

(No. 13.)



1863.

T A S M A N I A.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

QUEEN'S ASYLUM FOR DESTITUTE
CHILDREN.

REPORT FOR 1862.

Laid on the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
June 24, 1863.



REPORT of the Board of Management of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM for DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

Board Room, Hobart Town, 23rd June, 1863.

1. THE Board of Management, Queen's Asylum, have the honor to forward to the Governor in Council their Report upon the Establishment under their charge for the year ending 31st December, 1862.

2. On the 31st December, 1861, there were in the Institution 252 male and 202 female children, total 454. There were admitted during the year 162 children, and 67 were discharged and apprenticed; leaving the strength of the Establishment on the 31st December, 1862, 489: namely, 273 boys and 216 girls. Return No. 1 shows the Religion of the children, and the funds upon which they are borne.

3. The Total Expenditure of the Establishment under every head is exhibited in detail in Abstract hereunto annexed, marked No. 6, and may be briefly stated as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and Allowances	3700	8	8
Ditto Messrs. Wilson & Litch, Overseers in charge of Quarry Gang	34	9	0
Provisions	4272	10	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fuel and Light	678	14	2
Clothing, Stores, &c.	1870	11	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Alterations and Repairs to Buildings, exclusive of Infant School	208	6	10
Erection of Cottage at Farm	156	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Furniture for Infant School	110	13	11
Whitewashing Infant School	34	0	0
Medical Stores	16	16	2
Toll	3	5	9
Advertisements	3	18	1
Washing and Needlework at Cascades	222	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stationery and Books	10	0	0
Seeds purchased for Farm	20	13	6
Manure ditto	89	1	3
Forage ditto	96	12	4
Veterinary Surgeon's Account	0	11	0
Hired Labour for Farm	20	9	10
Blacksmith's Account	24	1	9
Miscellaneous	49	12	7
Fencing	127	4	3
5 Cows by purchase	42	15	0
Farm Implements ditto	32	0	0
<i>Carried forward</i>	£11,825	12	21 $\frac{3}{4}$

<i>Brought forward</i> ..	£	s.	d.
	11,825	12	2½

Out of this sum, Articles to the following value were supplied by the Institution; namely,—

	£	s.	d.
Milk, 118,967½ pints at 3 <i>d.</i> per pint	1487	1	9¾
Vegetables, 4591 lbs. at 6 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per 100 lbs.	14	14	3
Firewood, 120,000 lbs. at 14 <i>s.</i> per ton	37	10	0
Produce sold	33	12	9
Cows, (2) sold	7	0	0
Calves sold	1	17	0
Poundage Fees	1	11	6
Refuse Food sold	25	7	6
Washing and Needlework performed by Children ...	166	18	6½
	1775	13	4½
	£10,049	18	10½

The average daily number of Children maintained in the Institution was 472; the cost per head of each being £21 5*s.* 10*d.*

4. With regard to the Secular and Religious Instruction of the Children, the Board would draw attention to the Report of the Inspector of Schools on the Secular Examination, and to that of the Rev. A. Davenport and Rev. F. Hudspeth on the state of the Religious knowledge of the Children for the past year. The Inspector of Schools lays stress on the lateness of the hour at which the Children assemble for School. It is the intention of the Board to cause an alteration to be made so as to obviate the objection raised by the Inspector.

5. HEALTH OF THE CHILDREN.—The Medical Officer has furnished a Report as to the health of the Children, copy annexed; and the Board have much pleasure in adverting to the fact that not one Death has occurred during the year.

6. During the past year 41 Children have been apprenticed to services approved by the Guardians.

7. INDUSTRIAL OCCUPATIONS.—The accompanying Returns, marked 2 and 3, show the amount of Needlework and Washing performed in the Female Division during the past year. With reference to the latter item, the Board have to state, that of the number of articles washed 14,949 were done by Machines which have been lately introduced into the Asylum, thereby greatly reducing the expense of this item, besides giving the Children an insight into the management and working of the Washing and Wringing Machines.

By charging the Needlework and Washing performed at the Institution at the same rate as that charged at the Cascades Factory, the following information will be considered satisfactory:—

	£	s.	d.
1861. Washing, 95,132 pieces	399	15	1
Needlework, 3662 ditto	73	7	6
	£473	2	7
	£596	7	1

The Girls are employed in various ways, besides washing and needlework, such as cleaning, scrubbing, cooking, &c.

