

(No. 8.)



1872.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

INVALID DEPOT, LAUNCESTON.

REPORT FOR 1871.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, June 25, 1872.



## INVALID DEPOT, LAUNCESTON.

### *ANNUAL REPORT for 1871.*

ONE hundred and six inmates remained in the Depôt on the 1st January, 1871; one hundred and forty-three were admitted; one hundred and one discharged; and thirty-three died during the year, —leaving one hundred and fifteen inmates in the Depôt at the commencement of the current year.

The daily average number of inmates during the year has been one hundred and twenty-one.

During the month of August twelve additional men were accommodated in a ward adjoining the Chapel in the Male House of Correction, the ward being used for sleeping purposes only. In addition to the extra accommodation thus afforded, another ward capable of holding twenty men is much needed, as many applications had to be refused during the months of August, September, and October for the want of room. In many instances the applicants had to be supported by the Government until vacancies occurred, at a cost of two shillings and sixpence each per diem.

The Board beg to call the attention of the Government to a crying evil in connection with the Institution; viz., the return of invalids from the country districts (sometimes at a considerable expense to the country) but a few days or weeks after they had been discharged at their own request. Where a man persists in leaving the Institution in spite of the opinion of the Medical Officer that he is unable to work, he should be (in the opinion of the Board) treated as a vagrant, and sent for a term to the House of Correction, where he would learn to appreciate the comforts of the Depôt.

The Board would also suggest to the Government the desirability of providing proper bath accommodation for the cleansing of paupers on admission, the dirty state in which many of them arrive rendering it at present almost impossible to keep the Establishment free from vermin.

Vegetables for the use of the invalids for the greater portion of the year were supplied from the Establishment.

Dr. Maddox has been succeeded by Dr. Miller as Medical Officer.

Mr. Cox has been succeeded by Mr. Jones as Superintendent.

Books and newspapers have been supplied by Messrs. Hudson and Hopwood, Messrs. Walch, Birchall, and Co., and T. W. Thomas, Esq., M.H.A., to whom the thanks of the Board are due.

WILLIAM HART, *Chairman.*

F. L. FYSH.

JOHN MURPHY.

CHAS. B. THOMSON.

*Launceston, 16th February, 1872.*