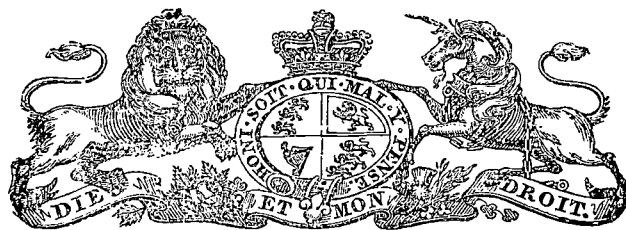


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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

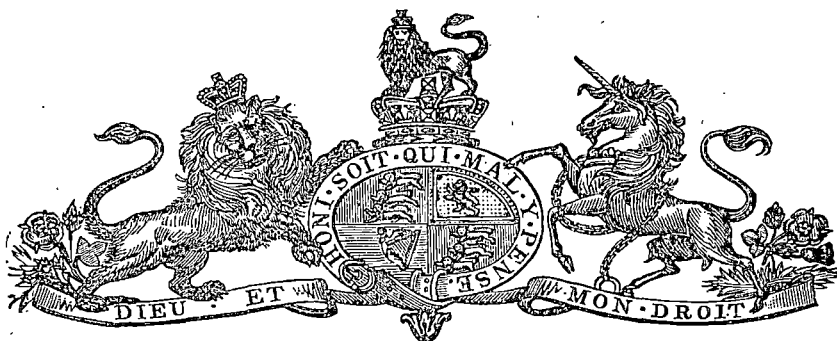
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HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK:

REPORT FOR **1888.**

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



## HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK.

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### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1888.

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*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, appointed under "The Insane Persons Hospitals Act Amendment Act, 1885," 49 Victoria, No. 35, to the Hospitals for the Insane in Tasmania, have the honor to submit to you our Annual Report, being that for the year 1888.

During the year your Official Visitors paid twenty visits to the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, many of which were made without previous notice, and some at night time by one of our number who is resident in the township. On every occasion these visits of inspection have proved that strict discipline prevails throughout the Institution. The patients were mustered on several occasions, and we found their number to correspond with the register.

At every meeting of the Board of Official Visitors minutes of all the proceedings were carefully kept and duly signed, and reports of the state of the Hospital were drawn up and forwarded to the Honorable the Chief Secretary, in accordance with the provisions in Sections 5 and 6 of "The Insane Persons Hospital Act Amendment Act."

The number of patients remaining in the Institution on 31st December, 1888, was 294, showing an increase of 13 upon the previous year, when the number was 281. This increase is in the number of females, of whom there were 143 in 1887, while in 1888 there were 157. The overcrowding caused by the increase has not affected the health of the inmates of this portion of the buildings, which is excellent—ventilation and cleanliness being carefully attended to.

The division for male patients has not been overcrowded to the same extent, especially since the opening of the new cottage for idiots, which relieved the general wards of at least 12 patients.

The new cottage for idiots, which was first occupied in September last, is a commodious structure, and has ample room for the 19 idiots therein domiciled.

Fire Escapes.—Nothing has yet been done to give effect to the suggestions made in previous reports of the urgent necessity for means of escape, in case of fire, from the upstairs dormitories in the female division. We think that this should receive immediate attention. The fire brigade of the Asylum, now established about two years, is frequently exercised in the use of the fire engines and would, we think, be effectual in case of emergency.

The value of the work performed by the patients in cutting wood, and other necessary labour, is estimated by the Medical Superintendent at £1500 annually. We believe that the wood-cutting could be performed by means of steam more quickly and at less cost, while the labour of the patients at present so employed could be better utilised in operations more suited to their mental ailments. If these men could be relieved from the monotony of wood-cutting, and put to gardening and beautifying the grounds of the Institution, or other work of more varied nature, expense would be saved, and they would benefit mentally and physically by the change.

Classification of Patients.—This is a subject which is constantly engaging our attention, as the welfare of the patients so much depends upon it. We cannot too strongly urge the completion of the new buildings for females with a view to improvement in this direction, and we advise that a separate cottage should be provided away from the present buildings, in order that patients who are convalescent may be removed from the hopelessly insane, and thereby have increased means of recovery.

Great advantage would be gained by closing Grey and Burnett streets to prevent the crowds of excursionists who find their way to New Norfolk at holiday times from staring at and annoying the patients, as constantly happens at present.

The additional vote for providing recreation for the patients is appreciated in the fullest measure, and is of great advantage to them. A portion of the large day-room in the female division has been so fitted up as to adapt it for theatrical representations, without interfering with the accommodation for patients in the room; the flooring will, however, soon have to be renewed, as it has become very uneven from decay.

