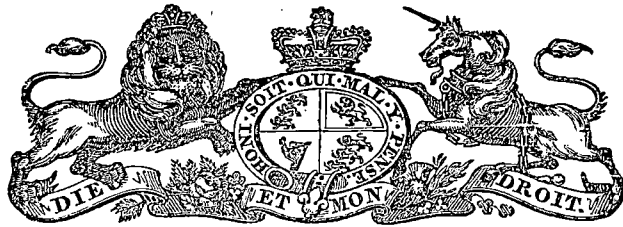


(No. 8.)



1870.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

QUEEN'S ASYLUM FOR DESTITUTE
CHILDREN.

REPORT FOR 1869.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 23, 1870.



Queen's Asylum, New Town, 19th May, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Report for this Institution for the year 1869.

1. The Expenditure is minutely detailed in the following Tables, the net total amount of which is shown to be £6513 10s. 11d.

This sum it may be observed is £605 16s. 3d. less than that of the preceding year,—a reduction to be explained by certain changes that had taken place, the low prices of some of the contracts for supplies, and the observance of the strictest economy generally in the management.

2. The numbers of children admitted, apprenticed, discharged, and died are also given, together with their ages, distribution, and funds upon which they were borne, and their religion.

The admissions into, and discharges from, the Institution during the years 1867 to 1869 inclusive have varied but slightly. The discharges, however, in every instance have exceeded the admissions, and hence has arisen the annual decrease in the number of inmates.

3. The daily average number was $391\frac{1}{3}$, and the cost per head £16 12s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Without desiring at the present moment to offer a comparison of this amount with those of former times, it cannot be otherwise than assuring to state that, with efficiency of the service, the expense of the Institution has been narrowed within limits it had never before attained.

Under these circumstances, therefore, (and taking into account the numerous recipients of Government aid through other channels), it becomes a matter for consideration as to the propriety of keeping the numbers up in the Asylum to the full extent of its accommodation,—for, supposing such to have been the case, and 500 children had been the daily average instead of 391 and a fraction, the cost per head would have appeared as £15 in place of the amount already given.

4. The list of sick and wounded, attached, specifies the class and order of diseases treated. In 42 instances of Vaccination, 30 only were in every respect satisfactory, owing to the operation in remaining 12 having been previously performed.

Two deaths occurred,—the one from hip-joint disease of long standing, the other from internal injury accidentally received.

These cases, being altogether exceptional, can in no way militate against the general healthiness of the children, which, by God's blessing, may be said to have become "a household word."

5. The Reports of the Examinations, both secular and religious, are appended. That of Mr. Rule imperatively calls for a change in the Educational Department, whilst that of the Rev. F. H. Cox has been met with a rejoinder from the Protestant Chaplain through the columns of the *Church News*.

The material portion of the Rev. F. Hudspeth's letter is submitted with a view to elucidate the difficulties that exist in training the young idea in an Establishment like the Queen's Asylum.

The Report of the Very Rev. W. J. Dunne, V.G., is sufficiently satisfactory as not to require comment.

Referring, however, to the Secular instruction, it is but right to remark that some, at least, of the improvements in the mode of tuition to which reference has been made would ere this have been in force had it not been for certain contemplated alterations in the general economy of the Institution.

6. The industrial occupation of the children continues to form an object of their education ; and although a portion only of the work done by them can be tabulated, the ordinary character of it is sufficient to prepare them for service.

7. The demand for Apprentices has been steadily maintained ; and, as a rule, where good masters have been secured, good servants have been made.

8. The Annual Treat, called "Fox's Feast," was held at Kangaroo Point, where, it is perhaps needless to say, the children enjoyed themselves, and had the benefit of the sea air.

Presents of Fruit have likewise been received by them from time to time from residents around,—the most enjoyable of which possibly were gooseberries so liberally and kindly sent upon two occasions by Richard Shoobridge, Esq., of O'Brien's Bridge.

Entertainments of various kinds have been encouraged with a view to amusement and instruction for the juveniles.

One "re-union" in particular is worthy of special notice from its intellectual and agreeable character. It consisted of Readings obligingly rendered by Mrs. Charles Meredith, and accompanied with instrumental and vocal music by several lady friends, and having for its object the purchase of suitable books and pictures for the sick in Hospital.