A certain number of Boys are taught shoemaking, tailoring, farm work, and gardening; sundry are employed in cleaning, but it is impossible to estimate the value of the work thus performed.

8. NEW INFANT SCHOOL.—The Board beg to state that the Children of the Infant Division

were removed to this Building on the 20th December, 1862 : the accommodation is very superior, as will be seen on reference to the following Table :—

	Length.		Breadth.		Height.	
	Feet.	Inches.	Feet.	Inches.	Feet.	Inches.
No. 1 Dormitory	75	9	22	3	18	9
No. 2 Ditto.....	76	..	22	..	18	2
Dining Hall	70	6	25	..	18	9
School Room	70	8	25	..	18	2

The upper floor is reserved for Hospital accommodation, and consists of two large Wards, out of each of which are two separate rooms, which are set apart for the treatment of those diseases requiring strict separation.

9. FOX'S LEGACY.—James Fennell and Emily Cuddy, the Children who obtained the greatest number of good marks during the year, have each received a Silver Medal, and the sum of £10 has been lodged in the Savings' Bank to the credit of each.

10. FARMING OPERATIONS.—The land attached to the Queen's Asylum consists of 139 acres, 65 of which are under cultivation.

The Farm is conducted under the direction of a Committee consisting of two Members of the Board of Management, (namely, Mr. Stutzer and Mr. Shoobridge), and the Superintendent; the only paid servants attached to the Farm being one Overseer at a salary of £120 with quarters, one Ploughman at a salary of £91 5s., and one Carter at a salary of £65 with quarters.

The results of the farming operations during the past year are exceedingly satisfactory, as will be seen on reference to the Return hereunto annexed (No. 5).

The Stock consists of 1 Bull, 25 Cows, and 4 Horses, the cost of which to the Institution on its transfer from the Imperial Government, with purchases up to the present period, has amounted to £223 6s. It will be seen on reference to the Farm Account that the amount of £20 is annually debited for depreciation in the value of Stock, on account of many of the Cows being old; but as arrangements will shortly be made by the Farming Committee for fattening the very old Cows, and slaughtering them for rations, and purchasing young ones in their place, the value of the Stock will, in course of time, exceed what was originally paid.

11. The Board desire to record their sense of the attention which the Ladies' Committee have given to the Institution, more particularly referring to the Female portion of it.

W. NAIRN, *Chairman.*

No. 1.

RETURN showing the Admissions, Deaths, and Discharges of Children in the Queen's Asylum during the Year 1862.

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Remaining 31st December, 1861	252	202	454
Admitted during year 1862.....	55	47	102
			556
Discharged	14	12	67
Apprenticed	20	21	
Died	0	0	
Remaining 31st December, 1862			489

<i>Funds.</i> —Maintained on Imperial Funds	202	} 489
Ditto Colonial ditto.....	261	
Funds undecided	2	
A moiety of cost to Imperial Government	24	

<i>Religions.</i> —Protestants	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
	141	99	240
Roman Catholics	132	117	249
	<u>273</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>489</u>

A. H. BOYD, *Superintendent.*

No. 2.

RETURN of Needlework performed at the QUEEN'S ASYLUM during the Year 1862.

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	Pinafores.	Hoods.	Frocks.	Chemises.	Petticoats, flannel.	Petticoats, serge.	Sheets.	Frocks, skirts.	Towels.	Pocket handkerchiefs.	Night dresses.	Stockings.	Shirts.	TOTAL.
January 1st.....	June 30th	449	196	8	383	384	24	30	331	—	—	—	—	30	1835
July 1st	December 31st	458	—	—	160	—	—	168	333	379	420	—	—	203	2121
	TOTAL	907	196	8	543	384	24	198	664	379	420	—	—	233	3956
	Repairs during year	—	281	—	—	—	—	48	—	—	—	317	156	—	802

ACCOUNT of Needlework performed at the Queen's Asylum, charged at the same prices as if done at the Cascade Factory.

313 dozen 2 pieces Ordinary, at 6s. per dozen	£ s. d.
16 dozen 6 pieces Sheets, Pillow Slips and Ticks, at 3s. per dozen	93 19 0
66 dozen 10 pieces Repairs, say at 1s. per dozen.....	2 9 6
	3 6 10
	<u>£99 15 4</u>

A. H. BOYD, *Superintendent.*

No. 3.

