

(No. 7.)



1862.

TASMANIA.

QUEEN'S ASYLUM.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

Laid on the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
22 July, 1862.



*REPORT of the Board of Management of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM for
DESTITUTE CHILDREN.*

THOUGH the arrangements consequent on the transfer of this Institution from the Imperial to the Colonial Government have not yet assumed their permanent shape, the Board of Managers can report with much satisfaction that the changes already manifest a great improvement. The consideration whether the boys and girls who every year leave the Institution as apprentices shall be ultimately found amongst those large sections who unhappily form the lowest class of both sexes, or whether they shall rise in the social scale and form part of the families and homes of the happy and industrial members of the community, is felt by the Members of this Board to be not second in importance to any of the questions that concern the social state of our population.

The Board believe that this opinion is shared in by the community generally, and they have felt much encouraged by the interest shown in their labors, and in the welfare of the children.

Various alterations and repairs have been effected in the buildings during the past year, the chief of which was the converting a large shed in the Infant's Department into a day-room. Previous to this they were crowded at meal times, to the number of 140, in a room about 30 feet long, and 18 feet wide. The danger from want of ventilation in so small a space compelled an immediate alteration, and the health of the children has been in consequence very good. The work cost £40.

The new buildings for the infants, for which Parliament so liberally provided, are now approaching completion; which will so relieve the crowded state of the main building as to admit greatly improved arrangements in the other departments.

The chief matters which have engaged the attention of the Board have been:—

The moral and industrial education of the children. The industrial training is taught, first by general habits of exercise of the body, and, as far as practicable, in labor addressed to some particular occupation as a means of subsistence: amongst these may be enumerated, farming and the ordinary trades of tailoring and shoemaking; and for the girls, laundry work, sewing, and household work.

It is hoped that mechanical employments may be much increased in number; but rural occupations, which remove the children away from the town into the country districts, are to be preferred. In many English Reformatories the occupations of country life are the sole pursuit of the children.

The Board refer with satisfaction to the Report of the Farm Committee for an account of the progress of the children in their work. The value of this exercise, as well for the health of the children as for fitting them for self-support hereafter, and for reducing the cost of supplies to the Establishment, will always secure attention in the conduct of the Institution.

The number of meetings of the Board during the year has amounted to twenty-four, and the interests of the Institution have been the subject of their careful and regular supervision.

The health of the inmates has been on the whole good. But the Report of the Medical Attendant shows that the attack of measles was severe in its visitation, twelve deaths having occurred from its effects, and from the diseases which followed it. The total of deaths was fifteen.

The Board have long had it in contemplation to introduce the assistance of a Committee of Ladies in visiting the Institution, and, at the time of drawing up this Report, the arrangement has been fully initiated; but as its operation belongs to the Year 1862, a full account will be left until the following year's Report.

The Report of the Superintendent, which is appended, together with the various returns furnished by him, may be referred to for the other details of the Institution for the present year. With the year 1862 the Act passed in last Session of Parliament came into operation, and under the powers conferred by it, the Board entertain a well-founded expectation that the affairs of the Institution can be managed with more efficiency, and the country be relieved from some portion of the burden of the cost of maintaining children whose natural guardians have become possessed of means of contributing to their support.

WM. HENTY.
 J. FORSTER.
 HENRY HUNTER.
 STEPHEN SHEEHY.
 HENRY COOK.
 WILLIAM ROUT.
 W. NAIRN.
 J. J. STUTZER.
 RICHARD SHOBRIDGE.

[ENCLOSURE to Paper No. 7.]

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Queen's Asylum, 25th March, 1862.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to lay before you my Report, as Superintendent of the Queen's Asylum, for the year 1861.

In the course of this document, I have confined myself strictly to the details of the actual changes which have taken place, without noticing the proceedings of the Board, except as I have acted in obedience to its directions, and without expressing an opinion as to the policy or impolicy of any measures authorised by the same. The general details expressed in my Report for the year 1860 have been little altered in the ensuing year. I need not, therefore, recapitulate the same items as have been given *seriatim* in my previous Report and that of the Sub-Committee for the year 1860. Appended to this Report are a series of Tables, in which the various data are given.

