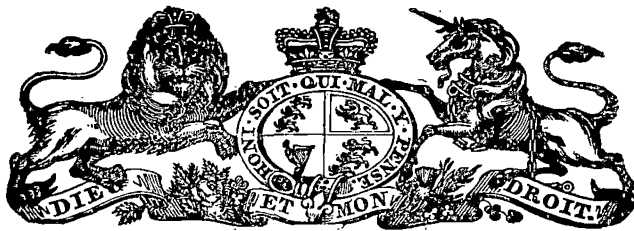


(No. 51.)



1901.

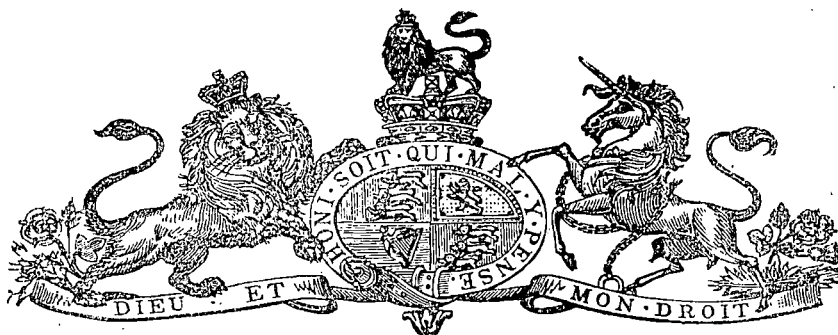
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH:

REPORT FOR 1900.

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

Cost of printing—£8 5s. 6d.



CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1900.

To the Honourable the Chief Secretary.

SIR,

WE have the honour to submit to you the following Report of the Work of this Department for the year 1900, in carrying out the Public Health Acts, the Vaccination Act, the Quarantine Act, and such parts of the Cemeteries Acts, the Chinese Immigration Act, and the Licensing Act, as relate to the public health.

CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

1. During the year, the Hon. W. Moore, M.E.C., M.L.C., on account of ill-health, resigned his seat on, and his Presidency of, the Board. The remaining members of the Board placed on record their sense of the loss sustained by the retirement of Mr. Moore, and their appreciation of the many services he had rendered to the country by his attention to the administration of the Health Acts, and their personal sense of the courtesy he always displayed in his intercourse with them. The vacancy on the Board and in its Presidency were filled up by the Administrator in Council appointing you to be a member and President on the 22nd September. In consequence of the great accession of work caused by the administration of the Vaccination and Quarantine Acts, Mr. C. E. Findlay was appointed an additional clerk.

LEGISLATION.

2. No alteration was made during the year in any of the Statutes administered by the Board; but, during the discussions in the Legislative Council of the portion of the Local Government Statute having reference to the Public Health administration in the State, we called your attention to the undesirability of constituting a Central Board of Health in any manner that could impair its independence of all local and other political influences. We were glad to note that the proposals in the Bill that, in our opinion, tended in the direction we objected to, were rejected or modified while passing through the Committee of the Council.

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS OF THE OTHER STATES.

3. The occurrence of bubonic plague in the other Australian States necessitated a great increase of intercommunication, and we have to acknowledge with thanks the readiness with which all information asked for was given, and the courtesy with which requests for assistance were received. In particular, we have to thank the Health Department of Victoria for sparing us some of Haffkine's prophylactic for use before the arrival of our supply from Bombay, and at a time when there was an urgent demand for it in Melbourne. The usual interchange of reports and information relative to general health matters was made with all the other States.

COLONIAL OFFICE, LONDON.

4. We received, through your office, some valuable papers and reports on matters relative to the prevention and treatment of plague in India, Egypt, and elsewhere, and the records of the inquiries being made as to the connection of rats with its causation. At the request of His Excellency the Administrator, we forwarded a report on the measures we took to distribute Professor Simpson's memorandum on this connection, and the work that was being done all over the State to secure, as far as practicable, the extermination of the vermin, and more particularly at the outports,

MELBOURNE PLAGUE CONFERENCE.

5. A conference, called together by the Government of Victoria, at the request of the Government of South Australia, for the purpose of considering what common action should be taken by the Colonies to prevent the spread of bubonic plague, of which one case had occurred at Adelaide, and more than a hundred cases at Sydney, was held at Melbourne, on the 11th, 12th, and 13th April, 1900, and, by adjournment, at Sydney, on the 15th April. The Tasmanian Government appointed Mr. Mault, our Secretary, to be its delegate, together with Dr. Sprott, Officer of Health of Hobart, and Mr. L. S. Holmes, Port Health Officer of Launceston. These gentlemen sent in a Report to you, accompanied with the Official Report of the Proceedings of the Conference, both of which reports have been presented to Parliament. (Parliamentary Paper, No. 20, 1901.)

BUBONIC PLAGUE IN AUSTRALIA.

6. On the 17th January, we were notified of a case at Adelaide that was there considered to be one of plague; but, as considerable doubt existed, we, in common with all the other Australian Health Authorities, contented ourselves with observing strict watchfulness, and instructed all Port Health Officers to board and inspect all vessels arriving from South Australia, and, if necessary, to take action under the provisions of the 14th Section of the Quarantine Act, 1881, which authorises dealing with infected vessels and persons arriving from unproclaimed ports.