The management of the Institution has been criticised by us during our frequent visits, and we have been invariably pleased with the good state of discipline of all officers and attendants, and the interest which all take in the welfare of the patients placed in their charge.

The drainage of the Institution has received our attention during the year. At our instance, Mr. Mault, the Engineering Inspector of the Central Board of Health, was asked by the Honorable the Chief Secretary to examine the present system, and to draw up a report with a view to adopting the most approved modern appliances connected therewith. Mr. Mault had the drains opened in several places for his inspection, and reports favourably as regards their general condition; but, with a view to abolishing the present pan system, and adopting the water-closet plan, he advocates the reconstruction of the entire system of drainage with an outlet to the Lachlan River, the sewage being first utilised and clarified on a small sewage farm.

In conclusion, we annex a copy of the Annual Report of the Superintendent and Medical Officer for 1888, containing much information of interest, to which are attached the customary statistical returns; and we take leave to advise that, in addition to the suggestions thrown out in our present report, the unaccomplished recommendations contained in our interim report for 1886, and recapitulated in that of 1887, be carried out as early as practicable.

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

C. E. BARNARD, *M.D.*, }  
F. W. MITCHELL, } *Official Visitors.*  
THOS. GRAY, *M.B. Ed.*, }

18th April, 1889.

### CORRIGENDA

Parliamentary Paper, No. 6, page 5.—The gross cost of the Institution should have been £11,983 18s. 10d. instead of £10,457 9s. 5d.; but deducting the receipts from all sources, and the estimated value of patients' labour, the net cost was £7550 1s. 3d., instead of £6023 11s. 10d., or 9s. 11d. per week per patient; instead of 7s. 11d. per week per patient.

*Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 18th March, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present my Report for the year 1888.

There were 294 patients in this Institution on December 31st, 1887,—viz., 137 males and 157 females.

There have been 41 admissions,—viz., 21 males and 20 females; and 8 re-admissions,—viz., 4 males and 4 females. With reference to the re-admissions, the patients had been absent from the Asylum for periods varying from one month to 8 years.

The total number of patients treated was 341.

33 patients have been discharged,—viz., 12 males and 21 females. Of these 16 had recovered. 15 were discharged in accordance with Section 22 of 22 Vict. No. 23.

The percentage of discharges on admissions, excluding idiots and imbeciles, was 73·3.

17 deaths occurred during the year,—viz., 14 males and 3 females, whose respective ages were,—1, 83; 1, 77; 1, 75; 1, 71; 1, 70; 1, 69; 1, 53; 1, 51; 1, 50; 2, 43; 2, 40; 1, 37; 1, 33; 1, 29; 1, 17: the percentage of deaths to the number treated being 0·49. In one instance—a case of carbolic acid poisoning—an inquest was held. I forward a report of this case to you.

A female patient sustained a fracture of the tibia, and another female patient fracture of the radius; the cause in each case was accidental, and both made good recoveries. A male patient died of typhoid fever. A male patient escaped, but was brought back to the Institution after being absent about six hours.

The amount received from paying patients was £2455 3s. 4d. Of this, the sum received for patients at the Ladies' Cottage amounted to £798 7s. 10d., and for patients at the Gentlemen's Cottage, £937 8s. 3d. The Imperial Government paid £431 11s. 3d., and the sum received from other paying patients amounted to £719 7s. 3d. The total amount received from all sources, including the sale of stock, amounted to £2933 17s. 7d.

The gross cost of the Institution was £10,457 9s. 5d., but, deducting from this the total amount received from all sources and the estimated value of patients' labour, the net cost was £6023 11s. 10d., or 7s. 11d. per week per patient.

The farm and garden have been as productive as usual. The farm has supplied 381 dozen eggs, worth, at 1s. 3d. per dozen, £23 16s. 3d. It has also afforded an ample supply of bacon and ham.

The dairy has yielded 43,832 pints of milk, worth, at 2d. per pint, £365 5s. 4d.

A large amount of work has been done by the patients during the year. The men have been employed in farming, wood-cutting, gardening, painting, tailoring, carpentering, and road-making. Some have also been employed in the kitchen, bakery, and at domestic work in the wards. The women have been occupied at needlework, in the laundry, and at domestic work in connection with the wards. The work performed by the patients may be fairly estimated at £1500.

The patients have been afforded various amusements, as football, quoits, and skittles; also draughts, cards, bagatelle, and dominoes. The usual dances have taken place fortnightly, and these have been rendered more enjoyable owing to the services of the New Norfolk Band having been engaged to play during these evenings. The patients have also been taken by train into the country for occasional picnics. These excursions are most thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed. Concerts and theatrical performances have been given occasionally for the patients' amusement.

