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1881.

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H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, NEW NORFOLK:

REPORT FOR 1880.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 19, 1881.



Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 7th June, 1881.

To His Excellency SIR JOHN HENRY LEFROY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-General in Her Majesty's Army, Administrator of the Government of the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE have the honor, in accordance with the 12th Section of "The Insane Persons Hospital Act," to present our Annual Report for the year 1880; and have pleasure in doing so that we address one who has taken a more than *ex officio* interest in the duties with which we are entrusted.

When addressing your immediate predecessor last year we felt it to be incumbent upon us to remonstrate against the inadequate professional staff provided for this establishment. We were not unmindful that it had been managed with only one medical attendant formerly, with nearly the same number of patients, and this under ourselves as Commissioners. But at the period referred to our honorary President was an habitual resident on this township, and to his long professional experience he added the advantage of a thorough acquaintance with all the details of the Hospital, in which he was prepared to assist the Resident Surgeon whenever his counsel was required; and in Dr. Moore, one of our number, there was another Commissioner who had at different periods officiated as *locum tenens* for Dr. Huston, who always readily co-operated with the Surgeon Superintendent when required.

At any period however, but especially after the decease of both Sir Robert Officer and Dr. Moore, it was the opinion of the Commissioners that an Assistant Medical Officer was indispensable, and though for a time the withdrawal of the former assistant was submitted to, in order to meet an emergency in the public service, the arrangement was always demurred to; but when it seemed likely to become permanent, and the Estimates for a future period were prepared on that scale, the reduction was protested against unanimously by us.

Regretting that our remonstrances did not obtain the consideration to which we thought them entitled, after the lengthened experience in connection with the New Norfolk Asylum of some of our number, and when Dr. Macfarlane had acceded to the wishes of the Government by accepting sole medical charge as an experiment, we felt it to be our duty to submit also, giving to that gentleman all the assistance in our discretion, while at the same time guarding ourselves from responsibility for arrangements which we could not approve. Subsequent experience has only confirmed our opinion that the New Norfolk Hospital, as the only one of its kind in the Colony, cannot be longer efficiently and creditably conducted under existing circumstances without a qualified professional assistant, and that in the interests of this community no time should be lost in remedying this defective provision; and we could not be surprised when Dr. Macfarlane himself, after some experience of the duties he had undertaken, was forced into the avowal that they were excessive and incompatible. Up to the date, however, that this Report is written for the information of your Excellency and Parliament, an Assistant Medical Officer has not been appointed: although we are grateful to your Excellency's intervention to know that preliminary steps have been taken by the Executive with a view to place the Hospital for the future on a more satisfactory footing.

The Commissioners, while unwilling to dwell longer than is necessary upon any question on which their views have differed from those of Ministers, venture to claim for the principal and also, in its due measure, for the subordinate officers of so peculiar an institution as the New Norfolk Hospital, a considerate and indulgent forbearance answerable to the irksome nature of the duties which they have to perform—duties which, under modern system of treatment, principally rely on moral influence and persuasion on the part of the employés, and not, as formerly, upon physical constraint in one shape or another. And as regards the principal officers, the Commissioners desire to call attention to the practice in the most improved Establishments for the Insane in Europe, of liberating these officers from their accustomed duties for a month or longer period every year, as not only necessary to their health but as a means of improving an important branch of medical art in the knowledge and application of which humanity is deeply interested.

In a former Report we drew attention to a misconception that in attaching the importance we did to the improvement of our Hospital for the Insane we overlooked the change which time was effecting in the mixed elements of our original population, and the effect of this social change upon our probable requirements. We ventured to combat that view, and to maintain that we had no ground to anticipate an exemption from maladies to which colonies unexceptionally peopled from Europe had been found liable; and in quoting the subjoined extract from a Report of the Board of Visitors of Hospitals for the Insane, published by the South Australian Government for the year 1880, we submit that we do not overstate the reasons for Tasmania not suffering itself to fall behind neighbouring colonies. The phases of insanity long more or less familiar to us may change, and in this way even a considerable diminution in the statistics of the insane may take place within a decade or shorter period; but other forms of mental disease may be expected as in other colonies: and the period is not to be calculated on when no Hospital for the cure or protection of this afflicted class will be necessary in Tasmania, or the reason cease for such institutions being made as efficient for their objects as science and humanity can ensure. The passage in the South Australian Report alluded to is as follows:—

“Admissions, including re-admissions, amount to 223, viz., 154 males and 69 females. In this respect the year 1880, when compared with any of its predecessors, exhibits a formidable advance. It exceeds 1878 by 20, 1879 by 28, and more than doubles 1871. In a rapidly expanding Colony it would be unreasonable to expect that the number of persons becoming insane should diminish, or even remain stationary; but it seems impossible to resist the conclusion that cases of mental disease have latterly been more common, as their frequency cannot be accounted for by immigration or natural increase.

