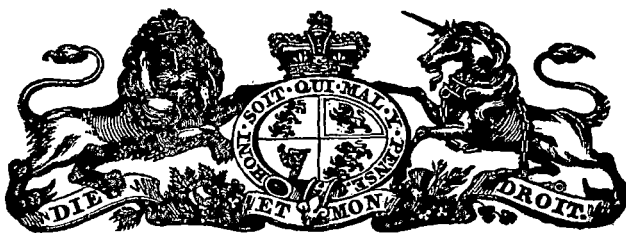


(No. 12.)



1878.

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TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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QUEEN'S ASYLUM:

REPORT FOR 1877.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
July 16, 1878.



## QUEEN'S ASYLUM REPORT.

*Queen's Asylum, New Town, 4th April, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit my fourth Annual Report of this Institution, and in doing so am glad to be able to state that, in the opinion of those acquainted with the Queen's Asylum, a marked change has been effected both in the demeanour and appearance of the children, as also in the improved management of the Institution. I here supply the testimony of Dr. Hall, Officer of Health, given on his last visit:—

“Made a thorough inspection of the whole Establishment—Female Invalids and Queen's Asylum. Never better pleased: the whole a model of cleanliness, order, and comfort.

“E. SWARBRECK HALL, *Officer of Health.*”

“28th September, 1877.”

I mentioned in my last year's Report that there were 141 children on the books on the 31st December, 1876. Since then 19 children have been admitted, 41 apprenticed, 1 discharged, and 1 died.

The following is a summary of the above:—

Number of children remaining in the Institution 31st December, 1876 . . . . .	141	
Number of children admitted during the year . . . . .	19	
	160	
Number of children apprenticed during the year . . . . .	41	
Number of children discharged during the year . . . . .	1	
Number of children died during the year . . . . .	1	
	43	
Total number of children remaining 31st December, 1877 . . . . .	117	

The average number of children throughout the year was  $127\frac{2}{3}$ , and the average cost of each child £19 3s. 5½d.

The cost of the Institution for the year was £2569 4s. 1d.; less reimbursements, amounting to £119 6s. 11d., making the net cost £2449 17s. 2d.

I here give the amounts expended under each particular head. The details accompany the Report:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and allowances . . . . .	634	0	0
Provisions, including milk . . . . .	1076	6	0
Fuel and light . . . . .	264	14	5
Stores . . . . .	59	7	8
Bedding . . . . .	61	0	0
Clothing . . . . .	221	5	5
Medical attendance and medicines . . . . .	52	10	0
Repairs and alterations to buildings . . . . .	117	9	4
Incidental expenses . . . . .	82	11	3
TOTAL EXPENDITURE . . . . .	£2569	4	1
<i>Reimbursements—</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Credit for labour of boys at Orphan School			
Farm . . . . .	78	0	0
Ditto clerical assistance . . . . .	20	0	0
Ditto cash received for maintenance, &c. . . . .	21	6	11
	119	6	11
NET EXPENDITURE . . . . .	£2449	17	2

The secular instruction of the children received the usual attention, and I believe that fair progress was made during the year: the Conductor is very attentive, and most anxious for the improvement of his charge. In the early part of the year the school was deficient a female teacher, but the vacancy was filled up in March. In noticing the subject in my last Report I mentioned that, "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 that can be employed for counteracting the innate evil inclinations of the child." I annex the Report of the Conductor of the School for the year.

As regards the religious instruction of the inmates, this also was duly carried out by the respective clergymen,—the Reverends Alfred N. Mason and P. R. Hennebry. The children are instructed each Wednesday, between the hours of ten and twelve, by the above-named gentlemen; and on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, from ten to eleven, by the teachers. They also attend Sunday School.

The annual distribution of prizes for proficiency in secular and religious subjects and good conduct was made on the 28th December, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor and Mrs. Weld, and in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen. Amongst the assemblage were their Lordships the Bishops of Tasmania, Hobart Town, and Maitland (New South Wales), the Honorable the Premier and Mrs. Fysh, the Very Rev. W. J. Dunne, the Revs. P. R. Hennebry, Alfred N. Mason, and Henry Hunter, Esquire, Guardians, the Revs. Dr. Nicholson, D. F. X. Beechinor, J. Brooke H. Bailey, W. S. Simmons, Dr. Miller, Toorak, Victoria, W. C. Robinson, R. Maclaren Webster, S. B. Fookes, B. S. Bird, Drs. Hall and Benjafield, &c.

