

(No. 7.)



1880.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

**CONTAGIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,
CASCADES :**

REPORT FOR 1879.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 10, 1880.



Contagious Diseases Hospital, Cascades, 31st July, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit, at your request, the following Report of this Institution from the date of its being established until the 30th June last.

It is pertinent to the subject to mention in the first place that the Act of Council, 42 Vict. No. 36, was brought into operation by *Gazette* notice on 9th September, 1879, in a specially described portion of the General Hospital.

Subsequently however, for reasons not necessary to particularise, the present buildings were duly proclaimed on the 18th November following as a Hospital for Contagious Diseases, and which buildings are capable of accommodating from 40 to 45 patients.

These remarks have been deemed necessary in order to include the actual number of cases that have come under purview of the Act; and in noting, therefore, that 14 patients had been treated at the General Hospital, 4 of whom were transferred to this Establishment on 25th November following, the object sought is now attained.

From the period named until 31st December there were 16 more admissions; and from 1st January to 30th June of the present year an additional 46,—making in all a total of 76.

Of this number further consideration is confined to the 66 cases treated at the Cascades.

The daily average of Patients was 12,—the maximum number at one time being 18, the minimum 3. Their detention in Hospital ranged from 2 to 12 weeks, and their ages from 16 to 45.

With a few exceptions, the general health of the Patients was unaffected; and thereby all the work of the Establishment, including washing, making, mending clothes, &c. was performed by those capable of so doing. And here it is to the point to observe that, apart from an occasional difference with the nurse on domestic matters, the conduct of the women was otherwise very good, and their behaviour respectful.

The appended Return, marked A., specifies the character and other particulars of the diseases treated; and in directing attention to the great preponderance of Syphilis over Gonorrhœa, it is important to note, at the same time, that many cases of the former affection were of a virulent type; and, from the diseased condition in which those suffering from that particular form were admitted, makes it difficult to understand how they could have followed their avocation for the previous 10 days or a fortnight, if not longer.

The expenditure is detailed in Return B., and shows upon the actual outlay from the Treasury an average of £18 3s. 8½d. per head; but it must be stated that the said amount does not include the cost of sundry articles of bedding and stores which had formerly been in use in the public service, and which were utilised on the occasion without a charge being made for them.

Having now, Sir, exhausted the several points of interest immediately connected with this Report, I would advert to the paragraph when writing of diseases—“and from the diseased condition in which those suffering from that particular form were admitted, makes it difficult to understand how they could have followed their avocation for the previous 10 days or a fortnight, if not longer.”

In thus giving effect to my opinion I think it advisable to guard myself against any possible erroneous imputation being made on the subject, and therefore would add that my sole reason for so writing is in support of the generally admitted imperfect provisions of the present Act.

But, as Dr. Reid, of H.M.S. *Wolverene*, has so ably treated the question in his letter of 26th February last, and pointed out the direction legislation might be taken in amending the Act for the better prevention of certain contagious diseases, I feel that any further observations for the present are unnecessary.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COVERDALE, M.D., *Medical Officer in charge.*

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

A.

RETURN showing the specific Characters, Numbers, and Disposal of the Cases of Venereal Diseases treated at the Hospital for Contagious Diseases, Cascades, from 25th November, 1879, to 30th June, 1880.

No.	Disease.	Discharged.	Remaining 30th June.
40	Syphilis, primary	33	7
15	Ditto, secondary	14	1
1	Ditto, tertiary	1
8	Gonorrhœa	6	2
2	Leucorrhœa	1	1

J. COVERDALE, M.D., *Medical Officer in charge.*

B.

RETURN showing the Expenditure of the Contagious Diseases Hospital, Cascades, from 25th November, 1879, to 30th June, 1880, inclusive.

	From 25th November to 31st December, 1879.	From 1st January to 30th June, 1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	4 0 0	15 0 0
Provisions	13 4 6	66 17 0
Medicines	2 17 6
Stores	27 1 5	13 5 7
Fuel and Light	2 14 10	19 17 8
Repairs and Alterations to Buildings	41 3 9	12 2 3
	£88 4 6	£130 0 0

J. COVERDALE, M.D., *Medical Officer in charge.*