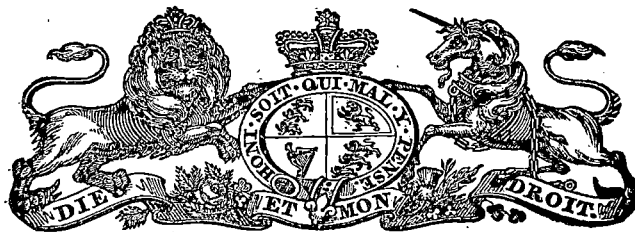


(No. 11.)



1879.

---

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

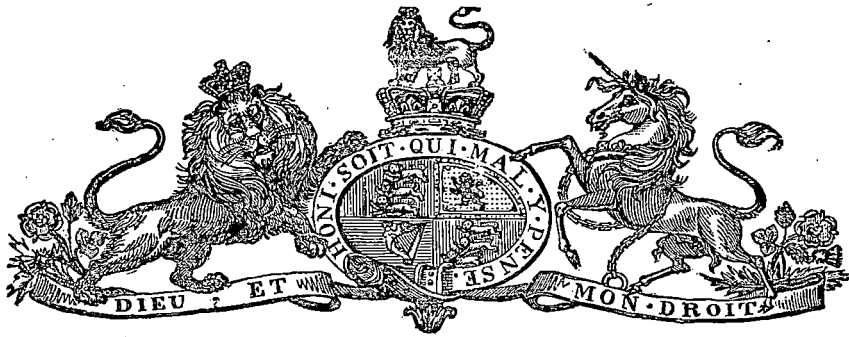
---

Q U E E N ' S   A S Y L U M :

REPORT FOR 1878.

---

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
September 9, 1879.



Queen's Asylum, New Town, 28th March, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit my fifth Annual Report of the above-named Institution, with accompanying Tables, showing the numerical strength, the cost of management, and other particulars, for the year 1878.

On reference to my last yearly Report, it will be seen that there were 117 children remaining in the Establishment on the 31st December, 1877. During the past year 16 children were admitted, and 45 apprenticed and discharged,—thus leaving 88 children in the Asylum at the end of the year.

The average number of children throughout the year was  $53\frac{11}{16}$  males, and  $50\frac{2}{8}$  females,—making the total average  $103\frac{3}{8}$ . The cost of each child was £20 4s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., whilst the total expense of the Institution for the year (less reimbursements, amounting to £121 18s. 8d.) was £2221 19s. 3d.,—making the net cost £2100 0s. 7d.,—being £1134 less than the sum voted by Parliament.

The amount expended under each particular head was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and allowances .....	634	0	0
Provisions, including milk. ....	923	16	11
Fuel and light .....	227	4	5
Stores .....	57	18	5
Bedding .....	64	10	0
Clothing .....	203	14	1
Medical attendance and medicines.....	40	0	0
Incidental expenses .....	70	15	5
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE .....</b>	<b>£2221</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Reimbursements—</i>	£	s.	d.
Credit for labour of boys at Orphan School			
Farm.....	78	0	0
Ditto clerical assistance .....	20	0	0
Ditto cash received for maintenance, &c... ..	23	18	8
		<b>121</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE .....</b>	<b>£2100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

(Being a reduction of nearly £400 on last year's expenditure.)

Details of above are given in Tables Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7, annexed.

#### *Secular Instruction.*

The secular instruction of the children was, as heretofore, continued under the Board of Education; and the results of the year's work are given in the respective Reports of T. Stephens, Esq., Chief Inspector of Schools, and Mr. Hurst, the Conductor of the School. These will be found annexed. It affords me much pleasure in being able to state that Mr. Hurst and his Assistants were most anxious for the progress of the children, and all manifested great earnestness in their school duties. There were, besides the children of the Asylum, some 31 boys and girls, residents of New Town, also taught in the School during the year; and I believe that their daily association with the Queen's Asylum children has, in many ways, had a very beneficial effect: it undoubtedly tended to excite emulation on the part of all. Mr. Stephens, in his Report, states that "In addition to the essential subjects, Grammar and Geography are taught in the higher classes,—the average proficiency being fully equal to that of corresponding grades in the better class of Public Schools. The discipline and general management are excellent. The listlessness, the machine-like uniformity of action and answering, and the perpetual chattering in the desks, which formerly were the chief characteristics of the School, have almost disappeared; and the animation of the children, their evident interest in their work, and their cheerful and ready obedience, make it a pleasure to examine them."

