

(No. 9.)



1886.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

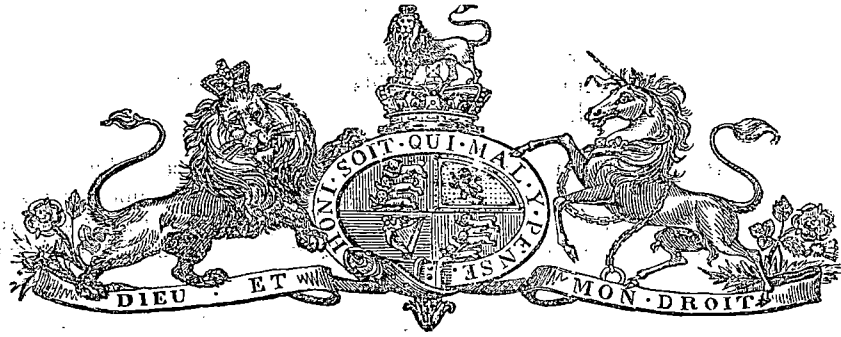
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NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION :

REPORT FOR 1885.

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



*ANNUAL REPORT of the NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION for the  
Year 1885.*

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*Charitable Institution, New Town, 25th February, 1886.*

SIR,

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

The cost for maintenance this year, as last, is ninepence (9d.) per head per diem; and, according to the cost of provisions and general necessaries, I cannot but consider this satisfactory.

Many extensive repairs to buildings have been effected, and, although more are required, yet in a large Institution like this, allowing for wear and tear, the whole premises are in a better state of preservation than might be expected.

A new Bath-house, containing four baths with heating apparatus, has been erected, and a plentiful supply of hot and cold water is available. It is now in active operation, and answers admirably, enabling bathing operations to be more frequent, and tending to a higher state of cleanliness than hitherto.

The new Reservoir, to which reference was made in my last Report, has since been completed, and has added considerably to the comfort and convenience of all in the Institution. Notwithstanding that the past summer has been an unusually dry one, the supply of water has been abundant, pure, and cool, not as previously, scant, impure and tepid. The formation of this Reservoir has proved one of the most important works yet carried out.

The class of inmates is yearly becoming more decrepit, and at times great difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable Warders for the necessary nursing, &c. connected with the sick wards in both male and female divisions.

There have been several musical and amusing entertainments during the year, which are highly appreciated by the inmates, who hail with delight all preparations in connection with them. All those who so kindly and thoughtfully assist on these occasions deserve the best thanks for their kind services.

The proprietors of the *Mercury*, *Church News*, and *Catholic Standard* have very generously continued to supply their respective newspapers, free of charge, for the use of the inmates. As may be anticipated, the desire for outside news is very marked, and the generosity of the gentlemen adverted to meets with a warm appreciation.

I am much gratified to report the benevolent thoughtfulness of the several ladies and gentlemen who have forwarded various articles for distribution amongst the inmates:—Mrs. Nicholls, of Springfield, near O'Brien's Bridge, who has always manifested a most lively interest in the welfare of the inmates generally, frequently visiting them and sending donations of jams and other accept-

able articles ; Mr. T. Hood, of Hobart, has contributed a supply of illustrated and other papers ; Mr. Milne, of New Norfolk, has generously forwarded four boxes of apples ; Mrs. Pearce, of New Town, a quantity of jams, &c. ; Mr. Johnson, Grocer, of Hobart, a supply of tobacco ; and the Rev. Canon Mason, a large quantity of cherries.

I must here also state that the ladies of the Flower Mission have been remarkably regular in their weekly visits, weather having very little effect in keeping them from their labours. These ladies are in the habit of furnishing the sick with dainties and comforts which are very acceptable to them ; and, from their affability and sisterly tenderness and kindness, are deserving of a warmer recognition than I am able to offer.

The Chaplains, Nonconformist Ministers, laymen, and ladies are also very attentive, and do all in their power to bring the minds of the invalids to a better state, and I believe in many instances they have been successful.

During the year the Rev. John Gray resigned, and was succeeded by the Rev. A. Martin. I am happy to report that whilst the Rev. John Gray held the appointment as Chaplain he was a very great favourite with the inmates of both sexes ; it is as pleasing, however, to remark that the Rev. A. Martin is most punctual and assiduous in his duties, and promises to become as popular as his predecessor.

I have avoided all allusion to the several accompanying Returns, as I think they are in themselves sufficiently explicit, and do not call for any special notice from me.

Changes have taken place in the positions held by two subordinate officers, one of whom resigned and the other was dismissed, but their places have been satisfactorily filled, and the work of the Institution is efficiently performed.

In conclusion, I desire to express very great pleasure in reporting upon the general conduct, willingness, and energy of all the officers engaged in this Institution.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

J. WITHRINGTON, *Superintendent.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1885.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Salaries .....	...			1151	17	5	Maintenance, &c. ....	193	19	10
Contingencies—							Medicines supplied H.M. Gaol .....	26	9	10
Provisions and medical comforts.....	4851	10	4				Pig food to New Town Farm.....	12	0	0
Medicine and medical attendance.....	205	5	9				Tobacco ditto.....	1	6	0
Clothing, bedding, stores, and stationery.....	1460	3	2				Ditto, Cemetery Trustees .....	1	6	0
Fuel and light .....	485	16	5				Ditto, General Hospital .....	1	1	8
Miscellaneous, including funeral expenses.....	258	11	0				Stores to Public Works .....	1	10	3
Repairs and alterations to buildings.....	299	8	9				Net cost .....	8474	19	3
				7560	15	5				
				£8712	12	10				
								£8712	12	10

Produce of Garden—Vegetables, 39,474 lbs., valued at £69 12s.

