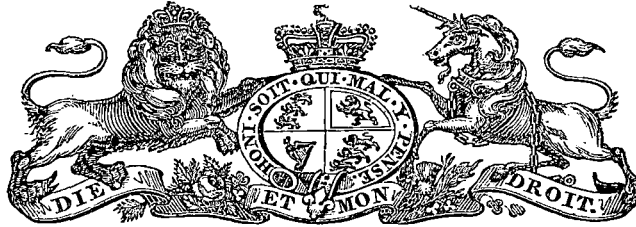


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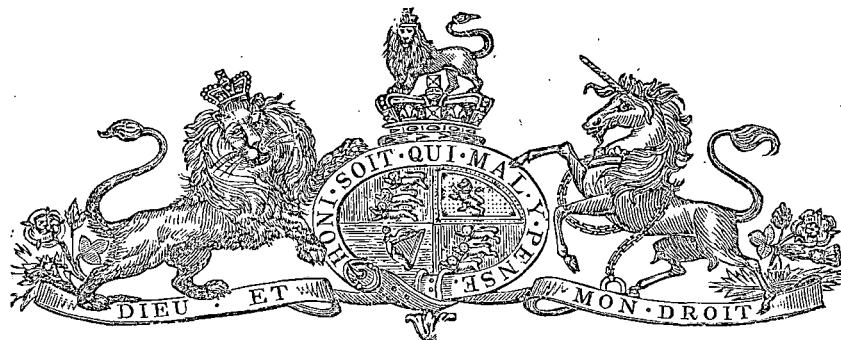
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

REPORT FOR 1895.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

Cost of printing—18s.



## GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

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*Macquarie-street, Hobart, 8th February, 1896.*

SIR,

IN accordance with instructions, I have the honor as Government Medical Officer to furnish the following Report explanatory of the manifold duties devolving on me in that capacity, and the manner in which these duties have been performed.

My appointment as Government Medical Officer took effect on and from the 1st October, 1894, thereby placing me in the following responsible positions, namely:—

1. Visiting Medical Officer to the poor of the City, who from disease, age, infirmity, and other causes, were unable to avail themselves of the benefits of the Public Hospital.
2. Health Officer to the Port of Hobart.
3. Medical Officer of the New Town Charitable Institution.
4. Chairman Board of Official Visitors, Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.
5. Medical Officer to the Territorial Police.
6. Medical Officer to the Boys' Training School, Cascades.
7. Medical Officer in charge of the Midwifery Department, New Town Depôt.

The duties arising out of the above combination of offices must of necessity be miscellaneous and multiform, demanding for their due performance time, care, skill, and attention, all of which I have endeavoured to bestow, and the result, as shown by the marked reduction in the expenditure for medicines and the number of applications for medical relief, affords testimony in this direction.

As already stated, my duties commenced on the 1st October, 1894; I will therefore include the last quarter of 1894 in this Report, which will then cover a period of fifteen months.

### *Attendance on the Poor at their Homes.*

With regard to my attendance on the poor of Hobart at their homes, I beg to report that I have worked in harmony with the Government Inspecting Officer, Mr. Pearse, and from his office I have received during the time stated 634 orders for attendance, and have made during the same period from 800 to 900 visits to the homes of these patients, giving prompt attention to their wants, at the same time making it a rule that no patient should be prescribed for until seen and examined by me; and I am able to report that by strict adherence to this plan of procedure, great economy in medicines has been effected.

The number of deaths among the patients so attended has been comparatively small (8 in all); and seeing that the great majority of the patients have been very aged and afflicted with the diseases, conditions, and impairment of health bodily and mentally common to senility, the death-rate must appear small.

It would be difficult to classify the whole of the diseases treated, varying as they have done to those common to every period of life, and in the great majority treated, poverty, privation, and insanitary surroundings have added greatly to the discomfort and misery of the sufferers.

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The expenditure for medicines during the whole of the fifteen months has not exceeded £20, and the craze for the useless and injurious consumption of drugs so common among the ignorant poor has been strictly kept in check.

In 1893, 1740 orders for medicines were received at the Dispensary, Hobart Hospital, from the then Government Medical Officer, and on these 4205 prescriptions were dispensed; whereas in 1895, 634 orders were received and 1046 prescriptions dispensed.

A few severe cases of illness, where neither suitable food nor attendance was available, were sent to the hospital, as affording the only chance of recovery and restoration to health.

Six midwifery cases of unusual severity have also been attended to by me.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. C. SMART, *Government Medical Officer.*

*The Honorable the Chief Secretary.*