### *Religious Instruction.*

This all-important matter was, throughout the year, duly attended to by the respective Chaplains, the Reverends P. R. Hennebry and A. N. Mason. The routine was as follows :—Instructed on each Wednesday from ten o'clock to noon by the clergymen ; and by the teachers on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays for half an hour in the morning. They also attended Sunday School.

### *Prize Day.*

The yearly distribution of rewards, consisting of books and money, for proficiency in secular and religious knowledge and for good conduct, were presented on the last day of the year. The interesting ceremony took place in the presence of the Governor and Mrs. Weld, and a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. His Excellency, who was attended by Lieut.-Colonel St. Hill, A.D.C., as usual, presided. Amongst those present were Dr. Bromby, Lord Bishop of Tasmania, Dr. Murphy, Lord Bishop of Hobart Town, the Honorable W. Lodewyk Crowther, Premier, and Mrs. Crowther, the Very Reverend Dean Bromby, the Very Reverend W. J. Dunne, the Reverends Messrs. Mason, Hennebry, Storie, Simmons, Vaughan, Nesbitt, Bird, Hannaford, and Bailey, the Honorables C. O'Reilly, Minister of Lands and Works, W. R. Giblin, A. Dobson, F. M. Innes, Dr. E. Swarbreck Hall, Messrs. B. Travers Solly, Assistant Colonial Secretary, T. Stephens, Chief Inspector of State Schools, &c.

The prizes awarded for secular progress were distributed by the Governor ; and the money rewards for good conduct (Fox Fund, £5 ; Dexter Fund, £7 ; Catholic Fund, £6), amounting to £18, by Mrs. Weld ; whilst those for religious proficiency were presented by the Lord Bishops. The names of recipients are subjoined.

His Excellency, in addressing the children and friends, was good enough to observe—"His pleasure had been very great in listening to the Reports ; and he was sure that all present had been equally gratified with the happy looks of the children, and also their cheerfulness ; and that these were the highest compliments that could be paid to Mr. Scott, and to all who had to do with the management of the Institution."

### *Industrial Occupation.*

Due and unremitting attention was bestowed on this very essential matter. The girls, under supervision, make all the clothing for the inmates of the Institution (boys and girls), and do the whole of the washing, mangling, ironing, cooking, and scrubbing.

The boys, in like manner, dig and keep the Asylum and Invalid grounds in order. They also do farm work, and perform the cleaning and scrubbing of the male portion of the Establishment.

### *Health of the Children.*

It gives me very great pleasure to be able to state that the health of the children throughout the year was remarkably good. There were, in all, only 92 cases under medical treatment ; and not more than 3 of them were of a serious character : two of these were the result of accidents : all were restored. I beg to refer to the subjoined Memo. of Dr. Hall on the subject.

### *Conduct of the Children.*

I am happy to testify that the general conduct of the children throughout the year was excellent. There appears to be a desire on the part of each child to improve in conduct and in personal appearance ; and such has been noticed by a great many persons who have heretofore had opportunity of knowing anything of the children. Formerly they were represented as being dogged, stupid, and unamiable. I am glad to say they are not so now. I am in the habit of receiving letters, from time to time, from children who have been inmates of the Institution during my period of office ; and from these and other sources I learn that they like their places and give satisfaction to their masters. I am not altogether surprised at this improved state of things, believing, as I do, that formerly the training in the Asylum was imperfect, and that it was an exceedingly easy thing for any person to obtain a child from the Institution. Indeed I have known instances where the children have been removed from the Asylum and taken by the police to the prison gates to await the release of the father or mother, and compel them to resume the charge of their children. No wonder then that some of these unfortunate children should have gone wrong.

### *Holidays and Birthdays.*

The Anniversaries of the respective births of the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales were most loyally celebrated by the children and officers of the Institution. The children were abundantly feasted with good things ; and, in addition to the fireworks allowed by the Government, a quantity was generously supplied by friends, which enabled us to make an excellent display.

*Fox's Feast.*

It is my pleasing duty to record the Anniversary of this Feast. It will be remembered that the previous feast was celebrated at New Norfolk. The last celebration was also held there, and was a most enjoyable one, even surpassing, I believe, all its predecessors. On the kind invitation of Dr. Huston the children were taken to the Asylum, and by that benevolent gentleman most bountifully supplied with numerous good things, such as sandwiches, fruit and meat pies, cakes, fruit, coffee, &c. The children are not likely soon to forget the Fox Feast of 1879.