Six boys and seven girls received prizes in the different classes for Protestant children; and a special prize was awarded to another little girl for distinction in religious knowledge. Fourteen boys and a similar number of girls in the classes for Catholic children obtained prizes for their religious acquirements. The prizes in each of the religious examination classes were presented by Bishop Bromby and Bishop Murphy respectively.

Mrs. Weld distributed the following money prizes for good conduct; namely, £7 from the Dexter Fund, £5 from the Fox Fund, and £6 from the Catholic Fund.

Addresses were delivered by the Governor and the Hon. the Premier, P. O. Fysh. His Excellency, in the closing part of his speech, said "I have come to regard this Institution with very great interest. It is a credit to you, a credit to those who conduct it, and a credit to the Colony."

The respective Reports of the Examiners, the Revs. M. J. Beechinor and Arthur Davenport, were read, and are appended.

The industrial occupation of the inmates, which I have ever regarded as an essential part of their education, received unremitting attention. The girls, under supervision, make all the wearing apparel and do the repairing. In like manner they do the whole of the washing, mangling, ironing, cooking, and scrubbing. The boys help on the farm, keep the grounds of the Institution in order, and perform the cleaning and scrubbing of the male portion of the Asylum. I append two Returns, Nos. 8 and 9, which show the number of garments made and repaired, and the number of articles that were washed.

In observing upon the health of the inmates of the Institution during the past year, I am glad to record that, upon the whole, it has been most satisfactory: The Medical Officer's Report, No. 10, which I append, shows that 118 cases had been under treatment; and that, with the exception of the poor girl who succumbed to her disease, they were but trivial. The deceased had been suffering from phthisis for several years: she was admitted in 1867, and had just turned her 18th year. This is only the second death since my appointment in May, 1874.

The Birthday of Her Most Gracious Majesty and that of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales were duly celebrated by all in the Institution; and, as usual, there was a plentiful supply of good things as well as a large quantity of fireworks, the supply allowed by the Government being largely added to by friends.

On the Fox Anniversary the children were conveyed to New Norfolk by the steamer *Monarch*. They were well received by the inhabitants, who supplied them with abundance of fruit, cakes, and lollies. Amongst the contributors were Sir Robert Officer, the Messrs. Shoobridge and Sons, Captain Wise, and other friends. The people appeared delighted to see the children, and also with their band. This was their first visit to New Norfolk, and to them it was a grand outing,—a gala day not soon to be forgotten. The weather was beautifully fine, and everything seemed to combine to contribute to their happiness.

The moneys expended at these annual feasts and for rewards given to the children each year, are paid out of bequests of the late Messrs. Fox and Dexter, which are supplemented by a sum contributed by a few friends of the Church of Rome. Particulars respecting these bequests will be found in my Report for 1875.

The results of the farming operations during the year were satisfactory: there was a balance in favour of the farm amounting to £389 3s. 3d. I would here mention that the farm received some trifling assistance for a few months from 3 or 4 old men sent from the Brickfields Depôt: they came about 9 A.M. and returned before noon. There were also from 15 to 20 more from the same place employed for some weeks in filling in holes that had been made in sinking for coal on bush land near the Queen's Asylum. I am assured by the Farm Overseer that the value of the whole of the work performed by these old men would, if done by contract, not exceed £10.

Having adverted to the several points of importance connected with the working and management of this Institution, I would now close my Report by referring, with much satisfaction, to the subjoined extracts taken from the Visitors' Book of the Queen's Asylum.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

SANDFORD SCOTT, *Superintendent.*

*The Hon. WILLIAM MOORE, Colonial Secretary.*

*EXTRACTS from the the Visitors' Book, Queen's Asylum, New Town.*

Friday, 23rd February, 1877.

Made a thorough inspection of the whole Establishment, everything in the most cleanly, orderly, and comfortable state. The rain finding its way through the shingles of the Children's Dormitories. Glad to see the adoption of separate receptacles for the closets at the Female Invalid Asylum: with a sufficient supply of dry earth or ashes all nuisance can be avoided. I hope to see the same system adopted at the boys' and girls' side. General health good.

E. SWARBRECK HALL, *Officer of Health.*

Saturday, 24th March, 1877.

Visited the Queen's Asylum with the Honorable T. Reibey, Premier, and Sir George Kingston, of South Australia, without previous notice, and although Saturday is a busy day, found order and cleanliness everywhere prevailing, as usual.

