

(No. 154.)



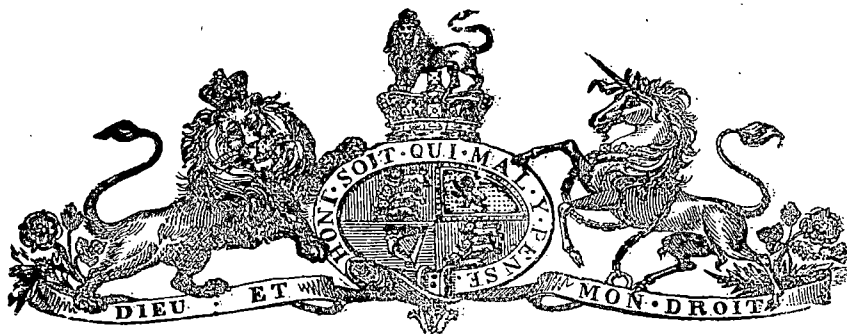
1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

**ADMINISTRATION OF CHARITABLE
GRANTS:**

**REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE, WITH MINUTES
OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE.**

Brought up by Mr. Braddon, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be
printed, November 19, 1885.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed, on the 28th August, 1885, to enquire into and report upon the Administration of Charitable Grants in Tasmania; with power to call for Persons and Papers.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. BELBIN.
MR. CROWTHER.
MR. DAVIES.
MR. HARTNOLL.

MR. PILLINGER.
MR. REIBBY.
MR. BIRD. (*Mover.*)

DAYS OF MEETING.

Thursday, 3rd September; Tuesday, 8th September; Thursday, 10th September; Friday, 11th September;
Friday, 18th September; Wednesday, 7th October; Wednesday, 14th October; Thursday, 29th October.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Mr. J. Morris, Rev. J. W. Simmons, Mr. W. J. Catley, Mr. E. L. Ditcham, Mr. J. Withrington, Mr. J. O'Boyle,
Mr. W. Witt, Mr. Alfred Jones.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

Mr. E. L. Ditcham, £5 6s.; Mr. A. Jones, £4 5s.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1885.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Mr. Bird, Mr. Pillinger, Mr. Crowther.

Mr. Bird was voted to the Chair.

Resolved, That the following witnesses be summoned to attend and give evidence before the Committee:—Mr. Morris, Secretary to the General Hospital, Hobart, on Tuesday, the 8th instant, at 11 A.M.; the Rev. J. W. Simmons, Chairman of the Hobart Benevolent Society, on Tuesday, the 8th instant, at 11:30 A.M.; Mr. Withrington, Superintendent New Town Charitable Institution, on Tuesday, the 8th instant, at 12 noon; Mr. W. J. Catley, Inquiring Officer Charitable Grants, on Tuesday, the 8th instant, at 2:30 P.M.; Mr. E. L. Ditcham, Chairman Launceston Benevolent Society, on Thursday, the 10th instant, at 11 A.M.

Resolved, That the Hon. the Chief Secretary be requested to forward the following papers:—(1) Correspondence between the Government and the Benevolent Society relative to the handing over of the Out-door Relief System to the Society. (2) Correspondence between the Government and the Hobart General Hospital Board and the Administrator of Charitable Grants, relative to fees charged to patients in the Hobart General Hospital.

The Committee adjourned until Tuesday, the 8th inst., at 11 A.M.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1885.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Mr. Belbin, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Davies, Mr. Bird (Chairman).

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. J. Morris, Secretary to the Hobart General Hospital, was called in and examined.

Mr. Morris withdrew.

The Rev. J. W. Simmons was called in and examined.

Mr. Simmons withdrew.

The Committee adjourned till 2.30 P.M.; and, having re-assembled,

Mr. W. J. Catley was called in and examined.

Mr. Catley withdrew.

Ordered, That Mr. J. O'Boyle be summoned to give evidence before the Committee on Thursday, the 10th instant, at 2.30 P.M.

The Committee adjourned till Thursday, the 10th instant, at 11 A.M.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1885.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Mr. Hartnoll, Mr. Pillinger, Mr. Belbin, Mr. Bird (Chairman).

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman laid the following papers on the table :—(1) Correspondence between the Government and the Benevolent Society relative to the handing over the Out-door Relief System to the Society. (2) Correspondence between the Government and the Hobart Hospital Board and the Administrator of Charitable Grants, relative to fees charged to patients in the Hobart Hospital.

Mr. Ditcham, Chairman of the Launceston Benevolent Society, was called in and examined.

Mr. Ditcham withdrew.

The Committee adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

The Committee reassembled at 2.30 P.M.

Mr. John Withrington, Superintendent of the New Town Charitable Institution, was called in and examined.

Mr. Withrington withdrew.

Ordered, That Mr. J. O'Boyle be summoned to give evidence before the Committee on Friday, the 11th instant, at 2.30 P.M.

The Committee adjourned till Friday, the 11th instant, at 11 A.M.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1885.

The Committee met at 2.30 P.M.

Present—Mr. Bird (Chairman), Mr. Davies, Mr. Hartnoll, and Mr. Belbin.

Mr. John O'Boyle, Administrator of Charitable Grants, was called and examined.

Mr. O'Boyle withdrew.

The Committee adjourned at 3.50 P.M. till Wednesday.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1885.

The Committee met at 12 noon.

Present—Messrs. Bird (Chairman), Hartnoll, Pillinger, and Dr. Crowther.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Withrington was recalled and examined.

Mr. Withrington withdrew.

Rev. J. W. Simmons was recalled and examined.

Mr. Simmons withdrew, promising to forward some suggestions to the Committee for conducting the Lying-in Hospital.

It was decided that Mr. A. Jones, Superintendent of the Launceston Charitable Institution, be summoned to give evidence.

The Committee adjourned at 1.5 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1885.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Messrs. Bird, Reiby, Hartnoll.

Mr. Bird was voted to the Chair.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. William Witt was called in and examined.

Mr. Witt submitted two ledgers containing statements of cases in the Lying-in Establishment.

Mr. Witt withdrew.

Ordered, That Mr. Jones be summoned to give evidence on Wednesday, 14th instant.

The Committee adjourned at 12 o'clock noon.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1885.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Messrs. Bird (Chairman), Pillinger, Reibey, and Hartnoll.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Ordered, That the evidence taken by the Committee be printed.

Mr. Alfred Jones, Superintendent of the Launceston Invalid Depot and Gaol, was called and examined.

Mr. Jones withdrew.

The Committee adjourned at 12 o'clock.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1885.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Mr. Pillinger, Mr. Hartnoll, Mr. Bird (Chairman).

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered, That the correspondence between the Government and the Benevolent Society relating to proposals for the greater efficiency in the working of the Benevolent Society be printed. (*Vide Appendix.*)

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Hobart Hospital be requested to state in writing whether the dispute referred to in his evidence had yet been settled, and whether salary had been paid.

The Committee adjourned till Thursday next, at 11 A.M.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1885.

The Committee met at 3 P.M.

Present—Mr. Pillinger, Mr. Reibey, Mr. Hartnoll, Mr. Bird (Chairman).

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk reported that he had received a reply to his letter of the 29th ult., to Mr. Morris, stating that the dispute referred to had been settled, and Mr. Morris's salary paid.

The Draft Report was submitted, read, and agreed to.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

R E P O R T.

Your Committee have the honor to present their Report to your Honorable House.

They have held nine meetings, and examined eight witnesses.

From the evidence taken it appears that the administration of Charitable Grants is generally conducted with efficiency and economy.

Owing to the vigilance of the Finance Committee of the Hobart Hospital, there has been a very large and gratifying increase in the amount of fees collected from in-patients. It appears, however, that some difficulty has arisen as to the proper authority for the admission of pauper patients, and also as to the reduction of fees chargeable to patients who prove to be unable to pay the full fees. The practice appears to have been inconsistent with the position recently taken up by the Hon. the Chief Secretary. It is therefore desirable that such a course should be agreed upon as shall best protect the revenue of the Hospital, without any of that unnecessary circumlocution which appears to have caused dissatisfaction and dispute.

In the distribution of charitable aid to the poor of the city, the Committee of the Hobart Benevolent Society have done good work since they took over the charge of the out-door relief. Through the careful enquiries made by the Society and its Enquiring Officer, a very large reduction in the annual outlay has been effected. Unfortunately, however, there appears to have been a very imperfect understanding when the out-door relief was first taken over by the Society as to the duties of the Committee, and the relation of the Committee and the Enquiring Officer to the Charitable Grants Department. In consequence of this there has been some interruption of the harmonious

relations which should subsist between the Society and the Department. Such annoyances as are referred to by the Chairman of the Society, in his answer to Question 64, and by Mr. Catley, in answer to Questions 87, 88, 91, and 92, could not have occurred if the duties and relations of the Society and the Enquiring Officer had been in the first instance clearly defined. Your Committee would therefore urge that the position of the Society and its functions should be as speedily as possible unmistakeably defined, so that in future both the Committee and the Enquiring Officer may know exactly where their duties begin and where they end.

There also appears to be some dissatisfaction experienced by the Launceston Benevolent Society as to its relations with the Charitable Grants Department. The evidence of the Chairman of the Launceston Society, in answer to Questions 114, 115, and 126 discloses this. Your Committee would therefore recommend that some endeavour be made to meet, as far as practicable, the views of the Launceston Society, as well as those of the Society in Hobart, in order that the gentlemen forming the Committees of these Societies, who are deserving of all praise for their earnest devotion to the work in which they are engaged, may feel that their work is appreciated, and is made as easy and as free from departmental control as is consistent with the satisfactory discharge of the responsibilities they undertake.

Your Committee paid a visit of inspection to the New Town Invalid Depôt. They were particularly pleased with the manner in which the whole of the various quarters were kept. While they found order and cleanliness everywhere manifest throughout the day and night wards, they were painfully struck by the unwholesome odours in many of the men's rooms, arising, it appeared, from entirely defective ventilation. The offensive stench proceeding from out-offices in or close proximity to the wards and walks of the inmates forced itself on the notice of your Committee, who feel that better ventilation in the buildings, and the improvement or removal of the out-offices referred to, are imperatively required.

A considerable amount of work appears to be got out of the more able of the inmates, and it seems that more might be done by sending the men out to work occasionally were it not for the difficulty arising from the intemperate habits of many of them, who, it appears from the evidence of the Superintendent, on being allowed out for a few hours, generally return in a state of intoxication. Your Committee fear that, situated as the Depôt is, near so large a centre of population, the evil referred to cannot easily be remedied. Yet it is the opinion of your Committee that, in the case of many of the feeble old people who are known to be of sober habits, very much more liberty might be accorded than is at present allowed. It appears that several others besides such as are properly classed as invalids have found a home within the Depôt: these are a number of lunatics transferred from New Norfolk, and several unfortunate young women who, after confinement in the Lying-in Hospital, are sent with their illegitimate children to the Depôt. The Superintendent reports that some of the lunatics sent were troublesome, and seriously questions both the propriety and legality of sending and detaining them there. Your Committee have taken no legal opinion on the point, but they do state their conviction that it is very undesirable to associate lunatics with those whose only ailment is bodily infirmity. On the admission of girls with their illegitimate children to the Depôt the Superintendent speaks in strong terms of disapproval, and your Committee are of opinion that a separate home for girls of this class should be provided. Indeed, the whole question of providing for this unfortunate class demands consideration. The arrangements now in operation in connection with lying-in cases, as described by the Rev. J. W. Simmons and Mr. Witt, pp. 15 and 16 of the evidence, can only be regarded as temporary, and your Committee hope that before long steps may be taken to establish for all such cases a much better provision, which shall be more satisfactory in character than the present arrangement in Hobart.

The evidence of Mr. Jones, Superintendent of the Invalid Depôt at Launceston, shows that the provision for lying-in cases there is still less satisfactory than in Hobart; and though on different grounds from the Superintendent at New Town, yet equally with him, condemns the association of this class of girls with the invalid women in the Depôt.

Your Committee did not visit the Launceston Depôt, but, guided by Mr. Jones's evidence, they are of opinion that the accommodation for females is very unsatisfactory, being, in fact, a portion of the Gaol. And unless the Government are prepared to provide an entirely new Depôt at Glendhu, on the land purchased there for the purpose (a course which your Committee would strongly recommend), they would urge that the comparatively inexpensive alterations suggested by Mr. Jones under Questions 449, 452, 456, should be made without delay.

In conclusion, your Committee express their gratification that the number of invalids requiring relief is annually diminishing, this being a clear indication that there is much more thrift and self-dependence among the free population than among the criminal classes, of whom the invalids are chiefly composed; and that as the present class of invalids die off the number of paupers dependent on public charity will be, even with a much increased population, proportionately much less than at the present time.

B. STAFFORD BIRD, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, November 19th, 1885.

EVIDENCE.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1885.

MR. JAMES S. MORRIS, *Secretary of the Hobart General Hospital, examined.*

1. *By the Chairman.*—How long have you been in the position of Secretary of the Hobart Hospital? Three years and seven months.

2. Can you tell us what has been the yearly amounts of fees for in-patients? In 1881, £180; in 1882, £220; in 1883, £450; in 1884, £570.

3. How are the fees fixed as to amount? By the Finance Committee of the General Hospital.

4. Is there any rule by which they are guided? The fees are fixed by the Board of Management, under the following rule (page 22, No. 140):—"The charge for self-supporting patients shall be such sum or sums as may from time to time be fixed by the Board of Management. In-door and out-door patients who are known to possess means, but are unable to pay the full rate, shall pay such sums as shall be determined by the Finance Committee."

