

(No. 3.)



1884.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

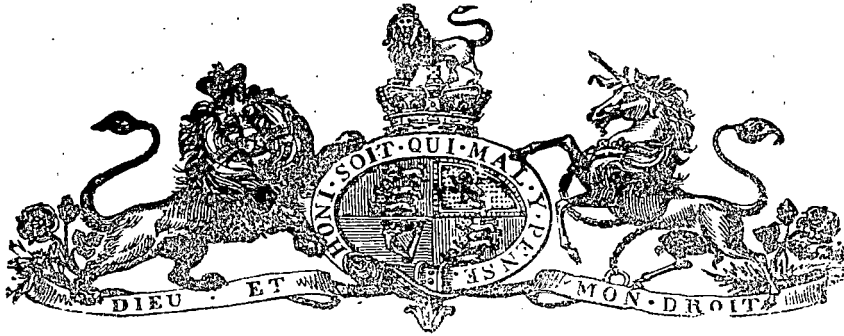
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GENERAL HOSPITAL, LAUNCESTON :

REPORT FOR 1883.

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



## GENERAL HOSPITAL, LAUNCESTON.

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### ANNUAL REPORT for 1883.

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SIR,

I HAVE the honor to lay before you the following Annual Report of the Board of Management, giving particulars regarding the government, condition, and cost of the above-named Hospital for the year 1883.

The Board of Management consists of thirteen members; the members for the year being—

W. Barnes.  
W. R. Barwood.  
A. W. Birchall.  
G. T. Collins.  
B. P. Farrelly.  
J. C. Ferguson.  
A. Harrap.  
J. F. Hobkirk.  
F. Stanfield.  
S. M. Caffyn,  
W. G. Maddox, } *Hon. Consulting Surgeons.*  
R. W. Murphy, }  
A. Harrap, Mayor, *ex officio.*

During the year Messrs. W. R. Barwood, A. Harrap, and S. M. Caffyn vacated their seats. With the approval of the Governor in Council, Messrs H. Weedon, R. F. Irvine, and C. J. Pike were elected to fill the vacancies. Thirteen Board and twenty-one Committee Meetings were held during the year, and the business of the Hospital has been carefully considered and dealt with on these occasions. The members of the Board frequently visit the establishment, and do their utmost to further the interests of the Institution.

The Surgeon-Superintendent is supported by an Honorary Staff of Consulting Surgeons. The administration of the medical and surgical functions of the Hospital thus corresponds to a large extent with that of the Columbia Hospital for Women established at Washington, D. C., United States.

As the new wing is now completed, and as further additions are required, namely, a large store-room, wood and coal sheds, and dormitories for the male servants employed at the Hospital, it may be useful to give a short account of the establishment.

The main building is composed of a body and two wings; it lies nearly N.W. and S.E., and stands in a square comprising about four (4) acres; it is greatly elevated above the crowded parts of the town, but the approach to the portion of the hill upon which it is situated is easy, having a gradual ascent. From the western verandahs a beautiful panorama is always visible. The value of the situation is further enhanced by the fact that two hours after daylight sets in the sun's rays fall upon the building and remain on it all day long.

The Hospital building is a plain but imposing structure, constructed of brick principally, and is roofed with slate. It is surrounded to three-quarters of its extent by spacious double verandahs. To the rear, and at a distance of forty (40) feet from the Hospital proper, are the kitchen and apartments for the Nursing Staff. These premises are of a substantial character, and communicate with the main building by means of a wide viaduct. The centre portion of the Hospital consists of three (3) spacious vestibules superimposed one on the other. The one on the ground floor is utilised as a waiting-room: from it a capacious stairway leads to the vestibule on the first floor. The uppermost hall has domed sides, and a flat roof, and was designed for an Observatory, where meteorological notes might be made. Perhaps, ere long, attempts will be made in this laboratory to determine why cycles of erysipelas, typhoid fever, croupous pneumonia, and the minor ailments, are almost epidemic during certain seasons.

A powerful hydraulic lift raises patients to the first floor, and the wings are provided with fire-escape stairways.