FRED. A. WELD, *Governor.*

Saturday, 24th March, 1877.

Much pleased with the good order of the Queen's Asylum, and the Asylum for Destitute Women. All very clean.

THOS. REIBEY, *Colonial Secretary.*

Saturday, 29th September, 1877.

Visited the Queen's Asylum and saw over the whole Establishment. Was much pleased with the perfect order and cleanliness. The children all seemed healthy and happy. Saw also the Invalid Depôt for aged women: all seemed to be clean and orderly. Have never seen a more satisfactory public institution.

WILLIAM LAW, *Clergyman, Launceston.*

Wednesday, 31st October, 1877.

The healthy cheerful appearance of the children at the Queen's Asylum, together with the perfect order and cleanliness observed throughout the Institution, reflected the greatest credit on those who have the management.

JOHN SCOTT, *Launceston.*

Saturday, 5th January, 1878.

Came without notice, found everything clean and in good order, as usual.

FRED. A. WELD, *Governor.*

Greatly pleased with the Institution. It appears to be well administered in every respect.

WM. J. DRUMMOND JERVOIS.

P. H. SCRATCHLEY.

T. H. B. WARNER.

Friday, 15th March, 1878.

Very much pleased with the cleanliness and general good order prevailing throughout the Institution.

JAMES COMRIE, *from New South Wales.*

Friday, 15th March, 1878.

I can fully corroborate the above, and do so with great pleasure.

THOS. STEVENS, *Matlock, England.*

Friday, 15th March, 1878.

Much pleased with the arrangements. The children are bright looking and contented.

WM. C. ROBINSON.

Thursday, 21st March, 1878.

In my opinion the Institution is admirably managed. For cleanliness, order, and comfort, I don't know of any that surpasses it.

R. MACLAREN WEBSTER.

## No. 1.

*RETURN showing the NUMBER of CHILDREN in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM on the 31st December, 1876; the Number Admitted, Apprenticed, Discharged, and Died during the Year; also, the Number remaining on the 31st December, 1877, and the average Number throughout the Year 1877.*

Remaining 31st December, 1876.		Admitted.		Apprenticed.		Discharged.		Died.		Remaining 31st December, 1877.		Average Number throughout the Year.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
72	69	9	10	22	19	0	1	0	1	59	58	60 <sup>131</sup> <sub>363</sub>	57 <sup>152</sup> <sub>363</sub>
141		19		41		1		1		117		127 <sup>283</sup> <sub>363</sub>	

## No. 2.

*RETURN showing the AGES of the CHILDREN in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM on the 31st December, 1877; and the Funds on which they are borne; also their Religion.*

	AGES.			FUND.	RELIGION.	
	6 to 8.	8 to 12.	Over 12.	Colonial Government.	Protestant.	Roman Catholic.
Male .....	—	34	25	59	27	32
Female .....	3	29	26	58	23	35
	3	63	51	117*	50	67

\* A Moiety of the maintenance of 3 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 1877.\**

EXPENDITURE.			REIMBURSEMENTS.	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	1935 4 1	2569 4 1	119 6 11	2449 17 2	19 3 5½

\* Particulars given on first page of Report.

## No. 4.

*DETAILS of Salaries and Allowances.*

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

## No. 5.

*RETURN showing Cost of Provisions during the Year.*

Months.	Children.			Servants.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January .....	93	10	1	8	0	7
February .....	74	9	3	7	6	0
March .....	89	5	5	8	0	7
April .....	84	6	2	7	14	8
May .....	87	15	6	8	4	9
June .....	81	5	0	7	10	0
July .....	83	6	4	8	4	9
August .....	81	7	8	8	4	9
September .....	76	1	5	7	10	0
October .....	78	9	7	8	4	9
November .....	73	19	2	7	10	0
December .....	77	14	10	8	4	9
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	981	10	5	94	15	7

Total Cost of Provisions for Children.	£	s.	d.
Total Cost of Provisions for Servants..	981	10	5
	<hr/>		
	£1076	6	0

## No. 6.

*RETURN showing Cost of Fuel and Light during the Year.*

Months.	Fuel.			Light.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January .....	13	6	0	2	15	7½
February .....	13	6	0	2	9	10½
March .....	14	9	9	2	18	6
April .....	20	4	0	3	10	0
May .....	23	13	0	4	1	3
June .....	23	18	6	3	17	1½
July .....	23	0	0	3	16	8½
August .....	23	15	0	4	1	0½
September .....	23	5	0	4	0	1
October .....	16	7	0	2	15	2½
November .....	15	9	0	2	14	1½
December .....	14	1	0	3	0	8½
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	224	14	3	40	0	2½

