

(No. 5.)



1880.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, NEW NORFOLK:

REPORT FOR 1879.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
August 10, 1880.



*Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, July, 1880.*

*To His Excellency SIR FRANCIS SMITH, Administrator of the Government of Tasmania.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE have the honor to present our Report of the state and management of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk for the year 1879, with the appendices thereto.

Having repeatedly urged in our Annual Reports the introduction of various improvements, principally in the buildings and general accommodation of the Asylum, and in our Report for the year 1878 adverted to these recommendations in terms of assurance, founded on the promises of the Executive that they would be given effect to, we proceed to detail, 1st, those which have been already carried out; and 2ndly, those which still remain to be executed. 1st. New shingling most of the buildings; repairs to kitchen, Male Division; new system of ventilation (Tobin's), 16 rooms, Male Division; new dormitory in the Female Division; repairs to wash-house and laundry; repairs to bath-room, Female Division. 2ndly. Work recommended but not yet commenced, viz.—Six new rooms to Gentlemen's Cottage. This addition, as the Commissioners have several times represented, is urgently required, the Cottage forming an important feature in the establishment for the treatment of persons of the better class.

In adverting to the requirements of the Hospital, both as respects the extent and character of the further accommodation required, we desire to combat a prevalent impression, to which utterance has occasionally been given in Parliament, that with the changes going on in some elements of our original population a sensible diminution in the numbers of the insane must speedily ensue. Gratifying as it would be to indulge this hope, we regret to say that it is not sustained by experience to the extent generally supposed. Insanity leaves an inheritance which disappears, even under highly favourable moral and physical conditions, only by degrees; and there are not wanting new causes of local origin tending to develop disease, either temporary or permanent, in forms which the Hospital at New Norfolk is designed to meet. The cases, too, for which it is necessary to make provision are no longer confined to the lower strata of our population, but painful instances of mental disease in both sexes among the refined, the cultivated, and the wealthy are of not uncommon occurrence, demanding more skill and delicacy of treatment than was formerly necessary. In course of time private asylums will probably spring up to answer for such cases, under a system of licences and official regulation; but pending their establishment it is no more than reasonable that our State Asylums should not overlook the claims of any class.

We are gratified by the favourable Report of the Surgeon Superintendent in respect to the conduct of the subordinate officers and servants of the Hospital, and we fully endorse the representations of Dr. Huston as to the irksome and trying nature of their duties as entitling them to promotion and increase of pay when occasion offers. On the part of the Commissioners due attention is at all times paid to the recommendation of the Superintendent.

The unpleasant misunderstandings which led to the dismissal of the late Matron, Mrs. Kenny, acquired a notoriety which indisposes us to dwell upon them further than is absolutely required of us. Happily in a retrospect of more than twenty years' management of the New Norfolk Hospital they are without a parallel. In the circumstances in which the Commissioners were placed they adopted without hesitation, preconceived bias, or prejudice of any kind, such proceedings as they thought

best calculated to secure the ends of justice and maintain the confidence of the public, more especially that of the relatives or guardians of Hospital patients, in the character of our principal officer. It will scarcely excite any surprise that, after the painful ordeal to which the Surgeon Superintendent had to submit, he should have been induced to signify to the Commissioners his wish to retire from the post which he has so long filled with satisfaction to the Government and advantage, as we believe, to the unfortunate patients under his charge. And, had Dr. Huston induced us to interpret his offer to retire as a mere invitation to record our opinion of his official claims to confidence, or had his years been otherwise than he has represented to us, now considerably advanced, and his arduous responsibilities producing such effects on his "mental capacity" and "bodily system," as to plead unanswerably for his honorable retirement, we should have demurred to the loss of so old and tried a public servant. But we feel not only that it would be harsh to frustrate the wish of Dr. Huston himself, but, as a general rule to be applied to future cases, it would be expedient in our judgment to facilitate the promotion to other branches of professional service of those who have served in the arduous work of a Superintendent of an Insane Hospital. Their skill and experience need not then be wholly lost in the department of practice in which they had been specially employed.