On the 7th March, special regulations were issued, setting forth the conditions under which ships from infected places would be permitted to berth in Tasmanian ports, and they were framed with the object of preventing the migration of rats from the vessels to the land. On the 8th March, a circular was issued to all Local Health Authorities with information as to the usual manner of the propagation of plague, and the best measures to be taken to prevent its spread, and charging them to do all in their power to have these measures carried out.

In the meantime, plague got fairly established in some parts of Sydney, so that, on the 27th March, New South Wales was proclaimed under the Quarantine Act as infected, and an Order in Council issued, containing regulations to be observed by vessels, persons, and things coming thence to Tasmania. These regulations were based on the articles, as far as they were applicable to Australia, of the Venice Convention of 1897, and entirely accord with its spirit. In order to carry out the regulations with regard to the inspection of persons coming from infected places, medical officers were engaged throughout the State to make a daily inspection of all passengers landed during the time considered to be the incubatory period of the disease. The Port Health Officers were instructed to make a daily inspection of all on board the vessels during their stay in Tasmanian waters; and deputy Health Officers were also appointed to the ports of Hobart and Launceston.

On the day on which the proclamation was issued, there was also issued a general circular to all Local Boards of Health, Health Officers, Marine Boards, shipowners and masters, and all others concerned, calling special attention to the regulations, and, in particular, those parts of them that came within the sphere of their respective powers and duties; and giving advice and instructions relative to disinfection, both of persons, things, houses, and ships, and, with respect to the latter, the measures that should be taken on board, both while in port and during the voyage.

At the same time, general preparations were made for dealing with the plague, should it appear in Tasmania, including the provision of proper means of isolation at the Barnes Bay Quarantine Station, the supply of a quantity of Haffkine's prophylactic, and the necessary hypodermic syringes, from the Indian Government Laboratory at Bombay, and an arrangement for securing bacteriological examination at the Melbourne University laboratories for the determination of the true character of all doubtful cases.

During the time that the Regulations were strictly enforced, a few suspicious cases occurred that were put under observation—one each at Hobart, Launceston, Queenstown, and Gormanston. The Launceston case was that of one of the crew of the *Wakatipu*, who had been shipped at Sydney, and on arrival at Launceston presented some symptoms which induced the Health Officer to send him into isolation, with a doctor, nursing staff, and attendant, on an island in the Tamar, just below the city, where were huts belonging to the Marine Board, and where he was kept till all doubt as to the case not being one of plague were at an end.

By the middle of July, the condition of things with regard to plague had so far improved in the other Australian States that we were enabled to discontinue the inspection and daily supervision of passengers and crews. During the period in which the regulations were carried out, over 5000 inspections of passengers, and 9100 of persons belonging to the crews of vessels, were made. Some difficulty was occasionally experienced with passengers, such as miners and prospectors, who went off at once, after landing, into the bush; but these cases were very rare, and we had the comfort of knowing that they were not coming into contact with many, and were virtually in very complete isolation.

The total amount of the special expenditure made through this department in connection with the precautions taken against plague during the year 1900, was £1634 18s. 9d., no portion of which was received by our secretary or clerks, although their work was greatly increased. In addition to this, accounts for £415 7s. 10d., expended by the Works Department on isolation and quarantine works, were recorded by us, but the greater part of this was for permanent work required for every kind of quarantined disease, and not specially for plague.

No case of plague occurred in Tasmania during the year, and, we are sorry to add, that this State was the only Australian one that could record this.

RAT EXTERMINATION.

7. Early in May, arrangements, before referred to, for the systematic destruction of rats throughout Tasmania, were made at all the outports. Special Committees were appointed, one-third of the members of which were appointed by Government, one-third by the Local Board of Health, and one-third by the Marine Board of each place, and their expenditure was met in equal shares by the three appointing bodies. These Committees were formed at Hobart, Launceston, Devonport, Ulverstone, Burnie, Stanley, and Strahan. The Hobart Committee, in their report, which has been presented to Parliament (Parliamentary Paper, No. 6, 1901), estimated that they had destroyed over 20,000 rats, of which 13,993 had been burnt, and the rest poisoned and carried away by the tide. From the other committees we did not receive complete accounts of the numbers destroyed; but from such returns as were received, we estimate that about 10,000 more were destroyed. The total amount expended on this service was £737 18s. 7d., of which the Government paid £245 19s. 7d.

PARLIAMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH PURPOSES.

8. We regret that Parliament thought fit to make no increased provision for the administration of the Health Acts, although the work of the Central Board has greatly increased with regard to all branches—that connected with Quarantine and Vaccination alone having doubled the office work of the year. We further think that the time has arrived to give all Local Boards of Health some rating powers, and at the same time to make them elected bodies. By this procedure all would be put on an equal footing as regards means for properly carrying out their duty, whereas at present some few, usually through the influence of their Parliamentary representatives, have secured small grants, while others have no provision made for them, and, consequently, are often hindered from performing necessary work, and are greatly discouraged. We are frequently asked for assistance; but, as the whole vote for all contingencies, including travelling expenses, stationery, disinfectants, special medical fees, and all incidental expenses, is only £136 a year, we are unable to help.

DEPARTMENTAL WORK.

Districts Without Local Boards of Health.

9. The following districts are still without Local Boards of Health:—Mersey, Russell, Selby, the Straits Islands, and Tasman Peninsula—and, consequently, we are acting therein as Local Board, under the provisions of the 6th Section of "The Public Health Act, 1887."

New Local Boards of Health.

