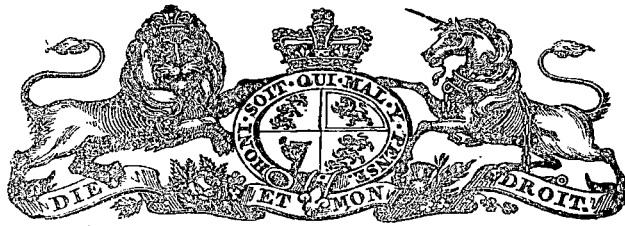


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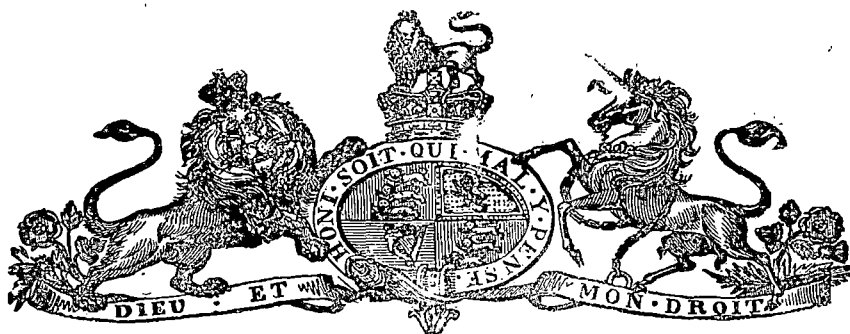
1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

V A C C I N A T I O N :

REPORT FOR 1884.

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



ANNUAL REPORT on VACCINATION, for the Year 1884.

Vaccination Office, 1st May, 1885.

DURING the past year the number of Vaccinations throughout the Island were not nearly so great as from the fact of smallpox being prevalent in the adjacent Colonies it was anticipated that they would be.

Both in Victoria and New South Wales smallpox prevailed (occasionally to a serious extent) during nearly the whole year.

On former occasions, when smallpox made its appearance in any of the neighbouring Colonies the people of Tasmania, fearing its probable speedy introduction into the Island, presented themselves in large numbers at the Vaccination Depôts. But, during the last year, although smallpox existed to a greater extent than it had hitherto done on the continent, and although its presence in both Victoria and New South Wales at the same time rendered its introduction into Tasmania more imminent than under previous outbreaks, nothing like a panic ensued; but on the other hand, the same indifference to the protection of their children which characterises the lower class of the community when no fear of the introduction of the disease exists, prevailed also under these more serious conditions. It appears as though former alarms, which had passed away unattended by any adverse circumstances, had rendered the public callous to danger,—in short, that familiarity had produced its proverbial effect.

Another circumstance which tended to lessen the number of vaccinations performed during the year, was the illness of the Southern Vaccinator, who was incapacitated for the performance of his duties by a severe attack of acute rheumatism, which lasted for about three months.

As 1884 was the second year in which the system of itinerant vaccination was being carried out, it may perhaps be considered that that system is to be blamed for the somewhat unsatisfactory number of vaccinations performed. This, however, is not the case; for no system of vaccination can possibly succeed if the public are so obstinate, or so indifferent, that they will not take their children to the Public Vaccinators. The Compulsory Act is not enforced with sufficient stringency. There appears to be a disinclination on the part of many of the Superintendents of Police to prosecute defaulters; and when prosecutions do take place the penalties inflicted by the Magistrates are usually so trivial that they prove of little value as a warning to others. Never until the present Clauses of the Act are carried out with such stringency as to convince the public that the authorities are in earnest, will any system of vaccination be successful. If the people are compelled to take their children to the Vaccinators, the community would speedily be placed in such a state of protection that if smallpox should at any time be introduced it would have no chance of spreading. The number of births throughout the Island is about four thousand (4000); of these at least fifteen hundred (1500) are children of the better classes, who are taken to private practitioners for vaccination; so that two thousand five hundred (2500) only would be left for the two itinerant Vaccinators, and the Superintendent of Vaccinations, who vaccinates all applicants from Hobart and the suburbs.

The two thousand five hundred divided, amongst the three operators, would give to each fifteen cases only weekly,—whereas ten times that number could be vaccinated by them without unduly taxing their energies.

It may thus be seen that the system itself is perfectly efficient for its purpose, the only difficulty being to get the children to the Vaccinators; and this, as I have before stated, can only be done by enforcing strictly the penal provisions of the Compulsory Vaccination Act.

Although a large number of persons object to a Compulsory Act, there can be no doubt not only as to its desirability, but as to its absolute necessity.

At the late Sanitary Conference held at Sydney, the members were unanimous in recommending that a Compulsory Act should be adopted by all the Australian Colonies, as the only means of preventing the spread of smallpox.

Contrasting those countries where vaccination is carefully carried out with those where it is neglected, or but carelessly attended to, the results are very marked, and should be sufficient to convince the most rabid anti-vaccinist of the great benefits derived from the operation. Whereas in the latter communities the mortality from smallpox forms a considerable percentage of the total mortality, we learn from recent statistics that in the Prussian army (where vaccination and re-vaccination are carefully and systematically carried out), for the last five years not a single death from smallpox had occurred.

Notwithstanding that the number of vaccinations performed during the past year have not been so great as could be desired, I would respectfully recommend that the present system of itinerant vaccination should be continued, as I am convinced that if the penal Clauses of the Compulsory Vaccination Act are strictly enforced, the system is quite adequate for the purpose of placing the whole Island in a state of protection should smallpox be unfortunately introduced.

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Superintendent of Vaccinations.*

VACCINATION Return for Tasmania for 1884.

<i>Registration District of—</i>	<i>Name of Public Vaccinator.</i>	<i>Date of Vaccination.</i>	<i>Total Vaccinated.</i>	<i>At and under 6 Months old.</i>	<i>6 Months to 12 Months.</i>	<i>One Year and upwards.</i>	<i>Returned on 8th Day.</i>	<i>Entirely successful.</i>	<i>Partially successful.</i>	<i>Entirely unsuccessful.</i>
Northern Division of the Island	Dr. Davis	1884	482	69	112	301	482	482		
Southern Division of the Island	Dr. Willes.....	1884	764	55	237	472	705	661	10	34
Hobart	Dr. G. Turnley ...	1884	402	35	52	315	374	374		
			1648	159	401	1088	1561	1517	10	34

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Superintendent of Vaccinations.*