*DETAILS of Fuel and Light.*

Coal, Port Arthur, 374,080 lbs. at 23s. ...	£	s.	d.
Coal, Newcastle, 35,840 lbs. at 25s. 9d. ...	192	1	0
Wood, 35,840 lbs. at 11s. 6d. ....	20	12	0
Candles, Tallow, 234 lbs. at 5½d. ....	9	4	0
Candles, Composition, 13 lbs. at 1s. ....	5	2	4½
Oil, Kerosene, 328 galls. at 2s. 3d. ....	0	13	0
Wicks, Kerosene, 7 doz. at 7d. ....	36	18	0
	0	4	1
	<hr/>		
	£264	14	5½

## No. 7.

*RETURN showing Details of Cash received and Amounts credited to the Queen's Asylum during the Year 1877.*

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 .....	3	6	0
Ditto Maintenance, Jas. Carns .....	9	2	6
Ditto Money of Ann Oliver, deceased .....	0	10	0
Ditto sale of Rags .....	0	12	6
Ditto sale of Pigs, being one quarter of total sum received .....	7	15	11
	<hr/>		
	119	6	11

## No. 8.

*NEEDLEWORK performed by Queen's Asylum Girls, assisted by Seamstress, during the Year 1877.*

Articles.	Made.	Repaired.
Pinafores .....	153	458
Shirts .....	163	1210
Pillow Slips .....	—	168
Strings .....	122	—
Chemises .....	171	—
Petticoats .....	134	312
Sheets' .....	—	284
Towels .....	37	—
Coats, boys' .....	126	384
Frocks .....	121	203
Hats, trimmed .....	111	—
Trousers .....	—	1586
Vests .....	—	1228
Table Cloths .....	—	58
Aprons, Holland .....	44	—
Stockings and Socks, darned ..	—	2097
Night Dresses .....	64	312
Flannels .....	36	—
Suits, boys' .....	22	—
Dresses, girls' .....	19	—
Matrasses .....	—	118
	1323	8418

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

	£	s.	d.
General Clothing—110 dozen and 3 pieces, at 6s. per dozen .....	33	1	6
Repairs—701 dozen and 6 pieces, at 1s. per dozen .....	35	1	6
	£68	3	0

## No. 9.

*WASHING performed by Queen's Asylum Girls, assisted by Laundress, during the Year 1877:—*

Articles.	Number of each.
Pinafores .....	10,040
Shirts .....	6288
Chemises .....	3216
Stockings and Socks .....	6720
Jackets, boys' .....	140
Vests .....	3360
Trousers .....	3360
Night Dresses .....	1608
Towels .....	4262
Flannels .....	864
Hoods .....	100
Petticoats .....	397
Frocks .....	149
Sheets .....	7200
Pillow Slips .....	8080
Blankets .....	310
Jackets, girls' .....	310
	56,404

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

	£	s.	d.
Blankets—25 dozen and 10 pieces, at 1s. 6d. per dozen .....	1	18	9
Ordinary Articles—4674 dozen and 6 pieces, at 1s. per dozen .....	233	14	6
	£235	13	3

## No. 10.

*RETURN of Sick and Wounded at the Queen's Asylum for the Year 1877.*

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Deaths.
Carbuncle, boil .....	7	
Influenza, coryza, catarrh .....	34	
Rheumatism, acute .....	4	
Scrofula .....	3	
Phthisis .....	1	1
Asthma .....	1	
Kidney disease, &c. ....	1	
Phlegmon, whitlow, &c. ....	4	
Ulcer, abscess .....	2	
Skin disease .....	44	
Atrophy and debility .....	5	
Wounds, cuts .....	1	
Burns and scalds .....	5	
Causes not specified .....	5	
TOTAL .....	117	1

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 1877; also, Return of Stock.*

Number of Acres.	How occupied.	Probable Produce.	Value of Produce.	How disposed of.
Queen's Asylum, 70 acres.	36 acres grass 4 ditto tares 30 ditto bush land	For grazing Green food		
	70 acres	Value for grazing	£70 per annum	
Orphan School Farm, 40 acres.	20 acres hay	35 tons	£175	In stock.
	7 ditto mangolds & turnips	120 ditto	£120	Uncut at end of year.
	4 ditto Italian rye grass	100 ditto	£100	ditto
	4 ditto wheat	1 bushel	£5	ditto
	1 ditto green stuff	5 tons	£5	ditto
	4 ditto occupied by buildings, quarry, &c.			
	40 acres	Value £80 per annum.		