I proceed at once to notice the changes which have taken place during the past year in each Department.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.—On the 31st December, 1859, there were in the Institution 245 Male and 195 Female Children,—in all 440. On the 31st December, 1860, there were on the Books 265 Males and 227 Females, showing an increase of 52 Children, the daily average number being nearly 458½. On the 31st December, 1861, there were on the Books 252 Male and 202 Female Children, the daily average strength being 468½, showing an increase of 10 in the daily rate.

AGES OF CHILDREN.—Of the above-mentioned 454 Children remaining at the end of the year, 97 were under the age of 6 years, 109 between the ages of 6 and 8 years, and 248 above 8 years of age.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN.—Their distribution was as follows; viz.—163 in the Male Division, 149 in the Female, and 142 in the Infant Divisions. 21 Boys and 14 Girls (35 in all) were apprenticed by the Guardians to respectable Masters during the period. Their employers resided chiefly in the Country Districts.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES OF CHILDREN.—The Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Funds upon which the Children were borne, and the Religion to which they belonged, are shown in Appendix No. 1.

HOSPITALS.—At the end of the year 1860, 39 Children remained in the Hospitals under treatment; since then 630 have, in all, been admitted, of whom 617 were discharged, 15 died,—leaving, at the end of the year 1861, 37 remaining under treatment. The number of Deaths exceed those of the previous year by 9; this increased mortality is to be attributed to the prevalence of an epidemic of measles which made its appearance in June, which, in 12 instances, terminated fatally. The detailed circumstances of the date of its outbreak, duration, and result are as follow:—

Infant School.—The first case appeared on the 3rd June last, in one (No. 3) of the Dormitories in the Infant School, and was at once, so far as practicable, separated from the other Children; and no other case occurred until the 13th of the same month, when 3 additional cases made their appearance; from this date the affection rapidly extended among the inmates of the Division, until (with 3 exceptions) all the Children were attacked with it. The greatest number of cases in any one day (17) took place on the 5th July, and no fresh cases occurred after the 10th July. The total number of cases treated in this Division amounted to 146, of which 5 terminated fatally,—all, with one exception, from the *sequelæ* of the disease. Every available room was, in the first instance, prepared for Hospital Wards, and all were ultimately converted to that purpose. Two additional Servants were, on my recommendation, allowed to attend to the sick; and I unhesitatingly assert, that not even in any private family were the Children more carefully tended during illness than those at the Schools. The majority of the cases were ushered in without premonitory symptoms; and no deviation from the usual development of the eruption was observed, except in two instances, where it was confluent.

Girls' Division.—The affection first showed itself in this Division on the 25th June, and the Girl attacked was, as a precautionary measure, at once transferred to the Infant School for treatment

and separation; and a similar course of procedure was adopted in the two succeeding cases; but, finding the precaution unavailable, it was not continued. No fresh case took place subsequent to the 25th July. 80 Girls were in all admitted, of whom 3 died. The large number of 24 were attacked on one day (the 16th July); and the Dining Hall, and the only Dormitory with a fire-place in it, converted temporarily into Hospital Wards.

Boys' Division.—90 cases and 4 deaths occurred in this Division, which was the last part of the Institution where it appeared,—the first case having shown itself on the 8th July, and the last on the 3rd of August. The Dining Hall, and a Dormitory with a fire-place in it, were appropriated for Sick Wards. The total number of cases, from the commencement of the epidemic on the 3rd June up to its disappearance on the 3rd August, was 316; and the number of deaths, 12. The Tabular Statements appended, marked Nos. 2 and 3, give full information as to the numbers admitted, discharged, and died, with the names of the latter. Amongst the Hospital Patients which appear as remaining at the end of the year, 9 are permanent invalids, either from blindness, paralysis, or other affections.

No alteration in the accommodation for the sick, nor for the provision of due attendance on them, has taken place since last Report; but the expenses, so far as regards extras and medical comforts, were, during the existence of measles, necessarily large,—showing a considerable increase under the head of Hospital expenditure during the prevalence of the malady.

It was considered necessary to relieve the Medical Officer of some portion of his duties; with which view the Government, upon the recommendation of the Board of Management, afforded the additional assistance of Dr. Keen, at the rate of pay of 10s. per diem: this duty he performed for one month, when the subsidence of the disease rendered his further attendance unnecessary.

