

(No. 109.)



1883.

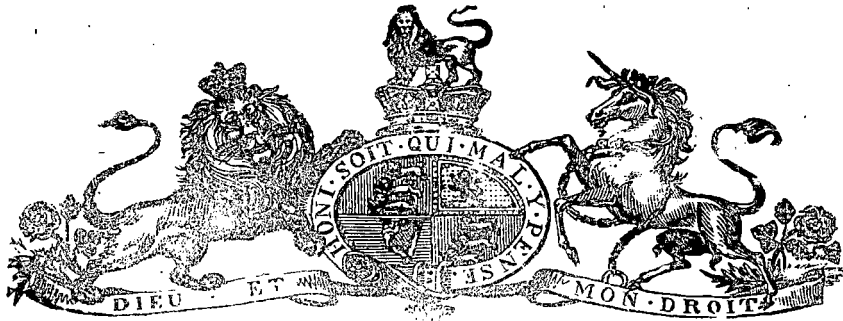
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MISS LALAND :

CORRESPONDENCE IN REGARD TO CHARGES AGAINST HER.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, September 27 ; and ordered by the Council to be printed, October 4, 1883.



MISS LALAND'S CASE.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart, August 31, 1883.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to request attention to an Order made this day by the Legislative Council for the under-mentioned Papers:—

All Correspondence that has taken place (whether in writing or by telegrams,) relative to a charge preferred either by Mr. G. F. Huston (a Commissioner), or the Surgeon-Superintendent, against Martha Maria Laland, the Matron of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, together with the Report Book kept at that Establishment, or any other record that will exhibit any discrepancy in the manner in which the duties appertaining to her office have, since her appointment in 1880, been performed.

I have, &c.

E. C. NOWELL, *Clerk of the Council.*

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

FORWARDED to the President of the Commissioners of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, with the request that he will enable the Chief Secretary to comply with the latter portions of the within Order of the Legislative Council.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
4 Sept. 1883.

THE President will be obliged to Dr. Macfarlane to supply this request to him, that it may be transmitted.

HENRY BUTLER, *President.*
Sept. 6, 1883.

Hospital, New Norfolk, September 13th, 1883.

DEAR SIR,

I HEREWITH enclose a copy of the Evidence, &c. in reference to Miss Laland, as requested by you. Mr. Solly's Memo. states that information is required in reference to the latter portion of the Order of the Legislative Council.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,

W. H. MACFARLANE.

The Honorable DR. BUTLER, Hobart.

I HAVE the honor to transmit to the Honorable the Chief Secretary the Return according to Order made by the Legislative Council.

HENRY BUTLER, *President.*
Sept. 17, 1883.

THE Under Secretary erroneously restricted the request endorsed on the annexed Order to the "latter portion."

The Superintendent and Medical Officer is requested to furnish any further documents in his possession ordered by the Council.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
18. 9. 83.

THE documents ordered by the Council are furnished herewith.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
25. 9. 83.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, December 13th, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that a nurse named Eliza Fletcher has stated to me that she has seen the Matron, Miss Laland, "tipsy hundreds of times" (to use her own expression), both in her own quarters and in the grounds of this Institution.

The statement is such a grave one that I have deemed it my duty to inform you before taking any action in the matter.

I have, &c.

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

The Honorable DR. BUTLER, President of the Commissioners, Hobart.

Stowell, December 17th, 1881.

SIR,

I DULY received your letter dated 13th, on my return to town.

I would have the statements of the nurse, Eliza Fletcher, taken down in writing by either Dr. Coutie or Mr. Smales, in your presence, and then forward a copy of such statements to Miss Laland for her observations thereto.

After this is done I will come up, if possible, next week. I should endeavour to obtain specific information, naming time and place, in order that justice may be done.

I have, &c.

HENRY BUTLER, *President.*

W. H. MACFARLANE, *M B., New Norfolk.*

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Commissioners, at a Meeting held at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, January 3rd, 1882.

THE charge brought by a nurse named Eliza Fletcher against Miss Laland, the Matron, was dismissed.

True copy.

W. H. MACFARLANE, *Secretary.*

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 24th September, 1883.

MEMORANDUM.

THE only correspondence that has taken place in writing and by telegrams relative to the charges preferred against Miss Martha Maria Laland, the Matron of this Institution, is forwarded herewith.

The book containing the Minutes of the Commissioners' proceedings is also forwarded, together with the journals written by the Matron since her appointment in 1880.

In reference to these latter, attention is drawn to their disfigurement by the frequent erasing and the excision of leaves.

There are no other records but these herewith forwarded.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Hobart.

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

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 10th August, 1883.

I TELEGRAPHED yesterday to Mr. Sharland to know when he could join with enquiry. Have received no answer.

HY. BUTLER, *M.H.A.*, *Hobart.*

DR. MACFARLANE, *Hospital, New Norfolk.*

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 10th August, 1883.

NO MEETING to-morrow, as I have not received an answer from Mr. Sharland.

HY. BUTLER, *M.H.A.*, *Hobart.*

DR. MACFARLANE, *Hospital, New Norfolk.*

Hospital, New Norfolk, 11th August, 1883.

DEAR SIR,

MR. SHOBRIDGE has been here this morning and has informed me that Mr. Sharland is at the "Freemason's Hotel," in Hobart, suffering from ophthalmia, and that he will not be home till Tuesday. From what I hear he may not be able to attend a meeting for some time.

Mr. Shoobridge will be here on Monday, at 12.30. Might I ask if you and another Commissioner will be able to meet him on that day? If so, would you kindly let me know by telegram whether or not I shall order lunch for you at the "Bush Inn."

I have not informed Miss Laland of the charges made against her, the Commissioners having desired that she should be informed of them by you.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

The Hon. DR. BUTLER.

W. H. MACFARLANE.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 13th August, 1883.

CANNOT come to-day. Cannot obtain another Commissioner; all refuse. Will consult Shoobridge.

HY. BUTLER, *M.H.A.*, *Hobart.*

DR. MACFARLANE, *Hospital, New Norfolk.*

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 13th August, 1883.

I COME up to-morrow (Tuesday), by express train, and leave to arrive Hobart by three o'clock. Will you send special message to Mr. Shoobridge to that effect, and inform Miss Laland I will see her.

HY. BUTLER, *M.H.A.*, *Hobart.*

DR. MACFARLANE, *Hospital, New Norfolk.*

TELEGRAM.

Hospital, New Norfolk, 13th August, 1883.