We are happy to note the favourable testimony of Dr. Huston, amply borne out as it has been by our own observation, of the efficiency of our Assistant Medical Officer, Dr. Macfarlane, as it enables us, with more confidence than if we had to resort to untried skill and aptitude, to provide either temporarily or permanently for the superintendence of this Hospital. We have not omitted in previous reports to represent the importance of the Colony having always more than one Medical Officer available for the critical duties in question.

The services of a Matron whose training, nerve, and address would inspire favourable hopes on the part of the Commissioners, that her management would command the respect of the various female employées in the women's branch of the Hospital, and not fail to impress the patients also, were long felt to be a desideratum in the Hospital, and one which it became more urgent to supply as more patients of a better social status appeared in the wards. It was therefore satisfactory to us when the Government consented to our recommendation, that a salary should be attached to the office of Matron that would be likely to attract competition of a desirable description.

Miss Laland, who was appointed, was selected from fourteen applicants. Having served for four months only, it would be premature in us to say more of her management than express our favourable anticipation from her intelligence and vigilance.

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

HENRY BUTLER, *President.*  
W. TARLETON.  
F. M. INNES.  
HENRY HUNTER.  
W. A. B. JAMIESON.  
ROB. CAR READ.  
A. RIDDOCH.  
W. C. SHARLAND.  
J. W. AGNEW.

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*Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, January, 1880.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present my Report on this Institution for the year 1879.

On the 31st December, 1878, there remained 134 male and 119 female patients, and during the year 30 males and 23 females have been admitted, making a total of 306 treated.

Among the admissions were 10 who had been previously under treatment, two of whom, males, had been discharged during the year, and six males and two females had been absent, for various periods, as under:—One, 15 years; two, 9 years; three, 2 years; two, 1 year. Eighteen patients have been discharged, 11 males and 7 females, 13 of these, viz., 8 males and 5 females, had been admitted during the year, the period of detention of the remaining 5 being as under:—1 admitted in 1874; 4 admitted in 1878. The results of treatment of the whole admissions for the year are noted in Return No. 2.

The number of deaths was 19, viz., 15 males and 4 females: the date of admission of these cases, their respective ages and cause of death, will be found in Return No. 3, hereunto appended.

In my Report for 1878 I was glad to be able to direct the attention of the Commissioners to the diminution in the numbers admitted, and thought it fairly probable that as the old prisoner class died out insanity would decrease; but I regret to observe that the results of the past year have not confirmed my ideas on this point, the admissions being higher, with one exception, viz., in 1876, than for the last 20 years. The cause of this increase is very difficult to arrive at: 22 were received without any reliable information, 6 were over 60 years of age, 10 were re-admissions, 6 cases were attributed to drink and intemperance, and the remaining 9 to various accidental causes.

The civil condition, so far as can be ascertained, of those admitted was as follows:—Free to Colony, 22; natives, 17; prisoner class, 12; unknown, 2; total, 53. Of these there were:—Married, 21; single, 24; widowed, 5; unknown, 3; total, 53.

Two patients made their escape in the early part of the year, but were recaptured, one after four days, and the other after twenty-eight days absence, which they had spent in the bush, and were very glad to be brought back again. I may here observe that almost the first thought of patients after their admission is their discharge, and frequent attempts to escape are made, but in those that are successful it is invariably observed that a day or two suffering from hunger and privation in the bush makes them anxious to get back to the comforts of the Hospital.

The average daily strength has been 265. The total number treated 306, of whom 51 were wholly or partially self-supporting, 23½ were chargeable to Imperial, and 231½ to Colonial funds.

The receipts from the Cottages continue to fully cover the expenses, those from the Gentlemen's quarters being £762 6s. 8d., and from the Ladies £495 12s.

