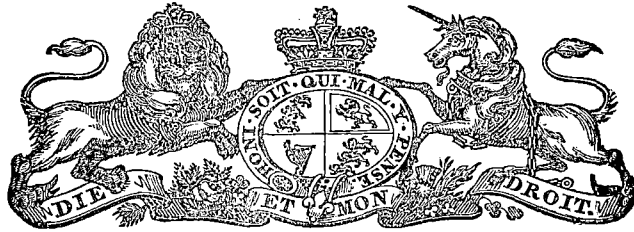


(No. 9.)



1877.

SESSION II.

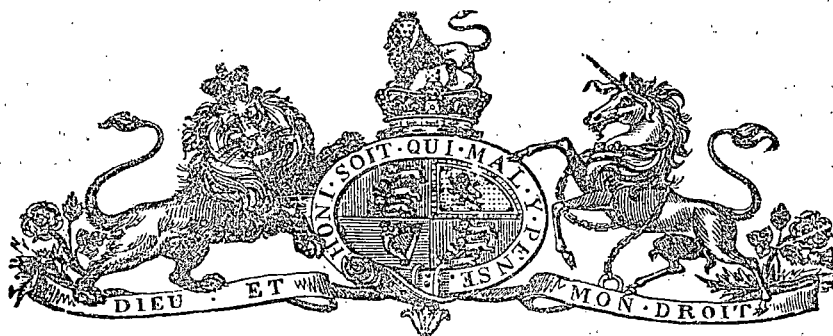
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

QUEEN'S ASYLUM.

REPORT FOR 1876.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, April 24, 1877.



QUEEN'S ASYLUM REPORT.

Queen's Asylum, New Town, 26th February, 1877.

SIR,

THE close of another year again devolves upon me the duty of presenting a detailed statement of the operations of this Institution during the year 1876. But before entering upon particulars I desire to express my thankfulness to the Government, and also to the public, for their kind and generous approval of my management of this important establishment.

At the time the Government were pleased to honor me with the Superintendency I found the Institution in a disorganised and unsatisfactory condition, especially as regards discipline and cleanliness; and I desire therefore to avail myself of this opportunity of acknowledging the good services of those who have aided me in effecting the marked improvements noticed and recorded by those who have visited the establishment.

I stated in my Report for 1875 that there were in the Institution at the close of the year 167 children. During the past twelve months 15 were admitted, making a total of 182. Of this number 39 were indentured and 2 discharged. The above is summed up in the following table:—

Number of children in the Institution 31 December, 1875.....	167	
Number admitted during the year.....	15	
	182	
Number of children indentured during the year.....	39	
Number of children discharged during the year	2	
	41	
Total number of children remaining 31st December, 1876 ..	141	

The average number of children throughout the year was $156\frac{2}{3}$; and the average cost of each £16 17s. 5½d., or $11\frac{2}{3}$ d. a day.

The following gives the amount expended under each particular head. Details are attached:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and Allowances.....	569	17	10
Books and Stationery	14	12	9
Provisions, including Milk	1239	3	11
Fuel and Light	257	4	10
Stores.....	73	10	7
Bedding	71	16	0
Clothing	236	14	8
Medical Attendance and Medicines	52	10	0
Repairs and Alterations to Buildings.....	97	3	4
Incidental Expenses	84	17	6
Total Expenses.....	£2697	11	5
Reimbursements—			
Cash received for maintenance, &c.....	52	0	3
Net Expenses	£2645	11	2

In September last the Institution was deprived of the valuable services of the principal teacher, Mr. Matthew M'Phee, the Board of Education having removed him to a more remunerative school. I felt at the time that the change would be injurious to the school; but I have good grounds for hoping that Mr. M'Phee's successor will prove himself equally efficient. Being fully aware of the low parentage of many of the children in the Queen's Asylum, and that they more or less inherit the proclivities of their parents, I have always advocated the great importance of securing the services of the best teachers the Board could supply, believing that a good education is the best means than can be employed for counteracting the innate evil inclinations of the child.

