

(No. 5.)



1879.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

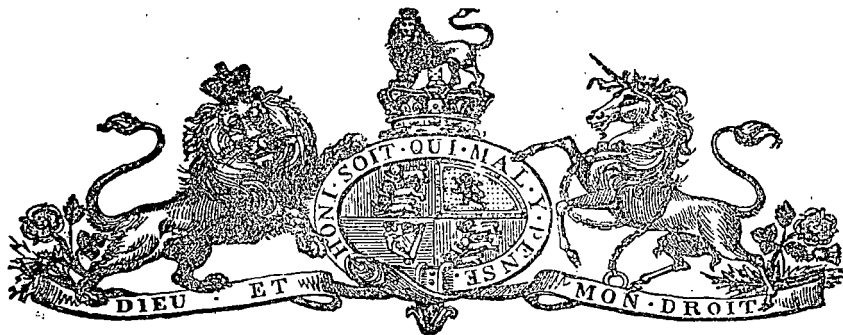
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HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, NEW NORFOLK :

REPORT FOR 1878.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 9, 1879.



*Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, January, 1879.*

*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.

So short a period has elapsed since the date of our last Report as to leave little for us to advert to in reference to the condition of the Hospital for the Insane and the state of its inmates during the year 1878.

We regret that several internal improvements, to which we have repeatedly sought the attention of the Executive, have hitherto remained in abeyance from causes wholly beyond our control; but we forbear to enlarge upon them in this Report as we are encouraged to believe that they will not be further postponed.

We append the usual Returns, adding to them on this occasion the official Report to us of the Surgeon Superintendent, which it is presumed by an oversight has been heretofore omitted, but which it appears in every way desirable to print as an Appendix to the present, and all future Reports, on an Establishment of so peculiar a description as the New Norfolk Hospital.

Before concluding this Report we desire to record with regret the decease of our late colleagues, Mr. Sharland and Dr. Moore, who for many years devoted themselves assiduously to the interests of this Asylum, entitling them to grateful acknowledgment.

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

R. OFFICER, *President.*  
HENRY BUTLER.  
W. TARLETON.  
F. M. INNES.  
HENRY HUNTER.  
W. A. B. JAMIESON.  
ROB. CAR READ.  
A. RIDDOCH.  
W. C. SHARLAND.  
J. W. AGNEW.

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SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present my Report on this Institution for the year 1878.

Nothing has occurred to interrupt the usual quiet and harmonious working of the Establishment.

On the 31st of December, 1877, there were remaining 261 patients; viz., 138 males and 123 females; 33 have been admitted during the year—18 males and 15 females; total treated, 294. Seven of those admitted had previously been inmates, viz., 5 males and 2 females,—these had been absent for periods varying from 8 years to one month; one, who was discharged in March and readmitted in September, was a dipsomaniac, and has since been forwarded to his friends in New Zealand. Another patient, a female of the better class, was away only a month, having been discharged on trial, and being found too troublesome to manage at home, was returned.

It is gratifying to note that the number of admissions has decreased considerably, as will be seen by the following list:—1874, 49 were admitted; 1875, 39 were admitted; 1876, 60 were admitted; 1877, 45 were admitted; 1878, 33 were admitted; and I think it fairly probable that, as the old prisoner class of residents die out, the average amount of insanity will be still less than at present,—the proportion of insane to the population of the Colony now being, as near as I can calculate, a small fraction over 3 in 1000, which includes also the lunatics at the Cascades Establishment.

Eighteen patients were discharged,—7 males and 11 females; among the latter was one taken away by her friends without improvement. All the others were much improved or quite recovered.

The result of treatment of all the admissions is noted in Return No. 2.

Twenty-three Deaths occurred,—16 males and 7 females,—whose respective ages were as follows:—1, 76 years; 3, 72 years; 1, 69 years; 1, 67 years; 1, 66 years; 1, 62 years; 1, 59 years; 1, 58 years; 1, 52 years; 4, 46 years; 1, 45 years; 1, 44 years; 1, 42 years; 1, 30 years; 1, 25 years; 1, 23 years; and showing that the greatest proportion of mortality was among aged people.

Two patients escaped during the year; one returned voluntarily after two days, and the other was retaken after the same period of absence.

The average daily strength of the patients was 262, and the total number treated 294; 39 of these were wholly or partially self-supporting; 24 were chargeable to imperial and 199 to colonial funds.

The cottages for the better class of patients are fully self-supporting, the receipts for males of that class being £908 19s. 8d., and for females, £384 12s. 8d.

The total sum received from all classes of patients, farm produce, washing, and labour, amounted to £1818, and the whole gross cost of the Establishment £7750, or 1s. 7½d. per diem for each patient,—which, taking credit for the receipts, is reduced to £5932. This cost does not, however, include £506 expended on repairs and alterations to the buildings, &c.

