

(No. 8.)



1874.

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T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

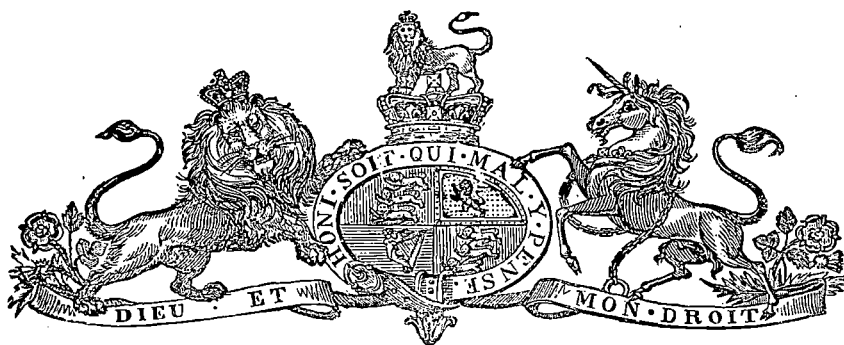
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Q U E E N ' S A S Y L U M.

R E P O R T F O R 1873.

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Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 21, 1874.



## QUEEN'S ASYLUM REPORT.

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*Port Arthur, 20th May, 1874.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish, by your request, the Annual Report of the Queen's Asylum for 1873.

1. The admissions of children during the year were 23, whilst the numbers apprenticed were 44, discharged 13, died 3. The average number was  $324\frac{279}{365}$ .

2. The total expenditure was £4841 14s. 10d., reduced however by £77 16s. 8d., moneys received for maintenance, &c., details of which will be found in the Tables appended; thus making the amount £4763 18s. 2d., and the cost per head of the inmates £14 13s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

3. The scholastic duties were carried on as heretofore, as also the religious instruction; the several reports upon which being supplied by W. Rule, Esq., the Rev. Canon Hudspeth, M.A., and the Venerable W. J. Dunne, V.G.

These Reports are attached.

4. The industrial training of the children was ever kept prominently in view; and, notwithstanding the changes made in the staff of officials in the spirit of economy, the interests of the inmates and their careful supervision were duly protected.

5. Towards the close of the year an epidemic of Scarlatina broke out, by which 64 children were prostrated. In one instance the severity of the attack was followed by purpura and death; in a second by convulsions and death also.

A lad about 12 years of age likewise succumbed to disease of the vertebræ of the back. He was received into the Institution in a sickly condition, and laboured under great deformity from extensive curvature of the spine.

6. Owing to the outbreak of Scarlatina the Establishment was debarred the accustomed distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Mrs. Du Cane, and other philanthropists, at the annual prize-giving.

The ceremony, however, was honored by the presence of His Lordship the Bishop of Tasmania, the Ven. W. J. Dunne, V.G., the Rev. Canons Hudspeth and Bromby, the Rev. P. R. Hennebry, and several visitors.

7. The usual holidays upon the anniversary of Her Majesty's Birthday, and of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales's, were properly celebrated.

"Fox's Feast," also, was a day of rejoicing for the children; as were other occasions when amusement and recreation were provided for them by invitation from the charitably disposed proprietors of public entertainments exhibiting in Hobart Town.

8. Fewer strangers probably than formerly visited the Establishment during the 12 months; still the entries in the Visitors' Book have had their numbers enlarged during that period, and tend to support the many pleasing records that from time to time have been made in it.

9. The operations of the Farm were continued with unabated vigour, as may be judged by a reference to the Account Current attached.

The Farm has ever formed an integral part of the Queen's Asylum; and it is only of late years that its expenditure has been kept separately.

The balance to credit, therefore, of £557 0s. 3d., if allowed to be calculated as formerly in arriving at the cost per head of the children, would, in place of showing it as £14 13s. 4½d., make it only about £12 9s.

