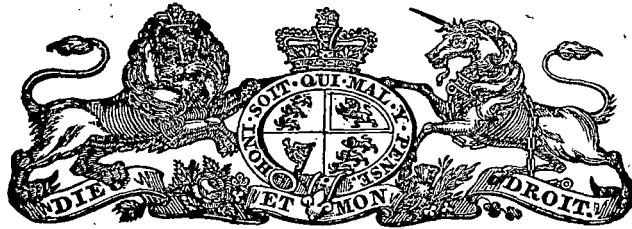


(No. 24.)



1883.

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TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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VACCINATION:

REPORT FOR 1882.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
July 24, 1883.



*ANNUAL Report on VACCINATION for the Year 1882.*

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THE Vaccinations for this year have fallen very far short in number of those performed in 1881.

No cases of small-pox having appeared in the adjoining Colonies during the year, the fear of its introduction into Tasmania which existed in 1881 had lost its influence; the apathy which is characteristic of the poorer classes with regard to the vaccination of their children prevailed, and a very limited number were taken to any of the vaccination stations.

In addition to this apathy there existed another cause, important, I believe, in acting prejudicially upon the minds of parents, viz., articles (extracts from English newspapers) which have at various times appeared in the public prints of the Colony decrying the practice of Vaccination as giving rise to numberless evils.

A short time since a paragraph was inserted in one of the journals giving the opinion of a high dignitary of the Church of England, which, in addition to other demerits, pronounced it to be absolutely sinful. The propagation of such an opinion as this must have great influence in deterring parents from adopting the only measure by which their children can be protected from a horrible disease, which must, sooner or later, make its appearance in the Colony.

During the Session of Parliament of 1882, an amended Compulsory Act was passed, and a sum was placed upon the Estimates to enable the Government to appoint two itinerant Vaccinators, one for the Northern and the other for the Southern division of the Island; their duties being to visit in systematic succession every district in their respective divisions, and to vaccinate all applicants.

It is anticipated that this arrangement will be attended with much more satisfactory results, and at the same time prove more economical, than the former system of appointing a local vaccinator for each district.

As many persons are desirous of having their children vaccinated with animal instead of humanized lymph, the Government have made arrangements with Dr. Benjafield for a constant and regular supply of calf lymph during the whole of the year.

At much expense animal lymph had been obtained from England, but, with scarcely an exception, on its arrival here it was found to be perfectly inert; and in the one or two instances where any effect was produced, the vesicles were by no means so satisfactory as was desirable.

It would appear that stored animal lymph retains its activity for a very limited time, perhaps for not more than a fortnight; although no apparent change has taken place in it; much of that received from England having been particularly bright, colourless, and limpid.

I have been successful in obtaining a new stock of humanized lymph from the calf lymph supplied by Dr. Benjafield, the vesicles produced by it being everything that can be desired.

There have as yet been no prosecutions under the Compulsory Vaccination Act, but I am afraid that it will be impossible to continue Vaccination unless the public are made to know that its penal provisions will be strictly enforced in cases of neglect. In Hobart it is seldom that I receive any spontaneous applications for Vaccination, and it is therefore with difficulty that I am able to keep up arm-to-arm Vaccination, the one or two vaccinated weekly having to be sought out, and, not without considerable persuasion, induced to bring their children to the office.

The public have been frequently warned by advertisements in the newspapers, and by placards distributed through the town, of the penalties incurred by non-compliance with the Act; but this has had no effect: and until a few are prosecuted, and the penalties for default inflicted, there is no probability (as I have before stated) of Vaccination being satisfactorily carried out.

Appended is a Return showing the number of Vaccinations performed in the several districts during the year, with the result.

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Superintendent of Vaccinations.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

VACCINATION RETURN, 1882.

<i>Registration District of—</i>	<i>Name of Public Vaccinator.</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>Partially successful.</i>	<i>Entirely unsuccessful.</i>
Hobart .....	George Turnley .....	64	16	9	39	58	58		
Launceston .....	L. Thompson .....	47	14	6	27	46	46		
Ringarooma .....	Fredk. Ockley .....	396	36	52	308	396	383	..	13
Barren Island .....	H. J. Collis .....	20	..	2	18	20	20		
Evandale .....	J. H. Oldmeadow .....	16	8	4	4	16	15	..	1
Hamilton .....	W. Macdonald .....	32	3	2	27	31	14	..	17
Oatlands .....	C. J. Willes .....	35	7	9	19	35	35		
Waratah .....	J. McCall .....	29	9	5	15	29	28	..	1
Waratah .....	C. A. Stewart .....	34	31	..	3	34	34		
Latrobe .....	S. R. Smythe .....	427	20	14	393	427	427		
Brighton, &c. ....	G. Butler .....	14	1	1	12	14	14		
Stanley .....	H. G. Spicer .....	27	8	1	18	27	24	..	3
Deloraine .....	J. McNeece .....	205	36	65	104	205	205		
Deloraine .....	D. Rock .....	25	7	7	11	25	25		
Port Esperance, &c. ....	E. Crouch .....	364	9	74	281	364	364		
		1735	205	251	1279	1727	1692	..	35

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Superintendent of Vaccinations.*