RETURN of WASHING performed at the QUEEN'S ASYLUM, Tasmania, during the Year 1862.

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	Dresses, Bathing.	Chemises.	Pinafores.	Curtains.	Capes, White.	Dresses, Night.	Stockings.	Socks.	Shirts.	Sheets.	Pillow Slips.	Towels.	Hoods.	Flannels.	Frocks.	Blankets.	Trowsers.	Jackets.	Waistcoats.	Ticks, Bed.	Comforters.	Rugs.	TOTAL.	
Jan. 1st ..	June 30th	350	8600	19694	14	150	4027	4268	290	3711	754	3911	2905	160	74	26	48,934
July 1st ..	Dec. 31st	312	7135	24632	10	305	4245	4017	2176	7694	3130	6012	5291	569	224	..	99	780	717	729	52	152	16	68,297	
	TOTAL..	662	15735	44326	24	455	8272	8285	2466	11405	3884	9923	8196	729	298	26	99	780	717	729	52	152	16	117,231	

A. H. BOYD, *Superintendent.*

No. 5.

ACCOUNT of Produce, and Expense, of the FARM attached to the QUEEN'S ASYLUM from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1862.

Dr.	Amount	TOTAL.	Cr.	Amount	TOTAL.
	under each head.			under each head.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salary and Allowance to Farm Overseer	125 16 8		PRODUCE RAISED.		
Ditto to Gardener ($\frac{1}{2}$)	57 10 0		Milk supplied to Institution, 118,967 $\frac{1}{2}$ pints, at 3d. per pint	1487 1 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Ditto to Store Labourer ($\frac{1}{2}$)	15 13 8		Vegetables ditto, 4591 lbs., at 6s. 6d. per 100 lbs.	14 14 3	
Ditto to Ploughman	87 8 7		Firewood ditto, 120,000 lbs. at 14s. per ton	37 10 0	
Ditto to Milkman	16 19 2				
Ditto to Farm Labourers	79 16 2	383 4 3	Hay sold, 80 cwt. 3 qrs., at 5s. per cwt.	20 3 9	1539 6 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Blacksmith's Account	..	24 1 9	Onions sold, 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 15 lbs. at 12s. per cwt.	2 15 6	
Veterinary Surgeon's Account	..	0 11 0	Oats sold, 40 bushels, at 5s. per bushel	10 0 0	
<i>Hired Labour.</i>			C. Barley sold, 3 bushels, at 4s. 6d. per bushel	0 13 6	33 12 9
Man thrashing 125 bushels Oats, at 9d. per bushel	4 13 9		Hay, used as forage, 30 tons, at £5 per ton	150 0 0	
Ditto 100 bushels C. Barley, ditto	3 15 3		Mangel Wurzel, ditto, 50 tons, at 32s. 6d. per ton	81 5 0	
Ditto cutting Hay, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, at 5s. per acre	3 8 0		Oats, ditto, 2000 lbs., at 5s. per bushel	12 10 0	
Ditto fixing Chaff-cutting Machine, &c.	7 0 0		Straw, 11,200 lbs., at 55s. per ton	13 15 0	
Ditto saving Hay and thatching Stack	1 13 0	20 9 10	Green Fodder, 20 tons, at 30s. per ton	30 0 0	287 10 0
<i>Seed, by Purchase.</i>			Calves sold (4 at 3s. each and 10 at 2s. 6d. each)	1 17 0	
Maize, 6 bushels, at 5s. 9d. per bushel	1 14 6		Cows sold (2)	7 0 0	8 17 0
Barley, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ditto, at 6s. ditto	0 9 0		Poundage Fees	..	1 11 6
Pease, 1 ditto, at 10s. ditto	0 10 0		Carriage of Bedding, Stores, &c.	..	37 10 0
Mangel Wurzel, 40 lbs., at 4s. per lb.	8 0 0		Oats, for Seed, 4400 lbs., at 5s. per bushel	27 10 0	
Grass I. Rye, 20 bushels, at 10s. per bushel	10 0 0	20 13 6	Barley, ditto, 4850 lbs., at 4s. 6d. ditto	21 16 6	49 6 6
<i>Seed, Produce.</i>					
Oats, 4400 lbs., at 5s. per bushel	27 10 0				
Barley, 4850 lbs., at 4s. 6d. ditto	21 16 6	49 6 6			
<i>Manure, by Purchase.</i>					
Decomposed Animal Matter, 4 tons, at 105s. per ton	21 0 0				
Guano, 8 tons, at £3 per ton	24 0 0				
Lime, 1175 bushels, at 9d. per bushel	44 1 3	89 1 3			
<i>Forage, by Purchase.</i>					
Mangel Wurzel, 50 tons, at 32s. 6d. per ton	81 5 0				
Bran, 230 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, at 1s. 4d. per bushel	15 7 4	96 12 4			
<i>Forage, Produce.</i>					
Mangel Wurzel, 50 tons, at 32s. 6d. per ton	81 5 0				
Hay, 30 tons, at £5 per ton	150 0 0				
Oats, 2000 lbs., at 5s. per bushel	12 10 0				
Straw, 11,200 lbs., at 55s. per ton	13 15 0				
Green Fodder, 20 tons, at 30s. per ton	30 0 0	287 10 0			
<i>Stock, by Purchase.</i>					
5 Cows	42 15 0				
Farming Implements	32 0 0	74 15 0			
Baskets, bushel, 2 at 2s. each	..	0 4 0			
Depreciation in value of Live Stock, at £20 per annum	20 0 0				
Ditto of Farming Implements, at £5	5 0 0	25 0 0			
Balance in favour of Farm	..	886 4 4 $\frac{3}{4}$			
		£ 1957 13 9 $\frac{3}{4}$			£ 1957 13 9 $\frac{3}{4}$