In conclusion, my connection with the Institution having ceased with the termination of the year, I desire thus briefly to summarise the following particulars—(a) that during the period of my superintendence since the commencement of 1865, 344 boys and 280 girls were received into the Asylum;—(b) that 314 boys and 239 girls were apprenticed from it;—(c) that 175 boys and 162 girls were discharged to parents or friends; and (d) that 7 boys and 4 girls died, making totals of 624 admissions and 901 discharges, including deaths.

With so large a number of children annually sent out into the world, is it surprising that a few stray ones should be found? So far, however, as a fair estimate can be formed, a very large majority of the inmates of the Queen's Asylum have become good and useful members of society, notwithstanding the slur that has always been cast upon the unfortunate "Orphan School apprentice."

The conduct and bearing of the children in the Establishment, as a rule, have been respectful and proper; and, making allowances for youthful follies and frolics, they performed their several avocations with cheerfulness, and have ever been amenable to sympathy and kind treatment.

Owing to the absence of any provision for teaching trades, the attempt to re-establish them, after being once tried, was never made. Apart from the expense attending it, the fact of the inmates being apprenticed at an age before they could properly master a calling, operated in determining the matter; added to which it is an acknowledged truth that few of those learning trades in an Institution of the kind ever follow them in after life.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COVERDALE, *late Principal.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

No. 1.	
Admitted .....	23
Apprenticed .....	44
Discharged .....	10
Died .....	3
Daily Average .....	324 <sup>272</sup> <sub>368</sub>
	£ s. d.
Cost per head .....	14 13 4½
	£ s. d.
Salaries and Allowances .....	1721 2 3
Books and Stationery .....	25 17 11
Provisions .....	2054 5 3
Fuel and Light .....	361 13 11
Stores .....	84 7 6
Bedding .....	473 6 5
Clothing .....	42 6 1
Repairs to Buildings .....	69 3 10
Needlework .....	4 11 8
Medicines .....	5 0 0
Total Expenditure .....	4841 14 10
Cash Receipts .....	77 16 8
Net Expenditure .....	£4763 18 2

No. 2.	
Salaries.	
	£ s. d. £ s. d.
Principal and Medical Officer .....	450 0 0
Clerk and Storekeeper .....	120 0 0
Head Schoolmaster .....	148 13 1
Assistant Schoolmaster.....	120 0 0
Matron, Female School .....	125 0 0
Matron, Infant School (to 30th April) ..	30 13 4
Schoolmistress, Senior (to 30th April) ..	24 4 4
Schoolmistress, Junior.....	91 13 4
Schoolmistress, Infant School (1st July to 31st Dec.).....	35 0 0
Cook and Storeman .....	70 0 0
Carpenter .....	90 0 0
Drill and Bandmaster .....	40 0 0
Organist .....	25 0 0
Nurse, Hospital.....	36 0 0
General Nurses (2), Laundress (1), Cooks (2) .....	140 0 0
General Servants (2).....	50 0 0
Messenger (1), Monitors 16.....	20 12 4
	<hr/> 1616 16 5
ALLOWANCES.	
Rent of House for Principal .....	60 0 0
Head Schoolmaster, instructing Monitors	7 7 4
Schoolmistress, instructing Monitresses..	3 6 8
Moiety of Police Rate .....	2 1 3
Bonus to Matron, Infant School.....	2 8 10
Gratuity to Assistant Master for extra duties .....	14 9 6
Gratuity to Carpenter for extra duties ..	4 2 3
Gratuities to Servants .....	10 10 0
	<hr/> 104 5 10
	<hr/> £1721 2 3

## No. 3.

*COST of Provisions.*

	Children.	Servants.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January.....	164 3 5	6 7 11
February.....	162 17 2	5 18 4
March.....	164 18 4	6 9 4
April.....	164 12 7	6 7 3
May.....	165 7 3	6 11 0
June.....	164 15 4	6 8 1
July.....	165 7 8	6 19 11
August.....	164 13 9	6 19 11
September.....	164 2 7	6 8 4
October.....	165 13 8	6 10 0
November.....	165 3 11	6 15 4
December.....	165 16 5	6 17 9
	£1977 12 1	£78 13 2

