

(No. 9.)



1872.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

QUEEN'S ASYLUM FOR DESTITUTE
CHILDREN.

REPORT FOR 1871.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
June 25, 1872.



Queen's Asylum, New Town, 13th April, 1872.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the following Report of this Institution for the year 1871.

1. In the Returns appended will be found, fully detailed, every particular connected with the Establishment that admits of being placed in a Tabular form.

2. The number of Children admitted during the year is shown to have been 84, apprenticed 77, discharged 19, and died 1. The daily average was $353\frac{2}{3}$, and the cost per head £15 12s. 4d.

3. The gross expenditure was £5616 19s. 4d.: but which, from moneys received for maintenance of Children amounting to £56 12s. 9d.; the sale of pigs, £28 15s. 1d.; and other petty payments,—making a total of £91 3s. 4d.,—leaves the net outlay only £5523 3s. 2d.

4. The Return of Sick and Wounded gives the number of cases treated, with the class and order of the diseases, and, excepting the death of a girl, calls for no special remark. This girl, however, although the subject of hydrocephalus from infancy, had attained to 16 years of age, when she succumbed to scrofulous abscesses in the liver.

5. The Secular and Religious attainments of the Children are shadowed forth in the respective Reports attached, in the which is again noticed the desirability of employing Pupil Teachers in place of Monitors.

6. The calculated cost of the Washing performed amounts to £550 19s. 8½d.; and of the Needlework to £112 6s. 6d., together indicating a sum of £563 6s. 2½d. as a result of industrial occupation by the girls.

7. The household duties, on the other hand, carried on by both girls and boys alike, notwithstanding a value has not been placed upon them, have not the less been a saving in the expenditure,—an evidence that habits of industry and usefulness have continued to be inculcated to all the inmates.

8. The services of the boys in milking the cows are of sufficient moment, however, to call for a passing remark. These services, whilst they have the advantage of being a skilled labour, prevent the necessity of paying for the same at a calculated cost of about £100 per annum,—or the wages of one farm labourer and a half.

9. Taking the sum therefore as a sufficiently approximate one, and deducting £12 11s. 4d. as the only amount charged in the Farm Account of moneys given the boys, a balance of £87 8s. 8d. is left, which, under the circumstances, should go as a credit to the Institution, and thereby show the cost per head in place of £15 12s. 4d. at £15 8s. 3d.

10. The existing arrangement of keeping the Accounts of the Farm and Institution separately, and the fact that all the produce raised at the former Establishment, and supplied to the latter, is also charged against it, must at once show the force of the proposition,—the oversight of which heretofore may be attributable to the interests of each, so intimately connected as they are, having been divided.

11. The Anniversary of Fox's Feast was held at the Cascades by the kind permission of the Messrs. Degraeve, who upon the occasion provided a liberal supply of fruit for the juveniles. At a later period of the year His Excellency the Governor and the Hon. Mrs. Du Cane entertained the

Children on the grounds of Government House with a sumptuous repast ; and it may be needless to observe that, whilst the good things provided were fully enjoyed at the time, a remembrance of the pleasure has not altogether faded from the minds of the recipients.

12. The Prizes for Secular and Religious proficiency, and for good conduct, were distributed under Vice-Regal patronage. The ceremony was further honored by the presence of Commodore Stirling, R.N., the Members of the Ministry, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Tasmania, and the Right Rev. Bishop Murphy, the Honorable the President of the Legislative Council, some Members of Parliament, several of the Clergy, and many ladies and gentlemen who yearly take an interest in the proceedings.

Lastly. The Institution has continued to be an object of attraction to strangers from the adjoining Colonies, and others. Amongst the visitors it is a privilege to be able to record the distinguished names of their Excellencies the Right Honorable Sir James Fergusson, Bart., from Adelaide, and the Right Honorable the Earl of Belmore, from Sydney, introduced by His Excellency the Governor.