The religious instruction of the children was duly attended to throughout the year. In the early part of it the Rev. Canon Hudspeth was through illness obliged to discontinue his ministerial duties. His place, however, has been ably filled by his *locum tenens*, the Rev. Alfred N. Mason. The routine is as follows:—They say prayers in their respective dormitories morning and night; on Wednesday they are instructed by their clergymen between the hours of ten and twelve; on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday they are also taught religious truth; and on the Sabbath attend church and Sunday-school.

The annual ceremony of distributing prizes to the children for proficiency in secular and religious subjects, and also for good conduct, took place on the 28th December. The meeting was presided over by His Excellency the Governor. There were present Mrs. Weld, the Misses Weld, Mr. Weld-Blundell (Private Secretary to the Governor), their Lordships the Bishops of Tasmania and Hobart Town, the Very Rev. Dean Bromby, the Hon. C. H. Bromby (Attorney-General), the Revs. P. R. Hennebry, Alfred N. Mason (Guardians), W. C. Robinson, M. J. Beechinor, J. Brooke H. Bailey, S. B. Fookes; Dr. E. Swarbreck Hall; Messrs. B. Travers Solly (Assistant Colonial Secretary), T. Stephens (Inspector of Schools), Captain Cowan, &c., and a good attendance of ladies. His Excellency the Governor distributed the prizes for secular progress, Mrs. Weld the money rewards for good conduct, and those for religious knowledge were presented by the respective Lord Bishops. The reports of the examiners, the Very Rev. Dean Bromby, Rev. P. Gleeson, of Launceston, and Mr. Matthew M'Phee, are appended.

The *Mercury* newspaper in reporting the meeting stated:—"At the close of the presentations His Excellency the Governor congratulated Mr. Scott on the good attendance he witnessed, and the healthy and clean appearance of the children. They did real credit to the Institution, and he was sure that while he was expressing the thanks of the public for the manner in which the officers had discharged their duty, he would also express the sentiments of the officers in saying how much they were indebted and encouraged by the support and attendance of the ladies and gentlemen who honoured their school examinations."

The respective birthdays of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales were celebrated by the children. On each occasion they were plentifully supplied with cakes and lollies, &c., and there was also a large display of fireworks.

The anniversary of the Fox feast was celebrated this year at Brighton, and was an exceedingly happy day. The children were taken there by train; several hours were spent in cricketing and other games on land kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Lamprill; and after playing and feasting to their hearts' content they proceeded to Pontville, where the sight of so many children, headed by their drum and fife band, appeared to excite much interest among the residents, who turned out *en masse*.

In my previous Report I furnished some particulars of the Fox bequest, namely:—In 1858 the late Mr. Fox left the sum of £500 to the Queen's Asylum, which amount is invested in Government Debentures, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and redeemable in 1882. In accordance with his wishes the interest is expended in rewards and an annual treat to the children. The £500 is invested in the name of the Colonial Secretary for the time being.

There is another sum bequeathed by a Mr. Dexter. The interest amounts to about £13 a year. This bequest is for the educational benefit of children of the Church of England in the Queen's Asylum.

In January, 1876, it was intimated at the annual meeting for the distribution of prizes by the Lord Bishop of Hobart Town that an amount would be contributed by friends for the children belonging to the Church of Rome; and this was done at the annual meeting for that year.

As regards the industrial training of the children, I can truly say that unremitting attention was given throughout the year to this very important matter; even the youngest child is required to help in some way. As I mentioned in my last year's Report, the girls make all their own clothes as well as the boys', and also do the washing, mangling, ironing, cooking, and scrubbing; and the boys attend to the scrubbing, &c., of the dormitories, rooms, and passages of their division, keep the grounds of the Institution in order, and help at the farm, milking and herding the cows, &c.

Remembering the condition in which I found the Institution at the time I took charge (1874), I feel that there has been a decided improvement in the industrial habits, cleanliness, and personal appearance of both boys and girls. The objectionable practice of discharging boys and girls to service in the Asylum dress has been discontinued. Those apprentices are no longer dressed uniformly, and are not likely to be known as having belonged to the Queen's Asylum. A considerable change was made in the dietary in 1875. During the past year I have added vegetables, and the children are now plentifully supplied with cabbage, lettuce, &c.