	£ s. d.
Total for Children .....	1977 12 1
Total for Servants .....	78 13 2
	£2054 5 3

## No. 4.

*COST of Fuel and Light.*

	Fuel.	Light.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January.....	19 19 0	3 13 0
February.....	16 10 0	2 18 4
March.....	19 19 0	3 10 6
April.....	24 19 0	4 8 4
May.....	35 6 0	4 1 7
June.....	35 6 0	4 3 9
July.....	34 3 0	4 11 4
August.....	35 6 0	4 11 9
September.....	34 3 0	4 8 1
October.....	19 19 0	3 6 9
November.....	18 16 0	3 2 10
December.....	21 2 0	3 5 8
	£315 8 0	£46 1 11

## RECAPITULATION.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coals, 600,300 lbs., at 23s. per ton	308 4 0	
Wood, 40,320 lbs., at 8s. per ton	7 4 0	
Oil, Kerosene, 343 gallons, at 2s. per gallon	..	34 6 0
Candles, Tallow, 535 lbs., at 4½d. per lb.	..	10 6 2
Candles, Composition, 25 lbs., at 1s. 1d. per lb.	..	1 7 1
Wicks, Kerosene, 4 dozen, at 8d. per dozen	..	0 2 8
	£315 8 0	£46 1 11

## No. 5.

*RETURN of the NUMBER of CHILDREN in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN, for the Year 1873.*

Remaining 1 Jan. 1873.	Admitted in 1873.	Apprenticed in 1873.	Discharged in 1873.	Died in 1873.	Remaining 31 Dec. 1873.	Average Number throughout the Year.
M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
182 159	11 12	25 19	7 6	2 1	165 139	166 <sup>112</sup> <sub>365</sub> 158 <sup>153</sup> <sub>363</sub>
341	23	44	13	3	304	324 <sup>272</sup> <sub>363</sub>

*RETURN showing the AGES of the CHILDREN remaining in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM on the 31st December, 1873; how they were maintained; and their Religion.*

	AGES.				HOW MAINTAINED.				RELIGION.		
	Under 6.	6 to 8.	8 to 12.	Above 12.	Colonial Government.	Imperial Government.	Undecided.	Moiety to each Government.	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Undecided.
Males .....	32	11	87	20	156	2	—	6	79	81	—
Females .....	18	9	94	33	130	3	—	7	71	73	—
TOTAL.....	50	20	181	53	286	5	—	13	150	154	—

*RETURN showing the EXPENSE of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM, the Amount of Cash Receipts, and the Cost of each Child per annum, for the Year 1873.*

EXPENDITURE.			CASH RECEIPTS.	NET COST OF INSTITUTION TO GOVERNMENT.	COST PER HEAD PER ANNUM.
<i>Salaries and Allowances.</i>	<i>Other Expenses.</i>	TOTAL.			
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1721 2 3	3120 12 7	4841 14 10	77 16 8	4763 18 2	14 13 4½

*RETURN showing Details of Cash Receipts at the QUEEN'S ASYLUM during the Year 1873.*

	Amount.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Indenture Fees.....		3 4 6
Maintenance of Charles Holbrook's children .....	32 10 0	
Maintenance of Jas. Carns's child.....	9 2 6	
Maintenance of A. Carrick's child.....	4 5 0	
		45 17 6
Maintenance of a returned apprentice .....	..	1 0 0
Sale of rags, &c. ....	..	3 18 5
Sale of pigs .....	24 14 0	
Less Commission .....	0 17 9	
		23 16 3
		£77 16 8

Proportion of Net Expenditure chargeable to.....

Colonial Government.....	£4543 17 3
Imperial Government .....	£220 0 11

No. 6.

