

(No. 11.)



1883.

SESSION II.

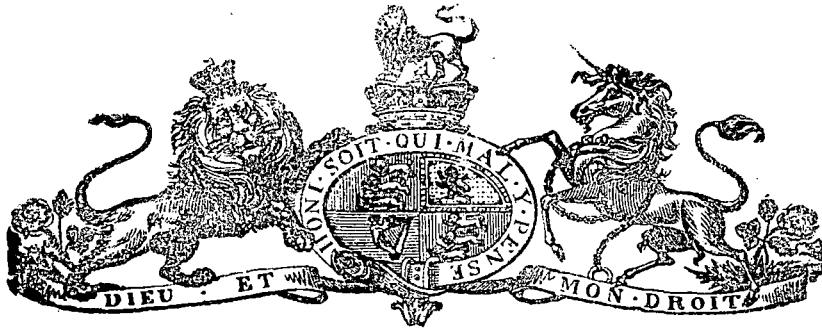
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK:

CORRESPONDENCE, AND OTHER PAPERS.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, December 18, and ordered by the Council to
to be printed, December 19, 1883.



HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DR. GRAY'S APPLICATION.

TELEGRAM.

6th November, 1883.

I INTRODUCED Dr. Gray to Dr. Butler this morning, who approved of his appointment as Assistant Medical Officer. The Government will also confirm the same should the Commissioners nominate him.

Dr. Gray will leave for New Norfolk to-morrow morning.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

DR. MACFARLANE, *New Norfolk Asylum.*

TELEGRAM.

Your telegram received.

6th November, 1883.

Dr. Gray may become a candidate, I hope; so tell the Commissioners, and don't advertise. Dr. Gray will come up and see you. Reply.

(Signed) H. BUTLER, *M.H.A., President.*

DR. MACFARLANE, *New Norfolk Asylum.*

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 10th November, 1883.

SIR,

I AM instructed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 6th inst., as to the appointment of Dr. Gray as Assistant Medical Superintendent and Dispenser at this establishment, and to inform you that this gentleman attended here on the 7th inst.; but as he is unable to enter upon the duties of the office until the 26th inst., the Commissioners have deemed it expedient to endeavour to fill up the vacancy earlier, and they have therefore addressed a letter to Dr. Gray, of which I enclose a copy.

I am, &c.

HENRY BUTLER,

President of Commissioners of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.

The Honorable WM. MOORE, Chief Secretary, Hobart.

[Copy above referred to.]

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 10th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE acquainted the Commissioners, at their special meeting to-day, of your interview with me on Wednesday last, and I am instructed by them to express their regret that you are not in a position to undertake the duties of Assistant Medical Officer and Dispenser until so late as Monday, the 26th

November; in the meantime, however, the Commissioners will invite applications for this appointment by advertisement, though they will be prepared to entertain a written application from you, with your Certificate of Registration in Tasmania, and your testimonials, on or before the 20th November.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. MACFARLANE, *M.B., Secretary.*

DR. F. GRAY, *Hobart.*

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 13th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., received on the 12th, enclosing copy of a communication addressed to Dr. Gray by the Secretary to the Commissioners.

You inform me that because Dr. Gray would be unable to enter upon his duties until the 26th inst., the Commissioners deem it expedient to endeavour to fill up the vacancy earlier; but in the letter to Dr. Gray they inform him that they will be prepared to receive a written application from him on or before the 20th, thus precluding the possibility of filling up the vacancy before the 22nd at the earliest, or four days before Dr. Gray could have commenced his duties.

I cannot help expressing my surprise and regret that, after the interview I had with you in company with Dr. Gray, and after your telegram to the Commissioners of the 6th,—the day of their meeting,—after also my telegram to the Superintendent and Medical Officer informing him that you approved of Dr. Gray's appointment, and that the Government were prepared to approve should he be nominated by the Commissioners, they should have decided to advertise for candidates, under the plea of obtaining a successor to Dr. Florance at an earlier date.

Dr. Gray visited New Norfolk on the 7th, the day after the meeting of the Commissioners, and postponed his departure from the Colony for that purpose, being under the impression—an impression not without strong foundation—that the appointment would be conferred upon him.

If, at their meeting on the 6th, the Commissioners had arrived at the conclusion that the better course was to advertise, it surely would not have been too much to expect that Dr. Gray should have been so informed when he visited New Norfolk on the 7th.

By deferring their communication to the 10th, it is highly probable the contents will never come to his knowledge, as Dr. Gray had left the colony.

Passing over the reception given by the Commissioners to both my telegram and your own, I am bound to express my regret that the Commissioners should have evinced such an apparent want of courtesy to a stranger just arrived from England, possessing high professional qualifications, and I hardly think it probable that under the circumstances, Dr. Gray, even if the letter referred to should reach him, will seek an appointment under that body.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The President of the Commissioners of the Hospital
for Insane, New Norfolk.*

JOHN RIDGE'S CASE.

1, Albert Terrace, 30th August, 1883.

SIR,

I HEREWITH enclose a letter received by me from a person named John Ridge, at present confined in the Asylum for the Insane at New Norfolk. If in this case reason has been restored, and the distressing malady of which he has been the subject has passed away, it becomes the duty of the Government, upon a complaint of the nature indicated, to promptly take such steps as will lead either to the *immediate release* of Ridge or the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry (apart from the Superintendent and Commissioners of that Establishment) in order to determine the sanity or otherwise of the person in question. As arrangements at present exist, there is not, as in England, any outside tribunal or official to whom appeal can be made, nor, in my opinion, is that protection afforded to those recovering from mental aberration which not only the civil law accords, but humanity demands.

I have, &c.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 27th August, 1883.

SIR,

I, a sane and law-abiding British subject, am detained against my will in this Institution; and having repeatedly applied to Drs. Macfarlane and Florance, and General and Special Commissioners in vain, am now constrained to apply to you as a Legislator, and perchance a Justice of the Peace, for your endeavours in my behalf that I may obtain release from durance vile, obscene, and humiliating, that I may return to my anxious wife and children at Table Cape, N.W. Coast.

I have the honor to be,
Yours respectfully,

To the Honorable — CROWTHER, Hobart.

JOHN RIDGE, B.D.

RECEIVED 29th August, 1883.—W.L.C.

FORWARDED to the President of the Commissioners of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, with the request that he will report as to the mental condition of John Ridge.

The Honorable HENRY BUTLER,

President of the Commissioners Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.

WM. MOORE.
31st August, 1883.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 4th September, 1883.

DEAR SIR,

I ENCLOSE my Report on the case of John Ridge, as requested by you.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,

The Honorable DR. BUTLER, Hobart.

W. H. MACFARLANE.

Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, 4th September, 1883.

REPORT on the case of John Ridge, a Patient in this Institution.

JOHN RIDGE was admitted here on May 4th, 1882, from Emu Bay, on a Justice's order signed by A. H. Boyd and J. Patterson, Esquires, with a medical certificate signed by Dr. Wilson. The Justice's order states that John Ridge is 43 years of age, a farmer, married, that he has had a previous attack of insanity when his first wife died, he being then 39 years of age, also that this present attack has existed for twelve months, and that his sister is now a patient in the New Norfolk Asylum. In the medical certificate Dr. Wilson states,—“that John Ridge is very excitable when spoken to; believes that all women are bleeding to death; asked me to give him his six-barrelled revolver and he would soon settle all the people; spoke very much of his first wife; appeared to be very jealous of his present wife and Mr. James Dean, of Boat Harbour, and that if he had his liberty he would shoot Dean; speaks incoherently upon religion, and states that he is going to Christ.

“Sub-Inspector Colhoun informed Dr. Wilson that when he visited John Ridge's premises at the Flowerdale, and before arrest, he was running about with a six-barrelled revolver, stating that he had traced James Dean round his house, and that Dean wanted to ravish his wife. Ridge went into the bush and believed he was pursuing Dean, and fired five shots at the imaginary Dean. He afterwards attempted to physic all the cats on the premises with sweet spirits of nitre, and attempted to fire the revolver into the spout of the kettle. His conduct frightened the inhabitants, and Sub-Inspector Colhoun took a large clasp knife from him which he held opened.

