

(No. 32.)



1865.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

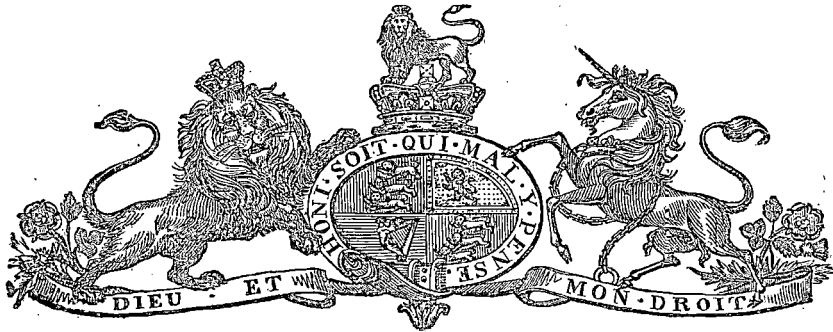
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VACCINATIONS.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT FOR 1864.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte; and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
August 9, 1865.



*REPORT on VACCINATIONS for the Year ending 31st December, 1864.*

*Hobart Town, 1st March, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report to you, in my capacity of Superintendent of Vaccinations for Tasmania, the result of the measures adopted by the Government to effect the Vaccination of the children of the Colony in 1864.

I would respectfully refer to my Reports for the two last months of 1863, and the first and second quarters of 1864, for many details which it is unnecessary to recapitulate in this Report for the whole year. It is, however, necessary to note that, with the exception of Hobart Town and Launceston, all the appointments of Public Vaccinators ceased on the 30th September, 1864.

The annexed Tables, compiled from the Returns of private Medical Practitioners and the Public Vaccinators, show that

Private Vaccinations were.....	231
Public ditto.....	3786
TOTAL.....	4017

Add to these, 404 private Vaccinations in November and December, 1863, and 2425 public in the same period, and we have a total of 6846 persons vaccinated since the Government undertook by public gratuitous Vaccinations (brought almost to the doors of every family in the Island), to test how far the voluntary action of the Colonists could be trusted to carry out so important a prophylactic measure as Vaccination is indubitably proved to be for Small-pox.

Here, as in England and elsewhere, the facts prove that voluntary action cannot be depended upon, and that, to protect the community from the possible innovation of so loathsome and destructive a disease as Small-pox, stringent compulsory measures must be enforced.

The registered Births in all Tasmania during 1864 were 3031, while of children under six months old there were only vaccinated 338, all the rest of the 4017 vaccinated being children passed beyond the age before arriving at which the existing "Vaccination Act" requires they shall be operated upon, under a penalty of Five Pounds for neglect thereof.

It is undoubted that the steps taken by the Government have effected a very large amount of good, in affording the protection of Vaccination to such very large numbers of children so long neglected by their parents; but to prevent the recurrence of such neglect much more efficient measures must be enforced, and the present Act be amended so as to compel every child to be vaccinated before it attains the age of six months.

Some years ago (1862) the Privy Council of England undertook to investigate how Vaccination was conducted, and employed competent Medical men to visit every Parish in England and Wales to ascertain the fact by personal inspection. This important enquiry was completed in 1863, and the "Sixth Report of the Medical Officer to the Privy Council" contains the elaborate Returns of Drs. Seaton, Buchanan, and Stevens, for London, Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire, and in parts of Wales, Herefordshire, Cumberland, Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, and Devonshire. The conclusion drawn therefrom by Dr. Simon is—

That "the system of Public Vaccination in England and Wales is unsatisfactory; and that Small-pox, instead of being virtually extirpated from among us, is continuing to be a considerably fatal disease. Small-pox, which for eight consecutive years in the Grand Duchy of Baden, and for thirteen consecutive years in the City of Copenhagen, took away not one single life, killed last year in London 2000 persons. In other parts of England it has been, and is, constantly proving largely fatal; and probably five-sixths of its victims are children under 10 years of age, who, at least since 1853, under the Vaccination Law of that year, ought to be effectually vaccinated before they are four months old, but of whom, if they had been thus vaccinated, probably not one would have died of Small-pox."

