

(No. 12.)



1864.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

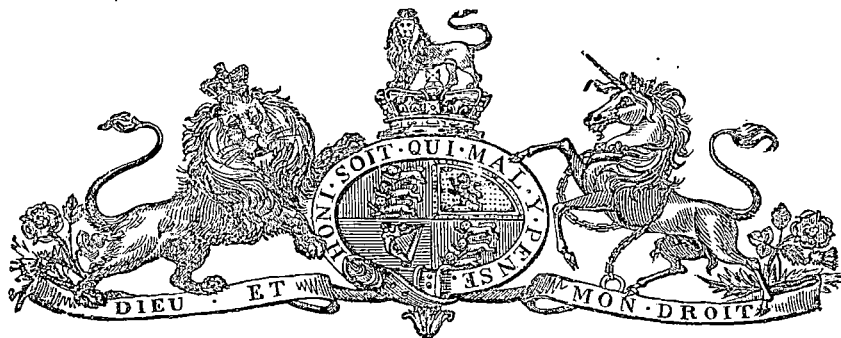
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V A C C I N A T I O N S.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT FOR 1863.

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Laid on the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
June 29, 1864.



*REPORT on VACCINATIONS for the Months of November and December, 1863.*

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Hobarton, 9th April, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, as "Superintendent of Vaccinations" for Tasmania, to lay before you a tabulated "Abstract of all the Vaccinations performed by the Public Vaccinators" appointed by the Government, during the two months of 1863 (November and December), which ensued after the Executive initiated a scheme for providing public gratuitous Vaccination for all persons desiring to avail themselves of the advantage. At the same time I also submit to you a tabulated "Abstract of all the Returns of Private Vaccinations" made by the Medical Practitioners in the Colony, in reply to a Circular from you soliciting such information.

It would be premature for me to enter into detailed comments on the data embodied in these tables, until a longer trial of the scheme in operation has taken place.

During the two months of November and December 1863, 2425 *public* Vaccinations were made, with generally satisfactory success. The *private* Returns add 404 to the foregoing, making a total of 2829. It is perhaps correct to presume that the 26 private Practitioners who failed to respond to the Circular soliciting a Return of their Vaccinations within these two months had not any to return, and thought it unnecessary, though very erroneously, to make a "*Nil*" Return.

The tables show that more than nine-tenths of the Vaccinations were above the age, before attaining which *The Vaccination Act* of Tasmania requires that children shall be vaccinated. Whole families have been brought to the Public Vaccinators for vaccination in every District in the Colony. In one case not one out of ten children in a family had been before vaccinated. The cases of families with two to seven children in each are numerous. This neglect, moreover, was not confined to Districts where a Medical Practitioner was not at hand, but is also quite as palpable in Hobart City and Launceston as in the most remote Rural Districts. The evidence, therefore, given to the Vaccination Committee of the House of Assembly of the general neglect of Vaccination is proved not to have been exaggerated. In one District, where it was stated in the House of Assembly that Vaccinations had regularly been kept up, I obtained direct proof that, for a period of seven years previous to the alarm of Small-pox, which arose from the news brought from England in June, 1863, no children had been vaccinated by the resident Medical Practitioner.

It is to be hoped that in future children throughout the Island will be submitted for Vaccination before they attain the age of six months, as the Tasmanian Act requires. The best medical testimony proves that at from two to six months of age Vaccination is most successful, and the virus in the best condition to propagate so as to ensure its full protective powers. Within this period of life the result is not liable to vitiation by teething or irregularities of diet, and the child runs less risk of danger than at a more advanced age.

The great majority of the Public Vaccinators have, in compliance with the "Privy Council Instructions," produced *four* perfect vesicles. That any Vaccinator should have been content to aim at producing fewer is much to be deplored, as the evidence on which the Privy Council grounded Clause 3—"Vaccinate by four or five separate punctures so as to produce four or five separate good sized vesicles; or, if you vaccinate otherwise than by separate punctures, take care to produce local effects equal to those just mentioned"—is perhaps the strongest instance of the value of numerical illustration that medical statistics has ever produced. Mr. Marson, the Medical Officer to the

Small-pox Hospital in London, has stated, "that in the course of his large experience he found that when Small-pox attacked persons who had not been vaccinated it killed 36 per cent. of them, that is, one in every three died; but when Vaccination had been performed, the death rate of those attacked by the disease fell to 6·76 per cent., or to one in every 15. And more remarkable still, he found that the protective power of Vaccination was in proportion to the way in which it had been done. If, after the operation, there remained permanently on the arm but one scar or cicatrix, the mortality from the disease was 7·57 per cent.; if two scars, 4·13 per cent.; if three, 1·85 per cent.; and if four scars, not one in a hundred died, the mortality being only 0·74 per cent. But then, again, not all who have been merely cut in the arm and, as they think, vaccinated, are protected; for though the operation may have been done in infancy, if no scar remains, 22 per cent. will die if they catch the disease."