EXPENDITURE.—The Expenditure of the Establishment is exhibited in detail in the Abstract Account hereunto annexed. It divides itself into the four heads of (1) Superintendence, (2) Provisions, (3) Clothing, and (4) Miscellaneous.

1st. Superintendence.—In the year 1860 the entire cost under this head was £3685 9s. 11d. for a daily average of 458 Children, or at the rate of £8 per head for each Child. In the year 1861 the cost was £3,824 9s. 8d. for Salaries, £250 2s. 1d. for Allowances, making in all £4,074 11s. 9d., or £8 14s. 1½d. per head for each Child. The monthly rate in January was £324, which in August had increased to £345, and in December had sunk to £309. Thus, in the year 1861, there was in the money payments an increase of £269 in the Salaries. I must observe, in explanation of this, that a substitution took place of money payment in lieu of rations in the case of all out-door servants, and that, if the expenditure under the head of Salaries is augmented, that under the head of Provisions is proportionably reduced.

It will be observed, by comparing the Staff of the year 1861 with that of 1860, the changes are few. In the year 1860 there were employed—1 Superintendent, 2 Chaplains, 1 Purveyor, 1 Clerk, 3 Matrons, 1 Out-door Inspector, 1 Beadle. In Tuition—1 Head Schoolmaster and 1 Assistant Master, 1 Teacher of Singing, 2 Schoolmistresses. In the Industrial Department—1 Baker, 1 Assistant Baker, 1 Tailor, 1 Shoemaker, together with 6 Out-door Male Servants, and 19 Female Servants. During the course of the year 1861, the Out-door Inspector resigned, and a Gardener was appointed in his place at a total Salary of £115 against £120. A Farm Overseer was likewise engaged at a Salary, with Allowances, of £115. The Purveyor (Mr. Mackay), who had been in the receipt of £250 a year, was succeeded by Mr. Boyes at a Salary of £200. The total of these changes show an aggregate increase of £60. With these exceptions, the Staff remained essentially the same as in the previous year.

Provisions.—I come now to the second head—of Provisions. The details under this head are given in a Table hereunto annexed. In the year 1860, the expenditure under this head amounted to £4,238 7s. 2d.; of which £3,914 10s. 7½d. were for the food of the Children, and £323 16s. 6½d. for that of the Servants,—being a collective average of about £9 5s. In the year 1861, the total expenditure under this head amounted to £4,170 5s. 8¾d., showing a reduction of £68 upon the gross amount; and the cost for Servants' rations, £257 17s. 0¾d.

It is to be observed, however, of both these Returns for the years 1860 and 1861, that they contain the gross amounts only, and do not allow of the value of the milk and vegetables produced by the Establishment. Thus, in the year 1860, the value of these articles so produced was £594 10s. 6½d., which has to be deducted from the above sum of £4,238 7s. 2d., leaving a balance of £3,643 16s. 7½d.; and, in the year 1861, the same amount had increased to £728 19s. 5¾d., which, being deducted from £4,170 5s. 8¾d. as above, leaves a balance of £3,441 6s. 3d., which is the actual cost of provisions purchased for the Children and Servants of the Establishment for the year 1861. The rations given were, with very slight differences, the same as in the previous year; and the Children were in every respect amply supplied.

Clothing.—While it will be observed that the cost of the two previous heads of Supervision and Food has been little altered, a considerable increase is observable under the head of Clothing. In the year 1860, the cost of clothing amounted to £923 11s. 6d.; in 1861, it is returned at £1914 2s. 3½d. In explanation of this increase, I shall state that, in the previous year, there was still on hand a considerable accumulation of clothing from the Imperial Government, which, being exhausted in 1861, the expense necessarily increased. I have little reason to anticipate any considerable reduction under this head in the subsequent years, unless the Girls may be made more extensively available for making and repairing the clothing.

Miscellaneous.—Under the fourth head, which I have classed Miscellaneous, I include fuel and lighting, medical stores, and the cost of all repairs and alterations. The expenditure for fuel and lighting was £732 1s. 1d., against £715 in the previous year. It is to be observed that the wood was, in the last nine months, entirely produced by the Estate, and that the increase under this head was occasioned through sperm candles being used in the dormitories instead of tallow, and, during the epidemic of measles, extra fires were required. The medical stores were increased, owing to the prevalence of the epidemic noticed in my Report.