10. In the Health District of Hamilton-on-Forth and Don, the Local Board, which had ceased to act for some years, was resuscitated, and new members appointed. The Local Board of Health of Rural Scottsdale was also revived, the members of the Town Board of Scottsdale being appointed members. A Health District of Lynchford was separated from the still too large Health District of Macquarie, and the members of the Town Board of Queenstown appointed Local Board of Health. The Health District of Emu Bay, formerly part of Burnie, was also proclaimed, and a Local Board of Health appointed, consisting of the members of the Town Board of Burnie.

Official Inspections.

11. Official inspections were made during the year by our Engineering Inspector (sometimes accompanied by members of the Board), at Barnes Bay, Beltana, Burnie, Deloraine, Devonport, Glenorchy, Gormanston, Interlaken (Clyde water supply), Latrobe, Launceston, Lindisfarne, Longford, Macquarie, Middle Island, Mount Lyell, Mount Stuart, New Town (3), Pig Island (Tamar), Queenstown, Rural Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Sorell, Sorrento, Strahan, Ulverstone, Verulam (Launceston) 4, and Zeehan.

Special Inquiries.

12. Special inquiries with regard to complaints made to us of the action of the Local Boards of Health, or an appeal made to us against their decisions, were held at Latrobe, Glebetown, Derby, Launceston, Stanley, and Hamilton on Forth. The inquiry at Launceston was on an appeal made to us under the provisions of the 96th Section of the Public Health Act, 1885, against a decision of the Local Board of Health of that city, giving permission to the proprietor of a tannery to add to and extend the buildings of the tannery. We upheld the decision of the Local Board, conditionally on the amendment and amplification of its by-laws, so as to give fuller powers of inspection and control of all offensive trades. These by-laws have been made.

Public Buildings.

13. Plans and specifications were received and examined, and the completed edifices inspected, and allowed to be opened to the public, for fifteen public buildings, under the provisions of the 114th Section of the Public Health Act. These included six churches, one each at Beaconsfield, Launceston, Lilydale, Queenstown, Scottsdale, and Upper Piper; three hospitals, one each at Evandale, Launceston, and Queenstown; three public halls, one each at Gormanston, Pillinger, and Ulverstone; and three circuses, at Hobart.

Isolation Hospitals.

14. No special provision has yet been made at Hobart for the reception of infectious cases, other than plague or small-pox, and, therefore, such cases have been treated at the General Hospital, when

accommodation could be found. We would again express our conviction that such diseases as diphtheria, scarlatina, and measles cannot be controlled unless means exist of isolation for all cases immediately they occur, and we urgently recommend that the Parliamentary grant for providing such means should be used without further delay. For the treatment of cases of plague or small-pox, should they, unfortunately, be brought into the State, considerable sums have been spent to make the Quarantine Hospital at Barnes Bay, and the Isolation Hospital at Verulam, immediately available for Hobart and Launceston respectively—the latter not being for sea-borne cases.

Noxious Trades Area.

15. During the year, acting under the provisions of the 15th Section of the Public Health Act of 1889, we advised the Governor in Council to proclaim 500 acres of land around the proposed smelting works of the North Mount Lyell Copper Company, in the Health District of Macquarie, to be a noxious trades area, for the purposes of the said Act; and the area was proclaimed accordingly.

Disinfectants.

16. During the year, disinfectants were supplied, as usual, to all Local Boards of Health making application for them.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

General Condition.

17. The general condition of public health in 1900 showed a marked improvement on that of the preceding year, the death-rate being 11.31 to the thousand living, as compared with 12.25 in 1899.* This is very satisfactory, as the population in this last-named year was over-estimated, and, consequently, the percentage of deaths under-estimated. The death-rate for the year 1900 is the lowest ever recorded in Tasmania.

Notification of Diseases.

18. During the year, 635 cases of notifiable diseases were reported to us. An Appendix to this Report shows the distribution of the cases of typhoid fever, diphtheria, and scarlet fever included in the above number; and the attached plan has the location of the cases reported from the City of Hobart marked upon it, and also the place where deaths occurred of infants under one year of age.

Typhoid Fever.

19. There were 320 cases of typhoid fever notified, with 31 deaths, as compared with 294 cases notified, with 46 deaths, in 1899. As we pointed out in our last Report, the number of notifications in 1899 was, undoubtedly, erroneous, but, in 1900, the number was probably correct. For the second year in succession, this fever was both absolutely and relatively more prevalent at Queenstown than anywhere else in the State. Two other mining communities, Beaconsfield and Derby, had also exceptionally large numbers of typhoid cases, and all three of these places suffer in common from pollution of their water supplies. The type of disease had assumed a milder form than in the two preceding years, as the rate of case mortality fell to 9.8 per cent.

Diphtheria.

20. There were 75 cases of diphtheria notified, with 7 deaths, as compared with 104 cases and 19 deaths recorded in 1899; so the disease was of milder type.

Scarlet Fever.

21. Scarlet fever is, apparently, dying out, 231 cases being reported, with 6 deaths, against 620 cases, with 15 deaths, reported in 1899.

Measles, and Whooping Cough.

22. Only 9 cases of measles were notified to us, and no deaths therefrom were registered. Whooping cough is not included among the notifiable diseases. It was rather prevalent, but less so than during the previous year. There were 21 deaths registered as caused by it in 1900, as compared with 54 in 1899.

Influenza.

23. Influenza was still very prevalent during the year, but not to the extent recorded in the previous year. There were 35 deaths registered as caused by it, as compared with 58 in 1899.

Phthisis.