Passages lead from the main halls to the wards. The southern wing is just completed, and its fittings will be as modern as possible. The wards vary from the capacity of 4000 feet to that of nearly 27,000 feet of cubical area; the average height of the wards is 16 feet 6 inches. The building will now provide 20 wards and 90 beds. The largest wards are in the old portion of the structure.

The wards are ventilated on Galton, Sheringham, and Tobin principles. In some of the wards the chimneys occupy the centre of the room. The apartments of the sick are disinfected by admitting as much fresh air as possible, and in this way erysipelas can be treated in the general wards, as is the case at the Hotel Dieu, Paris, and at the St. George's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals in London. Certain precautions are also taken with respect to typhoid fever, and it is treated in the ordinary apartments in the same manner as it is nursed at the Royal Infirmarys in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. On no occasion have these disorders been known to spread on the premises.

The closets are located at the extremities of the wings, and they will soon be cut off from any direct communication with the wards. Air and earth closets are now in use, as the water-closets, consequent upon the ignorance of the patients, were never flushed regularly, and had become a nuisance previous to their abandonment a few years ago. As far as the air-closets have been tested, they have been found in every way superior to the earth-closets.

Hitherto it has not been considered advisable to admit patients under the age of seven years; but they have always been allowed admission when they were subjects of accident, or when peculiar circumstances rendered particular treatment necessary. A special ward has now been set apart for these patients, and it is believed that this circumstance will enlist the sympathies of the public. In it young ladies will have an opportunity of acting as probationary nurses, and will, in this manner, arm themselves so that they will be able to successfully battle with many of the domestic ills which may subsequently beset their households.

In addition to the new wing and Nurses' quarters, a very modern substantial mortuary has been erected. It is an ornate building, composed of brick, with stone portals and copings, and slate roof. It has a cemented base, and is divided into three apartments; the central one is subdivided into four cells, with doors opening into the outer apartments. Light trucks of different gauges run on rails set in the concrete. Upon each truck one body can be laid, and each compartment contains two trucks. By this arrangement the bodies are readily run into or out of the examination rooms. The whole building is completely ventilated.

The Board has repeatedly considered the desirability of providing sleeping accommodation for the male servants outside of the Hospital building, and consider this advisable. They are also of opinion that a wood and coal shed should be erected without delay, and that the erection of a capacious store-room is absolutely necessary.

As the Contagious Diseases Act is to be enforced in Launceston, the Board, after careful consideration, deem it undesirable that patients under the Act should be treated at the Hospital.

It is apparent that sooner or later a reception-house must be provided in the North for the *interim* accommodation of persons of unsound mind. The principle is carried out in New South Wales and Queensland, and is approved of in England, and has been adopted in the Bellevue Hospital in the city of New York. The members of the Board have been witnesses of the disorder caused by insane persons or by those suffering from chronic drink habit. As matters stand at present, lunatic persons are sometimes lodged in the common gaol, and, after a period of observation, are forwarded to the Asylum, 100 miles away.

The very large item in expenses, "fuel," has caused the Board much embarrassment. It is believed that a considerable saving can be effected by carrying out a scheme for doing away with fires in the laundry, by using steam for both laundry and cooking purposes. One engine should be able

to keep the laundry plant in operation and supply the kitchen with hot water. It is intended that most of the cooking shall be done by the jacketing process, for which steam alone will be necessary.

During the year the Board made representations to the Government urging the necessity of importing drugs from England twice a year. This suggestion was at once complied with, and the principle has been made to apply to the other Hospitals in the Colony.

A fair diet is supplied to the in-door patients, and it is found that, when weighed weekly, as is the rule, the majority of them make weight.

*TABLE showing Number of Patients and Cost per Head of each occupied Bed, for the Years 1882 and 1883.*

Year.	Average Number of Patients.	Average Cost of Patients.					
		Upon whole Expenditure.			Upon Net Expenditure.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1882 ....	55	83	2	9½	72	14	8½
1883 ....	59	78	14	9½	68	11	10½

A sum equal to five shillings per head from the expense of the Hospital proper, as the estimated cost of treating out-door patients, has been deducted.

