

1879.

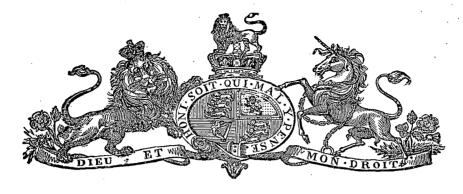
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOBART TOWN:

REPORT FOR 1878.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 9, 1879.



GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOBART TOWN.

ANNUAL REPORT for 1878.

SIR,

In accordance with the Rules of the Hobart Town General Hospital, I have the honor to lay before you the following Annual Report of the affairs of that Institution, together with such information regarding its cost, management, and condition during the year 1878 as will, I trust, afford a satisfactory exposition of all details of importance.

During the past year the affairs of the Hospital have been administered by a Board of Management consisting of eighteen members; viz. twelve unofficial, and six ex officio.

Nineteen Board and fifty-six Committee meetings were held during the year, at all of which the attendance of Members was, without exception, good; while during the same period the Honorary Medical staff made fifteen hundred and fifteen professional visits to the wards of the Hospital.

It affords me great pleasure to bear testimony to the zeal and efficiency displayed by the Executive Officers, Nurses, and Servants of the Institution generally, in the discharge of their respective duties; and further, to be able to state that the system of trained female nursing has, as was anticipated, proved a boon to the sick and a credit to the Hospital.

Referring to the Annual Report for 1877, the then Chairman drew attention to the fact "that the buildings and the accommodation provided for the patients, though much improved, were still greatly behind the requirements of the age." As regards the buildings and accommodation referred to, but little has been done during the past year, though with regard to improvements generally great progress has been made.

The long-standing nuisances of the lavatories and closets being in the same compartment has been entirely removed by the erection of additions to the former towers. By this arrangement the baths and lavatories occupy one compartment, while the closets are distinct and separate; all communication, by pipes or otherwise, with the water supply of the Hospital being carefully avoided.

In conjunction with this improvement a system, having for its object an abundant and continuous supply of hot water throughout the Hospital, was most successfully introduced during the early part of the year, and has since been in daily operation with the most satisfactory results, hot baths being obtainable at all hours day or night.

In the Report for 1877 it is also pointed out that, "as regards the main building, it would be well if means were taken to facilitate the admission of light, and to allow a freer circulation of air to the back wards, &c." This defect still exists, but can, when alterations are in progress, be remedied. Its importance has not been overlooked, and its removal will be included in a general scheme of improvements shortly to be submitted.

The old Hospital at the rear of the main building, though condemned in 1877 as being "as bad as it can be, appearing to combine every fault which an institution of this nature ought not to have," is still in use for the treatment of infectious and other diseases requiring isolation; but though as faulty and unfit as represented, it is nevertheless capable of such alteration and improvement as to

convert it into four valuable pavilion wards, affording accommodation for twenty-four beds, and well adapted for the treatment of such cases as those referred to; and, with this view, its alteration will be included in the general scheme of improvement above alluded to.

The necessity for the erection of suitable quarters for the various officers of the establishment was forcibly represented in the Annual Report for 1877. In this direction nothing whatever has been done, and the necessity for urging this measure on the attention of the Government is, if possible, more pressing than ever. The acquisition by the Hospital of the strip of land fronting on Argylestreet at once removes the only great hindrance to the accomplishment of this work which has hitherto existed; viz. the want of adequate space for building purposes.

In the Annual Report for 1877, it was matter of regret to find that the Dispensary Out-door Relief System had reached a point of magnitude far in excess of the requirements of the pauper portion of the community, and that serious abuses of this branch of the charity were being practised. The means resorted to by the Board for the suppression of these abuses have proved of great service, as exhibited by the marked reduction in the number of Out-door Patients treated during the past year. This department of the Hospital service is now in a much healthier condition, and the wants of the really poor are amply provided for and attended to.

One item in the expenditure of the Hospital for the past year is conspicuously large, and demands attention in the future; viz., that of medicines and surgical instruments. The cost under this head for the year was £791 15s. 6d., whereas, if the wants of the Hospital alone had to be considered, one half of this amount ought to have been sufficient. The expenditure under this head for the years 1877, 1878, and 1379 is £1900, giving an average of nearly £635 per annum, an expenditure far in excess of the requirements of the Hospital when considered by itself.

