

(No. 12.)



1883.

SESSION II.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

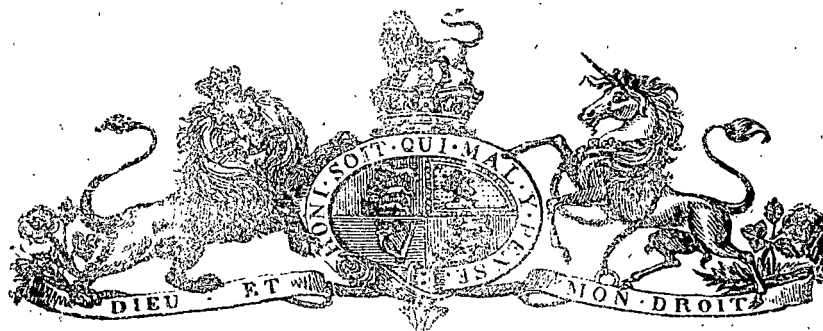
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HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW  
NORFOLK :

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

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Brought up by Mr. Crowther; and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
December 18, 1883.



***SELECT COMMITTEE*** appointed, on the 27th September, to enquire into the *Internal and General Management of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, with power to send for persons and papers.*

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**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.**

MR. AIKENHEAD.	MR. M'GREGOR.
MR. CAMERON.	MR. WATCHORN.
MR. CROWTHER. ( <i>Chairman.</i> )	

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**DAYS OF MEETING.**

September 29; October 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 18, 24, 26; November 6, 13, 20; December 4, 11, 13

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**WITNESSES EXAMINED.**

James Ayers.	Neil Lewis, Esq.
George Browne.	W. H. Macfarlane, Esq., M.B.
Thomas Cooper.	Joseph Matthews.
E. L. Crowther, Esq., M.D., M.H.A.	William Meadowcroft.
James Ferby.	James Milner.
James William Florance, M.B.	F. W. Mitchell, Esq., J.P.
Annie Gaul.	Duncan Nickols.
Frederick Hack.	A. Riddoch, Esq., J.P.
Daniel Harvey.	John Ridge.
George Hill.	W. C. Sharland, Esq., J.P.
Patrick Hynes.	Henry Sims.
Amy Kehoe.	E. Shoobridge, Esq., M.H.A.
Mary Kerr.	Kate Sullivan.
Martha M. Laland.	M. Wolfhagen.

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## R E P O R T.

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THE Select Committee appointed on the 27th September last, to enquire into the Internal and General Management of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, has the honor to lay before the Legislative Council the following Report:—

Your Committee has held fifteen sittings, and examined twenty-eight witnesses, from whom has been obtained information of a most extended and important character, care having been taken that this evidence should embrace the testimony of Commissioners, Medical Superintendent, Assistant Surgeon, Matron, Keepers, and various officers to whose sole custody and treatment the Insane have for a long time been entrusted, in addition to which that of several patients then in the Asylum and of whose sanity there could be no doubt; the Committee being of opinion that from their long retention in the Asylum they would be able to supply reliable information as to the treatment to which they had been subjected, the manner in which Keepers and others have performed their duties, and whether the system hitherto pursued, and at present continued, was in accordance with the civilization of the age,—exhibiting professional skill, tact, and knowledge applicable to the treatment of the insane, and adapted to accomplish in the shortest space of time the all-important objects, namely, restoration to reason, and the return to society and friends, of those mentally afflicted; or whether, on the other hand, the duties of Commissioners, Medical Officers, and subordinates have been carried out in a perfunctory manner, not in any essential equal to the required standard,—or, in other words, that the management of the Insane at New Norfolk is, and has been, devoid of system, tact, or administrative ability; and that in every department of the Institution, as will be seen by the evidence, with some few exceptions, humanity, kindness, and consideration for the helpless insane have not found place, and that knowledge, even of the most elementary character, applicable to the treatment of the demented, had not been possessed by the majority of those to whose care and supervision the State has entrusted their keeping.

To this negative condition of things one marked exception was met with by the Committee, in the person of Miss Laland, the late Matron, who, as will be seen upon a careful perusal of her evidence, did possess the tact, knowledge, and discrimination necessary to the successful treatment of the Insane; and whose valuable services have, for the present, been lost to the Institution through the instrumentality and unwarrantable interference of Mr. G. F. Huston, whose very questionable position as a Commissioner, from previous antecedents in connection with the Asylum, and the influence he exercises over the Superintendent and subordinates of the Establishment, your Committee feels bound to bring under the notice of the Legislature.

The case of Miss Laland has been specially gone into by the Committee, who, after the most careful investigation of all the circumstances in connection with the same, is led to the belief that her suspension and subsequent dismissal by the Commissioners cannot be justified, the evidence of the various witnesses examined by the Committee not supporting the charge brought against that lady; and the Committee can arrive at no other conclusion, particularly after the evidence given by Mr. Commissioner Riddoch, than that the prosecution of Miss Laland upon a charge, actually condoned by the Superintendent, was the outcome of a deliberate conspiracy in which Mr. G. F. Huston and Dr. Macfarlane have taken a prominent part.

Your Committee wishes to draw the attention of the Legislative Council to the fact that, on the 26th October, the Chairman addressed a letter to the Hon. the Chief Secretary with regard to Miss Laland's case, the terminal paragraph of which was to this effect:—"As the Committee is still engaged in taking evidence, and intends to extend its enquiry fully into Miss Laland's case, begs most respectfully to *solicit a suspension of any action on the part of the Government* until the evidence has been completed, and, with the Report of the Committee, placed before the Legislative Council." Of the Committee's letter no notice has been taken by the Government; and as the action of the Commissioners has been confirmed, your Committee feels bound to note the want of courtesy displayed by the refusal of a request, not only reasonable in itself, but positively demanded in the interests of justice.

Your Committee, as will be seen by the evidence, visited the Asylum on the 1st October last, three days after its appointment, remaining in the building from 9.15 A.M. to 3.45 P.M., carefully examining and noticing its condition, as well as that of the patients confined within its walls, particular attention having been paid to those patients of whose recovery mentally there could be no

reasonable doubt. The notes taken by the Committee at the time of its visit, as well as those supplied by Dr. E. L. Crowther, who, as a professional man and a Member of the House of Assembly, accompanied the Committee, form an important part of the evidence, exhibiting, as they do, the *actual condition* of the Asylum as seen at a time when the opportunity had not been afforded to the officials and their servants to arrange matters anticipatory of the Committee's visit.

The first witness examined was Duncan Nickolls, a patient, (since discharged), his case being typical of a number of others, male and female, who for many years have been most improperly detained in the Asylum, and upon whose cases no Commission, up to the 1st October last, had at any time sat in order to test their sanity or note the harmless character of any single delusion of which they either are or have been the subject.

The evidence of other sane patients was subsequently taken, whose periods of detention varied from a few months to *sixteen* years; and were there no other data upon which the Committee could base its recommendations as to the breaking up, reorganisation, and immediate removal of the Asylum to a site nearer the Metropolis, and within easy access of supervision and for professional consultation, the cases of these poor people would be sufficient.

Your Committee wishes to draw special attention to the evidence of Nickolls, Harvey, Browne, and particularly to that of Ridge, whose testimony discloses a state of things, happily now rarely met with, and that has been without parallel since the dark period during which in Great Britain the care and custody of the Insane were a source of profit to proprietors, and gross mismanagement and cruelty the order of the day, both in public and private asylums, for want of legal inspection and supervision; and it appears to the Committee that the want of skilled training in, and practical knowledge of insanity, under the various aspects in which it presents itself, as exhibited in the person of the Superintendent, is the great cause of the present condition of things met with at New Norfolk, and accounts in some degree for the preponderating influence of Mr. G. F. Huston in the management of the Institution, whose presence, the evidence discloses, the Superintendent cannot, even in minor details, dispense with; added to which the perfunctory manner in which the Commissioners have performed the duties they have voluntarily undertaken.

In proof of the latter, it appears that the Commissioners visit the Asylum once monthly, previous intimation being given of their expected arrival, which generally takes place at a quarter to one, and their departure at 2.15 P.M.; and it appears in evidence that several of the quarterly inspections ordered by the 11th Section of the Act, 22 Vict. No. 23, have not taken place,—three only having been noted in 1881, two (March 30 and Sept. 12), in 1882, and two up to October of the present year.

A circumstance occurred in the sudden death of a patient named Lindsay at the Ladies' Cottage, (found dead in her bed on the 25th November last,) into the cause of whose death no Coroner's enquiry has been held,—and your Committee beg to draw special attention to the fact, as the action taken is contrary to all precedent in well regulated Asylums,—and as no person was present at the time of her death, apparently in contravention of Section 33 of Act 22 Vict. No. 23, and as it appears from the evidence of Annie Gaul that Mr. G. F. Huston, a Commissioner, was the Coroner applied to in this instance, and gave the opinion that an inquest was unnecessary, your Committee feels bound to record a respectful protest against any Commissioner exercising the functions of a Coroner upon the body of any patient dying within the Asylum.

The evidence of Drs. Macfarlane and Florance, as well as that of the Commissioners, discloses the important fact that they have not at any time “made and established Rules and Regulations for the good order and management of the Hospital, the conduct and duties of the Superintendent and other officers and servants thereof, and the admission, confinement, care, treatment, and maintenance of the Insane therein,” (*vide* 22 Vict. No. 23, Sect. 10), and that Keepers and Nurses have not been supplied with either written or printed rules for their guidance, such having been left in his or her department to manage the patients as they thought fit without let or hindrance; and no better proof can be adduced of the disorganised condition of the Institution than the answer given by Sims, a most intelligent witness, to the question (391), “What is your opinion of the Keepers and Underkeepers at present in the Institution as to sobriety, kindness, and efficiency?—As to sobriety, some are sober men, others the reverse. They are too harsh with the patients. When a man enters the Asylum he knows nothing of the duties he has to perform, and is shown nothing; he has to find out the best way he can; so that is against his being efficient.”

Again, in the evidence of Thomas Cooper, who for *three years* was an Attendant, and since that time has been for eighteen months in charge of the Back Division—(602). “Are definite instructions, written or printed, given to Warders or Nurses relative to the treatment of patients?—I believe none. I never received any.” And when asked his opinion of the detailed and general working of the Institution, he replied, “That for some time past, and particularly at present, it had not been working well.” When asked to suggest a remedy, his answer was, “It would be difficult to suggest a remedy where everything is out of gear. There appears to be *no directing head or general principle upon which orders are issued.*”

Your Committee wishes to draw the attention of the Council to the evidence of Senior Keeper Hill, who was appointed by Dr. Macfarlane to act as Dispenser (182), although there was a *paid* Assistant Surgeon and Dispenser in the Asylum, and this man has for eighteen months been dispensing for 285 patients, when he frankly admitted that he “held *no certificate or qualification*, and *did not understand* the action and properties of drugs” (184, 186).

Nothing more will be required than a careful perusal of the evidence appended to show that the “internal and general management” of the Asylum at New Norfolk is, and has been for a long time, in a most defective condition, and demands an immediate change; and in the opinion of your Committee, after a careful review of the evidence taken, and which only partially exemplifies the existing condition of affairs, time not having been afforded the Committee to examine several very material witnesses, such as Messrs. Brownell, Roberts, and others, it is the bounden duty of the Government to initiate, and of Parliament to carry into effect, without a moment’s delay, the changes so urgently required, and which the public voice, as soon as the evidence taken and the recommendations of the Committee become known, will imperatively demand.

Before recording its recommendations and suggestions, your Committee feels bound to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that at the time of its appointment there were detained in the Asylum no less than twenty-six persons upon whose cases no Commission had at any time sat in order to test their sanity or otherwise, and not one of whom had either a suicidal or homicidal tendency,—or if the subject of any delusion, only that of a most harmless character,—their periods of detention having extended from a few months to twenty-one years. Six of these have since been discharged, but twenty yet remain, most of whom are able to gain their own living, their liberation being unattended by danger either to themselves or to society at large; and it is in the interest of these poor people, sane, but still incarcerated and associated with insanity in all its horrible and revolting forms, that this Council is asked to interfere,—your Committee hoping that legislation, neither railway nor of any other character, will be proceeded with until the Act for the control and custody of the Insane has been amended in the direction indicated.

It has also been brought under the notice of the Committee that the staff of Keepers and Officers at present employed at New Norfolk, with but few exceptions, have not had the necessary training fitting them to deal efficiently with the Insane; and, in the opinion of the Committee, there are at present in the Asylum a number of individuals employed whose presence, if retained, will, from old associations and combined action, seriously militate against the harmonious and proper working of the Institution; and this opinion will more particularly apply should an attempt be made to remedy existing defects by introducing from England, under the auspices of the Commissioners in Lunacy, a superior set of officers and attendants.

As the result of the labours of the Select Committee, the following are its recommendations:—

1. Repeal of such portions of the Act 22 Vict. No. 23 as have reference to the appointment and functions of Commissioners.
2. The appointment of an Inspector or Inspectors with plenary powers, irrespective of Medical Superintendent or other persons, responsible only to the State, to enquire at all times into the management and treatment of the Insane; the portals of all Insane Institutions to be open to his visits, and to whom a periodical report of each case should be submitted.
3. The Commissioners in Lunacy in England to be at once communicated with, requesting their recommendation of two *superior Keepers*, one for the Male, the other for the Female Division, as well as a Superintendent skilled in the modern treatment of the Insane, and a staff of Warders and Nurses fitted by special training to carry into effect the orders of their superiors as far as the details of such treatment are concerned.
4. The immediate removal of the Asylum to New Town, where buildings already exist, and are sufficiently extensive for the classification of patients, and within easy access for supervision and consultation; the area of land attached to the New Town Institution being quite adequate to the wants of the patients, whose employment in agricultural operations in so conducive to cure.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER, *Chairman*.

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther, Mr. Watchorn, Mr. Cameron, and Mr. M'Gregor.

Mr. Crowther was appointed Chairman.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. Cameron, Mr. Aikenhead, Mr. M'Gregor, and Mr. Watchorn.

The Chairman laid on the Table the Committee's Notes taken at the New Norfolk Asylum on the 1st October.

Resolved—That such Notes be printed as Evidence.

Examined—Dr. W. H. Macfarlane and Duncan Nickols.

The Committee adjourned until Monday at 11 o'clock.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1883.

The Committee met at 12-15 p.m.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. Cameron, and Mr. M'Gregor.

Dr. W. H. Macfarlane further examined.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), and Mr. Watchorn.

There being no quorum, the Committee adjourned until Thursday at 11 o'clock.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), and Mr. Cameron.

There being no quorum, the Committee adjourned until Friday at noon.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1883.

The Committee met at 12-40 p.m.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. Watchorn, and Mr. M'Gregor.

The Chairman submitted a Draft Progress Report, which was read and adopted.

Examined—Dr. E. L. Crowther and Dr. J. W. Florance.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. Watchorn, Mr. Aikenhead, and Mr. Cameron.

Examined—George Hill and John Ridge.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. Aikenhead, Mr. Cameron, and Mr. Watchorn.

Examined—F. W. Mitchell, Esq., J.P.

The Committee adjourned until Friday at 11 o'clock.

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## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. Aikenhead, and Mr. Watchorn.

Examined—E. Shoobridge, Esq., M.H.A., and Frederick Hack.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

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## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. Watchorn, and Mr. M'Gregor.

Examined.—Henry Sims, James Ayres, William Meadowcroft, and George Brown.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

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## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman) Mr. M'Gregor, and Mr. Watchorn.

Examined.—W. C. Sharland, Esq., J.P.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

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## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. Watchorn, and Mr. M'Gregor.

Examined.—Daniel Harvey, James Milner, and Joseph Matthews.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

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## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1883.

The Committee met at 11.10 A.M.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther, Mr. Watchorn, and Mr. M'Gregor.

Examined.—Thomas Cooper, A. Riddoch, Esq., J.P., and Miss Laland.

Re-examined.—John Ridge.

Resolved.—That Miss A. Gaul, Miss A. Kehoe, Miss K. Sullivan, and Miss M. Kerr be summoned for Tuesday, 11th inst., at 11 A.M.

The Committee adjourned until Tuesday at 11 o'clock.

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## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. M'Gregor, and Mr. Watchorn.

Examined.—Mrs. Wolfhagen, Neil Lewis, Esq., James Ferby, Patrick Hynes, Miss K. Sullivan, Miss A. Kehoe, Miss A. Gaul, and Miss M. Kerr.

The Committee adjourned until Thursday at 11 o'clock.

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## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1883.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

*Present.*—Mr. Crowther (Chairman), Mr. M'Gregor, and Mr. Watchorn.

The Chairman submitted a draft Report, which was read and adopted.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

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## EVIDENCE.

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MONDAY, 1 OCTOBER, 1883.

MR. WATCHORN, Mr. Cameron, Mr. W. L. Crowther, and Dr. E. L. Crowther, M.H.A., visited the Insane Asylum, New Norfolk.

Arrived at the Institution 9.13 A.M., left it 3.45 P.M. Saw Dr. Florance in the office, and solicited the attendance of Dr. Macfarlane. In a short time that gentleman arrived. The Chairman of the Committee of the Legislative Council intimated to him the object of the visit, and requested him to issue a general order to the nurses and warders that any of them the Committee might be desirous to attend it in its examination of the various patients and places, or seek information from, that their services would be placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Committee. Dr. Macfarlane promptly complied with the demand.

Drs. Macfarlane and Florance politely offered to accompany the Committee round the Establishment, but as this was the first "visit of surprise," as recommended by the Royal Commission, the Committee declined the offer, believing that a larger amount of accurate information would be obtained in the absence of, rather than in the presence of, the Superintendent and his Assistant.

The Committee requested the attendance of John Ridge, a patient, who did not answer the summons for nearly a quarter of an hour. Upon asking the cause of delay, the Chairman was informed that he was changing his clothes.

This patient was carefully examined by the Committee. His age is 43, and he states he has been in the Asylum 16 months. He is a man of superior address, keenly alive to injustice of any kind, and was found, upon all points upon which he was questioned, to be concise in his answers, and exceedingly accurate in detail. When asked how employed, he naively replied "that he was just going to commence whitewashing, anticipatory of the Committee's visit." He said he was really an artizan, and was engaged in multifarious operations, and employed generally.

From the intelligence displayed by this patient the Committee interrogated him upon various subjects in connection with the Institution and himself.

There being some 80 patients in the back division, he was asked "how these were treated?" He replied, "At present, kindly." He had been under the charge of Warder Cooper.

He was asked if he knew or had witnessed any case of ill-treatment. The answer was, that when he first came in a patient named Angell had been carried by four men to a cell, and that he was kicked in the ribs. He was asked how he had been treated? He replied, "For attempting to escape I was made to sleep in a cell for *over three months* without a bedstead." His treatment was recorded upon the cell door (No. 8), as he had scratched upon it with a pipe-stem as a record of an injury received. He had bruises for a fortnight. He said he was very comfortable now. The Committee visited cell No. 8, and found the record, "Thrown on bed with violence by Reynolds, and struck three times while on the floor by Linsky."—JNO. RIDGE—Cell No. 8, Nov. 6, /82.

He was asked if any Commission had at any time sat on his case whilst in the Establishment in order to test his state of mind, he being present? He replied, "I have not been before any Commission. I applied for a test." He was asked if kerosene was used to kill lice upon the persons of the patients? He said yes; he had used it himself. Cell No. 8 is not the one that he sleeps in at present, in which there is a bedstead with straw bed very imperfectly filled. The Committee could not discern in this man's condition (unless the Superintendent has evidence which was not placed before it) that there was anything to justify his detention in the Asylum.

*Vassis, a Greek.*—Enquiry was made for a patient, *known to be sane*, named Vassis, a Greek, but it was discovered that he had *been formally discharged* on the 29th September, and left the Institution that morning, October 1.

*Sargent.*—Enquiry was made for this man, a patient *known to be sane*. He had been similarly discharged, on Saturday, the 29th September.

*D. Harvey, aged 60, Carpenter.*—Enquiry was made for this patient, who, when brought before the Committee, was carefully interrogated in order to test his mental condition. This man has been 6 years in the Asylum. Has been for five or six years in present condition. Has not ever, as far as the Committee could ascertain, shown any symptoms of a maniacal or insane character, beyond a harmless hallucination that in 1863 he saw in the road two tigers, and that he believes they are there still. He performs the whole, or nearly so, of the carpenter's work of the Establishment. This man ought long since to have been discharged. No Commission has sat upon his case.



*Warder Cooper.*—Did you know Geo. Vassis, the Greek? Yes. Was his condition at the time of his discharge, which took place on Saturday last, different to what it had been for a long time? Not different. I considered him sane. Did you know Robert Jones, who escaped on 18th June, 1882? Yes. What was his condition at the time of his escape? Whilst in the back yard he was quarrelsome and excitable.

*John Henwood, tailor.*—Entered the establishment January 8, 1857. Has been 26 years there. Is a man of *weak intellect*, but perfectly able, with a kind master, to earn his own living. Said he wanted to be discharged. When detailing his long detention he shed tears. Nothing maniacal or of insane tendency could be detected. The Committee was informed that he had a violent temper.

*Duncan Nichols.*—Enquiry was made for this man, supposed to be sane. He was brought before the Committee. No Commission has sat on this man's case in order to test his sanity. Has been working for the last nine months generally. Dr. Florance asked him a few questions *a day or two ago*, since the formation of the Committee. The Committee carefully examined this patient, but failed to detect any symptom of unsoundness of mind.

*George Brown.*—Enquiry was made for this man, who was carefully interrogated as to his past and present occupation, which is that of a carpenter. He performs a great part of the lighter work of the establishment, and is employed *continually in the Female Division*. He assists the storekeeper, and carries stores to the Female Department. When asked if he worked there alone, he replied "Always." Is perfectly sane. This man spoke in the highest terms of Miss Laland.

*James Milner.*—Enquiry was made for this patient, who was brought before the Committee. Has been in the Asylum six years and four months. He wished to be discharged. No Commission has sat upon him. He is sane. Upon questioning Hill, the Warder, as to his condition, he says he considers him sane, and has been in the same state as now *for years*. He is a man of superior intelligence, and ought long since to have been discharged.

*Warder Cooper.*—Warder Cooper accompanied the Committee during their inspection of the back yard, answered all questions put to him, and showed in detail everything that was asked for by the Committee.

How many men have you in charge? 80.

Do the Commissioners frequently or regularly visit the back yard once a month? Not once a month, and not regularly.

During the last 12 months how many times have the Commissioners visited the *backyard*? There have been two quarterly inspections only up to the present time—October 1.

What length of time is occupied in their visits? *Ten minutes*.

Do they during that time examine any of the patients? *I never saw them*.

Have the Commissioners at any of their visits adopted any system as to examination similar to what the Committee has done this morning? Never since I have been in the Institution.

Has the Surgeon-Superintendent, Dr. Macfarlane, done so? Not in my department.

Then there has been no examination of any of the patients from time to time? None of this kind.

How often does the Surgeon-Superintendent consult with, or seek information from you, relative to the improved mental condition of any patient? Very seldom. I have sometimes spoken to him about John Ridge, who had only one apparent delusion, viz., that "he was brought here unjustly." This has been within the last six months.

If reports had been made by you in the direction indicated, were they attended to? If I were to presume to tell Dr. Macfarlane that a man was sane, he would tell me he was Superintendent.

How often have you spoken to him as to the state of the patients' mental condition generally, or any of them? I cannot say; but he has very seldom spoken to me until the *last week*. Then he asked "if any of the patients were getting better to let him know." This only applied to their mental condition. Bodily ailments, when brought under notice, are always attended to.

*Warder Broomfield, Gentlemen's Cottage.*—Was asked if any instructions had been issued to him in order to periodically test the state of mind of any of the patients under his charge? He replied, "None." He sent in a morning and evening report of his own.

*Warder Cooper.*—Are any definite instructions, written or printed, given to the warders or nurses relative to the treatment of the patients? I believe none; I have never received any.

Then, in the event of a warder or nurse leaving the institution, and one being improvised to take his or her place, there would be nothing to guide them as to management? None whatever.

What is your opinion as to the detailed and general working of the institution? I do not think for some time past, and particularly at present, that it has been working well.

Can you suggest a remedy? It would be difficult to suggest a remedy where everything appears to be out of gear. There appears to be *no directing head* or general principle upon which orders are issued.

*Food.*—Warder Cooper informed the Committee that at present the food was good in quality; the meat contracts fairly so. When food was bad he made representations to that effect.

*Clothing.*—The stores of the various kinds were examined by the Committee, and all appeared to be of fair quality. The body-flannels were very good, but the question arose as to its application. When the warder was asked "If every patient had a flannel," the reply was, "Only when they asked for it." When asked if no general order was given by the Superintendent as to clothing, the reply was, "None; it is left to me." To wait until an insane person asks for clothing of any particular kind was an *idea new* to the Committee.

*Drying-Court and Wet Bedding.*—The Committee visited this spot, and were at once struck with the impropriety of the mode adopted to dry or air the soiled bedding after being washed. Five or six beds were reared up against the wall or fence, the blankets and rugs being spread out upon the long and damp grass. They were supposed to be turned during the day, but even with this precaution could not be fit for use. Beyond the wash-house, some 15 by 30 feet, *there is no place in damp or wet weather* to dry anything! A flue improvised around the wash-house would give some heating surface, but this does not appear to have been thought of. A few galvanised iron wire clothes-lines or a few hurdles would expose to the air a very much larger quantity of bed-clothes, and dry them properly. The mode now adopted is absolutely criminal!

*Bedding.*—The Committee carefully inspected this in all the divisions visited, and found it good in quality and sufficient in quantity, but the straw beds were small, and imperfectly filled. In the cells the patients sleep in their shirts, without any body-flannels.

*Epileptic and Sick Wards.*—These were visited by the Committee. They were found to be fairly clean, but in most cases damp, with bad and unpleasant smell. The *open tubs*, without rim or seat, kept at night in the wards for excreta, are not only disgusting but positively dangerous to health. Dry-earth closets should long since have taken their place if ordinary supervision had existed.

*Warders' Quarters.*—Warder Cooper has a small room to live in and take his meals, but the rest, ten in number, have only two small places to keep clothes, take food, and sleep in when off duty.

#### FEMALE DIVISION.

*Miss Crombie.*—This patient was called before the Committee. She is a lady patient; has been 17 years in Asylum. Has been employed at all kinds of work. Has, on several occasions, asked to be discharged. The answer given to her by the Superintendent was always that *she was not well enough*. "If I were out I could take care of little children or do plain work. I have a sister in the North, but she has never been to see me." *This case ought to be enquired into. No doubt exists as to this patient's sanity.* The attendants say her temper is bad, but nothing else is the matter with her.

*Mary Jane Thomas.*—Has been in the Asylum nine or ten years. This patient was carefully interrogated by the Committee, was concise in her answers and accurate when giving details. She has asked Dr. Huston formerly, and the Superintendent latterly, to discharge her, and does not know why they refused to do so.

The Committee called before it Sub-Matron Nicholls, in whose immediate charge Thomas is, who gave the following report:—"She is a very hard-working woman, a really good servant, works well. Has never had *but one delusion*—"that she had some property." Is well ordered and *remarkably subordinate*. This woman is sane enough to be allowed to earn her own living.

*Mary McArthur, aged 21.*—Has been three years in the Asylum, and has always worked the sewing machine. She says she makes clothes for the patients. I have asked for my discharge three or four times. When I asked to know why I was detained, I could get no response. I can do anything. Would like to get a situation as a general servant. The Committee was informed by the nurse that she disowns her mother and brothers. She states that she went to the Institution herself. If so, how?

*Eliza Haydon.*—This patient has but one delusion, and that a religious one. She has asked several times to be discharged. Has a sister at St. Kilda, and says she could take a situation. Has been as at present for the last six months. No Commission has sat upon her case, which is one that ought to be enquired into. Beyond some intensity exhibited when the question of religion was touched upon, the Committee could detect no delusion.

*Nurses Armstrong and Blindell.*—Nurses Armstrong and Blindell have been in constant communication with these patients, seeing them hourly, and are of opinion that they are sane enough to be discharged. They were carefully interrogated by the Committee.

*Sub-Matron Nicholls.*—Showed to Committee the cells and wards in her division, and answered any questions as to the case of any of the patients. When asked if kerosene oil was applied to the patients for the purpose of destroying lice, she replied in the affirmative. When asked "what strength?" the reply was "*the same strength as what was burned.*" The Committee examined the cells, some of which were damp and most offensive.

When asked if she had any printed or written instructions for her guidance as Sub-Matron, she replied, "None."

The Committee wished to know whether she had any instructions or order as to reporting from time to time as to any change or improvement in the mental condition or recovery of any patient. She replied, "None."

The Committee was present in the Female Division whilst the dinner meal was being served out and partaken of by the patients. It would be difficult to describe the *tout-ensemble*. Everything was of the roughest kind; pots, plates, and dishes of *tinware* that must have done service in the institution for a very long period of time,—everything appearing the reverse of cleanness and neatness. The patients themselves indiscriminately huddled together, the noisy with the quiet, the cleanly with those whose habits and instincts are merely animal,—formed a picture that could only lead to the conclusion that want of management, order, and direction reign supreme in the Asylum for the Insane at New Norfolk.

One qualification to these remarks exists in the kindness and forbearance exhibited by these directly in attendance.

Passing from the Back Yard and its gloomy and forbidding associations, the Committee visited the Gentlemen's Cottage, at which place everything appeared to be in fair order, a contrast so remarkable to that exhibited by the division previously visited that the philanthropist is compelled to ask this question, "Is it possible that such a marked distinction can exist in the treatment of human beings, all equally cared for by their Creator, because in the one case money and friends are at hand to watch, assist, and guard the interests of the afflicted, and in the other the State assumes to itself absolutely the care and custody of the insane without having made the slightest provision by way of external supervision tending to guard against the offences appertaining to the treatment of the imbecile and demented being performed in the most perfunctory manner!"

*Miss Laland.*—The Committee were desirous of obtaining information relative to the late matron. One of the nurses was asked if she had been in constant communication with and saw her frequently, or had ever seen her intoxicated? She replied: had hourly communication with her, and never saw her intoxicated, nor anything to tend to the belief that she drank. She said, "I recollect the 24th July and following day. She was sober, walked straight, and did not smell of drink." Another nurse said she never saw Miss Laland intoxicated: it would be impossible to get a better officer or replace her.

The Committee interrogated a number of persons, both male and female, nurses, warders, and others, who, one and all, bore testimony to Miss Laland's *sobriety* and efficiency as a Matron; also the Clerk and Storekeeper, Mr. Brownell.

*Mr. Brownell, Storekeeper.*—Was asked what position he occupied in the Asylum? He replied, in February last he was appointed Clerk and Storekeeper.