A. H. BOYD, Superintendent.

No. 6.

ABSTRACT of Receipt and Expenditure of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM, between the 1st January and 31st December, 1862.

Dr.

Amount of Parliamentary Vote for the Service of the Year 1862.. £11,915 18 6

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Superintendent and Medical Officer.....	319	17	10			
Ditto and Purveyor	108	1	3			
Purveyor	127	19	1			
Clerks (2)	208	18	5			
Chaplain, Church of England	150	0	0			
Chaplain, Church of Rome	150	0	0			
Teacher of Singing.....	25	0	0			
Head Schoolmaster and Industrial Teacher.....	200	0	0			
Assistant Schoolmaster	140	0	0			
Matron, M. School	100	0	0			
Ditto F. School	150	0	0			
Ditto I. School	125	0	0			
Schoolmistress, Senior	100	0	0			
Ditto, Junior	100	0	0			
Ditto, I. School.....	70	0	0			
Baker.....	104	18	11			
Shoemaker	100	0	0			
Tailor	100	0	0			
Gardener	100	0	0			
Carpenter	3	9	10			
Beadle	70	0	0			
Farm Overseer	100	0	0			
Ploughman	87	8	7			
Farm Labourers.....	159	8	9			
Assistant Baker	15	3	2			
Servants, Female	418	3	7			
Messenger, Monitors, and Monitresses.....	20	16	8			
Working Girls	0	14	8			
Overseers Wilson and Litch	34	9	0			
				3389	9	9

ALLOWANCES.

Superintendent	120	0	0			
Purveyor	2	8	0			
Medical Officer	54	0	7			
Chaplain, Church of Rome	50	7	2			
Head Schoolmaster	20	0	0			
Schoolmistress, Senior	20	0	0			
Shoemaker	15	0	0			
Tailor	15	0	0			
Gardener	15	0	0			
Farm Overseer	32	10	0			
Farm Labourers.....	1	2	2			
				345	7	11
<i>Carried forward</i>				3734	17	8

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i> .....	..	..	..	3734	17	8
Provisions	4272	10	6 $\frac{3}{4}$			
Fuel and Light	678	14	2			
Stores, Bedding, and Clothing.....	1870	11	1 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Books and Stationery	10	0	0			
Medicines and Medical Stores	16	16	2			
Advertisements	3	18	1			
Toll.....	3	5	9			
Repairs to Buildings	208	6	10			
Washing and Needlework performed at Cascades	222	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Cost of Fencing	127	4	3			
Furniture for New Buildings	110	13	11			
Miscellaneous.....	49	12	7			
Erection of Cottage at Farm	156	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Whitewashing Infant School... ..	34	0	0			
Seeds purchased.....	20	13	6			
Manure ditto	89	1	3			
Forage ditto	96	12	4			
Veterinary Surgeon's Account	0	11	0			
Hired labour for Farm	20	9	10			
Blacksmith's Account	24	1	9			
				8015	19	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
				11,750	17	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deduct for Farm Produce, Fuel, Needlework, and Washing .....	..	..	..	1768	13	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
				£9982	3	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

