

(No. 2.)



1879.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOBART TOWN:

REPORT FOR 1878.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 9, 1879.



GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOBART TOWN.

ANNUAL REPORT for 1878.

SIR,

In accordance with the Rules of the Hobart Town General Hospital, I have the honor to lay before you the following Annual Report of the affairs of that Institution, together with such information regarding its cost, management, and condition during the year 1878 as will, I trust, afford a satisfactory exposition of all details of importance.

During the past year the affairs of the Hospital have been administered by a Board of Management consisting of eighteen members; viz. twelve unofficial, and six *ex officio*.

Nineteen Board and fifty-six Committee meetings were held during the year, at all of which the attendance of Members was, without exception, good; while during the same period the Honorary Medical staff made fifteen hundred and fifteen professional visits to the wards of the Hospital.

It affords me great pleasure to bear testimony to the zeal and efficiency displayed by the Executive Officers, Nurses, and Servants of the Institution generally, in the discharge of their respective duties; and further, to be able to state that the system of trained female nursing has, as was anticipated, proved a boon to the sick and a credit to the Hospital.

Referring to the Annual Report for 1877, the then Chairman drew attention to the fact "that the buildings and the accommodation provided for the patients, though much improved, were still greatly behind the requirements of the age." As regards the buildings and accommodation referred to, but little has been done during the past year, though with regard to improvements generally great progress has been made.

The long-standing nuisances of the lavatories and closets being in the same compartment has been entirely removed by the erection of additions to the former towers. By this arrangement the baths and lavatories occupy one compartment, while the closets are distinct and separate; all communication, by pipes or otherwise, with the water supply of the Hospital being carefully avoided.

In conjunction with this improvement a system, having for its object an abundant and continuous supply of hot water throughout the Hospital, was most successfully introduced during the early part of the year, and has since been in daily operation with the most satisfactory results, hot baths being obtainable at all hours day or night.

In the Report for 1877 it is also pointed out that, "as regards the main building, it would be well if means were taken to facilitate the admission of light, and to allow a freer circulation of air to the back wards, &c." This defect still exists, but can, when alterations are in progress, be remedied. Its importance has not been overlooked, and its removal will be included in a general scheme of improvements shortly to be submitted.

The old Hospital at the rear of the main building, though condemned in 1877 as being "as bad as it can be, appearing to combine every fault which an institution of this nature ought not to have," is still in use for the treatment of infectious and other diseases requiring isolation; but though as faulty and unfit as represented, it is nevertheless capable of such alteration and improvement as to

convert it into four valuable pavilion wards, affording accommodation for twenty-four beds, and well adapted for the treatment of such cases as those referred to; and, with this view, its alteration will be included in the general scheme of improvement above alluded to.

The necessity for the erection of suitable quarters for the various officers of the establishment was forcibly represented in the Annual Report for 1877. In this direction nothing whatever has been done, and the necessity for urging this measure on the attention of the Government is, if possible, more pressing than ever. The acquisition by the Hospital of the strip of land fronting on Argyle-street at once removes the only great hindrance to the accomplishment of this work which has hitherto existed; viz. the want of adequate space for building purposes.

In the Annual Report for 1877, it was matter of regret to find that the Dispensary Out-door Relief System had reached a point of magnitude far in excess of the requirements of the pauper portion of the community, and that serious abuses of this branch of the charity were being practised. The means resorted to by the Board for the suppression of these abuses have proved of great service, as exhibited by the marked reduction in the number of Out-door Patients treated during the past year. This department of the Hospital service is now in a much healthier condition, and the wants of the really poor are amply provided for and attended to.

One item in the expenditure of the Hospital for the past year is conspicuously large, and demands attention in the future; viz., that of medicines and surgical instruments. The cost under this head for the year was £791 15s. 6d., whereas, if the wants of the Hospital alone had to be considered, one half of this amount ought to have been sufficient. The expenditure under this head for the years 1877, 1878, and 1879 is £1900, giving an average of nearly £635 per annum, an expenditure far in excess of the requirements of the Hospital when considered by itself.

The large consumption of medicines and medical appliances in the Gaol and in the various Pauper and Charitable Establishments, together with the issues consequent upon the Out-door Attendance at their own houses of the poor of the city, tends greatly to augment the expenditure in this department of the Hospital service,—an expenditure over which the Board of Management can exercise no control, and for which it cannot be held responsible.