MISS LALAND went to town by one o'clock coach. She will arrive in Hobart by three o'clock. She returns by express train to-morrow. Shall I send Smith's conveyance for you?

W. H. MACFARLANE.

The Hon. DR. BUTLER, Hobart.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 13th August, 1883.

MR. ALLWRIGHT sends his buggy for me.

HENRY BUTLER, M.H.A., Hobart.

DR. MACFARLANE, Hospital, New Norfolk.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 4th September, 1883.

MEMORANDUM.

THE Chief Secretary has the honor to forward to Your Excellency the accompanying communication (28th August, 1883) from the President of the Commissioners of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, transmitting the Report of a Committee (23rd August, 1883) of the Members of the Commission appointed to enquire into certain charges preferred against Miss Laland, the Matron, with the evidence; and also a letter (31st August, 1883) from that lady, addressed to Your Excellency, appealing against the decision of the Commissioners in her case.

His Excellency the Governor.

WM. MOORE.

28th August, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, a Special Report, as required by the 8th Clause of the 23rd Victoria No. 23, that representations having been made to the Commissioners that the Matron of this Hospital had repeatedly borrowed money from the nurses, and that she was of intemperate habits, the Commissioners resolved that I should enquire into the truth of these allegations.

I, however, found that my Parliamentary and other public duties prevented me taking the necessary journeys to New Norfolk, and I therefore relegated the business of this enquiry to F. W. Mitchell, Esq., W. E. Sharland, Esq., and E. Shoobridge, Esq., three of the Commissioners of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, who have fully investigated the matter. Their report, of which I enclose a copy, was laid before the Commissioners at a meeting specially called to consider it; and the same having been carefully considered, it was resolved to suspend the Matron and to recommend her removal from her office.

The Commissioners desire me in making this communication to state that so far no serious neglect of duty has occurred; but in view of the delicate and peculiarly important duties of the Matron, that in the public interests it would in their opinion be highly inexpedient to retain Miss Laland in her appointment.

I have, &c.

HENRY BUTLER, *President of the Commissioners
of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.**To the Hon. the Chief Secretary.**Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 23rd August, 1883.*

SIR,

WE have the honor to report that, as requested, we have made a thorough investigation into the accusations against Miss M. M. Laland, Matron at this Hospital.

Our duties occupied from noon until 6.30 P.M. on Saturday, the 18th instant, and from 10 A.M. until 6.30 P.M. on the 21st instant.

We examined twelve witnesses against, and six witnesses for Miss Laland, whose statements and defence respectively are appended.

It will be noticed that the representations made, and afterwards proved, that Miss Laland had borrowed money from the nurses under her control, are admitted by her, and it is almost needless for us to remark that thus placing herself under such obligations to her subordinates, if, indeed, not in their power, is subversive of all discipline, and that confusion and irregularities must follow any laxity in its rigid enforcement, to the detriment of both patients and nurses.

As to the charge of intemperance, we unanimously, and after very deliberately considering the statements made before us, and having regard to the demeanor of the various witnesses, and the manner their statements were made, come to the conclusion that the same is proved; and we suggest that a meeting of the full Board of Commissioners should be called without delay to consider the necessity of exercising the power it possesses under Clause 8 of the 22nd Victoria, No. 23.

We have, &c.

F. W. MITCHELL.
EBEN^R. SHOBRIDGE.
W. C. SHARLAND.

*The Honorable HENRY BUTLER, &c., President of the Commissioners,
Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.*

SATURDAY, 18TH AUGUST, 1883.

*MINUTES of an Enquiry made this day at the Board Room of the Hospital for the Insane,
New Norfolk.*

Present—E. Shoobridge, Esq., M.H.A., W. C. Sharland, Esq., and F. W. Mitchell, Esq., Commissioners.
Resolved, that Mr. Mitchell do take the Chair.

Certain minutes and statements were read and considered.

Dr. W. H. MACFARLANE, Medical Superintendent, called in, states:—That between 8 and 9 o'clock on the night of the 24th July Dr. Florance and I came in to see a patient (female), Ruth Rutherford, and whilst in her room the Matron came in and asked in an abrupt manner, "Is Ruthie worse?" I replied that she was very ill. She then turned round and said, "Who sent for the Doctor?" and then abruptly left the room. Her breath smelt of liquor, and her manner was offensive and disrespectful. I remarked to Dr. Florance that I thought Miss Laland had been taking liquor. I saw no more of her that night. She was somewhat under the influence of liquor, but not incapable of attending to her duties. I have not seen her under the influence of liquor on any previous occasion. I have seen her so since, viz., on the 2nd August, Thursday evening, as I was going round in the evening with Dr. Florance. She was in a very excited state, spoke very abruptly to Dr. Florance, saying, "You did not send up the cough mixture for Ruthie?" He replied that he had not said he would order one. The Matron then proceeded to complain of two nurses being again laid up, stating that the nurses were Margaret Kerr and Rebecca Crosswell. She said that she was not going to be taking over the ward stock every minute of the day, and, further, that she would not do so. Miss Laland then asked me very abruptly, "Are there any orders?" I replied in the negative. She then returned to R. Rutherford's room, and repeated her question,—“Are there any further orders?”—very abruptly; she then went away. I came in the evening to see Mrs. Young, an invalid nurse, and sent for the Matron, whose manner was more subdued, but her breath smelt of liquor. I omitted to state that on the 25th July Miss Laland was off duty, and, as she said, laid up with rheumatism. Her manner on August 2nd was both offensive and disrespectful. On the 3rd instant I sent for her to the office, and told her I hoped that there would be no repetition of her manner towards me. She said she did not see that she had been disrespectful, and inquired how she should address me. I let her leave. I have never seen her unfit for duty from liquor. I have never had to complain of her neglecting her duty, and she has always been very kind to the patients. Miss Laland has a hasty temper.

