

(No. 11.)



1890.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

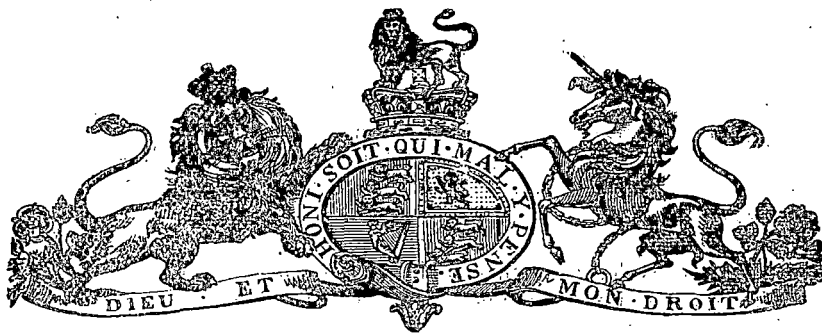
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NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION :

REPORT FOR 1889.

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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 ended 31st December, 1889.*

*New Town Charitable Institution, March, 1890.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit for your information this, the Eleventh Annual Report of the New Town Charitable Institution, embracing the period from the 1st January to 31st December, 1889.

2. From the statistical returns which are appended, it will be observed that on the 31st December there were 520 inmates on the books of this establishment—viz., 367 males and 153 females—or 44 less than on the corresponding date of the previous year. The average daily number of inmates was 589. The admissions during the year numbered 552, or 81 fewer than in 1888, and the discharges for the same period were 484, or 50 less than the previous year. The deaths amounted to 112—viz., 84 males and 28 females. The ages of the inmates remaining in the institution at the end of the year were approximately as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
90 years and upwards .....	12	<i>Nil.</i>	12
80 years to 90.....	93	13	106
70 years to 80.....	199	68	267
60 years to 70.....	84	56	140
50 years to 60.....	17	14	31
Under 50.....	11	22	33
	<u>416</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>589</u>

The average age of the males is  $70\frac{1}{2}$ , and females  $62\frac{1}{2}$ .

The number of wards for the inmates is 35, exclusive of mess-rooms, &c., having an aggregate capacity of 580,871 cubic feet. The beds for inmates number 665—viz., 475 for males, and 190 for females. The number of inmates in the Institution at the beginning of the year was 564, i.e., 405 males and 159 females. There were during the year 288 cases of sickness, of whom 226 were males and 62 females. As regards the education of the inmates on the roll during the year—viz., 819 males and 297 females—423 males and 98 females were able to read and write; 72 males and 40 females were able to read only; and 324 males and 159 females were unable to read. The birthplaces of these inmates were—

	Males.	Females.
Australian Colonies and Tasmania .....	27	40
England and Wales .....	540	84
Ireland .....	173	132
Scotland.....	49	36
Other British Possessions.....	8	2
Foreign Countries.....	16	3
Birthplace unknown .....	6	0
	<u>819</u>	<u>297</u>
TOTAL .....	<u>1116</u>	

3. The gross expenditure amounted to £8590 1s. 10d., the details of which are given in Appendix A.

The cost for the maintenance of each inmate is calculated at 9d. per diem, or £13 17s. 8d. per annum.

The net expenditure reaches £8176 12s. 1d., and upon this sum the average cost per inmate is calculated.

4. During the year several repairs and improvements were effected to the building, which add materially to the comfort of the inmates, noticeably in this respect the insertion of dormer windows in the large upper wards of the main building. A contract was accepted for adding a fire escape to each of these wards; and a contract has also been entered into for the erection of an iron verandah and balcony for the front of the female division. The water-pipes and fire-plugs laid down during the year has rendered the supply of water for domestic and other purposes all that can be desired. Provision has been made by Parliament in the Estimates for 1890 for laying on the gas.

5. The attention given by the chaplains to the spiritual welfare of the inmates calls for special commendation, as also that of ministers and lay readers of other religious bodies. The Sisters of Charity likewise paid frequent visits.

Mrs. Shelton, Mrs. Cannaway, and other ladies have regularly continued their visits of mercy and kindness, and, as in previous years, gave the inmates a feast.