*Repairs to Buildings.*

During the year nearly all the buildings have been reshingled, and the outer walls and wood-work painted and coloured. As the cost of the work cannot, I think, be fairly charged against the annual expense, I have not, for that reason, included the amount in the expenditure for the year. I regret to say that neither shingles nor the workmanship is good; and this I have represented to the proper Department.

*Orphan School Farm.*

A Statement respecting the Orphan School Farm is annexed, showing that the expenses for the year were £772 16s. 8d., and the receipts £1097 9s. 5d., leaving a balance in favour of the Farm of £324 12s. 9d.,—being £64 10s. 6d. less than last year. The Farm Overseer and men were most assiduous in the performance of their duties.

A Return showing the number of acres belonging to the Queen's Asylum Estate, which sets forth the way in which the land was utilised, is furnished with the Report of the Farm.

*General Remarks.*

Judging from present appearances, I am led to believe that this will be the last Annual Report of the Queen's Asylum which it will be my duty to prepare. For some reasons I regret it; and I fancy there are many who sympathise with me. I am aware that for many years past there has been a strong prejudice against the Institution, and certainly not without good cause. It is also true that, notwithstanding the marked and acknowledged improvement in the children, it is still more or less manifested in some quarters. I wish it to be understood that I do not question the superiority of the Farming-out System over that of massing together a large number of children in the manner they used to be years ago in this Institution; but of this I cannot but feel persuaded that, unless the right persons are found, who are willing to "take the children to their hearts as well as to their homes," and until there be a properly organised and complete supervision of the children—I mean by this a personal and frequent visitation—the system will not succeed.

As one much interested in the welfare of the young, I shall indeed most heartily rejoice in the success of any scheme that secures their present and lasting benefit.

And now, Sir, having noticed the several subjects usually reported upon in these yearly statements, I would, in closing, respectfully direct attention to the subjoined extracts taken 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 Visitors' Book.*

Saturday, 17th August, 1878.

I drove out (unannounced) with Lt.-Col. Grey and Lt.-Col. St. Hill, A.D.C., and inspected the Queen's Orphan Asylum and the Invalid Depot. We were all much pleased with the inspection,—everything being, as usual, in a complete state of order and cleanliness. The children, both boys and girls, looked strong, healthy, and cheerful.

FRED. A. WELD, *Governor of Tasmania.*

Saturday, 17th August, 1878.

The Queen's Asylum and Invalid Institution are, in my opinion, models of cleanliness and comfort, and reflect the greatest credit on those charged with their immediate management. All the children I saw appeared most healthy and happy; and the women in the Home were evidently well cared for.

FRANCIS D. GREY, *Lt.-Col.*

12th December, 1878.

Mr. Dooley and I paid a visit to the Queen's Asylum this day, and were shown over the whole Establishment by Mr. Scott, the Superintendent; and I have much pleasure in certifying to the admirable state of all the departments. The order and comfort of all the people seemed to us complete; and I must say that they all looked as happy as they can under their circumstances, especially the old and decrepid women in the pauper division. We were very gratified also with the school sections, and the mode of putting the boys and girls to useful domestic and other work; and, we were informed by Mr. Scott, the children contribute principally to the extreme cleanliness and order everywhere observable, under the disciplinarian influence which he exercises.

D. LEWIS.

While concurring in the above, I am much impressed with the idea that the grandeur and the beauty and healthiness of the site, the capacity, neatness, and stability of the building, and indeed its whole surroundings, render the place admirably adapted for institutions of more urgent and higher character. The exceptionally good condition in which the Institution and its inmates appear are, I am also convinced, mainly owing to the vigilant and knowledgeable attention conferred on the Establishment by the Superintendent.

J. M. DOOLEY.

Friday, 13th December, 1878.

Spent upwards of one hour in thoroughly examining the Female Invalid Asylum and the Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children, the food, clothing, bedding, &c.; and, as usual, found the most perfect order, cleanliness, and comfort existing. Out of the 88 children in the Asylum, of the boys and girls, I did not find a single bed in their Hospital occupied by a patient under medical treatment. For about a quarter of a century I have devoted much time to the welfare of this Establishment, formerly so prolific in disease and death; and it is most gratifying to me that my labours for its improvement have resulted in a success which has accomplished all that I predicted could be obtained by efficient management. For a long time the death rate of the children was about eight times greater than that of children of corresponding ages in the Island at large; and for some years past now it has been considerably less—*Laus Deo!*

E. SWARBRECK HALL, *Officer of Health.*

4th March, 1879.