W. H. MACFARLANE, M.B.

Dr. JAMES WILLIAM FLORANCE, Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, states:—I remember July 24th last. I accompanied Dr. Macfarlane to see an invalid patient named Ruth Rutherford. I heard the Matron come into the room, and I heard her say "Who sent for the Doctor?" in an insolent manner. As we were coming away from the building, Dr. Macfarlane remarked to me that he thought Miss Laland had been drinking. I saw no more of the Matron that night. The Matron was off duty on the following day, as she said she was suffering from rheumatism. I next saw her on July 26. She was then fit for duty. On August 2nd, as we were going our usual evening round, Miss Laland came up to us quickly on the verandah. She said to me, "You did not send up Ruthie's cough mixture this morning." She was standing immediately in front of me, and I smelt her breath of liquor. Her breath smelt of brandy. It seemed to me that she had taken a quantity of brandy. She was under the influence of liquor, but capable of speaking and acting correctly. I have never seen her unfit for duty from liquor. I told Miss Laland that I did not say I would order a cough mixture for Ruth Rutherford. She then commenced talking about nurses being laid up, and then said that she could not be taking over the ward stock every day, and that she would not do it. Her manner of conversation was insolent and disrespectful. During the last few days she has affected an imperious manner. On the 2nd of August I think her manner was against discipline. I do not know that she has neglected her duty on any occasion.

J. W. FLORANCE.

MRS. WINIFRED LOWRY, Gatekeeper, confirms the statement made before Drs. Huston, Macfarlane, and Florance, on the 6th instant, and adds before us:—During the last three weeks I have noticed the Matron very much under the influence of liquor. On Tuesday three weeks, between 8 and 9 o'clock. Miss Laland came to my lodge, and I could see by her conversation and her stumbling about, as well as by the smell which came from her, that she was drunk. She had no object in coming to my lodge on that occasion, but it is her habit when she is under the influence of liquor to go about from place to place; if she would remain in her own quarters no one would be the wiser about her condition. I have frequently seen her under the influence of liquor, but more so when she first came here than afterwards.

WINIFRED ^{her} × LOWRY.
mark

JANE STANWIX, Nurse at the Ladies' Cottage, called:—I was present on the 24th July in Mrs. Young's room. Miss Laland came in in a very excited state and condition, and threw off her wraps and shawls and talked excitedly, demanding to know if any of them had any charge to make against her to make it at once. She said that every one was against her—doctors and all. She was very much under the influence of drink, and I have seen her in the same condition before. Annie Gaul saw her too. I have seen Miss Laland on one or two occasions, some months since, in the same condition. I know she indulges in drink in her own quarters. When she is drunk she always harps upon the same subject in her conversation, and suggests that every one is against her.

JANE STANWIX.

ANNIE GAUL called, states:—I am a Nurse at the Ladies' Cottage. I remember Miss Laland coming to the Cottage on Tuesday, the 24th July last, between 7 and 8 o'clock; she sent me for the other nurse. She first called for Mrs. Dobell, another nurse, and I told her she was in bed. Miss Laland talked very loudly, and was very much excited; she could be heard all over the cottage. I am satisfied that Miss Laland was drunk. I have seen her in the same state of drunkenness on several other occasions. I don't remember dates. I have known her to absent herself from duty on the days following those on which she has been excited or drunk. I do not know what she drinks or where she obtains her liquor, but she takes it in her own quarters. I do not consider that she is unkind either to nurses or patients, or to interfere with discipline. I have never had any words with Miss Laland.

ANNIE GAUL.

Before Drs. Huston, Macfarlane, and Florance.

MRS. LOWRY, Gatekeeper, Female division, said:—Miss Laland has borrowed money off me, even as much as £60. She has borrowed it in dribs and drabs. I last lent her money 12 months ago; the amount was £7. This was repaid by Miss Laland last night, when I went and asked her for it. She has also borrowed money from Fanny Crosswell and Mrs. Young. Miss Laland used to say that she had shares, and would be enabled soon to pay the money back. Has also told me that she has influence with Mr. Moore and Dr. Butler, and that she can get them all turned out by referring to the Government.

WINIFRED ^{her} × LOWRY.
mark

FRANCES CROSSWELL, Nurse of Ward 16, said:—Miss Laland has borrowed money at different times, and has repaid me. She first borrowed £6, and returned this to me. At Miss Laland's request, and as she seemed to be in trouble, I wrote to Hobart to Mrs. Bell, when the latter was on leave for three months. I asked Mrs. Bell to lend Miss Laland some money. Mrs. Bell sent up £16. About this time she said that she would even sell her furniture and pay me, and offered me once all her pictures. About last Christmas she borrowed from me £3 all but sixpence. It is a very common thing for Miss Laland to say that she has power with the Government, and can get the nurses dismissed. She has frightened us this way. I was repaid the £2 19s. 6d. last Monday, the 13th August. I have repeatedly seen Miss Laland under the influence of liquor. I cannot remember the exact dates. On Tuesday, the 31st July last, between 7 and 8 P.M., near the Sub-Matron's quarters, I saw her under the influence of liquor. She was talking rather excitedly, and asked me to finish her evening rounds for her, and I did so, as she felt too ill to go. She frequently mentioned Mr. Moore's name, and said she could get Doctors and Commissioners removed from their offices. She is kind both to nurses and patients. I heard the nurses say that Miss Laland was tipsy on the previous Tuesday, viz., on the 24th July, and on the following day she was off duty.

FRANCES CROSSWELL.

TUESDAY, 14TH AUGUST, 1883.

Before Dr. Butler, President of the Commissioners, Miss Laland being present.

MRS. YOUNG, Head Nurse, said:—It occurred on July 24th. Miss Laland came in here in a very excited state, and was under the influence of drink. I was ill all night after it, and the next day. Nurse Jane Stanwix was present. Miss Laland sent for Nurse Stanwix, and the nurse was present the whole time. Miss Laland talked in a very incoherent way, and anyone could see that she was under the influence of drink. I reported the occurrence to Dr. Huston about the third day after. I think very little upsets me now. Nothing of the kind, that I have seen, has happened before. Since the 24th ultimo Miss Laland has been kind and courteous.

In answer to the question, "Have there been any pecuniary arrangements between Miss Laland and yourself?"—Mrs. Young said, "There have been. She has paid me." Also, "The loan made was made willingly to Miss Laland."

Miss Laland was then asked if she had any questions to ask Mrs. Young.

Miss Laland.—Previously have I not been very kind to you? Mrs. Young.—Yes. I have not stated otherwise.

Miss Laland.—You know the reason for my excitement on that evening? Mrs. Young.—There was a book that she (Miss Laland) had lent. This was lent privately, and was returned by a patient instead of being returned directly.

Further, Mrs. Young said :—You were walking up and down, and were scarcely knowing what you were saying, when you came to my bedside and asked what I had to state against you, and to state it at once. We were either friends or enemies. She was surrounded by a lot of fiends. Was quite sure that Miss Laland made use of this expression. Nurse Jane Stanwix was present during this conversation.

In answer to Dr. Butler :—Dr. Huston was standing by my bedside. I told the Doctor that I could not be annoyed any longer, and that I was thoroughly upset. The Doctor was attending me as my medical attendant.

(Signed) MARY YOUNG.

The foregoing statements were confirmed before the Committee by the deponent this day, she being too ill to sign the same.

F. W. MITCHELL, *Chairman*.
18th August, 1883.

TUESDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 1883.

Before F. W. Mitchell (in the Chair), W. C. Sharland, and E. Shoobridge.

AMY KEHOE states :—I am a nurse in the Fits Ward of this Hospital. I have been 17 months in the service. I have never had any quarrel or disagreement with the Matron. On the 24th July, in my ward, at between eight and nine in the evening, Miss Laland came in, in an excited state, and I believe under the influence of drink. I think so, because she asked, in a very excited manner, "Who sent for the Doctors?" and then bounced out of the ward, and did not return that night. Her manner was different on this occasion to what it generally is. I noticed, before she came into my ward, that she was going about the verandah in a peculiar way. I have often seen by her manner, on many previous occasions, that Miss Laland was under the influence of drink. I have never seen Miss Laland drinking, but I have repeatedly smelt her of drink. I remember that between eight and nine o'clock of, I think, Tuesday, the 31st July, that she was very excitable, bouncing about the verandah, giving the nurses very absurd orders, and talking loudly. I smelt her strongly of liquor then. Between a fortnight and three weeks ago I was in Miss Laland's bedroom. There was no one else there. She was then sober. When she said that if any one asked me I thought she was under the influence of drink on the 24th July, and I said what she wished me to, and that if I was discharged the next day that she would give me a reference that would get me a situation in any part of the Colony. I made no reply. Miss Laland received a letter from Mr. W. Moore, Chief Secretary, on Saturday. She read part of it to me, stating that there was a charge laid against her for intemperance, and that Dr. Macfarlane and Dr. Huston hated Mr. Moore because he was a friend of hers.

AMY KEHOE.

KATE SULLIVAN called, states :—I am a nurse in the Needle-room. I have been nearly one year in the service. On Tuesday, the 31st July, I saw Miss Laland near the Sub-Matron's quarters, at nearly 10 o'clock at night, and she went to the press in the passage as I was coming along the passage. Fanny Crosswell went round that night by herself. We were locked up in our wards then, and I saw no more that evening. On Monday week, the 13th instant, I stated to Dr. Macfarlane and I repeat now, that I have seen the Matron under the influence of drink. I could not remember the exact date. Miss Laland was in her own quarters somewhere about Christmas last. I was there working a machine. She was shuffling the papers about and swearing—she said "damn and blast the papers." I then left, as I had finished my sewing. I heard the Matron swear at the Superintendent (she swore at me), though Dr. Macfarlane was not present. About a month ago, I cannot remember the exact date, I was coming out of the cells near the Matron's quarters, and saw Miss Laland under the influence of drink. I knew she was under such influence because she was staggering about. It was between three and four o'clock P.M. I did not see her again that evening. I mentioned this to Fanny Crosswell and Mary Lynch at the time. I have never quarrelled with her, and have not been bad friends. I feel no ill-will towards her.

KATE SULLIVAN.

MARY LYNCH :—I am a nurse stationed in the Laundry of this Hospital. I have been here nearly three years and one month. I am on good terms with the Matron. I have never had any quarrel with her. Miss Laland is and has been in the habit of sending for me to her quarters, and I have repeatedly seen her under the influence of liquor. She would constantly tell me of things that had no concern for me, and in which I was not interested. On the 31st July last, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, I saw Miss Laland coming from her own quarters towards the Sub-Matron's quarters. I saw, as anyone could see, that she was drunk, as she was walking unsteadily,—staggering in fact. I asked her for a pass and she sent it to me by Fanny Crosswell. On Thursday, the 2nd August, Miss Laland did not come to

lock up the wards until quarter past ten o'clock at night. I am sure of the time, as I had my watch with me. The usual time for her to lock up is half-past eight each night. She pulled the bed-clothes off the patients' beds, and enquired who they were, a thing she does not do when sober. On this occasion I could see, as anyone could, that she was under the influence of drink. Miss Laland has frequently sent me to Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Nichols for brandy, and I have taken the same to her. Mrs. Bell complained to me of Miss Laland sending so frequently for brandy, and said Miss Laland should buy her own brandy. Mrs. Bell used to give me about an ounce of brandy at a time, and I have frequently seen Miss Laland drink it. I sometimes, at her request, went to the kitchen to put hot water in it for her. I have frequently heard Miss Laland speak of Mr. Simpson. She said she had written letters to him to try and put Dr. Macfarlane out of office, and that he should not reign here; and that Mr. Simpson had sent such letters back and advised her not to have them put in the papers. On one occasion, a few months ago, I was in Miss Laland's room, and she said she would show me some letters she had written to the Government to get Dr. Macfarlane dismissed,—but she was so tipsy that she could not stand, and staggered and nearly fell into the fire in trying to get the papers. She did not get them. It was just after the patients' dinner time.

MARY LYNCH.

CATHERINE LITTLE called, states:—I am a Nurse, stationed in the laundry of this Hospital, for 1 year and 4 months. I have never had a quarrel with Miss Laland; I am on good terms with her. I cannot remember dates exactly, I am 64 years of age,—and I can only say that I have on many occasions seen the Matron very much flushed in the face and very merry. I saw her once in Mrs. Nichols' quarters drinking something; it smelt like brandy, or it might have been rum. Mrs. Nichols was present. I could often smell Miss Laland of liquor.

CATHERINE LITTLE.

ELIZABETH DOBELL called, states:—I am a Supernumerary Nurse in this Hospital, and have been so for nearly 5 years. On the evening of the 24th July, between 7 and 8 o'clock, I saw Miss Laland in her own quarters; I asked her some questions as to my duties, and she was unable to answer me; she was speechlessly drunk, and I had to leave, and went to bed, and whilst there I heard my name called loudly by Miss Laland, then Annie Gaul came to my bed and said I was wanted, but I did not go. I then heard Miss Laland's voice in Mrs. Young's room; she was talking excitedly, and very loudly; her voice was like that of a "sot."