24. There was again a slight diminution in the mortality from phthisis, 97 deaths being registered as caused by it, in comparison with 101 in 1899. This is the lowest death-rate from the disease ever recorded in Tasmania. We distributed some thousands of copies of the poster and pamphlet we referred to in our last Report.

Cancer.

25. The deaths of 51 men and 43 women were registered during the year as attributed to cancer. This does not modify the opinion expressed in our last Report as to the gradual augmentation in Tasmania of mortality from cancer. The relative mortality caused by the disease in the two sexes was the reverse of that usually recorded, the deaths of men being more numerous than those of women.

* All these figures, though accurate enough for purposes of comparison with former years, are subject to some correction, as all the calculations connected with the Census of 1901 are not yet completed.

Infant Mortality.

26. The returns of the deaths registered during 1900 of children of one year old and under are eminently satisfactory, and show a great diminution from the exceptional mortality of the preceding year, and are the lowest in ratio to the population ever recorded in Tasmania. The total number of these deaths registered was 389, as compared with 543 in 1899, and 531 in 1898. This gives a death-rate of 20.32 per cent. of all the deaths, as against 24.65 per cent. in 1899, and of 7.93 per cent. of all the births, as compared with 11.60 per cent. in 1899. The rates were in

Hobart.....	73 deaths of infants	= 13.3 per cent. of all the deaths, and	8.8 per cent. of all the births there
Launceston ...	65 "	= 18.5 " "	10.3 "
Country	251 "	= 24.8 " "	7.3 "

Launceston, reversing the order of last year, shows the least improvement.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

27. We regret to record that the Local Board of Health of Ringarooma has again made default with regard to furnishing us with returns of its proceedings during 1900.

There are now 79 Health Districts in the State, of which 21 are administered by Municipal Councils, 21 by Town Boards, and 37 by Boards nominated by the Governor in Council—the last-named having no rating power. Of the 37, five are administered by us, as before mentioned.

Officers of Health.

28. Of the 79 Health Districts, only 30 have Officers of Health, and of the 30 those of Beaconsfield, Burnie, Dalrymple, Gormanston, Mount Lyell, and New Norfolk were appointed by the Local Boards of those districts, and approved by us during the year.

By-laws.

29. During the year, we confirmed By-laws duly made and published by the Local Boards of Health of Devonport, Mount Lyell, Oatlands, and Strahan. Fifty-three of the Local Boards now have By-laws under the Public Health Acts, and twenty-six have none, and among those who have not, we are surprised to note the rural municipalities of Brighton, Deloraine, Fingal, Green Ponds, New Norfolk, Richmond, Ross, and Westbury. As the administration of the Acts is so much facilitated by by-laws, we strongly urge all Local Boards to frame and pass such as are suitable for their districts. This does not imply or involve any fussy interference with persons or property, but will enable the Boards to carry out the Acts when necessary without needless trouble and expense to all concerned. In 52 cases legal proceedings were taken to enforce by-laws, and convictions obtained in 34.

Food Supply.

30. The number of establishments connected with the bread, meat, and milk supply of the State returned as registered by the various Local Boards of Health was 906, being 36 less than the preceding year's return; and the number unregistered 240, being 76 more. There were 2586 inspections reported of registered premises, besides the returns made by some Local Boards that the registered places in their districts are "regularly" inspected. At our request, the Government Analyst made five analyses of foods and four of water, from various parts of the country. The Officers of the Local Boards also obtained 135 samples of foods, including milk, and had 70 analyses made. Legal proceedings for adulteration, &c., were taken in four cases, and convictions obtained in two.

The Local Board of Health of Devonport reports that, in the month of May, while preventive measures against the introduction of plague were being taken, its Inspector, acting under the provisions of the 62nd Section of the Public Health Act, seized 33 bags of sugar lying in the Queen's Warehouse on the wharf, as being, in his opinion, unfit for human consumption, by reason of having been contaminated by rats. The owners of the sugar applied to the local court, and the Justices ordered the destruction of three of the bags seized, and the restoration of the remainder to the owners. Subsequently, an action was brought by them in the Supreme Court against the Local Board for illegal seizure and detention. The case was heard at Devonport, before Mr. Justice McIntyre, who gave a decision in favour of the Local Board.

PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

31. We received during the year reports of the inspection of 684 houses in which infectious diseases had occurred, 125 of which were disinfected by the Local Boards of Health, and in four cases a number of infected articles, chiefly bedding, were destroyed. In 34 cases isolation orders were issued, and in 214 cases special sanitary works were ordered. There were 11 public schools temporarily closed, on account of the prevalence of infectious disease, and four public conveyances—other than railway carriages and ambulances—disinfected after use by patients. Five of the Local Boards of Health have provided means of disinfection under the provisions of the 83rd Section of the Public Health Act, 1885, and four have provided ambulances.

Offensive and Noxious Trades.

32. There were 38 of the offensive trade establishments scheduled in Section 96 of the Public Health Act of 1885 registered during the year, and six reported as unregistered. There were 136 inspections made of the premises registered, and 117 notices given to abate nuisances thereat. In eight cases proceedings had to be taken, and in three convictions were obtained.

Abatement of Nuisances.

33. During the year there were 1616 written notices served for the abatement of nuisances, cleansing of premises, and such like sanitary work, in addition to numerous verbal notices given during the periodical inspections of premises. During these inspections, 10,123 houses were visited. In only eight cases was it necessary to take legal proceedings to enforce the notices.

