

(No. 6.)



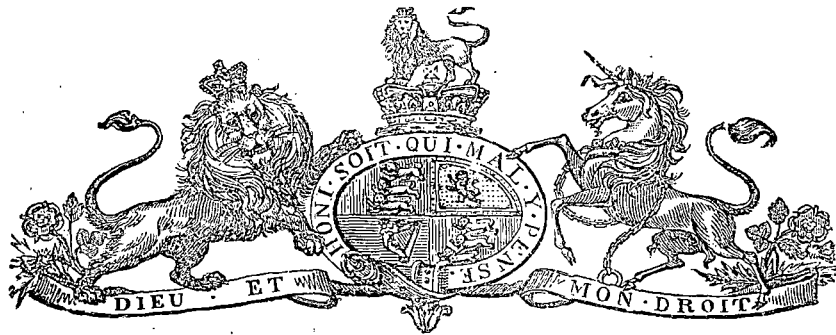
1862.

T A S M A N I A.

G E N E R A L H O S P I T A L.

R E P O R T O F T H E B O A R D.

Presented by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed,
22 July, 1862.



HOSPITAL REPORT.

THE Board of Management of the General Hospital have much satisfaction in bringing up their Report for the year ending 31st December, 1861. During that period, the system adopted by the Honorary Medical Officers has worked well, and the utmost confidence has been established in it as a Public Institution. A Committee of the Board visit the Hospital every week, in order to see that the Regulations are properly enforced, as well as for other purposes, independently of the Monthly Meetings of the Board itself. Thus ample checks are furnished against abuse; and the fact that the Meetings of the Board are open to the Press operates, besides, as a salutary safeguard.

The thanks of the Board are especially due to the Honorary Medical Officers and the House Surgeon, for the zeal manifested by them in the discharge of their onerous duties; and Mr. Seagar has given the utmost satisfaction in the superintendence of the Establishment, as well as in attention to pecuniary details.

The Hospital is now complete in all its arrangements, with the exception of some necessary improvements which have had to be postponed in consequence of there being no further sum of money available under the vote for Hospital and Brickfields' Buildings. These comprise the erection of baths, closets, completion of surgery, the entire re-painting of the Male Hospital, and other minor details, which it is computed could be completed for £800; and the Board confidently anticipate that Parliament will vote this sum. After this is voted, no additional sum will be required beyond the small outlay necessary to keep the buildings in repair.

It will then present an Hospital for Male and Female Patients which may challenge comparison with any similar Institution in any other country, in cleanliness, order, and all internal arrangements, as well as in the excellent mode of treatment adopted towards the Patients.

An estimate of the cost of the remaining improvements is annexed, for the information of the Government and of Parliament. The expenditure for 1861 has not exceeded £8000, and it is expected that it will be much reduced in 1862. Eleven hundred and twenty cases have been treated during 1861, and there has been an average of $165\frac{1}{8}$ inmates.

Besides these, there has been a large number of Out-Patients treated, which are enumerated in the concluding part of the Report. It will be seen, by reference to the 10th paragraph of Mr. Lovett's letter, that the cost of the Hospital, excluding the diets of attendants from 1st January to 30th September, 1861, has been 2s. 7½d. for each Patient, and for the Invalid Dépôt 1s. 1¾d. for each Invalid. While the rate for Invalids is undoubtedly low, it cannot form a basis of comparison with the Hospital, where the Patients are all in a state of acute bodily disease, requiring constant care, and the presence of active and efficient Wardsmen, as well as many other essentials not needed amongst Invalids. It will be sufficient on this point to state, that the expense per head of the Patients in the Hobart Town Hospital will favorably contrast with the cost of Patients in some of the best London Hospitals; while, if we take together the cost of the Patients and the Invalids in both Establishments, the average per head would be lower than that of similar Institutions.

At the suggestion of the Premier, and with the concurrence of the Board, a Professional Accountant (Mr. Lovett) was appointed to review the system of keeping the accounts in the Hospital, and to check the various items of expenditure for the year 1860 and part of 1861, and to report thereon.