Has your store been visited at any time by the Commissioners? Not at any time.

Has any quarterly inspection taken place of the patients? One only, to the best of my knowledge.

If the Commissioners visited and examined the stores, would they be of better quality? They never examine them.

What do you, as Storekeeper, consider the quality of the stores passing through your hands? The sugar is dark brown ration for the patients, counter sugar for the nurses.

Do you suggest any change? Yes. I would give the patients light counter, and the wardsmen and nurses white crystallized.

Have you had occasion to complain of any of the articles being inferior? Yes. Tea in particular, and coffee. The former is very inferior, and unfit for use. I made an infusion and sent it to Dr. Macfarlane, who said I was to report it to Mr. Huxtable. The butter is fairly good, but never first-class. The Colonial Storekeeper has too much to do to rectify details when complaints are made. I will give the Committee a sample of both tea and tobacco, and an opinion can be formed as to quality. I have refused to receive into store potatoes when of bad quality. I think the meat, as a whole, good.

What check have you upon the warders as to the issue of stimulants? The extra sheets are exhibited from which I take my quantities, and issue accordingly.

Do the patients have any other meat beyond beef and mutton? Pigs are killed, of which, when sent to me, I take the weight. The Cook cures them, and returns to me the meat either as pork or bacon, which I issue to the various divisions.

Do you receive any personal ration? Yes. My personal ration ought to be worth to me £20 a-year, but is not, as I give my tea and sugar away, the quality being so inferior. I have a wife and two children.

*Miss Laland's case.*—Have you had frequent interviews with Miss Laland in your official capacity? Yes. I always saw her when stores were issued, that is every other day.

Did you ever see her under the influence of drink? I never saw her under the influence of drink, nor at any time show the slightest sign of it.

As far as the opportunities afforded you would enable you to judge, what opinion have you formed of Miss Laland? I consider Miss Laland a most efficient officer, and always conducted herself as a ladylike woman.

It had not been the intention of the Committee to have touched upon Miss Laland's case in this Enquiry; but the absence of superior control in the Female Division of the Institution being so marked, and such a material injury having, in the opinion of the Committee, been inflicted upon the patients (no person of education being in charge), that it felt bound to enquire into the circumstances attendant upon the removal of so skilled and competent an officer as she was represented to the Committee to have been, by those best qualified to judge, and from whom the Committee sought information.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1883.

DUNCAN NICKOLS *examined.*

1. *By Mr. Watchorn.*—Your name is Duncan Nickols, and you are an inmate of the New Norfolk Asylum? Yes, I am.

2. How came you there? Mr. Jones, Superintendent of the Gaol, Launceston, swore to my being of unsound mind. There were no medical men present, and up to that time no medical men had examined me.

3. You were removed from Launceston to the New Norfolk Asylum? Yes, and I have been there nearly nine months.

4. Have you ever applied for a discharge? No, never. I have seen plenty asking for it, but did not think it of any use.

5. Do you ever do any work? Yes, I am the wardsmen's messenger, and occasionally clean up the gatekeeper's lodge. I consider myself of sound mind, and have been so for some time.

6. Have you been examined since you have been in the Asylum prior to the 27th September ultimo as to your sanity? No, I have not.

7. Do you remember a conversation with Mr. Cameron and myself on the 1st October last, about wool-sorting? Yes, perfectly; and I said I had worked for Mr. Charles Archer, Mr. Robert Archer, Mr. Philip Smith, and Mr. Charles Headlam.

8. Were you brought down under the charge of a keeper this morning? Yes.

9. Do you still consider yourself in his custody? Yes.

10. How have you been treated at the New Norfolk Asylum? I cannot say anything against my treatment. The food is good.

11. *By the Chairman.*—What have been your habits of life? I have not been an habitual drunkard, although on occasional speecs,—once in six months.

12. What is your opinion of the discipline of the New Norfolk Establishment? would you call it good? No, I would not.

13. In what particular is it defective? I think the management of the farming and gardening is the most defective. I do not think they are well managed.

14. Do all who are able, work daily on the land attached to the Asylum? Yes, and in wood-cutting.

15. Did you ever see any case of ill-treatment? No. I was in the front division.

Witness—C. JAMES COLLIER.

his  
DUNCAN × NICKOLS.  
mark.

The Committee having considered the evidence of Duncan Nickols, deem the discharge of this man from the New Norfolk Asylum a necessity, and recommend it.

W. H. MACFARLANE, *Esq., M.B., Ch. B., examined.*

16. *By the Chairman.*—You are Surgeon-Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk? Yes, I am.

17. What are your qualifications? M.B., Ch. B., University of Melbourne. I am also a Member of the Medico-Psychological Association of England.

18. Have you been attached to any Institution of a similar character at any time previously to holding the present situation? No.

19. Are you conversant with the Act 22 Vict. No. 23, for the Regulation of the Care and Treatment of the Insane, particularly Section 11? Yes.

20. Do two Commissioners together, once in every three months, “inspect every part of the Hospital? They have not done so.

21. Do they inspect the order and certificate of admission of every insane person admitted since their previous visit? Yes.

22. Do they examine every insane person in such Hospital? No. They have not done so this year.

23. Do they examine the General Books kept at the Hospital, and do they enter in a book, kept for that purpose, a statement “that they have inspected every such order and certificate, and also any remarks as to the condition and management, and have they signed such book upon every visit? Upon every visit of inspection they have signed such book.

24. Produce such book as directed by Sect. 11, 22 Vict., No. 23, with the details as ordered and duly signed with day and date? The book mentioned is at New Norfolk, but I will forward it to the Committee.

25. Will that book contain the order set forth in Section 11 of that Act? Not in full.

26. “The Medical Officer shall, once in every week enter in a book to be kept for that purpose, to be called the ‘Medical Journal’ a statement according to Schedule 5, and shall enter in a Case Book the mental state and bodily condition of every patient at the time of his admission, and also the history from time to time of his case while he continues in the Hospital, and such books shall, from time to time be regularly laid before the Commissioners for their inspection and signature?” Has this been done, and if so, I require the book duly signed with day and date? Yes, this has been done, and I produce the book duly signed.

27. Give the names of patients that have died during the last two years, and has Section 33 been attended to? If so, give the proofs, accompanied by the special report to the Commissioners in every case? Yes, the Act has been complied with in that particular.

28. Give the details of each death as to the nature of malady, if typhoid or erysipelas: what precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the disease? The book will show the cases. Typhoid fever cases were isolated as much as possible in the New Norfolk Asylum. Erysipelas cases were treated in the sick ward of each division. All other patients were removed that might be infected by it.

29. What system is adopted—washing or dry-rubbing? Washing and the use of disinfectants.

30. In what place were these cases treated, and did not several deaths take place in the wards? Not that I am aware of. I cannot recollect any except one case of typhoid.

31. Do you issue either printed or written instructions to warders and nurses as to the detailed treatment of patients, and especially having reference to reporting any change or improvement in their mental condition? If so, produce them? No, I do not.

32. In the event of a warder or nurse leaving the Institution, and persons not conversant with the treatment of the insane being improvised to fill their places, in the absence of written or printed instructions, how can the duties required of them be performed? The keeper on the male side, and the matron or submatron on the female side, instruct these persons.

33. Do you inspect, either personally or by your Assistant, each person whilst at meals? At one meal during the day invariably both the Assistant Medical Officer and myself inspect them.

34. Do you or your Assistant, at irregular hours, visit every cell or dormitory after the patients have retired to rest in order to see that they are comfortably provided for, and that warders and night nurses are at their posts, and what check have you? We do not visit every cell every night. The epileptics are visited every night. We have no tell-tale clock.

35. Have you made any attempt to classify the patients or separate the quiet from the noisy? If so, state in what particulars? Yes, as far as the Asylum will admit.

36. I perceive by your Report that a patient named Jones escaped, but was so sane at the time of his escape that he did not require to be brought back. Refer to his case in the Medical Journal and Case Book, and show me where and at what times his mental condition was tested during his stay in the Asylum, giving dates? On reference to the book, I find that on the 27th April, 1882, and 27th May, it is noted that his condition is "improving mentally." "On 18th June the patient escaped, and had apparently gone in the direction of Hamilton."

37. Was any report made from time to time upon this man's condition, or has any Commission sat upon him in order to test his state of mind? No, I do not think so.

38. Were the conditions set forth in Sect. 11 and 32 complied with? Not in that particular case.

39. What systematic medical or moral treatment was this patient under? I require the Case Book and details? The Case Book will not show those details.

40. Was there anything in this man's condition to have prevented his being discharged, and if brought back would he have been ordered, as in Ridge's case, to three months in the cell? He would have been placed in the back yard.

41. You are aware that some correspondence has taken place between the Government and myself relative to the mental condition of John Ridge? Yes.

42. State the grounds upon which you have detained this patient in the Asylum? This patient is excessively emotional, his manner is eccentric, and the last time I examined him he appeared to bear great ill-will against those who placed him in the Asylum.

43. Refer to his case in the Medical Journal and Case Book, and give me the dates of each time his case was reported on as required by statute, before the 27th September last? On reference to the book I find the following dates:—November 4, 1882; December 22, 1882; 1883—January 24, February 26, March 24, April 24, May 31, June 29, July 31, August 24, September 4.

44. Is there anything recorded in that book from January 24, 1883, that would lead you to believe that that patient was dangerous to society and to himself? No, there is not.

45. Place before the Committee any letters or facts observed either by yourself or others that would justify his detention? I have no other facts except what I have already given.

46. Was he not, during the last six months, progressing towards cure? Yes, though variably.

47. Refer to the Medical Journal and Case Book and give the dates of all entries having reference to mental condition of the man George Vassis previously to the 27th September, the day the Committee of the Legislative Council was appointed. You discharged this man on the 29th September? This man was admitted on 26th June, 1883. On July 31, "unchanged mentally"; on September 16, "patient is improving mentally"; on September 20, "is much better mentally"; on September 25, "is almost convalescent mentally." He is now sane, and has been discharged.

48. Refer to Medical Journal and Case Books and give the dates of all entries having reference to the mental condition of John Sergeant prior to the 27th September last. This man, the Committee was informed, was discharged by you on the 29th September? On referring to the book I find that on the 31st July, 1883, he was "unchanged mentally." On the 24th August, "unchanged mentally, but he is working in the Shoemaker's shop." 2nd September, "improved to some extent. Works in the Shoemaker's shop very well. Is quiet and orderly. Delusions are not apparent." 10th September, "is much improved. Works well, has no delusions. Orderly." 24th September, "patient quite convalescent. Has not shown any indication of violence while I have been here." I believed him quite sane when I discharged him.

49. Refer to the Medical Journal and Case Books and give the dates of all entries having reference to the mental condition of Daniel Harvey prior to the 27th September last? On May 31st, 1883, "unchanged mentally, works well." June 28th, "unchanged mentally." July 31st, "unchanged mentally." August 24th, "this patient has delusions about tigers being in the back-yard, and about a boy drowned in the Mersey. He works well in the back-yard." September 25th, "unchanged mentally."

50. Has he not been in the Asylum for six years, during the greater part of which time he has worked as a carpenter? Yes, the greater part of the time.

51. Give the Committee the data upon which you detain this man, as, beyond a single hallucination, and that a harmless one, he has never (so the Committee were informed by the Warder) shown any maniacal or insane symptoms? He simply has delusions in reference to tigers, and to the dead body of a boy in the Mersey.

52. The Committee wish information upon the case of George Brown, he having been in the Asylum 16 years working daily as a carpenter and handy man in the Female Division. Refer to the Case Books and Medical Journal, and give the dates of all entries from time to time having reference to his mental condition prior to the 27th September last? 1883—January 24th, February 26th, March 20th, March 27th, April 24th, May 31st, June 28th, July 31st, August 24th. I have no entry other than the book affords, and certainly there is not amongst them any record of any maniacal or insane action.

53. Frederick Henwood having entered the Asylum 8th January, 1857, the Committee requires information as to his detention. Refer to the Medical Journal and Case Books, and give the dates of all entries made from time to time having reference to his mental condition prior to 27th September last? The book exhibits no change to record in his mental condition from 28th June to 24th August.

54. Has any Commission sat upon Duncan Nickols' case or any of the preceding ones in order to test their sanity? None.

55. Refer to the Medical Journal and Case Books, and give the dates of all entries made from time to time having reference to his mental condition prior to 27th September last? From 24th January to 26th September, 1883, no change in his mental condition has been recorded.

56. The Committee having examined James Milner, with the preceding cases, requires the dates of all entries made from time to time in the Medical Journal and Case Books as to his mental condition prior to 27th September last? From 21st November, 1879, to 24th August, 1883, in all 46 entries, no change in his mental condition is recorded. A fresh entry on 20th September, a date since the Motion for the Select Committee, giving some details distinctly different to those previously noted, professing to be his mental condition.

57. State in detail upon what grounds this case is *now* detained? This man has suspicions and delusions about Dr. Murphy attempting to get his wife into the Launceston Hospital as nurse, for immoral purposes.

58. Have you been *personally* conversant with the mental condition of *all the cases* to which reference has been made, and have you *noted the condition* of these cases, as required by Section 11 on the part of the Commissioners, and Section 32 on the part of yourself; and, if not, state the reasons why you have neglected to do so? Yes; I believe the conditions of the Act have been complied with.

59. Refer to Medical Journal and Case Books and give the details and dates of all entries having reference to Miss C.'s condition mentally. State the reasons from those entries that would justify her detention in the Asylum. The dates must be prior to 27th September last? From 27th January, 1882, to 23rd August, 1883, the record shows there was no change in her mental condition; there is shown the following without any date:—"This patient appears generally as a quiet inoffensive person, and is even pleasant to talk to. Mrs. Lowrie, who sleeps in her room, states that she is a noted liar, and is mean, but never has seen her injure anyone. She has a peculiar manner—a quasi-hysterical one. Clean and orderly, and when excited is very dangerous."

60. Refer to Medical Journal and Case Books and give the details and dates of all entries having reference to Mary Jane Thomas's mental condition, and state upon what grounds her detention in the Asylum can be justified? This patient has periodical fits of mania, though the record shows that from 26th February, 1883 (with the exception of one note, 27th March), till 23rd August, her mental condition has been unchanged, no fits of maniacal excitement having been recorded.

61. Refer to Medical Journal and Case Books and give the details and dates of all entries having reference to Mary M'Arthur's mental condition prior to 27th September, and upon what grounds she is detained in the Asylum? Referring to the book, I find that from 27th October, 1880, till 31st July, 1883, her mental condition remained the same.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER, 8, 1883.

W. H. MACFARLANE, Esq., M.B., further examined.

62. *By the Chairman.*—Is it not a standing order that neither male persons nor attendants are permitted in the Female Division without an Officer in charge of them? Yes, it is certainly.

63. If such really be the case, how is it that George Browne has worked for years in the Female Division, and does so at the present time, without an Officer in charge? George Browne has been allowed for years to work on the Female side, but I have given orders to the matron and nurses to see that he is watched.

64. Does it not prove that this man is not only sane at this moment, but has been so for years? No; for at the present time, this patient still has delusions in reference to being guided by the sun, moon, and stars, and he had these delusions when he came in. He is also very weak minded. No Commission has sat upon his case.

65. Who is Louisa Smith, and from whence did she come? Is she entered upon the books of the Institution? This patient is not classed amongst the other patients of the Hospital, but her maintenance is defrayed by the Colonial Funds.

66. How long has she been in the Asylum?—and is she not an apprentice of Mr. Geo. F. Huston, a Commissioner? Since 1876. Yes, she has been apprenticed to Dr. Huston when he was Superintendent and Medical Officer.

67. How is it that she does not appear upon the strength of the establishment? She is an apprentice, that is the reason.

68. Has not her period of apprenticeship expired? Yes, but it is to be renewed.

69. Refer to the Case Book, and give dates of all entries in detail as to the mental condition of Eliza Haydon prior to the 8th September last, and state upon what grounds her detention in the Asylum is justified? This patient was admitted on 27th December, 1881. From April, 1882, to 23rd August, 1883, the record shows "unchanged mentally." This patient is a monomaniac on religious subjects, and she has had this monomania ever since her admission up to the present time. These are the grounds for her detention in the Hospital.

70. Have Commissions of Enquiry, consisting of two Commissioners and yourself, sat at any time upon these cases with a view to test their sanity or progress towards recovery? No, they have not.

71. You have stated that you are conversant with the Act 22 Vict. No. 23? Yes, I have.

72. Section 7 says:—"Every Hospital for the Insane shall be under the immediate control of the Surgeon-Superintendent." Is this the case? Yes.

73. Such being the case, is it not a primary duty of yours, as such Superintendent, to personally enquire into every case of neglect of duty or intemperance on the part of any of the officers of the establishment, whether male or female? Yes, it is.

74. I perceive in the Minute Book of the Commissioners, dated August 4th, that you placed a memorandum (unsigned), being a charge against Martha Maria Laland preferred by a woman named Young, since dead, and Nurse Stanwix through Mr. George Huston, "of being, on the 24th day of July last, under the influence of drink;" the same memorandum stating "that yourself and Dr. Florance were attending a patient that evening in the Female Division, and Miss Laland bounced into the room, made some remark, 'is she worse?' and went away. He (meaning yourself) smelt drink about her, and remarked to Dr. Florance that she had been taking liquor. She was laid up the following day." I placed that document before the Commissioners when I made the charge of intemperance against Miss Laland.

75. Have you any other charge in writing except this document? No.

76. Would you, if on oath in a Court of Justice, say that during the few seconds Miss Laland was in your presence that you could judge accurately as to the condition she was in? Yes, I could do so.

77. Here is the memorandum referred to. In whose handwriting is it? In Dr. Huston's handwriting.

78. Were Miss Laland in the condition you state, was it not your bounden duty as Surgeon-Superintendent to have placed her off duty at once pending enquiry? It would have been my duty to do so, but there were other circumstances which prevented it.

79. What were those circumstances? There was no first sub-matron, and the second sub-matron had received an injury to her leg, and was subsequently incapacitated from duty on that account. Had I suspended the matron at that time the "discipline" of the female division of the Hospital would have suffered. Miss Laland was under the influence of liquor, but not drunk and incapable.

80. *By Mr. Cameron.*—Was that the first time? Yes.

81. If the first time, were you thoroughly satisfied it was drink, and not from any other cause? Her breath smelt very strongly of drink. She was in the room for a short time.

82. Had you any other reports previously that she was intemperate? Yes, in 1881 a charge was made against her of intemperance, but was dismissed owing to insufficient evidence.

83. What was there to justify your continuing the services of a drunken matron, if such was the case? Only the circumstances I have related previously.

84. *By the Chairman.*—Did you put her off duty? No.

85. I see that in your evidence taken before the Commissioners you state "you thought Miss Laland had been taking liquor; she abruptly left the room, and you saw no more of her that night?" Yes, that was the testimony I gave before the Commissioners.

86. You were aware, on 4th August, that a charge of intemperance had been preferred against Miss Laland, brought forward through the medium of Mr. G. F. Huston and some of the subordinates of the Establishment? Yes, on 4th August I was.

87. *By Mr. Cameron.*—Did you not think that Dr. Huston was interfering with your duties in doing this? No, as he himself informed me of it.

88. *By the Chairman.*—When did you make known to the matron that so serious a charge had been preferred against her? I did not make it known, for it was decided at a meeting of the Commissioners that the President should make it known to her, as I was directly involved in bringing the charge.

89. Did you give her written notice that the charge of drunkenness was preferred against her? No, I did not.

90. Have you ever seen Miss Laland at any time intoxicated; if so, give day and date? I have seen Miss Laland under the influence of liquor on July 24th and August 2nd. Dr. Florance also saw her.

91. If you saw her on August 2nd, under the influence of liquor, why did you not suspend her then? I did not do so, that is all.

92. When I tell you that every person I and the members of the Committee interrogated on Monday last, whether male or female, as to Miss Laland's intemperance, gave a distinct and emphatic denial to such an accusation,—one very intelligent nurse stating positively that she was with her the whole day and evening of the 24th July,—will you assert from your own knowledge that she was intoxicated between 8 and 9 of the evening of that day? I say that she was under the influence of liquor on the evening of July 24th.

93. *By Mr. Cameron.*—From 1880, when she was first appointed, up to the present time you say that you never saw her under the influence of liquor during the whole of that time? No, I never did.

94. Did you take any means to prove that she was drunk? From my professional knowledge I deemed she was.

95. *By the Chairman.*—I place before you the Matron's Report Book of the 24th and 25th July. Do these entries give evidence of the writer having been in a state of intoxication? No, they do not. I read the previous day's Report as entered in this book every morning.

96. On the contrary, do they not show that Miss Laland performed the ordinary duties of the Establishment during the day upon the evening of which she was charged with intemperance, and accurately recorded the same? The following are the "charges," and the entries in the Book above mentioned:—

*Statements made to Dr. Huston, a Commissioner.*

*Mr. 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 talking excitedly, demanding to know if any of them had any charge to make against her to say so at once; that everyone 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."

July 24th, 1883.—Miss ——— slept throughout the night; her last dose of medicine was given at 3:30 P.M. Mrs. ——— was very restless. The rest of the ladies at the Cottage have been quiet, and seem to have rested well. Nurse Young had a good night, and seems better again this morning. Nurse R. Crosswell continues to do well. Mrs. ——— and Mrs. ——— have each been maniacal throughout the night; Elizabeth ——— also was somewhat troublesome. The rest of the patients throughout the Establishment have been all quiet, and seem to have rested well. Margaret ——— had four fits in the night. The child ——— seems still to be doing well. The other invalids also appear to be progressing favourably. The rest of the patients are apparently as well as usual this morning.

The ladies at the Cottage have been all quiet during the day. Nurse Young continues better. Mrs. ——— has been maniacal throughout the day. Mrs. ——— also has a relapse of her former excitement. The rest of the patients throughout the Establishment have been all generally quiet. There have been no casualties or fits occurring. The medicines, &c. have been given as ordered. Mrs. ——— had the warm bath as directed in the evening. Miss ——— and Mrs. ——— restrained by sleeves for the day.

Amy Kehoe a pass from 2 to 5 P.M.; returned in due time. Mrs. Dobill also a pass for one hour in the forenoon.

At 8:30 P.M. the Establishment regular, the patients all quiet and in bed.

M. M. LALAND.

NOTE.—Mrs. Lowry returned at 10 A.M. from her leave of absence of yesterday.—M. M. L.

July 25th, 1883.—Miss ——— slept in the absence of any medicine. Mrs. ——— and the rest of the ladies at the Cottage have been quiet, and seem to have rested well. Nurse Young had a restless night, and does not seem so well again. Mrs. ——— and Mrs. ——— have each been maniacal and very troublesome throughout the night. The rest of the patients in the main building and cells have been all quiet, and appear to have rested well. Mrs. ——— slept composedly throughout the night. The child ——— also had a quiet night, and still seems to be progressing favourably. Rose ——— had one, and Margaret ——— four fits in the night. Alice ——— and the rest of the invalids appear to be doing well. The rest of the patients are apparently as well as usual this morning.

The ladies at the Cottage have been all quiet in the day. Miss ——— and Mrs. ——— restrained by sleeves during the day. Mrs. ——— and Mrs. ——— have both been maniacal throughout the day, and have each been restrained by sleeves. The rest of the patients in the main building and cells have been generally quiet. There have been no casualties occurring. The medicines, &c. have been given as ordered. Sarah ———, Mrs. ——— (2nd), and Helen ———, each one, and Margaret ——— two fits in the day. The child ——— seems to be progressing favourably.

Jane Stanwix and Mary Kerr a pass from 2 to 5, Mrs. Ware 3 to 6 P.M.; returned in due time. M. Stavelly also had leave of absence for one hour in the afternoon.

The Establishment regular at 8:30 P.M., the patients all quiet and in bed.

M. M. LALAND.

I cannot answer that question.

97. Have you any record to show the Committee that Miss Laland at any time neglected her duty? I do not remember any at present.

98. Was she not known by you to be a most efficient and painstaking officer, and thoroughly competent to manage the Insane? Yes, she was a very good officer indeed.

99. Did you make any note or record on the 24th July, in the Daily Journal or other books of the Hospital, as to the condition you thought Miss Laland was in? No, I did not on the books of the Hospital.



100. Have you at the present moment a Matron, Sub-Matron, or any educated person in charge of the Female Division of the Hospital? None highly educated.

101. Is it possible that justice can be done to the Female Insane while such a defective organization exists? No, I do not think it can, and I have informed the Commissioners so.

102. Do you carefully and practically test the quality of the articles of diet supplied to the Asylum? No, I do not, but I attend to any complaints.

103. What about tea and tobacco? The tea is of very bad quality, and so is the tobacco. I have spoken to the Asylum Storekeeper to have it altered. I inspect the meat every morning.

104. Is it not part of your duty to be conversant with the quality supplied to the patients? That is the Storekeeper's province, but I take it upon myself occasionally to test the various articles of diet.

105. Here is a sample of the tea and tobacco given to the Committee by the Storekeeper, Mr. Brownell, who stated that he had drawn your attention to the tea that was unfit for use? He drew my attention to it, and I told him to have it remedied.

106. You are aware that Mr. G. F. Huston is a Commissioner: has he a person of unsound mind residing with him, and for whom he privately receives payment? I believe he has.

107. Has his house been proclaimed a place of safe keeping for the insane, as prescribed by 22 Vict. No. 23? I do not know.

108. There is a patient—Mr. ——— in the gentlemen's cottage. Does Mr. Huston, being a Commissioner, receive payment for visiting this patient privately in the Asylum? I cannot say.

109. If this be the case, state the amount paid in both cases to the Government on the one hand, and Mr. Huston on the other. The latter case pays 5s. to the Government.

110. Are you not bound to supply both medical and general attendance, and for which the Government is paid? Yes.

111. You produce the Case Books of the Asylum for the Insane? Yes, I do.

112. I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the recent entries made in certain cases after 27th September are of such an extraordinary character, having reference to the object for which this Committee has been formed, as to require a distinct explanation from you as Surgeon-Superintendent? My assistant made those entries. I was not aware of it then, but am now. He keeps up the books.

113. Were the entries made by your Assistant with your sanction and approval, particularly in the following cases:—Photius Vassis, the Greek; — Sargent, George Browne, John Ridge, Duncan Nickols, James Milner, Daniel Harvey, Frederick Henwood, Mary M'Arthur, Ann Cluff, Mary Jane Thomas, Eliza Haydon, Grace Crombie? I am responsible for them.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1883.

E. L. CROWTHER, *Esq., M.D., examined.*

114. *By the Chairman.*—Your name and qualifications? Edward Lodewyk Crowther, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., L.M.L., L.R.C.P.E., M.B., C.M., and M.D.

115. Have you had any experience of the treatment of persons mentally afflicted in Great Britain or elsewhere? Yes, I was acting for some time as Assistant Medical Officer of the Earlswood Idiot Asylum, Red Hill, Surrey, under Dr. Downes.

116. Are you conversant with the modern treatment of the Idiot and Insane as carried out at Earlswood and other places? I am.

117. You were requested by me, as a professional man and Member of the House of Assembly, to accompany the Committee of the Legislative Council on a visit of inspection to the Asylum for the Insane at New Norfolk, on the 1st October instant? I was, and did so.

118. You were requested by me to take notes as to the condition of the Institution and the inmates generally, and specially to examine, after myself, each case of supposed sanity that I would point out to you. Did you do so? Yes.

119. Have you made those notes, and if so, place them before and at the disposal of the Committee, with such remarks as the circumstances of the case will admit? I herewith beg to hand in my notes and remarks.

*John Ridge.*—This patient was most carefully examined, and I consider has no right whatever to be detained. He gave two most circumstantial accounts, first of what had happened to himself, and second of what he had seen happen to others, for attempting to escape; he was brought back, and for three months made to sleep in a cell upon the floor. On another occasion he was violently thrown upon his bed and his chest bruised. He stated we should find the record of this upon the cell door (written with a pipe-stem), and so we did. He had seen four men carry one lunatic, and a fifth, a warder kicked him on the ribs. Has made repeated applications to be set at liberty. He stated that he was thrown on his bed by Reynolds, and struck three times by Levistry. The room he inhabited was damp and the floor buckled, and yet this was a vast improvement upon the condition of the cell he had to sleep in for three months. Is quite able to earn his own living.

*Daniel Harvey.*—In Asylum six years. Sole wish to be discharged. Has but one harmless delusion, that there are tigers in the bush. Is quite able to earn his living.

*Duncan Nichols*, a gardener, &c. This man is perfectly fit to be discharged. Has been in the Asylum nine months. Has never been examined before the Commissioners. Mr. Jones, of Launceston Depôt, sent him in. Dr. Thompson did not see him the three days previously to his going before the Magistrates. Is a wool-sorter, and wants to be discharged. Is perfectly able to earn a living if out.

*James Milner*.—This patient is fit to be discharged. He is thirty-five years of age, brought up as a sort of attorney's clerk. He can earn his living.

*Miss Crombie*.—Wishes to be discharged, but states that her bad temper keeps her there. When nervousness comes on loses control. Once struck a patient. See no reason why, under certain restrictions, she should not be discharged.

*Miss Haydon*.—Has a harmless religious delusion. No reason whatever that she should not be out of the Asylum. The detention amongst noisy blasphemous lunatics is most cruel.

*Mary Jane Thomas*.—Age 39. Scrubber and cleaner. Has frequently asked to be discharged. I consider her quite fit to be at liberty. Has a delusion that she has property. Could get her living if out. Mrs. Nichols, Sub-Matron, told me she would have no objection to her as a servant in her own home. This patient can earn her living without the slightest difficulty.

*Ann Cluff*.—In Asylum for 9 years. Has asked for a discharge on several occasions. There is no particular reason why this woman should not be at liberty.

*Mary MacArthur*.—Age 21. Three years in Asylum. Has asked for a discharge. Denies her mother and brother when in temper. Has a delusion against them. There is no reason why this woman should not be at liberty under certain restrictions.

*Remarks*.—I consider the cells are absolutely unfit for these poor demented patients to sleep in. Although it was a bright warm day, and there were no patients in them, yet they were offensive and damp; upon the floor of one, at least, water was actually lying.

The sleeping rooms, with their damp floors and buckled boards, were bad enough, but the cells were ten times worse. The confinement of a lunatic to one of these cell floors for three months for attempting to escape, is, to my mind, barbarous. The yard for these eighty (80) unfortunates was glaring, cheerless, and prison-like.

The numbers together in various portions of the establishment showed that but slight, if any, attempt was made at classification: the contrast of the quiet pervading the quarters of the pay patients was most marked,—recovery in the one case was, by man's own hands, rendered almost impossible, and in the other rendered fairly certain as far as it could be.

