

(No. 23.)



1864.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

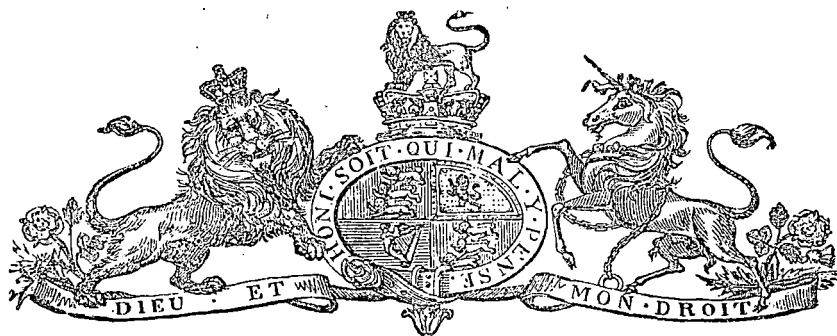
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HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

REPORT FOR 1863.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
June 29, 1864.



*Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 31st December, 1863.*

1. THE Commissioners for the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk have the honor to present their Fifth Annual Report of the above Institution.

2. They much regret not having in their power to report progress in alterations and improvements to the Buildings, which were urgently pressed upon the attention of the Government in previous Reports, no funds having been made available during the past year for those purposes. A balance, however, of £400 from the sum provided for 1863 for Public Buildings generally has, at the end of the year, been handed by the Government to the Commissioners, for the purpose of proceeding with some alterations which were most urgently required. These are the conversion of the remainder of the old wooden cells in the Female Division into cheerful, commodious, and properly ventilated apartments, and the removal of the unsightly latrines in the Male Yards to less prominent and less offensive situations. Steps are now being taken to carry out these works.

3. The Commissioners would very earnestly impress upon the Government the necessity of providing means to effect the following objects:—1st. The erection of a cottage for the residence and treatment of the better class of Female Patients. 2nd. The conversion of the present kitchen into bath-houses for the Male Patients, and the erection of a new cook and bakehouse. 3rd. The conversion of the old dismal cells on the south side of the Male Yard into light and healthy sleeping apartments,—a change which has already been effected with much advantage in the northern wing. 4th. The re-arrangement of the latrines in the front portion of the Male Division; and 5th, the purchase of certain pieces of land adjoining the Hospital, an addition to the present grounds which would in a short time pay for itself by the produce raised on it for the use of the Establishment.

4. The erection of a separate Cottage for a better class of Female Patients is a proposal on which the Commissioners would earnestly insist. If the considerations on which such a provision for Male Patients was made were deemed to be conclusive, they cannot be less so, but the contrary, in the case of Females, the more delicate organisation of whom renders it even more imperative that, in the buildings for their reception, and in the treatment pursued toward them, everything which could irritate the mind should be avoided, and everything calculated to soothe it should, as far as practicable, be provided. In making this recommendation on these grounds, which they have primarily to regard, it is satisfactory to the Commissioners to add, that they are supported by the fact of the receipts from the similar Establishment already in operation in the Male Division having exceeded its expenses; during the past year a balance of £150 remaining after covering all ordinary expenses, including wear and tear of bedding, furniture, utensils, &c., but exclusive of interest on the cost of the Building.

5. The erection of a new Kitchen and Bakehouse the Commissioners have long felt to be desirable; and the conversion of the present building into Bath-rooms, available for both back and front divisions of the Male Patients, would be a considerable improvement, and supply an existing want. The present arrangements for bathing for both divisions are so inadequate that many of the Patients are precluded from the free use of this important sanitary and remedial agent.

6. In applying to the Government for the sums required for new works, the Commissioners would call attention to the fact that the cost of repairs on this Establishment is very trifling. Every description of work required on the Buildings is, as far as practicable, effected by the inmates, who within the last three months have been employed in repairing, painting, and colouring the wards and corridors. A considerable amount of labour has also been supplied to the various contracts for building, and the payment under contracts has in a corresponding degree been thereby reduced.