Mr. Lovett furnished a very valuable Report, accompanied by the most elaborate documents carefully prepared. This Report also comprised the Brickfields' Dépôt. The Returns are brought down to the end of September, 1861. The Report which is annexed, marked A, is accompanied with a book superscribed "General Hospital and Brickfields' Dépôt," giving the expenditure in detail of each Establishment from the 1st January, 1860, down to the end of September, 1861.

Mr. Lovett recommends an alteration in keeping the accounts; but some of his suggestions had been already adopted by the Finance Committee. To the important recommendation that the

accounts of contractors should be first sent to the Board, an objection has been raised by the Accountant of Stores that, as contracts are made annually for all establishments, and as each establishment furnishes vouchers for itself for what it consumes in the way of meat, bread, wine, &c., such a condition would be not only inconvenient but unnecessary. It is a matter of no consequence to the Board, so long as it is distinctly understood by Parliament that the Board is not responsible for the details of the expenditure, which are checked and controlled by the Government. The Board have passed a Resolution, that every month there shall be laid on the table an Abstract of the Expenditure of the Hospital and Brickfields' Depôt, together with the number of inmates. Although the expenditure of particular months may vary, by reason of certain payments falling in at certain times more than others, the Board see no difficulty in having this Resolution complied with, and they insist on the importance of its being strictly observed. If it be not a direct, it will be at least a negative check against extravagance, as each Member of the Board will then have the opportunity of questioning any item that he pleases; moreover, it would be well that this statement of the condition and expenditure of the Hospital should be the first business entered upon by the Board at the Monthly Meetings.

Since the retirement of the Rev. Mr. Seaman as Chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Cox has, in conjunction with Mr. Smales, performed the duty to the satisfaction of the Board and the inmates of the Hospital.

Nine hundred and ninety cases of sickness and injury have been admitted into Hospital, and treated during the year. Of these, 692 were males, and 298 females.

There were remaining under treatment on the 1st January, 1860, 102 male and 28 female Patients; so that the total number of In-door Patients treated during the year was 1120. Of this number, 902 were discharged cured, or improved in health; 125 died; and there remained under treatment on the 1st January, 1862, 93 In-door Patients.

The mortality during the year may, at first sight, appear large; but when it is borne in mind that many of the Patients treated were aged, and that many cases of accident and disease were received into the Hospital in a hopeless condition (no fewer than 39 such cases terminating fatally within six days of admission), it will be observed that the mortality in cases usually considered amenable to medical treatment has not been greater than might reasonably have been expected; and it is believed that the statistics of the Establishment will bear favorable comparison with similar Institutions in older communities.

Numerous minor, and several capital operations in Surgery were performed by the Medical Officers of the Establishment during the year; and although it is to be regretted that two out of the many Patients so operated upon died subsequent to operation, from disease not incidental to the same, yet it is due to the Medical Staff of the Establishment to record the general success with which their professional labors have been rewarded.

Twenty-nine Invalids were admitted to the Female Infirmary during the year, and 55 were inmates at its commencement; making a total of 84. Of these, 24 were discharged, and 10 died; 50 remaining in the Infirmary on the 1st January, 1862.

Of Patients and Invalids there were—64 paying fees, 121 on Imperial funds, 834 on Colonial ditto; remaining 1st January, 1862—1 paying fees, 7 on Imperial funds, 135 Colonial ditto; at the Dispensary 2728 Out-door Patients were treated. The number of visits was 4270, and the number of prescriptions made 5660.