In return for this expenditure, which cannot be estimated at less than £250 to £300 per annum, the Hospital has hitherto been credited on account of this service with the sum of £137 14s. 8d. per annum,—a sum manifestly insufficient; and it is now earnestly desired that the Hospital will be allowed to claim such additional credit as will represent the actual expenditure thus incurred on account of outside Government Establishments.

The number of Patients treated during 1878, and the diseases from which they suffered, have been tabulated and are herewith appended.

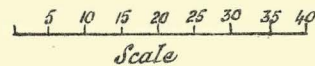
The following Tabular Statement shows the number of In-patients treated during the year 1878:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In-patients remaining 1st January, 1878	64	22	86
Admitted during the year.....	671	373	1044
Total treated	735	395	1130
Discharged.....	608	347	955
Died	73	32	105
Remaining 1st January, 1879	54	16	70

Of the patients admitted there died:—

On the day of admission.....	6
1st day after admission.....	14
2nd ditto.....	5
3rd ditto.....	3
4th ditto.....	8
5th ditto.....	3
6th ditto.....	7
7th ditto	3
Total	49
After the 7th day.....	56
Yearly Total.....	105

<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Proportion of Cases to Deaths</i>	
53	5	10.60 to 1	Under 10
54	5	10.80 to 1	Between 10 - 15
261	16	16.31 to 1	Between 15 - 25
128	10	12.80 to 1	Between 25 - 35
103	9	11.44 to 1	Between 35 - 45
200	19	10.52 to 1	Between 45 - 55
154	15	10.26 to 1	Between 55 - 65
177	26	6.80 to 1	Over 65
1130	105	10.76 to 1	



The ages of those who died in Hospital during 1878 were as follows:—

Under 10 years.....	5
Between 10 and 15 years.....	5
15 and 25 ditto.....	16
25 and 35 ditto.....	10
35 and 45 ditto.....	9
45 and 55 ditto.....	19
55 and 65 ditto.....	15
Over 65 years.....	26
Total for the Year.....	<u>105</u>

The accompanying diagram shows the proportion of cases to deaths arranged in similar periods to the foregoing table. The lines, which are drawn to a scale, indicate the chances of recovery as against those of death, in the following manner:—The whole line represents admissions; the dark portion represents the deaths; the remainder of the line, of course, therefore represents the recoveries.

I now append a comparative statement of certain statistics of 1877 and 1878, and beg to draw attention to the great reduction in the number of patients daily occupying beds in the Hospital during the latter year, and the consequent reduction in the number of diets issued, viz. 10,000; being equivalent to a saving of nearly £500. It will also be observed that the average stay of each patient in Hospital has been reduced from 27 days in 1877 to 25 and a fraction days in 1878. The above facts, taken conjointly, not only show a large pecuniary saving, but are also indicative of general improvement in the working of the Hospital.

	1877.	1878.
Number of in-patients treated.....	1442	1130
Ditto died.....	149 (1 in 9·67)	105 (1 in 10·76)
Ditto out-patients treated.....	8104	3909
Ditto diets issued to in-patients....	38,934	28,791
Average stay in Hospital of each patient.....	27 days	25·47 days
Ditto daily number of in-patients.....	106·66	78·87
Number of diets issued to staff.....	11,966	11,318

The following tabulated information, comprehending the total cost of every branch of the Hospital Service in detail, is based on the plan suggested by Dr. Roberts, of Sydney, and adopted in the Returns of all the Australian hospitals, and is valuable as a basis of comparison:—

GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOBART TOWN, TASMANIA.

A.

1. What is the population of the township, and of the district benefited by the Hospital? Estimated 40,000.
2. The character of the Hospital? General.
3. How many years has the Hospital been established? 35 years.
4. If the present building was erected for a Hospital? Yes.
5. If built for a Hospital, what was its original cost? Built by Imperial Government.
6. How much of the cost of construction was contributed by the Government? All.
7. How much of the cost of construction was contributed by public subscription? None.
8. How much of the annual income is contributed by the Government? All.
9. How much of the annual income is contributed by public subscription? None.
10. How much of the annual income is contributed upon an average by paying patients? £200.
11. How much of the annual income is derived from invested funds? None.
12. What amount has been received by legacies and donations? None.
13. Is the Institution under the control of a single officer or a Board? A Board.
14. If by a single officer, what is his position and salary, and to whom is he responsible? —
15. If by a Board, what is the number of its members, and by whom is it elected, &c.? 17 members, appointed by the Governor in Council with power to fill its own vacancies, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.
16. Whether any power of control or supervision is exercised by the Government; and if so, in what form and to what extent? Yes, in regard to money matters.