The total sum received from all sources is £1728 16s. 6d., and the gross cost of the Establishment £7600, or 1s. 7d. per diem for each patient; taking credit however for the receipts, the cost is reduced to £5871 3s. 6d., or 1s. 2½d. per diem for each patient.

The sum of £351 9s. 4d. expended for alterations and repairs is not included in the above calculation.

The farm, dairy, and garden have been as usual productive, and contributed liberal supplies for the use of the Establishment; the dairy furnished 29,982 pints of milk, worth at 2d. per pint £249 17s., and 473 dozen eggs, valued at £17 17s.

The usual amusements and recreations for the patients have been provided.

The new dormitory in the Refractory Division for Females has been finished, and is a great addition to the comfort and convenience of that portion of the Establishment, and the bath-room in the same place has been properly repaired and rendered more convenient. Repairs also to the laundry and wash-house have been effected. But no steps have yet been taken to provide the additional accommodation at the Gentlemen's Cottage which is so urgently needed.

The rooms in the corridor of the Male Division have been fitted with ventilators on the Tobin principle and with marked benefit, the rooms at the Idiot Boys' Cottage have also been similarly treated and thereby improved.

There is still the same difficulty, as I have for the last two or three years adverted to, in procuring suitable attendants, males especially; but with the materials at command the general duties of the Establishment have been very fairly performed, though not without close supervision and attention of the officers: and I take this opportunity of acknowledging the valuable assistance I have received from Dr. Macfarlane since his appointment as Assistant Medical Officer.

Mrs. Bell, the Sub-Matron, has had the immediate charge of the Female Division for seven months during the past year, and for over eight months in 1878, during the illness of the late matron: she has performed the increased duties that have devolved on her in a satisfactory manner, and I feel pleasure in recommending her for the consideration of the Commissioners.

It has hitherto been my pleasant task, year after year, to note in my reports that the harmony and quiet working of the Establishment had continued without interruption. I regret, however, to be obliged to refer to the occurrences of the past year, whereby the internal economy of the institution was seriously disturbed, and resulted in the dismissal of the late Matron, Mrs. Kenny.

I scarcely feel it necessary to advert to details so painful to myself and which are so widely known; but it is my duty to express my sincere acknowledgments to the Commissioners for their prompt action, and their patient investigation into the various circumstances connected with the affairs, and also my sincere regret for the annoyance and even obloquy to which they have in consequence been exposed.

These occurrences and my increasing age are now producing such effects on my mental capacity and bodily system that I think it right to intimate to the Commissioners my intention in a short time, so soon as I can make arrangements for my family, to ask them to permit me to retire from the onerous charge and duties I have for the last 24 years carried out, if not to the entire satisfaction of every one, honestly and to the best of my ability.

The usual Returns are appended; viz.—

- No. 1. Return of Admissions, Discharges, Deaths, and Re-admissions.
- No. 2. Return showing duration of Diseases of Patients admitted, and results.
- No. 3. Return of Patients who died, and period of detention.
- No. 4. Return of Clothing made and repaired.
- No. 5. Return of Carpenters' and Painters' work.
- No. 6. Return of Sales of Stock.
- No. 7. Return of Farm and Garden produce.
- No. 8. Return of Expenditure.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

*The Honorable* HENRY BUTLER,  
*President of Commissioners.*

No. 1.

*RETURN of Admissions, Discharges, Deaths, and Re-admissions in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, showing the per-centage of Discharges and Deaths, from January 1st to 31st December, 1879.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
<i>Admissions.</i>			
Remaining 31st December, 1878 .....	134	119	253
Admitted during the year 1879 .....	30	23	53
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>164</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>306</b>
Remaining 31st December, 1879 .....	138	131	269
Average number resident, 1879 .....	..	..	265
<i>Discharges.</i>			
Of those admitted during the year .....	8	5	13
Of previous admissions .....	3	2	5
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>
<i>Deaths.</i>			
Of those admitted during the year....	1	1	2
Of previous Admissions .....	14	3	17
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>
<i>Re-admissions.</i>			
Of those discharged during the year .....	2	..	2
Of previous discharges .....	6	2	8

