as much as possible from ordering costly drugs, confining himself chiefly to the most necessary medical articles, and ordering every thing in this Department with a prudent regard to frugality. To these requests, attention has always been politely promised; and I am unable satisfactorily to explain the seeming incongruity between a greatly lessened number of Patients, and an undiminished cost of Medicines. Upon coming into the Institution I found the prerogative of ordering Medicines in the hands of the Students, and left it so, without other change, than concentrating it in the hands of the Senior Student, - hoping, thereby to promote uniformity and economy in the order for Medical Supplies. Since then I have interfered no farther than occasionally to overlook the book of orders, and renew respectful suggestions as to the discreet and discriminating exercise of the duty in question.

I advert to this Topic for no other reason, than because, in reporting on the State of the Medical Department, it is my duty to make such representations as belong to my province, with the candour the Trustees have a right to expect. The facts are stated, without wish or design to impute blame to any; the Senior Student (as before mentioned) has always expressed willingness, to concur in requests, made of him, to restrict orders for Medicines to necessary & unavoidable demands, and if there have been errors in this particular, they can have arisen from inadvertence only.

Physicians Annual Report

The general aspect of the Medical & Surgical cases treated in the House during the past year, does not vary materially, from the results which have been found to obtain in this respect, in former years. The proportionate ratio of Deaths to the cases treated if computed by a regard to little circumstances, will be found rather less, than the average ratio of two or three preceding years. The actual rate of mortality last year, estimated by the whole number of cases treated, is manifestly much larger than ever before, but this disproportion has not accrued under equal, or like circumstances. - It is known to the Trustees, that for an entire month, a new and deadly pestilence - never before present in this Institution raged incessantly, with extreme and irresistable virulence in the Alms House, proving here, as every where else - invincible and mortal, in a ratio far exceeding the fatality of any Epidemic, hitherto known to the world. - It will readily be understood that Cholera, - Malignant or Asiatic Cholera, (as recently introduced into our Country) is the pestilence which is here referred to; The general spread of this

disease thro the Alms House last summer, its overwhelming violence and terrible mortality, are too well known to many of the Trustees, by their own personal and familiar observance of its ravages in the House, to need any description by me, of its extension prevalence in the Institution, its fearful character, - and its unexampled power to destroy. - I had designed to embody in the annual Report which it is my duty to present to the Trustees a condensed account of its rise, progress and consequences, of Cholera in the Alms House. - But I find in a late report of the Trustees to the Mayor and Councils of Baltimore, a concise, yet forcible and accurate history of the Endemic (or local) prevalence of that disease in the Institution under their charge, which seems to render particular reference to the subject, at this time, in a great degree superfluous. - That Report comprehends, and discriminates, with judgement and precision every thing interesting or important, in connection with the origin, course and effects of Cholera, in the establishment; detailing correctly the state of the Institution previous to the breaking out of that malady, and the faithful exertions made by all entrusted with the charge of this asylum of misfortune and want, to restrain, mitigate and lessen, the evils of so great a Calamity. All that I could say on the subject, (viewed as the occasion would demand in connection with the Health, police, economy, and conduct of the Institution) is substantially anticipated in the Report of the Trustees. - I therefore bind reference to this painfully interesting topic, (other than the expression of my sincere wont, that the deep solicitude and conscientious exertions of the Physician and his assistants, were not more frequently successful, and productive of happier results, in a contest with the new and formidable assailant whom it was our misfortune to encounter daily, and almost hourly, for so many weeks, in the Wards of the Alms House. It is some abatement of the painful reflections ensuing to a retrospect of the calamitous infliction we have witnessed in the House that the sufferings and loss, among the objects of our care, have been but a part, and not more than an equal part, of like misfortune, from the same cause, under all similar circumstances. The experience of the world has been every where the same, in respect to the generally invincible nature of fully formed Cholera. A higher and greater consolation remains to all concerned in the charge and conduct of this Institution, in the conviction that every thing which Human Sympathy and succour could offer or accomplish was fully and faithfully exerted, in behalf of the unfortunate subjects and victims of that afflicting Visitation. -

Respectfully Submitted
S. Th. H. Wright

Alms 1833

PAGE IS STAINED

MS. 1866
ROLL NO. 1
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE POOR FOR BALTIMORE CITY AND COUNTY AND BOARD MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT AGENCIES
MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY