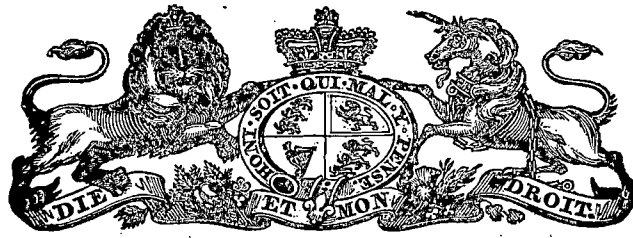


(No. 6.)



1878.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, NEW NORFOLK.

REPORT FOR 1877.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 16, 1878.



Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, January, 1878.

To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE have the honor to make our usual Report on the state of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, and supply Appendices thereto, for the year 1877.

We have much satisfaction in acknowledging the zealous and efficient services of Dr. Huston and the staff of Officers under his control. In the male department it is difficult to secure the assistance of apt and reliable subordinates at the rate of wages hitherto current, or even at a moderate advance, but in the female department difficulties in this respect have been abated by the increase sanctioned in the Estimates for the current year.

But we regret having occasion to remonstrate at the neglect with which our repeated and urgent representations have been treated in reference to the professional management of this Hospital. From 1866 to 1871 the institution had the advantage of the services of an Assistant Medical Officer as well as the Surgeon-Superintendent, and, during the same period, also the casual but material benefit of the residence of two professional Commissioners on the township, whose assistance was available in any emergency and sometimes for protracted periods in the absence of Dr. Huston. But in 1871, in deference to the pressing demands for retrenchment in the public expenditure, and also to meet a sudden requirement at Port Arthur, the Commissioners acceded, though not without reluctance, to the Hospital being temporarily deprived of its Assistant Medical Officer and the sole charge being devolved on the principal Officer, aided as heretofore by the two Commissioners referred to. When therefore the Commissioners found, after some years, that the duties of the Establishment had not diminished, but on the contrary sensibly increased, especially by the increased number of Paying Patients, and the Superintendent's lengthened period of service claimed some consideration at the hands of the Commissioners, and when also the services of Sir Robert Officer and Dr. Moore had ceased to be available as formerly, they felt, when they appealed to the Executive to restore the Establishment to its former footing, that they did not urge an unreasonable request. Irrespective of any special reasons, we submit that it is not prudent that the maintenance of an establishment of this character, the only one too in the Colony, should be dependent on one skilled person only; and in any case, that the law having entrusted to Commissioners the care and custody of the Insane, their representation of what is necessary to the humane and satisfactory discharge of their responsibility is entitled to a more willing and prompt compliance than we have obtained.—The correspondence on this subject is appended.

We desire also, in this place, to call attention to the necessity of providing additional accommodation for Gentlemen Patients, and to the delay in effecting repairs and other works. The Commissioners have no wish to add to their responsibilities; but, looking at the special objects of this Institution, and to the serious consequences liable to ensue from protracted delays in matters connected with its efficient management, they would submit that it is desirable that they should have the same discretion accorded to them as is now exercised by the Board of Education, in respect to repairs and other works, instead of having to wait for the convenience of the Public Works Department.

The usual Returns are hereto appended:—

No. 1. Return of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths of Patients.

No. 2. Return of the duration of disease in Patients on admission, and the result, for the year 1877.

- No. 3. Return of Patients who died in the Hospital, with period of detention, during the year 1877.
- No. 4. Return of Articles of Clothing made and repaired by Patients.
- No. 5. Return of Mechanical Work performed by Patients.
- No. 6. Return of Sales of Stock and Produce.
- No. 7. Return of Farm and Garden Produce.
- No. 8. Return of the Cost of the Hospital for the Insane.

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

R. OFFICER, *President.*
FRED^c. M. INNES.
A. RIDDOCH.
W. TARLETON.
JNO. A. MOORE.
HENRY BUTLER.
W. A. B. JAMIESON.
HENRY HUNTER.
ROB. CAR READ.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Commissioners held at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, on the 6th day of January, 1866.

THE Superintendent reports the death of the Head Keeper, Mr. Brown, on the 12th ultimo, when it was resolved: "That Messrs. Tarleton, Butler, and Huston form a deputation from the Commissioners to wait on the Colonial Secretary, and to represent the expediency of advantage being taken of the present vacancy in the office of Head Keeper to revise the general arrangement of the Hospital, more particularly with a view to providing medical assistance to the Surgeon-Superintendent by a consolidation of the duties of Head Keeper."

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Commissioners held at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, on the 6th day of June, 1871.

THE Superintendent reported that Dr. M'Carthy, the House Surgeon, had been relieved from his duties in this Establishment from the 31st ultimo to proceed to Port Arthur in temporary medical charge, pending the consideration of a communication from the Government; and the President having laid before the Commissioners two letters he had received from the Honorable Colonial Secretary in reference thereto, it was resolved: "That the Commissioners, in acceding to the representation of the Government in respect to reduction in the annual expenditure of the Hospital, desire to state that they rely upon the Executive enabling them to meet the requirements of the Hospital as regards medical attendance in the absence, from ill health or any other cause, of the Surgeon-Superintendent at any future period."

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 8th June, 1871.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 25th May last, in which you inform me that in consequence of the necessity that exists for the reduction of the expenditure on the Public Establishments; wherever it can be effected, the Government propose the reduction of one Medical Officer only at the Hospital for the Insane.

Having laid your communication before the Commissioners at their meeting on the 6th instant, I have now the honor to inform you that, anxious to meet the views of the Government as far as the well-being of the Institution under their charge will admit, they accede to the proposed reduction, relying on their being enabled to meet the requirements of the Hospital as regards medical attendance in the absence at any time of the Medical Officer from ill health or any other cause.

The Commissioners desire further to represent that, in consequence of this reduction, without the appointment of a Head Keeper, in accordance with the arrangement that existed before Dr. M'Carthy's appointment, a considerable amount of additional labour and responsibility will be necessarily thrown on the present Senior Keeper, already, they believe, sufficiently occupied with his duties; and they are of opinion that in undertaking this additional labour a small addition should be made to his present salary of £110, which they recommend accordingly to be increased to £130. The saving thus effected by the removal of Dr. M'Carthy will amount to £230 per annum, besides the rations and firewood supplied to that officer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. OFFICER.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Commissioners held at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, on the 6th day of October, 1877.

LETTER from Dr. Huston, Superintendent and Medical Officer, asking that an Assistant Medical Officer be again appointed, read; and it was resolved unanimously by the whole of the Commissioners (seven) present: "That in the opinion of the Commissioners it is absolutely necessary to the proper control of the Hospital that an Assistant Medical Officer, qualified to assist the Principal Medical Officer and to undertake the sole management of the Hospital in his temporary absence, should be immediately appointed; and they commend this representation to the Executive as urgent." Resolved: "That this Resolution be conveyed to the Executive, and its importance personally represented by the Hon. Dr. Butler, chairman of this meeting."

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Commissioners held at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, on the 8th day of December, 1877.

THE Hon. Dr. Butler and Mr. Tarleton reported that they had waited on the Honorable Colonial Secretary and urged upon his attention the necessity of an Assistant Medical Officer being attached to the Institution, assuring him that it was the unanimous opinion of the Commissioners that the appointment should be made at as early a period as possible; and they were informed by the Honorable Colonial Secretary that it would receive the immediate attention of the Government, and, in his opinion, would be favourably entertained; and it was resolved: "That the Executive be informed that the Commissioners are deeply disappointed at not having received any decisive reply, and desire to ascertain what measures the Government are prepared to sanction in order to provide for the efficient management of the Establishment, and for its sole conduct in the occasional necessary absences of Dr. Huston. The Commissioners in the mean time respectfully urge that the appointment of a second Medical Officer cannot be longer deferred without prejudice to the Hospital, and personal injustice to the present Chief Medical Officer, who is precluded from any leave of absence while this matter remains in suspense."

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 29th December, 1877.

SIR,

WITH reference to the recommendation by the Commissioners of the appointment of a second Medical Officer for the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, I have the honor to inform you that the Government are disposed to meet the views of the Commissioners; but, in order to warrant the appropriation by the Governor in Council of public money not voted by Parliament, the provisions of the Audit Act render it imperative that a medical certificate should be furnished to the effect that the health of the Surgeon-Superintendent requires that he should have the assistance asked for, to ensure the efficient management of the Hospital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. O. FYSH, for Colonial Secretary (absent).

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Commissioners held at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, on the 8th day of January, 1878.

A REPLY from Honorable Colonial Secretary to Commissioners' resolution urging the appointment of an Assistant Medical Officer read, when it was resolved "That the following communication be addressed to the Government:"—

"SIR,

"I am requested to reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo in reference to the appointment of a second Medical Officer to this Establishment, which was duly considered by the Commissioners at their meeting on Tuesday, the 8th instant, that they are not responsible for any difficulties under the Audit Act standing in the way of the compliance of the Government with their urgent recommendation, that recommendation having been pressed upon the attention of the Executive Government on more than one occasion before the Estimates for 1878 were dealt with by Parliament.

"I am further desired to acquaint you that the ground of their recommendation was not limited to the necessity of relieving Dr. Huston on account of his state of health, but the absolute requirements of this Establishment at all times. At the same time I am to add that the casual assistance which the Medical Superintendent has hitherto obtained through the obliging services of Sir Robert Officer and Dr. Moore is not now available in emergencies as heretofore.

"The Commissioners do not comprehend the allusion to the Audit Act as requiring them to obtain a medical certificate in respect to the health of the Surgeon-Superintendent, as they desire anew to press upon the Government the representation that an Assistant Medical Officer is absolutely necessary to the efficient administration of the Hospital, as well as in justice to the Surgeon-Superintendent.

"I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BUTLER, Chairman.
"10th January, 1878.

"The Hon. the Colonial Secretary."

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Commissioners held at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, on the 5th day of March, 1878.

REFERRING to the correspondence on the subject of the appointment of an Assistant Medical Officer, it was resolved: "That the Commissioners have to express their surprise at the non-receipt of any reply to their remonstrance addressed to the Honorable Colonial Secretary of date January 10th, and request the President to address another communication to the Government, renewing their representation, and on receiving an acknowledgment thereto the Commissioners be summoned to receive and consider the same."

(Signed) R. OFFICER, President.

No. 1.

RETURN of Admissions, Discharges, Deaths, and Re-admissions in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, showing the per-centage of Discharges and Deaths from 1st January to 31st December, 1877.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
<i>Admissions.</i>			
Remaining 31st December, 1876	132	128	260
Admitted during the year 1877	34	11	45
TOTAL	166	139	305
Remaining 31st December, 1877	138	123	261
Average number resident, 1877 .....	..	..	261½
<i>Discharges.</i>			
Of those admitted during the year	10	2	12
Of previous admissions	4	3	7
TOTAL	14	5	19
<i>Deaths.</i>			
Of those admitted during the year	3	3	6
Of previous admissions	11	8	19
TOTAL	14	11	25
<i>Re-admissions.</i>			
Of those discharged during the year	1	..	1
Of previous discharges	4	1	5

Rate per cent. of Recoveries.

On Admissions	26½
On total treated	6½

Rate per cent. of Deaths.

On Admissions	24
On total treated	8½

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

No. 2.

RETURN showing the Duration of Disease in Patients on Admission, and the Result, for the Year 1877.

<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Duration of Disease on Admission.</i>	<i>Discharged relieved or recovered.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Present Condition.</i>
954	3 January	Some years.	31 December		
955	8	Ditto intermittent.	..	..	Much better.
956	24	Unknown.	7 February		
957	29	Three weeks	5 November		
958	4 February	Three months	..	..	Unimproved.
959	4	Not stated	..	..	Ditto.
960	2 March	Five days	..	..	Ditto.
961	22	Not stated	..	..	Improved.
962	22	Not stated	..	24 July	
963	21 April	Unknown	..	..	Improved.
964	21	Three months	..	10 June	
965	1 May	Ten days	16 May		
966	6	Twelve days	..	14 November	
967	12	Two weeks	..	..	Improved.
968	12	Two weeks	..	..	Unimproved.
969	12	One month	..	4 June	
970	25	Three weeks	..	..	Improved.
971	8 June	Two years	1 December		
972	12	Unknown	4 July		
973	19	Twenty-four years	..	..	Improved.
974	23	Not stated	1 December		
975	28	Three months	..	..	Much improved.
976	12 July	Three weeks	..	..	Unimproved.
977	17	Some months	..	..	Improved.
978	18	Not known	8 September		
979	21	Two months	..	..	Unimproved.
980	21	Years	..	..	Improved.
981	31	Probably from birth	..	..	Unimproved.
982	7 August	Three months	..	..	Ditto.
983	11	One month	8 September		
984	24	Three weeks	..	..	Unimproved.
985	25	One year and three months	8 September		
986	1 September	One month	..	23 September	
987	5	Three months	..	14 September	
988	29	Fourteen years	..	..	Unimproved.
989	15 November	Ten days	..	..	Improved.
990	17	Four months	28 November		
991	21	Three weeks	..	..	Unimproved.
992	25	Six months	..	..	Ditto.
993	30	Six years	..	..	Ditto.
994	1 December	Two weeks	..	..	Improved.
995	1	Not stated	15 December		
996	13	Two weeks	..	..	Improved.
997	22	Two months	..	..	Ditto.
998	31	Two years	..	..	Unimproved.

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

No. 3.

RETURN of Patients who died in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, and Period of Detention, from 1st January to 31st December, 1877.

No. in Register.	Date of Admission.	Date of Death.	Age.	Remarks.	No. in Register.	Date of Admission.	Date of Death.	Age.	Remarks.
619	10. 9. 69.	4. 1. 77.	58	Disease of brain and lungs.	969	22. 3. 77.	24. 7. 77.	65	Diarrhoea and disease of brain
937	26. 9. 76.	8. 1. 77.	9	Disease of heart and diarrhoea.	884	2. 10. 75.	28. 7. 77.	52	Disease of brain. [and heart.
769	29. 1. 73.	9. 1. 77.	10	Marasmus.	665	30. 8. 70.	21. 8. 77.	15	Ditto and marasmus.
38	15. 1. 46.	10. 1. 77.	76	Natural decay.	936	23. 9. 76.	6. 9. 77.	75	Ditto and natural decay.
925	13. 7. 76.	18. 1. 77.	45	Disease of brain.	987	5. 9. 77.	14. 9. 77.	37	Apoplexy.
778	19. 9. 73.	30. 5. 77.	54	Congestion of brain.	780	2. 6. 73.	20. 9. 77.	55	Disease of brain and dropsy.
934	19. 9. 76.	30. 5. 77.	61	Malignant abscess on hip.	986	1. 9. 77.	23. 9. 77.	41	Suicide.
19	30. 1. 49.	1. 6. 77.	66	Disease of brain and liver.	210	18. 2. 59.	16. 10. 77.	38	Disease of brain and lungs.
969	12. 5. 77.	4. 6. 77.	76	Natural decay.	882	21. 9. 75.	29. 10. 77.	50	Apoplexy.
964	21. 4. 77.	10. 6. 77.	69	Disease of brain.	966	6. 5. 77.	14. 11. 77.	65	Ditto and paralysis.
951	15. 12. 76.	18. 6. 77.	61	Ditto and embolism of heart.	743	12. 6. 72.	26. 11. 77.	47	Fatty disease of heart.
875	10. 7. 75.	5. 7. 77.	42	Disease of brain.	930	28. 8. 76.	1. 12. 77.	54	Apoplexy.
					874	2. 7. 75.	1. 12. 77.	61	Disease of brain.

ANALYSIS OF AGES AT DEATH.

Sex.	Under 20.	20 under 30.	30 under 40.	40 under 50.	50 under 60.	60 under 70.	70 under 80.	80 under 90.	90 under 100.	TOTALS.
Males	1	...	2	2	3	5	1	...	...	14
Females	2	...	...	2	3	2	2	...	...	11

G. F. HUSTON, Superintendent and Medical Officer.

No. 4.

RETURN of Articles of Clothing made and repaired by the Patients in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, from 1st January to the 31st December, 1877.

ARTICLES.	MADE.		REPAIRED.		ARTICLES.	MADE.		REPAIRED.	
	By Males.	By Females.	By Males.	By Females.		By Males.	By Females.	By Males.	By Females.
Aprons, women's .....	..	149	..	..	Mattresses .....	..	..	..	..
Boots, men's, pairs	1	..	185	..	Miscellaneous "small arti- cles" .....	..	26	306	21
Boots, women's, pairs	1	..	39	..	Palliasses .....	..	..	..	..
Boots, children's, pairs	1	..	22	..	Rugs and counterpanes ..	..	..	..	..
Blinds, window .....	..	11	..	..	Sheets .....	..	..	..	25
Blouzes, boys' .....	..	6	..	6	Shirts, men's .....	..	384	..	753
Cases, pillow and bolster ..	..	200	..	43	Shoes, men's, pairs .....	..	..	42	..
Caps, women's .....	..	27	..	..	Shoes, women's, pairs .....	..	..	144	..
Coats, blue and tweed	6	..	76	..	Shifts, women's .....	..	172	..	..
Dresses, coburg, print, tweed .....	..	83	..	..	Slippers, pairs .....	..	..	14	..
Dresses, ticking .....	..	58	..	..	Stockings, pairs .....	..	12	..	1052
Dresses, winsey .....	..	17	..	..	Sox, pairs .....	..	..	..	547
Dresses, serge .....	..	..	..	..	Towels, hand and round ..	..	34	..	..
Drawers, cotton & flannel, pairs .....	..	12	..	51	Trousers, fustian, pairs	38	..	1295	..
Frocks, linen, men's .....	..	..	218	63	Trousers, tweed	37	..	254	..
Gowns, night .....	..	5	..	..	Trousers, linen & blanket ..	6	..	1	..
Jackets, blue cloth, men's ..	..	..	271	..	Table cloths .....	..	..	..	..
Jackets, serge and tweed, women's .....	..	..	..	..	Vests, flannel .....	..	24	..	46
Jackets, cotton .....	..	160	..	..	Vests, tweed, fustian and cloth	11	..	237	..
Jackets, canvas, men's .....	..	..	2	..	Hoods, women's .....	..	207	..	..
					Petticoats, women's .....	..	98	..	..

G. F. HUSTON, Superintendent and Medical Officer.

RETURN of Work performed by Patients in co-operation with the Carpenter and Painter in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, during the Year 1877.

Carpenter's New Work.—3 wheel-barrow; 2 tables; handles to fire engine; mauls; axe handles; box carriage for girls; 6 strong wood-horses; 24 arm and commode chairs; baker's peels; posts in drying-yard; frames for pictures, &c.; cases to water pipes; set of shelves for store; 5 coffins; blocks for building shed in back yard; wheels for barrows, &c.

Repairs.—Sub-matron's quarters—Bath-room, gate and gate-posts. Superintendent's quarters—Floors generally throughout buildings; looking-glass frames; verandah ladies' cottage, door to back kitchen; handling axes, hay forks, and rakes; close stools, wheel-barrow, verandah female division, hand-cart, hand-dray, posts to cell yard fence, female division, wheels to hand-carts and wheel-barrow, gate to ladies' cottage, floor, &c. new buildings; verandah floor, ladies' cottage, relayed; wheels for horse-carts and dray, scenery for theatre, clothes presses. Garden—Drying-yard and farm fences generally, mangle, ladders, couches, and chairs; general repairs throughout.

Plumber.—Water-pipes and taps throughout; quantity of picture frames.

Painter.—Female Division—4 rooms, passages, banisters, ceilings, doors and windows painted throughout quantity of picture frames, &c.; chairs, &c. painted.

Glazier.—Windows and skylights throughout; 115 squares of glass repaired.

Colouring.—Wards, passages, rooms, cells, and kitchens in all parts of building.

Bricklayer.—Fire-places, drains, plastering and brick-work throughout.

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

HOSPITAL for the Insane, New Norfolk, Return of Farm Account Sales, 1877.

	£	s.	d.
9th May, 7 pigs, by auction, at 38s. each.....	13	6	0
10th October, mangolds, 5 tons, at 12s. per ton.....	3	0	0
24th October, 6 pigs, by auction, at 40s. each.....	12	0	0
	£28	6	0

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

RETURN of Farm and Garden Produce (exclusive of Culinary Vegetables) at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1877.

10,600 lbs. of English Grass.	56 tons of Mangolds.
24,500 lbs. of Lucerne ditto.	35 bushels of Barley for seed.
10,400 lbs. of Prairie ditto.	30 bushels of Oats ditto.
8000 lbs. of Green Barley.	12 bushels of Peas.
10,000 lbs. of Maize.	36,616 pints of Milk.
16 tons of Oat and Barley Hay.	436 dozen of Eggs.
2 tons of English Hay.	

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

THE Cost of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1877 was £5961 8s. 3d.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Salaries	2780	14	2
Allowances.....	24	0	0
Provisions, including Medical Comforts, &c.	3195	7	3
Fuel and Light	518	17	11
Bedding, Clothing, Stores, &c.	760	9	11
Stationery	21	17	5
Medicines	56	15	7
Advertising	5	0	0
Incidental expenses	19	6	9
Extra Medical Attendance	6	6	0
Conveyance of Stores	65	11	9
Coroner's Inquests	2	14	0
Travelling expenses of Commissioners	67	0	0
Funerals	36	8	0
Repairs to Buildings, &c.	101	10	3
Cr.	7661	19	0
Fees for self-supporting Patients, and for Patients' labour, washing, and sale of pigs and mangolds	1700	10	9
	<u>£5961</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>

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