5. When did the present arrangement come into operation? In July, 1884.

6. *By Dr. Crowther.*—How was it managed before that? By the Administrator of Charitable Grants, through the Finance Committee.

7. *By the Chairman.*—Before that rule was made, how was the matter of fees arranged? By the Administrator of Charitable Grants on his own responsibility.

8. Up to the time of framing this regulation a hard-and-fast rule was fixed, was it not?—patients to pay so much per day or nothing? Three shillings per day was the highest fee made by the Hospital.

9. *By Mr. Davies.*—But they took less? Yes.

10. *By Dr. Crowther.*—Was Mr. Catley collecting for the Hospital? Yes. During the last Secretary's time there were something like seven or eight months when the returns were not sent in.

11. *By the Chairman.*—To what do you attribute the large increase of fees since 1882? To the Finance Committee seeing that proper enquiries are made and sent out as to whether patients can pay or not.

12. Were not such enquiries made prior to 1882, when the amounts received in fees were so much less? They were supposed to have been made.

13. Do you attribute the increase of fees generally to the exercise of greater vigilance on the part of the Finance Committee? Yes.

14. *By Mr. Davies.*—When you took the position of Secretary to the Hospital were there not a lot of fees outstanding? Yes.

15. Were those ever paid? No.

16. *By the Chairman.*—Has the increase in the amount of fees received been caused by the collection of arrears? No.

17. By whom is information regarding the condition of the patients received? By the Finance Committee, through the Enquiring Officer for the City, and through Superintendents of Police in the country districts.

18. Has that information of necessity to be forwarded to the Administrator of Charitable Grants? That matter is now in dispute. According to the rules of the Hospital the fees should be fixed by the Finance Committee. They can take in paying patients, but not paupers.

19. By whose authority are paupers admitted? That is the matter now in dispute; the Auditor says through the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

20. Has there been any correspondence between the Government and the Board with regard to this matter? Yes. The following correspondence was then read:—

General Hospital, Hobart, 1st July, 1885.

SIR,

FROM the Colonial Auditor's letter of 29th May attached, it will be apparent that a defect exists in the Rules of the Hospital, which, if allowed to remain, would seriously impair the action of the Board as regards the management. I have, therefore, the honor to submit for approval of the Government and of His Excellency the Governor in Council the following new Rule, designed to meet the difficulty pointed out by the Colonial Auditor; viz. :—

"*Finance Committee.*—The Finance Committee shall cause diligent enquiry to be made into the circumstances of each patient, and fix the rate of fees charged accordingly, and when it shall appear that a patient is in destitute circumstances, and that there is no means of obtaining payment from relatives or otherwise, it shall be in the power of the Committee to remit the charges."

Authority is also required to substitute the word "casualty" for the word "out-door" in Rule 140, page 22, third line.

I have, &c.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

T. C. SMART, *Chairman of the Board.*

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 10th July, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 1st instant, submitting for the approval of the Governor in Council a new Rule empowering the Finance Committee to fix the rate of fees to be charged for the maintenance of patients in the General Hospital, and in cases where it shall appear that any patient is in destitute circumstances and without means or friends to pay such fees, the Committee shall have power to remit the charges.

In reply, I have to inform you that, while there would be no objection to the Finance Committee after due enquiry fixing the rate of fees to be paid by any patient in the first instance, it would not be competent, without a violation of the provisions of the Audit Act and Regulations for the Governor in Council, to delegate the power now held by a Minister of the Crown to a Board or even to the head of a Department.

Any reduction in the rate of fees which circumstances may render desirable must, therefore, be submitted by the Board for the approval of the Chief Secretary.

As regards the admission of persons without any payment who may be found on enquiry to be destitute, it is desirable that the particulars should be transmitted to the Administrator of Charitable Grants for record and the issue of the necessary authority.

There is no objection to the substitution of the word "casualty" for "out-door" in the 140th Rule.

I have, &c.

The Chairman Board of Management General Hospital, Hobart.

ADYE DOUGLAS.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Management held on 17th August, 1885.

"CORRESPONDENCE was read that had taken place between the Chief Secretary and the Board and Finance Committee, when it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Brownell, seconded by Mr. M'Millan, 'That the following members of the Board form a deputation and wait on the Chief Secretary; viz.—The Chairman (Dr. Smart), Messrs. Watt, Brownell, and Solomon,—with the view, if possible, of settling the questions at issue.'"

T. C. SMART, *Chairman.*

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 9th September, 1885.

SIR,

HAVING carefully considered the views expressed by the deputation from the Board of Management of the General Hospital as regards the relegation to the Finance Committee of full power to fix the fees payable by patients treated in the Hospital, and at their discretion to remit the same and authorise the maintenance of inmates as paupers, I have to inform you that the provisions of the Audit Act will not admit of the suggested alteration in the existing system.

Fees payable by persons maintained in the Hospital are to all intents and purposes revenue, and any reduction of the authorised rate is practically a disbursement, as would also be the admission of a patient without payment of any fees.

To relegate such power to a Board or the Finance Committee would be an infringement of the Regulations 4 to 10 under the Audit Act, and the Regulations are, by Section 2 of the Act 41 Vict. No. 16, part of the Act itself.

I have, &c.

The Chairman Board of Management General Hospital, Hobart.

ADYE DOUGLAS.

21. *By the Chairman.*—Do you consider it any advantage that the pauper cases should be referred to the Administrator of Charitable Grants? No; I do not see how it can be any good.

22. Does he institute any further enquiries when the cases are referred to him? No; it is only a formal matter.

23. Do you consider that the change made empowering the Finance Committee to fix the fees has worked advantageously? Yes.

24. Is there any special objection, other than apparent inutility, to the Board sending for authority to the Administrator of Charitable Grants? Yes.

25. What is it? It is not in accordance with the rules.

26. Which rule? Rule 123, Section 10, which is as follows, and which the Committee says places the power in their hands:—"Destitute patients may be recommended for in or out-door treatment by the Chairman of the Board of Management, the Chairman of the Visiting Committee, the Honorary Medical Officers, the Consulting Medical Officers, His Worship the Mayor, the Police Magistrate of the District, and the Chairman of the Benevolent Society, the existing safeguards being retained. Destitute patients may also be recommended for in or out-door treatment by the Wardens of the several Rural Municipalities."

27. *By the Chairman.*—Have you any trouble in sending pauper in-patients, when necessary, to the Invalid Depôt? No, not now; but there used to be a great deal of trouble.

28. *By Mr. Belbin.*—You do not send away any dying patients? No.

29. *By the Chairman.*—How are the patients removed to the Invalid Depôt at the present time? We send to the Benevolent Society, making up a form; a doctor signs it, and a cart is then sent to remove the patient.

30. Is there any order required from the Administrator of Charitable Grants for these proceedings? No.

31. *By Mr. Davies.*—Is there a certain officer whose duty it is to take them away? Yes, Mr. Catley does so; he is under the Charitable Grants Department.

32. *By the Chairman.*—There is no objection on the part of the Benevolent Society to take these patients? None whatever.

33. Is it really understood to be part of their duties under the regulations? I do not know any regulation which compels them to do it.

34. In what conveyance are the patients removed? Mr. Catley takes them out in a Government cart.

35. What is the arrangement in operation now for the collection of fees? They are collected by the Superintendents of Police in the country districts, and by Mr. Catley in Hobart.

36. *By Mr. Davies.*—How long has that regulation been in existence regarding the town? Only for two months.

37. Prior to that who collected it? The Chief District Constable.

38. *By the Chairman.*—Are the fees better collected under the new arrangement? We cannot tell yet; there are a number of back debts on the books.

39. At whose instance was the change made? At the instance of the Finance Committee.

40. To whom did the Board apply to have the change effected? To the Chief Secretary.

41. Have you any resolution of the Board which was forwarded to the Chief Secretary on the subject? Yes; it is in the correspondence before read.

42. *By the Chairman.*—Was that agreed to? Yes; and Mr. Catley has since gone on collecting.

43. *By Mr. Davies.*—What does his commission amount to? About £25 per year.

44. *By the Chairman.*—Had you a patient named Shipley treated as a pauper in the Hospital? Yes, George Shipley.

45. By whose authority or order was he received?

46. Do you know whether any special enquiry had been made with regard to Shipley before his admission? Yes, the ordinary enquiry was made by the Enquiring Officer.

47. Has Mr. Catley any other duty in connection with the Hospital besides that of Collector and Enquiring Officer? No.

48. With regard to your engagement,—is that with the Finance Committee or with the Board of Management? With the Board of Management.

49. Do you know whether any correspondence has passed between the Government and the Board regarding the dispute about the admission of paupers? Yes.

50. Are the returns being now sent through the Administrator of Charitable Grants? No.

51. Does the refusal of the Board to send the returns through him interfere with the payment of any salaries? Yes.

52. Whose? Mine only, which has been stopped for the last two months.

53. Is there any probability of your salary being paid until the dispute is settled? No.

54. *By Mr. Belbin.*—Why is your salary dependent on the returns being sent in? Because the Auditor will not pass the salary until the returns are furnished.

55. *By Mr. Davies.*—Prior to this dispute did you send the account direct to the Treasurer? No, to the Auditor, from February to May. It was sent with the authority of the Administrator of Charitable Grants, and the salary was then paid.

REV. JOHN WILKES SIMMONS *examined.*

56. *By the Chairman.*—What position do you occupy? Chairman of the Hobart Benevolent Society.

57. How long have you occupied that position? About sixteen months, but had been a member of the Committee for many years prior to becoming Chairman.

58. What is the special work the Society undertakes on behalf of Government? The maintenance of paupers in Hobart and suburbs, issuing Hospital orders, sending out invalids to New Town, supplying rations and cash to cases in Hobart, New Town, Sandy Bay, and Wellington Hamlets, pauper funerals, and lying-in cases.

59. How long has the Society had this work under their charge? The lying-in cases for many years, and the special work of relieving the poor for five years.

60. Have you had any difficulty in carrying out the work which the Society has taken in hand? Any amount of difficulty.

61. Have you any documents showing the terms on which the out-door relief was undertaken by the Society? Yes, a special Order of the Executive Council, of 1880, dealing with the entire matter.

62. Does it include pauper funerals? Unfortunately, there seems to be no document showing the whole details of the work, which seem to have been made piecemeal.

63. Have you any correspondence in the possession of the Society relating to the transferring of out-door relief to the Society? Yes.

64. You say you have had difficulty in carrying out the work of the Society? Yes, from the very beginning, from the simple fact that we really do not know what we are expected to do. The Committee expected that they were to act on their own judgment. I may mention two cases in point, where persons named McNeil and Joyce were costing the Government five shillings per week each. The Committee found that their friends were willing to take charge of them if sent to the country, where their friends lived, and would keep them. The Committee in each case voted £3, and the Government were relieved of all responsibility. For doing this the Committee were severely reprimanded by the Government for not having first obtained the authority of the Administrator of Charitable Grants. A few weeks ago we sent a blind girl to the Blind Asylum, Sydney. I understood that I was to arrange for her passage, and did so with the T. S. N. Co. After some hours being spent in the matter I obtained a ticket for £1 4s., but, to my astonishment, a few hours afterwards I got a ticket from the Administrator of Charitable Grants, after I had made all arrangements.

65. Did difficulties like these occur from the first? Yes, from the very first.

66. Has there been any distinct understanding as to the relation between the Administrator of Charitable Grants and the Society? None whatever. The Society seem to understand that they took charge and were to act according to their judgment, but now it seems that we are almost subordinate to instructions in each case.

67. Have you found the practice to which you refer detrimental to the successful working of the Society? I find it very discouraging. The members of the Committee are discouraged in their work, knowing that after they have taken pains to investigate cases they are overruled.

68. Has the Administrator of Charitable Grants any better means of obtaining information regarding cases than the Society? I think not; we should know the poor of Hobart better than they can be known in the public buildings. We have every available chance within our reach, and can obtain information through our own arrangements, and through the police, who give us every possible assistance.

69. Does the Administrator of Charitable Grants require that each case which comes under your notice should be referred to him? Yes.

70. Do you consider there is any advantage in referring these cases to him? No.

71. Prior to this work being handed over to the Benevolent Society, by whom was it managed? By the Government, who had a depôt in Argyle street, and the work was done there.

72. Do you consider that the work has been better done since it was placed in the hands of the Society? We show an average saving of £500 a year during the last four years as compared with the previous four years.

73. Whilst you have effected this saving, has there been any neglect in deserving or worthy cases? I should think not. I think the leaning is decidedly the other way,—sometimes, I fear, too much so.

74. After cases have been referred by the Society to the Administrator of Charitable Grants, do you know whether he institutes any further enquiries, or is it a formal matter? It is only a formal matter; he can only look through the papers which are furnished him.

75. *By Mr. Davies.*—Is there any delay in dealing with these cases after referring them to the Administrator of Charitable Grants? No. The forms are all kept, and a special annual return made up from them.

76. *By the Chairman.*—Do you see any reason why the cases should not be dealt with entirely by the Society, and that the returns should go direct to the Auditor, dispensing with the intermediate interference of the Administrator of Charitable Grants? Practically it would be far better. I have made recommendations which would have saved a great deal of work in the office, and secured, I believe, greater efficiency,—namely, instead of asking me to give an account of every loaf, to trust me with the total.

77. Did you make that recommendation to the Government? Yes.

78. With what result? The recommendations generally were declined. With the indirect approval of the Audit Department we introduced a new system of book-keeping, but six weeks afterwards a letter came from the Chief Secretary stating that it was undesirable. New forms were used for a time, but they were discontinued on the recommendations of the Audit Department and Chief Secretary.

