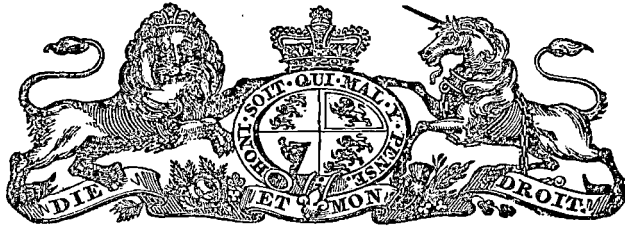


(No. 29.)



1864.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

V A C C I N A T I O N .

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT FOR QUARTER TO
MARCH 31, 1864.

Laid on the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 13, 1864.



REPORT on VACCINATIONS for the Quarter ended 31st March, 1864.

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honor to lay before you tabulated "Abstracts of the Returns of Public and Private Vaccinations in all Tasmania, for the first quarter of 1864."

The total number of individuals operated upon during this quarter is 3237, which, with the 2829 returned for the last two months of 1863, makes altogether 6066 in the five months which have elapsed since the Government made provision for public gratuitous Vaccination for all who chose to avail themselves of the advantage.

One remarkable fact, however, is patent by the details in the Returns; viz. that the greater part of the Vaccinations have been of those whose parents had long neglected to have the operation performed, notwithstanding the requirements of "The Vaccination Act."

In the last six months of 1863 there were registered 1511 births; yet the children under six months old vaccinated in the five months ended 31st March, 1864, were less than one-third of that number, *i e.*, 483. Thus, (notwithstanding the facilities offered throughout the Colony for compliance with that provision of "The Vaccination Act," which requires, under penalty—"that every child shall be vaccinated before attaining the age of six months,") more than two-thirds of the children registered have not been submitted to the operation.

Moreover, this neglect of so important a duty can scarcely have arisen from ignorance of the law; for the Clauses of "The Vaccination Act" alluded to were published in the *Gazette* after the Small-pox alarm arose in June, 1863; hand-bills were posted at all the Police Stations and other public places; and, since the commencement of 1864, the "Registrars of Births, Deaths, and Marriages" throughout the Colony have presented to every person registering a birth a printed official notice of the Clauses 1, 2, 5, 6 of "The Vaccination Act," which the Police of the Colony were instructed to see rigidly enforced.

From my own observations, and communications made to me by Public Vaccinators, it is evident that the public are under the impression that there is no intention of enforcing this law, as no prosecution has ever, so far, been instituted for that object.

In the "Fifth (and last) Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council" presented to the Imperial Parliament, and printed 14th April, 1863, Dr. Simon remarks on the Reports of the Inspectors appointed to visit the Vaccination Districts of England and Wales:—

"They complete, for more than half of England and Wales, an elaborate picture of the working of a system which the Legislature has designed to be the national protection against Small-pox. And from the picture thus given, together with much other information which is before their Lordships, the conclusion cannot but be drawn, that the intentions of the Legislature in this respect are but very imperfectly fulfilled,—that the public defences against Small-pox are in great part insufficient and delusive. * * * In the statutes which during the last 23 years have been enacted with a view to the extermination of Small-pox in this Country, the immediate intentions of the Legislature have been as follows:—

"First. That thoroughly good Vaccination, provided at the public expense, under proper and well-notified arrangements, should everywhere and gratis be within the reach of persons who may choose to avail themselves of it.

"Second. But of course subject to the above, that it should be obligatory on parents to have their children vaccinated, health permitting, within three calendar months from birth,—not necessarily by the Public Vaccinator, but if not by him, then by some other Medical Practitioner whom the parent may select (and must himself pay) for the purpose.

“Third. As machinery for enforcing this obligation—that the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of the obligation should be ascertained by reference to local registers kept by the respective Registrars of births and deaths,—whom also the law requires to notify to parents the obligation which it has imposed on them; that penalties for non-fulfilment of the obligation should be recoverable by summary proceedings from parents, who, after notice, are in default; and that especially Boards of Guardians in their respective Unions and Parishes should systematically cause such proceedings to be taken.”