It is extremely gratifying to be able to state that the health of the children has never been better. During the year 148 children received medical treatment, and only two of that number were really serious cases. With medical skill, close attention, and the blessing of a kind Providence on the means used, the children were restored to health. Nearly two years and a half have now elapsed since the last death of a child in this Institution.

It is with regret I mention the death of the late Matron, Mrs. Mary Smith. She held the appointment for sixteen years, and had obtained permission to retire on a pension. Mrs. Smith had been in indifferent health for a year or more; but previous to her illness she was active and zealous in the discharge of her onerous and trying duties.

I repeat the statement given in last year's Report, showing the number of children that had been in the institution during the past twelve years, simply adding similar information for 1876:—

Year.	Number on the 1st January.	Admitted during the Year.	Total Number in the Institution.	Apprenticed and discharged during the Year.*	Per-centage on the Total Number.
1864...	518	129	647	64	10
1865...	583	107	690	154	22
1866...	436	90	526	129	24
1867...	495	40	535	105	20
1868...	428	54	482	88	18
1869...	364	84	448	91	20
1870...	385	90	475	110	23
1871...	364	84	448	96	21
1872...	351	53	404	63	16
1873...	341	23	364	57	16
1874...	304	16	320	103	32
1875...	216	20	236	69	29
1876...	167	15	182	41	22

* Deaths not included.

I am happy to state that the Orphan School farm, which may justly be considered an integral part of the Queen's Asylum, was efficiently conducted during the year, and with satisfactory results. A *Dr.* and *Cr.* account is furnished, showing a balance in favour of the farm amounting to £459 4s. 4d. A statement of the land belonging to the Queen's Asylum estate, including the Orphan School farm, is also furnished.

In closing this my third annual Report I cannot but feel pleased that my efforts to improve the condition of the Institution have met with some measure of success, and am, therefore, encouraged to continue such efforts in the hope of securing still greater improvements in the future.

I beg to subjoin a few extracts from the "Visitors' Book."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

SANDFORD SCOTT, *Superintendent.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

EXTRACTS from the Visitors' Book.

Record by His Excellency Governor Weld.

"I HAVE this evening attended the school examination conducted by the Inspector of Schools, and have had much pleasure in observing his method. The examination, which lasted nearly two hours, showed that great care had been taken with the children; and I was surprised at their intelligence under a searching test. Much credit is evidently due to Mr. M'Phee."

FRED. A. WELD, *Governor.*

May 8th, 1876.

Observations of B. Travers Solly, Esq., A.C.S.

"I have this day seen nearly every part of this Establishment, and have much pleasure in testifying to the marked improvement since my last visit, when the present Superintendent had just taken charge. There seems to be a place for everything and everything in its place. The children look healthy, well clad, and happy, free from the sullen, stupid expression I have formerly noticed, and though obedient without fear in their obedience. The Institution seems now to carry out the true idea of a 'home' for those having none or worse than none outside its walls."

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, *Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

15th May, 1876.

Remarks of Dr. E. Swarbreck Hall, Officer of Health.

"I have this day made a searching examination, in company with the Superintendent, of every part of the Queen's Asylum for Children and the Women's Invalid Asylum. In my many years of inspection of the Establishment I can honestly say it was never before in such a perfect state of order and cleanliness. I have examined all the provisions as usual, and concur in Mr. Scott's condemnation of some butter." * * *

E. SWARBRECK HALL, *Officer of Health.*

11th September, 1876.

Memo. of the Rev. Alfred N. Mason.

"Visited the Queen's Asylum and Infirmary. Both Establishments were particularly neat and orderly. The Superintendent is especially careful in maintaining cleanliness and good order in them, as I have constant opportunities of observing."

ALFRED N. MASON, *Chaplain (locum tenens).*

4th November, 1876.

Observations of Drs. Antoine Mousse, A. V. R. Lewellin, W. H. Macfarlane, John Lindsay Miller, and James Appleyard, J.P.