Accompanied by Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Reibey I visited the Queen's Asylum this day, and spent nearly two hours inspecting the buildings, dormitories, and children. Very much pleased with the great cleanliness of the whole Establishment, and desire to express satisfaction with the good management of the Superintendent.

THOS. REIBEY, *Colonial Secretary.*

No. 1.

*RETURN showing the Number of Children in the Queen's Asylum on the 31st December, 1877; the Number admitted, apprenticed, discharged, and died during the Year; also, the Number remaining on the 31st December, 1878, and the average Number throughout the Year 1878.*

Remaining 31st December, 1877.		Admitted.		Apprenticed.		Discharged.		Died.		Remaining 31st December, 1878.		Average Number throughout the Year.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
61	56	6	10	19	17	4	5	...	...	44	44	53 <sup>115</sup> <sub>365</sub>	50 <sup>295</sup> <sub>355</sub>
117		16		36		9		0		88		103 <sup>320</sup> <sub>365</sub>	

No. 2.

*RETURN showing the Ages of the Children in the Queen's Asylum on the 31st December, 1878; and the Funds on which they were borne; also their Religion.*

	AGES.			FUND.	RELIGION.	
	6 to 8.	8 to 12.	Over 12.	Colonial Government.	Protestant.	Roman Catholic.
Male .....	—	23	21	42	21	23
Female .....	1	19	24	43	16	28
	1	42	45	85*	37	51

\* A moiety of the maintenance of 2 boys and 1 girl is paid by the Imperial Government.

No. 3.

RETURN showing the Cost of the Queen's Asylum, the Amount reimbursed, and the Cost of each Child for the Year 1878.\*

EXPENDITURE.			REIMBURSE- MENTS.	NET COST OF INSTITUTION TO GOVERNMENT.	COST PER HEAD PER ANNUM.
Salaries and Allowances.	Other Expenses.	TOTAL.			
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
634 0 0	1587 19 3	2221 19 3	121 18 8	2100 0 7	20 4 3½

\* Particulars given on third page of Report.

No. 4.

DETAILS of Salaries and Allowances.

	£ s. d.
Superintendent .....	100 0 0
Clerk, Storekeeper, and Secretary to Guardians .....	80 0 0
Matron .....	100 0 0
Sub-matron and Seamstress ..	48 0 0
General Assistant .....	73 0 0
Gardener and Overseer of Boys .....	73 0 0
Nurse, Hospital .....	40 0 0
General Servant, Cook, Housemaid, and Landress, at £30 per annum each.	120 0 0
	£634 0 0

No. 5.

RETURN showing Cost of Provisions during the Year.

Months.	Children.	Servants.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January .....	78 12 9	7 17 0
February .....	71 0 8	6 16 4
March .....	75 4 3	7 12 2
April .....	71 0 0	7 17 0
May .....	72 4 10	7 17 0
June .....	68 13 1	7 12 2
July .....	73 8 5	7 12 0
August .....	71 9 2	7 17 0
September .....	65 8 6	7 12 0
October .....	67 12 6	7 17 0
November .....	57 16 4	7 12 0
December .....	59 7 9	7 17 0
	£831 18 3	£91 18 8

	£ s. d.
Total Cost of Provisions for Children .....	831 18 3
Total Cost of Provisions for Servants .....	91 18 8
	£923 16 11

No. 6.

RETURN showing Cost of Fuel and Light during the Year.

Months.	Fuel.	Light.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January .....	15 12 0	2 14 10½
February .....	13 16 0	2 13 2½
March .....	14 0 6	2 15 10½
April .....	16 8 6	3 8 9
May .....	18 8 6	3 18 1½
June .....	21 18 0	3 11 9
July .....	20 19 0	3 16 5
August .....	19 8 6	3 14 10½
September .....	13 19 0	3 16 0½
October .....	10 9 6	2 1 0
November .....	12 19 0	2 13 1½
December .....	11 9 6	2 12 4½
	189 8 0	37 16 5½

DETAILS of Fuel and Light.

