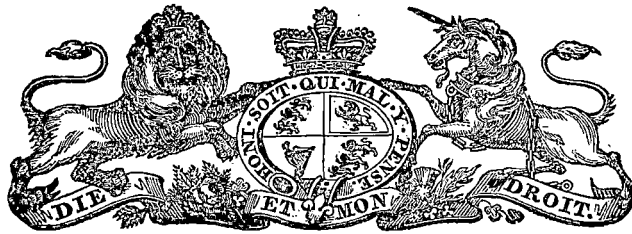


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1877.

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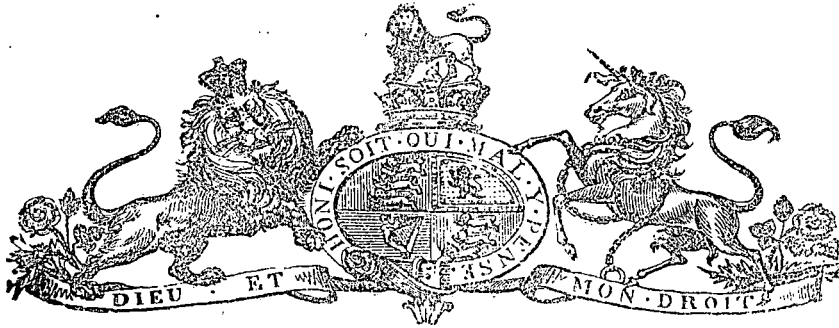
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**GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOBART TOWN :**

**REPORT OF COMMISSION, WITH EVIDENCE.**

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, January 23, 1877, and ordered by  
the House to be printed.



## GENERAL HOSPITAL, COMMISSION.

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(Seal) VICTORIA, *by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.*

To Our trusty and well-beloved The Honorable WILLIAM LODEWYK CROWTHER, Member of the Legislative Council, EDWARD JOHNSTONE MANLEY, Esquire, WILLIAM WEBB SPICER, Clerk in Holy Orders, SAMUEL SMITH TRAVERS, Esquire, and The Honorable JAMES WHYTE.

GREETING :

WHEREAS we have thought it expedient to enquire into the general condition and management of the General Hospital in Hobart Town: Know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your fidelity, discretion, and integrity, have authorised and appointed, and by these Presents do authorise and appoint you the said WILLIAM LODEWYK CROWTHER, EDWARD JOHNSTONE MANLEY, WILLIAM WEBB SPICER, SAMUEL SMITH TRAVERS, and JAMES WHYTE, or any three or more of you, to make diligent enquiry into the general condition and management of the General Hospital in Hobart Town: And for the better discovery of the truth in the premises We do, by these Presents, give and grant unto you or any three or more of you full power and authority to call before you all such persons as you shall judge necessary by whom you may obtain information in the premises: And Our further will and pleasure is, that you or any three or more of you shall reduce into writing under your hands what you shall discover in the premises, and do and shall, on or before the thirty-first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, certify unto Us in Our Executive Council in Tasmania, in writing under your hands respectively, your several proceedings by force of these Presents, together with what you shall find touching or concerning the premises upon such enquiry as aforesaid: And we further will and command, and by these Presents ordain, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you Our said Commissioners or any three or more of you shall and may, from time to time, proceed in the execution hereof, and of every matter and thing herein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment: And We do hereby command all and singular Our loving subjects whomsoever within Our said Colony of Tasmania that they be assistant to you in the execution of these Presents: And we direct and appoint that HENRY EDWIN SMITH, Esquire, shall be Secretary to Our said Commissioners, and We command that he be assistant in the execution of these Presents.

In testimony whereof we have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Public Seal of Our Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies to be hereunto affixed.

Witness Our trusty and well-beloved FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies, at Hobart Town, in Our said Colony, this eleventh day of December, in the fortieth year of Our Reign.

FRED. A. WELD,

By His Excellency's Command,  
THOS. REIBBY, *Colonial Secretary.*

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- In p. 12, line 11 from bottom, for "indifferent" read "inefficient."  
 In p. 34, Appendix D, heading, for "1876" read "1875."

## MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS.

### THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 1876. *First Meeting.*

At the Board Room, General Hospital, Liverpool-street. Commission met at 3 P.M.

*Present*—The Honorable William L. Crowther, M.L.C.; Edward Johnstone Manley, Esquire; the Reverend William Webb Spicer; Samuel Smith Travers, Esquire; and the Honorable James Whyte.

On the motion of Mr. Whyte, the Reverend W. W. Spicer was elected Chairman.

Royal Commission read by Secretary, with Colonial Secretary's letter, of 11th December, 1876, to the Hon. William L. Crowther, enclosing Commission to that gentleman; and letters from the Colonial Secretary to the Surgeon-Superintendent and Honorary Medical Officers, dated 8th December, 1876; also certain correspondence numbered W. 621, referring to Miss Abbott's suggestions marked A. Ordered to be printed.

*Resolved*, That the under-mentioned witnesses be summoned in the following order:—Miss Abbott, Lady Superintendent; Miss Holden, Dr. Turnley, Dr. Smart, Dr. Butler, and Dr. Bright.

Examined Miss Abbott.

Adjourned at 6.10 P.M. until 3 o'clock to-morrow.

### FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Issued summons to Miss Holden to attend at 3 P.M. this day.

Commission met at 3 P.M.

*Present*—All the Commissioners.

*Resolved*, That the evidence of all the witnesses be printed.

Examined Miss Holden.

Adjourned at 4.35 P.M. until 11 A.M. on Monday, the 18th inst.

### SATURDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Issued summons to Dr. Turnley to attend at 11 o'clock on Monday next.

The Commissioners met at 3 P.M. and made a thorough inspection of the Hospital and premises pertaining thereto.

### MONDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Commission met at 11 A.M.

*Present*—All the Commissioners.

Examined Dr. Turnley.

Adjourned at 1.15 to 3 P.M. to-morrow.

### TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Commission met at 3 P.M.

*Present*—All the Commissioners.

The Secretary laid on the table 19 letters from Miss Abbott, March 6th to December 18th, 1876. Ordered to be printed.

Examined Dr. Turnley and Dr. Macfarlane.

Issued summons to Dr. Smart to attend on Thursday next.

Adjourned at 4.50 P.M. to 3 P.M. on Thursday, the 21st instant.

### THURSDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 1876.

Commission met at 3 P.M.

*Present*—The Chairman and Messrs. Crowther, Manley, and Travers.

Examined Dr. Smart and Mr. John Seals.

Issued summons to Dr. Butler to attend at 3 P.M. to-morrow.

Adjourned at 5.38 P.M. to 3 o'clock to-morrow.

### FRIDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 1876.

Commission met at 3 P.M.

*Present*—The Chairman, and Messrs. Crowther, Manley, and Travers.

Examined Dr. Butler.

Mr. Henry Hunter's Report of 18th November, 1876, and correspondence connected therewith, read and ordered to be printed.

Dr. Bright to be summoned to attend at 3 P.M. on Thursday next.

Adjourned at 5.23 to 3 P.M. on Thursday next.

THURSDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 1876.

Commission met at 3 P.M.

*Present*—The Chairman, and Messrs. Crowther, Manley, and Travers.

Examined Dr. Bright.

Issued summons to Mr. Seager to attend at 3 P.M. to-morrow.

Adjourned at 5.50 P.M. until 3 o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 1876.

Commission met at 3 P.M.

*Present*—The Chairman, and Messrs. Crowther, Manley, and Travers.

Examined Mr. Seager.

Adjourned at 5.30 to 3 P.M. to-morrow.

SATURDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 1876.

Issued summonses to Dr. Turnley and Miss Rosamond Holden to attend at 3 P.M. this day.

Commission met at 3 o'clock.

*Present*—The Chairman, and Messrs. Crowther, Manley, and Travers.

Re-examined Dr. Turnley and Mr. Seager.

Examined Miss Rosamond Holden.

Return from Surgeon-Superintendent 22nd December, 1876, number of wardsmen, nurses, &c. employed during the year 1875. Mr. Pregnell's letter to Colonial Storekeeper. Return from Colonial Storekeeper, 8th December, 1876. Ditto bread and meat, 1875. Ordered to be printed.

Adjourned at 5.45 P.M. until 3 o'clock on Tuesday next, the 2nd January, 1877.

TUESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY, 1877.

Issued summonses to Dr. Macfarlane, and James Ware the Gatekeeper, to attend at 3 P.M. this day.

Commission met at 3 P.M.

*Present*—The Chairman, and Messrs. Crowther, Manley, and Travers.

Re-examined Dr. Macfarlane.

Examined James Ware.

Adjourned at 4.45 to 3 P.M. to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 1877.

Issued summons to Dr. Perkins to attend at 3 P.M. this day.

Commission met at 3 o'clock.

*Present*—The Chairman, and Messrs. Crowther, Manley, and Travers.

Examined Dr. Perkins.

Re-examined Mr. Seager.

Adjourned at 4.20 P.M. to 3 P.M. on Monday next, the 8th instant.

MONDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 1877.

Commission met at 3 P.M.

*Present*—All the Commissioners.

Re-examined Miss Abbott.

Adjourned at 4.10 P.M. to 10.30 A.M. on Friday next.

FRIDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 1877.

Commission met at 10.30 A.M.

*Present*—All the Commissioners.

The Chairman presented a draft Report, which was read by the Secretary.

*Resolved*, on the motion of Mr. Whyte, seconded by Mr. Travers, That the Report, as read, be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

## REPORT.

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*To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE, the undersigned Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty's Commission, bearing date the 11th December, 1876, to enquire into the general condition and management of the General Hospital, Hobart Town, have the honor to submit to Your Excellency the following Report:—

Upon the Commission being placed in our hands we lost no time in entering upon the investigation of the important matters submitted for our consideration. By the terms of that Commission certain definite subjects were proposed by the Government, which we have carefully considered, together with such other matters of importance as arose during the enquiry.

Our first meeting was held at the Board Room, General Hospital, Hobart Town, on the 14th December last, and we have held thirteen meetings and examined twelve witnesses.

On the 16th of last month we made a careful inspection of the Hospital and premises pertaining thereto.

We now beg to lay before Your Excellency the result of our investigations, taking each of the subjects *seriatim*:—

*Subject 1.*—"The complaints, and their cause, of the Lady Superintendent, as detailed in the accompanying Memorandum, and the practicability of carrying out the suggestions contained therein."

We have come to the unanimous conclusion that these complaints, twenty-five in number, are well founded. Of those capable of immediate remedy three (namely, Nos. 6, 8, and 10) have been attended to; and in regard to No. 25, "dead bodies are removed to the dead-house before burial, and it is my duty to see to the shrouding of females: that duty is sometimes postponed till it becomes offensive, and the nurses object to perform it;" it appears that the nurses are not now admitted into the dead-house, but the bodies are shrouded in the wards.

We are further of opinion that the suggestions of the Lady Superintendent are practicable, and may be carried out without difficulty.

*Subject 2.*—"The reasons that have induced the Lady Superintendent to state, as set forth in her letter of the 4th instant, that under no circumstances would she or the lady nurses consent to remain, if the services of the present House Steward and Gatekeeper are retained in the establishment."

We believe that the reasons adduced by the Lady Superintendent are well established, and deserve immediate attention.

With regard to the House Steward and Gatekeeper, the evidence taken exhibits a divided interest existing at the General Hospital, and shows plainly since the arrival of the Lady Superintendent and superior nurses a general want of co-operation on the part of the former, and of due subordination and respect on the part of the latter.

We beg to state, further, that in our opinion the Lady Superintendent and nurses are justified in their intention "not to remain an hour longer than their term of agreement should matters remain as heretofore" (*vide* letter of 3rd November), it being impossible for ladies with any self-respect to continue to work in an establishment where such glaring defects exist as the evidence has disclosed—defects which have for the most part been repeatedly and respectfully brought under the notice of the Hospital authorities by the Lady Superintendent, but without effect: indeed, the hope of making themselves useful cannot but be thwarted at every step, where the appliances of nursing and dieting are so far below what they should be, and where the ward and other accommodation is so palpably insufficient. We desire to support this statement by quoting the words of a writer in *Macmillan's Magazine* of September, 1876:—"It is simply a waste of time, money, and energy to train nurses and then draft them off into Hospitals which are still under the old system in the belief that by this means the nursing in these Hospitals will be reformed. In by far the majority of cases they will quickly sink to the level which surrounds them. Whatever good-will they may have to keep up

the traditions of their training and carry out the principles they have learned, it will be impossible for them to nurse in a Hospital which does not possess facilities or even possibilities for proper administration and order in the nursing department. In most instances a very good nurse suddenly transferred from the training school to an ill-managed Hospital will become discouraged and dispirited, and after a few efforts in a higher direction will acquiesce in a state of things which, after all, it is not in her power to alter."

Instead of running the chance of falling to the level of their surroundings, the lady nurses of the General Hospital choose the wiser course of retiring altogether unless the evils complained of are remedied.

*Subject 3.*—"The existing system of nursing and dieting the sick, and the manner in which the latter is recorded."

The existing system of nursing has been proved by the evidence of every medical witness examined, with a single exception, to be all that could be desired; but after a careful review of the evidence of the Surgeon and Lady Superintendents, the House Surgeon, the Honorary Medical Officers, the Superior Nurse, and the House Steward, we feel constrained to state our opinion that the dieting of the sick and the manner in which the latter is recorded are defective.

It appears, moreover, that the plan pursued in most of the wards is devoid of system. Checks of the simplest kind, and such as are adopted in all well-managed Hospitals, are wanting: indeed, facts were elicited in connection with the accounts of the establishment, especially in regard to the diets and extras, which tend to prove that upon economic grounds alone an alteration is demanded. A perusal of the evidence of the Surgeon-Superintendent and of the House Steward will supply abundant data in support of this opinion.

From the evidence of the Lady Superintendent, the House Surgeon, and the Superior Nurse, it appears that in several of the Wards no systematic record of the patients' cases, diets, medicines, or extras is kept; in fact neither nurse nor medical attendant has anything to trust to but memory in these important matters.

We have thought it right to bring under the special notice of Your Excellency the evidence taken with regard to the accounts of the Hospital, as detailed by the Surgeon-Superintendent and House Steward; there not having been, since the abolition of the Board of Management, the slightest check of any kind established.

The plan pursued in the matter of stores and extras is open to the gravest objection. Under Board Management an important check existed at the hands of the Finance Committee. Rule 11 declares that, "No accounts shall be paid until they have been examined and approved by the Finance Committee, who shall supervise the books of account, and report quarterly thereon to the Board of Management." This important check has been expunged from the Revised Rules appended, (February 4, 1871); no substitute has been introduced, and matters have been left to the sole responsibility of the House Steward.

*Subject 4.*—"The sufficiency of the appliances for effective nursing, preparation of food, supply of water, hot and cold."

We have no special remark to make on the subject of ventilation, or regulation of temperature. No complaints have been made, and, with the exception perhaps of the ventilating apertures being too large and without the means of being closed or partially closed, we have no reason to dwell on these points.

On the other hand, the "appliances for effective nursing, preparation of food, and supply of water," are by no means what they should be, and require immediate improvement. The matter of baths, and of the supply of water, is referred to in the Lady Superintendent's suggestions, and the insufficiency of bath accommodation is forcibly brought out in the Superior Nurse's evidence, question and answer, No. 74:—"Do you consider the bath accommodation sufficient to meet the cases constantly demanding treatment? Very insufficient indeed; three or four have frequently been bathed in the same water. For a long time past only one bath has been in working order for all the male wards."

*Subject 5.*—"Also to recommend for the consideration of the Government such an architectural design as they may deem best calculated to remedy the known defects in the Hospital buildings and accommodation."

We recommend (as being urgently needed) the erection of a portion of the new Female Hospital, consisting of about eight wards, with the requisite conveniences.

We also recommend that a steam apparatus be at once provided, of sufficient power and capacity to supply the Male Hospital, laundry and kitchen, (both to be new), as well as the new Female Hospital, with a plentiful supply of hot water; that private apartments be erected for female patients the subjects of *delirium tremens* or under observation for insanity; and that the three cells now in use be so altered as to make them better suited to the purposes to which they have been so long

applied ; that certain necessary alterations be made in the closets, baths, and lavatories of the Male Hospital, and greater conveniences for the nursing staff in connection with that building ; and that quarters for the House Surgeon be immediately provided upon the Hospital premises. The old building will still be used for diphtheria, scarlet fever, erysipelas, and other infectious diseases, at least until such time as larger means are available, and the Hospital shall be rendered more complete by the erection of isolated apartments for the reception of the class of diseases just noted.