The Report in London by Drs. Seaton and Buchanan is specially deserving of notice, and I shall make a few extracts therefrom which are as applicable to Tasmania as to that City:—

"We trace the frequency of epidemic Small-pox and its great fatality in London, 1st. to the great extent to which Vaccination is still neglected and postponed; 2nd, to the very imperfect and insufficient way in which it is frequently performed. \* \* \* We found the main causes of imperfect Vaccination to be these; 1st. the imperfect performance of the operation by many Vaccinators, in contravention of rules which for nearly 50 years have been recognised and observed by the National Vaccine Establishment, and (so far as regards any Public Vaccination performed since January, 1860), in contravention of the instructions which Vaccinators under contract are bound to observe; 2nd. the extent to which operations have failed, or to which imperfect results only have followed, in consequence of the employment of preserved lymph, or of inferior (because non-selected) lymph in the performance of Vaccination. \* \* \* The maintenance of continuous Vaccination with proper selection of lymph cannot be obtained with any degree of certainty with less than 500 yearly applicants at a Station, the Vaccination being restricted to one week-day."

I beg special attention to the last paragraph, as it applies most forcibly to Tasmania. In Hobart Town District there were 838 births registered last year, so that one Public Vaccination Station could be perfectly maintained were all, or even two-thirds, of the children to be vaccinated there. But, as was the case before the initiation of Public Vaccination in November, 1863, were even all these children to be left to the Private Vaccination of the dozen or so of Medical Practitioners, the share of each would be so few that no proper selection could be made, independent of the fact that under such circumstances direct arm to arm vaccination is impossible. In Launceston the births last year were 461, and as they were all to be vaccinated by one person, a near approach to the requisite number would be obtained. In no Country District, however, of the Island are the births sufficiently numerous to maintain an adequate supply of weekly cases; and therefore periodical Vaccinations for a time, limited in proportion to the births in the District, would only meet their wants efficiently.

The English Vaccination Inspectors dwell forcibly on the large number of imperfect Vaccinations seen by them, and which experience shows to afford only a partial protection from Small-pox. This arises from numbers of incompetent persons undertaking the operation as though it were "a mere easy trick of the fingers," and not "required to be done, and its results required to be followed, with the observant eye of an educated special experience." In Tasmania, as in England, "all persons—medical men, clergymen, amateurs, druggists, old women, midwives, &c., are allowed to vaccinate in any way he or she may think proper, and the persons operated upon are considered to have been vaccinated;" and when such persons are attacked with Small-pox and die, the blame is given to the remedy, and not to its imperfect administrator. I feel certain that, of many hundreds vaccinated in this irregular way in Tasmania, numbers will be attacked with Small-pox and perish should ever that disease obtain a footing amongst us.

The President of the Epidemiological Society of London has transmitted to me the Report of the Small-pox and Vaccination Committee, which was submitted to the Council and adopted, 16th April, 1864. It states:—

"Three thousand two hundred and forty persons die, on an average, every year in England from Small-pox. In the Metropolis alone, the average annual mortality from this disease exceeds seven hundred. At epidemic periods the mortality assumes much higher proportions; and in the epidemic which ravaged London on last year, and has not quite ended, nearly two thousand five hundred lives have already been sacrificed.

"The very large majority of deaths from Small-pox is in young unvaccinated children; but there is, especially at epidemic periods, a considerable mortality among imperfectly vaccinated adults. Mr. Marson (Medical Officer to the Small-pox Hospital) has informed the Committee that there were one hundred and twenty-three deaths from Small-pox last year in the Small-pox Hospital in persons who had been vaccinated, but that in only three of these had the Vaccination been such as all persons ought to receive for their full protection; and that while the mortality from Small-pox in the Hospital among the unvaccinated patients was at the rate of 47 per cent., and among the imperfectly vaccinated at the rate of 15 per cent., less than one per cent. of those admitted who had been properly vaccinated succumbed to the disease. Nothing can, therefore, be more certain than that, if all were thoroughly well vaccinated in early infancy, Small-pox might be nearly banished from our Death-registers.

"But it should be emphatically stated, that this cannot be accomplished by the mere extension of Vaccination, unless means be taken at the same time to secure the more complete and effectual performance of the operation." \* \* \* "On no subject connected with Vaccination is there a more entire concurrence of opinion than on the superior advantages of the performance of Vaccination with well-selected lymph direct from arm to arm; and the Committee are of opinion that all arrangements for Public Vaccination should keep this primarily in view. \* \* \* That in places or districts in which, from the limited population, arm to arm Vaccination cannot be carried on continuously, Public Vaccination should be carried on periodically. The annual average of death from Small-pox in England for the three years preceding the providing of gratuitous Vaccinations, though not obligatory, were 11,944; for the nine following years (1841—1853) they were only 5221; and afterwards when the Compulsory Vaccination Act was passed (1854—1861) they fell to 3240."

