

(No. 7.)



1861.

---

T A S M A N I A .

---

**HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK.**

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.**

---

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Innes, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
23 August, 1861.



95, Macquarie-street, 30th May, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Report of the Commissioners of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1860.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *President.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

---

*Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 31st December, 1860.*

THE Commissioners appointed for the management of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, beg to present their second Report to the Governor in Council, as directed by Section 12 of the Act of Parliament, 22 Victoria, No. 23.

1. The Commissioners are glad to be able to announce that the alterations and improvements indicated in their first Report as in progress in the Female Division of the Establishment have been completed, with all the beneficial result anticipated.

2. In the detached building in which the more refractory Female Patients are lodged, the ventilation and lighting have been greatly improved.

3. A considerable extension of the central building has been contracted for, and is now in rapid progress, by which a spacious Day-room and a large Dormitory, with several smaller sleeping apartments, will be provided.

4. When this addition is completed, the present Day-room, so injudiciously placed in the immediate front of the main building, will be pulled down; and all the useless walls and fences having been already removed, the whole of the airing-grounds will then be thrown completely open, with much improvement in the salubrity and cheerfulness of this portion of the Institution.

5. A separate Kitchen and Store-room for the Female Division are also to be erected, and will soon be undertaken.

6. In the Male Division of the Establishment, the long range of gloomy and ill-constructed cells which occupied the north side of the back-yard, have been converted into light and well-ventilated sleeping apartments, opening into a Corridor 150 feet long by 12 feet wide, with a Verandah of the same length.

7. By the removal of the dividing wall between the N. and S. back-yards, shortly to be effected, the airing-ground attached to the former will be doubled in extent, and greatly improved in cheerfulness.

8. In the S. back wing, consisting chiefly, as formerly in the northern, of a range of wretched cells, ill ventilated and lighted, the Commissioners hope soon to commence alterations similar to those already completed on the N. side.

9. This wing, instead of opening into the present yard, will have its front to the S.E., and will have attached to it, as an airing-ground, the whole of the space intervening between this part of the building and the fence surrounding the detached cottage; and will command a cheerful view of the surrounding country, not permitted by the existing arrangement.

10. This alteration will involve the removal of the Farm-yard to another locality; and the Commissioners propose to place it either on the small outside field belonging to the Institution, or on some adjoining land yet to be purchased.

11. Since the date of their last Report, the measures then in progress for securing an ampler and more certain supply of water for domestic purposes, and for irrigation, have been successfully accomplished.

12. The sum of £6000 was provided by the Parliament, in its last Session, to be devoted to the most urgent requirements of the Hospital during the present year; and which the Commissioners decided to expend in the erection of the buildings most urgently required, and in the purchase of some adjoining lands.

13. Although negotiations have been entered into for purchasing some of the lands referred to in their last Report, no bargain has as yet been concluded; but the Commissioners have not lost sight of the importance of extending the area of the grounds attached to the Institution.

14. When the above-named sum has been expended in the manner indicated, the Commissioners consider that a further considerable sum will still be required, in order to render the Institution well adapted to the purpose to which it is devoted.

15. When the various works and improvements now in progress, and those contemplated, have been accomplished, the Commissioners believe that this Hospital will then be quite adequate to the requirements of this community, and the successful treatment of the Insane; and will be greatly superior to any similar institution existing in any of the neighbouring Colonies.

16. The Commissioners have pleasure in acknowledging the valuable assistance rendered to them by the Director of Public Works; and in bearing witness to the skill and assiduity which he has displayed in designing and executing the various works that have been undertaken for the improvement of this important Institution.

17. During the past year a marked improvement has been observed in the conduct and demeanor of the Patients generally.

This gratifying fact the Superintendent attributes, in a great measure, to the changes that have been effected in the apartments and airing grounds; which he believes have produced a very soothing effect on the minds of the Patients.

That a considerable portion of this result is due to the cause to which he assigns it, the Commissioners cannot doubt; but they also believe that no small share of it is to be attributed to the increased experience and kind and judicious treatment of the Superintendent himself.

18. Mechanical restraint has not, for a considerable period, been found necessary, and may be said to be quite abolished in this Institution.

19. From the annexed Table, it will be seen that the number of Admissions has been less during the past than in the previous year; and the Commissioners trust that this decrease may be received as an indication that the maximum number of Patients has been reached; and that, as the fertile source from whence so large a portion of the mental disease existing in the Colony is derived, becomes more and more dried up, the number of Patients will be found to decrease until they reach a number more proportionate to the population of the Colony.