Bedding dried upon damp grass was an anomaly; the want of a larger laundry, hot-air flue round the drying-room, and some means of exposing the bedding to the sun, was most marked.

The ward the epileptics sleep in was damp, cold, and cheerless; three windows all opening one side prevent the sun ever reaching the room but for a few minutes.

The tub closet arrangement, with its hard, sharp rim edge, is a bad one.

The old tin platters at meals, in which the female patients have their dinners, are a relic of barbarism, and the absence of any fluid, except broth, at dinner seemed a very curious idea. I tried a few with water, and five emptied a pannikin. All sleeping in the cells should have flannel vests; out of all I examined I only found one patient wearing it, and he was one whom I consider sane and had asked for it.

In one small cell in the female division there were beds for two, in one of which was a sick lunatic; the surrounding conditions would render a severe case hardly recoverable. Some means should at once be taken to insure warming them (the cells).

The ideas with regard to kerosene are curious: one man uses equal parts of kerosene and water to the patients' heads, one woman uses it pure. If clean, the same water is used for two patients to bath in. If needed, the lunatics ask for under-flannels.

A most careful and prolonged examination of the majority of those I have mentioned enable me to state positively that the detention of many, if not most of them, is unwarranted. With hardly an exception, there was nothing elicited that would have made me send them into the Asylum for Insane. I say there is nothing to legally justify their detention, and I assert that in no Asylum for the Insane except Tasmania would many of them be detained. As a representative of the people in Parliament, and as more especially representing the helpless insane, I urge upon your Honorable Committee the necessity of recommending the appointment of a "skilled Inspector," specially educated and qualified by having had the management, or at any rate the experience, of a similar Institution in Great Britain. When I look back upon the management of the Earlswood Asylum with its 450 inmates, where for a short term I was acting as Assistant Physician under Dr. Downs, and contrast it with the one at New Norfolk, I can only raise my protest against the continuation of such a state of affairs. Skilled inspection by some one independent of the Commissioners and their servants is an immediate necessity.

EDWARD L. CROWTHER, *M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., L.M.L.,  
L.R.C.P.E., M.B., C.M., M.D.*

JAMES WILLIAM FLORANCE, *M.B., Ch. B.*

120. *By the Chairman*.—Your name and qualifications? James William Florance, M.B., Ch. B.

121. How long have you been at the Asylum, New Norfolk? Four months and a half.

122. Have you been attached to any similar institution before holding the appointment of Assistant Medical Officer at New Norfolk? No.

123. You have within the last few days resigned that appointment? Yes, I have.
124. Has Warder Hill been acting for some time past as Dispenser? Yes.
125. Have you been conversant with the management in detail of the Asylum at New Norfolk? Yes.
126. Do you think the establishment has been working satisfactorily? Since I have been there it has been working satisfactorily, with one or two exceptions.
127. At the time of your appointment, were printed or written instructions given for your guidance? No printed instructions were given to me. No rules exist.
128. Are written or printed instructions issued to warders and nurses as to the detailed management of the patients? No, they are not.
129. How are the orders given, and by whom, to the various departments or divisions of the Asylum? Chiefly by the Superintendent, occasionally by myself.
130. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent, in your opinion, exercise full power and control over those placed under him? Yes, he does.
131. Is any authority assumed or exercised over the servants and inmates of the Asylum other than by the Superintendent? No.
132. Does Dr. Huston, one of the Commissioners, control the management of the institution, or exercise any authority apparently in excess of the other Commissioners? No, he does not. I may state, as my opinion, that I have never seen him act in that way.
133. Since your connection with the Asylum has any system been adopted in order to test periodically the mental condition of the insane, particularly those who may be progressing towards recovery? No.
134. Have you always been present during the time the patients were at meals? No, not always.
135. Has Dr. Macfarlane been present, particularly at the dinner meal? Occasionally he is present at the dinner meal. I give an instance. Some time ago, at the Gentlemen's Cottage, I had happened to have been there several days running. The meals were, I found, managed so irregularly that I reported the same to Dr. Macfarlane, and he and I went over there two days running and corrected this as far as possible.
136. Have you visited the dormitories and cells at irregular hours of the night in order to see that the patients were comfortable, and warders and nurses were at their posts? On occasions I did so up to 10-30 p.m. I did not, however, make a rule of going round in the middle of the night.
137. Has Dr. Macfarlane done so? Yes, he has.
138. Did either Dr. Macfarlane or yourself visit the back yard daily; and, if so, give the length of time occupied in the visit? Yes, twice daily. On Dr. Macfarlane's daily visit he remained from a quarter to half an hour. I went much oftener than that.
139. For what purposes did you go there? To examine the buildings as to their cleanliness, to examine the patients, taking particular notice of those suffering from acute mania and other illnesses, and to hear complaints.
140. Did you at such visits personally examine each case in order to ascertain what mental improvement had taken place since your previous visits? The dangerous cases, of course, we merely looked at. I shook hands with and questioned many of the patients.
141. The Committee has been informed that since your appointment the Case Books and Medical Journal have been kept by you: is this the case? The Case Books only, not the Journal.
142. You are aware that on the 1st instant, the day of the Committee's visit, the Asylum was without Matron and Sub-matron? Yes.
143. Could justice be done to the female insane in the absence of skilled supervision? No.
144. The management and immediate control over the 80 patients in the back division was in the hands of Under-keeper Cooper? Yes.
145. Did you consider Cooper a good officer, and well fitted to take charge of the class of patients with which he had to deal? He was a fairly good officer and a firm man.
146. I hear that he has been dismissed by the Commissioners a day or two since upon a charge of drunkenness? Yes, that is the case.
147. How long has he been on the back division? and what means have been adopted to fill his place? I do not know. No means have been taken to fill his place that I am aware of.
148. You are aware that the Matron, Miss Laland, was suspended by the Commissioners from her office on the 25th August last, the charge against her being that, on the 24th July, she was under the influence of liquor? Yes, I am.
149. In the memorandum or charge, written by Mr. G. F. Huston, purporting to be the statement of Nurses Young and Stanwix, appears this sentence;—"Dr. Macfarlane says: That he and Dr. Florence were attending a patient that evening in the female division and Miss Laland bounced into the ward, made some remark,—“Is she worse?”—and went away. He smelt drink about her, and remarked to Dr. Florence that she had been taking liquor.” Is that statement correct? Yes, it is quite correct.
150. From the very short time Miss Laland was in your presence, would you, if on oath in a Court of Justice, swear that Miss Laland was intoxicated? I was listening to the patient's chest, and heard Miss Laland come into the room, say in a loud voice, “Is Ruthie worse?” and then, “Who sent for the doctor?” I raised my head at that moment and saw her turn abruptly round and back out of the room. I could judge that her manner was that of an intoxicated person. I could not swear it on that evening.

151. Have you at any time previously to the 24th July whilst in the Asylum seen Miss Laland intoxicated? if so, give day and date, accompanied by the record made by you in the books of the Asylum? No, I have not.

152. Have you seen her intoxicated at any time since the 24th July? if so, give day and date with record made? On the 2nd August Miss Laland met Dr. Macfarlane and myself, and addressed herself to me particularly. Her breath smelt of liquor, and she behaved in a very unladylike and indecorous way to the medical officers. I did not make any record.

153. I place before you the Matron's Report Book: do the entries of the 24th and 25th July give evidence of the writer having been in a state of intoxication? No, they do not.

154. Have you, as Assistant Surgeon, any record to show that Miss Laland at any time neglected her duty? I have no journal to make records of that description.

155. Was she not, on the contrary, known to be a most efficient and painstaking officer, and thoroughly competent to manage the insane? I do not consider Miss Laland competent to manage the insane, though she endeavoured to show that she was efficient and painstaking.

156. *By Mr. Watchorn.*—In what particular did you consider her incompetent? In that she was given to intoxication.

157. In what way did she behave indecorously to the medical officers? In her manner of speaking, which was most insolent.

158. Is there at the present moment a Matron, or Sub-matron, or any educated person in charge of the female division? There is not.

159. Do you not think that it was the duty of the Surgeon-Superintendent, when he saw Miss Laland under the influence of liquor on the 24th July, to have immediately placed her off duty, pending enquiry? Yes.

160. Can proper subordination be preserved unless prompt action be taken in such case? No, there cannot.

161. I call your attention to various entries after the 15th September last in the Case Book that appear in your handwriting; I refer to those of Crombie, Ridge, Milner, Sargent, Vassis the Greek, and others: by whose orders were those entries made? Partly from my own duties, and in one or two cases the Superintendent asked me to make notes.

162. Give the Committee the names of these last? Vassis, Wilkie, and Margaret Macarthy.

163. Did you from your own knowledge note anything in Miss Crombie's case prior to the 15th September that would justify the entry made by you, and which is without date? I had nothing but the medical certificate made 17 years ago, and an entry in 1879, that would guide me in noting what I did.

164. By whose order did you alter the heading of her case from "Dementia" to "Emotional Insanity, with homicidal-tendencies?" My own. I spoke to Dr. Macfarlane, however, about it, and then made the entry.

165. Your attention is now drawn to the entries in the case of Vassis the Greek: by whom were these made? By Dr. Macfarlane, from the 16th to 29th September, the date of his discharge.

166. Also to the case of Sargent: by whom were these made? Entries in this case were made by me, on the dates stated.

167. You are aware that these men were discharged sane on the morning of the 1st October instant? The books show it.

168. At the time you made these entries did it not strike you that the change from an insane to a sane condition was very rapid? In Sargent's case it was rapid. In Vassis' case I believe he was never insane. He was three months in the Asylum.

169. Do you not think that the Notice of Motion on the 15th, and the appointment of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the 27th September, had something to do with such a singular transformation? Very slightly.

170. I refer you specially to the cases of Ridge, Milner, Nickols, Harvey, and others [*vide* p. 6]: were the entries made upon your own responsibility, or under Dr. Macfarlane's instructions? Those in Ridge's case were made by me. In Milner's case I made the entry dated September 20th on my responsibility, as also in Duncan Nickols.

171. When was Nickols discharged? On the 10th October.

172. Are you aware that these cases have been pronounced by the Committee to be sane? I have heard so.

173. Case discharged yesterday without notice to Mrs. Mills, whose brother, a patient, walked all the way from New Norfolk to Hobart? I am aware of that case, but the patient, though asked, did not desire any notice to be sent.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 1883.

GEORGE HILL, *Senior Keeper, Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, examined.*

174. *By the Chairman.*—What is your name, and how long have you been employed in the Asylum, and in what capacities? George Hill; twenty-two years: firstly, as Attendant; secondly, as Gate-keeper; thirdly, as Under-keeper Gentlemen's Cottage; fourthly, in charge of Back Division; and, at the present time, Senior Keeper.

175. What office did you fill previously to receiving the appointment at the Asylum? I was for a time living with Mr. Rout, the ironmonger.

176. Do you always accompany the Surgeon-Superintendent in his visits to the Male division of the Asylum? I do since I have become Senior Keeper.

177. Do you report daily upon the mental condition of the Insane? I give in a Report daily, and if I see any change in a patient I make note of it.

178. Do you daily inspect every part of the Male portion of the Asylum? I do.

179. Are you always present at the meals of the patients? Yes, in the front division.

180. Do you frequently, and at uncertain times, visit the Night Watchmen to "see that they are alert" in the performance of their duties? I visit the Night Watchmen at 9.30 and at 11 p.m. I do that regularly when I am on night duty every third night.

181. Do you every night, after the patients have retired to rest, visit all the dormitories and cells and ascertain whether the attendants have performed the duties allotted to them? I visit every dormitory and every cell at 9.30 and 11 p.m. The whole of the patients are locked up at 6 p.m. except about eighteen, who can be trusted.

The patients are let out at 6 a.m. on summer, and 6.30 to 6.45 a.m. on winter mornings.

182. You have some time acted as Dispenser: state how long, and by whom appointed or recommended for the office? Yes, I have acted as Dispenser since last April 1st twelve months. Dr. Macfarlane appointed me.

183. State the time occupied in your duties as Dispenser daily? I am in attendance every morning, and at any other time during the day. These duties occupy me from about a quarter to an hour and a half.

184. Have you had any training as Chemist and Druggist, and do you hold any certificate or qualification that would justify your acting in the important capacity of Dispenser? None. I do not hold any certificate. The only training I have had was under Mr. Taylor, the previous Keeper, and also under Drs. Coutie and Florance.

185. Do you think the office of Dispenser is such as should be attached to the office of Senior Keeper? No, I do not.

186. Do you possess any knowledge of the action and properties of drugs? None whatever.

187. Did you perform all the dispensing in the Establishment? Not all, the Assistant-Surgeon does some.

188. At the present time how many patients are there in the Asylum? Two hundred and eighty-five.

189. Have you at any time received from the Surgeon-Superintendent any written or printed instructions for your guidance? No, I have not.

190. Have you been directed to report frequently upon the mental condition of the insane, particularly their progression towards recovery? No, because Dr. Macfarlane leaves that to himself.

191. Do the Commissioners, as a whole, or any lesser body, frequently visit the Back Division? There is a quarterly inspection by two of the Commissioners. The whole of the patients are then mustered.

192. Do they visit once a month and personally inspect every patient. No, they do not.

193. What length of time is occupied in these visits? From half an hour to three quarters of an hour going over the three divisions.

194. How many quarterly inspections have taken place this year prior to 1st October? Only two. I cannot give the dates.

195. Do the Commissioners personally examine, at the time of their visit, the stores of the Establishment? They examine the food at times, but not the stores.

196. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent do so? He sees the bread and meat daily.

197. Are you not aware that since the visit of the Committee the bread has been very bad? Yes, it has. John Carmody is the baker.

198. Has the attention of the Surgeon-Superintendent been drawn to this? Yes, it has.

199. Is not this man Carmody in the habit of getting intoxicated? I believe so.

200. *By Mr. Watchorn.*—When was Dr. Macfarlane made acquainted with the state of the bread? About the 9th of this month.

201. *By the Chairman.*—Did Dr. Macfarlane take any steps in this matter? Yes, he did.

202. Has the Baker, Carmody, been reported to the Surgeon-Superintendent on previous occasions? Yes.

203. Does not Mrs. Allport lodge at Carmody's house? I have heard so.

204. Is the Surgeon-Superintendent or his Assistant present during the time the patients take their meals? His Assistant is frequently, and the Superintendent at times.

205. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent or his Attendant visit at irregular hours the dormitories and cells after the patients have retired to rest in order to see that Under-Keepers and Night Wardsmen are at their posts? Yes, up to about 10 or 11 p.m. occasionally.

206. In whose immediate charge has the Back Division or Yard been in for some time past? Mr. Cooper. He has been there about a year and a half.

207. Do you not think that Under-keeper Cooper is a first-class officer, and well qualified by tact and firmness to manage the insane? Yes, as far I saw.

208. Is not the principal part of the labour (as far as superintendence over the males is concerned) centered in the Back Yard? Yes.

209. Under-keeper Cooper has been dismissed a few days since, has he not? Yes, that is the case.

210. Who now supplies his place, and what training has he had to qualify him for so responsible a position? Mr. Bromfield, from the Gentlemen's Cottage. He has been in the Institution nearly five years.

211. Has any attempt, within your knowledge, been made, as far as the Back Yard is concerned (with its 80 patients), to separate the noisy from the quiet? No, nor do I think it could be done; there is no accommodation.

212. What means are adopted daily to amuse and interest so large a number of the insane crowded together in one yard? They are supplied with drafts, dominoes, and cards, hand-ball, and even foot-ball.

213. Is any music supplied daily? None.

214. Do you think that lately, or even at present, the Establishment has been working satisfactorily? I decline to answer that question.

215. Can you suggest anything for the more efficient working of the Establishment? Yes, more classification for the patients.

216. I want to know where the defect lies? A superior person is especially wanted to take charge and supervise the night duties.

217. Do you think the present strength of officers such as to ensure efficiency? It is not.

218. *By Mr. Cameron.*—Is there any separation of criminal lunatics from other patients? No.

219. Do you think there ought to be? Yes, certainly.

220. Have you any reason to believe that there are any criminal lunatics in the Asylum who evince sanity? As a layman, I believe there is one.

221. *By the Chairman.*—You know John Ridge? Yes, he has been sent down here in charge of a Wardsman by Dr. Macfarlane.

222. Is he in your opinion sane? I do not think him quite right.

223. *By Mr. Watchorn.*—How do you get your instructions with regard to dispensing medicines—verbal ones or by prescription? By a prescription.

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#### JOHN RIDGE, *examined.*

224. *By the Chairman.*—Your name is John Ridge, and you have been in the Asylum 16 months? Yes.

225. Have you at any time applied to be discharged? Several times, both verbally and by letter.

226. Has any Commission sat upon your case, you being present, before the 1st October inst? No; but since the 1st of October I have been examined.

227. Having been for several months, as noted in the Case Book, in the same mental condition as at present, could you give the Committee any information as to the detailed working of the Asylum? The division I was in was under Mr. Cooper, and as far as the accommodation allowed, and considering the number of patients, it was kept clean, and well ordered.

228. I think you stated on a previous occasion that you had been an inmate of the Back Division? Yes, and kept closely too.

229. How frequently have the Commissioners, as a body, or any lesser number of them, visited the back yard up to the 1st October, during the last six months? I could not say how many times.

230. What time was consumed during each visit? I think about half an hour. They merely walk through.

231. Did the Commissioners at the time of such visitation examine every patient and enquire into his mental condition? No.

232. Did they enquire into yours? No.

233. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent visit the back yard daily, and if so what time is consumed in the visits? Twice, morning and evening, about half an hour each visit, sometimes, however, not more than fifteen minutes; I had not time to speak to him in passing.

234. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent make himself acquainted with the condition of each patient mentally in the Back Division? No, he does not converse with them or examine them physically. I might say that as far as medicine is concerned, it is limited to a few doses. No mental treatment is adopted as far as I am aware of.

235. As far as you have been enabled to judge, does the Surgeon-Superintendent possess and exercise full power and control over the Asylum and its inmates? Yes, I suppose so, as everything goes on as he orders.

236. Does any single Commissioner exercise any power or control in excess of the other Commissioners? if so, state in what particulars? I think not.

237. You have been under the care of Under-keeper Cooper in the back yard? Yes, I have.

238. What is your opinion of his management and care of those committed to his charge? During the last six months he has taken excellent care of the men, has got the place in good order, and, as a rule, he is kind to the patients and well liked by them; he also understands their individual character, gaining their confidence by small rewards, such as tobacco, &c. He fulfils his duties as to regularity in a most excellent manner.

239. Are the Keepers and Under-keepers of the Asylum educated men, and is their management of the insane firm but tempered with kindness? They can read and write. The patients' physical condition only is attended to, not their mental condition. They perform their duties in a purely routine manner.

240. *By Mr. Cameron.*—Is the system pursued conducive to mental recovery? Not that I am aware of.

241. *By the Chairman.*—State what in your opinion is defective? The want of knowledge personally of each case; and, in my opinion, diversity of recreation, &c. There are men in the Asylum who have been there for years and have hardly ever been out of the back division, with the exception of going to church or a dance. I myself have not been out for months. Cricket has been commenced since the 1st of October.

242. During the 16 months you have been in the Asylum have visits been made by the Surgeon-Superintendent, his Assistant, or the Head-keeper, to the cells and dormitories at irregular hours of the night? Not that I am aware of. Not to mine.

243. Since the visit of the Committee on the 1st October instant to the Asylum, has the treatment you have received from the Surgeon-Superintendent, his Assistant, and Head-keeper, been the same as before that time? About the same, though Dr. Florance took away my writing materials.

244. Have you since that visit been before the Commissioners, or any of them? if so state what transpired? Yes. Dr. Florance called me into the presence of the Commissioners. Mr. Mitchell asked me, "How long I had been there?" I said, "Sixteen months." "If I slept well, and was well fed?" I said, "Yes." He said, "the Commissioners wish to benefit you." I replied that he, (Mr. Mitchell) had told me months ago, in the corridor, that he would do what he could for my release, and that there were excellent reports of me. That Dr. Huston had also said the same; viz., that he would do what he could for my release; and that Mr. Sharland had said in the corridor, "you ought to go out." He denied this. I went on to say that appeals to the Commissioners being in vain, I had appealed to a higher power. Dr. Macfarlane then said, "I suppose you think Dr. Crowther will get you out: do you still have the same opinion that you were sane when you entered here?" I replied, "That is nothing to the point; and I shall answer none of your questions." After Mr. Sharland had spoken I said, "I hope the Commissioners will not think me rude. I am perfectly calm." And I then left the room with my face towards the Commissioners. When at any time I have asked Dr. Macfarlane for a release, he has always replied, "When you're better." Some months ago Dr. Macfarlane said he would let me out. I waited for about three weeks, and then asked him when he would let me out; he replied, "When Ridley is better,"—judging therefore my case by another man's. That was all the answer I got.

245. You once attempted to escape? Yes.

246. What line of action was adopted towards you afterwards? I was placed in a common lime-washed cell for, as near as I can remember, three to four months, for sixteen hours per diem, some portion of the sixteen hours without clothing; I then used a blanket with a hole in the centre as clothing. Other patients have tried to escape; they immediately returned to their wards. Dr. Macfarlane told me, when I got over the wall I was "awfully mad." I said I was not; that I exhibited the feelings of a husband and parent in trying to reach home.

247. I have read the following entries to you, and ask you if they are substantially correct? Entries.—August 24th, "Unchanged mentally from the last report. He has been getting quieter in his demeanour and conversation. He does not, so Mr. Cooper tells me, change from a religious subject to an immoral one." September 4th, "Much about the same mentally. He states that he still believes he has been wronged. That he will have justice some day. He says he is sure he knows the man, for he took a copy of his footprints, and found the boots near the bed; he tracked him from his house, and that the man came there while he and his wife were in bed at midnight, and that he still has suspicion of him, as he has a good looking wife. He states further that the Rev. Palfreyman had a down on him, and all the police also; that he was trapped into the Asylum, &c." The latter part of the 4th September entry is totally untrue.

248. You are aware that there are several tradesmen connected with the Institution,—baker, tailor, shoemaker, &c.? Yes, there are.

249. Do any of them perform work for persons outside of the Asylum, that is, private work? Not that I am aware of.

The Committee having taken into consideration the evidence of John Ridge, deem the discharge of this man from the New Norfolk Asylum a necessity, and unanimously recommend it.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1883.

F. W. MITCHELL, *Esq., J.P., examined.*

250. *By the Chairman.*—Your name is Francis William Mitchell, and you are a Justice of the Peace, and one of the Commissioners of the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk, and acted once as Chairman in the absence of the President? Yes.

251. How long have you held the office of Commissioner? About eighteen months.

252. You were also one of the three Members of the Royal Commission? Yes.

253. The Commissioners visit the Asylum once a month upon a set day? Yes, and occasionally at other times.

254. You have also four quarterly inspections of buildings and patients in each year? Yes, there should be, according to law.

255. How many of these have taken place prior to the 1st October of the present year? I think, from recollection, probably two.

256. At such quarterly inspections did you personally "see and examine every insane person in the Hospital," as ordered by Act 22 Vict. No. 23, Section 11? I have not been present at either of those quarterly inspections.

257. Are you conversant with the provisions of the Act for the management of the Insane, particularly Sections 10, 11, and 32? I think I can say so, generally.

258. Have you, with the other Commissioners, and in accordance with Section 10, made and established from time to time such rules and regulations as were necessary for the good order and management of the Hospital for the Insane? if so, produce them? I have not; but I produce the general Rules and Regulations, in which the duties of the various Officers are set forth.

259. Do you consider the conditions of the Act have been complied with by yourself as to making and establishing Rules and Regulations for the good management of the Hospital? I do; having found Rules and Regulations as described in previous reply, and having regard to the recommendation of the Royal Commission as to their being re-cast, I consider the law has been so far complied with.

260. Have you, if such Rules and Regulations were known by you to exist, adopted any means to see that the various Officers and subordinates were acting in conformity with those Rules? Individually, certainly not. I naturally considered that the Rules and Regulations authorised by the Governor in Council were duly acted upon by the proper Officers.

261. I now draw your attention as a Commissioner to Dr. Macfarlane's evidence, question 31, and the answer:—

"31. Do you issue either printed or written instructions to warders and nurses as to the detailed treatment of patients, and especially having reference to reporting any change or improvement in their mental condition? if so, produce them? No, I do not."

Also to Dr. Florence's evidence, questions and answers 127 and 128:—

"127. At the time of your appointment, were printed or written instructions given for your guidance? No printed instructions were given to me. No Rules exist."

"128. Are written or printed instructions issued to warders and nurses as to the detailed management of the patients? No, they are not."

Do you think you were properly carrying out your duties as a Commissioner when visiting the Establishment formally every month to allow such a condition of things to continue, as the Officers and subordinates to be managing the Asylum as they in their individual judgment thought fit? Most certainly I do, not being aware that the Rules and Regulations which existed have not been given by the Surgeon-Superintendent to those under him.

262. At each visit of the Commissioners you sign the Case and other books? Yes.

263. Have you compared the condition of the patient at any time prior to the 15th September last with the record you have signed? I have never had patient and book together before me, but I have had frequent conversation with most of the patients with a view of forming an opinion, whatever it might be worth, as to their continued detention.

264. I perceive in the Report of the Royal Commission to which your signature is affixed, page 50, Appendix C., are printed *in extenso* the "Rules and Regulations for the Hospital for the Insane:" is this the case? Yes.

265. Were you aware at the time of your appointment as a Commissioner that such Rules and Regulations were in existence, and if so was it not your duty as a Commissioner to see to their application? No; at the time of my appointment I was not aware of them, but immediately afterwards I knew of their existence. I presumed they were acted upon, but did not know that such was not the case. It is certainly my duty as a Commissioner to see that the law is carried out.

266. Can good order and discipline be ensured without distinct instructions being in the hands of every Officer and subordinate of the Establishment? No, I do not think they can, effectually.

267. How frequently, up to the 27th of September last in this year, have you visited the Back Male Division of the Asylum? I should think, with very few exceptions, once a month.

268. What length of time was occupied in such visit? About a quarter of an hour.

269. How frequently since the 27th September, and how long in such visit, to the Back Division? I have been once or twice, about the same time.



270. You are aware that there has been for some time past an Assistant combining the duties of Medical Officer and Dispenser? Yes, for the last four months Dr. Florance, and before that Dr. Coutie.

271. By whose sanction has the office of Dispenser been delegated to George Hill, the Senior Keeper, a person who, I am informed, has recorded against him in the Minute Book of the Commissioners "that he drank the patients' brandy, and doctored the same?" I am not aware that the duties of Dispenser were taken out of the hands of the Assistant Medical Officer; but I am aware of the latter fact to which you make allusion.

272. Do you not think it reprehensible that in an establishment containing 285 souls the compounding of drugs should be performed by a person who stated "that he held no qualification, and did not understand the action and properties of medicines?" Certainly, I do.

273. Will you refer to the Minute Book, and let the Committee see how the case was dealt with by the Commissioners? He was severely admonished. The following is the Minute:—

"Mr. George Hill was severely reprimanded for taking spirits from the Surgery and adulterating what remained in the bottle, and he was informed that should such gross misconduct again occur, his summary dismissal will be recommended."

274. As the Commissioners must have been aware of this fact, what excuse can the Commissioners offer for allowing Hill to act as Dispenser, or retaining him as an Officer of the Establishment? A majority of the Commissioners, having regard to his long and hitherto good services, hoped that an admonition would be sufficient, and so far it has proved to be so.

275. Have you, as a Commissioner, examined at each visit the stores of the establishment: if so, when, and what system was adopted? No, not at each visit.

276. Can you give the Committee information as to the number of sane persons, and those progressing towards recovery, that were in the Asylum on the 15th September last; and if so, give their names? I cannot.

277. Have you, as a Commissioner, at any time prior to that date taken any means to test their sanity, such as a Commission sitting on their cases? No means in addition to those in a previous reply (No. 263),—that is, constant intercourse on my monthly visits.

278. At the present moment the Asylum is without a Matron, Sub-matron, and Under-keeper, and the Committee found there was no subordinate fitted either by education or special training to fill their places. Is this the case? The Matron is under suspension, but, pending the decision of the Government in her case, the Commissioners have applied for power to appoint some one in her stead. As regards the Sub-matron, a successor has been nominated to the Government, who have not yet decided on the appointment. With regard to the Under-keeper, the Government have just approved of his dismissal, and a successor to him will be nominated at our next meeting. The Commissioners have not availed themselves of the power given by the 8th Clause of the Act, 22 Vict. No. 73, of temporarily filling up these appointments, because the practice for a long period past has been to leave appointments in the hands of the Government.

279. With such a defective organisation is it possible to do justice to the insane? No, it is not: these appointments should have been made without the slightest delay.

280. On the 25th August last, I perceive by the Minute Book of the Commissioners, you suspended Miss Laland, the charge against her, of "being in liquor on the 24th July," having been placed before the Commissioners on the 4th August by Dr. Macfarlane, such charge being in the handwriting of Dr. Huston, and supported by the evidence of certain subordinates, one since dead. Is this the case? Yes.

281. Did you examine the Matron's Report Book, and particularly the entries made by her on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th July last, and when? I did. I cannot give the exact time.

282. Did you observe any difference in the handwriting? No, there is no difference.

283. I now place these entries before you. Do they give any evidence that when made the writer was in a state of intoxication? I do not think so.

284. I now call your attention to Dr. Macfarlane's evidence before the Committee, answer to Question 79:—

"Had I suspended the Matron at that time the 'discipline' of the female division of the Hospital would have suffered. Miss Laland was under the influence of liquor, but not drunk and incapable."

You will also perceive in Answer 90 that on the 2nd of August Dr. Macfarlane states that he saw her in the same condition:—

"90. Have you ever seen Miss Laland at any time intoxicated; if so, give day and date? I have seen Miss Laland under the influence of liquor on July 24th and August 2nd. Dr. Florance also saw her."

When asked why he did not suspend her then, his reply was "I did not do so, that is all." Now, Dr. Macfarlane, as Superintendent, not only neglected to do his duty on the 24th July and 2nd August, but actually condoned the fault (if such existed) by continuing to employ the Matron; and yet without making known to her that so serious a charge was going to be made against her, he placed before the Commissioners on the 4th August a document in Dr. Huston's handwriting, the same being a distinct charge based upon an act which he, as Superintendent, had not deemed of sufficient importance to make record or take cognisance of. With these facts now brought under your notice, do you think the action of the Commissioners in Miss Laland's case can be sustained? Yes; I have not the slightest doubt it can be sustained.

285. Could such a prosecution for one moment be supported in a Court of Justice?—Has it not the appearance of a conspiracy? I see no appearance of a conspiracy. I cannot say what a Court of Justice would have done in such a case.