9. The accustomed distribution of Prizes took place under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Mrs. Du Cane. The presence likewise of His Lordship the Bishop of Tasmania, the Very Rev. the Vicar-General, several Members of the Ministry, with that of many ladies and gentlemen, was an earnest of the interest taken by them in the ceremony.

10. The frequent visits to the Asylum of strangers to the Colony, and the entries made by them in the Visitors' Books, are alike gratifying and complimentary.

To conclude.—The Farm, although financially forming an Institution of itself, is, nevertheless, a portion of the Queen's Asylum, and is included in its management.

The Account Current with it, at a glance, discloses a most satisfactory condition of the working of the Department.

A balance to credit of £466 15s. 2d., with an amount of £502 10s. 6d. saved the Government by supplies of Milk to other Charitable Institutions, is a feature of no mean significance.

Apart from other considerations, had the two amounts been allowed to be taken, as heretofore, as a set-off in the general expenditure, the cost per head of the inmates of the Asylum would have been 50s. less.

However, so long as the saving is to the Treasury, it probably matters little dwelling on details. But, that there may be no misconception with respect to the quantities of Milk produced, it may be well to add that the number of Cows kept throughout the year ranged from 30 to 35, and that the purchases and sales shown in the Account were transactions of that period.

I have now, Sir, touched upon the several points of importance connected with the Establishment ; and, in taking leave of the subject, I do so with a conviction that my exertions in carrying out the responsible trust placed under my anxious care have not been misapplied, nor have altogether miscarried.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COVERDALE, *M.D.*, *Principal.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

No. 1.

Admitted	84
Apprenticed	71
Discharged	20
Died	2
Daily average	391 $\frac{1}{2}$

Cost per head	£	s.	d.
	16	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

	£.	s.	d.
Salaries and Allowances	2301	7	3
Books and Stationery	43	6	2
Provisions	2695	18	6
Fuel and Light	369	10	5
Stores	100	3	11
Clothing	907	19	6
Bedding	50	16	0
Repairs and Alterations to Buildings	26	3	3
Needlework	81	2	8
Incidental	22	6	10
Medicines	3	0	0
Total Expenditure	6601	14	6
Cash Receipts	88	3	7
Nett Expenditure	£6513	10	11

No. 2.

SALARIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Principal and Medical Officer	450	0	0			
Purveyor and Clerk	200	0	0			
Head Schoolmaster	200	0	0			
Assistant Schoolmaster	120	0	0			
Matron, Female School	125	0	0			
Matron, Male School	100	0	0			
Matron, Infant School	120	0	0			
Schoolmistress, Senior	100	0	0			
Schoolmistress, Junior	85	0	0			
Cook and Storeman	60	0	0			
Out-door Inspector, Drill and Bandmaster	80	0	0			
Carpenter	90	0	0			
Shoemaker	80	0	0			
Organist	25	0	0			
Beadle	70	0	0			
Nurse, Hospital	36	0	0			
Cooks (2), Laundress (1), General Nurses (2)	150	0	0			
General Servants (2)	50	0	0			
Messenger (1), Monitors (18)	24	14	0			
				2165	14	0

No. 3.

ALLOWANCES.

Rent of House for Principal	70	0	0			
Purveyor in lieu of House and Water	33	12	0			
Head Schoolmaster instructing Monitors	20	0	0			
Senior Schoolmistress instructing Monitresses	10	0	0			
				133	12	0
Police Rate, Principal's House			2	1	3
				£2301	7	3

No. 4.

COST OF PROVISIONS.

	Children.			Servants.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January	224	4	7	7	15	6
February	204	16	2	7	0	7
March	230	5	9	7	15	6
April	202	4	11	7	5	4
May	220	9	9	7	10	6
June	212	1	9	7	5	10
July	243	6	9	7	8	11
August	225	1	11	7	8	11
September	209	12	3	7	12	1
October	222	0	2	7	9	5
November	208	4	4	7	12	1
December	203	16	1	7	9	5
Total for Children	2606	4	5	£89	14	1
Total for Servants	89	14	1			
	£2695 18 6					

No. 5.

COST OF FUEL AND LIGHT.