“With regard to the non-accomplishment of these intentions of the Legislature,—it is true, that, owing to the utter and universal failure of the intended register of Vaccination, the failure of the other parts of the system cannot be quite accurately measured.”

From the several Reports of the Vaccination Inspectors I gather, that, wherever the local authority has enforced the provisions of “The Vaccination Acts” by prosecuting some delinquents, the effect has been most beneficial, and the children have been brought forward so punctually afterwards, that registered Births and registered Vaccinations have borne such a relation to each other, that many Unions had not, when visited by the Inspectors, a single unvaccinated child in them above the legal age of three months

In Tasmania, fortunately, the enforcement of “The Vaccination Act” does not depend upon local authorities who are not subject to the Executive Government; and I am satisfied when once the public of Tasmania has learnt that “The Vaccination Act” is not to remain a dead letter, the Vaccination of children under six months old will keep pace with the Births, and weekly Vaccinations with selected lymph from arm to arm be regularly maintained, at least in Launceston and Hobart Town, and thus few or no subjects liable to Small-pox exist in the Island.

That the compulsory law for the early Vaccination of children is neither unnecessary or obligatory on the lower classes only, nor likely to be injurious at so tender an age, the colonists may be assured from the example set in the highest quarter in England. The Prince of Wales’s son was vaccinated on the 17th March, being then little more than two months old. Every parent in this Island would evince true solicitude for the welfare of their children by loyally following such a notable precedent.

I sincerely hope that the necessity may be averted for the Tasmanian Legislature ever being required to enact any law on this subject of such a severe character as to make it penal for schoolmasters or school-mistresses to take pupils, and families to hire domestics, if unvaccinated; yet such a law was passed last year by the Imperial Parliament for Scotland. It has long since been proved that, even in the best educated communities, general Vaccination cannot be left to the voluntary efforts of parents. Every European State has been compelled to enact compulsory laws of a more or less stringent character to protect the people from the fearful and destructive ravages of Small-pox.

In the Hobart Town District, so far, from the commencement of the system of public gratuitous Vaccination, I have been enabled to keep up a considerable number of weekly Vaccinations. Thus, I have been provided with cases enough from which I could select lymph of unexceptionable quality for further propagation. The requisitions upon me for supplies of lymph, both from public Vaccinators and private Medical Practitioners in all parts of the Colony, have been numerous, and promptly complied with, and I have many reports of its satisfactory quality; in fact, I have perfect confidence in the pure and efficient quality of the lymph I have used and circulated: nevertheless, to meet plausible objections sometimes raised, I have sought to obtain a supply from England as recently from the cow as possible. I have, therefore, solicited from Mr. Robert Ceely, of Aylesbury, (admitted by the highest testimony to be the most reliable authority on this subject, since Jenner,) a supply of such lymph, and I doubt not my application will meet with a cordial response before I pen the next Quarter’s Report.

On the 22nd January last I received an intimation from the “Public Vaccinator” at Table Cape that three cases of Small-pox, of a mild character, and in children previously vaccinated, existed in his very remote District. Dr. Miller, of Launceston, was promptly despatched by the Executive Government to investigate the cases, and I obtained from Dr. Wilson a detailed history of the cases, in reply to a series of queries I put to him. From Dr. Miller’s Report, and the communication made to me, all alarm on the subject was set at rest, the cases evidently only having been the disease of Chicken-pox, which often closely simulates the more serious malady of Small-pox.

E. SWARBRECK HALL,

Superintendent of Vaccinations.

*To the Honorable JAMES WHYTE, Esq., M.L.C.,
Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.*

ABSTRACT of the Returns of PRIVATE VACCINATIONS in TASMANIA, for the Quarter ended 31st March, 1864.