The large consumption of medicines and medical appliances in the Gaol and in the various Pauper and Charitable Establishments, together with the issues consequent upon the Out-door Attendance at their own houses of the poor of the city, tends greatly to augment the expenditure in this department of the Hospital service,—an expenditure over which the Board of Management can exercise no control, and for which it cannot be held responsible.

In return for this expenditure, which cannot be estimated at less than £250 to £300 per annum, the Hospital has hitherto been credited on account of this service with the sum of £137–14s. 8d. per annum,—a sum manifestly insufficient; and it is now earnestly desired that the Hospital will be allowed to claim such additional credit as will represent the actual expenditure thus incurred on account of outside Government Establishments.

The number of Patients treated during 1878, and the diseases from which they suffered, have been tabulated and are herewith appended.

The following Tabular Statement shows the number of In-patients treated during the year 1878:—

In-patients remaining 1st January, 1878 Admitted during the year	Males. 64 671	Females. 22 373	Total. 86 1044
Total treated	735	395	1130
Discharged	608 73	$\begin{array}{c} 347 \\ 32 \end{array}$	955 105
Remaining 1st January, 1879	54	16	70
Of the patients admitted there died:—			
On the day of admission 1st day after admission 2nd ditto 3rd ditto 4th ditto 5th ditto 6th ditto 7th ditto		14 5 8 8 7 3	
Total		49 56	
Yearly Total			

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 Scale		10.76 to 1	05	130
	Over 65	680 to 1	26	177
	Between 55 - 65	10.26 to 1	5	54
	Belwen 45 - 55	10.52 % /	19	200
	. 35 - 45	11.44 to 1	6	103
	Between 25 - 35	12.80 to 1	0	128
	Ле£ween. 15 _ 25	16.31 to 1	<u></u>	26.1
	Thetween 10 - 15	10.80 to 1	G1	54
•	Trider 10	10.60 to 1	Cī	S S
		Proportion of Cases to Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Cases

The ages of those who died in Hospital during 1878 were as follows:-

Under 10 years	5
Between 10 and 15 years	5
15 and 25 ditto	16
25 and 35 ditto	10
35 and 45 ditto	9
	19
55 and 65 ditto	15
Over 65 years	26
Total for the Year	105
Over 65 years Total for the Year	

The accompanying diagram shows the proportion of cases to deaths arranged in similar periods to the foregoing table. The lines, which are drawn to a scale, indicate the chances of recovery as against those of death, in the following manner:—The whole line represents admissions; the dark portion represents the deaths; the remainder of the line, of course, therefore represents the recoveries.

I now append a comparative statement of certain statistics of 1877 and 1878, and beg to draw attention to the great reduction in the number of patients daily occupying beds in the Hospital during the latter year, and the consequent reduction in the number of diets issued, viz. 10,000; being equivalent to a saving of nearly £500. It will also be observed that the average stay of each patient in Hospital has been reduced from 27 days in 1877 to 25 and a fraction days in 1878. The above facts, taken conjointly, not only show a large pecuniary saving, but are also indicative of general improvement in the working of the Hospital.

1377.	1878.
1442	1130
149 (1 in 9·67)	105 (1 in 10.76)
8104	3909
38,934	28,791
27 days	25.47 days
106.66	78·87
11,966	11,318
	149 (1 in 9·67) 8104 38,934 27 days 106·66

The following tabulated information, comprehending the total cost of every branch of the Hospital Service in detail, is based on the plan suggested by Dr. Roberts, of Sydney, and adopted in the Returns of all the Australian hospitals, and is valuable as a basis of comparison:—

GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOBART TOWN, TASMANIA.

Α.

- 1. What is the population of the township, and of the district benefited by the Hospital? Estimated 40,000.
 - 2. The character of the Hospital? General.