I cannot remember particular dates, but I have constantly, *i.e.*, almost daily, seen her in a state of intoxication. On one occasion I was in her quarters and she was so drunk that she nearly fell from her seat, and could not hold the knife and fork; I was at her quarters on duty, getting soap and other things. I remember the night that Mrs. Rouse died Miss Laland was very drunk indeed. I and Mrs. Young laid Mrs. Rouse out, and then Miss Laland was so helplessly drunk that she was scarcely able to undress herself to go to bed. I remember that some time since, Miss Laland sent me for a bottle of gin, saying it was for Mrs. Young who was lying ill; I afterwards found that Mrs. Young did not desire, nor did she receive the said gin. It is needless to specify particular occasions, for I have so constantly seen Miss Laland intoxicated. I know that Miss Laland has been previously charged with drunkenness; I was not called to give evidence then, but I had repeatedly seen her drunk prior to that inquiry taking place.

I purchased some trifles for Miss Laland, at her request, when I went to town some few months since, and she did not repay me their cost, *viz.* 7s., until a few days since, when she paid the other nurses what she owed them.

ELIZABETH A. DOBELL.

DR. MACFARLANE re-called, states:—It is customary to keep a reserve of about three ounces of brandy in the Sub-Matron's press for patients in cases of emergency, and this would be available for any of the employées of the Establishment in cases of sudden sickness.

W. H. MACFARLANE, *M.B.*

MISS LALAND called, and having heard the whole of the foregoing evidence read over to her states:—I deny the whole of the allegations therein contained. I admit borrowing the £7 from Mrs. Lowrey, but I did so for the convenience of a nurse to whom she would not lend it without my security. As to Fanny Crosswell, I have frequently borrowed small sums from her for convenience of change. As regards Mrs. Bell, I admit borrowing the £16 from her, for which she holds security; it was a transaction purely between me and herself.

As to the representations of my alleged intemperance, I have never in my life been under the influence of drink. I cannot say that I have never tasted spirits, because I have taken it as medicine, but only with reluctance, as I do not like it. I should like to call witnesses as to the statements made against me.

M. M. LALAND.

LOUISA NICHOLS called, states:—I am Sub-Matron. I have been in service at the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk for eight years. I do remember the 24th July. I came to Ruth Rutherford's room. You asked me, and *me* only, "Who sent for the Doctor?" Miss Laland then left.

I did not notice anything more than usual in Miss Laland's demeanour on that occasion. I did not smell Miss Laland of liquor, and she had no appearance of intoxication. I know Nurse Kehoe was put off duty because she was not attentive to the Ward; this was on the 31st July. I have never seen Miss Laland under the influence of drink. I have sent Miss Laland brandy by her servant, a patient, on one or two occasions, and the equivalent has been returned.

LOUISA NICHOLS.

MARGARET WARE called, states:—I am Night Nurse here. On the night of the 24th July, between 7 and 8 o'clock, I was called to Ruth Rutherford's room. Miss Laland enquired who sent for the Doctor? She spoke in her customary manner. Dr. Macfarlane said we came ourselves. Miss Laland then left the room, and I did not see her afterwards for half an hour or so. When I went to her about Rutherford's broth, which I could not find, Miss Laland told me to give her milk and mince instead. I then went and got Miss Laland's clock to see the time for giving Rutherford her medicine. I next saw Miss Laland at 7 o'clock the next morning. I did not observe any smell of liquor from Miss Laland. I say that I believe she was perfectly sober on that occasion. I never saw Miss Laland intoxicated since I have been in the building. I have been employed here since the 1st May last. When Miss Laland asked who sent for the Doctors, she addressed Mrs. Nichols.

MARGARET WARE.

MARY KERR called, states:—I am a Nurse in the Sick Ward of this Hospital, and I have been employed here 21 months. I have never, by night or by day, ever seen Miss Laland unfit for duty. I have never seen her drunk. I remember on Thursday, the 2nd August, that she was very vexed with Amy Kehoe, one of the nurses, who, she said, had not given the patient Rutherford sufficient food, I believe.

MARY KERR.

MATILDA STAVELY called, states:—I am a nurse in the female day-room. I have been here nearly four years. I went to Miss Laland's quarters on the 24th July, at five o'clock, at between seven and eight o'clock, and at nine o'clock, and I say that there was no more the matter with Miss Laland than there is now. She was not at all excited on that occasion. I did not smell her of drink. I saw Miss Laland at five o'clock and at nine o'clock P.M. on the 31st July. There was no smell of liquor about her then. I went to her room to tell her that it was reported about the township that she was cruel to the nurses. I have seen as much of Miss Laland as anyone, and I am sure she is more like a mother to us than cruel. I have never seen Miss Laland the worse of liquor.

her
MATILDA × STAVELY.
mark.

MARY ANN BLUNDELL called, states:—I am a Nurse employed in the main building. I have been here nearly five months. On the 24th July, between seven and eight o'clock in the evening, I was standing at my day-room door. I saw Miss Laland go along the verandah and come back again. I did not see Miss Laland under the influence of liquor. I make this statement because I have heard the other nurses have been called here about this occasion. I admit that I have had talk with some of the other nurses about this matter.

MARIAN BLUNDELL.

SARAH ARMSTRONG called, states:—I am a nurse at the Cells at this Hospital. I have been here two months this day. I saw Miss Laland on the 24th July, between seven and eight o'clock in the evening. She was perfectly sober,—as sober as I am at this moment. I was talking with her in her own quarters for half an hour. She did not smell of brandy or any other liquor. I have neither, on the 24th or 31st July, or 2nd August, or at any other time, noticed any smell of liquor about Miss Laland. I have never seen her intoxicated or drunk. It is a pleasure to serve under Miss Laland.

S. A. ARMSTRONG.

Miss Laland desires the production of her Journal, Fits Book, and Restraint and Sick List, which, she states, were duly written up on the 24th July. Books produced and perused.

Asylum, 18th August, 1883.

MISS LALAND regrets being unable, through lameness, to attend the Board of Commissioners as requested; but, if not committing a breach of etiquette, would take the liberty of asking the Commissioners to hear her evidence in her own quarters. The subject is such a distressing one to her that she would be glad to have the matter ended as soon as possible. Miss Laland again begs to apologise for the liberty she takes.

The President of Commissioners.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 6th August, 1883.

SIR,

I BEG to enclose the Commissioners' resolution in reference to the Matron, Miss Laland, together with a copy of the statements made to Dr. Huston. Since the Commissioners' meeting, three nurses have informed me that the Matron, Miss Laland, has borrowed money from them on different occasions. The nurses' names are Mrs. Lowry, Mrs. Young, and Fanny Crosswell; to the latter she owes the sum of £2 19s. 6d. I respectfully request that the nurses' statements be considered in the investigation in reference to the Matron.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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

The President of the Commissioners, Hobart.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 6th August, 1883.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Commissioners at a Meeting held on 4th August, 1883.