	£ s. d.
Coal, New Town, 117 tons, at 20s. ....	117 0 0
Coal, Newcastle, 28 tons, at 29s. 6d. ....	41 6 0
Coal, Port Arthur, 23 tons, 23s. ....	26 9 0
Wood, 8 tons, at 11s. 6d. ....	4 12 0
Candles, Tallow, 222 lbs., at 5½d. ....	4 17 1½
Candles, Composition, 11 lbs., at 1s. ....	0 11 0
Oil, Kerosene, 320 galls., at 2s. ....	32 0 0
Wicks, Kerosene, 14 doz., at 8d. ....	0 9 4
	£227 4 5½

## No. 7.

*RETURN showing Details of Cash received and Amounts credited to the Queen's Asylum during the Year 1878.*

Particulars.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Credit for labour of boys at Orphan School Farm.....	78 0 0
Ditto, Clerical Assistance.....	20 0 0
Received for Indenture Fees.....	2 8 0
Ditto Maintenance, Jas. Carns.....	9 2 6
Ditto for sale of Rags and Rope.....	1 12 0
Ditto Kerosene Tins.....	1 12 8
Ditto sale of Pigs, being one quarter of the total sum received.....	9 3 6
	121 18 8

## No. 8.

*NEEDLEWORK performed by Queen's Asylum Girls, assisted by Seamstress, during the Year 1878.*

Articles.	Made.	Repaired.
Pinafores .....	139	300
Shirts .....	143	930
Pillow Slips .....	144	35
Strings .....	106	—
Chemises .....	107	349
Petticoats .....	136	143
Shirts .....	—	71
Towels .....	—	35
Coats, Boys' .....	—	219
Frocks .....	80	210
Hats, trimmed .....	54	—
Trousers .....	—	1403
Vests .....	36	1316
Table Cloths .....	55	—
Aprons .....	74	34
Stockings and Socks, darned.....	—	2013
Night Dresses .....	104	414
Flannels .....	—	28
Suits, Boys' .....	19	—
Dresses, Girls' .....	17	—
Mattresses .....	6	54
Jackets, Girls' .....	42	28
	1262	7581

*VALUE of said Needlework if charged at ordinary Rates:—*

	£ s. d.
General Clothing—105 dozen and 2 pieces, at 6s. per dozen .....	31 11 0
Repairs—631 dozen 9 pieces, at 1s. per dozen .....	31 11 9
	£63 2 9

## No. 9.

*WASHING performed by Queen's Asylum Girls, assisted by Laundress, during the Year 1878.*

Articles.	Number of each.
Pinafores .....	891
Shirts .....	5530
Chemises .....	2600
Stockings and Socks .....	5534
Jackets, Boys' .....	122
Vests .....	3202
Trousers .....	3256
Night Dresses .....	1459
Towels .....	4163
Flannels .....	557
Hoods .....	214
Petticoats .....	220
Frocks .....	234
Pillow Slips .....	6980
Blankets .....	282
Jackets, Girls' .....	216
Table Cloths.....	918
Sheets .....	5893
Aprons .....	2453
	44,724

*VALUE of said Washing if performed at ordinary Rates:—*

	£ s. d.
Blankets—23 dozen and 6 pieces, at 1s. 6d. per dozen .....	1 15 3
Ordinary Articles—3703 dozen and 6 pieces, at 1s. per dozen.....	185 3 6
	£186 18 9

## No. 10.

*RETURN of Sick and Wounded at Queen's Asylum for the Year 1878.*

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Whooping Cough .....	3	
Typhus and Infantile Fever, Typhoid, &c. ....	8	
Carbuncle, Boil .....	4	
Influenza, Coryza, Catarrh, &c.....	6	
Diarrhoea .....	2	
Rheumatism .....	6	
Scrofula .....	1	
Epilepsy .....	1	
Bronchitis .....	1	
Pneumonia .....	1	
Uterus Disease.....	1	
Joint Disease.....	1	
Phlegmon, Whitlow, &c.....	5	
Ulcer .....	2	
Skin Disease, &c.....	36	
Atrophy and Debility.....	2	
Fractures, Contusions.....	3	
Wounds, Cuts.....	3	
Burns and Scalds .....	1	
Causes not specified.....	5	
<i>All Causes</i> .....	92	—