	Fuel.			Light.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January	20	0	0	5	4	7
February	16	11	0	4	17	3
March	16	11	0	5	5	0
April	20	9	0	6	19	2
May	23	18	0	6	18	1
June	35	8	0	7	1	4
July	36	11	0	7	18	5
August	29	13	0	7	3	2
September	41	3	0	5	6	10
October	20	0	0	5	1	3
November	18	14	1	4	9	10
December	17	16	11	5	3	6
	£296 15 0			£71 8 5		
Coals, 562,240 lbs.	288	13	0			
Wood, 40,320 lbs.	8	2	0			
				296	15	0
Oil, Kerosine, 405 $\frac{3}{4}$ gallons	50	14	10			
Candles, Tallow, 1031 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	20	8	2			
Candles, Composition, 5 lbs.	0	5	5			
				71	8	5
				£368 3 5		

No. 6.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

Remaining 31 December, 1869.		Admitted.		Apprenticed.		Discharged.		Died.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
222	172	51	33	42	29	12	8	2	—

AGES.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Above 12 years	60	68	128
From 8 to 12 years	116	78	194
From 6 to 8 years	28	16	44
Under 6 years	12	7	19
	216	169	385

DISTRIBUTION.

Male Division	170
Female Division	143
Infant Division, Male and Female	72
	<u>385</u>

FUNDS.

	Colonial.	Imperial.	Undecided.	Moiety.	Total.
Remaining on 31 December, 1868 ..	293	54	—	47	394
Admitted, 1869	69	10	—	5	84
Discharged, 1869	48	33	—	12	93
Remaining 31 December, 1869	314	31	—	40	385

RELIGION.

	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Undecided.	Total.
Remaining 31 December, 1868 ..	226	167	1	394
Admitted, 1869	47	38	..	85
Discharged 1869	55	38	1	94
Remaining 31 December, 1869 ..	218	167	..	385

No. 7.

AMOUNT OF WASHING PERFORMED BY GIRLS AND SERVANTS.

Pinafores	38,942
Shirts.....	18,828
Socks.....	5641
Cases, Pillow.....	12,207
Chemises.....	11,846
Dresses, Bathing.....	630
Stockings.....	8587
Hoods.....	3285
Gowns, Night.....	7896
Towels, Hand and Rollers.....	10,755
Jackets, Girls'.....	620
Capes.....	144
Rugs.....	46
Sheets.....	18,053
Blankets.....	958
Flannels.....	1088
Frocks.....	808
Petticoats.....	889
Jumpers.....	792
Trowsers.....	3108
Vests.....	1163
Jackets.....	343

146,629

VALUE OF SAME WASHING IF CHARGED AT ORDINARY RATES.

Dozens.	Pieces.	Articles.	Price.	Amount.
1588	1	Sheets, Blankets, and Rugs	1s. 6d. per dozen.	£ 119 2 1½
10,631	—	Ordinary	1s. per dozen.	531 11 0
				£650 13 1½

No. 8.

NEEDLEWORK PERFORMED BY GIRLS DURING YEAR 1869.

	Articles made.	Articles repaired.
Pinafores.....	932	—
Frock Skirts.....	247	—
Aprons, Boys'.....	15	—
Petticoats, Skirts.....	351	—
Cases, Pillow.....	207	—
Shirts.....	139	—
Shifts.....	336	—
Sheets.....	—	90
Gowns, Night.....	—	155
Towels.....	88	—
Socks.....	—	317
Half Squares.....	12	—
Petticoats, Band.....	50	—
Collars for Shirts.....	210	—
Hoods.....	141	—
Cloaks.....	—	100
	2728	662

VALUE OF SAID NEEDLEWORK IF CHARGED AT ORDINARY RATES.

Dozens.	Pieces.	Articles.	Price.	Amount.
25	7	Pillow Cases, Towels, &c...	3s. per dozen.	£ 3 16 9
201	9	General Clothing.....	6s. per dozen.	60 10 6
55	2	Repairs.....	1s. per dozen.	2 15 2
				£67 2 5

No. 9.

NEEDLEWORK.

	£	s.	d.
Cascade Factory	74	19	8
Reformatory	6	3	0
	<u>£81</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>

No. 10.