7. The acquisition of a piece of ground contiguous to the Hospital and adjoining the present grounds, which the Commissioners have been informed might be purchased on moderate terms, would enable them to remove the farm-yard and cow-sheds from their present most objectionable situation to the outside of the Hospital Wall, and convert their site into pleasant airing grounds for the Patients. There is a neat cottage on the ground alluded to, which could be used as quarters for one of the underkeepers, thereby saving the rent allowance of £12 per annum.

8. The condition of the Patients continues to be satisfactory; calmness and cheerfulness generally prevail: a result which the Commissioners are satisfied may be traced to the system pursued during the last few years of enlarging their freedom, increasing their comfort, and affording them such relaxations as were compatible with the order and safety of the Establishment.

9. Recreations such as pic-nics, walks into the country, frequent dances, balls, music, winter evening readings, &c, have been provided at an insignificant cost, and advantage has been taken of various itinerant dramatic performances, including the Lancashire Bell-ringers. The healthful pleasure afforded in this way to the Patients only those who have witnessed it can fully appreciate. Books, pictures, and illustrated papers have been circulated among the inmates of the Asylum, the latter provided chiefly through the kindness of friends; the most liberal in contributions of this description being a discharged Patient, who, though in humble circumstances, has forwarded several parcels of illustrated papers for the benefit of his late fellow-patients. A good Bagatelle Board has been placed in the cottage appropriated to the better class of Male Patients, of which they avail themselves daily.

10. The provisions, &c., supplied during the year have been invariably of good quality.

11. The number of admissions, as shown in the annexed Table, were 38; discharges, 13; deaths, 16: showing an increase of admissions of 10 on those of the previous year. Of these, only two were admissions of persons who had previously been Patients in the Institution.

The discharges, the Commissioners regret, do not exhibit a large average on the numbers treated; but this is fully accounted for by Patients being seldom admitted until in a very chronic stage of mental disease, when the chances of recovery become so much more remote. It, however, gives them satisfaction to state, that, with one exception, every case exhibiting acute symptoms admitted during the year has been cured and discharged. The subject of the exceptional case alluded to was brought in insensible, and died the same day. Of the 13 cases discharged, 7 were admitted during the year, 3 in 1862, and the remaining 3 had been for some years in the Hospital.

The Table of Deaths exhibits a medium average, and among these were two Patients of the respective ages of 82 and 73.

12. As many Patients as could be induced to do so have been, as heretofore, usefully employed; and besides the work shown in the annexed Table, the Male Patients have been engaged in various occupations, such as wood-cutting, gardening, and other necessary labour about the grounds.

13. The total number of Patients treated during the year was 246, and the average daily number 213.

14. The number of Patients maintained by the Colony was 168, and by the Imperial Government, 57. The number paying fees, 21.

15. The average daily cost of each Patient has been about 1s. 10d. The whole cost of the Establishment for the year amounts to £7200, of which £683 was contributed by paying Patients, and about £1800 by the Imperial Government.

16. The Report of the Superintendent as to the conduct of the Officers of the Institution is highly satisfactory.

17. The Commissioners have still to regret that persons declared to be insane, and fit subjects for this Institution, by properly qualified medical gentlemen, should be too frequently subjected to a public examination in the Police Courts before the required order for admission can be obtained. This practice they believe to be very injurious to certain classes of the mentally afflicted; and they hope the Government will lend its influence to have that, which they believe to be an evil, removed.

18. The Commissioners, in closing their Report for 1863, feel that they only discharge a debt of justice to the Superintendent and Medical Officer, Mr. Huston, in testifying to the cordiality and zeal with which he has seconded them in every proposal for the amelioration of the Hospital, and to the tact, discretion, and kindness which have marked his intercourse with the Patients of all classes,

conciliating thereby their confidence and good feeling. In the harassing and discouraging duties incident to the charge of an Institution like the New Norfolk Hospital, the importance of having a Resident Medical Officer, whose hearty sympathy is devoted to his work, cannot be overstated in enumerating the agencies employed for the recovery or protection of the Insane.

