

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To the Managers of the House of Refuge :

GENTLEMEN:—In presenting you my annual report, it is with regret I have to record eight deaths during the past year.

- 2 by the explosion of the boiler ;
- 1 by drowning ;
- 1, fracture of skull, (a limb of a tree falling on him ;)
- 1, rupture of urethra, (falling on an iron bedstead ;)
- 1, Erysipelas ;
- 1, congestion of the lungs.

The eighth case—that of the little girl who was returned to the Refuge in a dying condition—you are already familiar with; having addressed you a special communication on the subject. Although presenting you an increased list of mortality, it is a source of satisfaction to me to know that only two of the deaths were the result of disease.

The health of the House has not been as good as in previous years. Ophthalmia has been very prevalent; some cases of the most virulent character. In fact, all of the diseases were of a low type. Small pox has visited us; and, although every precaution was taken to remove the infected ones from the building and to re-vaccinate the children, the epidemic was not stayed until twenty-three had suffered. In the Female Department vari-cella and whooping cough have been epidemic.

Every year increases my obligations to Mr. Lincoln, the able and efficient Superintendent, for his kindness and care of the children, and the faithful manner in which my directions are carried out.

Very respectfully,

THOS. F. MURDOCH, M. D.

BALTIMORE, January, 1863.