J. WITHRINGTON, *Superintendent.*

COMPARATIVE Return of Ages of Inmates for the Years 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, and 1885.

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Number of deaths .....	98	23	76	20	94	35	109	24	127	36	104	48
Average age of those who died .....	71½	69	72½	66½	74	72	73	70	73	73	73½	72½
Oldest .....	97	86	85	90	91	91	94	92	94	88	96	91
Youngest .....	37	34	45	16	28	19	54	53	53	54	34	27
Average age of those remaining 31st December .....	68½	66	68	60	69	60	69½	60½	68	61½	68	61
Ditto males and females combined, 31st December.....	66½		66		66		73		71		66½	
Oldest .....	89	93	91	88	91	90	92	89	90	92	95	83
Youngest .....	12	16	29	15	18	8	20	9	20	20	20	15

J. WITHRINGTON, Superintendent.

COMPARATIVE Strength Return for the Years 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, and 1885.

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.	
	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
Admitted during the year	491	116	481	150	543	187	575	201	470	170	557	170
TOTAL ... ..	899	267	889	307	963	362	997	369	883	347	921	356
Discharged during year...	393	87	393	112	447	159	475	168	391	124	394	124
Died during the year .....	98	23	76	20	94	35	109	24	127	36	104	48
TOTAL .....	491	110	469	132	541	194	584	192	518	160	498	172
REMAINING 31ST DEC....	408	157	420	175	422	168	413	177	365	187	423	184

J. WITHRINGTON, Superintendent.

COMPARATIVE Statement of the Average Daily Numbers of Inmates, and Expenditure, for the Years 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, and 1885.

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.	
	Average Daily No. of Inmates.	Net Expenditure.	Average Daily No. of Inmates.	Net Expenditure.	Average Daily No. of Inmates.	Net Expenditure.	Average Daily No. of Inmates.	Net Expenditure.	Average Daily No. of Inmates.	Net Expenditure.	Average Daily No. of Inmates.	Net Expenditure.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charitable Institution .....	569	6749 0 4	611	6965 18 5½	577	7440 3 1	642	8501 13 11	626	8444 15 4	609	8474 19 3
Brickfields .....	134½	1577 8 2	119½	1394 4 5½	89	1053 15 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	703½	8326 8 6	730½	8360 2 11	666	8493 18 8	642	8501 13 11	626	8444 15 4	609	8474 19 3
Per diem.....	—	7½d.	—	7½d.	—	8½d.	—	8¾d.	—	9d.	—	9d.
Per annum.....	—	£11 16s 8½d.	—	£11 8s. 11¼d.	—	£12 15s. 0¾d.	—	£13 4s. 10d.	—	£13 9s. 9½d.	—	£13 18s. 3¾d.

J. WITHRINGTON, Superintendent.

*EXTRACTS from Visitors' Book.*

16th February, 1885.

I HAVE inspected the Institution, and can certify that it appears to be admirably organised in all its departments, and the inmates contented.

CHAS. C. CARTER, *J.P., Queensland.*

WE visited this Institution with great interest, and were much pleased with the cleanliness, comfort, and attention to the welfare of the inmates manifested everywhere.

We have much pleasure in expressing our best thanks for the courtesy with which we were treated. Very few similar Institutions can compare favourably with the New Town Charitable Institution.

J. C. M'CULLOGH, *Archdeacon of Sandhurst, Victoria.*

W. ST. JOHN CHASE, *St. John's Parsonage, Melbourne.*

5th May, 1885.

KINDLY shown through the Institution this morning, and very much pleased with it in every way.

THEO. GEO. SCOTT, *South Seas.*

24th May, 1885.

VISITED an old woman, and was very courteously shown over Institution; my own impression is that it is very comfortable for old people.

FREDK. MILNE, *Ashrigg.*

21st October, 1885.

I WAS shown over the New Town Charitable Institution to-day by Mr. Superintendent Withrington, and was very much pleased with the way in which I found everything as regards cleanliness, &c., and was very pleased with my visit.

I. ISAACS, *Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand.*

16th December, 1885.

THE visit which I have this day paid to the New Town Charitable Institution will, I hope, enable me to add a not uninteresting chapter to the book which (D.V.) I purpose to write on the Australian Colonies, Workhouses, Benevolent Asylums, Houses of Mercy, Refuges for the Destitute I have inspected in most parts of the habitable globe; but I can, with candour, say that (apart from the almost inevitably painful feelings awakened by the spectacle of extreme old age, of wrecked frames and minds, decaying or decayed), I have very rarely visited an Institution the inspection of which has given me more pleasure than has the truly charitable home which I have seen this day.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA.

P.S.—My thanks are due to Mr. Superintendent Withrington for his obliging courtesy in showing and explaining the most interesting features of the Institution.

HENRIETTA E. SALA, *London.*

R. S. SMYTHE, *Melbourne.*

H. E. SMITH, *Hobart.*

23rd December, 1885.

WE have this day visited the New Town Benevolent Institution, and are agreeably surprised and well pleased with the comfort, cleanliness, and order of everything, and the inmates appear to be well cared for.

DAVID NATHAN, *New South Wales.*

DAVID M. MARKS, *New South Wales.*

JOHN G. ADDISON, *Adelaide, S.A.*