House Sanitation.

34. There were 29 houses condemned during the year as unfit for human occupation, of which 15 were permanently closed, and 7 allowed to be re-occupied after sufficient repair. The proper drainage of 171 houses was effected, and proper privies constructed to 536 houses. Two cases of over-crowding were dealt with. Thirteen Local Boards have established a "Sanitary Service," in two cases paid for out of the rates, and in the rest by fees varying from 4½d. to a shilling a pail for each time of emptying and cleansing.

Town Sanitation.

35. Five of the Local Boards have undertaken sewerage works, and 6196 yards of sewers have been laid during the year. Nine Local Boards have established scavenging services under the 141st and 142nd Sections of "The Public Health Act, 1885."

Water Supply.

36. Our Engineering Inspector has given plans and professional assistance in connection with the proposed water supply of Beaconsfield and Derby. After due analysis and report, we consented, under the provisions of the 115th Section of the Act of 1885, to the closing of three wells.

Burial of the Dead.

37. Two burial-grounds were closed during the year, and two new ones opened. After amendment, we recommended the approval of the by-laws of two cemetery trusts. We also recommended to you, in five cases, to grant permission, under the provisions of the 29th Section of the Act of 1889, to bury the bodies of persons in closed cemeteries, and in 13 cases to permit, under certain conditions, the exhumation of bodies for burial elsewhere, these being chiefly cases of removal from closed city cemeteries, or of the removal of the remains of Chinese for burial in their native country.

We paid considerable attention to the question of the certificates to be required before the burial of the dead, and we forwarded to you the report of a Special Committee we appointed to consider the subject, and understand that the recommendations of the Report will be embodied in a short Bill to be introduced into Parliament this year.

The Work and its results.

38. There were in all 18,244 administrative acts performed during the year by the Local Boards of Health in connection with sanitation, besides the notification of diseases. The result shows that the large amount of work done during the year, and during previous years, has not been useless. The zymotic diseases may be taken as representing those that are preventible by the proper exercise of sanitary precautions, both as regards causation, in the first instance, and dissemination when once started. Fifteen years have now elapsed since the passing and putting into operation of the first Public Health Act. During the fifteen years preceding, and during which no special general organised sanitary action was taken, the following were the death-rates from zymotic diseases:—

For the five years ending	1875—27·3	per annum	per 10,000	persons living
"	"	1880—33·2	"	"
"	"	1885—22·1	"	"

It will be noticed that there was considerable periodic variation in the death-rate from these diseases, as well as the variation of the yearly rate caused by climatic and special circumstances; but, evidently, there was no controlling influence to prevent great rising and falling in the rate. In 1886, the first Public Health Act came into force, and Central and Local Boards were charged with its administration, and the following are the death-rates from zymotic diseases during the next fifteen years:—

For the five years ending	1890—21·7	per annum	per 10,000	persons living
"	"	1895—15·8	"	"
"	"	1900—12·5	"	"

These figures show that, with the Health Acts, there was established a controlling and highly beneficial influence over these diseases; and, though there still can be noted a yearly variation, caused by climatic and other conditions that continue, and always will continue, to exist, yet the steady enforcement of sanitation, and the unwearied exercise of preventive measures against the causation and spread of infectious diseases, can be depended upon to save life and lessen suffering. The steadiness of the rate of improvement that has taken place is very remarkable. During the first five years of the working of the Acts, while Local Boards were being formed, and getting properly organised, with by-laws, regulations, and officers, the death-rate from preventable diseases was but slightly lowered; but when the Acts got into working order, the good effect became immediately visible, and continues to be so, and the quinquennial death-rate, instead of being sometimes greater and sometimes less, than in preceding periods, has always been less. And the diminution shows an immense saving of life. If the death-rate from zymotic diseases had continued to be what it was at the time of the passing of the Health Act of 1885 (and it was then at a lower rate than it had ever previously been), the deaths from those diseases would have been 32 more than they were in the five years ending 1890, and 504

more more in the five years ending 1895, and 816 more in the five years ending 1900—more than forty lives a year being saved from one class of disease alone, in a population of 170,000. We are not aware of any community in which the administration of the Health Acts has been attended by more marked success.

LICENSING ACT, 1889.

39. The Local Boards have reported having made 424 inspections of inns and public houses during the year, which resulted in the giving of 60 notices to improve the sanitary accommodation provided by the proprietors, and, after their fulfilment, to the granting of 416 certificates under the provisions of Section 42 of the Licensing Act. The Central Board, acting as Local Board under the 6th Section of the Public Health Act, 1887, gave certificates, after proper inspection, to nine inns and licensed houses.

THE VACCINATION ACT, 1898.

Regulations.

40. The Vaccination Act virtually came into force at the date of the publication of the Regulations made under it in the *Hobart Gazette* of the 23rd December, 1899, and, early in the year, we began to give effect to them.

PUBLIC VACCINATORS AND VACCINATION DISTRICTS.