“Frederick S. Dinney, gaoler at Emu Bay, told Dr. Wilson that when he opened the cell door, John Ridge climbed on the top of the door and said he was Jesus Christ, and he was going to his Father. He believed he was in New Jerusalem, and that he was Jesus Christ. Wants to see His Excellency the Governor to get justice, and believes His Excellency will give him one thousand pounds for being illegally detained.”

At first when admitted he was considered to be a very dangerous patient, and a very cunning one. Various articles have been taken from him, some of which—as pieces of hoop iron—he had endeavoured to convert into weapons. About six months ago he was in the habit of collecting all kinds of rubbish, and about that time stated that there was poison in his bread. On October 24th, 1882, he escaped over the back wall, but was recaptured about ten minutes afterwards. For the last four months his mental condition has been improving.

He has always been readily excited, writing and speaking on various subjects, and changing from one to another very abruptly,—as from a religious topic to an immoral one.

His present condition.—His manner is eccentric, he being easily excited in conversation, and passing rapidly from one subject to another, his voice and gestures also rapidly changing. He is very fond of conversing about religious subjects, is self opinative and fond of approbation, and in his letters these idiosyncrasies are clearly shown.

He works fairly, and is always willing to assist the wardsmen.

In questioning him upon his delusions, he stated that he still believes that he has been wronged, and that he will have justice some day. He also stated that he traced a man's footsteps from his own house to this man's hut, and that this man came to his house at midnight. Ridge stated that he had suspicions of him, as he (Ridge) has a good looking wife.

He further stated that the Rev. Palfryman had a "down" on him, as had also the police. His sister is at present an inmate of this Institution, showing that the predisposition to insanity exists in his family. It is to be remarked that this is the second attack of insanity from which he has suffered. From these facts,—that his manner is eccentric, that he is easily excited and very emotional, and that he still entertains some of his delusions,—I am of opinion that complete mental recovery has not taken place.

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

The Honorable Dr. BUTLER, President of the Commissioners.

THE Report transmitted to the Honorable the Chief Secretary for his information.

HENRY BUTLER, *President.*
7th September, 1883.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 11th September, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, enclosing a communication from a patient in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, named John Ridge, who states that he is sane, and seeks to be released.

Your letter having been referred to the President of the Commissioners, with the request that he would report as to the mental condition of the writer, I have the honor to enclose a copy of the Report (4th September, 1883) furnished by the Superintendent and Medical Officer to the Hon. Henry Butler, and by him transmitted for my information.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The Honorable W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C., No. 1, Albert Terrace,
Macquarie-street.*

1, Albert Terrace, 13th September, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, in reply to mine of the 3rd August, and referred by you to the President of the Commissioners for the Hospital for the Insane, covering also a Report from the Medical Superintendent upon the case of John Ridge to that gentleman.

The Report in question is simply a history of Ridge's case, in which is detailed at length the circumstances upon which a declaration of unsoundness of mind was based, at a period of time *some sixteen months since*, and upon which very properly he was then committed for safe keeping to the Asylum at New Norfolk. I find in the Report the following:—"For the last *four months* his mental condition has been improving."....."He works fairly, and is willing to assist the wardsmen."....."In questioning him upon his delusions, he stated that he still believes that he has been wronged, and that he will have justice some day."....."He is very fond of conversing about religious subjects; is self-opiniative and fond of approbation.".....And the Report concludes, "that his manner is eccentric, that he is easily excited and very emotional, and that he still entertains some of his delusions."

As a Medical Practitioner, conversant with the various forms of insanity ordinarily met with, I will put this question—Would the facts recorded above, professing to be "*the present condition*" of Ridge, be such as would warrant his committal to an Insane Asylum? and if not, are they sufficient to justify his detention at the present moment? The case of Ridge opens

up a most important question, one in which the liberty of the subject is so largely involved, that I am constrained to renew the demand made in my note of the 30th August, that you will cause to be appointed a Commission (*vide* 22 Vict. No. 23, Sect. 39) apart from the Superintendent and Commissioners, in order to determine the sanity or otherwise of Ridge; and, as in Great Britain, the appointment of an Inspector of Hospitals for the insane,—one thoroughly conversant with the duties appertaining to the office, familiar with insanity in all the varied forms in which it presents itself, and who, by periodical examinations of those progressing towards recovery, will, when applied to by friends or patients, be able to speak with certainty as to recovery, and the necessity that exists, or otherwise, for further detention.

The civilization of the age and humanity demand the appointment of an Inspector, armed by law to make such examinations, and at such times, as he may deem fit, as to the condition of convalescents; and that an end will be put, once and for ever, to a state of things which places in the hands of two or more Commissioners, responsible to no authority, the lives and liberties of their fellow men—men whose voices have no means of making themselves heard beyond the walls of the Asylum in which they are incarcerated, and upon whom the most grievous wrong may be perpetrated without hope of remedy. Upon reference to the Section of the Act to which I have drawn your attention, you will perceive, to attain the object in view, were a private individual or friend to move in the matter the process would be costly and eminently unsatisfactory, having evidently been framed more with the intent to take charge of and protect the property than the person of the insane.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

1, Albert Terrace, 10th October, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE to draw your attention to my letter of the 13th September last, having reference to the case of "John Ridge," a patient *illegally detained* at the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk, and upon whom, according to the evidence of Dr. Macfarlane taken before the Select Committee, *no Commission has sat* at any time during the 16 months that he had been in the Institution in order to test his sanity. My son, Dr. E. L. Crowther, accompanied the Committee on its visit to the Asylum on the 1st October instant, and Ridge having been subjected, both by my son and self, as well as by the non-professional Members of the Committee, to the most rigid examination, no other conclusion can be arrived at than that this man, with a number of others whose cases the Committee have gone fully into, has been most improperly detained and separated from his wife and family.

With these facts formally brought under your notice, I shall feel obliged by your informing me, at the earliest possible date, what steps the Governor in Council will take in order to ensure Ridge's liberation, as well as that of others whose cases are now matter of record in the Evidence taken before the Select Committee, the Progress Report of which Committee will, in the course of a few days, be in the hands of the Government.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

1, Albert Terrace, 23rd November, 1883.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

I HAVE again to bring under your notice the illegal and continued detention of John Ridge, a patient confined in the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk, and of whose sanity there can be no doubt.

I am informed by Mrs. Ridge that she received a letter from the Superintendent, Dr. Macfarlane, dated the 14th instant, in which was conveyed the intimation that the Commissioners will discharge Ridge to her care upon the undertaking in writing that he shall be properly taken care of, and shall be prevented from doing injury to himself or others.

Upon reference to the 22nd Vict. No. 23, section 22, I find "the Commissioners may discharge an *insane person* on the undertaking of a friend or relative, in writing, that such *insane person* shall be properly taken care of, and shall be prevented from doing injury to himself or others;" but the Act is silent as to the discharge of persons *not insane*, and to whom the conditions set forth in section 22 cannot in the remotest degree apply, the person restored to mental health no longer requiring supervision nor control of any kind; and for either Medical Officer or Commissioners to require, as it were, or make the release of a man in Ridge's condition contingent upon any act to be performed, either

by the patient, friends, or relatives, must be absolutely *ultra vires*. Ridge has been recently before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council as a witness, such Committee having recommended his discharge.

The attempt of the Medical Officer or Commissioners to make Ridge's release the subject of any conditions is entirely out of place, and in order to demonstrate its absurdity I will draw your attention to the fact that when before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the 4th October last, Dr. M'Farlane was asked the following question :—"Is there anything recorded in the Case Book from 24th January, 1883, that would lead you to believe that Ridge was dangerous to society or himself?" "*No, there is not.*" In addition to which it may be noted that Ridge, after having been subjected to the most searching examination, both by Dr. E. L. Crowther and myself, on the 1st, and subsequently by me on the 18th October last, when before the Committee, was found to be of perfectly sound mind.