In conclusion, we have the honor respectfully to state, that the subjects now brought under Your Excellency's notice might have been enlarged upon, and many fresh topics introduced ; but we are of opinion that the interests of the patients, and of all concerned in the welfare of the Hospital, will be best served if such points only are adverted to in this Report as call for immediate redress or removal.

Many matters of detail may be dealt with when the management and discipline of the Hospital are placed upon a better footing. The evidence tendered to us abundantly shows that, as regards these points, radical changes are needed.

It appears that, at present, the entire management of the Hospital (with all its complicated arrangements, medical, economical, and financial) are in the hands of a single Officer, the Surgeon-Superintendent ; and that, in addition to his multifarious duties within the walls of the Establishment, and his care of the out-door patients, he is "also Medical Officer for the Male and Female Gaols, Houses of Correction, Reformatory for Boys, Male and Female Invalids, and Immigration Dépôt, and the Queen's Asylum ; also Health Officer for the Port of Hobart Town, and Medical Attendant to Paupers at their own homes." (*Vide* Question 91 and answer.)

As the evidence shows, it has been manifestly beyond the power of a single person to carry out effectually so many urgent claims upon his time and attention.

We therefore respectfully impress upon Your Excellency the importance and necessity of appointing a Board of Management with duties and responsibilities properly defined, as in the case of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk.

We have reason to hope that such a Board will prove, as in other places where it has been fairly tried, a success ; and profiting by the experience of the past, coupled with the infusion of new blood, of improved appliances, and greater conveniences, there will be nothing to prevent the General Hospital at Hobart Town from assuming a position second to none in the Southern Hemisphere.

W. W. SPICER, *Chairman*.  
WILLIAM LODGE<sup>K</sup> CROWTHER.  
E. J. MANLEY.  
S. SMITH TRAVERS.  
JAMES WHYTE.

H. E. SMITH, *Secretary*,  
12th January, 1877.





## CORRESPONDENCE.

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th December, 1876.*

SIR,

IN forwarding the accompanying Commission for an enquiry into the condition and general management of the Hobart Town General Hospital, I have the honor to request the attention of the Commissioners to the following subjects as requiring their special consideration :—

1. The complaints, and their cause, of the Lady Superintendent, as detailed in the accompanying memorandum, and the practicability of carrying out the suggestions contained therein.
2. The reasons that have induced the Lady Superintendent to state, as set forth in her letter of the 4th instant, that under no circumstances would she or the Lady Nurses consent to remain if the services of the present House Steward and Gatekeeper are retained on the Establishment.
3. The existing system of nursing and dieting the sick, and the manner in which the latter is recorded.
4. The sufficiency of the appliances for effective nursing, preparation of food, supply of water (hot and cold), for ventilation, and the regulation of temperature.
5. Also to recommend for the consideration of Government such an architectural design as they may deem best calculated to remedy the known defects in the Hospital buildings and accommodation.

I have no doubt that many other points of importance will occur to the Members of the Commission as the enquiry progresses; and I in no way desire to limit them to the above-mentioned subjects, but earnestly to request that the investigation may be thorough and exhaustive,—the single desire of the Government being to secure that so valuable an Institution shall, in all respects, be conducted on the most approved principles, and become a credit to the Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

*The Hon. W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C., Albert Terrace.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 8th December, 1876.*

SIR,

THE members of the Nursing Staff of the General Hospital having notified their intention to resign their appointments at the end of the year unless material alterations are made in connection with the general management of the Institution, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint a Commission to enquire into the subject with the view of ascertaining what changes it may be desirable to effect, so as to render the Hospital more acceptable to the general public, and the system of management more in accordance with that which obtains in modern Hospitals in other countries.

I have, therefore, to request that you will afford the Members of the Commission all the assistance in your power in the conduct of the enquiry entrusted to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

*The Surgeon Superintendent, General Hospital, Hobart Town.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 8th December, 1876.*

SIR,

IN consequence of the conditional resignation of the Nursing Staff of the General Hospital, on the grounds that they feel unable to continue in the discharge of their duties unless the Government may see fit to make certain changes in the general management of the Institution, which they deem of great importance as connected with the proper discharge of their functions, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint a Commission to enquire into the subject, with the view of ascertaining what alterations it may be deemed desirable to effect so as to render the Institution more acceptable to the general public, and the system adopted more in accordance with that which obtains in public Hospitals of the present day.

I feel assured that you will kindly afford the Members of the Commission every information and assistance in your power to render the enquiry complete, and thus give additional practical value to their Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

*The Hon. HENRY BUTLER, M.H.A.,  
Honorary Medical Officer, General Hospital.*

[Similar to R. S. Bright, Esquire; T. C. Smart, Esquire; and H. A. Perkins, Esquire, *M.D.*]

*The Hospital, 26th August, 1876.*

SIR,

I BEG leave to remind you that my engagement as Lady Superintendent of the General Hospital of Hobart Town, and of the whole of the Nursing Staff of the Hospital, terminates 31st of December next; and that the engagement of four trained Nurses and one Probationer brought by me from Sydney terminates at the same time.

Two other trained Nurses were engaged by me to come from Sydney, last June, to join my Nursing Staff, with the sanction of Government, but for no specific term.

I feel it to be my duty to acquaint you that it is my wish to relinquish my charge at the end of my engagement; and I am requested by all the trained Nurses, as well as by the Probationer, to inform you that they do not wish to remain longer than 31st December next.

My reason for troubling you thus early is to prevent any inconvenience arising from a shorter notice.

I may be permitted to add (and I do so with great reluctance) that the Hospital arrangements, in relation both to Patients and Nurses, are confessedly in many respects inconsistent with good management, and have been the cause of much dissatisfaction in the discharge of Hospital duty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, *L.S.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

#### MISS ABBOTT'S SUGGESTIONS ON HOSPITAL.

A.

##### *REMARKS on the General Hospital Management.*

1. Printed Rules necessary to ensure regularity and discipline—much inconvenience at present for want of them.
2. Patients not to be admitted dirty or filthy, unless too ill to be cleaned. At present patients often not bathed; or if bathed not properly cleaned, and vermin consequently introduced into the wards either on the person or in the clothes. Hair of males when long and dirty ought to be cut; and clothes when taken from patients to be invariably washed or fumigated before being stowed away.
3. Bathing and cleaning to be under stricter regulations than at present, with plenty of hot and cold water to prevent the same water being used for more than one person.
4. Present hot and cold water arrangements very defective—hot water often not to be had—the copper fires often lighted only once a day, and supplies from the kitchen often the only resource, and not always to be got there. The first requisite in every Hospital is hot and cold water laid on in every set of wards for use day and night.
5. A uniform for both males and females indispensable for cleanliness. Approved of and ordered by the late Colonial Secretary, and pressed for by me several times since.
6. Bed-rests much wanted—only two at present in the establishment.
7. Diet and medicine tickets wanted at the head of each bed to prevent mistakes.
8. Three tables much wanted in the male wards for meals.
9. A medicine chest or movable cupboard under lock and key necessary in each ward in charge of the upper nurse, with basin and jug fitted.

10. Each floor to have a press for extra linen, &c.,—only one at present in female wards, more wanted.

11. Window blinds wanted for all the wards; delf spittoons wanted for all the wards; delf urinals wanted.

12. Upon the present plan of supplying medicines and extras of every kind away from the Hospital, a messenger wanted to go for these things and save the nurses from neglecting their proper duties to get them.

13. Extras, such as small luxuries for extreme cases, sometimes ordered by the Surgeons, and not to be obtained without difficulty and delay.

14. The mess-room of the male wards on the ground-floor flagged, cold to the feet of patients and difficult to keep clean. It should be boarded.

15. The lavatories and water-closets are a source of hourly inconvenience from being together—they should be separated.

16. Sinks are wanted on each floor, and no well-ordered Hospital is without them.

17. A water-closet is wanted in the Female Lock ward, another for the Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Erysipelas wards.

18. A bath-room and a water-closet also wanted for the male wards in the old Hospital.

19. Arrangements should be made for emptying the waste food boxes and dirt boxes every morning before 9 o'clock.

20. Regulations should be made for the admission of the friends of patients on fixed days and hours.

21. Provision should be made for the admission of drunken men and women without disturbing and inconveniencing a whole ward.

22. Provision should also be made for the quicker disposal of insane patients.

23. Provision should be made on the landing-place of the first floor to protect the night nurse from draught and cold, and in a convenient position to command her four wards.

24. Cases have occurred of improper language being addressed by the male patients to the nurses, and complaint has been made to the medical authority without receiving prompt attention. Good order and discipline require the immediate removal of the offender.

25. Dead bodies are removed to the dead-house before burial, and it is my duty to see to the shrouding of females. That duty is sometimes postponed till it becomes offensive, and the nurses object to perform it. Arrangements should be made for less delay.

*The Hospital, 3rd November, 1876.*

Sir,

HAVING seen by the *Tribune* of the 1st inst. that the estimates for the General Hospital having been considered and passed after some discussion in the House of Assembly, and as I feel convinced the sums set apart for nurses will not be such as would enable me to obtain the services of competent persons, I beg leave respectfully to request that not less than £50 per annum should be given to those occupying the position of head or superior nurses.

With regard to my own situation as Lady Superintendent, I must solicit the reconsideration of the salary at present granted, believing that, when the responsibilities of the duties entrusted to me have been fully considered, an annual payment of £200 will not be out of proportion to the services performed.

It was my intention, with the other nurses, to leave the Colony at the end of the current year; such intention having been intimated to the Government, the reasons for which have also been fully set forth: but as I have been informed extensive alterations are contemplated at the General Hospital, by which many of the deficiencies complained of will be remedied, and this at an early date, should the Government favourably entertain the suggestions here made I would be willing to remain, and perhaps some of the other nurses with me; but I deem it right to say that no amount of emolument would induce either myself or those nurses who have given notice of their intention to leave, to remain an hour longer than their term of agreement should matters remain as heretofore.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*The Hospital, 6th November, 1876.*

SIR,

In view of the contemplated alterations and improvements at the General Hospital, may I venture to make a suggestion?

As these improvements involve a considerable outlay, and when carried through would (from the standpoint of the best and latest writers on the subject of Hospital construction) still leave the building deficient and unsatisfactory, might it not, then, be a better and wiser step, instead of reconstructing and patching up a radically faulty old building, to erect a new edifice upon a suitable site, such as the elevated land adjoining the Cricket Ground, or that in the vicinity of the High School.

These sites are eminently adapted for the purpose, with great facilities for drainage (always one most fundamental consideration), high and breezy, away from the (always more or less) vitiated atmosphere of the town, and a beautiful and cheerful view for the poor invalid dwellers.

In every respect it seems to me as favourable as the present locality is the reverse. Lying at the very entrance to the town (which is undesirable), too near the thickly inhabited parts, and with an immense foul sewer in close proximity to its walls,—are these a combination of circumstances favourable to the restoration of health?—an end depending so much on such unseen but potent influences as pure air, &c.

Trusting that this suggestion may receive favourable consideration,

I have, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 2nd December, 1876.*

MADAM,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd ultimo, with reference to the remuneration of the head or superior nurses, and also the insufficiency of your own salary.

The Government have had your letter under consideration, and I am now in a position to inform you that they are prepared to recommend to the Governor in Council that on and after the 1st January next your salary should be increased from Eighty pounds to One hundred and fifty pounds per annum, and that the head or superior nurses should from the same date receive at the rate of Fifty pounds per annum.

As, however, frequent changes in the nursing staff of a hospital cannot but act injuriously to the best interests of such an institution, the Government deem it right to make it a condition that there should be a properly prepared agreement entered into in each case for twelve months from the first of next year.

I trust that this decision of the Government may meet your views and those of the head nurses whose services you may desire to retain.

With regard to other matters alluded to in your letter, and more particularly referred to in your memorandum upon the General Hospital management, I hope to see you shortly and arrange for the adoption of such changes as may help to carry out the improvements you desire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

*Miss FLORENCE ABBOTT, Lady Superintendent, General Hospital.*

*The Hospital, 4th December, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, stating that the Government have had my letter of the 3rd of November under consideration, and that you are now in a position to recommend that my salary should be increased, from the 1st of January next, from £80 to £150, and that the Head Nurses should receive £50 per annum, with the understanding that the agreement in each case should be for twelve months from the 1st of January next; and you are pleased to say that you trust that this decision may meet my views and those of the Head Nurses whose services I may desire to retain.

You add that, with regard to other matters alluded to in my letter, and more particularly referred to in my memorandum upon the General Hospital management, you hope to see me shortly, and arrange for the adoption of such changes as may help to carry out the improvements I desire.

I may be permitted to express my regret that so much time has elapsed since I tendered my resignation and the resignation of eight nurses, August 26th, before Government arrived at their present decision, as I am afraid the delay may be attended with inconvenience.

I have taken into consideration the offer you have made me of £150, and the expectation you have held out of carrying out the improvements I have suggested; and I have come to the conclusion that I cannot accept these terms. I can consent to nothing less than £200, with an understanding that the improvements you refer to are to be carried out with as little delay as possible; but, important as I conceive those improvements to be, there are other changes I feel bound to press on your consideration. It is my duty to say that under no circumstances, and quite independent of salary, could I consent to remain with Mr. Seager as House Steward and Ware as Gatekeeper. I should be sorry to be thought presuming in pressing these changes on your consideration; but I cannot consent to undertake heavy and responsible duties without a conviction of being able to discharge them in a satisfactory manner; and I will not conceal from you that I feel it to be my duty to decline renewing my engagement under the disadvantage of working again with the two officers I have named.

I am not anxious to renew my engagement. Several of the Head Nurses will leave at the end of their respective engagements whether I stay or not; and I am authorised to say not one will remain if those officers remain; and I am to add, that if I leave, the eight nurses who came to me from Sydney will leave also.

If what I have ventured to propose in justice to myself and the Head Nurses, and which will be for the good working of the Establishment, cannot be entertained, I beg leave to say that I am willing to stop one month beyond the end of my engagement if any inconvenience should be anticipated from an earlier departure.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*The Hospital, 5th December, 1876.*

SIR,

HAVING heard that a Commission is to be appointed to enquire into the management of the General Hospital, I desire to withdraw that portion of my letter of the 4th instant which refers to the non-acceptance of the salary offered me in your letter of the 2nd instant, until the Commissioners have had time to report upon the subject of my complaints.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*General Hospital, 8th December, 1876.*

SIR,

I BEG to forward herewith all the correspondence which I have received from Miss Abbott relative to the use of abusive language by patients in the wards.

Yours, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE TURNLEY.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

(Copy.)

*The Hospital, 10th July, 1876.*

SIR,

HAVING been informed by Miss Simpson and Nurse Mary that Dr. Macfarlane complained to you last Saturday of the language addressed to him in their presence by George Taylor, a patient in No. 3 Ward, and that you immediately attended and reprovved him, I am anxious to know whether you intend to pass over such language without further notice. He remains still in that ward, and the nurses I have named and a third (Nurse Larkins) are liable at any moment to a repetition of the insult. You cannot, I think, be aware that Miss Holden, on the 17th of last month, appealed to me to remove her from that ward as George Taylor had addressed similar language to her the day before; and I felt it my duty to remove her, at the same time hoping that the removal would prevent a repetition of the offence. Probably I ought at once to have reported the case to you myself; but Dr. Bright requested Dr. Macfarlane to report it to you, which I at the time considered sufficient. Had that been done I feel sure there would have been no occasion to write to you now; but, instead of reprovving the man, you would have instantly ordered his removal to the Lock Ward, or arranged some other way for his being attended by the male

nurse. I am told by Miss Holden that he charged her with being an improper character, and Miss Simpson and Nurse Mary tell me that he made a similar charge against them; and, in their presence, Dr. Macfarlane coming into the ward at that moment, charged him also with improper relation to them; on which he immediately complained to you. I repeat that I feel convinced that you would not have passed over the second offence with a reproof only, if you had known of the first,—though I must be permitted to express my opinion that the second, without the first, was grave enough to require his immediate removal from the ward, if only as an example to other patients; but the second, so soon following the first, and in the presence of Dr. Macfarlane, and in the hearing of the whole ward, you cannot wonder that I, and all the nurses, feel that the good order, not to say decency, of the Hospital would be seriously compromised if such conduct was to be passed over with a mere reprimand. I trust, therefore, that you will reconsider the matter, and forthwith release the nurses under my charge from the duty of attending upon him.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

Dr. TURNLEY.

