

(No. 22.)



1879.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

VACCINATION:

REPORT FOR 1878.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 9, 1879.



ANNUAL Report on Vaccination for the Year 1878.

IN 1878 a very limited number of vaccinations were performed. In the greater number of the districts vaccination entirely ceased; and, from the four where it was still carried on, only 805 cases were returned.

In the Hobart Town District I had the greatest difficulty in keeping up continuous arm to arm vaccination, and was only able to do so by personal persuasion. By this means two or three cases weekly were induced to attend at the office. This small number was, however, most unsatisfactory, as no choice is left for selecting the vaccinifer and securing a continuous supply of reliable lymph, — a matter of the utmost importance in connection with the best results of vaccination.

In my last Report I mentioned the prejudice which exists amongst the less intelligent of the population against having their children vaccinated in infancy. No persuasion will induce the parents to bring them at this, the most propitious age for the performance of the operation; and nothing but a compulsory Act will effect the object. Of the 805 cases operated on during the past year only 18 were under 6 months of age.

I would therefore again urge upon the Government the vital importance of legislation upon this point. The experience of the last two years has shown that although every facility may be offered, and the convenience of parents in every way studied, yet they will not voluntarily bring their children for vaccination. The increased number of immigrants yearly arriving in the colonies from other than European ports, and the greater rapidity of communication which now exists, greatly increase the probability of small-pox being introduced into the colonies at no distant date.

Should the disease appear in the other colonies, no system of medical inspection, however stringent and carefully carried out, would prevent its introduction into Tasmania. The only wise and safe plan therefore to adopt is, to be prepared for its coming, by the vaccination of all the unprotected; and this can only be effected by the passing of a compulsory Act. Although, under the influence of a panic which then existed, nearly 10,000 vaccinations were performed in 1877, this number did not, I believe, constitute one-fourth of those unprotected.

In the Report for 1877 I submitted for the consideration of the Government the outlines of a plan which, I am of opinion, would be an efficient and economical one in securing the vaccination of the entire community. The cost of carrying it out would not, perhaps, exceed £600 per annum.

With a compulsory Act, and this trivial yearly expenditure, the Colony would in a short time be proof against small-pox; whereas, by allowing matters to remain as they now are, the population may at any time be decimated, and the Colony be put to an immediate expense equivalent to a score of the above-named annual payments.

Appended is a Return showing the number of vaccinations which were performed during 1878, and the results.

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Superintendent of Vaccinations.*

Vaccination Office, 8th March, 1879.

VACCINATION Return from 1st January to 31st December, 1878.

<i>Registration District of—</i>	<i>Name of Public Vaccinator.</i>	<i>Date of Vaccination.</i>	<i>Total vaccinated.</i>	<i>At and under 6 Months old.</i>	<i>6 Months to 12 Months.</i>	<i>One Year and upwards.</i>	<i>Returned on 8th Day.</i>	<i>Entirely successful.</i>	<i>Entirely unsuccessful.</i>
Hobart Town.....	Geo. Turnley	Jan. 4th to Dec. 27th	121	2	3	116	120	120	
Table Cape.....	Thos. Wilson	Apl. 20th to Aug. 3rd	390	6	16	368	390	390	
Oatlands	C. J. Willes	Feb. 20th to June 13th	159	7	7	145	123	117	6
Hamilton	W. M'Donald	Jan. 1st to Feb. 11th	135	3	5	127	100	97	3
TOTAL	805	18	31	756	733	724	9

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Superintendent of Vaccinations.*