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- 3. How many years has the Hospital been established? 35 years.
- 4. If the present building was erected for a Hospital? Yes.
- 5. If built for a Hospital, what was its original cost? Built by Imperial Government.
- 6. How much of the cost of construction was contributed by the Government? All.
- 7. How much of the cost of construction was contributed by public subscription? None.
- 8. How much of the annual income is contributed by the Government? All.
- 9. How much of the annual income is contributed by public subscription? None.
- 10. How much of the annual income is contributed upon an average by paying patients? £200.
- 11. How much of the annual income is derived from invested funds? None.
- 12. What amount has been received by legacies and donations? None.
- 13. Is the Institution under the control of a single officer or a Board? A Board.
- 14. If by a single officer, what is his position and salary, and to whom is he responsible?
- 15. If by a Board, what is the number of its members, and by whom is it elected, &c.? 17 members, appointed by the Governor in Council with power to fill its own vacancies, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.
- 16. Whether any power of control or supervision is exercised by the Government; and if so, in what form and to what extent? Yes, in regard to money matters.

- 1. The number of beds? 133.
- 2. The average cubic space per bed? 1249.32 feet.
- 3. The average number of in-patients daily throughout the year, male? 58.12.
- Ditto, female? 20.75. 4.
- 5. The number of paying patients received during the year? 146.
- 6. The number of patients received during the year who would have been more suitable for a Benevolent Asylum? Estimated about $\frac{1}{30}$.
 - 7. Total number of in-patients received during the year? 1044.

- 1. The average number who annually attend at the Hospital as out-patients?
- 2. The average number who are attended annually at their own homes? This is the work of a separate department.
- 3. The average number of women who are attended annually in confinement at their own homes? This is the work of a separate department.

- 1. The number of paid medical officers, resident? Two.
- 2. The annual amount of their salaries? £550 with fuel and light, and £60 in place of better quarters than those provided for them.
 - 3. The number of paid medical officers, non-resident? None.
 - 4. The annual amount of their salaries? Nil.
- 5. The number of other paid officers, exclusive of Nurses and servants? 3: Secretary, Lady Superintendent, and Dispenser.
- 6. The annual amount of their salaries? £554, fuel, light, and quarters, and £76 3s. house and personal allowances to the Dispenser.
 - 7. The number of the nursing staff? 16.
 - 8. The annual amount of their salaries? £604 15s.
 - 9. The number of servants? 13.
 - 10. The annual amount of their salaries? £450 17s. 6d.

Total cost of salaries? £2159 12s. 6d.

Total cost of allowances? £136 3s.

E.

- 1. The annual cost of provisions, exclusive of wine, beer, and spirits? £2151 0s. 7d.
- 2. Ditto wine, beer, and spirits? £114 9s. 4d.
- 3. Ditto fire and lighting? £594 0s. 11d.
- 4. Ditto washing and laundry? £127 Os. 10d., (done at H. M. Gaol),
- Ditto linen and bedding? 5.
- £213 8s. 11d. 6. Ditto furniture, earthenware, &c.?
- Ditto drugs and dispensary? 7.
- Ditto surgical instruments and appliances? \ £791 15s. 6d. 8.
- 9. Ditto water supply? Nil.
- 10. Ditto printing, stationery? £20 6s. 1d.
- Ditto funerals? £126 11s. 6d. 11.
- 12. Ditto repairs, average? £183 9s. 1d.
- 13. Payments for interest? Nil.
- 14. Ditto insurance? Nil.
- Ditto commission? Nil.
- 16. Other expenses not included in the above? Nil.
- 17. Total cost of the Hospital per annum? £6524 3s. 10d.
- 18. Proportionate cost of salaries to each occupied bed? £28 4s. 6d.
- Ditto provisions ditto? £27 5s. $5\frac{1}{2}d$.
- 20. Total cost of each occupied bed? £82 14s. 5d.

F.

- 1. The contract price during the year of bread for the 2 lb. loaf? 24d.
- Ditto meat at per lb? $3\frac{3}{14}d$.

