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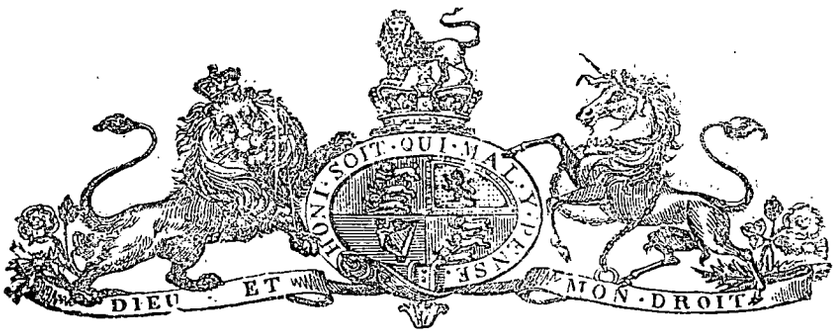
TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

VACCINATION:

REPORT FOR **1881.**

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed, July 12, 1882.



REPORT on VACCINATION *for the Year* 1881.

I HAVE the honor to lay before the Government my Report on Vaccination for the year 1881.

Shortly after the commencement of the year small-pox made its appearance in Sydney, New South Wales, and gradually spread to a somewhat alarming extent.

Measures were immediately adopted by the Tasmanian Government to prevent its introduction into the Island, or, in the event of its coming, to limit its ravages as much as possible, by vaccinating all that portion of the population who were unprotected.

To compass these ends the passengers and crews of vessels arriving from any port on the eastern seaboard of the Australian Continent were subjected to a careful examination by the health officers before being allowed pratique; and public vaccinators were appointed in every centre of population throughout the Island, by whom all applicants, irrespective of social position, were vaccinated gratuitously. Many thousands availed themselves of the facilities thus afforded for the vaccination of their children.

But whilst vaccination was proceeding most satisfactorily a cry was raised, throwing a doubt, or perhaps more than a doubt, upon the protective power of the lymph then in use. The public were also alarmed by the statement that disease of a loathsome character was frequently transmitted by the use of humanised lymph.

These assertions naturally unsettled the public mind, and the hundreds who weekly attended at the several depôts were suddenly reduced to units.

With a view to allay these fears and to restore public confidence, the Government forwarded to the medical men throughout the Island a series of questions, the most important of which bore upon these points; viz.,—whether, so far as their experience enabled them to judge, the lymph then in use had lost its protective power, and whether any case had come under their observation where disease, other than the vaccine, had been produced by humanised lymph?

The answers showed perfect unanimity on these points. With regard to the first, it was stated that the lymph then in use was as active as it ever had been; that the vesicle produced by it, and the surrounding areola (the pearl upon the rose) was identical with the descriptions and drawings given of them by the earlier vaccinators; that the course run by the vesicle was the same; and that in the most minute particular no difference could be traced between the symptoms and appearances now presented and those of the early days of vaccination.

With regard to the deterioration of the lymph, and its consequent loss of protective power, by its passage through so large a number of subjects, if such be the case would it not be as reasonable to conclude that the virus of small-pox had also become changed from the same cause, and had lost its power of protecting the individual who had been the subject of that disease from a subsequent attack? But this we know is not the case.

An analogous example may be adduced from the vegetable kingdom in the case of yeast, which, although it may have passed through many millions of gallons of infusions of various kinds of saccharine matter, still remains as active as ever, and produces exactly the same results.

In answer to the other question—the transmission of disease other than the vaccine—not a single case of such transmission had occurred in the practice of the many medical men from whom replies were received, a large number of whom had had extensive experience in vaccination.

During the last Session of Parliament an amended Compulsory Vaccination Act was passed; but at present it has had but little effect, the number of vaccinations performed in the three last months of the year having been very limited.

I would presume again to draw the attention of the Government to the scheme of itinerant vaccination proposed in former reports. I am persuaded that the adoption of this system would not only be attended with greater efficiency, but it would be in the end much more economical than the present one.

