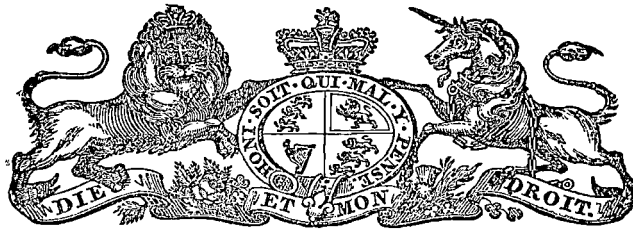


(No. 40.)



1877.

SESSION IV.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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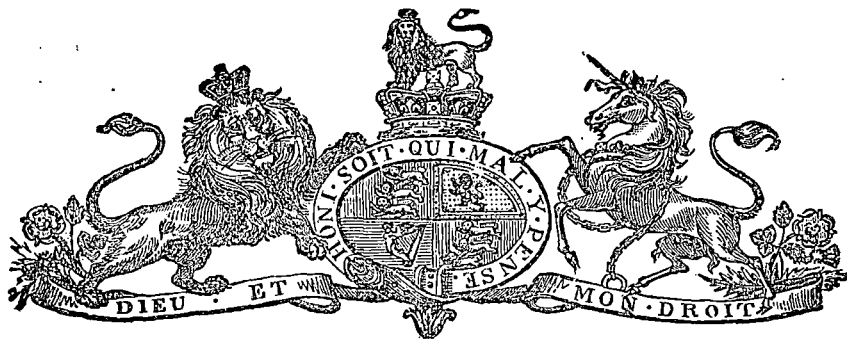
**HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, NEW NORFOLK:**

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER.

*Return to an Order of the Council dated November 29, 1877. (Mr. Innes.)*

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
November 29, 1877.



New Norfolk, 5th October, 1877.

GENTLEMEN,

IT will be within your recollection that in April, 1866, the Government, on your recommendation, appointed an Assistant Medical Officer for this Establishment,—the number of patients at that time varying between 275 and 280. Dr. M'Carthy, who received the appointment, remained until 31st May, 1871, when he was removed by the Government on the ground of the necessity for the reduction of expenditure.

At the period of his appointment the Institution consisted of three Establishments; viz.,—the Gentlemen's Cottage, and the Male and Female Divisions. These were, however, increased during his tenure of office by the erection and occupation of the Ladies' Cottage; and after Dr. M'Carthy left the Idiot Boys were removed to the house he occupied over at the farm,—thus increasing the Establishments to five in number.

In 1866 it was considered by the Commissioners and the Government highly desirable, for various reasons, that there should be an Assistant Medical Officer on this Staff; and I now beg to submit reasons why such an appointment should be again made, trusting you will take them into your favourable consideration:—

1st. I am now nearly 65 years of age, and am unable to bear the same strain on my mental and bodily energies as I have done for the last 22 years that I have held my present office.

2nd. By the enlargement and increase of the local establishments the duties have become far more arduous, and the responsibility much greater; and although the number of patients is somewhat reduced, varying from 5 to 10, it makes no difference in the amount of general work performed by me.

3rd. I very willingly, under the circumstances, in 1871 undertook the whole of the work again, and trust I have faithfully performed it; but several periodical attacks of illness and severe suffering from neuralgia have, as I stated above, diminished my physical strength and mental energies to such an extent that renders assistance absolutely necessary, or the alternative of having to altogether relinquish the duties.

I do not ask for increased remuneration, though I might, I think, very fairly do so on the ground of long service—some of my subordinates having obtained it on those grounds; but I do ask you, gentlemen, to take this matter into your favourable and earnest consideration, and recommend that an Assistant be again appointed.

I have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. F. HUSTON.

To the Commissioners of the Hospital for the Insane.

*EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Commissioners, held at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, on the 6th day of October, 1877.*

LETTER from Dr. Huston, Superintendent and Medical Officer, asking that an Assistant Medical Officer be again appointed, read: and it was resolved unanimously by the whole of the Commissioners (seven) present—"That, in the opinion of the Commissioners, it is absolutely necessary to the proper control of the Hospital that an Assistant Medical Officer, qualified to assist the Principal Medical Officer and to undertake the sole management of the Hospital in his temporary absence, should be immediately appointed;" and they commend this representation to the Executive as urgent.

*Resolved*, That this Resolution be conveyed to the Executive, and its importance personally represented by the Honorable Dr. Butler, Chairman of this Meeting.

A true Copy.

G. F. HUSTON, *Secretary*.