To all the Vaccinators whose Returns showed that they did not habitually attempt to produce the full number of vesicles required by the Privy Council Instructions, a printed copy of which had been supplied to each for guidance, I wrote, drawing their attention to Clause 3, and furnishing them with the above data from the Small-pox Hospital. From nearly all I have received satisfactory replies, signifying their intention to endeavour to produce four vesicles at least in their future operations.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. SWARBRECK HALL,

*Superintendent of Vaccinations.*

*To the Honorable JAMES WHYTE, Esq., M.L.C.,  
Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.*



ABSTRACT of the Returns of PRIVATE VACCINATIONS in TASMANIA, from the 1st November to 31st December, 1863.

Place.	Name of Medical Practitioner.	Number of Cases operated upon within this Period, specifying the Proportions under and over Six Months.			Number of the foregoing seen on the Eighth Day after Vaccination.	Number where the Results were in every respect successful.	Remarks.
		Under Six Months old.	Over Six Months old.	TOTAL.			
Hobarton .....	Richards, Thomas .....	—	—	Nil.			
Ditto .....	Doughty, John .....	—	—	Nil.			
Ditto .....	Wiffen, E. H. ....	30	7	37	15	10	
Ditto .....	Agnew, J. W. ....	—	10	10	—	10	
Ditto .....	Bright, R. S. ....	2	1	3	1	Nil.	1 indifferent, 2 not seen.
Ditto .....	Hall, E. S. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Public Vaccinator.
Ditto .....	Smart, T. C. ....	—	—	Nil.			
Lanunceston .....	Ozanne, J. ....	—	3	3	3	3	
Ditto .....	Miller, J. L. ....	—	—	Nil.			
Green Ponds .....	Pocock, Z. P. ....	—	4	4	4	4	Public Vaccinator.
Ditto .....	Hope, J. S. ....	—	54	54	34	22	
Sorell .....	Westbrook, S. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Longford .....	Donlevy, J. E. ....	—	7	7	7	7	
Fingal .....	Pilgrim, E. W. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Westbury .....	M'Creery, William .....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Oatlands .....	Teush, F. E. ....	1	2	3	2	2	
Ditto .....	Willes, C. N. J. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Deloraine .....	Rock, D. ....	1	2	3	3	3	Ditto had 264 private vaccinations from 18 June to 31 Oct.
Glamorgan .....	M'Carthy, E. C. ....	1	2	3	3	2	
George Town .....	Richardson, J. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Tasman's Peninsula .....	Seccombe, W. ....	2	12	14	nearly all.	5	
Spring Bay .....	Edwards, J. ....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Campbell Town & Ross ..	Macnamara, J. ....	—	14	14	14	14	Ditto.
Torquay, Port Sorell .....	Wilkinson, F. ....	—	32	32	32	29	Ditto.
Table Cape & Emu Bay ..	Wilson, Thomas .....	5	49	54	54	54	Ditto.
New Norfolk .....	Moore, — .....	—	—	Nil.	—	—	Ditto.
Ditto .....	Huston, G. F. ....	ages unknown.		30	30	29	Public Vaccinator after 30 Nov.
Franklin .....	Dawson, W. L. ....	10	120	130	85	130 nearly all	
Great Swanport .....	Story, G. F. ....	—	—	Nil.			
Bothwell .....	Campbell, W. ....	—	3	3	3	3	
	TOTAL .....	52	322	404	290	327	

E. SWARBRECK HALL, Superintendent of Vaccinations.

N.B.—There are 56 Medical Practitioners returned by the "Court of Medical Examiners;" therefore 26 have not responded to the Circular sent to them by the Colonial Secretary on this subject.