Resolved—That the Surgeon-Superintendent having brought under the notice of the Commissioners certain statements made to Dr. Huston accusing the Matron, Miss Laland, of intemperance, they desire him to forward the same to the President, with a request that he will take immediate steps to institute a thorough investigation into the truth of the said charges, and as to the general sobriety of Miss Laland's habits.

(True copy.)

W. H. MACFARLANE, *Secretary.*

Hospital, New Norfolk, 9th September, 1883.

DEAR SIR,

I ENCLOSE copies of letters, and also a copy of an extract from the Commissioners' proceedings, in reference to a charge of intemperance brought against Miss Laland in December, 1881, by a nurse named Eliza Fletcher.

I remain, yours faithfully,

W. H. MACFARLANE.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, *Esq., Hobart.*

Hospital, New Norfolk, 24th September, 1883.

DEAR MR. SOLLY,

I ENCLOSE the statements made to Dr. Huston by the late Mrs. Young, Jane Stanwix, and myself. I do not think they were sent with the evidence in reference to Miss Laland. These statements are repeated in the evidence taken before the Commissioners. If not previously sent, and you deem it necessary, would you kindly attach these copies to the letter addressed to Dr. Butler of 6th August.

The last Journal is in daily use here, and I would like to have it back as soon as convenient. I have forwarded all the correspondence, journals, &c. by this post, addressed to the Chief Secretary. They form a heavy parcel.

I remain, yours faithfully,

W. H. MACFARLANE.

STATEMENTS made to Dr. Huston, a Commissioner.

MRS. YOUNG says :—On Tuesday evening, the 24th of July, Miss Laland came to my room. I was in bed. She was in a very excited state, and talking incoherently, walking up and down the room, and asking if I had any charge to make against her to tell her at once, repeating the question, and annoying me and upsetting me very much. I begged her to go away and leave me alone, and after some time she went. She was under the influence of drink. She was here fully half an hour, and in the same state of excitement all the time. I have seen her in the same condition before. Jane Stanwix was in the room at the time.

JANE STANWIX, Nurse, says she was present, and that Miss Laland was in a most excited condition, threw off her wraps and shawl, and talked excitedly, demanding to know if any of them had any charge to make against her to say it at once; that every one was against her, doctors and all. She was very much under the influence of drink, and I have seen her in the same condition before. Annie Gaul saw her too.

Dr. MACFARLANE says that he and Dr. Florance were attending a patient that evening in the female division, and Miss Laland bounced into the ward, made some remark, as, "Is she worse?" and went away. He smelt drink about her, and remarked to Dr. Florance that she had been taking liquor. She was laid up the following day.

MISS LALAND'S TESTIMONIALS.

2, Adelaide Terrace, 17th September, 1869.

DEAR SIR,

OF the musical attainments of Miss M. M. Laland I am not able to speak beyond my knowledge of the fact that she taught music to her pupils in a situation she recently occupied as domestic governess; but, in answer to your enquiry respecting her character, I can most confidently attest that she is a person of rare excellence, and I am quite sure she would be found scrupulously exact in the discharge of any duties with which she may be entrusted. I would say that, in regard to disposition, she is both modest and self-reliant, and of a peaceful, patient, and obliging temper. As her minister and friend, I could speak very strongly in her praise, and on this account I wish her success in respect of the situation she is now desirous to obtain.

I am, &c.,

To H. G. STEWART, Esq.

W. L. KAY, Vicar of Christ Church, N.C.

153, Collins-street East, Melbourne.

I HAVE much pleasure in stating that I have known Miss Laland, as Matron of the Sandhurst Hospital, for more than three years. During the year 1875 I had medical charge of the Sandhurst Hospital for several months, and therefore had ample opportunity of judging of Miss Laland's fitness for the office she held. I always found her most kind and judicious in her intercourse with the patients, and she always gave the greatest satisfaction to all in the management of the institution.

If elected to the office she now seeks, I am quite sure she will be found to fulfil the duties with efficiency and economy.

J. WILLIAMS, M.D., Honorary Physician Melbourne Hospital.

Borough Lunatic Asylum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 19th July, 1871.

I HAVE the greatest confidence in recommending Miss Laland for the situation of Assistant Matron or Housekeeper in any Asylum for the Insane, or Institution of a similar kind. She has been here for nearly two years, and having been in daily intercourse with her since the beginning of January, I am able, of my own experience, to testify to the excellence of her character. I believe her to be a most upright and honest person, and one well qualified for any situation of trust.

She leaves this asylum of her own accord.

R. H. B. WICKHAM, F.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent.

GENTLEMEN,—It is a satisfaction to me to promote, if I can, by my testimony, the application which Miss Laland is making for the appointment of Housekeeper for the St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park. I can speak highly of her moral character during the time she was Head Attendant here, always showing herself extremely anxious, intelligent, and regular in the discharge of her various duties. I am bold enough to express my conviction that no candidate will offer for the post who is more worthy of your entire confidence than Miss Laland.

I have, &c.

ELIZA NICHOL, Matron.

Haydock Lodge Asylum, Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire, 6th July, 1872.

12, Ellison Place, Newcastle, 20th July, 1871.

DEAR MISS LALAND,

I HAVE much pleasure in sending you herewith a testimonial as requested.

You will observe I have only spoken as to your duties of Matron of the Newcastle Borough Lunatic Asylum; but from what I know of you I feel persuaded you would discharge any other position equally well. I can assure you I regret much losing your services at the Lunatic Asylum, and in this opinion I am confident my colleagues participate.

Yours sincerely,

JOSEPH POLLARD.

MISS LALAND having applied to me for a testimonial as to the manner in which she has discharged the duties of Matron of the Newcastle Borough Lunatic Asylum, I have much pleasure in certifying to the great tact and judgment she has displayed upon all occasions.

I consider that any institution requiring a Matron, or any other position of authority, would do well to secure her services. Her manners are affable and pleasing, and peculiarly calculated to win the esteem of all with whom she might become associated, or have the superintendence.

JOSEPH POLLARD,

One of the Visiting Justices of the Newcastle Borough Lunatic Asylum.

Newcastle, 20th July, 1871.

7, Bentick Crescent, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 21st October, 1871.