"I have this day visited the Institution, and I must give my most unqualified approval of its management—the cleanliness and the ventilation are perfect. The apparent good health and cheerfulness of the children reflect great credit upon the Officers of the Queen's Asylum."

ANTOINE MOUSSE, *M.D.B. Sc. B.A., University of Paris.*

"During my visit to this establishment I was greatly surprised at the extreme cleanliness, order, and ventilation of the whole place."

A. V. R. LEWELLIN, *M.B.*

11. 12. 76.

Senior Resident Medical Officer Melbourne Hospital.

"Everything in this Institution is very clean, and the ventilation everywhere is excellent."

W. H. MACFARLANE, *M.B.*

11. 12. 76.

Resident Surgeon Hobart Town Hospital.

"We have this day visited and inspected the Queen's Asylum, and have been greatly pleased with the great cleanliness, excellent discipline, and general good order observable throughout the establishment. The children all seemed happy, hearty, and cheerful, as well they may be in such a home. We also desire to express our commendation of the establishment for the Female Invalids."

J. L. MILLER, *F.F.P.S., late C.M.O. at Launceston.*

J. APPELYARD, *J.P., Surgeon, &c., Longford.*

Minute of the Honorable Thomas Reibey, Premier, and C. Hamilton Bromby, Attorney-General, December 22, 1876, Friday.

"I spent two hours inspecting the Queen's Asylum,—carefully examined all the bedding, &c., and was much pleased with the *great cleanliness* of the establishment. I was pleased with the appearance of the children, boys and girls, and delighted to witness the bright and happy faces, very different from the *dogged* expression of the children in this establishment some twenty years ago. The Superintendent deserves the confidence of the public, and evinces not only tact and ability in the management of the children, but proof of his heart being in the work."

THOS. REIBEY.

"I fully endorse all that Mr. Reibey reports of this Institution. The officials seem kind and attentive; the children, especially the girls, appear more healthy and intelligent than when I saw them last. I was very much pleased with the boys' drum and fife band."

C. HAMILTON BROMBY.

James Gray, Esquire, M.H.A.

"I visited with the Honorable the Premier, Mr. Reibey, and the Honorable the Attorney-General, C. H. Bromby, on the 22nd December, the Queen's Asylum. Not having been through the buildings since my return from England, three years ago, I was very much gratified to notice the improvements that had been made and that are being carried out under Mr. Scott's superintendentship. The cleanliness and good order that pervade throughout the Institution, the manner in which the bedding and clothing is kept, and the arrangements for cooking and otherwise, reflect credit on Mr. Scott's management. The children appear to be contented, happy, and comfortable, and exhibit a sprightliness and intelligence which the inmates of former years sadly lacked. I was glad to find that the girls were instructed in needle and laundry work and other household duties, and that several of the boys underwent a course of industrial training at the farm. In fact the entire management of the establishment presents a marked and favourable contrast with that of some years ago."

JAMES GRAY, *Member for West Hobart, Tasmania.*

No. 1.

SALARIES and Allowances.

Superintendent	£	s.	d.
Clerk, Storekeeper, and Secretary to Guardians	100	0	0
Matron	80	0	0
Sub-Matron and Seamstress	101	2	10
General Assistant	48	0	0
Nurse, Hospital	73	0	0
General Nurse and Cook	40	0	0
Housemaid and Laundress	60	0	0
Allowances	60	0	0
	7	15	0
	<hr/>		
	£569	17	10

No. 2.

COST of Provisions.

Months.	Children.		Servants.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
January	101	17 0	7	3 9
February	98	2 8	5	14 9
March	94	11 6	6	16 11
April	102	8 3	5	18 11
May	101	8 0	6	16 11
June	98	0 7	5	19 5
July	97	8 11	7	3 10
August	96	10 10	7	3 10
September	92	7 11	5	19 5
October	97	12 3	7	3 10
November	90	10 6	5	19 5
December	89	0 8	7	3 10
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	£1159	19 1	£79	4 10

	£	s.	d.
Total for Children ...	1159	19	1
Total for Servants....	79	4	10
	<hr/>		
	£1239	3	11

No. 3.

COST of Fuel and Light.