The following return shows that the fees received from patients who are able to contribute towards their support expand year by year :—

	£	s.	d.
Fees received during 1881 .....	263	16	10
Ditto 1882 .....	427	2	1½
Ditto 1883 .....	451	10	8

Fees are not received from out-door patients, but pauperism is discouraged in every way. The artizan classes belong to benefit societies, and, unless very poor, these persons never present themselves at the Hospital. The maximum charge for in-door patients is nine shillings a day; the majority of the in-door patients are paupers.

On former occasions the Board have pointed out the inadequate amounts which this Institution is credited with for supplying the Invalid Dépôt and Penal Establishments with professional attendance and medicines. For attendance and comforts the Hospital is allowed five shillings per annum for each inmate of those Institutions. It is understood that the General Hospital in Hobart is allowed three shillings per head for supplying medicines only to kindred institutions: reckoning on this basis the services of the Surgeon-Superintendent of the Launceston Hospital as Visiting Surgeon for Gaol and Invalid Dépôt are valued at a trifle less than £28 per annum, an amount which certainly does not cover the cost of services rendered.

Statement showing the number of In-patients treated during the year :—

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Remaining 1st January, 1883.....	27	14	41
Admitted during the year .....	478	202	680
<b>TOTAL TREATED.....</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>721</b>
Discharged .....	420	177	597
Died .....	42	21	63
Remaining 1st January, 1884.....	43	18	61

Of the In-patients there died :—

On the day of admission .....	3
1st day after ditto.....	8
2nd .....	1
3rd .....	4
4th .....	1
5th.....	2
6th.....	2
After 7th day.....	42
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>63</b>

Ages of those who died in Hospital were as follows:—

Under 10 .....	0
10 to 15 .....	3
15 to 25 .....	8
25 to 35 .....	2
35 to 45 .....	5
45 to 55 .....	7
55 to 65 .....	13
Over 65 .....	25
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>63</b>

Comparative statement of certain Statistics for 1882 and 1883:—

	<b>1882.</b>	<b>1883.</b>
Number of In-patients treated .....	601	721
Ditto died .....	68	63
Ditto of Out-patients treated .....	286	288
Ditto of diets issued to patients .....	19,526	19,890
Ditto to Staff .....	8385	8787
Daily average of In-patients .....	55	59
Average stay in Hospital each patient.....	38	30

The following information is given as a basis of comparison with other Hospitals:—

#### GENERAL HOSPITAL, LAUNCESTON.

##### A.

1. What is the population of the town and districts benefited by the Hospital? This institution is the only one available to the inhabitants of all districts north of Campbell Town, with the exception of Fingal and Portland. Of towns and districts, 54,000.
2. The character of the Hospital? General.
3. How long established? Nineteen years.
4. If the present building was erected as a Hospital? Yes.
5. What was its original cost? £12,000; additional accommodation has cost £10,000.
6. If whole of annual income contributed by Government? Yes, less about £450 contributed by patients who pay fees.
7. Was the cost of construction of building defrayed by Government? Yes.
8. Any income from invested funds? Yes, small.
9. Any amount received by Board from donations? Yes, small.
10. Is control of Institution under a Board or single officer? Board.
11. Number of its members? Thirteen, appointed by the Governor in Council. Board has power to fill its own vacancies, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.
12. Any power or control exercised by Government? Yes, in money matters.

##### B.

1. Number of beds? 66.
2. Cubic space in wards? 92,853 cubic feet.
3. Average number of in-patients daily through the year? Male and female, 59.
4. Number of patients who contributed to their own support during the year? 138.
5. Number of patients received during the year who would have been more suitable for a Benevolent Asylum? About one-twelfth.
6. Total number of in-patients treated during the year? 721.

##### C.

1. Number of out-patients attended at Hospital? 288.
2. Number attended at their own homes? None.
3. Number of women attended in confinement at their own homes? None.

##### D.

1. Number of paid medical officers? One.
2. Annual amount of his salary? £400 with quarters.
3. Any paid non-resident medical officer? No.
4. Number of paid officers exclusive of nurses and servants? Three,—the Secretary to the Board, the House Steward, and Matron.
5. Annual amount of their salaries? £50, £150, and £150 respectively.

6. Number of nursing staff? Ten.
7. Amount of their salaries? £346 10s.
8. Number of servants? Thirteen.
9. Amount of their salaries? £276 11s. 8d.
10. Total cost of salaries? £1373 1s. 8d.
11. Cost of allowances? £2 10s.
12. Any enquiry officer concerning out-patients? No.