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*The Hospital, 29th August, 1876.*

SIR,

I BEG to bring under your notice the conduct of John Mitchell, a Patient in No. 4 Ward, under the care of Dr. Bright. Last Sunday at P.M. he addressed most offensive language to Nurse Larkins, in the presence of other Patients, without any provocation. She immediately reported it to Miss Simpson, who represented it to you next morning; and you, I believe, said that he should be discharged, and directed Miss Simpson to submit his conduct to Dr. Bright: she did so. Dr. Bright merely reprovved him, and said "he should be sent away if he repeated the offence." As this has occurred so soon after Taylor's misconduct of a similar character, I cannot pass it over, but must request that you will, at your earliest convenience, direct his removal from the ward.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

Dr. TURNLEY.

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*The Hospital, 10th October, 1876.*

SIR,

I AM writing to you about the Patient Patrick Riley. His conduct has never ceased to be, ever since first complained of, exceedingly bad; and I can put up with it no longer. I appeal to you to help me by having him turned out,—otherwise I shall be driven to lay the matter before the Colonial Secretary. I would not bear such behaviour from any one; and feel that I have done exceedingly wrong to put up with it so long: the example for other patients being so bad,—such conduct, if allowed, necessarily undermining all discipline. This boy has been persistently and systematically rude and indecent to and before every Nurse who has been in the ward; and I would neither bear such conduct myself nor allow any Nurse to do so. It is disgraceful that he has been allowed so long to pursue this system of aggravation and annoyance unnoticed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

Dr. TURNLEY.

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## EVIDENCE.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1876.

MISS ABBOTT *examined.*

*By the Chairman.*—1. Your name is Florence Abbott, and you act in the capacity of Lady Superintendent of Her Majesty's General Hospital, and were brought from Sydney at the request of the Government? Yes.

2. You have been accustomed to nursing and Hospital arrangements in general? Yes.

3. On the 26th August last you addressed a letter to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, and also forwarded a detailed statement in which were pointed out certain defects as existing at the General Hospital? I did.

4. In that letter you notified that it was your intention, as well as that of other nurses, to leave the Hospital on the 31st December; and added, "that the Hospital arrangements in relation both to patients and nurses are confessedly in many respects inconsistent with good management, and have been the cause of much dissatisfaction in the discharge of Hospital duty." Do you still believe that to be the case? Yes, I still believe so.

5. The document marked A, "Remarks on the General Hospital Management," paragraphs 1 to 25, is the one to which reference has been made: are the statements therein detailed correct? I believe them to be correct.

6. Do the defects pointed out still continue? Yes, with the exception of the ward tables, and presses for linen.

7. On the 4th December instant you again addressed the Colonial Secretary, and in paragraph 4 I note the following: "It is my duty to say that, under no circumstances, and quite independent of salary, could I consent to remain with Mr. Seager as House Steward, and Ware as Gatekeeper, and decline renewing my engagement under the disadvantage of working again with the two officers I have named;" and further, "several of the head nurses will leave at the end of their engagement, whether I stay or not; and I am authorised to say not one will remain if these officers remain, and I now add that if I leave the eight nurses who came with me from Sydney will leave also." Is that the case? It is, with possibly one exception.

8. From these letters I infer that the House Steward has not co-operated with yourself and head nurses in attempted improvements. Is such the case? He has not co-operated with us. He has been constantly making derogatory remarks, and abusing the new system.

9. In what particulars have you had reason to complain or suppose that he was not co-operating with you? He has told the men about the place not to obey me; I have heard this from the men themselves. We have the greatest difficulty in getting the smallest thing for the patients, even to the filling the mattresses, which he has often refused, and when the nurses have taken them down to be filled he has used abusive language, and that before the patients. Since then they have been filled with Dr. Turnley's sanction irrespective of the House Steward.

10. Do you suppose that your authority has been weakened by the line of action adopted by the House Steward? I am quite certain of it.

11. Can you state, for the information of the Commissioners, any circumstances that have transpired that would tend to verify the conclusions you have arrived at? If so, relate them as nearly as possible in the order of their occurrence? Independently of what I have already stated, we have been subjected to constant petty annoyances.

12. I perceive in paragraph 24 of your remarks, you complain of the use of bad language in the wards, and that you reported the same to the medical authority without receiving immediate attention; will you give as nearly as your memory will enable you some information upon this point? To the first letter about George Taylor I received no answer, either verbal or written. To the second letter I waited for some time, I think two days, without receiving any reply. I then saw Dr. Turnley himself; he said he would see Dr. Bright on the subject—the result was that no action was taken in the matter. As regards Riley, after repeated complaints from the nurses, he was operated upon the day following my letter, and discharged.

13. In relation to the patients, what is the manner and bearing of the House Steward? Anything but judicious.

14. Can you give any special instances that have occurred lately that might be classed as unkindness or harshness in act or language on the part of the House Steward with regard to any of the patients under your charge? Some little time ago, in Dr. Butler's ward the House Steward omitted to supply certain medical extras ordered by Dr. Butler to two patients then in a dying state from consumption. The same neglect occurred in the case of a female confined in the lock ward, and although the extras were supplied to her it was only after much grumbling. Scarcely a week passes that we have not to ask Dr. Turnley for a repetition of orders previously given by the Honorary Surgeons.

15. You say that the boy Riley, of whom you complained, was an annoyance and source of irritation to all the nurses? To every nurse who was in the ward.

16. In your letter of the 4th December instant you complain of the gatekeeper Ware? That is the case, and I am of the same opinion still.

17. Where does Ware live, and what are the habits of his family? He lives in the yard attached to our house. The habits of the family are not at all good.

18. In what particular do you complain of annoyance? Constant use of bad language. They try to entice the nurses into the house, which, as the family well know, is contrary to my orders.

19. Do you believe Ware to be fitted for the position he occupies? No, I do not.

20. Has anything occurred to make you arrive at this conclusion? When I first arrived he told one of the probationers, who was out on pass, that she need not exhibit her pass; on her saying this was wrong, Ware remarked, "Miss Abbott would never know it." Since then he has acted unfairly towards the nurses favouring some, in consequence of which the passes are not exhibited to him but brought to me.

21. Has the Surgeon-Superintendent co-operated with you? He has been kind and gentlemanly to all of us, but I cannot say that he has been eager to help us in our work.

22. You have written to the Surgeon-Superintendent frequently upon various matters in connection with the Hospital? I have done so.

23. Have you kept a copy of that correspondence? I have, and will produce it. (Appendix A.)

24. Has the Dispenser, Mr. Seals, rendered you assistance in carrying out your duties? He has as far as lay in his power.

25. Has the House Surgeon co-operated with you in carrying out attempted improvements? I do not believe he has co-operated with us. He is not at all particular in the language he uses.

26. Do you consider the interests of the patients studied, and well-being of the General Hospital carried out, as matters are at present constituted? No, decidedly not.

27. Do you consider the accommodation sufficient to meet the cases constantly demanding treatment? I do not.

28. In what particular is it not so? I know that we are constantly crowded in the women's wards, as there are only two female wards. The diphtheria and scarlet fever wards are insufficient; at present boys and girls up to 14 or 15 years of age are in the same ward, with merely a screen between them.

29. In the absence of the Honorary Medical Officers are the patients systematically attended to upon their admission? I mean are they dieted, the cases regularly diagnosed, prescribed for, and record made? I do not think so. I know the diets, very often, are not entered until next day. All the cases I have knowledge of have not been either treated or prescribed for at the time. I have known a case of a broken arm that had to wait until the next day to be set.

30. What record have you for reference both as to disease, diet, and extras? We have none. It has been of the greatest inconvenience to the nurses, and caused dissatisfaction to the patients.

31. Does the Surgeon-Superintendent or House Surgeon keep any case book? Not to my knowledge.

32. In the absence of the Honorary Medical Officers does the House Surgeon or Surgeon-Superintendent prescribe for and diet the patients? The Surgeon-Superintendent prescribes for and diets the patients.

33. Have patients left the Hospital in consequence of the delay that has taken place before attending to their cases? I remember a boy named Oates who was in the Hospital for a week or ten days, the doctor promised to operate upon his toe on a certain day, and did not, in consequence the boy left the Hospital.

34. From the experience you have had, do you consider Her Majesty's General Hospital, as at present constituted, such as it ought to be, or equal to the wants of the community? Decidedly not.

35. Have you seen and read the Report of a Select Committee of the Legislative Council (Paper 66, date September, 1874), and the evidence appended thereunto. I have read them.

36. Is the condition of the General Hospital, at the present time, such as is detailed in that Report? With the exception of the female nurses, House Surgeon resident, re-appointment of Dispenser, and male lock-ward in the old building, matters are precisely the same as recorded in that report, as far as I remember.

37. Do you believe the recommendations contained in that Report absolutely necessary? I do; the paper marked A. shows this clearly.

38. Do you consider any medical supervision beyond that of the Honorary Medical Officers necessary? Certainly not, with an efficient House Surgeon.

39. Have you seen any architectural plans for the improvement of the Hospital? I have.

40. Do you think if the plan were adopted, either in whole or part, it would remedy existing defects? If half the building were erected it would supply immediate wants.

41. Paragraph 13 of your remarks speaks of difficulty and delay in obtaining medical extras? Is not a messenger kept for the special purpose of waiting upon the wards? A special messenger is kept, but he is exceedingly idle; he does not do our work.

42. What time daily does the Surgeon-Superintendent spend in the Hospital wards? He merely walks through the wards, unless his attention is specially drawn to any case by the nurse.

43. I have asked you have patients left the Hospital in consequence of the delay that has taken place before attending to their cases. I wish to know how long a time has elapsed in some extreme cases before they have been seen by the House Surgeon or an Honorary Medical Officer? I have known two or three hours to elapse. A young man named Bradford came in on Sunday morning a little after 11 o'clock, and



no medical man saw him until one o'clock, and then only in the ordinary round. He died the same day at three o'clock. I have known similar cases, but none so urgent.

44. Are the nurses supplied with food by the Government? Yes, with rations.

45. Will you give the details of that supply as to quality, quantity, and daily variety? We have not a great variety, and not always very good; butter, at times, uneatable. We get roast beef, not nice joints, two or three times a week. We have had one ox-tail, three joints of lamb, corn beef very seldom, and did not get it on one occasion for four or five months. Potatoes very bad, almost uneatable; cabbages supplied sometimes very bad, quite old, and at times only once a week.

46. Are you conversant with the quantity composing a personal ration of each; if so, do you use the same? I am acquainted with it, but we do not nearly use the quantity of bread allowed; the allowance is eleven loaves, but sometimes we only use about half that quantity.

47. Do any persons unconnected with the Hospital live within the grounds of the establishment? If so, give the number and names, also their occupation. Mr. Seager's son; Dr. Turnley's coachman; a man called "old Sam," who is, I believe, Mr. Seager's servant; and two or three other old men, I do not know their names or duties.

48. Are these, or any of them, provided with food at the General Hospital daily? I know they are not allowed rations.

49. Have you experienced any inconvenience, as far as strangers are concerned, in connection with your nurses? if so, state in what way? I have experienced inconvenience from Mr. Seager's son, and that arose from intimacy with one of my nurses; and from Ware's family, as referred to in Question 18.

50. Am I right in supposing that since your arrival at the Hospital the House Steward has not assisted you in carrying out your plans? I think he has not.

51. How long do the nurses continue in the same ward? The head nurses remain for six or twelve months in the same ward; the under ones have to be changed more frequently.

52. Do you consider the present uniform worn by the patients suitable for convalescents in a hospital? Certainly not.

53. Would it not be more convenient for a single man to live as gatekeeper at the Lodge than in the nurses' premises on the other side of the road? I think it would.

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## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1876.

### MISS HOLDEN *examined.*

*By the Chairman.*—54. Your name is Frances Holden, and you are one of the head nurses at the General Hospital, and were brought from Sydney by the Government? Yes.

55. How long have you been at the Hospital? Eleven months.

56. Have you seen a document marked A, forwarded by the Lady Superintendent to the Colonial Secretary drawing his attention to the defects that exist in the General Hospital and containing various suggestions? I have seen it.

57. Do you think the contents of that document fairly represent the wants and defects of that establishment? I think they do.

58. Do you consider the ward accommodation sufficient to meet all exigencies? No, decidedly not.

59. Has not the female department been overcrowded on many occasions necessitating the use of the old building? Yes, it has been overcrowded at different times.

60. Do you think the General Hospital as at present constituted can be considered other than most defective, that is, judging from what you have seen elsewhere? I believe it to be very defective in its present state.

61. The Hospital Staff consists of the Surgeon Superintendent, House Surgeon, and four Honorary Medical Officers; is this the case? Yes, it is.

62. Do you consider that beyond the Honorary Medical Officers and House Surgeon any medical supervision necessary? Not with an efficient House Surgeon.

63. Is the food of good quality? Some parts of the food have not been of good quality; the butter has been very bad, quite uneatable; potatoes very bad; although the meat is generally good, the manner in which it is sometimes cooked renders it defective.

64. Are registers kept in each ward of the cases, in which are entered the diet, medicine prescribed, and extras ordered? No, not in the wards. There is no systematic record kept except in wards Nos. 3 and 4, in almost all the others there is no such record.

65. How are the diets and extras ordered? Upon slips of paper.

66. Have you upon the table in each ward a diet sheet, containing the names of the patients, the extras and diet each one is receiving? We have none.

67. Is there any means either at your disposal, that of the Surgeon Superintendent, House Surgeon, or Honorary Medical Officers, by which the diets, consumption and issue of extras can be checked? Not that I know of, except in the case of two of the Honorary Medical Officers.

68. Would not the moveable sheet system, as in use at Guy's Hospital, or the "Diet Ticket" as in Melbourne, prove beneficial? Yes, we wish very much for it.

69. Has the House Surgeon co-operated with you in your attempted improvements? I do not consider he has cordially co-operated with us. Nurse Brackley was discharged by Miss Abbott for very unprincipled conduct, and on the very day she left the hospital the House Surgeon procured her a situation at the New Norfolk Asylum.

70. Does the Surgeon Superintendent or House Surgeon keep any case or diet book? Not that I know of.

71. In the absence of the Honorary Medical Officers do you, upon the admission of a patient to hospital, receive a systematic record? I mean are they dieted, the cases regularly diagnosed, and prescribed for? No, I receive no such record, and often from twelve to twenty-four hours elapse before the diets are made known to me. At this moment (3.30 p.m.) I have two patients who came in last night who have not yet been dieted.

72. What record have you for reference both as to disease, diets, and extras? None at all.

73. Do you consider the interests of the patients and well-being of the General Hospital carried out as matters are at present constituted? No, I do not.

74. Do you consider the bath accommodation sufficient to meet the cases constantly demanding treatment? Very insufficient indeed. Three or four have frequently been bathed in the same water. For a long time past, only one bath has been in working order for all the male wards.

75. Do you consider the hospital conveniences such as they should be? Decidedly not.

76. Have you any means at your disposal beyond the three cells to separate those suffering from insanity or *delirium tremens* from the other patients? Not any.

77. Have the nurses any ward conveniences? They have not.

78. You are aware that Miss Abbott on the 4th December instant addressed a letter to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary in which is stated, that "herself and other nurses would not remain with Mr. Seager as House Steward, and Ware as Gatekeeper." Do you endorse that opinion? I do.

79. Will you briefly state the reasons? He speaks in a very harsh manner of the patients; on some occasions I have heard him myself. He has always openly ridiculed improvements. I have found the greatest difficulty in getting extras ordered by the Honorary Medical Officers from the House Steward.

80. Then I am to infer that the House Steward has not co-operated with the Lady Superintendent and other nurses in attempted improvements? He has not.

81. Do you suppose that the authority of the Lady Superintendent and that of the head nurses has been weakened by the line of action adopted by the House Steward? I know it to be the case.

82. Can you give any instances of harshness or unkindness on his part? On one occasion a patient was ordered some bacon, when four raw slices were sent to the patient himself. He generally gives the extras so grudgingly as to make the patients indisposed to apply for them. I have even been asked by patients not to send for the extras ordered on account of the grudging manner and the disagreeable remarks made by the House Steward.

83. Have you the services of a Messenger to bring to the wards food, medicine, &c.; if so, how is the service performed, and by whom? Only to bring medicines; they are brought by James Ware, son of the Gatekeeper, who is about 17 years of age, and performs the service carelessly. Contrary to orders he has often come into the ward, and has been troublesome there.

84. Then it is in consequence of the defects and inconveniences that exist at the Hospital, as well as the annoyances to which you have been subjected by the House Steward, that makes you desirous to leave? Yes, it is so.

85. Have you at any time known bad language to be used by the patients, or had such applied to yourself? Yes, on two or three occasions; especially by a patient named Taylor, and by a boy named Patrick Riley,—whose conduct generally was impertinent and insolent.

