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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK :

REPORT FOR 1890.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

*To His Excellency SIR ROBERT GEORGE CROOKSHANK HAMILTON,
Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of
Tasmania and its Dependencies, in Council.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE, the Official Visitors to the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, appointed under "The Insane Persons Hospitals Act Amendment Act, 1885," 49 Vict. No. 35, have the honor to submit to you our Annual Report for the year 1890.

Our visits of inspection to this Institution have been at frequent intervals throughout the year, and occasionally without previous notice. On every occasion of these visits we have, as our monthly reports will show, carefully examined into the "care, treatment, and mental and bodily health of the patients;" also into the "arrangements for their maintenance and comfort," as well as into the condition of the food, stores, clothing, &c. and all other matters pertaining to the well-being of the patients.

From our own observations, as well as from our inquiries, we were satisfied that the patients are kindly treated and their welfare carefully attended to. The quiet and contented demeanour of the patients, and also their clean and tidy appearance, testify to the care and attention which they receive at the hands of the attendants.

In further proof of this, we invariably found that, when questioned, those patients who had recovered sufficiently to be discharged when leaving the Hospital expressed themselves as grateful to the medical staff and other officials for the kind and careful treatment which they had experienced in the Institution, and also as well satisfied with the food, clothing, bedding, &c. with which they had been supplied.

The number of admissions during the year has been augmented by the transfer of 17 patients from the Cascades Hospital for the Insane upon the breaking up of that Institution. The accommodation for male patients has in consequence been taxed to the uttermost; and until the proposed new building for males is erected the overcrowding in this division is likely to continue.

The overcrowding in the Female Division has been relieved to some extent by the conversion of the corridor of the upper floor of the new building into a dormitory, wherein eight additional beds are placed. This new building now accommodates 32 female patients, besides the necessary number of nurses. The completion of the remaining half of this building is urgently needed, in order that classification may be more conveniently carried out than is possible at present with the existing buildings.

The health generally of the patients during the year has been excellent. With the exception of mild cases of influenza there has been no epidemic of zymotic disease amongst the patients; but two of the nurses were attacked with typhoid fever and recovered.

Once a quarter we have held the usual muster and inspection of every patient in the Hospital, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and in every instance have found their number to correspond with the register.

The sanitary arrangements of the Asylum are satisfactorily carried out, the pan system being in vogue.

An improved system of drainage, with the outlet running into the River Lachlan, has been planned by Mr. Mault, the Engineering Inspector to the Central Board of Health. Hitherto the drainage has been into the River Derwent, through the property known as Hall Green. It is a question of great importance to determine whether the sewage should be allowed to run into the Lachlan, which is a mere creek in summer, with stagnant pools in places, and having a shingly bed, or be carried as before into the River Derwent. If the sewage matter were intercepted by a farm of sufficiently large area before being carried into the Lachlan it may succeed, but we believe that it would be dangerous to the health of those persons who drink the water of this stream to run the matter direct into the Lachlan.

As new buildings are in course of erection, and several improvements projected, it would be wise to adopt one system only of drainage which would be complete in itself; and be on one plan for the whole Asylum, as by no other means can the drains be depended upon to remain in a wholesome and clean condition, and free from danger as regards health.

The water supply to the Asylum is ample for all purposes, and the quality is excellent, but the pressure might be increased with advantage. The pressure is not sufficient to carry the water to the level of the upper floor of the new buildings, and so, in case of fire, the sole dependence would be upon the manual engines for extinguishing it, and the result might be disastrous.

The necessity for providing improved appliances for extinguishing fire was clearly shown to be required by our inspection of the two manual engines belonging to the Asylum. These are of a very antiquated pattern, and, although in good order, are not powerful enough, even with twenty men to work the handles, to throw a jet of water with sufficient force to extinguish a raging fire.

Having recommended the selection of an engine of improved type, to be fitted with modern appliances, the Hon. the Chief Secretary has approved of the purchase of a small but powerful fire engine, capable of pumping 55 gallons of water per minute 90 feet high, and to be worked by only eight men. This engine was selected from the establishment of Messrs. Campbell, Gutheridge, & Co., Melbourne, agents for Messrs. Shand, Mason, & Co., of London, by Dr. Macfarlane, who personally visited Lilydale for the purpose of seeing a similar engine in full working order.

