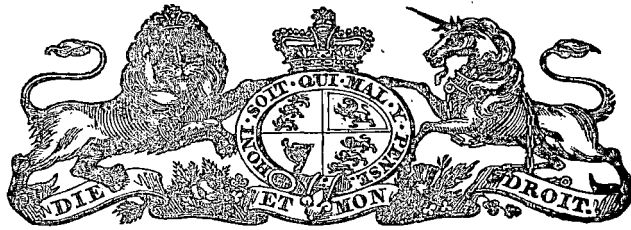


(No. 10.)



1892.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK :

REPORT FOR 1891.

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



## HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK.

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1891.

*To His Excellency SIR ROBERT GEORGE CROOKSHANK HAMILTON,  
Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath,  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of  
Tasmania and its Dependencies, in Council.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE, the Official Visitors to the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, appointed under "The Insane Persons Hospitals Act Amendment Act, 1885," 49 Vict. No. 35, have the honor to submit to you our Annual Report for the year 1891.

We have visited the Hospital each month throughout the year, occasionally without previous notice, and during our visits have carefully examined into all matters relating to the "care, treatment, and mental and bodily health of the patients," as well as into the "arrangements for their maintenance and comfort;" and after each visit, in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts, have duly reported to the Honorable the Chief Secretary observations relating thereto.

Upon each occasion of our visits we were satisfied that the patients were receiving proper care and attention from the officers and attendants, and that they were treated with every possible kindness.

The wards were kept scrupulously clean and tidy, and the patients were all neatly and sufficiently clothed; and in no instance did we perceive any sign of neglect.

The patients seemed happy and contented while employed at their different avocations; and the attendants, while exercising watchful care over them, were attentive to their duties.

Much credit is due to the Superintendent and the Assistant Medical Officer, as well as to the Staff, for the strict discipline everywhere observed, and for the general good feeling which prevails amongst the patients and attendants throughout the whole establishment.

Once a quarter we have held the usual muster and inspection of every patient in the Hospital, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and in each instance we found the numbers to correspond with those in the Register.

Our inquiries have also been particularly directed during each visit to the "arrangements for the maintenance and comfort" of the patients, especially with regard to their food, clothing, bedding, &c., and we were satisfied that the food was ample and of the best quality, and that all other necessaries were supplied in sufficiency.

The number of patients in this Institution is slowly but steadily increasing each year. There were 323 patients at the beginning of 1891, and 326 at the close; while in 1890, the year began with 307 patients.

The admissions were 61 patients this year, while during the previous year there were 49.

Thirty-two patients were discharged—rather less than the previous year, when the number discharged was 37.

The number treated during the year reached the same total as in the previous year—386.

Two cases were transferred from the Hobart Hospital for the Insane.

The mortality during the year is nearly the same as the previous year, there being 28 deaths in 1891, and 26 in 1890.

The general health of the patients has been good, as no severe epidemic of disease prevailed amongst the patients, and but few cases of influenza occurred, and these mostly of a mild character.

The new building for males has been commenced; when completed it will afford ample facilities for the treatment and classification of patients, and conduce materially to their health and comfort.

Much credit is certainly due to the Medical Officers for their valuable advice rendered to the Government Architect while planning the internal arrangements of the wards, and their endeavours to make the building as complete as possible in every respect, especially with regard to the classification of the patients, and their convenience and comfort.

During the year negotiations were proceeding for the purchase of the properties adjoining the Asylum, sanctioned by Parliament. In the case of the Church property, the purchase was completed during the year, and a portion of the ground was fenced in and ploughed.

The purchase of the adjoining estate and house called "La Maison," was also contemplated, and the money for this purchase has been voted by Parliament.

It is intended to utilise the large and roomy house of "La Maison" as a convalescent home for female patients, where, prior to their final discharge from the Asylum, they may complete their cure removed from the presence of the excited and more chronic cases.

The main object in purchasing the above properties is to secure such strict privacy and seclusion to the Institution as are absolutely necessary for the welfare of the patients, who formerly, before the closing of Burnett and Gray Streets and the purchase of the surrounding properties, were constantly being annoyed by the presence of strangers.

The esplanade upon the River Lachlan, adjoining the lands recently acquired, is a public reserve, and should be closed to the public. We have recommended this course to the Hon. the Chief Secretary, and legislation will, we trust, follow on the lines of our recommendation.