I have now, Sir, to add a few remarks on the Farm. The large number of cows—from 33 to 35—for which food had to be raised, of necessity required every exertion to be made; and from the comparatively small area of land suitable for that purpose, not less than two crops were taken off the same ground. The account current fully particularises the Dr. and Cr. sides, and shows a balance to latter of £532 2s. 9d. Subtracting from this, however, the £87 8s. 8d. as the sum previously recorded for the boys' services, there remains £444 14s. 1d. as a credit, which if allowed to the Institution would reduce the cost per head of the inmates to £14 4s.

In conclusion I take the opportunity to observe, as an index of the results attained by the action of the Institution, that during the past six years no less than 410 apprenticeships have been made from it, and so far as is known, not six of that number have been convicted of serious offences. That the conduct of apprentices is in many instances provoking, and in others bad, cannot be denied ; but, to use the words of the Inspector of the Industrial and Reformatory Schools in Melbourne, "allowance must be made for the youth of the children when sent to service, and for their meeting with employers in a few cases who have little sympathy for, or patience with, them whilst under their care," is to indicate a direction where faults on both sides may have existed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COVERDALE, *M.D* , *Principal*.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 1.

Admitted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Apprenticed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77
Discharged	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Died	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Daily Average	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	353 $\frac{11}{16}$
Cost per head	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£ 15 s. 12 d. 4
Salaries and Allowances-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£ 2146 s. 17 d. 3
Books and Stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 2 10
Provisions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2200 1 5
Fuel and Light	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	372 11 2
Stores	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94 19 0
Clothing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	650 4 6
Bedding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55 0 0
Repairs to Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23 11 5
Needlework	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15 18 4
Incidental	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39 6 5
Medicines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 0 0
Furniture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 7 0
Total Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5616 19 4
Total Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93 16 2
Net Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£5523 3 2

No. 2.

SALARIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Principal and Medical Officer	450	0	0			
Purveyor and Clerk	160	0	0			
Head Schoolmaster	200	0	0			
Assistant Schoolmaster	120	0	0			
Matron, Female School	125	0	0			
Matron, Infant School	120	0	0			
Sub-matron, Male School	15	0	0			
Schoolmistress, Senior	100	0	0			
Schoolmistress, Junior	85	0	0			
Cook and Storeman	60	0	0			
Out-door Inspector, Drill and Bandmaster	80	0	0			
Carpenter	90	0	0			
Shoemaker	80	0	0			
Organist	25	0	0			
Beadle	70	0	0			
Nurse, Hospital (1)	36	0	0			
Cooks (2), Laundress (1), General Nurses (2)	150	0	0			
General Servants (2)	50	0	0			
Messenger (1), Monitors (14)	19	10	0			
				2035	10	0

ALLOWANCES.

Rent of House for Principal	62	10	0			
Purveyor in lieu of House and Water	16	16	0			
Head Schoolmaster instructing Monitors	20	0	0			
Head Schoolmistress instructing Monitresses	10	0	0			
Police Rate	2	1	3			
				111	7	3
Total Salaries and Allowances				£2146	17	3

No. 3.

COST OF PROVISIONS.

	<i>Children.</i>			<i>Servants.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January - - - - -	187	5	3	6	13	6
February - - - - -	155	18	10	6	1	3
March - - - - -	183	4	2	6	13	6
April - - - - -	171	9	11	6	8	6
May - - - - -	177	4	0	6	13	6
June - - - - -	173	11	10	6	8	6
July - - - - -	179	13	5	6	13	6
August - - - - -	182	3	1	6	13	6
September - - - - -	176	1	4	6	8	6
October - - - - -	178	10	1	6	13	6
November - - - - -	174	6	7	6	8	6
December - - - - -	182	3	2	6	13	6
Total for Children - - - - -	2121	11	8	78	9	9
Total for Servants - - - - -	78	9	9			
Total Cost of Provisions - - - - -	£2200	1	5			

No. 4.

COST OF FUEL AND LIGHT.