86. Was notice at once taken of your complaint, and was the boy discharged? No.

87. You are aware that extensive improvements at the General Hospital have been contemplated for some time past—more ward accommodation being required? I am aware of it.

88. Have you seen any plans of the proposed buildings, particularly those prepared by Mr. Rowntree? (Plans exhibited.) Yes; I have seen them.

89. Do you think the erection of one-half would meet all present requirements, such half being complete in itself, and giving eight wards, with four closets, two lavatories, and two bath-rooms? I believe the plan is a very good one, and will amply meet the present wants of the Hospital.

90. Has the House Surgeon on any occasion used improper language to either yourself or to a patient in your hearing? To a female patient, yes.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1876.

DR. TURNLEY examined.

91. *By the Chairman.*—Your name is George W. Turnley, and you are Surgeon Superintendent of Her Majesty's General Hospital, also Medical Officer for Male and Female Gaols, Houses of Correction, Reformatory for Boys, Male and Female Invalids, and Immigration Dépôt, and the Queen's Asylum; also, Health Officer for the Port of Hobart Town, and Medical Attendant to Paupers at their own homes? Salary £350 per annum, £50 in lieu of travelling expenses, £50 house rent? Yes.

92. As your duties appear to be both varied, wide-spread, and necessarily very onerous, will you state in detail those appertaining to the office of Surgeon Superintendent of the General Hospital, and the order in which they are performed? As Surgeon Superintendent of the Hospital I attend at the Hospital between 9 and 10 o'clock every morning, go round the whole of the wards, ascertain the state of every patient who is in the wards; and I then see the whole of the out-patients. I then leave the Hospital for the purpose of attending the out-patients at their own homes, of whom I see from 10 to 30 a day. From June, 1875, to June, 1876, I made nearly 5000 visits to out-patients at their own homes. I usually call every afternoon at the Hospital.

93. *By Dr. Crowther.*—How long do the Hospital duties, as recorded, take you? As a rule, from a little after 9 to 11 o'clock. A visit to the Gaol, Campbell-street, is included in this period.

94. How long does it take for you to see the out-patients at their own homes? From 1 to 4 hours according to the number.

95. Do you see these out-patients daily? I do, some of them.

96. What time do you devote to visiting the other Institutions of which you have medical supervision? It varies very much. At the Gaol, Campbell-street, there are very few patients: on an average from 10 minutes to a quarter of an hour—very frequently not 5 minutes. The Brickfields takes a very short time, as all the bad cases have been removed to the Cascades: say from 20 minutes to half an hour. Queen's Asylum, generally very little sickness, about a quarter of an hour. Female Invalids, about 20 minutes. Cascades, Invalids, I see every man who is sick—about 50 or 60 there; takes about half an hour. Gaol, Cascades, generally about 5 minutes. Health Officer—The Port Officer reports to me any sickness on board the steamers or any other vessels, in which case I attend.

97. Has it not always been customary for the House or Resident Surgeon to attend to the out-patients at this Establishment prior to 1871? Yes.

98. How is it that Dr. Macfarlane does not perform this duty now? Dr. Macfarlane is not entirely relieved from seeing out-patients, he is with me during the whole time I am engaged in seeing them, and if out-patients do not come at the proper hour, (from 10 to 11 o'clock,) but later, Dr. Macfarlane sees them, but in the main I prescribe for the out-patients, and Dr. Macfarlane enters them.

99. How do you reconcile the evidence you have just given with the answer to Question 277, by Dr. Macfarlane, before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, on the 28th August, 1874, viz., "From 10 to 11, I see out-patients, and prescribe for them?" Because in 1874 Dr. Macfarlane did see the out-patients and prescribe for them.

*By the Chairman.*—100. When did Dr. Macfarlane cease to prescribe for the out-patients? In the beginning of 1876.

101. In the absence of the Honorary Medical Officers the responsibility rests with you in the matter of dieting, diagnosing the disease, and prescribing for the patient. Is such the case? Not altogether. I am not here all day long, and in my absence Dr. Macfarlane, as Resident Surgeon, admits and attends to the patients.

102. The Commissioners have been informed that this duty has devolved upon you for considerable periods at a time; can you show them how these cases are, and have been kept, and the diets, medicines, and extras recorded? They never have been kept by me since I came from Launceston in 1870, because there has been no occasion for it.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—103. Can you state positively that you have not for a week at a time had the care and treatment of special cases in the absence of the Honorary Medical Officers? I cannot remember any specific case.

104. Is it not a fact that Honorary Medical Officers have been absent from the Hospital for more than a week at a time? I would rather refer you to the register of attendance of the Honorary Medical Officers, as I cannot positively answer the question.

105. Will you state positively that you have not attended patients for more than a week at a time in the absence of Honorary Medical Officers since 1871? I will not say positively that I have not. I cannot tax my memory as to the length of time.

*By Mr. Travers.*—106. What happens if neither yourself nor any of the Honorary Medical Officers are present when patients are admitted? They are treated by the Resident Medical Officer if necessary.

107. If it were a serious case, what would be done? Dr. Macfarlane, if he felt himself unable to deal with it, would send for me or for one of the Honorary Medical Officers.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—108. Ought not the House or Resident Surgeon to be competent to undertake such cases? No, I don't think it absolutely necessary.

109. In a case of wound or injury attended by hæmorrhage of an alarming character, ought not the case to be promptly dealt with by the House or Resident Surgeon? Yes, of course he ought to be competent, and Dr. Macfarlane is so.

110. Have you known any instances of Dr. Macfarlane accepting any important responsibility in difficult surgical cases, such as fractures, compound and simple, and dislocations? Yes, I have known him put up many fractures, and reduce dislocations.

111. What numerical proportion do the cases treated by Dr. Macfarlane bear to all brought to the Hospital in the absence of the Honorary Medical Officers? I cannot tell. Some cases are placed in position and then left for the Medical Officer to put up permanently.

112. Have you adopted any plan or system to enable you to check the daily distribution of food and extras, and consumption of the same; if so, place it before the Commissioners? This appertains to the House Steward's department; I am responsible for them, but I have to depend upon Mr. Seager's integrity.

*By Mr. Manley.*—113. Do you inspect the sheet to ascertain whether any items are extravagant? I do not the ordinary sheet, that is left to the Auditor. With regard to extras I depend upon Mr. Seager, but I don't consider it my duty to go through the accounts to ascertain their correctness.

*By the Chairman.*—114. During the time you have held the office of Surgeon Superintendent at the General Hospital what has been the average number of ward patients daily under treatment? From 80 to 90; the annual reports will show.

115. What is the amount of meat issued daily? I do not know.

116. How do you estimate the quantity required? By the diets.

117. Do you know the number of persons other than patients that are fed at the Hospital daily: if so name them, distinguishing helpers from nurses? 21 nurses, 3 or 4 male helpers, a tailor, a barber, a cook, assistant cook, 3 wardsmen, 1 invalid who looks after my horse and carriage.

118. Are all the persons just referred to entitled to rations? Yes.

*By Mr. Manley.*—119. Are the man's services restricted to the Hospital; or does he groom the horse at your own house? He grooms the horse at my own house; I give him something.

*By the Chairman.*—120. In letter appointing you, dated the 27th April, 1874, no mention is made of the service of any groom. Have you any authority for employing an invalid? Yes, the verbal authority of the late Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. D. Chapman.

121. Can you explain how he came to receive rations at the Hospital? I sent him to the Hospital as being nearer and more convenient than the Cascades.

122. What is your opinion as to the manner in which the nursing has been performed since the appointment of the Lady Superintendent, and the arrival of the other nurses from Sydney? The wards have been kept very clean, and the patients well attended to. In fact I think it a great blessing to have nurses upon whom you can depend. The present system bears a very favorable comparison with that which preceded it.

123. Do you think the comfort of the patients has been materially increased since the introduction of female nurses? The introduction of female nurses has tended to their further comfort.

124. Are you aware that the Lady Superintendent and nurses have intimated their intention to leave the Hospital, having stated in writing certain reasons? I have heard so.

125. Has any correspondence taken place between yourself and the Lady Superintendent upon various matters in connection with the management and wants of the General Hospital? The Lady Superintendent has written me notes connected with the Hospital at various times.

126. The Commissioners having requested Miss Abbott to lay upon the table all the correspondence that had taken place between you, it appears that not less than 19 letters were written, and to which no replies in writing were received by her. There were three in March, two in April, three in June, two in July, two in August, three in September, one in October, and three in December, all in the present year. Will you explain your reasons for not having replied? I replied to the whole of them verbally.

127. As Surgeon Superintendent do you not think an official reply ought to have been returned by you to every letter, more particularly as nearly all had reference to the management of the Hospital and well-being of the patients? No, I don't think so.

128. Do you consider it a business-like proceeding not to keep a record of all correspondence relating to the management of a public institution? Yes, of importance.

129. The medical and surgical staff consists, at the present time, of four Honorary Medical Officers, a House Surgeon, and Surgeon Superintendent. Is that the case? Yes.

130. Do you consider any medical supervision other than that of the Honorary Medical Officers and House Surgeon necessary? No, if the Honorary Medical Officers attend to their duties and the House Surgeon is a properly qualified person; but it requires a man of greater weight and greater experience than a young House Surgeon to take the general supervision of the establishment.

131. *By Dr. Crowther.*—With four qualified Honorary Medical Officers and a Resident Surgeon, is extra medical supervision necessary? Not with regard to the treatment of the patients.

132. Under the Board management, as originally established, was there any supervision exercised other than that of the Board in conjunction with the Resident Surgeon? No; the Board then was in the place of the Surgeon Superintendent, and was a very indifferent substitute.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1876.

DR. TURNLEY'S examination continued.

*By the Chairman.*—133. You are aware that certain changes were made in the General Hospital, and revised Rules (approved February 4, 1871,) were adopted? Yes.

134. By Rule 10, it is ordered that "The Honorary Medical Officers shall consist of three qualified Surgeons or Physicians appointed by the Board"—is that the case? Yes, that is the case.

135. Will you inform the Commissioners when the Board met and appointed the fourth Honorary Medical Officer, giving the date of such meeting, and record of the appointment? The fourth Honorary Medical Officer was appointed by the Government after the Board had ceased to exist.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—136. Were the rules referred to ever rescinded? Not that I am aware of.

*By the Chairman.*—137. In the month of August, 1874, you were examined before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, as also were the Honorary Medical Officers and House Surgeon? Yes, I was.

138. Are you cognizant of, and conversant with, the recommendations embodied in the report of that Committee, dated September 4th, 1874? I am.

139. With the exception of the Female Nurses, the appointment of the Dispenser, and the residence of the House Surgeon on the premises, has any other recommendation been carried out? No, I think not.

140. Would not the Hospital, in every particular, be materially improved if effect were given to the recommendations, and are they not as necessary now as they were known to be at the time evidence was taken upon the subject two years ago? Some of the recommendations would be extremely useful, but they do not go far enough; for instance, the most important recommendation is that separate wards should be erected for the isolation of contagious cases; in that recommendation only two wards are to be set apart, whereas for that purpose we should require at least eight wards, and taking the lock wards into consideration we should want about ten wards—one for Diphtheria, one for Scarlet Fever, one for Erysipelas, and one for Typhoid and other infectious fevers. Those must be doubled for the separation of the sexes.

141. Are you not at the present moment compelled to use a large portion of the old building for infectious and foul cases? Yes.

142. Have you not, for some time past, been aware of the fact that for the Female Lock Ward in the old building there has been only one small and most defective closet for the accommodation of both diseased women and nurses? There is only one closet, and I am not aware whether it is used by the nurses or not.

143. And that for the other inmates—Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever—of the old building, Male Lock Ward patients and others, there is no external closet of any kind attached to the premises? The Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever patients use night-stools and bed-pans; there is no external closet set apart for them. Until recently it was the rule not to admit patients of these classes, the present arrangement, therefore, can only be considered as a makeshift.

144. Do you know whether any alteration has taken place with regard to closet accommodation within the present month? Not to my knowledge.

145. Ought such a condition of things to be allowed to exist in any well-regulated Hospital? Not as a permanency.

146. Have you any convenience for the reception of lying-in patients, or does any means in connection with the Hospital exist to render certain attendance upon such cases at their own homes? No, decidedly not.

147. You are aware that extensive improvements at the General Hospital have been contemplated for some time past, more ward accommodation being required? I am.

148. Have you seen any plans of the proposed buildings, particularly those proposed by Mr. Rowntree? I have seen them.

149. Do you think the erection of one-half would meet all present requirements, such half being complete in itself, and giving eight wards, with four closets, two lavatories, and two bath-rooms? I have answered that question, under Question No. 140, as to the number of wards required.

150. In detailing the duties performed by you, you state that from 10 to 30 patients were seen daily at their own homes; have you a visiting list with their names and residences? Yes; the gatekeeper receives the recommendations brought by the patients, and he informs me of the cases I have to see.

151. As you write prescriptions for these cases, will you inform the Commissioners in what manner they are entered at the Dispensary? They are entered by the Dispenser in the Out-patient Book.

152. Have you any book that will enable you to refer to the case of the patient, or the medicine he may be taking? No.

153. Does the Relieving Officer, Mr. Catley, or in his absence Mr. Judge, make known to you the cases requiring attendance at their own homes? Very seldom. I have no instructions with regard to boarding-out children; I attend when sent for.

154. If Honorary Medical Officers absent themselves, can you officially, at the present time, enquire into the cause of their absence? No.

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DR. MACFARLANE *examined.*

155. Your name is William Holdsworth Macfarlane, and you are the House Surgeon at Her Majesty's General Hospital, and have been so since May, 1874? Yes.

156. In the month of August, 1874, you were examined before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, as also were the Surgeon Superintendent and Honorary Medical Officers? Yes.

157. Do you see any reason to alter the conclusions you arrived at upon your former examination before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council in August, 1874, or desire to record any modification of the opinions then expressed as follows?

296. Are you conversant as regards ward accommodation at the General Hospital? Yes.

297. Is it your opinion that private apartments are needed for males and females? Yes, there should be private apartments for males and females.

298. Do you think the restoration of the building to its former purpose, as a receptacle for males only, would be beneficial, provision being made for the females by a new building at the rear of the General Hospital? Yes, I think it would be beneficial.

299. There is no fever-ward in the building? We have no fever-ward in the new building, and there is no male *venerical* ward.

300. What extra accommodation is required at the present time in the shape of private apartments for the reception of patients? I think two wards for females and three or four for males, for *delirium tremens* and those under observation for insanity, are very much wanted.

301. Do you not think that the Hospital, as at present constituted, is defective in not having a private apartment for each nurse attached to the wards? I do; in Melbourne they have them, independently of which they have nurses' quarters as well.

302. Have you a staff of night nurses? No.

302.\* Would not, in your opinion, the attendance on the sick be of a better character if the wards were attended by females? Yes, decidedly.

303. Do you think isolation necessary for the successful performance of surgical operations? In operations of a capital nature I deem it necessary that they should be isolated.

304. Are there any wards at present available for that purpose? In the female department there is one; there are no wards in the male department available for that purpose.

312. Are you of opinion that the warm bath arrangement is such as it should be in a well-regulated Hospital? No, I am not.

313. Do you not think that a high pressure steam boiler, as at Ballarat, would be a great advantage, steam being carried to every part of the building? Yes, decidedly, I think that hot water should be in every ward: such a condition exists in every department in the Melbourne Hospital, even to the officers' and matron's quarters, also the out-patient department.

*Mr. Aikenhead.*—318. Do you think, in the event of the removal of the females from the Male Hospital, it would be desirable to erect a building especially for their accommodation? I think that, unless you improved the old Hospital very much, it would be necessary to erect a new building.

319. In what particulars would you suggest alterations as to buildings? House Surgeons' quarters, separate apartments for nurses, and separate rooms already named, and special wards for capital operations.

320. How is the Melbourne Hospital managed? It is managed by a Board or Committee, having a President and Vice-President, and there are subscribers to the General Hospital.

321. To what extent have the public an interest in the Melbourne Hospital, and what plan is usually adopted with regard to the election of committee? As far as I remember, subscribers from £1 and upwards have the privilege of a voice in the election of the committee. It is done by a regular ballot in the Board-room of the Melbourne Hospital.

322. Do you know the proportion the Government pay to the support of the Melbourne Hospital? I know they grant a subsidy, irrespective of the funds raised by subscription.

323. Has the system, as far as you are aware, worked well in Melbourne? Yes, except where prejudice existed.

324. Are you aware whether the Crown nominated any Members of the Board? It did nothing beyond granting the subsidy as far as I know.