To Dr. DOOG.

MISS Laland, who is a candidate for the office of Matron or Head Nurse in your Asylum, has asked me to write to you in support of her application.

I believe her to be a young woman of excellent moral character, and to be well qualified for the post she is seeking, not only by the good education she has received, but especially by the experience she acquired as Matron in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Borough Lunatic Asylum for some two years. In this Asylum she gave great satisfaction in the discharge of her duties; and she resigned her situation in it of her own accord.

Her appearance and manner are quite in her favour, and I feel confident that, if she be the successful candidate, you will have no reason to regret the appointment.

I am, &c.

W. BOWLAN, L.L.D.,

Chaplain of Her Majesty's Prison, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; also Chaplain of the Borough Lunatic Asylum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, Colney Hatch.

NOTE.—As no certificate of character is given to servants who have been in the Asylum service for less than six months, this form is given for the purpose of accounting for their time only.

I hereby certify that Miss Martha M. Laland entered the service of this Asylum as Head Attendant on the 2nd day of August, 1872, and left on the 2nd day of November, 1872.
Dated this 16th day of December, 1873.

ROBT. A. BURROWS, *Clerk of the Asylum.*

Left the above Asylum owing to ill-health, and to join an uncle in New Zealand.—M. M. L.

Bendigo Gold District General Hospital, Sandhurst, 15th August, 1878.

MISS M. M. LALAND,

MADAM,—The Board of Management of the above-named institution having unanimously resolved to present you with a certificate on the occasion of your resigning your appointment as Matron, which you have held here from the 1st January, 1875, to the 10th August, 1878, it affords me much pleasure to be able to state that you discharged your duties to the entire satisfaction of the Board, and that your supervision was characterised by uniform solicitude for the comfort of the patients, and strict discipline in the management of those under you.

I have the honor to be,
Madam,

Your obedient Servant,
JOHN STEWART, *Chairman.*

Parliament House, 28th August, 1877.

I HAVE very great pleasure indeed in testifying to the ability and character of Miss M. M. Laland as in every way adapted for the position of Matron in any public institution.

I was a member of the Bendigo Hospital Committee last year, and had ample opportunities of watching her in the discharge of her duties in the capacity of Matron of that Institution, and where she has been acting for several years.

Miss Laland is most assiduous in her attention to the various matters relating to her position, and, what is most important in a large institution, has a particular regard for its economical management.

I have, therefore, much pleasure in recommending her to the notice of any institution requiring the services of a Matron.

ROBERT CLARK, *M.P. for Sandhurst.*

*City of Sandhurst, Town Hall, 28th August, 1877.**To the Committee of the Homœopathic Hospital, Melbourne.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE much pleasure in recommending Miss Laland, who, I understand, is a candidate for the position of Matron in your Institution.

She is a lady well qualified to fill so onerous a situation, and I have every confidence in asking your favourable consideration for her application, knowing as I do her valuable services in our Bendigo Hospital for the past two years and eight months.

I shall be sorry if she leaves the Hospital, but glad if she succeeds in improving her position.

Yours truly,
ALEXR. BAYNE, *Mayor.*

Sandhurst, 28th August, 1877.

MISS LALAND has been Matron at the Bendigo Hospital for a considerable time, and it affords me great pleasure to testify to the very able manner in which she has performed the duties of that office; and I feel sure my fellow Committee-men will agree that a more competent person for the position it has never fallen to the lot of this Institution to engage.

JOSEPH H. ABBOTT.

Victoria Brewery, Sandhurst, 28th August, 1877.

I, the undersigned, Moritz Cohn, one of the Committee of the Bendigo Hospital, have much pleasure in testifying to the excellent qualities and good services rendered by Miss M. M. Laland as Matron to the Bendigo Hospital since her engagement in January, 1875. During the year 1875, while I held the office of Chairman to the Institution, I had many opportunities of admiring her many good qualities for the position of Matron, and I consider her great success is greatly to be attributed to the training she has had in similar institutions in England, her good education, and ladylike manner. She would be a most valuable person for any public institution, and I consider it would be a great loss to our local Institution were we deprived of her services.

MORITZ COHN.

The National Bank of Australasia, Ballarat, 18th December, 1874.

DEAR MADAM,

I AM gratified to learn that it is your intention to apply for the Matronship of the Bendigo Hospital, which I sincerely trust you will succeed in obtaining, not only for your own sake, but because I feel assured that the Institution would profit materially in obtaining the services of a lady possessing such qualifications (natural and acquired) as you do.

Your connection with public institutions in England having given you a knowledge not obtainable in these colonies, your special fitness for the appointment you now seek should be apparent at once.

One does not like, in letters of this description, to refer in too pointed a manner to individual characteristics; but I may say that if moral worth, combined with firmness and amiability, are necessary qualifications for the office you seek, in this respect alone your appointment would assuredly give satisfaction, without any reference to your varied experience, which is, of course, invaluable.

If I can be of any assistance in the way of reference, I shall be most happy to render you any help that I possibly can, and you are at perfect liberty to refer to me if fuller particulars are required as to character, &c.

Wishing you every success,

I am, &c.

J. ROBSON, *Manager.*

MISS M. M. LALAND.

Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, 29th April, 1881.

THIS is to certify that Miss M. M. Laland filled the office of Matron to this Institution for a period of one year and seven months, and that during that time she fulfilled the duties appertaining to that office to the entire satisfaction of the Committee of Management.

H. J. FARMER, *Chairman of Committee of Management.*

Hobart, 31st August, 1883.

To His Excellency SIR GEORGE CUMINE STRAHAN, *Governor of Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

I BEG to memorialize Your Excellency relative to my suspension from the office of Matron of the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum, and to be permitted to place the facts of my case before you, supported by statutory declaration of the truthfulness thereof, with the hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to consider the same, together with the effect of dismissal, not only with regard to my position as Matron but also with regard to my fame and reputation and future hopes of obtaining employment, and to conclude that I have not committed any act to justify the suspension, and that after careful consideration of my case I shall be restored to my former position as Matron.

Applications for the office of Matron were advertised for in the public papers in the month of August, 1879, and at the instance of my friends I applied for and obtained the position. Previously to this I held similar positions in different institutions in England and the other Colonies, and upon leaving these institutions received testimonials, a printed copy of which Your Excellency will be pleased to find annexed hereto.

I might here be permitted to say that no charge of inebriety or other misconduct in my office was ever even insinuated against me.