41. Under the Act, every qualified medical practitioner, unless he objects thereto, is to be appointed by the Governor in Council for such district or districts, as he sees fit, a Vaccinator for the purposes of the Act. In order to give medical practitioners the opportunity to express their objection, if any, to the appointment, under the conditions imposed by the Regulations, with regard to the methods to be used and the fees to be received for vaccination, and the mileage rates to be allowed, copies of the Act and Regulations were forwarded to every medical practitioner, with a request that he should give us his views as to acceptance of the office, and the district, if any, in which he wished to practise. The result of this was that the Governor in Council has appointed 51 medical practitioners to be Vaccinators in 44 districts. By death or removal from Tasmania, the 51 Vaccinators have been reduced to 47. The following is a list of the Vaccination Districts and Public Vaccinators for the year 1900:—

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Vaccinators.</i>
Beaconsfield—	Dr. Graham.
Bellerive—	Dr. A. Clarke.
Beltana—	Dr. A. Clarke.
Bothwell—	Dr. Noonan.
Cambridge—	Dr. Walden.
Campbell Town—	Dr. Tofft.
Dalrymple—	Dr. Graham.
Deloraine—	Dr. Damman.
Emu Bay—	Drs. Owens, Rooke, Watson.
Fingal—	Dr. Hoskins.
Franklin—	Dr. G. Anderson.
Esperance—	Dr. G. Anderson.
George Town—	Dr. Joyce.
Glamorgan—	Dr. Jones.
Gormanston—	Dr. Rockett.
Hamilton—	Dr. Noonan.
Hobart—	Drs. Clarke, Crowther, Giblin, Hardy, Ireland, Scott, Sprott, Walch, Wolfhagen.
Kelly Basin—	Dr. Prendergast.
Launceston—	Drs. Guttridge, Holmes, Pardey.
Longford—	Drs. J. Anderson, Haines, Mason.
Lyell—	Dr. Abbott.

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Vaccinators.</i>
Mathinna—	Dr. Champ.
Mersey—	Dr. Payne.
Mount Lyell—	Dr. Rockett.
New Norfolk—	Drs. Penny, Allwork.
Oatlands—	Dr. Butchart.
Port Cygnet—	Dr. G. Anderson.
Port Frederick—	Dr. J. Smith.
Port Sorell—	Dr. J. Smith.
Queenstown—	Dr. Hamilton.
Ross—	Dr. Tofft.
Russell—	Drs. Jackson, Gregg.
Scottsdale—	Dr. Penny.
Sheffield—	Dr. Davis.
Sorell—	Dr. Walden.
Spring Bay—	Dr. Walden.
Strahan—	Dr. Mackenzie.
Tasman Peninsula—	Dr. R. Smith.
Ulverstone—	Dr. Stuart.
Waratah—	Dr. Faulkner.
Westbury—	Drs. B. Anderson, Joyce.
Wynyard—	Dr. Muir.
Zeehan—	Dr. Kennedy.

VACCINATIONS PERFORMED.

42. During the year, there were 1131 gratuitous vaccinations performed by the Public Vaccinators. There is an almost unaccountable difference between the quantity of work done by the Vaccinators, varying from 312 successful vaccinations by Dr. Hoskins, at Fingal, to none at all done in 19 districts. There were 125 done at Westbury, 113 at Launceston, and 13 at Hobart. We have, so far, refrained from putting the compulsory clauses of the Act into force, and ask the co-operation of the medical profession in our efforts to induce a more enlightened opinion among the public with regard to the duty of safeguarding the people from small-pox. There were only 22 vaccinations of children performed by others than Public Vaccinators, and 9 of Chinamen. Thus, the total vaccinations for 1900 amounted to 1162, as compared with 44 last year. The lymph we supply for vaccinations is all glycerinated calf-lymph, prepared in New Zealand by Dr. Nairn, on Worlomot's system. Of this lymph, we supplied 50 tubes for the vaccination of the Tasmanian contingent of troops for service in South Africa, and had the satisfaction of learning that it all gave satisfactory results, and was described as the best supplied for the service.

OCCURRENCES AT NUGENT.

43. In the month of August, a child from Nugent, in the Sorell district, was brought to a private hospital at Hobart, suffering from illness, which, as it followed vaccination, was attributed by the

parents to that operation which had been performed by the Public Vaccinator. As it was reported that other cases of similar illness existed in the same district, you instructed our Secretary to proceed there, in company with Dr. Sprott, Medical Officer of Health, of Hobart, and inquire and report on the whole matter. The inquiry and reports were, accordingly, made, and the latter, together with a report from the Public Vaccinator of the district, considered by us, and we forwarded them to you, with our opinion on the occurrences. As the reports, though laid on the table of each House of Parliament, were not printed, we append the conclusions at which we arrived (Mr. Perkins dissenting):—
 "I. That the illness was not caused by any impurity in the lymph used, as, among more than 250 children vaccinated in Tasmania with calf-lymph of the same cultures as those used for the vaccination of the children who became ill, no other cases occurred than the five in question: and, furthermore, the time which elapsed between the operation of vaccination and the onset of the illness (about 12 days) excludes the possibility of the cause of the illness having been introduced at the time of vaccination.
 II. That the illness was not caused by the method of vaccination employed by the Vaccinator, as amongst 154 children vaccinated by him during the season in which the illness occurred, only the five became ill; and III. That as the whole of the cases of illness following vaccination occurred among the 52 children vaccinated at Nugent, it is probable that the disease was caused by some septic poison introduced into the scarifications made for vaccination after the vaccination had been successfully performed, as duly ascertained by the examination of the vaccinees; and that accident, or the want of due care during the maturity or healing of the vaccine sore, afforded the opportunity for the introduction of this poison."

QUARANTINE ACT.

Proclamations.

44. An addition to the Proclamations and Orders in Council referred to in paragraph 6 of this Report, the French Colony of New Caledonia and its dependencies was proclaimed by the Governor in Council, in January, as infected with plague; and, in February, the whole of Asia, with Hong Kong and the Islands in the Netherlands East Indies, and Special Orders in Council were issued.