The Select Committee had before it on Tuesday, the 20th instant, Daniel Harvey and James Milner, both having been in the Asylum for a period of nearly *seven years*, the former having acted (and still acts) as carpenter and blacksmith for the greater part of that time, and has only been the subject of a single delusion, and that of the most harmless character. The other, employed in the capacity of assistant wardman, and excepting when first admitted, has not had a delusion of any important kind. The latter has a wife, family, and friends; one of whom, a Mr. West, having applied to me on his behalf.

Another patient, George Browne, was before the Committee during the present month. He has been *sixteen years* in the Asylum, working daily as a carpenter (and still works), during the greater part of which time (and that, too, against a Standing Order of the Institution) without a Warder or Keeper over him. He is a well-conducted man, and has only a single delusion of the most harmless nature.

These men, with others, have been examined by Dr. E. L. Crowther and myself; and as it would not be in the province of any Bench of Magistrates to commit them to an Asylum upon the single delusion of which they have been the subject, it is self-evident that their detention must be *illegal*.

There are at the present moment in the Asylum known to the Committee as fit to be discharged, the following persons :—John Ridge, D. Harvey, James Milner, Geo. Browne, Alex. Robinson, James Cameron, H. Millington, Ridley, James Curling, James Simpson, and also *several females*, whose mental condition is precisely analogous to that of Ridge, Harvey, Milner, and Browne.

In all the cases brought under the notice of the Committee, whether male or female, no Commission has sat upon them, nor any attempt been made, either by the Medical Officer or the Commissioners, to restore them to society.

They have on various occasions, as will be seen upon reference to the evidence taken before the Select Committee, asked for their discharge, in some cases frequently, during their detention, and always been put off with some paltry excuse such as "when you are better," and, as in Harvey's case, "when the pallisading (at the Medical Officer's private house) was finished,"—thus making the restoration to mental health, in this poor man's case, dependent upon the execution of a piece of work performed for his, the Superintendent's, benefit.

The answer in Ridge's case was, "when Ridley is better," "judging," as Ridge in his evidence stated, "his case by another man's."

As the Act 22 Victoria, No. 23 is defective, and enables those to whose custody and control the Asylum and its unfortunate inmates have been entrusted to perpetrate, without let or hindrance, the grossest acts of injustice and inhumanity, as evidenced by the cases herein detailed, Parliament upon its re-assembling must be applied to in order to at once remove from its present position an Institution that has for years signally failed in its objects,—viz., the restoration to reason, and the return to society, of those mentally afflicted; and that immediate steps will be taken to bring the Institution and its inmates under easy supervision, as far as the public is concerned, and such a recasting of the *loute ensemble* of the whole establishment as will make ignorance in every department the exception, not the rule, as at present; and, fortified by the facts detailed in the evidence taken before the Select Committee, when laid before Parliament, every Member will demand from those in authority the alteration of a system against which both decency and humanity alike revolt.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

P.S.—I omitted to note that of the names of *sane* persons on the Committee's list on the 27th September, Vassis, the Greek, and Sargent were discharged on the 29th September. Nickols, Wilkie, and others subsequently. All *pronounced sane*.

FORWARDED for the observations of the Commissioners.

The Hon. HENRY BUTLER, *President of Commissioners*
Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.

WM. MOORE.
29th Nov. '83.

I FORWARD a Resolution of the Commissioners, in which I fully concur, and a report on each of the cases referred to by Dr. Crowther.

HENRY BUTLER, *President.*
17th Dec. 1883.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Commissioners at a Special Meeting held at the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, December 15th, 1883.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Commissioners having considered the annexed Reports of the Medical Superintendent on each of the cases of male patients named by Dr. Crowther, and from their own observations are satisfied of the accuracy thereof, and that there is not one patient who should be discharged.

As no names of the female patients referred to are given, the Commissioners can only reply generally that there is not a single patient on the female side fit for discharge.

They feel constrained to adopt the opinion of the official Medical Superintendent in preference to that of Dr. Crowther, even although it is endorsed by his son, Dr. E. L. Crowther.

The Commissioners prefer to leave any question as to altering the law to those whose province it may be; but submit that the 22 Vict. No. 23 appears to them ample for the purposes of the insane, whilst whatever further laws are necessary for the sane do not specially concern them.

A true copy.

W. H. MACFARLANE, *Secretary.*

JOHN RIDGE, *was admitted on May 4th, 1882.*

The Medical Certificate states, *inter alia*, that he had made use of firearms, threatening to shoot a man.

Upon one occasion he wrote a letter to his wife asking her to send him the "Prince of Peace" and "Stray Leaves,"—meaning by the former his revolver, and by "Stray Leaves" the cartridges for it. This was some time after he had been admitted into this Institution.

His manner was always eccentric, and he was easily excited. On October 9th he was brought before the Commissioners. He became very excited, and refused to answer the questions put to him.

On November 10th he told me that he had been sent here unjustly, and that if he had had a revolver when he first came here he would soon have got out of the building.

He was fond of conversing upon religious subjects, and had a very exalted opinion about his abilities as a preacher.

His sister is an insane patient in this Institution, and this was the second attack of insanity from which he has suffered.

He was discharged on November 24th to his wife's care, in accordance with Clause 22 of 22nd Victoria, No. 23.

GEORGE BROWN, *Age 52. Admitted 12th January, 1867.*

Admitted from Westbury on a Justice's Order, with a Medical Certificate signed by Dr. M'Creevy, who states—

1st. Facts indicating insanity, observed by myself:—"His manner is wild and vacant, eyes rambling. In passing him a few days since in the street he struck me as being insane. His conversation is irrational and incoherent. He says he is here for the good of glory, and for holiness and goodness."

In the statement of facts communicated by others, Superintendent Mahoney states—

"He was very violent when required to come with him. He stopped; and, pointing to a star, claimed it as a friend, and required time to hold conversation with it."

His wife says—

"She is in constant fear from his violence. He will not work, nor allow her to work to support the family. He said he is the Saviour of the world, and has shed his blood for it, and therefore he must be supported without working."

December 12, 1883.—George Brown has informed me on several occasions that he has seen a man riding on a milk-white ass in the moon. That upon one occasion the verge of the sun struck him on the right side of the eye, and held him spell-bound: it then left him and whizzed away like a cartridge from a rifle or rocket. He also has given me a long account of a trip down the Tamar at night,—stating that the moon rolled round two or three times, and when it did so the compass went to sleep. Although it was a thick fog, he was guided by the stars. He told me that “one must trust to the glory of the pilotage of the tide.” On another occasion he informed me that during a storm the sea suddenly calmed down as if a hand had been put under the water to pull it down. That once, when ill in bed, a vision appeared which was “the spirit of love and daughter of the blessed affections,” and that this visit produced “a feeling that was very blessed.” Upon another occasion a verge of lightning came into the verandah and went into the mess-room, made the chimney shake, and a smoke originated; it then returned and made the rafters rattle. There was no storm at the time.

The patient is a middle-aged man, in delicate health, occasionally suffering from bronchitis and rheumatism. He is very easily excited, and is very weak-minded. He does a little work as a carpenter.

DANIEL HARVEY, *Age 60. Admitted 31st July, 1877.*

Admitted from Torquay on Justice's Order, with a Medical Certificate signed by Dr. Wilkinson, who states:—

1st. Facts indicating insanity observed by myself:

“Of being deranged on a number of religious ideas, fancying himself to be afflicted with leprosy by the Almighty God; talking a variety of sheer nonsense about the French, &c.

In the statements of facts communicated by others:

“That the said Daniel Harvey was very savage, and ready to fly upon us on his being apprehended; talking of his leprosy, and refusing to lie down to sleep or take any food.”

