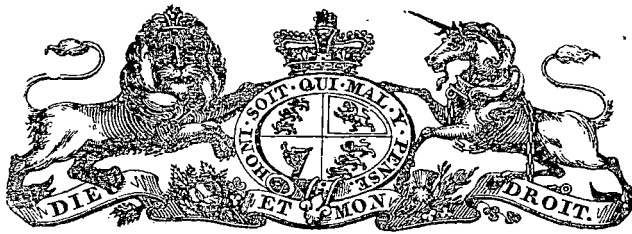


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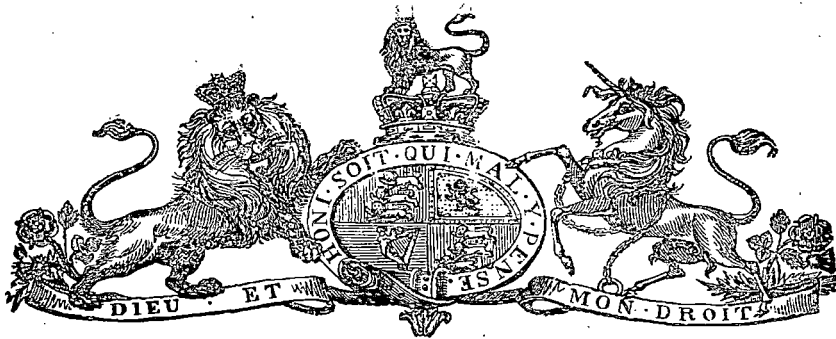
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION:

REPORT FOR 1899.

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

Cost of printing—£3 2s. 6d.



NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION.

REPORT FOR 1899.

New Town, 31st May, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Annual Report of the New Town Charitable Institution for the year 1899.

Strength.

The number of inmates on the books during the year was—Males, 389; females, 265; total, 654.

The number in the Institution, including children, on 31st December was 361, or 65 less than in 1898.

The highest number of inmates at any one time was 428, and the lowest 360. Compared with 1898, this shows a decrease of 79 and 63 respectively.

The average daily number during the year was 406·08, a decrease of 64·38 compared with 1898.

Admissions.

The number admitted was 228, a decrease of 57 as compared with 1898.

Discharges.

The number discharged was 200, as against 198 in 1898.

Mortality.

The deaths during the year numbered 95, or 14·53 per cent., as against 131, or 17·35 per cent. in 1898. The average age of those who died was 74 years, the maximum age being 97, and the minimum 49 years. 30 averaged over 80 years of age, and the average age of the oldest 18 was 89 years. Fuller particulars under this head will be found in Return C. in the Appendices.

Ages.

The approximate ages of inmates, exclusive of children, remaining in the Institution on the 31st December, 1899, were as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent.
90 years and upwards	1	2	3	0·84
Between 80 and 90 years	53	17	70	19·72
Ditto 70 and 80 "	107	42	149	41·97
Ditto 60 and 70 "	28	35	63	17·75
Ditto 50 and 60 "	12	10	22	6·20
Under 50 years.....	16	32	48	13·52
TOTAL.....	217	138	355	100·00
Average age.....	71·45	60·94	67·37	
Average age in previous year.....	72·30	62·47	68·47	

Civil Condition.

The civil condition of those on the books during the year was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent.	Per cent. in 1898.
Free by servitude.....	186	89	275	42·05	47·42
Free to Colony.....	145	93	238	36·39	31·66
Born in Colony	58	83	141	21·56	20·92
TOTAL	389	265	654	100·00	
Previous year	459	296	755		

Birth-places.

The birth-places of those on the books during the year were as follow:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent.	Per cent. in 1898.
Australian Colonies and Tasmania.....	60	90	150	22·94	23·58
England and Wales.....	198	56	254	38·84	38·15
Ireland	95	83	178	27·22	27·28
Scotland	24	31	55	8·41	8·21
Other British Possessions	4	2	6	0·91	0·92
Foreign Countries	8	3	11	1·68	1·86
Total	389	265	654	100·00	

Education.

The education of those on the books during the year was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent.	Per cent. in 1898.
Read and write.....	221	87	308	47·10	46·62
Read only	48	46	94	14·37	13·24
Neither read nor write	117	132	249	38·07	39·47
Superior Education	3	—	3	0·46	0·67
Total	389	265	654	100·00	

Religion.

The religion of those remaining in the Institution on 31st December was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent.	Per cent. in 1898.
Church of England	118	63	181	50·14	55·16
Church of Rome	72	67	139	38·50	36·15
Church of Scotland	27	14	41	11·36	8·69
Total	217	144	361	100·00	

Expenditure.

The gross expenditure for the year was £4481 18s. 9d., or £1153 1s. 8d. less than in 1898.

