

(No. 10.)



1887.

---

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

---

NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION :

REPORT FOR 1886.

---

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



*ANNUAL Report of the New Town Charitable Institution for Year ending 31st December, 1886.*

---

*Charitable Institution, New Town, 12th February, 1887.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit my Seventh Annual Report of the New Town Charitable Institution.

The cost of maintenance for this year was Eight pence three farthings (8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.) for each inmate per diem, being a slight decrease on the preceding year, and corresponding with 1883. This of itself will show that all possible economy has been exercised consistent with the efficient working of the Institution, and regard to the requirements and comfort of the inmates generally.

There have been some important additions and repairs effected, more particularly at the Female Division, adding greatly to the comfort, convenience, and sanatory requirements, as well as rendering it more independent of the Male Division than formerly.

I would respectfully point out that the water available in case of fire is not as satisfactory as I should wish; there is a splendid supply a short distance from the Institution, but the pipes conveying have been down for many years, and are now altogether unsuitable to the increased requirements of the Institution. If proper iron pipes were laid down, with fire-plugs, &c., it would tend to far greater security, and also enable me to vastly improve the sanatory arrangements.

There have been a few musical and other entertainments during the year, given by kind friends who sympathise with the somewhat monotonous life of the inmates, who have expressed themselves as highly delighted at the kind and thoughtful attention of the ladies and gentlemen who have so considerably devoted their time and services for the pleasure of the inmates.

Mrs. Colonel Shelton, who commenced the custom of giving annual feasts many years ago at the Brickfields, treated the inmates to a feast on the eve of her departure from the Colony. In addition to her benevolence, she has been a constant visitor, with other ladies, to the Institution, and joined them in singing, tendering Christian advice, and enlivening the inmates by conversation, which, by her kindness of manner, was much appreciated; and I believe in many instances this labour has been rewarded by very satisfactory results.

The proprietors of the *Mercury*, *Church News*, *Catholic Standard*, and *People's Friend* have continued to kindly supply their respective journals free of charge. This generosity is fully appreciated, as the arrival of the papers is looked forward to with the greatest possible interest.

I am also deeply indebted to the following ladies and gentlemen for their kind and disinterested presents for the inmates:—Mr. R. Shoobridge, O'Brien's Bridge, 12 cases of eating apples; Mr. Milne, New Norfolk, 5 cases of eating apples; Rev. Father Hennebry, a quantity of fish; Mr. Crosby, 3 volumes Good Words; Mr. W. Austin, a large number of books, magazines, and illustrated papers; Mr. T. L. Hood, illustrated and English papers; Mr. John White, Hobart, (a regular visitor) a supply of tobacco and eatables for the sick; Mr. A. C. Douglas, a considerable assortment of English and other papers; and the ladies of the Flower Mission, for their numerous gifts and persevering attention to the sick and helpless. The Young Men's Catholic Association have also contributed a very nice collection of illustrated papers.

The chaplains, nonconformist ministers, laymen, and ladies have continued their visits and attentions as hitherto, with that regularity and ferventness which deserve favourable results.

The accompanying Returns will, I trust, be found to be satisfactory.

In conclusion, I am happy to report most favourably upon the conduct of the officers connected with this Institution.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

J. WITHRINGTON, *Superintendent.*

---

*EXPENDITURE for the Year 1886.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries .....	...			1150	13	3	Maintenance, &c.....	...			219	3	1
Contingencies—							Pig food to New Town Farm.	12	0	0			
Provisions .....	4950	8	7				Tobacco ditto .....	1	5	0			
Medical comforts .....	143	1	4				Ditto, Cemetery.....	1	5	0			
Medicines and medical attendance .....	235	10	10				Net cost .....	...			14	10	0
Clothing, bedding, stores, and stationery .....	1592	19	4								8901	5	8
Fuel and light .....	505	16	7										
Miscellaneous, including funeral expenses.....	250	6	0										
Repairs and alterations to buildings .....	306	2	10										
				7984	5	6							
				£9134	18	9					£9134	18	9

Produce of Garden—Vegetables, 30,155 lbs., valued at £61 5s. 10d.

J. WITHRINGTON, *Superintendent.**COMPARATIVE Return of Ages of Inmates for the Years 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, and 1886.*

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of deaths .....	98	23	76	20	94	35	109	24	127	36	104	48	107	39
Average age of those who died...	71½	69	72½	66½	74	72	73	70	73	73	73¾	72¾	73½	71½
Oldest .....	97	86	85	90	91	91	94	92	94	88	96	91	95	92
Youngest .....	37	34	45	16	28	19	54	53	53	53	34	27	32	25
Average age of those remaining 31st December, 1886 .....	68¾	66	68	60	69	60	69	60½	68	61½	68	61	67¾	61½
Ditto Males and Females } combined, 31st December, 1886 }	67½		64		64½		65		64¾		64½		64½	
Oldest .....	89	93	91	88	91	90	92	89	90	92	95	83	96	84
Youngest.....	12	16	29	15	18	8	20	9	20	20	20	15	22	16

J. WITHRINGTON, *Superintendent.**COMPARATIVE Strength Return for the Years 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, and 1886.*