The land thus added to the Asylum will be a valuable addition to the farm and garden, and afford increased farm and dairy produce. A portion of the land will be required for a recreation ground for the patients.

In order that the best returns may be obtained from the land recently purchased for the Asylum, it is very desirable that arrangements should be made for utilising the waste water and sewage for irrigating purposes. This would effect a twofold object,—firstly, in preventing the serious pollution of the Rivers Lachlan and Derwent, which is now the case; and secondly, irrigation would very greatly increase the productiveness of the land.

Several much-needed repairs and improvements have been carried out during the year, such as the roofing with galvanised iron of the Ladies' Cottage, the asphaltting of the back-yards of the main building for females and also the yard of the new building for females, the cementing of the floor of the bread store, and other minor improvements to the buildings generally. The quarters of the Medical Superintendent and of the Assistant Medical Officer were put in good repair and rendered more comfortable.

There are other repairs and improvements which need attention, and which have been postponed from time to time for want of funds, such as the roofing of the Gentlemen's Cottage, the reflooring of the large room of the main building for females, a new steam laundry, and a central kitchen. New fencing is required along the main street in front of the recreation ground, as well as round the properties recently purchased.

Sketch plans for a new steam laundry and central kitchen have been submitted to the Hon. the Chief Secretary and have been approved, but the funds necessary for their construction are not yet available.

The other improvements projected in our last Report are also held in abeyance awaiting the necessary funds.

It is also contemplated to convert a shelter shed situated in the grounds next the new building for females, which is not required for its original purpose, into sleeping accommodation for six patients. Tenders for this work have now been accepted.

The Ladies' Cottage requires additional accommodation, as it is frequently fully occupied, and unless those patients paying lesser fees are removed to the new building for females, it is difficult to allow patients willing and able to pay higher fees the accommodation they require.

As this is the only Institution of its kind in the Colony of the nature of a private Asylum, it should be in a position to meet all requirements as regards accommodation for those patients who may be willing to pay for separate rooms, or who may require special treatment.

If, however, the new building for females were completed, the necessity for enlarging the Ladies' Cottage would not be so urgently required.

The same remarks may apply to the Gentlemen's Cottage; but the new building for males, now in the course of construction, will afford considerable relief for some time to come, as some of its accommodation is intended for several of these cases.

These two cottages may in a measure be regarded as self-supporting, as they bring in a considerable sum as income from fees from the patients, so that any moderate expenditure incurred with a view to promote the benefit and comfort of the patients located in these buildings would be remunerative.

The floor of the dining room in the main building for females, which room also serves for recreative purposes for all the patients, is in an extremely dilapidated state, and requires to be relaid, as it is quite beyond repair.

Whilst on this subject, we deem it expedient to state that in our opinion a new dining and recreation hall is highly necessary, as the present one is ill adapted for this purpose, and only fit to be used as a dormitory. This large room could be well utilised partly as a dormitory and partly as a day-room for old and infirm women.

We have ascertained that the day-room and dormitory of the female refractory division could be conveniently converted at a comparatively small cost into a general dining and recreation hall; but this work, however, cannot be entered upon until the proposed new building for females is completed.

Under the circumstances, we desire again to urge the necessity for the immediate completion of this part of the Institution.

The necessity for a steam laundry is daily becoming more urgent, as the difficulty of supplying clean and dry linen for the patients increases each winter, especially as the number of female patients available for laundry work is becoming steadily less each year, owing to the increasing number of patients who mentally and physically are unable to do this class of work.

A central kitchen is also extremely necessary, not only for reasons of convenience, but also for the sake of economy.

At present each establishment within the Asylum has its separate kitchen and its own complement of cooks. A central department would concentrate the cooking in one building, which of itself would be an advantage, and in wages alone this central system would effect a considerable saving.

It may be added, however, that it is quite impossible to effect any change in this respect at present until the improvements and alterations are completed in connection with the administrative block of buildings, sketch plans of which have been carefully considered by the Hon. the Chief Secretary.

The proposal to substitute coal for wood, mentioned in our last Report, has not yet been carried out owing to the expense of providing grates for this purpose, as the numerous fireplaces throughout the Institution have been constructed for burning wood only; but we still adhere to our original recommendation.

