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[Lettsom JC \(1774\)](#). Medical memoirs of the General Dispensary in London. London: for the Author.

Title pages

MEDICAL MEMOIRS

OF THE

GENERAL DISPENSARY
in LONDON,

For part of the Years 1773 and 1774.

By JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM,

M. D. F. R. and A. S. S.

And Physician to the General Dispensary.

Tolle mihi é causa nomen Catonis : remove, ac præter-
mitte auctoritatem, quæ in judiciis aut nihil valere, aut
ad salutem debet valere.

CICERO.

L O N D O N :

Printed for EDWARD and CHARLES DILLY.

M D C C L X X I V .

S E C T VIII.

Tables of Diseases and Deaths for one Year.

FROM the useful hints suggested by my ingenious friend Dr. Percival in his medical experiments, I was induced to keep an exact register of the diseases and deaths, which fell under my observation in the General Dispensary, agreeable to the following tables, which include a period of twelve months.

The London bills of mortality have long been deemed incorrect, and indeed very justly; the reports being generally taken from nurses, or ignorant domestics, who are frequently unacquainted with the proper names and distinctions of the diseases recorded in those yearly accounts.

If no other use result from the following tables, a comparison of them with the London bills, may afford amusement at least to some readers.

T A B L E I.

A general view of all the patients admitted, &c. to the General Dispensary, under the author's care, during twelve months.

	1773 Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1774 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total.
Number admitted — —	80	128	118	127	105	111	134	131	144	186	169	217	1650
Returned thanks for their cure -	70	118	111	105	100	102	127	120	129	179	161	208	1541
Improper objects and persons not likely to receive benefit - }	1	4	1	3	2	0	0	3	5	3	2	4	28
Discharged for not attending -	4	3	3	5	1	5	5	3	2	1	2	3	37
Dead — —	5	3	3	4	2	4	2	4	8	3	4	2	44
Total — —	80	128	118	127	105	111	134	131	144	186	169	217	1650
Amongst these were attended at their own houses — }	31	33	34	57	31	40	39	50	54	58	48	37	512

Proportion of deaths, one in $37\frac{1}{2}$,
or about five deaths in every 200
patients.

TABLE II.

An account of the different diseases in each month, of the foregoing patients in Table I.

	1773 Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1774 Jan.	Feb.	March.	Total.
Abortus	1			1						2			4
Anasarca							1	3		1	1	3	9
Angina inflammatoria			1				2					1	4
Angina maligna				1						1		2	4
Arthritis				1	1								2
Asthma & dyspnæa	1	6	7	5	6	2	5	9	9	14	13	7	84
Atonia	1	3					1			3	3	2	13
Calculus vel lithiasis	2	2			2							2	8
Carcinoma vel cancrum		1							2				3
Cephalalgia & vertigo	1	2	6	1	3	5	4	3	4	6	4	3	42
Cholera morbus, colica & passio iliaca	1	1	3	1	2	4	4	3	12	6	2	6	45
Constipatio alvina													
Contusio		2								3		2	7
Convulsio & spasmus	2	4	2				1		2	1	3		15
Dentitio	1	3	1	6	4	1			1			6	23
Diarrhæa & dysenteria		4	4	2	7	7	8	7	8	11	4	10	72
Dysuria								1			1		2
Epilepsia			1	1				1	1	1		1	5
Erysipelas						1	1	2	1		1	1	7
Febris hectica	2	2	4	13	4	2	3	4	9	12	18	13	86
Febris inflammatoria								1	1	1		2	5
Febris intermittens	3	1	7	1	1	1	1		2	1	2	2	22
Febris nervosa	4	3	4	14	7	11	4	5	1	1	5	4	65
Febris putrida	14	19	14	25	14	21	34	22	11	6	7	5	192
Febris remittens	6	10	5	4	3	6	7	3	12	13	10	3	82
Febris simplex vel Dia- rium			2	1	6	2	5	4	5			4	29
Fluor albus		2		3				1		2		4	12
Gutta serena											1		1
Hæmoptœ	1	2	1	3		3			1	1	3		15
Hæmorrhagia										2		1	3
Hæmorrhoids		3			2	1		1				2	9
Hepatitis								1					1
Herpes							1					2	3
Hydrocephalus internus											1		1
Carried forward	40	70	62	83	62	67	82	71	82	87	79	88	873

T A B L E II. continued.