RECAPITULATION.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and Allowances	2301	7	3
Books and Stationery	43	6	2
Provisions	2695	18	6
Fuel and Light	369	10	5
Stores	100	3	11
Clothing	907	19	6
Bedding	50	16	0
Repairs and Alterations to Buildings	26	3	3
Needlework	81	2	8
Incidental	22	6	10
Medicines	3	0	0
	<u>£6601</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>
Less Fees for maintenance of Children	61	7	6
Sale of Pigs and repayment Police Rate	26	16	1
		<u>88</u>	<u>3</u>
		<u>£6513</u>	<u>10</u>
			<u>11</u>

RETURN OF SICK AND WOUNDED AT QUEEN'S ASYLUM FOR 1869.

CLASS I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.		Order 4.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.	
Order 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES.		Febris Ephemeral	11
Vaccination	42	Hepatitis	1
Hires	1	Jaundice	1
Erythema	1	Total Order 4	13
Erysipelas	1	Order 7.—DISEASES OF THE LOCOMOTIVE SYSTEM.	
Fever, continued	3	Synovitis	2
Total Order 1	48	Caries of Joint	1
Order 2.—ENTHETIC DISEASES.		Total Order 7	3
Paraphymosis	1	Order 8.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM.	
Total Order 2	1	Paronychia	6
Order 3.—DIETIC DISEASES.		Urticaria	1
Rachitis	1	Eczema	5
Total Order 3	1	Other Skin Affections	14
Order 4.—PARASITIC DISEASES.		Total Order 8	26
Scabies	2	Total Class 3	59
Tinea	5		
Total Order 4	7	CLASS IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.	
Total Class 1	57	Order 1.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES OF CHILDREN.	
CLASS II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.		Club Foot	2
Order 1.—DIATHETIC DISEASES.		Total Order 1	2
Anæmia	1	Total Class 4	2
Total Order 1	1	CLASS V.—VIOLENCE.	
Order 2.—TUBERCULAR DISEASES.		Order 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE.	
Abscess	5	Fracture	1
Total Order 2	5	Contusions	6
Total Class 2	6	Cuts	3
CLASS III.—LOCAL DISEASES.		Luxations	2
Order 1.—DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.		Burns and Scalds	2
Paraplegia	3	Rupture of Stomach	1
Chorea	1	Total Order 1	15
Ophthalmia	4	Total Class 5	15
Conjunctivitis	5		
Odontalgia	1		
Blind	1		
Total Order 1	15		
Order 3.—DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.			
Pneumonia	2		
Total Order 3	2		

GENERAL TOTAL..... 139.

Hobart Town, 29th December, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report concerning my Examination of the Children of the Queen's Asylum on the 16th, 17th, and 20th of this month.

There are three Schools in the Asylum,—one for Boys only, one for Girls only, and one for Infants. In the Boys' School and in the Girls' there are Five Classes,—the First being the lowest; and the Infants are similarly arranged in Two Classes. In the First Class monosyllabic reading, the formation of letters on slates, and the notation and reckoning of numbers up to twenty are taught. In the Second Class the children learn to read easy narratives, to write words from a book, and Arithmetic up to Simple Subtraction. In the Third Class the subjects taught are Reading from the Irish Third Book, Writing in copy-books and from dictation, and the Simple Rules of Arithmetic. The Fourth Class read the Irish Fourth Book, write in copy-books and from dictation, and learn Arithmetic up to Division of Money. In the Fifth Class, which is composed of Monitors, the Reading is in the Supplement to the Irish Fourth Book, and the Writing and Arithmetic are the same as in the Fourth Class.

In the two Upper Schools the numbers examined in the several Classes were :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
First Class	21	13	34
Second Class	35	43	75
Third Class	68	44	112
Fourth Class	28	15	43
Fifth.....	10	8	18
In the Infant School.....	45	24	69
In all	<u>207</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>351</u>

In the Infant School the children are under good discipline, and are very fairly taught. Their Mistress has the advantage of ample space in which to teach them without disturbance from the elder children, but the disadvantage of having to leave them to the care of Monitors during the whole of the forenoon. The total absence of desks is another great drawback to this School.

In the Boys' and Girls' School the Reading, as far as regards the correct and distinct pronunciation of words, is good in the Fifth and the Fourth Classes, and fair in all the others; but there is from the lowest to the highest a wonderful inability to grasp the meaning of very simple sentences. The upper classes show more intelligence than the lower, but not such as might be expected in children of their age.