*RETURN of Stock on the 31st December, 1877:—5 horses, 1 bull, 30 cows, 1 boar, 5 sows, 9 suckers.*

## No. 12.

*ACCOUNT CURRENT of the Orphan School Farm for the Year 1877.*

Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Clerical Assistance .....	20 0 0		Milk supplied to Institution, 25,794 pints, at 2d. ....	214 19 0	
Farm Overseer .....	120 0 0		Butter, ditto, 511 lbs., at 1s. ....	25 11 0	
Ploughman .....	78 0 0		Vegetables, ditto, 2510 lbs., at 2l. 10s. per ton .....	2 16 1	
Labourer .....	65 0 0				248 6 1
Ditto .....	65 0 0				
Ditto .....	16 5 0				
Farm Boys .....	78 0 0				
		442 5 0			
<i>Seeds, &amp;c.</i>			<i>Cash Receipts.</i>		
30 bushels Oats, at 3s. 3d.; 6 bus. Tares, at 10s. ....	7 17 6		Cows sold, 4 for 23l. 0s. 9d.; 2 for 10l. 13s. 2d. ....	23 13 11	
30 lbs. Mangold, at 1s. 6d.; 5 lbs. Carrot, at 4s. ....	3 5 0		Ditto, 2 for 14l. 16s. 9d.; 1 for 5l. 16s. 0d. ....	20 12 9	
2 lbs. Turnips, at 2s.; 5 cwt. Potatoes, at 8s. ....	2 4 0		Ditto, 3 Cows and 1 Bull, 34l. 4s.; 1 Cow, 8l. 10s. 6d. ....	42 14 6	
40 bushels English Rye Grass, at 8s. 6d.; 20 lbs. Alsike Clover, at 1s. 6d. ....	18 10 0		Calves sold, 1 at 2l. 15s.; 1 at 1l.; 1 at 15s.; 8 at 5s.; 21 at 2s. 6d. ....	9 2 6	
4 tons Bone Dust, at 8l. ....	32 0 0		Half sale of Pigs .....	15 11 9	
		63 16 6	2 Horses, 10l. 18s. 6d.; 1 Cow-hide, 8s. ....	11 6 6	
Bran, 200 bushels, at 11d.; 300 bushels, at 1s. ....	24 3 4		By sale of Wheat, 113 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub> bushels, at 8s. 3d. ....	46 18 5	
Bran, 400 bushels, at 1s. 2d.; 52 bushels, at 1s. 3d. ....	26 11 8				170 0 4
Toll, 7l. 19s. 7d.; Blacksmith's work, 28l. 4s. 6d. ....	36 4 1		Milk, &c. supplied to other Establishments—		
Repairs to Harness, 5l. 9s.; Timber, 2l. 10s. ....	7 19 0		General Hospital, Milk, 56,680 pints at 2d. ....	472 6 8	
Fencing, 7l. 18s. 10d.; hire of Threshing Machine, 2l. 10s. ....	10 8 10		New Town Charitable Institution, Milk, 29,780 pints, at 2d. ....	248 3 4	
Hire of Mowing Machine, 5l.; service of Boar, 1l. ....	6 0 0		Invalids, Brickfields, Milk, 2870 pints, at 2d. ....	28 18 4	
Fixing Water Cart, 5l. 16s. 4d.; making Butter, 2l. ....	7 16 4		Gaol for Males, Milk, 3558 pnts., at 2d. ....	29 13 0	
Cartage, 1l. 7s. 0d.; Marsh, 9s.; 6 1-bushel Baskets, 12s. ....	2 8 0		Ditto, Chaff, 2396 lbs., at 4l. 10s. per ton .....	4 16 7	
Fuel and Light, 6l. 18s.; Medical Attendance, 10s. ....	7 8 0				778 17 11
		128 19 3	Potatoes supplied to other Establishments—		
<i>Purchase of Live Stock.</i>			Invalids, Brickfields, 1120 lbs., at 6l. per ton .....	3 0 0	
2 Horses, 50l.; 1 Horse, 6l.; 15 Cows, at 6l. = 90l. ....	146 0 0		Gaol for Males, 1440 lbs., at 6l. per ton .....	3 17 2	
1 Cow, 9l.; 1 Cow, 8l. 17s. 6d.; 1 Bull, 10l.; 2 Pigs, 1l. ....	28 17 6				6 17 2
Balance in favour of Farm .....	..	389 3 3			
		174 17 6			
		389 3 3			
		£1199 1 6			£1199 1 6