The patients have enjoyed their usual amusements during the year, and as many of them as were able to attend have been allowed to be present at the entertainments given in the town of New Norfolk, such as flower shows, regattas, concerts, theatricals, &c.

The annual picnic is always looked forward to with pleasure, and was a great success this year.

The fortnightly dances are also much enjoyed by the patients. On these occasions the staff, and all the attendants and nurses, give kind assistance to make the evening enjoyable. Besides these entertainments, cricket and football and other games are occasionally indulged in.

Religious services are held throughout the year every Sunday by the Clergy of the Church of England, and frequently by the Clergy of the Church of Rome.

The new fire engine arrived early in the year, and answers every expectation. The fire brigade of the Asylum, formed of the attendants, with the carpenter as captain, practises with the engine every month at the time of our visits.

From the Medical Superintendent's Report it will be seen that the percentage of discharges upon admissions is 57·1, showing a very satisfactory result.

The net cost per week per patient was 11s. 7½*d.*, which is a slight increase upon the amount during the previous year, due chiefly to the higher rate of wages paid to the attendants this year, as well as to the cost of the improved dietary scale for the patients.

While the total expenditure may have increased, the income has at the same time reached a higher figure, which is largely due to an increase in the number of paying patients, and also to the transfer of patients on Imperial Funds from the Cascade Hospital for the Insane.

Mr. W. E. Shoobridge resigned his appointment as Official Visitor in April for the purpose of visiting England, and was succeeded by Mr. R. W. G. Shoobridge, J.P., of Valleyfield, New Norfolk.

We append the Annual Report of the Superintendent and Medical Officer, accompanied by Returns and Tables giving the usual statistical information.

We have the honor to be,  
Your Excellency's most obedient Servants,

C. E. BARNARD, *M.D.*,  
R. W. G. SHOOBRIDGE, *J.P.*, } *Official Visitors.*  
PHILIP S. SEAGER,

12 *May*, 1892.

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*Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 25th March, 1892.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present my Report for the year 1891.

On the 31st December, 1890, there were 323 patients in this Institution—viz., 158 males and 165 females; and on December 31st of last year there were 326 patients—viz., 154 males and 172 females.

There have been 61 patients admitted during the year—viz., 30 males and 23 females; and 8 have been re-admitted—viz., 4 males and 4 females.

With respect to the re-admissions, the periods between discharge and re-admission varied from 4 months to 16 years.

Two patients were transferred from the Hobart Hospital for the Insane.

The total number treated during the year was 386.

32 patients have been discharged—viz., 19 males and 13 females. Of these 6 were discharged under Sect. 22 of 22 Vict. No. 23.

The per-centage of discharges on admissions was 57·1. In this calculation, idiots and imbeciles and those cases transferred from the Hobart Hospital for Insane are excluded.

28 deaths have occurred during the year—viz., 21 males and 7 females.

The per-centage of deaths on the number treated was 7·2.

Two male patients escaped during the year. Both were brought back safely to the Institution.

Although a severe epidemic of influenza passed through the district during the year, but few cases occurred in this Hospital, and no deaths resulted from it.

The amount received from paying patients was £2470 5s. 7*d.* The sum from the Ladies' Cottage amounted to £935 0s. 5*d.*, and that from the Gentlemen's Cottage £939 19s. 8*d.* The Imperial Government paid £785 3s. 7*d.*, exclusive of the above amount.

The sale of stock from the farm realised £112 0s. 3*d.*

The total amount received from all sources, including sale of stock and the estimated value of garden and farm produce, was £4107 11s. 1*d.*

The gross cost of the Institution was £13,756 17s. 6*d.*; but deducting from this the sum of £4107 11s. 1*d.*, the net cost is £9649 6s. 5*d.*, or 11s. 7½*d.* per week per patient.

The farm, dairy, and garden have been as productive as usual. The farm has furnished 475½ dozen eggs, worth, at 1s. per dozen, £23 15s. 6*d.*, and also 1824 pounds of bacon, pork, and ham. The dairy has yielded 25,437 quarts of milk, worth, at 3*d.* per quart, £317 19s. 3*d.* The garden has afforded a good supply of fruit and vegetables.

A considerable amount of work has been performed by the male and female patients for the Institution.

