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1894.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTION, LAUNCESTON :

REPORT FOR 1893.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



CHARITABLE INSTITUTION, LAUNCESTON.

31st January, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Report of the Launceston Charitable Institution for the year ending 31st December, 1893.

Admissions and Discharges.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
The number of inmates remaining on January 1st was.....	170	44	214
Admitted during the year	103	34	137
TOTAL	273	78	351
Discharged during the year	83	17	100
Died.....	38	9	47
TOTAL	121	26	147
Remaining 31st December.....	152	52	204

Admissions.—The admissions during the year show a decrease of 100 males and 2 females. The number remaining on 31st December shows a decrease of 18 males, but an increase of 8 females compared with the previous year. The highest and the lowest number of inmates at any one time was 214 and 203 respectively.

The daily average was—males, 162·40, females, 52·38, of whom 210·72 were chargeable to the Colonial Government, and 4·06 to the Imperial Government.

The daily average for 1892 was—males, 176·61, females, 47·85.

Discharges.—17 were transferred to New Town and other charitable institutions, 6 to the Police for breaches of the Regulations, 3 absconded, 19 were discharged by the approval of the Administrator Charitable Grants, 13 were let out on pass, 42 were discharged at their own request, 47 died; total 147, as against 221 in 1892.

Mortality.—The death-rate was 13·39 per cent., 17·70 representing the percentage in this particular for the year 1892. The average age at death was 74 years, the maximum age being 92, and the minimum 42. Of the 47 deaths 13 were over 80 years and 2 over 90.

Ages.—The ages of inmates remaining on 1st January, and those admitted during the year, were as follows :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
10 to 15 years	1	1	2
15 to 25 „	3	3
25 to 35 „	4	5	9
35 to 45 „	5	4	9
45 to 55 „	5	6	11
55 to 65 „	40	20	60
65 to 75 „	186	32	218
75 to 80 „	16	5	21
80 to 85 „	13	1	14
Over 85 „	3	1	4
TOTAL.....	273	78	351

Average ages—Males, 67, females, 63. Average ages for five years—Males, 68, females, 63.

<i>Civil Condition.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Free by servitude	217	41	258	73·50
Free to Colony.....	45	26	71	20·22
Born in Colony.....	11	11	22	6·28
TOTAL	273	78	351	100·00

<i>Remaining 31st December.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Free by servitude.....	113	36	149	73·04
Free to Colony.....	32	11	43	21·08
Born in Colony	7	5	12	5·88
	152	52	204	100·00

<i>Birth-places.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Australian Colonies	11	11	22	6·27
Great Britain	262	67	329	93·73
Foreign Countries.....				
Total	273	78	351	100·00

<i>Education.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Unable to read	69	32	101	28·77
Able to read only.....	34	10	44	12·54
Able to read and write.....	170	36	206	58·69
Total	273	78	351	100·00

Expenditure.—The gross expenditure for the year was £2758 8s. 3d., being £629 10s. 1d. less than the preceding year. Net expenditure £2638 0s. 5d., or £627 4s. 8d. less than in 1892.

Annual cost per head £12 16s. 10d. and £12 5s. 7½d. on gross and net expenditure respectively, as against £15 1s. 10½d. and £14 10s. 11d. for 1892.

During the year several changes occurred in the Staff. On the 10th August the hand of death removed the late Superintendent, Mr. Henry G. Quodling, and the Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint me as his successor, amalgamating the offices of Superintendent, Clerk, and Storekeeper.

The dismissal from the service of the Head Attendant caused a vacancy, which has been ably filled by Mr. R. Venus, the former Overseer of the Institution.

These official changes have helped to reduce the expenditure considerably.

You will observe from the foregoing Returns that the admissions show a decrease of 100 males as compared with the previous year. This is accounted for by the fact that sometimes for a comparatively lengthy period the accommodation of the establishment was taxed to its utmost capacity, consequently applicants for admission had either to be sent to New Town Charitable Institution or provided for by the Benevolent Society.