*NEEDLEWORK performed by the Girls during 1873.*

	Made.	Repairs.
Pinafores .....	424	320
Chemises.....	388	46
Petticoat Skirts .....	210	212
Night Dresses.....	104	30
Hoods .....	90	196
Sheets .....	127	100
Pillow Cases .....	139	5
Frock Skirts .....	327	86
Towels .....	16	—
Shirts .....	151	488
Trousers.....	92	547
Vests .....	—	462
Jumpers .....	445	350
Shirts .....	296	371
Aprons .....	86	—
Socks and Stockings darned.....	—	579
	2895	3792

*VALUE of said Needlework if charged at ordinary Rates.*

Dozens.	Pieces.	Articles.	Price.	Amount.
22	2	Sheets, Pillow Cases, &c..	3s. per doz.	£ s. d. 3 6 6
219	1	General Clothing.....	6s. per doz.	65 14 6
316	—	Repairs.....	1s. per doz.	15 16 0
				84 17 0

No. 7.

*WASHING performed by Women and Girls during 1873.*

Pinafores .....	35,449
Bathing Dresses .....	120
Shirts.....	11,636
Socks, pairs .....	1697
Cases, Pillow .....	15,669
Chemises .....	10,635
Stockings, pairs.....	10,794
Hoods .....	2166
Gowns, Night .....	7544
Towels .....	6778
Jackets, Girls' .....	—
Sheets .....	12,149
Blankets .....	538
Flannels.....	1001
Frocks .....	318
Jumpers .....	750
Petticoats .....	380
Trousers .....	2292
Waistcoats .....	1326
Jackets .....	448
	121,690

*VALUE of said Washing if charged at ordinary Rates.*

Dozens.	Pieces.	Articles.	Price.	Amount.
1057	3	Sheets, Blankets, and Rugs ....	1s. 6d. per doz.	£ s. d. 79 5 10½
9083	7	Ordinary .....	1s. per doz.	454 3 7
				£533 9 5½

*RETURN of Sick and Wounded at QUEEN'S ASYLUM for 1873.*

CLASS 1.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.				CLASS 3.—LOCAL DISEASES.			
<b>Order 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES.</b>				<b>Order 1.—DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.</b>			
Hives - - - - -	-	-	1	Conjunctivitis - - - - -	-	-	2
Infantile Fever - - - - -	-	-	39	Odontalgia - - - - -	-	-	2
Common continued Fever - - - - -	-	-	5	Convulsions - - - - -	-	-	1
Carbuncle - - - - -	-	-	2	Ophthalmia - - - - -	-	-	2
Boil - - - - -	-	-	1	Total Order 1 - - - - -	-	-	7
Diarrhœa - - - - -	-	-	1				
Parotitis - - - - -	-	-	163	<b>Order 3.—DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.</b>			
Rheumatism - - - - -	-	-	1	Laryngitis - - - - -	-	-	1
Scarlatina - - - - -	-	-	64	Bronchitis - - - - -	-	-	1
Catarrh - - - - -	-	-	4	Pneumonia - - - - -	-	-	1
Quinsy - - - - -	-	-	3	Total Order 3 - - - - -	-	-	3
Total Order 1 - - - - -	-	-	284				
<b>Order 3.—DIETIC DISEASES.</b>				<b>Order 4.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.</b>			
Purpura - - - - -	-	-	1	Ephemeral Fever - - - - -	-	-	33
Scurvy - - - - -	-	-	1	Constipation - - - - -	-	-	2
Total Order 3 - - - - -	-	-	2	Jaundice - - - - -	-	-	6
				Total Order 4 - - - - -	-	-	41
<b>Order 4.—PARASITIC DISEASES.</b>							
Scabies - - - - -	-	-	29	<b>Order 7.—DISEASES OF THE LOCOMOTIVE SYSTEM.</b>			
Lumbrici - - - - -	-	-	12	Caries of Vertebrae - - - - -	-	-	1
Tinea Capitis - - - - -	-	-	1	Synovitis - - - - -	-	-	2
Total Order 4 - - - - -	-	-	42	Morbus Coxarius - - - - -	-	-	1
				Total Order 7 - - - - -	-	-	4
Total Class 1 - - - - -	-	-	328				
<b>CLASS 2.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.</b>				<b>Order 8.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM.</b>			
<b>Order 1.—DIATHETIC DISEASES.</b>				Eruption - - - - -	-	-	17
Anæmia - - - - -	-	-	2	Pernio - - - - -	-	-	5
Tumor - - - - -	-	-	2	Eczema - - - - -	-	-	9
Total Order 1 - - - - -	-	-	4	Total Order 8 - - - - -	-	-	31
<b>Order 2.—TUBERCULAR DISEASES.</b>				Total Class 3 - - - - -	-	-	86
Scrofula - - - - -	-	-	1				
Abscess - - - - -	-	-	13	<b>CLASS 5.—VIOLENCE.</b>			
Total Order 2 - - - - -	-	-	14	<b>Order 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE.</b>			
Total Class 2 - - - - -	-	-	18	Contusions - - - - -	-	-	4
				Concussions - - - - -	-	-	2
				Cuts - - - - -	-	-	6
				Scalds - - - - -	-	-	2
				Total Order 1 - - - - -	-	-	14
				Total Class 5 - - - - -	-	-	14
GENERAL TOTAL - - - - -	-	-	446				