Under the head of repairs, £520 5s. were expended, against £593 11s. 3d. in the previous year.

Under these various heads, there was a collective expenditure of £1409 18s. 10½d.

THE FARM.—I have now to refer to a subject, important not only for the pecuniary amount involved, but for the considerable extent to which the employment of the Boys is affected thereby,—the management, namely, of the land belonging to the Institution.

From the time when the Asylum passed from the Imperial to the Colonial Government down to the 18th May, 1861, the management of the land had been chiefly in the hands of the Head Schoolmaster, aided by the Superintendent. The result was so far satisfactory that the proceeds of the Farm considerably exceeded the expenditure. In the early part of the year, however, the additional buildings for the Infant School prevented the cultivation of the most productive field. The labor was very considerable; and the time of Mr. Latham being chiefly occupied by the School, it seemed advisable that additional supervision should be given to the management of the Farm; and, with this view, the Board, at the Meeting of the 30th April, appointed two of its Members,—Mr. Richard Shoobridge, a gentleman who had been long and intimately versed in agriculture, and Mr. Stutzer, Inspector of Schools, who had had practical experience in works of drainage and irrigation,—as a Sub-committee to act with myself in the management of the Farm. The general result of this arrangement has been decidedly satisfactory. Mr. Shoobridge has afforded the constant benefit of his direction and advice, and Mr. Stutzer has been most diligent in extending the cultivation of the land and economising the labor.

The supply of milk, which had only averaged 31,505½ pints during the first half of the year 1861, of the total value at the then contract price of £218 11s. 1d., increased during the latter half to 50,655½ pints, of the value of the then contract price of £474 18s. During the last two months of the year the Farm supplied all but a small fraction of the entire milk consumed; and, at present, I feel justified in saying that we shall be able to dispense with the Contractor, and furnish this important article of consumption from our own resources.

The appointment of the Farming Committee was followed, on the 18th May, by the appointment of Mr. Harding as Farm Overseer, who has shown himself industrious, capable, and obliging. The Board likewise considered a Gardener to be required, not only to keep the grounds of the Institution in the requisite order, but to raise a supply of vegetables, and especially to instruct the Boys in horticulture. It appointed first, Mr. Sangwell, on the 10th day of June; and shortly after his resignation on the 31 October following, Mr. Hill, who brought with him excellent testimonials, and of whose assiduity, efficiency, and readiness to oblige I am able to speak very favorably. The appointment of the Farming Overseer and Gardener at first increased the working expense of the Farm, but has since led to some reduction. Until Mr. Harding and Mr. Hill were employed, it was unsafe and useless to leave any of the Boys under the care of the Farm Laborers. The engagement of two respectable and intelligent Managers has enabled me to employ a considerable number of Boys in the work of the Farm and Garden; thereby at once giving them the opportunity of learning farming and horticulture, and diminishing the necessity of employing adult labor.

The Report of the Farming Committee will fully explain all the operations at the Farm.

LABOR PERFORMED BY CHILDREN.—The extent of needlework and washing performed by the Children in the Institution, and charged at the same rate as that at the Cascades Factory, was as follows:—

Washing, 95,132 pieces	£	s.	d.
Needlework, 3,662 ditto	399	15	1
	73	7	6
Making in all.....	£473	2	7

This refers only to the work performed in the Girls' Division: that performed by the Boys in shoemaking and tailoring (in each of which Departments twelve are daily employed,) it is impossible to estimate, in consequence of much of their time being occupied in effecting repairs to clothing in use; and six Boys permanently employed in the bakehouse.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.—On this head, reports from the respective Clergymen were called for, and are herewith attached.

COST PER HEAD OF EACH CHILD.—£22 3s. 0½d.

W. BENSON, *Superintendent Queen's Asylum.*

To the Board of Management.

No. 1.

RETURN showing the ADMISSIONS, DEATHS, and DISCHARGES of Children in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM during the Year 1861.