The receipts were £487 1s. 6d., as against 459 6s. 7d. in 1898. The net expenditure was £3994 17s. 3d., or £1180 16s. 7d. less than in 1898.

The cost per head on gross expenditure was £11 0s. 9d., and on net expenditure £9 16s. 9d., or 18s. 9d. and £1 3s. 3d. less respectively than in 1898.

The claim made against the Imperial Government for maintenance of paupers in the New Town Charitable Institution chargeable to the Imperial funds was £242 19s. 7d.; if credit were taken for this amount, the net cost would be reduced to £9 4s. 9d., or 6d. per diem.

Repairs.

Although a comparatively small sum has been expended upon repairs, yet extensive renovations and repairs have been executed by inmate labour, with the assistance of the working overseer and the warders. In the male depôt each ward has had an extensive overhaul, paint of woodwork burnt off and repainted, walls scraped and recoloured, window-frames cleaned and repainted, fire-places repaired, &c. In the female depôt all the wards have been frequently swept down and paint-work renovated. The kitchen also has been renovated.

Fuel Supply.

In consequence of the infirm condition of the inmates, it was found necessary to purchase a steam engine and saw-bench to cut firewood for the Institution. It has proved very satisfactory and of great service.

Diet.

Extensive alterations have been made in the dietary scale of the inmates, and have given great satisfaction. The bill of fare is as follows:—

Breakfast each day.—Gruel, tea, bread.

Tea each day.—Bread and tea.

Dinner.—Monday, Wednesday, Friday—Curried meat and rice, tea, and bread.

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—Boiled meat, soup, vegetables, and bread.

Sunday—Irish stew, tea, and bread.

All hospital patients receive butter on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and jam on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday; and in the ordinary dining halls a basin of sweet dripping is supplied daily. In the hospital wards on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, the dinners are baked in rotation of wards. Milk is now issued in the tea to all inmates.

Garden.

Garden operations were carried on as far as possible; but through the declining strength of the inmates they have been somewhat curtailed; nevertheless, the inmates succeeded in raising vegetables to the value of £36 15s. 4d. for their own use, while a quantity, valued at £27 17s. 6d., was sold to private individuals.

Religious Services.

The spiritual wants of the inmates have been well attended to by the Ven. Archdeacon Whittington, Rev. J. Babington, Rev. Father Gilleran, Rev. Father O'Reilly, and Rev. W. Perry, Hart. The Sisters of Charity, Flower Mission Ladies, Ladies' Visiting Committee, Christian Endeavour Society, Salvation Army, and many other friends, take an interest in the old folks, and spend hours reading to and talking with them, which is, certainly, a very great comfort to the aged.

Visitors.

The Institution throughout the year has been inspected by a very large number of visitors, who have recorded their remarks in the visitors' book, open in all cases to each visitor; and it is gratifying to know that their remarks have been favourable. It may be as well here to state that the Institution is open daily to visitors, and may be inspected at any hour.

Entertainments, Treats, &c.

I have to record my very sincere thanks to numerous friends for their great assistance during the year in providing entertainments for the old folks. The following is a list of amusements:— Magic lantern, by the Ven. Archdeacon Whittington; concerts, minstrel troupe H.M.S. *Royal Arthur*; St. Mary's Brass Band; Filibusters' Band; Hobart Choral Society; St. John's Juvenile Minstrels; Butchers' Variety Co.; Mr. T. Mitchell and friends; Mr Shirley and friends; Miss Seager and friends; Messrs. Eltham, Lovett, and others; dramatic entertainments, New Town Comedy Co.; Mr. Hudspeth and friends.

On Christmas Day and Queen's Birthday the usual treat of plum-pudding and roast beef was given by the Government, and on the former day the Cascade Brewery Company and Mr. Blake generously contributed a hogshead of beer and a barrel of beer respectively; the Hon. J. Watchorn, M.L.C., sent 5 gallons of ale and pipes and tobacco for the sick; wine from an unknown donor; the Hon. F. W. Piesse, M.L.C., £1 for extras. The Ven. Archdeacon Whittington's appeal for subscriptions to furnish tobacco for inmates was liberally responded to, and each inmate received two figs of tobacco, for which they expressed much gratitude.

Honorary Dentist.

On the 10th July Mr. Robert Sharp, dentist, Collins-street, was appointed honorary dentist to the Institution, and has devoted much attention to his duties.

Lying-in Home.

Full particulars under this head will be found in the annexed Return marked E., showing a decrease of 10 cases as compared with 1898.

Library.

I wish to record the gratitude of the inmates to the proprietors of the *Mercury*, *Tasmanian News*, *Church News*, and *Monitor* for free copies of their publications during the year; also the Committee of the New Town Library for *Illustrated London News*; the Hon. F. W. Piessé, M.L.C., and Mr. G. R. Miller, for various parcels of newspapers.

Staff.