R. OFFICER, *President*.  
 W. TARLETON.  
 † R. W. WILLSON.  
 HENRY BUTLER.  
 FRED. M. INNES.  
 JNO. A. MOORE.  
 J. TURNBULL.  
 W. S. SHARLAND.  
 W. A. B. JAMIESON.

*RETURN of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths in the HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE at NEW NORFOLK, showing the per-centage of Discharges and Deaths during the Year 1863.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>	<i>DISCHARGES. RECOVERED.</i>			<i>DEATHS.</i>			<i>RATE PER CENT. OF RECOVERIES.</i>		<i>RATE PER CENT. OF DEATHS.</i>	
				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>	<i>On Admissions.</i>	<i>On Total treated.</i>	<i>On Admissions.</i>	<i>On Total treated.</i>
Remaining 31st December, 1862 ..	110	98	208										
Admitted during the year 1863 ....	23	15	38	10	3	13	8	8	16	34·8	5·70	42·2	6·124
TOTAL.....	133	113	246										
Remaining 31st December, 1863 ..	115	102	217										

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

*RETURN of Articles of Clothing, &c., made and repaired by the Patients in the HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE at NEW NORFOLK, from 1st January to 31st December, 1863.*

	MADE.		REPAIRED.	
	<i>By Males.</i>	<i>By Females.</i>	<i>By Males.</i>	<i>By Females.</i>
Aprons. ....	—	105	—	—
Boots, men's, pairs. ....	3	—	375	—
Boots, women's, ditto. ....	1	—	19	—
Blouses, linen. ....	—	24	—	14
Blouses, serge. ....	—	—	—	6
Bolster cases. ....	—	—	38	—
Boots, girls', pairs. ....	3	—	—	—
Blinds, window. ....	—	10	—	—
Caps, women's. ....	—	42	—	—
Chemises, striped. ....	—	75	—	—
Coats, tweed, men's. ....	1	—	—	—
Drawers, flannel, men's. ....	—	43	8	132
Dresses, print. ....	—	37	—	—
Dresses, serge. ....	—	9	—	—
Frocks, linen, men's. ....	—	—	85	—
Frocks, serge. ....	—	8	—	—
Gowns, flannel, girls'. ....	—	2	—	—
Jackets, blue cloth, men's. ....	1	—	240	—
Jackets, cotton. ....	—	40	—	—
Jackets, serge. ....	—	87	—	40
Jackets, flannel, women's. ....	—	31	—	—
Palliasses. ....	—	—	19	—
Petticoats, serge. ....	—	121	—	120
Pillow cases. ....	—	47	21	—
Petticoats, flannel. ....	—	14	—	—
Rugs, woollen. ....	—	—	13	—
Rugs, Osnaburg, quilted. ....	4	4	—	—
Shirts, cotton, men's. ....	—	187	27	305
Shoes, men's, pairs. ....	1	—	48	—
Shoes, women's, ditto. ....	1	—	58	—
Stockings, men's, ditto. ....	—	—	—	893
Stockings, women's, pairs. ....	—	—	—	—
Sheets. ....	—	—	—	20
Slippers, leather, pairs. ....	3	—	—	—
Shirts, flannel. ....	—	—	—	—
Table-cloths. ....	—	29	—	—
Trowsers, fustian, men's, pairs. ....	108	—	286	—
Trowsers, tweed, ditto. ....	40	—	159	—
Trowsers, linen, ditto. ....	—	—	44	—
Towels. ....	—	—	—	11
Waistcoats, flannel. ....	—	—	—	95
Waistcoats, blue cloth, men's. ....	2	—	176	—

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