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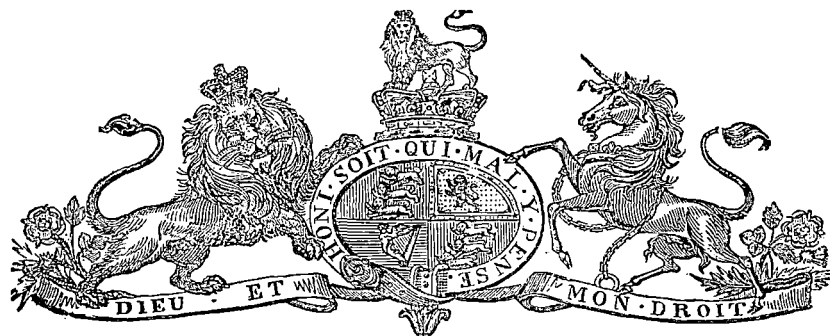
1859.

T A S M A N I A.

R E P O R T

OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ACCOMMODATION AND
SITE OF THE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK.

Brought up by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
22 September, 1859.



THE Joint Committee appointed to take into consideration the Correspondence which has passed between the Government and certain Individuals regarding the Accommodation and Site of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, and the matters therein referred to, have the honor to

R E P O R T.

IN instituting the enquiry as to the desirability of adding further buildings and improvements to the present Hospital at New Norfolk, or of erecting an entirely new building on a site in the immediate proximity to Hobart Town, which should afford all the improvements recent experience has shown to add so largely to the curative means adopted for this unfortunate class of Society, they have had the advantage of examining many well-informed and experienced persons*; and seven of their number have personally visited the buildings, to inspect the means and accommodation afforded.

They think it due to the Officers in charge of the Establishment, and to the Commissioners who have exercised the general superintendence over it, to testify to the attention and kind treatment afforded to the inmates, which, in its system of non-restraint, approaches very nearly to that prevailing in England. There is also apparent a general cleanliness and order, indicating a strict supervision and management, with due regard to economy.

Examining the Institution in its several aspects of position, of extent of ground, and of accommodation afforded by the buildings for health, for classification, for occupation and recreation, and other purposes, they find it universally admitted that there are many and great deficiencies which have been allowed to exist too long.

The number of inmates is now 205.

Site.—The site of the Asylum cannot be regarded as other than healthy and cheerful, abundantly supplied with water, but distant 22 miles from Hobart Town.

Extent.—The area of the present premises occupies 10a. 1r. 34p. of ground; but considerable portions are parted off for use as gardens and a cow paddock, to which the inmates have no access.

There is a paddock of 5a. 3r. 31p. belonging to the Government on the north, separated by an intervening street, which, should the present buildings be continued, it is by all agreed should be taken in and added to the Asylum, whilst the dividing street should be shut up under the authority of an Act of Parliament.

The area secured by this addition will make a total of about 17 acres.

This quantity is much below the scale provided in improved Institutions in England. The rule there appears to give one acre for every four inmates; this large extent affording a double advantage of adequate occupation in field-work for the inmates, and of making their labour profitable to the Institution in growing vegetables, nearly, if not quite, sufficient for the annual supply.

* The Right Rev. Bishop Willson; W. R. Falconer, Esq., Director of Public Works; Robert Pitcairn, Esq.; Hon. E. S. P. Bedford, Esq., Surgeon; William Benson, Esq., Colonial Surgeon; Mr. John Service; Henry Hunter, Esq., Architect; Robert Officer, Esq., M.H.A., Surgeon.

It is recommended, therefore, by some of the witnesses that more contiguous land should be purchased,—and two paddocks, between the east boundary and the Lachlan Creek, belonging to Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Sharland, containing about 9 acres, are mentioned, which the present owners are willing to sell. There are also about 12 acres of Government land on the hill, within about a quarter of a mile of the Asylum.

The residence opposite the main entrance, now tenanted by the Medical Superintendent, is also recommended for purchase, the site of which comprises nearly 4 acres, and is in the market.

Accommodation.—The present buildings are alike insufficient in number, and defective in plan and construction.

It has been stated by Dr. Officer, the first Official ever placed in charge of this Establishment, that the Institution was not designed as a Hospital for the Insane, but as an Infirmary for Incurables drafted, from time to time, from the General Hospital at Hobart Town. Its conversion into an Insane Hospital arose from the gradual increase of that unfortunate class, for whom no other provision could so readily be provided.

This fact, therefore, accounts for the indifferent plan on which the first buildings were constructed. The different apartments have little analogy to the requirements of an Insane Hospital.

Noticing first the Male side, there are three yards for three classes. The First, or front class, have the range of a piece of pleasure-ground extending to the right and left of the main entrance. They have also the use of a verandah, and access to the eating-room between the meals, but no other day-room, and are without any suitable in-door recreations. Their dormitories contain too large numbers,—the evidence of Dr. Benson showing that each room should hold no more than Six, whilst they at present contain from Ten up to Fifteen. This, with want of proper light and ventilation, induce all the witnesses to urge the re-arrangement of these rooms.

The Second class have an inner small quadrangle, with verandah on one side, and their dormitories are nearly all cells of the prison type,—gloomy, close, ill-ventilated, and lighted worse than the cells in the Gaol at Hobart Town. It is recommended by all to have the interior at once pulled down, and rebuilt on the modern improved plan with corridors, providing at the same time increased light and ventilation. This class spend the day in a confined yard shut up all round, and gravelled, though some of the more quiet are allowed access by the Wardsmen to the front grounds. The space for exercise and recreation is, however, restricted in the extreme, and must be antagonistic to any curative process.

The Third class yard leads out of the last. It is similar in all respects, having also a verandah on one side for day use. A few of these Patients also have liberty to go out to the open air when employment is found, but beyond that the confinement to a close yard, bounded by four walls, of this the most violent and excited class, without, in general, any employment or recreation, must be greatly lamented.

The cells and other apartments are of the same bad character as those last described.