RETURN of the DISEASES treated in the GENERAL HOSPITAL, Hobart Town, during the Year 1861:—

DISEASES.	NUMBER OF CASES.			DEATHS.
	<i>Treated in Hospital.</i>	<i>Out Patients.</i>	<i>Total treated.</i>	
Diseases of Stomach and Bowels	59	400	459	9
Ditto Lungs	143	573	722	35
Ditto Eyes	37	84	121	—
Ditto Brain and Nervous System	101	51	152	15
Ditto Skin	8	92	100	—
Ditto Liver	29	12	41	10
Abscesses and Ulcers	116	216	332	5
Rheumatic Affections	142	229	371	2
Wounds and Injuries	138	307	445	13
Venereal Affections	69	176	245	—
Fevers	15	8	23	4
Dropsies	6	6	12	2
Other Diseases	257	568	825	40
TOTALS	1120	2728	3848	135

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

THE hope expressed by the Board, in their Report for the year 1860, that the Hobart Town Hospital would eventually become a valuable school of medical science, fulfilling the requirements of a Medical College, is being already realised. There are already four Pupils enrolled; and when the advantages which this Institution is now in a position to offer are made known, it may reasonably be anticipated that there will be a large accession of numbers to the Student class.

In the course of 1861, plans of the Hospital, and the Regulations under which it is managed, together with the Report of the preceding year, were forwarded to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, with the view of obtaining its recognition as a kindred Institution, and securing some of the direct benefits which result from such a connexion. These plans were carefully prepared under the superintendence of the Honorary Medical Officers, but more particularly of Dr. Smart, who is unremitting in his attention to the requirements of the Hospital, and who, besides devoting much of his time as Honorary Medical Officer to the Patients, is indefatigable in seeing all internal improvements systematically carried out. All the documents were forwarded Home, and favorably recommended in a letter from Sir Henry Young, to whom the Board are under obligations, for adding the weight of his personal, as well as official recommendation to the application.

The Board are also much indebted to Mr. Chapman and Mr. Henty for the warm interest manifested by them in promoting this object; and they feel it due to Mr. Henty, as their Chairman, to record their appreciation of the services rendered by him in so laudable a purpose.

Since the application to the Royal College of Surgeons was forwarded Home, the Board have much pleasure in announcing that they have been honored with a communication from that body, dated March, 1862.

The result is most favorable; the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons recognising the Hospital of Hobart Town, and granting to its Pupils peculiar privileges. These consist, in allowing the time passed in study in the Hospital at Hobart Town to count as one year in the course necessary to qualify the Student for taking the Degree of Surgeon in England, thus abridging the period which the Colonial Student would otherwise have to spend in London by 12 months;—in other words, it gives him that period for his own use which he may beneficially apply, either in practice or visiting other great Medical Schools on the Continent of Europe, and so having the sphere of his observation enlarged and improved.

The conditions imposed by the Royal College of Surgeons upon this affiliation of the Hobart Town Hospital are,—That after 1864, the preliminary examination which Candidates have to pass before entrance in England may be passed in this Colony, but that Students going Home from hence before that date will have to pass the preliminary examination in England before taking their Surgical Diploma. These provisions have been wisely framed, with the view of affording to the present Medical Pupils of the Hospital the benefit of the next two years, in diminishing the period prescribed for study in England,—the test of preliminary examination being merely postponed, while, in the mean time, the system of examination can be organised here for Students entering the Hospital after 1864. The subjects of examination have been transmitted from the College of Surgeons; and there is nothing to prevent its institution at once as a preliminary exercise, without conferring upon it the official recognition which will attach to it after 1864.

The Honorary Medical Officers and the House Surgeon of the Hospital have, with admirable promptitude, responded to the invitation of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, and from the 1st of this month have instituted Sessional Lectures in different branches of their profession, embracing the following subjects:—

Principles and Practice of Surgery	Dr. Crowther,
Clinical Surgery and Surgical Pathology	Dr. Smart,
Anatomy and Physiology	Dr. Turnley,
together with Hospital practice.	

Provision ought to be made for the payment of certain fees by the Students for attendance on these lectures, which might form a separate fund for their payment, towards supplementing which the Parliament would no doubt vote a moderate sum, in order to give practical effect to the great advantages which are thereby held out to the Colonial Student. Thus has been established a most useful Educational Institute, and means are now open to young men intending to enter the Medical Profession of not only acquiring the requisite knowledge in the Colony, but of having the time which they study here counted for one year in their career in England in taking their Degree as Surgeon,—an advantage which the Board believe is not shared by any other Hospital in the Australian Colonies.