Place.	Name of Medical Practitioner.	Number of Cases operated upon within this Period, specifying the Proportions under and over Six Months.			Number of the foregoing seen on the Eighth Day after Vaccination.	Number where the Results were in every respect successful.	Remarks.
		Under Six Months old.	Over Six Months old.	TOTAL.			
Hobarton	Hall, E. Swarbreck....			Nil.			
Launceston							
Green Ponds	Pocock, Z. P.	—	6	6	5	5	
Ditto	Hope, J. S.	—	21	21	11	Nil.	
Sorell.....	Westbrook, S.	2	—	2	2	2	
Longford.....	Wigan, E. A.	5	—	5	4	5	
Westbury	M'Creery, W. M.			Nil.			
Oatlands	Teush, F. E.	—	2	2	2	2	
Deloraine	Rock, Dennis	—	3	3	2	2	
Glamorgan.....	M'Carthy, E. C.	3	3	6	6	4	One of the unsuccessful has been vaccinated for the fifth time.
Tasman's Peninsula	Seccombe, W.	1	22	23	23	17	Five failed, all in one family, promising up to sixth day. The sixth case doubtful.
Spring Bay	Edwards, J.			Nil.			
Campbell Town.....	Macnamara, J.....	—	3	3	3	3	
Port Sorell, &c.....	Wilkinson, F.	29	63	92	32	32	I hardly ever see any of them again unless the infection does not ensue. I have, consequently, great difficulty in keeping a supply of vaccine lymph; and fresh from the arm is altogether out of the question.
Emu Bay &c.	Wilson, Thomas			Nil.			
New Norfolk.....	Moore, J. A.....			Nil.			
Franklin.....	Dawson, W. L.			Nil.			
Great Swanport.....	Story, G. F.			Nil.			
Bothwell.....	Campbell, W.			Nil.			
Richmond	Coverdale, J.....	1	4	5	4	4	These occurred previous to 31st December, but were not returned in time for the 1863 Abstract. —E.S.H.
Circular Head	Smith, James			Nil.			
	TOTAL.....	41	127	168	94	76	

E. SWARBRECK HALL, *Superintendent of Vaccinations.*

ABSTRACT of the Returns of the PUBLIC VACCINATIONS in

REGISTRATION DISTRICTS.	PUBLIC VACCINATORS.	AGES.		TOTAL VACCINATED.	RESULTS.						FAMILIES			
		At and under Six Months old.	Above Six Months old.		With 4 or more perfect Vesicles.	With 3.	With 2.	With 1.	Did not return.	Unsuccessful.	1 Member in each.	2	3	4
Bothwell.....	Campbell, William	5	160	165	76	60	10	5	..	14	9	9	18	9
Brighton	Pocock, Z. P.	5	90	95	12	15	28	6	22	12	14	10	14	1
Campbell Town....	Macnamara, James	4	56	60	..	..	57	..	3	..	10	12	5	..
Clarence Plains	See Richmond .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deloraine	Rock, Dennis	6	95	101	63	13	6	3	12	4	23	7	11	4
Emu Bay	Wilson, Thomas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Esperance.....	Daldy, H. J.....	4	23	27	24	..	1	..	..	2	7	4	2	..
Fingal.....	Pilgrim, E. W.	3	151	154	104	7	19	..	21	3	36	10	11	6
Franklin.....	Dawson, W. L.	6	144	150	22	44	35	..	49	..	24	13	14	4
George Town.....	Richardson, J. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glamorgan.....	M'Carthy, E. C. ..	15	94	109	..	..	79	8	13	9	22	11	9	4
Gordon	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hamilton	See Bothwell	1	15	16	8	4	..	..	..	4	2	4	2	..
Horton	Smith, James, Circular Head.	..	17	17	..	10	7	..	..	..	7	2	2	..
Kingston.....	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Longford	Wigan, E. A.	30	350	380	..	233	..	..	146	1	78	52	37	11
Morven	<i>Ditto</i> .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Norfolk	Moore, J. A.....	8	85	93	3	4	10	26	21	29	Not specified	..	..	..
Oatlands	Willes, C. N. J....	10	93	103	71	16	9	3	2	2	25	12	7	4
Port Cygnet	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Port Sorell.....	Wilkinson, F.	2	52	54	4	8	..	..	42	..	Not specified	..	..	..
Ralph's Bay	See Richmond .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Richmond.....	Coverdale, J.	11	173	184	89	24	22	17	30	2	27	21	17	9
Sorell	Westbrook, J.	8	91	99	47	28	22	2	..	..	27	14	8	..
Spring Bay	Edwards, J.	6	21	27	7	9	4	..	..	7	8	2	..	1
Tasman's Peninsula	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Victoria	<i>None.</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury	M'Creery, William	7	114	121	71	15	8	..	27	..	28	21	7	6
Hobarton	Hall, E. Swarbreck	15	177	192	130	17	11	6	24	4	33	24	15	6
Launceston.....	Maddox, George ..	38	884	922	10	635	42	9	224	2	Not specified	..	..	..
		184	2885	3069	741	1142	370	85	636	95				

TASMANIA from the 1st January to 31st March, 1864.