The "Flower Mission" (an association of young ladies who take an interest in the welfare of the old people, especially those in the hospital), have paid their weekly visits continuously throughout the year. The efforts of these ladies are highly appreciated, and their visits—which mean a selection of sacred songs, and a distribution of flowers, papers, periodicals, fruit, delicacies, &c.—are always looked forward to with pleasure, especially by the bedridden patients. The annual feast of the "Flower Mission" was given in September last.

The "Ladies Reading Committee" have been most assiduous in their visits to the inmates in the Female Division during the year, and their annual treat took place at Christmas last, Lady Hamilton, Bishop Montgomery, Mrs. Montgomery, and many other ladies and gentlemen being present on the occasion.

Through the kind exertions of Mr. J. W. Johnson, the inmates were supplied with buns, tobacco, fruit, &c. on Good Friday, and Captain Bailey supplied fruit to the hospital patients at Christmas.

Members of the Salvation Army have been most zealous in their attendance, and in the distribution of the *War Cry*.

6. During the year several entertainments of a musical and miscellaneous character were given by friends of the institution. These events are thoroughly enjoyed by the inmates, and I should like to see them occur more frequently.

7. The proprietors of the *Mercury*, *Tasmanian News*, *Church News*, and *Catholic Standard* have kindly continued the gratuitous supply of these journals; and donations of books, pamphlets, or illustrated papers, &c. have been generously made by Messrs. Walch & Sons, T. L. Hood, Propsting & Cockhead, R. A. Atkins, W. Catley, Captain Ross (ship *Ethel*), Lady Wilson, Mrs. J. H. Innes, Mrs. Rout, and others. I desire to thank the Wardroom Officers of H.M.S. *Egeria* for very considerably forwarding a number of pictorial papers and other periodicals, which have been much appreciated by the inmates.

8. The late Superintendent, Mr. John Withrington, relinquished charge of this Institution on the 16th September last, and retired upon a superannuation allowance, and the Governor in Council was pleased to appoint me as his successor. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my acknowledgment to the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Frederick R. Seager, and the other officers of this establishment, for the ready, cheerful, and valuable assistance they have always afforded me in the management of the Institution; and I cannot speak too highly of the efficiency, zeal, and tact with which they one and all perform their many, and at times, onerous duties.

9. It affords me pleasure to report that, with one or two exceptions, the conduct of the inmates has been most satisfactory.

10. In addition to the statistical returns, I beg to annex extracts from the "Visitors' Book" for your information.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEO. RICHARDSON, *Superintendent.*

*The Honorable the Chief Secretary.*

## APPENDIX A.

*RECEIPTS and Expenditure for the Year 1889.*

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Salaries .....	...			1130	1	5	Cash, Maintenance of Inmates.....	130	18	9
Contingencies—							Cash, other sources .....	26	11	0
Provisions .....	5130	11	11				Labour, men at Cemetery.....	146	0	0
Medical Comforts ...	151	18	7				Labour, men at Farm.....	118	0	0
Medicines and Medical Attendance ....	222	17	10				Net Cost.....	8176	12	1
Clothing, bedding, stores, and stationery .....	1148	15	8							
Fuel and light .....	464	3	6							
Miscellaneous, including funeral expenses.....	229	18	4							
Repairs and alterations to buildings..	119	14	7							
				7468	0	5				
				£8598	1	10				
								£8598	1	10

Vegetables, produce, 46,244 lbs., valued at £143 1s.

GEO. RICHARDSON, *Superintendent.*

APPENDIX B.  
COMPARATIVE Return of Ages of Inmates for the Ten Years ending 1889.

