

the "Hall" system for the preservation of meat during hot weather. We were present in the hall at two good and substantial dinners, which were well served and evidently enjoyed, and we were satisfied with the quality of other articles of food which we saw in the stores.

A considerable amount of painting and decoration has been done since the last visit, the boiler-house has been enlarged, and new boilers fixed, and the sewage has been treated by newly provided bacterial tanks.

A fan to dissipate steam in the washhouse would add to the comfort of those working there, and the provision of the small Isolation Hospital, which was suggested by our colleagues, would enable the cases of Phthisis, which we regretted to see being treated in the open dormitories, to be isolated in the building which is at present occupied by one of the Enteric Fever cases.

The numerical strength of the Medical Staff remains the same.

The Case Books and other Medical Records are intelligently and carefully kept, and valuable Pathological investigation continues to be prosecuted by the Pathologist, upon whom devolves no other duties.

(Signed) F. NEEDHAM,  
HARDINGE F. GIFFARD, } Commissioners  
in Lunacy.

## REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Rainhill Asylum,  
January, 1901.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the 50th Annual Report of this Institution for the year 1900, to which are appended the usual Statistical Tables.

The Asylum has continued in an overcrowded condition during the year, and many cases have had to be refused admission owing to the want of accommodation. Especially has this been the case in the Admission and Observation Wards, the congested condition of which has been the cause of much trouble and anxiety. The character of the cases has continued to show steady deterioration, and the difficulty in finding accommodation for the high proportion of feeble general paralytics and senile cases admitted has taxed our resources to the utmost.

We commenced the year with a total of 2,088 patients—1,032 males, and 1,056 females. In the course of the year 433 fresh cases were admitted, and the discharges and deaths together amounted to 429, so that on December 31st a slight increase in the patients had taken place, the number on the latter date amounting to 2,092, of whom 1,032 were males and 1,060 females. The average number resident during the year was 2,094, and the total number under treatment 2,517.

There were discharged recovered during the year 147 patients—60 males and 87 females—which figures give a percentage recovery rate on the admissions of 27·39 for the men, and 40·65 for the women, or 33·94 for both sexes combined. Though we should like to see a somewhat higher recovery rate amongst the male patients there is but little prospect of much improvement occurring in this respect so long as the Unions adopt the practice, which has been gaining ground of late years, of keeping their recent cases in the Workhouse as long as possible, and only sending on to us those which do not improve, or who are hopeless from the first. It often happens that from certain Unions not a single curable case is admitted for weeks at a time, and it therefore becomes matter of surprise that we manage to discharge as many patients as we do.