A. H. BOYD, *Superintendent.*

*REPORT of the Religious Examination of the Protestant Children of the
QUEEN'S ASYLUM.*

I HAVE examined the Children of the Queen's Asylum this day, with the assistance of the Rev. F. Hudspeth, in their knowledge of Holy Scripture, and the doctrine of the Church of England.

The attainments of those who were best informed considerably exceeded my expectations; for I had been led to suppose that they were very deficient as compared with former years. The Boys especially, those of the First Class, answered admirably, and the Girls very well.

The 2nd Class of Girls also answered fairly, being of course considerably less advanced than those of the 1st Class.

Mr. Hudspeth reports that he considers the Girls of the 3rd Class to have acquitted themselves very creditably; and many of the 4th Class to have answered well.

While of the 2nd Class Boys he writes, the whole of this Class have answered with a quickness and precision such as I have seldom met with; so much so, that I have had considerable difficulty in deciding who is the best.

I cannot report favorably of the attainments of the Boys in the 3rd Class. They knew the Catechism pretty well by rote, but their knowledge of Holy Scripture, and of the meaning of the Catechism, was very meagre, falling short of my expectation.

(Signed) ARTHUR DAVENPORT.

18th December, 1862.

REPORT of the Examination at the QUEEN'S ASYLUM.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following Report upon the results of the Examination in secular knowledge of the Children of the Queen's Asylum. The Examination continued during the mornings and afternoons of the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th instant. It embraced the several subjects of elementary instruction, to which the studies of the Children are at present limited; namely, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Writing from Dictation, and Arithmetic up to the end of Compound Division.

It is necessary to premise that a considerable change has taken place during the past year in the employments of the Children, more particularly of the Boys. The larger portion of the time of all Children above nine or ten years of age is given to those industrial pursuits in which they are likely to be engaged in after life. The hours devoted to books only have been much reduced. It is a proof that what is called in England the half-time system, in which children in National Schools are only taught three hours per diem,—giving the rest of the day to other pursuits,—is substantially a sound one, to find the great diminution in the time given at this Asylum to school learning has not been attended by a proportionate falling off in knowledge. The range of study has been contracted about one-sixth; but, within the limits assigned, the Children answer nearly, if not quite, as well as in previous years. I proceed to details:—

The eighth class of Boys consists of the Monitors.

The Boys in this class did their Reading, Writing, and Writing from Dictation, well; but were inaccurate in some of their Arithmetic.

The Boys in the second division of the class were equally satisfactory in the foregoing subjects, but failed in Arithmetic, completely from pure nervousness, as was shown the next day, when they answered in the same subjects perfectly well.

The lower classes could not do Writing from Dictation; but all down to the two last spelt very correctly, and all could repeat the Multiplication Table with accuracy.

The greater number of these junior Boys write a good round hand. The Boys of 7th, 6th, and 5th forms worked sums correctly in the first four rules, and most of those of the 4th and 3rd could do Addition and Subtraction.

The Examination of the Girls' Classes gave nearly the same results as those of the Boys, except that the head Female Class wrote from Dictation better than the head Boys' Class; but the Reading was not so good. The same correctness in Spelling, and accuracy in repeating the Multiplication Table, characterised both Girls and Boys.

The Arithmetic in the Female Classes is not quite so advanced as among the Boys; but what is done is done fairly. I am obliged, however, to notice stringently the extreme bad figures which the Girls make in their cyphering; the more so, as my notice of the same defect on previous occasions has not been attended by any improvement.

The result of the Examination is, in brief, that the Children, both male and female, in the Queen's Asylum are taught to read fairly, and write well. The penmanship, generally, is better than in most of the National Schools.