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Medical Officer.*

## No. 11.

*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 1878.*

<i>Number of Acres.</i>	<i>How occupied.</i>	<i>Probable Produce.</i>	<i>Value of Produce.</i>	<i>How disposed of.</i>
Queen's Asylum, 70 acres.	36 acres grass	For grazing		
	4 ditto grass	Green food		
	22 ditto bush land			
	8 ditto occupied by buildings			
	70 acres	Value for grazing	£70 per annum	
Orphan School Farm, 40 acres	23 acres hay	45 tons	£180	In stock.
	2½ ditto wheat	80 bushels	£20	Uncut at end of year.
	5 ditto mangolds	60 tons	£60	Ditto.
	½ ditto carrots	10 ditto	£20	Ditto.
	3 ditto rye grass	Green food		
	2 ditto fallow			
	4 ditto occupied by buildings, quarry, &c.			
	40 acres	Value £80 per annum		

*RETURN of Stock on the 31st December, 1878:—5 horses, 1 bull, 28 cows, 1 boar, 3 sows, 7 porkers, 7 suckers.*



*ACCOUNT CURRENT of the Orphan School Farm for the Year 1878.*

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Clerical Assistance .....	20	0	0				Milk supplied to Institution, 13,393						
Farm Overseer .....	120	0	0				pints, at 2d. ....	111	12	2			
Ploughman .....	78	0	0				Ditto, 8830 pints, at 2½d. ....	91	19	7			
Labourer .....	65	0	0				Butter, ditto, 252 lbs., at 1s. ....	12	12	0			
Ditto .....	65	0	0				Vegetables, ditto, 4752 lbs., at 6d.						
Ditto .....	43	15	2				per ton .....	12	14	9			
Farm Boys .....	78	0	0				Ditto, 2390 lbs., at 5½ per ton..	5	6	8			
				469	15	2	Ditto, 585 lbs., at 2½ 10s. ditto	0	13	1			
											234	18	3
<i>Seeds, &amp;c.</i>													
12 bushels Italian Rye Grass, at 10s.;													
5 cwt. Potatoes, at 4s. ....	7	0	0										
40 bushels Oats, at 4s. 9d.; 20													
bushels Cape Barley, at 6s. ....	15	10	0										
5 bushels Wheat, at 5s.; 30 lbs.													
Mangolds, at 2s. ....	4	10	0										
2 lbs. Onions, at 6s.; 5 lbs. Carrots,													
at 2s. ....	1	2	0										
2 lbs. Turnip, at 2s.; 2 tons Bone													
Dust and Grinding, at 10½ 3s. 2d.	10	7	2										
				38	9	2							
Bran, 600 bushels, at 1s. 4d.; 100													
ditto, at 1s. 3d.; 500 ditto, at 1s. 2d.	75	8	4										
Toll, 8½ 19s. 11d.; Blacksmith's													
work, 22½ 15s. 5d. ....	31	15	4										
1 Set of Harness, 7½; repairs to													
Harness, 2½ 4s. 3d. ....	9	4	3										
Hire of Threshing, Reaping, and													
Mowing Machines. ....	7	0	0										
Repairs to Night Cart, 4½; repairs													
to Spring Cart, 4½. ....	8	0	0										
Making Butter, 1½; 2 Scythe													
Blades, 9s. ....	1	9	0										
Straw, 2½ 13s. 2d.; Carpentering,													
7½ 8s. ....	29	1	2										
Flour Sweepings, 18s. 4d.; repairs													
to Fence, and Timber, 14½ 0s. 5d.	14	18	9										
Hay purchased .....	65	11	6										
Fuel and Light, 5½ 14s.; Medical													
Attendance, 10s. ....	6	4	0										
				248	12	4							
<i>Purchase of Live Stock.</i>													
2 Cows, at 8½. ....				16	0	0							
Balance in favour of Farm. ....				324	12	9							
				£1097	9	5							
											£1097	9	5

THE proceedings were commenced by the Chief Inspector of Schools (Mr. T. Stephens) reading the report on the state of secular instruction in the Queen's Asylum, as tested by inspection and examination, as follows :—

The annual examination was held on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of November. The following remarks will sufficiently describe the present condition of the elementary instruction :—

The school is organised in five principal classes, in conformity with the official programme of instruction, the total number of children examined being 94.

FIFTH CLASS.—Boys, 9; girls, 3; total, 12. Work generally satisfactory; *Writing* very good; *Arithmetic* above standard.

FOURTH CLASS.—Boys, 22; girls, 16; total, 38. Oral answering and paper work in the upper division, fair to good; in the lower division, very fair, except spelling, which is hardly up to standard.

THIRD CLASS.—Boys, 10; girls, 10; total, 20. *Reading* moderate to fair, other subjects very fairly up to standard.

SECOND CLASS.—Boys, 7; girls, 9; total 16. *Reading* fair on the whole; *Writing* good, and other work fairly satisfactory.

