

(No. 4.)



1873.

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T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

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

R E P O R T F O R 1872.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, June 17, 1873.



## LAUNCESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

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### *ANNUAL REPORT for 1872.*

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SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Report of the Launceston General Hospital for 1872.

The proceedings of the past year have been uneventful, and the usual statistical information is herewith supplied.

Some much needed repairs have been effected, and the whole interior of the building cleansed and whitewashed by prison labour. The paint-brush is, however, still required on a great part of the outside wood-work, including the verandahs at the rear.

The number of indoor patients and the number of deaths were both less than in the previous year, and of the latter more than half were of persons above sixty years of age.

There is an increase in the expenditure, occurring chiefly under the heads "Provisions and Medical Comforts," and "Medicines and Instruments," which requires explanation. Under the first-named head the increase is more apparent than real, for the actual quantity of provisions and medical comforts (especially of the latter) used in 1872 was much less than in 1871, and the larger amount charged is explained by the following facts:—first, the higher contract price of bread; secondly, an amount of £22 6s. 7d. charged for vegetables, which in 1871 were obtained free from the Penal Establishment; and thirdly, the large quantity of sugar and tea supplied to us from the Colonial Store in the past year. Of these latter articles a stock remained for the service of 1873 valued at £65 15s. 5d.

The increased cost of medicines, &c. was occasioned by the necessity of ordering large supplies from England to replenish the exhausted stock of the Establishment, which, from a desire to economise, had been allowed to become very low. The order for 1872 had been prepared by my predecessor, and I found it impossible to reduce it by any appreciable amount.

The expenditure having been greater, and the average daily number of inmates less, it necessarily follows that the cost per head was higher than in 1871.

The inspections and reports of the Board of Visitors have been in all cases satisfactory.

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*EXPENDITURE on account of the Launceston General Hospital in 1872.*

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	861	14	0
Allowances (rent and taxes)	85	8	0
Provisions and medical comforts	809	11	7
Clothing, bedding, and stores	65	10	0
Fuel and light	269	8	6
Stationery and advertising	2	13	0
Medicines and instruments, &c.	378	17	2
Water Supply	30	0	0
Repairs to buildings	73	3	1
	<u>£2665</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>
Cash paid into Treasury for Self-supporting Patients	60	17	8
	<u>£2604</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>

No. of Diets issued to Patients, 23,272.

No. of Diets issued to Attendants, 4561.

Daily cost of each Patient, about 2s. 2½d.

Yearly cost of each Patient, about £40 17s. 1d.

THERE were admitted to Hospital during the year 1872, 315 Patients, of whom 251 were males, and 64 females.

There remained under treatment at the close of 1871, 56 Patients, so that the total number treated during the year was 371; and of these 257 were discharged cured or relieved, 58 died, and 57 remained under treatment.

Of the total number of deaths, 19 occurred within eight days after admission; viz.—one on the 1st day, five on the 2nd day, eight on the 3rd day, one on the 4th day, one on the 5th day, one on the 6th day, and two on the 8th day.

The ages of those who died were as follows:—

Under 20 years	1
From 20 to 30	2
From 30 to 40	3
From 40 to 50	7
From 50 to 60	12
From 60 to 70	18
From 70 to 80	13
From 80 to 90	2
Total	<u>58</u>

Of the Patients admitted 26 were Self-supporting, 7 were wholly or in part chargeable to Imperial Funds, and 282 were Colonial Paupers.

The sum of £60 17s. 8d. was received from, and on account of, Self-supporting Patients during the year.

The average daily number during the year was nearly 64; and the daily cost per head about 2s. 2½d.

The cases treated during the year were :—

	<i>In-door Cases.</i>	<i>Out-door Cases.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Diseases of the respiratory system - - - - -	60	122	182
brain and nervous system - - - - -	34	37	71
heart and blood-vessels - - - - -	12	14	26
eyes - - - - -	14	26	40
skin - - - - -	11	54	65
bones and joints - - - - -	22	12	34
digestive system - - - - -	18	139	157
urinary organs - - - - -	17	24	41
Fevers - - - - -	2	9	11
Dropsies - - - - -	5	3	8
Rheumatic affections - - - - -	24	93	117
Venereal affections - - - - -	13	46	59
Abscesses and ulcers - - - - -	34	69	103
Wounds and injuries - - - - -	55	72	127
All other diseases - - - - -	50	168	218
<b>TOTALS</b> - - - - -	<b>371</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>1259</b>

The diseases and injuries which proved fatal were :—

Organic heart disease - - - - -	3 cases.
Pulmonary consumption - - - - -	3
Inflammation of the lungs - - - - -	7
Bronchitis - - - - -	6
Cancer - - - - -	2
Brain diseases - - - - -	5
Dropsies - - - - -	3
Contusions (severe) - - - - -	1
Hernia - - - - -	1
Dysentery - - - - -	1
Debility - - - - -	9
Asthma - - - - -	1
Burns - - - - -	2
Tumour - - - - -	2
Nephritis - - - - -	2
Tetanus - - - - -	1
Abscess - - - - -	1
Hepatitis - - - - -	1
Lupus - - - - -	1
Paralysis - - - - -	4
Spinal disease - - - - -	1
Cystitis - - - - -	1
<b>TOTAL</b> - - - - -	<b>58</b>

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. L. MILLER, *F. F. P. S. Glas.*,

*Chief Medical Officer at Launceston.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*