With regard to the means of escape in case of fire in the main building for females, the two stone staircases which were in course of construction during the latter portion of 1889 were completed early this year, and now afford a ready and safe means of egress, much relieving the anxiety felt in the event of the occurrence of fire. It is to be regretted that a similar precaution was not considered necessary for the new building for females in the half now completed. When the remaining portion of this building is finished a central fire-proof staircase should be provided.

As regards the expensive item fuel, we have had under consideration the substitution of coal for wood in all the fires in the establishment, believing that not only a large saving in this expenditure would be effected by this means, but a further advantage be obtained in the matter of labour. At present about 20 patients are employed in the laborious occupation of cutting up the heavy logs brought to the Asylum for firewood. This work is necessary, and the patients so employed are doing a useful work; but if the majority of them could be relieved without loss to the institution, and set to other more congenial and mentally improving employments, a decided benefit would result. These patients are usually able-bodied men, and being of the quieter class, can generally be entrusted with tools with safety. With the assistance of a skilled artisan as directing foreman, the labour thus liberated from the wood-yard would be of valuable service in effecting the numerous repairs that are urgently required, and which are charged to the item "alterations and repairs."

Plans are being prepared for a new building for males, to be built on the portion of ground between the Gentlemen's Cottage and the Back Yard Division, which is intended to accommodate at least 80 patients, and is so arranged as to facilitate classification. The original plans of this proposed building were submitted by Dr. Macfarlane to Doctors Manning, Patterson, and Dick, specialists in psychology, who have expressed their full approval of the completeness of the arrangements. It also has been proposed to make such alterations in the present arrangement of the Asylum which were suggested by those medical gentlemen as will greatly facilitate the management of the Institution, and be the means of effecting a large economy.

The object of this re-arrangement is to concentrate the business and administrative offices of the Asylum at what is now the rear of the grounds, and to make an entrance into Humphrey-street, which has become the main thoroughfare past the Asylum since the passing of the Act in the last Session of Parliament authorising the closing of portion of Burnett-street. Amongst the

improvements included are a new kitchen and a steam laundry, the necessity for which has been frequently brought under the notice of the Hon. the Chief Secretary. Plans for this purpose have not yet been matured, being still under consideration.

During the last Session of Parliament an Act was passed authorising the Government to close from public traffic a portion of Burnett-street and Gray-street, which pass directly in front of and on the south side of the Asylum. The closing of these streets has already proved of service to the patients, as greater privacy has been secured to them, and more quietness for the mentally sick.

The usual entertainments have been provided for the patients during the year, such as dances, picnics, walking parties, &c., all of which have been much enjoyed. The fund voted for recreation has been taxed to its full extent to provide the patients with games and materials for their amusement, as well as for attendance at any entertainments that may be taking place in New Norfolk.

Soon after the Estimates for the year 1891 had been passed in both Houses of Parliament a petition was received from thirty attendants asking for increase of their salaries. In forwarding this petition to the Government for their favourable consideration we pointed out that, as the duties were of a special kind requiring good character and intelligence on the part of the attendants, the application was not unreasonable, and that the salaries now received are lower than those given to attendants in similar institutions in the adjoining colonies.

With regard to the care of the insane patients we find that no special system of training has been hitherto considered necessary for the attendants and nurses to receive when engaged upon such important and difficult duties as are entrusted to them. We suggest that short lectures and clinical instruction be made a part of the duties of the Assistant Medical Officer, to be given at intervals to the attendants and nurses. We believe that these officers would highly appreciate such teaching, and that the patients would be greatly benefited thereby.

With the view of relieving the Medical Superintendent of many of his administrative duties, which have grown to such an extent as to interfere with the performance of his medical work, we would suggest the appointment of a House Steward, to be resident within the Asylum, in the stead of the present arrangement, which allows of the Storekeeper residing away from the institution. The duties of the House Steward would be to attend to the stores, to supervise the working of the institution, and in addition to take over the management of the farm belonging to the Asylum. The appointment of such an officer has been approved by the Hon. the Chief Secretary, as soon as accommodation can be provided within the walls of the Asylum.

We desire again to call attention to the urgent need for some repairs to the Asylum, especially in the back yard of the main building for females and in the refractory wards, also in the bread store and kitchen, as well as for painting and whitewashing generally. We have pointed out how, by employing under trained supervision the labour released from the wood-yard, most, if not all, of the urgent repairs could be effected without much extra cost, as is the case in many institutions of a similar kind in Australia.