The total expense of carrying out such a system would be about £1000 annually, whereas at present there is no knowing beforehand what the expenditure may amount to, and under the provisions of "The Vaccination Act" that expenditure may become very large, without a corresponding benefit. I allude more particularly to the great disproportion which may exist between the travelling expenses of vaccinators and their vaccination fees, the former increasing the latter from 2*s.* 6*d.* to many pounds sterling for each case vaccinated. In many instances the Public Vaccinator may have to travel 40 or 50 miles, and at the end of his journey one or two children only may be presented for vaccination, and these he has to visit again on the eighth day for inspection.

Under the present system this expenditure cannot be avoided if the whole of the population are to be vaccinated, or if arm-to-arm vaccination is to be carried out.

Now these desirable ends may be attained by the appointment of two itinerant vaccinators, one for each side of the Island, and in no great length of time the Government would have the satisfaction of knowing that the whole community would be in a condition of safety should small-pox be introduced, as it must be sooner or later.

During the year between 12,000 and 13,000 children were vaccinated by the Public Vaccinators, and also a considerable number by private practitioners. Of the former, as in previous years, a small proportion only were under one year old.

Appended is a Return of the number of cases vaccinated in each District by the Public Vaccinators, their ages, and the results.

The number of successful private vaccinations performed during the year 1881, of which Returns have been received, amount to one thousand eight hundred and forty-three (1843).

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Superintendent of Vaccinations.*

VACCINATION Return for TASMANIA, 1881.

Registration District of—	*Name of Public Vaccinator.*	*Total vaccinated.*	*At and under 6 Months old.*	*6 Months to 12 Months.*	*1 Year and upwards.*	*Returned on 8th day.*	*Entirely successful.*	*Entirely unsuccessful.*
Hobart	Geo. Turnley ...	958	31	55	872	918	893	25
Launceston	J. A. Hardy ...	925	42	32	851	925	925	
Campbell Town	H. Naylor	34	2	1	31	34	34	
Ditto	J. Lever	365	8	56	301	365	365	
Westbury	W. Allnutt	581	36	50	495	581	581	
Longford	J. Appleyard ...	194	5	16	173	189	167	22
Ditto	J. B. Mason ...	519	9	78	432	519	519	
Sorell.....	R. Blyth.....	69	1	7	61	69	69	
Brighton, &c. ...	G. H. Butler ...	707	12	28	667	707	701	6
Wellington	J. Coverdale ...	42	2	1	39	42	42	
Franklin, &c. ...	E. J. Crouch ...	146	2	6	138	146	146	
Bothwell	L. F. Dickson...	297	2	10	285	297	297	
Forth, Don, &c.	J. H. Dundas...	841	7	37	797	789	785	4
Fingal	T. Hoskins.....	244	1	40	203	244	244	
New Norfolk ...	G. Huston	659	11	27	621	640	572	68
Ditto	W. Macfarlane	26	—	—	26	26	6	20
Beaconsfield.....	W. G. Law.....	197	2	22	173	197	197	
Ditto	— Dix	329	2	16	311	329	302	27
Portland	R. Lethbridge...	169	7	9	153	169	169	
Glamorgan	H. A. Lovett ...	168	8	6	154	168	168	
Deloraine	J. M'Neece.....	630	32	67	531	630	630	
Ditto	D. Rock	183	7	16	160	167	145	22
Hamilton	W. M'Donald...	236	2	6	228	236	227	9
Lefroy	J. M. Morris ...	167	22	14	131	148	148	
Ringarooma.....	F. Ockley	664	34	97	533	664	664	
Evandale	J. F. Oldmeadow	575	12	18	545	575	575	
George Town ...	J. Richardson...	53	—	1	52	53	53	
Latrobe	S. R. Smyth ...	917	19	33	865	917	917	
Circular Head ...	H. G. Spicer ...	263	14	20	229	263	263	
Waratah	D. E. Stewart...	112	3	4	105	106	90	16
Richmond.....	C. Turner	503	31	55	417	503	488	15
Spring Bay	E. P. Vines.....	201	4	22	175	201	194	7
Torquay	F. B. Wilkinson	180	5	13	162	180	180	
Oatlands	C. N. Willes ...	284	18	18	248	267	266	1
Emu Bay	T. Wilson	302	6	18	278	302	302	
Three Hut Point	J. H. Daldy ...	130	—	4	126	120	109	11
		12,870	399	903	11,568	12,686	12,433	253

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Superintendent of Vaccinations.*

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