325. Would a Board for the management of the General Hospital work better if it were elective, a popular interest having been first created, as in Melbourne? I cannot say, but it has worked well enough in Melbourne.

I do not see any reason to modify my recorded opinion.

158. Since the date of that examination you have visited Ballarat and made yourself acquainted with the utilization of steam in the matters of washing, cooking, &c. at the Hospital there; will you, for the information of the Commissioners, explain its application as noticed by yourself? I visited Ballarat twice, and on both occasions made it my special business to notice the economic application of steam to general hospital purposes. With one small engine they manage to cook the food, wash and dry the clothes, cut the wood, and heat the water for the whole establishment; also, with steam cooking tables, they prepare and keep warm the food for the patients. It performs all the mechanical work of the laundry.

159. Ought any well-regulated hospital to be without steam appliances? I think steam ought to be in every well-regulated hospital.

160. During the time you have held the situation of House Surgeon, what has been the average number of patients treated daily within the wards of the establishment? Between 80 and 90 daily.

161. In the absence of the Honorary Medical Officers or Surgeon Superintendent, is it a part of your duty to attend to each patient upon his or her admission to hospital? Yes, certainly it is; I always do so.

162. Do you ever treat any case of importance in the absence of the Medical Staff? If it is an immediately urgent case I treat it myself, and at the same time send at once for the Honorary Medical Officer, or, if I know him to be out of town, for the Surgeon Superintendent.

163. Will you, for the information of the Commissioners, explain what means you adopt to record the patients' cases, diets, and extras? I have no record.

164. Will you also explain the means by which you can ascertain what treatment the patient was subjected to at the time when your attendance was required, as well as the diet and extras he was receiving? I can only trust to my own memory.

165. Am I to understand that you do not keep, nor have kept, a case book? I have never been asked to do so, and I have not done so.

166. Do you see any of the out-patients and prescribe for them; if so, state the time occupied in that duty? I do see them conjointly with Dr. Turnley from 10 to 11 o'clock daily. If any come after 11 I see them and prescribe for them myself. Sometimes it takes me till 12 o'clock, or longer.

167. At what hours does the Surgeon Superintendent visit the Hospital, and how long does he stay at a time? The Surgeon Superintendent generally comes to the Hospital between half past 9 and a quarter to 10 o'clock and remains until 11.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1876.

DR. SMART *examined*.

*By the Chairman.*—168. Your name is Thomas Christie Smart, and you are one of the Honorary Medical Officers of Her Majesty's General Hospital? Yes.

169. In the month of August, 1874, you were examined before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, as also were the other Honorary Medical Officers? Yes, I was.

170. Are you cognizant of, and conversant with, the recommendations embodied in the Report of that Committee, dated September 4th, 1874? (Recommendations read.) I have heard them read.

171. With the exception of the female nurses, the appointment of the Dispenser, and the residence of the House Surgeon upon the premises, has any other recommendation been carried out? Not that I am aware of.

172. Would not the Hospital in every particular be materially improved if effect were given to the recommendations? And are they not as necessary now as they were at the time evidence was taken upon the subject two years ago? The Hospital would be vastly improved if the recommendations so frequently brought under the notice of the authorities had been carried out.

173. Do you think the Hospital will ever be in a satisfactory condition until the suggestions noted have been attended to? I do not think the Hospital will ever be in a satisfactory condition until certain improvements and extensions are carried out.

174. Are you not, at the present moment, compelled to use a large portion of the old building for essentially Hospital cases? Yes, it is used as a Hospital.

175. Had it not been for the utilisation of the old building, could the wants of the community have been met? Not without mixing cases which had better have been kept apart.

176. Do you see any reason to alter the conclusions you arrived at upon your former examination, or desire to record any modification of the opinion then expressed, particularly as to the following Questions, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 45, 49, 51, 53, and 54?

2. What is your opinion of Board management as originally devised and continued at the General Hospital until the year 1868? That it worked very well, and was of great value to the Institution.

3. Do you consider the system of Board management good in principle? Oh yes, decidedly.

4. State your opinion as to the defects, if any? I have always seen and always observed two marked defects. One; the difficulty in procuring the right class of men; second, the want of power to manage its own affairs.

5. Do you think nomination of Members by the Crown only advisable? No; it may be open to objection.

9. If the plan had been adhered to of making it a Hospital and Dispensary, with private subscriptions, and the Board made elective, do you not think it would have proved beneficial to the general public? It would have given a wider spread of interest to the Institution, and very likely its benefits would have been more extensively appreciated.

10. Are you aware that the Asylum at New Norfolk has been managed by a Board or body of Commissioners having an Act of Parliament for its guidance, thus giving it the control of its own affairs? I am aware.

11. Do you think if the same powers and organisation existed with regard to the General Hospital, that good would result? I believe it would be an improvement on the Hospital Board as originally constituted.

45. Do you not think a high-pressure steam boiler, as at Ballarat, would be a great advantage, steam being conveyed to every part of the building? In the original plans, when the Hospital was first transferred, it was contemplated to heat the baths by means of a boiler. I am of opinion that a great advantage would result, and that an immediate and continuous supply of hot water would be afforded by such method.

49. Do you consider that, beyond the Hon. Medical Officers, with the Resident House Surgeon, any medical supervision is necessary? Not in so far as the immediate care and treatment of the patients is concerned.

51. Are you of opinion that the warm-bath arrangement is such as it should be in a well-regulated Hospital? I have no hesitation in saying that it is not as it should be, or as it was originally contemplated.

53. In what particulars would you suggest alterations as to buildings? The erection of the Resident Medical Officer's quarters; the erection of separate rooms, as already proposed; and apartments for nurses.

*Mr. Aikenhead.*—54. Do you think that, in the event of the removal of the females from the Male Hospital, it would be desirable to erect a building especially for their accommodation? I do; there being no existing building fit for the purpose.

None whatever.

177. What is your opinion as to the manner in which the nursing has been performed at the General Hospital since the appointment of the Lady Superintendent, and the arrival of the other nurses from Sydney? My opinion is very strongly in favour of female nurses; and I am highly satisfied with the manner in which their duties are now performed, having constant opportunities of forming an opinion.

178. Do you think the comfort of the patients has been much increased since the introduction of female nurses? I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that it has been vastly improved. The patients themselves have frequently borne testimony to the great care and kindness of the nurses.

*By Mr. Travers.*—179. Are you not of opinion that female nursing has a humanising and softening influence upon the patients? I believe it has.

*By the Chairman.*—180. What is the opinion you have formed of the *personnel* of the nursing staff as to temper, assiduity, and general deportment to the sick? I have never witnessed any deviation from uniform good temper, great assiduity, and kindness of manner.

181. Are you of opinion that the Surgeon Superintendent has been desirous to have the necessary improvements effected, or alter in any important degree the old order of things? I am of opinion that he has been desirous to effect improvements.

182. Do you think the Lady Superintendent and nurses have met with cordial co-operation at the hands of the Hospital authorities? I believe that much of the misunderstanding and discord that have occurred are due to the fact that at the time the nurses entered upon their duties no Regulations were drawn up to define their position and powers in the Establishment.

*By Mr. Travers.*—183. Have there not, since the arrival of the nurses, been many complaints made by them which it was in the power of the Surgeon Superintendent to remove? I believe so; either by his own authority, or by reference to the Government.

*By the Chairman.*—184. You are aware that extensive improvements at the General Hospital have been contemplated for some time past, more ward accommodation being required? I am.

185. What amount of accommodation would you recommend? Eight or nine distinctly separate rooms for the isolation and treatment of infectious diseases, with accommodation for the necessary nurses; also rooms for patients the subjects of *delirium tremens*, and others under observation for insanity.

186. What general ward accommodation would you recommend, it being in contemplation to remove the females out of the male building? In that case I would recommend the erection of a distinct Female Hospital.

187. Have the patients, especially females, space enough for air and exercise attached to the present building? I think the recreation grounds attached to the Hospital are altogether inadequate to meet the wants of such an establishment.

For more detailed information on various important points I refer you to Mr. Hunter's Report to the Colonial Secretary, dated 11th November, 1876, (W 922) which is entirely based upon the recommendations of the Medical Staff of the Hospital.\*

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MR. SEALS *examined.*

188. Your name is John Seals, and you are Dispenser at Her Majesty's General Hospital? Yes.

189. It is shown by the Report of 1875, and which is signed by the Surgeon Superintendent, Dr. Turnley, that the number of out-patients treated during the year was 6668, giving a daily average of 18½—do you know that to have been the case? I know that to be the case, as they are taken daily from the book as entered.

190. Also, that the number of prescriptions was 9389, or a daily average of 25½—do you know this to have been the case? I believe that to be as correct as can be arrived at.

191. Would not the difference between 18 and 25—7, exactly give the number of prescriptions sent to the Hospital daily by Dr. Turnley for patients seen by him at their own homes, as well as those brought from private practitioners? I can hardly see how it could be so, as all the prescriptions for the patients seen both at the Hospital and their own homes are included in the 9389.

192. Will your prescription book give any more accurate information upon this point than that recorded in the Report? It will not.

193. Can you suggest a better system for recording the number of patients and the medicines prescribed? I would suggest that three different Registers should be kept: one for patients seen at the Hospital; one for those seen by the Surgeon Superintendent at their own homes; and one for those seen by private practitioners. At the present time all are entered in one Register.

194. For a number of years you prepared for each ward an abstract sheet exhibiting the amount of extras supplied to each patient, such sheet exactly corresponding with the extras ordered by the Medical men? I did.

195. Are Hospital Registers kept for all the wards at the present time; and if so, are all the diets and extras entered therein? The Registers are kept; but the diets and extras are only entered in wards 3 and 4, and sometimes by Dr. Perkins.

196. Then, at the present time, the Registers in the other wards are incomplete as regards diagnosis, diet, and extras? Yes.

197. And the Commissioners are to understand that neither diet nor extra sheets lie upon the tables in the wards? They do not.

198. Are you in the habit of preparing and dispensing the prescriptions given by Dr. Crowther and other medical men to poor people? Yes.

199. Is it a fact within your knowledge, the day having been Saturday, October 14th, 1876, that a child for whom Dr. Crowther had prescribed did not obtain its medicine until the following Monday, its brother not having reached the Hospital until a few minutes past 11 A.M., and who, upon arrival, was refused admission to the Dispensary by the gate-keeper, Ware? A prescription from Dr. Crowther, dated 14th October, 1876, having been presented to me on the 16th, I enquired of the boy why he had not got the medicine on Saturday, the 14th. He replied that he came to the gate, and was told by the gate-keeper that it was past 11 A.M., and that he was too late. I produce the prescription endorsed with my initials, and the following memorandum—"This was brought to the Dispensary on the morning of the 16th October, 1876. J. S."

200. What are the hours upon which the Surgeon Superintendent visits the General Hospital? Very uncertain, except in the morning, when he attends between 9 and 10 o'clock.

201. Does Dr. Turnley or Dr. Macfarlane keep any case book or ward register, or keep any other record of the cases attended by them in the absence of the Honorary Medical Officers? Not that I am aware of.

202. Will you produce the registers belonging to No. 3 and 4 wards, kept by Dr. Crowther as one of the Honorary Medical Officers at the General Hospital from 1860 to 1869? I produce two of them.



203. Were the diets and extras regularly entered therein, as well as the patients' cases? Yes.

204. Did not a diet and extra sheet always lie upon the table in Dr. Crowther's wards, such sheet giving the name of each patient, with the diet and extras he was receiving? It did, and exactly agreed with the entries in the register, and was daily compared with it; as the diets were added to or taken off in the register, so they appeared upon the sheet.

205. Was that system adopted in all the wards? No; Dr. Crowther's were the only wards in which an abstract sheet lay upon the table for reference.

206. By whom were the sheets prepared? By myself.

207. Of what use do you consider these sheets? They always enabled the doctor to see at a glance the diet and amount of extras a patient was receiving, and were a very valuable check.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1876.

DR. BUTLER *examined*.

*By the Chairman.*—208. Your name is Henry Butler, and you are one of the Honorary Medical Officers of the General Hospital? Yes.

209. In the month of August, 1874, you were examined before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, as also were the other Honorary Medical Officers? Yes.

210. Are you cognizant of, and conversant with, the recommendations embodied in the Report of that Committee, dated September 4th, 1874. (Recommendations read.) I am.

211. With the exception of the Female Nurses, the appointment of the Dispenser, and the residence of the House Surgeon upon the premises, has any other recommendation been carried out? Yes; the male lock ward, the assignment of special rooms for diseases of an infectious character, one for erysipelas, one for scarlet fever, and one for diphtheria.

212. Where are these rooms situated? In the old building.

213. Would not the Hospital in every particular be materially improved if effect were given to the recommendations; and are they not as necessary now as they were at the time evidence was taken upon the condition of the Hospital two years ago? Yes, certainly; but I think more important improvements might be introduced than are indicated in the Report, more especially with reference to the arrangements for patients under observation for insanity; there should be a padded room provided in both male and female Divisions for violent patients, in order to prevent the necessity of mechanical restraint. I also have modified my opinion with reference to the desirability of Board management. Every Institution of this character, in my opinion, should have a responsible resident and professional head, under whom the entire working of the Hospital should be conducted, except the treatment of patients under the charge of the Honorary Surgeons. It would also be desirable that an officer in the position of Inspector of Charitable Institutions, as there is at home, should be appointed, whose duty would be to visit, enquire into, and report upon the state of the Hospital at least once every month.

214. Are you acquainted with any Hospitals in which the system you recommend has been carried out successfully? Yes, in the Hospitals under the control of the Military Medical Service in England, at Malta, also at Milan and Naples.

215. Do you think the professional head to whom you allude would be, generally speaking, competent and have the time to attend to the financial part of the Hospital business? Yes, in the view that the Honorary Surgeons would relieve him of most of the detail professional work, and the necessary employment of an Assistant House Surgeon to attend to the cases of out-patients and attendance on the Honorary Surgeons in the wards.

216. Is it not generally the rule throughout England that Hospitals are under the management of a Board and not of a single individual? Yes, in all cases where the funds are not provided by Government but from private sources.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—217. Extract from *Macmillan's Magazine*, September, 1876, read as follows:—“No real reform can be effected in a Hospital without the hearty co-operation of a Board alive to the need for reform, and anxious to secure it at the expense of trouble and money.” What is your opinion of the above? If it could be secured it would be most desirable.

218. In your evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the 31st August, 1874, there is the following:—

330. What is your opinion of Board management as originally devised and continued at the General Hospital until the year 1868? I think that the management by Boards at the General Hospital, if it had been carried out as originally devised by Mr. Henty, would have effected successfully his object, and was of great value to the Institution.

Are you of the same opinion? I am of opinion that the system of management was of more advantage to the Institution than what has recently obtained, but I adhere to the modification of my opinion just given.

219. Before the same Committee in August, 1874:—

331. Do you consider the system of Board management good in principle? Yes, provided its functions are defined and limited by Act of Parliament. It enlists the sympathies of a large number of persons, who from day to day take more interest in the Institution, and create a public opinion within it.

Do you see any reason to modify that? Yes, because I have noticed in the usage of this system in the adjacent Colonies it has given rise to so many controversies and antagonistic feelings as to neutralise its beneficial results. It has created and perpetuated a system of partisan warfare in the Institution itself.

## 220. Before the same Committee :—

332. State your opinion as to the defects, if any? From my knowledge of Board management, which I have gained from my connection with the Lunatic Asylum at New Norfolk, and the Board of Education, the only defect is, that from the want of full powers there is necessarily a feeling that there is at the same time a loss of responsibility.

Do you see any reason to modify that? I am decidedly of opinion that if the Hospitals of this country are to be managed by Boards, that it would be primarily essential that they should have the same powers and privileges as are given by enactment to the two Boards alluded to.

*By the Chairman.*—221. Have you yourself known any such results as you speak of resulting from the establishment of Boards of management at the New Norfolk Asylum, and of Education? Occasionally, but not to any great extent.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—222. Did any such occur during the 9 years' existence of the Hospital Board? Not to my knowledge.

## 223. Before the same Committee :—

333. Do you think nomination of members by the Crown only advisable? So long as the expenditure in the Institution is defrayed by the Crown, and can only be so by nominating the members; but it would be preferable if the Hospital could be carried on by the aid of subscriptions, and then those so subscribing would have a right of voice in the management and control of the Institution.

334. Do you not consider that the nomination of a Board without an Act of Parliament for the regulation of its affairs, while the Crown retains the controlling power in its own hands, an anomaly? Yes, it is an anomaly, and contrary to all precedent. The Board of Immigration, the Board of Education, and the Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, New Norfolk, have each their powers defined by Act of Parliament.