It has been arranged by the Commissioners that all these cells and rooms should be entirely re-arranged, and the money was voted by the Parliament in the year 1858; but should such an intention ever be on the eve of being realised, other considerations should be previously well weighed. The testimony of Drs. Officer and Benson unites with the feeling of all who may have inspected the spot, that these yards must never be left as at present, with so small a space for recreation; that they require some walks and plantations to exercise the body, and to enliven the feelings of the inmates and change their thoughts. To effect such extensions on the present site seems beyond possibility in the crowded state of these central buildings, and requires a report from competent parties to decide on it.

A detached building on an improved plan has lately been erected against the east wall of the Male side for the accommodation of a higher rank of patients. Such an arrangement was much required to prevent persons of refined habits and education from being placed indiscriminately with the mass of patients (chiefly of the pauper class), and to eat with them the prison fare now supplied, out of the same materials, and at the same

table; and instead, to give them as much as practicable the same comforts as at their own early homes. In further aid of this plan, it is recommended that the cooking for these patients should be different and superior to that for the labouring class, though such a change implies the erection of further offices. The interior arrangements of this new building are good, but the grounds about it are too much restricted. It is almost close to the wall, which should be lowered to admit a view of the scenery, and an iron railing placed on the top. Space in front and back also should be afforded for pleasure and exercising grounds, for which purpose the dividing garden wall in front should be removed.

Recreations.—The means of recreation for the Male Department have been very deficient. Till within these few weeks they have had no suitable books, newspapers, music, pictures, sports, or pleasurable occupations worth mentioning; yet all these are universally dwelt on in England as forming an essential part of a curative system. For their efficient introduction, the erection of an ample day-room is required.

Employment.—There is not sufficient stated employment provided. Some are employed in the wood-yard and in the garden, and a tailor's and shoemaker's shop give occupation to about eight or nine tradesmen; but the erection of a capacious shop for carpenter's and other work is much needed. The opportunity afforded by the erection of a new dam and water-works at the Lachlan Creek has been availed of with much advantage: but means for field and garden work should be extensively provided. No occupation seems to tend more towards invigorating the mind and body than that which gives exercise in the open air, under the cheerful influence of natural scenery.

The kitchen and cooking apartments are deficient, and require considerable outlay; and baths are also required.

All the Under-keepers are obliged to live outside the walls. The accommodation for attendants is of so defective a character as to deter respectable and properly qualified persons from offering themselves as candidates, even though the rate of wages were raised to a proper amount, instead of being, as at present, below the rate given generally in the Colony for respectable servants.

Under an improved system, and with extended means of employment and recreation, accommodation for a greater number of attendants would be required; all of which should be of a suitable description, affording space for married couples whenever necessary.

There is not, as has been already intimated, any residence or accommodation for the Medical Superintendent attached to the Institution.

Female Department.—These buildings are more defective than those for the men's side. The classification only admits of two grades, and the interior arrangements of the buildings in both require to be reconstructed. A sum has been voted by the Parliament for this purpose, to include a new building on a similarly arranged plan to that of the new building on the Male side. But, as more space for exercise and recreation are also required, it is probable that the plan of the alterations may require more consideration.

The day-room for the bulk of the Females is wretchedly contracted. In this apartment the idiots spend their hours with a crowd of other unfortunates, the well-born and those who have never been out of the hands of the Government; and, were it possible to pursue quiet occupations in such a crowd, there occurs the periodical interruption of meals, besides other stated employments. A spacious day-room is therefore greatly required.

Occupation.—Sewing is found for many who will work, and the washing is also performed by the Patients; but sufficient employment can only be procured for about half the number.

The accommodation for the washing is totally insufficient; a new and large washing house, laundry, and drying-room are essential, as well as baths.

The exercising and recreation grounds can be advantageously enlarged by giving to this ward the benefit of the paddock used for dairy purposes, running down to the front of the Establishment.

It was on this latter spot the Commissioners had designed to erect the new detached building for the respectable class of females; but the opinions of the witnesses urge a change in this respect, and recommend the new allotment adjoining the present Institution as the proper site.

Second Class.—This unfortunate class of violent and excitable Patients are confined in a narrow corridor into which their cells open, and their only space for exercise is a narrow yard adjoining. In this corridor their meals are taken; and the confinement of their lives in such quarters is a reflection on the management which sentences them to such a dreary and monotonous existence.

Speaking in general terms, the Medical Superintendent states that, for want of accommodation, he cannot classify the Patients, either sick or convalescent, violent or refractory. Though twelve cells in this female compartment are made use of for this purpose, there is no ward that can be properly appropriated for the refractory class.

Some great change is necessary; and not only must more space on a large scale for exercise and occupation be added, but buildings better arranged and much larger be erected, when more land has been obtained.

The quarters for the attendants in this Department are also deficient; and apartments for at least three families are required.

The foregoing summary of the defects of the present Institution, compiled from the statements of witnesses, and an inspection of the premises, and in the correctness of which the whole of the Joint Committee agree, has been prepared in order to found some estimate of the expense which must be incurred in effecting the repairs, additions, and enlargements, if decided on; and also to show how, from the original plan and structure of the buildings, and their present condition, there exists an innate difficulty, amounting to an impossibility, of converting the Asylum into an efficient curative establishment, or making it better than, as it has been properly characterised by some of the most eminent witnesses, and by the Commissioners of the Asylum, a patchwork affair.

In the following part of this Report a majority, but not the whole, of the Committee concur. A Memorandum is appended to this Report of those who decline to recommend an expenditure for a new Hospital. A majority of the Committee have adopted a Resolution, which they now report to this House, in favour of an entire new erection; and it remains, therefore, for them to proceed to state the reasons on which they have formed their decision.

The present remote site.—The disadvantages of a situation so remote from the Capital, and from any populous neighbourhood, are twofold.