## TASMANIA from the 1st November to 31st December, 1863.

WITH—					TOTAL POPULATION BY CENSUS APRIL, 1861.	BIRTHS REGIS- TERED.		REMARKS.
5	6	7	10	Total Families.		In all 1862.	1863 to Sept. 30.	
..	..	..	..	18	2794 including Hamilton.	27	37	Obtained five supplies of Lymph from different sources; the last, from Superintendent of Vaccinations, 4 Dec., successful.
4	1	1	..	68	2808	78	60	A large number of those who "Did not return" were prevented by the floods. In every case it was ascertained that they were successful. The unsuccessful were 5 re-vaccinations and 6 not perfect, vesicles being small, and late. Received Lymph from the Superintendent of Vaccinations. 26 November, and was successful with it. "Private Vaccinators very numerous previous to the Government scheme."
1	..	..	..	36	2549	92	60	
..	..	..	..	..	1552	43	27	
10	4	3	..	244	3114	126	104	"28 of the unsuccessful were mostly vaccinated from capillary tubes. The 99 'Did not return,' caused by weather, distance, and Boxing-day."
1	..	..	..	68	5416 Devon.	41	22	"All successful." Number of vesicles not stated.
2	1	..	1	37	See Franklin.	27	22	"10 of the 12" 'Did not return;" reported successful. No tidings of the other 2.
..	..	..	..	39	1956	60	49	Vaccinated, with a fresh supply of Lymph obtained from the Superintendent of Vaccinations, 9 Dec. 1863. The results have been very satisfactory as in the majority of cases "the vesicles have all been perfect."
..	..	..	..	19	2579 See Esperance	72	66	Not appointed until 30 Nov. 130 private vaccinations in Nov. and Dec. Lymph supplied by Superintendent of Vaccinations: could not be better.
..	..	..	..	..	1350	30	15	
1	1	..	..	22	1168	56	29	Of 6 "Did not return," 3 prevented by floods; all believed to have succeeded. One puncture in each arm only in any case. All but 3 vaccinated from Lymph obtained from Superintendent of Vaccinations, 14 Nov.
..	..	..	..	..	See Kingborough	27	24	
..	..	..	..	3	See Bothwell	63	30	Dr. Leech, the late Medical Practitioner at Hamilton, told me that previous to the alarm of Small-pox in June, no vaccinations had been performed for seven years. Between June and 1st Nov. about 40 were vaccinated.
..	..	..	..	8	See Devon	45	41	"Only commenced 23 Nov."
..	..	..	..	..	3454 Kingborough	37	23	
Not specified	..	..	..	..	5359 Ringwood & Norfolk Plns.	100	125	Previous to public appointment vaccinated 100 to 150, all perfect.
..	..	..	..	..	2638	94	44	
Not specified	..	..	..	80	2690	84	51	From 4 Aug. 1863 to Oct. 26, 116 had been vaccinated.
2	..	..	..	45	2333	80	65	18 of the unsuccessful since vaccinated with Lymph obtained from the Superintendent of Vaccinations and successful. 264 private vaccinations between 18 June and 31 Oct. Only 9 of them under 6 months old.
..	..	..	..	..	See Kingborough	41	32	
..	..	..	..	3	See Devon	140	122	Only appointed Public Vaccinator late in the year. Had 32 private vaccinations in Nov. and Dec.
..	..	..	..	..	See Clarence	10	11	
..	..	..	..	..	1608	55	34	
..	..	..	..	41	4111 Sorell, Spring Bay, Tas- man's Penin.	79	39	"Four separate punctures will in future be made. Some parents object to more than two."
5	..	4	..	61	See Sorell	37	26	"82 private vaccinations from 1 Jan. 1861 to 1 Jan. 1862."
..	..	..	..	..	Ditto	16	13	
..	..	..	..	..	See Kingborough	12	17	
7	3	4	..	183	4585	161	99	"Most of those entered "Did not return" were seen subsequently to the 8th day, and appeared good."
1	..	..	..	35	24,773 Hobart, City, Glenorchy, Queenboro.	865	657	The 2 "unsuccessful" were re-vaccinations. From the beginning of June, on receipt of intelligence of Small-pox prevailing in London, great numbers were vaccinated by the Medical Practitioners, at the Public Hospital, and by other persons.
Not specified	..	..	..	..	13,140 Launceston and Selby	461	370	
					89,977	3149	2314	

E. SWARBRECK HALL, Superintendent of Vaccinations.

JAMES BARNARD,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.