	<i>Fuel.</i>			<i>Light.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January - - - - -	18	1	0	2	11	3
February - - - - -	16	18	0	4	3	11½
March - - - - -	23	16	0	5	1	6½
April - - - - -	23	16	0	6	13	10
May - - - - -	26	2	0	5	2	0¾
June - - - - -	35	6	0	6	1	2
July - - - - -	37	12	0	6	14	0
August - - - - -	33	0	0	6	1	7
September - - - - -	37	12	0	4	17	4
October - - - - -	19	19	0	4	18	1
November - - - - -	19	16	1	4	0	3½
December - - - - -	20	8	1	3	19	11
	£312	6	2	£60	5	0

RECAPITULATION.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Coals 592,060 lbs., at 23s. per ton - - - - -	303	18	2			
Wood, 47,040 lbs., at 8s. - - - - -	8	8	0			
Oil, Kerosene, 352 galls., at 2s. 4½d. - - - - -	—			41	8	8
Candles, Tallow, 883 lbs., at 4¾d. per lb. - - - - -	—			17	9	6
Candles, Composition, 22 lbs., at 1s. 1d. per lb. - - - - -	—			1	3	10
Wicks, Kerosene, 4 doz., at 9d. per dozen - - - - -	—			0	3	0
	£312	6	2	£60	5	0

No. 5.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

Remaining 1 Jan. 1870.		Admitted 1871.		Apprenticed 1871.		Discharged in 1871.		Died in 1871.		Remaining 31 Dec. 1871.		Average Number in 1871.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
214	150	36	48	38	39	13	6	0	1	199	152	205 $\frac{1}{3}$	148 $\frac{21}{56}$
364		84		77		19		1		351		353 $\frac{2}{3}$	

AGES ON DECEMBER 31, 1871; FUNDS; AND RELIGION.

SEX.	AGES.				HOW MAINTAINED.			RELIGION.	
	Under 6.	6 to 8.	8 to 12.	Above 12.	Colonial.	Imperial.	Moiety.	Protestant.	R. Catholic.
Males..	20	22	126	37	187	4	9	115	86
Female..	16	18	70	42	130	5	16	64	86
	36	40	196	79	317	9	25	179	172

DISTRIBUTION.

Male Division -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	163
Female Division	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112
Infant Division, Male and Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76

EXPENSE OF QUEEN'S ASYLUM, AMOUNT OF CASH RECEIPTS,
AND COST OF EACH CHILD'S MAINTENANCE FOR 1871.

EXPENDITURE.			Cash Receipts.	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.
2146 17 3	3470 2 1	5616 19 4	93 16 2	5523 3 2	15 12 4

Proportion of Expenses chargeable to Imperial Government	412 11 4
Ditto ditto Colonial Government	5110 11 10

No. 6.

NEEDLEWORK PERFORMED BY THE GIRLS DURING 1871.

	Made.	Repaired.
Pinafores - - - - -	646	
Pillow Cases - - - - -	35	
Chemises - - - - -	333	
Frocks - - - - -	351	152
Hoods - - - - -	282	
Rollers - - - - -	100	
Night Gowns - - - - -	148	
Sheets - - - - -	51	94
Petticoats - - - - -	254	345
Frock Skirts - - - - -	349	
Ticks altered - - - - -	168	
Hats trimmed - - - - -	125	
Shirts, partly - - - - -	75	
Stockings and Socks darned - - - - -	—	1596
Shirts - - - - -	255	1904
Jumpers - - - - -	404	419
Trousers - - - - -	60	1575
Vests - - - - -	—	719
	3636	5904

VALUE OF SAID NEEDLEWORK IF CHARGED AT ORDINARY RATES.

Dozen.	Pieces.	Articles.	Price.	Amount.
21	2	Sheets, Pillow Cases, &c. -	3s.	£ 3 s. 6
281	10	General Clothing - - -	6s.	84 11 0
492	—	Repairs - - - - -	1s.	24 12 0
				£112 6 6

No. 7.

WASHING PERFORMED BY WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING 1871.