## Mr. Hurst's Report for the Year.

I HAVE the honor to report that during the last few days the children attending the public school connected with the Queen's Asylum have been examined, with a view of testing their proficiency in the several branches of school work engaged in during the year. It will readily be imagined that, in an institution like this, the efforts of the teachers have been mainly directed to imparting to the children such a knowledge of the three R's as will be of service to them in entering upon the battle of life in the outer world. This may appear to those unacquainted with the work of tuition to be a matter of very easy accomplishment; but it is in reality a task demanding all the intelligence, energy, and perseverance which the teachers can possibly bring to bear upon the subject, and even then the results are not always so satisfactory as might be desired. Without further remarks, however, I will proceed to give the result of the examination. The school is divided into five classes, and these, with the exception of the fifth and highest, are worked in two divisions. Hence, we have upper and lower fourth, upper and lower third, and so on. In the fifth class, there are seven boys and three girls, all of whom were examined except one girl absent from illness. The dictation, considered as a test of spelling, was well done; the papers of six out of the nine were free from errors, the other three had one mistake each; the writing was also neatly and carefully done with one exception.

*Reading.*—All the children in this class read both poetry and prose with a considerable amount of fluency and intelligence, and I had no small difficulty in deciding that Edmund Hayes and Mary Anne Armstrong were slightly in advance of the others. *Writing.*—With regard to this subject I had less difficulty in awarding the prizes, as I had during greater part of the year given marks for neat and careful writing in every dictation lesson. George Berry is 185 marks ahead of the other boys, and M. A. Armstrong has 55 marks more than any other girl in the class. *Arithmetic.*—In this subject five sums were set, which were all intelligently grappled by most of the class. Three of the boys succeeded in working four out of the five correctly; one girl got three right; three worked two correctly; and two only did one each, failing in the others through carelessness in detail. Thomas Clarke and Catherine Egan displayed the greatest readiness in this subject. *Grammar.*—The prior claims of the R's prevent much time being devoted to grammar, but the whole of the class can fairly parse an ordinary sentence. Kate Egan parsed the portion allotted in a very creditable manner; and Wm. Gurnin is also deserving of reward for the careful attention which he has given to this subject throughout the year. *Geography.*—Although this interesting branch of study takes a place in the routine of school work in all the classes above the first, the time we can afford to allot to it does not allow of our going very deeply into it, and it is not proposed to award a prize. Some of the replies given by the children to questions set were sufficiently amusing. One was to the effect that Edinburgh was the capital of Scotland and celebrated for the export of lollies; and another, in describing New Town, said it was a fine city in Tasmania, full of beautiful shops. Possibly this lad had the gift of prophecy.

THE UPPER FOURTH CLASS consists of 11 boys and 5 girls; 9 of the 16 wrote the passage from dictation without a mistake in spelling, two others had one each, the others did fairly, with the exception of one boy, who had 10 mistakes. *Reading.*—Two boys in this class read slowly and without expression, and the others, especially the girls, read very fairly, Charles Conolan being slightly in advance of the other boys, and Fanny Simmonds of the girls. *Writing.*—I may here remark that the writing of this class, and indeed of the whole school, is not of a stylish character, the aim being rather to produce a good, bold, legible hand. I think I can safely say that in a large majority of cases this object is being realised, some good, careful work having been done during the year. William Smith and Fanny Wilson have exceeded the other boys and girls in this division by a few marks only. *Arithmetic.*—Four sums were set on the black board for this class. Two boys and one girl worked them all correctly; nine others did three out of the four; and three others had two correct. The whole of the children in this division of the fourth class manifest a considerable amount of intelligence in dealing with arithmetic, except one lad who is incapable of comprehending figures to any great extent. Edward Jones and Martha Brown are the two who have most distinguished themselves; but George Ross and Patrick Ivory also deserve favourable mention. *Grammar.*—In this subject the best examination work was done by George Ross and Louisa Frazer.