“The ratio to the general population (see tables) has steadily risen during the past ten years. In 1871 it was for males, 1 in 1306; for females, 1 in 2374; for both sexes, 1 in 1672. In 1880 it was for males, 1 in 904; for females, 1 in 1862; for both sexes, 1 in 1200. Over a lengthened period the proportion naturally fluctuates a good deal; but a fair general result is obtained by contrasting the first and last years of the decade, the difference being a rise in the production of lunacy from 1 in 1672 to 1 in 1200.”

Although it is not the primary object of our appointment, nor, we believe, consonant with the policy of the Government in entrusting the Hospitals generally of the Colony to Boards of Management, that these Boards should so manage the Institutions confided to their guardianship as to attain results at the cheapest rate, but rather to guarantee their poor or suffering inmates from becoming the victims of a sordid economy, the Commissioners of the New Norfolk Hospital have never exposed themselves to the charge of promoting a lavish outlay in that establishment. The result we submit in the following returns for the Colonies enumerated:—

1879.—Aggregate weekly cost per patient in the Insane Hospital for New South Wales, 12s. 1d.; Victoria, 12s. 0½d.; South Australia, 11s. 1d.; Tasmania, 8s.

In citing these figures we are far from claiming any peculiar credit to our administration of the funds appropriated to the purposes of the Hospital. The circumstances which affect the economy of the Hospital are many of them quite beyond our control and altogether arbitrary in character, and comparisons, unless where all the conditions involved do not stand on a like footing, must fail in conclusiveness. But there can be nothing to gainsay the position that if the outlay at New Norfolk is compared with that in England even, it is not extravagant. Perhaps it may suggest doubts, rather, whether the cheapness of our Insane Hospital may not be accounted for by unwise parsimony in respects in which larger expenditure would be judicious.

The Commissioners are anxious to bring the experience of the principal medical officers of all the Australian Colonies to bear on the improvement of the New Norfolk as well as of any future Asylums for the Insane in Tasmania, and have agreed to ask the local Government to initiate a common system in the preparation of their annual statistics, basing them on the plan set forth in the thirty-first Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy in England, with such modifications and additions as may appear to be expedient in reference to local conditions. With the data thus obtained we may be enabled to further the interests of this Hospital, which it is our constant endeavour to make effective as a school of instruction in an important branch of medical practice as well as of practical humanity.

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

HENRY BUTLER, *President*.
W. TARLETON.
FREDK. M. INNES.
HENRY HUNTER.
W. A. B. JAMIESON.
ROB. CAR READ.
A. RIDDOCH.
W. C. SHARLAND.
G. F. HUSTON.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, January, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present my Report on this Institution for the year 1880.

On the 1st of October Dr. Huston, after 25 years' service as Superintendent and Medical Officer of this Institution, retired on his pension, and I was appointed his successor.

The admissions for the year were 20 males and 16 females, and on the 31st of December, 1879, there were 269 patients in the Institution, thus making a total of 305 patients treated.

Comparing the admissions for 1880 with those for 1879, it will be seen that there is a considerable diminution in the numbers, 53 being admitted in 1879 and 36 during 1880.

Among the admissions five had been previously under treatment, one of whom, a male, had been discharged during the year; the remaining four had been away from the Institution for various periods.

Sixteen patients have been discharged during the year. Of these two males and three females were admitted during the year; the remaining eleven were among those who had been in the Institution for various periods.

There have been 19 deaths this year—viz., 12 males and 7 females. The usual information on these cases will be found in Return No. 3, appended.

The civil condition of those admitted during the year was as follows:—20 were free to the Colony, 15 were natives of the Colony, and 1 belonged to the prisoner class.

