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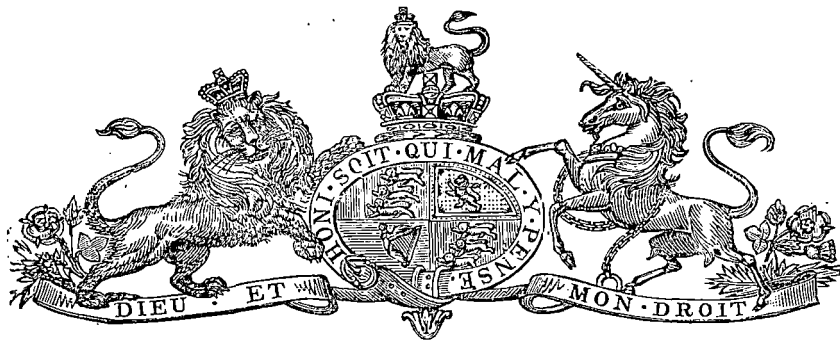
1890.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK :

REPORT FOR 1889.

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



HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1889.

*To His Excellency SIR ROBERT GEORGE CROOKSHANK HAMILTON,
Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of
Tasmania and its Dependencies, in Council.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE, the Official Visitors appointed under "The Insane Persons Hospitals Act Amendment Act, 1885," 49 Victoria, No. 35, to the Hospitals for the Insane in Tasmania, have the honor to submit to you our Annual Report for the year 1889.

During the year we paid eighteen visits to the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, many of them without previous notice, and on each occasion we inspected the food, provisions, stores, clothing, and buildings, finding all satisfactory, as will be seen by our official reports of each visit.

From our observations we were satisfied that the patients were receiving every care and attention on the part of the officers and attendants, who had, without exception, performed their multifarious and onerous duties with kindness and discretion.

Discipline was strictly maintained throughout the establishment.

On several occasions we had the patients mustered and found their number to correspond with the register.

The number of patients remaining in the Institution on 31st December, 1889, was 307, which was an increase of thirteen upon the previous year.

The admissions of patients—49 in number—show an increase of eight upon those admitted in 1888, while there were 22 patients discharged as compared with 33 in 1888, all of whom expressed their satisfaction at the kindness and attention of the officers of the Asylum to them, and of the good quality of the food, clothing, and bedding: indeed, in every case they appeared grateful for the treatment they had received.

The total number of patients treated during the year was 353, showing a marked increase upon the numbers in previous years.

The mortality during the year was slightly larger than usual, there having been 24 deaths. This is accounted for to some extent by the increased number of patients treated and the large number of cases of a hopeless character admitted.

As a consequence of the constantly increasing number of admissions, the accommodation of the present buildings is taxed to the utmost, but, notwithstanding this, the general health of the patients has been good: with the exception of two cases of typhoid fever, there has been no epidemic of any zymotic disease.

The constant recurrence of sporadic cases of typhoid fever, we think, points to some serious defect in the sanitation of the buildings or their surroundings.

Mr. Mault, the Engineering Inspector of the Central Board of Health, who visited the Asylum at our instance for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the drainage of the Institution, recommended important changes in the system of drainage and many other improvements, which, we have repeatedly urged, should be carried out without delay; as none of these recommendations have yet been acted upon, we cannot too forcibly urge the necessity of early attention to this important matter.

The means of escape in case of fire has engaged our serious attention during the year, and plans have now been prepared by the Government Architect for a fire-proof staircase at each end of the Main Building for Females. So far as this large building is concerned, wherein about 90 patients are domiciled, we believe these means will be effective for the purpose.

The fire brigade of the Institution is frequently exercised in our presence, and at other times, in the use of the appliances for extinguishing fire, and the two manual engines, with the present pressure of water, are of just sufficient power to throw water on to the roof of the large Main Building for Females; both the pressure of water and power of the engines might be increased with advantage.

The accommodation for females, on account of their increased and increasing numbers, is still inadequate.

The new building for females, which, as yet, is only partly completed, will accommodate only twenty-four patients. It is occupied by the quieter chronic class of cases, who are much benefited by their removal from amidst the more excitable patients.

Additional sleeping accommodation for at least ten more patients could be improvised by converting the large corridor on the upstairs floor into a temporary dormitory, as already suggested in our correspondence with the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

The cottage for idiots is occupied by 20 patients, who enjoy good health in its airy and capacious wards.

