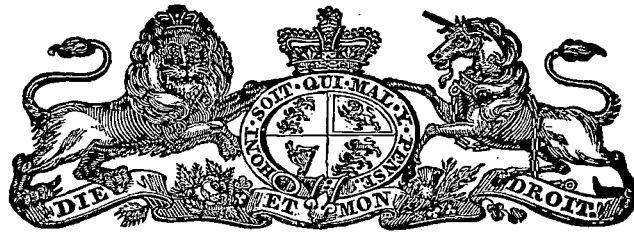


(No. 8.)



1881.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,
CASCADES :

REPORT FOR 1880.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 19, 1881.



Contagious Diseases Hospital, Cascades, 3rd May, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish the Annual Report of this Institution for 1880.

On a previous occasion I submitted, at your request, an *ad interim* statement of particulars regarding the operation of the Act of Parliament, 42 Vict. No. 30, from its commencement on 9th September, 1879, to the 30th June following.

The period, however, being short and broken the details then given were consequently of an imperfect nature; and therefore I now purpose combining the events of the first half-year with those of the second, so as to make the Report complete for the twelve months.

On 1st January there were 10 patients remaining in Hospital: 98 were admitted during the year, and 104 discharged; leaving 4 under treatment on 31st December last.

The daily average was $10\frac{1}{2}$, and the cost per head, £26 12s. 8d.

The ages averaged $20\frac{1}{2}$ years,—the youngest being about 13, the eldest 45; and, in respect to religion, 43 were Protestants, and 65 were Roman Catholics.

As a rule the behaviour of the patients was orderly; but, like other rules, there was the usual exception: and to so great an extent did misconduct prevail on one occasion that the interference of the police became a necessity.

The action then taken, and the punishment awarded to the principal delinquent by the Magisterial Bench, produced a marked change for the better; and the necessary washing, cleaning, and needlework were subsequently performed without further objection or dispute.

In 21 instances the same patient was received twice during the year, at periods varying from 2 to 9 months, and some of them with a different type of disease to that which they had had previously; but little or no surprise can be evinced at these facts when it is remembered that the majority, if not all, of those discharged immediately return to their old haunts and avocations.

The different characters of disease are tabulated in Return A; and it will be noticed, under its headings, that 4 cases are classed as "Nil." At first sight this will doubtless appear astonishing, and therefore it is perhaps desirable to make a few remarks in explanation of this particular entry.

Under the provisions of "The Act for the better prevention of certain Contagious Diseases," it is enacted that any reputed common prostitute can be apprehended by warrant, if she fail to appear upon summons, under certain conditions issued by the Police Magistrate, and lodged in the Hospital, without, in the first instance, having undergone a medical examination.

Consequent upon such a proceeding, it is easy to understand that a female who may have been diseased at the time of being summoned might not be so at the time of being apprehended; she may, in short, have been cured in the interval. However, be this as it may, two of the cases under review certainly were not suffering from disease on their admission.

In respect to the other two cases, it is only necessary to observe that, although they presented symptoms of a somewhat abnormal character when admitted, those symptoms after further observation proved to have been the result of debility and excessive intercourse, and not of disease.

Having now afforded this information, it remains for me only to add that, in my opinion, the existence of the Act in the Statute Book has been productive of some good to the community generally; and that if the said Act be made more comprehensive in its details, the benefits that will assuredly accrue therefrom cannot for a moment be questioned.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COVERDALE, *M.D.*, *Medical Officer in charge.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

A.

RETURN showing the Character, Number, and Disposal of the Cases of Venereal Diseases treated at the Contagious Diseases Hospital, Cascades, during the Year 1880.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>	<i>Remaining 31st Dec., 1880.</i>
47	Syphilis, primary	46	1
25	Ditto, secondary	25	0
1	Ditto, tertiary	0	1
23	Gonorrhœa	22	1
8	Leucorrhœa	7	1
4	"Nil"	4	0

J. COVERDALE, *M.D.*, *Medical Officer in charge.*

B.

RETURN showing the Expenditure of the Contagious Diseases Hospital for the Year 1880.

	£ s. d.
Salaries	60 0 0
Provisions	147 0 11
Stores	10 18 9
Medicines	5 0 0
Fuel and Light	34 11 7
Repairs and alterations to Buildings	12 2 3
	£269 13 6

J. COVERDALE, *M.D.*, *Medical Officer in charge.*