In the FIRST CLASS, eight children were examined. This class contains those who are in the most rudimentary stages of instruction, and among them are some whose mental capacity unfits them for keeping pace with others of similar age in the higher classes.

In addition to the essential subjects, Grammar and Geography are taught in the higher classes, the average proficiency being fully equal to that of corresponding grades in the better class of Public Schools. The discipline and general management are excellent. The listlessness, the machine-like uniformity of action and answering, and the perpetual chattering in the desks, which formerly were the chief characteristics of the school, have almost disappeared; and the animation of the children, their evident interest in their work, and their cheerful and ready obedience make it a pleasure to examine them.

The names of those who acquitted themselves most satisfactorily in the several classes have been furnished by Mr. Hurst, who will, at his discretion, recommend for prizes any whom he may consider deserving of such distinction. The process of examination in an elementary school is a criterion rather of the efficiency of the teaching and management than of the merits of individual scholars, whose proficiency in school-room work is, *cæteris paribus*, mainly dependent on the skill and management of their teacher.

The rapidly decreasing numbers in the Queen's Asylum indicate that the time is near at hand when it will cease to exist as an elementary school, and other provision will be made for the class of children who have found a home within its walls. They will be exceptionally fortunate if they obtain equal educational advantages elsewhere; but they may, as "boarded-out children," be gainers on the whole, if well-organised and effective means of local supervision be provided to control the working of the system.

Mr. Hurst followed, and stated that in accordance with the wish of the Guardians of the Queen's Asylum, and at the suggestion of the Chief Inspector of Schools, he had the pleasure of recommending the following names as being those of children deserving of reward for their industry and general progress in their school work during the year:—

In accordance with the wish of the Guardians of the Queen's Asylum, and at the suggestion of the Chief Inspector of Schools, I have the pleasure of recommending the following names as being those of the children most deserving of reward for their industry and general progress in their school work during the year.

**FIFTH CLASS.**—George Berry, doing well in the five subjects of Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, and Geography, and excelling in Reading, Writing, and Grammar. Samuel Harris has done well in all the same subjects, but has not equalled Berry in the neatness and carefulness of his work generally. George Ross excelling in Geography, and William Smith in Arithmetic. Kate Egan and Fanny Wilson have both done good careful work during the year, the former especially in Grammar and Arithmetic. John Stokes and Fanny Wilson are specially commended for good conduct.

**UPPER FOURTH CLASS.**—In this class, Theophilus Hayes, Henry M'Pherson, Alfred Rigney, and Joseph Reid among the boys, and Georgina Sutcliffe and Alice Gurnin among the girls, have done the best. The two girls are also commended for their unvarying good conduct and attention. George Stokes is worthy of reward for having earned the highest number of marks for carefulness in writing from dictation.

**LOWER FOURTH CLASS.**—In this division are the two best writers in the school—William Sutcliffe and James Williams, named in order of merit. James Carns, working well in most subjects, deserves special mention for Geography, and Thomas Hewson and Edward Ivory for Arithmetic. Among the girls, Sarah Appleby, Mary Anne Denis, and Julia Simmonds have done the best. Jane Clarke and Victoria Williams are noted for good conduct.

**UPPER THIRD CLASS.**—Robert Brown and Angelina Sutcliffe deserve favourable mention for Arithmetic, James Stokes for Writing, and Maria Bedger for Reading. Their behaviour has also been all that could be desired.

**LOWER THIRD CLASS.**—Henry Temple and Sarah Lowrie have generally acquitted themselves best at Arithmetic, John Simpson at Reading, and Walter M'Donald at Writing.

**UPPER SECOND CLASS.**—Thomas Jones has taken most pains with Writing and Arithmetic, Mary Carroll has done well at Reading and Writing, and James Armstrong is commended for good conduct.

**LOWER SECOND CLASS.**—James Harper and Sarah Gurnin have given most attention to Arithmetic, Emily Oliver to Writing, and Ada Sheehy is the best Reader in the class.

**FIRST CLASS.**—In this class there are only three children belonging to the institution. One of them only is deserving of special mention, and that is Patrick Carroll, for his unvarying good behaviour during the year.

His Excellency then presented the prizes awarded for secular instruction, after which the Very Rev. Dean, at the request of Canon Davenport, read the following report:—

On the 17th inst., at the request of the Bishop, on behalf of the Government I examined, with a view to ascertaining their proficiency in religious knowledge, those children of the Queen's Asylum who are instructed under the direction of the Rev. A. N. Mason.