Of these 14 were married, 14 were single, 3 were widowed. Of the remaining 5 nothing was known.

The average daily strength has been 272, and the total number treated 305. Of these 54 were wholly or partially self-supporting, 22½ were chargeable to Imperial funds, and 228½ to Colonial funds.

One patient escaped, but was re-captured after being two days absent from the Hospital.

The Gentlemen's and Ladies' Cottages continue self-supporting. The receipts from the Gentlemen's Cottage being £751 5s. 10d., and the receipts from the Ladies' Cottage being £557 10s. 8d.

The total sum received from paying patients of all classes, and from washing and labour, &c., amounted to £1750 16s. 3d.

The gross cost of the Establishment was £7400, or nearly 1s. 6d. per diem for each patient. Deducting from this the receipts the cost is reduced to £5649 3s. 9d., or nearly 1s. 1¾d. per diem for each patient.

The sum of £87 16s. 8d. for alterations and repairs is not included in the above calculation.

The usual amusements for the patients have been provided.

The farm, dairy, and garden have been as productive as usual.

The farm furnished abundance of forage for the cows and horses, and the garden has contributed liberal supplies of vegetables and fruit for the use of the Establishment.

The dairy furnished 24,222 pints of milk, worth, at 2d. per pint, £201 17s., and 502½ dozen eggs estimated at £18 16s. 10½d.

Beyond the ordinary repairs, no improvements of any note have been made in buildings of the establishment during the year.

The sum of £1000 was voted last Session by Parliament for alterations and additions to the Gentlemen's Cottage; and there is every reason to believe that these much needed improvements will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

When I was appointed as Dr. Huston's successor, I thought I could perform all the duties devolving upon me unaided; but three months' experience convinces me that, for the thorough and efficient management of this establishment, an Assistant Medical Officer is necessary.

In concluding my Report, I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the satisfactory manner in which the various Officers have performed their duties during the short time I have been in charge of this Institution.

The usual Returns are appended; viz.—

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

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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

The Honorable HENRY BUTLER,
President of Commissioners.

No. 1.

RETURN of Admissions, Discharges, Deaths, and Re-admissions in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, showing the Rate per cent. of Discharges and Deaths, from 1st January to 31st December, 1880.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
<i>Admissions.</i>			
Remaining 31st December, 1879.....	138	131	269
Admitted during the year 1880	20	16	36
TOTAL	158	147	305
Remaining 31st December, 1880	139	131	270
Average number resident, 1880 .....	..	..	272
<i>Discharges.</i>			
Of those admitted during the year	2	3	5
Of previous admissions	5	6	11
TOTAL	7	9	16
<i>Deaths.</i>			
Of those admitted during the year	5	..	5
Of previous admissions	7	7	14
TOTAL	12	7	19
<i>Re-admissions.</i>			
Of those admitted during the year	1	..	1
Of previous admissions	3	1	4

Rate per cent. of Recoveries.

On Admissions	13%
On total treated.....	5½%

Rate per cent. of Deaths.

On Admissions	26%
On total treated.....	6½%

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

No. 2.

RETURN showing the Duration of Disease in Patients on Admission, and the Result, for the Year 1880.

<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Duration of Disease on Admission.</i>	<i>Discharged relieved or recovered.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Present Condition.</i>
1085	5 January	Four years	..	..	Improved.
1086	7	One month	10 June	..	..
1087	9	Five weeks	..	17 March	..
1088	14	Unknown	..	..	Unchanged.
1089	5 February	Some years	..	..	Improved.
1090	5	Two years	25 November	..	..
1091	5	Unknown	7 July	..	..
1092	14	Six months	..	..	Unchanged.
1093	16	One week	..	..	Improved.
1094	1 March	Many months	..	..	Unchanged.
1095	1	Thirteen years	..	..	Unchanged.
1096	3	Unknown	7 July	..	..
1097	12	Two months	..	18 May	..
1098	13 April	Some months	..	..	Improved.
1099	17	One year	..	..	Improved.
1100	25	Six months	..	..	Improved.
1101	11 May	Five months	..	..	Improved.
1102	27	Two months	..	..	Improved.
1103	3 June	Unknown	..	17 July	..
1104	30	Six weeks	..	..	Improved.
1105	5 July	Twenty years	..	..	Unchanged.
1106	8	Two years	..	..	Improved.
1107	15	Some time	..	1 August	..
1108	22	One week	27 August	..	..
1109	23 August	Unknown	..	..	Unchanged
1110	26	Unknown	..	..	Improved.
1111	17 September	One month	..	17 October	..
1112	25	Few days	..	..	Improved.
1113	25	Twelve months	..	..	Improved.
1114	11 October	Several months	..	..	Unchanged.
1115	28	About a fortnight	..	..	Improved.
1116	30	Unknown	..	..	Improved.
1117	11 November	About a week	..	..	Unchanged.
1118	15	Four days	..	..	Improved.
1119	19	About a week	..	..	Improved.
1120	27	Three weeks	..	..	Unchanged.