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.		1887.		1888.		1889.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of deaths.....	98	23	76	20	94	35	109	24	127	36	104	48	107	39	132	36	84	34	84	28
Average age of those who died.....	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	69	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{3}$	74	72	73	70	73	73	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	72 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{7}{12}$	71 $\frac{1}{4}$	72	73 $\frac{3}{8}$	72 $\frac{6}{12}$	73 $\frac{4}{12}$	72	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oldest.....	97	86	85	90	91	91	94	92	94	88	96	91	95	92	91	95	94	99	86	90
Youngest.....	37	34	45	16	28	19	54	53	53	53	34	27	32	25	23	55	30	33	39	51
Average age of those remaining 31st December, 1889.....	68 $\frac{3}{4}$	66	68	60	69	60	69	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	61	67 $\frac{3}{4}$	61 $\frac{5}{12}$	69 $\frac{11}{12}$	62 $\frac{10}{12}$	70 $\frac{1}{12}$	63	70 $\frac{1}{12}$	62 $\frac{5}{12}$
Ditto males and females combined, 31st December, 1889.....	67 $\frac{1}{3}$		64		64 $\frac{1}{2}$		65		64 $\frac{3}{4}$		64 $\frac{1}{2}$		64 $\frac{1}{2}$		68 $\frac{1}{12}$		68 $\frac{1}{12}$		68	
Oldest.....	89	93	91	88	91	90	92	89	90	92	95	83	96	84	97	95	98	99	99	88
Youngest.....	12	16	29	15	18	8	20	9	20	20	20	15	22	16	21	12	23	12	12	14

GEO. RICHARDSON, *Superintendent.*

# APPENDIX C.

## COMPARATIVE Strength Return for the Ten Years ending 1889.

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.		1887.		1888.		1889.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
No. of Inmates, 1st January	408	151	408	157	420	175	422	168	413	177	364	186	423	184	467	176	412	168	405	159
Admitted during year .....	491	116	481	150	543	187	575	201	470	170	557	170	627	178	581	171	479	157	414	138
TOTALS.....	899	267	889	307	963	362	997	369	883	347	921	356	1050	362	1048	347	891	325	819	297
Discharged during year ....	393	87	393	112	447	159	475	168	391	124	394	124	475	147	504	143	402	132	368	116
Died during year.....	98	23	76	20	94	35	109	24	127	36	104	48	107	39	132	36	84	34	84	28
TOTALS.....	491	110	469	132	541	194	584	192	518	160	498	172	583	186	636	179	486	166	452	144
Remaining 31st December	408	157	420	175	422	168	413	177	365	187	423	184	467	176	412	168	405	159	367	153

GEO. RICHARDSON, *Superintendent.*

# APPENDIX D.

COMPARATIVE Statement of the Average Daily Number of Inmates and Expenditure for the Ten Years ending 1889.

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.		1887.		1888.		1889.	
	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.	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.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	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	670½	8901 5 8	661½	8587 0 5	624	8841 13 7	589	8176 12 1
Brickfields ...	184½	1577 8 2	119½	1394 4 5½	89	1053 15 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS...	703½	8326 8 6	730½	8360 2 11	666	8493 18 8	642	8501 13 11	626	8444 15 4	609	8474 19 3	670½	8901 5 8	661½	8587 0 5	624	8841 13 7	589	8176 12 1
Per diem.....	...	7½d.	...	7½d.	...	8½d.	...	8½d.	...	9d.	...	9d.	...	8½d.	...	8½d.	...	9½d.	...	9d.
Per annum...	...	11 16 8½	...	11 8 11½	...	12 16 0½	...	13 4 10	...	13 9 9½	...	13 18 3½	...	13 5 6	...	12 19 9½	...	14 3 4½	...	13 17 8

GEO. RICHARDSON, Superintendent.

## APPENDIX E.

## EXTRACTS FROM VISITORS' BOOK, NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION.

Two ladies from the Home Country, after being shown through both divisions of this establishment, have pleasure in recording their impressions. In *every* detail as to comfort, consideration, diet, and work, this Tasmanian Invalid Depôt stands far above the English workhouse; especially laudable is the freedom allowed to the poor people, and the kind treatment given.

E. T. MILLER.  
F. A. H. BARRON.  
With WM. SMITH, *Alderman*.  
25. 2. 89.

THE undersigned, members of the Executive Committee Benevolent Society, have much pleasure in recording their opinion of the care and interest taken by the Superintendent and officers of this Institution in the welfare of the inmates, and in the management of a large and anxious establishment.