335. Do you not think the defects arose from that cause in a great measure; viz. the want of an Act of Parliament? Yes; the members of the Board had not a clear understanding of the extent of their powers, and therefore they were frequently undecided in their action, and not satisfied with their position.

Do you wish to modify your opinion? Not at all.

## 224. Before the same Committee :—

336. Would a Board for the management of the General Hospital work better if it were elective,—a popular interest having been first created, as in Melbourne? I have been connected with Hospitals in Great Britain, which are always managed in this manner, and no difficulty has occurred; but in this Colony the experiment has been tried in Campbell Town, and year by year the subscriptions have decreased, and less public interest is being taken in the Institution.

Do you wish to modify that? Further consideration has not weakened my belief in the desirability of the proposition, but it has in its practicability. The experience of the management of the Launceston Hospital still more confirms me in the belief that in this community funds could not be obtained from the general public to sustain the Hospital.

## 225. Before the same Committee :—

339. You are aware, when the General Hospital was transferred from the Imperial to Colonial Government, it was contemplated to make it a Hospital and Dispensary in order to secure public interest and support? Yes, I was consulted with yourself and others: it was so intended, and rules were drawn up.

Do you believe that to be the case? Yes.

## 226. Before the same Committee :—

340. If the plan had been adhered to of making it a Hospital and Dispensary, with private subscriptions and the Board made elective, do you not think it would have proved beneficial to the general public? Yes, if there had been any success in obtaining subscriptions.

Do you wish to modify that? I am still of opinion that it would be beneficial; but I, with others, was discouraged by the fact that the public took no real interest in the matter.

## 227. Before the same Committee :—

341. Do you think if the same powers and organisation existed with regard to the General Hospital as at New Norfolk that good would result? Yes.

Are you of the same opinion still? I have modified my opinion already.

228. Do you think the Hospital Board ever had a fair trial? If it had had the same powers and privileges as the Boards to which we have already referred, I believe that the members of the Board would have taken far larger interest in the matters referred to them than they naturally did under the difficulties in which they were placed.

229. Are you not aware of the fact that the Hospital Board for 9 years supervised and carried out the general management of the Institution in the face of numerous difficulties? In my opinion they carried them out in a satisfactory manner, and the Board worked well.

230. Having expressed an opinion in favour of a Medical Superintendent, do you not think that a regularly qualified Resident Surgeon would fulfil all the conditions of general medical supervision as far as the Hospital is concerned? No, and for the following reasons:—I believe it to be essential for the health of the inmates and the good conduct of the Institution that a competent qualified professional man should be at all times within the walls of the Institution, and that would of itself be impossible if simply one medical officer was to have general medical supervision, as it would make the Institution a prison to him, and does not provide for any arrangement by which he might be incapacitated from ill health.

231. But are you not aware that at the present time there are four Honorary Medical Officers attached to the Hospital? I am.

## 232. Before Select Committee of Legislative Council in August, 1874 :—

380. You are aware of the Report for the year 1860 being furnished to the Government in August, 1861? Yes. It was to the following effect :—

"The Board has no desire to animadvert upon departmental control; it may be good, or it may be bad, but the late experience of the Crimean War has shown that it may be defective, and needs the quickening influence of public opinion. A Medical Department is not one over which a Government can exercise a supervision, it stands apart, and can be responsible only to itself. In such cases it seems the safest course to invite the co-operation of the public, and to conduct Hospitals and Charitable Institutions upon the principle generally recognised as the soundest and most beneficial to the country."

381. Are you still of the same opinion? Yes.

Do you see any reason to modify that opinion? No, except to the extent which I have already stated.

233. Before the same Committee:—

320. How is the Melbourne Hospital managed? It is managed by a Board or Committee, having a President and Vice-President, and there are subscribers to the General Hospital.

Dr. Macfarlane's Evidence.

321. To what extent have the public an interest in the Melbourne Hospital, and what plan is usually adopted with regard to the election of committee? As far as I remember, subscribers from £1 and upwards have the privilege of a voice in the election of the committee. It is done by a regular ballot in the Board-room of the Melbourne Hospital.

322. Do you know the proportion the Government pay to the support of the Melbourne Hospital? I know they grant a subsidy, irrespective of the funds raised by subscription.

323. Has the system, as far as you are aware, worked well in Melbourne? Yes, except where prejudice existed.

324. Are you aware whether the Crown nominated any Members of the Board? It did nothing beyond granting the subsidy as far as I know.

325. Would a Board for the management of the General Hospital work better if it were elective, a popular interest having been first created, as in Melbourne? I cannot say, but it has worked well enough in Melbourne.

At the time you answered Question 219 were you cognizant of the fact that Dr. Macfarlane had given evidence in his answers to the questions just read to you as to the good working of the Board system at the Melbourne Hospital? I had not had my attention drawn to it.

234. Are you not at the present moment compelled to use a large portion of the old building for essentially Hospital cases? Yes.

235. Are you not aware that for the Female Lock Ward in the old building there has been only one small and most defective closet for the accommodation of both diseased women and nurses? I am aware there is only one and I consider that quite adequate for the average number of patients in that Ward; but separate accommodation should always be given for those in the position of attendants. The closet adjacent to the ward was ordered to be obtained on what was considered the most effective and sanitary arrangement for that purpose; namely, the earth closet system; and it was only by the mismanagement of the patients that the machinery became defective, and its utility destroyed.

236. Do you know whether any alteration has taken place in this particular during the present month? No, I do not.

237. Had it not been for the utilisation of the old building could the wants of the community, as far as Hospital cases are concerned, have been met? Arrangements could have been made for the treatment of all cases in the General Hospital, but not for the proper and efficient separation of patients suffering under diseases of a malarious and infectious type.

238. Do you see any reason to alter the conclusion you arrived at upon your former examination, or desire to record any modification of the opinions then expressed in your answers to the following questions?

350. Is it your opinion that private apartments are needed for males and females? I believe that an institution having the character of a sanatorium, in which people from the country who are compelled to come to Hobart Town for advice could remain, would be a great boon to the community; but it should be separate from the Hospital, and its doors should be open to every recognised practitioner.

353. Do you think the restoration of the building to its former purpose as a receptacle for males only would be beneficial, provision being made for the females by a new building at the rear of the General Hospital? Yes, because it will allow of a special ward being provided for lock cases for males, as we have for females.

354. What extra accommodation is required at the present time in the shape of private apartments for the reception of patients? I think there should be small rooms for the reception of patients who have to undergo serious operations; there is a great want of apartments for the reception of females who are suffering from *delirium tremens*, or who are sent to the Hospital for investigation as to their sanity,—also, the male apartment for the same purpose requires improvements: this subject has been brought under the attention of the Government, who have made arrangements for the erection of buildings for the females; and improvements to those for the males.

355. Do you think isolation necessary for the successful performance of surgical operations? In some cases the want of it seriously endangers life.

356. Are there any wards at present available for that purpose? Only one, in the female division of the Hospital.

372. Are you of opinion that the General Hospital at Hobart Town as at present managed is equal to the wants of the community? With the improvements I have named, and those the Government have promised to carry out, and the diminution of pauperism, it might meet the hard necessities of the case, but it would be desirable that it should be enlarged.

375. Do you consider that beyond the Honorary Medical Officers with the Resident House Surgeon any medical supervision necessary? No.

377. You are of opinion that the warm bath arrangement is such as it should be in a well-regulated Hospital? Warm water ought to be available in any ward at any moment.

379. Do you think that, in the event of the removal of the females from the male Hospital, it would be desirable to erect a building especially for their accommodation? Yes; but it would not be desirable to remove them to the old building at the back,—that should be removed and a new building erected.

I see no reason to modify my opinions.

239. What is your opinion as to the manner in which the nursing has been performed at the General Hospital since the appointment of the Lady Superintendent and the arrival of the other nurses from Sydney? I believe it has generally conduced to the comfort of the patients, but it could have been made more effective if it had been more under the direction of the Surgeon-Superintendent, for the simple reason that all the arrangements of nursing should be directly under the control of a responsible professional man. I do not attribute this defect to any want of sympathy on the part of the nursing staff, but to the absence of regulations defining their duties, and their relations to the other officers of the Institution.

240. Do you think the comfort of the patients has been much increased since the introduction of female nurses? I have no hesitation in saying that it has in the Male Wards, and it has been equally efficient in the Female Wards, as it was under the good staff that previously existed there.

241. Do you think the Lady Superintendent and nurses have met with cordial co-operation at the hands of the Hospital authorities? Yes, as far as I know.

*By Mr Travers.*—242. Are you a Member of the Board of Management at the New Norfolk Asylum, and how long have you been so? I am, and have been so about 23 years.

243. Do you consider that the Asylum has been well managed, and without "partisan warfare" during that period? I do.

244. Do you consider that the employment of Female Nurses has a humanising and restraining effect upon the patients? I may give my experience from having been House Surgeon and Resident Medical Officer of the Westminster Hospital in which the nursing in both Male and Female Wards was entirely done by females, there being a staff composed of superior nurses called "Sisters," and a staff of subordinates under them. I was so impressed with the advantage of the system, that during the entire period of my connection with this Hospital I have endeavoured to procure the employment of females as nurses here.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1876.

DR. BRIGHT examined.

*By the Chairman.*—245. Your name is Richard Stonhewer Bright, and you are one of the Honorary Medical Officers of Her Majesty's General Hospital? Yes, and have been since January, 1860.

246. In the month of August, 1874, you were examined before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, as also were the other Honorary Medical Officers? Yes.

247. Are you cognizant of, and conversant with, the recommendations embodied in the Report of that Committee, dated 4th September, 1874? (Recommendations read.) I am cognizant of them.

248. With the exception of the female nurses, the appointment of the Dispenser, and the residence of the House Surgeon upon the premises, has any other recommendation been carried out? No; those are the principal things that have been done.

249. Would not the Hospital, in every particular, be materially improved if effect were given to the recommendations? No, I do not think so.

250. Will you give your reasons for your last statement? Yes.

1. That it shall for the future be a Hospital and Dispensary, as originally contemplated, public co-operation being secured. With reference to the first recommendation in that Report, I do not understand how the General Hospital can be made more of a Hospital and Dispensary than it is now, inasmuch as the Hospital Wards are open for all cases of disease or accident requiring treatment within them, as much as they ever were or could be; and as for the Dispensary, out-patients are seen here and receive their medicines, and those unable to come are visited at their own homes by Dr. Turnley, and receive their medicines from the Hospital also.

2. A return to Board management, elective if possible, with definite powers assigned to it, as in the case of the Asylum at New Norfolk, and Education and Immigration Boards.

With reference to the second recommendation, my opinion is, after my knowledge and experience of Board Management here, that there is very little hope of its succeeding, inasmuch as numerous gentlemen, who at various times have been members of the Board, have resigned, and I think would be unlikely to take office again; and there has been such a general unwillingness amongst others to undertake the duties.

*By Mr. Travers.*—251. Did not this unwillingness arise from the Board not possessing necessary powers, such as possessed, for instance, by the New Norfolk Asylum Board? That is one reason only. To my own knowledge some valuable members were lost to the Hospital Board in consequence of personal differences and disputes, and a partisan spirit having arisen.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—252. Do you think there are no other persons in the City of Hobart Town besides the members of the old Board willing to lend their aid to make Board management a success? You may find other persons; but I believe that amongst the class of persons most suitable and competent, the majority available have either been asked and declined, or at some time or other have served on the Board.

253. Then am I to understand that any members of the original Board resigned in consequence of partisan feuds? I believe so, and have heard it.

3. That the Government through Parliament furnish a subsidy; but in the event of annual subscriptions to the extent of £500 being forthcoming, the election of members of the Board and all officers be left to the subscribers: such election to be by ballot, as in Victoria.

With regard to recommendation No. 3 of the Report: Previous Governments have been asked by the Hospital Board at various times to hand over the control of the Hospital expenditure, and have always declined to do so, and, as I think, rightly, so long as the funds are voted by Parliament. With regard to subscriptions being raised to the extent of £500, I believe it is impossible to do it; and therefore the election of members of a Board could not be left to a body of subscribers which would not exist.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—254. You are aware that the New Norfolk Commissioners, Immigration and Education Boards, manage their own affairs, and manage them well. Why should not the Hospital Board do the same if placed in a similar position? I can only say that I believe no instance can be quoted of a Hospital being managed by a Board, with uncontrolled power over its expenditure when they had taken no part in raising its income, and were practically beyond control. The instances of Hospitals in England being managed by Committees chosen from a body of subscribers who contributed the bulk of the funds is in no way analogous; nor are that of Hospitals in the adjacent Colonies, where the Boards simply expend the funds of their own subscribers and Government subsidies added to them.

255. Do you know anything from personal information as to the plan adopted in the neighbouring Colonies, particularly Melbourne? I do.

256. Dr. Macfarlane gave the following evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council in August, 1874 :—

320. How is the Melbourne Hospital managed? It is managed by a Board or Committee, having a President and Vice-President, and there are subscribers to the General Hospital.

321. To what extent have the public an interest in the Melbourne Hospital, and what plan is usually adopted with regard to the election of Committee? As far as I remember, subscribers from £1 and upwards have the privilege of a voice in the election of the Committee. It is done by a regular ballot in the Board-room of the Melbourne Hospital.

322. Do you know the proportion the Government pay to the support of the Melbourne Hospital? I know they grant a subsidy, irrespective of the funds raised by subscription.

323. Has the system, as far as you are aware, worked well in Melbourne? Yes, except where prejudice existed.

324. Are you aware whether the Crown nominated any members of the Board? It did nothing beyond granting the subsidy as far as I know.

325. Would a Board for the management of the General Hospital work better if it were elective, a popular interest having been first created, as in Melbourne? I cannot say, but it has worked well enough in Melbourne.

Having heard Dr. Macfarlane's answers, do you not think the system would work equally well here, under similar conditions? I do, provided you could first obtain, and then keep up for a series of years, a sufficient body of subscribers; but the same system having been tried in Launceston and failed, and the Hospital subsequently handed over to the sole control of the Government, I do not think the plan would succeed here.

257. Had the Hospital Board in Launceston any powers conferred upon it by statute? I do not know.

#### Fourth Recommendation.

4. That for the future none other than female nurses be employed, acting under the instruction of a trained nurse, who will perform the office of Matron. Special night nurses are also required.

With regard to the fourth recommendation in the Report: I have always been in favour of female nurses in all the wards of the Hospital; and the minutes of the late Hospital Board will show that for upwards of ten years past that Board, and the Honorary Medical Officers, have persistently urged this question upon the Government.

#### Sixth Recommendation.

6. That the House Surgeon reside upon the premises, and his duties be solely confined to Hospital work.

I agree with this suggestion, and regret that the latter part of it has not been strictly adhered to.

#### Eighth Recommendation.

8. That the old Hospital at the back, with the Superintendent's and Dispenser's quarters, as far as the kitchen, be pulled down, and the material utilised in the erection of new buildings.

The old building should not be pulled down, or interfered with, until replaced by new, as it could not be spared until a substitute was provided.

#### Ninth Recommendation.

9. That the vacant space be filled with the new buildings required; viz.—

House Surgeon's, Steward's, and Dispenser's quarters, each having not less than four rooms.

Two large wards for females, capable of locating sixteen in each; two smaller for isolated cases, and two for females under observation for insanity or *delirium tremens*. Attached to each of the larger wards must be a nurse's apartment, closet, bath, and lavatory.

Two or more wards of moderate size, with nurse's apartments, as a public sanatorium for paying patients. These to be open to any recognised medical practitioner, thus giving the individual, in the case of surgical operation or otherwise, the selection of his professional attendant.

Hot water to be supplied to these buildings by means of a plain high-pressure single-flue boiler.

A greater necessity exists for a number of moderate-sized wards for cases of infectious disease,—diphtheria, scarlet fever, and erysipelas wards for both sexes,—than for a regular Female Hospital, which, although also desirable, is less urgently required than the former.

By the Chairman.—258. Do you think the Hospital will ever be in a satisfactory condition until the suggestions noted have been attended to? No.

259. Do you see any reason to alter the conclusions you arrived at upon your former examination, or desire to record any modification of the opinions then expressed, particularly as to Questions Nos. 133, 134, 141, 142, 143, 165, 191, 197, and 198? as follows :—

133. Do you consider the system of Board management good in principle? Yes, I do.

134. State your opinion as to the defects, if any? The defects were that the Board had no definite power to manage its own affairs.