Pinafores - - - - -	35,424
Bathing Dresses and Capes - - - - -	838
Shirts - - - - -	17,534
Socks, pairs - - - - -	5659
Cases, Pillow - - - - -	6987
Chemises - - - - -	7404
Stockings, pairs - - - - -	5993
Hoods - - - - -	1921
Gowns, Night - - - - -	6854
Towels - - - - -	9514
Jackets, Girls' - - - - -	823
Sheets - - - - -	15,897
Blankets and Rugs - - - - -	612
Flannels - - - - -	1090
Frocks - - - - -	330
Petticoats - - - - -	323
Jumpers - - - - -	1059
Trousers - - - - -	3703
Waistcoats - - - - -	2010
Jackets - - - - -	8
	123,982

VALUE OF SAID WASHING IF CHARGED AT ORDINARY RATES.

Dozens.	Pieces.	Articles.	Price.	Amount.
1375	9	Sheets, Blankets, and Rugs -	1s. 6d. per doz.	£ 103 s. 3 d. 7½
8956	1	Ordinary - - - - -	1s. per doz.	447 16 1
				£550 19 8½

RETURN OF SICK AND WOUNDED AT QUEEN'S ASYLUM FOR 1871.

CLASS I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.		CLASS III.—LOCAL DISEASES.	
<i>Order 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES.</i>		<i>Order 1.—DISEASE OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.</i>	
Hives	1	Hemiplegia	1
Diphtheria	1	Chorea	3
Quinsy	1	Epilepsy	1
Infantile Fever	70	Ophthalmia	8
Erysipelas	1	Hysteria	1
Erythema	2	Odontalgia	4
Carbuncle	3	Total Order 1.	18
Boil	3		
Catarrh	3	<i>Order 4.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.</i>	
Dysentery	2	Ephemeral Fever	51
Rheumatism	2	Jaundice	1
Parotitis	4	Liver Disease	1 Died.
Total Order 1	93	Total Order 4.	53
<i>Order 4.—PARASITIC DISEASES.</i>		<i>Order 7.—DISEASES OF THE LOCOMOTIVE SYSTEM.</i>	
Hydatid of Liver	1	Synovitis	1
Worms	21	Periostitis	1
Scabies	38	Total Order 7.	2
Total Order 4	60		
Total Class 1	153	<i>Order 8.—DISEASES OF THE INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM.</i>	
		Pernio	2
		Eczema Capitis	22
		Ulcer	1
		Skin Diseases	8
		Total Order 8	33
		Total Class 3	106
CLASS II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.		CLASS V.—VIOLENCE.	
<i>Order 2.—DIATHETIC DISEASES.</i>		<i>Order 1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE.</i>	
Anemia	4	Fractures	8
Cancerum Oris	3	Contusions	12
Tumor	1	Wounds and Cuts	1
Total Order 1	8	Scalds	4
		Total Order 1	25
<i>Order 2.—TUBERCULAR DISEASES.</i>		Total Class 5	25
Morbis Coxarius	1		
Abscess	19		
Total Order 2	20		
Total Class 2	28		

GENERAL TOTAL 312.

Hobart Town, 27th December, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE the honor to report to you the results of my examination of the Schools in the Queen's Orphan Asylum on the 21st and 22nd inst.

In the boys' school the number of children examined was 151, in the girls' school 87, and in the infants' 75. Appendix I. to this Report contains a detailed statement of the children's ages, their classification, and, excepting those of the infants' school, the time they have been in the Asylum: from which it may be gathered that nearly 24 per cent. in the boys' school have reached the fourth class, and less than 5 per cent. in the girls' school have done the same. This disparity is not accounted for by difference of age, for the average age of the third class girls is a little higher than that of the third and fourth boys together; nor by a difference of time in the schools, for a similar comparison shows in this respect a similar result; but by the difference in the number of teachers in the two schools: in the former there are two teachers and nine monitors to 145 children, and in the latter one teacher and four monitors to 83 children: and the difference in teaching power is much greater than the numerical proportion indicates; since, the number of classes in a school being a constant quantity, the number of teachers must not decrease *pari passu* with that of the scholars, if a just proportion is to be preserved between the number of workers and the amount of work to be done.

