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1881.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS:

REPORT FOR 1880.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 19, 1881.



ANNUAL REPORT of the NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS for the Year 1880.

Charitable Institution, New Town, 21st February, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present the Annual Report of the New Town Charitable Institutions for the year 1880.

For the year 1879 I submitted separate Reports for each division of the Charitable Institutions under my supervision ; but during the year 1880 the expenditure of the Male and Female Divisions at New Town has been amalgamated, thereby considerably reducing the cost per head.

During the year a very pleasing addition has been made for the comfort of the invalids at New Town,—viz., the establishment of a Library and Reading Room,—which, judging by the regular attendance of inmates, is thoroughly appreciated. I have particularly to thank Mr. S. W. Westbrook, Messrs. Walch & Sons, Mr. T. L. Hood, and many kind friends of the Institution for their liberality in supplying books and papers, and also His Excellency Sir J. H. Lefroy for his donation of dominoes, draughts, and papers.

The water supply of the New Town Institution frequently causes anxiety. During the dry seasons I have been obliged to use the greatest economy, and for days compelled to suspend all bathing, &c., which, with such a large number of inmates, is a very serious consideration.

Twenty men are still stationed at the Cornelian Bay Cemetery to assist in cleaning the grounds. There are also thirteen men at the New Town Farm employed as milkmen, carters, and general farm labourers. The remainder are regularly classified by the Medical Officer, and those who are able to work are employed in accordance with his certificate.

The health of the inmates, considering that the majority are aged, has been better than might be expected. The death rate, as per Returns attached, requires no comment.

The conduct of the inmates (male and female), as a whole, deserves favourable mention. A few exceptions will always arise ; but, generally speaking, the tasks allotted to them are performed cheerfully.

The New Town Male Division, I regret to say, will require a considerable expenditure before it can be placed in that state of repair which should be maintained ; yet, even with the limited funds at my disposal (after defraying the expense attached to repairing the Female Divisions), and with some valuable assistance received from a few inmates, I have materially improved the state of the buildings, and hope, by a judicious expenditure of the amount voted for repairs for the year 1881, to be able to report more favourably in my next. The Female Division has been thoroughly renovated and is now in a satisfactory state of repair. I do not hesitate to report that it will compare favourably with any similar Institution in the Colonies for comfort, cleanliness, and appearance.

The Brickfields branch, considering the age of the buildings, is in as fair state of repair as possible. The new kitchen has been taken into use, and answers its purpose well.

Since the opening of the New Town Charitable Institution the number of inmates at this Depôt has been considerably reduced, and the majority of those located there are either cripples or unable to work ; I have not had, therefore, sufficient labour at my disposal to continue the improvements in Upper Park-street.

The inmates of both sexes have been regularly and punctually visited by the Ministers of their denominations. Ladies and laymen have also been frequent in their attendance.

The Roman Catholic body having erected a church at New Town, the large room formerly occupied by them for religious purposes has now been added to the Hospital accommodation, and one of the wards, formerly used for the sick, has been partitioned off, thus forming a convenient suit of offices for the conduct of business. These alterations are a great improvement, and add very much to the comfort of the inmates and to the management.

In the staff of officers a change has taken place owing to the death of Mr. Head Warder Axtell, and his position has been refilled by the appointment of Mr. Simon Murphy. The officers are deserving of great commendation for their zeal and devotion to their duties.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

NEW TOWN.

Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December, 1880.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries				907	17	6
Contingencies—						
Provisions and medical comforts	4344	6	1			
Medicines and medical attendance	145	0	0			
Bedding, clothing, stores, and stationery	694	15	5			
Fuel and light	384	19	0			
Miscellaneous, including funeral expenses	156	6	7			
Repairs and alterations	236	8	6			
				5961	15	7
TOTAL				£6869	13	1
By cash received for maintenance, &c.					120	12
Net cost					6749	0
TOTAL					£6869	13

STRENGTH RETURN, NEW TOWN.

	Male Division.	Female Division.
No. of inmates, 1st January, 1880.....	408	151
Admitted during the year	482	116
<i>Total</i>	890	267
Discharged during the year	303	87
Died ditto	98	23
<i>Total</i>	491	110
<i>Remaining 31st December, 1880</i>	399	157

DEATH RETURN, NEW TOWN.