MR. W. J. CATLEY *examined.*

79. *By the Chairman.*—Your name? W. J. Catley.

80. What was your former position in connection with the Charitable Institution? I was employed by the Government in making enquiries into pauper cases.

81. Is your position at all changed? It is changed considerably.

82. In any important particulars? In making enquiries of which the Registrar has an account.

83. Has that change taken place since the Benevolent Society took over the out-door relief, with regard to enquiries? Yes, Sir, it has.

84. When you joined the Benevolent Society, according to the terms in the letter, was there any understanding as to whether you were placed at their disposal entirely, or partly at the disposal of the Administrator? Not immediately, but I received orders from several quarters.

85. What has been your view as to your relation to the Benevolent Society? I consider myself entirely under their control; not as formerly, under the direction of the Administrator, but I was transferred.

86. Did you find that the Administrator continued to keep control over you? I did.

87. Did you make any representations as to your impression that you were not under his control? I did, about two years ago, when orders came from the Administrator's department and from the Society compelled me to give satisfaction to both.

88. What was the effect? I was charged with obstruction, and it was endeavoured to be shown that I threw obstacles in the way, and the result was, notwithstanding that I was supported by Mr. Mather and Mr. Witt, the Chief Secretary decided I was to continue under the old system.

89. State the nature of your duties? My duties include the issue of cash and rations—cash once a week; rations which are conveyed to out-districts, and any person having no one to call, being too ill; reporting from the Registrar a monthly return of all moneys and rations issued: for the Auditor, keeping a register of cases transferred from the Benevolent Society; watching the expiration of the term for which the allowance is given, and presenting such cases to the weekly Committee of the Society for either

consideration or removal; taking the particulars and filling up forms for the admission of paupers to the Dépôt, and if unable to walk, transferring them from their residence to the Hospital; keeping a record of such admissions and compiling a monthly return for the Superintendent; preparing necessary form for the burial of paupers; enquiring into all cases admitted into the Hospital, and furnishing a report of the same to the Finance Committee.

90. Is it the custom to send money out by the boy? No, by myself, Sir.

91. What has the Board put upon you? Sometimes I am called upon to take children, and the Chief Secretary tells me I must do it. I don't know who my master is, and I almost fear being charged with neglect of duty.

92. From how many persons are you in the habit of receiving orders? The Administrator always acts through the Chairman. I am frequently asked to do work through both channels; by the Inspecting Officer, Mr. Judge, and by the Administrator, through the Chairman, and by the Chairman himself.

93. Then these orders, coming in this manner from different sources, must necessarily interfere with the successful and harmonious working of the Society? It is doing anything but causing harmony in the Society.

94. Since the time you spoke of, two years ago, when you made representations as to the difficulty of attending to orders from so many quarters, have you made any further representations? Yes, Sir; I have done so repeatedly, and the Chairman always sympathised with me.

95. There has been some correspondence lately between the Benevolent Society and the Government? Yes, there has, Sir, to the effect that they wish a thorough revision of the working of the department, and that better facilities be afforded generally; and also a proposed revised method as to the forms of the institution and improvements.

96. Is your salary paid directly by and through the Administrator? Yes, Sir.

97. Has there been any change lately in the method of payment? No change, Sir, but I have been requested to sign an abstract by the Administrator. There has not been any change in the method of payment, but I have been sent for by the officer to sign an abstract and receive my pay. Previously I had been in the habit of sending for it, and that custom has prevailed for many years.

98. Does Mr. Judge's work affect yours? Yes, Sir.

99. What is his position? He has the supervision of all boarded-out children.

100. How does he provide for these children? He calls at the dépôt and asks for the cart, and takes them himself, and sometimes he requests me to take them for him; and I am given to understand that I am bound to do as he asks me.

101. Where did that information come from? From the Chief Secretary.

102. Is Mr. Judge your junior? Yes, Sir, by many years.

103. Has he ever given you orders when you have been engaged by the Boards of the Benevolent Society, and when you would have found it inconvenient to obey those orders? Yes, Sir, he has.

104. In such cases what have you done? I refused on the last occasion, as I knew it would have detained me very late to obey him, as I had a large amount of work to do already; and I thought it very inconsistent, being employed by the Society at the time.

105. Have you ever been charged with neglect of an order issued by the Administrator of Charitable Grants? I have been charged with obstruction.

106. In what way? By not allowing them to have the cart.

107. Then in the particular case referred to, it was simply because you had so much work for the cart that you could not allow them to have it: is the cart always kept by the Benevolent Society and occupied by them? It is more than fully occupied,—sometimes I never see it from morning until evening.

108. When you were charged by the parties with obstruction, and made your statement that the cart was occupied at the time, what was the effect? It was overruled, although I was supported by Mr. Mather (the Chairman.)

109. *By Mr. Davies.*—You collected fees for the Hospital? I did, Sir.

110. What amount is owing since you have been collector? I have been so much perplexed that I have hardly gone into it yet. A large amount of it has been outstanding for nearly two years, and it has been no easy matter to convince them that they will have to pay the amounts. I think in the course of another year I shall make things look very different.

111. *By the Chairman.*—Collecting was not a part of your duty in connection with the Institution? No, Sir, but as I did not find the least difficulty in it, and it being a little in my way, I did it.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1885.

MR. EDWARD LEWIS DITCHAM *examined.*

112. *By the Chairman.*—What is your position? Chairman of the Launceston Benevolent Society.

113. How long have you occupied that position? For the last 13 years; but I have been connected with the Society for over 25 years.

114. Is the Society now on a similar footing to what it has been during all the term of your connection with it? It is on the same footing now that it has been on for some years, and that is a very unsatisfactory footing.

115. Can you point out how the unsatisfactoriness complained of arose? On April 30th, 1884, I interviewed the then Chief Secretary, Honorable William Moore, at Launceston, and complained of the method of administering the charitable grant in the North, pointing out that there was too much circumlocution in dealing with applications for relief, and suggesting that a committee should be appointed to administer the grant for Launceston and Northern Tasmania.

116. What was the result? The Chief Secretary said he would lay the matter before the Government on his return to Hobart, but I never heard anything further about it.

117. *By Mr. Hartnoll.*—Under certain circumstances, has not greater wrong been perpetrated than mere delay, and that no result has come from recommendations made by leading members of charitable bodies? Yes. For instance, a case occurred in connection with an effort being made to get two girls into the Girls' Industrial School. The Administrator of Charitable Grants refused to allow the girls to be sent to the school because it was a Protestant school, and they were Roman Catholics. I wrote to him in August, 1883, pointing out that the mother was anxious to have the girls admitted to the school, knowing it was a Protestant institution, but I received no answer. In September, 1884, I wrote on the same subject to the Chief Secretary, but again have not received a reply, and the children had never been admitted to the school until an order was ultimately made by the Police Magistrate and Mr. Hudson, J.P. Mr J. Scott and myself had previously sat on the bench, and agreed that the children should be admitted, but we did not sign the order. The order was never sent to me for signature; but the order of admission was signed by Messrs. Murray & Hudson.

118. *By Mr. Davies.*—Did Mr. Murray retire from the bench before you opened the case? Yes; when he heard what the case was he retired, saying he had received strict instructions not to pass any children into the institution without a distinct order from the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

119. After you had agreed that the children should be sent to the school, did you proceed with the case further? We just gave the order that the children should be handed over to the authorities of the school, who were prepared to receive them.

120. *By Mr. Hartnoll.*—Have you power according to the Act to send the children into the school? Yes.

121. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Who was summoned to appear before you in that case to give evidence as to the children's circumstances? No one; it was not necessary. The mother was dead, and the father in gaol, the children being left with a woman who wished to get rid of the responsibility of keeping them.

122. *By the Chairman.*—Did some time elapse between the Bench giving the first order for admission and that given by Messrs. Murray and Hudson? I cannot say. Messrs. Murray and Hudson's order was dated May 1st.

123. Was this subsequent to your sitting on the Bench? Yes; but I cannot say how long.

124. Was there time after your sitting for the order to be submitted to the Administrator of Charitable Grants? I cannot say. The order was signed by Messrs. Murray and Hudson, who never sat on the Bench. (Mr. Ditcham then mentioned a case of two women in Launceston, who had been receiving ration allowance from the Benevolent Society, who had, in their behalf, made application for 2s. 6d. each per week from Government, but to which no answer had yet been received. The application was made about a week previous.)

125. *By Mr. Hartnoll.*—Can you state for an actual fact that when an application has been made by the Benevolent Society to Government for compassionate allowance that a reply has been received, saying "send them into the Invalid Depot?" Yes; but on our remonstrating, the application is generally granted. I consider that by so doing the Government is saved a cost of 8s. or 9s. per week.

126. *By the Chairman.*—Then, what you complain of chiefly is the delay and unnecessary amount of correspondence required for the settlement of questions which you feel that the Society is quite competent to deal with? Yes.

127. *By Mr. Davies.*—More competent? Yes, more competent, for I deal with the cases myself.

128. *By the Chairman.*—Do you deal only with Launceston? We deal with some of the suburbs, but do not go beyond two or three miles.

129. Are your boundaries defined? No, we have no really defined boundaries.

130. Are there any limits beyond which you cannot go in giving rations or cash? We never give cash; we always give kind. We give blankets when necessary. We have many very difficult cases to deal with.

131. You are not authorised, then, to give anything but provisions and clothing? We are not bound down to that, but we do not exceed it. The Administrator of Charitable Grants has no control over us.

132. *By Mr. Davies.*—Can you break a ration? Yes, if we think it desirable.

133. *By the Chairman.*—What you really want is authority to distribute cash? We want to have a compassionate allowance fund, to distribute when we have deserving cases.

134. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—You want control of the out-door relief? Yes. There is a case in Launceston where a woman, with four children, is receiving 3s. per week from Government through the Police Office. It would be much better if such deserving cases were dealt with by the Committee of the Society.

135. *By the Chairman.*—Is there dual control now? Yes.

136. What provision have you for making enquiries into cases? The Secretary is instructed to make enquiries into every case. If he is not satisfied he comes to me, and I go with him to institute further enquiries. If the case is one of emergency it is relieved, and is then dealt with by the Committee.

137. Does the Secretary first institute enquiries? Yes.

138. You have no other enquiring officer? No.

139. Are the Secretary's duties in connection with the office such as to require a large amount of his time? Yes, they require so much of his time that in consequence of the small emolument of the office, I undertake a good deal of it myself.

140. What is his salary? 30s. per week.

141. Does he give the Society the whole of his time for that amount? No, he works at his trade, but is instructed to deal with any case I acquaint him with.

142. What duties are expected of him? He attends the meetings, keeping minutes, and has every case before him. When a person applies for relief, it is his duty to go to the applicant, make enquiries, and report on the same to the Committee. Whenever he hears of a case requiring attention he has to visit it. The town is divided into two parts, and he has to visit each case in the two divisions on alternate months. He has also to arrange for removal of paupers to the Hospital and Invalid Depôt.

143. How are the rations distributed? Every member of the Committee relieves so many. Tickets are issued by them to the tradespeople.

144. In distributing the number of tickets, does each member act on his own responsibility, relieving such individuals as he thinks deserving? No; every case has to be settled by the Committee first, and then the case is handed over to a member of the Committee.

145. How many cases have you on your books at present? I cannot say from memory.

146. Are your accounts published yearly? Yes.

147. Do you think the system of supplying rations through the individual members of the Committee the best one? Yes.

148. *By Mr. Hartnoll.*—Why is it the best? Because instead of having one person to look after the cases, we have every member of the Committee.

149. *By the Chairman.*—Do you decide every case first in Committee? Yes.

150. Is the remuneration paid to the Secretary a fair one for the amount of work done by him? Yes.

151. Is it excessive? No, I think not. He is the only paid official in the Society.

152. *By Mr. Davies.*—If you had a man to devote his time entirely to the work of the Society, would it not be done better? At present owing to the interest taken in the Society by the chairman and members it would not be better done, but if that interest was not taken it would be better to have a secretary who could give up his full time to the Society.

153. *By the Chairman.*—You take interest in every case brought before the Committee? Yes, and in cases that never come before the Committee at all.

154. What returns do you furnish to Government of your proceedings? Annual returns. Government supplies us with £250 unconditionally, and £250 conditionally on our raising a certain amount; we have to furnish certificates for that.

155. Are you required to furnish returns in detail? Yes, we have to account for every pound of bread and other rations.

156. Are you allowed to give less than a full week's rations to anyone? Yes, in that respect we can do as we like.

157. Do you consider that the Committee exercises the utmost care to procure economy in administering the Benevolent Society's relief? I do.

158. For the distribution of the compassionate allowance you have to make application to the Administrator of Charitable Grants? Yes.

159. Does the Administrator of Charitable Grants institute any further enquiries on receiving your application? In one or two instances I know he has, but in a general way I cannot tell.

160. *By Mr. Davies.*—Does he make enquiries through the Police? Yes, and the Police come to us for it.

161. *By the Chairman.*—Is the Administrator likely to gain more reliable information than the Society regarding deserving cases? No; because besides all the personal investigation of myself and the Secretary, if we are in doubt we go to the Police also, and in addition to that I visit the homes personally. As I am always going about among the poor I get information that the Police cannot get.

162. You are perfectly certain that the matter of administering the compassionate allowance might be safely left in the hands of the Committee without any reference to the Administrator? Yes, so far as Launceston is concerned. We certainly must have means of knowing deserving cases with our advantages of supervision; and showing the interest taken in the work, the average attendance at the 47 meetings held during the year is 8 and 9.