The usual amusements have been provided, and have been duly appreciated by the patients.

There have been few changes in the staff during the year.

Gray and Burnett-streets have been fenced across, and by this means much-needed privacy has been secured for the patients. The good effect of this is very apparent.

The new building for male patients has been commenced, and when completed will afford ample facilities for classification and treatment.

I desire to acknowledge the very valuable assistance rendered by Dr. Crampton, the Assistant Medical Officer, in the preparation of the plans of this building.

Additional land has been purchased for the Institution, and this will afford more scope for gardening and farming.

Nothing has as yet been done to provide this Hospital with a steam laundry, and with the increase of patients the necessity for this is becoming more urgent each month.

The usual religious services have been held.

I desire, in concluding my Report, to thank all the donors for their various and acceptable gifts to this Institution, and to assure them that their kindness has been fully appreciated by the patients here.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. MACFARLANE, *M.B., Superintendent  
and Medical Officer.*

*The Chairman of the Official Visitors,  
Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.*

*TABLE showing the Length of Residence of those discharged, recovered, and of those who have died, during the Year 1891.*

<i>Length of Residence.</i>	<i>Recovered or relieved.</i>			<i>Died.</i>		
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
Under 1 month .....	2	...	2	2	...	2
From 1 to 3 months.....	3	6	9	3	1	4
From 3 to 6 months.....	5	1	6	...	1	1
From 6 to 9 months.....	4	4	8	2	...	2
From 9 to 12 months.....	...	1	1	1	...	1
From 1 to 2 years.....	4	...	4	2	...	2
From 2 to 3 years.....	...	1	1	4	...	4
From 3 to 5 years.....	1	...	1	1	...	1
From 5 to 7 years.....	...	...	...	1	...	1
From 7 to 10 years.....	...	...	...	2	1	3
From 10 to 12 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 12 to 15 years .....	...	...	...	1	1	2
18 years.....	...	...	...	1	...	1
22 years.....	...	...	...	1	...	1
25 years.....	...	...	...	...	1	1
32 years.....	...	...	...	...	1	1
34 years.....	...	...	...	...	1	1
	19	13	32	21	7	28

TABLE showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality, and Proportion of Recoveries, &c. per cent. on Admissions, &c. for the Years 1882 to 1891.

Year.	Admitted, including Re-admissions.			Discharged.									Died.			Remaining 31st December in each year.			Average Numbers resident.			Percentage of Cases recovered on Admission.			Percentage of Cases recovered on Average Numbers resident.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Numbers resident.		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Unimproved.																				
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
1882...	32	20	52	9	11	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	6	27	147	147	294	142.3	143.07	285.37	28.1	55.	38.4	6.3	7.6	7.3	14.7	4.1	9.4
1883...	31	16	47	7	8	15	3	2	5	...	...	...	20	7	27	145	144	289	149.3	142.4	291.7	22.6	50.	31.9	4.6	5.6	5.1	13.4	4.9	9.2
1884...	30	34	64	11	4	15	6	6	12	...	1	1	14	9	23	144	158	302	148.6	148.3	296.9	36.6	11.7	23.4	7.4	2.7	5.05	9.4	6.07	7.7
1885...	34	24	58	12	6	18	6	8	14	...	3	3	10	15	25	134	150	284	128.6	149.7	278.3	35.3	25.	31.03	9.3	4.008	6.4	7.7	10.02	8.9
1886...	25	16	41	7	6	13	6	4	10	1	...	1	7	12	19	138	143	281	133.4	145.4	278.8	28.	37.5	31.7	5.2	4.1	4.6	5.1	8.2	6.8
1887...	35	24	59	8	2	10	3	6	9	1	1	2	19	1	20	137	157	294	139.6	148.8	288.4	22.8	8.3	16.9	5.7	1.3	3.4	13.6	6.7	6.9
1888...	25	24	49	9	7	16	3	14	17	...	...	...	14	3	17	134	157	291	133.9	158.1	292.	36.	29.1	32.6	6.7	4.4	5.5	10.4	1.9	5.8
1889...	40	22	62	13	4	17	2	2	4	...	1	1	19	5	24	140	167	307	137.	163.	300.	32.5	18.1	27.4	9.4	2.4	5.6	13.8	3.06	8.
1890...	36	26	62	10	12	22	8	3	11	1	3	4	16	10	26	158	165	323	152.4	165.7	318.1	27.7	46.1	35.4	6.5	7.2	6.9	10.4	6.03	8.1
1891...	34	27	61	16	11	27	2	2	4	1	...	1	21	7	28	154	172	326	153.1	165.9	319.	47.	40.7	44.2	10.4	6.6	8.4	13.6	4.2	8.7

TABLE showing the Ages of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1891.

