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TASMANIA.

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HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

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Presented by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
22 July, 1862.



*Davey-street, 24th May, 1862.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward the Report for the Year 1861 of the Commissioners of the New Norfolk Hospital for Insane Persons.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

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*REPORT of the Commissioners of the HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE at NEW NORFOLK for the Year 1861.*

1. DURING the year that has elapsed since the date of their last Report, the Commissioners have effected various important improvements in the Institution placed under their care.

The detached and inconvenient Day Room in the Female Division has been removed, and accommodation of a much superior character provided by the extension of the north end of the main Building, in which are contained a new Day Room 60 feet in length and 32 feet in breadth, a Sleeping Ward 60 feet by 19 feet, and six small separate Sleeping Rooms.

A neat Cottage, for the accommodation of the Matron, has been erected in a convenient and central part of the premises.

A new Kitchen, for the separate use of the Female Patients, the want of which had long been a source of much inconvenience, has been added to the Establishment.

A Wash-house, Laundry, Drying, and Store Rooms, have also been completed during the last year.

Consequent on the removal of the old Day Room, the whole grounds in front of the main Building (upwards of three acres in extent) are now in process of being thrown open and laid out with convenient gravelled walks for the recreation of the inmates.

In their last Report, the Commissioners intimated that the ventilation and lighting of the detached Building, occupied by the more refractory class of Female Patients, had been much improved. After these improvements, however, had been effected, the Commissioners perceived that this portion of the Institution was still sadly deficient, and needed other alterations.

The unskilful construction and confined character of the Building,—which admits of no exterior view whatever, except of the high brick wall immediately in front of the windows,—has evidently an irritating effect on the minds of the unfortunate inmates, and cannot but be injurious to their health and comfort. The removal of this serious defect claims, and will receive, the first attention of the Commissioners.

In the Male Division, a small Lodge, for the use of the Gate-keeper, has been erected.

The large space formerly occupied as a garden has been added to the airing grounds, by the removal of the dividing brick wall; and walks have been made throughout the whole area, which measures more than four acres. This alteration has not only conferred a great benefit on the Patients, but has improved and enlivened this, the most conspicuous, part of the Establishment.

A considerable and similar improvement has been made in the back part of the premises, by the simple removal of the lofty brick wall which formed the division between the two back yards, which have thus been thrown into one, and rendered at once more cheerful and salubrious as a place of recreation and exercise.

The Commissioners have long thought it desirable that the house which has for so many years been occupied as the residence of the Superintendent should be purchased by the Government, instead of being held by a precarious lease, more especially as a house could not have been erected on the immediate Hospital grounds without a serious curtailment of the already too limited space devoted to the recreation of the Patients. The Commissioners have now effected the purchase of these premises, to which are attached three acres of valuable ground, on behalf of the Crown, for the moderate sum of £1000. In making this purchase the Commissioners were aware that the premises were not in a good state of repair, and would require some enlargement. From the survey and report of the Director of Public Works, they ascertained that the necessary repairs and additions would not exceed the sum of £300, thus making the total cost of the property £1300. In return for this expenditure, the annual sum of £80 will be saved to the public, and has been struck off the Estimates.

2. Having thus briefly enumerated the various works which they have effected during the past year, or have decided to undertake forthwith, and for which funds have been provided by Parliament, the Commissioners have now to indicate others which they deem essential to the more perfect adaptation of the Institution as a Hospital for the treatment of the Insane. These are—

(1st.) A large Room or Hall to be erected adjoining, and in architectural harmony with, the north wing of the original main Building, for the purposes of Divine Worship, as well as for musical and other entertainments, and for the use of both sexes.

(2nd.) A new Kitchen and Bakehouse to be built in like manner, adjoining the south wing; the present Kitchen being then converted into a Bath Room.

(3rd.) The existing Latrines in the Male and Female Divisions to be removed from their present unsightly position to more retired localities.

(4th.) The Farm-yard to be removed outside the Hospital walls to the adjoining field, and the large space which it now occupies laid out as an airing ground for the use of the Patients occupying the southern back wing, with such alterations in the construction of this portion of the Building as were indicated in their last Report.

(5th.) The extension of the Hospital grounds by the purchase of some adjoining lands.

The cost of these improvements has been roughly estimated at about £4500, a sum which the Commissioners are of opinion they will not exceed.

With reference to the various works already accomplished or proposed to be undertaken for the improvement of the Institution, the Commissioners have to assure the Government that they have not made or recommended any expenditure which they did not consider essential to the health and comfort of the Patients and to the curative treatment of the Insane.

All the additional Buildings that have been erected under their direction, though substantial, have been constructed in the plainest and most economical style that it was possible to adopt.

3. The inconvenience and greater evils that continually arise from the bi-section of the Hospital grounds by the narrow street that runs along the north brick wall have induced the Commissioners to recommend the Government to apply to the Parliament for power to close this thoroughfare, and a Bill has accordingly been introduced for this purpose. Should this Bill receive the sanction of the Legislature, the Commissioners will then be enabled to reduce the height of the north wall, and thus extend and improve the view from the adjoining airing ground.