On the 1st January, 1899, I was appointed to the charge of the Institution, and Mr. J. Connolly was promoted to Assistant-Superintendent. One wardsmen was dismissed, and Mr. T. Porter appointed in his place.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F. R. SEAGER, *Superintendent.*

The Honourable the Chief Secretary.

A.

RETURN showing the Expenditure of the New Town Charitable Institution for the Year 1899; the Receipts for the same period, and the Net Cost per head.

Expenditure.	Amount.		Total.		Receipts.	Amount.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Salaries			1024	0 1	Fees for maintenance of In-				
Provisions	2202	12 11			mates.....	350	10 9		
Clothing, bedding, stores, and stationery	537	10 6			Sale of old stores	10	0 11		
Fuel and light	388	5 5			Ditto vegetables	27	17 6		
Medicines and medical comforts	51	9 3			Money found on deceased Inmates	29	19 9		
Miscellaneous, including funeral expenses	178	6 5			Mangling performed	0	3 6		
Repairs and alterations to buildings	99	14 2			Sale of horse	5	14 0		
			3457	18 8	Ditto road-metal	0	18 0		
					Ditto fat	0	16 0		
					Forfeited money	0	2 0		
					Labour of Men at Cemetery...	...		426	2 5
					Tobacco supplied to Men at Cemetery.....	...		60	3 0
					Stores supplied to Gaol, Hobart .....	...		0	5 7
					Balance, being net Cost of Establishment .....	...		0	10 6
								3994	17 3
			£4481	18 9				£4481	18 9

Average Daily Number.

Males (Colonial)..... 233·21
 „ (Imperial)..... 8·92
 Females 163·95
 Net Cost per Head, £9 16s. 9d.

B.

RETURN showing the estimated probable Cost of the New Town Charitable Institution, and the actual Amount expended, for the Year 1899.

Head of Service,	Per Estimate.			Actual Cost.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries.....	1040	0	0	1024	0	1	...	...	...	15	19	11
Provisions.....	2800	0	0	2202	12	11	...	...	...	597	7	1
Clothing, bedding, stores, & stationery	550	0	0	537	10	6	...	...	...	12	9	6
Medicines and medical comforts.....	65	0	0	51	9	3	...	...	...	13	10	9
Miscellaneous, including funeral expenses.....	180	0	0	178	6	5	...	...	...	1	13	7
Fuel and light.....	375	0	0	388	5	5	13	5	5	...	...	...
Repairs to buildings.....	100	0	0	99	14	2	...	...	...	0	5	10
TOTAL.....	£5110	0	0	4481	18	9	13	5	5*	641	6	8

* Provided for upon Supplementary Estimate.

C.

RETURN of Deaths at the New Town Charitable Institution during the Year 1899.

	Children.	Between the Ages of—														TOTAL.		
		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.			90 to 100.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.
Apoplexy.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brain Disease...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer.....	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Morbus Cordis..	1	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Paralysis.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Senile Debility...	1	...	4	2	22	23	22	4	2	2	...	82
TOTALS...	1	...	2	1	9	4	25	23	22	4	2	2	...	95

D.

DECENNIAL Return showing the Number of Persons admitted, discharged, and remaining in the New Town Charitable Institution on the 31st December in each year, Net Cost of the Institution, and the Net Cost per Head.

Years.	Admitted during the Year.	Discharged during the Year.	Died during the Year.	Remaining on 31st December.		Average daily Number.	Net Cost of Institution.	Net Cost per Head.
				Number.	Average Age.			
1890.....	603	456	127	540	67.75	592	£ 8263 3 11	£ 13 19 2
1891.....	530	413	153	504	70.08	545	7427 14 1	13 12 7
1892.....	510	387	109	518	69.61	537	7685 16 8	14 6 3
1893.....	538	419	122	515	70.02	542	6158 18 10	11 7 5
1894.....	448	313	112	538	70.58	349	5336 15 3	9 14 5
1895.....	371	300	86	523	70.58	345	5216 6 6	9 11 1
1896.....	357	276	90	514	69.78	530	4857 15 3	9 3 3
1897.....	291	232	103	470	70.05	499	4920 8 5	9 17 2
1898.....	285	198	131	426	68.47	470	5175 13 10	11 0 0
1899.....	228	198	95	361	67.37	406	3994 17 3	9 16 9

RETURN of Inmates in the Lying-in Ward during the year 1899.

Number of Lying-in Inmates on 31st December, 1898 :—	
Already confined	1
Awaiting confinement	1
	2
Admitted during the year :—	
Single	3
Married	2
	7
Number left during the year :—	
To service, with infant	1
To relations, with infants	5
To Gaol, with infant	1
Total	7
Number remaining, 31st December, 1899 :—	
Already confined	—
Awaiting confinement	—
Total	Nil.
Number of Confinements :—	
Single	2
Married	4
Total	6