Months.	Fuel.		Light.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
January	14	19 0	1	11 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
February	13	16 0	1	18 11
March	13	16 0	1	15 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
April	19	11 0	2	12 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
May	23	0 0	2	16 6
June	20	14 0	3	0 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
July	23	0 0	3	2 2 $\frac{3}{4}$
August	25	6 0	2	15 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
September	23	0 0	2	14 2 $\frac{3}{4}$
October	18	8 0	1	18 9
November	17	5 0	2	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
December	16	2 0	2	0 3
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	£228	17 0	£28	7 10 $\frac{1}{2}$

RECAPITULATION.

	£	s.	d.
Coal, 427,840 lbs., at 23s. per ton	219	13	0
Wood, 35,840 lbs., at 11s. 6d. ditto	9	4	0
Candles, tallow, 219 lbs., at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. ...	4	6	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, composition, 16 lbs., at 1s. ditto	0	16	0
Oil, kerosene, 307 galls., at 1s. 6d. per gall. ...	23	0	6
Wick, ditto, 8 doz., at 7d. per dozen	0	4	8
	<hr/>		
	£257	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

No. 4.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CHILDREN in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN for the Year 1876.

Remaining 31 Dec. 1875.		Admitted in 1876.		Apprenticed in 1876.		Discharged in 1876.		Died in 1876.		Remaining 31 Dec. 1876.		Average Number throughout the Year.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
86	81	4	11	18	21	0	2	0	0	72	69	80 $\frac{115}{368}$	76 $\frac{173}{368}$
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
167		15		39		2		0		141		156 $\frac{294}{368}$	

RETURN showing the AGES of the CHILDREN remaining in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM on the 31st December, 1876; how they were maintained; and their Religion.

	AGES.				HOW MAINTAINED.				RELIGION.		
	Under 6.	6 to 8.	8 to 12.	Over 12.	Colonial Government.	Imperial Government.	Undecided.	Moiety.	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Total.
Males	2	4	37	29	72	1	—	2	36	38	74
Females	0	6	33	30	64	0	—	2	27	40	67
TOTAL	2	10	70	59	136	1	—	4	63	78	141

RETURN showing the EXPENSE of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM, the Amount of Cash Receipts, and the Cost of each Child per Annum, for the Year 1876.

EXPENDITURE.			CASH RECEIPTS.	NET COST OF INSTITUTION TO GOVERNMENT.	COST PER HEAD PER ANNUM.
Salaries and Allowances.	Other Expenses.	TOTAL.			
£ s. d. 569 17 10	£ s. d. 2127 13 7½	£ s. d. 2697 11 5½	£ s. d. 52 0 3	£ s. d. 2645 11 2½	£ s. d. 16 17 5½

RETURN showing Details of Cash Receipts at the QUEEN'S ASYLUM during the Year 1876.

Particulars.	Amount.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Indenture Fees	2 12 6	
Maintenance, James Carns	9 3 0	
Sale of rags	0 10 0	
Ditto pigs	39 14 9	
		£52 0 3

No. 5.

RETURN of Sick and Wounded at the Queen's Asylum for the Year 1876.

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Deaths.
Measles, German	29	—
Scarlatina	4	—
Typhus and Infantile Fever, Typhoid	1	—
Carbuncle, Boil.	7	—
Influenza, Coryza, Catarrh, &c.	31	—
Rheumatism	2	—
Epilepsy	1	—
Pleurisy	1	—
Joint Disease	1	—
Phlegmon, Whitlow, &c.	5	—
Ulcer	3	—
Skin Disease	40	—
Atrophy and Debility	12	—
Cuts	4	—
Burns and Scalds	4	—
Causes not specified	3	—
	148	—

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Medical Officer.*

No. 6.

WASHING performed by Laundress and Girls during 1876.

Pinafores	10,846
Shirts	8320
Chemises	8742
Stockings and socks	8372
Jumpers	262
Vests	3216
Trousers	3284
Night dresses	2460
Towels and rollers	4562
Flannels	620
Hoods	296
Petticoats	268
Frocks	276
Sheets	8852
Pillow slips	8164
Blankets	502
Jackets, Girls'	746
Total	69,788

VALUE of said Washing if charged at ordinary Rates.