This affords undeniable proof of the value of legislation to enforce Vaccination, though from the imperfect provisions of the English Acts the results have not been as successful as they might be, and therefore an amendment of the Law has been urgently called for. The Compulsory Vaccination Act for Scotland passed in 1863 has worked satisfactorily so far, and is generally commended by the Medical Profession. The existing Act for Tasmania, from inherent defects, has been a dead letter. I would therefore suggest that it be repealed, and a new Bill be brought before Parliament based on the Scotch Act, and made applicable to the peculiar condition of Tasmania.

In a new country like this, where Small-pox has never yet gained a footing, I believe it to be practicable to prevent it ever doing so; and the first and most important means of effecting this is by having the Community so thoroughly vaccinated that the disease can find no one unprotected, and therefore no nidus in which to generate and from which to spread itself.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. SWARBRECK HALL,  
*Superintendent of Vaccinations for Tasmania.*

*The Honorable* JAMES WHYTE, *Esq., M.L.C.,*  
*Colonial Secretary.*

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## SUMMARY of the Returns of the PUBLIC VACCINATORS in

REGISTRATION DISTRICTS.	PUBLIC VACCINATORS.	AGES.		TOTAL VACCINATED.	RESULTS.						FAMILIES			
		At and under Six Months old.	Above Six Months old.		With 4 or more perfect Vesicles.	With 3.	With 2.	With 1.	Did not return.	Unsuccessful.	1 Member in each.	2	3	4
Bothwell.....	Campbell, William	6	187	193	83	81	10	5	..	14	9	9	18	9
Brighton .....	Pocock, Z. P. ....	5	105	110	15	18	33	7	24	13	15	13	14	1
Campbell Town....	Macnamara, James	4	74	78	..	..	71	2	5	..	11	13	6	..
Clarence Plains ...	Coverdale, J. ....	..	4	4	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
Deloraine .....	Rock, Dennis .....	8	108	116	73	13	6	3	12	9	25	9	12	4
Emu Bay .....	Wilson, Thomas ..	4	2	6	4	2	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..
Esperance.....	Daldy, H. J.....	11	38	49	40	3	1	1	..	4	16	7	3	1
Fingal.....	Pilgrim, E. W. ...	3	183	186	123	12	20	3	22	6	57	10	12	8
Franklin .....	Dawson, W. L. ...	10	250	260	33	112	58	..	57	..	50	36	21	9
George Town.....	Richardson, J. ....	..	..	<i>Nil.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glamorgan.....	M'Carthy, E. C. ...	23	110	133	5	2	85	14	14	13	35	15	12	4
Gordon .....	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hamilton .....	Campbell, William	1	15	16	8	4	..	..	..	4	2	4	2	..
Horton .....	Smith, J., Circular Head.	..	17	17	..	10	7	..	..	..	7	2	2	..
Kingston.....	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Longford .....	Wigan, E. A. ....	32	355	387	..	*234	..	..	152	1	80	53	38	11
Morven .....	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Norfolk.....	Moore, J. A.....	9	158	167	10	6	21	46	22	62	Not specified		..	..
Oatlands .....	Willes, C. N. J. ...	20	115	*142	92	20	15	7	5	3	42	15	7	5
Port Cygnet .....	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Port Sorell.....	Wilkinson, F. ....	3	60	63	4	8	..	..	50	1	Not specified		..	..
Ralph's Bay .....	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Richmond.....	Coverdale, J. ....	12	180	192	93	24	26	17	30	2	29	22	17	10
Sorell .....	Westbrook, S. ....	13	127	140	67	40	28	5	..	..	40	22	12	..
Spring Bay .....	Edwards, J. ....	17	22	39	14	13	5	..	..	7	20	2	..	1
Tasman's Peninsula	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Victoria .....	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury.....	M'Creery, William	14	141	155	93	19	10	1	32	..	39	22	10	9
Launceston.....	Maddox, George..	56	1031	1087	41	727	44	9	263	3	Not specified		..	..
Hobarton .....	Hall, E. Swarbreck	22	224	246	167	19	14	7	24	15	71	27	17	7
		273	3506	3786	967	1369	454	127	712	157				