The farm, dairy, and garden have furnished liberal supplies for the use of the Establishment, the former producing abundance of forage for the horses, cows, &c. The dairy contributed 41,889 pints of milk, worth, at 2d. per pint, £349 1s. 6d., and 476½ dozen of eggs, valued at £18.

The usual amusements and recreations for the patients have been provided.

Various repairs to the buildings, including a considerable amount of new shingling, have been effected during the year, at a cost of nearly £500; but the new dormitory so urgently required in the Refractory Ward of the Female Division has not yet been commenced, although plans and specifications were prepared and tenders advertised for; nor have any steps been taken to increase the accommodation at the Gentlemen's Cottage, notwithstanding several reminders have been forwarded to the Government that such additions are much required.

I would also now suggest that the ventilation of various portions of the Establishment be improved by the application of Tobin's system, which is very inexpensive. There are other alterations and repairs still much required, such as a new bath-room in the Refractory Ward, Female Division, and further repairs to the laundry and washhouse, besides minor matters. We have now no skilled labour, such as bricklayers and painters among the patients, therefore the same amount of assistance in these directions cannot, as formerly, be rendered.

In accordance with the Commissioners' recommendation the appointment of an Assistant Medical Officer has been approved of by the Government and Parliament, and Dr. Macfarlane was appointed at the end of November, with a salary of £300 per annum,—that gentleman having previously acted as my *locum tenens* during a leave of absence for five weeks that had been kindly granted to me.

Mrs. Kenny, the Matron, who was appointed in January, was severely injured by a kick from a patient on the 21st of March, and totally incapacitated from performing her duties until the end of the year; she now, however, appears to be progressing towards complete recovery, and is able to resume her work.

The only changes in the staff of officers has been the dismissal of Mr. Walker, underkeeper, in consequence of his intemperate habits. Mr. George Hill succeeded him, and Mr. Bromfield was appointed his successor at the Gentlemen's Cottage. Mr. M'Williams, the gatekeeper, resigned his situation in June, and Mr. Wm. M'Minn received the appointment.

The duties of the officers have been on the whole fairly performed; but I have again to remark on the extreme difficulty of procuring good male attendants, and am of opinion that it will become necessary to further increase the remuneration of this class of assistants before we can hope to obtain the services of men fully eligible for that position. I may observe that the rate of wages for male attendants is on a more liberal scale at similar institutions in the other Colonies.

The usual Returns are appended; viz.—

- No. 1. Return of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths.
- No. 2. Return showing duration of Diseases of Patients admitted, and results.
- No. 3. Return of Patients who died, and period of detention.
- No. 4. Return of Clothing made and repaired.
- No. 5. Return of Sales of Stock and Produce.
- No. 6. Return of Farm and Garden Produce.
- No. 7. Return of Carpenters' and Painters' work.
- No. 8. Return of Expenditure.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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

*The Honorable Sir ROBERT OFFICER, Knight,  
President of Commissioners.*

### 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, 1878.*

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
<b>Admissions.</b>			
Remaining 31st December, 1877.....	138	123	261
Admitted during the year 1878 .....	19	14	33
TOTAL.....	157	137	294
Remaining 31st December, 1878 .....	134	119	253
Average number resident, 1878 .....	..	..	262 <sup>28</sup> / <sub>365</sub>
<b>Discharges.</b>			
Of those admitted during the year .....	4	4	8
Of previous admissions .....	3	7	10
TOTAL.....	7	11	18
<b>Deaths.</b>			
Of those admitted during the year .....	4	2	6
Of previous admissions .....	12	5	17
TOTAL.....	16	7	23
<b>Re-admissions.</b>			
Of those discharged during the year .....	1	1	2
Of previous discharges .....	4	1	5

#### *Rate per cent. of Recoveries.*

On Admissions.....	24 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>33</sub>
On total treated .....	6 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>29</sub>

#### *Rate per cent. of Deaths.*

On Admissions .....	26 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>33</sub>
On total treated .....	7 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>17</sub>

