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EMERGENCY
BED SERVICE

(King Edward's Hospital Fund for London)

REPORT FOR THE YEAR

ENDED 31st MARCH

1960

**THE KING'S FUND
INFORMATION CENTRE**
11-13 CAVENDISH SQUARE
LONDON W1G 0AN

Class mark	Extensions
Date of receipt	Price

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND
FOR LONDON

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EMERGENCY BED SERVICE

22nd Annual Report

Report for the year ended 31st March, 1960.

"Happy is the Country that has no history".

The year under review has been a remarkably quiet one for the Service, with requests for beds totalling 55,847 as compared with 63,807 during the previous year. The winter was, indeed, one of the quietest experienced since the start of the National Health Service, and weekly applications for general acute cases rarely rose about 1,300. This situation is in accordance with the general experience of the Service that winters in which epidemics occur tend to be followed by those in which applications are below normal.

Medical Referee Procedure.

Against this background it is disturbing to find that during the period January - March no less than 11.4% of general cases were admitted only as a result of the operation of the Medical Referee procedure - a figure only fractionally below that for the same period of 1959, when applications were much more numerous. Comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year is not entirely fair due to the fact that for a considerable part of the first quarter of 1959 warnings were in operation, and at such times the teaching hospitals take more cases from the Service, thus reducing the pressure on the Regional Board hospitals. Nevertheless, it is difficult to understand why it should have been necessary to use the Referee procedure so frequently in such a quiet period.

Comparative figures for the past 9 years are given below:

<u>Jan.-Mar.</u>	<u>Applications</u>	<u>Admissions</u>	<u>Med.Refs.</u>	<u>% admitted via Med.Refs.</u>
1952	14,891	12,834	705	5.4
1953	21,197	17,642	2044	11.5
1954	17,309	15,389	1955	12.7
1955	18,106	16,250	2002	12.3
1956	19,005	16,993	2633	15.4
1957	15,982	14,914	1527	10.2
1958	17,097	15,792	1888	11.9
1959	20,125	18,746	2189	11.6
1960	15,498	14,665	1681	11.4

Maternity Cases.

In the last two Annual Reports mention was made of the increasing number of instances when the Service was asked to arrange the last minute admission of normal maternity cases for social reasons. Although in the majority of these cases the family doctor or ante-natal clinic have known that a hospital confinement would be necessary, they have been unable to book a bed in advance, and the Service has been asked to deal with the case after the patient has started labour. It is encouraging to note that since August 1959 there has been a slight improvement in the situation, and if seasonal influences are eliminated, the number of such cases handled by the Service has shown a slight decline.

Appendix IV shows the moving annual total number of maternity cases dealt with by the Service from April 1956 to March 1960.

APPENDIX IGENERAL ACUTE CASES

	APPLICATIONS	ADMISSIONS	CASES NOT ADMITTED		
			FAILURES TO ADMIT		CASES WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANTS
			G.P. CASES	HOSPITAL TRANSFERS	
<u>1959</u>					
April	4,373 (4,592)	4,176 (4,318)	91 (150)	30 (40)	76 (84)
May	3,971 (4,099)	3,824 (3,922)	56 (80)	22 (21)	69 (76)
June	3,651 (3,796)	3,527 (3,655)	52 (57)	16 (20)	56 (64)
July	3,564 (3,575)	3,451 (3,490)	26 (27)	27 (14)	60 (44)
August	3,440 (3,529)	3,375 (3,442)	21 (23)	7 (13)	37 (51)
September	3,481 (3,604)	3,356 (3,498)	49 (28)	20 (18)	56 (60)
October	3,944 (4,253)	3,809 (4,113)	44 (37)	24 (29)	67 (74)
November	4,353 (4,720)	4,211 (4,520)	52 (82)	27 (30)	63 (88)
December	4,307 (5,354)	4,192 (5,105)	45 (113)	5 (19)	65 (117)
<u>1960</u>					
January	5,394 (6,464)	5,093 (5,951)	84 (320)	29 (43)	188 (150)
February	5,181 (8,165)	4,870 (7,543)	204 (448)	22 (3)	85 (171)
March	4,923 (5,496)	4,702 (5,252)	100 (127)	29 (17)	92 (100)
Total	50,582(57,647)	48,586(54,809)	824(1,492)	258(267)	914(1,079)

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

APPENDIX II

INFECTIOUS CASES

	<u>Total Applications</u>	<u>Total Admissions</u>
<u>1959</u>		
April	499 (445)	494 (443)
May	382 (504)	379 (502)
June	509 (486)	505 (484)
July	466 (533)	463 (529)
August	382 (492)	380 (490)
September	340 (424)	337 (419)
October	348 (436)	346 (435)
November	411 (446)	409 (437)
December	443 (499)	442 (498)
<u>1960</u>		
January	539 (593)	526 (585)
February	439 (645)	434 (621)
March	507 (637)	501 (608)
Total	5265 (6140)	5216 (6051)