6

B.

1. The number of beds? 133.
2. The average cubic space per bed? 1249·32 feet.
3. The average number of in-patients daily throughout the year, male? 58·12.
4. Ditto, female? 20·75.
5. The number of paying patients received during the year? 146.
6. The number of patients received during the year who would have been more suitable for a Benevolent Asylum? Estimated about $\frac{1}{3}$.
7. Total number of in-patients received during the year? 1044.

C.

1. The average number who annually attend at the Hospital as out-patients? 3909.
2. The average number who are attended annually at their own homes? This is the work of a separate department.
3. The average number of women who are attended annually in confinement at their own homes? This is the work of a separate department.

D.

1. The number of paid medical officers, resident? Two.
2. The annual amount of their salaries? £550 with fuel and light, and £60 in place of better quarters, than those provided for them.
3. The number of paid medical officers, non-resident? None.
4. The annual amount of their salaries? Nil.
5. The number of other paid officers, exclusive of Nurses and servants? 3: Secretary, Lady Superintendent, and Dispenser.
6. The annual amount of their salaries? £554, fuel, light, and quarters, and £76 3s. house and personal allowances to the Dispenser.
7. The number of the nursing staff? 16.
8. The annual amount of their salaries? £604 15s.
9. The number of servants? 13.
10. The annual amount of their salaries? £450 17s. 6d.
Total cost of salaries? £2159 12s. 6d.
Total cost of allowances? £136 3s.

E.

1. The annual cost of provisions, exclusive of wine, beer, and spirits? £2151 0s. 7d.
2. Ditto wine, beer, and spirits? £114 9s. 4d.
3. Ditto fire and lighting? £594 0s. 11d.
4. Ditto washing and laundry? £127 0s. 10d., (done at H. M. Gaol).
5. Ditto linen and bedding? }
6. Ditto furniture, earthenware, &c.? } £213 8s. 11d.
7. Ditto drugs and dispensary? }
8. Ditto surgical instruments and appliances? } £791 15s. 6d.
9. Ditto water supply? Nil.
10. Ditto printing, stationery? £20 6s. 1d.
11. Ditto funerals? £126 11s. 6d.
12. Ditto repairs, average? £183 9s. 1d.
13. Payments for interest? Nil.
14. Ditto insurance? Nil.
15. Ditto commission? Nil.
16. Other expenses not included in the above? Nil.
17. Total cost of the Hospital per annum? £6524 3s. 10d.
18. Proportionate cost of salaries to each occupied bed? £28 4s. 6d.
19. Ditto provisions ditto? £27 5s. 5½d.
20. Total cost of each occupied bed? £82 14s. 5d.

F.

1. The contract price during the year of bread for the 2 lb. loaf? 2½d.
2. Ditto meat at per lb? 3¼d.

The following is the cost of the Hobart Town General Hospital for the year 1878, arranged under the customary heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	2226	2	4
Allowances	120	0	7
Provisions and medical comforts	2265	9	11
Fuel and light	594	0	11
Medicines and surgical instruments	791	15	6
Clothing, bedding, and stores	213	8	11
Stationery	20	6	1
Funeral expenses	126	11	6
Washing	127	0	10
Repairs to buildings	180	15	1
Repairs to stores	2	14	0
Cleansing, removal of night soil, ashes, &c.	62	5	0
Petty expenses	36	6	9
Advertising	17	12	6
Ambulance	70	0	0
Furniture	10	0	0
Gross expenditure	£6864	9	11
For medicines and appliances supplied to other Establishments (as previously allowed)	137	14	8
Sums received from self-supporting patients and other sources	202	11	5
		340	6 1
Net expenditure	—	£6524	3 10

Instead of the £137 14s. 8d. shown above as a set-off against the gross expense of the Hospital, a further deduction is claimed as due to the Hospital for medicines and medical appliances supplied to other Institutions, as under, the £137 14s. 8d. being totally inadequate to cover the expenses incurred under this head:—

Her Majesty's Gaol, £40; Cascades Male Invalid Dépôt and Hospital for Insane, £40; Brickfields Male Invalid Dépôt, £40; Queen's Asylum and Female Invalid Dépôt, £30; Drugs, &c. supplied by order of the Medical Attendant to Paupers at their own homes, £60; proportion of Dispenser's Salary and Allowances, £40; making a total of £250, which should be deducted from the gross cost of the Hospital, instead of the above-mentioned sum of £137 14s. 8d., which would make the net cost of the Hospital for 1878, £6411 18s. 6d., instead of £6524 3s. 10d., making a reduction of £631 9s. 10d. in favour of 1878 as compared with 1877.