December 12, 1883.—I have examined Daniel Harvey to-day, and I find that he has delusions on various subjects, such as the following; viz.—

1st. That a man gave a dog salt pork, and this caused leprosy in the animal. That the man used to give the disease about by touching people. That the leprosy resembled dust; and that, if put in a damp place this rises, increases, and spreads. That he had leprosy, but that he had washed it off.

2nd. He states that he had seen plenty of tigers about here; that they are Bengal tigers, and that he believes that they will yet master the island. He further informed me that if one looked at the tigers they would spring at a person; but that if one's eyes were withdrawn from them the tigers would pass in front of you, and then follow behind. The last one he saw followed him for two miles.

3rd. That he was engaged to be married to Queen Victoria when she was at his father's farm; but that, having slammed the door when the Duchess of Kent had left the room, the Duchess boxed his ears and broke off the engagement.

4th. That he knew of the dead body of a boy in the River Mersey; that he had smelt it but had not seen it, and that the boy had been murdered, but that he must not say by whom or how.

5th. That he had seen the Saviour face to face, and that his wife had also seen him, and that they had interviews with him, but that what was stated he was never to tell.

The patient is a man over middle age, in good bodily health. He works well as a carpenter and blacksmith, but cannot brook interference in his work. I have been informed that he was sent to this institution owing to his having become dangerous to society whilst labouring under delusions similar to those he now has.

JAMES MILNER, *Aged 77. Admitted 28th June, 1877.*

Admitted from Launceston on a Justice's Order, with a Medical Certificate signed by Dr. Murphy, who states:—

1st. Facts indicating insanity observed by myself:—“The knowledge that he has before been certified as a Lunatic.” “From his general demeanour and very irrational conversation, and having had him under observation for some time, I am convinced from his talk and actions that he is of unsound mind. He has told me that he fears he will yet murder somebody, that he cannot sleep, and that I intend to poison him. He has complained to me of ill-treatment at the hands of the Governor of the Gaol, such statement being groundless.”

2nd. Other facts indicating insanity communicated by others:—

Mr. Miller, the Under Gaoler at Launceston, states—“Milner is under the impression that Mr. Jones comes into his cell at night and beats him and draws blood from his heart, and that I do the same and others likewise. He also states that he is going to be hanged, and to have his head cut off. At times he eats ravenously, at other times refuses food, saying we want to poison him.”

Mr. Jones, Governor of Gaol, states—“When at Dépôt could not sleep at night, wandering about, taking the bed-clothes off the men, shouting murder, and under the impression that he had been charged with firing a house.”

Dec. 13, 1883:—James Milner is an old man, nearly blind. He has an exalted opinion of his abilities, stating that he is one of the best accountants in Tasmania, that he thoroughly understands stock valuing, and stating that he is a most excellent cook, unrivalled in that art, that he thoroughly understands gardening and that he could easily earn a living at this occupation now [the patient being almost blind]. Last month he informed me that he intended, if out of here, being married soon after his wife's decease, and that he had his future wife in view [the person being at present an inmate of this Institution]. He now denies ever having mentioned to me that a medical man in Launceston had designs on his wife. As a matter of fact he did do so. He also informed me that if discharged from here within four months after his discharge he will send me 15 or 20 guineas, perhaps three or four times that amount, as he expects to receive a fortune from England to which he states he is entitled. He told me that he went into the Invalid Depot in Launceston in a fit of temper to cause his wife to leave the Hospital there, where she was employed as a nurse, and that when he did so he left £40 worth of property with his mother-in-law. Though he states that he has many friends in Launceston who would gladly assist him, no one has applied to the Commissioners for Milner's discharge. He denies that he ever was insane, and states that he was sent here because he was in a stupor, and had erysipelas.

ALEXANDER J. ROBERTSON, Age 20. Admitted 17th March, 1883.

Admitted from Latrobe on Justice's order, with a medical certificate signed by Dr. Smythe and Dr. Wilkinson, who state:—

1st. Facts indicating insanity observed by us:—"Stating that he was going to run opposition coaches along the coast, that he had a number of thrashing machines, and a ship load of thorough-bred horses on the way from Victoria, and also was possessed of unlimited capital."

In the statement of facts, communicated by others:—"Father stated that he had been dancing and singing; and generally behaving himself in an insane and unusual manner."

Alexander J. Robertson was discharged by the Commissioners on December 4th, on trial, for seven days. He continued to improve mentally from the end of August. On November 18th he was reticent, but after some time stated that the Deity sometimes conversed with him. He lost this delusion before he was discharged. His case was one of mania. He had delusions up to the eighth month of his residence here, and was discharged before the end of the ninth month.

HUGH CAMERON, Age 64. Admitted 18th June, 1881.

Admitted from Hobart on Justice's order, with a medical certificate signed by Dr. T. C. Smart, who states:—

1st. Facts indicating insanity observed by myself:—"Hugh Cameron was admitted into the General Hospital, under my care, on the 30th May last. It has been necessary to confine him in the cells nearly ever since, as he is irritable when spoken to, and on one occasion offered some slight violence to a nurse. His conduct is ordinarily quiet and inoffensive, but his conversation shows mental derangement. His replies are random sentences; he repeats himself, contradicts himself, and talks unintelligibly about telephones and phonographs. He appeared once to be under the delusion that his genital organs were a telephone. He makes absurd statements of violence and threats used to him by his late employer and fellow-servants (buzzing, throwing down a well, and the like), and asserts that unheard-of crimes have been perpetrated in his late employer's house."

In the statement of facts communicated by others, the Attendant in whose charge he is reports him as "irritable, and inclined to be quarrelsome."

Mr. P. Finnigan, Superintendent of Police, Green Ponds, writes that he believes him to be of unsound mind. That on one occasion he stood leaning against a telegraph post for a whole day; that he has been recently charged before the Green Ponds Bench for using threatening language to his employer and others.

December 13th.—Hugh Cameron, when spoken to by me, becomes violently excited and incoherent, calling me names, and rambling from one subject to another. He is an old man, in fair bodily health, but will do no work, and endeavours to persuade other patients to follow his example. If he commences a sentence he does not finish it.

December 14th.—This patient informed me to-day that I had asked for a dissecting licence and had not obtained one, and that he was put in the Back Division because he was speaking to Mr. Swan about it. In June last he stated that there was magnetism in my umbrella; and last night, when speaking to him, he asked me not to touch him with my umbrella, and stepped away from it.

WILLIAM MILLINGTON, Age 44. Admitted 27th June, 1863.

Admitted from Launceston on Justice's order, with a medical certificate signed by Dr. J. C. Miller, who states:—

1st. Facts indicating insanity observed by myself:—"Obstinate silence for long periods; refusal to eat for days, and even weeks, though in good bodily health. Incoherence of thought and speech when he does speak; vacancy of expression; inconsistent conduct of different sorts."

In the statement of facts communicated by others:—"Refusal to obey instructions; sometimes "striking out" when annoyed, there being no real cause for annoyance. Filthy habits, passing his stools on the floor beside his bed; wandering about at night. This information received from wardsman."

December 12th, 1883.—William Millington informed me that he had not slept for 20 years, and that he had worked for the Jacob who is mentioned in the Bible. He also states that Millbrook farm belongs to him, having been told so by his father; also that one of the farm horses is his, having had this horse in the north of the Island. He is not sure whether the farm here belongs to him or not. That the late Theodore Bartley had £50 of him; and that he would get £100 from him when he left here. The patient is a middle-aged man, who works at the farm. He is very weak-minded. He states that he would not like to live far from a doctor, lest he should become ill. He gets very much alarmed at any ailment, however trifling. The attendant at the farm informed me to-day,—December 13th,—that this patient often tells him that the farm and the horses belong to him.

