

SECTION 2.—KING GEORGE V HOSPITAL, ROTORUA.

Dr. W. STANLEY WALLIS, Medical Superintendent; Dr. DORSET; Miss SEARRELL, A.R.R.C., Matron.

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report on the work of this Hospital for the year ending 31st March, 1926.

As a general commentary on the work of the institution we would state that this year the influence of the recent epidemic of infantile paralysis has been felt by us to a considerable extent, and it is pleasing to know that we were able to accommodate without undue difficulty all those who were referred to us.

The general work of all the departments has proceeded evenly and satisfactorily, and requires no special comment. The training of probationers is proceeding satisfactorily, and it is pleasing to note that those who have sat for their State examination have passed with honours. The general efficiency of their training is in no small measure due to the tutor-sister, an appointment which, it seems to me, should be a regular feature of our hospital system. I beg to make here an appreciative reference to the high quality of the work and the devotion to duty of my senior sisters, some of whom have been on the Hospital staff for a number of years.

Physio-therapeutic Department.—This department has been efficiently staffed throughout the year and has worked well. During the year 37,661 treatments have been given.

Plaster Department and Operating-theatre.—During the year 526 plaster operations have been performed, and the work in this department has proceeded evenly and satisfactorily.

In addition the number of major surgical operations performed was 565.

I beg to express my appreciation of Dr. Dorset's services as an anæsthetist, and of the co-operation and support of the sister in charge of the theatre and plaster department. There have been no anæsthetic deaths during the year under review.

X-ray Department.—The total number of exposures made throughout the year was 1,160, and of these 128 were done at the request of outside medical men. The number of splints and appliances made during the year was 260, and the number of repairs effected 52. The number of surgical boots manufactured during the year was 237 pairs, and the number of repairs 215 pairs.

The services of these two departments are being requisitioned to a considerable extent by medical men and Hospital Boards, and we are hard put to it to keep pace with the orders received.

Infectious-diseases Hospital.—During the past year seventy-five cases have been treated at this Hospital. No serious infectious epidemics have occurred throughout the period, and the resources of this section of the hospital have not been unduly taxed.

Buildings and Grounds.—I beg to report that the buildings and grounds have been well cared for, and the general appearance of the Hospital is such as to evoke generally favourable comments on its appearance.

During the year, at the request of the respective Hospital Boards, I have visited both the Tauranga and Opotiki Hospitals for the purpose of conferring with the Medical Superintendents relative to the management and treatment of certain special cases.

I beg to acknowledge our appreciation of the services rendered during the year by the Red Cross Society, Patriotic Society, the Rotorua Women's Club, and many other friends who have contributed their time, money, or its equivalent, to the welfare of our patients. Finally, I beg to thank the Hon. the Minister of Health and yourself for your advice and help throughout the year, and the courtesy that has at all times been extended to us.

SECTION 3.—OTAKI SANATORIUM AND HOSPITAL.

Dr. A. H. CURTIS, Medical Superintendent; Miss M. POWNALL, Matron.

In submitting an analysis of cases treated at the Sanatorium during 1925 the results may be considered satisfactory. The number of cases discharged with the disease quiescent—55 per cent.—compares favourably with former years, although the class of case admitted has again shown an undue proportion of borderland cases. These are the cases in which some extra agency in treatment is required, and in which tuberculin, vaccine, colloid calcium, &c., have all been given careful trial, but without much effect. In certain cases Dreyer's vaccine appears to do good, and is still in use here, but no such agency stands out with as much success, in selected cases, as the induction of artificial Pneumothorax; but in order to use this intelligently an X-ray apparatus is necessary.

The number of applications for admission steadily increased during the year, and it was found necessary to add to the institution without delay. New buildings to accommodate twenty patients are now in course of construction; ten beds to be added to the "deck," and ten in a new line of outlying shelters, which should prove sufficient for present requirements. If, however, a few additional beds can be obtained by using one ward of the Hospital for bed cases they will be of more use than their actual number indicate, as being entirely away from the Sanatorium. A few alterations to the Hospital building will be required before these beds can be used.

The work of the Sanatorium itself has been carried on successfully during the year. Everything has been done that is possible to make for contentment among the patients, and to this end it is with pleasure that we look forward to the addition of a cinema apparatus for the new dining-room.

The supply of food has been of excellent quality and well cooked, the chief items—namely, milk, mutton, and vegetables—produced on the farm being of particularly good quality, and all three of first importance in a sanatorium dietary.

The alterations to the main building are now practically completed, and a great improvement has been effected in the accommodation for the nursing staff; also the kitchen arrangements are much improved, as well as the quarters for the domestic staff, &c.