Dozen.	Pieces.	Articles.	Price.	Amount.
41	10	Blankets	Per Doz.	£ s. d.
5773	10	Ordinary	1s. 6d.	3 2 9
			1s.	288 13 10
				£291 16 7

No. 7.

NEEDLEWORK performed by Seamstress and Girls during 1876.

Article.	Made.	Repaired.
Pinafores	216	624
Shirts	180	1361
Pillow slips	200	154
Strings	300	—
Chemises	166	—
Petticoats	150	416
Sheets	29	480
Towels	62	—
Jackets, Girls'	85	—
Coats, Boys'	132	320
Frocks	233	276
Hats, trimmed	75	—
Trousers	—	1612
Vests	—	1236
Table cloths	—	26
Aprons, holland	42	—
Stockings and socks, darned ..	—	2106
Night dresses	107	260
Flannels	40	—
Suits, Boys'	18	—
Dresses, Girls'	21	—
Matrasses	—	156
	2056	9027

VALUE of said Needlework if charged at ordinary Rates.

Dozen.	Pieces.	Article.	Price.	Amount.
19	1	Sheets, pillow cases, &c.	Per Doz. 3s.	£ s. d. 2 17 3
152	3	General Clothing ..	6s.	45 13 6
752	3	Repairs	1s.	37 12 3
				£86 3 0

No. 8.

STATEMENT showing the manner in which the Crown Estate of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM and ORPHAN SCHOOL FARM were occupied and utilised during the Year 1876; also, Return of Stock.

Number of Acres.	How occupied.	Probable Produce.	Value of Produce.	How disposed of.
Queen's Asylum Land, 70 acres.	36 acres grass	For grazing	£ s. d.	Uncut at end of year. ditto
	3 ditto oats	130 bushels	18 10 0	
	1 ditto tares	5 tons	5 0 0	
	40			
Orphan School Farm, 40 acres.	30 ditto bush land			In stack. Uncut at end of year. ditto. ditto. ditto. Cut green three times. Remain in the ground.
	70 acres	Value for grazing	£70 per annum.	
	20 acres hay	45 tons	157 0 0	
	4 ditto wheat	120 bushels	36 0 0	
	½ ditto barley	25 ditto	3 15 0	
	½ ditto carrots	10 tons	20 0 0	
	6 ditto mangel wurzel	100 ditto	100 0 0	
	4 ditto Italian rye grass	100 ditto	100 0 0	
	1 ditto potatoes	4 ditto	20 0 0	
	4 ditto occupied by buildings, quarry, &c.			
40 acres	Value £80 per annum.			

RETURN of Stock on the 31st December, 1876:—4 horses, 1 bull, 26 cows, 1 calf, 1 boar, 5 sows, 19 suckers.

The Second Division consisted of 15 boys and 9 girls. Among the boys Samuel Smith deserves the first prize, and Thomas Glyde the second. August Guericke and Geo. Ross obtained the third and fourth places, and deserve, I think, marks of approbation. W. Heron and Walter Crump also did well. The girls in this Division did, on the whole, better than the boys. Mary Ann Armstrong easily obtained the first prize. Frances Simmonds was second, and Eliza Faulkner was only half a mark behind her. Elizabeth Foster did well also, and, with Frances Wilson, deserves encouragement.

The Third Division of children I examined in similar subjects to those taken up by the higher classes, though, of course, I simplified the questions very much. Only one boy, however, did really well, Geo. Clarke. William Faulkner and Joseph Reed might, perhaps, also receive prizes.

The girls did a little better than the boys. Eva Ashton answered very fairly indeed, and obtains the first prize. Isabella Abrahams was second, being only half a mark behind the first girl, and Sarah Appleby came third.

I also examined a class of very young boys and girls, eight in number, in very elementary matters of religious knowledge, and I was much pleased with many of their answers. Julia Simmonds obtained the largest number of marks. Jas. Carns and Robert Brown came next with an equal number of marks, and Jas. Armstrong was only half a mark behind them. Eliza Appleby and Francis Exon also did well.