During winter it is found that the large day-room is insufficiently warmed by the single fire-place which the room contains; and we purpose increasing the heat by a stove to be placed in the centre of the room.

Whilst much has been done during the last two or three years in the erection of the two new buildings (one for idiots and the other for females), much still requires to be done; especially is it necessary that the erection of the administrative offices and quarters for the Assistant Medical Officer within the precincts of the hospital should be proceeded with at once. The present kitchen, bakery, scullery, flour-store, and wash-house are in a state of partial dilapidation, and should be replaced, as recommended in the general plans of the proposed improvements.

The grounds surrounding the new buildings have been beautified by the labour of some of the patients, and now form pleasing flower gardens.

A fine bowling-green has been well laid out in front of the cottage for idiots, and, when grassed, will form a pleasant ground for the amusement of the patients.

All patients who are able are required to do some work, which conduces to their mental improvement and general health. The value of this work is estimated at £1500 for the past year, and forms a large item in reduction of the cost of the establishment.

We believe that the introduction of steam, in a well considered scheme, would result in much benefit to the patients by relieving them of the heavy work such as wood-cutting, and enabling them to do gardening and other work more congenial and health-giving.

The recreation of the patients has not been neglected during the year. Besides the usual picnics, dances, walking parties, and other forms of amusement, the New Norfolk Band is engaged to play once a fortnight during the year.

We enclose the Annual Report of the Superintendent and Medical Officer, to which is appended such returns and tabulated information as will elucidate the statistical and financial affairs of the Institution.

In conclusion, we feel it our duty to again urge the Government to provide means for the completion of the present unfinished buildings, as well as for the unaccomplished recommendations contained in our interim Report for 1886, which were repeated in the Report of 1887.

We have the honor to be,
Your Excellency's most obedient Servants,

C. E. BARNARD, *M.D.*,
F. W. MITCHELL,
T. GRAY, *M.B. Ed.*, } *Official Visitors.*

13th May, 1890.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 17th April, 1890.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my Report for the year 1889, with the usual Returns appended.

There were 291 patients in the Hospital on 31st December, 1888,—viz., 134 males and 157 females; and on 31st December, 1889, there were 307 patients,—viz., 140 males and 167 females.

During the past year there have been 49 admissions,—viz., 29 males and 20 females, and 13 re-admissions,—viz., 11 males and 2 females; the total number treated being 353.

In the case of the re-admissions, the periods between discharge and re-admission varied from 11 months to 11 years. In several of these cases the patients were discharged under Section 22 of 22 Vict. No. 23, and therefore their re-admission was not unexpected—in fact, their friends were advised against removing them.

Three cases were re-admitted from the Cascades Hospital for the Insane.

Twenty-two patients were discharged; of these 6 were discharged in accordance with Section 22 of 22 Vict. No. 23; the percentage of discharges on admissions being 44. The admissions of idiots and imbeciles are not included in this calculation.

The greater number of the cases admitted last year were highly unfavourable with respect to recovery.

There have been 24 deaths,—viz., 19 males and 5 females; the percentage of deaths on the number treated being 6·8. The respective ages were as follows; viz.:—1, 85; 1, 79; 1, 74; 1, 69; 2, 66; 1, 65; 1, 61; 1, 60; 1, 49; 1, 47; 1, 46; 2, 42; 2, 41; 1, 37; 1, 32; 1, 31; 1, 29; 1, 28; 1, 26; 1, 21; and 1 unknown.

Four male patients escaped. All were brought back safely to the Asylum.

Two cases of typhoid fever occurred, one being a patient, the other a nurse. Both made good recoveries.

The yearly occurrence of typhoid fever in the Female Department of the Institution must be due to some insanitary condition connected either with the drainage of the Institution or with the streets bounding it on the west and north sides. Mr. Mault, the Sanitary Engineer to the Central Board of Health, has twice reported upon the drainage of the Institution, and has made a number of recommendations with regard to its improvement, but none of these have been carried out.

Two patients met with fracture of the femur, both accidentally. One made a good recovery, but in the other case necrosis of the bone took place, and he eventually died.

A coroner's inquest was held in the case of a female epileptic patient, who was found dead in bed, and a verdict was returned of "death from epilepsy."

The total amount received from paying patients was £2495 19s. 8d. The Imperial Government contributed £389 19s. 3d. The fees for the patients at the Gentlemen's Cottage amounted to £1097 9s. 5d., and for patients at the Ladies' Cottage, £895 8s. 6d.

