

1969

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND  
FOR LONDON

**EMERGENCY  
BED SERVICE**

REPORT FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31st MARCH

1969

**THE KING'S FUND  
INFORMATION CENTRE**

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KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND  
FOR LONDON

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# EMERGENCY BED SERVICE

## 31st ANNUAL REPORT

Report for the year ended 31st March, 1969

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### **THE LATE Mr. R. E. PEERS, C.B.E., F.H.A.**

On the 27th May, 1968, Mr. R. E. Peers, Director of the Emergency Bed Service, died suddenly. He was Secretary of the Service when it was set up in 1938 and retained throughout his life a close and personal interest in the work. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

### **KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON**

It may not be remembered by those who read this report, that the title which appears at the top of the cover, is the parent body of the Emergency Bed Service.

In 1907, King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, anxious to establish a lasting memorial to Queen Victoria's 60 years' reign, originated the idea of the permanent Fund that carries his name. It is the direct result of the generous and charitable response of the Citizens of London to the appeal, that made it possible in 1937 for the Emergency Bed Service to be set up. The King's Fund were approached in that year by the Voluntary Hospitals Committee for the County of London with proposals for the provision of a central office which would facilitate the admission to hospital of urgent cases. The Management Committee of King's Fund offered a grant of £3,000 p.a. towards the establishment of the Service. This annual sum has been increased to £6,500, the excess cost being borne by the four Metropolitan Regional Hospital Boards. A great deal has happened since 1937, most notably the advent of National Health Service in 1948. The E.B.S. has, in the course of 31 years arranged the admission of more than one and a quarter million patients to hospital.

It takes an Operator four minutes to receive details of a request for admission. A Hospital bed is found, the ambulance is ordered and the General Practitioner is informed of the destination of the patient. When one realises that invariably four to six hospitals are "tried" before an admission is arranged, it is not surprising that General Practitioners acclaim the Service. The Emergency Bed Service always welcomes visits by members of the Nursing and Medical professions, when they are given the opportunity of judging the value of the Service to the Metropolis.

### GENERAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The total number of applications to the Service for admission to hospital was 54,511 as against 56,148 in the year ended 31st March, 1968. Applications for infectious diseases rose to 3,086 from 2,960.

The months of January, February and March, 1969 were sunless, cold and wet. Inevitably the number of patients suffering from bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory infections increased sharply. The pressure upon the Medical Staff at hospitals may be gauged from the fact that the Medical Referee rate on 1st January was 8.8%, rising to 24.6% on the 20th March, and remained above 20% from 24th February to 26th March.

### RESPIRATORY DISEASES

	1968	1969
January	2,380	1,564
February	984	1,306
March	1,151	1,203

### MISCARRIAGES

The number of patients admitted to hospital, under this heading has fallen steadily in recent years, as indicated by the following statistics:—

Year	Admitted
1963-4	5,732
1964-5	5,816
1965-6	5,670
1966-7	4,932
1967-8	4,169
1968-9	3,631

### COLOURED WARNING

The Report of the King's Fund Working Party, "Red Warning", received a wide circulation throughout all hospitals. The recommendations made to Hospitals, Regional Hospital Boards, the Ministry and the E.B.S. have all received careful consideration.

On the 13th January, 1969, it became necessary to issue a Yellow Warning to hospitals. At that time it will be remembered the Health Authorities feared that the influenza virus (A2 Hong Kong) would bring a heavy burden upon the hospital services in Britain. The E.B.S. had, from the 1st January received an increasing number of applications for admission. The Yellow Warning was cancelled on the 21st January.

### **DRUG ADDICTION**

In April, 1968, the E.B.S. were requested to assist General Practitioners by arranging for Drug Addicts (Heroin and Cocain) to be transferred to the care of special drug addiction Clinics set up under the National Health Service following legislation which came into effect in April. The new Service, known as the London Information Service, provided assistance to some 1,200 addicts and in the course of eight months kept complete records of their attendances at the Clinics. The Ministry of Health found the assistance of great value and a letter from the Minister dated 2nd August, 1968 expressed his appreciation of the work.

APPENDIX I

GENERAL ACUTE CASES

	Applications			Admissions			Cases not admitted		
	1968/69	1967/68	1966/67	1968/69	1967/68	1966/67	G.P. Cases	Hospital Transfers	Cases Withdrawn
<b>1968</b>									
April	3,909	4,005	4,501	3,831	3,940	4,422	14 (11)	8 (2)	56 (52)
May	3,926	4,279	4,002	3,854	4,199	3,916	12 (15)	8 (1)	52 (64)
June	3,583	3,861	3,750	3,519	3,789	3,672	8 (20)	5 (4)	51 (48)
July	3,601	3,674	3,639	3,549	3,612	3,590	10 (11)	4 (6)	38 (45)
August	3,660	3,542	3,546	3,589	3,492	3,494	12 (6)	3 (1)	56 (43)
September	3,497	3,637	3,669	3,446	3,592	3,614	8 (6)	2 (4)	41 (35)
October	4,116	4,015	3,953	4,037	3,948	3,870	13 (4)	10 (3)	56 (60)
November	4,389	4,515	4,352	4,321	4,425	4,257	15 (25)	12 (2)	41 (63)
December	4,870	6,072	4,808	4,811	5,921	4,688	12 (65)	1 (10)	46 (76)
<b>1969</b>									
January	5,415	6,273	5,147	5,307	6,108	4,974	31 (68)	5 (4)	72 (93)
February	4,807	4,511	4,130	4,712	4,405	4,026	24 (27)	10 (9)	61 (70)
March	5,652	4,804	4,202	5,503	4,696	4,110	43 (33)	19 (6)	87 (69)
	51,425	53,188	49,699	50,479	52,127	48,633	202 (291)	87 (52)	657 (718)

Figures for the corresponding year are shown in brackets.

**APPENDIX II**  
**GENERAL ACUTE CASES**  
**APPLICATIONS**

**Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board**

	North-East	North-West	South-East	South-West
<b>1968</b>				
April ..	1,213	1,198	783	715
May .. ..	1,170	1,327	734	695
June .. ..	1,046	1,278	587	672
July .. ..	1,061	1,215	645	680
August ..	1,151	1,238	674	597
September ..	1,035	1,126	671	665
October ..	1,199	1,464	740	714
November ..	1,269	1,508	810	802
December ..	1,345	1,616	979	930
<b>1969</b>				
January ..	1,497	1,783	1,078	1,057
February ..	1,369	1,671	886	881
March ..	1,679	1,905	1,056	1,012
	15,033	17,329	9,643	9,420



### APPENDIX III

#### MEDICALLY REFERRED CASES

1968		
April .. ..	417	(390)
May .. ..	418	(410)
June .. ..	320	(316)
July .. ..	277	(296)
August .. ..	269	(169)
September .. ..	187	(213)
October .. ..	434	(307)
November .. ..	497	(370)
December .. ..	463	(804)
1969		
January .. ..	783	(1,215)
February .. ..	789	(742)
March .. ..	1,163	(769)
	6,017	(6,001)

Figures for the corresponding month of the previous year are shown in brackets.

King's Fund



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