An account of the different diseases in each month, of the foregoing patients in Table I.

	1773 Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1774 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total.
Brought forward	40	70	62	83	62	67	82	71	82	87	79	88	873
Hydrops pectoris & ascites	3	4		2	5	3		5	5	3	3	3	36
Hysteria	3	4	3		5	1	2		2	3	7	6	36
Icterus	1	1	3		1		1	2	1	1		2	13
Lepra Ichthyosis	—			1		2	1	1			2		7
Lues venerea	—	1					2	1	1	2	1		8
Mensium obstructio		1	2	3	2	3		2		1	1	5	20
Mensium profluvium	2			2	2	6				3	2	5	22
Mensium suppressio		2	1		3					1		2	9
Morbilli	—						3		1	2	1	1	8
Ophthalmia	1	2				3	1			1	1		9
Palpitatio cordis & } cardialgia			1	8	3	1	1				1		15
Paralysis	—	1	2	1	1	5		2		1	3	2	18
Phthisis pulmonalis	8	7	5	3	3	2	3	4	5	8	5	3	56
Pleuritis	2	1	4	1	1	1	2	4	5	5	6		32
Prolapsus ani & pro- } cidencia uteri				1			1	1		1	1		5
Pfora	1	3	4	2		3	5	5	3	11	5	4	46
Rabies canina	—	1				1				1			3
Rachitis	—	2			1				1				4
Rheumatismus & sciatica	4	10	11	8	8	7	14	12	4	15	16	19	128
Salivatio spontanea										1	1		2
Scorbutus	2	4	3	2					1	1	2	4	19
Struma vel scrophula			4	2						2	3	2	13
Tinea capitis	—	1							2	2	2	7	14
Tussis & catarrhus	8	5	1	4			3	7	9	12	10	21	80
Tussis convulsiva vel } pertussis	1			1	1		1	2	4	5	14	18	47
Ulcus, abscessus, & hernia		1	2		2		2	1		2		4	14
Uterus scirrhusus	—				1	1	2	2	2			3	11
Variolæ	—	1								1			2
Ventriculi symptomata	4	2	6	3		3	4	8	10	8	10	15	73
Vermes	—	1	2		4	1	3	1	4	5	1	2	24
Vesania & Mania	—								1		1	1	3
Vomitus diuturnus		3	2			1	1		1	1	1		10
Total each month	80	128	118	127	105	111	134	131	144	186	169	217	1650

T A B L E III.

List of deaths in each month out of the foregoing table (II.) of diseases, with the age of each patient expressed by the figures: a comma placed after the figure or number implies that such patient was a bachelor; a semi-colon is put after a married man; a colon after a widower; a period after a maid; an asterisk after a married woman; and an obelisk after a widow.

	1773 Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1774 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total of each disease.
Apoplexia										40;	71;		2
Asthma							56*	50;					2
Cholera morbus									36*				1
Dentitio									½.	1,			2
Dysenteria								1½.					1
Epilepsia											71;		1
Febris hectica	3.			38;					36*				3
Febris putrida		46*		{60;5. 54;	40;	39*	15*	37.					8
Febris nervosa					48;			16.	41*				3
Hæmoptoe						36*				{60† 60*			1
Hydrops	45;	1.				35;						38;	6
Paralyfis						70;							1
Pertussis												½,	1
Phthisis pulmo- nalis	{24; 30; 2½,	2,	{7; 50; 43;						{38; 44;	35.	{24; 3,		12
Total in each month	5	3	3	4	2	4	2	4	8	3	4	2	Total deaths. 44