20. Of the 42 persons admitted during the past year, 4 have been re-admitted after absences of 10 years, 4½ years, 6 months, and 3 months.

Of these 42 Patients, 3 have been discharged cured, 3 have died, and 36 still remain under treatment.

21. The Discharges exhibit a per-centage of 28·24 in the number admitted, and 4·160 for the number treated.

22. The mortality has been greater during the past year than usual; and is due, in a great measure, to the severe epidemic—influenza—that prevailed during the winter, and which was generally so fatal to persons debilitated by age and other causes.

Of the 28 Patients who have died, 6 were between 50 and 60 years of age; 3 between 60 and 70; 2 between 70 and 80; 1 upwards of 90 years; and 1 only under 30 years.

23. The Patients, both male and female, have been employed as usual in various kinds of useful labour; the value of which has been of very considerable amount.

A return of various articles of clothing, &c. made and repaired by the Patients is appended.

24. The average cost of each Patient during the past year has been 2s. 0d½. per diem, exclusive of the cost of the buildings.

It is hoped that during the present year, in consequence of the diminished price of provisions and other supplies, the cost will be still less.

The total ordinary expenditure has amounted to about £8000; of which £728 has been contributed by self-supporting Patients.

25. Of the whole number of Patients now under treatment, 75 have arrived free in the Colony, and 145 have been convicts.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *President.*  
 R. OFFICER.  
 J. TURNBULL.  
 W. S. SHARLAND.  
 JNO. A. MOORE.  
 W. TARLETON.  
 WM. HENTY.  
 +R. W. WILLSON.  
 HENRY BUTLER.

### APPENDIX No. 1.

*RETURN of ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, and DEATHS in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, showing the Rate of per-centage of the Recoveries and Deaths, during the Year 1860.*

	Males.	Females.	Admissions.	DISCHARGES.						DEATHS.			RATE PER CENT. OF RECOVERIES.		RATE PER CENT. OF DEATHS.	
				Recovered.			Transferred.			Males.	Females.	Total.	On Admissions.	On Total treated.	On Admissions.	On Total treated.
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.							
Remaining 31st December, 1859	115	103														
Admitted during the Year 1860	27	15	42	9	3	12	—	—	—	14	14	28	28.24	4.160	66.28	10.200
TOTAL.....	142	118														
Remaining 31st December, 1860	119	101														

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

## APPENDIX No. 2.

*RETURN of Articles of CLOTHING, &c., made and repaired by the Patients in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, from 1st January to 31st December, 1860.*

	MADE.		REPAIRED.	
	By Males.	By Females.	By Males.	By Females.
Blue Jackets, men's .....	51	—	183	—
Grey, ditto, ditto .....	—	—	7	—
Blue Waistcoats, ditto .....	62	—	51	—
Grey, ditto, ditto .....	—	—	8	—
Trousers, ditto .....	76	—	654	—
Trousers, Cloth, boys' .....	3	—	—	10
Trousers, Moleskin, ditto .....	3	—	—	—
Cotton Shirts, men's .....	—	428	332	100
Flannel Vests, ditto .....	—	70	25	20
Flannel Drawers, ditto .....	—	—	50	50
Sheets .....	—	—	2	50
Palliasses .....	—	—	52	20
Pillow-cases .....	—	—	22	15
Linen frocks, men's .....	—	—	13	—
Boots, men's, pairs .....	—	—	93	—
Shoes, ditto, ditto .....	—	—	56	—
Shoes, women's, ditto .....	—	—	17	—
Caps, ditto .....	—	318	—	—
Serge Dresses, boys' .....	—	6	—	—
Jackets, Serge, women's .....	—	241	—	90
Jackets, Cotton, ditto .....	—	46	—	—
Petticoats, Flannel, ditto .....	—	21	—	—
Petticoats, Serge, ditto .....	—	467	—	110
Shifts, Cotton, ditto .....	—	241	—	120
Blouses, boys' .....	—	15	—	22
Hoods, Osnaburg .....	—	92	—	—
Cotton Shirts, boys' .....	—	3	—	—
Aprons, women's .....	—	—	—	60
Stockings, ditto .....	—	—	—	70
Rugs .....	—	—	—	8
Blankets .....	—	—	—	20
Window Blinds .....	—	4	—	—
Hand Towels .....	—	148	—	—

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*