163. Are the grants paid direct from the Treasury or through the Administrator of Charitable Grants? Direct from the Treasury, on the certificate of the Chairman and Treasurer.

164. Do your accounts annually go through the Auditor? Yes; they are sent to the Chief Secretary as Head of the Department.

165. There is no connection between the Society and the Administrator of Charitable Grants except in regard to the compassionate allowance, and orders necessary to gain admission to the Invalid Depôt and other Charitable Institutions? Yes, that is all.

166. When cases come under your notice that you consider should be sent to the Depôt, or Hospital, or other Charitable Institution, can you give an order at all without reference to the Administrator of

Charitable Grants? Yes; an order to the Hospital has not to go to him, but orders for the Dépôt have. Formerly Mr. Jones took my order direct, but lately it has to be sent through the Police Office.

167. How long is it since these orders have had to be sent through the Administrator of Charitable Grants? I think from the beginning of the present year. It was early in the year at least.

168. Do you know what led to the change being made? No, I never could get at it.

169. Have you had any correspondence on the matter? Yes.

170. Can you supply us with that correspondence? I can send it you.

171. Is anything gained, in your opinion, by referring these cases to the Administrator? I do not see how it can be so. He states it is merely sent through him for a police record.

172. Are the cases you recommend for admission to the dépôt received pending the further authority of the Administrator of Charitable Grants? Yes, they are always received.

173. Have you ever known counter orders to be issued by the Department? No, and I have never known a case of refusal into the dépôt.

174. *By Mr. Davies.*—No suffering, then, has ever been caused in any way by your order being refused? No, except in one case, where a misunderstanding occurred, and an explanation was made afterwards.

175. *By the Chairman.*—Is there sufficient accommodation for invalids at Launceston? The accommodation for men, such as it is, is very good, and we accommodate a good number; but that for the women is very poor; it will only accommodate about 15. It is under the same roof as the prison, and, accordingly, comes partly under prison discipline.

176. Are invalids ever transported from Launceston to Hobart? Yes, they have been.

177. Because of want of accommodation? Yes; and Mr. Jones often has been obliged to refuse admission to the dépôt because of want of room. If it is cruel to remove prisoners from Launceston to Hobart, surely it is much more cruel to force poor old invalids to leave Launceston.

178. What is the result, then? We assist them with the means at our disposal, such as supplying rations, but we require further assistance, in the shape of compassionate allowance.

179. Are those invalids for whom there is no room in the Launceston Invalid Dépôt, and whom you supply with rations and cash allowance, ever sent to Hobart? Yes, when they will go, which is very rarely, and then sometimes they return back to Launceston again.

MR. JOHN WITHRINGTON *examined.*

180. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and what is your position? John Withrington; I am Superintendent of the New Town Charitable Institution.

181. How long have you been there? Six years, and previous to that I was at the Brickfields for 20 years.

182. How many inmates are there in the institution? There are 408 males and 203 females.

183. Are they all adults? Yes, with the exception of five or six children.

184. What class of children are these? Invalids, and the children of young women who are slightly insane.

185. What is the age of these children? The youngest is three months old, and the others are from that age up to two years.

186. Where were they born,—inside the asylum? No, they were born in the lying-in dépôt.

187. Were their mothers inmates of the asylum before the birth of the children? In some cases, but not always.

188. Have you had many cases of that description? About six, and that is the most we have ever had.

189. How are the patients sent to you in the first instance? They are sent with an order from the Benevolent Society.

190. That order is subject to the Administrator's approval? Yes, most of the patients get an order from the Administrator for a month, and then the Governor approves.

191. These girls are simply dealt with because of their condition, not simply because of their being invalids otherwise? Oh, no! simply because they are not fit to be at large.

192. Do you think it well to have that class of girls in the Institution? I do not. I think it is very undesirable to detain these girls in the Institution—in the Invalid Dépôt—for they are quite bad enough in themselves, and the association of the old women makes them much worse.

193. Have you ever made representations to the Government as to the undesirability of these girls being there? Yes, both to the Administrator and to the Premier, and also of the difficulty in finding suitable places to put them in.

194. Do these girls ever come back a second time in the same condition? Yes, one came back a second time, and in the same condition, recently, and I sent her to George's Bay, where she might have done well if she chose.

195. You speak of six cases of this kind : do you mean that they are all that have come under your notice during the six years you have been there? Yes; and the statement of this identical case came from Launceston to the effect that her parents had turned her out.

196. Are you aware of many other similar cases not sent to the Asylum? No.

197. Have you any provision for classifying the inmates? Well, no; most of them are connected with convicts, but I put the best of them in separate wards. The best conducted of them are bad enough at any time.

198. Are these girls placed together with other inmates, or are they separated? No, they are not separated. We cannot separate them in different wards.

199. Are they generally sent back to you after confinement? Yes.

200. How long are they usually detained? Some of them do not go out at all, and others we get rid of as soon as we can.

201. Would you desire any better accommodation for classifying patients? No, not this class of patients specially.

202. Is there ever any delay in the admission of patients? None whatever. The orders are obtained through the Administrator, and when the patients are recommended by the Benevolent Society the orders are easily secured on application. They get an interim order, and then send on a proper form to be filled up. The Bench of Magistrates will not take anybody's order, as they have to have proper authority.

203. Do you think any alteration in that system would be better? No, I think not, for the reason that the Administrator has nothing to do with the Department. One man came who was found to have £12 on him, and there would be more of such cases if they had not to get these orders.

204. Was that man sent by the Benevolent Society's order? Yes.

205. Do you think they institute all the enquiries in their power? No, I am sure they do not.

206. You searched the man? Yes; but I have no regulation giving me power to search them.

207. The Benevolent Society has not the power to search? No. I have to rely on the information the men give to them. I may state I made him pay for his maintenance both for this year and last year.

208. You say you made him pay not only for this year but also for last year? Yes.

209. Were you justified in making that charge? Yes, according to Act of Parliament.

210. Then, even if the man was impecunious last year, he is liable to pay when he earns money? Yes.

211. Do any of the inmates of the Institution work? Yes, all those who are able to do so.

212. How many are there employed? About one hundred men and women.

213. Then a portion of the expenses of the Establishment is met by the profits gained from the work of these people? I cannot tell; but I have it my accounts. The accounts show how much has been earned. There is a lot of work done of which no account is taken. They don't take any money, and they don't take any credit: it is only a matter of keeping themselves.

214. Do you think anything more could be done by you to make the Establishment more self-supporting? Well, I am trying all I can, by employing the men in breaking metal for the roads; and last year we were very busy with the reservoir, when all the men who were able to work were employed. The men can be employed in that way; whereas, if you had to pay for everything, it would cost a great deal of money.

215. Don't you think that the men who are able to be thus employed might very well be discharged? I discharge all I possibly can. If I think a man should go I take him before a Medical Officer to prove he is able to work, and then if he is so, I get him discharged.

216. Do any of them get discharged except on your recommendation? No.

217. Has no one else authority to recommend a discharge but yourself? No; but the Administrator can send an order to say if a man is well enough to go he must be discharged.

218. Does the Medical Officer frequently visit the Establishment for the purpose of satisfying himself as to the fitness of patients to be discharged? Yes: the Medical Officer visits the Establishment twice a week, and as many more times as may be required.

219. Would he not even suggest to you that such and such a person might be discharged? No: it would be dividing the authority.

220. Do you think it would be desirable that the Medical Officer should be authorised to indicate to the Superintendent such inmates as are fit to be discharged? I don't think it would, for it would clash the two together; and the Medical Officer has not the opportunity of knowing all the circumstances concerning the case of an inmate.

221. What is the class of employment in which the men are engaged? There are a great number in the garden, some cleaning the wards and yards, others bricklaying, whitewashing and painting, and some are working as tinsmiths. In fact, they do anything that is required about the establishment, and which they can do.

222. Are there any who would be likely to do brush-making, willow-stripping, and basket-making? It would cost more to pay a man to act as overseer over them than they would earn. I find they can earn from 16s. to 18s. per week for a short time. It would keep them out altogether.

223. *By Mr. Davies.*—How many men are you in the habit of allowing to go out of the Institution? From twenty-four to sixty during the week.

224. In what state do they return? Generally in a state of intoxication.

225. When these men are allowed to go out for the day, do they all get back on the same day? Yes, if they don't fall into the hands of the police, which they are very liable to do through misconduct.

226. Could you suggest any remedy? No, not very well.

227. *By the Chairman.*—You say they can earn from 16s. to 18s. per week,—with regard to willow-stripping, would it not be possible and better to convey the willows to the Asylum and have the work done there? There is another difficulty in the way of doing that. They pretend to be blind, and very unwell, or something of that kind, when they are requested to do such work inside the establishment. They will go out to work willingly enough, but you cannot get them to work inside.

228. You really think that everything has been done that can fairly be expected in the matter of employing the inmates? Yes, I think so.

229. What nurses have you to attend on the inmates? The best of the inmates, and the most able, act as nurses.

230. Have you any other nurses? No; only a head nurse, who is cook also.

231. Do you find that the nurses who are themselves inmates, meet all requirements? Yes, with the class of people.

232. Are the inmates principally made up of the criminal class? Yes.

233. How many inmates who have not been criminals do you suppose you have? Not more than thirty or forty women, and not more than fifty men.

234. Have you tried any other nurses besides the ones now employed? Yes; about eight years ago we tried other nurses, but we had to get rid of them, for they were worse than the inmates.

235. Would it not be possible to get a class of nurses who would not fall into the ways of those you had before? Yes; but it would not be doing justice to bring higher class nurses amongst the class of people in the Institution,—at present at any rate.

236. Do you think the invalid class will ever be other than of the criminal order? Yes, I do, for the criminal class is dying out.

237. You anticipate as years pass a large falling off in the number of invalids? I anticipate that in five years' time we shall not have half the number we have now. There is a manifest falling off of late years. Not six years ago we had 750 inmates, and now we have only 600.

238. Do you know whether the number in the North is also diminishing? No, I do not.

239. Do you receive invalids from the North? Sometimes, but not very frequently.

240. Do you find those from the North dissatisfied, being so far away from their friends? Many of them have no friends at all; and many will claim any one for a friend who will give them sixpence.

241. Do you consider the treatment of the inmates generally as good at the hands of the nurses at present employed? Yes, for if they are found ill-using any of the inmates we punish them for it.

242. Have you to do that very often? No, not very often. If they are found doing so they have to go at once, but their treatment is very good generally.

243. What are your arrangements for visitors to the Asylum? Persons may visit any time during the day. There is no time fixed.

244. *By Mr. Hartnoll.*—Do you admit any one who chooses to go? Yes, the Asylum is open to any visitor.

245. *By the Chairman.*—Does that apply to sick wards also? Yes, to any ward in the establishment.

246. Are the inmates satisfied with that arrangement? Yes.

247. Of course they are not permitted to visit infectious cases, such as fever? No.

248. Do you consider the arrangements for the privacy of the inmates are satisfactory? Yes; they have got screens in the wards.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER, 11 1885.

MR. JOHN O'BOYLE *examined.*

249. *By the Chairman.*—What position do you occupy? Administrator of Charitable Grants.

250. Are any patients admitted to the Hospital without an order from you? Yes, they are admitted; it is authority for maintenance that I give.

251. Are any patients maintained in the Hospital without your authority? They should not be; but they have been during the dispute. Under the present regulations they should not be; but in Hobart for some time past they have been maintained on the authority of the Finance Committee.

252. Do you think that paupers might be admitted and maintained in the Hospital by the authority of the Board of Management of the Hospital without reference to the Administrator of Charitable Grants? Of course, if the Audit Regulations would permit.

253. Is there any special advantage in requiring your authority? None, except to carry out the Audit Regulations.

254. Do you make any further enquiry? No, I assume that every enquiry has been made.

255. Are you aware of any cases that their being referred to you, has resulted in the discovery that they were able to pay? I can only speak in a general way; but from my personal knowledge I have known individuals who were able to pay.

256. *By Mr. Davies.*—Were there many such cases? No, not many.

257. *By the Chairman.*—In connection with the out-door relief, do you find that applications are made to you for an order for allowance, and that you refuse the application on the grounds that the applicant is not needy, but able to pay for himself? Yes.

258. Have you to do with orders for out-door patients? The society has entire control of such cases, and has had since 1880. Since then I know nothing of their deliberations; it does not come within my province.

259. As to the orders for admission to the Invalid Depôt, you say paupers can be admitted without your authority? Yes.

260. Can they get meals without your authority? Yes; sometimes I do not know anything about it for a week; that would be in cases that the society were sure of. The authority for maintenance and detention comes from me.

261. Do you institute further enquiries concerning the invalids? I do occasionally, especially when the cases are admitted from the country districts?

262. Do you sometimes find that your knowledge, or the information you are able to gain respecting these invalids, leads to the payment of some fees? Yes, payment of some fees, or the patient's discharge.

263. Would you think it desirable to place the entire control of the admission and maintenance of invalids into the Depôt entirely into the hands of the Society? I am strongly of opinion that it is essential in the interests of the Government that the authority should be in the hands of one officer. There is a record kept of the admissions into the Hobart and Launceston Depôts, which I keep myself. This enables me to deal with a most difficult class, namely, the paupers who tramp about the country. They leave the towns and turn up at some country township, but a reference to my books enables me to ascertain the facts of the case.

264. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Cannot that information be obtained by the Benevolent Society? No, not unless they had control of the whole of the island. The Society might be applied to from the country and would not know the person applying.

265. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think, generally speaking, that the grants are administered as economically as they might be? I know nothing whatever of the working of the system of the Benevolent Society, but I should imagine by the reduction made that they are economically administered.

266. Do you think that the New Town Invalid Depôt is conducted economically? Yes, I often wonder that the inmates are kept so cheaply.

267. Do you ever visit that Institution? Yes, sometimes; but I have no authority to interfere with the working or power of the Institution.

268. Are the boarded-out children entirely in your hands? No, there is a central committee appointed under Act of Parliament.

269. How is that committee appointed? By the Governor in Council.

270. By nomination? Yes.

271. Is there a similar course pursued regarding the maintenance of boarded-out children as with invalids,—that is, do the committee give an order for their maintenance? The committee have absolute control. The children are surrendered to the committee, who provide homes for them.

272. What position do you occupy on the committee? I am Chairman of it by regulation made in the law.

273. Nothing, then, is done without your knowledge? No.

274. Do you receive reports as to the condition of the boarded-out children regularly? Yes. We have also a committee of ladies, who report quarterly. Those in the city and suburbs I inspect every year myself.

275. Do you think that the boarding-out system answers better than the Asylum? Yes; there is no comparison in the two systems. Under the boarding-out system the appearance of the children is different altogether,—they look much happier. I cannot compare the two systems.

276. What accommodation have you in Launceston for Invalids? Very poor for the women, only a ward in the gaol. It cannot be proclaimed a depôt, for it is within the precincts of the gaol. There are very few women there now, and all are bedridden.

277. Has anything been lost through your inability to enforce fees there? No; except perhaps in one case.

278. Do you think it advisable to increase the accommodation at Launceston? No; for we have so much accommodation in Hobart, and this class of persons is continuously being reduced, and will go on being reduced. I have recommended additional accommodation being provided there in previous reports.

279. Do you find much complaint of persons being removed from Launceston to Hobart? No, not much, although sometimes they will not come. We do not compel them to come, but we offer to pay their passage.

280. What do you do if they will not come? We cannot do anything; we offer them a home, but if they refuse it we cannot do anything else.

281. *By Mr. Pillinger.*—Do you discourage out-door relief in country districts, by forcing paupers into the depôt? No, unless they have no friends to look after them. We never separate married couples.

282. What is your outdoor allowance? Sixpence a day.

283. What does it cost you in the depôt? Ninepence a day.

284. There is, then, a saving in the outdoor relief? Well, the depôt must be maintained.

285. Have you any power to compel a pauper under any circumstances to enter the depôt? No.

286. *By the Chairman.*—Would it be desirable to have power to order outdoor-relief patients into the depôt when it was seen that they could be better cared for in the institution? That would be a very arbitrary power to give anyone, and should only be used in cases of emergency. I have often felt that such a power would be very convenient and beneficial, but it is a law that I could not recommend being enacted.

287. Do you think as much work is got out of the invalids as might be? From my limited acquaintance with the depôt I should say that the inmates are as well employed as they can be.

288. Is there as much done in this way at Launceston as at Hobart? From my knowledge of Mr. Jones I should fancy so; he is not a man to keep people idle if they can work.

289. Is similar authority required from you for admission to the Launceston Charitable Institutions as is required here? Yes.

290. Does that include the Girls' Industrial School? The admissions to the school are controlled by the magistrates. The magistrates have power under the law to send any person to the school, though reference has to be made to me regarding the payment of fees.

291. Do you remember anything of a case where a question arose over admitting two girls to that school, an order having been made by a bench of magistrates for their admission? I do not remember distinctly.

292. Does delay sometimes occur from any cause between the order of the magistrates being made for the admission of pauper children and the order for their maintenance being given? The rule is, in Hobart and Launceston, that the order for their maintenance is made up before the order for admission is given.

293. When an application comes to you for such an order, you consider whether it is best for the children to be sent to school or boarded out? Yes; we make such enquiries as to parents, &c. as are possible. There is no unnecessary delay, but sometimes a little delay occurs. To make sure that there is no one shirking their duty in the maintenance of the children I am careful; I like to be satisfied, because I have to be responsible to the Chief Secretary for every order I make for maintenance, and they are scrutinised closely.

294. It is customary not to send Roman Catholic children to Protestant schools? Yes, it is mostly carried out. We never send children to be boarded out except to persons of their own religion.

295. If such an application were made, what would you do? I would refer it to the Chief Secretary, and whatever decision was given would be by the Chief Secretary.

296. If a mother were anxious to get her children into the school, knowing it to be a Protestant school, would you go contrary to her wishes? No, in such a case I would not go against it. In one case I did so, and got into hot water. If a father says he wants his child brought up in any religion it is for him to decide, not me. Should the father afterwards die, we do not acknowledge the right of the mother to alter his wishes. Mothers sometimes marry again and would like to change the children; but we never allow the children to be changed in their religion.

297. Is that the usual practice? Yes, the father is always allowed to choose.

298. Who chooses after the father's death? That question has only arose once, and it was thought undesirable to allow the children to be changed.

299. Were not some suggestions made by the Benevolent Society at Hobart for alterations in the forms of management of the Institution to some extent? I have reported fully on that. You have all the correspondence; I have nothing further to add.

300. Are you aware that something like friction has occurred between the Benevolent Society and your department. There has been, but it has arisen between two of the officers. I know nothing of it personally.

301. Do you think that the difficulty that has arisen in regard to the cart was caused by some imperfect understanding between the Government and the Benevolent Society when the out-door relief arrangements were handed over to the Society? It must have arisen through want of clearness on the part of the chairman, who could not be expected to know what had occurred in previous years, but Mr. Catley would know.

302. Has the practice which has caused this unpleasantness been recently adopted? No, it has existed for a long time. In 1883 the Government resumed possession of the cart in question; it is kept at New Town by the enquiring officer. At Mr. Mather's request I did not carry out the intention of withdrawing the cart, but I felt it necessary to have it sometimes after four o'clock to remove paupers.

303. Did you think the work of the Society sufficient to keep the cart and horse fully employed? No, I thought not.

304. And you think you are justified in using it? Yes, by arrangement with Mr. Mather I was to have the use of it.

305. Do you suppose the work has grown which would render the use of the cart necessary for the Society? I should say it has considerably decreased, judging by results.

306. What would be the general time you would want the cart? It would be irregular; sometimes not more than two or three hours a week. It is very rarely we want it.

307. Has not some change been adopted lately in the matter of paying Mr. Catley? Yes, that has been done at my request. Mr. Catley showed such animosity towards me, and repudiated the department to which he belongs, that I thought it better Mr. Catley should come to the office to receive his salary direct through me, as the others did. The Chief Secretary thinks I do quite right in this respect. Mr. Catley is subordinate to me, and when he set me at defiance I could not stand it.

308. You think the arrangement on that point was clear enough to prevent mistake? Mr. Catley knew he was in my department.

309. Since Mr. Catley was placed at the disposal of the Society, has he ceased to receive instructions from you as to his duties? Yes.

310. Would any message sent to him through Mr. Judge with regard to the use of the cart be regarded by Mr. Catley as an order? I have never sent to him through Mr. Judge, who has claimed the cart as a right under the arrangement made by the late chairman, Mr. Mather.

311. Do you know whether Mr. Judge has ever, with your authority, asked Mr. Catley to remove any boarded-out children? Yes, recently; he could do it on his way home, and it would not have occupied him more than five minutes at the outside.

312. Would this have been received by Mr. Catley as an order or simply as a request? If I sent him an order he would not be bound to obey it.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1885.

MR. WITHRINGTON *recalled*.

313. *By the Chairman*.—Speaking generally, do you find the inmates express themselves as being fairly comfortable in the Institution, or have you many complaints? I have no complaints worth mentioning. Should anything deserve alteration I have it remedied immediately. Of course, where such a number of persons go into the Institution there are sure to be complaints, but when investigated we generally find there is nothing in them; there is a difficulty in getting information from them. From 26 years' experience, I say the Government treat the inmates very liberally, almost too well regarding food.

314. There are rumours occasionally that there is a prejudice against the Institution? That is easily accounted for: they cannot get beer.

315. You think, then, that the grievances arise from discontented dispositions, there being no real cause for complaint? That is it. The place is open for inspection at reasonable hours. All people who visit the Institution express surprise to find that it is kept so well. Sometimes the inmates are taken from hovels, and they have to be bathed, get hair cut, &c., which they do not like.

316. Do they refuse to be bathed on admission? Yes, frequently.

317. *By Dr. Crowther*.—Have you hot water? Yes, both hot and cold.

318. *By the Chairman*.—Is ever force used in bathing? No; if they refuse to be bathed they have to go out.

319. Are your appliances for fumigating complete? Yes.

320. How often are the beds and wards thoroughly cleansed? Every day; sometimes two or three times a day when necessary.

321. What arrangement have you for collecting money from those inmates who can afford to pay a little? A collector is instructed to collect the money by the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

322. Do you remember what portion of money found on Tandy was claimed for fees? Between £6 and £7.

323. Did he give any reason why he wished to be admitted, when he had money at his command? No, he was in the habit of going to Melbourne, and makes money, but when he gets rheumatism he comes back to our Institution. I asked him why he did not go the Immigrants Home in Melbourne, and he said he did not like it.

324. Is it necessary to allow the collector to receive the money? Yes, it is necessary that all the money shall go through one person's hands.

325. What commission does the collector receive? Five or ten per cent.—I am not sure which.

326. Who is your collector? Mr. Judge is now.

327. Is that commission in addition to his salary? I think so.

328. Do you pay the inmates for the work done? Yes, those who are warders; some are allowed 2s. 6d. per month, others up to 10s. per month. That is conditionally on their doing the work well and behaving themselves.

329. Do the men employed at the reservoir receive any payment? Whilst they were working at it they received payment; it is finished now.

330. Is the money paid at once, or reserved until they leave the Institution? It is paid every month, and is for extras.

331. What use do they make of the money? They generally get drunk.

332. When leaving the Institution do they generally have money? No, it is generally spent before. Those who bring in money have it given them when they go out.

333. Would it not be better to encourage or enforce the saving up of the money earned till they leave the Institution? They will not do it. Taken as a class they belong to the old school, and they think that every penny they save would go to the Government.

334. Could not an arrangement be made to have the money saved up until they go out? I think it would be impracticable.

335. Would not the money, if given them when leaving the Institution, give them a start? They would only spend it in drink, and be back again in a week.

336. Have you received any inmates from the North since you were last before the Committee? Yes, and there is an order for five others.

337. Are they sent here because there is no room for them in the North? Yes; a woman came from Westbury two nights ago because there is no accommodation in the North.

338. Have you not recently received a number of inmates from the New Norfolk Asylum? Yes, some months ago we received nine.

339. How do they conduct themselves? One or two were a little noisy, but they are now dead.

340. Have you found them harmless? I will not say that. My opinion is that they should not have been sent to our Institution at all.

341. *By Dr. Crowther.*—Does that apply to all the nine? Yes.

342. Prior to that had you received any others? Yes.

343. How many?

344. How did they conduct themselves? Very fairly, considering.

345. Have they been troublesome? Yes, some of the last ones were. They have been noisy, but not dangerous: they have got fads.

346. Would you regard those as harmless cases? No, I would not.

347. Have any of them died? Yes, two or three.

348. Were those who died among the most troublesome? Yes, two of them were.

349. Were none of the nine who came six months ago fit to come? I think none of them should have come at all.

350. Did they cause annoyance to the other inmates? Yes, some of them caused a very great deal of annoyance.

351. Did the inmates complain? Not much, except at night.

352. Did you endeavour to separate them? Yes, I separated them as much as possible, not to have them in one ward.

353. During the day were they free to mix with the rest? Yes, it was much better to do so.

354. Were not some of those who came from New Norfolk perfectly harmless? Yes, one was perfectly harmless, and able to be at large; another was harmless, but unable to get his living. The others were such as should have never been sent to the institution at all.

355. *By the Chairman.*—As far as your opinion goes as to the power under which you admit patients and detain them, do you think you have legal power to detain those lunatics? No, I do not think we have power.

356. By whose order were they sent? Either that of the Chief Secretary or Administrator of Charitable Grants.

357. Is Tolmaque one of those patients? Yes.

358. Has he been troublesome? No; I tried to let him out, but he commenced drinking, and came back again. I then tried him at writing in the office, but he knocked up and could not do it.

359. You still have him? Yes.

360. Do you consider he should be in the asylum or in the dépôt? In the dépôt at present.

361. How many of your patients are bed-ridden? About 80, but they are not all confined to bed.

362. What arrangements have you made for nursing, especially by night? It is done by warders.

363. Have you a warder constantly moving about amongst those people? Yes, one of the inmates.

364. What are your arrangements? In the male wards we have a male warder, and in the female wards a female, picked from the best of the inmates.

365. Do you give them any pay? Yes, it ranges from 10s. to 5s. per month.

366. Do you find that they are kind to the old people? Yes, if they are not they are soon drafted out.

367. *By Dr. Crowther.*—Are you sure of that? Yes.

368. What is the highest fee charged for inmates? 1s. per day, 9d. being the average, and in my recollection I have never known more being charged.

369. What arrangements have you now for incurable cases? They are now in special wards by themselves.

370. Have you any different arrangements for nursing those cases? No, just the same as the others.

371. Are water-beds provided? Yes, for any case recommended by the Medical Officer.

372. How often does the Medical Officer visit the Institution? Twice a week, and as often as he is required.

373. Have you a telephone laid on to the Institution? No, we telephone from the Post Office.

374. Do you hesitate to send for the Medical Officer? No, I do not; I send or come for him myself at any time during the night, if necessary.