In Appendix A will be found a Nosological Return of all Cases treated in the Hospital during the year 1878.

Owing to the fact that until the 1st of July last the visits of Out-patients were recorded instead of the actual number of persons treated, I am unable to present an accurate record of this branch of the Hospital Service for the first half of 1878; but in Appendix B will be found an accurate Nosological Return of the Cases treated at the Dispensary during the second half of that year: in addition to which 150 cases of accident and emergency were attended to.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. C. SMART, *F.R.C.S.E.*,
Chairman Board of Management, General Hospital, Hobart Town.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Miasmatic Diseases.*

	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Scarlatina	5	1
Diphtheria	27	6
Quinsy	3	
Croup	1	
Whooping-cough	2	
Typhus and Infantile Fever, Typhoid, &c.	20	8
Erysipelas	22	3
Carbuncle, Boil	3	
Influenza, Coryza, Catarrh, &c. .	13	
Dysentery	1	
Diarrhœa	11	1
Ague	1	
Remittent Fever	3	
Rheumatism	68	
Other Zymotic Diseases	7	1
Total Order 1	187	20

ORDER 2.—*Enthetic Diseases.*

Syphilis	23	
Gonorrhœa, Stricture of the Urethra	39	1
Total Order 2	62	1

ORDER 3.—*Dietic Diseases.*

Privation	7	
Purpura and Scurvy	4	
Alcoholism { Delirium Tremens ..	21	
{ Intemperance	43	
Total Order 3	75	

ORDER 4.—*Parasitic Diseases.*

Worms, &c.	3	
Hydatid	3	1
Total Order 4	6	1
TOTAL CLASS I	380	22

II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Diathetic Diseases.*

Gout	8	
Dropsy	1	
Cancer	32	5
Tumor	6	1
Polypus	1	
Mortification	1	1
Others	2	
Total Order 1	51	7

ORDER 2.—*Tubercular Diseases.*

Scrofula	15	4
Phthisis	42	11
Hæmoptysis	1	
Others	27	1
Total Order 2	85	16
TOTAL CLASS II	136	23

III.—LOCAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Diseases of the Nervous System.*

Cephalitis	3	
Apoplexy	5	5
Paralysis	23	2
Insanity	26	
Chorea	1	
Epilepsy	18	
Brain Disease, &c.	12	
Total Order 1	88	7

ORDER 2.—*Diseases of the Organs of Circulation.*

	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Pericarditis	1	
Aneurism	2	
Heart Disease, &c.	20	7
Total Order 2	23	7

ORDER 3.—*Diseases of the Respiratory System.*

Bronchitis	20	2
Pleurisy	6	1
Pneumonia	30	13
Congestion of Lungs, Pulmonary		
Apoplexy	7	1
Asthma	11	
Total Order 3	74	17

ORDER 4.—*Diseases of the Digestive Organs.*

Gastritis	3	1
Enteritis	5	
Peritonitis	2	2
Ascites	2	
Hernia	5	
Ileus	5	
Fistula	1	
Stomach Disease, &c.	18	2
Hepatitis	4	
Jaundice, Gallstone, &c.	2	
Liver Disease, &c.	1	
Total Order 4	48	5

ORDER 5.—*Diseases of the Urinary Organs.*

Nephritis	1	
Ischuria	2	
Nephria	15	12
Kidney Disease, &c.	8	4
Total Order 5	26	16

ORDER 6.—*Diseases of the Organs of Generation.*

Uterus Disease, &c. 24

ORDER 7.—*Diseases of the Locomotive System.*

Arthritis	5	
Ostitis, Periostitis, &c.	7	
Joint Disease, &c.	26	1
Total Order 7	38	1

ORDER 8.—*Diseases of the Integumentary System.*

Phlegmon, Whitlow, &c.	11	1
Ulcer	38	
Skin Disease, &c.	46	
Total Order 8	95	1

TOTAL CLASS III 416 54

IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Developmental Diseases of Children.*

Other Malformations	5	
Teething	1	
Total Order 1	6	

ORDER 2.—*Developmental Diseases of Adults.*

Paramenia	16	
Childbirth	7	
Total Order 2	23	

ORDER 3.—*Developmental Diseases of Old People.*

Old Age	10	1
---------------	----	---

ORDER 4.—*Diseases of Nutrition.*

Atrophy and Debility	15	
TOTAL CLASS IV	54	1

V.—VIOLENCE.

