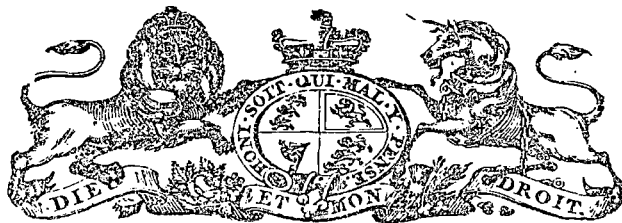


(No. 5.)



1864.

T A S M A N I A.

BRICKFIELDS INVALID DEPOT.

REPORT FOR 1863.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 29 June, 1864.



Brickfields Invalid Depot, 5th February, 1864.

SIR,

WE have the honor to lay before the Government the Annual Report of this Institution for the year terminating the 31st December, 1863.

Previously to last year it was managed by a Committee of the Hospital Board; but the separation of the two having been decided upon, the present Board was constituted.

This arrangement has worked most satisfactorily; and we feel assured that, if the plan of invaliding Paupers at the Brickfields instead of the Hospital were adopted, it would still further conduce to beneficial results.

It will be seen that the annual expense of maintaining Invalids here for 1863 does not exceed £17 5s. 9d. per head, which is under 11½d. per diem. This includes every expense of Superintendence, Religious Instruction, Medical Attendance and Medicine, Servants, and repairs of Buildings.

The average number of Invalids during the year has been 222. The diet is good and sufficient, the provisions being regularly inspected by the Members of the Board.

As the grounds around the Buildings are got into a fit state, they are regularly cropped, and produce a large quantity of the best vegetables, which are used in the Establishment, and for which credit is taken at the contract price.

These grounds, being nothing but brick earth, have taken time and considerable labour to get into working order, while the amount of labour available for such work is necessarily very limited. It is, however, satisfactory to find that the work steadily progresses; and, as the land on the east side of the building is now entirely broken up and made capable of producing vegetables, we are proceeding to level and bring into a state of cultivation the unsightly Brickfields which adjoin the public road.

In the Buildings themselves some minor improvements have been effected; and the Hospital Ward has been removed from its recent site to the two wards on each side of the main entrance, greatly to the satisfaction of the Patients, and conducing also to general convenience. The wash-house has been repaired, water has been laid on, and arrangements are now complete for doing all the washing in the Establishment, which will further effect a considerable saving in the expenditure. We have to thank the Director of Public Works for the care exhibited by him in attending to our requirements, and for the valuable suggestions and assistance he is always ready to afford.

The utmost good order has been preserved within the Establishment during the last twelve months, and we find that expulsion for misconduct is the best remedy for maintaining proper discipline.

The thanks of the Board are due to several Ministers of Religion for the interest manifested by them in the Institution, and also of several gentlemen who kindly sent newspapers, and otherwise interest themselves in the welfare of the aged inmates.

We cannot conclude this Report without bearing testimony to the zeal and ability with which the Superintendent continues to discharge his very onerous duties, and the exertions he makes to reduce the expenditure, and at the same time to promote the efficiency of the Institution.

We have also to thank the Colonial Secretary and the other Members of the Government for the support rendered to us in the discharge of our duties.

The following is a correct Abstract of the Expenditure of the Establishment :—

“The Expenditure of the Establishment for the year 1863 has been £3837 9s. 1¼d. The number of Rations issued during the same period, 81,262. Average daily number of Inmates, 222¾. Average cost for each Pauper, including all charges, £17 5s. 9d.”

The present and past strength of the Depôt will be seen from the following :—

“The strength of the Establishment on the 1st January, 1863, was 206; received during the year, 162: total, 368. Discharged, 125; died, 29: total, 154. The average age of those that died was over 73 years each, the oldest being 108. The average age of those remaining is 69. Four-fifths of the whole have been Expirees. Total of those remaining on the 1st January, 1864, 214.”

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

THOS. MACDOWELL.

ALFRED KENNERLEY.

STEPN. SHEEHY.

GEO. SALIER.

A. KISSOCK.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.