We would also urge the desirability of securing the adjoining properties which have been sanctioned by Parliament, now that Burnett and Gray streets are closed; for with the growing necessities of the institution more room is required, which would allow of the profitable and recreative employment of the patients in the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, &c. for their own use in the hospital.

In conclusion, we regret to add that this Board has lost by death the valuable and esteemed services of the late F. W. Mitchell, Esquire, who had been a member since its initiation, as well as a member of the previous Commission for many years.

The vacancy caused by the death of Mr. F. W. Mitchell has been filled by the appointment of W. E. Shoobridge, Esquire, J.P., of Bushy Park.

We append the Annual Report of the Superintendent and Medical Officer, accompanied by Returns and Tables giving the usual statistical information.

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

C. E. BARNARD, *M.D.*,
T. GRAY, *M.B. Edin.*,
W. E. SHOBRIDGE, *J.P.*, } *Official Visitors.*

10 April, 1891.

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 11th March, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward my Report on this Hospital for the year 1890.

There were 307 patients in the Institution on December 31st, 1889—viz., 140 males and 167 females; and on the same date last year there were 323 patients—viz., 158 males and 165 females.

There have been 49 admissions—viz., 30 males and 19 females; and 13 re-admissions—viz., 6 males and 7 females.

In the case of the re-admissions, the periods between admission and discharge varied from 27 days to 30 years. The total number treated was 386.

37 patients have been discharged—viz., 19 males and 18 females. Of these 10 were discharged in accordance with Sect. 22 of 22 Vict. No. 23.

The per-centage of discharges on admissions was 63·7. Idiots and imbeciles are excluded in this calculation, as are also the cases transferred from the Cascades Hospital for the Insane.

There have been 26 deaths—viz., 16 males and 10 females; the per-centage of deaths on the number treated being 6·7; the respective ages being as follows:—1, 89; 1, 82; 1, 76; 1, 74; 1, 73; 1, 71; 1, 68; 1, 67; 1, 66; 1, 64; 1, 62; 1, 61; 1, 58; 1, 57; 1, 58; 2, 49; 1, 46; 1, 44; 1, 37; 2, 30; 1, 28; 1, 23; 2, 22; and 1 unknown.

In consequence of the Cascades Hospital for the Insane having been closed, 17 male patients were transferred to this institution.

6 patients escaped—viz., 3 males and 3 females. All were brought back safely to the Hospital.

Two cases of typhoid fever occurred amongst the nursing staff; both made good recoveries. Several cases of influenza occurred amongst the patients and attendants, but no deaths resulted from this disease.

The total amount received from paying patients was £2336 8s. 1d. The Imperial Government contributed £595 19s. 8d. The fees from the Ladies' Cottage amounted to £789 5s. 8d., and those from the Gentlemen's Cottage were £889 1s. 1d.

The gross cost of the Institution was £12,661 1s. 5d.; but, deducting from this the receipts from all sources, including the stock sales, and the estimated value of the farm and garden produce, the net cost was £8906 5s. 9d., or 10s. 9½d. per week per patient.

There have been several changes in the staff during the year. Miss Alexander resigned her position as Matron, and was succeeded by Miss J. R. Ayres, the Sub-Matron. Miss Alexander, now Mrs. R. W. G. Shoobridge, had been Matron since December, 1883. She performed her duties in a most highly satisfactory manner. Miss Ayres, her successor, had gained considerable experience in psychological work as Sub-Matron here, and since her promotion has fully shown her fitness for the post of Matron.

Miss Emily Henderson was appointed Sub-Matron in succession to Miss Ayres, but she resigned her position, and was succeeded by Miss J. Power, in April.

The proposed new buildings for both male and female patients have not yet been commenced.

The want of a steam laundry becomes more urgent every week, and there is already a very considerable difficulty in supplying the patients with clean and dry linen during the winter. As the numbers increase this matter will be most serious.

Numerous repairs are absolutely necessary in various parts of the Institution, and it is anticipated that during next year many of these will be effected.

The segregation of cases, owing to present increased space, is already showing beneficial results; and when the various new buildings are available classification will be more complete, and still better results will be obtained with respect to the treatment of cases.