WALTER ABBOTT RIDLEY, *Age 29. Admitted 7th November, 1882.*

Admitted from Launceston on his father's (Walter Ridley) order, with medical certificates signed by Dr. Hardy and Dr. Murphy. Dr. Hardy states:—

1st. Facts indicating insanity observed by myself:—"He has delusions that his father has poisoned his sister, and refuses to go home; gets excited if the subject is mentioned. He suddenly to-day rushed away when his father and I were speaking to him, and shouted out that his father had a revolver and was going to shoot him. He rushed round the house and away in a cab."

In the statement of facts communicated by others—"Mr. Sutton, landlord of the *Temperance Hotel*, where he is staying, tells me he slept under his bed, and that he runs round and round the house.

His father has shewn me a very incoherent letter received from him some days ago. He says his general demeanour is altogether altered. Also that his mother is now in the Asylum. He accuses his father of poisoning his sister."

Dr. Murphy states:—

1st. Facts indicating insanity observed by myself:—"The incoherency of his statements: for instance, he says 'that his father is in prison for poisoning his sister; that his brother is under medical treatment for ill-usage from people trying to murder him,' and other absurd statements. His restlessness, not sleeping, his wild look, and in fact his general behaviour and conversation is not that of a sane man. His mother is an inmate of the Asylum, so that there would appear to be some hereditary taint."

In the statement of facts communicated by others—

"Mr. Shropshall.—I think him insane from the rambling nature of his statements. From his appearance and his manner I am satisfied he is of unsound mind."

"His Father.—The incoherency of his letter addressed to me, from his altered demeanour in desiring to shun me, and from his manner and tenor of his conversation—so different to what it has hitherto been—I am satisfied he is of unsound mind."

December 12th, 1883.—I have examined W. A. Ridley, and I found that he had the following delusions; viz.:—

1st. That a woman named Charlotte Davis came into the ward here he was in and gave him "sleeping drops," which made him dizzy.

2nd. That he was again visited by Charlotte Davis whilst he was lying on the green, and that she gave him chloroform. She was dressed in an over-wrap of silk, which caused her to become invisible, owing to its being covered with a mixture of bluestone, isinglass, acetic acid, and boiled linseed oil.

3rd. That she has tried to mesmerise him.

4th. That he has had drugs put into his food when he was in Launceston, and that these drugs made him delirious.

The patient is a fine-looking young man, in good bodily health. He works well on the farm. His mother is a patient in this Institution. The patient informed me to-day that if he saw Charlotte Davis he would knock her head off.

JOSEPH CARLIN, *Age 42. Admitted 17th August, 1883.*

Admitted from Deloraine on Justice's order, with a medical certificate signed by Dr. Dundas, who states:—

1st. Facts indicating insanity observed by myself:—"His despondency, loss of memory, neglect of cleanliness, and carelessness as to the state of his health (he suffers from stricture of the urethra, and obstinately refuses to go to Hospital for treatment.)

In the statement of facts communicated by others:—"His father, Frederick Carlin, declares his taciturnity, seclusion from society, and habit of wandering about in the bush, his refusal to work, and general apathy."

December 12th, 1883.—I have examined Joseph Carlin on several occasions. He has a very defective memory. He cannot tell the day of the week, nor can he remember to-day what he did yesterday. Yesterday he was watching another patient sawing some wood, and a few minutes after, when asked if he had seen this patient using the saw, he said he could not say. The carpenter informs me that if Carlin puts a tool down he cannot remember where he put it, and denies having had it. The patient is a strong-looking man, in good bodily health; he has an apathetic manner, and does not care for work. He can remember events long past, but cannot remember recent ones.

JAMES SIMPSON, *Age 72. Admitted 6th January, 1868.*

Admitted from Launceston, under Warrant signed by His Excellency Sir T. Gore Browne.

December 12th, 1883.—I to-day examined James Simpson. He informed me that he was the first person of the Trinity; that he was God the Father; that he was one of the Trinity before the world began; that he is millions of years of age, and that he will live for ever. That he can call on angels to help him, but that he has not done so, as he can take care of himself. The patient is an old man, in fair bodily health. He works well in the corridor, but he is weak-minded.

From the preceding reports it will be seen that John Ridge and Alexander J. Robertson have been discharged,—the former to his wife's care, the latter on trial for seven days. Robertson had delusions up to 18th November, and was not detained in the Asylum longer than was necessary.

Harvey and Brown have each got several delusions, and not one only, as stated in Dr. Crowther's letter; and I do not consider either of these patients fit to be discharged from here.

Ridley, Millington, Simpson, and Cameron have all got delusions on various subjects, and the latter is very irritable, and becomes incoherent during excitement.

Carlin has a most defective memory, and requires constant and close supervision in his work.

I consider all these patients unfit to be discharged, as also is Milner.

Vassis was admitted on June 26th, 1883, and remained in the Hospital only three months. From the end of August till the date of his discharge he progressed gradually towards recovery.

Sargent was admitted on February 5th, 1883. He began to improve in August, and gradually improved till his discharge in September, being a little over seven months in the Hospital.

Duncan Nichols was admitted in January, 1883. Though this patient retained very faint traces of his former delusions, I recommended his discharge on trial for seven days, as I considered a change might be beneficial to him.

Wilkie was admitted on September 6th, 1882, and continued to improve mentally till March 14th, 1883, when he had a relapse, and continued so till the end of August, when a change for the better took place, and he improved, and was discharged on October 9th.

W. H. MACFARLANE, *M.B.*

Chief Secretary's Office, 29th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, again bringing under my notice the continued detention of John Ridge, a patient confined in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

The Honorable W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C., 1, Albert Terrace, Macquarie-street.

CORRESPONDENCE ON VARIOUS MATTERS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1, *Albert Terrace*, 23rd October, 1883.

SIR,

AS CHAIRMAN of the Select Committee now sitting upon the management of the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk, I have to direct your attention to the evidence of George Hill, Senior Keeper in the Male Division of the Asylum, who, when interrogated by me, admitted that for some time past the dispensing of drugs to the patients (285 in number) had in the main been performed by himself (I believe wholly), and when asked if he possessed any knowledge as a Chemist or Druggist, or held any *qualification*, he replied "*none*."

I had previously questioned Dr. Florance, the Assistant Surgeon and Dispenser upon this point, and, as will be seen by his evidence, he admitted that Hill was, and had been, employed in the manner indicated.

I have respectfully to request you will, as the principal Executive Officer of the Government, take such steps as will at once put a stop to this, which the *Medical Act* on the one hand strictly interdicts, and, on the other, the continuance of a system giving evidence of a neglect of duty both on the part of the Surgeon-Superintendent and Commissioners, in not having protected the helpless insane from consequences likely to attend, and that must ere this have attended, the entrusting the compounding and administration of drugs to an unskilled and unqualified functionary.

I have, &c.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 23rd October, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter received this day from the Honorable W. L. Crowther, the Chairman of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the Internal and General Management of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and to call your attention to the highly objectionable practice alleged to exist of entrusting the dispensing of medicine to an unqualified person.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

*The President of the Commissioners
of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.*

6th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward to you the explanation of the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk with reference to statements made to the Government by Dr. Crowther in a letter dated the 23rd October, addressed to the Chief Secretary. It will be noted that the departure from duty did not occur with that officer. I have also sent to Dr. Coutie and to Dr. Florance asking for explanations. Care will be taken in future that the Assistant Medical Officer should complete his own duty.

I have, &c.

HENRY BUTLER, *President of the Commissioners
of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 30th October, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, as requested, to forward you my report in reference to the Hon. W. L. Crowther's letter with regard to Mr. G. Hill dispensing.

Mr. Hill has assisted in the Dispensary, both during Dr. Coutie's time and when Dr. Florance was here. If he did any dispensing, I always understood that it was only the mechanical part, and that only under the immediate supervision of the Assistant Medical Officer, and I gave no permission that he was to dispense in the absence of that officer.

As soon as I finish my morning visit to the wards I return to my office and proceed with the official business of the Asylum, and the Assistant Medical Officer always went to the Dispensary to attend to the dispensing.