## TASMANIA from the 1st January to 31st December, 1864.

WITH					TOTAL POPULATION BY CENSUS APRIL, 1861.	BIRTHS REGIS- TERED.		REMARKS.	
5	6	7	8	Total Families.		In all 1863.	In all 1864.		
6	3	..	..	54	2794 Cumberland, including Hamilton.	43	36	N.B.—After the 30th September all public vaccination ceased throughout the Island, except in Launceston and Hobart. Vaccine Lymph was obtained from Mr. Ceely, of Aylesbury, in June, and subsequently from the Royal Vaccine Institution, London, (through Dr. Wigan.) Both were propagated successfully, but were in no respect superior to that already in use by me, and furnished, on application, to the Public Vaccinators and private Medical Practitioners.	
3	..	..	1	47	2808	82	70		
1	3	..	..	24	2549	83	84		
..	..	..	..	3	1552 includes Ralph's Bay	34	41		
3	1	..	..	54	3114	133	148		
..	..	..	..	6	5416 Devon.	32	39		The Devon Electoral District includes in its Census of Population the Registration Districts of Emu Bay, Horton, and Port Sorell.
..	1	..	..	28	See Franklin.	37	24		
3	2	2	..	94	1956	60	61		
4	2	1	..	123	2579 includes Esperance	90	77		The Franklin Electoral District includes in its Census of Population the Registration District of Esperance.
..	..	..	..	..	1350	20	39		
2	2	..	..	68	1168	45	40		
..	..	..	..	..	See Kingbo- rough	32	27		
..	..	..	..	8	See Bothwell	47	54	No Public Vaccinator in the Hamilton District after 31st March, 1864. This Registration District, with that of Bothwell, forms the Cumberland Electoral District of the Census Returns.	
..	..	..	..	11	See Devon	51	63		
..	..	..	..	..	3454	36	30	This Registration District, with Gordon, Port Cygnet, and Victoria, forms the Electoral District of Kingborough of the Census of 1861.	
5	3	..	..	190	5359 Ringwood & Norfolk Plains.	166	163		
..	..	..	..	..	2638	63	84	* From Dr. Wigan's mode of vaccinating, the "234 with 3 vesicles" must be equal in effect to 4 or more vesicles. This Registration District is constituted by the two Electoral Districts of Ringwood and Norfolk Plains.	
..	..	..	..	70	2690	65	86		
3	..	1	..	49	2333	85	68	* 7 in last quarter; ages not specified, or number of families.	
..	..	..	..	..	See Kingbo- rough	38	51	The Public Vaccinator at Franklin vaccinated many from this Registration District as well as that of Victoria.	
..	..	..	..	..	See Devon	161	140		
..	..	..	..	..	See Clarence	14	11	The Public Vaccinator for Richmond and Clarence vaccinated children from this District also.	
2	3	..	..	83	1608	49	54		
2	..	..	..	77	4111 includes Sorell, Spring Bay, Tas- man's Penin.	63	55	This Registration District, with those of Spring Bay and Tasman's Peninsula, constitutes the Electoral District of Sorell of the Population Returns.	
1	1	..	..	25	See Sorell	35	22		
..	..	..	..	..	Ditto	15	14	The Registration District of Launceston embraces the two Electoral Districts of Launceston and Selby. In Dr. Maddox's last quarter's Return he states, "They are unsatisfactory as regards numbers. It only wants one case to be brought forward (for violation of the existing Vaccination Act) to show people that they must submit to the Law. If it were not for my private patients I could not have kept up the supply of Lymph." Similar statements have been received from many other of the Public Vaccinators. Though gratuitous public Vaccination had been in operation two months previous to the commencement of 1864, and every means taken to apprise parents, both by personal notices as well as public advertisements, that the existing Vaccination Act requires all children to be vaccinated before attaining the age of six months, under a pecuniary penalty for non-compliance, yet this Table shows how few under six months old have been submitted for vaccination out of the number of registered births. The number certainly does not amount to more than the difference between actual births and those duly registered. Here, as everywhere else, the result proves that, notwithstanding the facilities offered for vaccination without cost, voluntary compliance with the Law cannot be depended upon; and that, to preserve the community from the possible extensively destructive invasion of Small-pox, compulsory measures to enforce Vaccination must be resorted to. There is evidence to show that this disregard of the public welfare is by no means confined to the illiterate or lowest classes of the people. In the first two months of Public gratuitous Vaccination, (November and December, 1863), more than nine-tenths of the Vaccinations, (2829), were above the age of six months. The proportion in this Return for 1864 is even much greater than that.	
..	..	..	..	..	See Kingbo- rough	21	13		
1	1	..	..	81	4585	127	138		
..	..	..	..	..	13,140 Launceston and Selby	451	461		
6	2	..	..	132	24,773 Hobart, City, Glenorchy, Queenboro.	820	838		
..	..	..	..	..	89,977	2998	3031		