FUNDS.			
Remaining 31st December, 1860	{ Colonial	239	} 492
	{ Imperial	236	
	{ Unknown	17	
Admitted during year 1861	{ Colonial	33	} 87
	{ Imperial	41	
	{ Unknown	13	
			579
Discharged during year 1861.....	{ Colonial	56	} 125
	{ Imperial	63	
	{ Unknown	6	
Remaining 31st December, 1861			454

RELIGION.			
Remaining, 31st December, 1860	{ Protestants	244	} 492
	{ Roman Catholics	244	
	{ Unknown	4	
Admitted during year 1861.....	{ Protestants	47	} 87
	{ Roman Catholics	38	
	{ Unknown	2	
			579
Discharged during year 1861.....	{ Protestants	53	} 110
	{ Roman Catholics.....	57	
Died during year 1861	{ Protestants	7	} 15
	{ Roman Catholics	8	
Remaining 31st December, 1861			454

W. BENSON, *Superintendent Queen's Asylum.*

18th March, 1862.

No. 2.

RETURN showing the HOSPITALS' STATES during the Year 1861.

DIVISIONS.	Remaining 31st Dec., 1860.	Admitted during Year 1861.	Total treated during Year.	Discharged during Year 1861.	Died during Year 1861.	Remaining 31st Dec., 1861.
Male	10	206	216	193	5	18
Female	16	189	205	192	4	9
Infant	13	235	248	232	6	10
TOTAL	39	630	669	617	15	37

W. BENSON, *Surgeon Superintendent Queen's Asylum.*

18th March, 1862.

No. 3.

RETURN showing the DEATHS which took place in the different Divisions of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM during the Year 1861.

DATE.	DIVISION.	NAME.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
March 29 ..	Male	Patrick M'Cabe	Febris cont. com.
June 27	Infant	Bridget Connors	Bronchitis following measles.
Ditto	Ditto	Helen Kennedy	Ditto.
July 6.....	Ditto	William Williams.....	Measles.
Ditto	Ditto	John M'Carthy	Ditto.
July 13	Ditto	Edward Terry	Low fever following measles.
July 23	Female	Sarah Fairley	Typhoid pneumonia following measles.
Ditto	Ditto	Catherine Smith	Ditto.
July 30	Infant	Matthew Ryan.....	Febris cont. com.
August 12 ..	Male	John M'Dowell	Bronchitis following measles.
August 15 ..	Ditto	Thomas M'Mahon	Ditto.
Ditto	Ditto....	John Green or Crine	Pleuro-pneumonia following measles.
Ditto	Female	Margaret Ashley	Febris cont. com. following measles.
August 18 ..	Male	Edward Low.....	Pneumonia following measles.
September 8.	Female	Sarah Green.....	Diseased hip joint; (when admitted was suffering from this affection.)

W. BENSON, *Surgeon Superintendent Queen's Asylum.*

18th March, 1862.

No. 4.

RETURN showing the ITEMS under the Head of Miscellaneous.

ITEMS IN DETAIL.	AMOUNT UNDER EACH HEAD.	AMOUNT.
FUEL AND LIGHT.—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coals.....	497 12 6	
Wood, fire	36 3 1	
Candles, tallow	62 7 7½	
Ditto, sperm.....	135 17 10½	
		732 1 1
MEDICAL STORES AND COMFORTS.—		
Medicines.....	23 12 3	
Wine, Port	104 15 3	
Brandy.....	29 5 3½	
		157 12 9½
ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS	—	520 5 0
		£1409 18 10½

W. BENSON, *Superintendent Queen's Asylum.*

15th May, 1862.

No. 5.

RETURN showing the EXPENSE of RATIONS issued to the Servants of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM during the Year 1861.

ARTICLE.	QUANTITY.	AMOUNT.	REMARKS.
		£ s. d.	
Flour, fine, lbs.	8977·10	78 6 7½	
Ditto, 20 per cent., lbs.	638·12	5 1 0	
Meat, fresh, lbs.	5222·4	68 6 5	
Vegetables, lbs.	5222·4	13 15 8½	
Tea, lbs.	323·15	25 5 7½	
Sugar, lbs.	1949·11	33 18 1	
Salt, lbs.	50·3	0 2 7½	
Milk, pints	1637½	13 5 1	
Butter, lbs.	263·15	19 15 10½	
		£257 17 0½	This article was not issued to the Servants until 1st June.