286. Did it never occur to you, as one who sat in judgment in Miss Laland's case (no record of her intemperance having been made by the Superintendent, nor any action taken by him on the 24th July and 2nd August against her), that you really had no charge to investigate, her services having been continued not only immediately after the alleged fault, but up to the 25th August? No.

287. When did you make known to Miss Laland that so serious a charge had been made against her, giving the date? On the 18th August, I believe. I had no opportunity of doing so before.

288. Did any private investigation of the charge take place prior to her being informed of it, and not in her presence? I was absent from the colony and therefore cannot answer that question.

289. What is your opinion of her in the capacity of Matron as to kindness and administrative efficiency? My means of observation have not been many, but as far as I have been able to judge I should regard Miss Laland in these respects as an excellent officer.

290. In the Report of the Royal Commissioners and which bears your signature, page vii., appears this rather singular paragraph:—"The assumption, therefore, that a Medical Commissioner was an absolute necessity is not fully borne out, however much it might have been desirable that we should have had the benefit of professional skill associated with us." Is it from the fact that out of nineteen medical witnesses you examined it was discovered that not one of them, with perhaps a few exceptions, had resided within the walls of either an Idiot or Insane Asylum, nor made a study of the treatment of the insane? Yes, it was. We invited two medical gentlemen to attend, one of whom had resided within the walls of an Idiot Asylum, but they declined.

291. Again, at page x. of the same Report, paragraph 4, I find the following:—"The general treatment of the patients is, in our judgment, satisfactory." Is that so? Yes.

292. Will you, for the information of the Committee, state what insane institutions you have been connected with that would enable you to establish either a standard of comparison or arrive at correct conclusions as to treatment? I have not been connected with any insane institutions except those in this colony.

293. Do you think the general treatment of the insane can be satisfactory when written or printed instructions for the guidance of officers and subordinates are not in use? There can be no doubt that the discipline and efficiency of the Asylum would have been much better if the printed Rules had been promulgated to the various officers as they should have been.

294. Do you think the general treatment of patients "satisfactory," when the compounding and dispensing of drugs is left to a person who, by his own admission, holds no qualification, and has no knowledge of the action and properties of medicines, and who was known to the Commissioners to have utilised and doctored the patients' brandy? I do not, without the supervision of either one or other of the medical officers.

295. Do you think the general treatment of the patients satisfactory without classification or even the separation of the quiet from the noisy? I do not think so, and I believe that separation would be an advantage.

296. Do you think the general treatment of the patients satisfactory when there is neither matron nor sub-matron in the female division, nor under-keeper in the male, nor a single skilled or trained nurse in the institution capable of taking their places? Certainly not.

297. Do you think the general treatment of the patients satisfactory when, as a Royal Commissioner, you recommend the Commissioners to pay "frequent unannounced visits of inspection at uncertain intervals, and without previous intimation to any person attached to the Asylum?" I think unexpected visits are much more desirable than the stated visits as at present. I had no object in making that recommendation as to visits of surprise except to improve the administration of the establishment.

298. Beyond being a Commissioner of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, have you any knowledge of the modern treatment of the insane? Only from reading. I have visited Gladesville.

299. Have you personal knowledge of the female attendants as to age and capabilities? I have no personal knowledge beyond that gained on my monthly visits as a Commissioner. I require to know the character and something of the ability of the nurses before I consent to their appointment.

300. Do you think the management of the female insane ought to be left in the hands of mere girls, who, from their age and antecedents, cannot be able to treat with firmness the cases committed to their charge? No.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1883.

EBENEZER SHOOBRIDGE, *Esq., M.H.A., examined.*

301. *By the Chairman.*—Your name is Ebenezer Shoobridge, you are a Magistrate, and one of the Commissioners of the Asylum for the Insane? Yes, I am.

302. How long have you held the office of Commissioner? A little over twelve months.

303. The Commissioners visit the Asylum once a month, upon a set day? Yes.

304. You have also four quarterly inspections of buildings and patients in each year? Yes.

305. How many of these have taken place prior to the 1st October of the present year? I have not attended any, and cannot therefore give the information.

306. Are you conversant with the provisions of the Act for the Management of the Insane, particularly Sections 10, 11, and 32? I have read the Act carefully, but I have not given any particular attention to those clauses.

307. Have you, with the other Commissioners, and in accordance with Section 10, made and established from time to time such Rules and Regulations as were necessary for the good order and management of the Hospital for the Insane? if so, produce them. We have looked over the Rules, and agreed that they should be altered; it was necessary to do so.

308. Do you consider that the conditions of the Act have been complied with by yourself and fellow Commissioners as to the making of and establishing Rules and Regulations for the good management of the Asylum? I consider that they have been.

309. Have you, if such Rules and Regulations were known by you to exist, adopted any means to see that the various officers and subordinates were acting in conformity to those Rules? Yes, decidedly.

310. Is it within your knowledge that either printed or written instructions have been supplied to the officers and subordinates of the Hospital? I do not know of my own knowledge.

311. I now draw your attention, as a Commissioner, to Dr. Macfarlane's evidence, and question 31 with the answer.

"31. Do you issue either printed or written instructions to warders and nurses as to the detailed treatment of patients, and especially having reference to reporting any change or improvement in their mental condition? if so, produce them. No, I do not."

Also, that of Dr. Florance, questions 127, 128,—

"127. At the time of your appointment, were printed or written instructions given for your guidance? No printed instructions were given to me. No rules exist."

"128. Are written or printed instructions issued to warders and nurses as to the detailed management of the patients? No, they are not."

Do you think you were properly carrying out your duties as a Commissioner when visiting the establishment formally every month to allow such a condition of things to continue as the officers and subordinates to be managing the Asylum as they in their individual judgment thought fit? They have no right to be left so.

312. Have you any knowledge of the detailed working of the Asylum as to the Superintendent, Matron, Keepers, and subordinates, and the manner in which these duties are performed? Yes, I consider that as far as the buildings and means at their disposal admit, it is satisfactory. With regard to the detailed working, I am of opinion that the establishment is defective, inasmuch as the officers and nurses are underpaid, and on demanding an increase to their salaries have left the institution, the Government not feeling disposed to increase their emoluments.

313. At each visit of the Commissioners you saw the Case and other books? Yes.

314. Have you compared the condition of the patients at any time prior to the 15th September last with the record you have signed? I have not; the time occupied by the Commissioners in their visit being too limited to admit of it.

315. I perceive in the Report of the Royal Commission (page 50, Appendix C.) are printed *in extenso* the Rules and Regulations for the Hospital for the Insane. Is this the case? How can any one perform their duties without having a distinct knowledge of what those duties are?

316. Were you aware at the time of your appointment as a Commissioner that such Rules and Regulations were in existence, and if so, was it not your duty to see to their application? Yes.

317. How frequently, up to the 27th September last and since that time in this year, have you visited the back male division of the Asylum? I have been in the habit of frequently doing so. At such visitation I have noted that the buildings were not fit, in their present site, for the purposes they are used for, and I have always been at issue with my fellow Commissioners on that point.

318. You are aware that there has been for some time past an Assistant combining the duties of Medical Officer and Dispenser? Yes.

319. By whose sanction has the office of Dispenser been delegated to George Hill, the Senior Keeper, a person who, I am informed, has recorded against him in the Minute Book of the Commissioners "that he drank the patients' brandy and doctored the same?" I do not know by whom he was appointed, but I am aware of the other fact.

320. Do you not think it reprehensible that in an establishment containing 285 souls the compounding of drugs should be performed by a person who states "that he held no qualification, and did not understand the action and properties of medicines?" I certainly do not think it right.

321. Will you refer to the Minute Book, and let the Committee see how this brandy case was dealt with by the Commissioners on the 6th March? I refer to the Minute.

"Present: The Hon. Dr. Butler, President; Dr. Huston, Messrs. Read, Riddoch, Shoobridge, Sharland, Mitchell, and Tarleton."

"Mr. George Hill was severely reprimanded for taking spirits from the Surgery, and adulterating what remained in the bottle; and he was informed that should such gross misconduct again occur, his summary dismissal will be recommended."

322. As the Commissioners must have been aware of this fact, what excuse can the Commissioners offer for allowing Hill to act as Dispenser or retaining him as an officer of the Asylum? In the absence of this charge, his conduct was good.

323. Have you, as a Commissioner, examined at each visit the stores of the Establishment? if so, when, and what system was adopted? I have occasionally, but the space at the disposal of the storekeeper for the safe keeping of the stores is most inadequate.

324. Can you give the Committee information as to the number of *sane* persons, and those progressing towards recovery, that were in the Asylum on the 15th September last? if so, give their names? I cannot.

325. Have you, as a Commissioner, at any time prior to that date taken any means to test their sanity? I have not.

326. At the present moment the Asylum is without a Matron, Sub-Matron, and Under-Keeper, and the Committee found there was no subordinate fitted either by education or special training to fill their places; is this the case? There is no Matron, but a Sub-Matron has been appointed by advancing one that has been there for years and proved her ability for the office. With reference to the Matron, I consider the conduct of the Government most reprehensible in not communicating to the Commissioners the action they have taken. I do not know anything about the Under-Keeper.

327. With such a defective organization, is it possible to do justice to the insane? I do not consider that it is defective.

328. On the 25th August last, I perceive by the Minute Book of the Commissioners, you suspended the Matron, Miss Laland, the charge against her, "of being in liquor on the 24th July," having been placed before the Commissioners on the 4th August by Dr. Macfarlane, such charge being in the handwriting of Dr. Huston, and supported by the evidence of certain subordinates, one since dead: is this the case? Yes.

329. Did you examine the Matron's Report Book, and particularly the entries made by her on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th July? I examined them.

330. I now place these entries before you. Do they give any evidence that when made the writer was in a state of intoxication? They do not; but we had no evidence that those entries were filled up on those dates by the Matron, and Miss Laland stated to us that she did not always fill them up on the same day.

331. I now call your attention to Dr. Macfarlane's evidence before the Committee. Answer to Question 79:—

"Had I suspended the Matron at that time the 'discipline' of the female division of the Hospital would have suffered. Miss Laland was under the influence of liquor, but not drunk and incapable."

You will also perceive that on the 2nd August Dr. Macfarlane states he saw her in the same condition. Question 90:—

"90. Have you ever seen Miss Laland at any time intoxicated? if so, give day and date? I have seen Miss Laland under the influence of liquor on July 24th and August 2nd. Dr. Florance also saw her."

When asked why he did not suspend her then, his reply was, "I did not do so, that is all." Now Dr. Macfarlane, as Superintendent, not only neglected to do his duty on the 24th July and 2nd August, but actually condoned the fault (if such existed) by continuing to employ the Matron, and yet, without *making known to her* that so serious a charge was going to be made against her, he placed before the Commissioners on the 4th of August a document in Dr. Huston's handwriting, the same being a distinct charge based upon an act which he, as Superintendent, had not deemed of sufficient importance to make record or take cognizance of. With these facts *now brought under your notice*, do you think the action of the Commissioners in Miss Laland's case can be sustained? Decidedly I do.

332. Could such a prosecution for one moment be supported in a Court of Justice?—has it not the appearance of a conspiracy? Not from evidence before us did it appear like a conspiracy.

333. Did it ever occur to you, as one who sat in judgment on Miss Laland's case (no record of her intemperance having been made by the Superintendent, nor any action taken by him on the 24th July and 2nd of August against her), *that you really had no charge to investigate*, her services having been continued not only immediately after the alleged fault, but up to the 25th August? The action we three Commissioners took was based on the witnesses' evidence brought before us, and the way they gave it.

334. When did you make known to Miss Laland that so serious a charge had been made against her, giving the date? The 18th August—the first time I sat.

335. Did any private investigation of the charge take place prior to her being informed of it, and not in her presence? Not by me.

336. What is your opinion of her in the capacity of Matron as to kindness and administrative efficiency? It was good.

337. Beyond being a Commissioner of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, have you any knowledge of the modern treatment of the insane? Only by reading, and examining other institutions in the neighbouring Colonies.

338. Have you personal knowledge of the female attendants as to age and capabilities? Not of their age, but of their abilities being good from the state I found the patients in.

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FREDERICK HACK, *examined*.

339. *By the Chairman*—What position do you occupy in the Asylum at New Norfolk? That of Cook in the Gentlemen's Cottage, though I was engaged as Wardsman.

340. How long have you been there? Ten months on the 5th November.

341. Who has been in charge of the Gentlemen's Cottage? Edward Bromfield, but not at present; a man named William Bennett occupies his place.

342. Has your means of observation been ample as to the management of the patients in the Asylum? It has.

343. In your opinion, has the Asylum been working satisfactorily? It has not.

344. Can you state in what particulars? There are no printed rules for the guidance of officers and subordinates.

345. Did you forward any documents to me; and how many? Yes; four.

346. Are these papers that I now place before you, bearing your signature, those same documents? Yes.

[The following are copies of the papers.]

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, January 31st, 1883.*

As Mr. Galvin was getting his breakfast on the verandah he fell and broke his leg, about 7:30 A.M. as near as I can guess. This was not reported to the Superintendent until about 11 A.M. To the best of my knowledge this I can certify.

(Signed) F. HACK.

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.*

MR. TURNER shut up in the black hole by Mr. Bromfield, because he refused to work for him.

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, March 16th, 1883.*

MR. GELLIBRAND was cruelly ill-treated this morning by Bromfield with a belt.

(Signed) F. HACK.

*April 16th, 1883.*

THIS morning I reported to Dr. Macfarlane that one of the patients (Mr. Parsons) was very ill. This I had reported five days before to the keeper, Mr. Bromfield, and no notice taken of it.

I knew Mr. Bromfield to come in drunk on the 26th of March, 1883. The reason why he was out, because two of the patients had absconded from the Asylum—Anderson and Glozier.

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, May 8th, 1883.*

MR. CLERKE beat James Stephenson about the head with a broom, and no notice was taken of it.

(Signed) F. HACK.

*July 29th, 1883.*

HYNES heard a noise in Bromfield's room. He opened the door, and caught Bromfield in the act of striking Mr. Thomson. Bromfield reported Mr. Thomson "Noisy all night." Collins, the second night watchman, reported him "Quiet all night." Hynes also told Collins that he was quiet all night, and that he was two minutes too late, otherwise he would have seen Bromfield striking Mr. Thomson.

I know the patients to be wearing each others clothes daily, and no notice taken of them if reported to the officer. I have known the officer, Mr. Bromfield, to report to the Superintendent that he has issued medicines when I know it to be a false report that he has given in.

I knew Robert Heffernan to take a fit on the 20th September, 1883, at 11 A.M. Dr. Macfarlane was sent for by the keeper, Mr. Cooper, of the back division. He did not come for nearly an hour after he had taken it, when Mr. Cooper went himself and asked him to come and see the patient. Ordered him a mustard blister, to be applied to his neck. He was bad all that afternoon. In the evening ordered him to have a castor-oil and turpentine enema within one hour before he died. This I can certify for the truth.

*September 4th, 1883.*—I SAW Mr. Bromfield come in drunk.

*September 5th, 1883.*

I SAW Mr. Bromfield drink the patients' stimulants, consisting of wine, brandy, porter, daily. I have known Mr. Bromfield daily use the patients' tobacco.

I have known Mr. Bromfield daily to wear the patients' clothes, such as shirts, collars, neckties, and socks.

I have known Mr. Bromfield to be asleep when he ought to have been on duty. Asked me to give him a call if anyone should come and ask for him.

I have known Mr. Bromfield to ask me daily to issue medicines to the patients when it has been issued from the surgery. The two wardsmen under Mr. Bromfield are reading newspapers and books from the time of the Superintendent's visit in the morning, and the patients allowed to go and take fits and go where they like; and if the under-keeper's (Mr. Bromfield) attention is called to them, he will merely laugh, and say that they are able to take care of themselves.

*October 9th, 1883.*

DR. MACFARLANE had me up to his office, and told me that he would run me out of the Asylum gates. Afterwards I went to ask him if he would hear my statement, and he snapped my head off and ordered me out of his office like a dog.

I know Mr. Hardwicke, one of the gentlemen patients, to be put into a bath of cold water, and a mop used to wash him down. I have reported this time after time, and no notice taken of me, only laughed at. Mr. Bromfield has done this frequently.

(Signed) F. HACK.

*October 15th, 1883.*

MR. HARDWICKE, one of the gentlemen patients, was eating dahlia roots from 12 o'clock till 2 o'clock and past. The wardsmen, Hardy, went and brought him away and beat him about the head.

The patients in the Hospital Ward are almost crawling alive with dirt and filth; and if a man is admitted in the ward and does not take his food well, there are four or five wardsmen called in to hold him down, and a gag put into his mouth for about half an hour. This I have witnessed myself.

(Signed) F. HACK.

*October 16th, 1883.*

DR. MACFARLANE came through on his usual visit this evening; asked why I did not report Mr. Clerke to him for striking Mr. Galvin, and not to be making any complaints to his friends. I made answer to him, and said that it was no use of me making any reports against Mr. Clerke, for the Superintendent would only laugh, and say that Mr. Clerke was one of the best paying patients in the Gentlemen's Cottage, and that every patient was big enough to take care of himself. Dr. Macfarlane said that he did not care for anything that I told about him.

*October 17th, 1883.*

THE Superintendent, Dr. Macfarlane, came through on his usual visit. Saw on the kitchen table a fowl, which he knew to be Mr. DeBomford's. He went through. The other medical officer, Dr. Florance, told me not to cook the fowl till he gave me orders to cook it.

(Signed) F. HACK.

347. Are you prepared to substantiate the charges contained in these documents by other testimony? Yes, I am.

348. If so, by whom? James Ayres and Henry Sims, night watchmen at the present time.

349. What has been the quality of the provisions, particularly the bread? Good at times, at other times very bad.

350. To what do you attribute the bad quality of the bread? To the fault of the baker, John Carmody, who is frequently under the influence of liquor, which the Superintendent has known.

351. Are the patients' meals and wants regularly attended to in the Gentlemen's Cottage? No, they are not. In the matter of extras, the things ordered are not given. I have had to go to the stores and get them myself. I have asked frequently for those extras from Dr. Macfarlane, but he told me that the patients must be satisfied with what they got, that the living was excellent.

352. With regard to night visitation, do the medical officers visit after 9 P.M., at irregular hours, the various departments, to see if the keepers and watchmen are at their posts? Such is not the case.

353. What time do you think would be occupied in the Commissioners' visits to the Asylum? In the Gentlemen's Cottage not more than three minutes, unless their attention is called to a new patient, after which they walk straight through the building into the back division, from there to the office.

354. Have cases of ill-treatment been frequent since you have been there? Yes; the papers I have supplied to the Committee best answer this question.

355. I have heard that a patient named Galvin broke his thigh. Is this the case? Yes.

356. Can you give the Committee any particulars as to the case? I went into the Gentlemen's Cottage on the 5th January, 1883. My attention was called to a gentleman patient by the name of Mr. J. Galvin, who was there in bed supposed to have a sprained knee, which the medical officer on his visit in the morning painted with iodine. I was called in to watch this while it dried on; afterwards I was to apply hot fomentations to it. I had done this for some three weeks. I was then at that time holding the position of wardsman. I then took the post of cook at the Gentlemen's Cottage. On Wednesday, 31st January, 1883, I heard Bromfield say that Mr. Galvin's thigh was broken; he had then been up for some few days. This was about 6:30 A.M. Never reported till 11 A.M. to Surgeon-Superintendent. Two men were put on, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon, to watch the patient, but they did not attend to their duty at all times. I made known to his (Galvin's) brother the way this patient was treated.

357. *By Mr. Watchorn.*—In what way did they neglect their duty? By leaving the patient to himself, who got out of bed with his splint on.

358. *By the Chairman.*—How are the orders given to the various subordinates of the establishment? From the Medical Superintendent to the various subordinates verbally. I have known orders given as to medical treatment,—such as mustard plasters, gruel, foot-bath, &c.,—not carried out by the keeper. If any complaints were made by a patient of the front division he would be threatened by a removal to the back yard.

359. Is the food issued to you regularly examined by the Superintendent, his Assistant, or Commissioners? No, it is not. In my opinion, as cook, the soup in the Gentlemen's Cottage is not fit for human food, the ingredients being defective.

360. *By Mr. Watchorn.*—How often were you in the habit of seeing Miss Laland? At the laundry, between 3 and 4 P.M., twice a week.

361. Did you ever from your own observation notice anything in her demeanour that would lead you to suppose her under the influence of liquor? No, I have not.

362. Have you heard rumours through the Asylum that such was the case at any time? No, I have not. She was very much liked by all the patients.

363. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think the Superintendent is influenced in the management of the institution in any particular? Yes, I have always fancied that Dr. Huston did so.

364. How often have you seen Mr. Shoobridge visit the institution? About twice or three times during ten months.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1883.

HENRY SIMS, *examined.*

365. *By the Chairman.*—What is your name, and how have you been employed in the Asylum at New Norfolk? Henry Sims; and I have been employed as Night Watchman in the Back Division.

366. How long have you held the situation of Night Watchman? Nearly seven months.

367. I believe you have been in the habit of keeping a journal? Yes, I have.

368. I place before you certain statements having reference to the gentlemen patients made by "Frederick Hack," Cook at the Gentlemen's Cottage, committed to writing and forwarded to the Committee. Can you speak as to the contents or otherwise?

[*Statements read to the Witness.*]

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, January 31st, 1883.*

As Mr. Galvin was getting his breakfast on the verandah he fell and broke his leg, about 7:30 A.M. as near as I can guess. This was not reported to the Superintendent until about 11 A.M. To the best of my knowledge this I can certify.

(Signed) F. HACK.

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.*  
MR. TURNER shut up in the black hole by Mr. Bromfield, because he refused to work for him.

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, March 16th, 1883.*  
MR. GELLIBRAND was cruelly ill-treated this morning by Bromfield with a belt.  
(Signed) F. HACK.

*April 16th, 1883.*  
THIS morning I reported to Dr. Macfarlane that one of the patients (Mr. Parsons) was very ill. This I had reported five days before to the keeper, Mr. Bromfield, and no notice taken of it.  
I knew Mr. Bromfield to come in drunk on the 26th of March, 1883. The reason why he was out, because two of the patients had absconded from the Asylum—Anderson and Glozier.  
These occurrences took place before I entered the Asylum.

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, May 8th, 1883.*  
MR. CLERKE beat James Stephenson about the head with a broom, and no notice was taken of it.  
(Signed) F. HACK.  
I have heard this spoken of, but it occurred before my time.

*July 29th, 1883.*  
HYNES heard a noise in Bromfield's room. He opened the door, and caught Bromfield in the act of striking Mr. Thomson. Bromfield reported Mr. Thomson "Noisy all night." Collins, the second night watchman, reported him "Quiet all night." Hynes also told Collins that he was quiet all night, and that he was two minutes too late, otherwise he would have seen Bromfield striking Mr. Thomson.

I know the patients to be wearing each others clothes daily, and no notice taken of them if reported to the officer.  
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I knew Robert Heffernan to take a fit on the 20th September, 1883, at 11 A.M. Dr. Macfarlane was sent for by the keeper, Mr. Cooper, of the back division. He did not come for nearly an hour after he had taken it, when Mr. Cooper went himself and asked him to come and see the patient. Ordered him a mustard blister, to be applied to his neck. He was bad all that afternoon. In the evening ordered him to have a castor-oil and turpentine enema within one hour before he died. This I can certify for the truth.

I know of this from my own observation.

*September 4th, 1883.*—I SAW Mr. Bromfield come in drunk.

I do not know anything about that.

*September 5th, 1883.*  
I SAW Mr. Bromfield drink the patients' stimulants, consisting of wine, brandy, porter, daily. I have known Mr. Bromfield daily use the patients' tobacco.

I have known Mr. Bromfield daily to wear the patients' clothes, such as shirts, collars, neckties, and socks.

I have known Mr. Bromfield to be asleep when he ought to have been on duty. Asked me to give him a call if anyone should come and ask for him.

I have known Mr. Bromfield to ask me daily to issue medicines to the patients when it has been issued from the surgery. The two wardsmen under Mr. Bromfield are reading newspapers and books from the time of the Superintendent's visit in the morning, and the patients allowed to go and take fits and go where they like; and if the under-keeper's (Mr. Bromfield) attention is called to them, he will merely laugh, and say that they are able to take care of themselves.

That is correct.

*October 9th, 1883.*  
DR. MACFARLANE had me up to his office, and told me that he would run me out of the Asylum gates. Afterwards I went to ask him if he would hear my statement, and he snapped my head off and ordered me out of his office like a dog.

I know Mr. Hardwicke, one of the gentlemen patients, to be put into a bath of cold water, and a mop used to wash him down. I have reported this time after time, and no notice taken of me, only laughed at. Mr. Bromfield has done this frequently.

(Signed) F. HACK.

I have known of the latter portion of that statement.

*October 15th, 1883.*  
MR. HARDWICKE, one of the gentlemen patients, was eating dahlia roots from 12 o'clock till 2 o'clock and past. The wardsmen, Hardy, went and brought him away and beat him about the head.

The patients in the Hospital Ward are almost crawling alive with dirt and filth; and if a man is admitted in the ward and does not take his food well, there are four or five wardsmen called in to hold him down, and a gag put into his mouth for about half an hour. This I have witnessed myself.

(Signed) F. HACK.

Yes, I have seen that done.

*October 16th, 1883.*  
DR. MACFARLANE came through on his usual visit this evening; asked why I did not report Mr. Clerke to him for striking Mr. Galvin, and not to be making any complaints to his friends. I made answer to him, and said that it was no use of me making any reports against Mr. Clerke, for the Superintendent would only laugh, and say that Mr. Clerke was one of the best paying patients in the Gentlemen's Cottage, and that every patient was big enough to take care of himself. Dr. Macfarlane said that he did not care for anything that I told about him.

Quite correct.

*October 17th, 1883.*  
THE Superintendent, Dr. Macfarlane, came through on his usual visit. Saw on the kitchen table a fowl, which he knew to be Mr. DeBomford's. He went through. The other medical officer, Dr. Florance, told me not to cook the fowl till he gave me orders to cook it.

(Signed) F. HACK.

I can speak as to the correctness of that.

369. Can you give the Committee any information as to the manner in which the attendants at the cottage performed their duties,—Bromfield and others? In a very inferior way.

370. Can you from your own knowledge give any instances of neglect of duty? Bromfield allows the gentlemen patients to go about in a half-naked state in rags; neglects to give medicines that are ordered for

them ; uses their stimulants—the latter he has been cautioned about, but still insists upon doing it. The **Warder Hardy**, from what I learn, appears to do nothing,—simply sits on the verandah the whole time he is on duty, and allows the patients to do just as they like.

371. Is **Bromfield** in the habit of getting drunk ? Yes, and he has been reprimanded for it.

372. As far as you have been able to form an opinion, has the attendance of the Medical Officers been prompt in cases of accident or sudden illness ? No. I recollect on one of the visiting days of the Commissioners, a man named **Smith** took some fits ; I was sent for **Dr. Macfarlane** by **Mr. Astley**, the Senior Under Keeper, and I had to go as far as the *Bush Hotel* for him in the afternoon, and it was some time before he came to the building. Next morning the man was found dead in his bed.

373. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent or his Assistant, or the Senior Keeper, visit the Gentlemen's Cottage, cells, and dormitories at irregular hours of the night, in order to see that the patients are comfortable and the Night Watchmen at their posts ? No, they do not.

374. Are the patients ever seen after 9 P.M., particularly those in the Back Division ? No.

375. What length of time is occupied in the visits of the Surgeon-Superintendent to the Gentlemen's Cottage ? About five minutes, when I was there. He simply walked through the building, unless his attention was called to anything particular.

376. Is every patient seen at any hour after 9 P.M., or could any death or sickness occur without being promptly attended to ? No, they are not seen. Death or sickness could occur, as they are not seen, after being locked up, by anyone but myself. This applies particularly to the cells, long ward, and corridor.

377. Do you know anything of the circumstances attendant upon the fracture of the thigh of which **Mr. Galvin** was the subject ? I was not in the building at the time.

378. I have been informed that a patient was found dead a short time since, after having had a number of fits, and who was not seen by any of the Medical Officers. If such be the case, state the circumstances ? Yes, a man named **Rudd** had thirty-seven fits, the first occurring at 8.10 P.M., and the last at 4.35 A.M., and at 5 A.M. he died. A Medical Officer was not sent for. I had informed the officer on duty (**Mr. Bromfield**) when **Rudd** took the first fit, and he came to see him, the patient going off into the second fit just as **Bromfield** arrived ; when that fit worked off, **Bromfield** went away. The patient took nine fits before lock-up time, and the front division night watchman (**Chandler**) was stationed to look after him for the rest of the night, and did so till the patient took the change for death, and then the watchman went to call **Mr. Bromfield**, who came out to go to **Rudd**, and who, seeing me cross the yard, told me to go for **Dr. Macfarlane** ; but when the Doctor came **Rudd** was dead, having died in the presence of **Chandler** and **Bromfield**.

379. Was any Coroner's inquest held on this man's body ? No. The Superintendent of Police was sent for, but said there was no occasion for an inquest, as the patient's death was witnessed.

380. How frequently have the Commissioners, or any of them, at night, visited the Asylum ? I have never seen any of them do so whilst I have been on duty.

381. How frequently have the Commissioners, during the day, and what length of time is occupied in such visits ? They simply walk through the Asylum,—in all about a quarter of an hour.

382. Do they make themselves personally acquainted with each patient ? No, they hardly ever look at them.

383. Do they examine the bedding and clothing of the patients at each visit ? No, never in my time as wardman at the Gentlemen's Cottage.

384. When the Commissioners are expected I am informed that clothing, bedding, and everything is changed anticipatory of such visit. Is this the case ? Yes, everything is prepared for them.

385. I am also informed that considerable preparation in the way of cleaning up always precedes the visits of the Commissioners. Is such the case ? Yes, it is.

386. Can you state whether when complaints are made by patients progressing towards recovery attention is paid to them ? No. The patients are simply put off with some excuse.

387. Do the Commissioners stay long enough at such visits to make themselves acquainted with the wants and necessities of each patient ? No.

388. As far as you are able to give an opinion, do you think the details and general working of the Institution satisfactory ? if not, give the reasons ? No, because **Hill** and **Bromfield**, the principal Keepers of the Institution, are not competent to perform their duties.

389. From what cause does the incompetency exist ? From want of tact, and knowledge of the positions they occupy.

390. Were you supplied with written or printed rules for your guidance when you entered upon your duties ? No.

391. What is your opinion of the Keepers and Under-keepers at present in the Institution as to sobriety, kindness, and efficiency ? As to sobriety, some are sober men, others the reverse. They are too harsh with the patients. When a man enters the Asylum he knows nothing of the duties he has to perform, and is shown nothing ; he has to find out the best way he can, so that it is against his being efficient.