The sale of stock realised £92 6s., and that of the offal, £7 16s.

The gross cost of the Institution was £12,010 5s., but, deducting the receipts from all sources, including the estimated value of the patients' labour and that of the farm produce, the net cost was £7264 9s. 5d., or 9s. 3½d. per week per patient.

During the year a considerable amount of work has been done by the patients of both sexes. The men have been employed at gardening, farming, carpentering, painting, and woodcutting, and also at domestic work in connection with the wards. The women have been occupied at needlework, in the laundry, and at domestic work of various kinds.

The garden, farm, and dairy have been as productive as usual. The garden has supplied a fair quantity of fruit and vegetables, and the farm has furnished 297½ dozen eggs, worth, at 1s. 3d. per dozen, £18 11s. 10½d., and also a supply of pork, bacon, and ham. The dairy supplied 42,940 pints of milk, worth, at 2d. a pint, £357 16s. 8d.

Owing to the small area of land available for the garden, the supply of vegetables is not as ample as it should be, and I would suggest that either more land be purchased for gardening purposes, or that a few acres be rented.

The usual amusements have been provided for, and have been enjoyed by the patients.

I desire to thank the kind donors of books, papers, and fruit for the use of the patients, and I assure them that these acceptable presents have been thoroughly appreciated.

The changes in the staff have been few during the year. Mr. Hill, the Chief Attendant, retired on his pension in February last, and Mr. W. H. Bennett, the Senior Attendant next to him, was appointed in his place. Mr. Bennett has been succeeded by Mr. Thomas Dowie.

The new building for Chronic Female Cases has been opened, and has relieved for the present the overcrowding in the female department.

The usual religious services have been held by both Protestant and Roman Catholic denominations.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Hospital Staff for the cordial assistance they have given me during the year.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W. H. MACFARLANE, *M.B., Superintendent
and Medical Officer.*

The Official Visitors, Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.

TABLE showing the Ages of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1889.

AGES.	ADMISSIONS.			DISCHARGES.						DIED.		
				<i>Recovered.</i>			<i>Removed, relieved, or otherwise.</i>					
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
From 5 to 10 years	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
From 10 to 15 years	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 15 to 20 years	2	1	3	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
From 20 to 30 years	11	4	15	...	1	1	...	...	...	4	...	4
From 30 to 40 years	10	4	14	5	1	6	1	...	1	3	...	3
From 40 to 50 years	3	4	7	2	1	3	...	1	1	6	1	7
From 50 to 60 years	4	4	8	4	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 60 to 70 years	4	1	5	1	...	1	...	...	...	4	2	6
From 70 to 80 years	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2
From 80 to 90 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
From 90 & upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unknown	3	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	40	22	62	13	4	17	2	3	5	19	5	24

TABLE showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1889.

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1889 .....	...	...	...	134	157	291
Admitted { For the first time	29	20	49			
{ Re-admitted	11	2	13			
Total admitted .....	...	...	...	40	22	62
Total under care during the year .....	...	...	...	174	179	353
Discharged, recovered, &c. { Died.....	19	5	24			
{ Recovered	15	7	22			
Total discharged, died, &c. during the year.....	...	...	...	34	12	46
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st December .....	...	...	...	140	167	307
Average number resident during the year .....	...	...	...	137	163	300

TABLE showing the Length of Residence of those discharged, recovered, and of those who have died, during the Year 1889.

Length of Residence.	Recovered or relieved.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Under 1 month	1	...	1	...	...	...
From 1 to 3 months	5	2	7	2	...	2
From 3 to 6 months	4	3	7	...	...	...
From 6 to 9 months	3	1	4	1	...	1
From 9 to 12 months.....	...	...	...	1	...	1
From 1 to 2 years	1	...	1	5	...	5
From 2 to 3 years	1	...	1	1	...	1
From 3 to 5 years .....	...	...	...	5	2	7
From 5 to 7 years .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 7 to 10 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 10 to 12 years .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 12 to 15 years .....	...	...	...	2	...	2
20 years .....	...	...	...	1	...	1
22 years .....	...	1	1	...	...	...
26 years .....	...	...	...	1	...	1
29 years .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
31 years .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
32 years .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
	15	7	22	19	5	24

TABLE showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality, and Proportion of Recoveries, &c. per cent. on Admissions, &c., for the Years 1880 to 1889.