LOWER FOURTH CLASS.—In this class are 6 boys and 6 girls. The dictation was not done so well as by the higher division. None wrote it correctly, 6 having each one error, three made two, and one girl five mistakes. *Reading.*—I cannot commend the reading in this division as a whole, it being rendered in several cases with hesitancy and want of expression. The most creditable exceptions are James M'Donald and Isabella Abrahams, the reading of the latter being well up to the standard. *Writing.*—The writing of this division, especially that of the girls, does not compare favourably with the work of the other classes. Theophilus Hayes writes a good hand, and Isabella Abrahams did fairly among the girls. *Arithmetic.*—This subject is a very weak point indeed with the elder girls of this class. The boys, however, display more aptitude at figures; in fact, they all did their work very fairly. One boy, John Stokes, worked all the sums set very neatly and correctly, and the five others succeeded in working three-fourths of them. Of the girls, the youngest, Augusta Batt, did them all correctly, but all the others did badly, one of them not even having one sum right. *Grammar.*—In grammar they did better than in arithmetic, John Harper especially parsing very creditably. Fanny Graves also did fairly.

UPPER THIRD CLASS.—In this class there are 12 boys and 11 girls. The passage dictated was on the whole well done, eight having no mistake, and seven others only one in the spelling. The others did fairly. The words "strue" for "strew," the insertion of an "e" in "sticky" and "smeered" for "smeared" being the chief stumbling blocks. *Reading.*—The reading of this class bears favourable

comparison to that of the lower fourth, that of many of the children being quite up to the standard. William Sullivan and Alice Gurnin, especially the latter, came out best in this subject. *Writing*.—Albert Bolch and Julia Simmonds, especially the latter, are the most careful writers. Georgina Sutcliffe also deserves favourable mention for neatness and good progress throughout the year. *Arithmetic*.—Five sums were set which were fairly grasped by most of the class. Eight worked four of them correctly, eight more had three right, the rest not doing so well, one boy and one girl noted for their carelessness failing altogether. Several of the children having proved about equal, another trial was given, which resulted in Albert Bolch and Alice Gurnin coming to the front. Ada Church, Louisa Hawthorne, Annie Bradley, Georgina Sutcliffe, James M'Veady, and Frank Stokes also deserved commendation.

LOWER THIRD CLASS comprises seven boys and nine girls. The dictation was well done by ten out of the sixteen, and fairly by four others. The other two did badly, as they generally do in this subject. *Reading*.—This was well done by all but two boys, who read very slowly and imperfectly. James Carns and Norah Rogers did exceedingly well, and the reading of ten others was fully up to the standard expected of them. *Writing*.—Most of the children of this class have taken great pains with their elementary lessons during the year, and many of them bid fair to become excellent writers. James Williams and Mary Anne Denis are recommended for prizes, and James Carns deserves favourable notice. *Arithmetic*.—Although I can testify that the teacher who has had the charge of this class mainly throughout the year has worked very hard to ground them well in the simple rules, several of the children did not acquit themselves so well at the examination as they might have done. Seven of them did well, and two others fairly, but six of them failed to work even one sum correctly. Several of the best were subjected to a second trial, when George Clark and Maria Bedger were the successful competitors.

UPPER SECOND CLASS consists of seven boys and two girls. *Reading*.—Most of them read with considerable fluency and expression. Thomas Hewson and Sarah M'Donald are the best readers. *Writing*.—The elementary work in copy-books is fair in most instances and very good in some. One boy, William Sutcliffe, writes as well as most of the boys in the fifth class. Sarah M'Donald is the more advanced of the two girls in this class. *Arithmetic*.—The children of this class manifested considerable expertness in dealing with the 7 sums that were set them. Two boys, recent arrivals in the school, were the only ones who did badly. Walter M'Donald and Sarah M'Donald did exceedingly well.

LOWER SECOND CLASS consists of 10 boys and 5 girls. The reading was good on the whole; that of Henry Temple and Ada Sneeedy being the best. The writing is confined to slate work, and many of them copy neatly sentences from their reading books. The best slates were those of James Jones and Emily Oliver. *Arithmetic* was fairly done by all but two boys and one girl. Mary Clarke was ahead of all the others, having worked all the five sums correctly. Several others did four out of the five. Thomas Jones is the most deserving among the boys.

FIRST CLASS, comprising two boys and seven girls. This is a most unsatisfactory class to a teacher, as some of the children comprising it are mentally incapable of making much progress. Daniel Lynch is the best reader, Emma Birch the best writer, and Thomas Gates is the sharpest at arithmetic.

I may mention that the numbers in the classes, as stated in this report, include several scholars not belonging to the Queen's Asylum; but I have not taken their work into account here, and shall have the pleasure of giving some of them prizes at another time.