E. SWARBRECK HALL, Superintendent of Vaccinations.

*SUMMARY of the Returns of PRIVATE VACCINATIONS in all TASMANIA, from 1st January to 31st December, 1864.*

Place.	Name of Medical Practitioner.	Number of Cases operated upon within this Period, specifying the Proportions under and over Six Months.			Number of the foregoing seen on the Eighth Day after Vaccination.	Number where the Results were in every respect successful.	Remarks.
		Under Six Months old.	Over Six Months old.	TOTAL.			
Hobarton .....	Hall, E. Swarbreck	3	—	3	3	3	
Ditto .....	Doughty, J. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	
Green Ponds .....	Pocock, Z. P. ....	—	6	6	5	5	A Public Vaccinator from 1 January to 30 September, 1864.
Ditto .....	Hope, J. S. ....	1	22	23	13	Nil.	
Sorell .....	Westbrook, S. ....	5	1	6	6	6	A Public Vaccinator up to 30 September, 1864.
Longford .....	Wigan, E. A. ....	5	—	5	4	5	Ditto.
Fingal .....	Pilgrim, E. W. ..	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Westbury .....	M'Creery, Wm. ..	1	1	2	2	2	Ditto.
Oatlands .....	Teush, F. E. ....	—	2	2	2	2	
Ditto .....	Willes, C. N. J. ..	—	—	Nil.	—	—	A Public Vaccinator up to 30 September, 1864.
Deloraine .....	Rock, Dennis ....	—	3	3	2	2	Ditto.
Glamorgan .....	M'Carthy, E. C. ..	5	4	9	9	6	Ditto. One of the unsuccessful vaccinated for the fifth time.
George Town .....	Richardson, J. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	A Public Vaccinator up to 30 September, 1864.
Tasman's Peninsula ..	Seccombe, W. ....	1	22	23	23	17	Five failed all in one family; promising up to the sixth day; fifth doubtful.
Spring Bay .....	Edwards, J. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	A Public Vaccinator up to 30 September, 1864.
Campbell Town .....	Macnamara, J. ....	—	3	3	3	3	Ditto.
Torquay, Port Sorell	Wilkinson, F. ....	38	89	127	67	67	Ditto. Ten re-vaccinated and then successful.
Table Cape & Emu Bay	Wilson, Thomas ..	4	2	6	6	6	A Public Vaccinator up to 30 September, 1864.
New Norfolk .....	Moore, J. A. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Franklin .....	Dawson, W. L. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Great Swanport .....	Story, G. F. ....	1	1	2	2	Nil.	One twice, the other thrice vaccinated.
Bothwell .....	Campbell, Wm. ..	1	10	11	11	11	A Public Vaccinator up to 30 September, 1864.
Hamilton .....	Ditto .....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	
Circular Head .....	Smith, James ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
		65	166	231	158	135	

N.B.—The following "Circular" was sent to all the Medical Practitioners in Tasmania:—

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 12th January, 1864.*

SIR,—In order to enable the Government to obtain complete and satisfactory statistical information respecting the extent to which Vaccination is carried out in the various Districts of the Colony, it is a matter of necessity that they should receive accurate accounts of the number of private Vaccinations performed by each professional gentleman; and I should esteem it a favour if, in order to assist the Government in arriving at just conclusions, you would have the goodness to fill up one of the enclosed Forms for the period commencing 2nd November and ending 31st December, 1863, and similarly for each subsequent quarter during 1864.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your very obedient Servant,

(Signed) FRANK C. TRIBE, *Chief Clerk, for the Colonial Secretary.*

Many of the above Returns were only for one or two quarters. 33 of the Medical Practitioners made no response to the Circular, and yet, from the Lymph supplied by me, I must suppose that more private vaccinations than those returned in the above Table were performed.

E. SWARBRECK HALL, *Superintendent of Public Vaccinations for Tasmania.*

JAMES BARNARD,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.