## E.

1. Annual cost of provisions? £1159 11s. 4d.
2. Annual cost of wines, beers, spirits, &c.? £70 9s. 10d.
3. Washing done on the premises? Yes.
4. Cost of fire and light? £405 5s. 3d.
5. Cost of linen, and bedding, furniture, and earthenware? £780 10s. 2d.
6. Cost of drugs and surgical instruments? £615 16s. 10d.
7. Cost of water supply? £61 5s.
8. Cost of printing and stationery? £96 19s. 1d.
9. Cost of funerals? £82.
10. Cost of repairs? £57 16s. 9d.
11. Cost of each occupied bed (reckoned on the daily average number of patients)? £78 14s. 9½d.

## F.

1. Contract price of bread? 11s. per 100 lbs.
2. Contract price of meat? Supplied by joint.

Expenditure for the year 1883, arranged under the customary heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries .....	1373	1	8
Allowances .....	2	10	0
Fuel, Light, and Water .....	466	10	3
Provisions and Medical Comforts .....	1159	11	4
Alcoholic Foods .....	70	9	10
Clothing, Bedding, and Stores .....	545	6	3
Funeral expenses .....	82	0	0
Stationery and Advertising .....	16	19	1
Medicines and Surgical Instruments .....	615	16	10
Incidental Expenses .....	20	8	0
Repairs to buildings .....	57	16	9
Furniture .....	235	3	11
Gross Expenditure .....	£4645	13	11
Attendance and Medicine, Invalid Dépôt .....	36	10	0
Ditto, Penal Establishments .....	32	10	0
Estimated cost of treating out-patients, at 5s. ....	72	0	0
Paid to Treasury, fees from patients .....	451	10	8
Ditto, money from sale of offal .....	6	2	2
Net Expenditure .....	£4047	1	1

It has been customary to charge such items as "furniture," which figures at £235 3s. 11d., to the current year, with the obvious result of swelling the expenses fictitiously. The Board are strongly of opinion that such charges should be capitalised, then the annual cost of each occupied bed would be arrived at accurately.

Stated succinctly, it may be reported that many more patients have been treated than were in 1882; there has been a greater daily average; the stay in Hospital has been shorter, and there have been less deaths; more fees have been received, and the cost of each occupied bed has been reduced.

A Decennial Return is attached showing the yearly cost of the Hospital from 1874 to 1883 inclusive.

Attached also are the returns of all cases, in-door and out-door, treated at the Institution during the year, furnished by the Surgeon-Superintendent.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. COLLINS,

Chairman Launceston General Hospital Board.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Hobart.

*DECENNIAL RETURN showing the Number of Persons in Launceston General Hospital on the 31st December in each year ; the Number received into and discharged therefrom, and the Cost of the Institution, in each year of such Decennial period.*

Year.	Number re- maining 31st December.	Persons received into the Institution.	Discharged from the Institution.	Cost of the Institution in each year.		
				£	s.	d.
1874 .....	52	369	211	2570	1	11
1875 .....	62	402	347	2821	7	8
1876 .....	50	418	352	2782	1	8
1877 .....	51	457	389	2655	18	0
1878 .....	46	483	452	2883	2	6
1879 .....	51	468	393	3600	8	1
1880 .....	60	464	411	4201	14	10
1881 .....	57	485	432	4035	16	7
1882 .....	44	557	492	4572	12	10
1883 .....	41	677	617	4645	13	11

L. GREY THOMPSON, *Superintendent.*

## GENERAL HOSPITAL, LAUNCESTON.

*In-patients, 1883.*

## I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Miasmatic Diseases.*

	Cases.	Deaths.
Quinsy .....	7	
Typhus and Infantile Fever, Typhoid, &c. ....	44	4
Erysipelas .....	2	
Carbuncle, Boil .....	2	
Influenza, Coryza, Catarrh, &c. ....	3	
Dysentery .....	3	1
Ague .....	1	
Rheumatism .....	38	
Other Zymotic Diseases .....	12	
<b>Total Order 1 .....</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>5</b>