*Rate per cent. of Recoveries.*

On Admissions .....	24 $\frac{28}{33}$
On total treated .....	5 $\frac{15}{17}$

*Rate per cent. of Deaths.*

On Admissions .....	10 $\frac{19}{33}$
On total treated .....	6 $\frac{12}{33}$

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

## No. 2.

*RETURN showing the Duration of Disease in Patients on Admission, and the Result, for the Year 1879.*

<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Duration of Disease on Admission.</i>	<i>Discharged relieved or recovered.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Present Condition.</i>
1032	8 January	Six weeks	..	..	Improved.
1033	14	Three weeks	1 February	..	Improved.
1034	19	Two weeks	..	..	Unimproved.
1035	24	Not stated	..	..	Unimproved.
1036	1 February	Five weeks	..	..	Improved.
1037	5	Unknown	..	..	Improved.
1038	6	One week	5 March	..	Unimproved.
1039	20	Two weeks	..	..	Improved.
1040	20	Three weeks	..	..	Improved.
1041	26	Not stated	..	16 April	Improved.
1042	27	One month	..	..	Improved.
1043	1 March	One week	..	..	Improved.
1044	4	Twenty-three years	..	..	Improved.
1045	11	Twelve months	..	..	Unimproved.
1046	15	Three months	..	..	Convalescent.
1047	17	Six months	..	..	Improved.
1048	20	Not stated	..	..	Improved.
1049	20	Not stated	8 December	..	Improved.
1050	29	Three months	14 July	..	Improved.
1051	2 April	One month	3 May	..	Unimproved.
1052	9	Not known	..	..	Unimproved.
1053	17	Ten days	17 July	..	Unimproved.
1054	10 May	Nine days	..	..	Improved.
1055	16	One month	31 December	..	Improved.
1056	22	Five years	4 July	..	Improved.
1057	29	Two months	5 August	..	Improved.
1058	3 June	Two months	31 December	..	Improved.
1059	7	Some years	6 November	..	Improved.
1060	9	Four months	..	2 July	Unimproved.
1061	13	One year	..	..	Unimproved.
1062	2 July	Two years	..	..	Unimproved.
1063	18	Three months	10 September	..	Unimproved.
1064	15	Five years	..	..	Unimproved.
1065	5 August	Not stated	..	..	Improved.
1066	7	Seventeen and a half years	..	..	Unimproved.
1067	14	One week	..	..	Improved.
1068	18	Three months	..	..	Improved.
1069	22	Six weeks	..	..	Unimproved.
1070	4 September	One week	..	..	Unimproved.
1071	17	Five years	..	..	Unimproved.
1072	17	Not known	6 November	..	Unimproved.
1073	19	Two years	..	..	Unimproved.
1074	26	Two years	..	..	Unimproved.
1075	26	Six months	..	..	Unimproved.
1076	11 October	Unknown	..	..	Unimproved.
1077	25	Two weeks	..	..	Convalescent.
1078	28	Three years	..	..	Unimproved.
1079	17 November	One year	..	..	Unimproved.
1080	4 December	Unknown	..	..	Unimproved.
1081	5	Three months	..	..	Unimproved.
1082	6	One week	..	..	Improved.
1083	15	Five years	..	..	Improved.
1084	24	Not stated	..	..	Improved.