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 1878.*

<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>
999	19 January	Two weeks	13 March		
1000	24	One year	...	28 June	Unimproved.
1001	25	Four years	...	...	Improved.
1002	21 February	Twelve years	...	...	Unimproved.
1003	22	Fifteen years	...	...	Improved.
1004	7 March	Three months	...	...	
1005	8	One week	7 September	...	Improved.
1006	12	Some months	...	...	Unimproved.
1007	22	Six weeks	...	...	
1008	28	One week	23 May	...	Unimproved.
1009	9 April	One week	...	...	Improved.
1010	9	Two weeks	...	...	
1011	5 May	Four months	6 October	...	
1012	7	Two months	...	1 November	
1013	10	Five weeks	...	...	Unimproved.
1014	3 June	Nine years	...	...	Improved.
1015	5	Unknown	...	...	Unimproved.
1016	14	Two months	...	...	Convalescent.
1017	9 July	Four years	...	...	Unimproved.
1018	27	One month	...	...	Unimproved.
1019	16 August	Some months	...	4 September	
1020	3 September	Seven months	...	30 September	
1021	20	From birth	...	...	Improved.
1022	21	Unknown	...	31 October	
1023	24	Not stated	9 December	...	
1024	17 October	Not stated	13	...	
1025	24	Two weeks	31	...	
1026	1 November	Three months	...	25 November	
1027	6	Eleven months	28	...	
1028	26	Five years	...	...	Unimproved.
1029	26	Six weeks	...	...	Improved.
1030	17 December	Not stated	...	...	Improved.
1031	17	One year	...	...	Improved.

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

## No. 3.

*RETURN of Patients who died in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and Period of Detention, from 1st January to 31st December, 1878.*

<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Date of Death.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>	<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Date of Death.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
540	14. 8. 67.	15. 1. 78.	68	Disease of lungs.	1019	16. 8. 78.	4. 9. 78.	59	Rupture of liver.
955	8. 1. 77.	1. 2. 78.	46	Congestion of heart and liver.	129	12. 3. 56.	28. 9. 78.	52	Apoplexy and hypertrophy of heart.
896	21. 1. 76.	6. 3. 78.	69	Disease of brain and natural decay.	1020	3. 9. 78.	30. 9. 78.	62	Disease of brain and debility from blood poisoning.
993	14. 9. 76.	6. 6. 78.	68	Diarrhoea and natural decay.	45	13. 10. 46.	23. 10. 78.	67	General debility and bronchitis.
967	12. 5. 77.	9. 6. 78.	46	Disease of heart and dropsy.	1022	21. 9. 78.	31. 10. 78.	72	General debility and brain disease.
1001	25. 1. 78.	28. 6. 78.	45	Disease of brain and heart.	1012	7. 5. 78.	1. 11. 78.	46	Epilepsy and effusion of blood on brain.
99	19. 6. 54.	29. 6. 78.	73	Disease of brain and heart, and natural decay.	1026	1. 11. 78.	25. 11. 78.	66	Syncope and disease of heart.
905	25. 3. 76.	3. 7. 78.	76	Natural decay.	652	6. 4. 70.	13. 12. 78.	58	Disease of heart and lungs.
917	22. 6. 76.	16. 7. 78.	42	Congestion of brain.	542	18. 9. 67.	14. 12. 78.	30	Pneumonia.
973	19. 6. 77.	21. 7. 78.	25	Gangrene of feet.	138	17. 7. 56.	23. 12. 78.	72	Disease of brain and heart.
982	7. 8. 77.	7. 8. 78.	44	Disease of brain.					
996	13. 12. 77.	11. 8. 78.	46	Apoplexy.					
813	20. 2. 74.	1. 9. 78.	23	Disease of brain, heart, and lungs.					

## ANALYSIS OF AGES AT DEATH.

<i>Sex.</i>	<i>20 under 30.</i>	<i>30 under 40.</i>	<i>40 under 50.</i>	<i>50 under 60.</i>	<i>60 under 70.</i>	<i>70 under 80.</i>	<i>TOTALS.</i>
Males .....	1	1	7	1	3	3	16
Females .....	1	...	...	2	3	1	7

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

## No. 4.

*RETURN of Articles of Clothing made and repaired by the Patients in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1878.*