The Writing in copy-books is very fair, and that from dictation good in the Monitor Classes, fair in the Fourth, and defective in the Third.

The Arithmetic is very inaccurate throughout the Schools.

These results cannot be considered satisfactory; and as their mere statement, with no mention of the unfavourable circumstances under which the children are taught, would be unfair to the Teachers, it is necessary to indicate some of those circumstances. The greatest hindrance to successful teaching in these Schools is the adoption of the Monitorial System, which, bad at the best, cannot with any hope of success be used in Schools like these, where no children are allowed to remain long enough to become fit to act as Monitors. Another disadvantage is the arrangement of the School Furniture according to the Lancasterian System, which prevents the separation and instruction of the different classes when at their desks, and thus necessitates a greater amount of standing than is good for children, while the want of adequate space in which to arrange the classes causes disorder and hinders instruction. A great hindrance to the development of intelligence in the upper classes is the use of the Irish Series of Reading Books, which, from the Third upwards, are written in language so difficult—so many words needing to be explained, and sentences to be disentangled—that the hope of being able to combine practice in reading with a proper amount of instruction is found to be vain, especially among children that have no intercourse with the outer world. The Teachers even find it difficult to make them understand passages of which the meaning would be obvious to children of the same age in the habit of hearing intelligent conversation among their elders.

It would be much to the advantage of these Schools if Pupil Teachers were appointed instead of Monitors; or if, as has been suggested, passed Pupil Teachers from the other Schools were appointed Assistants here before being sent to take charge of Schools in the Country.

Having been requested to name the Boy and Girl in each Division of each Class that gained the highest marks in Reading, Writing from dictation, Arithmetic, and Penmanship, I submit the following list of names :—

CLASS.	DIVISION.	SUBJECTS AND NAMES.			
		<i>Reading.</i>	<i>Writing from Dictation.</i>	<i>Arithmetic.</i>	<i>Penmanship.</i>
I.	1	John Cook	—	—	—
	2	Adelaide Williams	—	—	—
		Frank Jennet	—	—	—
II.	3	James Jackson....	—	—	—
	1	M. A. Bishop ..	—	—	—
	2	Jane White	—	—	—
George Jacobs....		—	—	—	
III.	3	Sarah Connor	—	A. Sophia Robins..	—
	1	James Cleary	—	James Cleary.....	—
		Margaret Phillips..	Jessie George	Eliza Drake.....	Emma Bruce.
IV.	2	John Cleary.....	P. Henderson	P. Maughan.....	W. Smith.
	3	M. A. Hilliard....	Ellen Brodie.....	Jane Hunt	Elizabeth Hull.
		Robt. Cummins ..	John Edwards	William Suttery ..	Thomas Trench.
V.	..	Anne Walker	Elizabeth Jones ...	Agnes Conway....	James Smith.
	..	A. Dobson	A. Dobson	David Barclay....	A. W. Jefferson.
		Elizabeth Tallent..	Jane Oliver	Mary Allen	Ellen Hall.
V.	..	D. C. Keen	D. C. Keen	Thomas Harding ..	E. Chamberlain.
	..	Anne Curtis.....	Anne Curtis.....	Ellen Connolly....	Ellen Connolly.
		Geo. W. Kelly....	Charles Dawson ..	Charles Dawson ..	Charles Dawson.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES RULE.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

St. David's, Hobart Town, December 27, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the result of an Examination of about 125 Children of the Queen's Asylum, in subjects classed under the general head of "Religious Instruction."

This Examination was held by me on the 21st instant, and occupied five hours. About 65 boys and 60 girls, each arranged in four classes, were examined. Children below the Fourth Class I was not able to examine.

Comparing the two divisions, I am inclined to think that in the *first*, or senior class, the girls were slightly superior to the boys of the same class, both in accuracy and intelligence; that in the *second* class the girls were decidedly superior to the boys; but that the answering of the boys was better than that of the girls in the third and in the fourth class.

The difference between the lowest and the highest class, whether of boys or girls, was very considerable,—the children of the fourth class being hardly capable of anything more than repetition of answers by rote, and being thrown out if the questions were not put precisely in the form which they expected; while the eldest boys and girls showed much quickness of perception in catching the meaning of questions, and careful thoughtfulness in replying to them.