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

APPENDIX III

General Practitioner's Acute Cases - Analysis Age Groups

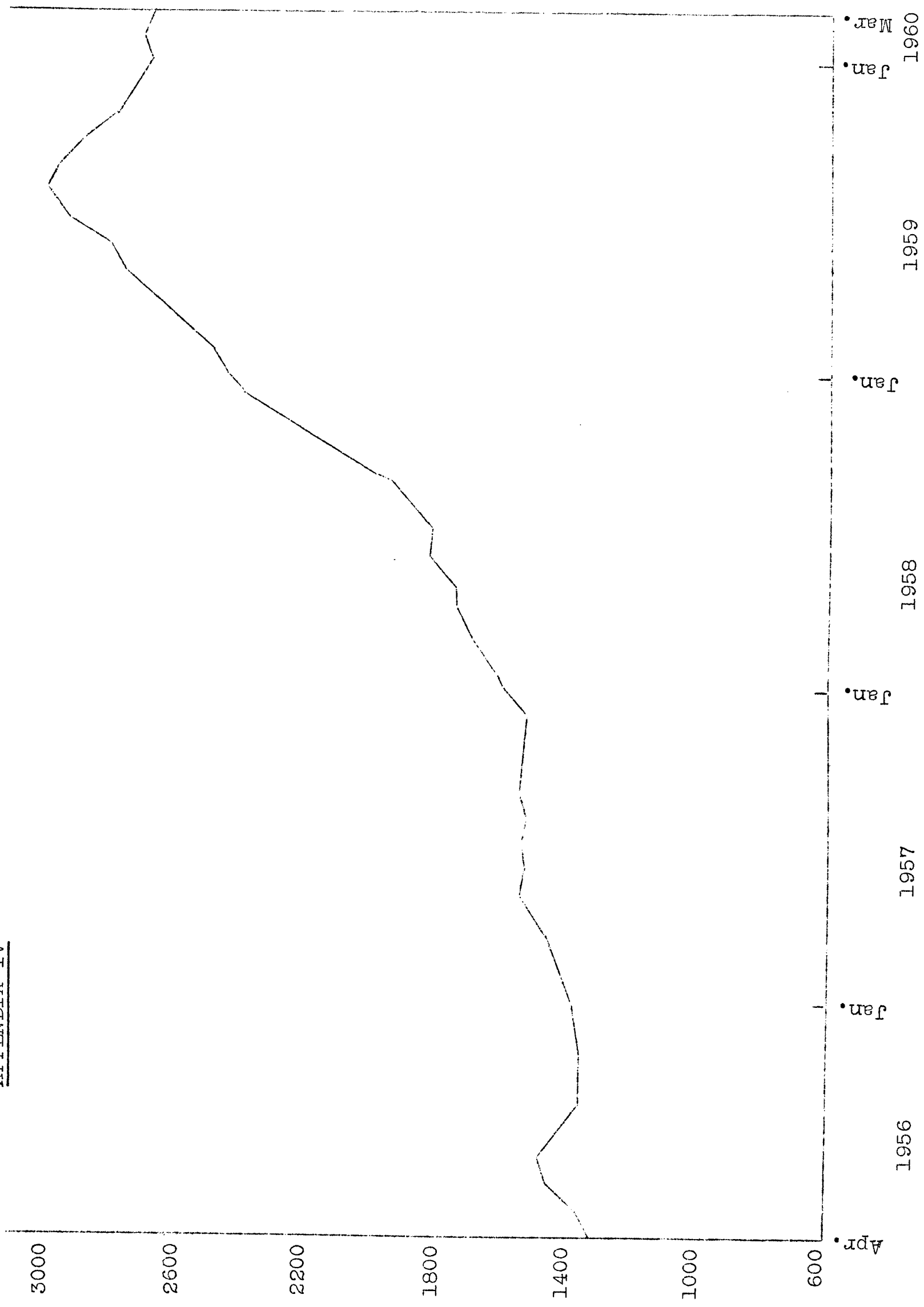
Nov: 22nd 1959 - Mar: 12th 1960.

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Cases Offered</u>	<u>Percentage Admitted</u>	<u>Increase or Decrease compared with corres- ponding period of 1958 - 1959</u>
Birth - 20	3318 (4159)	99.9	-
21 - 30	2323 (2454)	99.3	-
31 - 40	1460 (1559)	99.3	- 0.2
41 - 50	1304 (1900)	98.8	+ 0.8
51 - 60	2284 (3306)	98.0	+ 2.0
61 - 70	2918 (4549)	96.5	+ 1.8
71 - 80	2987 (4359)	94.4	+ 1.9
Over 80	1505 (1753)	92.9	+ 3.6

Total Offered: 18,099 (24,039)

Corresponding figures for the previous year are shown in brackets.

APPENDIX IV



King's Fund



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