AGES.	ADMISSIONS.			DISCHARGES.						DIED.			
				Recovered.			Removed, relieved, or otherwise.						
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	
From 5 to 10 years	...	1	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 10 to 15 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 15 to 20 years	1	1	2	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 20 to 30 years	5	5	10	3	1	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
From 30 to 40 years	9	7	16	4	4	8	3	...	3	6	...	...	6
From 40 to 50 years	8	1	9	4	3	7	...	1	1	5	1	...	6
From 50 to 60 years	4	7	11	2	2	4	...	1	1	1	1	...	2
From 60 to 70 years	3	1	4	1	...	1	...	...	...	4	4	...	8
From 70 to 80 years	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
From 80 to 90 years	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
From 90 & upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unknown.....	2	2	4	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	1
	34	27	61	16	11	27	3	2	5	21	7	...	28

TABLE showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1891.

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1891.....	...	...	...	158	165	323
Admitted { For the 1st time .....	30	23	53			
{ Re-admitted .....	4	4	8			
{ Transferred from Hobart Hospital for Insane.....	2	...	2			
Total admitted .....	...	...	...	36	27	63
Total under care during the year.....	...	...	...	194	192	386
Discharged, recovered, &c. { Died .....	21	7	28			
{ Recovered, &c....	19	13	32			
Total discharged, died, &c. during the year.....	...	...	...	40	20	60
Remaining in the Asylum 31st December.....	...	...	...	154	172	326
Average number resident during the year.....	...	...	...	153.1	165.9	319



*RETURN of Patients who died in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and the Period of Detention, from January 1st to December 31st, 1891.*

<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Date of Death.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Cause of Death.</i>
		1891.	Years.		
1474	3 October, 1887	3 March	40	M	Exhaustion from Epilepsy.
1564	9 May, 1889	3 March	34	M	Cancer of the Bladder.
745	20 June, 1872	4 March	34	M	Phthisis.
1687	24 February, 1891	6 March	46	M	Exhaustion from Acute Mania
204	13 January, 1859	14 March	63	F	Inflammation of the Bowels.
1529	26 September, 1888	26 March	69	M	Epilepsy.
1661	16 September, 1890	7 April	83	M	Old Age.
1691	16 March, 1891	4 May	59	F	Œdema of Lungs.
1689	12 March, 1891	6 May	—	M	Epilepsy.
1632	22 June, 1890	10 May	56	M	General Paralysis of the Insane.
1540	4 January, 1889	19 May	36	M	Chronic Disease of Brain.
1607	30 January, 1890	22 May	37	M	Chronic Chorea.
1696	21 April, 1891	1 June	74	M	General Debility.
157	16 February, 1857	10 July	74	F	Chronic Disease of Brain.
617	27 August, 1869	19 July	69	M	General Debility.
452	21 January, 1865	23 July	63	F	Heart Disease and Dropsy.
1579	31 August, 1889	14 August	25	M	Phthisis and Collapse.
1666	18 October, 1890	1 September	34	M	Syphilitic Paralysis.
1574	19 July, 1889	6 September	65	M	Epilepsy & Fatty Disease of the Heart.
1387	22 December, 1885	11 September	41	M	Exhaustion from Epilepsy.
1714	1 September, 1891	19 September	67	M	Exhaustion from Acute Mania.
1711	21 July, 1891	20 September	79	M	Senile Decay.
1256	19 November, 1883	22 September	35	M	Phthisis.
977	17 July, 1877	24 October	44	M	Chronic Disease of the Brain.
880	10 September, 1875	6 November	67	F	Heart Disease.
1229	19 March, 1883	21 November	49	M	Locomotor Ataxy.
831	31 July, 1884	4 December	67	F	Softening of the Brain.
1713	28 August, 1891	26 December	44	F	Chronic Disease of the Brain.

W. H. MACFARLANE, *M.B.*, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*