A Bill was passed last Session authorising the closing of part of Burnett-street and also Gray-street. By this measure necessary privacy has been secured for the patients in the front divisions of the Institution. The decidedly good effect of this Act was most apparent during the Christmas holidays.

Two fire-proof staircases have been constructed, one on each side of the main building for females, and thus greater protection has been afforded in case of fire.

The farm, garden, and dairy have yielded liberal supplies for the Hospital. The farm has furnished 458 dozen eggs, worth, at 1s. 2d. per dozen, £26 14s. 4d. The sales of stock realised £129 5s. 9d. The dairy yielded 47,543 pints of milk, worth, at 1½d. per pint, £297 2s. 10d.

During the year the patients, both male and female, have performed a considerable amount of work for the Institution. The men have been employed at farming, gardening, carpentering, wood-cutting, road-making, and painting, and at domestic work in connection with the wards. The women have been occupied at needlework, washing, hair-picking, and domestic work of different kinds.

Amusements of various kinds have been provided for the patients, and they thoroughly enjoyed their picnics and the Christmas tree.

I take this opportunity of thanking the kind donors of books, papers, fruit, &c. for the patients, and also those ladies and gentlemen who contributed the numerous articles to furnish the Christmas tree.

The usual religious services have been held during the year.

The various Returns are appended.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to the Staff of this Institution for their cordial co-operation during the past year.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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

The Chairman of the Official Visitors,
Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.

TABLE showing the Ages of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year 1890.

AGES.	ADMISSIONS.			DISCHARGES.						DIED.		
				Recovered.			Removed, relieved, or otherwise.					
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
From 5 to 10 years	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 10 to 15 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 15 to 20 years	2	1	3	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 20 to 30 years	6	9	15	1	3	4	1	...	1	2	2	4
From 30 to 40 years	6	8	14	3	4	7	3	4	7	1	2	3
From 40 to 50 years	5	4	9	1	2	3	2	2	4	3	1	4
From 50 to 60 years	7	3	10	2	1	3	1	...	1	2	...	2
From 60 to 70 years	3	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	4	6
From 70 to 80 years	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	4	...	4
From 80 to 90 years	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
From 90 & upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unknown	3	...	3	1	1	2	1	...	1	1	...	1
	36	26	62	10	12	22	9	6	15	16	10	26

TABLE showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality, and Proportion of Recoveries, &c. per cent. on Admissions, &c., for the Years 1881 to 1890.

	Admitted, including Re-admissions.			Discharged.									Died.			Remaining 31st December in each year.			Average Numbers resident.			Percentage of Cases recovered on Admission.			Percentage of Cases recovered on Average Numbers resident.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Numbers resident.		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Unimproved.																				
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
1881...	28	20	48	4	1	5	1	1	2	...	...	...	17	5	22	145	144	289	141.5	137.4	278.9	17.8	10.	14.5	3.5	1.4	2.5	12.1	3.6	7.8
1882...	32	20	52	9	11	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	6	27	147	147	294	142.3	143.07	285.37	28.1	55.	38.4	6.3	7.6	7.3	14.7	4.1	9.4
1883...	31	16	47	7	8	15	3	2	5	...	...	...	20	7	27	145	144	289	149.3	142.4	291.7	22.6	50.	31.9	4.6	5.6	5.1	13.4	4.9	9.2
1884...	30	34	64	11	4	15	6	6	12	...	1	1	14	9	23	144	158	302	148.6	148.3	296.9	36.6	11.7	23.4	7.4	2.7	5.05	9.4	6.07	7.7
1885...	34	24	58	12	6	18	6	8	14	...	3	3	10	15	25	134	150	284	128.6	149.7	278.3	35.3	25.	31.03	9.3	4.008	6.4	7.7	10.02	8.9
1886...	25	16	41	7	6	13	6	4	10	1	...	1	7	12	19	138	143	281	133.4	145.4	278.8	28.	37.5	31.7	5.2	4.1	4.6	5.1	8.2	6.8
1887...	35	24	59	8	2	10	3	6	9	1	1	2	19	1	20	137	157	294	139.6	148.8	288.4	22.8	8.3	16.9	5.7	1.3	3.4	13.6	.67	6.9
1888...	25	24	49	9	7	16	3	14	17	...	...	...	14	3	17	134	157	291	133.9	158.1	292.	36.	29.1	32.6	6.7	4.4	5.5	10.4	1.9	5.8
1889...	40	22	62	13	4	17	2	2	4	...	1	1	19	5	24	140	167	307	137.	163.	300.	32.5	18.1	27.4	9.4	2.4	5.6	13.8	3.06	8.
1890...	36	26	62	10	12	22	8	3	11	1	3	4	16	10	26	153	165	323	152.4	165.7	318.1	27.7	46.1	35.4	6.5	7.2	6.9	10.4	6.03	8.1

TABLE showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1890.