ORDER 1.—*Accident or Negligence.*

	Cases.	Deaths.
Fractures, Contusions, &c.	122	4
Wounds { Gunshot	5	
{ Cuts, &c.	37	1
Burns and Scalds	12	
Bite of a Snake or Insect	1	
Drowning	2	
Other or unspecified Accidents....	1	
Total Order 1	180	5

ORDER 4.—*Suicide.*

	Cases.	Deaths.
Wounds { Gunshot	1	
{ Cut, Stab, &c.....	1	
Poison	3	
Total Order 4	5	
TOTAL CLASS V.....	185	5
Specified Causes	1121	105
Causes not specified	9	
All Causes	1130	105

APPENDIX B.

I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Miasmatic Diseases.*

Chicken-pox, &c.....	5
Scarlatina	2
Diphtheria	14
Quinsy, including ordinary sore throat	22
Croup	3
Whooping-cough	4
Erysipelas	1
Carbuncle, Boil	3
Influenza, Coryza, Catarrh, &c.....	54
Dysentery	2
Diarrhoea	9
Rheumatism, Lumbago included.....	29

ORDER 2.—*Enthetic Diseases.*

Syphilis	19
Gonorrhœa, Stricture of the Urethra	22
Others.....	4

ORDER 3.—*Dietic Diseases.*

Want of Breast-milk	1
Purpura and Scurvy	1
Alcoholism—Delirium Tremens	1
Others	1

ORDER 4.—*Parasitic Diseases.*

Thrush	1
Worm, &c.....	42
Hydatid	1
Others, including Pediculi itch	23

II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Diathetic Diseases.*

Gout.....	5
Dropsy	7
Cancer	4
Tumor	14
Others, including Lupus Anæmia	13

ORDER 2.—*Tubercular Diseases.*

Scrofula	12
Phthisis	10
Hæmoptysis	3

III.—LOCAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Diseases of the Nervous System.*

Cephalitis.....	3
Paralysis	11
Chorea	1
Epilepsy	6
Convulsions	2
Brain Disease, &c., including Neuralgia, Teeth, &c.....	27

ORDER 2.—*Diseases of the Organs of Circulation.*

Heart Disease, &c.	5
-------------------------	---

ORDER 3.—*Diseases of the Respiratory System.*

Bronchitis	9
Pleurisy	7
Pneumonia	5
Asthma	16
Lung Disease, &c.	2

ORDER 4.—*Diseases of the Digestive Organs.*

Hernia	5
Fistula	1
Constipation	13
Dyspepsia	53
Hæmorrhoids	30
Obstruction of the Bowels	87
Others	7
Colic	10
Hepatitis	3

ORDER 5.—*Diseases of the Urinary Organs.*

Stone, Gravel	4
Cystitis.....	3
Kidney Disease, &c.	1

ORDER 6.—*Diseases of the Organs of Generation.*

Uterus Disease, &c.	7
--------------------------	---

ORDER 7.—*Diseases of the Locomotive System.*

Arthritis	5
Ostitis, Periostitis, &c.....	7

ORDER 8.—*Diseases of the Integumentary System.*

Phlegmon, Whitlow, &c.....	13
Ulcer	23
Skin Disease, &c.	34

IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Developmental Diseases of Children.*

Teething	19
Others	1

ORDER 2.—*Developmental Diseases of Adults.*

Paramenia	22
Others, including Chlorosis	3

ORDER 3.—*Developmental Diseases of Old People.*

Old Age	1
---------------	---

ORDER 4.—*Diseases of Nutrition.*

Atrophy and Debility	36
----------------------------	----

V.—VIOLENCE.

ORDER 1.—*Accident or Negligence.*

Fractures, Contusions, &c.....	23
Wounds—Cuts, &c.	11
Burns and Scalds	5
Bite of a Snake or Insect	1
Other or unspecified Accidents, Amputations.	22