When I informed the Commissioners at their meeting on Thursday last that Mr. Hill only dispensed under the immediate supervision of the Assistant Medical Officer, I was not aware that he had made up prescriptions during the absence of that officer; this he informs me he has done, both in Dr. Coutie's time and since Dr. Florance has been here.

When the Assistant Medical Officer was temporarily absent, Mr. Hill only did any of the mechanical portion of the dispensing, under my immediate supervision and direction. Mr. Hill understands dispensing, having been taught it by Dr. Coutie.

I have, &c.

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

The Hon. DR. BUTLER, President of the Commissioners.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 8th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo, in which you call my attention to the evidence of George Hill, Senior Keeper in the Male Division of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, given before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to enquire into the internal and general management of the Hospital, from which it is made to appear that he had been employed to dispense drugs although not holding any qualification.

Having forwarded a copy of your communication to the President of the Commissioners, I am in receipt of his reply, together with the Superintendent and Medical Officer's letter to the President on the subject, copies of which I now enclose for your information.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The Hon. W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C., 1, Albert Terrace,
Macquarie-street.*

1, Albert Terrace, 10th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., with enclosures from the Hon. the President of the Commissioners for the Insane and the Surgeon-Superintendent, both having reference to the fact brought under your notice in my letter of the 28th of October—"that for a considerable time, Mr. George Hill, the Senior-keeper, had, without possessing any qualification, or any knowledge of the properties and action of medicines, been dispensing drugs at the Asylum."

Before proceeding to reply to the enclosures in question, I will draw your attention to two important factors in the matter under consideration; viz.—

1. The Statute 22 Vict. No. 23, Sect. 7, which is mandatory as far as the Medical Superintendent is concerned, and reads as follows:—"Every Hospital, and the insane confined therein, shall, subject to the general control and direction of the Commissioners, be under the *immediate* control and management of such person, to be called the Superintendent of such Hospital;" and there is neither expressed nor implied any direction that would enable him to delegate his power to another, nor relieve himself in any way from the responsibility of acts performed by his subordinates, and more particularly in a department, viz., the dispensing of medicine, over which he is supposed to have a special oversight.
2. The Head-keeper, and his duties, as defined by the "Rules and Regulations for the Hospital for the Insane:"
 - "1. He shall exercise a general supervision over the Male Establishment, and being the Second Officer in the Asylum shall assist the Surgeon in the moral treatment of the insane, observing them as much as he can, and reporting the result of his observations and experience. For this purpose he shall accompany the Surgeon-Superintendent in his visits.
 - "2. He shall have the entire charge of the Male Division in the absence of the Surgeon-Superintendent.

- "3. Orders given by the Head-keeper shall be obeyed by all persons connected with the Asylum for Males.
- "4. The Head-keeper shall be responsible to the Surgeon-Superintendent for the discipline and cleanliness of the whole Male Establishment, *and shall see that the Officers and Attendants carefully perform their duties.*
- "5. He shall inspect *daily every part* of the Male Asylum.
- "6. He shall be present *daily at all the meals* of the patients."

Eight other paragraphs apply to the duties of this Officer, amongst which are specified the keeping a *Diary*, and also a *Work Book* of the special occupation *daily* of each patient.

I refer you to these paragraphs *in extenso*.

I will now solicit your attention to the evidence of George Hill given before the Select Committee on the 18th October last.

Question 182. Answer—"I have acted as Dispenser since last April twelve months. *Dr. M'Farlane appointed me.*"

Question 183. Answer—"I was in attendance *every morning*, and at any *other times* during the day. These duties occupy me from a quarter of an hour to *an hour and a half.*"

Question 184. Answer—"I do not hold any Certificate."

Question 186. Answer—"I *have no knowledge* of the action and properties of drugs."

I will now refer to the letter of the President, under date November 6th, and take exception to the paragraph, "*Statements made to the Government by me,*"—as *facts*, not statements only, were detailed and brought under your notice; and I also join issue with that gentleman when he says—"It will be noted that the departure from duty did not occur with that Officer, viz., the Surgeon-Superintendent," and matters are made incalculably worse by the attempts of the President to fix upon Drs. Coutie and Florance, *now absent*, the responsibility, proved, by the evidence of Hill, as to his appointment to the office of Dispenser, to *have been that of the Surgeon-Superintendent*. Irrespective of which, it ought to have been known to Dr. Butler, *as the President of the Board of Medical Examiners*, that Hill, whilst acting as Dispenser without qualification, was performing daily an illegal act, and that he, as President of the Commissioners on the one hand, and Dr. M'Farlane on the other, were (if aware of the existence of Rules applicable to the office of Senior-keeper) permitting a neglect of duty on the part of Hill, as well as on that of the Assistant-Surgeon and Dispenser, who was receiving pay for work he was not performing,—giving abundant evidence, if such were wanting, of the perfunctory manner in which the President, and under him the Commissioners, have for a long time past performed the task they had voluntarily undertaken, and the very trifling amount of knowledge possessed by them as to what was going on in the Institution.

I will now proceed to deal with the letter of the Superintendent, Dr. M'Farlane, to the President, noting, by the way, some of the contradictions therein contained.

1. "Mr. Hill has assisted at the Dispensary, both during Dr. Coutie's time and when Dr. Florance was here." Does this intimation improve matters?

2. "If he did any dispensing, I always understood it was only the mechanical part, and that only under the immediate supervision of the Assistant Medical Officer. I *gave no permission* that he was to dispense in the absence of that officer." How does this agree with the *appointment* of Hill as Dispenser having *been made by himself*?

3. Dr. M'Farlane informed the Commissioners on Thursday last that Hill only *dispensed under the immediate supervision* of the Assistant Medical Officer,—this given as a *stated fact*,—whilst in the next paragraph he says that Hill informed him that in the absence of that officer he had made up prescriptions, both in Drs. Coutie's and Florance's time.

4. The next paragraph can only be characterised as an attempt to deceive: "When the Assistant Medical Officer was *temporarily absent*, Mr. Hill only did any of the mechanical portion (what the mechanical portion is I do not understand) of the dispensing, under my *immediate supervision and direction.*" How does this agree with Hill's statement to the Select Committee, "Am in attendance *every morning*, and at *other times* during the day. These duties occupy me from a quarter of an hour to *an hour and a half.*"

The Rules and Regulations defining the duties of the Senior-keeper having been laid down with considerable precision, and the Committee having been informed by a Commissioner, Mr. Mitchell, in evidence, answer to question 258—"That he *had not complied with Section 10, 22 Vict. No. 23*, as to 'the making and establishing Rules for the good management of the Hospital,' but

produced the General Rules and Regulations in which the duties of the various officers are set forth,"—it must be patent to the most unobservant that for the Commissioners to allow the Senior-keeper to act in any other capacity, or to have other duties imposed upon him than such Rules define, exhibits a want of knowledge on the part of the Commissioners in the matter of administrative details as to lead to the very natural conclusion that they are unfitted for the office they hold, and cannot, when the facts just related, with a number of others, become generally known, expect to retain for an hour longer the confidence of either the public or the Legislature.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

P.S.—The last paragraph of Dr. Macfarlane's letter is to me incomprehensible :—" Mr. Hill understands dispensing, having been taught it by Dr. Coutie." He will, perhaps, be able to explain how this agrees with Hill holding no qualification; does not understand the action and properties of drugs; "and has been (if the statement be correct) *only permitted* to perform the mechanical part of the dispensing, and *that only* under his (Dr. Macfarlane's) or his Assistant's immediate supervision."

1, Albert Terrace, 16th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th, in reply to mine of the 10th instant, having reference to the letter of Dr. Macfarlane to the President of the Commissioners and that of the President, with enclosure to yourself.

I naturally thought my letter to you of the 10th instant finally disposed of matters to which it referred, more particularly as the answers of Senior-Keeper "Hill" were used by me *for the express purpose of giving a direct negative* to the statements contained in both Dr. Macfarlane's and the President's letters, such letters having special reference to "Hill" *having only partially performed* the duties of Dispenser, and the *non-responsibility* attaching to Dr. Macfarlane in regard to the same.