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1890 .....	...	...	...	140	167	307
Admitted {	For the first time	30	19	49		
	Re-admitted	6	7	13		
	Transferred from Hospital for In- sane, Cascades	17	...	17		
Total admitted.....	...	...	...	53	26	79
Total under care during the year .....	...	...	...	193	193	386
Discharged, recovered, &c. {	Died.....	16	10	26		
	Recovered	19	18	37		
Total discharged, died, &c. during the year.....	...	...	...	35	28	63
Remaining in the Asylum 31st December .....	...	...	...	158	165	323
Average number resident during the year .....	...	...	...	152.4	165.7	318.1

RETURN of Patients who died in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and the Period of Detention, from January 1st to December 31st, 1890.

No. in Register.	Date of Admission.	Date of Death.	Age.	Sex.	Cause of Death.
		1890.	Years.		
247	2 December, 1859	1 January	71	M	Valvular Disease of Heart.
1514	26 May, 1888	7 February	37	F	Epilepsy.
457	22 February, 1865	19 March	76	M	Valvular Disease of Heart.
1601	6 January, 1890	24 April	58	M	Erysipelas.
1518	24 June, 1888	12 May	22	M	Softening of Brain.
1575	1 August, 188	21 May	49	F	Acute Bronchitis.
1303	31 July, 1884	4 June	28	F	Epilepsy.
1419	20 October, 1886	22 June	22	F	Disseminated Sclerosis.
363	7 September, 1862	22 June	82	F	Chronic Disease of Brain.
1308	2 September, 1884	1 July	67	F	Epilepsy.
988	29 September, 1877	4 July	44	M	Chronic Disease of the Brain.
1556	3 April, 1889	4 July	66	M	Chronic Disease of the Brain.
1105	5 July, 1880	12 July	30	F	Epilepsy.
1623	26 May, 1890	25 July	57	M	Chronic Disease of Brain.
1009	9 April, 1878	6 August	61	F	Chronic Inflammation of Lungs.
1576	8 August, 1889	9 August	30	M	Chronic Arachnitis.
1577	19 August, 1889	11 September	23	M	Abscess in the Brain.
1591	13 November, 1889	1 October	49	M	Disease of the Brain.
1610	30 January, 1890	10 October	89	M	Senile Decay.
519	27 July, 1866	12 October	62	F	Acute Bronchitis.
1429	24 December, 1886	13 October	46	M	Chronic Disease of the Brain.
1183	19 May, 1882	14 th October	68	F	Pericarditis.
1570	17 June, 1889	30 October	74	M	Tumour of the Brain.
1667	27 October, 1890	21 November	—	M	Chronic Inflammation of Brain.
1656	29 August, 1890	19 December	73	M	Pneumonia.
1673	26 November, 1890	28 December	64	M	Senile Decay.

TABLE showing the Length of Residence of those discharged, recovered, and of those who have died, during the Year 1890.

Length of Residence.	Recovered or relieved.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Under 1 month	1	2	3	1	...	1
From 1 to 3 months	3	3	6	2	...	2
From 3 to 6 months	5	3	8	2	...	2
From 6 to 9 months	3	4	7	...	...	...
From 9 to 12 months.....	1	...	1	2	2	4
From 1 to 2 years	1	2	3	5	1	6
From 2 to 3 years	2	2	4	...	...	...
From 3 to 5 years .....	...	...	...	1	1	2
From 5 to 7 years .....	...	1	1	...	1	1
From 7 to 10 years .....	...	1	1	...	1	1
From 10 to 12 years .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
From 12 to 15 years	2	...	2	1	1	2
24 years .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
25 years .....	...	...	...	1	...	1
28 years .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
30 years	1	...	1	...	...	...
31 years .....	...	...	...	1	...	1
	19	18	37	16	10	26