They likewise spell remarkably well in nearly all the Classes. Three-fourths of them can likewise repeat the Multiplication Table correctly. About the same number can do sums in Addition; about one-half in Multiplication, and one-fifth can work tolerably well up to Compound Division. This is nearly as much education as they are likely to need in after life.

At the same time, it is desirable they should not, as at present, be entirely ignorant of the rudiments of Geography. The School begins, in my opinion, unnecessarily late. The Children should all be in School at ten, and, if possible, at half-past nine.

It is practicable, without interfering with their other employments, to give them from two to four hours in the week more teaching than at present.

It is desirable, likewise, that the marks for needlework should be kept apart from those on other subjects, in order to systematically and effectively encourage this important part of a Girl's education.

(Signed) J. J. STUTZER.

6th January, 1863.

Queen's Asylum, New Town, 31st December, 1862.

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Medical charge of the Queen's Asylum having devolved on me on the 21st August last, I took an early opportunity carefully to inspect the Children of the different divisions, with a view to ascertain their general state of health; and in a Report based on that inspection, and dated 26th August, which I had the honour to lay before you, I particularly noticed the prevalence of an unsightly disease affecting the heads of many of the Children, and stated that strict measures had been adopted for its suppression. I am now able to add that the measures referred to have proved successful, and that this disease has, for the present, almost disappeared.

In the same communication, and again in a subsequent Report dated 8th September, I also brought under your special notice the fact that Ophthalmia prevailed to a very great extent among the inmates of the Asylum, but more particularly among the Children of the Infant Division. The cause of this disease I believed to be local in its origin; and with a view to its discovery I undertook some investigations, the results of which were subsequently laid before you, and which led me to believe that the constant and universal use of lime as a whitewash within the Buildings was the great source from which so much Ophthalmic disease had arisen. I was led to this conclusion from a variety of concurring observations, but more particularly from the fact, that I found loose lime, in the form of dust, in great abundance in all parts of the Buildings, and especially in the Dormitories; the bedding also on examination being found to contain a great quantity of lime in the form of very fine dust. The correctness of these observations was verified by actual experiment; and it appeared established beyond doubt, that the eyes of the Children under such circumstances could not escape constant exposure to the well-known irritating effects of this caustic agent. These facts I brought under your notice in September, offering at the same time some suggestions for the removal of this source of disease.

With the tenor of these suggestions you readily concurred, ordering such measures to be adopted as might at once tend to arrest so serious a malady; and in compliance with your wishes the Superintendent promptly prohibited the further use of lime as a whitewash, and took such other measures, as at that time lay in his power, towards the accomplishment of the object in view; and although these measures were necessarily very partial and incomplete, the result (if a correct inference may be drawn from the short period afforded for observation) has, nevertheless, been so satisfactory as to warrant me in seriously urging on your attention the desirability of permanently and completely prohibiting the use of lime within the precincts of the Asylum.

A reference to the annexed Table of Diseases will show that upwards of two hundred cases of Ophthalmia have been treated within the year; and to this number many cases more might well be added which were not recorded at all.

I am far from conversant with the statistics of this disease among the inhabitants of Tasmania generally; but, from data available within a limited sphere of observation, I am inclined to believe that an equal amount of Ophthalmic disease would not be found to have occurred in the whole juvenile population of the Country within the same period of time.

In connection with this subject, I have to point out another great source of irritation to the eyes of the Children, but which, like the one above referred to, has also to some extent been removed. I allude to the dissemination of sand throughout the whole of the buildings, passages, verandahs, &c., by a practice long in use, but now partially discontinued; namely, that of constant sandstone scrubbing. The quantity of sharp cutting sand thus grated down annually, and set at liberty to be drifted about through every passage, staircase, verandah, and doorway of the buildings by every breath of wind, would in itself prove a sufficient cause of Ophthalmic irritation, apart altogether from the presence of lime; but when the mixture so disseminated is found on examination to be composed of about equal parts of this sand and quick-lime, no wonder need be expressed on witnessing the frightful amount of pain and injury inflicted on the eyes of these helpless Children, victims to the effects of a most mistaken and mischievous system of cleanliness.

Another disease, "Scabies" (Itch), of a very virulent character was also found, on subsequent inspection, to prevail to a great extent among the Children of the Infant Division.