There have been very few changes in the staff of attendants; and all, both officials and attendants, have worked well for the benefit of the Institution.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging the valuable assistance I have received from the Assistant Medical Officer, Dr. Crampton.

The new cottage for male idiots was occupied in September, and this has given more scope for classification, and has at the same time afforded more accommodation for male patients.

I desire again to thank the donors for their kind presents of books, papers, fruit, and flowers for the patients ; and also all who kindly contributed to the Christmas Tree.

The usual religious services have been held regularly during the 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, Hobart.*

*RETURN of Patients who died in the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and the Period of Detention, from January 1st to December 31st, 1888.*

<i>No. in Register.</i>	<i>Date of Admission.</i>	<i>Date of Death.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Cause of Death.</i>
		1888.	Years.		
136	16 July, 1856	8 January	75	M	Chronic mania and old age.
145	26 August, 1856	19 January	51	F	Carbolic acid poisoning.
1245	16 August, 1883	19 January	77	M	Brain disease and general debility.
1417	4 October, 1886	30 January	29	M	Enteric fever.
1411	30 July, 1886	5 February	43	M	Atrophy of brain.
1400	24 April, 1886	8 February	71	F	Hemiplegia.
1402	2 May, 1886	1 March	37	M	General paralysis of the insane.
1288	8 April, 1884	28 March	40	M	Chronic encephalitis.
1424	9 November, 1886	10 April	69	M	Chronic bronchitis.
1423	9 November, 1886	15 May	83	M	Apoplexy.
1426	24 November, 1886	17 May	33	M	General paralysis of the insane.
46	9 December, 1846	26 June	70	M	Abscess of the prostate.
1309	16 September, 1884	12 July	17½	M	Epilepsy.
1017	9 July, 1878	14 August	53	M	Epilepsy.
1524	10 August, 1888	4 September	40	F	Acute mania.
1525	11 August, 1888	12 October	50	M	General paralysis of the insane.
1446	18 April, 1887	28 November	43	M	General paralysis of the insane.

TABLE showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality, and Proportion of Recoveries, &c. per cent. on the Admissions, &c., for the Years 1879 to 1888.

	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.	
1879...	30	23	53	10	6	16	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	15	4	19	139	132	271	138.7	125.9	264.6	36.6	26.04	32.07	7.9	4.7	6.4	10.8	3.1	9.1
1880...	20	16	36	7	5	12	...	4	4	...	1	1	1	12	7	19	139	131	270	138.3	133.8	272.1	35.	56.2	44.4	5.06	6.7	5.8	8.6	5.2	6.9
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	22.3	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	

7

*TABLE showing the Length of Residence of those discharged, recovered, and of those who have died during the Year 1888.*

Length of Residence.	Recovered or relieved.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Under 1 month.....	1	...	1	...	1	1
From 1 to 3 months.....	2	4	6	1	...	1
From 3 to 6 months.....	3	10	13	...	...	...
From 6 to 9 months.....	3	4	7	...	...	...
From 9 to 12 months .....	1	1	2	...	...	...
From 1 to 2 years.....	1	...	1	7	1	8
From 2 to 3 years.....	1	2	3	...	...	...
From 3 to 5 years.....	...	...	...	3	...	3
From 5 to 7 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 7 to 10 years .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 10 to 12 years.....	...	...	...	1	...	1
From 12 to 15 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
32 years.....	...	...	...	1	1	2
42 years.....	...	...	...	1	...	1
	12	21	33	14	3	17

*TABLE showing the Ages of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1888.*

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	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 10 to 15 years	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
From 15 to 20 years	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
From 20 to 30 years	8	6	14	4	1	5	...	5	5	1	...	1
From 30 to 40 years	4	6	10	3	3	6	3	4	7	3	...	3
From 40 to 50 years	4	4	8	1	...	1	...	2	2	2	1	3
From 50 to 60 years	4	5	9	1	2	3	...	3	3	2	1	3
From 60 to 70 years	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
From 70 to 80 years	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	1	4
From 80 to 90 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
From 90 & upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unknown .....	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	25	24	49	9	7	16	3	14	17	14	3	17

*TABLE showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1888.*

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
In the Asylum 1st January, 1888 .....	...	...	...	135	157	292
Admitted { For the first time.....	21	20	41			
{ Re-admitted .....	4	4	8			
Total admitted .....	...	...	...	25	24	49
Total under care during the year .....	...	...	...	160	181	341
Discharged, recovered, &c. { Died.....	14	3	17			
{ Recovered .....	12	21	33			
Total discharged, died, &c. during the year ....	...	...	...	26	24	50
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st December .....	...	...	...	134	157	291
Average number resident during the year .....	...	...	...	133·9	158·1	292