375. Do you assure us that the Medical Officer can be obtained at any time when necessary? Yes, at any time.

376. *By the Chairman.*—Is anything required at present in the Institution to aid the Medical Officer? No, beyond the improvements specially provided for, nothing further is required.

377. Have you any idea how many permanent in-patients there are at Launceston? No.

378. Could you accommodate many more than you have now at New Town? Yes, I could accommodate 50 more.

379. Would it be desirable to keep all the permanent cases now at Launceston and New Town together? That is a question I cannot answer, because you cannot know what are permanent cases among these people.

380. Do you think any number of the Launceston invalids might be brought to New Town? That I cannot tell; I have not visited the Launceston Dépôt for many years.

381. *By Dr. Crowther.*—Would not a staff of proper nurses be better than those taken from the inmates? I do not think you could get respectable nurses to stay among the class of inmates now in the Institution; they are mostly of the old school. When they die out a change can be made with advantage.

REV. J. W. SIMMONS *re-called and examined.*

382. *By the Chairman.*—Have you any control over the Lying-in Hospital? Practically, it now comes under the work of the Benevolent Society's office, whilst formerly it was entirely between the Chief Secretary and Mr. Witt. The financial arrangements remain the same as formerly.

383. Where is the Lying-in Hospital? At a nurse's house in Goulburn-street.

384. A private establishment? Yes, a private house.

385. Has this arrangement been of long standing? Yes, many years.

386. Does it fairly answer requirements? I think not. It is most incomplete and undesirable.

387. How are the financial arrangements managed? Mr. Witt pays the nurse weekly out of the funds of the Benevolent Society, and we draw on the Government quarterly.

388. What other arrangements would you recommend for the conducting of the Lying-in Hospital? My opinion is that you must either have a wing of the Hospital for that purpose, or a proper establishment. This evil is growing frightfully, and must have a proper establishment.

389. Can you give the average number of patients monthly?

390. Does the authority for admission of patients to the Lying-in Hospital rest entirely with the Society? It rests with Mr. Witt.

391. What medical assistance is there for the Hospital? There is no medical attendance unless it is a serious case. The nurse acts as midwife, and in serious cases she is authorised to call in a doctor.

392. Is any doctor summoned? Yes, so long as he will take the fee of half a guinea.

393. Would you consider it desirable that the Government Medical Officer should be called in for such cases? The Poor Law Doctor is often called away to New Town and Sandy Bay, and there would be a difficulty in getting him when necessary. This shows the necessity of having this Institution in connection with the General Hospital, but the Hospital authorities will not listen to it.

394. When the lying-in cases are able to leave the establishment, what do you do with them? If they have no means they must go to the New Town Institution.

395. How long are they usually kept there? Twelve months.

396. Do you consider that a good arrangement? No. It is fatal to any chance of redemption. There is a girl there now on her fourth visit, and she makes a boast of it.

397. What do you recommend? The Sydney and Melbourne systems, where committees of ladies deal with the cases. They see the girls provided for, and get them homes in the country. I have done it here privately with good results.

398. Are there any further suggestions you would like to make? Any answer to the question concerning improvement in the administration of Charitable Grants must necessarily be of a delicate and difficult character: delicate because of the apparent interference with work much of which is of a routine nature, and spread over many agencies; difficult because of the assumption that those chiefly concerned have made themselves acquainted with plans and operations in larger Colonies, and in other parts of the world. Far away from mere office work, success must largely depend on enthusiasm in the service of progressive humanity. The present system of Charitable Grants, without implying any reflection on the officers, may be denominated the hand-to-mouth system: it provides for an infirm and destitute generation without the least thought of the effect produced on the minds of children who are witnesses, and frequently assistants, in an easy method of obtaining a living—say, for instance, the forty or fifty children who come to the Benevolent Society constantly to obtain rations for home. A complete statement of the position would be too large a tax on the time and patience of the Committee, covering, as the work does, the whole ground of industrial education,—self help,—the dwellings and surroundings of the people. The administration of aid should be an eminently educational agency in thrift, self-respect, and self-reliance. The labour test should be enforced in every possible direction. Children should be taught some method of earning a living, and made to feel that an appeal to charity should be the last resort of life. In the public institutions much more could be done towards making them self-supporting, by the introduction of light trades—the insane

particularly would feel the advantage of variety of occupation. Our Free Schools should be Industrial Schools—not simply putting the children to rough work, but giving them instruction in skilled labour. Detail, however, is useless. Persons engaged in works of benevolence should feel free to adapt their methods to ever-varying circumstances. Given an education in thrift, the Charitable Grant would rapidly decrease.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1885.

MR. WILLIAM WITT *examined*.

399. *By the Chairman*.—Your name? William Witt.

400. What is your office? Registrar of the Benevolent Society.

401. How long have you held that position? 26 years, at the end of this year.

402. Do you think that under the present management the Charitable Grants are administered as satisfactorily as could be desired? Well, I can only speak from my own point of view. I think there are a few reforms that have been asked for that would be beneficial; but, generally speaking, there is nothing to complain of.

403. We are aware, of course, that there has been a great saving effected in the expenditure of Charitable Grants since the Benevolent Society took charge of the Government Department? Yes, a very great saving.

404. Do you think all deserving cases have been fully met, notwithstanding the great saving that has been effected? They have, and only those cases not requiring aid have been discontinued.

405. You consider that the fullest enquiry is always made with regard to cases dealt with? Yes; every case is investigated, first by their own statement, and then by visitation, and by continual supervision of each case.

406. Do you often find yourselves imposed upon by persons from a distance? Well, we have had a few cases, but not recently, and there was very little fear of their deception being carried on for many hours or days.

407. Do you find the record kept by the Administrator of Charitable Grants for the entire Colony helpful to you in guarding against imposition? Yes, for when we have required information we have asked for it, and always had it given. In country cases especially, the Administrator has often put us right.

408. Then you regard the check which such a record gives as being useful? I do.

409. Do you think the record that is kept of all charitable cases by the Administrator of Charitable Grants is useful as a guard against imposition on the Benevolent Society? I do.

410. Then do you think that all the reforms that have been suggested in the correspondence between the Chief Secretary and the Benevolent Society are necessary? Yes, I do.

411. From what funds are the expenses in connection with the lying-in cases met? From the Government.

412. Does the Benevolent Society pay any portion for the lying-in establishment out of its own funds? Not one penny: the Government pay it all.

413. Is a Medical Officer often employed? Very seldom. There has not been a case since the year 1881 where a Medical Officer has been employed. All cases since that time have been investigated by myself; and it has saved the Government a great expense.

414. What is the average you have had under your own observation of lying-in cases? The average is about 18 per year.

415. *By Mr. Hartnoll*.—What is the youngest case of girls seeking admittance? About 16 years. There are none younger.

416. *By the Chairman*.—Do you think the present arrangement for lying-in cases is the best that could be desired? I think a lying-in establishment proper would be a great deal better. The present one is only like a makeshift.

417. Are most of the cases in the establishment cases of young girls, or have you any married women? We have very few married women.

418. What is the average age of the cases in the establishment? All ages between 16 and 28; and the woman who is 28 years of age is now in the establishment for her fourth child.

419. Are the majority of cases younger than 20 years of age? Oh, yes! they are by far the majority.

420. You find the same girls come back frequently? Yes; some of them come back two and three times.

421. What better arrangement do you think could be made for a lying-in establishment?—would you have it in connection with the Hospital? I think it ought to be attached to the Hospital, for it would then be under one head and one department.

422. How long do you keep girls in the establishment? Only one month after confinement. Of course, in cases of utter destitution, I have to take them for weeks before, but only keep them for a month after confinement.

423. *By Mr. Hartnoll*.—Do you ever refuse applicants admission? Never, unless I can prove they are able to pay.

424. *By the Chairman.*—Do you ever find that persons applying for admission refuse to enter the establishment when they find they will not have the freedom they anticipated or they would wish? Yes; I have occasionally found them unwilling to remain when they discover they can have no visitors to see them, save their mother or sister.

425. Where are the girls sent after being a month with you? Many go back to service in the homes they were before they came to the establishment, having placed their children out to nurse; but, of course, I cannot say what becomes of some of them.

426. *By Mr. Reibey.*—Many, I suppose, go upon the streets? Very few, I think. It is only occasionally they do so.

427. *By the Chairman.*—Then they are mostly girls who are in service you have to deal with? Yes.

428. You sometimes send some of them to the Invalid Dépôt? Yes, many go back to service, but others go to the Invalid Dépôt with their children.

429. Do you consider they should be allowed to go to the Invalid Dépôt? No, I do not.

430. You don't consider the association of the old women good for them? Anything but that.

431. Are any sent there who might be able to go into service? Well, they are able to go into service if they could only get their children off their hands. They are sent there when they say they cannot get anyone to take the child.

432. I suppose you don't see any way out of the difficulty? I don't know. If they are quite destitute I tell them they will have to go to the Invalid Dépôt until they can get some one to take the child.

433. Where are the children generally sent to—do you know? I do not. They make their own arrangements?

434. Do you know whether they ever become boarded-out children? Yes, they do; that is when they have arrived at that age when they can be boarded out.

435. *By Mr. Reibey.*—Do you think that the Administrator of Charitable Grants gives that consideration to the suggestions of the Benevolent Society which cases recommended for relief deserve? Yes.

436. Are the suggestions and the recommendations of the Society, as a rule, approved of by the Administrator? Yes, they are, as a rule.

437. You don't find your efforts to relieve cases of distress or to prevent unnecessary expenditure of public money frustrated in any way by the action of the Administrator? I am not prepared to answer that question. Mr. Simmons, the Chairman, can answer that question better than I. The Chairman would fully go into that.

438. *By the Chairman.*—Is the work of the Benevolent Society such as to fully occupy the horse and cart at its disposal? Well, not fully, but, generally speaking, it is kept going. Of course, there are several days when it is not used at all, but on other days it has to take two journeys with rations.

439. Do you think that by proper arrangement it would be possible for the horse and cart to do work in connection with boarded-out children as well as its present work? Well, I think it could be managed by proper arrangement; but there has been a great deal of clashing between Mr. Judge and Mr. Catley.

A P P E N D I X.

Benevolent Society, Hobart, 24th March, 1885.

SIR,

By direction of the Executive Committee, I have the honor to submit for your consideration proposals for the greater efficiency of the work undertaken by this Society on behalf of the Government.

It may be convenient to remark, that the business in question involves the pauper maintenance for Hobart and Suburbs; provision for pauper funerals, conveyance of paupers from Hospital and other places to New Town, enquiry into applications for aid, by Messrs. Witt and Catley, and recommendation of deserving persons to Hospital. Pauper lying-in cases are provided for under a special arrangement between the Government and Mr. Witt; some immigrants have, unfortunately, been allowed to come under this class—certainly such a plan was not contemplated,—and it would appear very desirable that other and better provision should be made, assuming this phase to be a portion of the immigration scheme. In the "Minute Paper for the Executive Council," 24th February, 1880, it is stated: "The Government to provide the salary of the present Enquiring Officer, and the wages of the lad employed at the provision store; also to transfer to the Society the horse and cart now employed by the Enquiring Officer, and such furniture, &c. now in the said store as may be required by the Society."

This statement appears to imply that Mr. Catley, the lad in the store, and the horse and cart are placed absolutely under the control of this Society. Occasionally, however, instructions reach Mr. Catley from other departments; the lad is ordered about by Mr. Judge, and does not appear to know to whom he owes obedience; and the somewhat frequent use of the horse and cart recently by the Boarding-out Officer has been most inconvenient to the work of this office. Under these circumstances I venture to ask a clear decision on the points in controversy.

The method of supplying rations is a difficult matter to explain in writing. The officer in charge is required to account for the whole, and not the portion, of a ration. This can only be done, in cases of very aged persons, by balancing one ration against another; and I venture to submit that, undertaking to keep a complete record of each case in the office books, it would be more convenient to return to the Government the totals of the rations issued rather than the detailed allowance in each case. If I might venture to ask a personal inspection of the work, this matter would be more apparent; of course no ration would be varied without the consent of the Chairman, on behalf of the Board. The same statement applies to the printed forms issued by the Society, and which are supplied by the Government. In the case of a pauper funeral, for instance, the form implies that the deceased makes application, stating that he is friendless, and the officer in charge certifies that he is a proper object of charity. This is but one instance. All the papers could be improved; and renewal forms in chronic cases would save the Hospital and the department a large amount of needless work.

Recently one or two instances have come to light in which cases settled by this Board have been inquired into by the Officers of the Boarding-out Department, implying apparently a want of confidence in the management of this office. The members of this Committee being anxious to assist the Government in every way possible in reducing the present enormous outlay on Charitable Grants feel, however, that they cannot do justice to themselves or to their work if their efforts are to be exposed to the irritating influences which have surrounded them for some weeks past.

I have, &c.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

J. W. SIMMONS.

FORWARDED to the Administrator of Charitable Grants for his observations.

ADYE DOUGLAS.
25th March, 1885.

Charitable Grants Department, 16th April, 1885.

MEMORANDUM.

PRESS of work in connection with the preparation of the Annual Reports has caused delay in the return of the annexed letter of the Chairman of the Executive Committee Benevolent Society.

The Chairman would appear to desire the Government to transfer to the Committee absolute control over the Inquiring Officer, the store labourer, and the horse and cart belonging to this Department; also to relieve the Society of the duty of furnishing detailed monthly statements of the rations issued under the authority of the Committee.