Thirty-five boys were then awarded by His Excellency the prizes in the various classes for reading, writing, and arithmetic, grammar, and good conduct; also thirty girls who had distinguished themselves in the same branches. Four boys and two girls also obtained special prizes.

THE Rev. A. N. Mason, in the unavoidable absence of the Rev. Canon Davenport, then read the following Report of the religious examination of the Protestant children:—

27th December, 1877.

"On Friday, December 21, at the request of the Bishop, I examined those children of the Queen's Asylum who are instructed in religious knowledge by the Rev. Alfred N. Mason, and under his direction.

"The subjects in which I examined were the Catechism, parts of the Book of Common Prayer, the Holy Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and some of the historical books of the Old Testament. The boys and girls of the several classes were examined together, the first class containing two divisions, in one of which were nine boys and four girls; in the other four boys and three girls. The second class consisted of nine boys and five girls, and the lowest class of five boys and seven girls.

"The children of the first class answered very satisfactorily, with few exceptions. I had the pleasure of telling them that they had evidently done their best, and that their best was very good.

"The children of the second class also showed that they had profited by the instruction which they were receiving, and answered my questions generally very well.

"The little boys and girls of the lowest class answered unequally and often inaccurately, having many of them, only learnt by rote what they know or seem to know. Their attainments and intelligence, however, were not inferior to those of children generally of the same age, and compare favourably with my experience in past years in examining the least proficient of the children.

"On the whole, I am of opinion that the children have undergone their examination with credit to themselves and to their teachers.

"I have declined to recommend the most deserving children for rewards, because I did not conduct the examination in such a manner as to ascertain their comparative proficiency with any exactness. Perhaps Mr. Mason, who knows the children, and to whom they are so much indebted for the religious instruction they are receiving, will be good enough to select those who are in his opinion most worthy of prizes.

"ARTHUR DAVENPORT."

Mr. Mason also read the subjoined Report drawn up by himself:—

"December 28, 1877.

"In accordance with the request made by the Rev. Canon Davenport, I have selected those children whom from their examination at which I was present, subsequent examination by myself, and from their general work during the past year, I believe to be most worthy of prizes.

"The Very Rev. the Dean, at the annual meeting held in December, 1876, kindly offered a prize for Church History.

"The children of the third class have been instructed in this subject during nine months of the past year; but from want of a supply of books, which were not obtainable here, and for other reasons, I did not deem it advisable to present the children for examination."

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At the request of Bishop Murphy, the Rev. P. R. Hennebry came forward to state the result of the examination in religious subjects of the Roman Catholic children; but before doing so explained that the Rev. M. J. Beechinor had not (in consequence of illness) been able to draw up a formal report, but had written to him (Father Hennebry) a letter expressing in a general way the result of his labours. The speaker then read the following letter:—

"MY DEAR FATHER HENNEBRY,—I regret that illness prevents me from giving a full and formal report of the examinations of the Catholic children of the Queen's Orphan Asylum, held by me in your presence on the 25th December. I must not, however, omit to express briefly my opinion regarding the answering of the children on that occasion. At the request of His Lordship the Bishop of Hobart Town I examined the various classes, some in the small catechism in use in this diocese, some in Butler's large catechism, and others again in the Abbé Fleury's historical catechism, and the catechism of Perseverance. Of the children first presented for examination and called the "third class," not one failed to answer the questions put. For children of such tender years (some being little more than infants) they also showed that they understood pretty well the meaning of each question and answer. The second class (girls) were examined in Butler's large catechism and the Abbé Fleury's historical catechism. The answering was, on the whole, good. I thought that of a few—Georgina Sutcliffe and Alice Gurrin—particularly so. The children of the "first class" replied readily to important questions taken from the catechism of Perseverance regarding the ten first persecutions of the church, and the history of the Apostles—Sts. Peter and Paul. Three other classes presented themselves for examination, and also acquitted themselves well. On the whole, I do not hesitate to say that the knowledge of the Christian doctrine displayed by the children of this institution is creditable to the teachers, and would compare favourably with that of the children of any school in Tasmania with which I am acquainted. Here I should not omit to express my word to commend that priestly care which, to a great extent, compensates those poor little ones for the absence of parental control.

"I remain, my dear Father Hennebry,

"Yours very sincerely,

"M. J. BEECHINOR.

"Rev. P. R. HENNEBRY, *St. Mary's*,  
"27th December, 1877."