The wish expressed by you as to receiving a copy of the Progress Report of the Select Committee to be forwarded to the Commissioners, is entirely out of place, as neither Progress nor final Report can be dealt with other than this, the medium of the Legislative Council; irrespective of which, it surely must have struck you that the particular question to which my letters of the 23rd October and 10th instant referred could in no way be added to, or detracted from, by evidence of a general character, and that evidence affecting the management of the Asylum for the Insane in other details to as great an extent as the irregularity, admitted by Superintendent, President, and Commissioners, has been in the matter of the dispensing drugs by an unqualified Dispenser.

At this stage of the proceedings it appears to me the proper course for the Government to adopt is simply to send a copy of my letter of the 10th instant to the Commissioners "for their remarks," which, when received, will no doubt be about as valuable to the Government as the explanations afforded by Dr. Macfarlane and the President, and which called forth from me the reply of the 10th instant to which you have again made reference.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

10th December, 1883.

SIR,

I HAD the honor to receive from you on the 23rd of October a communication enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to you by the Hon. W. L. Crowther, purporting to call your attention to the highly objectionable practice of entrusting the dispensing of medicines to an unqualified person. In a few days subsequently I forwarded to you the explanation of Dr. Macfarlane the Surgeon-Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk. I also intimated that I would seek to obtain explanations from Mr. Florance, M.B., and Mr. Coutie, M.D., who were each of them referred to as being the Assistant Medical Officer of the establishment, and had the duties of the Dispenser assigned to them. I have now obtained explanations from these gentlemen, which I have the honor to forward to you for your information, so that you would see that the objectionable practice did not obtain.

I have, &c.

HENRY BUTLER, *President of the Commissioners of the Hospital for the Insane.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Hobart, 30th November, 1883.

SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of November 20th, asking for information respecting the dispensing at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, during the time I occupied the position of Assistant Medical Officer.

It seems to me that Mr. Hill's statement must have been misunderstood, for that he acted as Dispenser is absolutely incorrect, unless mere assistance in that department can be so termed.

As you are aware, I always attended in the Dispensary after the morning visit to the wards, and if I did not actually weigh and measure out every drug, this was done under my supervision, then I frequently placed the weights in the scale myself, and took care that the prescriptions were in every way accurately dispensed, being always particularly careful when any active drug was prescribed. Two books were kept in the Dispensary, in one of which a note was made of the medicines ordered for the day, whilst in the other each prescription was copied in a column set apart for each patient. In addition to this the prescription was written on the label of each bottle invariably by myself. It was also my duty to submit to you from time to time a list of such drugs as were required, and, as you will remember, I frequently consulted you as to the quality of drugs in stock, which were condemned when found necessary, and on one occasion some supplied by the contractor were returned, as the quality was not considered sufficiently good.

From the above it will be seen that there was no possibility of any error occurring; and I have again to repeat that the statement that Mr. Hill acted as Dispenser is not in accordance with facts, and, further, that the statement as to harm arising from want of care in the Dispensary is entirely without foundation.

I am, &c.

W. H. COUTIE.

DR. MACFARLANE, *Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.*

Melbourne Hospital, 5th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, as requested by the Secretary of the Commissioners, to report on the alleged mismanagement at the Dispensary, and the dispensing of drugs by an unqualified person, viz., Mr. George Hill, the Senior Under-keeper at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.

However, before proceeding further, I deem it necessary to state that when examined as a witness before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Hospital for the Insane, I most distinctly gave it to be understood that I continually supervised the dispensing of drugs, dispensed the drugs myself, and was assisted by Mr. George Hill in the Dispensary, as was indeed the case.

As regards the dispensing of drugs, I have to report that I derived considerable assistance from Mr. George Hill, without which assistance much of my labour among the patients would have necessarily been neglected; but although I did not refuse such assistance, I absolutely deny that Mr. George Hill was always present to dispense, and that he was the sole Dispenser.

Furthermore, I did a great deal of the dispensing myself, and when I did not dispense I supervised and checked Mr. Hill,—it being quite exceptional for me to be away from the Dispensary while dispensing was going on.

Whenever any dangerous drug was ordered I always dispensed this myself.

Any fresh prescription had always to be entered *in extenso* in the Dispensary Book, and I never allowed Mr. Hill to prepare this fresh mixture without the prescription being *first* entered in the Dispensary Book, and in this way the possibility of a mistake was reduced to a minimum. In justice to Mr. Hill, I desire to add that I never found him dispensing incorrectly.

In this branch of my duties at the Hospital for the Insane, I most respectfully beg to reiterate my denial of any charge of neglect; and, further, a perusal of the Dispensary Book, the Prescription Books, as well as an inspection of the Dispensary itself, the whole of the drugs of which I carefully examined, methodically arranged, and accurately labelled afresh, will at once convince that in the Dispensary itself there has been no neglect, but, on the contrary, a careful regard to the requirements of this branch of the Institution.

I have, &c.

J. W. FLORANCE, M.B.

The Hon. DR. BUTLER, *President of the Commissioners
Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.*

1, *Albert Terrace*, 8th October, 1883.

SIR,

HAVING just heard that it is the intention of the Commissioners of the Asylum at New Norfolk to recommend the appointment of *Nurse Stanwix* to the Governor in Council for the purpose of filling the office of *Sub-Matron*, I, as Chairman of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council (now sitting) upon the management of that Institution, beg most respectfully to protest against the appointment either of *Stanwix* or any other nurse at present there to the office of *Sub-Matron*, as after the disclosures made during the visit of the Committee on Monday, the 1st October instant, it is evident that at the present moment there does not exist in that establishment, and particularly in the Female Division, any organization or supervision based upon ordinary intelligence, and there is not one of the nurses at present there fitted, *either by education or training*, to fill the important office of *Sub-Matron*, one which for the future ought to be held by a person little inferior to the *Matron* herself, and competent in her absence or illness to carry into effect any orders, or efficiently supervise the work of that portion of the establishment immediately under her control. Circumstances at this particular juncture point in one direction only—that steps be at once taken, as in the case of the General Hospital, to obtain without delay from England nurses trained to the treatment of the insane, and the *early removal* from the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk some of those at present there (many of whom have been too long in that Institution), and whose retention will seriously militate against the obtaining, or the retaining when obtained, either *Matron* or *Sub-Matron*, should they be persons possessed of the necessary knowledge and intelligence fitting them to perform efficiently the duties of their respective offices.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Albert Terrace, 26th October, 1883.

SIR,

As it is within the knowledge of the Government that a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, was, on the 27th September last, appointed to enquire into the “Internal and General Management of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk,” and that such Committee visited the Hospital on the 1st October instant, and since that time has had before it and taken the evidence of Dr. Macfarlane, the Superintendent, and others, and in the course of enquiry carefully examined that gentleman relative to a charge of intemperance preferred against Miss Laland, the *Matron*, such charge having been brought under the notice of the Government by the Commissioners, and has not, the Committee has been informed, up to the present time been disposed of.

As Chairman of the Select Committee, and at the request of the Committee, I have to draw your attention to the evidence of Dr. Macfarlane, from which it will be, were there no other testimony available, clearly seen that there was not any charge to place before the Commissioners, he, (Dr. Macfarlane) as Superintendent, having actually condoned the fault (if such had existed,) by continuing her services, and not informing her, until the 15th August, that she had been in any way guilty of neglect of duty, or the subject of any irregularity demanding censure.

The Committee, even at this early stage of its sittings, has obtained sufficient evidence to lead to a conclusion almost amounting to certainty, that the action of Dr. Macfarlane with regard to the *Matron*, and endorsed by the Commissioners, cannot stand; on the contrary, is firm in the belief that from the manner in which the charge was initiated,—*vide* document in Dr. Huston's handwriting,—that upon further investigation it will be proved to be groundless, if not the result of actual conspiracy.