The following is the cost of the Hobart Town General Hospital for the year 1878, arranged under the customary heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	2226	2	4
Allowances	120		
Provisions and medical comforts	2265	•	1i
Fuel and light	5 94	ŏ	īī.
Medicines and surgical instruments		15	6
Clothing, bedding, and stores	213		1Ĭ
Stationery	20	6	ì
Funeral expenses	126	_	6
Washing	127		10
Ranging to haildings	180	-	
Repairs to buildings			1
Repairs to stores		14	0
Cleansing, removal of night soil, ashes, &c		5	
Petty expenses	36	_	-
Advertising	17		6
Ambulance	70	0	0
Furniture	10	0	0
			
Gross expenditure	£6864	9	11
For medicines and appliances supplied to			
other Establishments (as previously			
allowed)			
Sums received from self-supporting patients			
and other sources			
	340	6	1
Net expenditure —	£6524	 3	10
		_	

Instead of the £137 14s. 8d. shown above as a set-off against the gross expense of the Hospital, a further deduction is claimed as due to the Hospital for medicines and medical appliances supplied to other Institutions, as under, the £137 14s. 8d. being totally inadequate to cover the expenses incurred under this head:—

Her Majesty's Gaol, £40; Cascades Male Invalid Depôt and Hospital for Insane, £40; Brickfields Male Invalid Depôt, £40; Queen's Asylum and Female Invalid Depôt, £30; Drugs, &c. supplied by order of the Medical Attendant to Paupers at their own homes, £60; proportion of Dispenser's Salary and Allowances, £40; making a total of £250, which should be deducted from the gross cost of the Hospital, instead of the above-mentioned sum of £137 14s. 8d., which would make the net cost of the Hospital for 1878, £6411 18s. 6d., instead of £6524 3s. 10d., making a reduction of £631 9s. 10d. in favour of 1878 as compared with 1877.

In Appendix A will be found a Nosological Return of all Cases treated in the Hospital during the year 1878.

Owing to the fact that until the 1st of July last the visits of Out-patients were recorded instead of the actual number of persons treated, I am unable to present an accurate record of this branch of the Hospital Service for the first half of 1878; but in Appendix B will be found an accurate Nosological Return of the Cases treated at the Dispensary during the second half of that year: in addition to which 150 cases of accident and emergency were attended to.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. C. SMART, F.R.C.S.E., Chairman Board of Management, General Hospital, Hobart Town.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.		ORDER 2.—Diseases of the Organs of Circ	ulation.
Order 1 Miasmatic Diseases.		Cases.	Deaths.
Scarlatina Cases.	Deaths. 1	Pericarditis	
Diphtheria 27	6	Heart Disease, &c20	7
Quinsy		Total Order 2	7
Whooping-cough	_	Order 3.—Diseases of the Respiratory S	System.
phoid, &c	8	Bronchitis 20	2
Carbuncle, Boil 3		Pleurisy 6	1
Influenza, Coryza, Catarrh, &c 13		Pneumonia	13
Dysentery 1 Diarrhœa 11	1	Congestion of Lungs, Pulmonary Apoplexy 7	1
Ague 1	-	Asthma11	
Remittent Fever 3		Total Order 3	17
Rheumatism 68 Other Zymotic Diseases 7	1	===	===
		Order 4.—Diseases of the Digestive Or	rgans.
Total Order 1 187	20	Gastritis 3	1
Opport 0 Fullatia Diaman		Enteritis 5	•
Order 2.—Enthetic Diseases.		Peritonitis	2
Syphilis	1	Hernia	
		Ileus 5	
Total Order 2 62	1	Fistula 1 Stomach Disease, &c 18	2
O==== 0 70 # 70		Hepatitis 4	
ORDER 3.—Dietic Diseases.		Jaundice, Gallstone, &c 2 Liver Disease, &c	
Privation		Liver Disease, &c 1	
Alcoholism { Delirium Tremens . 21 Intemperance 43		Total Order 4 48	5
Intemperance 43		· 	
Total Order 3		Order 5.—Diseases of the Urinary Or	·gans.
		Nephritis	
Order 4.—Parasitic Diseases.		Nephria	12
Worms, &c 3	_	Kidney Disease, &c 8	4
Hydatid 3	1	Total Order 5 26	16
Total Order 4 6	1		===
TOTAL CLASS I 330	22	Onder 6.—Diseases of the Organs of Gen Uterus Disease, &c 24	eration.
IICONSTITUTIONAL DISEASE	g	Order 7.—Diseases of the Locomotive S	ystem.
Order 1.—Diathetic Diseases.		Arthritis 5	
Gout 8	l	Ostitis, Periostitis, &c	1
Dropsy 1 Cancer 32	5	, 	
Tumor 6	1.	Total Order 7	1
Polypus	_	0	·
Mortification	1	Order 8.—Diseases of the Integumentary	
		Phlegmon, Whitlow, &c	1
Total Order 1 51	7	Skin Disease, &c 46	
Order 2.—Tubercular Diseases.		Total Order 8	<u> </u>
Scrofula 15	4	,	
Phthisis 42	11	TOTAL CLASS III 416	54
Hæmoptysis 1 Others 27	1	IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEAS	
		ORDER 1.—Developmental Diseases of Cl Other Malformations 5	uildren.
Total Order 2 85	16	Teething 1	
TOTAL CLASS II 136	23		
IIILOCAL DISEASES.	20	Total Order 1 6	•
ORDER 1.—Diseases of the Nervous Sys	l ann	ORDER 2.—Developmental Diseases of A	idults.
Cephalitis 3	LGIII.	Paramenia 16	
Apoplexy 5	5	Childbirth 7	
Paralysis	2	Total Order 2 23	
Insanity			
Epilepsy 18		ORDER 3.—Developmental Diseases of Old Old Age	t People.
Brain Disease, &c 12		ORDER 4.—Diseases of Nutrition.	
Total Order 1	7	Atrophy and Debility 15	
		TOTAL CLASS IV 54	1