Appendix II. contains a tabular statement of the degree of proficiency of each class in reading, writing from copy, arithmetic, and writing from dictation or spelling. The reading of the lower classes (first, second, and third) of the boys' school and the girls' was hardly satisfactory, the writing from copy more so, but the arithmetic unsatisfactory. The writing from dictation of the third had many mistakes. In the upper classes only the boy monitors passed anything like a creditable examination, doing well in reading, fairly in writing from copy, only moderately in arithmetic, but excellently in writing from dictation.

The girls' school cannot be said to have an upper class; for, though the monitors are classed as fourth, they are hardly past the standard of the third class. The infants' school has only two classes, first and second. Both passed very creditably, the higher division in each class being well up to the standard prescribed by the Board of Education. The sound of the letter *h* is given very distinctly in all the schools; but in the infants it is somewhat overdone: the children give it with a jerk, painful to the listener if not to the readers.

In my former reports I commented on the want of intelligence noticeable in the children throughout the schools. The causes having remained the same, the boys' school and the girls' have not improved in this respect; but in that of the infants an improvement is very obvious. The teacher has for some time back devoted the whole, instead of only half, of each day to her own school. But, though the change has been beneficial to the infants, it has been proportionately injurious to the girls. A good supply of large coloured pictures of animals gives the infant teacher the means of illustrating her gallery lessons, and is thus a great help towards widening their knowledge of the outer world. For the same purpose the upper schools ought to have a small library of simply written and illustrated books on natural history, voyages, travels, &c., and wholesome works of fiction. This could be done gradually, without any expense to Her Majesty's Government, by devoting to it half the money now spent annually in prizes, which do not seem to be highly valued by the prizemen; for, after questioning sixty boys that had taken prizes, I found only four that still had them in possession.

In concluding my Report, I beg to reiterate my disapproval of the system of teaching by means of unintelligent monitors, the plan upon which the school furniture is arranged and fixed, and the "relay" system used in household and out of doors work. When it is recollected that the whole of every Wednesday, besides half an hour on every other day, is devoted to religious instruction, and one-third of the remaining school time to industrial work, and that during the "secular" instruction the classes are never complete, the results cannot be surprising. That they are as they are is no reproach to the teachers, who are capable and willing workers, but too heavily burdened for their work to be well done.

The names of the children designated for prizes in the upper schools are tabulated in Appendix III.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. RULE.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

REPORT of the Annual Examination at the Queen's Asylum, 21st and 22nd December, 1871.

APPENDIX I.

			CLASS.					
			I.	II.	III.	IV.	Monitors.	Total.
Number examined ..	{	Boys' School	19	42	54	27	9	151
		Girls' School	15	31	37	—	4	87
		Infants' School	48	27	—	—	—	75
		TOTALS	82	100	91	27	13	313
			Yrs. Mths.	Yrs. Mths.	Yrs. Mths.	Yrs. Mths.	Yrs. Mths.	
Average Age.....	{	Boys' School	9 10	10 1	10 6	11 6	12 7	
		Girls' School	7 1	9 0	10 10	—	12 6	
		Infants' School	6 5	7 0	—	—	—	
Average time in the Schools	{	Boys' School	1 0	1 6	2 3	4 1	5 4	
		Girls' School	0 8	1 4	3 3	—	5 10	
		Infants' School	No	Returns.				

APPENDIX II.

PROFICIENCY OF THE CLASSES.

School.	Class.	Reading.	Writing, Copy.	Arithmetic.	Writing, Dictation.
Boys' ..	I.	Fair	Moderate	Very backward	
	II.	Moderate	Fair	Backward	
	III.	Pretty Fair	Fair	Backward	Bad.
	IV.	Moderate	Moderate	Backward	Moderate.
	Monitors	Good	Fair	Moderate	Excellent.
Girls' ..	I.	Bad	Fair	Bad	
	II.	Moderate	Good	Moderate	
	III.	Fair	Fair	Moderate	Fair.
	IV.	Fair	Good	Bad	Moderate.
	Monitors				
Infants' ..	I.	Good	Good	Fair	
	II.	Fair	Good	Very Fair	

APPENDIX III.