392. Do you know **Dr. Huston**, a Commissioner ? Yes.

393. Has he been in personal attendance upon **Mr. David Lewis** during his residence at the Gentlemen's Cottage ? I believe he has.

394. Can you state whether a charge has been made by him for such attendance ? I cannot say.

395. What number of persons do you suppose are at present detained in the Asylum being fit to follow their ordinary occupations ? **Ridge**, **Cameron**, **Harvey**, and **Brown**,—four in all.



396. Can you give the particulars of the illness and death of Ah Chin, a Chinaman? He was removed on the 26th September last from the Sick Ward to No. 14 Cell, Corridor, and the orders which I received when I came on at 6 P.M. were that he was not expected to live the night out. I had a great deal of trouble with him through the night. There was no medical attendance from the time he was removed from the Sick Ward till I left at 6.30 A.M. the following morning. He died about 9 A.M. Gordon found him dying.

397. Is it the custom to remove patients, when dying, from the Sick Ward to a Cell? Yes,—I give two instances, Ah Chin and Heffernan; the latter after taking fits was placed in a cell and there died.

398. What are your duties as Night Watchman? I hand in a list of what my duties are as performed by me.

[Documents handed in.]

The duties of the Night Watchman of the Back Division or Back Yard which he has to perform during the night:—

- (1) To attend to patients subject to fits, they being located in two different parts of the yard.
- (2) To attend to patients who are ill, and give them their medicine according to orders.
- (3) To attend to patients who are creating a disturbance through the night, and give them their draughts according to orders.
- (4) To visit Wash-house Drying-room to see that the fire does not ignite any of the bedding or wearing apparel during the night.
- (5) To keep four fires, or whatever number may be ordered, burning through the night in the Corridor in winter.
- (6) To light lamps in the Back Yard in winter. To light and put the same out on the following morning in Summer.
- (7) To lock up patients who sit up during the evening at school.
- (8) To attend to patients in a dying state.
- (9) To do Night Watchman's duty; also to make reports on the following morning to the Officer of any fits or disturbances through the night, which I do in writing.

There is one ward in the Back Division called Long Ward, in which there are 11 patients, 10 of whom are subject to fits. There is no Wardsman in charge of that ward. I have to attend to the patients when in fits. There is also one patient subject to fits in No. 15 Corridor.

I can show records of all fits and disturbances from the 22nd of May, 1883.

You can refer to the Officers or Superintendent as to the way in which I performed my duties as Night Watchman during the night.

HENRY SIMS,

*Night Watchman of the Back Division or Back Yard.*

*Asylum, New Norfolk, September 4th, 1883.*

SIR,

WILL you inform me why I am to be made the scapegoat of the faults of my fellow Night Watchmen respecting the proposed change which the Senior Under-keeper informs me is to take place regarding my afternoon out?

Have I in any way neglected my duties?

If my fellow Watchman chooses to rise at any hour of the day, what has that to do with me?—am I his keeper?

Under the proposed arrangement I defy any man to perform his duty as Night Watchman.

If the Watchman goes out every other day, consequently it is impossible for him to get sufficient time to sleep, which he must have in order to perform his duties efficiently.

Under the proposed arrangements a man would be asleep half his time, and he could not avoid it.

As a Medical man you must be aware nature will assert her sway.

Under the existing arrangement I go out once a week for the afternoon, consequently I have five (5) full days' sleep and rest.

The fresh arrangement I go out every other day, I would have only three (3) days' sleep, which is not sufficient for me, as I do my duty during the night.

My written reports, given to the Officer every morning, speaks for itself, and it can be corroborated by my private journal, which you can inspect and compare with those furnished to the Officer.

My engagement is nearly half complete, and as soon as it is, every day will bring the other to a final.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

DR. MACFARLANE, Superintendent, &c.

HENRY SIMS, *Night Watchman B.D.*

399. What means have the patients of making known their wants at night, particularly as regards drink? Simply by hammering at the door.

400. How are the imbecile and idiot patients attended to during the night, as far as the wants of nature are concerned? You have to get them out of bed and put them on the tub.

401. Is any cleansing of the person performed during the night? No. If the patients dirt the bed they have to lie on it.

JAMES AYRES, *examined.*

402. *By the Chairman.*—What is your name, and how have you been employed in the New Norfolk Asylum? James Ayres. I have been employed as attendant in the service of Mr. David Lewis.

403. How long have you been at the Asylum? Nearly 18 months.

404. I place before you certain statements having reference to the treatment of the gentlemen patients, made by Frederick Hack, the Cook, committed to writing and forwarded to the Committee. Can you speak as to their correctness, or otherwise?

*(Statements read to the Witness.)**Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, January 31st, 1883.*

As Mr. Galvin was getting his breakfast on the verandah he fell and broke his leg, about 7:30 A.M. as near as I can guess. This was not reported to the Superintendent until about 11 A.M. To the best of my knowledge this I can certify.

(Signed) F. HACK.

I know that his leg was broken.

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.*

MR. TURNER shut up in the black hole by Mr. Bromfield, because he refused to work for him.  
I do not know anything about this.

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, March 16th, 1883.*

MR. GELLIBRAND was cruelly ill-treated this morning by Bromfield with a belt.

(Signed) F. HACK.

I have heard of that.

*April 16th, 1883.*

THIS morning I reported to Dr. Macfarlane that one of the patients (Mr. Parsons) was very ill. This I had reported five days before to the keeper, Mr. Bromfield, and no notice taken of it.

I knew Mr. Bromfield to come in drunk on the 26th of March, 1883. The reason why he was out, because two of the patients had absconded from the Asylum—Anderson and Glozier.

That is not within my knowledge.

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, May 8th, 1883.*

MR. CLERKE beat James Stephenson about the head with a broom, and no notice was taken of it.

(Signed) F. HACK.

That is not within my knowledge.

*July 29th, 1883.*

HYNES heard a noise in Bromfield's room. He opened the door, and caught Bromfield in the act of striking Mr. Thomson. Bromfield reported Mr. Thomson "Noisy all night." Collins, the second night watchman, reported him "Quiet all night." Hynes also told Collins that he was quiet all night, and that he was two minutes too late, otherwise he would have seen Bromfield striking Mr. Thomson.

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I have known the officer, Mr. Bromfield, to report to the Superintendent that he has issued medicines when I know it to be a false report that he has given in.

I knew Robert Heffernan to take a fit on the 20th September, 1883, at 11 A.M. Dr. Macfarlane was sent for by the keeper, Mr. Cooper, of the back division. He did not come for nearly an hour after he had taken it, when Mr. Cooper went himself and asked him to come and see the patient. Ordered him a mustard blister, to be applied to his neck. He was bad all that afternoon. In the evening ordered him to have a castor-oil and turpentine enema within one hour before he died. This I can certify for the truth.

I am not in the building when Hynes is on duty, so that I cannot speak as to the first part. The latter part is correct.

*September 4th, 1883.—I saw Mr. Bromfield come in drunk.*

I cannot say as to that.

*September 5th, 1883.*

I SAW Mr. Bromfield drink the patients' stimulants, consisting of wine, brandy, porter, daily. I have known Mr. Bromfield daily use the patients' tobacco.

My attention was called to this.

I have known Mr. Bromfield daily to wear the patients' clothes, such as shirts, collars, neckties, and socks.

I do not know of a certainty.

I have known Mr. Bromfield to be asleep when he ought to have been on duty. Asked me to give him a call if anyone should come and ask for him.

This is correct.

I have known Mr. Bromfield to ask me daily to issue medicines to the patients when it has been issued from the surgery. The two wardsmen under Mr. Bromfield are reading newspapers and books from the time of the Superintendent's visit in the morning, and the patients allowed to go and take fits and go where they like; and if the under-keeper's (Mr. Bromfield) attention is called to them, he will merely laugh, and say that they are able to take care of themselves.

This is correct.

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I know Mr. Hardwicke, one of the gentlemen patients, to be put into a bath of cold water, and a mop used to wash him down. I have reported this time after time, and no notice taken of me, only laughed at. Mr. Bromfield has done this frequently.

(Signed) F. HACK.

As to Mr. Hardwicke, I have seen that done myself.

*October 15th, 1883.*

MR. HARDWICKE, one of the gentlemen patients, was eating dahlia roots from 12 o'clock till 2 o'clock and past. The wardsmen, Hardy, went and brought him away and beat him about the head.

The patients in the Hospital Ward are almost crawling alive with dirt and filth; and if a man is admitted in the ward and does not take his food well, there are four or five wardsmen called in to hold him down, and a gag put into his mouth for about half an hour. This I have witnessed myself.

(Signed) F. HACK.

I do not know anything of that.

*October 16th, 1883.*

DR. MACFARLANE came through on his usual visit this evening; asked why I did not report Mr. Clerke to him for striking Mr. Galvin, and not to be making any complaints to his friends. I made answer to him, and said that

it was no use of me making any reports against Mr. Clerke, for the Superintendent would only laugh, and say that Mr. Clerke was one of the best paying patients in the Gentlemen's Cottage, and that every patient was big enough to take care of himself. Dr. Macfarlane said that he did not care for anything that I told about him. I have heard of that.

October 17th, 1883.

THE Superintendent, Dr. Macfarlane, came through on his usual visit. Saw on the kitchen table a fowl, which he knew to be Mr. DeBomford's. He went through. The other medical officer, Dr. Florance, told me not to cook the fowl till he gave me orders to cook it.

(Signed) F. HACK.

I have heard of that being done.

405. Can you give the Committee any information as to the manner in which the attendants perform their duties at the Cottage? I cannot.

406. Can you from your own knowledge give any instances of neglect of duty? Yes, on one occasion Mr. Castley fell into the fire in a fit, and if I had not been there he would certainly have been burnt.

407. As far as you have been able to judge, has the attendance of the Medical Officers been prompt in cases of accident or sudden illness? I cannot say.

408. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent, his Assistant, or Senior Keeper visit the Gentlemen's Cottage at irregular hours of the night in order to see that the patients are comfortable, and that Night Watchmen are at their posts? They do not. The Senior Keeper goes out three times a week, immediately after Dr. Macfarlane has gone his evening rounds, and does not return till the next morning.

409. Who is deputed to fill the place of the Senior Keeper when absent? The Under Keeper.

410. What length of time is occupied at each visit of the Medical Officers? Twenty minutes, at the longest, in the Gentlemen's Cottage.

411. How frequently do the Commissioners visit the Gentlemen's Cottage, and what length of time is occupied in such visits? I cannot say how frequently, as I am not always there when they come,—about a quarter of an hour.

412. Do they examine and make themselves personally acquainted with the case of each patient? Not to my knowledge.

413. Is the Surgeon-Superintendent, his Assistant, or Senior Keeper present during the time the patients in the Gentlemen's Cottage take their meals? Breakfast is over before they come, and it is very rarely they are there except at tea time.

414. Is the personal cleanliness of the patients carefully attended to? To the best of my belief they are kept clean.

415. When the Commissioners are expected, I am informed that clothing, bedding, and everything is changed in anticipation of their visit. Is such the case? As far as the clothing is concerned, that is changed, but not the bedding.

416. I am also informed that considerable preparation in the way of cleaning up always precedes the visits of the Commissioners. Is such the case? I cannot say.

417. Are the patients prepared likewise as to better clothing, under-linen, &c.? Yes.

418. Do you know Dr. Huston, a Commissioner? Yes.

418. Has he been in personal attendance upon Mr. David Lewis during his residence at the Gentlemen's Cottage? I believe he has.

419. Can you from your own knowledge state whether a charge has been made by him for such attendance? I cannot say.

#### WILLIAM MEADOW CROFT, *examined.*

420. *By the Chairman.*—Your name is William Meadow Croft, and you are employed as a carpenter at the New Norfolk Asylum? Yes.

421. When did you arrive in the Colony? On 31st July, at Hobart, by the *Esk*.

422. Have you any other duties to perform besides working at your trade as a carpenter? Yes. In the morning I go across to the Female Division with the tea and bread, and wait till it is delivered.

423. Where do you sleep, and at what time do you retire to rest? In No. 4 Ward, and I retire at 9 o'clock.

424. What is the state of the ward in which you and others sleep as to size, ventilation, and conveniences? The ward is about 27 feet by 15 feet; 11 beds in it; and at the bottom of the ward there is a tub,—much resembling an old butter-tub,—used as a water-closet. The ventilation is two holes in the wall through the brickwork and also one through the ceiling. The 11 patients are quite insane, and we are all locked up, including myself, from 9 o'clock P.M. till 6 A.M. the following morning. No water or fluid of any kind provided to the patients unless they bring it in themselves before they go to bed.

425. Do you know a carpenter,—one of the patients,—Harvey by name? he has been in the Asylum a long time? Yes; I believe six years.

426. What is your opinion from daily observation of his condition mentally? That he ought to be at liberty. I believe him to be sane.

427. Since you have been in the Asylum have you noticed the food supplied to the patients and others? Yes.

428. Has it been of good quality, and if not, state in what it has been defective? No. The bread was not fit to eat for a fortnight; we had to buy bread. The tea was bad, and the sugar was like brown sand; of the meat there is nothing to complain of.

429. Have you had opportunities afforded you of seeing how the patients, particularly in the Back Male Division, are treated? I have not.

430. Is attention paid to personal cleanliness,—as to change of clothing, examination of clothing when removed, as well as the body of the patient? I cannot say.

431. Can you state any instance in which the condition of the patients gave evidence of neglect and want of supervision? Yes. A man named Speight was, on the 21st October, crawling about the corridor and wanted to lie down in a cell, but was told to sit down on a form; he, however, made two or three attempts to go into a cell, but was sent back to sit on the form. I saw no more of this man till the 25th October, when the Commissioners came into the place. Gordon, the wardman of the sick division, was ordered to get a bed ready for a sick patient out of the back yard at once. The patient was brought round and placed in his (Gordon's) charge. On the 26th Gordon found, on coming to wash and comb him, that both head and beard were full of vermin. He went for the barber to shave him (the patient), but the barber refused to do so until Officer Hill was sent for, as the patient was in such a filthy condition. After he had been shaved I saw the lower part of his body, which was also covered with vermin. He died on the 1st November.

432. Is attention paid to the individual necessities of the patients as to drinking, &c.? No; no one pays any attention to them at night.

433. Are the patients, after having been locked up, visited at irregular hours of the night? No, not since I have been in the Asylum; certainly not as far as my ward is concerned.

434. Is the Surgeon-Superintendent, his Assistant, or the Senior Keeper present during the time the patients are at their meals? I cannot say.

435. As far as you are able to form an opinion, do you think the detailed and general working of the Institution satisfactory? I cannot form an opinion.

436. Could irregularities and abuses exist without being brought immediately to the knowledge of the Surgeon-Superintendent? Yes; and they do exist:

437. Besides Daniel Harvey, have you noticed other patients whose condition, mentally, was equal to his, but are still detained in the Asylum? Yes, one Daniel Robertson, who cuts wood in the Asylum, and is able to earn his own living. I believe him to be as sane as Harvey. I see in the *Tasmanian Mail* that his father is doing two months in gaol for not paying the fees for his son's maintenance,—£1 ls. per week.

438. Are the patients managed with firmness and kindness? I think more kindness would be better.

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GEORGE BROWNE, *examined.*

439. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and how long have you been an inmate of the Asylum? George Browne; nearly sixteen years.

440. In what manner have you been employed? Carpentering constantly for twelve years, without pay.

441. Have you been in charge of a Warder or Keeper during the time you have been at work in the Female Division? No, not of late years.

442. Under whose orders have you worked, and were there any restrictions placed upon your action by the Superintendent? Under the Matron's orders, and no restrictions were placed upon me. I have been the handy man of the Female Division.

443. Have you been in the habit of seeing the Matron, Miss Laland, frequently during the hours you have been employed daily in the Female Division? Yes, I have.

444. A charge of having been in liquor on the 24th July was preferred against her on the 4th August by Dr. Macfarlane; what is your opinion as to the correctness of this charge? I don't believe it is correct.

445. Did you, at any time, see Miss Laland the worse for liquor? I did not.

446. Can you inform the Committee whether any examination of the Nurses took place at which Miss Laland was not present, and whether such examinations were conducted privately by Drs. Macfarlane, Florence, and Huston? There were certainly several visits of the nurses to Dr. Macfarlane and Dr. Florence at the office privately.

447. Have you, during your lengthened stay in the Asylum, ever heard of Miss Laland's repeated drunkenness as asserted by Nurses Lowry, Stanwix, Gaul, Young, Kehoe, Sullivan, Lynch, and Dobell in their evidence before the Commissioners? I do not believe the statements of these nurses to be correct.

448. Do you think had Miss Laland been repeatedly under the influence of liquor (as detailed by the nurses named) that it could by any possibility have escaped your observation? It could not, had such been the case.

449. Is it within your knowledge that Miss Laland had on various occasions to call some of these nurses to account for neglect of duty and insubordination? Yes, it is.

450. You have been an inmate of the Back Division for a long time? Yes, I have.

451. Can you inform the Committee whether the patients are visited, after retiring to rest, at irregular hours of the night, either by the Medical Superintendent, his Assistant, or Keepers? They are only seen by the Night Watchman.

452. Have you applied at any time to be discharged? I have, several times, when the Commissioners said they would see about it.

453. Has any Commission sat upon your case, you being present, before 1st October last, in order to test your condition mentally? No, I have not been examined.

454. What is your opinion of the manner in which the patients are treated in the Back Division? Very well, at present.

455. Are these individual cases attended to, or any effort made to test their sanity? None.

456. Is attention paid to personal cleanliness, particularly as to change of clothing and bedding? Yes, I believe it is changed.

457. Can you give any instances other than your own case, where patients have been detained in the Asylum after recovery had taken place? Yes,—Ridge, Harvey, Milner, and Riddle.

458. How are the infirm and dirty patients attended to at night? They have no person to attend to them except the Night Watchman.

459. How often do the patients go into the bath? Twice a week in summer, once in winter.

460. Do you think the condition of the patients better at the present time than it was three months since? Yes, there is much more attention paid to them now than then.

The Committee having taken into consideration the evidence of George Browne, deem the discharge of this man from the New Norfolk Asylum a necessity, and unanimously recommend it.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1883.

W. C. SHARLAND, *Esq., J.P., examined.*

461. *By the Chairman.*—What is your name, and how long have you held the office of Commissioner of the Asylum, New Norfolk? William Cockburn Sharland; and I have been a Commissioner for six years.

462. Are you conversant with the Act 22 Vict. No. 23? To a certain extent I am.

463. You are aware that certain duties are by that Act assigned to the Commissioners? Yes, I am.

464. Have you, as a Commissioner, complied with Section 10, as to the making and establishing of rules and regulations for the good order and management of the Hospital, the conduct and duties of the Superintendent, &c.? I have not.

465. Have you complied with Section 11, by examining "every insane patient in such Hospital, and the general books kept therein?" I have taken part in the quarterly inspection at times, but did not consider it my duty to enquire into the state of mind of each patient; but where any special attention was drawn to any patient I have always taken notice of it.

466. *By Mr. Watchorn.*—Do the Commissioners have special meetings to enquire into the mental condition of the patients generally? Not beyond the quarterly inspection.

467. Do you at such quarterly inspections examine the Keepers' journals? I do not.

468. *By the Chairman.*—You have been in the habit of signing certain books at each visit of the Commissioners? Yes, I have.

469. Had you any knowledge of what you were signing? I have at times been informed by the Superintendent what entries were made in these books, but I have not on every occasion examined them.

470. Have you, in accordance with Section 32, compared the mental state of any patient with the entries made in such book previously to the time of your signing the same? I have not.

471. Do you know anything of the detailed management of the Asylum as to the manner in which the officers and nurses perform their duties? To a limited extent I do, as a Commissioner.

472. Do you frequently visit the Asylum, or have you done so in the last 12 months prior to the 15th September last? Yes; about 15 times, counting official and non-official visits, during the last 12 months, two of which I was absent from the Colony, and for one month was incapacitated for business by an accident.

473. The Commissioners meet once a month on a set day? Yes.

474. Will you inform the Committee at what hour they commence their sittings, and when they take their departure? From 12:30 to about 2:30 p.m.

475. Do they during such visitation inspect every patient and every part of the Asylum? When time admits they inspect the principal parts of the Asylum, and all the patients with but few exceptions.

476. Do they compare, or have they compared, the state and mental condition of the patients with what it was at the time of their previous visitation? Speaking for myself, I do on almost every occasion enquire into the condition of certain patients where it appears necessary to do so.

477. I perceive by the Minute Book of the Commissioners that a charge of intemperance, said to have occurred on the 24th July, was, on the 4th August, placed before the Commissioners by Dr. Macfarlane, such charge being a document in the handwriting of Mr. G. F. Huston. Is this the case? I was not present at the meeting on the 4th August.

478. When did you, in conjunction with Drs. Huston and Macfarlane, proceed to investigate so serious a charge, giving date? I never took part in any such investigation.

479. I perceive by the Parliamentary Paper, No. 109, on the 18th August (and this is not recorded in the Minute Book of the Commissioners), that you, in conjunction with Messrs. Mitchell and Shoobridge, commenced a formal inquisition in Miss Laland's case. Is this so? I took my seat on that occasion as a member of a sub-committee appointed by the Commissioners to inquire into Miss Laland's case.

480. Can you inform the Committee what "certain minutes and statements were read and considered," mentioned in the first paragraph of the proceedings of your meeting on the 18th August, consisted of? I believe the statements referred to were those made by Nurse Young, referring to a charge preferred by her against the Matron. The minutes must be those taken from the Commissioners' Minute Book.

481. Did it not occur to yourself, as one who sat in Miss Laland's case, that the Superintendent, not having suspended Miss Laland for the fault of the 24th July (if such existed), had actually condoned it, and you really had nothing to investigate? It decidedly did not occur to me.

482. Has it not struck you that, contrasting the evidence of such witnesses as Dobell and Armstrong, the prosecution of Miss Laland, as detailed, wears the aspect of a deliberate conspiracy? Most decidedly it has not.

483. State your reasons for not considering it a conspiracy? The overwhelming evidence given in support of the charge by the Medical Officers, and also by the Nurses, of long service and well-known good character, was sufficient to convince me that there was no doubt as to the charge having been sustained, and that conspiracy was out of the question. As a member of the Committee I did not forget throughout the enquiry that the Nurses who gave evidence in support of the charge were subordinate to the Matron, and, therefore, there might be some grounds for suspecting conspiracy; for which reason the Committee were very careful as to the mode of proceeding with the enquiry, and offered the Matron every facility for hearing the evidence given and cross-examining the witnesses. On the other hand, the demeanour of three or four of the witnesses for the defence, taken with the manner in which they gave their evidence, produced a very unfavourable impression upon the Committee.

484. Instead of confining the charge to the specific date of the 24th July, which was the only one you were called upon to investigate, you allowed another to be imported into it,—that of "borrowing money" from the nurses. Was that the case? I believe the charges that came before me, as one of the sub-committee, were those of intemperance and borrowing money.

485. *By Mr. Watchorn.*—Was not the suspension of Miss Laland the result of your enquiry? I believe it was.

486. Do you not think that the enquiry was of sufficient importance to be entered in the Commissioners' Minute Book? I am not aware of the proceedings of a sub-committee appointed by the Commissioners being at any time entered in the Minute Book. The evidence taken before these Committees is always carefully taken, and the documents are retained by the Commissioners as records of the Institution.

487. *By the Chairman.*—You are a Justice of the Peace for the Territory? Yes, I am.

488. Will you give me an instance in the whole of your magisterial experience where an individual, brought before a Bench for one charge, another was allowed to be imported into it? As a magistrate I have not known of such a case.

489. And when a decision was arrived at, this was in the main based upon the new indictment? No.

490. Do you consider such a proceeding would be an honest administration of justice? It would not be legal.

491. Do you think such a proceeding would be upheld by the Supreme Court? No, of course not.

492. If the evidence of the nurses as to Miss Laland's repeated drunkenness in 1883 were correct, has not the Surgeon-Superintendent been guilty of a neglect of duty in not having long since brought her conduct before the Commissioners? If the Superintendent had been cognisant of the charges brought by the witnesses against the Matron and had not brought them before the Commissioners, I consider he would have been guilty of neglect of duty.

493. Have you, as a Commissioner, had at any time Miss Laland's alleged intemperance brought under your notice prior to the 18th August? I have; in the year 1882 there was a charge made against her, which was dismissed.

494. Can you inform the Committee how it is that the "minutes and statements," after having been "read and considered," do not appear upon the minutes of the 18th August? I presume the Chairman of the Committee did not consider it necessary to publish the minutes, as they were recorded in the Commissioners' Minute Book.

495. Are you aware that of the nine nurses who were brought forward to support the charge against her, some had been at various times reported by her for neglect of duty or insubordination? The Matron informed the Sub-Committee that, in two cases, the nurses had been reprimanded by her for some slight neglect of duty.

496. Do you frequently visit the Back Male Division? Upon almost every occasion that the Commissioners meet, and sometimes alone, I have done so.

497. Are you aware that a number of those confined there have for a long time been in a fit condition mentally to return to their friends and society? No, I am not.

498. Do you know anything of the mental condition of those over whom you perform the office of Commissioner? From my own observation and conversation held with patients, to a certain extent I am aware of their condition.

499. Have you, as a Commissioner, placed in the hands of the officers of the Asylum printed or written rules and regulations for the management and treatment of the patients? I have not personally, but I know such rules and regulations are in the hands of the Superintendent.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1883.

DANIEL HARVEY, *examined.*

500. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and how long have you been in the Asylum at New Norfolk? Daniel Harvey, and I have been there six years.

501. How have you been employed? For the first three months I was in the wood-yard. I then escaped from the Asylum and went home, was brought back, and put in the Back Division. I was then employed generally till the Round House began to be built, when I was put on as Carpenter, and have remained so.

502. Have you received any payment or extras at any time? Half a pint of porter and a mutton chop in the morning, half a pint of porter only in the evening.

503. Have you at any time applied to be discharged? Yes.

504. What answer has been given you by the Superintendent? He said I should have my discharge when I had done the trellising at his own house.

505. How long is that ago? Shortly after Dr. Huston left.

506. Has any Committee sat in your case, you being present, in order to test your state of mind, prior to the 1st October last? I have never been before any Commission until after the visit of the Committee on the 1st October last.

507. What division of the Asylum were you in? I was in the Front Division at first, but am now in the Back Division.

508. Have the Commissioners regularly visited that part of the Institution since you have been there? They have visited it, but not always.

509. Have they made themselves acquainted with the mental condition of each patient? No.

510. Did the Surgeon-Superintendent enquire into your case specially? No.

511. How long do the Commissioners stay at each visit to your division? Very few minutes.

512. Have you ever asked the Superintendent or any of the Commissioners why you have been so long detained? No, though I have asked Dr. Macfarlane three times for my discharge. The last time but one that I asked him for it he said he thought I was not quite well enough. The last time I said I should like to be earning something, as every year made a difference to my age; Dr. Florance also remarking that he thought it but right I should be earning something.

513. Are clothes regularly supplied to the patients, and how often are they changed? Two shirts were supplied last week, but only one before that.

514. Are their boots and shoes kept in good repair? I think there is a pretty good supply of them.

515. Are the patients visited after being locked up at night by the Superintendent, Assistant, or the Senior Keeper? Yes, at 9 p.m., by the Keeper, but not afterwards.

516. Have you any property or means of support? I had a little money in the bank at the time I was sent to the Asylum.

517. What charge is made for your keep in the Asylum, and who pays the same? I know nothing about that.

518. Should any charge be made by the Commissioners, what line of action would you adopt? Before I paid anything I should like to be paid for my work.

519. What names can you give the Committee, whom you think recovered mentally, still in the Asylum? Ridge, Browne, Nolan, Anderson, Milner, Robertson, Ridley, Caring, Everley, and a Frenchman whose name I cannot give.

520. Do you consider that the time you have been in the Asylum has been lost? Yes; I could have been well in three months.

The Committee having taken into consideration the evidence of Daniel Harvey, deem the discharge of this man from the New Norfolk Asylum a necessity, and unanimously recommend it.

JAMES MILNER, *examined.*

521. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and how long have you been in the Asylum at New Norfolk? James Milner, and I have been in the Asylum six years and five months.

522. How were you employed before being sent to the Asylum? As a Schoolmaster in Launceston.

523. In what manner have you been employed since you have been in the Asylum? I was employed as Assistant Wardsman to look after the old men, and I have been at that ever since.

524. Have you received any pay or extras? No, only half a pint of porter daily.

525. Have you at any time applied to be discharged? After I had been there four or five months and finding myself well, I asked to be discharged, and have repeatedly done so since.

526. What answer has been given you by the Superintendent? The answer was, "You are better off here; all the patients like you, and being so near sighted you would have difficulty in getting a living."

527. You have a wife and family? Yes, in Launceston.

528. Has any Commission sat in your case, you being present, before 1st October last, to test your condition mentally? None till after the Committee's visit on 1st October last.

529. What division of the Asylum have you been in? Front Division the whole of the time.

530. Have the Commissioners regularly, each month, visited every part of the Asylum? No, they have not.

531. Have they, or any of them, made themselves acquainted with the mental condition of each patient? No, they have not.

532. Did they enquire into yours? No.

533. Did the Surgeon-Superintendent do so? No, but the late Superintendent, Dr. Huston, said to me on one occasion, "Well, old man, what is the matter with you?" I replied, "With a little attention I shall be better." He then asked me what countryman I was. I told him I was from Brighton, County Sussex. He then said, "You'll soon be better,—keep yourself quiet, and have a sleep."

534. What time is occupied in each visit of the Commissioners as far as your division is concerned? About five minutes,—just walking through.

535. Have they any knowledge of the manner in which the patients are treated and the work of the Asylum carried on? They cannot have much knowledge by the way they proceed.

536. What is your opinion as to the management? Very irregular indeed; and I was surprised to find the patients so harshly treated in the Asylum.

537. Are the Keepers and Wardsmen kind to the patients? I have seen some very rough indeed, and rebuked them for it; others are rather more merciful. The best Wardman whom we have had for some time is Gordon, a very temperate man as contrasted with the others. I assist him to feed those who cannot do so themselves.

538. Are the patients kept clean? Yes. In Mr. Taylor's time we had only one shirt a week, but latterly two.

539. Are clothes regularly supplied to the patients, and what system is adopted with regard to changing the same? No set day; as the patients seem to require them they are distributed.