INTERSTATE NOTIFICATION OF PLAGUE.

45. Early in February, you notified us that, at a Conference of the Premiers of Australia, held at Sydney, in January, it had been resolved, in connection with bubonic plague—"That, when a suspicious case arose, as had recently been reported at Adelaide, every precaution should be taken in each Colony to prevent the disease spreading; and, when any particular case was diagnosed as the true plague, each Colony should adopt such measures as might be deemed advisable to deal with the disease, and immediately advise all the other Colonies on the subject." We at once promised compliance with the terms of the resolution should a case of plague occur, and we received notifications from the other Australian States of all the cases that occurred in them.

HOBART WEEKLY HEALTH RETURNS.

46. We continue to send to the International Quarantine Bureau, at Alexandria, a weekly health return of the Port of Hobart, and also a copy of it to the Hobart papers for public information.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION ACT.

47. All the Chinese landed in the Colony during the year were duly examined; 15 paid poll-tax, and, as before-mentioned, 9 of them were vaccinated.

CONCLUSION.

48. We have again to heartily thank the officers of other departments, especially of the Law, Lands and Works, Railway, and Police Departments, the Analyst and Registrar-General, and Capt. McArthur of the Hobart Marine Board, for constant courtesy shown and great assistance given.

We have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your obedient Servants,

GEO. COLLINS, *President.*

C. E. BARNARD, M.D.

T. BENNISON.

R. S. BRIGHT, M.R.C.S. Eng.

E. J. CROUCH, M.R.C.S. Eng., *Government
 Medical Officer.*

E. M. FISHER.

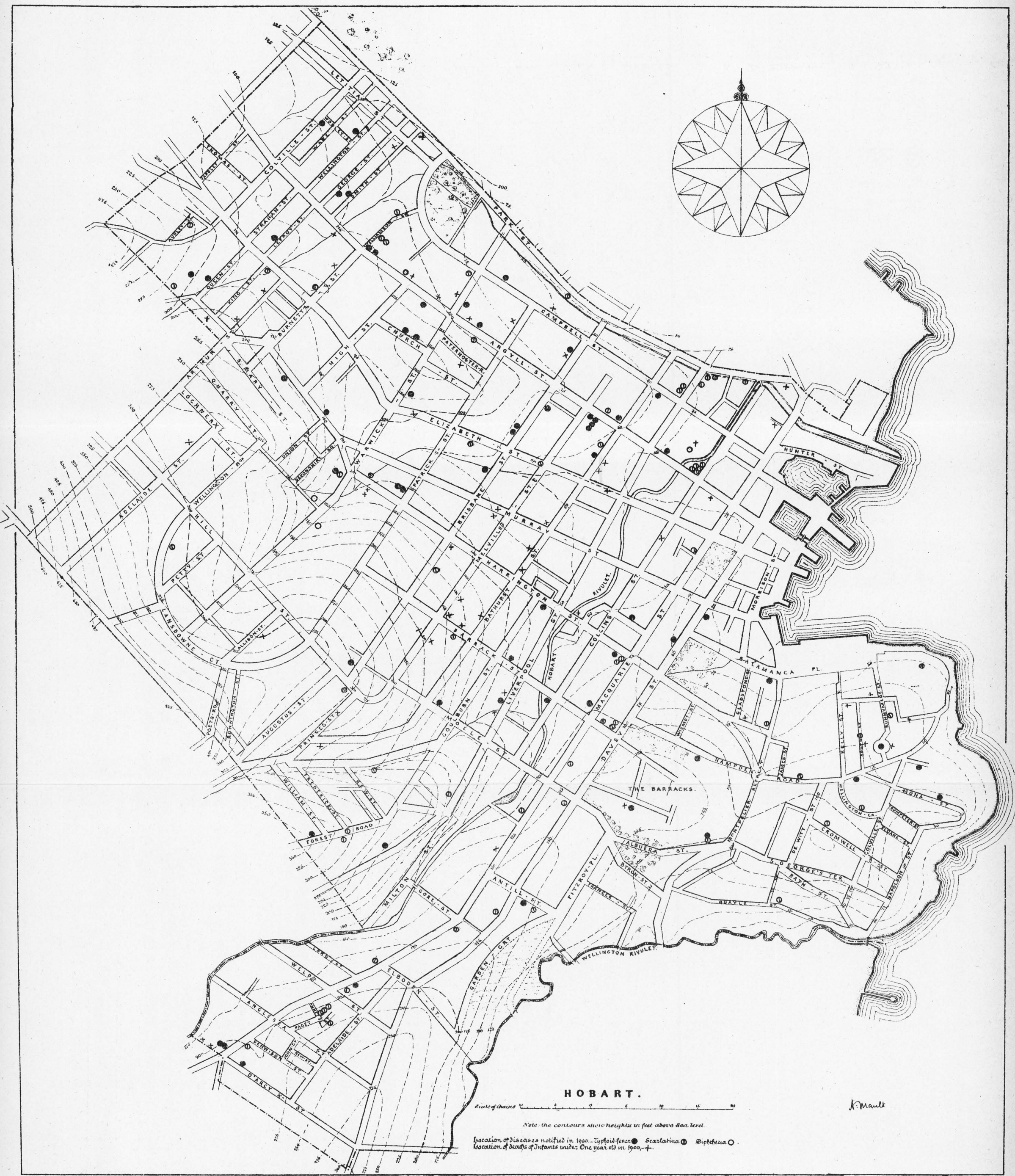
C. HARBOTTLE.