*ACCOUNT CURRENT of the ORPHAN SCHOOL FARM, New Town, for the Year 1873.*

<b>Dr.</b>	<b>£ s. d.</b>	<b>£ s. d.</b>	<b>Cr.</b>	<b>£ s. d.</b>	<b>£ s. d.</b>
<b>Salaries.</b>			<b>Milk supplied Institution, 74,064 pints, at 2d.</b>		
Farm Overseer .....	120	0 0	Butter ditto, 1126½ lbs., at 1s. ....	56	17 0
Gardener, &c. ....	93	12 0	Flour ditto, 3006½ lbs., at £12 per ton ....	18	0 8
Ploughman .....	78	0 0	Vegetables ditto, 6775 lbs., at £5 per ton ..	15	2 6
Labourer .....	52	11 9	Ditto, 29,964 lbs., at £4 per ton .....	53	10 3
Ditto .....	65	0 0	Ditto, 4449 lbs., at £4 4s. per ton ....	8	6 11
Farm Boys .....	10	8 0	Ditto, 4360 lbs., at £2 10s. per ton ....	4	17 4
		419 11 9	Firewood supplied Institution, 4320 lbs., at 8s. per ton .....	7	4 0
<b>Miscellaneous.</b>					781 2 8
Seeds—5 lbs. Turnip seed, 7s. 6d.; ½ ton			<b>Cash Receipts.</b>		
Potatoes, £2 10s. ....	2	17 6	Service of Bull .....	1	0 0
10 bushels Wheat, £2 17s. 6d.;			Sale of 99½ bushels Oats .....	17	7 11
6 lbs. Carrot, £1 4s. ....	4	1 6	Barley .....	28	14 4
1 lb. Parsnip, 4s.; 1400 lbs. Potatoes, £2 12s. 6d. ....	2	16 6			47 2 3
15 bushels Tares, at 8s. ....	6	0 0	<b>Sale of Stock.</b>		
Bran, 200 bushels, at 11d.; 450 bushels, at 1s.	31	13 4	Two Cows, £13; 1 ditto, £7; 1 ditto, £5 ..	25	0 0
Blacksmith's work, £20 18s. 1d.; Toll, £7 5s.	28	3 1	Two Calves, at 6s.; 16 ditto, at 5s. ....	3	2 0
Veterinary Surgeon, £1; threshing Grain, £8 11s. 8d. ....	9	11 8	Thirteen Calves, at 2s. 6d. each .....	1	12 6
Grinding Wheat, £2 18s. 6d.; Sickles, 18s..	3	16 6			29 14 6
Repairs to Cart, £2 13s. 6d.; repairs to Harness, £1 17s. ....	4	10 6	<b>Milk supplied to other Establishments, Hobart Town.</b>		
Commission on sale of Stock and Barley ....	2	18 10	General Hospital, 18,611 pints, at 2d. ....	155	1 10
		96 9 5	Invalids, Brickfields, 6575 pints, at 2d. ....	54	15 10
					209 17 8
<b>Stock purchased.</b>			<b>Potatoes supplied.</b>		
1 Cow and Calf, £6 15s.; 1 Cow, £9 .....	15	15 0	Gaol, Hobart, 1464 lbs., at £5 per ton .....	3	5 4
1 Bay Mare .....	24	0 0	Ditto, 3923 lbs., at £4 10s. per ton .....	7	17 11
		39 15 0	Ditto, 7391 lbs., at £4 per ton .....	13	3 11
			Invalids, Brickfields, 5840 lbs., at £4 10s. per ton .....	11	14 8
			Ditto, 4969 lbs., at £4 1s. per lb. ....	8	17 6
Balance in favour of Farm .....		555 16 2			44 19 4
		557 0 3			
		£1112 16 5			£1112 16 5