The contagious nature of this disease is such as to render all attempts at cure futile, unless conducted under a plan of strict separation; accordingly a large ward was set apart for its reception and treatment, and vigorous efforts made with a view to its eradication: but, though in numerous instances cures have been thus effected, the disease still exists to some extent amongst the Children of this Division, and is likely to prove a protracted, if not a permanent, source of annoyance.

I am able to report very favourably, however, on the result of the remedial efforts made up to the present time, and shall see that a watchful care is exercised over the progress of this disease for the future.

The annexed Table of Diseases, marked No. 1, exhibits the number and nature of all cases treated under the care of my predecessor up to the 20th August, 1862; while the Table marked No. 2 exhibits the number and nature of all cases treated by me subsequent to that date: many of these diseases were trivial in their character, while a few have been of some importance. One case of Measles occurred in the Infant Division on 16th November. The Child was treated under strict separation, and made a speedy recovery without the spread of infection.

A case of Scarlatina also occurred in the Female Division, on 24th December: the treatment of this case was also conducted under strict separation, and with a like satisfactory result.

Other diseases of a more dangerous character have also been treated; and although in no case death occurred, yet in several life was seriously threatened.

During the last two months Hooping Cough (which for some time past has prevailed as an epidemic in the City) has gained a footing within the Institution. At the present date (31st December) about sixty of the Children of the Asylum are labouring under this tedious and troublesome complaint, many being affected with it in a severe form, and a few even dangerously ill.

Up to the present there has been no loss of life; but as the disease has still, in all probability, the greater part of its course to run, some mortality may reasonably be expected.

The Board may rest assured, however, that every exertion will be made to mitigate the sufferings of the Children, and avert, if possible, fatal consequences.

The additional accommodation afforded by the occupation of the New Buildings appears calculated greatly to elevate the standard of health of the Children of the Infant Division, and can

scarcely fail to be productive of the best sanitary results. To the improved and extended accommodation thus afforded, unlimited out-door exercise, and amusement in dry and well-drained play-grounds, have only to be added to place these Children in a position the most conducive to health.

The Hospital accommodation of the Institution has also been much extended and improved by the occupation of the New Buildings.

The arrangements which I had the honor to submit for consideration, and of which you approved in September last, will, when matured, work advantageously as compared with those formerly in operation.

It appears to me, however, matter of regret that a building especially designed for Hospital purposes, and entirely separated from all other buildings, should not ere now have been added to the Establishment. To treat scientifically and successfully the numerous and diversified forms of disease incidental to children, especially in an Institution of the magnitude of the Queen's Asylum, the means of classifying and separating such diseases should to the fullest extent be available, as the want of adequate means for such separation and classification must, (where most of the diseases to be treated are of an infectious or contagious character) tend greatly to mar the success of the Medical service of such an Institution.

The present Hospital arrangements, though vastly superior to those formerly in operation, can never be rendered altogether free from some of the objections above alluded to. The want of original design in the Buildings, the unavoidable proximity of the sick to the healthy, the difficulty of maintaining strict separation, owing to the want of a sufficient number of moderate-sized rooms for the treatment of particular forms of disease, the want of separate and distinct play-grounds, &c., are all objections more or less applicable to the present Hospital accommodation: but while I deem it necessary to point out such defects in the arrangements for the sick as may come under my observation, it is, nevertheless, my earnest wish and determination to use, to the best advantage, the means placed at my disposal for carrying on the duties with which I have been entrusted; and I sincerely hope that, by the adoption of a system combining sanitary precautions as a safeguard on the one hand, with prompt and energetic remedial treatment when disease does occur on the other, I shall be enabled to conduct the Medical duties of the Asylum, not only to your satisfaction as the governors of the Institution, but also to the satisfaction of my own sense of the importance of the trust reposed in me,—and I shall not consider my time and labour misspent, if, under Providence, I may be enabled to realise such results as shall place the health department of this Establishment in a favorable relation to that of similar Establishments in other parts of the world.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS CHRISTIE SMART,
Medical Officer Queen's Asylum.

RETURN showing the HOSPITAL STATES during the Year 1862.

DIVISION.	Remaining 31st Dec. 1861.	Admitted during Year 1862	Total treated during Year 1862.	Discharged during Year 1862.	Died during Year 1862.	Total dis- charged and died during Year 1862.	Remaining 31st Dec. 1862.
Male	16	76	92	83	—	83	9
Female	9	182	191	189	—	189	2
Infant	8	169	177	162	—	162	15
TOTAL	33	427	460	434	—	434	26

THOS. C. SMART, *Medical Officer Queen's Asylum.*

No. 1.