WILLIAM PERKINS.

A. MAULT, *Secretary,*
Hobart, August, 1901.

APPENDIX I.

In the District of the Local Board of	Typhoid Fever.						Diphtheria.						Scarlet Fever.						TOTAL.					
	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Beaconsfield.....	3	...	81	142	13	23	2	4	2	3	4	...	...	...	...	23	6	...	5	4	63	168	23	23
Bellerive .....	...	2	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	3	2	5	3	2
Beltana .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	...	...	...	2	4	3
Boobyalla.....	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	4	...	...	1	4
Bothwell .....	...	1	5	8	1	...	9	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	9	1	5	8	10	5
Brighton	2	1	2	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	2	1	3	2	4	7
Burnie .....	...	2	1	1	...	...	3	3	3	11	7	...	...	...	...	29	26	3	...	3	5	33	38	10
Campbell Town	6	13	8	4	...	7	...	1	3	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	14	11	4	5	10
Carnarvon .....	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Clarence .....	...	2	5	...	...	2	5	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	8	...	5	3	5	1	8	3
Dalrymple .....	...	...	...	8	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	3
Deloraine	9	...	3	6	7	11	3	...	...	2	3	...	...	1	6	30	5	...	12	1	9	38	15	11
Derby	3	...	4	6	10	20	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	10	...	3	...	4	11	21	20
Devonport .....	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	6	1	3	4	4	...	...	22	3	4	...	...	6	24	8	9	4
Dundas.....	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	3	...	...
Emu Bay.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Evandale	1	2	1	5	...	2	...	...	4	...	3	1	...	...	9	7	...	3	1	2	14	12	3	6
Fingal	1	...	1	1	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	...	7	1	4	1	...
Franklin .....	...	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	9	3	5	...	...	1	...	...	2	14	3	4	11	6	8	15
George Town .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glamorgan	1	12	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	12	...	...	2	...
Glebe Town .....	...	...	2	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	10	1	...	2	2	3	12	2
Glenorchy .....	...	5	...	8	...	1	2	1	7	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	2	6	7	9	5	1
Gordon .....	...	1	...	2	1	1	2	1	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	2	2	...	2	14	2
Gormanston .....	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Gould's Country .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	1	...	...	...	42	1	...
Green Ponds .....	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	3	...	...	16	1
Hamilton	2	12	30	3	7	1	1	...	...	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	17	5	2	3	12	30	25	16
Hamilton-on-Forth & Don .....	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	...	2	4	1	2
Hobart	116	80	116	293	64	63	20	45	30	8	12	4	1	4	20	49	312	67	137	129	166	350	388	134
Invermay	19	1	3	1	...	1	3	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	22	1	3	4	2	1
Kentishbury .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Kingston	6	...	...	1	4	1	...	5	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	6	5	...	3	11	1
Latrobe .....	...	...	1	14	...	4	3	...	2	12	3	1	...	...	7	12	...	...	3	...	10	38	3	5
Launceston	101	46	55	65	14	34	9	3	4	13	1	29	...	1	32	56	23	7	110	50	91	134	35	70
Lefroy	7	19	17	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	56	...	9	19	22	57	1	...	...
Leven .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	16	2	...	...	...	17	2	7	
Longford	3	17	8	32	7	6	3	3	...	2	4	...	...	...	16	44	...	...	6	20	24	78	11	6
Lynchford.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Macquarie	2	...	15	11	7	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	2	2	15	11	12	4
Mersey .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moonah .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mount Lyell.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mount Stuart .....	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	3	3	1	...	4
New Norfolk	4	9	12	23	6	12	6	1	14	9	9	1	...	...	...	...	8	27	10	10	26	32	23	40
New Town	8	5	5	27	3	1	3	...	5	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	21	6	11	5	11	28	25	7
New Town, Rural	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	2	3
Oatlands	6	1	9	6	4	4	...	11	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	13	6	12	9	6	6	18
Penguin .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	...	...	...	...	11	10	1	...
Port Cygnet.....	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Queenborough.....	14	7	3	6	2	1	1	4	9	...	...	...	1	3	...	5	...	15	12	15	6	7	1	...
Queenborough, Rural	2	3	1	9	1	...	6	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	1	8	5	2	9	7	2	...
Queenstown .....	...	...	57	52	70	76	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	2	7	18	11	...	60	59	90	88	...
Richmond	1	...	8	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	9	...	9	...
Ringarooma.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ross .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Russell .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	88	...	...	...	1	15	88	...	1
St. Helens	2	3	1	9	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	3	1	10	3	2
St. Leonards	5	6	1	2	1	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	5	6	3	4	1	4
Scottsdale.....	2	...	1	1	1	13	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	2	...	1	12	1	13
Scottsdale, Rural.....	1	1	...	...	...	0	1	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	6	...	...
Selby .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Sheffield .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	9	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	9	...	3	...	1	...
Sorell .....	...	...	...	3	4	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	37	31	4	...	4	41	31	...
Sorrento .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Franklin .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...												



HOBART.

Scale of chains 0 5 10 15 20

Note: the contours show heights in feet above sea level.

Location of diseases notified in 1900: Typhoid fever ● Scarlatina ○ Diphtheria ○
Location of deaths of Infants under One year old in 1900: +

A. Mant