1st. It deprives the Institution of the visits of those friends whose attendance is beneficial to the Patients. This term is not limited to those who have been the former intimates of the Insane, but is meant to include also such amongst the public as are prompted to visit the Inmates from humane feelings, and whose presence, as distinguished from that of the mere holiday class, is regarded as beneficial, and tends to assist the curative discipline of such establishments.

2nd. The proximity to a Town or populous neighbourhood works beneficially also in keeping up the attention of the Managers and Officers. Whether such inspection leads to praise or blame, its operation is for good to the Institution.

Apart from all pecuniary considerations, reliance may be placed on the fact of great curative results being only attainable under such improved and enlarged accommodations as a newly constructed building would provide, which will fully justify a change of site and the erection of an entirely new Establishment, one supplied with the modern and necessary appliances of quiet dormitories, free from tumultuary assemblages, or of single cells which, if not cheerful, should at least be wholesome, well-lighted, and cleanly, with day-rooms affording liberty for inmates to pursue undisturbed their different tastes in the enjoyment of attractive in-door recreations, where out-door pursuits could always be followed, and where space would be found for the additional classification so necessary, yet so impossible to be obtained at New Norfolk.

In considering the probable expense of a new Building to be erected near Hobart Town, it does not seem to us necessary that any minute comparison need be drawn between

the cost of erecting a new, and that of repairing the old, building. We have obtained from a competent Architect (Mr. Hunter) a reliable estimate that the erection of a new Building to accommodate 200 can be built for £30,000. His data are taken from one now in course of erection at Carlisle for the united Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland. The plans are given in the *Builder*; and both the recent adoption of the design, and its promulgation in such an authoritative publication as the *Builder*, give assurance that the details and estimates are trustworthy, and comprise those modern improvements which are expected to be found in every newly constructed Institution.

Their recommendation is that the new Building should be planned for accommodating 150 inmates, being sufficient (exclusive of the expirée class) for the wants of the Colonial population, and regarding the numbers of this class of society as liable to probable diminution,—but additions could be made hereafter if required.

For a Building of this size they fully believe that a sum less than £30,000 would suffice, reckoning the fittings, the laying out the grounds, and every expense except the cost of site.

Advantages, pecuniary and otherwise, to be also obtained by the adoption of this plan would be found in the reduced cost of the Medical Superintendence, as the services of the Professional person in charge would certainly be serviceable to the Government in the performance of some other duties.

The monthly charge now incurred by the necessary visit of the Hobart Town Commissioners to the Asylum would be saved.

The difficulty of hereafter finding gentlemen resident at New Norfolk to give their services as Local Commissioners, and which may be expected to occur whenever the present gentlemen quit their office, will be obviated.

The greater number of Cures to be, with every reason, expected from the improved appliances of a new erection, would not only counterbalance the extra expense of management caused by the somewhat greater number of Wardsmen, but of itself would justify the adoption of the course recommended.

Upon the completion of all the arrangements connected with the transfer of the Establishment from New Norfolk to the new building, there would then remain at the disposal of the Government the present site and buildings, which would be of some economic value as a Depôt for Invalids or other purposes.

To revert to the alternative proposed by those who advocate the continuance of the present Asylum, and the consequent expenditure of the large Sum required in the inevitable repairs, alterations, and additions, and the purchase of land, the necessary data for preparing an estimate of that expenditure cannot be detailed by this Committee; but they summarise the following as some of the items of expenditure which would have to be incurred:—

1. The purchase of the house and grounds now occupied as tenant by the Superintendent.
2. The purchase of the Nine acres of land between the Asylum and the Lachlan Creek, and its enclosure.
3. The enclosure of the paddock of about Six acres on the north.
4. The lowering of the present north and south walls, and placing iron railings on the top.
5. The removal of the dividing walls running north and south across both the Male and Female Compartments, and the laying out of those grounds.
6. In the Male Compartment the removal of the interior of the whole of the cells and dormitories, and reconstructing them with corridors.
7. The erection of additional dormitories, which would be rendered necessary by the enlargement of the old ones.
8. Providing pleasure and recreation grounds for the Second class, which can only be done by a removal of the Third class ward, and re-erecting it with a like provision of grounds for exercise and enjoyment.
9. Providing day-rooms for the Three classes.

10. Building capacious workshop.
11. Building enlarged kitchen for the general body of the inmates.
12. The like for the detached building for the Patients of the better class.
13. Building baths.
14. Accommodation for Attendants, to include quarters for Three married families and some single men.
15. *In the Female Compartment.*—The removal of the interior of the whole of the cells and dormitories, and reconstructing them with corridors.
16. The erection of additional dormitories which would be rendered necessary.
17. The erecting of at least one ward for Females of the better class, with kitchen and other apartments distinct from the other inmates; and additional means of classification for others, as recommended in the evidence.
18. Providing day-rooms for the Female inmates.
19. Providing recreation ground and enclosures for the class of violent and refractory patients.
20. Building capacious wash-house.
21. Ditto laundry.
22. Ditto drying-room.
23. Ditto baths.
24. Ditto accommodation for Attendants.

The difficulty and expense of effecting many of these alterations would be increased from the fact of the original plan of the Hospital being designed for a different purpose, and also from the age of the buildings.

One of the witnesses examined (Dr. Officer, who is also one of the Commissioners of the Asylum,) estimates the cost of these works, in round numbers, at perhaps £10,000, exclusive of the price of the Medical Superintendent's house and the additional land.

Those members of the Committee who hesitate to recommend the erection of a new building on a different site, do so under an uncertainty of the expense; their resolution being founded on the opinion that the necessary works of alteration and improvement upon the present site would not exceed one-third of the cost of a new building.

The Committee recommend most strongly that no time should be lost by the Government in procuring estimates of the probable cost of carrying out all the necessary improvements on the present site, and of erecting an entirely new establishment in the neighbourhood of Hobart Town.

One other consideration only remains to be noticed. The large alterations that would have to be entered on to make the present buildings compatible with the arrangements recommended could only be attempted gradually, and even then with much interruption and inconvenience to the inmates, whilst the erection of a new building could be proceeded with without this annoyance.