WITH...					TOTAL POPULATION BY CENSUS APRIL, 1861.	BIRTHS REGISTERED.		REMARKS.
5	6	7	10	Total Families.		In all 1863.	Last Six Months of 1863.	
6	3	..	..	54	2794 including Hamilton.	43	20	Of the 14 "unsuccessful," 8 had "vesicles imperfect in character," 2 "re-vaccinations," 2 "not yet known," 2 "vesicles prematurely matured."
3	..	..	..	42	2808	82	41	Of the 19 "unsuccessful," 6 had "small imperfect vesicles," 4 were cases re-vaccinated," 2 "vaccinated in infancy without result."
1	1	..	..	19	2549	83	42	
..	..	..	..	..	1552	34	21	
3	..	..	..	48	3114	133	64	
..	..	..	..	..	5416 Devon.	32	21	
..	1	..	..	14	See Franklin.	37	21	
3	2	2	..	70	1956	60	26	The majority of the cases have been most successful, and the character of the vesicles most satisfactory. The 21 cases "Did not return" lived a long distance off.
3	..	1	..	69	2579 including Esperance	90	48	
..	..	..	..	..	1350	20	12	
2	2	..	..	50	1168	45	27	The reason why so many as 13 cases "Did not return" is the number of rivers in the District, and the prevalence of floods this year. Private enquiry gives me reason to suppose that 11 out of the 13 cases were successful.
..	..	..	..	..	See Kingborough	32	15	
..	..	..	..	8	See Bothwell	47	38	Of the 4 "unsuccessful" 2 were "re-vaccinations," 2 "results not known."
..	..	..	..	11	See Devon	51	21	
..	..	..	..	..	3454 Kingborough	36	22	
5	3	..	..	186	5359 Ringwood & Norfolk Plns.	166	85	The "unsuccessful" case was twice operated upon. The mode of vaccination is by Spratt's instrument, or by scarification in three patches; from the length of the incision four or more vesicles might be reported.
..	..	..	..	..	2638	63	36	
..	..	..	..	47	2690	65	34	The weather, and the use of vaccine virus imported from London in tubes, has been the cause of so many failures. Two children, since November last, were vaccinated five times, and still remain unaffected.
2	..	1	..	27	2333	85	50	The 2 "unsuccessful" were subsequently re-vaccinated with success from lymph obtained from the Superintendent of Vaccinations.
..	..	..	..	..	See Kingborough	38	16	
..	..	..	..	..	See Devon	161	93	Of the 42 "Did not return" it is to be observed the excuse is the great distance, and the father will not let them leave home. There is an amount of vaccination done by ignorant persons, women and men too, who, for a small consideration a head, have undertaken to vaccinate numbers; and it is a common thing for parents to apply to me to vaccinate one child, promising me to return, but they have simply vaccinated all their children from the infection of the one; so that I have no means of ascertaining the result, if any.
..	..	..	..	..	See Clarence	14	8	
2	3	..	..	79	1608	49	20	The Vaccinations include Clarence and Ralph's Bay.
2	..	..	1	52	4111 Sorell, Spring Bay, Tasman's Penin.	63	45	
1	1	..	..	13	See Sorell	35	17	The 7 "unsuccessful" were not perfect, having arrived at maturity on the 5th day.
..	..	..	..	..	Ditto	15	9	
..	..	..	..	..	See Kingborough	21	9	
1	1	..	..	63	4585	127	58	
6	2	..	..	86	24,773 Hobart, City, Glenorchy, Queenboro.	820	394	
..	..	..	..	..	13,140 Launceston and Selby	451	198	
					89,977	2998	1511	

E. SWARBRECK HALL, Superintendent of Vaccinations.