

(No. 6.)



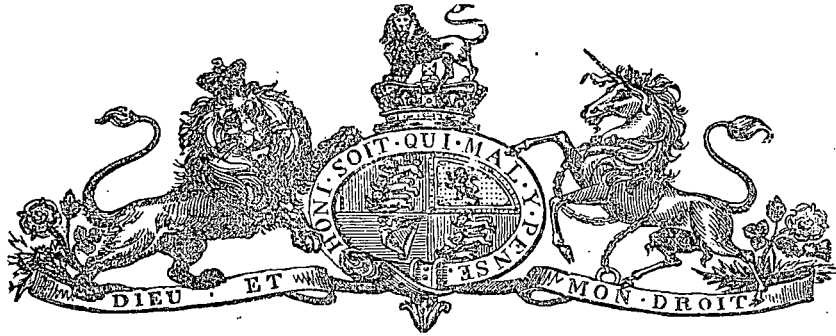
1886.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,
CASCADES :

REPORT FOR 1885.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



CONTAGIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL, CASCADES.

REPORT for the Year 1885.

Hospital for Contagious Diseases, Cascades, 10th March, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish the Annual Report of this Institution for 1885.

At the commencement of the year there were no patients in hospital, and during the 12 months of that period 16 only were admitted.

Of these 9 were for the first time, 2 for the second, 1 for the third, 1 for the fourth, 1 for the fifth, 1 for the sixth, and 1 for the eighth, since the opening of the establishment in September, 1879.

11 were Protestants and 5 were Roman Catholics, and their mean age was 23, the youngest being 18, and the eldest 30 years.

The average daily number was barely 2, and, as a sequence, the cost per head was much increased, the amount being £117 10s.

From the foregoing data it will be apparent that the operation of the Contagious Diseases Act cannot be considered of a satisfactory nature, inasmuch as it is difficult to believe that so little disease has been brought under notice.

There cannot be a doubt, however, that certain difficulties exist in carrying out the Act, the provisions of which are confined to a certain class of females, who, from experience and knowledge of means to deceive the authorities, avoid being subjected to proper treatment, and thus not only continue to further propagate disease, but in themselves establish a more virulent form of it, as may be noticed in Return A.

That there are opponents to the Act itself is well known, but the grounds of opposition have been so fully and carefully considered by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, that it may not be out of place to refer to at least three of the most pertinent grounds of objection; namely:—1. That the Act is an encouragement of vice by the State; 2. That it increases vice by making it safe; 3. That it affects unfairly the female sex.

The decision upon the first of these is in these words: "That women known to be engaged in prostitution are permitted to appear in public notoriously with a view to plying their trade, &c. Now, if the State tolerates this evil it is under a certain obligation to mitigate as far as possible the grave injuries resulting from it."

Upon the second: "That as a rule men who indulge in irregular sexual intercourse, especially the younger and more reckless of them, gratify their vicious passions without the slightest regard to any sanitary consequence, and that the fear of disease is absolutely no check upon the gratification of what is often nothing more than a strong animal instinct."

Upon the third : " That the Act is directed against prostitutes, who commit the sin of fornication as a matter of gain, and who, in the deliberate exercise of their calling, are specially liable to contract and propagate disease in the exercise of that calling. Among the male part of the population no corresponding class exists," &c.

The above quotations form but a small portion of the exhaustive Report referred to, but they clearly indicate the feeling of the Select Committee, and the direction legislation should take in considering the question of the social evil.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COVERDALE, *M.D.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

A.

RETURN of the Number, Character, and Disposal of the Cases of Venereal Disease treated during the Year 1885 at the Contagious Diseases Hospital.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>	<i>Remaining.</i>
1	Gonorrhœa	1	<i>Nil.</i>
6	Primary Syphilis.....	6	<i>Nil.</i>
9	Secondary ditto	5	1

J. COVERDALE, *M.D.*

B.

RETURN of the Expenditure of the Contagious Diseases Hospital, Cascades, for the Year 1885.

	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Salaries	141	0	0
Provisions and Medical Comforts	48	18	4
Stores, Bedding, and Clothing.....	14	10	2
Fuel and Light	29	3	2
Medicines	2	0	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	3	7	6
Repairs and alterations to buildings.....	1	4	4
	<u>£235</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

J. COVERDALE, *M.D.*