Having read the "Minute Paper for the Executive Council" quoted by Mr. Simmons, I find that the extract given therefrom is perfectly correct, although, in the Memorandum forwarded to me at the time of the transfer there is nothing to show that such a Minute had been passed by the Governor in Council, but the change appeared to be the act of the Ministerial head of the Department (Mr. Moore) alone. The Minute was not, therefore, referred to by me when I addressed the Hon. the Chief Secretary on the subject of the horse and cart on the 23rd August, 1883. My letter of that date, with subsequent correspondence, is forwarded herewith.

When the transfer to the Benevolent Society took place, the whole of the work connected with pauperism in and about the city was placed under the supervision of that body, and there was, therefore, every reason why the horse and cart and other property should follow it; but on the appointment of the Central Committee for Boarding-out Destitute Children in January of the following year, and the withdrawal from the Society of so large and important a portion of the duty previously assigned to it, it became necessary for me, as Chairman of the Central Committee, to have the use of the vehicle at such times as I required it, provided, of course, it was not in use for other legitimate purposes. A verbal arrangement to that effect was, accordingly, made with the late Mr. Mather, the then Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society, and no difficulty arose until the date of my letter referred to above. A perusal of Mr. Mather's remarks on that letter will clearly show that such an understanding existed, and that he pledged himself to

see it faithfully carried out in future if the stabling of the horse in Hobart was not insisted upon; and so matters remained undisturbed. As difficulties have again arisen, and as the principal use to which the horse and cart is still put is the daily conveyance of the Inquiring Officer to and from his residence at New Town, a purpose for which they were never intended, and which adds so much not only to the fatigue of the animal but to the wear and tear of the vehicle and harness, I must renew the request I made in August, 1883, which met with the approval of Mr. Moore, who was then in office, and by-whom the services of the Benevolent Society were originally called into requisition. It is quite impossible for me to have the work connected with the Boarding-out System performed without the use of a vehicle of some kind, and unless that provided by the Government is at my disposal, I shall be compelled to ask for authority to hire one whenever the duties of the Inspecting Officer require it.

As regards the method of supplying ration returns, two months only have elapsed since it was decided that no alteration should be made in the form in which they are rendered. On that occasion my opinion as to the desirability of dispensing with these returns, as well as those furnished by me monthly as Chairman of the Central Committee for Boarding-out Destitute Children, was requested, and I then stated as follows:—"The rendering of the monthly lists referred to affords the Government the only means in existence of becoming acquainted with the details of the work done by the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society and the Central Committee for Boarding-out Destitute Children. These lists have been furnished for years, and have been found very useful for reference on several occasions. I do not think it would be advisable to sanction their discontinuance."

The perusal of the concluding paragraph of the Chairman's letter caused me most intense surprise, and I am utterly unable to reply to it in its present form; but if Mr. Simmons will state the cases to which he refers, I shall be glad to give all the information I can respecting them.

I regret the Chairman did not afford me the opportunity of disabusing his mind of the impression he labours under on the subject of my hostility to the Benevolent Society. Had he done so, I should not have received from him the exceedingly discourteous note of the 11th ult. which I beg to forward, with the correspondence which preceded it.

In conclusion, I beg to state I have reason to believe that the whole of the differences that exist and have existed on the matters under consideration owe their origin entirely to the tittle-tattle and exaggerated statements of the Inquiring Officer; and I feel convinced that until he is made to understand his real position in the Department, or is removed from it altogether, there will be continued unpleasantness and misunderstanding.

J. O'BOYLE, *Administrator Charitable Grants.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Hobart, 30th April, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to call your attention to a letter, dated 24th March, having reference to the Government branch of the work of this office, and to request the favour of a reply at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 2nd May, 1885.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, drawing attention to your communication of the 24th March last, having reference to the Government branch of the work of the Benevolent Society, I think it will facilitate matters if you will favour me with an interview at this Office on the subject.

I have, &c.

The REV. J. W. SIMMONS, Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent Society, Hobart.

ADYE DOUGLAS.

Benevolent Society, 26th May, 1885.

SIR,

REFERRING to the interview which I had the honor to have with you a few days since, I have now the honor to suggest as follows :—

1. Alterations to be made in forms used by the Society, as intimated to the Honorable the Treasurer, and as furnished to him by me.

2. Chairman of this Society to be furnished with a complete book of form (form accompanies) containing authorities for him to send on to New Town Establishment, without sending to Hospital, persons who have been previously invalided from Hospital; Mr. Catley to have book containing date and number of original certificate, so as to be capable of reference, and thus save time and trouble in the future.

3. Authority to be asked for to get a suitable cart or vehicle for the work of this Society : this Society has ample work for one. Mr. Judge then to have the present one for his own work solely.

4. Any report or recommendation of this Society not to be overruled by any Government official other than the Chief Secretary.

5. The work of this Society not to relate in any way to the boarded-out children.

6. This Society to have the entire control of the pauper lying-in cases.

7. After a pauper has been invalided to the New Town Establishment the Medical Officer then to be the officer whose decision shall be binding when any pauper is to be allowed to be retained in the Institution.

8. Should any apprentice girl be confined in the Lying-in Establishment as supervised by this Society, then this Society to be at liberty to make proper arrangements for the future as to such girl, and for her employment, if considered advisable.

Requesting the favour of an early reply,

The Honorable ADYE DOUGLAS, Chief Secretary.

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS.

Benevolent Society, Hobart, 10th August, 1885.

SIR,

UPON consideration, I feel I should be only troubling you needlessly were I to wait upon you this morning. I must therefore ask you to be good enough to excuse my absence, pending meeting of the Executive Committee.

In the meantime, may I venture to ask your attention to a letter from this office, dated 26th May last. No reply having been forwarded, it has, I fear, been unintentionally overlooked. If you would do me the favour of a reply, present complications may be considerably simplified.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS.

THE letter referred to by Mr. Simmons is forwarded herewith, with the request that the Administrator of Charitable Grants will favour the Chief Secretary with his observations upon the suggestions contained therein.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
10th August, 1885.

(1.)

Benevolent Society, Hobart,

188 .

MEMORANDUM.

THE Superintendent is requested to receive the Pauper named in the margin into the Invalid Depôt. Medical Certificate No.

188 .

J. W. SIMMONS, *Chairman Executive Committee.*

The Superintendent

(2.)

No. _____

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE INVALID DEPOT,
NEW TOWN.

188 .

Name of Applicant
Age
Disease or other cause necessitating admission
If in Hospital or Depôt before
When and where, and for what Disease
Can Applicant read or write?
Native Place
Religion
Trade
Name of Husband or Wife, (as the case may be)
If able to pay Fees, state amount per diem
Names of other "Relatives," if any, who are in a position to
pay Fees, and how much per diem.....

CERTIFICATE WHEN APPLICANT IS WHOLLY DESTITUTE.

I HEREBY certify that I have enquired into this case, and have reason to believe that the Applicant is a *bonâ fide* object of charity, having no means to pay Fees, or any Relatives in a position to do so; I therefore recommend admission as a Pauper.

Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent Society.

(3.)

No. _____

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR INTERMENT, FEES, &c.

Benevolent Society _____

188

Name of deceased.....
Age.....
Religion.....
Person making Application.....

CERTIFICATE.

I HEREBY certify that I have enquired into this case, and find deceased had no friends or relatives to pay the fees of interment.

Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent Society.

(4.)

HOBART PUBLIC CEMETERY.

No. (SCHEDULE C.)

FORM OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRAVES.

Answers to be written opposite to the following Questions at the time of giving Orders.

- 1. What denomination?
- 2. Name of deceased?
- 3. Late Residence of deceased?
- 4. Rank of deceased?
- 5. Age of deceased? years months days
- 6. Where born?
- 7. Minister to officiate?
- 8. Day of Funeral? day of 18
- 9. What hour? o'clock
- 10. No. of Grave on Plan issued? No. Compartment
- 11. If a Public Grave?
- 12. If a Private Grave, what width? feet
- 13. " " length? feet
- 14. What depth? feet
- 15. If first or second interment? feet
- 16. Nature of Disease, or supposed cause of Death?

Chairman Executive Committee B. S.

Signature of Representative or Undertaker.

Order received this day of 188 at o'clock. £ s. d.

Interment in Public Grave
Land for Private Grave, 8 ft. x feet
Sinking feet, or re-opening...
Label
Certificate of Right of Burial
Permission to erect Monument

£

(5.)

Charitable Grants Department,
Benevolent Society Depot,

188.

The Body of the under-mentioned lies at Residence awaiting Interment:—

Name.	Age.	Religion.	Date of Death.	Remarks.
				The Hearse will leave the Residence at 10:30 A.M., and arrive at the Cemetery by 11:30 A.M. on the instant.

To

Chairman Ex. Com. B. S.

(6.)

[PROPOSED BOOK FOR OFFICE.]

MEDICAL RECORD.

No.

Name.

Certificate.

Dr.

Date.

Charitable Grants Department, 12th August, 1885.

SIR,

HAVING perused the letter of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society, dated the 26th May last, I beg to return it with my observations thereupon, as desired.

Suggestion 1.—With respect to this suggestion that certain forms, which for purposes of reference I have numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, should be altered, I would observe that the omission asked for in No. 1 (Form 1), would appear to have for its object something more than the mere improvement of the form; however, as the Administrator of Charitable Grants is the official authorised to admit paupers to the Institution, and in whom is vested by law the power to order their detention therein for such period as he may deem necessary, it is right that the Superintendent should have an assurance that a proper and legal authority will be forwarded to him in due course, and I therefore trust that the recommendation of the Chairman will not be acceded to.

Form No. 2 is that used throughout the Colony in connection with the Depôts, and I see no reason why a special one should be provided for Hobart. Certain particulars recommended to be omitted are necessary to enable me to effect a settlement as to the fund,—Imperial or Colonial,—to which the maintenance of inmates of the Depôts is to be charged, and cannot well be dispensed with at present.

Form No. 3.—There are very few of this form used, and for that reason I have not had special ones printed. There is no objection to the adoption of the form proposed.

Forms Nos. 4 and 5.—The printing of the words Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent Society seems hardly necessary, considering the small number used; there were only 19 in 1884; but I have no objection to offer.

Suggestion 2.—No. 1 Form would answer all the purposes. The date of the original certificate would not be necessary in the *ad interim* order issued by the Chairman, but should be given on the usual application forwarded to me for approval and order of detention. A medical certificate on the occasion of each admission of a pauper who is well known to be suffering from a chronic complaint or to be too old to earn a living might well be dispensed with. A medical record (Form No. 6) of such cases would, I have no doubt, be very serviceable.

Suggestion 3.—There is not, in my opinion, the slightest necessity for a second vehicle. No difficulty whatever would have arisen respecting the use of that already provided but for the incivility of the Inquiring Officer to Mr. Judge when applying for it. The horse and cart are in the charge of the Inquiring Officer, but he has no more right to their exclusive use than any other officer of the Department. It has become necessary that this fact should be made perfectly clear to Mr. Catley, and also that his real position in the Department should be fully impressed upon him.

Suggestion 4.—As the Head of the Charitable Grants Department, it is my duty to examine and certify to the monthly abstract of expenditure furnished by the Chairman, as no payment out of the Vote for the Maintenance of Paupers will be passed by the Audit Department without my certificate. It is also my duty to consider the recommendations of the Chairman in cases of pauper interments, and the admission of invalids to the New Town Charitable Institution, and I do not see how the suggestion of the Chairman could be given effect to without a wide departure from the rules which govern the Public Service. As I am not aware of any necessity for a special exemption in favour of the Chairman, I cannot concur in his suggestion.

It has always been my endeavour to work harmoniously with the Chairman, and I do not think he has any just reason to complain of my interference with the decisions of the Executive Committee.

Suggestion 5.—The work of the Benevolent Society has nothing whatever to do with the Boarding-out System, but the Inquiring Officer is required to discharge such duties in connection with the Boarding-out System as he can very conveniently perform on his way home in the Government vehicle,—such as leaving weekly at the Police Station, New Town, the money for the payment of foster parents, and conveying in the cart any children whose removal to New Town from Hobart or *vice versa*, may be necessary—a service which he is very rarely called upon to render. It is to be hoped that the recent intimation to the Inquiring Officer as to his duty in these respects will prevent misunderstanding in the future.

Suggestion 6.—I am not aware of any interference with the Society in this matter. So far as I know, the Society have the entire control of the lying-in cases, but, as the Institution is supported by the Government out of the funds voted for the maintenance of paupers, I have the right to order admission thereto, and I exercise that right when necessary; but beyond that, and certifying to the quarterly account as required by the Audit Regulations, I have nothing to do with the Lying-in Establishment.

Suggestion 7.—The Administrator of Charitable Grants is by law the officer in whom this power is vested, and under any circumstances it would not conduce to the discipline of the Establishment to give it to the Medical Officer. The Superintendent is head of the Establishment at present, but what would be his position if the Medical Officer were authorised to interfere as suggested?

Suggestion 8.—If this refers to the apprentices under the Boarding-out System, the Central Committee for boarding out Destitute Children are their legal guardians, and alone have the right to make arrangements for their disposal.

I may, perhaps, be permitted to avail myself of this opportunity to say that in all my official intercourse with the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society I have been actuated by a desire to assist him in every way in my power, and that I am utterly unable to account for the extraordinary course he has recently adopted towards me. The personal feeling of the Chairman is evident from the character of the above suggestions, which, it is perfectly clear, have for their object the lowering of my status in the Public Service, and the elevation of the Chairman to the position of head of the Charitable Grants Department.