540. Are their boots and shoes kept in good repair? Very good repair indeed.

541. As you have been in the Asylum for a very long time, can you give the Committee any information as to how the patients have been treated? On the whole they have been fairly treated.

542. A person named Reynolds has had charge of the Back Yard,—do you know him? I know him well.

543. Can you give any information as to his fitness for the office,—as to tact, kindness, and management? I cannot. I have not the opportunity of being able to do so.

544. Are the patients visited at irregular hours of the night after having been locked up? I never knew of an instance of that description; the officer only visits about nine o'clock.

545. Is any means adopted for supplying the patients with water in the wards for drinking purposes? Generally speaking, cold tea is placed for them.

546. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent, Assistant, or Wardkeeper supervise the patients whilst at meals? No.

547. What is your opinion of the working of the Institution at the present time? There appears to be great discontent amongst the warders and keepers, who are continually backbiting each other.

548. Can you give any reasons why the Institution is not working satisfactorily? They fancy all are not treated alike, some being in greater favour with the Superintendent than others.

The Committee having taken into consideration the evidence of James Milner, deem the discharge of this man from the New Norfolk Asylum a necessity, and unanimously recommend it.

#### JOSEPH MATTHEWS, *examined.*

549. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and how long have you been employed at the Asylum, New Norfolk? Joseph Matthews; and I have been employed a year and eight months.

550. What are your duties? I am the Shoemaker at the Asylum, as well as being employed in other ways, such as wardman in the Gentleman's Cottage, when shorthanded.

551. Upon your entering the Asylum were any printed or written Rules placed in your hands by the Superintendent for your guidance? No.

552. Where do you sleep, and have you had opportunities of knowing whether night visitations to the insane have been made by Superintendent or Keepers after nine P.M.? In the Gentlemen's Cottage there has been none, to my knowledge.

553. How often have the Commissioners, or any of them, visited the Asylum during the last eleven months, (particularly Mr. E. Shoorbridge and Mr. W. C. Sharland,) and how long did they remain? I can recollect three times, and they remained from about 12.30 to 2.30 P.M.

554. Did they interview any of the patients? Not to my knowledge.

555. What time have the Commissioners remained at the Cottage at each visit? They merely walk through. I was on duty on two occasions when they never even came to visit it.



556. Do they see that the patients are properly clothed? I never knew them to examine a patient as to clothing.

557. How often are the patients bathed in the Gentlemen's Cottage each week? Once a week.

558. State the manner in which that operation is performed? There is one bath for the whole of the gentlemen,—about 14 or 15. One goes in at a time, and the water is not changed, as it is not convenient to fill the bath a second time. The Attendants wash them.

559. How often, before the appointment of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the 27th September last, were clean shirts issued to the patients? Once a week.

560. What is your opinion as to the present condition of the patients? In the Gentlemen's Cottage the patients are quite free from vermin.

561. Can you give any instance that would prove neglect, or that they were not kept as clean as they should be? Yes, two. Ivey and another man working in the Bakehouse. These men are very dirty in their habits, and not fit to work there.

562. Do you know Daniel Harvey? Yes, I do.

563. What is your opinion, from actual observation, of his mental condition? I was in charge of the ward where Daniel Harvey was sleeping, for ten months, from May 1881 till March 1882, and I have had an opportunity of seeing him every day when I am at work at my trade, as my workshop is in the same building. I believe him to be sane, as I never have seen him violent, always quiet, and an industrious man.

564. Can you assign any reason why the man has been so long detained? I cannot say.

565. Have you ever known the Commissioners visit the Asylum unawares? Never.

566. Is it true that a regular system of telegraphing takes place as soon as visitors enter the Asylum in order to put matters into as straight a condition as possible? Yes, I have seen the attendants go and put the patients to rights.

567. As you have been stationed at the Gentlemen's Cottage you possess a knowledge of the Keepers and Attendants? Yes.

568. Have you ever known the Superintendent or Keeper to visit the wards and cells after nine P.M., unless some special case required their attendance? Never.

569. The Committee has had samples of bread sent to it, of very inferior quality, on several occasions since the 27th September last: can you account for its condition? It was either bad flour or not properly baked.

570. Have you been able to note whether the condition of the patients and the Asylum generally is the same now as before the 27th September last? They have been more particular as regards dressing, bedding, and cleanliness, and the Superintendent has looked more after the patients.

571. Has much greater attention been paid to the patients by the Keepers? There has been a great alteration since that time.

572. Have you noted any night visitations after 9 P.M. since the 27th September; if so, state how many? I have not.

573. Who dispensed the medicines when Dr. Florance was there? Dr. Florance, assisted by George Hill.

574. Do you know whether Hill received any payment for acting as Dispenser? No, I do not.

575. Have you known or heard of wrong medicines having been given by Hill, or put into wrong bottles? I have not.

576. Have you at any time been subjected to any charge, such as neglecting duty or intemperance? Yes, there was a charge made against me on the 9th instant, and I was locked up against my will; but this is still a matter of enquiry between myself and the authorities.

577. Do you think the Gatekeeper's book will show the condition you were in if intoxicated? If so, it would.

578. Have you seen kerosene oil poured over the heads and bodies of patients in order to get rid of vermin? I have.

579. Was it pure? Yes, the same as was burnt.

580. Is the Keeper of the Gentlemen's cottage a sober man? He is not.

581. Have any of the tradesmen—tailors, carpenters, and others—been allowed private work? Yes, the tailor and barber, especially the tailor, have been allowed to work overtime.

582. Do the Commissioners visit the Shoemaker's shop? No.

583. What, in your opinion, is the state of the beds at the Cottage now as contrasted with what they were some months ago? Much better. Old sheets and blankets changed for new, and better bedding.

584. Have either Bromfield or Hill been reported for improper conduct? Bromfield I know has been reported for drinking the patients' liquor.

585. Are the boots and shoes of the patients kept repaired? Yes.

586. Do you work at your trade constantly, and if not, state the reasons? Yes, with the exception of working before breakfast at the Gentlemen's Cottage.

587. Have you, whilst at the Cottage, been left in charge, and for how long? I have taken charge when Bromfield has been absent on leave.

588. Did you know Miss Laland, the Matron, and what opportunities have you had of seeing her? Yes, by taking boots to the Female Division.

589. You perhaps are aware that a charge of her having been in liquor on the 24th July was placed before the Commissioners by Dr. Macfarlane? Yes, I am.

590. Do you think that the evidence as given by Nurses Stanwix, Young, Lowry, Gaul, Kehoe, Crosswell, Sullivan, Lynch, Little, and Dobell,—being that arranged by Mr. G. F. Huston against Miss Laland,—truthful? I doubt its truthfulness, as I never saw Miss Laland under the influence of liquor.

591. Do you think, had the reported drunkenness of Miss Laland, as stated by the Nurses, been true, that it could by any possibility have escaped from observation? I was Messenger, as well as taking boots there at least twice a day and at irregular times, and if such had been the case, I should have noticed it.

592. Do you think the Institution for some time past has been working satisfactorily? No, I do not.

593. Has the attendance of the Medical Officers been prompt in cases of accident or sudden illness? Yes.

594. Has the condition of the patients, when affected by illness, been promptly brought under the notice of the Superintendent by the officers on duty? Mr. P——— was very bad at one time; could eat nothing for several days. I spoke to Bromfield about it; he took no notice, and a day or two after that I reported it to Dr. Macfarlane myself.

595. Are the patients in the Gentlemen's Cottage supervised, whilst at meals, either by the Senior Keeper, Superintendent, or his Assistant? None but the Wardsman.

596. As far as you have been able to form an opinion, do you think any one of the Commissioners exercises an undue influence over the Superintendent and in the management of the Asylum? I do think so. Dr. Huston is the Commissioner I mean, and I do not think Dr. Macfarlane would do anything of importance without advice from Dr. Huston.

597. Are Keepers, Wardsmen, and Nurses dealt with promptly and equitably for any neglect of duty? No, I think some are favoured.

598. Is the system of management pursued, in your opinion, such as would make the position of an officer or keeper a desirable one? I do not think so.

This witness gave his evidence under statutory declaration.

TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER, 1883.

THOMAS COOPER, *examined.*

599. *By the Chairman.*—Your name is Thomas Cooper, and you have been acting for some time past as Under-Keeper in charge of the Back Male Division? Yes, for 18 months, having previously served as an Attendant for 3 years.

600. You forwarded a few days since to the Select Committee a statement bearing your signature; is this the document? Yes.

601. Do you wish this statement to appear as evidence given before this Committee? Yes.

(The following is the document.)

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, 7th October, 1883.*

To the Hon. W. L. Crowther, and other Gentlemen forming Select Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to state for your information as follows:—I took charge of the Back Division of this Institution 1st April, 1882. I received no list of the patients therein confined, no inventory of the clothing or Government property, no instructions as to my duties, or any rules or regulations whatever for my guidance, nor have I since received any. I found most of the patients in a very dirty state, many of them barefooted and half naked; several of the beds in a filthy state. I have done my best to remedy this evil.

Since my appointment Dr. Macfarlane has always evinced the greatest antipathy towards me in every conceivable way. When visiting the yard he invariably would not speak to me, or if he did it would be to make some groundless complaint, and if I attempted to answer him was told to hold my tongue,—that he was Superintendent and would not be dictated to by me. His visits to the yard would occupy from five to ten minutes morning and evening, (except on Monday mornings, when he would go through the wards); with this exception, and unless a patient was very ill, or his attention especially called, he would hurry through the yard and corridor, scarcely noticing the patients.

I have vainly striven to please Dr. Macfarlane; have always performed the duties devolving upon me to the best of my ability; have, as is well known, conducted the yard and attended to the comfort and welfare of the patients better than was ever done before; and, I may add, that the whole management of the refractory and worst of the patients devolved upon me, assisted by four attendants, one of whom is a cripple acting as doorkeeper. These attendants, with the latter exception, are constantly changed; no sooner does one become acquainted with his duties than he is removed elsewhere (if any use) and replaced by a new comer; this greatly retards the efficient working of this division.

I would also respectfully bring under your notice the under-mentioned patients:—Chin Ah Chin, a Chinaman, who was for several weeks in the sick ward, front division, from whence he was brought in a dying state on the 26th September ult., placed in No. 14 cell corridor, where he died the following day. Richard Hefferon on the morning of 20th September ultimo, at 11 A.M., was suddenly seized with fits, taking them in rapid succession. This being his first attack and the fits so violent, thinking they would prove fatal I requested the Medical Officers' attendance. Upwards of an hour elapsed, and I had three times requested them before either of them visited the patient. He died at 8.45 P.M. the same day.

The aversion shown towards me by the Medical and other Officers has been greatly intensified since your visit to this Institution.

I attribute Dr. Macfarlane's aversion to me to my having on several occasions expressed my astonishment at the action of the Commissioners in appointing him to the position he occupies,—one which I am of opinion he is unfitted to fill.

I have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,

Yours very obediently,

THOMAS COOPER.

602. I will read to you the questions put to you by me during the Committee's visit on the 1st October, with your answers. Are these correct? Yes.

(The following are the questions and answers referred to.)

"Warder Cooper—Warder Cooper accompanied the Committee during their inspection of the back yard, answered all questions put to him, and showed in detail everything that was asked for by the Committee.

"How many men have you in charge? 80.

"Do the Commissioners frequently or regularly visit the back yard once a month? Not once a month, and not regularly.

"During the last 12 months how many times have the Commissioners visited the back yard? There have been two quarterly inspections only up to the present time—October 1.

"What length of time is occupied in their visits? Ten minutes.

"Do they during that time examine any of the patients? I never saw them.

"Have the Commissioners at any of their visits adopted any system as to examination similar to what the Committee has done this morning? Never since I have been in the Institution.

"Has the Surgeon-Superintendent, Dr. Macfarlane, done so? Not in my department.

"Then there has been no examination of any of the patients from time to time? None of this kind.

"How often does the Surgeon-Superintendent consult with, or seek information from you, relative to the improved mental condition of any patient? Very seldom. I have sometimes spoken to him about John Ridge, who had only one apparent delusion, viz., that "he was brought here unjustly." This has been within the last six months.

"If reports had been made by you in the direction indicated, were they attended to? If I were to presume to tell Dr. Macfarlane that a man was sane, he would tell me he was Superintendent.

"How often have you spoken to him as to the state of the patients' mental condition generally, or any of them? I cannot say; but he has very seldom spoken to me until the last week. Then he asked "if any of the patients were getting better to let him know." This only applied to their mental condition. Bodily ailments, when brought under notice, are always attended to.

"Are any definite instructions, written or printed, given to the warders or nurses relative to the treatment of the patients? I believe none; I have never received any.

"Then in the event of a warder or nurse leaving the Institution, and one being improvised to take his or her place, there would be nothing to guide them as to management? None whatever.

"What is your opinion as to the detailed and general working of the Institution? I do not think for some time past, and particularly at present, that it has been working well.

"Can you suggest a remedy? It would be difficult to suggest a remedy where everything appears to be out of gear. There appears to be no directing head or general principle upon which orders are issued.

"Food.—Warder Cooper informed the Committee that at present the food was good in quality; the meat contracts fairly so? When food was bad he made representations to that effect."

603. You will recollect that a number of patients were examined by myself and Dr. E. L. Crowther, whom we believed to be sufficiently sane to warrant their discharge? Yes.

604. Can you give me the names of any others that in your opinion ought to be discharged? Yes; namely—James Simpson, Joseph Carling, William Millington, Alexander Robertson, and James Cameron.

605. How long have these been in their present sane state? Simpson and Millington, upwards of 12 months; Carling, since he has been in the institution—some few months—has exhibited no symptoms of insanity as far as I could judge; Cameron, upwards of 8 months; and Robertson, some 2 or 3 months.

606. Has the Surgeon-Superintendent, or his Assistant, during meals personally inspected each patient? No.

607. If this has been stated to have taken place, it would not be true? It would not be true.

608. Has the Surgeon-Superintendent or his Assistant at irregular hours of the night frequently visited every cell and dormitory to see that the warders and night-watchmen were at their posts? Never to my knowledge.

609. If this has been stated to have taken place, it would not be true? No, it would not.

610. Has any attempt been made since you have been in charge of the Back Division to classify the patients, or separate the quiet from the noisy ones? No, none whatever.

611. You have had a patient under your charge—John Ridge. What is your opinion as to his condition mentally? I consider him quite sane.

612. Have you at any time drawn the attention of the Superintendent to his state? Yes, frequently.

613. Have you had under your charge a patient by name George Browne? Yes.

614. How has he been employed, and what is your opinion as to this man's mental condition? As a carpenter. I consider him sufficiently sane to be discharged; he is at present allowed not only to work about the Female Division unattended, but is allowed outside the walls of the Institution to the Surgeon-Superintendent's residence, working with the edged tools of his trade, wholly unattended.

615. Amongst the 80 patients in the Back Division under your charge, are there not at the present moment several in precisely the same condition as Browne, working well, and able to earn their own living? Yes.

616. The Committee was informed by the Senior Keeper, George Hill, that the patients (excepting 18) were locked up at 6 p.m. and let out about 6:30 a.m. By whom are they seen; and at what hour? By the officer on duty for the night, at 9:30 p.m. The 18 alluded to are locked up at 7:30 p.m.

617. Does any other person see them during the hours of the night? No, excepting those in the epileptic ward, or any dangerously ill. They are supposed to be visited by the night watchman.

618. Do you think the Surgeon-Superintendent exercises and possesses full power and control over the Asylum and its inmates? No.

619. Does, in your opinion, any single Commissioner exercise any power or control in excess of the other Commissioners; if so, state who, and in what particulars? Yes; Dr. Huston, I believe, not only exercises greater power, but really superintends the whole of the establishment, and is consulted in every matter connected with its management by the Surgeon-Superintendent.

620. Are you aware that there are several tradesmen amongst the attendants at the Asylum? Yes.

621. Do any of them perform work for persons outside of the Asylum, that is, private work? Yes; the barber, W. Callaghan, and the tailor, John Power.

622. For whom? Dr. Huston, Dr. Macfarlane, Mr. Jas. Huston, Mr. Leake, Mr. Millar, and others. The barber also attends at Dr. Huston's residence twice a week (during his hours of duty) to shave Mr. Leake; has done so for the last two years.

623. Have any of the Commissioners, either by night or day, visited the dormitories? No.

624. Have they inspected the bedding and sleeping apartments of the patients? No.

This witness gave his evidence under statutory declaration.

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ALEXANDER RIDDOCH, *Esq., J.P., examined.*

625. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and you are one of the Commissioners of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk? My name is Alexander Riddoch, and I am a Commissioner of the Hospital for the Insane.

626. How long have you held that office? For the last eight or nine years.

627. Are you conversant with the Act 22 Vict. No. 23? I have a general knowledge of the Act.

628. Have you, as a Commissioner, complied with Section 10, as to the making and establishing rules and regulations for the good order and management of the Hospital? I know that rules were in existence, as their amendment had been under the consideration of the Commissioners.

629. Have you seen to the application of any rules, if in existence? Only in giving directions to the Surgeon-Superintendent that the rules should be promulgated and enforced.

630. Have you complied with the requirements of Section 11, "by examining every insane patient in such Hospital and the General Books kept therein"? When I have been present at what is called the Quarterly Inspection I came in contact with every patient in the Hospital, but did not examine every patient or the General Books kept therein.

631. You have been in the habit of signing certain books at each visit of the Commissioners? Yes.

632. Had you any knowledge of what you were signing? Not much.

633. Have you, in accordance with Section 32, compared the state of any patient with the entries made in such book previously to your signing the same? No.

634. Do you know anything of the detailed management or working of the Asylum? I have tried in a general way to make myself acquainted with the management of the Institution.

635. How frequently have you visited the Asylum during the last 12 months, particularly the back Male Division, and how long occupied in each visit? I have visited the Asylum some 10 or 12 times during the last 12 months; the back Male Division some six or eight times; the time occupied by the Commissioners being usually about a quarter of an hour.

636. The Commissioners meet once a month on a set day? As a rule, but much oftener during the last two months.

637. Will you inform the Committee at what hour they commence these sittings, and when they take their departure? They reach the Hospital at from 12.45 to 1 P.M., and leave it at 2.15 P.M.

638. Do they, during such visitation, inspect every patient and every part of the Asylum? No. Of late, and since the time at the disposal of the Commissioners has been so limited, the inspection has frequently been omitted altogether, and when made has necessarily been of a very perfunctory and hurried character. This mainly arises from the Hospital being situated at such an inconvenient distance from town, and the professional engagements of some of the Commissioners preventing their leaving early in the day leaves little time for the examination of the Institution or patients.

639. Do they compare, or have they compared, the state and mental condition of any patient with what it was at the time of their previous visitation? No. I never knew of a formal or systematic examination of patients as to their mental condition until within the last two months.

640. At what hour do they adjourn for lunch at the *Bush Inn*? The Commissioners adjourn at 2.15, lunch being ordered for 2.30 P.M.

641. I perceive by the Minute Book of the Commissioners, that a charge of intemperance on the part of Miss Laland, said to have occurred on the 24th July, was, on the 4th August, placed before the Commissioners by Dr. Macfarlane, such charge being a document in the handwriting of Mr. G. F. Huston: were you at any time between the 4th and 18th August aware that any private investigation of this charge had, in the absence of Miss Laland, taken place? The charge referred to was not made by Dr. Macfarlane,

but was brought before the Board by Dr. Huston. It was a statement in Dr. Huston's handwriting, and said to have been made to him by Nurses Young and Stanwix and Dr. Macfarlane. In the absence of the President Dr. Macfarlane was directed to communicate with that gentleman and ask him to take steps to investigate the charge. It was understood among the Commissioners that Miss Laland was not to be made acquainted with the charge against her until the President had made arrangements to investigate it. Mr. Tarleton, the Chairman on that occasion, made it his business to find me out on the township, some time after the Commissioners separated, as I was not returning to town that evening, and enjoined upon me the strictest reticence. I was not aware how the matter had been enquired into, or that Miss Laland was not present.

642. State the particulars, if within your knowledge? I was staggered at first at the sweeping character of the charge, and thought it ought to be enquired into; but after considering where it originated,—the evident animus of the Commissioners on various occasions, more particularly of Dr. Huston, against Miss Laland,—the determination of the individual Members of the Board to keep her in ignorance of the charge hanging over her,—and from all I had seen of Miss Laland,—I could not help coming to the conclusion that it was a groundless charge.

643. Have you seen and perused Parliamentary Paper, No. 109, of the recent Session? I have.

644. Did it not strike you, when contrasting the evidence of such witnesses as Dobell and Armstrong, that the prosecution of Miss Laland as set forth in that paper wears the aspect of a deliberate conspiracy? From what I have already said, and from the antecedents of the witnesses, and the surrounding circumstances, I have no hesitation in saying that it bears that complexion.

645. At the meeting of Messrs. Mitchell, Shoobridge, and Sharland, on the 18th August, I perceive the proceedings are commenced by the following memorandum: "Certain minutes and statements were read and considered:" can you give any reason why these have not been recorded? The only minutes, or statement that I know of was the statement produced by Dr. Huston, written on a half sheet of note-paper, and which, together with another piece of paper, on which the minute was made instructing him to communicate with the President, Dr. Macfarlane put in his pocket. This was done, as I understood, that the Clerk should not see in transcribing the minutes the nature of the charge against Miss Laland, and that no one outside the Board might be in a position to communicate it to her.

646. Was it, do you think, because the charge, a single one, was confined to the 24th July, and in Dr. Huston's handwriting? I have already given what I consider the reason for no record being made.

647. You are a Justice of the Peace for the Territory? I am.

648. You are aware that the decision given by the Commissioners in Miss Laland's case, and signed by W. F. Mitchell, the Chairman, was based upon two offences,—that of being in liquor on the 24th July, the only charge placed by Dr. Macfarlane before the Commissioners on the 4th August, and that of borrowing money from the nurses? I am aware, from the Report brought up by the Sub-Committee, that other charges were investigated by them besides the one brought before the Commissioners on 4th August. I was not aware of those other charges until the Report was made, when I could not help expressing my surprise that fresh charges had been entered upon.

649. Can you give the Committee an instance in the whole of your Magisterial experience where a person, brought before the Bench upon one charge, another was allowed to be added to it, but when a decision was arrived at such decision was in the main based upon the second indictment? I could not.

650. Do you think such a mode of conducting an enquiry honest or impartial? It does not seem to me to have been an honest or impartial enquiry, but looks as if those making it had prejudged the case.

651. Do you think such a proceeding legal? I should not think so.

652. As one of the oldest Commissioners, can you inform the Committee if at any time means of a systematic character have been adopted in order to test the sanity of the patients, particularly those progressing towards recovery? Only within the last two months.

653. What protection is afforded to those who have been restored to health mentally, against undue and prolonged detention in the Asylum? The Commissioners use their own judgment to a certain extent when they come in contact with the patients, but it rests almost entirely with the Surgeon-Superintendent to report upon their fitness for discharge.

654. Do the Commissioners in their individual or collective capacity know anything of the mental condition of the patients or the detailed management of the Asylum? The limited time at the disposal of the Commissioners on their visits does not admit of their making themselves as well acquainted with the mental condition of the patients or the detailed management of the Institution as could be desired.

655. The Committee having examined several witnesses touching the management of the Asylum, is led to the conclusion that a power or combination exists under the influence of one of the Commissioners (Mr. G. F. Huston), as exhibited by the evidence taken against Miss Laland, that must henceforth militate against the proper management of the Asylum, or the securing the services of persons of character: can you give the Committee any information upon this point? There is no doubt but that Dr. Huston exercises great and undue influence in the Asylum, both with the officers and the subordinates. The anomalous position that he occupies as a Commissioner and private practitioner within the Asylum ought not to be tolerated. Considering, too, the position that he formerly occupied in the Institution, and the circumstances under which that connection was severed, I think it very undesirable that he should be a member of the Board. I would also call attention to the fact that he is at the head of the Local Police, and Coroner, offices I think scarcely compatible with his other duties. From what I have said, and taking into consideration the relative positions of Doctors Huston and Macfarlane formerly, and at the present time, it is necessarily embarrassing to the latter to have Dr. Huston in such a position, and would be so even if Dr. Macfarlane had more administrative ability than he is possessed of. I am of opinion, from my personal knowledge of Dr. Huston's treatment of the late Mrs. M'Lachlan,—the great scandal in connection

with and his treatment of Mrs. Kenny,—his evident animus against Miss Laland ever since she has been in the Institution,—that it would be difficult to retain anyone who had any self-respect while he continues to occupy the position he does on the Commission, or exercises so much influence there.

656. Do you think, after the manner in which the present and preceding matrons have been got rid of, that any female of correct demeanour will seek employment in such an institution? I would not recommend her to do so.

657. What is your opinion of the evidence given by Dr. Macfarlane on the 18th August before the Commissioners as applicable to the charge of the 24th July? That he knew nothing about the charge of his own knowledge, and would not have moved in the matter if it had not been forced upon him.

658. Do you not think that, having neglected to put Miss Laland off duty on the 24th July and 2nd August, days upon which "*he thought* she had been taking liquor," and continuing her services until the 25th, that the Sub-Committee had really nothing to investigate? I think the offence, if any, was condoned.

659. What is your opinion of the manner in which this charge has been got up by Doctors Huston and Macfarlane? I have had many opportunities of seeing Miss Laland ever since she came to the Colony, and, judging from her general conduct, I never saw anything to lead me to believe that she was otherwise than strictly temperate and exemplary in every respect. She exhibited the greatest interest and intelligence in the performance of her duties; and I cannot help thinking that the charge was pressed, and that mainly because her experience and knowledge were greater than theirs, and because she dared to have an opinion of her own.

660. Do you consider the action of these men either honest or straightforward, more particularly as no intimation was given to Miss Laland of any charge having been preferred against her until the 13th August? Certainly not.

661. As a magistrate, what is your opinion of the relative value of the testimony of the nine nurses as against the "statutory declaration" of Miss Laland? Believing as I do in Miss Laland's innocence, and knowing something of the character and surroundings of the other witnesses, together with the influences they were under, I have no hesitation in accepting Miss Laland's statutory declaration in preference to the statement of the nine nurses.

662. Can you give any instances in support of the opinion expressed by you as to the animus against Miss Laland? One instance in particular occurs to me, when in May last Miss Laland applied to the Commissioners for an increase of salary. The Commissioners, at Dr. Huston's instance, referred the matter to Dr. Macfarlane for a confidential report upon Miss Laland's conduct. The report that was brought up by Dr. Macfarlane, stating that Miss Laland was an excellent officer, and always did her duties efficiently and well, not meeting the expectation of the Commissioners, was referred back to Dr. Macfarlane with an intimation that something more was expected of him. In his second report he stated that a charge of intemperance had been brought against Miss Laland in 1881; that it was groundless, and was dismissed.

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JOHN RIDGE, *called in and re-examined.*

663. *By the Chairman.*—You forwarded to me four sheets of paper on which were notes made by yourself during a portion of the time you were in the Asylum at New Norfolk? Yes.

664. Do you wish those notes placed before the Committee as evidence? Yes.

[The following are the notes mentioned.]

MEMORANDUM.

*H. M. L. A., New Norfolk, 1882.*

RIDGE struck violently on the forehead by attendant Patrick Cashion (say July) while Ridge was lying in a defenceless position in bed in No. 7 Ward, Back Division. Cashion used words as follows:—"I will knock the teeth out of your head, you b——y bastard." Ridge was confused for some days. Cashion was the individual who kicked patient George Angel whilst Angel was being carried to cell by 3 or 4 Wardsmen. Angel had used no violence; had only vociferated on corridor verandah. Cashion was also the man who ill-used the Hon. D. Lewis in gentlemen's cottage, by throwing him down on the steps, thereby bruising his body,—the bruises being reported to have been received by Mr. Lewis falling on the bed-post. Attendant Matthews knows somewhat of the circumstance.

NOTE on door cell No. 8, Corridor, 6 P.M.—Thrown on bed with violence by Reynolds, and struck 3 times while on the floor by Linskey. Threatened with straight jacket by Dr. Coutie for writing on the door.

*13 Nov., 1882, 3 P.M.*

STRUCK by patient Turner, and pipe knocked out of my mouth, while watering the yard. No notice taken by officials.

*November 14th.*

KEPT in cell till 9-30. No light for pipe; no water for urinal.

*November 15th.*

ASKED Dr. Coutie for release. Says—"When I am better."

WRITING on wall of No. 4 cell, Jan. 1st, 1883.—Is it a happy new year to Ridge? Ah! no. Confined in a bolted cell, separated from everything he holds dear, and his heart wrung with anguish and sorrow. What a dawning for Anno Domini, 1883! Alas! Alas!

REYNOLDS kicked patient Riley in cell. Field also pinched Riley.

23rd March, 1883, 8 A.M.

April 20th, 10 A.M.

SENT notice by Mr. Cooper to Dr. Macfarlane demanding my release.  
About Sunday, Dr. Macfarlane refused kindly, simple note to step-mother, Mrs. Blackwell, sent through Mr. W. Clerke, Gentlemen's Cottage.

May 4th.

REYNOLDS struck patient Chidley violently several times.

May 15th.

DR. Smart visited Back Division. Said—"As far as I can judge you are sane."

June 2nd.

AT bath-room door Field punched and Macdonald kicked Patient W. Anderson.

April 5th.

APPLIED to Commissioners by letter for release. Mr. Cooper took letter.

May 6th.

ABOUT last Thursday Dr. Huston promised to do what he could to get me out.

Sept. 18th.

WHILE Reynolds and another wardsman were taking Kelly to cell, Reynolds struck Kelly violently on left breast with fist.

August 11th, 11 A.M.

REYNOLDS struck and threatened Patient Pearson in bath-room.

August 13th, 10 A.M.

DR. Florance says that *His Excellency the Governor is not capable of judging of the sanity of the patients in the Back Division.*

October 13th, 6-30.

MR. Bromfield came to me in corridor and said, "the Dr. has ordered that if you do not go to school you must go to bed." Anderson, patient, left in corridor. I went into my cell and Mr. Bromfield bolted me in. Dr. Macfarlane has pocket-book containing Ridge's four notes.

November 10th, 3 P.M.

DR. Huston and Dr. Macfarlane through corridor; few questions asked; all patients of Back Division in corridor. Time of visit in corridor, 10 minutes. No general inspection of wards, cells, &c.

November 14th, say 6 to 6-15 P.M.

MR. Sharland round with Dr. Macfarlane after patients were locked up. Went into long ward and corridor. First time I have seen Commissioner come in the evening. No inspection of all patients. Prince of Wales' anniversary of birthday,—no coffee, no cake, no dance, no amusement save the barrel organ, which I carried myself from and to the Women's Division in company with Attendant Reynolds. Have been offered doses of chloral several times; have refused to take except once when in health; the dose then stupefied me, although I used brandy as a stimulant and counteractive.