PRIZE LIST. BOYS.

	CLASS I.			CLASS II.		CLASS III.			CLASS IV.	MONITORS.
	1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	1.	2.	3.		
Reading	H. Gehreke	B. Donaldson	Wm. Woodruff	Patrick Rieley	T. Bates	T. Carr	B. Wheelden	Wm. Cusack	Alf. Holbrook	H. Donovan.
Writing, Copy .....	..	..	..	John Smith	F. Gehreke	Wm. Hough	MI. Whelan	Robt. Wheelden	Jno. Farmer	P. Cusack.
Arithmetic .....	..	..	..	A. Cunningham	F. Gehreke	P. Smith	E. Anderson	Wm. Whelan	C. Speed	E. Dawson.
Writing, Dictation....	..	..	..	..	..	T. Carr	J. Holbrook	Wm. Cusack	Wm. Bradbury	Fred. Williams.

GIRLS.

	CLASS I.	CLASS II.		CLASS III.		MONITORS.
		1.	2.	1.	2.	
Reading	L. Rowe	J. Rigney	S. Baker	A. Williams	C. Revell	A. Conway.
Writing, Copy .....	..	..	M. A. Townsend	M. Jefferson	Theresa Conway	A. Conway.
Arithmetic .....	..	E. Brown	E. Williamson	E. Read	M. A. Alcock	F. Fardell.
Writing, Dictation.....	..	..	..	P. Shaw	D. Clarke	A. Conway.

I HAVE the honor to present to Your Excellency a Report of the examination of children belonging to the Church of England and others in religious knowledge, conducted by the Rev. A. Davenport at my request.

A year ago I recommended the discontinuance of the employment of monitors and the substitution of more experienced pupil teachers who had served their apprenticeship at some of our most successful elementary Schools. With the view of giving effect to this recommendation, I understand that the best monitors have left the Asylum, while no pupil teachers have yet been appointed in their places. In estimating the value of this Report it is right that Your Excellency and the Authorities should bear this circumstance in mind.

C. H. TASMANIA.

Hobart Town, 28th December, 1871.

ON the 20th inst. I examined, at the request of the Bishop, those children of the Queen's Asylum who are trained in the principles of the Church of England. My examination embraced the religious subjects in which the children are instructed under the direction of the Rev. F. Hudspeth.

The first class of boys, twenty in number, answered very satisfactorily, manifesting a fair elementary knowledge of Holy Scripture, and of the most important matters included in the religious instruction suited to their age and circumstances.

The second and third classes, numbering together twenty-seven boys, answered fairly; and the extent of their knowledge is not greatly below that of the highest class.

The boys of the fourth class, numbering sixteen, consisted of children who seemed to know very little except by rote. They seldom answered intelligently even easy questions.

The lowest class, nineteen boys, answered nearly as well as the class above them.

There is evidently a wide interval between the boys grouped as belonging to the three higher classes, and those who constitute the two lower ones. The attainments of the former in religious knowledge would compare favourably with those of boys at the same age in other schools. I infer that the boys in the lower classes exhibit the usual amount of knowledge, or ignorance, which characterises the children who are admitted to the Asylum, while the higher classes consist, for the most part, of those who show the fruits of the careful instruction which they have evidently received since their admission.

The whole number of the girls examined by me was forty-two, little more than half that of the boys. Only seventeen of these, forming the two first classes, answered generally well. The rest acquitted themselves about equally with the two lowest classes of boys. The answering of the girls in the foremost classes was not equal to that of the boys, and was inferior to what it used to be a few years ago. This apparent falling off reflects no discredit on the instruction which they have received, but is owing to the circumstance that the girls are removed at an earlier age than formerly. I was informed that only two or three are now above twelve years of age.

On the whole the examination has afforded, in my opinion, satisfactory evidence that the children of the Asylum are instructed carefully and conscientiously in Holy Scripture, and in the principles on which Christian practice and faith are founded.