ORDER 2.—*Enthetic Diseases.*

Syphilis .....	19	
Gonorrhœa, Stricture of the Urethra... ..	18	
<b>Total Order 2 .....</b>	<b>37</b>	

ORDER 3.—*Dietic Diseases.*

Purpura and Scurvy .....	2	
Alcoholism { Delirium Tremens .....	5	
{ Intemperance .....	38	
Others .....	4	4
<b>Total Order 3 .....</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4</b>

ORDER 4.—*Parasitic Diseases.*

Hydatid .....	1	
<b>TOTAL CLASS I .....</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>9</b>

## II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Diathetic Diseases.*

Dropsy .....	4	2
Cancer .....	20	6
Tumour .....	4	
<b>Total Order 1 .....</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>

ORDER 2.—*Tubercular Diseases.*

Scrofula .....	6	
Phthisis .....	30	5
Others .....	4	4
<b>Total Order 2 .....</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>9</b>

**TOTAL CLASS II .....** 68 17

## III.—LOCAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Diseases of the Nervous System.*

Apoplexy .....	3	1
Paralysis .....	17	1
Insanity .....	5	
Epilepsy .....	16	
Brain Disease, &c. ....	25	4
<b>Total Order 1 .....</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>6</b>

ORDER 2.—*Diseases of the Organs of Circulation.*

Pericarditis .....	2	1
Aneurism .....	4	
Heart Disease, &c. ....	56	12
<b>Total Order 2 .....</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>13</b>

ORDER 3.—*Diseases of the Respiratory System.*

Laryngitis .....	1	
Bronchitis .....	14	
Pleurisy .....	1	
Pneumonia .....	10	2
Congestion of Lungs, Pulmonary Apoplexy .....	4	3
Asthma .....	10	1
Lung Disease, &c. ....	2	
<b>Total Order 3 .....</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>

ORDER 4.—*Diseases of the Digestive Organs.*

	Cases.	Deaths.
Gastritis .....	7	
Enteritis .....	2	1
Peritonitis .....	1	
Ascites .....	2	
Hernia .....	5	
Intussusception .....	1	1
Fistula .....	2	
Stomach Disease, &c. ....	12	
Hepatitis .....	5	
Liver Disease, &c. ....	4	
<b>Total Order 4 .....</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2</b>

ORDER 5.—*Diseases of the Urinary Organs.*

Nephritis .....	2	
Diabetes .....	2	
Stone, Gravel .....	1	
Cystitis .....	3	
Kidney Diseases, &c. ....	16	1
<b>Total Order 5 .....</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>

ORDER 6.—*Diseases of the Organs of Generation.*

Uterus Disease, &c. ....	8	
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ORDER 7.—*Diseases of the Locomotive System.*

Arthritis .....	2	
Ostitis, Periostitis, &c. ....	16	
Joint Disease, &c. ....	12	
<b>Total Order 7 .....</b>	<b>30</b>	

ORDER 8.—*Diseases of the Integumentary System.*

Phlegmon, Whitlow, &c. ....	8	1
Ulcer .....	17	
Skin Disease, &c. ....	32	
<b>Total Order 8 .....</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1</b>

**TOTAL CLASS III .....** 330 29

## IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

ORDER 3.—*Developmental Diseases of Old People.*

Old Age .....	3	1
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ORDER 4.—*Diseases of Nutrition.*

Atrophy and Debility .....	27	4
<b>TOTAL CLASS IV .....</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>

## V.—VIOLENCE.

ORDER 1.—*Accident or Negligence.*

Fractures, Contusions, &c. ....	59	1
Wounds { Gunshot .....	1	
{ Cuts, &c. ....	13	
Burns and Scalds .....	6	1
Bite of a Snake or Insect .....	1	
Other or unspecified accidents .....	6	
<b>Total Order 1 .....</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2</b>

ORDER 4.—*Suicide.*

Poison .....	8	1
<b>TOTAL CLASS V .....</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ALL CAUSES .....</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>63</b>



## GENERAL HOSPITAL, LAUNCESTON.

Out-door Patients, 1883.