4. The Commissioners are glad to be able to report that the improvement which they had the pleasure of noticing during the previous year in the conduct and demeanor of the Patients has become still more conspicuous. No restraint, beyond a short temporary seclusion, has in any instance been had recourse to or found necessary.

5. The recreation of the Patients has been provided for by dances, pic-nics in the bush, visits to the Hippodrome and Canidrome when performing in the neighborhood, winter evening readings, and other measures. These opportunities of recreation the Patients have greatly appreciated and enjoyed, and on all occasions they have conducted themselves with much propriety and decorum.

Many of the inmates are fond of music; and, with a view to the encouragement and gratification of that taste, and to secure the benefit resulting from it, the Commissioners have ordered from England a moveable Organ, at a cost of about £50 or £60, and which they are now daily expecting to arrive.

6. The Commissioners regret to have to report that the number of Patients admitted into the Hospital has in a slight degree, exceeded that of the previous year, instead of being somewhat less as they hoped and anticipated at the date of their last Report.

7. All the Patients, Male and Female, capable of any labor have been as usual usefully and profitably employed, in the cultivation of the fields belonging to the Institution, making and repairing articles of clothing, and other necessary work.

8. The average daily cost of each Patient has been 1s. 10½*d.*, being 2*d.* less than last year.

The whole annual cost has amounted to about £7900. Of this sum £664 has been contributed by friends of Patients and by the Imperial Government.

9. The number of Patients maintained by the Colony is 153, and by the Imperial Government 72.

10. The Commissioners have again the pleasure of recording their sense of the zealous manner in which the Superintendent and Medical Officer has discharged his important duties.

The conduct of all the Officers of the Institution has been highly satisfactory.

The thanks of the Commissioners are again due to the Director of Public Works for his ready and cordial co-operation.

Returns—1st. Of Patients admitted and discharged during the year.

2nd. Of articles of Clothing made and repaired in the Institution, are appended to this Report.

E. S. P. BEDFORD, *President.*

W. HENTY.

WILLIAM TARLETON.

R. OFFICER.

W. S. SHARLAND.

J. TURNBULL.

JOHN A. MOORE.

HENRY BUTLER.

† R. W. WILLSON.

*RETURN of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths in the HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK, showing the per centage of Discharges and of Deaths during the Year 1861.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.	DISCHARGES.			DEATHS.			RATE PER CENT. OF RECOVERIES.		RATE PER CENT. OF DEATHS.	
				RECOVERED.			Males.	Females.	Total.	On Admissions.	On Total treated.	On Admissions.	On Total treated.
				Males.	Females.	Total.							
Remaining 31 Dec., 1860.....	119	101	220										
Admitted during the year 1861.....	24	22	46	7	7	14	8	5	13	30·20	5·70	27·18	4·236
TOTAL.....	143	123	266										
Remaining 31 Dec., 1861.....	198	111	239										

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

*RETURN of Articles of Clothing, &c., made and repaired by the Patients in the HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE at NEW NORFOLK from 1st January to 31st December, 1861.*

	MADE:		REPAIRED.	
	By Males.	By Females.	By Males.	By Females.
Aprons, women's.....	-	253	-	60
Blouses, serge, &c., boys'.....	-	10	-	7
Boots, men's, pairs.....	6	-	170	-
Boots, females, pairs.....	2	-	5	-
Blinds, window.....	-	26	-	-
Cases, pillow.....	-	-	25	-
Caps, women's.....	-	90	-	50
Dresses, ticking, women's.....	-	13	-	-
Drawers, flannel, men's.....	-	155	-	-
Frocks, linen, men's.....	-	-	20	-
Hoods, calico, women's.....	-	97	-	-
Jackets, blue cloth, men's.....	-	-	221	-
Jackets, serge, women's.....	-	111	-	75
Jackets, flannel, women's.....	-	32	-	150
Jackets, cotton, women's.....	-	180	-	50
Palliasses.....	-	-	12	10
Petticoats, serge, women's.....	-	123	-	130
Petticoats, flannel, women's.....	-	32	-	-
Sheets.....	-	-	6	61
Shirts, men's.....	-	583	109	190
Shoes, men's, pairs.....	-	-	61	-
Shoes, women's pairs.....	-	-	19	-
Shifts, women's.....	-	216	-	170
Stockings, women's, pairs.....	-	-	-	166
Stockings, knitted, men's, pairs.....	-	6	-	-
Socks, knitted, men's, pairs.....	-	50	-	-
Trowsers, fustian, men's, pairs.....	50	-	504	-
Trowsers, tweed, men's, pairs.....	70	-	46	-
Trowsers, linen, men's, pairs.....	-	-	82	-
Trowsers, fustian, &c., boys', pairs.....	-	-	-	17
Waistcoats, flannel, men's.....	-	-	13	-
Waistcoats, cloth, blue, men's.....	-	-	155	-

G. F. HUSTON, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*