RETURN showing the Number and the DISEASES of the Children treated in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM from 1st January to 21st August, 1862; also the Number remaining under Treatment on the 21st August, 1862.

CLASS OF DISEASE.	SPECIFIC DISEASES.	Remaining 31st December, 1861.	ADMISSIONS.								Total Treated.	DISCHARGES.								Died.	Total Died and Discharged.	Remaining 21st August, 1862.
			January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.		January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.			
Fevers	Febris .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
Eruptive Fevers	Rubeola .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diseases of the Lungs	Tussis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
	Catarrh. Ac.	2	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	7	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
Diseases of the Liver	Bronchitis .....	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
	Icterus .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diseases of the Brain	Cephalalgia .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels	Paralysis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Dyspepsia .....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Abscesses and Ulcers	Colica .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
	Ulcus	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Wounds and Injuries	Phlegmon .....	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	5	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	5	..	..
	Abscesses .....	..	..	..	4	2	4	5	8	23	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	6	..	20	3	..
	Paronychia .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diseases of the Eye	Contusio .....	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	4	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	3	1	..
	Subluxatio .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diseases of the Skin	Fractura .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
	Ophthalmia	10	14	85	36	9	7	4	1	4	170	7	78	34	14	11	12	2	5	163	7	..
Other Diseases	Blind	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
	Eruptio	8	1	2	4	3	5	6	5	39	4	2	2	6	3	5	2	4	..	28	11	..
Other Diseases	Impetigo	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
	Observatio	2	..	2	..	..	4	1	..	10	2	2	..	..	2	2	1	1	..	10	..	..
	Perneo .....	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	2	8	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	1	..	6	2	..
	Scrophula	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
	Cynanche Ton.	2	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	5	2	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	5	..	..
	Amputatio	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
	Cancrum Oris .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
	Debilitas .....	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	5	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
		33	23	98	44	20	22	23	17	24	304	26	90	43	26	24	30	15	21	..	275	29

No. 2.

RETURN showing the Number and the DISEASES of Children treated in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM from 22nd August to the 31st December, 1862; also, the Number remaining under Treatment on the 31st December, 1862.

CLASS OF DISEASE.	SPECIFIC DISEASES.	Remaining 31st August, 1862.	ADMISSIONS.					Total Treated.	DISCHARGES.					Total Died and Discharged.	Remaining 31st December, 1862.	
			August.	September.	October.	November.	December.		August.	September.	October.	November.	December.			Died.
Fevers	Febris .....	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	1
Eruptive Fevers	Rubeola .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Diseases of the Lungs	Catarrh. Acut .....	..	..	2	2	..	..	4	..	2	1	1	..	..	4	..
	Catarrhus .....	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..
	Pertussis .....	..	..	..	..	10	14	24	..	..	..	..	17	..	17	7
Diseases of the Brain.....	Tussis .....	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
	Paralysis	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels.....	Dyspepsia .....	..	4	7	2	4	..	17	1	7	2	7	..	..	17	..
Abscesses and Ulcers	Abscessus	3	..	3	2	1	..	9	1	3	3	2	..	..	9	..
	Phlegmon .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Wounds and Injuries	Contusio	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Diseases of the Eye	Ophthalmia	7	6	6	8	6	5	38	3	10	7	11	5	..	36	2
	Blind	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Diseases of the Skin	Eruptio	11	1	2	5	7	..	26	3	4	8	11	..	..	26	..
	Scabies .....	..	..	19	..	..	4	23	..	2	9	8	2	..	21	2
	Tinea Capitis.....	..	8	..	..	1	3	12	..	8	..	..	1	..	9	3
	Scrophula	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
	Perneo	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..
Other Diseases	Convulsio .....	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
	Cancrum Oris .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
	Psoriasis .....	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
	Observatio .....	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	3	..
	Croup.....	1	..	1	1	..	1	..
	Tumor	1	..	1	1	1	..
	Cripples	2	2	2	..
TOTALS.....		29	20	40	21	40	35	185	9	38	31	50	31	..	159	26

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THOS. C. SMART, Medical Officer.