learn their letters, 4 can scarcely articulate, except one or two sounds, 10 boys have learned to write fairly well, and the remainder are learning to form their letters.

Very slow progress is made with number, but it is very desirable that the boys should learn arithmetic, the practical application of which in their daily life is of value. The amount of book-knowledge, however, acquired by the best must always be small. While it is desirable not to neglect reading, writing, and arithmetic, it is from manual training that we must expect the best results. The training of the hand and eye in useful work is profitable to the children.