W. BENSON, *Superintendent Queen's Asylum.*

20th May, 1862.

No. 6.

ABSTRACT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM, between 1st January and 31st December, 1861.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Amount of Parliamentary Vote for the Service of the year 1861.....	10,500	0	0	Superintendent and Medical Officer..	500	0	0			
				Assistant Medical Officer (temporary)	15	10	0			
				Chaplains (2)	300	0	0			
				Purveyor.....	231	6	3			
				Clerk.....	135	0	0			
				Matron, Female School.....	150	0	0			
				Matron, Infant School.....	125	0	0			
				Matron, Male School.....	90	0	0			
				Out-door Inspector.....	50	0	0			
				Beadle.....	70	0	0			
				Cooks, Nurses, and Female Attendants	539	6	0	2,206	2	3
				<i>Allowances.—Superintendent,</i>						
				House-rent.....	120	0	0			
				Chaplain, R.C., Forage	50	0	0	176	5	0
				Out-door Inspector, House-rent	6	5	0			
				Head Schoolmaster and Industrial						
				Teacher	200	0	0			
				Assistant Schoolmaster.....	140	0	0			
				Schoolmistress, Senior	100	0	0			
				Schoolmistress, Junior	100	0	0			
				Schoolmistress, Infant.....	60	0	0			
				16 Monitors, Male and Female, at						
				26s. per year	20	16	0			
				Teacher of Singing.....	25	0	0	645	16	0
				<i>Allowances.—Head Schoolmaster</i>						
				and Senior Mistress, for special						
				instruction of Monitors				40	0	0
				Baker of Institution.....	90	0	0			
				Assistant Baker	30	0	0			
				Tailor.....	96	0	0			
				Shoemaker	96	0	0			
				Farm Overseer.....	62	1	11			
				Gardener.....	51	2	2			
				Farm Laborers.....	537	15	9			
				Whitewasher (temporary)	19	1	7	982	1	5
				<i>Allowances.—Tailor, House-rent</i>	6	5	0			
				Farm Overseer, House-rent	9	6	3			
				Gardener, House-rent.....	8	15	10			
								24	7	1
				Provisions				4,170	5	8½
				Stores, Clothing, Bedding, &c.....				1,914	2	3½
				Fuel and Light.....				732	1	1
				Alterations and Repairs to Buildings..				520	5	0
				Medical Stores and Comforts.....				157	12	9½
				Deduct for Farm Produce, Fuel,				11,568	18	8
				Needlework, and Washing.....				1,202	2	0½
Balance in favor of Institution.....	133	3	4½							
	<u>£10,366</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>7½</u>	TOTAL.....				<u>£10,366</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>7½</u>

26th May, 1862.

W. BENSON, *Superintendent Queen's Asylum.*

No. 7.

March, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR,

As the Bishop was unable to examine the Protestant Children himself in December last, owing to the shortness of the notice forwarded to him, and from the same reason could not procure a Clergyman in time, I, at your request, undertook the task myself; and I think I may safely say that I found the Children of the different classes, more especially the first in each Division, fully equal to the Boys and Girls in any of the other Schools, which I have visited; in fact, as to their rudimentary education, I found them far superior. Where they are deficient, perhaps, is in intellectual development, and in their want of comparison; arising in a great measure from their restricted intercourse with the world, and from their unacquaintance with what I may call that traditionary religious instruction always imparted in a well-ordered home.

The hours devoted to Religious Instruction (and which I consider ample,) are—on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, from eight to half-past eight in the morning, and on Wednesdays from ten till twelve, and from two till four. I attend myself to impart it in the Female School on Mondays, Thursdays, and on the forenoon of Wednesday; and at the Male School on Tuesdays, Fridays, and on the afternoon of Wednesday.

I remain,

My dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

THOS. J. EWING, *Protestant Chaplain.*W. BENSON, *Esq., Superintendent Queen's Asylum.*

No. 8.

THE Catholic Children were examined at the end of the year, by the Catholic Bishop, as to their religious knowledge, who expressed himself satisfied with the general results of the examination.

G. H.

REPORT of Farming Committee.