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 .....	..	241	..	..	Jackets, cotton, women's..	..	120	..	..
Boots, men's, pairs .....	1	..	176	..	Mattresses .....	..	..	..	..
Ditto, women's, ditto ..	3	..	29	..	Miscellaneous "small arti-	..	..	..	..
Ditto, children's, ditto ..	5	..	26	..	cles" .....	..	106	195	13
Blinds, window .....	..	38	..	..	Palliasse .....	..	..	..	48
Blouses, boys' .....	..	39	..	23	Petticoats, flannel, and	..	..	..	..
Cases, pillow and bolster ..	..	..	..	13	wincey .....	..	122	..	..
Caps, women's .....	..	..	..	..	Rugs and counterpanes ..	..	..	..	..
Coats, blue and tweed ....	8	..	73	..	Sheets .....	..	..	..	36
Dresses, print, coburg, and	..	..	..	..	Shirts, men's .....	..	373	..	671
tweed .....	..	3	..	..	Shoes, men's, pairs .....	..	..	60	..
Ditto, ticking, and	..	..	..	..	Ditto, women's, ditto ..	..	..	101	..
checked cotton .....	..	118	..	..	Shifts, ditto .....	..	111	..	..
Ditto, wincey .....	..	33	..	..	Slippers, pairs .....	5	..	10	..
Ditto, serge .....	..	..	..	..	Stockings, ditto .....	..	..	..	933
Drawers, cotton and flannel,	..	..	..	..	Sox, ditto .....	..	..	..	352
pairs .....	..	20	..	69	Towels, hand and round ..	..	49	..	1
Frocks, linen, men's .....	..	..	210	26	Trousers, fustian, pairs ..	54	..	1405	..
Gowns, night .....	..	..	..	..	Ditto, tweed, ditto ....	31	..	192	..
Jackets, blue cloth, men's ..	..	..	276	..	Ditto, linen, ditto ....	..	..	8	..
Ditto, serge and tweed,	..	..	..	..	Table cloths .....	..	32	..	1
women's .....	..	..	..	..	Vests, flannel .....	..	48	..	76
Ditto, canvas, men's,	..	..	..	..	Ditto, tweed, fustian,	..	..	..	..
and sleeves .....	..	6	10	..	and cloth .....	4	..	250	..

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

## No. 5.

*RETURN of Farm and Garden Produce, at the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1878.*

21,000 lbs. of English Grass.	2 tons of English Hay.
42,320 lbs. of Lucerne and Italian ditto.	26 tons of Mangolds.
13,280 lbs. of Prairie ditto.	14 bushels Barley for seed.
20,160 lbs. of Green Barley.	10 bushels Peas.
6400 lbs. of Green Maize.	41,889 pints Milk.
12 tons of Oat and Barley Hay.	476½ dozen Eggs.

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

## No. 6.

*HOSPITAL for the Insane, New Norfolk, Return of Farm Account Sales, 1878.*

	£	s.	d.
24th April, 9 pigs, by auction, at 30s. each .....	13	10	0
18th July, 1 hog, by tender .....	6	5	0
31st July, 1 cow, by auction .....	6	7	6
Ditto, ditto, ditto .....	5	0	0
	£31	2	6

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

No. 7.

*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 1878.*

*Carpenter's New Work.*—2 wash-stands; 4 wheel-barrows; sink for cook-house; cowman's hut shingled; frame for water-tank; gardener's hut shingled; fixing set of shelves in upper store; making and fixing set shelves in store, Back Division; new fronting seats of latrines; large open shed in centre of back yard, 32 feet in diameter, built and shingled; 4 seats for ditto; 4 tables for ditto; 3 lattice doors, Boys' Dormitories; 8 commode arm-chairs; fixing 16 bolts on doors in corridor, Back Division.

*Repairs.*—Flooring Matron's Quarters; 3 horse-carts; 4 wheels to ditto; chairs in constant repair throughout Institution; mangle; laundry floor; wheel-barrows; gate to Female Division; floors in dormitories, cells, rooms, passages, &c. throughout; tables and frames of looking-glasses, wash-stands, &c.; handling axes, hay-forks, rakes, &c.; hand carts and wheels to ditto; horses in drying-room; partitions in stable and cow-house; window frames; fences in garden and farm throughout.

*Plumber.*—Water pipes and taps throughout.

*Painter.*—Posts, doors, and windows in corridor, Back Division; large centre shed in back yard, throughout; 8 commode arm-chairs; close stools; and various parts of buildings where necessary.

*Glazier.*—Windows and skylights throughout; 191 squares of glass put in.

*Coloring, &c.*—The whole of back-yard, passages, and cells; kitchens—Male and Female Division; rooms, passages, and corridor; new building, 8 feet in height.

*Bricklayer.*—Fire-places, drains, plastering and brick-work where required.

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

No. 8.

*THE Cost of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1878 was £7750.*

	Dr.	£	s.	d.
Salaries .....		2800	0	1
Allowances .....		23	13	6
Provisions .....		3238	0	8
Fuel and Light .....		583	6	6
Bedding, Clothing, Stores, &c. ....		808	8	3
Stationery .....		10	14	6
Medicines .....		11	8	6
Advertising .....		6	8	0
Incidental Expenses .....		66	12	3
Extra Medical Attendance .....		45	16	0
Conveyance of Stores.....		64	9	7
Funeral Expenses .....		28	2	2
Travelling Expenses of Commissioners .....		63	0	0
	Cr.	7750	0	0
Fees for self-supporting Patients, and for Patients' Labour, Washing, and sale of Pigs and Cows.....		1818	0	0
		£5932	0	0

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