141. Do you not think it would be wise to create, if possible, a popular interest in it? It certainly would.

142. Are you aware that the Asylum at New Norfolk has been managed by a Board or body of Commissioners, having an Act of Parliament for its guidance, thus giving it the control of its own affairs? Yes.

143. Do you think if the same powers and organisation existed with regard to the General Hospital that good would result? Yes.

165. Do you not think a nurse's apartment to each ward absolutely necessary? I not only think it is necessary, but the Medical Officers of the Hospital represented that point to the Members of the Government very strongly some few weeks ago at their inspection of the buildings. When the new building attached to the Hospital and set apart for the head nurse was built, it was then represented to the Board and Government that it was very necessary that the building should be carried up so as to give the same accommodation to the wards on the upper floor.

191. Do you think that a high pressure steam boiler, as at Ballarat, would be a great advantage, steam being conveyed to every part of the building? Yes, it would be a decided advantage.

197. Are you of opinion that the warm bath arrangement is such as it should be in a well-regulated Hospital? No.

198. Do you think the General Hospital, as at present constituted, can claim for itself the character of a first-class establishment? No, but as much now as ever it could.

None, except where I have given fuller information before the present Commissioners.

260. Do you wish to modify your opinion, as formerly given, under Question 195? as follows :—

195. Do you consider that beyond the Hon. Medical Officers, with a Resident House Surgeon, any medical supervision is necessary? No.

I do; because my knowledge of the working of the Hospital Board, as conducted here from 1860 to 1873, shows me that it was not successful, and that in almost every question relating to the medical or general management of the Hospital a reference had to be made to the medical staff, and their opinions generally acted upon. I think, therefore, that a responsible medical chief would be the better controlling power.

*By Dr. Cronther.*—261. Do you not consider a qualified Resident Surgeon sufficient to meet all the local wants of this establishment, and do you not also consider the honorary staff equal to all requirements as far as the treatment of the patients is concerned? Yes; provided that he was armed with sufficient authority to manage the establishment, and have all the paid officers and servants made subordinate to him, and that his duties were confined to the Hospital.

262. Are you not aware that Rules and Regulations for the management of the Hospital were drawn up in 1860? Yes.

263. In the Rules and Regulations referred to, the following duties were assigned to the House or Resident Surgeon:—

#### RESIDENT SURGEON.

23. The Resident Medical Officer shall live in the Hospital, and shall not leave his duties except on necessary occasions.

24. He shall not absent himself for more than three hours at any one time, nor after 12 o'clock at night, without the sanction of the Weekly Committee.

25. He shall have the charge of the Patients during the absence of the Physicians and Surgeons, and shall report to the Weekly Committee at its next meeting any Patients who may have been irregular or disorderly.

26. He shall be present, and prescribe for all out-Patients who may visit the Dispensary for that purpose.

27. He shall have the immediate superintendence of all the Wardsmen, Nurses, and Servants, and shall preserve order and sobriety in the Establishment; and in case of any insubordination or gross default of duty on the part of any Wardsman or Nurse, he shall discharge such Servant, and, if necessary, shall hire a substitute; and he shall report his having done so, with the cause of such discharge, to the Weekly Committee at their next meeting.

28. He shall have the charge of, and be accountable for, the Medical Stores and Surgical Instruments, and shall make an inventory of the same in a book to be kept for that purpose, in which he shall regularly enter the receipt of each article; and he shall, on the last day of the months of March, June, September, and December of each year, prepare and submit to the Board of Managers a List of all Instruments required for his department during the ensuing quarter.

29. He shall also daily visit the Patients, and enquire if the treatment prescribed has been attended to, and if any cause of complaint exists: and should any complaint be preferred, he shall enter the same in the Patient's Complaint Book immediately, in the presence of the Wardsman or Nurse of the Ward, and shall lay such Book before the Weekly Committee at each Meeting.

30. He shall give due notice to the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospital as often as a consultation is to be held; he shall also give them notice of all operations and post-mortem examinations about to be performed.

31. He shall, on his visits to the Wards, examine their condition with respect to cleanliness, temperature, and ventilation, and observe if the Wardsmen and Nurses have done their duty.

32. He shall cause to be affixed to the bed of each Patient his name, age, disease, the date of his admission, and the diet ordered by the Medical Officer.

33. He shall perform all the minor operations of surgery, and the post-mortem examinations not personally performed by the Physicians or Surgeons.

34. In the absence of the Physicians or Surgeons, in all cases of emergency, he shall cause immediate notice of such emergency to be given to them, being authorised in the meantime to act to the best of his judgment, avoiding as far as possible any unnecessary interference with the duties of these Officers; and when interfering, he shall make a full entry of the particulars in the Case Book.

35. He shall report those Patients that are absent, irregular, or disorderly to the Physicians and Surgeons, who shall have power to dismiss any Patient guilty of gross misconduct.

36. He shall not, on any pretence whatever, be concerned in any Medical or Surgical practice out of the Hospital, nor in any other business; nor shall he divulge any of the proceedings of the Committee or Medical Officers in the discharge of their duties.

37. He shall see that the patients do not partake of any food, liquor, or medicine except that prescribed.

38. He shall carefully examine all drugs and chemicals brought into the Hospital both as to quality and quantity, and report any defect in either respect to the Board of Managers.

264. Having heard the above read, being the Rules and Regulations drawn up in 1860 under Board Management, and being a definition of the duties of the House Surgeon, do you consider beyond the Honorary Medical Officers, with a duly qualified House Surgeon, any further medical supervision necessary? Not if the entire paid staff, officers and nurses, were made subordinate to the House Surgeon. The present nursing staff were appointed without any Rules being provided for their guidance; but the medical staff have since, by desire of the Government, drawn up Rules embodying those now in force in other Colonial Hospitals, but they have not yet been approved of.

*By the Chairman.*—265. What is your opinion as to the manner in which the nursing has been performed at the General Hospital since the arrival of the Lady Superintendent, and other nurses, from Sydney? The nursing in the men's wards has been decidedly improved since the change took place. Some of the individual nurses who have come under my notice are very efficient, and have rendered the medical officers great assistance; but there are serious defects in the system of nursing as now carried out. Amongst these, I may mention, that the nurses have been too frequently and unnecessarily changed from ward to ward, to the injury of the patients; these changes have impeded the medical officers in the discharge of their duties, the incoming nurse frequently not having been given the necessary information by the outgoing one, for the guidance of the Medical Officer, in the treatment of the patient, and for the proper conduct of her own duties whilst in charge of the ward.

266. Has not the comfort of the patients been much increased since the introduction of female nurses? Yes, decidedly.

267. Is your opinion the same as expressed under the following Question 162, answered by you before the Legislative Council Select Committee, in August, 1874?

162. What is your opinion as to the nursing at the General Hospital; dietary, preparation and distribution of food; stating in what particulars these could be improved? The nursing in the male wards by wardsmen, as practised for the last 15 years, has been decidedly bad, and has recently become worse in consequence of the extreme difficulty in getting suitable men; and with a view to the substitution of these wardsmen by female nurses the medical staff have recently been in correspondence with the Government, who have expressed their willingness to effect a change. The nursing in the female wards is fairly good, but in

the entire Hospital there is not, and never has been, a staff of night nurses, nor any accommodation for them: The dietary might be improved and made more varied; and one principal means of improving the dietary would be by obtaining the best articles of food available instead of taking contracts, as by the system now in use, at the lowest possible terms.

Yes; in consequence of the present system of cheap meat being obtained for the Hospital, we are, as a rule, obliged to use double the quantity. The system in force in the Military Medical Hospital here, up to the time of the withdrawal of the troops, was to obtain separate contracts for all the provisions used in that Hospital, the object being to secure food of a better quality than is ordinarily obtained by contract.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1876.

MR. SEAGER examined.

*By the Chairman.*—268. Your name is Charles Seager, and you are House Steward of Her Majesty's General Hospital, and you take account of all stores received from the contractors, and issue the same daily; keeping all the accounts of the Establishment? Yes.

269. What is your salary, and have you, in addition, a personal ration, or any other perquisites? Salary, £250 a year; no personal ration, and no perquisites beyond house, fuel, and light.

270. Have you the use of a servant, with ration for same? No.

271. From a return furnished by the Colonial Storekeeper, dated December 8th, 1876, it appears only one person, "Ware, the Gatekeeper," is entitled to rations;—is that the case? Yes.

272. Have you an authority for supplying the Surgeon Superintendent's groom with food? He is entered as a patient, and supplied with rations as a patient.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—273. Does he sleep at the Hospital? Yes.

274. Are you aware that in a Return signed by Dr. Turnley, the man John Johnson, employed by him as a groom, is entered as an Invalid? I am.

*By the Chairman.*—275. Then by whose order have you given rations to this man? By Dr. Turnley's.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—276. In which ward is he entered? He sleeps in the old building, but is not registered, except as entered on the diet-sheet, and is not under any medical treatment.

*By the Chairman.*—277. Acting in the capacity of House Steward, you made up the number of diets to patients and attendants, as detailed in the Report for the General Hospital, 1875? I did.

278. By the Report for 1875, it appears that the diets were, for Patients, 29,900; Attendants, 6903,—calculated upon a daily strength of 82 Patients and 18 Attendants. Was that the case? Yes.

279. From a Return placed before the Commissioners, dated December 22nd, 1876, signed by the Surgeon Superintendent, it appears the number of attendants and helpers for 1875 was 23; is that Return correct? Yes, it is correct.

280. Then the entry 6903, representing the diets of the attendants, cannot be correct, as it only gives nearly 19 as the number fed at the Hospital daily, instead of 23; and consequently, the larger item is incorrect also, the diets of the four extra attendants having been included in that of the patients. Can you explain this? I know that 6903 is correct, and that number represents rations to the paid attendants; the rations to the other four—John Shepherd, John Easton, William Foote, and Samuel Bass—are included among the patients' rations.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—281. What wages do they receive, if any? None are paid by the Government.

282. Then by whom are they paid? I give John Shepherd 10s. a month; Dr. Turnley paid John Easton; the other two receive no regular wages, but I give them a shilling or two occasionally.

283. What is the salary of the Messenger, J. E. Ware? One shilling a day and his food.

284. Have you any authority from either the Colonial Secretary or Storekeeper for supplying him with rations? Yes, I have, dated 24th June, 1874, D. 391.

*By the Chairman.*—285. The Commissioners find from a \*Memorandum supplied by Mr. Pregnell, the Contractor to the Colonial Storekeeper, that about 150 lbs. of meat reaches the Hospital daily; is that the case? Yes, more or less.

286. Has the quality been, in the main, good, as supplied by Mr. Pregnell and other contractors, since you have held the situation of House Steward? Yes.

287. If the meat had been at any time bad, it would have been your duty, as well as that of the Surgeon Superintendent, to have brought the matter under the notice of the Colonial Storekeeper, ordered its removal, and supplied the material from some other source, power in the Contract existing to that effect? Yes.

288. Has the meat supplied by the Contractors been at any time of such a character as to necessitate the using of two pounds in lieu of one? No.

289. From a †Return furnished by the Colonial Storekeeper, it appears that, for the year 1875, were supplied to the Hospital 42,663 lbs. of meat and 35,359 lbs. of bread, which, divided by 100 (82 Patients and 18 Helpers) would give to each person nearly one and a quarter pound of meat, and one pound of bread daily. As the quantity appears very large, can you give the Commissioners any information upon this point? There is a large quantity of meat used for beef-tea, and chops, &c., as extras.

290. If every person in the Hospital had had full rations daily, viz., 1 lb. of meat each, there would still be about 17 lbs. daily to be accounted for. Would the answer you have just given sufficiently account for this large surplus? It would, as far as I can see at present.



*By Dr. Crowther.*—291. Do you not think the number of patients would be relatively small who would require extra meat, such as chops, &c.? Yes, the number would be small.

*By the Chairman.*—292. If every one had had a full ration of bread, viz., 1 lb. daily, it would amount to, as nearly as possible, the amount of bread which has been distributed; can you account for this? I cannot account for it, except that the quantity has been issued in the wards.

*By Mr. Manley.*—293. Are nominal Returns rendered monthly to the Colonial Storekeeper showing the diets issued to each class of patients, together with the rations issued to attendants? Yes.

294. Can you produce one of those Returns? I produce one for December, 1875.

295. I believe the Contractor is paid for the quantity of meat shown in that Return? Yes.

296. Therefore, if the Return is correct, it must show the exact quantity supplied and consumed during the month? Yes.

*By the Chairman.*—297. Is any person, other than yourself, conversant with the administrative details of the establishment as far as the accounts are concerned, and the reception and issue of stores and extras? No.

298. Does the Surgeon Superintendent or any other responsible person with yourself check weekly, monthly, or half-yearly the accounts of the establishment? No.

299. You have certain men attached to the General Hospital as helpers, whose duty it is to keep all the yards and grounds attached to the Hospital in a clean and orderly condition? Yes.

300. How is it that the yard and grounds attached to the premises occupied by the nursing staff, and more particularly that in the vicinity of the cottage in which the gatekeeper Ware lives, is in such a neglected state, being at this moment strewn over with rags, bones, and other *excreta*? I did not know that the helpers had any right to go over there.

301. Is it not as much a part of your duty, or that of the Surgeon Superintendent, to see that these premises and grounds are kept in as good order as those in connection with the General Hospital? I have never thought it to be my duty to go over there.

302. What credits have you on behalf of the Hospital for waste materials such as fat, bones, rags, &c.? None.

303. What becomes of the waste material? It is sold, and I pay John Shepherd and other helpers from the proceeds.

304. Do you keep any debit and credit account of the sale of the waste materials and the mode in which the proceeds are applied? I do not.

*By Mr. Manley.*—305. Can you give any idea of the amount received for waste materials for say one, two, or three months? About £2 a quarter.

306. Is it your duty to receive moneys from the paying patients and to pay them into the Colonial Treasury? I receive the money and Dr. Turnley pays it into the Treasury.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—307. During Board management from 1860 to 1869 two Committees sat (one weekly and one finance), which were in force during the whole of that time, and conducted the business in accordance with the following Rules:—

4. The Managers shall annually choose from amongst themselves a Committee of not fewer than three persons, whose duty it shall be to inspect the Hospital every week, to exercise a general supervision over it, and to report thereon to the Board of Management.

11. No Accounts shall be paid until they have been examined and approved by the Finance Committee, who shall supervise the Books of Account, and report thereon quarterly to the Board of Management.

Was that the case? I believe it was.

*By the Chairman.*—308. Has there been a similar check upon the expenditure incurred in the Hospital since the Committee ceased to act? There has not been.

309. Do you continue to comply with the following Rule in the Regulations of 1871?

#### HOSPITAL STEWARD.

39. He shall inspect the diets of the Patients, and see that it is of good quality and properly prepared, and such as is ordered in the Diet Book to be kept for the purpose.

I do, but there is no Diet Book, but a Diet Sheet.

310. From what data are the Diet Sheets prepared? From the registers of two medical men, and the others from slips of paper.

311. Do you prepare a detailed statement of extras issued to the patients, and is it certified by the Medical Officers who respectively order the extras? I do prepare the statement, but it is not certified by the Medical Officers, and does not lie in the wards.

*By Mr. Travers.*—312. It has been stated before the Commissioners that you are in the habit of using derogatory remarks and abusing the new system of female nursing. Is that the case? I am not in the habit of doing so, but I may have made casual remarks.

313. And also, that you have told the men about the place not to obey the Lady Superintendent? That is false.

314. And when the nurses have brought down mattresses to be filled, you have used abusive language? I have not used abusive language, but have remonstrated against the palliasses being brought to me to be filled, as I did not consider this to be part of my duty.

315. And further, that you omitted to supply certain extras ordered by Dr. Butler for a dying patient? I do not recollect such an occurrence.



316. It has been stated in evidence that you have placed constant difficulties in the way of the nurses obtaining extras, and that scarcely a week passes without their having to apply to Dr. Turnley for a repetition of orders previously given by the Honorary Medical Officers. Is that the case? Not as far as I can remember.

317. Did you on one occasion when bacon was ordered for a patient send up to him four slices quite raw? I may have done so, for him to get it cooked when he required it.

*By the Chairman.*—318. Have you been in the habit of sending raw bacon to the patients? Yes, when bacon was ordered I send it raw, unless the nurse has asked me to get it cooked.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1876.