Several improvements have been effected during the year, among them may be mentioned the removal of the old morgue (which was adjacent to No. 8 sleeping ward), and its conversion into a large and convenient wash-house.

This arrangement enabled me to introduce a regular and methodical mode of disinfecting and washing the clothing, bedding, &c., which has been found to work admirably.

The morgue was rebuilt apart from the Institution, and in a much more suitable place.

Cards were fixed over each bed, setting forth the particulars of each inmate, and found to be very useful.

The fumigating chamber was razed and rebuilt on a larger scale.

Neat boxes for the use of hospital patients were provided, and added to the comfort of the sick as well as to the trim appearance of the ward.

These and other improvements have all been carried out by the inmates, under the supervision of the officials.

Inmates able to do light work and not otherwise employed were engaged cultivating the grounds adjoining the Institution, thus providing the establishment with vegetables, and in a measure tending to reduce the cost of maintenance.

For the benefit of such inmates as were unable to masticate meat, a large mincer was procured, which was found to supply a long-felt want, as many are now able to enjoy the flavour of animal food who could not otherwise do so. Frequent changes in the manner of cooking their food were also instituted, and appeared to be much relished. The afflicted and bed-ridden were (by direction of the Medical Officer only) allowed special luxuries such as wine, spirits, fish, eggs, &c.

The cost of maintenance per diem, viz., 8d., was less than that of previous years wherein the same dietary scale was in force; and whilst economy has been exercised wherever practicable, no reasonable complaints have been heard from the inmates with regard to their comfort or diet. At the same time, I am of opinion that the males should be placed on a similar footing to the females as regards a small allowance of milk in their tea. One pint of milk to every twelve men would, at the present contract rate, cost the Government about £20 a year, and would be a sufficient quantity for the purpose.

The old buildings are becoming yearly less habitable, and were it not for the cleansing and disinfecting process constantly applied, they would, I fear, soon become unfit for use. A larger expenditure under the head of repairs will shortly be unavoidable unless the erection of new buildings is contemplated.

Visitation of the inmates by those interested in their spiritual as well as bodily condition was carried on as usual, the visits of the ladies of the Flower Mission being especially looked forward to. The children of the Industrial School also came occasionally, and delighted the old people by their excellent singing.

The usual extras were allowed by the Government on Queen's Birthday and Christmas Day, the generous public also sending dietetic extras at the festive seasons, and on other occasions special treats were likewise provided through the instrumentality of the City Missionary, Mr. L. R. Castray, Miss Lamb, and others.

The proprietors of the *Examiner* and the *Daily Telegraph* were good enough to continue to supply their respective journals free of charge. Other kind donors contributed parcels of illustrated papers, books, &c., which were much appreciated.

His Excellency the Governor, Viscount Gormanston, visited the Institution during the year, and was pleased to record his satisfaction with its cleanly condition. His remarks, with those of other visitors, will be found in the extracts from the Visitors' Book appended hereto.

Appended are the usual Returns, setting forth the expenditure, &c. in detail.

The conduct of the inmates was good.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Hobart.

E. DANIELS, Superintendent.

RETURN showing the estimated probable Cost and the actual Amount expended for the Year 1893.

Head of Expenditure.	Per Estimate.	Actual Cost.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	578 1 8	493 3 6	..	84 18 2
Provisions	1600 0 0	1513 3 2	..	86 16 10
Medical Comforts	90 0 0	42 14 11	..	47 5 1
Stores, Bedding, Clothing, and Stationery	300 0 0	289 9 10	..	10 10 2
Medical Attendance and Medicines ..	57 10 0	57 10 0
Funerals, Furniture, Miscellaneous, and Incidental	170 0 0	102 17 5	..	67 2 7
Repairs and alterations to Buildings..	30 0 0	40 19 10	10 19 10	..
Fuel, Light, and Water	210 0 0	218 9 7	8 9 7	..
	3035 11 8	2758 8 3	19 9 5	296 12 10

Actual decrease, £277 3s. 5d.