THE Farming Sub-Committee have the honor to submit the following Report for the consideration of the Board of the Queen's Asylum. The period which it embraces is from the date of their appointment, on the 30th day of April, 1861, down to the 1st March in the current year. This period includes ten months. During the months of May and June they were unable to take more than a nominal part in the management of the Farm; and the only portion for which they consider themselves responsible are the nine months commencing with July last :—

This being the First Report upon the Estate belonging to the Queen's Asylum, your Sub-Committee consider it advisable to describe the actual extent and condition of the Farm.

The land belonging to the Queen's Asylum is divided into two portions, separated from each other by intermediate sections formerly the property of the Government, but which have since been parted with from time to time. The total extent amounts to 139 acres more or less, of which about 3 acres are covered with the various buildings of the Institution. Two of the fields, containing altogether about 14 acres, are of a tolerably good black soil; the rest of the cleared ground is a stiff cold clay or brick earth, of a very worthless description naturally, and which can only be made productive by a great deal of labor. About 40 acres were, till recently, covered with bush and briars. The badness of the ground of course places all farming operations at a great disadvantage. To make the land really good requires an extensive process of thorough draining, subsoiling, and liming; after which it may be expected to give good crops. The expense, however, of such work cannot be less than many pounds per acre, if conducted by adult labor. It is for this reason that the labor of the Boys is so valuable, as it will enable every year a certain amount of additional draining and subsoiling to be gone through which would otherwise not have been undertaken owing to the expense.

Although the soil is generally so unpromising, the situation, on the other hand, possesses very great advantages for drainage and irrigation. Nearly 40 acres of land lie below the level of the buildings; and, as the sewerage can with ease be washed over them, this portion of land, when laid down, may be expected to produce great crops of English and Italian rye grass. If a reservoir be formed at the point marked out and partially commenced by Sir William Denison, above 60 acres in all can be easily and profitably irrigated.

The great consumption of milk and vegetables in an Institution like the Queen's Asylum renders it very profitable, under ordinary circumstances, to have them supplied on the spot; an immediate market is ensured, and, as there is no expense of transport or deduction for intermediate profits, the saving, with proper management, is sure to be considerable.

When your Committee were appointed, towards the middle of last year, they found a number of Laborers employed out of proportion to the extent of the land or its proceeds; at the same time there was no immediate constant superintendence, as the chief time of Mr. Latham, the Head Schoolmaster, who had hitherto managed it, was necessarily occupied elsewhere. It was impossible also to teach the Boys effectually either farming or gardening, as they could not safely be trusted with the common Laborers. For these reasons, although at first apparently an increased expense, your Committee recommended the appointment of a Farm Overseer; and Mr. Harding was elected accordingly on the 16th of May, at a salary of £100 a year, with £15 house allowance. The Laborers at this time employed were as follows:—Two Ploughmen, one at £91 5s., and one at £65; two Milkmen, one at £78, afterwards raised to £91 5s., and one at £65; and three common Laborers at £65. Altogether at the rate of £42 5s. per month, or £507 per annum. In addition to this, one man (Carew) who was then and is still employed as a Storeman at £65, had been throughout, but improperly, charged against the Farm, although belonging to the General Establishment. It is to be observed, however, that the apparent increase in the expense of labor for the year 1861, against the year 1860, has arisen from the substitution of a money payment for rations.

To reduce this great expenditure, so far as consistent with the proper working of the Farm, was a chief object with your Committee; and a ready means offered itself in the employment of the surplus labor of the Boys. As the time which the elder Boys spent in School did not exceed three hours, there was a certain amount of spare time available, which had been hitherto wasted. The employment of this time in farming pursuits afforded an opportunity for diminishing the expense of labor, at the same time that it gave them an opportunity for instruction in farming. The surplus labor of the Boys has been accordingly economised, with the following results:—

During the months of July, August, and September, they cleared 18 acres of land of bush and brambles, which immediately became available, and have been used for pasture. In the last three months they have dug a trench 350 yards long and between 4 and 5 feet deep, through extremely stiff land, for drainage. In the place, first of one and then of the two Milkmen, at first two Boys, and then four, milked the cows, under the superintendence of Mr. Harding. By this means first one and then both the Milkmen employed have been discontinued. The experiment has turned out most favorably. Although, at first sight, it would not appear likely that the labor of four Boys would be able to economise the pay of two Men, equal to £156, such has been the case; and Mr. Harding speaks very highly of their general conduct. In addition to these, from eight to ten are employed by Mr. Harding in the afternoons, and six throughout the day by Mr. Hill, the Gardener; the Boys so employed being instructed in School on each alternate day.