In either case some pressing wants must be at once attended to in providing additional convenience and accommodation.

The Committee accompany this Report with a copy of the evidence, and of some Returns which have been supplied by Dr. Bedford, the President of the Commissioners.

WM. HENTY, *Chairman.*
H. F. ANSTEY.
P. H. GELL.
W. R. ALLISON.
M. MILLER.

MEMORANDUM.

THE successful treatment of the Insane in the Hospital at New Norfolk has been unquestionably much obstructed by the defective arrangements of the Buildings provided for that Institution; because, while a system of careful and gentle treatment towards the patients has been introduced, the want of surrounding influences of corresponding character must have greatly retarded, if not wholly prevented, the due success of judicious personal treatment.

Before giving an opinion decidedly in favour of any proposals for erecting a new Hospital on another site, the capabilities of the Institution at New Norfolk should be carefully estimated, its defects systematically set forth, and a comparison fairly made between its present condition and the improved aspect it might be made to assume by adapting its internal arrangements to the systems of treatment prevailing in Great Britain.

As no clear and definite estimate of expense incident to the building of a new Hospital has been yet obtained, and as the cost of necessary alterations and additions is at present equally uncertain, prudence would dictate the necessity of obtaining reliable information on those points before pronouncing finally whether to remodel and improve the existing Hospital, or to provide another site for the erection of new Buildings.

There is another important consideration in determining this question.—A new Building must of necessity occupy several years in its erection and fitting up; during that time the present evils would be continued, unless expense be incurred to effect a partial remedy during the interval. Any money so expended would be practically an addition to the estimated cost of a new Building, which should be debited with the amount in a comparative statement of expense between the two schemes.

A careful review of the evidence taken by the Committee will supply much important information relative to the defects at New Norfolk on the one hand, and the requirements for the successful treatment of the Insane on the other. The enquiry may then be further assisted by reference to any works that treat on the subject; and from these combined sources ample means will be obtained to arrive at a conclusion, whether the Hospital at New Norfolk can be brought into a condition suitable to the objects contemplated by its establishment.

If it should appear that sufficient improvement can be made, the question should be finally determined by the estimate of expense.

JNO. CROOKES.
W. P. WESTON.
W. S. BUTTON.
ISAAC BISDEE.

19th September, 1859.

EVIDENCE taken before JOINT COMMITTEE on Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and Returns referred to in Report.

The JOINT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, appointed to take into consideration the Correspondence which has passed between the Government and certain Individuals regarding the Accommodation and Site of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, and the matters therein referred to.

Members.

Legislative Council.

Mr. Button.
Mr. Weston.
Mr. Bisdee.
Mr. Gell.
Mr. Henty.

House of Assembly.

Mr. Allison.
Mr. Anstey.
Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Innes.
Mr. Miller.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1859.

The Committee met at Twelve o'clock.

PRESENT.

Legislative Council.

Mr. Henty.
Mr. Gell.
Mr. Weston.
Mr. Button.
Mr. Bisdee.

House of Assembly.

Mr. Anstey.

1. *Resolved*, That Mr. Henty be Chairman of the Committee.

BISHOP WILLSON examined.

I was concerned in the management of a County Lunatic Asylum in Nottinghamshire, in England, for twelve or thirteen years. It was under a Board of thirty-two, partly consisting of County and Town Magistrates, and of Trustees selected by the Magistrates out of a List of Subscribers to the funds. These thirty-two elected annually a smaller Executive Board of seven, of which I was one, for the period I have named. We met weekly. At such meetings all the thirty-two might also attend and vote.

There were also Quarterly Meetings, and at these large expenditures could only be entertained, the Executive Committee being restricted to small sums.

I have also visited the chief institutions, both public and private, in England, and also made express journeys to France and Belgium for the same purpose, in order to obtain all the experience I could in their management.

At a later period also I visited asylums in Italy and in the Austrian dominions.

I was also elected an honorary member of a Voluntary Association, consisting of the Heads of Public Asylums in England, which met each year to investigate the best modes of improving the management of the Insane. They held their meetings at some one of the Public Asylums in England. The Heads of the Asylums are always Medical Men.

I am aware of very great improvement in the management of the Insane in England of late years. That improvement was shown greatly in the number of cures effected, and also in the greater amount of comfort and kind attention the Lunatics received.

These improvements have been effected by the humane structure of the buildings, the removal of instruments of restraint, treating them, as far as possible, like rational and sensible beings, making their dwellings as much like their ordinary homes as possible, and doing away with appearances of restraint.

The site at Nottingham, having been built on in former times, was restricted in point of space, and a difficulty was experienced in consequence in finding proper employment for the inmates. The site was about 10 acres. The average number was from 200 to 300. They were employed in gardening, in trades, and in recreations. A party of pleasure went out in the town or country every day. Constant occupation for body and mind was deemed highly beneficial. Work was always encouraged by rewards, but was never imposed; out-door work was always preferred by the Managers over in-door work. Recreations of all sorts were always provided, such as music, pictures, skittles, swings, bagatelle, and other sports. They were sometimes taken to the Theatre. There was a Library and newspapers.

From my information the sites chosen in England for all new Institutions have an area of not less than 1 acre to every 4 patients. I should be glad to see it much larger in this country.

All the improved modes of treatment I have alluded to were put into operation at the Nottingham Asylum after I joined the management, and were carried out with marked success, notwithstanding the limited accommodation.

I am one of the Commissioners for the management of the Asylum at New Norfolk, and have visited it from time to time for several years.

The Curative means is limited, inasmuch as the space is small, the Buildings very ill adapted, the Cells for the Separate Patients, both for those confined during the day and the Dormitories for the rest, are gloomy, ill-ventilated, and confined. There are some general Dormitories also which are very fairly kept. The means of recreation are very restricted. Owing to the narrow space there is not sufficient occupation for the Patients. The general plan of the Buildings here offers greater difficulties for improvement than existed at Nottingham. The number of Cells is greater and like Prison Cells. The worst Cells at Nottingham, before the improvements were begun, were not so bad as the average of the Cells at New Norfolk.