N WOLENGE	Order 4.—Suicide.
V.—VIOLENCE.	Cases Deaths
Order 1.—Accident or Negligence. Cases. Deaths.	Wounds {Gunshot
Fractures, Confusions, &c 122 4 Wounds Gunshot	Poison 3
Burns and Scalds	Total Order 4
Bite of a Snake or Insect 1	TOTAL CLASS V 185 5
Drowning	Specified Causes
	Causes not specified 9
Total Order 1	All Causes
 ·	
APPEN	DIX B.
I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.	Order 3.—Diseases of the Respiratory System.
Order 1.—Miasmatic Diseases,	Bronchitis 9
Chicken-pox, &c	Pleurisy
Scarlatina 2	Asthma
Diphtheria	Lung Disease, &c 2
Croup 3	Order 4.—Diseases of the Digestive Organs.
Whooping-cough 4 Erysipelas 1	Hernia
Carbuncle, Boil 3	Fistula
Influenza, Coryza, Catarrh, &c	Dyspepsia
Diarrhœa 9	Hemorrhoids
Rheumatism, Lumbago included	Others 7
ORDER 2.—Enthetic Diseases.	Colic 10 Hepatitis 3
Syphilis 19 Gonorrhœa, Stricture of the Urethra 22	Order 5 Diseases of the Urinary Organs.
Others 4	Stone, Gravel
Order 3.—Dietic Diseases.	Cystitis 3
Want of Breast-milk 1	Kidney Disease, &c
Purpura and Scurvy	Order 6.—Diseases of the Organs of Generation.
Others 1	Uterus Disease, &c
Order 4.—Parasitic Diseases.	Order 7.—Diseases of the Locomotive System.
Thrush 1	Arthritis 5 Ostitis, Periostitis, &c
Worm, &c	Order 8.—Diseases of the Integumentary System.
Others, including Pediculi itch 23	Phlegmon, Whitlow, &c
II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.	Ulcer 23 Shin Disease, &c. 34
ORDER 1.—Diathetic Diseases.	Shin District, go
Gout 5	IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.
Dropsy 7 Cancer 4	Order 1.—Developmental Diseases of Children.
Tumor 14	Teething
Others, including Lupus Anæmia	
ORDER 2.—Tubercular Diseases.	Order 2.—Developmental Diseases of Adults. Paramenia
Scrofula 12 Phthisis 10	Others, including Chlororis
Hæmoptysis 3	Order 3.—Developmental Diseases of Old People.
III.—LOCAL DISEASES.	Old Age 1
Order 1 Diseases of the Nervous System.	Order 4.—Diseases of Nutrition.
Cephalitis	Atrophy and Debility
Paralysis 11	. WIOLENCE
Chorea	V.—VIOLENCE.
Convulsions 2	ORDER 1.—Accident or Negligence.
Brain Disease, &c., including Neuralgia, Teeth, &c	Fractures, Contusions, &c
Order 2.—Diseases of the Organs of Circulation.	Burns and Scalds
Heart Disease, &c	Bite of a Snake or Insect
, , ,	The second secon