I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.		ORDER 3.— <i>Diseases of the Respiratory System.</i>	
ORDER 1.— <i>Miasmatic Diseases.</i>		<i>Cases.</i>	
Whooping-cough .....	1	Laryngitis .....	1
Typhus and Infantile Fever, Typhoid, &c. ....	2	Bronchitis .....	23
Carbuncle, Boil .....	2	Pleurisy .....	3
Influenza, Coryza, Catarrh, &c. ....	9	Asthma .....	4
Dysentery .....	1	<i>Total Order 3.</i> .....	<u>31</u>
Diarrhœa .....	3		
Rheumatism .....	11		
<i>Total Order 1</i> .....	<u>29</u>		
ORDER 2.— <i>Enthetic Diseases.</i>		ORDER 4.— <i>Diseases of the Digestive Organs.</i>	
Syphilis .....	11	Gastritis .....	3
Gonorrhœa, Stricture of the Urethra .....	4	Enteritis .....	3
<i>Total Order 2</i> .....	<u>15</u>	Ascites .....	1
		Fistula .....	1
		<i>Stomach Disease, &amp;c.</i> .....	24
		<i>Liver Disease, &amp;c.</i> .....	9
		<i>Total Order 4.</i> .....	<u>41</u>
ORDER 3.— <i>Dietic Diseases.</i>		ORDER 5.— <i>Diseases of the Urinary Organs.</i>	
Privation .....	1	Stone, Gravel .....	1
Alcoholism, Intemperance .....	2	Cystitis .....	6
<i>Total Order 3</i> .....	<u>3</u>	<i>Kidney Disease, &amp;c.</i> .....	7
		<i>Total Order 5.</i> .....	<u>14</u>
ORDER 4.— <i>Parasitic Diseases.</i>		ORDER 6.— <i>Diseases of the Organs of Generation.</i>	
Worms, &c. ....	9	<i>Uterus Disease, &amp;c.</i> .....	<u>16</u>
<i>TOTAL CLASS I.</i> .....	<u>56</u>		
II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.			
ORDER 1.— <i>Diathetic Diseases.</i>		ORDER 7.— <i>Diseases of the Locomotive System.</i>	
Dropsy .....	1	Ostitis, Periostitis, &c. ....	3
Cancer .....	5	<i>Joint Disease, &amp;c.</i> .....	7
Tumour .....	1	<i>Total Order 7</i> .....	<u>10</u>
<i>Total Order 1</i> .....	<u>7</u>		
ORDER 2.— <i>Tubercular Diseases.</i>		ORDER 8.— <i>Diseases of the Integumentary System.</i>	
Tubes Mesenterica .....	1	Phlegmon, Whitlow, &c. ....	4
Phthisis .....	13	Ulcer .....	8
<i>Others</i> .....	1	<i>Skin Disease, &amp;c.</i> .....	24
<i>Total Order 2</i> .....	<u>15</u>	<i>Total Order 8</i> .....	<u>36</u>
<i>TOTAL CLASS II.</i> .....	<u>22</u>	<i>TOTAL CLASS III.</i> .....	<u>183</u>
III.—LOCAL DISEASES.		IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.	
ORDER 1.— <i>Diseases of the Nervous System.</i>		ORDER 3.— <i>Developmental Diseases of Old People.</i>	
Paralysis .....	1	Old Age .....	1
Insanity .....	1	ORDER 4.— <i>Diseases of Nutrition.</i>	
Epilepsy .....	3	Atrophy and Debility .....	<u>11</u>
<i>Brain Disease, &amp;c.</i> .....	7	<i>TOTAL CLASS IV.</i> .....	<u>12</u>
<i>Total Order 1</i> .....	<u>12</u>		
ORDER 2.— <i>Diseases of the Organs of Circulation.</i>		V.—VIOLENCE.	
Aneurism .....	1	ORDER 1.— <i>Accident or Negligence.</i>	
<i>Heart Disease, &amp;c.</i> .....	22	Fractures, Contusions, &c. ....	11
<i>Total Order 2</i> .....	<u>23</u>	Wounds, Cuts, &c. ....	2
		Burns and Scalds .....	1
		Bite of a Snake or Insect .....	1
		<i>Total Order 1</i> .....	<u>15</u>
		<i>TOTAL CLASS V.</i> .....	<u>15</u>
		<i>ALL CAUSES</i> .....	<u>288</u>