I am quite sure that the Buildings at New Norfolk cannot be converted so as to adapt them to the modern improved system. There is nothing in the character of the Inmates there that makes restraint more necessary than with Patients in England, but the reverse.

I believe that the Patients of the Convict Class require less restraint than the Free.

I think that the situation of New Norfolk is unfavourable, from its distance from Hobart Town. I think it should be within two miles, to bring it under general observation.

All Public Asylums in England are always open to Visitors of respectable character on application, and no inconvenience has ever been found from such inspection.

Under an improved system the Patients would not require so much restraint.

Good Wardsmen and Attendants well paid are absolutely essential under the most improved systems, and to be well cared for. At New Norfolk they are not so; their quarters are very confined and uncomfortable.

I believe New Norfolk to be a healthy situation.

The Committee adjourned at forty minutes past Two o'clock,

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1859.

The Committee met at Twelve o'clock.

PRESENT.

Legislative Council.

Mr. Henty.
Mr. Button.
Mr. Bisdee.

House of Assembly.

Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Anstey.

MR. HENTY *in the Chair.*

MR. WILLIAM ROSE FALCONER, *Director of Public Works, examined.*

I have frequently visited the New Lunatic Asylum at Glasgow, the Surgeon there being a friend of mine. I have also visited similar Institutions at Quebec and Toronto.

I am well acquainted with the Asylum at New Norfolk. The area of that site is rather curtailed in proportion to the number of inmates. I am alluding to that part within the walls. Those portions now used as vegetable garden ground, &c., should be made available for the recreation of the Patients.

The Government Allotment of nearly Six acres lying to the north should be joined to the site of the Asylum, and the intervening street be taken in. The House and premises now occupied by Dr. Huston should be purchased, if practicable, as also the Allotment between the Asylum and the Rivulet, belonging to Messrs. Sharland and Turnbull. These would give an addition of about Nine acres, besides the Six-acre Allotment.

These additions would afford space for extending the Sites for the Buildings, instead of crowding them so near together as at present, especially those new Buildings contemplated for Females; also for places of recreation, and for permanent means of occupation and employment for all the Patients, as garden ground, &c.

The Male Department affords means of Classification for Three stages of Patients: the front Court for those least affected, having, I think, Six separate Wards in it; a second Court for those more seriously affected; and an inner Court for the most violent.

I think the accommodation afforded by the Two back Yards is insufficient for the number of Patients now there.

The Patients spend their days inside the Yards, which are gravelled and shut in. A verandah runs around; and they have the use of the Meal Rooms when not required at meal times, but they have no regular Day Room. A few of the Inmates from the inner Yard are permitted to range outside in the front Court, and some are found employment in the fields at times. There is no recreation found for them within the Yards. A large proportion of the Dormitories in the two inner Yards is composed of Cells. They are small, badly lighted, and badly ventilated—not equal to the Prison Cells in the New Gaol at Hobart Town; they are tainted with bad smells. The whole of the Cells are unfit for use, and should be gutted, and the interior reconstructed, forming Cells or Wards of a larger area, and a Corridor running the whole length, well lighted and ventilated, into which each Cell would open.

No efficient recreations are found for the Inmates. In addition to the present occupations more gardening, field, and out-door employments should be found, which the increased area would afford means for doing.

The lately erected Building for Self-paying Male Patients is designed on a better plan for accommodation and comfort, but is on a confined site. The garden in front of it and the allotment outside the wall (when purchased) should be added to it, and laid out for the use of the Inmates.

The Cooking for this class of Patients should be provided for separately from that of the General Establishment—more like that of a private family.

On the Female side there is accommodation for only Two classes.

The outrageous Patients are in one part and all the rest in another, including Idiots, and those of different ranks of society.

Their recreation ground consists of a small grass-plot, in the centre of which is the Meal Room, which forms their only Day Room, with also some space for Corridors. The Meal Room is overcrowded. The Dormitories consist of some Bedrooms and some Cells. All the Cells should be removed. The Parliament has granted money for this purpose, as also sufficient for the alterations suggested in the Men's Cells.

The accommodation for the Class of violent Patients consists of a row of Cells opening into a Corridor warmed with open fire-places. These Cells require additional light and ventilation.

The place for the recreation of this Class is a narrow Yard between the Corridor and the boundary wall, much too confined, and with no sunlight. The Six-acre Paddock, if taken in, will give the necessary space for this Class. These Patients have their meals in this Corridor, and no occupations or recreations. More apartments and accommodation are required, to admit of more separation and classification, also a distinct Building for the Females of the better Class, which should be placed in the Six-acre Paddock.

I think the improvements and additions I have suggested would make the Asylum sufficient for an improved system of management.

When I visited the Asylum at Melbourne I found a system of Cottages adopted, separated from each other, each holding 10 or 12 Patients; those for the better class being neatly furnished. Each Cottage has its Dining-room for common use.

In the centre of the Cottages is a large Assembly Room for day and evening use, with library, piano, bagatelle board, &c.

The Surgeon assured me this system was most successful. The area of this Asylum comprises Six hundred acres.

The cost of erecting such Cottages is cheaper than that of the ordinary large Asylums.

The only fence is one about 4 feet high around the Cottages. No portion is walled in except one wood-stockaded yard for the most violent.

Most of the Patients during summer bathe every day in the Yarra.

The Committee adjourned at Two o'clock till Friday at Twelve o'clock.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1859.

The Committee met at Twelve o'clock.

PRESENT.

Legislative Council.

Mr. Button.
Mr. Gell.
Mr. Weston.
Mr. Henty.
Mr. Bisdee.

House of Assembly.

Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Anstey.