The eldest boys and girls were examined in Books of Holy Scripture, which they had evidently studied with care, while in matters relating to Christian Faith and Morals they showed that they not only had learnt the words of the Creed or the Catechism, but understood their force and meaning, and were able to apply rules of duty to the circumstances of common life. They were also well acquainted with the Collects of the Book of Common Prayer, and the teaching of the various Christian Seasons. The classes next in order showed a fair knowledge of the leading facts

of Sacred History, and were able here and there to explain as well as to repeat the answers of the Catechism,—while the performance of the lowest classes was little more than an exercise of memory without understanding. If this was disappointing (as it evidently was), it was some consolation to observe that the answers repeated were generally correct, and the utterance of words was (with some exceptions) tolerably clear and distinct.

I feel the difficulty of selecting any children for special commendation; and perhaps the Examiner for the day can hardly be expected to make such a selection. But of the many boys and girls of the First Class whose answering was really excellent, I may perhaps especially mention

Ed. Chamberlain.		Ellen Connolly.
Daniel Lawson.		Margaret Townsend.
Ch. Dawson.		Ann Walker.

The name of Ann Smith may also be mentioned with praise.

Among the juniors, I have marked as answering well—

Wm. Mortimer,	} 2nd Division, 1st Class.	F. Williams,	} 3rd Class.
John Danton,		Wm. Walker,	
Thos. Harding,			
Wm. Bryceland,	} 2nd Class.	James Robinson,	} 4th Class.
James Thomson,		David Barclay,	

And of the 2nd Class girls—

Elizabeth Fekes.		Joanna Donovan.
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I am not able to note the names of girls in the 3rd or 4th classes. There are those, doubtless, who deserve to be specially commended, and whom their Teachers could at once select, but I was not able to distinguish them from the general level.

I trust I may be allowed to call attention to an evident want (as I regard it) especially as concerns the junior classes. The supply of *suitable books of instruction* is, I think, more scanty than it ought to be. This want is compensated to some extent in the case of the elder children by the skill and care of the Teacher, and by their own intelligence; but even these children, instead of learning always from Sinclair's Catechism (long in use in the School), might enlarge their knowledge if they were permitted to use (at least alternately with Sinclair) some other of the excellent manuals of instruction that are now published. But the younger children especially, who must be a good deal left to the care of Monitors, need something more than the rote-learning of the Church Catechism, the language of which is much beyond them. They seem to require an elementary book of instruction in the facts of the Gospel, with simple questions on faith and morals. And if this were illustrated and accompanied by a book of children's hymns (such as the "Hymns for Little Children" and "Narrative Hymns of Mrs. Alexander"), and also by a good set of coloured engravings,—the want of which, in such a School as this, strikes me as quite remarkable in the way of omission,—the improvement in the power of interesting the children in the things learnt would soon be perceptible. I would respectfully press this matter upon the consideration of the Authorities.

I have only to add that I was very favourably impressed, not only with the good order and behaviour of the children while under examination, but with the brightness and cheerfulness of their look and manner.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. COX.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

PORTION of Rev. F. Hudspeth's Letter, dated 30th December, 1869, and published in "Church News" of 1st February, 1870.

After some preliminary observations the writer goes on to remark—

"I WISH it to be understood that I am not in any way finding fault with the award of my very dear friend in the late Examination, but I claim my right to say a few words with reference to his Report which may become as public as the Report itself. I may be pardoned for doing this if your readers will believe that the welfare and improvement of these poor children are, to me, matters of the deepest anxiety and thought.

“Those clauses of Mr. Cox’s Report which refer to the elder classes of boys and girls are highly satisfactory, and perfectly true. But one point it is necessary to remember,—that the children of those classes are, with few exceptions, under or about *twelve* years old,—the few who hold the office of monitor being also under or about fourteen. Of these children the Examiner states that they ‘had evidently studied *Holy Scripture with care*, while in matters relating to Christian faith and morals they showed that they not only had learnt the words of the Creed or the Catechism, but *understood their force and meaning, and were able to apply rules of duty to the circumstances of common life*,’ &c. Surely this is high praise for any children averaging twelve years.