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.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

1, *Albert Terrace*, 15th November, 1883.

SIR,

On the 26th October last the Select Committee sitting to enquire into the “Internal and General Management of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk,” had before it, amongst other witnesses, Fredk. Hack, the Cook at the Gentlemen's Cottage, whose evidence, supplemented by that of James Ayres and Henry Sims, is of so startling a character, inculcating as it does not only the Keeper at the Gentleman's Cottage as to acts that demand his immediate dismissal, but would appear to seriously affect the *status quo* of the Surgeon-Superintendent, who evidently when abuses

have been brought under his notice has affected disbelief in their existence, and neglected to apply a remedy; and the question at once presents itself to the Committee, are the personal wants of the patients attended to, and is the treatment they receive at the hands of those to whose custody they have been committed based upon that kindness and consideration which their helpless condition demands? and is the superintendence and management of the Institution such as would in any way approximate to the standard established by the Lunacy Commissioners in Great Britain, and applicable alike to Insane Asylums in every part of the United Kingdom, if not the whole civilised world? The answer to these questions, from evidence at the disposal of the Committee, must be in the negative; and were the enquiry extended no further, sufficient has been recorded to at once render action on the part of the Government necessary in three principal directions:—

- 1st. To amend existing legislation, which has in numerous instances proved defective.
- 2nd. That communication be at once opened up with the Commissioners in Lunacy in England, 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.
- 3rd. The appointment of an Inspector, armed by law with powers irrespective of local Commissioners or Medical Superintendents, and solely responsible to the State, to enquire at all times into the management and treatment of the Insane, and report accordingly. The portals of the various Institutions to be at all times open to his visits.

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 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 Lunacy Commissioners, a superior set of officers and attendants.

From the deranged condition of the labour market in almost every department as at present existing in this and the neighbouring Colonies, the selection must of necessity be limited,—so limited that there can be no reasonable hope or prospect of obtaining from this source in sufficient numbers the required class of persons.

With the revelations now before the Government, and setting aside policy and expediency, so long the order of the day in the management of public affairs in Tasmania, and heretofore the resistant forces in the march of improvement, the time has arrived when the instincts and feelings of humanity not only cry against, but imperatively demand an immediate alteration of, evils which, I venture to say, are without parallel in the annals of asylum mismanagement.

Herewith I append as part of this letter the evidence of Hack, Sims, and Ayres as taken before the Select Committee (being Questions 365 to 419), so that no misunderstanding can by any possibility arise as to its nature.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 15th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, commenting upon the contents of the letters of the Honorable Henry Butler and Dr. Macfarlane forwarded by me on the 8th.

As you refer to the questions and answers contained in the evidence taken before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, I should be very glad to receive a copy of any Progress Report of that Committee and of the evidence, so that the whole of the Papers—at least so far as the enquiry has at present progressed—may be forwarded to the Commissioners for their remarks and the subsequent consideration of the Government.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The Honorable W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C.,
1, Albert Terrace.*

Chief Secretary's Office, 16th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, enclosing certain portions of the evidence taken before the Select Committee sitting to enquire into the Internal and General Management of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

The Honorable W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 17th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, in reply to my communication of the 15th instant.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The Honorable W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C.,
1, Albert Terrace, Macquarie-street.*

1, Albert Terrace, 10th December, 1883.

SIR,

It having come to the knowledge of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council now sitting that a patient in the Asylum at New Norfolk, named Rae, recently dead, was, when visited by his wife a short time since, found to be in a most neglected condition from vermin; and having been informed that Mrs. Rae wrote to Dr. Macfarlane, the Superintendent, upon the subject, receiving a reply to the effect "that her letter had been placed before the Commissioners," but omitting to mention whether any steps had been taken to remedy so patent an evil. As she is at present in a very feeble state of health, and unable to attend before the Select Committee for the purpose of giving evidence, I will feel obliged by your obtaining and forwarding to me copies of the documents in question, the Committee being anxious to know what action has been taken by the Commissioners in a matter reflecting so seriously upon the management of the Institution.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

FORWARDED for the perusal and remarks of the President of the Commissioners of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk.

WM. MOORE.

11th December, 1883.

TRANSMITTED to the Surgeon-Superintendent, in order that the request of the Honorable the Chief Secretary may be complied with.

HENRY BUTLER, *President.*

12th December, 1883.

FORWARDED to the Honorable the Chief Secretary; and I am pleased that the enquiry was made, as it evidences that the appearance of the vermin was the result of disease, which is not infrequent, but not from neglect.

HENRY BUTLER, *President.*

17th December, 1883.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 15th December, 1883.

MEMO.

JAMES RAE bred vermin. He was suffering from paralysis, and his condition was favourable to their rapid propagation.

His head, beard, &c. were combed sometimes three times a day. In addition to this he was washed, and his body linen and bed linen were frequently changed, sometimes as often as three times a day.

From this it will be seen that every means were used to eradicate the vermin and to render his condition as comfortable as possible.

These means were adopted before his wife discovered vermin on him.

In consequence of the attendant in charge of the sick ward having defective vision, I placed another attendant in charge of the ward.

W. H. MACFARLANE, *M.B.*

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 15th December, 1883.

SIR,

In the Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to enquire into the management of the Hospital for Insane at New Norfolk, it is stated that "twenty patients 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 interests 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."

This statement is of a character so serious that the Government deem it desirable to appoint a Commission of medical gentlemen to enquire into the alleged facts, and report their opinion as to the sanity or otherwise of the patients alluded to in the Report above quoted.

The Chairman of the Select Committee has been requested to furnish the names of the twenty individuals who are referred to in the Report.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The President of the Commissioners, Hospital for Insane,
New Norfolk.*

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 15th December, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that you will be good enough to furnish me with the names of the twenty patients now confined in the Hospital for Insane at New Norfolk alluded to in the Report of the Select Committee appointed to enquire into the management of the Hospital, as sane, and whose liberation would be unattended by danger either to themselves or to society at large.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The Hon. W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C., 1, Albert Terrace,
Macquarie-street.*

17th December, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 15th, and I desire to express my gratification at the course the Government have decided to adopt. It would be inimical to the best interests of society and also of the Institution to allow such statements to remain without due and unprejudiced enquiry.

I have, &c.

HENRY BUTLER, *President of the Commissioners
of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

1, Albert Terrace, 18th December, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, requesting to be supplied with the names of certain patients at the Asylum, New Norfolk, to which reference has been made in the Report of the Select Committee, and in reply beg leave to refer you to my letter to you of the 23rd November last, which in the main affords the information required.

I am, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX to Legislative Council Paper, No. 11, 2nd Session, 1883.

*Brington Cottage, New Town,
Hobart, 28th November, 1883.*

DEAR SIR,

I WAS sorry I did not see you before I left, as I wished to ask you if nothing could be done to get rid of the vermin that Mr. Rae is smothered with. He must be in perfect torture, I am sure, for the way I saw him bite his lips against it. He has them in his head, beard, under his arms and lower person. No wonder he tears himself about when he gets his hands at liberty. I should think something could be rubbed on to relieve the torture of those abominable things, which must naturally make him feel worse, besides irritating his wounds. I got one on me yesterday, and I was in misery till I got home and changed: what must Mr. Rae be with scores? It is not very nice to think that a wife cannot sit beside her husband's sick-bed without the fear of getting them. Will you kindly see to it, and about removing him,—I cannot leave him there to be in that state. I will see the Commissioners if you will kindly let me know who they are, then I can state the case to them. Any news at your earliest will oblige.

I am, &c.

E. M. RAE.

To DR. MACFARLANE, Asylum, New Norfolk.

Hospital, New Norfolk, 30th November, 1883.

DEAR MADAM,

Your husband is a little better this morning, and he slept well last night.

I will inform the Commissioners on Tuesday next about your desire to remove your husband, and will also lay your letter of 28th November before them.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

W. H. MACFARLANE.

MRS. J. RAE, *New Town.*