And the Board cannot help thinking that it is a great advantage that the Medical Student should arrive in London at a time when, from previous training and experience in the Colony, he will be in a much better position to avail himself of the lectures and the practice of the Hospitals in London than if sent Home at an earlier period, exposed, before his mind is well formed, to the temptations and bad associations of a great city, uncontrolled as are all Medical Schools in London by the habits and discipline incidental to an University.

And while upon this subject, the Board cannot help expressing an opinion that Pupils should not be admitted to the Hospital in Hobart Town under 16 or 17 years of age, so as to secure some degree of uniform capacity, and to act as a check against indiscriminate entrance.

BRICKFIELDS.

This Establishment continues to be most satisfactorily and economically conducted. The improvements that were suggested have been in a great degree carried out. A house has been built for the Superintendent, and the quarters which he originally occupied are being now prepared for the reception of Invalids. A large ward has been built, capable of accommodating 80 beds, which is airy and spacious, the roof being open and tied with iron rods. It is the best ward in any Establishment in Hobart Town. Strenuous exertions, however, are now being made to create additional accommodation at the Brickfields, so as to clear off all Invalids from the Hospital; but if the system of concentration, which the Government seem desirous of effecting on grounds of economy, be carried out much further, it will be necessary to expend £300 in the construction of another ward.

The cost of maintaining Invalids does not exceed £20 a-year. The Superintendent is zealous and unremitting in the discharge of his duty, and the whole of the ground, although of an inferior character, is being gradually reclaimed, and put under cultivation by the labour of the Invalids. A considerable saving was thereby made in the use of vegetables during 1861.

The systematic employment of the Invalids has engaged the attention of the Committee; but when it is bornè in mind that their average age is 68, and that they all have some bodily ailment or infirmity, the value of any compulsory labour would not pay for the cost of its superintendence.

The better conducted amongst them, and those who are able to work, are now employed on a reduced scale as wardsmen or in the garden, there being only four hired servants, whose wages with rations amount to £36 per annum each; and it might perhaps be desirable to extend this system a little further, by holding out a certain special remuneration to others, to level and prepare the adjacent grounds.

The Expenditure of the Brickfields for 1861 was £2,973 8s. 11d. Average number of Invalids 150, which is less than £20 per head.

On the 1st January, 1861, there were at the Brickfields' Dépôt 124 inmates. During 1861, 154 were received into the Establishment, 116 were discharged, and 6 died; the average age of the latter being 72½ years. There were remaining on the 1st January, 1862, 156.

WILLIAM HENTY.
 JOHN REGAN.
 T. MACDOWELL.
 W. BENSON.
 GEORGE SALIER.
 C. M. MAXWELL.
 A. KENNERLEY.
 STEPHEN SHEEHY.
 R. OFFICER.
 HENRY COOK.
 D. LEWIS.
 G. HUTTON.
 A. KISSOCK.

ROUGH ESTIMATE of the following Work required to be done at the GENERAL HOSPITAL,
Hobart Town:—

DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	AMOUNT.
	£ s. d.
Preparing, painting, colouring, fixing Arnot's Ventilators and Rails in Male Hospital	228 0 0
Fixing large Cisterns over closets	120 0 0
Fitting up six Closets, two Urinals, and two Washing Troughs, new Floor, and breaking through for doorways	80 0 0
Two new Baths, fitting up rooms, and finishing present Baths, providing and setting Boiler for hot water	90 0 0
Forty bed-side Tables	52 0 0
Altering and fitting up Provision Store	35 0 0
Completing Surgery	15 0 0
New Trellis Fence	12 0 0
New Floor in Board-room, papering, and painting	20 0 0
Metal and Gravel for yards and walks	116 18 0
Store for dirty clothes	15 0 0
Clothes-posts in yard	10 0 0
	793 18 0
Add 10 per cent. for contingencies, (say)	79 7 9
TOTAL	£873 5 9