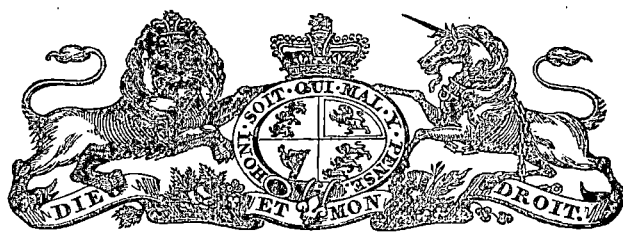


(No. 24.)



1894.

---

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

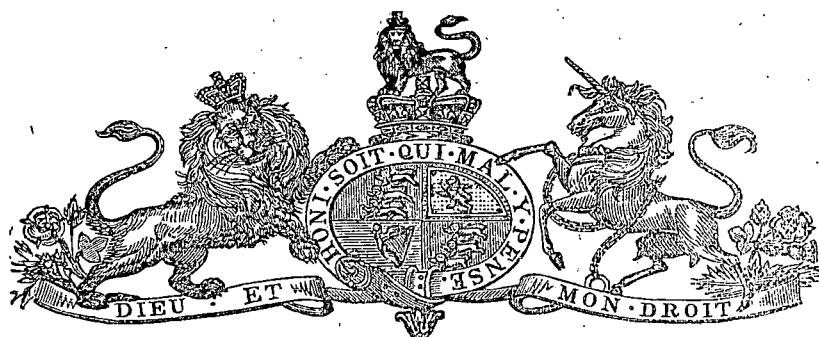
---

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICER:

REPORT FOR **1893.**

---

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



## GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT, 1893.

*Medical Department, 25th February, 1894.*

SIR,

As the Government Medical Officer, I have the honor to submit my Annual Report for the year 1893.

The several duties allotted to me have kept me constantly engaged throughout the year. These duties are as follows:—Medical Officer to the New Town Charitable Institution, Visiting Medical Officer to the Sick Poor of Hobart, Health Officer for the Port of Hobart, Medical Officer to the Territorial Police, Member of and Medical Adviser to the Central Board of Health, Chairman of the Board of Official Visitors, Hospital for the Insane.

As Medical Officer to the New Town Charitable Institution I make frequent visits weekly, besides daily communicating by telephone to ascertain the condition of the patients during my absence.

I append a return of the number of cases treated and the number of prescriptions made up at the dispensary of the Institution during the year, which will show the amount of the medical work performed from month to month, and this return will also indicate the fluctuation in amount of sickness according to the season of the year. The greatest mortality will be seen to have occurred during the wintry months—May to August—when bronchitic affections mostly prevail. The special cases mentioned in the return are new cases that first come to the dispensary for treatment, or who take to their beds for the first time, and require careful treatment.

The number of prescriptions show the medicines prescribed for all cases of sickness, and repeated from time to time.

There were five cases of cancer during the year, three being females and two males.

The health generally of the inmates during the year was exceptionally good, there having been no severe epidemics to cause a large mortality. Some few cases of measles occurred, principally amongst the children in the female division, and two of the attendants on the male side alone had it; but all the patients suffering from this disease made a good recovery.

As Visiting Medical Officer to the Poor in Hobart at their own homes, I was kept unusually busy every month throughout the year, as the cases were more numerous than in any previous year. The epidemic of measles, which began in September and continued more or less until the close of the year, of course largely increased the work of visiting, and at times it was almost impossible to visit every case daily and attend to other duties as well. However, all the cases of measles, as a rule, did well. The epidemic, fortunately, was of a very mild form.

The total number of cases for whom I received orders to attend reached a total of 714, being 300 cases more than in the previous year; and the number of prescriptions made up at the Hospital dispensary for these patients amounted to 4205, which shows a large increase upon the number of the previous year.