I have declined the responsibility of selecting the children of the various classes who are to receive prizes for their proficiency in religious knowledge. My reason is, that any award founded on an oral examination lasting less than six hours would be precarious, and possibly unfair. The Rev. Mr. Hudspeth, to whose teaching and oversight the children owe so much, is far more competent to select the most deserving among those who have profited by his instruction during the past year, and has kindly, at my request, undertaken to do so.

ARTHUR DAVENPORT.

Brighton, 26th December, 1871.

SIR,

By request of his Lordship, the Right Rev. the Bishop of Hobart Town, I examined the children of the Queen's Asylum on Friday, 22nd instant, in the portions of Christian doctrine they had studied during the past twelve months, and have the honor to report the result of the examination.

Seventy-two boys were, in five classes, presented for examination. The first, or highest class, consisted of four boys (monitors), and were examined in Butler's General and Fleury's Historical Catechisms. All of them knew their business well. Prizes were awarded to Henry Donovan and George Gregory.

The second class numbered nineteen, and had prepared Fleury's Historical, Butler's Second, and a part of Butler's General Catechisms. All of them showed a satisfactory knowledge of their subjects,—Augustus Slattery, James Atkinson, and Matthew O'Donnell obtaining prizes.

The nineteen boys of the third class knew Butler's Second Catechism very well. W. Donovan and W. Gardiner were bracketed for first prize; W. Cusack and J. Cleary were a tie for second; and E. O'Donnell and Francis Smith a tie for third.

Fourteen boys were put forward in the fourth class with thirty-six pages of Butler's 2nd Catechism for examination: they did very well. First prizes were awarded to Wm. Allen, and 2nd and 3rd to Edgar and Albert Anderson respectively.

The fifth class numbered fourteen also, and had thirty pages of Butler's 2nd Catechism, with Prayers, for examination: their answering was good.

Like the boys, the girls were divided into five classes: fifty-six came forward to be examined. Their text-books were the same as the boys', except that the first or highest class, besides Butler's General and Fleury's Historical Catechisms, had prepared a portion of Kean's Church History.

The first class was in two divisions: there were but four in the first division. All deserved prizes; but the insufficiency of the funds allowed by Government to purchase them—only fifty shillings for prizes for 126 children—stood in the way of each of the four receiving a prize. Anne Curtis, the best of the division, having obtained a prize on three previous occasions, and being considerably older than the other three girls, was not therefore awarded a prize; but each of the others,—namely, Agnes Conway, Elizabeth Drake, and Angelina Brown,—obtained one each.

There were ten girls in the second division of this class, all of whom knew their business very well. Teresa Conway and Sarah Allen were awarded respectively 1st and 2nd prizes; Sarah Connor and Emma Jones were a tie for the only other prize available for this class.

In the second class sixteen girls came forward: all of them were intelligent. His Lordship the Bishop examined this class, and expressed the pleasure it gave him to find them know their business so thoroughly.

There were twelve children in the third class: their intelligent answering showed how carefully they had been instructed. A prize was awarded to Mary Ann Parker, and the only other prize available for this class fell to Emily Cutler.

In the fourth class there were eight children: they were well acquainted with their subjects. The prize-fund, however, did not allow of any recompense being given to these children.

The fifth class consisted of five girls, who are described as "working girls:" they knew their business fairly. Mary Povey and Mary Ann Ham were awarded prizes.

The total number of children examined was 126,—70 boys and 56 girls. Both boys and girls gave ample proof,—the girls I think especially,—of the careful, intelligent labour that has been bestowed upon their religious instruction for the past year.

There were six children amongst those I examined whose parents reside in the District of which I have spiritual charge. The improvement in Christian knowledge—the knowledge that makes people good men and good citizens—in the short period they have been in the Asylum, points, in my mind, very forcibly to a subject of grave importance to the Colony.