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

## No. 3.

*RETURN of Patients who died in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and Period of Detention, from 1st January to 31st December, 1879.*

<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Date of Death.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>	<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Date of Death.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
57	15. 8. 48.	3. 1. 79.	72	Gangrenous abscess of legs.	1018	27. 7. 78.	29. 7. 79.	75	Disease of brain and natural decay.
193	15. 7. 58.	11. 2. 79.	48	Disease of brain and heart.					
167	15. 8. 57.	20. 2. 79.	40	Disease of lungs.	958	4. 2. 77.	31. 7. 79.	52	Disease of brain and heart.
970	25. 5. 77.	12. 4. 79.	35	Acute disease of brain.	695	9. 6. 71.	6. 8. 79.	60	Disease of brain and natural decay.
1041	26. 2. 79.	16. 4. 79.	23	Low fever.	642	29. 1. 70.	22. 8. 79.	84	Natural decay. [decay.]
938	27. 9. 76.	22. 4. 79.	64	Natural decay.	179	10. 1. 58.	31. 8. 79.	45	Disease of lungs.
1010	9. 4. 78.	15. 6. 79.	67	Disease of brain and lungs.	991	21. 11. 77.	10. 9. 79.	64	Acute disease of brain.
1060	9. 6. 79.	3. 7. 79.	30	Apoplexy.	705	28. 7. 71.	12. 9. 79.	46	Apoplexy.
961	22. 3. 77.	13. 7. 79.	45	Disease of brain & diarrhoea.	641	17. 1. 70.	2. 12. 79.	20	Epilepsy and paralysis.
818	25. 3. 74.	22. 7. 79.	67	Disease of brain & paralysis.	918	28. 6. 76.	13. 12. 79.	50	Acute disease of brain.

## ANALYSIS OF AGES AT DEATH.

Sex.	Under 20.	20 under 30.	30 under 40.	40 under 50.	50 under 60.	60 under 70.	70 under 80.	80 under 90.	90 under 100.	TOTALS.
Males .....	—	1	2	4	1	4	2	1	—	15
Females .....	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	4

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

## No. 4.

*RETURN of Articles of Clothing made and repaired by the Patients in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, from 1st January to 31st December, 1879.*

ARTICLES.	MADE.		REPAIRED.		ARTICLES.	MADE.		REPAIRED.	
	By Males.	By Females.	By Males.	By Females.		By Males.	By Females.	By Males.	By Females.
Aprons, women's .....	...	207	...	...	Mattresses.....	...	...	...	...
Boots, men's .....	1	...	214	...	Miscellaneous "small arti- cles" .....	...	2	196	12
Ditto, women's .....	...	...	15	...	Palliassees .....	...	...	...	24
Ditto, children's .....	4	...	23	...	Petticoats, wincey, serge, and flannel .....	...	92	...	...
Blinds, window.....	...	...	...	...	Rugs and counterpanes....	...	...	...	...
Blouses, boys' .....	...	12	...	42	Shirts .....	...	...	...	30
Cases, pillow and bolster...	...	337	...	26	Shirts, men's .....	...	424	...	827
Caps, women's.....	...	57	...	...	Shoes, men's.....	...	...	27	...
Coats, blue and tweed.....	3	...	81	...	Ditto, women's.....	...	...	16	...
Dresses, print, coburg, and tweed .....	...	167	...	...	Shifts, ditto .....	...	254	...	...
Ditto, ticking.....	...	75	...	...	Slippers .....	...	...	6	...
Ditto, winsey.....	...	3	...	...	Stockings.....	...	...	...	489
Ditto, serge.....	...	7	...	...	Sox.....	...	...	...	192
Drawers, cotton & flannel, pairs.....	...	16	...	19	Towels, hand and round....	...	151	...	...
Frocks, linen, men's.....	...	...	170	36	Trousers, fustian, pairs....	48	...	1480	...
Gowns, night.....	...	...	...	...	Ditto, tweed, ditto.....	50	...	162	...
Hoods, women's.....	...	122	...	...	Ditto, linen, ditto .....	...	...	50	...
Jackets, blue cloth, men's..	2	...	261	...	Table cloths.....	...	32	...	1
Ditto, serge & tweed, women's .....	...	1	...	...	Vests, flannel.....	...	67	...	126
Ditto, cotton, ditto.....	...	181	...	...	Ditto, tweed, fustian, and cloth.....	10	...	252	...
Ditto, canvas, men's... 6	...	...	4	...					