The cordiality which existed between the late Chairman and myself is well known, and on the appointment of his successor it was my wish that the courtesy and good feeling which at that time existed between the Benevolent Society and this Office should be continued. In that, however, I have been disappointed, as well as in the pleasant anticipations in which I indulged when informed of the nomination for the vacancy of the present Chairman, and which anticipations were conveyed by me to the Government at the time objections were raised in certain quarters to the appointment of the gentleman who now fills the position of Chairman of the Executive Committee.

I have, &c.

J. O'BOYLE, *Administrator Charitable Grants.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 19th August, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, in which you call my attention to your communication of the 26th May last suggesting alterations in the existing arrangements with the Benevolent Society for the management of the Out-door Relief in Hobart and suburbs.

As regards the alteration in Form marked (1), I cannot sanction the omission of the words struck out. The Administrator of Charitable Grants is the official authorised to admit paupers to Charitable Institutions, and in whom is vested by law the power to order their detention for such period as he may deem necessary, and the Superintendent is entitled to receive a formal notification that the requisite legal authority will be duly supplied.

Form No. 2.—I see no necessity for a special form in this case. The only alteration which I consider desirable is the omission of the enquiry as to whether the applicant arrived "free or bond."

Form No. 3.—There is no objection to a special Form for Interments; the certificate, however, should be to the following effect:—"I hereby certify that I have enquired into this case, and find that the deceased died without means, and without relatives liable or friends willing to pay the expenses of interment."

Considering the small number required of the Forms Nos. 4 and 5, it does not appear to me necessary to incur the expense of printing separate series, as suggested.

With regard to suggestion No. 2 in your letter, there is no objection to Form No. 1 being supplied in a book.

There is no necessity for the date of the original Medical Certificate being stated on that form, but a reference must be made thereto on the application forwarded for approval, and order of detention. A book can be furnished, if thought desirable, to contain the information suggested by you.

A Medical Record, as proposed in Form No. 6, would, I have no doubt, be very serviceable

The Government are not prepared to sanction the expense involved in the maintenance of a horse and cart for the sole use of the Society. The occasions on which the present vehicle is required by any other officer of the Department than Mr. Catley are by no means numerous, and

that officer must distinctly understand, as I informed him personally, that when required it is his duty to carry out the instructions he may receive from the Administrator of Charitable Grants as regards the use of the horse and cart.

The Administrator of Charitable Grants has certain defined duties devolving upon him in connection with the expenditure of the Vote for the Maintenance of Paupers. His certificate is required by the Audit Regulations before payment can be made of any claim upon that vote, and the Government do not consider that it would be either desirable or practicable to dispense with the existing examination by, and certificate of, that officer.

The recommendation in suggestion No. 4 would lead to the inference that the Administrator of Charitable Grants had taken occasion to interfere unnecessarily with the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society. If such is the opinion of the Committee, I have to request that you will be good enough to state the particular cases referred to, for my information.

The work of the Benevolent Society has nothing to do with the boarded-out children, except that Mr. Catley must perform the duty of leaving weekly, at the Police Station, New Town, the money for the payment of foster parents, and also convey in the cart any children whose removal to New Town from Hobart, or *vice versa*, may be necessary.

The Administrator of Charitable Grants exercises no control over the lying-in cases, but that officer must still continue to exercise the power of ordering admission to the Home maintained by public funds for the reception of such cases when necessary, and the quarterly accounts must be certified by him.

Suggestion No. 7 cannot be adopted. The Administrator of Charitable Grants is by law the officer in whom the power is vested, and it would not be desirable to transfer that power to the Medical Officer.

I am not aware what "apprentices" are referred to in suggestion No. 8; if to apprentices under the Boarding-out System, the Central Committee for boarding out Destitute Children are their legal guardians, and alone have the power to make arrangements for their disposal. If to any other apprentices, I am not aware of any law which would empower the Benevolent Society to act as their guardians, and execute any instrument legally disposing of them.

I have, &c.

*The Reverend J. W. SIMMONS, Chairman Executive
Committee Benevolent Society, Hobart.*

ADYE DOUGLAS.

EVIDENCE.

[Continued from page 23.]

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1885.

MR. ALFRED JONES *examined.*

440. *By the Chairman.*—What position do you occupy? Superintendent of the Penal Establishment and Invalid Dépôt, Launceston.

441. How long have you occupied that position? For 14 years.

442. What kind of accommodation have you for the invalids at Launceston? For the males part of the old Imperial barracks, and part of the old gaol, and for the females part of the old prison.

443. Is the accommodation for males satisfactory? Yes.

444. And sufficient? Sufficient for 155 inmates. We receive applications from the country districts, however, which we cannot receive, but for the last few years the number has been reduced although the institution has not been reduced.

445. Are you satisfied with the accommodation for females? They appear satisfied, and they have every comfort. They are better attended than they would be in an institution by themselves, for they are attended by prisoners undergoing short sentences. The objection is only a matter of sentiment.

446. Is their mixing with prisoners desirable? Not always.

447. Do the female invalids object to be attended by prisoners of the Gaol? Not those at present there; there have been objections made to go to the Gaol.

448. How do you provide for those so objecting? In some cases they are sent to the New Town establishment, which is a hard case, as they have spent most of their lives in the North.

449. Is there no other Government building in Launceston suitable for those invalids? No; some years ago I recommended that a portion of the male dépôt be set apart for females, and about 25 males be sent to Hobart, but the expense was greater than the Government cared to expend.

450. You would have to send some males to Hobart to make provision for the females? Yes, there is only accommodation in the dépôt proper for 93, but the balance sleep in the old debtors' prison in the gaol, I having had that made suitable. A lot of them sleep on the floor, preferring to do so rather than come to the South; they say they would be strangers here, and would rather remain on that side of the Island.

451. Do you think it desirable that accommodation should be provided for the females? I think it very desirable. There are cases at times with which I have very great difficulty in recommending how they are to be dealt with. There are cases in which persons reduced in circumstances object to being sent to the gaol, and it is very hard that they should be sent there. They have the dépôt grounds available, but they do not avail themselves of them, probably objecting to being seen by persons walking along the street.

452. What was the cost of the change you desired to make? I think the cost for 22 females would come to about £60. At that time I only had from 114 to 120 invalids as the daily average. It was not so much the accommodation that was required as an improvement in the nursing, or some one to take charge of them. There would have to be two nurses daily, for the women are too infirm to attend to themselves. I think the resident overseer's wife should have charge of them; I reckon the cost would be about £180 per year.

453. How long ago was that? About seven or eight years ago.

454. Has there not been an idea of starting a new establishment at Launceston? Yes, a piece of land was purchased at Glen Dhu for that purpose, and it is still held by the Government.

455. What kind of building was contemplated? A building to cost about £10,000, but I think it would be a pity to go to that expense, as the time will come when we will not require so much accommodation as at present. The old men are dying off, and we will not want so much accommodation in future as at present.

456. Would you think it desirable in the interest of the inmates that a change should be made in the establishment at a cost of £180 per year? I do. The chief reason is that the number of female prisoner inmates is reduced, and it is with the greatest difficulty that I obtain attendance for them now. The number is so much reduced that I have difficulty in getting the work of the establishment performed.

457. Have you any means of getting attendance for them? No, and I have thought that it is an injustice to the prisoners for them to perform the duty, as sometimes they have to work night and day,—a thing not usual for prisoners.

458. Were those prisoners sentenced to hard labour? Yes, it is always so unless otherwise expressed.

459. In what way was it hardship for them? In their working night and day, Sundays also. We have recently had several applications from bedridden and infirm persons, but have not been able to admit them in consequence of the dépôt being full. I make it a practice of keeping the establishment full, but only with the class able to assist themselves.

460. Do you find many of the inmates able to do a little work? Very few indeed; I have to pay some of them as wardsmen to do the work. There are a few employed about the grounds doing the necessary work.

461. Do you have to employ wardsmen other than inmates? No; having the prisoners at my disposal I avail myself of them in cleaning the premises, thus saving any additional cost.

462. *By Mr. Hartnoll.*—You say that the old prison class is fast dying out, and in a few years it will not be necessary to make provision for them: but in looking at the progress of the town and increasing population of the Colony, is it not wise to make provision for paupers, as that class is bound to be kept up to a certain standard? Yes, but not to the same extent as in the past. 95 per cent. of the inmates of the Invalid Dépôts during the last 25 years have been prisoners, and death is reducing them every year.

463. Will it not always be necessary to have a pauper establishment in Launceston? No doubt of it.

464. What number ought to be provided for? I do not think we will ever have more than 60 males and 40 females.

465. Do you think provision for 100 would be necessary without drafting any to Hobart? Yes, and the site purchased by the Government at Glen Dhu would answer admirably for both males and females. If temporary arrangements were made they ought to be of such a character that afterwards they would be suitable for a permanent establishment.

466. Would it be better to construct a building that would answer in after years? The place available now would last for many years. There is a place joining the site purchased at Glen Dhu, and which is now in the market, that ought to be purchased. I believe that would form a good residence for the Superintendent or whoever had charge of the establishment. It might also be used for contagious diseases or epidemics. It is a very valuable property.

467. Are you aware that a strong feeling exists in Launceston for doing away with the Dépôt buildings, and converting the grounds into a public reserve for the town? Yes.

468. *By the Chairman.*—Would you think it desirable, in view of the almost certain decrease of invalids in the Colony, that permanent provision should be made at Hobart for all invalids? I think to bring some of those people to the South would be like committing them to a living grave.

469. Do you ever receive any lying-in cases to be kept in the Dépôt? Yes, unfortunately, we have had several cases of young girls being confined. I have now a case of a girl who came in from Avoca. I

have had great difficulty in making arrangements, simply because there are no other places in Launceston to put her in.

470. Are they confined there? Yes.

471. Do you have cases every year? No; for several years we had no cases, in consequence of my refusing to admit them, knowing that the Dorcas Society had power to make arrangements for them, and I had no accommodation. Typhoid fever broke out there twice, and I had no accommodation of isolating them in consequence of having more invalids than I ought to have had.

472. Is any provision made by the Benevolent Society or Dorcas Society for lying-in cases? Yes, by voluntary contribution. The Chairman of the Benevolent Society assists them to some extent. The want of a proper establishment is very much felt in Launceston.

473. Do those persons stay long with you after their confinement? About a month, or a little more.

474. What becomes of them? Unfortunately, they are generally women of the town.

475. What becomes of the children? The mothers take them with them.

476. What was the ages of the girls? From 17 or 18 years and upwards.

477. Do ever the same girls come back for a second confinement? No; but I know a case where a girl had three illegitimate children, but only one was born in the establishment.

478. *By Mr. Hartnoll.*—What was the age of the youngest girl taken to the lying-in hospital? Seventeen years. I have known younger girls have children, but they have been provided for in the brothels.

479. *By the Chairman.*—Is it desirable for such girls to mix with the invalids? No, it is very undesirable.

480. Is it calculated to injure the girls' characters by mixing with a class of old criminals? It would rather injure the invalids; the girls are mostly on the town, and the invalids are a very superior class of old hands.

481. Have you not sent several invalids to Hobart lately? I have not sent any from my establishment. The former practice was when a number of applications were sent in from the country districts for me to forward a number from Launceston to Hobart to make room for the new-comers. That I objected to, as the new-comers generally were not clean, and I made arrangements for them to be sent direct to Hobart.

482. Have you good bath accommodation? Fair.

483. Have you good appliances for washing? We have no modern appliances whatever, and the old men had to wear their shirts for a fortnight last winter, as we had no means of drying the washing.

484. Is the conduct of the inmates generally as good as could be expected? Very good; no trouble is experienced. Occasionally the men get drink, and do not come home; those I have punished.

485. Do those employed get wages? Only the wardsmen.

486. If the invalids go out to work in summer time do they go out penniless? Yes; but very few go out unless they have employment to go to. I get them a free pass on the railway when necessary. If they were permitted to leave without having got work it would only cause expense to the Government to bring them back again.

487. Is there ever any delay in receiving persons into the dépôt? Never, when there is room for them. Country magistrates sometimes send them in without making enquiry, and when the dépôt is full, if we had not the gaol available, they would be destitute in Launceston. Certificates have, however, been sent to the country districts asking that enquiries be first made. One difficulty frequently arises—children of parents under sentence are ordered by magistrates, without legal authority, to be admitted to the gaol and left with their mothers. This is most inconvenient. Sometimes they are placed in the cells with mothers. When the parent is undergoing long sentence I have recommended that the children be farmed out. There is a want of accommodation for children of this kind. I had two of those cases within the last month.

488. With regard to magistrates sending cases to you which you consider undeserving, have you ever found them possessed of means enabling them to live alone? No; in some instances persons have been recommended by parties, but enquiries having been made regarding them have shown they had sons capable of supporting them outside the dépôt, and then they have been refused admittance. Where it is possible, I put men of a superior class by themselves.

489. Are there any suggestions you can make regarding the management of the dépôt under your charge? No. Some doubt has arisen in Launceston as to the power of the Chairman of the Benevolent Society in ordering admission to the dépôt. Some time ago a magistrate gave an order, and a man was admitted. This was found to be irregular, and an order had to come from the Police Magistrate. It was not distinctly stated that the parties were to be admitted and then referred to the Police Magistrate, and I misunderstood it. The matter was brought under the notice of the Department, who said I should admit the invalid to the dépôt, and then refer the matter to the Police Magistrate. This is merely to enable a record being kept, and no inconvenience is caused to the applicant.

490. Do you think it desirable that such a course should be taken? Yes; it is not to review the order, but merely to obtain a record.