	Male Division.	Female Division.
No. of deaths during the year 1880.....	98	23
Average age of those who died.....	71 $\frac{6}{12}$ years.	69 years.
Oldest	97	86
Youngest	37	34
Average age of those remaining 31st December, 1880	68 $\frac{9}{12}$	66
Oldest	89	93
Youngest	12	16

BRICKFIELDS BRANCH.

Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December, 1880.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries				163	11	2
Contingencies—						
Clothing, bedding, stores, and stationery	273	10	1			
Provisions and medical comforts	929	4	7			
Medicines and medical attendance	50	0	0			
Fuel and light	139	14	9			
Miscellaneous, including funeral expenses	22	5	6			
Repairs and alterations	10	6	7			
				1425	1	6
TOTAL				£1588	12	8
By cash receipts for maintenance, &c.					10	14
Net cost					1577	18
TOTAL					£1588	12

STRENGTH RETURN, BRICKFIELDS.

No. of inmates, 1st January, 1880	122
Admitted during the year	101
<i>Total</i>	223
Discharged during the year	79
Died ditto	29
<i>Total</i>	108
Remaining 31st December, 1880	115

DEATH RETURN, BRICKFIELDS.

No. of deaths during the year 1880	29
Average age of those who died	years. 75 ⁸ / ₁₂
Oldest	104
Youngest	57
Average age of those remaining 31st December, 1880	69 ⁷ / ₁₂
Oldest	95
Youngest	17

RECAPITULATION.

	Average Daily Number of Inmates.	Expenditure.		
		£	s.	d.
New Town	569	6749	0	4
Brickfields Branch	134 ¹ / ₂	1577	8	2
TOTAL	703 ¹ / ₂	8326	8	6

Total net cost per head of the New Town Charitable Institutions (including Brickfields Branch), £11 16s. 8¹/₂d., or a fraction over 7³/₄d. per diem per head. This includes every expense of the Institutions, no money value being placed in this Report for the labour of the inmates.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

T. WITHRINGTON, *Superintendent.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

EXTRACTS from Visitors' Book, New Town Charitable Institutions.

WE have this day inspected the Establishment, and have found everything as orderly, clean, and satisfactory as the buildings permit. Present strength, 413 men and 152 women. No complaints made by any inmate.

WM. GIBLIN.
WM. MOORE.
J. S. DODDS.
C. O'REILLY.

5th January, 1880.

WE have very much pleasure in adding our commendation after having visited both establishments solely presided over by Mr. Withrington. We consider in every respect the general arrangements compare most favourably with similar institutions in the other Colonies.

G. W. ROBERTS.
W. & A. SIDEY.

12th March, 1880.

MR. JOHN FOX expresses great pleasure in saying, the whole of this building is equal to any I have seen in Melbourne. Your Superintendent deserves great praise.

1st September, 1880.

I HAVE carefully examined this Institution, and must express my great satisfaction with the order, cleanliness, and comfort apparent in it. It appears to me, however, that the large dormitories on the men's side are rather crowded. A few beds should be taken out of each; and that in both departments efforts should be made to vary the dietary, which is ample in quantity, but always the same.

6th December, 1880.

J. H. LEFROY.

VISITED every part of both Asylums, and found everything in the most satisfactory state. Great improvements have been made in the arrangements of the buildings since Mr. Withrington took charge. Examined all the food and everything connected with sanitary matters.

7th December, 1880.

E. SWARBECK HALL, *Officer of Health.*

EXTRACT from Visitors' Book, Brickfields Branch.

INSPECTED the buildings and premises this day. Found everything as clean and in as good order as the state of the buildings permit.

Daily state, 121. No complaints.

W. R. GIBLIN.

J. S. DODDS.

WM. MOORE.

C. O'REILLY.

5th January, 1880.

VISITED the Establishment this afternoon, and was very pleased with the state of the place and kind care taken of the inmates. All contented and happy.

24th May, 1880.

R. W. HOLDEN, *Clerk in Holy Orders,*
South Australia.

I HAVE found this Establishment very clean and orderly, with a general appearance of comfort creditable to the management of Mr. Withrington.

6th December, 1880.

J. H. LEFROY.