#### MEMORANDA.

H. M. L. A. N. N., November 19th, 1883.

DR. Macfarlane told me on anniversary of birthday of the Prince of Wales that he would allow no visitors to enter the Asylum but friends and relatives of patients.

Since my arrival here two holes in corridor and bath-room doors have been closed up, so that patients in the Back Division are not permitted even to see the front, and visitors as a rule are not, I believe, asked to inspect the Back Division, which is the most necessary part of the Institution.

Some months ago, after I had been thrown down, and my ankle bruised by attendants Blouse and William Menzies (my arms at the same time being twisted), I was placed in the double-doored cell in my shirts, socks, and trousers. Menzies struck me a blow with his fist on the shoulder, and said "I will show you what I will do with you." I can confidently state that I have never lifted my hand to strike an official, and have always striven to please and oblige them by working for them. I have also kept my cell and person clean, and have been orderly in my habits. This, Passage-keeper Lawrence McInerny, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Bromfield, and Mr. Bennett, Superior Officers, and other officials can testify. I have also striven to obey Dr. Macfarlane's orders, and to labour for the cleanliness and order of the Institution, by bathing the men, cutting their nails, cleaning cells and wards, and doing sundry menial, and to me, from the smell, offensive work: the chief return I received in the former period of my stay here being the ill-usage I have written of. I have also striven to protect the patients, for which I have received insolence, threats, and ill-treatment. In vain would have been appeals to Dr. Macfarlane for justice and protection, as he encouraged the officials in tyranny and the exercise of force by listening to statements of officials, but not statements of patients, and by incarcerating me in No. 4 cell for some months, for say 16 hours per diem, on a straw mattress on the floor; and when I asked for permission to attend a dance when confined in No. 4, giving my word as a gentleman not to escape, he refused permission, and said "I will take care you don't escape." He has said in my presence that I have more sense than his wardsmen. Some months ago told me he would send me out, and subsequently when I asked him when, said "when Ridley is better."

Other instances of ill-usage to patients I have seen, but I presume the above will be sufficient to show the management of patients in the Back Division of H.M.L.A.N.N., and the utter disregard of one of the laws of the Institution, viz., "patients are to be treated with calmness and decision, without violence." Surely the heads of this Institution, and the officials under their control, are responsible for this shameful dereliction of duty.

(Signed) JOHN RIDGE.

H.M.L.A.N.N., November 20th, 1883, 11 A.M.

Patients sane as far as I can observe, and wishing to leave—Whiteway, Millington, Everleigh, Iles, Archie Moore, James Simpson, Cameron, Ridley, and Henwood. Henwood has been in this Institution over 20 years, and

can reveal much of such treatment, as putting a man into a bath and beating him with mop handles to dry him. Cameron, a sane patient is not allowed to leave the B. D. yard to walk in front. I recollect that Field, yardsman, violently ill-treated a patient in the double-doored cell, named Robertson.

November, 1883.

Patient Prideaux told Dr. Macfarlane that the Back Division was no place to put a man; if he were sane it would make him insane. He was removed to Front. Robert Miller, patient, received last night, has not been sent to Front Division. He answered Dr. Macfarlane's questions intelligibly this morning.

Henwood has been taken from this Institution to give evidence in a Police Court on oath, and has again been sent in against his will.

Extra sane patients in Front Division.—Carling and Lancaster.

Did not receive note from Mrs. Ridge from Dr. Macfarlane, note dated November 8, Hobart, till November 13th, morning of my visit to Hobart.

(Signed) JOHN RIDGE, *Back Division.*

MISS M. M. LALAND, *examined.*

665. *By the Chairman.*—Your name is Martha Maria Laland, and you are the Matron of the New Norfolk Insane Asylum? Yes.

666. How long have you held that office? I have held the position of Matron to the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane for the space of the last three years and a half.

667. You have had experience in several similar Institutions? I have had experience in several similar Institutions in England.

668. At the time of your entering upon your duties as Matron, what was the condition of the Establishment as to nursing? The majority of the nurses were those who had served under Mr. Huston, not one of whom had had any previous experience in the management of the Insane.

669. Were the sick and epileptic wards properly attended to? The sick ward was presided over by an untrained and consequently unskilled nurse. Situate in a gloomy, damp, and ill-ventilated position, contiguous with a foul drain at the back, which I am persuaded had something to do with the introduction of typhoid into the Female Division, whilst instead of epileptics being classed together they were distributed throughout the wards, and from the nature of whose habits thus introducing filth among those who were cleanly and correct in this respect, to say nothing of the unnecessary inconvenience occasioned by such an arrangement. There was likewise at this time an entire absence of night nurses, the day nurses being compelled to sleep in the wards with the patients, instead of having separate sleeping rooms with windows overlooking the dormitories wherein their patients were located at night. Until within recently, no classification of epileptics from other patients was ever even thought of by the Superintendent, although from the time of taking office I had not ceased to bring under his notice the necessity for such an arrangement, as well as the introduction of night nurses, especially for the care of the two classes of patients already alluded to, together with various other suggestions tending to the well-being of the patients and improvement of the management of the Institution generally. In January last I succeeded in having the sick or infirm patients removed to a more suitable ward, better lighted and ventilated, whilst I also effected classification of the epileptics from other patients, and had their filthy clothing and bedding removed to the laundry direct, instead of its being washed as heretofore by the patients in the baths of their respective Divisions—another means of disseminating the germs of typhoid—and was successful in procuring for those patients, as well as the sick, the services of a night nurse. The last argument on the part of the Superintendent against this alteration being that “he considered epilepsy to be contagious;” to which I replied “that inasmuch as these patients were already afflicted with this malady such a thing as contagion was absolutely impossible.”

670. How many qualified nurses were under you? There were five out of a staff of fifteen who had had anything like experience in the treatment of the Insane, they having served for several years in this Asylum, but had had no previous experience in any other similar Institution.

671. I perceive by the answer to question 244 of the Evidence taken before the Royal Commissioners, you say “as far as practicable you believe that suggestions and requests made by yourself to the Medical Superintendent have been carried out and attended to.” To what does this answer apply? Exclusively to the domestic economy of the Institution.

672. Have you at any time reported to or brought under the notice of the Surgeon-Superintendent the condition of patients that in your opinion had recovered mentally, or were progressing to recovery? As a matter of fact every female patient discharged from the Institution, or whose mental condition had improved, during the last three and a half years (with the exception of two cases who were progressing towards recovery when I took office), has been brought under the notice of the Superintendent by myself only. In no single instance has the Superintendent, from his own observation, discovered mental improvement or recovery in any of the cases herein alluded to, but has, as a matter of course, expected me to make such discoveries, which task, though I knew to be in excess of my actual sphere of duty, has always been one of infinite pleasure to me, and I can conscientiously affirm that no case of mental improvement or recovery has ever escaped my notice. The Returns of recoveries effected during my term of office would, I think, compare favourably with those of a previously corresponding period.

673. As far as you can at present recollect, give the names? Mrs. P—— Miss H——, Miss L——, Miss P——, Miss B——, Mrs. M'C——, Mrs. G——, Mrs. T——, Miss G——, Mrs. S——, and Mrs. G——, private patients; Mrs. C——, Mrs. M——, Mrs. J——, Mrs. J——, Mrs. D——, Bridget F——, and Mrs. C——, public patients,—all discharged; Miss C——, Miss H——, Mary M'A——, Mrs. C——, Mary Jane T——, and Margaret M'C——, undischarged.

674. Were your suggestions and requests in this direction attended to? All the above-named, except the last six, were discharged at my suggestion.



675. Did you from time to time again bring under the notice of the Surgeon-Superintendent any of these cases? if so, name them? Up to the time of my suspension from my duties, viz., the 25th of August last, the six patients already referred to—viz., Miss C——, Miss H——, Mary M'A——, Mrs. C——, Mary Jane T——, and Margaret M'C—— were from time to time brought under the notice of the Surgeon-Superintendent by myself as being cases eligible for discharge.

676. During your term of office, 3½ years, have special periodical examinations been made of the patients progressing towards recovery? There have been no examinations whatever made during my term of office as to the sanity of patients, excepting such cases as have been brought immediately under the notice of the Surgeon-Superintendent by myself.

677. Has any Commission sat upon these cases in order to test their sanity or otherwise? I am not aware that a Commission has at any time sat in order to test the mental condition of any patient. When the Superintendent, at the instance of my suggestion, has considered certain patients sufficiently recovered to leave the Institution, he has, I am aware, summoned two of the Commissioners to perform the ceremony of discharging them.

678. Has any system been adopted by the Commissioners or Superintendent that would, in your opinion, protect the patients from the injustice of detention in the Asylum, when such could be no longer necessary? During my connection with this Institution no system of this kind has been adopted by either the Commissioners or Superintendent. Patients when committed to this Asylum are apparently left to take their chance, without any attention being paid to their individual cases,—or, in other words, like so many cattle.

679. What number of sane females, or those whose mental illusions were of so harmless a character that they were no longer dangerous to themselves, or to society at large, were in the Asylum on the 15th September last? At the time I left the Institution, viz., the 25th of August last, there were some ten patients of this description in the Female Division.

680. Are there any to which you can particularly draw the attention of the Committee? if so, give the names? There are eight to whom I would particularly draw attention, viz., Miss C——, Miss H——, Mrs. C——, Mary M'A——, Margaret M'C——, Mary Jane T——, Miss O——, and Mrs. L——. There is also a Mrs. F——, an elderly person, whose delusions disappeared soon after her admission on the 25th of December last, and who, I think, ought to be restored to her friends. I have also drawn the attention of the Superintendent to this case.

681. Can you inform the Committee whether it has been the invariable custom for the Superintendent or his Assistant to be present at the time the patients were taking their meals? On a few occasions during the months of July and August last the Assistant Surgeon has visited the dining-hall, where the larger number of the patients take their meals, for a few minutes only. With these exceptions it has not been the custom of either of the Medical Officers to visit the patients whilst at their meals. Should the patients happen to be at tea during the evening visits of the Medical Officers, these gentlemen on such occasions have merely walked through the mess-room.

682. Did the Surgeon-Superintendent or his Assistant visit the cells and dormitories at irregular hours of the night to see that night nurses were at their posts and the comfort of the patients attended to? Except being sent for to attend some special case of illness of a patient, neither of the Medical Officers during my term of office have ever visited any portion of the Female Establishment after the hour of 6 or 6.30 P.M.

683. What checks were provided to ensure attention in the direction indicated? There was no check whatever provided in this direction by the Superintendent. I have frequently recommended the introduction of "Tall-tale Clocks" as one means of ensuring attention on the part of the night-nurse to her duties; but to this I was met by a reply from the Superintendent that the Commissioners refused to recommend the expenditure for this item. Notwithstanding that I have met with opposition on the part of the Superintendent (as some of the nurses took exception to my visiting the Female Wards at uncertain and late hours of the night, and complained to him of my doing so), I have made it a point to visit the wards at various hours of the night, in order to see that the night-nurse was at her post and attending to the wants of the patients committed to her charge, not having received any positive prohibition from the Superintendent in this matter.

684. Has each patient whilst at meals been inspected once or oftener by the Surgeon-Superintendent or his Assistant? Never during my term of office has each patient been inspected during meals by either the Superintendent or his Assistant.

685. You are no doubt aware that in the Asylums in England this is considered all important? In Asylums with which I have been connected in England one of the Medical Officers was always present during the whole time the patients were occupied in taking their meals, and provided with instruments in the event of any case of choking.

686. Comparing the treatment of the insane at New Norfolk with what you have seen in England and elsewhere (having reference to the all-important consideration—mental recovery), do you think the patients have that attention given to their *individual cases* that would afford them a reasonable chance of restoration to mental health? This question I can only answer in the following brief terms; viz.—that, whereas in England the highest attention is paid to every means tending to the restoration of the mentally afflicted, the patients at New Norfolk apparently receive the comparative treatment usually extended to the *lower animals*,—their present surroundings I consider, without going into details, being eminently calculated to confirm them in their present malady.

687. Is any system adopted to assist their progressing towards recovery? During my term of office there has been no system whatever adopted to assist those progressing towards recovery, except what I have myself been the means of introducing, viz., occasional drives in the country (which have been at my own expense), recreations in the form of croquet, billiards, chess, &c., in which amusements I have

invariably participated when my other duties would admit of my doing so. Several of the patients discharged attribute their recovery to the means thus afforded more than to any other treatment; and at the suggestion of the President of the Board (Dr. Butler), I some time ago addressed a letter to the Board of Commissioners recommending that these patients might be provided with the means of driving out occasionally, but of which no notice has ever been taken.

688. Do you know George Browne? and how has he been employed? George Browne has almost constantly during the last three and a half years been employed in the Female Division of the Institution in effecting repairs to the building, &c., and assisting in the stores. Had I not had his assistance in the latter, the services of another paid attendant would have had to be secured.

689. Did you at any time receive orders from the Surgeon-Superintendent to have this man watched by yourself and nurses, as his presence in the Female Division was contrary to a standing order? I never received such an order. It would have been impossible for either the nurses or myself to have watched him. I was always given to understand that Browne was commissioned by the Superintendent to attend the Female Division at all times when there was work for him to perform, and I believe he has done so for years before my connection with the Institution.

690. What is your opinion of Browne's state of mind? I have always considered him quite sane, and so must the Superintendent, as he was always allowed the use of sharp and dangerous weapons away from any oversight of the wardsmen, and hence I have failed to discover why he was detained in the Institution, except that he was too useful to be dispensed with.

691. Is he dangerous to society or himself? I consider him neither dangerous to himself or others.

692. How frequently does the Surgeon-Superintendent visit the Female Division? The Superintendent visits the Female Establishment twice daily, viz., morning and evening, except when summoned in cases of illness or casualties. He can only be said to see each patient once daily, viz., during the morning visit, as in the evening visit he omits entering any of the upstairs wards, where there are a number of the patients.

693. What time is occupied in his visits? The morning visit of the Superintendent usually occupies from fifteen to twenty minutes, whilst that of the evening is invariably from ten to fifteen minutes.

694. Does he examine daily the patients that are progressing towards recovery? The Superintendent has occasionally examined such patients as were progressing towards recovery, but not generally, unless his attention was specially drawn to them by myself.

695. How often do the Commissioners visit the Female Division, and what time is occupied in such visit? The Commissioners as a rule pay monthly visits to the Female Establishment. In the year 1880 they paid eight visits in all; in 1881, six; in 1882, eight; in 1883, up to the 25th of August last, five. The time usually occupied by the Commissioners in their visits to the Female Establishment has been from fifteen to twenty minutes (more frequently the former), sufficient to admit of their visiting or walking through the Ladies' Cottage, along the verandah of the Main Building, across the paddock, and finally through the entrance gate. They have seldom visited the Cells' Division except when reminded by myself to do so, and never the upstairs portion of the building excepting on Quarterly Inspection days.

696. Is *each Insane* person examined by the Commissioners? The Commissioners at their periodical visits never even look at the patients, much less examine their mental state, unless the patients themselves accost them, when they will endeavour to get out of their way. They have always evinced a desire to hurry their visits, and retire from the Asylum as quickly as possible.

697. There is a *Quarterly* Inspection by the Commissioners at which all the patients are mustered: what time is occupied in such inspection, and how many of such inspections have taken place in your time? The Quarterly Inspections or counting of patients in their respective Divisions occupies in all some twenty minutes. Were the patients assembled in one chamber or hall the counting could be effected in less than ten minutes. The Quarterly Inspections held during my term of office are as follows, viz.:—December 31st, 1880; April 12th, July 26th, and November 22nd, 1881; March 30th and September 12th, 1882; May 31st, 1883,—the last up to the day of my suspension on the 25th of August last.

698. Has any attempt been made by the Commissioners to test the condition of any patient, or compare his state mentally with that noted at the previous visit? As has been already stated, the only notice the Commissioners have ever taken of the patients has been when the latter have been formally brought before them by the Superintendent for the purpose of receiving their discharge. No attempt has ever been made to compare the condition of the patients.

699. Has the Institution been working, in your opinion, satisfactorily? From the time of my taking office it has been my experience that the Institution has never worked satisfactorily, and that personally, in my capacity as Matron, I have undergone many hardships in consequence.

700. State, if enabled, in what direction the fault lies? The Superintendent being totally inexperienced in the management of such an Institution as he at present professes to govern, and being, as I believe, chiefly influenced in his conduct by the late Superintendent, Mr. Huston, (judging from the frequent reference made by him to this gentleman), a want of harmony has existed in the working of the Establishment in consequence between myself and the Superintendent,—*e.g.*, I have pointed out to him the incompatibility of the Matron being held immediately responsible to the Superintendent and Commissioners for the condition and proper conduct of the entire Female Establishment when she has no voice whatever in either the engaging or dismissing of those employes placed under her immediate supervision and direction. In using the only power at my disposal over the Female staff—viz., reporting their misconduct to the Superintendent,—I have invariably been met by a counter report from them, when the Superintendent has heard our respective statements together, which mode of procedure obviously placed the Matron on a level with her subordinates, and destroyed the influence she ought, in accordance with her position, to possess over them. My expostulations with the Superintendent in this respect have always been met by the reply,

"that as such system was inaugurated by the late Superintendent, Mr. Huston, he was not in a position to effect any alteration in consequence." This has proved a marked defect in the maintenance of discipline in the Establishment.

701. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent, as far as you have been enabled to judge, exercise full power and control over the Asylum and its inmates? No, I do not think he does; as I have never known of an instance in which he has acted upon his own judgment or dealt with any question that has been brought before him.

702. Does any single Commissioner appear to exercise any power or control in excess of the other Commissioners? if so, state in what particulars? Yes; I consider Mr. Huston has done so. I instance one particular occasion, viz., the 4th of February, 1882, on which morning the Superintendent addressed me in a very abrupt manner respecting a patient named Mrs. R— being restrained by sleeves. Upon my reminding him that the sleeves were used because of this patient's suicidal tendencies, and with his knowledge, he replied that he was irritated by Mr. Huston reflecting upon him for having so many patients placed under restraint. He also then said that he had the fullest confidence in my discretion in such matters, and instructed me to again place the sleeves on the patient, after having previously ordered them to be taken off, my response to which order was the penning of the following Memo:—

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, 4th February, 1882.*

MEMO. to the Surgeon-Superintendent.

SIR,

As I decline for the future to undertake the responsibility of in any way restraining the Female Patients (apprehending this to be a matter belonging solely to your department), I respectfully beg to inform you that in the event of patients requiring mechanical restraint, you will be required through myself to order such treatment.

I am,

Yours respectfully,

M. M. LALAND.

From the above it will be noticed that the restraining of the female patients was deputed to the Matron (although contrary to rule relative to the treatment of the insane), and to which I had often previously taken exception; and my only object in addressing the above Memo. to the Superintendent was to point out the error of delegating so important a part of his functions to myself.

703. Do you think any Hospital for the Insane can work satisfactorily in the absence of Rules and Regulations? I consider it literally impossible that a Lunatic Asylum can be properly governed in the absence of Rules and Regulations. In Asylums with which I have been connected in England, not only was each attendant furnished with printed *directions* as to her duties, but a duplicate of such in large type was also placed in front of *her bed*, so that no excuse could be pleaded as to ignorance relative to the nature of her functions. I may here state that from the time of taking office in this Institution I have not ceased to represent to the Superintendent the disadvantages arising from the lack of printed rules; and in the month of July, 1881, very pointedly drew his attention to this defect in the management, to which he replied that he had not time to form such regulations, and at my suggestion agreed that I should draw up such a *code of rules* for the guidance of the staff and applicable to the management of the Institution, based upon what I knew from experience to be in vogue in Asylums in England. Preferring that either the Commissioners or Superintendent should define the duties of the Matron, I commenced by a definition of the Sub-Matron's duties, a copy of which is herewith appended (see end of Miss Laland's evidence), and which were, I believe, duly presented to the Commissioners for approval, but beyond being told by the Superintendent that the same were highly approved by Mr. Huston, I had no intimation of their being entertained by the Board, therefore I did not proceed further in the matter. The Superintendent afterwards stated to myself that my efforts in this instance received his full concurrence, but that he could not act without the co-operation of the Commissioners. I could furnish numerous other instances of having made requests and suggestions to the Superintendent relative to the improvement of the management of the Institution, but was always assured by that gentleman that such were impracticable, either because the Commissioners failed to acquiesce, the Government failed to or refused to grant the necessary trifling expenditure entailed, or that Mr. Huston's personal displeasure would be incurred by any innovation of that gentleman's recent management of the Institution.

704. Rules and Regulations not being in the hands of each nurse or subordinate, practically the Asylum has been managed as they in their wisdom may deem fit; is this the case? This is practically the case.

705. Have you been upon good terms with the Superintendent and the Commissioners? Personally I have always been on good terms with both the Superintendent and Commissioners, although, from my constant efforts in endeavouring to improve the management of the Institution, I believe I have long ago become obnoxious to those gentlemen (one member of the Board excepted, viz., Mr. Riddoch), my suggestions being of so practical a character as to disclose either wilful negligence or positive incompetence on their part to conduct the affairs of so important an establishment.

706. Do you personally visit any of them at their residences, or been requested to do so by them? I have been a constant visitor at Mr. Riddoch's house since first entering upon my appointment at the Asylum up to the present time, but have not been in the habit of visiting any other of the Commissioners.

707. You were on the 25th August last suspended by the Commissioners upon a charge of intemperance, said to have occurred on the 24th July last? Yes, I was.

708. When did the Superintendent or Commissioners make known to you that such a charge had been preferred against you? Neither verbal nor written intimation of this charge reached me from either the Superintendent or Commissioners until the 13th of August last, when the President, Dr. Butler, casually mentioned the matter to me.

709. Did any meeting of the Commissioners or the Superintendent and Assistant take place in reference to this charge, at which your attendance was not requested, before the 18th August,—the day upon

which Messrs. Mitchell, Sharland, and Shoobridge sat formally upon your case? I believe there were several meetings of this description prior to the 18th August last, presided over by Mr. Huston, a Commissioner, the Superintendent, and Assistant-Surgeon, at which I was not present.

710. Did you meet Dr. Macfarlane or have any conversation with him prior to the 4th of August? On the 3rd of August the Superintendent sent for me in the forenoon and complained that I had spoken abruptly to him on the previous evening, viz., 2nd of August, and also on the 24th of July last, to which I replied that I was not aware of having exhibited any abruptness towards him on either of the occasions referred to, but asked him how he would like to be addressed for the future. The Superintendent made no reference to any other charge either at this time or previously. I may state that on one of the occasions here referred to by the Superintendent, viz., the 2nd of August last, I that evening drew his attention to the fact of his Assistant, Mr. Florance, having that morning struck off duty a nurse named Margaret Kerr, who had two days previously been placed in charge of a ward from which Nurse Kehoe was removed for neglect of duty, almost resulting in the death of one of the patients in her charge. This occasioned my transferring the ward stock twice within three days; and considering I had at this time the duties of three officers to perform besides my own, my energies were considerably taxed in consequence. The Assistant-Surgeon in this instance exceeded his duty, not being supposed to take any part in the domestic economy of the Establishment except in the absence of the Superintendent. My reporting this occurrence to the Superintendent, together with reminding him of the fact that two of the nurses were unfit for duty in consequence of being down with typhoid fever, respectfully requesting him to make application for two more nurses, and that the reason for this addition to the staff be distinctly pointed out to the Government, seemed to annoy him considerably, and convinced me that the existence of typhoid in the Establishment up to this time had been suppressed from the authorities. Respecting my alleged abruptness to the Superintendent on the 24th July last, it will be seen from the evidence of Sub-Matron Mrs. Nichols and Nurse Ware before the Sub-Committee on the 21st, and my statutory declaration to His Excellency the Governor in Council on the 31st of August last, that I did not address *one word* to the Superintendent on this occasion.

711. Did he make known to you that a charge of intemperance had been preferred against you at that time? Neither on the date referred to, or any other occasion, did the Superintendent make known to me that a charge of intemperance had been preferred against me said to have taken place on the 24th of July last?

712. Is it a fact that during your absence in Hobart one of the Commissioners, with the Medical Officers, held an enquiry at the Asylum, and collected evidence against you? Yes. On the evening of the 14th of August last, Nurses Kehoe and Sullivan informed me that they and seven more of the nurses were the day previous, viz., 13th of August last, summoned to the office by the Superintendent, and asked by him (in the presence of his Assistant and Mr. Huston) to bear testimony against the Matron, and were assured that if they did so they need not fear any after consequences, as the Matron would soon be put out of the gate, giving them to understand that such a course was already determined upon. They were also strictly charged not to tell the Matron for what purpose they were summoned to the office, and that should she ask such a question, they were to refer her to him (the Superintendent). Kehoe, also on the same day, immediately upon returning from the office, made the same statement to Nurse Mary Kerr, who at once communicated the matter to me when I returned from Hobart, being absent from the Institution the previous day, viz., the 13th of August last, on which day the nurses referred to were invited by the Superintendent to lay charges against me.

713. Has Mr. Shoobridge frequently visited the Female Division of the Asylum during the time you have held the office of Matron? Yes, about some half dozen times in all since he became a Commissioner.

714. Is it within your knowledge that one of the Commissioners (Dr. Huston) is, and has been, in the habit of charging patients (inmates of the Asylum) for private attendance? I am aware that ever since the admission to the Institution of Mr. L——, Mr. Huston has daily visited this patient as his private medical attendant, and for which attendance I have been informed he has been in receipt of fees, as well as for a lady patient named Miss W——. It is also a fact that Mr. Huston has for years past had a lunatic patient named Mr. L—— at his own residence, and for whom, it is said, he receives the sum of £300 per annum, and this in the absence of a Lunacy Licence.

715. State what system, if any, existed for supervising and checking the stock in the Female Division of the Institution? When I entered upon my duties at this Asylum no system whatever existed for supervising or checking the stock in charge of the attendants. After considerable labour and difficulty I succeeded in inaugurating a system which enabled me to check every article issued and in charge of attendants for use of their respective wards and patients; the same to which reference is made in my evidence before the Royal Commission, and which I may state has been the means of effecting considerable saving to the Institution, as well as instituting order and regularity.

716. How were the tables for the patients supplied and provided for? The private or paying patients partook of the same food as supplied to the public patients, excepting that the sugar and butter were slightly better, and they were occasionally furnished with a fruit pudding, &c. Mr. Huston, for some time after he left the Institution, had a large number of ducks and geese reared and kept on the farm, to which I often drew the attention of the Superintendent, suggesting that he (Dr. Huston) be requested to remove them, and thus enable us to rear poultry for use of the tables of the private patients, but of which no notice whatever was taken, until I drew the attention of one of the Commissioners—Mr. Riddoch—to the circumstance, since which, poultry has occasionally been supplied to the patients. In a similar manner I was instrumental in procuring ham for the private, and pork occasionally for the public patients, instead of the pigs which were reared on the farm being sold as heretofore,—a system inaugurated by Mr. Huston, and forming a part in the category of his famous "*Economy Scheme*," at the expense of the well-being of the patients. I have likewise frequently been informed that the Government annually realised a con-

siderable sum as *profits* from the *fees* of the paying patients, which I also suggested should be devoted to procuring them a better class of *diet*, *carriage exercise*, or any other means calculated to benefit them, as I presumed no Government so base as to desire *gain* from the *insane*.

717. How were the public patients clad? and was the allowance of clothing ample in all respects, and changed sufficiently often? The public patients were at this time wretchedly clad, the conventional allowance being two suits each patient annually, viz., one on the 24th of May (Queen's Birthday), and the other on Christmas Day; thus it will be observed that the one suit was worn continuously until the time arrived when they became due for another, instead of there being an allowance of at least three changes each for convalescents (admitting of a weekly change, besides one for Sundays, &c.), whilst the refractory and infirm patients should have been supplied with not less than half a dozen changes each, being a class whose habits necessitated their being bathed and changed several times during the day. The allowance of under-linen was sufficient to provide a weekly change as a rule. When remonstrating with the Superintendent as to the meagre allowance of clothing, &c., expressing my inability in consequence to keep the patients clean and neat, I was informed that a fixed sum in the annual estimates of the Institution was appropriated to drapery, &c., and that such sum could not possibly be exceeded, inasmuch as the item constituted a part of Mr. Huston's late *scheme* in effecting *economy*. I may state that the clothing referred to here was, in addition to being scant in quantity, of the most rigid description—more like *prison garb*—very different from that supplied in the Asylums in England, where every consideration is paid to the patients' attire, such being considered an important feature in their treatment, as it conduces to promote self-respect.

718. Were the arrangements in connection with the wash-house and laundry such as adequately to meet the requirements of the patients? The arrangements in connection with the wash-house and laundry were of a most primitive character as compared with the modern machinery now in vogue in all similar and well regulated establishments, and totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the patients. I have at various times suggested improvements of a simple and inexpensive character for facilitating the drying operations, as well as the general working of this department, but, as in most of my former propositions, was met by the reply from the Superintendent that such recommendations could not be carried out because of the necessary trifling expense involved, or that the workmen from the Male Division could not be spared for such purpose; which resulted in the continuance of the wet and soiled bedding being exposed to view in the various sections of the establishment for the purpose of drying, instead of its being removed at once to the laundry as proposed, and there washed, &c. before being again used. No establishment can be considered either wholesome or healthy where patients are compelled to sleep on foul bedding from time to time dried in the manner described.

719. Was the Superintendent in the habit of having his private washing done in the establishment, and did he continue this practice up to the time you left the Institution? Yes. The Superintendent, notwithstanding that he was aware of the difficulties experienced in my getting the washing, &c. done for the patients—from the causes already mentioned—continued to send his washing to the Institution up to January last, although I had previously drawn his attention to the inconsistency of continuing this practice; and on a subsequent occasion, when his sister favoured me by a peremptory order relative to some article of hers sent to the laundry, I at once communicated to the Superintendent the fact that “upon accepting the position of Matron to this Institution I did not stipulate for the performance of the additional duties of private Laundry Superintendent; and that inasmuch as his washing, &c. (a privilege he was not entitled to) interfered with that of the patients, as well as being a source of annoyance to myself, I should deem it my duty to draw the attention of the Commissioners to this circumstance at the earliest opportunity.” This had the effect of causing the Superintendent to withdraw his washing from the Institution.

720. Was private washing done in the Institution for any one else besides the present Superintendent? Yes; both Mr. Huston and the Rev. Murray had the whole of their family washing done in the Institution for a short time after I took office. The latter withdrew his under similar circumstances to those above related in connection with the Superintendent, and the former when he vacated the office of Superintendent to the Institution. Judging from the condition of the patients' clothing, bedding, &c. at this time, it was apparent to my discrimination that they must have been accustomed to a mere dip, instead of the dirt being washed out of them. The monopoly Messrs. Huston and Murray exercised over the labours of the two laundresses of the Institution will readily account for this state of things, as the patients' washing was evidently left to the management of the patients themselves, who were supposed only to assist the laundresses, otherwise the services of paid laundresses were unnecessary.