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

## No. 5.

*RETURN of Work performed by Patients in co-operation with the Carpenter and Painter in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1879.*

*Carpenter's New Work.*—3 lattice-work doors; 1 grindstone and frame; 1 shed at back of cells, females; 1 latrine ditto; 1 table corridor, B. D.; 2 wheels to hand-cart; 24 arm chairs; 10 wheels and 10 wheel-barrows; 1 pair horse harrows; 3 Tobin's ventilators and fixing in boys' cottage; posts, palings, for fence, Dr. Huston's quarters; shelving and pegs, front lodge; 1 child's chair, 7 coffins.

*Carpenter's Repairs.*—American chairs, constantly; covering horse-hair chairs; gratings in wash-house, females; re-footing fence, cells, female division; horse-carts, hand-carts, and wheel-barrows, in constant repair; flooring throughout Asylum; posts and fences inside walls; hoes, axes, stone-hammers, &c., handled; latrine boxes; doors and windows throughout; gates; rails to verandah and staircases; weigh-bridge; lattice work, fences; wood-yard, gates; garden and farm, fences throughout.

*Plumber.*—Water pipes, spouting, baths, and water taps throughout.

*Painter.*—6 windows and skirting boards, new building; bedsteads throughout; 2 large wards, back division; 1 large ward and 4 rooms, female division; front lodge, inside and out; front entrance, gates; 22 doors, skirtings, beams of roof and corridor, cells, female division; Matron's cottage throughout; front and verandah of Surgeon Superintendent's house.

*Glazier.*—Windows and skylights throughout; 77 squares of glass repaired.

*Coloring.*—6 rooms, corridor and kitchen, new building; large mess-room, cells, females; back division, males, throughout; Matron's cottage, coloured and papered; 2 large wards, females; front lodge, inside and out; front gateway; and corridor ceiling, back division, males.

*Bricklayer.*—Fire-places, drains, plastering and brick-work kept in repair in all parts of Establishment.

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

No. 6.

*RETURN of Farm Account Sales, 1879.*

	£	s.	d.
January 9th, 2 pigs, by auction, at 40s. 6d. each .....	4	1	0
September 25th, 1 sow, by auction .....	5	10	0
Ditto .....	3	12	6
September 25th, 5 pigs, by auction, at 24s. 6d. each.....	6	2	6
December 8th, 2 cows, by auction, at 42s. 6d. each .....	4	5	0
	<hr/>		
	£23	11	0

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

No. 7.

*RETURN of Farm and Garden Produce, at the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1879.*

28,640 lbs. of English Grass.	4 tons English Hay.
13,800 lbs. of Lucerne ditto.	33 tons Mangolds.
28,200 lbs. of Italian ditto.	18 bushels Barley for Seed.
9600 lbs. of Prairie ditto.	12 bushels Oats for Seed.
6000 lbs. of Green Barley.	20 bushels Peas.
7000 lbs. of Green Maize.	29,982 pints Milk.
16 tons of Hay, Oats and Barley.	473 dozen Eggs.

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

No. 8.

*THE Cost of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1879 was £7600.*

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Salaries.....	3028	3	4
Allowances .....	24	0	0
Provisions and Medical Comforts .....	2797	8	9
Fuel and Light .....	549	13	2
Bedding, Clothing, Stores, Stationery, &c.....	926	6	10
Medicine .....	42	0	0
Incidental Expenses, including Advertising .....	71	6	5
Conveyance of Stores.....	61	7	6
Coroner's Inquests and Funeral Expenses.....	17	14	0
Travelling Expenses of Commissioners .....	82	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£7600	0	0
<b>Cr.</b>			
Fees for self-supporting Patients, and for Patients Labour, Washing, and sale of Pigs and Cows.....	1728	16	6
	<hr/>		
	£5871	3	6

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*