“Now, it must not be forgotten that these proficient—as indeed they are—have gradually risen from those ‘lowest classes whose performance,’ the Examiner says, ‘was little more than *an exercise of memory without understanding*.’ Still there is, with regard to the latter, ‘some consolation in observing that the answers repeated were generally *correct*,’ &c. The age of these classes varies from seven to ten, and their main shortcoming is ‘*rote-learning*,’ and an observable lack of interest in the subject of their study. Now, I do not think I am farfetching a memory of my own when I recall the study, at a far more advanced age, of that interesting work—the ‘Eton Latin Syntax.’ I remember repeating the ‘*Nominativus Pronominum*’ and ‘*Dativum ferme*’ many a time and oft before I detected their inherent beauty of composition or application. I say seriously that the language of Catechisms is a tongue as unknown to these young children as that of the Latin Syntax. If Examiners and their readers would try to dissociate their ideas from children of their own rank, or those with the experiences of a religious though humble home, they would spare their criticism, however forbearing, of the moral and religious training of children such as I am about to describe. One case will suffice as a sample.

“Two children, aged respectively, as was supposed, six and eight, were found by the Police, all but starved to death, in a bare and desolate cottage. They were naked and over-run with vermin. Their parents had deserted them, and the Queen’s Asylum became their home. Observe their age!—sufficiently advanced to retain their horrible memories,—sufficiently advanced, no doubt, to seize new and unaccustomed ideas. But how were these to be conveyed? I cannot conceive any process superior to that adopted in the case of the unknown tongue, the Latin Syntax.

“It may, I think, be gathered from this one of many similar instances, what is the virgin soil which we have to trench. If, from such material, we can, *by any means*, reach the standard of the upper intelligent classes, the less said about ‘learning by rote’ the better.

“If an overflowing public treasury can furnish model households, domestic associations, a large corps of indefatigable teachers, with all the pleasant routine of Christian homes, then we may hope for something, even from these seven-year olds, beyond mere mechanism: until then, I fear, we must continue our Catechism, ‘correctly repeated,’ albeit by rote, and still trust to our Sinclair, though (like our old friend Syntax) ‘long in use in the School.’

“I do not approve of the monitorial system, could any other be devised. My own impression is, that the heads are exercised to the prejudice of the hands,—that tradesmen-tutors should promote at least half the education of the Asylum inmates: but that is no business of mine. I have forbidden the old monitor-dictation with the upper classes in my department of teaching; they are supplied with Bibles, and learn for themselves. The results are indicated by the Examiner’s Report.”

Macquarie-street, 29th December, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that I examined the Catholic children of the Queen’s Asylum in religious knowledge on Monday, the 20th instant, the forenoon having been devoted to the examination of the boys, and the afternoon to that of the girls, in their respective classes.

The class-books read by them during the year, and which they had prepared for examination, were “A Catechism of Christian Doctrine,” “An Abstract of the Douay Catechism,” and “A short Historical Catechism of the Old and New Testaments, by M. L’Abbé Fleury.”

The boys of the first and second classes answered fairly most of the questions proposed to them; those of the third, fourth, and fifth classes did not answer so well; and all of them betrayed less freedom, quickness, and intelligence than the boys in the same classes evinced when examined by me on previous years. The answering of the girls was exceedingly good in their several classes, and contrasted remarkably with that of the boys. Not only did they answer readily and accurately the various questions put to them, but they seemed to understand well the doctrine to which the questions referred.

It was very evident that a considerable amount of studious and intelligent attention must have been given by them to the several subjects in which they were examined, and that much pains and well-directed care must have been taken in informing their minds with the principles of religion, and the knowledge of reducing them to practice. And this conviction forced itself upon me—that, when these poor girls leave the Asylum under apprenticeship to masters, and commence to battle with the difficulties and dangers of the world, should any evil influences beguile them from the paths of

rectitude and virtue, such influences could not be traced back to negligence or defects in the religious training and education which they received at the Queen's Asylum.

Prizes were awarded by me for best answering to the under-mentioned boys:—

- 1st Class.—J. M. Jones, G. Currier, John O'Donnell, and D. Williams.
- 2nd Class.—G. Gregory, R. Cummins, and G. Cutler.
- 3rd Class.—H. Donovan and M. Currier.
- 4th Class.—P. Cusack and W. Cuddy.
- 5th Class.—M. Donoghue, A. Slattery, and H. Revell.