The number of children in the Asylum is now very small as compared with former years, and they are discharged at an earlier age. Hence the attainments of the most advanced are lower than formerly. Making due allowances for these and other considerations, I am of opinion that the children who were

examined by me answered very creditably, showing good evidence that they have been taught well, and had profited by their instruction. They were divided into two classes, the higher consisting of ten boys and seven girls, all under thirteen years of age, the lower of ten boys and five girls, younger in age and less proficient in knowledge, some of them reading imperfectly.

I cannot undertake to select the most deserving for rewards, but hope that Mr. Mason, to whom the children are so much indebted for the religious instruction which they receive, will be good enough to award the prizes as he may see fit.

Bishop Bromby then presented the awards gained for religious instruction as under:—

Fifth Class.—Boys: Samuel Harris, George Ross (2nd prize); Girl: Frances Wilson. Upper Fourth Class.—Boy: Henry M'Pherson; Girl: Isabella Abrahams. Lower Fourth Class.—Boys: James Cairns, William Faulkner (2nd prize); Girls: Julia Simmons, Sarah Appleby (2nd prize.) Third Class.—Boy: Robert Brown. Lower Third.—Boy: Robert Glyde. Second Class.—Boy: Francis Atkinson; Girl, Eliza Appleby. Attention to Religious Instruction.—Boy: James Williams; Girl: Jane Clark. Special Awards.—To Mary Ann Byland, for instructing younger children; and to Mary Ann Armstrong and Martha Brown for proficiency while in the school.

Father Hannaford then read the following report:—

"Assisted by the Rev. P. O'Reilly, and at the request of the Bishop of Hobart Town, I examined, on the 18th of the present month, the Catholic portion of the children of the Queen's Asylum, with a view to ascertain who amongst them were most proficient in the knowledge of Christian doctrine and practices, and therefore most deserving of recommendation for prizes here to-day. Forty-six children—twenty-two boys and twenty-four girls—presented themselves for examination. Both boys and girls were divided into two classes. The boys of the junior class, thirteen in number, had prepared Butler's small Catechism. Their answers to almost all the questions put to them were correct; those of T. Hurston, J. Stokes, and Peter Carrick especially deserve credit. The senior class of nine boys had a somewhat wide range of matter prepared for their examination, viz., the whole of Butler's Catechism (large size), and of Fleury's Historical Catechism. With the exception of two or three blunders, made whilst endeavouring to explain the meaning of replies to rather difficult questions, the children of this class answered exceedingly well. C. Conlan, W. Smith, and G. Berry, however, acquitted themselves by far the best. These, with J. M'Donald, F. Stokes, and J. Stokes, deserve prizes."

The junior class of girls, twelve in all, were examined in the same subjects as the corresponding class of boys, excepting one girl, who has but recently been admitted into the institution; these children, considering their ages, were well up in their work. Mary Carroll, Julia Harper, Sarah M'Donald, and Sarah Gurnin are recommended for prizes.

The senior class of girls, numbering twelve also, presented the same subjects for examination as the higher class of boys, together with a portion of Church History—the first four centuries. The children of this class, as I very well know, worked hard during the year, and the facile way in which they answered difficult questions, and explained the history and meaning of various Catholic practices, is certainly creditable to their intelligence.

The appearance and demeanour of the children as a body appeared to me to sufficiently indicate that they are entrusted to the charge of a superintendent and assistant officers and teachers who take a deep and an intelligent interest in their welfare.

#### CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S PRIZE LIST.

FIRST CLASS, BOYS.—First Division: Charles Cowlan, Wm. Smith, and G. Berry. Second Division: James M'Donald, Frank Stokes, and J. Stokes.

SECOND CLASS.—Thos. Huston, James Stokes, Peter Carrick, Wm. Sutcliffe, and John Sheedy.

FIRST CLASS, GIRLS.—First Division: Catherine Egan, Anne Millman, Annie Gurnin, and George Sutcliffe. Second Division: Mary Slattery, A. M. Bodger, M. A. Carrick.

SECOND CLASS.—Mary Carroll, Julia Harper, Sarah M'Donald, and Sarah Gurnin.

The prizes were then handed to the children by Bishop Murphy.

The money prizes were then distributed by Mrs. Weld, the following amounts being distributed amongst the children; viz., Fox Fund, £5; Dexter Fund, £7; Catholic Fund, £6.