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.	
	Male Div.	Female Div.	Male Div.	Female Div.	Male Div.	Female Div.	Male Div.	Female Div.	Male Div.	Female Div.	Male Div.	Female Div.	Male Div.	Female Div.
No. of Inmates, 1st Jan...	408	151	408	157	420	175	422	168	413	177	364	186	423	184
Admitted during the year	491	116	481	150	543	187	575	201	470	170	557	170	627	178
TOTALS.....	899	267	889	307	963	362	997	369	883	347	921	356	1050	362
Discharged during year ..	393	87	393	112	447	159	475	168	391	124	394	124	475	147
Died during the year .....	98	23	76	20	94	35	109	24	127	36	104	48	107	39
TOTALS.....	491	110	469	132	541	194	584	192	518	160	498	172	583	186
REMAINING 31st DEC....	408	157	420	175	422	168	413	177	365	187	423	184	467	176

J. WITHRINGTON, *Superintendent.*

*COMPARATIVE Statement of the Average Daily Number of Inmates, and Expenditure, for the Years 1880 to 1886, inclusive.*

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.	
	<i>Average Daily No. of Inmates.</i>	<i>Net Expenditure.</i>	<i>Average Daily No. of Inmates.</i>	<i>Net Expenditure.</i>	<i>Average Daily No. of Inmates.</i>	<i>Net Expenditure.</i>	<i>Average Daily No. of Inmates.</i>	<i>Net Expenditure.</i>	<i>Average Daily No. of Inmates.</i>	<i>Net Expenditure.</i>	<i>Average Daily No. of Inmates.</i>	<i>Net Expenditure.</i>	<i>Average Daily No. of Inmates.</i>	<i>Net Expenditure.</i>
Charitable Institution .....	569	£ s. d. 6749 0 4	611	£ s. d. 6965 19 5½	577	£ s. d. 7440 3 1	642	£ s. d. 8501 13 11	626	£ s. d. 8444 15 4	609	£ s. d. 8474 19 3	670½	£ s. d. 8901 5 8
Brickfields .....	134½	1577 8 2	119½	1394 4 5½	89	1053 15 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	703½	8326 8 6	730½	8360 2 11	666	8493 18 8	642	8501 13 11	626	8444 15 4	609	8474 19 3	670½	8901 5 8
Per diem .....	—	7¼d.	—	7½d.	—	8¼d.	—	8¼d.	—	9d.	—	9d.	—	8¾d.
Per annum .....	—	£11 16s. 8½d.	—	£11 8s. 11½d.	—	£12 15s. 0¾d.	—	£13 4s. 10d.	—	£13 9s. 9½d.	—	£13 18s. 3¾d.	—	£13 5s. 6d.

J. WITHRINGTON, *Superintendent.*

## EXTRACTS FROM VISITORS' BOOK.

---

VISITED this Institution to-night without pre-arrangement or notice, and after a thorough inspection, from half-past eight to eleven o'clock, have much pleasure in reporting that I found the Superintendent and Staff ready and desirous of affording the fullest information. I therefore desire to record my thanks to Mr. Withrington, Mr. Seager, and the Matron, Mrs. Hurst, for the prompt and general desire manifested that I should see the whole Establishment.

The dormitories, with one exception, are provided with chimneys and fire-places, and good fires were burning in the grates. Lights were supplied in each ward. The ventilation was good,—perhaps a little excessive in the ward used for ulcer patients, the down draught being complained of. A perforated wire covering over the openings in ceiling might remedy this defect. The beds were provided with an abundance of bedding and blankets. In some instances there were slight evidences of overcrowding, beds having been made up on the floors; the occupants, however, appeared contented: indeed these, as well as all the others to whom I spoke, expressed themselves as not only thoroughly satisfied and comfortable, but much better cared for than their own or their friends' circumstances would admit of procuring outside the Institution.

The remarkable old age attained by many of the inmates after a lengthy residence within these walls evidences the care and attention paid to their requirements. I find, however, no improvement has been made in the hospital ward arrangements for attending during the night to the sick and dying, who are left to the tender mercies of attendants of about 70 years of age, selected from the inmates whose infirmities and failing health have obtained them admission to the Institution; these, with the assistance rendered by the night-watchman, who has to patrol the whole of the buildings and the wards at hourly intervals, is the provision made for ministering to the last requirements of suffering humanity in sick wards. A few appeared to be on the verge of eternity, and one in the female division had just "passed away" before we entered the room. The corpse was covered with a sheet, was placed on a mattress on the floor, where it was to rest until the morning, surrounded by the 30 or more occupants of the ward, who appeared unaffected by this, or the happy release of one of their number.

The Superintendent and Matron assure me it would be next to impossible to obtain an efficient staff of trained nurses to attend to this class of people, and, if procurable, a large additional expense would be incurred; but money should not be allowed to enter into a question of this kind. An experiment might be made with 6 or 8 paid nurses, to control and instruct such of the inmates as are fitted for the duty and arduous task of nursing.

The women complain of having no other day shelter than that afforded by the open verandah attached to the portion of the building set apart for them; and until better protection from the cold and inclemency of the weather can be provided, a portion, say 100 feet, of the verandah might advantageously be enclosed with wood on the lower part and glass on the upper portion, with doors at the south end, to afford warmth and shelter, more particularly in the early morning, when those not absolutely sick or incapacitated are obliged to leave the dormitories or refectory.

W. CROSBY.

*New Town, July 13, 1886.*

HAVING visited nearly all the Charitable Institutions throughout the Australasian Colonies, I desire to record my thorough appreciation of the general management of the New Town Institution. For cleanliness, comfort, and humane treatment of the inmates it is perfect, and reflects the greatest credit upon the officers.

W. CAREY.  
*November 5, 1886.*

I HAVE much pleasure in endorsing the above.

CHAS. M'MAHON.