December 26, 1873.

On the 24th instant, at the request of the Bishop, I examined in Holy Scripture and the elements of Christian faith and practice the Children of the Queen's Asylum, who are instructed in religious knowledge under the supervision of the Rev. Canon Hudspeth. The boys and girls in the several classes were fewer than in former years, the whole number of the inmates of the Asylum being, as I was informed, considerably reduced, and the prevalence of scarlet fever having also withdrawn many from the Examination.

The answers given to my questions were, on the whole, very satisfactory, and better than would probably have been given by children of the same age in other schools. In the instruction imparted daily by the teachers, and the careful oversight as well as personal teaching bestowed by Mr. Hudspeth, the children of the Asylum enjoy greater opportunities of improvement in religious knowledge than the generality of children elsewhere; and, as a consequence, they know more and answer more accurately. I have pleasure in recording my opinion that, while the proficiency of the classes which I examined is of course chiefly owing to the careful and conscientious instruction which they have received from their former teachers, the master and mistress appointed during the present year are manifesting an equal degree of zeal and intelligence in imbuing the children with a knowledge of sacred truths. I do not think that the answers of the boys and girls in the highest classes were better than formerly; but I saw fewer specimens of remarkable ignorance in the lower classes; and the answers of the younger children, and of those who had been admitted most recently, were generally somewhat better than they used to be.

ARTHUR DAVENPORT.

*Mayfield House, 31st December, 1873.*

SIR,

HAVING been requested to examine this year the Catholic Children of the Queen's Asylum as to their attainments in religious knowledge, I have the honor to report that I devoted Tuesday, the 23rd instant, to that object, examining the boys in the forenoon and the girls in the afternoon.

The First Class of Boys consisted of four monitors and seven others. The former presented as subjects for examination the "Historical Catechism," and "Butler's Catechism." Their answering was excellent throughout. The others presented a portion of the "Historical Catechism," and the whole of "Butler's Catechism." One alone of these boys, viz. Berry, answered very well; the others only fairly.

The Second Class, numbering ten boys, had for subjects of examination the "Historical Catechism," and ten pages of "Butler's Catechism;" but, with the exception of two boys, viz. Neaves and Hartford, whose answering was very good, they answered but very indifferently.

The answering of the Third Class, consisting of twelve boys, who presented as subjects for examination "Butler's Catechism" to page 42, and "Small Catechism" to page 26, together with certain "Prayers," was better, and more intelligent than that of the Second Class. As to the Fourth Class, which counted nineteen boys, they intelligently answered questions from "Butler's Catechism" to page 24, and from "Small Catechism" to page 26, and recited accurately the prayers which they are under an obligation to know.