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

No. 3.

RETURN of Patients who died in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and Period of Detention, from 1st January to 31st December, 1880.

No. in Register.	Date of Admission.	Date of Death.	Age.	Remarks.
684	23 February, 1871	9 January, 1880	63	Disease of heart and dropsy.
1076	11 October, 1879	11 January, 1880	61	Abscess of lungs and softening of brain.
1087	9 January, 1880	17 March, 1880	30	Disease of brain and inanition.
1079	17 November, 1879	26 April, 1880	42	Ditto, ditto, and diarrhoea.
1097	12 March, 1880	18 May, 1880	27	Asphyxia.
810	30 January, 1874	9 June, 1880	35	Malignant tumor of neck.
1021	20 September, 1878	14 July, 1880	11	Disease of brain and atrophy.
1103	3 June, 1880	17 July, 1880	64	Disease of brain.
1075	26 September, 1879	17 July, 1880	56	Ditto.
1070	4 September, 1879	27 July, 1880	42	Ditto.
1107	15 July, 1880	1 August, 1880	62	Disease of brain, ulcerated lungs, and abscess.
1054	10 May, 1879	9 August, 1880	41	Apoplexy.
898	27 January, 1876	13 August, 1880	79	Diarrhoea and natural decay.
1039	20 February, 1879	8 September, 1880	31	Ditto and disease of brain.
1111	17 September, 1880	17 October, 1880	49	Disease of brain and paralysis.
1000	24 January, 1878	2 November, 1880	20	Ditto and phthisis.
529	18 January, 1867	24 November, 1880	48	Ditto and heart disease.
429	14 July, 1864	27 November, 1880	76	Ditto and natural decay.
1069	22 August, 1879	20 December, 1880	38	Ditto and erysipelas

ANALYSIS OF AGES AT DEATH.

Sex.	Under 20.	20 under 30.	30 under 40.	40 under 50.	50 under 60.	60 under 70.	70 under 80.	80 under 90.	90 under 100.	TOTALS.
Males ..	..	2	1	3	1	4	1	..	..	12
Females	1	..	2	3	..	..	1	..	..	7

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

No. 4.

RETURN of Articles of Clothing made and repaired by Patients in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, from 1st January to 31st December, 1880.

ARTICLES.	MADE.		REPAIRED.		ARTICLES.	MADE.		REPAIRED.	
	By Males.	By Females.	By Males.	By Females.		By Males.	By Females.	By Males.	By Females.
Aprons, women's	240	..	..	Jackets, canvas, men's	2	..	14	..
Boots, men's, pairs	1	..	210	..	Mattresses .....	..	..	..	..
Ditto, women's, ditto	Miscellaneous "small articles" ..	..	66	165	30
Ditto, children's, ditto	3	..	6	..	Palliasse .....	..	..	..	..
Blinds, window	15	..	..	Petticoats, winsey, serge, flannel .....	..	43	..	..
Blouses and frocks, boys'	70	..	28	Rugs and counterpanes, quilted ..	..	2	..	..
Cases, pillow and bolster	207	..	24	Sheets .....	..	..	..	59
Caps, women's	Shirts, men's .....	..	391	..	496
Coats, blue and tweed	5	..	71	..	Shoes, men's & women's, pairs ..	..	..	25	..
Dresses, print, coburg, tweed	98	..	..	Shifts .....	..	178	..	..
Ditto, ticking and linen	52	..	..	Slippers, pairs .....	..	..	..	..
Ditto, winsey	11	..	..	Stockings, ditto .....	..	..	..	510
Ditto, serge	Sox, ditto .....	..	..	..	112
Drawers, cotton and flannel, pairs	34	..	8	Towels, hand and round .....	..	31	..	25
Frocks, linen, men's	165	39	Trousers, fustian, pairs	36	..	1122	..
Gowns, night	Ditto, tweed, ditto	28	..	247	..
Hoods, women's	219	..	..	Ditto, linen, ditto .....	..	..	34	..
Jackets, blue cloth, men's	223	..	Table cloths .....	..	12	..	6
Ditto, serge and tweed, women's	Vests, flannel .....	..	45	..	108
Ditto, cotton and ticking, ditto	169	..	..	Ditto, tweed, cloth, fustian	32	..	208	..