J. W. SIMMONS.  
G. S. CROUCH.  
T. A. REYNOLDS.  
JAS. E. SALIER.  
JOHN BAILY.  
26. 4. 89.

I HAVE spent two hours to-day in inspecting thoroughly this Institution, and have much pleasure in recording that I am well pleased with the management thereof. I have spoken to several of the inmates casually, both male and female, and each and all of those I spoke to testified to the comfort they enjoy. I strongly recommend the gas being laid on.

CHAS. E. FEATHERSTONE.

8 June, 1889.

I FOUND this Institution, both male and female portions, at the annual visit I paid it to-day, in its usual state of cleanliness and tidiness. The weather was cold, yet I found a comfortable temperature maintained in all the wards. I questioned several of the inmates, and they all expressed themselves satisfied with the treatment they receive, and said they were comfortably cared for. It is a matter of regret the continual absence of professional nurses in the hospital wards. Their importation into the Institution would be a great boon, and should be urged by every one who takes an interest in the poor sufferers.

Gas, if only as affording considerably less risk from fire, should be laid on. The main is laid up to the watchhouse on the main road, and I understand the Gas Company will extend up to the building itself if the Government will undertake to lay it on to the Institution.

Again must I record my protest against the practice of deducting the larger portion of an unfortunate old soldier's pension towards his maintenance. A man who has served faithfully sufficiently long to earn a pension has an injustice done him when mulcted of any portion of it. Also I must again call attention to the insufficiency of the allowance of 1 oz. of tobacco per week to each man, and once more express a hope it may be increased.

The matter of fire escapes is a serious one, and should at once be dealt with. At present there are no means of escape whatever in case of fire, except by the ordinary staircases, which would very soon become blocked in case of an outburst of fire, with results horrible to imagine. The numbers to-day were 459 males and 174 females.

W. H. ST. HILL.

1st July, 1889.

I WENT over the whole of the Institution to-day with Mr. Dooley, M.H.A., spending a great part of the day minutely inspecting everything.

The dormitories on the male side are rather crowded, but ventilation good, and air kept pure. Bedding and everything as clean as can be expected considering the habits of the inmates.

The plan of this part of the building is irregular and inconvenient for supervision. Means of egress in case of fire very insufficient. This is a serious matter in a building full of decrepit old people, and in which oil lamps are used.

We inspected the food supplies, both cooked and uncooked. All were good of their kind. The scale of diet is liberal, and the men we saw at dinner seemed to be enjoying their meal. The Superintendent gives them as much variety as possible.

The hospital wards on this side are, with one exception, everything that can reasonably be wished. The exception is the ward in which there are some people whose infirmities make it impossible to keep their bodies and bedding always quite clean.

The ward attendants seem very kind and attentive, but the employment of two skilled nurses to guide and superintend would be a great improvement.

The building occupied by females is better adapted for its purpose, and is not so crowded. The order and cleanliness are remarkable. Beds and bedding as clean as soap and water can make them. Inmates clean and well clothed.



Altogether, the management seems most creditable and satisfactory. No complaints of any kind were made by the inmates, and there is an air of contentment among them that one does not see in similar institutions in England. The liberal rules as to leave and allowing wives on the female side to come and see their husbands, with the well kept, cheerful grounds, no doubt contribute much to this.

A. YOUNG, *M.H.A.*  
J. M. DOOLEY, *M.H.A.*

5th October, 1889.

MRS. Hamilton and myself spent this afternoon going through the institution. After carefully inspecting the wards, kitchens, laundries, &c., note with much pleasure the clean and orderly appearance of the home and its inmates, and the expressions of thankfulness and content elicited from conversation with the old people.

I would suggest the following for consideration :—

1. Gas should be laid on at once.
2. Fire escapes should be provided for the upper wards.
3. Warm sitting-room for the old people in cold and wintry weather.
4. Enlarged ground accommodation for the women's exercise and airing.
5. That (say two) respectable middle-aged women as nurses be provided for each division, and with control over the supplementary nurses.
6. That now the Cascades receives confinement cases of young women, all such girls and their children be removed from the institution. My opinion is, such inmates interfere with the smooth working of the home.

I have much pleasure in certifying to the kind attention and interest in the welfare of the poor old people manifested by the Superintendent (Mr. George Richardson) and his officers.