By these and other reductions the labor on the Farm has been brought to the lowest point which, in the opinion of your Committee, is consistent with efficiency. The regular staff consists of one Overseer at £115, one Ploughman at £78, and one general Laborer at £65; total £258 against £507. In addition to this, however, must be reckoned the pay of the Gardener when employed on farm work, which will probably occupy half his time; and £20, which your Committee recommend and hope will be granted to the Overseer in consideration of his great trouble with the milking, which now requires his presence on the Sundays as well as week-days. The average cost in wages for the Farm in 1862 may therefore be taken at between £300 and £350 against £507; with the advantage of having the superintendence of Mr. Harding for the training of the Boys.

The principal, and hitherto almost the exclusive profit of the Farm, results from the supply of milk. In the year 1860 the quantity of milk supplied amounted to 64,506 pints, or at the rate of about 4350 pints per month. The total consumption of the Institution averages about 145,000 pints for the year. The stock of cows, when your Committee was appointed, was only able to produce—in the month of March 6286 pints, April 4663½ ditto, May 3337½ ditto, June 2706½ ditto, July 2513½ ditto. At this rate, the Farm was not paying its working expenses. Your Committee therefore first planted the greater part of the right-hand paddock with Indian corn, oats, and mangold wurtzel to insure a supply of food, and from time to time purchased cows to supply the immediate deficiency. In all, 9 cows have been purchased, at the average price of £8 10s. The supply of milk has been as follows:—

	Pints.
For July	2513½
For August	4735½
For September	7014
For October	11,601¾
For November	12,234
For December	12,557
For January, 1862	11,879
For February	10,144

For the year 1861, including the time when the Farm was under the previous arrangement as well as under your Committee, the total supply was 82,158 against 64,508 of the present year. For the eight months ending February last 72,778, or at the rate of 109,000 pints for the year. Reckoning the much greater breadth of land that will be in cultivation during the year 1862, your Committee feel no doubt that, with the purchase of three additional cows, the Farm will be able to supply four-fifths of the milk required during the present year, and the whole of that for the year 1863.

The supply of vegetables during the last year has been so small as scarcely to require notice. For the current year 3½ acres of land are in preparation, and will be planted with potatoes, carrots, onions, and cabbages.

The left-hand paddock, which had been out of cultivation for many years, has been ploughed and left in fallow, and it is now sown with barley and oats. In the year 1862 the breadth of land under cultivation will be about twenty-five acres more than in the year before, and in all, about twenty acres of arable land and twenty of rough grazing land will be added to the productive area of the estate. There can be no doubt that the produce will much more than cover the cost of its production, besides supplying the children with milk of a quality which could not be obtained by contract.

Your Committee beg to make, for the future management, the following suggestions:—

1. The necessity of completing the Farm Buildings with the least possible delay. As Mr. Harding is already paid £15 a year for lodging, £100 expended in completing his house will soon repay itself. Owing to his not being able to reside, the capital cow-house is useless, and the stock and Farm generally are considerably injured. Your Committee suggest that a portion of the £500 appropriated for repairs might be safely and advantageously expended for this purpose.

2. The expediency of completing the upper reservoir. This is a matter directly affecting the whole Institution, as the supply of water in a hot summer is at present extremely precarious.

3. The expediency of permitting sales of Farm property and stock (having been previously submitted to and approved of by the Board,) to be made directly irrespective of the Government Auctioneer; and to permit any fat surplus cattle, at the discretion of the Committee, to be killed for the use of the Institution.

Your Committee, in conclusion, beg to express their approbation of the conduct of Messrs. Harding and Hill, and to express their acknowledgment of the Head Master's active assistance in superintending the Boys during the draining and clearing of the ground.

RICHARD SHOOBRIDGE.
J. J. STUTZER.

24th March, 1862.