MR. HENTY *in the Chair.*

DR. BENSON *called in and examined.*

I am a Member of the College of Surgeons in Edinburgh. I had medical experience in a Lunatic Asylum attached to the Public General Hospital at Dumfries, in Scotland, at the beginning of 1833, and for several years prior. I am aware of the improved system of late years adopted in the management of Lunatic Asylums in England and Scotland. I was at one time Resident Surgeon of the New Norfolk Asylum under Dr. Officer. I have frequently visited it of late years, and also on Sunday last. I think the Site a healthy and cheerful one, and well adapted from its locality. The present area I consider too small. I should recommend an adjoining paddock of six or seven acres belonging to the Government to be taken in, and enclosing the intervening street, which would then make it a sufficient area for present purposes. I do not know the number of Inmates. The area I have recommended would be enough for 200 Inmates.

I think it would not be requisite to purchase more Land, even if available, for present requirements. I am not aware of the amount of space thought requisite in England for such Institutions under recent altered management. I form my opinion from my own observations alone. The means afforded for Classification at present are very defective. I am of opinion that not more than 6 should ever sleep in one Dormitory, whilst I found 10, and varying from 10 up to 15 sleeping in one apartment, as well on the Male as on the Female side. If possible every Patient should sleep in a separate room with wide corridors and verandahs for exercise, and balconies for the up-stairs apartments.

All the present Cells should be done away with. All the parts now occupied as Dormitories are badly constructed for ventilation and light, and ought to be re-arranged for better ventilation and light, and with corridors at least 10 feet wide, and verandahs for exercise.

The spaces at present provided for the Three Classes in the Male Department are (excepting the front one,) not sufficient for exercise, or recreation, or employment. The Second and Third Classes should have as much as the front one (the first of the three) now has.

The high walls around the premises should be lowered in the same manner as the front wall, with a railing to permit a cheerful view of the scenery.

I inspected the lately erected building for Self-paying Patients. The arrangements are good. The garden fence in front should be removed, to afford space for the recreation of those Patients, and to give them the use of the ground from the back to the front wall.

I think the Female Department is also over-crowded, and generally badly lighted and ventilated, and ought to be re-arranged on a similar plan to that I have suggested for the Males.

The Day Room, which is that where the meals are taken, is much too small, and should be four or five times the size.

Their place for exercise and recreation is much too small.

I am not aware what recreations are provided for the Inmates.

Every recreation that would promote cheerfulness should be provided, and means found for occupation, such as gardening, trades, &c.

The accommodation provided for Washing and all other employments is insufficient.

A Library and Reading Rooms are very desirable.

Speaking generally, I think that the effect of Visitors going through the Asylum would be beneficial on the majority of Patients, if not in too great numbers, or too often.

The Committee adjourned at Two o'clock till to-morrow at Eleven o'clock.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1859.

The Committee met at Eleven o'clock.

PRESENT.

Legislative Council.

Mr. Henty.
Mr. Button.
Mr. Weston.
Mr. Gell.

House of Assembly.

Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Anstey.

MR. HENTY *in the Chair.*

MR. PITCAIRN *examined.*

I reside at Hobart Town. I have read the Correspondence lately published of the Bishop of Hobart Town and the Commissioners of the New Norfolk Asylum with the Government.

The conclusion I have drawn from a perusal of that Correspondence is this: that all the Commissioners seem to agree that the present Buildings are exceedingly defective. That they are all very desirous of having an entirely new building; and that the majority of the

Commissioners are deterred from recommending a new building for one reason only, and that is the expense. The majority estimate at £65,000, but no data can be given on which that estimate is based.

One of the Commissioners has obtained an estimate from an Architect, who considers the expense will be only £30,000 for 200 Patients.

There is another conclusion I have drawn from the perusal of the Correspondence, viz. that the present Asylum is not adapted for the cure of Patients. The number cured or improved at New Norfolk appears to be only 6 in 100, whilst in 32 English Establishments for the Insane mentioned by Bishop Willson the number of those cured or improved is 40 in the hundred.

In addition to this I find, from a recent English Parliamentary Paper, that in Scotland, where the management of Lunatics has of late been very much complained of, the number of Patients cured or improved is 44 in a hundred in 7 chartered Asylums, 40 in a hundred in Licensed Houses, and 52 in a hundred in 6 different Poor Houses. I therefore believe the present Asylum at New Norfolk is not well adapted for the cure and improvement of Patients. The reason assigned by the majority of the Commissioners for the small number of Cures is that the Patients are from the Convict Class, but I find that, in Scotland, rather more than one-half the whole Patients in the country come exclusively from a Pauper Class numbering about 80,000.

I think the distance of the present site from Hobart Town is a very great objection. If the Colony could afford it, it would be much better to have one Asylum at Launceston, one in the middle of the Colony, and one at Hobart Town, so that the Patients might be easily and frequently visited.

The only advantage that Hobart Town possesses is that it contains a larger proportion of the Population than any other part.

I think that, by modern writers, visits from relations and friends are regarded as beneficial under proper regulations. On this account the site at Hobart Town would be better than that at New Norfolk. Speaking generally, without any reference to the present management, I think that the supervision attained by the vicinity of a populous neighbourhood is likely to be beneficial to the conduct and management of this and all similar Institutions.

My opinion is the same as that of the whole of the Commissioners that a new Building should be erected, and the only question is one of expense. And I think that the erection of a proper Building for the Insane is a question that should take precedence over many others for which Public Money has been voted; viz. Gardens, Libraries, &c., all proper in themselves, but which should be postponed in order to make proper provision for the Patients of an Asylum; and I may add that, if the provision does not exceed £40,000, I see nothing in the state of our finances to prevent such a Building being erected.

Our whole Public Debt does not amount to one-third of the value of one year's exports of Colonial produce.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *Esquire, Surgeon, &c. examined.*

I reside in Hobart Town. I am President of the Commissioners of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk.

The Institution at present is not adapted, in my opinion, to the wants of the Patients.