721. Did you at any time make application to the Government or Commissioners for an increase of salary, and with what result? Yes; on the 20th of February last I made a formal application to the Commissioners for an increase in my salary, which received only the apparent contempt of the Board, as no reply was ever vouchsafed to me. I subsequently, on the 16th of June last, addressed the Government *re* an increase of stipend; but learning that the Commissioners had taken marked exception to the course thus adopted, and had determined upon dealing summarily with me in consequence, I wrote the Chief Secretary requesting the withdrawal of this correspondence, which I herewith append, [see end of Miss Laland's evidence], and the purport of which I was also given to understand the Commissioners chose to misconstrue into that of “insubordination,”—an interpretation never intended by me. The treatment received at the hands of the Commissioners in this and other instances, coupled with that from the Superintendent, throughout the whole time of my service in the Institution, bears but one impress or complexion,—viz., their insatiable and united desire to effect my removal from the office I held; the only reason for which I can assign was that in the conscientious discharge of my duties I was ever conscious of disclosing either some dereliction or ignorance on their part in connection with the management of the Institution over which they presided.

722. Is it a fact that an *insane* patient was placed in charge of your private quarters, with the knowledge and approval of the Superintendent? Yes; during the whole of my term of office a female patient was placed in charge of my cottage, with the knowledge and approval of the Superintendent. My

frequent remonstrances relative to this *system* never received the slightest notice. Some two years ago I addressed a letter to the Commissioners requesting to be allowed a *sane servant*, to which I received no reply. My duties in various parts of the establishment necessitating my absence from my cottage during the greater portion of the day, I constantly pointed out to the Superintendent the great risk and danger he incurred by allowing an insane patient to be thus placed away from the oversight of the nurses, and necessarily having access to knives and other articles capable of being employed as dangerous weapons, by which she had every opportunity of inflicting injuries both to herself and others, besides being enabled, if so disposed, to convey such instruments to the other patients. Such an arrangement seems grossly inconsistent with the following fact, viz., that should any attendant or *employé* in the Institution, either from carelessness or other means, permit a patient to have access to knives or other dangerous weapons, they were thereby—and properly so—amenable to *immediate dismissal* or *legal prosecution*. Besides the anxiety experienced by an insane patient being associated with my private surroundings, I was subject to the constant annoyance of having my personal effects either made away with entirely, or else damaged and destroyed, and this in the absence of any redress from the Institution. Finding it necessary in the interests of the Institution to devote a portion of my residence to the purposes of a cutting-out or workroom, and for the protection of the drapery, &c., a storeroom,—the establishment lacking such accommodation,—I was subject to additional uneasiness on this account by a patient being domiciled with me. I had the alternative, of course, offered me by the Superintendent of becoming my *own domestic*, in which event I must necessarily have neglected some of my official duties, to say nothing of the incompatibility of such a system with the position I occupied.

723. Was any payment exacted from you for the services of this patient? and if so, state the amount? Yes. I was not aware that I should have to pay for this patient, until I received my first cheque, when I noticed a deduction of 6s. 8d., which, I was informed by the then Superintendent (Huston), was the sum charged monthly for the services of the said patient. I have always thought this exaction a most unfair one, especially as I had almost to feed and clothe the patient referred to, she objecting to the Asylum rations and clothing, but insisted upon being supplied from my own table, as I was in the habit of boarding myself; the Government ration being so coarse I seldom partook of it, but distributed it to the fowls.

724. Besides the sleeping-rooms or wards, were suitable day-rooms provided for the patients? No. No accommodation of this kind existed, excepting a large recreation hall or mess-room, which was destitute of everything in the form of comfort, being gaunt, cheerless, and cold, especially in winter, and whose only furniture consisted of long deal tables and forms. In order that the sleeping wards of the patients might be cleansed from the filth, &c. contracted during the previous night—each possessing the adjunct of an open tub, called “night-tubs,” which served the purpose of *water-closets*—the patients, owing to the absence of day-rooms, usually resorted to the open paddock or verandah immediately upon rising in the morning, which practice has often resulted in the elder and more delicate patients contracting serious, if not fatal, illnesses. This defect in the management I have frequently pointed out to the Superintendent, also in my evidence before the Royal Commission, together with the absence of lavatories, owing to which (excepting in the cases of the sick or infirm, who were washed, &c. by the nurses, and such patients as were sufficiently *compos mentis* to go to the taps of the back yards and there perform their ablutions, &c.), the bulk or majority of the female patients received literally but one wash during the week,—viz., on their bathing day. There being only one small bath-room in each section, which were occupied in the bathing, &c. of the dirty cases, the other patients in consequence were prevented from even using these as lavatories.

725. Is it within your recollection that a gentleman patient met his death by choking? Yes; about 2½ years ago I distinctly recollect such a circumstance.

726. You are aware that in England the presence of a medical man always ensures immunity from accidents by choking? Yes, I am.

HON. SIR,

Asylum, New Norfolk, June 16th, 1883.

Presuming that the Estimates for the ensuing year are now being prepared, I beg most respectfully to address the Government on behalf of an increase in my salary.

Having previously addressed the President of the Commissioners on this subject, and having received no reply to my communication, I venture to hope the Government will be favourable to my application.

I also take the liberty of enclosing particulars of my intercourse with the President of Commissioners on this matter, as likewise a statement of my grounds or reasons for soliciting an increase to my stipend.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Yours most respectfully and obediently,

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

M. M. LALAND.

FORWARDED for the perusal and observations of the President of the Commissioners of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.

WM. MOORE,  
20 June, 1883.

MY DEAR DR. BUTLER,

Chief Secretary's Office, 6th July, 1883.

MR. MOORE had an interview with Miss Laland this morning, at which I understand he recommended the withdrawal of the enclosed communication.

To this Miss Laland was not prepared to agree, and preferred that it should be brought under the consideration of the Commissioners. Mr. Moore therefore instructed me to return it to you without delay.

I remain, my dear Dr. Butler,  
Yours very truly,

The Hon. HENRY BUTLER.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.



HON. SIR,

*Asylum, New Norfolk, July 10th, 1883.*

My communication addressed to you on the 16th ultimo in re an increase to my salary being, I believe, capable of one interpretation not intended by me, I herewith beg on this ground to withdraw the same.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Yours most respectfully,

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

M. M. LALAND.

MEMO. 1.

*EXTRACT of Report of Commissioners of the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane for the Year 1879, and which appeared in 1880.*

"THE services of a Matron whose training, work, and address would inspire hopes on the part of the Commissioners that her management would command the respect of the various female employees in the women's branch of the Hospital, and not fail to impress the patients also, were long felt to be a desideratum in the Hospital, and one which it became more urgent to supply as more patients of a better social status appeared in the wards. It was therefore satisfactory to us when the Government consented to our recommendation that a salary should be attached to the office of Matron that would be likely to attract competition of a desirable description. Miss Laland, who was selected from fourteen applicants, having served for four months only, it would be premature in us to say more of her management than express our favourable anticipation from her intelligence and vigilance."

MEMO 2.

In the year 1881 the Matron's name, Martha Maria Laland, was placed on the copy of the Estimates of the Institution for an increase of salary, by order of the President of the Commissioners, Dr. Butler. In the year 1882 the sum thus proposed as an increase was withdrawn, and the original amount substituted. In December, 1882, the Matron was verbally informed by the President of Commissioners that the proposed increase to her salary would take effect from January, 1883. By direction of the President of Commissioners the Matron made application in writing for an increase of stipend on the 20th of February, 1883, understanding that the same was to be presented to the Governor in Council, to which no reply has since been received. On the 7th of June, 1883, the Matron was verbally informed by the President of Commissioners that the Board, at their meeting on the 5th of June, 1883, had decided not to recommend any increase in her salary. Notwithstanding, this gentleman admitted, in reply to questions submitted by the Matron, that the Commissioners as a Board were perfectly satisfied with the Matron's management of the Female Establishment of the Institution, and that they had no fault whatever to find with her either officially or individually. Yet they refused to give any grounds or reason for declining to recommend the increase to her salary which they themselves proposed in the years 1880 and 1881 respectively.

MEMO. 3.

THE Matron's grounds or reasons for soliciting an increase of salary are as follows:—First, that her emoluments are less than those given to her predecessors, inasmuch as there is now no pension attached to her office. Second, that she effects a saving to the Institution of some £150 per annum in working the Establishment with a staff of 17 instead of 20 nurses, the latter being the complement allowed by the Government, which she has been able to carry out efficiently by utilising the patients' labour in the miscellaneous work of the Institution according to their several capabilities, instead of allowing them to be unemployed, and with the additional advantage of promoting their mental recovery. Third, that whereas there is now a more liberal supply of clothing, bedding, &c. for the patients than heretofore, which, for the entire Institution (some 300 patients), men's outer-clothing excepted, is made and repaired by the female patients under the supervision of the Matron. The duties of the latter are thereby made more arduous and responsible than formerly. The same reason may be set forth in connection with the washing and laundry work of the Institution. Fourth, that the Government have recently granted an increase of £50 in the salary of the Matron of the Launceston Hospital, the status and duties of whose office cannot in any sense be considered to compete with those of the Matron of the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane.

(Signed) MARTHA MARIA LALAND, *Matron.*

*Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, June 16th, 1883.*

5. 7. 81.

*DUTIES of Sub-Matron or Head Attendant.*

1. THE Sub-Matron shall accompany the Medical Officer and Matron on their visits to the female patients, and report to them anything she may herself have observed or been made acquainted with respecting the health or condition of the patients, and shall receive and put in practice any instructions which may from time to time be conveyed to her by either the Medical Officer or Matron.

2. She shall be considered as having special charge of the sick under the immediate direction of the Medical Officer, to whom she shall communicate without delay any sudden or dangerous illness of the patients, reporting the same afterwards to the Matron, and shall see that no patient is left unattended at the approach of death, but shall at once communicate with the Matron, from whom she shall receive instructions concerning the same.

3. It shall form a part of her duty to receive from the dispensary all medicines, drugs, &c., and personally to administer the same in accordance with such instructions as she may receive from the Medical Officer. She shall also receive from the stores all extra diet, wine, &c., as may be ordered for the patients, and shall carefully ascertain that the same are duly administered. She shall likewise receive from the stores and distribute to the female officers and attendants such rations as they may be entitled to.

4. She shall be present at and superintend the meals served in the general mess-rooms. See that a sufficient number of attendants are present at each meal, that the patients are duly attended to, and that they take their food in a proper manner. Epileptic or paralytic patients shall partake of minced meat only for dinner, or such other spoon diet as may be ordered by the Medical Officer.

5. She shall most strictly observe any instructions conveyed to her by the Medical Officer or Matron concerning such patients as may have suicidal or dangerous tendencies, which instructions she shall also duly convey to those attendants under whose care such patients may be placed. She shall also herself report forthwith to the Matron and Medical Officer the finding of any knives or other sharp and dangerous instruments left accessible to patients.

6. She shall be present whenever the patients are bathed, for the purpose of seeing that the water is of proper temperature, that the supply of towels, combs, &c. is sufficient, and report to the Matron and Medical Officer as to any bruises, discolorations, or eruptions on the skin. She shall also be present at and superintend any special bath

administered to the patients by order of the Medical Officer, and on the admission of new patients she shall see that they receive a warm bath, except when otherwise ordered by the Medical Officer; that they are supplied with suitable clothing; and report to the Matron and Medical Officer any bruises or other particulars that may come under her notice.

7. She shall, under the direction of the Matron, have the superintendence of ordinary attendants and their assistants; shall instruct them in their various duties, and see that such duties are regularly and efficiently performed agreeably to the prescribed rules and regulations, and shall report at once to the Matron any neglect of duty, insubordination, or other irregularities on the part of the attendants that may come under her observation. In the event of any attendant beating or in any way illusing a patient, she shall likewise report this circumstance to the Matron or, in her absence, to the Medical Officer. In no case shall a patient be secluded or placed under restraint except by order of the Medical Officer or Matron.

8. She shall every morning at 6.30, visit all the wards, dormitories, and single rooms, see that the attendants have risen and are at their work, and receive from them respectively a report of such occurrences concerning the patients under their charge as may have taken place during the night, which report she shall duly convey to the Matron.

9. She shall inspect all the wards, dormitories, single rooms, bath-rooms, day-rooms, water-closets, and out-offices every morning, and be responsible for their cleanliness and good order, taking care that no soiled bedding, &c. is exposed to view, and that all soiled palliasses are emptied, and the cases removed to the laundry.

10. She shall every evening at 8.30, after the patients have retired to bed, visit their dormitories and single rooms to see that everything is in proper order, and that the patients are comfortable and properly cared for, and shall receive from the attendants in charge a report of such particulars concerning their patients as may have taken place during the day, which report she shall duly convey to the Matron.

11. Her whole time, except when relieved from duty, shall be devoted to directing the attendants in the discharge of their duties, in furthering the occupations and amusements, and promoting the general well-being of the patients. She shall obey all lawful and verbal orders given by the Medical Officer and Matron, to either of whom she shall forthwith communicate any unusual occurrence affecting the interests of the Establishment that may come under her observation.

N.B.—The above Rules shall apply to the Main Building only of the Female Division, except in the absence of the Matron, when for the time being the Sub-Matron shall, under the direction of the Medical Superintendent, have the charge of the whole of the Female Establishment, and shall enter the daily reports of the establishment in the Matron's journal.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1883.

MRS. WOLFHAGEN, *examined*.

727. *By the Chairman*.—Your name, and you have a daughter a patient in the New Norfolk Asylum? Margaret Wolfhagen; Yes.

728. She is, I believe, an inmate of the Ladies' Cottage? Yes.

729. What charges have you paid since her admission to the Asylum? At the rate of 5s. per day.

730. Had she any private medical attendant? if so, whom? None, with the exception of Dr. Huston occasionally examining her.

731. Have you at any time received an account for such attendance, and from whom? Not at any time; but in consideration of Dr. Huston having twice certified to my daughter's condition, upon entering the Asylum, I have made a small present.

NEIL LEWIS, *Esq., examined*.

732. *By the Chairman*.—Your name, and you have a brother (David Lewis) a patient in the Asylum, New Norfolk? Neil Lewis; yes.

733. He is, I believe, an inmate of the Gentlemen's Cottage? Yes.

734. He has, I believe, special attendants, for which you pay? Yes, two attendants.

735. What charges have you paid since his admission to the Asylum? 5s. per diem, irrespective of the two attendants.

736. Has he any private medical attendant, and if so, whom? From the time he was first placed in the Asylum we had heard that there was no one better or equal for such a disease than Dr. Huston. My brother David's sons, my brother Thomas, and myself asked Dr. Huston as a favour to attend him as a medical man; in fact, we considered my brother David, being in the Gentlemen's Cottage, in just the same position as if he was in his own house, and we had the right of calling any medical advice we thought proper. Dr. Huston attended daily and reported to my brother Thomas, who was living at New Norfolk, the general state of my brother David's health once or twice a week. My brother David's family considered that they were only doing what good feeling would dictate to them in calling to his (David's) assistance Dr. Huston with his very large experience of the complaint from which my brother was suffering, viz., disease of the brain. We had no doubt of the ability of Dr. Macfarlane or Dr. Coutie, but we thought that it was better to have the assistance of two or three medical men rather than one, when we had the opportunity. We felt that if there was the slightest chance of his being cured we had a perfect right to use every exertion to that effect. Both Dr. Macfarlane and Dr. Coutie always gave us great confidence in the kindness and ability with which my brother David was treated.

737. Have you at any time received an account for such private attendance, and from whom? Yes; from Dr. Huston.

[Mr. Lewis adds the following voluntary statement.]

So far as my experience goes, in the Gentlemen's Cottage the cleanliness, order, amusements, and attendance are all that could be desired; and I am perfectly satisfied with the treatment my brother David has received.



JAMES FERBY, *examined.*

737A. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and how long have you been in the Asylum? James Ferby; and I have been in the Asylum nearly 6 years.

738. What are your duties? I am the Gardener.

739. Can you by any number or mark tell where any single patient has been buried? I could if I knew his name.

740. Did you know a patient by the name of Galvin? Yes.

741. The Committee have been informed that you were aware that Clifford and Chamberlain dragged Galvin from his room and then threw him into a cell, breaking his thigh, and afterwards putting him into the water-closet. Are these circumstances within your knowledge? I have heard Mr. Hynes say what a shame it was to throw a man into a cell like that.

742. Where did you find Mr. Galvin? I washed my hands, and then went to give the attendants a hand at the breakfast table. When the bell rung all was cleared away, except Mr. Galvin's breakfast, which I took into the kitchen, and seeing Mr. Bromfield, asked him what I should do with Mr. Galvin's breakfast. He said "Leave it on the table, and go and look after him." I went and found him on the middle seat in the water-closet. I told him to come to his breakfast; his answer was, "I cannot." With that I took him by the shoulder, but he said "Leave me alone, I am in great pain." I went back to Mr. Bromfield and told him this; he took two warders to remove Mr. Galvin; I did not see him moved. Doctor Macfarlane asked me afterwards whether Mr. Galvin's trousers were down when I saw him, and I said "No, they were buttoned up."

743. Are you aware that Bromfield, the keeper, reported the affair to the Superintendent by stating that Galvin had a fit? No, I am not; I heard only that his thigh was broken.

744. Have you any doubt as to the manner in which Galvin's thigh was broken, or the ill-treatment he received? I heard from Hynes that Mr. Galvin had been ill-treated, and said what a shame it was.

745. Did not Patrick Hynes tell you all about the injury to Mr. Galvin? I know he told me for a fact that Mr. Galvin had been ill-treated.

746. You have been employed upon the farm? Yes.

747. How are farming and gardening operations carried on? Very well, I think.

748. Do you send a daily supply of vegetables to the Asylum? Not every morning.

749. Are you otherwise employed than in gardening? Yes, in making the beds in the sick ward every morning for the last two months.

This witness gave his evidence under statutory declaration.

PATRICK HYNES, *examined.*

750. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and how long have you been in the Asylum? Patrick Hynes, and I have been in the Asylum more than a year.

751. In what division have you been employed? In the Gentlemen's Cottage.

752. Do you know a patient by name James Galvin? Yes.

753. The Committee have been informed that two keepers, Clifford and Christopher Chamberlain, dragged Galvin out of his room and threw him into a cell or room and ill-treated him, his thigh being fractured, and that you were a witness of the transaction or know something about it. Is this statement correct? I was one morning sitting at the end of the billiard table, about 7 A.M., waiting to be relieved; Clifford said "Brother, if you don't dress yourself quickly I will put you down below." When Mr. Galvin was dressed, Clifford collared him by the neck and the seat of his trousers and shoved him into the cell, and went in with him; I heard Mr. Galvin calling out afterwards. The cell was about 20 or 30 yards away.

754. Did you witness the ill-treatment alluded to? and is it true that after having injured him in the manner described, they put him in the water-closet, where he was found by Mr. Ferby? Christopher Chamberlain has told me scores of times that Clifford called to him to help him to take Galvin out of the cell to the water-closet. Breakfast coming on, they sent Ferby to look for Mr. Galvin.

755. Are you aware that Bromfield, the keeper, reported the affair to the Superintendent by saying that Galvin had a fit? I am not.

756. For what was Clifford dismissed by the Superintendent? I don't know.

757. Was Galvin bruised about the thighs and body? The following morning I saw him in bed, and he was bruised about the thigh and body. I did not know his thigh was broken then, only that it was severely hurt.

758. Did you hear afterwards that his thigh was broken? I did.

759. The Committee have information to the effect that you related the circumstances of Galvin's ill-treatment to William Jackson, Matthews, Hill, and Ferby in the forenoon of the day when it occurred. Is this the case? I related what I saw. He was quite right when he was run out of his room by Clifford.

760. Did Dr. Macfarlane question you upon the subject, and did you report the case to him? I told Dr. Macfarlane, but not till long after, though I have been examined by Dr. Macfarlane and the Commissioners since.

761. Did you not say it was of no use reporting cases of cruelty, as they were not attended to by the Superintendent? I am not aware that I did.

762. What report did you make when you caught Bromfield in the act of striking Thompson? I saw it, but made no report of it.

763. Have you seen him strike any other patient? No.

764. Is it true that Bromfield drinks the patients' wine and brandy, and wears their clothes? I have never seen him.

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This witness gave his evidence under statutory declaration.

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KATE SULLIVAN, *examined.*

765. *By the Chairman.*—What is your name, and how long have you been in the Asylum? Kate Sullivan; and I have been in the Asylum as a nurse for nearly fifteen months.

766. You know Miss Laland, the Matron of the Asylum? Yes.

767. Were you at any time in the month of August last sent for to the office of the Superintendent, Dr. Huston being present? I was; but only Dr. Macfarlane and Dr. Florance were there.

768. State, in detail, what took place, and what questions were put to you? Dr. Macfarlane asked me if I had ever seen Miss Laland under the influence of drink? I said, "I had"; and also if I had ever lent her any money? I said, "No." These were the only questions that were asked me.

769. Were you promised anything by Doctors Huston and Macfarlane in the event of your giving evidence against the Matron? No, I was not.

770. Was any statement in writing prepared by Dr. Huston for you to sign? No.

771. Did you sign any statement? Only the one made to the Commissioners.

772. Was it arranged by Doctors Huston and Macfarlane what evidence you were to give? No.

773. Were you strictly enjoined by Doctors Huston and Macfarlane to keep silence, and not inform the Matron as to what had taken place, or for what purpose you had been sent for? Yes; Dr. Macfarlane told me to do so.

774. I believe you informed Miss Laland of what had taken place, and what Dr. Macfarlane had said? No; I never told Miss Laland what Dr. Macfarlane had told me.

775. You were in August last examined before three Commissioners—Messrs. Mitchell, Shoobridge, and Sharland? Yes.

776. Were the details given by you in evidence before the Commissioners facts within your knowledge, or what you had heard from others? What I said there was the truth and nothing but the truth.

777. Have you at any time since you have been in the Asylum had written or printed instructions or rules placed in your hands for your guidance? No.

778. Did the Medical Officers, or either of them, visit the patients after 9 P.M. before the 15th September last? They never visited so often as they have done lately.

779. Are either of them present during the time the patients are at their meals? They are occasionally at tea-time.

780. Do the Commissioners when they visit the Asylum go over the whole Female Division? Not always.

781. Do they, or have they prior to the 1st October last, inquired into the mental condition of any patient that was progressing towards recovery? I do not remember any.

782. Do you keep a diary during the time you are on duty? No; simply report anything that occurs to either of the Sub-Matrons, or the Head Matron if there.

783. How frequently during this year has Mr. Shoobridge or Mr. Sharland visited the Female Division? They have made occasional ones.

784. How many patients do you think at the present time ought to be discharged? There are none sane that I know of.

785. Are you aware whether the Medical Officers frequently examine the patients to test their sanity? I am not aware of it.

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This witness gave her evidence under statutory declaration.

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AMY KEHOE, *examined.*

786. *By the Chairman.*—What is your name, and how long have you been in the Asylum? Amy Kehoe, and I have been as a Nurse in the epileptic ward for nineteen months.

787. You knew Miss Laland, the Matron of the Asylum? Yes.

788. Were you at any time in the month of August last sent for to the office of the Superintendent, Dr. Huston being present? Yes; but only Drs. Macfarlane and Florance were present.

789. State in detail what took place, and what questions were put to you? I was questioned if I had ever seen Miss Laland intoxicated? I said "Yes, I had." Another question was; whether I had seen

Miss Laland under the influence of drink on the 24th July last? I said "I had." No other questions were put to me that I can remember.

790. Were you promised anything by Dr. Macfarlane in the event of your giving evidence against the Matron? No.

791. Was any statement in writing prepared at that time for you to sign? No.

792. Was it arranged by Dr. Macfarlane what evidence you were to give? No, it was not.

793. Were you strictly enjoined by Dr. Macfarlane to keep silence, and not inform Miss Laland as to what had taken place or for what purpose you had been sent for? Dr. Macfarlane told me not to tell the Matron what had taken place.

794. Did you name the circumstances to Mary Kerr, and also detail to her what had taken place? I may have done so, but I do not recollect it.

795. You were in August last examined before three Commissioners—Messrs. Mitchell, Shoobridge, and Sharland? Yes.

796. I believe you informed Miss Laland that you had been to the office, and what Dr. Macfarlane had said? Yes; and I told her that any information she wanted Dr. Macfarlane had told me to refer her to him.

797. Were the details given by you in evidence before the Commissioners facts within your own knowledge, or what you had heard from others? Yes, facts within my own knowledge.

798. Have you at any time since you have been in the Asylum had written or printed instructions or rules placed in your hands for your guidance as to your duties as Nurse? No, no more than what the officers may give.

799. Do the medical officers, or either of them, visit the patients after 9 P.M.? Not unless there is a bad case.

800. Are either of them present during the time the patients are at their meals? At tea-time the doctors come through the ward.

801. Do the Commissioners when they visit the Asylum go over the whole of the Female Division? Not always.

802. Do they, or have they prior to the 1st October last, inquired into the mental condition of any patient that was progressing towards recovery? No, they have not.

803. How many patients do you think at the present time ought to be discharged? None at all.

804. How long since the last were discharged? Several in October last; viz., Mrs. Crosby, Fanny Fawcett, and Bridget Foy: these are all I can think of.

805. How frequently during this year has Mr. E. Shoobridge or Mr. Sharland visited the Female Division? Occasionally.

806. How are the wants of the patients attended to during the night? By the night nurse.

This witness gave her evidence under statutory declaration.

#### ANNIE GAUL, *examined.*

807. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and how long have you been in the Asylum? Annie Gaul; and I have been in the Asylum nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years.

808. What have been your duties recently? Nurse at the Ladies' Cottage.

809. You slept on the night of the 26th November in a room with a patient named L——, at the Ladies' Cottage? Yes.

810. At what hour the following morning did you rise? At 6 A.M.

811. You found that Mrs. L—— had been dead some time? Yes.

812. Did any Superior Nurse or Medical Officer visit the cottage on the night of the 26th after Mrs. Lindsay and yourself retired to rest? No.

813. Are they in the habit of doing so after 9 P.M.? No, not as a rule.

814. Was the death of Mrs. L—— reported to the Superintendent of Police? Yes.

815. Was any inquest held upon the body? No.

816. Who was the Coroner? Dr. Huston.

817. Did Mrs. L—— show any sign of illness before going to bed? She did not.

818. Having been some time in the Asylum you were acquainted with the Matron, Miss Laland? Yes, I was.

819. Were you at any time in August last sent for to the Office of the Superintendent, Dr. Huston being present? I was sent for, but Dr. Huston was not present, only Dr. Macfarlane and Dr. Florance.

820. State in detail what took place, and what questions were put to you? Dr. Macfarlane asked me if I had seen Miss Laland under the influence of drink? I said "I had." Also if I had seen her in that state on the 24th July last? I said "Yes." I do not remember any more questions being put to me.

821. Were you promised anything by Dr. Macfarlane in the event of your giving evidence against the Matron? No, I was not.

822. Was any statement in writing prepared by Dr. Macfarlane for you to sign? I signed no statement.

823. Was it arranged by Dr. Macfarlane what evidence you were to give? No, it was not.

824. Were you strictly enjoined by Dr. Macfarlane to keep silence, and not inform the Matron as to what had taken place or for what purpose you had been sent for? He told me if anyone asked me any questions, or why I had been sent for to the Office, I was to refer them to him. He did not mention anyone in particular.

825. You were in August last examined before three Commissioners—Messrs. Mitchell, Shoobridge, and Sharland? Yes.

826. Repeat the evidence you gave against the Matron on that occasion, recollecting that should you give “false evidence you are liable to the penalties of perjury?” I could not do so.

827. Were you not assured by Dr. Macfarlane that “no harm would happen to you if you gave evidence against Miss Laland?” No, Dr. Macfarlane did not, but Mr. Mitchell, a Commissioner, did.

828. Has Miss Laland at any time complained of your neglecting duty whilst at the Ladies’ Cottage? Not that I am aware of.

829. Were the details given by you in evidence before the Commissioners facts within your own knowledge, or what you had heard from others? Facts, not what I heard from others.

830. Were written or printed instructions given to you for your guidance with regard to your duties? No.

This witness gave her evidence under statutory declaration.

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MARY KERR, *examined.*

831. *By the Chairman.*—Your name, and how long have you been in the Asylum? Mary Kerr; nearly two years.

832. What are your duties? I am Night Nurse at present.

833. Have you at any time received from the Superintendent written or printed rules for your guidance in the management of the patients? No.

834. You know the Matron, Miss Laland? Yes.

835. Do you recollect the 14th day of August last? Yes, I do.

836. Had you, about that time, any conversation with Nurse Kehoe relative to her having been sent for the day previously by Drs. Huston, Macfarlane, and Florance? I had.

837. What statement did she make to you? She made this statement to me *before* she was examined:—She said that she had been sent for to the office; that she had nothing against Miss Laland; she had never seen her intoxicated; never had any occasion to think she was so. *After* she had been before Dr. Macfarlane she told me she had given evidence against Miss Laland, and that she was strictly enjoined to keep silence, not to tell the Matron, and if anyone asked her questions she was to refer them to Dr. Macfarlane.

838. Did she tell you that Dr. Macfarlane and his Assistant asked her to bear testimony against Miss Laland, being assured if she did so that no harm would happen to her, as she could not injure her? She did tell me that.

839. Did you make known to Miss Laland what Nurse Kehoe had told you? Yes, I did.

840. Do you know anything of the way in which the charge against Miss Laland was got up, other than the statement of Nurse Kehoe? Only that Nurse Crosswell and others who gave evidence against Miss Laland were several times at the office. Fanny Crosswell told me that Dr. Huston had sent for her to tell her that her uncle was dying, and to ask her if she would like to see him.

841. Since the removal of the Matron, Miss Laland, have any of the Nurses that gave evidence against her been rewarded in any way,—if so, state in what manner? Yes; Fanny Crosswell has taken Mrs. Young’s place at the Cottage, and Jane Stanwix is Sub-Matron.

842. How are the wants of the patients attended to at night? By the Night Nurses. Every two hours I go the rounds, but this is only since the death of Mrs. Lindsay on the 27th November last.

843. After Mrs. Lindsay’s death, were any orders given to you different to what your duties were previously? Yes; that of going round every two hours to look at each patient.

844. Do you keep a daily record or diary? I do not.

This witness gave her evidence under statutory declaration.