DECENNIAL Return showing the Number of Persons remaining in the Charitable Institution, Launceston, on 1st January; Number received, discharged, and remaining on 31st December of each year; Net Cost per Head; and Total Cost of Institution.

Year.	Remaining on 1st January.	Received during year.	TOTAL.	Discharged during year.	Died during year.	TOTAL.	Remaining on 31st December.	Net Cost per head.	Gross Cost of Establishment.
									£ s. d.
1884..	143	164	307	129	34	163	144	14 16 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	2286 3 1
1885..	144	178	322	142	31	173	149	14 19 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	2294 0 7
1886..	149	140	289	147	29	176	113	13 12 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1816 4 11
1887..	131	223	354	154	40	194	160	13 7 2	2050 5 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
1888..	160	282	442	208	40	248	194	12 12 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	3009 17 2
1889..	194	322	516	251	51	302	214	12 3 9	2995 5 3
1890..	214	298	512	249	52	301	211	12 12 7	2752 2 1
1891..	211	237	448	182	70	252	196	14 1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	3127 12 4
1892..	196	239	435	144	77	221	214	14 10 11	3387 18 4
1893..	214	137	351	100	47	147	204	12 5 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2753 8 3

RETURN showing the Cost of the Charitable Institution, Launceston, for the Year 1893.

HEAD OF EXPENDITURE.			CASH RECEIPTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS.			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Salaries		493	3 6	Fees for maintenance of In-	
Contingencies—					mates	104 5 4
Provisions	1513	3 2			By sale of Fruit	11 9 6
Medical Comforts	42	14 11			Repayment of Gas by Bands	1 5 0
Clothing, Bedding, Stores, and					Agistment at Glen Dhu	1 6 0
Stationery	289	9 10			Cash found on deceased In-	
Medical Attendance and Medi-					mates	2 2 0
cines	57	10 0			Balance, being net Expendi-	
Funerals, Furniture, Miscel-					ture for year	2638 0 5
laneous and Incidental	102	17 5				
Repairs and alterations to Build-						
ings	40	19 10				
Fuel, Light, and Water	218	9 7				
			2265	4 9		
			£2758	8 3		£2758 8 3

EXTRACTS FROM VISITORS' BOOK.

I THIS day inspected the Invalid Dépôt. Considering the old buildings, it is kept in a very cleanly and creditable state. The inmates, many of whom I spoke to, assured me that they were comfortable. I inspected the kitchen, which was very clean, and saw the dinners just prepared for the inmates, which were excellent and of good quality.

GORMANSTON, *Governor.*

Aug. 29th, 1893.

I HAVE been very much pleased with my inspection of the Institution this day. No effort seems to be spared to make what to many of the old inmates are their last days comfortable and pleasant. The order is good, and there is an indication of a good-will existing which speaks well for the management of the Institution. The habits of industry inculcated are wise.

R. J. KEWISH, *Victoria.*

WE thoroughly endorse the remarks of the preceding writer.

W. NETTLETON, *Broken Hill.*
JAS. DOEG, } *Melbourne.*
SYDNEY HILL, }

VERY much pleased with the general conditions in which I found this Institution, and have much pleasure in saying that for cleanliness and comfort I have reason to believe is second to none in Australasia.

RAFAEL H. LAVEES, *Correspondent San Francisco Post, Cal., U.S.A.*

WE have much pleasure in stating that, after seeing through this Institution, we are thoroughly satisfied that the management is very efficient.

J. C. KNIGHT, } *Melbourne.*
A. E. KNIGHT, }

VERY pleased with all arrangements for the comfort and pleasure of inmates.

JOHN DAVIS, *F.R.M.S., Birmingham, England.*