The Cells are badly constructed, many of them too small, and the arrangements, particularly in the Female part of the Asylum, exceedingly defective from those causes. Alterations have been intended by the Commissioners, and plans submitted to rectify these and other defects, but I think that a difficulty will be found in carrying them out for want of a place for the Inmates whilst the alterations are being made; but I do not know that it is insurmountable, by making temporary use of the new building in the Male Department. Such alterations would still not dispense with the necessity of new Buildings.

I quite concur with the sentiments of the Commissioners that any alterations in the present Buildings will only make a patchwork affair. I think those Buildings cannot be made suitable for putting into operation the improved system of management at present carried out in England.

The site is a healthy one. If a new Building were to be erected it should be situated nearer Hobart Town.

The improvements required are so pressing that no time should be lost in either making the required improvements or building a New Asylum.

The Cells for Sleeping are all erroneously constructed.

I think that the statement that 6 per cent. of cases only are cured or improved is not a fair criterion of the treatment of the Patients in this Institution, but that further information is required, and I will submit to the Committee a Return on that subject.

I think that the cases for an Asylum proceeding from a Convict Population are 100 per cent. greater than the cases from an ordinary Pauper Population. In this Colony intemperance is the chief exciting cause of insanity. I think that, if possible, a New Building should be erected. If that were done the present Institution might serve for an Invalid Depôt, with some alterations not of an expensive kind. I think one Institution is sufficient for the Colony, and that better management is likely to be obtained by having one Institution than by two or more.

The Committee adjourned at One o'clock till Tuesday, 13th instant, at Eleven o'clock.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1859.

The Committee met at Eleven o'clock.

PRESENT.

Legislative Council.

Mr. Henty.
Mr. Button.
Mr. Bisdee.
Mr. Weston.

House of Assembly.

Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Anstey.

MR. HENTY *in the Chair.*

MR. SERVICE *called in and examined.*

Is one of the Officers in the Comptroller-General's Department. I am a carpenter by trade. I left England about 18 years ago; at that time I was in the service of the Managers of the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, under Dr. Connolly, where I had served 4½ years as Foreman of the Carpenters' Shop.

The Mechanics under me consisted of two or three paid Carpenters and from 6 to 14 of the Inmates of the Asylum. I had the superintendence of the Carpenter's work throughout the Establishment. I became familiar with the system of management adopted with all the patients.

Dr. Connolly was not there when I was first engaged. When Dr. Connolly began his improvements he made no alteration in the buildings, which were all well designed. Some new buildings that were put up after his arrival were built upon the same plan as the old ones.

The management, before his arrival, was to place the Patients deemed violent in a long Corridor, about eight feet wide, after breakfast—each one opposite his own Cell, seated in a chair, his body strapped back, and a flap over his knees fastened to the chair, where they remained till the afternoon; when they got an hour or hour and a half exercise, and when put in their Cells they were placed on heavy iron bedsteads—some of them eight hundred weight—strapped down on their backs, and the two legs strapped together; with another strap fastening them to the bed.

Dr. Connolly did away with all the system of restraint, and substituted padded rooms for those who had paroxysms of violence. He increased the number of Attendants. Each Attendant had, I think, fourteen to look after instead of about twice that number.

Before that time one-half the whole number of Inmates were reckoned violent. After Dr. Connolly's system had been tried a little while nearly all the violent ones became as quiet as the others.

As a rule each Patient had a Cell to himself 12 × 6 and 12 ft. high, with an iron window to the outer air, and a ventilator into the Corridor over each door. Each door had a small

inspection plate for the use of the Attendants. There were some rooms holding from four to six Patients, in which those who were quiet were placed. Quiet Patients were always drafted from the Cells into these Dormitories as they became vacant.

From nearly all the Dormitories and Cells the Patients had a cheerful view of the Village, the Railway, and the surrounding country; and Dr. Connolly refused to put any in the basement Cells, because of their being gloomy and afforded no view of the country.

One Attendant walked up and down the Corridor all night, and, by means of the inspection plate, had an oversight into all Cells and Dormitories.

The Day Rooms were large and warm, and there were large sheds with tables and seats, with plenty of books, newspapers, and other sorts of recreations.

All the men who knew Trades were anxious to be employed at them, for the sake of occupation and the change of scene which it afforded them.

Before I took out my men each morning, I always, by Dr. Connolly's direction, examined them to see that they were likely to be quiet. I think these occupations formed a material element in the permanent cure of the Patients.

They require a Superintendent who would observe a firm but kind treatment.

A draught of home-brewed beer twice a day, and a little tobacco, were allowed to the working Patients, but some used to decline it.

Occupation was thought so beneficial that they were all encouraged to work, and work was always found for every individual, Male and Female, who would work.

After a little while those who at first were indifferent to it were anxious for it.

The area of the grounds was about 175 acres, with about 1100 Patients,—equal to $6\frac{1}{2}$ Patients to each acre; 60 or 70 acres were ploughed. The Patients were employed in the gardens and in field culture. The Asylum is on a hill site. In good seasons the grounds supplied sufficient vegetables for the whole Establishment throughout the year.

MR. HENRY HUNTER *examined.*

I am an architect residing in Macquarie-street. I have made myself acquainted with the arrangements for the construction of Lunatic Asylums. I have made myself particularly acquainted with the details of one in the course of erection for the united Counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland—at Carlisle, I think. I have a sketch of it with me. [Produced.] It is on the modern improved system, and is adapted for 100 Males and 100 Females. It includes residence for Medical Superintendent.

The contract price, I believe, was £20,000, and such a Building could be erected near Hobart Town for £30,000, roofed with slate and constructed of stone. This does not include cost of Site nor laying out the Grounds. The style of the Building is plain. I have not reckoned the cost of an outer Wall. I do not know if such a Wall is included in the Carlisle plan, but presume it is. The size of the Wards, as shown in this plan, is 10×7. There is a Day Room for each side 30×20, and one common Dining Room 60×30, with a Chapel over. The main Building is three stories high, but the Superintendent's House and Offices two stories. There are Workshops for various trades, and capacious Laundry and Wash-house on the Female side, each about 40×20, and Bath Rooms for each side.