As Health Officer for the Port of Hobart I was called upon on several occasions to examine the passengers and crew of vessels arriving from infected ports. In May smallpox appeared mysteriously in Western Australia, and continued to spread in that Colony, until no less than 24 cases occurred, and several deaths from this disease. In consequence of this outbreak a proclamation was issued under "The Quarantine Act," bringing that Act into operation with respect to any vessel arriving at this Colony from Western Australia. Although no direct communication was

anticipated between Western Australia and this Colony, still there was great danger of the disease spreading to the neighbouring Colonies and so to Tasmania, unless stringent measures were carried out to limit its spread. That such precautions were required will be seen from the carelessness displayed by authorities with regard to patients recently recovered from smallpox, as shown by the following telegram published in the local paper:—"Vessel arrived in Melbourne from Western Australia having on board a passenger discharged from the hospital at Perth who is still desquamating from smallpox on the hands and feet. The vessel is in quarantine."

The Regulations of the Order in Council enjoined that should any vessel with a clean bill of health arrive from Western Australia, pratique was not to be granted until 21 clear days had expired from the time it left that Colony, and if there were any case of smallpox on board the vessel was to be sent into quarantine, and be there detained until 21 days shall have elapsed from the termination of the last case of the disease.

The Quarantine Station for the south of this Colony is at Barnes's Bay, Bruni Island.

In the month of June information was received that measles were very prevalent in Victoria. As no cases of measles previous to the receipt of this information had been reported in Hobart, it was considered advisable to do all in one's power to check its introduction into this Colony by medical inspection of the passengers and crew of vessels coming from Victoria.

Accordingly, an Order in Council was issued on 27th June, notifying that the Colony of Victoria was infected with measles and as it was probable that this disease might be brought to Tasmania, the following Regulations were ordered:—

1. Every vessel arriving at any port in Tasmania from the Colony of Victoria shall be detained for medical inspection, and no person shall land therefrom until inspected and granted permission by the Health Officer.
2. If any person on board such vessel be in the opinion of the Health Officer infected with measles, such person shall not be allowed to land except for removal to a public hospital.
3. All means ordered by the Health Officer for the disinfection of the vessel, or for the disinfection of any baggage, clothing, bedding, or other effects, or for the prevention of the spread of infection, shall be duly carried out by the master of the vessel.

Several vessels from Victoria were accordingly boarded immediately upon their arrival and everyone on board inspected, but no trace of measles was discovered. It was ascertained, however, that in the meanwhile several cases of measles had been introduced from New Zealand as well as from Melbourne previously to the issue of the proclamation, but which had not developed until after that date; consequently it was considered to be futile to continue the medical inspection of vessels. The proclamation was, in consequence, revoked on 19th July.

The epidemic of cholera which had so extensively prevailed in Europe during the previous year again assumed alarming proportions, but, happily, no vessels arrived in Hobart bringing the contagion.

As Chairman of the Board of Official Visitors to the Hospitals for Insane at New Norfolk and Hobart, my time was daily occupied in attending to the correspondence connected with these institutions, and in supervising the many details of their management. Visits of inspection were frequently made to the Hospitals for Insane both at New Norfolk and at Hobart, reports of which were duly sent to the Hon. the Chief Secretary, in accordance with the provisions of the Insane Hospitals Act.

On the 1st of December 27 patients of the Hobart Hospital for the Insane were transferred to the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, and the remaining patient was transferred to the New Town Charitable Institution at the beginning of this year, thus closing this establishment.

As Member of and Medical Adviser to the Central Board of Health, matters pertaining to hygiene constantly engaged my attention throughout the year.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. E. BARNARD, M.D., *Government Medical Officer.*

*The Honorable the Chief Secretary.*

RETURN showing Medical Work at the New Town Charitable Institution during the Year 1893.

Date.	Male Division.			Female Division.		
	No. of Deaths.	Special Cases.	No. of Prescriptions.	No. of Deaths.	Special Cases.	No. of Prescriptions.
January.....	7	85	724	1	24	244
February.....	9	53	529	5	31	270
March.....	5	119	764	—	41	204
April.....	5	90	703	6	34	276
May.....	15	100	768	2	47	298
June.....	13	70	627	2	34	256
July.....	9	68	746	2	42	282
August.....	14	62	578	—	13	282
September.....	5	51	502	4	25	319
October.....	6	57	449	1	33	312
November.....	3	75	519	2	29	300
December.....	5	58	487	3	36	314
TOTAL.....	96	888	7396	28	389	3354