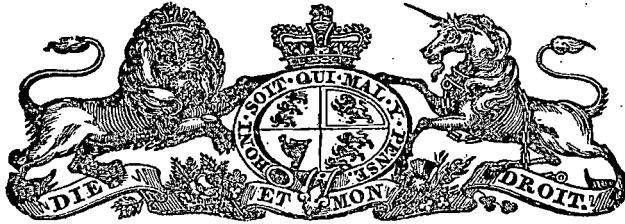


(No. 4.)



1872.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

G E N E R A L H O S P I T A L L A U N C E S T O N.

R E P O R T F O R 1871.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, June 25, 1872.



LAUNCESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

ANNUAL REPORT for 1871.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Report of the Launceston General Hospital for the year 1871.

During the first six months of the year the Institution was under the control of the late Board of Management, and in medical charge of Dr. W. G. Maddox; but on the 1st of July I assumed the management and charge, with the assistance of Dr. Charles Martin as House Surgeon and Apothecary, while for the Board of Management there was substituted a Board of Visitors.

You will observe from the detailed statement given below that the gross expenditure has been not much beyond that of the previous year, but the net expenditure is about £67 greater, chiefly in consequence of the falling off in the amount received from self-supporting patients. This decrease is owing to the completion of the Western Railway, and the consequent absence of the moneys paid by the contractors for the maintenance of their workmen in hospital.

An examination of the items of expenditure will show that while there is a slight increase in "salaries," a considerable increase for medical stores (in consequence of the stock having run so low as to require extensive replenishment), and a charge for "repairs to buildings," which did not appear at all in the previous year's account, the outlay under other heads is not more, and in some instances considerably less, than in 1870.

The cost of each patient per diem is about one penny more than in the previous year, which is accounted for by the increased net expenditure and the slightly smaller average daily number.

The number of out-patients has been less than in the previous year, and every possible care has been taken to prevent imposition on the public charity by persons who could afford to pay for medical advice elsewhere.

When in charge of the Launceston Hospital in former years, I have called attention to the high death-rate of the Institution; and I now find the number of deaths to be, in proportion to the cases treated, still greater. Even more now than formerly, those who die in the Hospital are persons who come there in a hopeless condition, either from the nature of their diseases, from old age, or from neglect and exhaustion. The average number of deaths per annum for the last five years has been 66.

The members of the Board of Visitors have on different occasions visited and inspected the Institution since their appointment, and have recorded their entire satisfaction with the state of the Establishment.

EXPENDITURE on account of the Launceston General Hospital for 1871.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	825	15	0
Allowances (rent and taxes)	85	8	0
Provisions and medical comforts	785	1	1
Clothing, bedding, and stores	78	17	1
Fuel and light	315	15	3
Stationery and advertising	6	16	7
Medicines and instruments, &c.	280	14	5
Funeral expenses	90	10	6
Water supply	30	0	0
Repairs to buildings	53	13	2
	<u>£2552</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>
Cash paid into Treasury for Self-supporting Patients	76	9	0
	<u>£2476</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

No. of Diets issued to Patients, 24,758.

No. of Diets issued to Attendants, 4561.

Daily cost of each Patient, about 2s.

Yearly cost of each Patient, about £36 8s. 3d.

THERE were admitted to Hospital during the year 1871, 336 Patients, of whom 253 were males, and 83 females.

There remained under treatment at the close of 1870, 60 Patients, so that the total number treated during the year was 396; and of these 272 were discharged cured or relieved, 68 died, and 56 remained under treatment.

Of the total number of deaths, 25 occurred within eight days after admission; viz.—3 on the 1st day, 2 on the 2nd, 5 on the 3rd, 4 on the 4th, 4 on the 6th, 3 on the 7th, and 4 on the 8th day.

The ages of those who died were as follows :—

Under 20 years	3
From 20 to 30	3
From 30 to 40	5
From 40 to 50	15
From 50 to 60	18
From 60 to 70	15
From 70 to 80	8
From 80 to 90	1
Total	<u>68</u>

Of the Patients admitted 36 were Self-supporting, 12 were wholly or in part chargeable to Imperial Funds, and 288 were Colonial Paupers.

The sum of £76 9s. was received from Self-supporting Patients during the year.

The average daily number during the year was nearly 68; and the cost per head nearly 2s. per diem.

The cases treated during the year were:—

	<i>In-door Cases.</i>	<i>Out-door Cases.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Diseases of the respiratory system - - - - -	55	117	172
brain and nervous system - - - - -	24	28	52
heart and blood-vessels - - - - -	9	12	21
eyes - - - - -	10	21	31
skin - - - - -	5	48	53
bones and joints - - - - -	18	9	27
digestive system - - - - -	19	112	131
urinary organs - - - - -	15	9	24
Fevers - - - - -	7	3	10
Dropsies - - - - -	7	—	7
Rheumatic affections - - - - -	36	84	120
Venereal affections - - - - -	15	37	52
Abscesses and ulcers - - - - -	32	46	78
Wounds and injuries - - - - -	63	68	131
All other diseases - - - - -	81	147	228
TOTAL - - - - -	396	741	1137

The diseases and injuries which proved fatal were:—

Organic heart disease - - - - -	5 cases.
Pulmonary consumption - - - - -	4
Inflammation of the lungs - - - - -	7
Bronchitis - - - - -	7
Pleurisy - - - - -	2
Peritonitis - - - - -	1
Disease of the bladder - - - - -	3
Cancer - - - - -	7
Dysentery - - - - -	1
Fractures and contusions - - - - -	3
Aneurism - - - - -	2
Dropsy - - - - -	4
Gangrene - - - - -	2
Paralysis - - - - -	1
Burns - - - - -	3
Tetanus - - - - -	1
Abscess - - - - -	1
Gastritis - - - - -	1
Debility - - - - -	13
TOTAL - - - - -	68

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. L. MILLER, *F. F. P. S. Glas.*,

Chief Medical Officer at Launceston.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.