JOHN HAMILTON.

19th October, 1889.

I HAVE been a constant visitor to the Queen's Asylum, New Town, for the last 12 to 13 years, and it affords me much pleasure to be able to state that during the whole of that time I have seen no break nor diminution in the careful supervision by the officers of the establishment, and their solicitude for the well-being and comfort of the old men committed to their charge. The general order and cleanliness of the rooms and grounds of the asylum, and the contentment of the old men, testify to the unremitting care and attention exercised over the whole under the late Superintendent (Mr. Withrington) and the present Assistant-Superintendent (Mr. Seager).

MARY E. SHELTON, *Elizabeth-street, Hobart.*

15th November, 1889.

19th November, 1889.

Was shown over this institution to-day by the Superintendent (Mr. Richardson), and am much indebted to him for his kindness and courtesy. I have visited similar establishments in Melbourne, and was very pleased at the good order and cleanliness of this asylum, and the beautiful position and grounds.

MILO DAVINE, *Visitor from Abbotsford, Melbourne.*

21st November, 1889.

I HAVE this day visited the New Town Charitable Institution. I have much pleasure in expressing my opinion of the highly satisfactory state of the above-named institution. I have never seen an establishment of the kind kept cleaner or in better order. From what I have seen I can speak favourably of the conduct of the inmates. They all seem to have a fair distribution of the necessaries for maintenance. I am much pleased with the gardens. I have no fear to say the institution is admirably managed, and in excellent condition.

I must say every courtesy and kindness was shown to me by Mr. Superintendent Richardson, for which I am much indebted to him.

SCHÜLDHAM H. WOODHOUSE, *Sydney.*

Visited with Mr. H. E. SMITH.

26th November, 1889.

I HAVE visited the establishment to-day, and I have to thank the officers for their courtesy in affording me every opportunity of seeing the place. The institution appears to me to be admirably managed, and is in a most cleanly condition.

WILLIAM DAVIS,  
*Lunacy Department, Victoria.*

I HAVE visited the establishment at New Town to-day, and have found it to be in an admirable condition. The inmates seemed to be made most comfortable in their old age, and the officers anxious to do all they can for their welfare.

23rd Dec., 1889.

H. H. TASMANIA.

As visitors from Victoria, we have been shown over the Institution, and conversed with several inmates, who express themselves as being very comfortable; and we received every attention from the officers.

ROBERT BARRETT, *J.P.*  
 JAMES MOORE, *J.P.*  
 A. A. HEYMAUSAR, *Melb. Leidl.*  
 W. T. ROSS WILLIAMS, *Melb. Ll.*  
 J. STERNBERG, *J.P.*  
 N. L. EVINSON.

31st Dec., 1889.

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*New Town Charitable Institution, 7th November, 1889.*

MEMORANDUM.

WITH reference to Mr. Hamilton's entry in the 'Visitors' Book of this Institution, dated 19th Oct., 1889, returned to me by the Hon. the Chief Secretary for my comments, I beg to observe:—

1. *Gas*.—This has, I learn from the "press," already received the approval of the Government.
2. *Fire Escapes*.—A contract has been entered into for providing these, and part of the material is at present on the ground.
3. *Sitting Room*.—The smoking room, where the men congregate in cold weather, is provided with two large stoves, which afford sufficient heat to make the place warm and comfortable.
4. *Women's Exercise Grounds*.—It is projected to increase the area of the exercise grounds for females as soon as certain crops are gathered, and timber is supplied for fencing; and, when the season arrives, to plant trees and shrubs. At present those women that can be trusted have liberty to go out into the grounds and walks in front of the Female Division.
5. *Female Nurses*.—I have already given my views on this subject.
6. *Children*.—The young women who are in the Institution with their children are employed as Wardswomen and Nurses; and I am informed by the Matron that the children of these women do not materially interfere with the internal economy of the Institution. There are, however, other children whose absence would be a relief; and I am in communication with the Administrator of Charitable Grants on the subject. I enclose a list of the children in the Institute, giving their ages, condition, &c., as supplied me by the Matron.

GEO. RICHARDSON, *Superintendent.*