I am quite persuaded that, had those six children remained with their parents, they must, at no distant day, have unavoidably become a pest to society, and a permanent tax on the Colony. No efforts of a clergyman, however zealous he might be; no influence of schools,—public, private, or even of Sunday Schools,—could reach them in a way to save or rescue them from evil courses.

There are, we all know but too well, numbers of children, both in Town and throughout the Colony, who need a fostering care, like that bestowed in the Queen's Asylum upon those to whom I have referred, in order to preserve them from the criminal classes.

I would hence suggest very respectfully that the difficulties now placed in the way to admitting this neglected class of children to the Asylum be promptly removed; and that, previous to apprenticing children, the Chaplain receive at least six months' notice of the intention of the Guardians of the children to apprentice them, with the view of enabling the Chaplain and Teachers to direct special attention to completing the religious instruction of those children.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. C. MARUM.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

ACCOUNT CURRENT of QUEEN'S ASYLUM FARM, New Town, showing Expenditure and Receipts for the Year 1871.

Dr.				Cr.			
Salaries.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Farm Overseer	120 0 0			Milk to Institution, 77,493 pints, at 2d. per pint	645 15 6		
Overseer Prison Gang	98 12 0			Vegetables, 29,225 lbs.....	49 14 0		
Ploughman	78 0 0			Butter, 351 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., at 1s. 1d.....	19 0 4		
Farm Laborer	65 0 0			Firewood, 47,040 lbs., at 8s. per ton ..	8 8 0		
Ditto	65 0 0					722 17 10	
Farm Boys.....	12 11 4	434 3 4		<i>Cash Receipts.</i>			
				Service of "Bull".....	2 0 0		
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						2 0 0	
Seeds—Clover, 10 lbs., at 2s; 10 lbs., at 1s. 6d.....	1 15 0			<i>Sale of Stock.</i>			
Oats, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, at 3s. 6d.; 18 bushels, at 2s. 10d.	4 11 3			1 Cow, £4 12s. 6d.; 1 Cow, £3 10s. ..	8 2 6		
Mangold Wurtzel, 30 lbs., at 1s. 4d.	2 0 0			1 Cow, £7 2s. 6d.; 1 Cow, £7 5s.	14 7 6		
Potatoes, 7840 lbs., at £2 15s. per ton	9 12 6			1 Cow, £5; 1 Cow, £4 15s.	9 15 0		
Stores—Nails, Scythes, Rakes, &c....	3 1 6			1 Cow, £8 5s.; 1 Cow, £7 5s.....	15 10 0		
Bran, 200 bushels, for £7 8s. 7d.; 100 bushels, at 10d.; 200 bushels, at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	20 6 11			3 Cows, at £7	21 0 0		
Blacksmith, £18 1s.; 2 Chaff-knives, 18s.	18 19 0			38 Calves.....	6 15 0	75 10 0	
Repairs to Harness	3 11 6			<i>Milk supplied to Establishments in Hobart.</i>			
New Wheels and Repairs to Chaise Cart	8 10 0			General Hospital, 20,681 pints, at 2d..	172 6 10		
New Harrows, £3; Veterinary Surgeon, 17s. 6d.	3 17 6			Cascade Factory, 9215 pints, at 2d....	76 15 10		
Toll, £7 13s. 8d.; Straw, 3 tons, £7 4s.	14 17 8			Brickfields Depot, 3295 pints, at 2d.. Immigration Depot, 1157 $\frac{1}{2}$ pints, at 2d.	27 9 2 9 12 11		
Scythe Stones.....	0 4 0	91 6 10				286 4 9	
				<i>Potatoes supplied.</i>			
<i>Extra Farm Duties.</i>				Gaol, 12,118 lbs., at 4s. 6d. per 100 lbs.	27 5 4		
Farm Overseer	7 0 0	7 0 0				27 5 4	
<i>Stock purchased.</i>							
1 Cow, £7 5s.; 6 Cows and Calves, at £7	49 5 0	49 5 0					
		581 15 2					
Balance in favour of Farm.. —		532 2 9					
		£1113 17 11				£1113 17 11	