The plan produced and the contract price, £20,000, comprised Building and Fittings.

I have examined the plans of the Essex Asylum in the *Bilder*. It is for 400 Patients, and has works for gas, water supply, and brewing. The contract price appears to be £65,000. It is very much handsomer in design than the Carlisle plan; but taking into account the large works I have named, and the ornamental work, I think the cost is about commensurate to that of the Carlisle Asylum.

After inspecting that plan I am confirmed in the estimate I have given of the cost of erection of an Asylum near Hobart Town.

The Committee adjourned at ten minutes past One until Wednesday at Eleven o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1859.

The Committee met at Eleven o'clock.

PRESENT.

Legislative Council.

Mr. Button.
Mr. Gell.
Mr. Bisdee.
Mr. Weston.
Mr. Henty.

House of Assembly.

Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Anstey.

MR. HENTY *in the Chair.*

DR. OFFICER *examined.*

I am a Surgeon. I was the first Medical Superintendent of the New Norfolk Asylum on its establishment, and held that situation ten or twelve years. For the last two or three years I have been one of the Board of Commissioners under whom the Hospital was placed. The existing Establishment has many defects: the Buildings do not afford sufficient room for the Inmates; in many parts the ventilation and lighting is insufficient; the classification is incomplete; the grounds attached to the Building are too limited in extent.

The Asylum was not originally designed for Insane Patients, but for incurable cases from the hospitals. After a few years Insane Patients were sent there, and from the increase of those Patients it gradually became limited solely to that class.

The mode of treating Insane Patients has varied from the commencement—having gradually improved according to the improved system which has prevailed in England, as far as the structure of the Buildings would permit.

The present Buildings require to be re-arranged and improved, and new Buildings both as Dormitories and Day Rooms are also required, for want of which many Patients now pass the day in the Dormitories. I would recommend that these new Buildings should be detached and on the Cottage system, to be placed outside the present bounds on the allotment adjoining belonging to the Government. I speak in favour of the Cottage system from its results at Melbourne, which I was assured by the Medical Superintendent there were most satisfactory. I have visited that Establishment for three years past.

I think that system involves very little increased expense in management if the Cottages are clustered together.

The number of Patients there is 399.

The Cottage system is better adapted to the more orderly and quiet classes, but is not generally required for the kind of Patients we are likely to have here.

The Patients at Melbourne, who dwell in the Cottages, are of much superior class to the bulk of those at New Norfolk Asylum. The present class of Lunatics here, I think, greatly owing to the past circumstances of the Colony, is both larger and of a worse class than we are likely to have in future.

The Yards or Courts are at present too confined, and they should be arranged so as to give access to some pleasure grounds and scenery. The Cells on the Male side should be all gutted and thrown into small, comfortable, and cheerful apartments.

There is not as much ground to be had as I would wish to see available for recreation.

One new Building on the Female side on the Cottage system is designed to be erected by the Commissioners, and the money is voted by Parliament for it.

This should be built on the allotment adjoining the present Asylum which I have before alluded to, and the Government be applied to, to add that piece to the present site.

A General Workshop is decidedly required, also Bathing Rooms, and the present Kitchen is insufficient on the Male side.

A proper Day Room for all the Patients is much wanted, where they could assemble for reading, music, dancing, &c., without the present interruption of meals.

The accommodation for the Officers of the Establishment is entirely deficient, and some are compelled to live outside the Asylum.

Wash-houses, Drying Room, and Laundry are wanted on the Female side.

If the area is enlarged, as it might be, and the other necessary improvements made, I think the Asylum could be made adequate to meet the wants of this Colony, and in which the modern system of management could be carried out. I think the present Buildings, with certain alterations, would answer very well for a Dépôt for Invalids.

In Classification I think the richer classes of society should be provided for separately from those of a lower condition; that Curable Patients should be separated from those who are Incurable, and the violent and excitable from those who are more quiet.

The Committee adjourned at twenty minutes past One until Friday, 16th instant, at Eleven.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1859.

The Committee met.

PRESENT.

Legislative Council.

Mr. Gell.
Mr. Bisdee.
Mr. Button.
Mr. Weston.
Mr. Henty.

House of Assembly.

Mr. Anstey.

MR. HENTY *in the Chair.*

DR. OFFICER'S *examination continued.*

I think that the sum of £10,000 would effect all the alterations and additions which I have suggested to the Asylum.

The enclosure of the additional Land to be of wood, as suggested by Mr. Falconer, and to be obtained from Port Arthur without any expense.

I also think that the House and Grounds now occupied by the Superintendent should be purchased (on fair terms) by the Government, and form part of the property of the Asylum.

The Committee adjourned at half-past Twelve o'clock till Monday, the 19th instant, at Twelve o'clock.

RETURN of the Number of Persons in the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk on the 31st of August, 1859, showing their Civil Condition.

Born in the Colony.			Free to the Colony.			Free by Servitude, and Prisoners.			Total Number.		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
7	3	10	25	28	53	79	63	142	111	94	205

RETURN of the Number of Patients, other than those of the Working Classes, now in the Hospital.

Males	6
Females	10

TABLE showing the Number of Acute and Chronic Cases, &c. of Patients admitted into the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane, from the 1st September, 1857, to 31st August, 1859.

	Admitted.		TOTAL.	Of whom are	Discharged, recovered.		TOTAL.	Discharged, improved.		TOTAL.	Died.		TOTAL.	Remaining.					
	M.	F.			M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	Im-proved.		Unim-proved.	
																M.	F.	M.	F.
Acute or recently attacked..	14	5	19	Of whom are	6	2	8	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	—	3	3	1	4
Chronic or probably in- curable Cases	33	19	52	Of whom are	—	—	—	1	—	1	7	1	8	6	3	9	19	15	34

Total number of Cells in nightly constant use

{ Male Division..	23
{ Female Division	54
	<u>77</u>