I awarded prizes also for best answering to the girls named as follows:—

- 1st Class.—Jane Oliver, Bridget Cauley, Mary Hackett, and Ellen Hull.
- 2nd Class.—Mary Ann Hilliard, Ellen Brodie, and Catherine Smith.
- 3rd Class.—Margaret Phillips, Angelina Brown, and Eliza Drake.
- 4th Class.—Theresa Conway and Sarah Allen.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
WILLIAM J. DUNNE, *Vicar-General.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

ACCOUNT CURRENT of QUEEN'S ASYLUM FARM, New Town, for the Year 1869.

Dr.		Cr.	
Salaries.		Supplies to Institution.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Farm Overseer.....	120 0 0	Milk, 78,193 pints, at 2d. per pint ..	651 12 2
Gardener, &c.....	90 0 0	Vegetables, 24,695 lbs., at 4s. 6d. per	
Ploughmen.....	73 6 0	100 lbs.	55 11 3
Carter.....	65 0 0	Ditto, 1530 lbs., at 3s. 11d. ditto	2 19 11
Labourer.....	65 0 0	Butter, 142 lbs., at 1s. 3d. per lb. ..	8 17 6
Farm Boys.....	15 12 0	Firewood, 40,320 lbs., at 9s. a ton..	8 2 0
Overseer Prison Gang.....	15 12 0		727 2 10
	444 10 0		
Miscellaneous.		Cash Receipts.	
Seeds—Rye Grass, 25 bushels, at		Service of "Bull".....	1 15 0
9s.; Tares, 10 bushels, at 9s....	15 15 0	Ditto "Boar".....	0 15 0
Oats, 92 bushels, at 4s. (3s. 6d.			2 10 0
cartage); Barley, 20 bushels, at 5s.	23 11 6		
Potatoes, 6170 lbs., at £3 12s. a			
ton; Carrots, 15 lbs., at 4s....	12 18 4		
Tares, 12 bushels, at 8s; Mangold			
Wurtzel, 25 lbs., at 2s.....	7 6 0		
Stores—Nails, Scythes, Scythe Stones,			
&c.	3 0 0		
Bran, 800 bushels, at 1s. 1d.; 300			
bushels, at 1s. 2d.	60 16 8		
Hay, 2 tons 4 cwt. 2 qrs.; Straw,			
6 tons 4 cwt. 2 qrs.	37 18 8		
Fuel, (Coals), 5 tons, at 23s.; Liquid			
Manure Cart, £40	45 15 0		
Toll, £7 11s. 3d.; Blacksmith, £17 13s.			
Repairs to cart £12 17s. 6d.; grazing	25 4 3		
Horses, £1 2s. 6d.....	14 0 0		
Expenses incurred in seeking for new			
Cows	0 12 6		
Expenses incurred in bringing Horses			
from grazing	0 5 0		
Extra Duties (Farm Overseer), sup-			
plying Milk in Hobart	10 0 0		
Auctioneer's Commission on Sale of			
Stock	1 5 9		
	258 8 8		
Stock purchased.		Sale of Stock.	
2 Cows, at £7; 2 Cows, at £8; 1 Cow,		1 Cow, £1 19s.; 1 Cow, £2 10s.; 1	
at £5	35 0 0	Cow, £2 13s.....	7 2 0
2 Cows, at £8; 1 Cow, at £8; 2 Cows,		1 Cow, £4 2s.; 1 Cow, £1 17s.; 1	
at £7	38 0 0	Cow, £1 19s.....	7 18 0
	73 0 0	1 Cow, £1 6s.; 1 Bull, £2 12s....	3 18 0
		1 Stallion, £3 10s.; 1 Mare, £5 5s..	8 15 0
		31 Calves, at 2s. 6d.	3 17 6
			31 10 6
Irrigation.		Milk to Establishments in Hobart Town.	
Overseer, Wages, 10 weeks, at £2 2s.	— 21 0 0	General Hospital, 26,519 pints, at 2d.	220 19 10
Balance in favour of Farm..	— 466 15 2	Cascade Factory, 33,014 pints, at 2d.	275 2 4
		Brickfields Depot, 770 pints, at 2d..	6 8 4
			502 10 6
	£1263 13 10		£1263 13 10