By far the greater number of the children I examined showed an intelligent interest in the subjects brought before them; and when I remember that, by force of circumstances, their religious instruction has been a good deal interrupted during the past year, I consider that I have every reason to congratulate the clergymen and the teachers to whom this most important part of the education of the Anglican inmates of the Queen's Asylum has been entrusted upon the results of their teaching.

I may, perhaps, in conclusion be allowed to express an opinion that the results would be beneficial if, in the case of the elder children, subjects connected with the Church History were added to their curriculum of religious instruction.

I shall consider it a privilege to be allowed to offer a prize for proficiency in this subject to the boys and girls of the First Division next Christmas.

The Rev. P. GLEESON'S Report of the Examination in Religious Instruction of the Roman Catholic Children of the Queen's Asylum, 1876.

I HAVE the honor to report that on Wednesday, the 20th instant, I examined in religious knowledge the Catholic children of the Queen's Orphan Asylum, New Town, at the request of His Lordship the Bishop of Hobart. His Lordship was present on the occasion, as also the Rev. P. R. Hennebry, a Guardian of the Institution.

There were in all 73 children — 38 boys and 35 girls. Of the boys there were four Divisions, and of the girls a like number. In the First Division, 1st Class, the boys who most distinguished themselves were:—W. Gurnin, T. Clark, T. Allen, and J. Connolly. The subjects on which I examined these were Butler's large Catechism, Fleury's Historical Catechism, and the Church's History during the past Four Centuries. The above-named boys, in the order in which they occur, displayed remarkable intelligence, and a quickness in apprehending the points of some very difficult questions that were put to them for solution. I believe that a great deal of care must have been taken with these boys in order to bring them up to the very creditable standard of proficiency of which their answering gave evidence.

In the Second Division of the same class those who answered most satisfactorily were D. M'Donald, W. Porter, and C. Conlan. The subjects for these were the same as for the First Division, with the exception of Church History.

In the First Division of the Second Class the best boys were W. Ivory, E. Jones, P. Ivory, and J. M'Donald. In the Second Division J. Stokes and G. Stokes were the readiest to answer the questions put them. The subject for this Class was Butler's large Catechism. In the 3rd Class the best answering was made by P. Carrick and J. Sheedy. Subject—Butler's small Catechism.

In the 4th Class boys and girls were examined together, and of 7 girls and 4 boys the third place of merit must be awarded to J. Stokes.

Of the girls in the 1st Class the best were Margaret Stokes, Eliza Franklin, and Amelia Stokes. Subjects same as for the boys of the 1st Class, First Division.

I could scarcely discern any appreciable difference between the answering of the girls and that of the boys in this class, except that the latter showed sounder judgment and deeper penetration in grappling with questions which did not come immediately within the sphere of the subject matter for examination.

In the 2nd Class the most intelligent girls were Emily Sheedy, Martha M'Neil, and Jane Poulter, and next to these, and almost equally successful, were Margaret Tierney, Mary Ann Sullivan, and Mary

Ann Carrick. Of the 12 girls in this class, the answering of the six above mentioned were very good. Subjects—Butler's large Catechism, and Fleury's Historical Catechism.

In the 3rd Class the best answers were given by Ann Bradley, Alice Gurnin, and Augusta Batt. The subject for these was Butler's large Catechism. In the 4th and last Class of 7 girls the best were Lucy Egan and Sarah M'Donald. Subject—Butler's small Catechism, revised by Dr. Murphy.

The Bishop seemed to take great interest in the examination, especially of the more advanced classes, and frequently put questions himself to ascertain whether they could explain intelligently what they had committed to memory so thoroughly, and great was his pleasure when he found a few able to solve difficulties which would prove dangerous to a junior student in Theology. Now the explanation of this proficiency rests in the fact that the teachers must have been most assiduous in their attention, and most unsparing of their labour, whereas the children intrusted to their charge presented so respectable an appearance on the day of examination. The decorum, the cleanliness, and the other evidences of careful training and watchful supervision everywhere discernible in the institution are matter for much congratulation. And if through after life the children prove unfaithful to the lessons which they have received, for fail to practise the truths inculcated, I have no hesitation in affirming that the blame will in no wise be attributable to any defect in the moral or intellectual training which they underwent in the days of their childhood in their *Alma Mater*—the Queen's Orphan Asylum.