The Girls were ranged in four classes, as the Boys, but in different order, their fourth class consisting of those who were most advanced in age, and in knowledge, and diminishing in both downwards to the first class. Twelve Girls stood up for examination in the Fourth Class, and presented for subjects "Church History from the time of the Apostles to the end of the Thirteenth Century," "Historical Catechism," and "Butler's General Catechism." To mostly all the questions put to them accurate replies were promptly and intelligently made. Throughout an examination which embraced a great portion of Bible and Ecclesiastical history they acquitted themselves very well indeed; and I think it due to them to say that, in my experience at Sunday schools and parochial examinations, I have never found any children better posted in the principles of their religious duties, and the manner in which they ought to be practised.

The answering of the Third Class, in which also twelve girls were examined, and which had for subjects the "Historical Catechism," and "Butler's General Catechism," was exceedingly good, approximating in accuracy and intelligence, as nearly as possible, to that of the fourth class.

The Second Class, in which eight girls were examined, answered very intelligently the several questions put to them from "Butler's General Catechism;" and the First Class, which was composed of the smallest children, were, nearly all of them, able to answer questions touching the principal mysteries of religion, and could recite their prayers devoutly and correctly.

On the whole I was much pleased with the sensible manner in which the answers were made throughout the examination,—a manner which proved that it was not by rote or mere exercise of the memory they were given, but that the intellect was trained to examine and understand the subjects in which they were examined,—and I have much pleasure in complimenting their pastor and teachers upon the excellent system of teaching those children which they must have followed, and upon the very efficient and praiseworthy manner in which they have discharged their important duties.

The Prizes I have awarded as follows :—

Boys (Monitors).—Alfred Holbrook, 1st; James Holbrook, 2nd; William Allen, 3rd; William Gardener, 4th. First Class—William Barry, 1st. Second Class—Thomas Neaves, 1st; Edward Hartford, 2nd. Third Class—James Thomas Smith, 1st; John Jones, 2nd; Charles Gurnin, 3rd. Fourth Class—Thomas Allen, 1st; William Gurnin, 2nd.

Girls.—Fourth Class—Susan Allen, 1st; Theresa Conway, 2nd. Third Class—Mary Ann Parker, 1st; Matilda Revel, 2nd; Sophia Baker, 3rd. Second Class—Mary Baker, 1st; Elizabeth Harper, 2nd. First Class—Susan Conway, 1st; Cecilia Regan, 2nd; Margaret Stokes, 3rd.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,  
WILLIAM J. DUNNE, *Vicar-General.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*Battery Point, Hobart Town, 31st December, 1873.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report to you concerning my examination of the Queen's Asylum Schools, held on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th instant.

1. There were presented for examination 260 children; viz.—119 in the Boys' School; 81 in the Girls' and 60 in the Infants': of those usually attending 13 were absent from sickness, or other causes.

2. In the Boys' School the classes are composed of pretty nearly the same individuals as last year; a few have been discharged, a few promoted to be monitors, and there has been a small influx into the Second Class from the Infants' School. With these exceptions each class is exactly as it was a year ago, and might therefore be expected to pass a better examination; but, excepting a fair amount of elementary geography acquired by the fourth and fifth, there is really no improvement—while the boys have been growing a year older, their knowledge has virtually remained stationary; for, as a set-off to the geography, their arithmetic has seriously deteriorated, and their writing is less careful and accurate than formerly. There has been an attempt to add grammar, as well as geography, to the programme of instruction; but the results are not worth mentioning. The Monitor Class has been taught a few elementary processes in fractions, but with little success; they show no knowledge whatever of principles, without which any amount of skill in the merely mechanical arrangement of figures is of no value as an arithmetical training. Abundant practice is also necessary in the application of principles and processes to common affairs; but this has evidently been neglected.