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

RETURN of Work performed by Patients in co-operation with the Carpenter and Painter in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1880.

Carpenter's New Work.—Table N. building; number picture frames; 1 20-foot ladder; 3 covers for man-holes; window rollers, &c. for Matron's cottage; cupboard and pegs for ditto; clothes' horses, female division; spouting to seed-house; large clothes' horse, N. building; 3 coffins; milking-stool; axe, hoe, rake, and hay-fork handles; removing and rebuilding fence back gentlemen's cottage; door to ditto; meat safe, ladies' cottage; 2 horses to enclose sick or beds during an operation; making and fixing ventilator (Tobin's), boys' cottage.

Repairs.—Cart wheels; garden fence; wheel-barrows and wheels; door of organ; cells, floors, back yard; shingles, "front"; fence back latrine; wheels of hand-cart; seats in latrines; horse-dray; American chairs constantly; fixing and repairing locks throughout; roof of stores, female division; roof of Matron's cottage; fixing water tank; repairing doors in corridors, passages, cells, and wards throughout Asylum; floors in wards, cells, rooms, corridors, &c. in all parts of buildings; mangle, continually; ladders; shute to sink in cook-house; tables, ladies' cottage; roof of morgue; shingles, verandah N. building; horse and hand-carts; roof of back store; straw shed; bath-room; fences in all parts and farm kept in constant repair.

Painters.—5 rooms off sick ward; sick ward and passage, female division; 22 bedsteads; nine tubs; lattice fencing; spouting; doors and cupboards, N. building; back yard throughout.

Plumber.—3 large baths new lined; water pipes, spouting, baths and water taps kept in order.

Glazier.—Windows and skylights kept in repair; 112 squares of glass put in.

Colouring.—Rooms, corridor, and kitchen, N. building; back division throughout.

Bricklayer.—Fire-places, drains, plastering, flagging and bricklaying in all parts of establishment; the laundry furnace, female division, rebuilt.

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

RETURN of Farm and Garden Produce at the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1880.

23,800 lbs. of English Grass.
12,000 lbs. of Lucerne ditto.
30,000 lbs. of Italian ditto.
9200 lbs. of Prairie ditto.
47,440 lbs. of Green Barley.
3450 lbs. of Green Maize.

50 tons of Hay, Oats, and Barley.
7 tons of English Hay.
24 tons of Mangolds.
25 bushels of Peas.
24,222 pints of Milk.
502½ dozen Eggs.

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

CIVIL Condition of Admissions, 1880.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Free.</i>	<i>Natives.</i>	<i>Bond.</i>	<i>Married.</i>	<i>Single.</i>	<i>Widowed.</i>	<i>Total Admitted.</i>	<i>Dis-charged.</i>	<i>Died.</i>
1880	20	15	1	14	14	3	36	5	5
				5 unknown.					

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

THE Cost of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, for the Year 1880 was £7400.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Salaries.....	2996	7	4
Allowances	24	0	0
Provisions and Medical Comforts	2883	10	8
Fuel and Light	482	7	5
Bedding, Clothing, Stores, and Stationery	767	7	9
Medicines.....	58	16	5
Incidental Expenses, including Advertising	23	12	7
Conveyance of Stores.....	70	15	4
Coroner's Inquests and Funeral Expenses.....	11	4	0
Travelling Expenses of Commissioners	81	18	6
TOTAL	£7400	0	0
Cr			
Fees for self-supporting Patients, and for Patients' Labour, Washing, &c.	1750	16	3
TOTAL.....	£5649	3	9

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