	Admitted, including Re-admissions.			Discharged.									Died.			Remaining 31st December in each year.			Average Numbers resident.			Percentage of Cases recovered on Admission.			Percentage of Cases recovered on Average Numbers resident.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Numbers resident.		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Unimproved.																				
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
1880...	20	16	36	7	5	12	...	4	4	...	1	1	12	7	19	139	131	270	138.3	133.8	272.1	35.	56.2	44.4	5.06	6.7	5.8	8.6	5.2	6.9
1881...	28	20	48	4	1	5	1	1	2	...	...	...	17	5	22	145	144	289	141.5	137.4	278.9	17.8	10.	14.5	3.5	1.4	2.5	12.1	3.6	7.8
1882...	32	20	52	9	11	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	6	27	147	147	294	142.3	143.07	285.37	28.1	55.	38.4	6.3	7.6	7.3	14.7	4.1	9.4
1883...	31	16	47	7	8	15	3	2	5	...	...	...	20	7	27	145	144	289	149.3	142.4	291.7	22.6	50.	31.9	4.6	5.6	5.1	13.4	4.9	9.2
1884...	30	34	64	11	4	15	6	6	12	...	1	1	14	9	23	144	158	302	148.6	148.3	296.9	36.6	11.7	23.4	7.4	2.7	5.05	9.4	6.07	7.7
1885...	34	24	58	12	6	18	6	8	14	...	3	3	10	15	25	134	150	284	128.6	149.7	278.3	35.3	25.	31.03	9.3	4.008	6.4	7.7	10.02	8.9
1886...	25	16	41	7	6	13	6	4	10	1	...	1	7	12	19	138	143	281	133.4	145.4	278.8	28.	37.5	31.7	5.2	4.1	4.6	5.1	8.2	6.8
1887...	35	24	59	8	2	10	3	6	9	1	1	2	19	1	20	137	157	294	139.6	148.8	288.4	22.8	8.3	16.9	5.7	1.3	3.4	13.6	.67	6.9
1888...	25	24	49	9	7	16	3	14	17	...	...	...	14	3	17	134	157	291	133.9	158.1	292.	36.	29.1	32.6	6.7	4.4	5.5	10.4	1.9	5.8
1889...	40	22	62	13	4	17	2	2	4	...	1	1	19	5	24	140	167	307	137.	163.	300.	32.5	18.1	27.4	9.4	2.4	5.6	13.8	3.06	8.

RETURN of Patients who died in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and the Period of Detention, from January 1st to December 31st, 1889.

<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Date of Death.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Cause of Death.</i>
		1889.	Years.		
1459	27 July, 1887	4 January	32	M	Epilepsy.
1366	9 October, 1885	9 February	41	M	Epilepsy.
1374	12 November, 1885	9 February	49	M	Chronic Disease of Brain.
1431	5 January, 1887	27 February	37	M	Congestion of the Brain.
189	24 March, 1858	9 March	61	F	Epilepsy and Heart Disease.
1313	26 September, 1884	15 March	47	F	Epilepsy.
1493	20 January, 1888	1 April	85	M	Chronic Meningitis.
1489	12 December, 1887	21 April	69	M	Softening of the Brain.
590	6 January, 1869	27 April	79	M	Chronic Bronchitis.
1422	30 October, 1886	30 May	unknown	F	Epilepsy.
1520	30 June, 1888	18 June	60	M	General Paralysis of the Insane.
371	2 February, 1863	11 July	42	M	Phthisis.
127	28 February, 1856	20 July	65	F	Softening of Brain.
853	11 December, 1874	24 July	31	M	Necrosis of Femur.
1346	24 April, 1885	28 July	66	M	Chronic Mania.
1535	28 November, 1888	29 July	46	M	Spasmodic Spinal Paralysis.
1481	14 November, 1887	30 July	41	M	Softening of Brain.
979	21 July, 1877	2 August	66	M	Apoplexy.
1370	19 October, 1885	5 August	42	M	Disease of Brain.
1569	8 June, 1889	19 August	29	M	Acute Mania.
1409	28 June, 1886	23 September	21	M	Phthisis.
286	31 October, 1860	5 December	74	F	Exhaustion from Bedsores.
1530	3 October, 1888	14 December	26	M	Phthisis.
1583	2 October, 1889	25 December	28	M	Epilepsy.