REPORT on Examination of Queen's Asylum, 1876.

27th December, 1876.

At the request of the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, and with the approval of the Chairman of the Board of Education, I examined the children of the Queen's Asylum in the subjects taught in the Public School attached to the Institution.

The examination was held on the 22nd and 23rd instant, and occupied rather more than twelve hours. The number of children examined was 126,—72 boys and 54 girls.

In the fourth, the highest, class there were 20 boys and 13 girls. With two exceptions the children in this class read fluently, and with tolerably correct pronunciation. From 15 I received prompt and intelligent answers to questions suggested by the passage read; 10 answered moderately well; 8 either were silent or gave foolish answers. Writing on Paper.—21 write in a good bold style, clean and fairly neat; 2 write badly, the rest fairly. Dictation.—Five wrote correctly the sentence dictated; 11 had one error; and 7 had more than three. Arithmetic.—Seven questions, so framed as to necessitate some little exercise of the reasoning powers, as well as a knowledge of arithmetical processes and "tables," were set. One answered all correctly; one answered 5; six answered 4; nine failed to answer even one. Some of the failures were the result of carelessness; more, however, were caused by inability to discover the proper method. This class possesses a fair knowledge of elementary Grammar and of the outlines of Geography.

The third class consists of 26 boys and 22 girls. It works, and was examined, in two divisions. The Second, or highest, Division consisted of 12 boys and 15 girls. Reading.—Four read badly. The rest of this division read ordinary narrative with very little hesitation, and without much blundering. The answering of the majority, when questioned about what they had read, was creditable. Writing.—With three exceptions the writing was well done. Dictation.—Five wrote the sentence correctly; 2 had one error; 4 had two; 7 had more than three. In Arithmetic 5 answered very well; 7 failed; the rest did fairly. In this subject the answering of the boys was much better than that of the girls. The most fruitful cause of failure was want of knowledge of Notation. In this division a majority can name the Parts of Speech; but their knowledge of Geography is neither extensive nor very accurate. 2 boys and 4 girls answered well in Australian Geography.

In the First Division of the third class there were 14 boys and 7 girls. The work is almost the same as in the other division; but as the children have been, for the most part, a shorter time in the class, less is expected from them. The reading of 7 was good, of 5 bad, of the rest fair. The writing on the whole was well done. In Dictation only one did really well. The Arithmetic also was badly done by most of the class. Multiplication and Division were done tolerably well; but out of the whole number only three boys managed to set down and add correctly a very simple sum in addition of money.

Class II.—In this class 20 boys and 16 girls were examined. This also is taught in two divisions. In the highest there were 10 boys and 9 girls. The reading of 10 was good, of 8 fair, of 1 moderate. One cannot learn to write at all; one writes badly; the others write a large round hand. In Arithmetic there was a large per-centage of failures, and only one did really well.

The Second Division, consisting of 11 boys and 6 girls, did well in Reading, Writing, and Dictation. In Arithmetic one boy, Glyde, got full marks; one got half marks; all the others utterly failed.

Class I.—6 boys, 3 girls. This class contains what may be termed the "dregs" of the school. Seven of the number have been in it to my knowledge for 2½ years. One of these and a big boy lately

admitted do not know the alphabet. The others have, at least in two of the essential subjects, attained the standard of Class I., and I should strongly recommend their promotion, in the hope that the change may have a beneficial effect.

To prevent possible misapprehension it may be necessary to state that the terms "well," "fairly," &c., are not used absolutely, but relatively to the requirements of the Board of Education's Programme of Instruction; and, further, with regard to the Arithmetic of all the classes, so far as merely mechanical or rote-work is concerned, my acquaintance with the children enables me to say that they possess a fair amount of proficiency.

The names of the children to whom prizes have been awarded are given in the list annexed.

M. M'PHEE.