3. In the Girls' School the classes compare favourably with those presented last year, although the regular promotions from class to class have been going on as usual. The arithmetic is rather better, the writing from dictation and the reading are nearly as good, and the copy writing is quite as good as last year's results. The upper girls have also been taught a little geography; but the attempt to teach grammar has been as futile here as in the Boys' School. There has been no attempt at the higher arithmetic; but the Fifth Class girls made easy work of sums in the compound rules in which the boys entirely failed.

4. In the Infants' School the Second (or higher) Class is fully as well forward as that of last year in writing, but not so good in arithmetic; while their reading, although pretty accurate and fluent, is somewhat less intelligent, and sensibly more blatant. Upon the whole the class is in a very fair state. The same can hardly be said of the First (or lower) Class; of whom only sixteen are learning to read monosyllables, while twenty-three, with an average age of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years, and an average school attendance of 1 year 4 months, have not yet passed beyond the alphabet. The writing of the upper First is not up to the standard, but their arithmetic is pretty fair. The lower First have not yet begun to write at all. This is a mistake in infant school management; for unless the children are gradually brought on in the First Class to recognise and form the script characters, their fair progress is retarded in the second. Gallery lessons have been made an important feature in this school during the last six months; but the principal result has been to cram a few of the children with a parrot-like knowledge of words to which they can attach no real meaning, and with which they make ludicrous mistakes when the *stereotyped* questions are put to them out of their usual sequence. Historical facts and dates, with hard scientific terms, are rather indigestible for the infant mind. A knowledge of familiar things, imparted in language as simple as possible, a training in accurate observation, and a clear expression of their own simple thoughts, are the benefits infants ought to receive from gallery lessons.

5. An appendix is subjoined to this report, showing the numbers in the various classes and their average ages; but I am unwilling to comment on the information there supplied, as I find in the lists for the Boys' School such discrepancies as indicate carelessness in their preparation. For the same reason I have not prepared a table of the children's average number of years in school; but in estimating their progress I have had to refer to former years' lists for each child's name. It is a matter of surprise that in the Boys' School the teacher should have evinced an unwillingness to furnish me with the information I required.



6. After what I have already written, it is hardly necessary to state in plain terms that the schools as a whole are not yet doing their proper work, and that under existing circumstances they are not likely to succeed in doing it. They need to be completely reorganised; but the organisation must depend to a great extent upon the character that the Government may deem appropriate for the Institution to assume. The mixed system of education for boys and girls is the best: if their school is well organised and under trained and experienced teachers, it is beneficial to both sexes, both intellectually and morally; and considering the children's destitution with regard to healthy home influences, it is peculiarly applicable to the Orphan Asylum Schools; but it must not be attempted under the Monitorial system, or without a well-trained and experienced teacher at the head of the establishment.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
JAMES RULE.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*APPENDIX to MR. RULE'S Report on the Queen's Asylum Schools, 31st December, 1873.*

CLASS.	BOYS.			GIRLS.			INFANTS.			TOTAL.		
	No. in Class.	Per cent. of whole School.	Average Age.	No. in Class.	Per cent. of School.	Average Age.	No. in Class.	Per cent. of School.	Average Age.	No. in Class.	Per cent. of Schools.	Average Ages.
I.	16	13·11	yrs. mts. 10 7	7	7·77	yrs. mts. 9 10	38	62·29	yrs. mts. 5 10	61	22·34	yrs. mts. 7 6
II.	23	18·85	9 9	25	27·78	9 10	23	37·70	7 6	71	26·01	9 0
III.	46	37·70	11 10	40	44·44	11 4	—	—	—	86	31·50	11 8
IV.	28	22·95	11 10	13	14·45	12 8	—	—	—	41	15·02	12 1
V.	9	7·38	12 9	5	5·56	13 11	—	—	—	14	5·13	13 2
TOTALS..	122		11 4	90		11 2	61		8 1	273		10 7