I would ask Your Excellency to believe my solemn word that I never was intoxicated in my life; that it is not my habit to take strong drink; and that, as a fact, when I have taken it, it has been for medicinal purposes only, and that has been very rarely, and that is so true as this, that I can challenge any person either in Tasmania or elsewhere to gainsay the statement; and I further say that I was in ignorance of so base an accusation being laid to my charge until the thirteenth day of August,—the day I left New Norfolk to come to Hobart.

I would ask Your Excellency to bear in mind what happened on the last-named day; viz., after I left New Norfolk, the nurses who have spoken to my prejudice were privately interviewed by Drs. Macfarlane and Florance, and although (with the exception of Nurse Kehoe) none of these nurses either saw or spoke to me on that evening, it was alleged I was intoxicated; they were called by these Doctors before the Sub-Committee to report what, no doubt, they had previously told the Doctors in private; and I would ask Your Excellency to remember that, whilst the nurses who did not see or speak to me on the evening of the day referred to,—viz., 24th July last,—were called before the Sub-Committee to make statements against me, none of the nurses (excepting the Sub-Matron, who gave the accusation a flat denial) who both spoke to me and who were in my company were called by the Doctors before this Committee. I need scarcely say that the nurses, namely,—Stavely, Armstrong, Blindell, and Ware, and the Sub-Matron, Mrs. Nichols, who were with me on the occasion referred to,—have affirmed my innocence of the charge of inebriety imputed to me, and this not only in regard to the particular day, but generally.

I would beg Your Excellency to consider also the mode of taking the statements by the Sub-Committee.

The nurses were called before them to give their versions without being under the obligation of an oath; that I was never asked if I desired to put questions to them, nor did I know I had the right to do so, and, in fact several of them were examined in my absence.

In order that Your Excellency may gather whether or not I was intoxicated on the day referred to,—viz., the 24th July last,—and also as to which of the nurses can testify as to my condition on that day, I would respectfully ask Your Excellency to permit me to state exactly what occurred on that occasion, first, however, premising that, with reference to the smell of intoxicating liquor referred to by Dr. Macfarlane, that there was brandy in the room, as the Doctor well knew, which was to be given to a patient named Ruth Rutherford.

At seven o'clock in the evening I was settling a dispute between Nurses Matilda Stavely and Sarah Armstrong, when a patient named Emily Payne, who acted as my servant, handed me a book, which being lent *privately* I was surprised to find had been returned by a patient. I forthwith went over to the Ladies' Cottage and reproved the nurse to whom I had lent the book for returning it by a patient instead of bringing it herself, as stipulated between us. This took place in Nurse Young's room, as the book was lent for the mutual benefit of Nurses Young and Stanwix, and I wished the former to know how improperly the latter had acted in the matter. Being naturally annoyed I evinced some excitement of course, but before parting, consequent upon the explanation of Nurse Stanwix, we separated good friends. About a quarter of an hour afterwards I went to Nurse Stanwix for the Reports of the Ladies' Cottage for the day, and then went to my own cottage and interviewed the Night Nurse, Margaret Ware, whose custom it was to take orders for the night. When the Sub-Matron, Mrs. Nichols, drew my attention to the Doctors Macfarlane and Florance

going towards the Sick Ward, I requested Mrs. Nichols to wait upon them, as was her duty. I afterwards followed myself, as was my custom, chiefly for the purpose of seeing whether the child Rutherford was worse, it being unusual for the Doctors to visit at that hour. On the way Nurse Blindell saw me both pass and repass. Neither I or the Sub-Matron had sent for the Doctors that evening. I then asked the Sub-Matron who sent for the Doctors, to which she replied, "No one; they came of themselves." Dr. Macfarlane said "Yes, we came of ourselves." I did not speak that evening to the Doctors. I then left the ward and returned to my own quarters. The Night Nurse again visited me at nine o'clock that evening to receive the nourishment for the child for the night. Nurses Stavely and Armstrong re-visited me with reference to something that had happened in regard to a nurse that had lent the Institution. Mrs. Nichols, the Sub-Matron, was the last to visit me that night, shortly after nine o'clock, and brought with her the reports of the day for the main building and cells divisions. After this, and before retiring to bed, I wrote the usual daily report for the whole of the Female Establishment in the Matron's Daily Journal.

With regard to the Nurse Kehoe, who was called against me, I would beg to bring under Your Excellency's notice the fact that on the occasion referred to she was not near me, nor was she in a position to judge of my condition; and that, as against her statements alone, stands the evidence of the whole of the other nurses who were with me on the evening referred to.

I would beg respectfully to submit that, from the foregoing facts, which I have, by my declaration, deposed to be true, that the charge of intoxication preferred against me has been shown to be unfounded.

I would also desire to bring under Your Excellency's notice the charge laid against me of degrading my position through borrowing money from my subordinates in office. Upon this I have freely to admit that upon three occasions, at the request of one of my nurses, I have applied to another for the loan of a small sum, which, of course, was duly returned. That on no occasion have I borrowed money for myself, and that when I have done it for others it was done with a view of obliging and helping those under me. If in doing this I was doing wrong, I would instantly have desisted its continuance upon a representation of the wrong being pointed out to me, which was never done.

Your Excellency, I trust, will excuse my here stating that the Matron at the New Norfolk Asylum, though responsible to the Surgeon-Superintendent and Commissioners for the management of the whole of the Female Establishment and the conduct of the female nurses and servants placed under her, she, withal, has no voice whatever in either the selection or dismissal of these subordinates; the effects of which have not only been that the Matron has been unable to carry out proper discipline, but that her influence and usefulness to the Institution have been weakened thereby.

I would also desire to mention to Your Excellency that, up to the 13th of August (present month) I was always given to understand that I had honestly and faithfully discharged my duties to the Institution.

I have the honor to remain,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

MARTHA MARIA LALAND.

TASMANIA TO WIT.

I, MARTHA MARIA LALAND, of New Norfolk, in Tasmania, the Matron of the Hospital for the Insane there, do solemnly and sincerely declare and say as follows:—

That the letter written by me to His Excellency the Governor, and dated this day, and which letter is hereunto annexed, contains a just and true account of the facts and circumstances therein set forth.

All which matters and things I conscientiously believe to be true; and I make this solemn Declaration pursuant to the Act of Council of this Island, intituled "An Act for the Abolition of extra-judicial and unnecessary Oaths."

M. M. LALAND.

Taken before me, at Hobart, in Tasmania, this thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

D. MACMILLAN, J.P.