DR. TURNLEY *re-examined.*

*By the Chairman.*—319. In answer to Question No. 132, when asked was there any supervision other than the Board, in conjunction with the Resident Surgeon, you answered "No, the Board was then in the place of the Surgeon-Superintendent, and was a very inefficient substitute;" the latter paragraph having been added when your evidence was given to you for correction. Will you now state in what particulars Board management was defective when contrasted with your own? It was defective in this particular, that the Board really knew nothing at all about the Hospital. I believe that of the Members constituting the Board not one-third, I may say not one-fifth of them, were ever in the Hospital more than once or twice to see how matters were conducted.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—320. Rule 4 of Regulations, 1860—"4. The Managers shall annually choose from amongst themselves a Committee of not fewer than three persons, whose duty it shall be to inspect the Hospital every week, to exercise a general supervision over it, and to report thereon to the Board of Management." Do you assert that during the time the Board was in existence the Committee did not act in accordance with that Rule? No, they did not.

321. "The Board of Management of the General Hospital have much satisfaction in bringing up their Report for the year ending 31st December, 1861. During that period, the system adopted by the Honorary Medical Officers has worked well, and the utmost confidence has been established in it as a Public Institution. A Committee of the Board visit the Hospital every week, in order to see that the Regulations are properly enforced, as well as for other purposes, independently of the Monthly Meetings of the Board itself. Thus ample checks are furnished against abuse; and the fact that the Meetings of the Board are open to the Press operates, besides, as a salutary safeguard." (Signed) William Henty, John Regan, T. Macdowell, W. Benson, George Salier, C. M. Maxwell, A. Kennerley, Stephen Sheehy, R. Officer, Henry Cook, D. Lewis, G. Hutton, A. Kissock."

Do you say that the statement signed by those gentlemen is incorrect? As far as the Weekly Committee is concerned they met in this room, they attended to anything that I might lay before them, and then went away. As a rule they did not visit the Hospital; and, as a rule, the only member of the Weekly Committee who attended even here was the Chairman.

322. I presume, as you acted in the capacity of Secretary to the Board for a period of 8 years, you are aware that under Board management there was a Weekly Committee and a Finance Committee appointed annually, consisting of three members each, the one to exercise a general supervision over the Hospital, the other to examine all accounts and details of expenditure. Paragraph 11, Rules 1860:—"No accounts shall be paid until they have been examined and approved by the Finance Committee, who shall supervise the Books of Account and report thereon quarterly to the Board of Management." Have you as Surgeon Superintendent adopted and carried out any similar system? On the contrary, has not this paragraph been expunged from your revised Rules? It was never carried into practice as to the examination of details by the Finance Committee. The only business transacted by that Committee was the copying from my reading the Monthly summary of provisions issued, and the adding up the petty expenditure book, and this business was done, as a rule, entirely by the Chairman.

323. For what other purpose did Mr. Maxwell, the Chairman of the Committee, attend regularly every week at the Hospital? He never did attend weekly.

*By the Chairman.*—324. You must also be aware that the Board solicited and obtained the appointment of Mr. William Lovett (now Colonial Auditor) to review the system of keeping the accounts in the Hospital, and to check the various items of expenditure for the years 1860 and 1861 and to report thereon; and also the Board passed a Resolution that "Every month there shall be laid on the table an Abstract of the Expenditure of the Hospital, together with the number of Inmates." And in the Report for 1861 appears the following:—"Although the expenditure of particular months may vary, by reason of certain payments falling in at certain times more than others, the Board sees no difficulty in having this Resolution complied with, and it insists on the importance of its being strictly observed. If it be not a direct, it will at least be a negative check against extravagance, as each Member of the Board will have the opportunity of questioning any item he pleases. Moreover, it would be well that this statement of the condition and expenditure of the Hospital should be the first business entered upon by the Board at its monthly meetings." And as a proof that it had its effect, in the Report for 1862, 8th Paragraph, is recorded,—"The negative control, however, exercised by the Board has not been without its good effect; and it is satisfactory to know that the cost of Patients for 1862 in the Hospital is a fraction under two shillings per diem, while that of the Invalids at the Brickfields scarcely exceeds one shilling." Have you, at any time, called in skilled assistance to enable you to check the accounts, or have you continued a system so wisely initiated by the Board in order to ensure administrative economy? No, there has been no question ever raised with regard to the accounts.

325. In your opinion they have been perfectly satisfactory? : Yes.

326. Are you aware that the Board which you consider "an inefficient substitute" for your own supervision was composed of the following persons:—Messrs. Wm. Henty, John Regan, T. M'Dowall, W. Benson, George Salier, C. M. Maxwell, Alfred Kennerley, S. Sheehy, Sir Robert Officer, Henry Cook, David Lewis, George Hutton, A. Kissock, with Honorary Medical Officers as *ex officio* Advisers? Yes.

327. You were examined before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council in 1874, in relation to Board Management at the General Hospital, and gave the following evidence:—

97. You acted in the capacity of Secretary to the Board of Management during its existence? I acted as Secretary to the Board of Management from Jan. 1860, to Dec. 1873, excepting a period of 3 years I was absent at Launceston.

98. It had monthly and weekly meetings, had it not? The Board sat monthly, and there was a Finance Committee and a Weekly Committee.

99. Was the attendance of Members always such as to ensure a quorum? I do not think they missed until latterly; not above three meetings in the year.

100. Were the affairs of the Hospital in your opinion administered satisfactorily and economically under the Board? Satisfactorily I may say, but at first not economically.

101. In what particular were they not economical? Excessive stores being ordered from England amounting to a sum of £3000.

102. What items were so expensive? Horsehair for the purpose of making beds, which was taken by other Establishments.

103. What were the character of the beds in the General Hospital at that time? Some flock and some were straw; it was to remedy this by ordering the horsehair from England.

104. Have any alterations of importance been made in the economic arrangements of the General Hospital since the abolition of the Board—if so, state in what particulars? Not appertaining to the Hospital.

Do you see any reason to modify or vary the opinions there recorded, particularly as to Answer No. 104? No.

328. In answer to Question No. 120, you stated you had the verbal authority of the late Colonial Secretary for employing an Invalid as groom, and feeding him at the public expense? I had the verbal authority of the late Colonial Secretary (Mr. Chapman) for the employment of an Invalid or Orphan School boy, or both, if needful.

329. As the letter of the 27th April, 1874, containing the terms of your appointment did not authorise the use of an Invalid, nor in any way provide for his maintenance whilst in your service, interrogations have been forwarded upon the subject to the Colonial Secretary's Office, and the Superintendents of the Cascades and Brickfields, to which the following replies have been received:—

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 23rd December, 1876.*

MEMO.

No written authority is recorded in this office as having been given to Dr. Turnley to employ an invalid as his private groom, sending him to get his meals at the General Hospital.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, Assistant Colonial Secretary.

*The Chairman, Royal Commission, General Hospital.*

*Royal Commission on General Hospital,  
Hobart Town, 27th December, 1876.*

MEMO.

For the information of the Royal Commission now sitting, appointed to enquire into the management and condition of the General Hospital, will the Superintendent of the Cascades Male Invalid Depot reply to the following question:—

Has an invalid, at any time, been discharged to enter the service of the Surgeon Superintendent or any other person, with the understanding that he was to return daily to the establishment for the purpose of taking his meals; or has any authority, written or verbal, been received to that effect?

H. E. SMITH, Secretary.

*The Superintendent, Male Invalid Depot, Cascades.*

[Similar memo. to the Superintendent Male Invalid Depot, Brickfields.]

THE two men *Easton* and *Johnson* who have entered the service of the Surgeon Superintendent from this Depot claimed their discharges being eligible, and were struck off the books; none have been discharged with the understanding that they were to return for the purpose of having their meals.

H. E. SMITH, Esq.

A. H. BOYD,  
27 Dec., 1876.

MEMORANDUM.

1st. ONE inmate named Wm. Watson was discharged from the Brickfields Depot July 10th, 1874, to the General Hospital, but whether as a servant to any person I am not in a position to say: I believe the man was employed to act as groom.

2nd. No man could be employed from this establishment and return to take his meals; he would have to be discharged from the Depot by order of the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

JNO. WITHRINGTON, Superintendent.  
27. 12. 76.

Do you still adhere to your former statement? Yes.

330. Your name is affixed to the Report of the General Hospital for 1875, in which the diets are recorded as follows:—

Patients .....	29,900
Attendants .....	6903

Before certifying to these figures as Surgeon Superintendent, did you adopt any means to ascertain their correctness? No; I must trust to Mr. Seager, for otherwise I should be compelled to go through the whole of his work.

331. By a Return\* placed before the Commissioners signed by yourself, dated 22nd December, 1876, the number of attendants employed at the Hospital in 1875 was 23; is that the case? Yes.

332. Then the entry 6903 representing the diets of the attendants is inaccurate, as it only gives the number nearly 19 as fed daily at the General Hospital instead of 23, and consequently the larger item is incorrect, the diets of the 4 extra attendants having been included in that of the patients? I cannot say without further reference.

333. Are the four invalid helpers included in the 6903 diets? They are not.

334. Not being dieted among the attendants, are they dieted as patients, not being actual patients? Yes.

*By Mr. Travers.*—335. Miss Abbott wrote to you on the 4th July last, telling you the gas was turned off at the meter at 7 o'clock for the three previous days; do you know by whose order was this done? I do not really know, but I think it was done by Mr. Seager's orders.

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MISS ROSAMOND HOLDEN *examined.*

*By the Chairman.*—336. Your name is Rosamond Holden, and you are one of the nurses brought from Sydney by the Government? Yes.

337. How long have you been at the General Hospital? About eleven months.

338. It having been stated in evidence that the House Steward has, on several occasions, given utterance to expressions of a harsh and unkind character of and towards the patients, can you give an instance? Yes, I can.—On one occasion I was speaking to Dr. Macfarlane about Malachi Durr, and asked if I might discontinue the turpentine fomentations, saying that as he was evidently dying, it was no use putting him to pain for nothing,—Mr. Seager broke in and said, "The wretch, I would roast him as long as he had any breath."

*By Mr. Travers.*—339. Has the House Steward placed difficulties in your way with regard to your obtaining extras? Occasionally he has. I have known oranges ordered for patients; the House Steward has not supplied them, excusing himself by saying they were not to be had, though I had myself seen them the same day in the shop windows.

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MR. SEAGER *re-examined.*

*By the Chairman.*—340. By the Return for December, 1875, supplied to the Colonial Storekeeper, it appears that the amount of meat issued for full and half rations is 1987 lbs.; and of bread for full, half, and spoon rations, 2609 lbs.,—whilst recorded as extras are meat, 1572 lbs.; bread, 373 lbs. As in the nominal return of patients and attendants for the same month, beyond the full, half, and spoon diets, no extras are recorded, will you show the Commissioners the data from which these extras are made up? The daily roll of extras, which I produce.

341. From what record do you make the entries in this daily roll of extras? From Registers in Wards Nos. 3 and 4, and from slips of paper in the other wards, on which the medical officers have written the extras ordered; these extras are medical comforts.

342. Can you produce the Registers and slips of paper just referred to? I can produce the Registers from 3 and 4 Wards, but not the slips of paper, which are destroyed immediately after the entry is made.

343. In how many wards are slips of paper used instead of registers? In eight wards, being all except 3 and 4 Wards, a portion of the Female Ward, and some of Dr. Perkins'; and there are no extra sheets in any of the wards, corresponding to the registers.

344. Then practically there is no check on these returns which you have produced, but they depend entirely for their accuracy on your statements? Yes, except in 3 and 4 Wards, a portion of the Female Ward, and some of Dr. Perkins'.

345. In the Daily Roll of Extras is a column headed "Daily Signature and Certificate," which should be signed by the medical officer ordering the extras; is that ever done? No, it is not.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—346. Then in reality a patient might be in the receipt of an excessive amount of extras without the medical man being able to check it? The medical man could not check it, but I could.

*By Mr. Manley.*—347. In the event of the Honorary Medical Officers being absent for two or three days, and wishing to refer to their "Diet Slips," which have in the meantime been destroyed, what means have they of ascertaining the diets? They have none.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—348. Is it within your knowledge that Honorary Medical Officers have been absent for a few days at a time? It is, but I am not aware what arrangements they make.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1877.

DR. MACFARLANE *re-examined.*

*By Mr. Travers.*—349. It has been stated to the Commissioners that you have not co-operated with the Nurses, and that you are not particular in the language you have used. Is that the case? I have always endeavoured to assist the Nurses as far as lay in my power, except when they have gone in opposition to my wishes before the patients. I cannot remember any instance of my having used strong language to patients more than what the occasion may have justified. The only time I ever recollect being more out of temper than I ever was before, was in defence of one of the lady Nurses in No. 3 Ward, when one of the male patients was exceedingly insulting.

350. Why did you procure\* Nurse Brackley a situation at the New Norfolk Asylum the day after she had been discharged from the General Hospital for misconduct? Had I known that Nurse Brackley had been dismissed by Miss Abbott for misconduct, I never would have recommended her to Dr. Huston. I did not ask Miss Abbott the reason why Nurse Brackley was leaving the Hospital until the appointment was obtained at New Norfolk.

*By the Chairman.*—351. Have you not thought it your duty since to advise Dr. Huston of her having been dismissed from the Hospital, seeing that you obtained the appointment for her? I have not advised him, because on consulting Miss Abbott, as far as I remember, we decided to give her another chance, as the fault was not connected with nursing.

#### JAMES WARE *examined.*

*By the Chairman.*—352. Your name is James Ware, and you reside at the Lodge, for which you are allowed fuel, light, and a personal ration? Yes.

353. You have acted in the capacity of Gate-keeper for some time? Yes, for two years and a half.

354. Your family lives in the yard adjoining the Old Female Hospital? Yes.

355. Have you any authority for fuel and light for that residence; if so, produce it? I have no written authority, but received a verbal approval from the late Colonial Secretary (Mr. Chapman) for fuel and light for that residence.

356. When did you receive such verbal authority? When I received my appointment as Gate-keeper.

357. Have you, from the time of your appointment up to the present time, exercised that authority? I did not use it until the Nurses came.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—358. Why did you not exercise the privilege accorded to you until the Nurses came? Because the fuel was not ready at hand for me.

359.—The Commissioners having gone over the premises occupied by the Nurses, found the yard and grounds in a very dirty condition. Upon whom does the duty devolve to see that they are in a proper state of cleanliness? I cannot answer that question.

*By the Chairman.*—360. Has any previous Gate-keeper been allowed other quarters than the Lodge, with fuel and light? Not to my knowledge.

361. Are you in the habit of receiving all messages from persons requiring the attendance of the Surgeon Superintendent? Not all messages; anything requiring his medical attendance during my hours at the gate I have to report to Dr. Turnley.

362. Have you any book or record with the names of such persons; if so, produce it? I have, and produce it.

363. What is the number recorded monthly for the year 1876? You will find it in my visiting book.

364. Are the numbers accurately set forth, as added up each month from 1st January to 31st December, 1876? Yes, they are. I will give you the numbers:—

January .....	48
February .....	54
March .....	35
April .....	42
May .....	41
June .....	49
July .....	44
August .....	66
September .....	53
October .....	62
November .....	83
December .....	102

365. Then you have never known from 10 to 30 applications made to you daily? I have known 10, but never as many as 30.

*By Mr. Travers.*—366. The Commissioners have been informed that you told one of the Nurses that she need not exhibit her pass, and when she said that was wrong, you replied Miss Abbott would never know it. Is that the case? That is not correct.

367. It has been stated that you have acted unfairly towards some of the Nurses, favouring some and not others as to the time of their return, that you would report some and not others who were late. Is that the case? I reported every Nurse who was late that came under my notice.

368. It is in evidence before the Commissioners, that a child for whom Dr. Crowther prescribed on Saturday, October 14th, 1876, did not get its medicine until the 16th, because you told its brother that it was past 11 A.M., and that he was too late? That is untrue.

369.

#### Mr. Seals' Evidence.

199. Is it a fact within your knowledge, the day having been Saturday, October 14th, 1876, that a child for whom Dr. Crowther had prescribed did not obtain its medicine until the following Monday, its brother not having reached the Hospital until a few minutes past 11 A.M., and who, upon arrival, was refused admission to the Dispensary by the Gate-keeper, Ware? A prescription from Dr. Crowther, dated 14th October, 1876, having been presented to me on the 16th, I enquired of the boy why he had not got the medicine on Saturday, the 14th. He replied that he came to the gate, and was told by the Gate-keeper that it was past 11 A.M., and that he was too late. I produce the prescription endorsed with my initials, and the following memorandum:—"This was brought to the Dispensary on the morning of the 16th October, 1876. J. S."

Can you explain Mr. Seals' answer, as it affects your character so closely? I totally deny the truth of it.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1877.

DR. PERKINS *examined.*

*By the Chairman.*—370. Your name is Henry Alleine Perkins, and you are one of the Honorary Medical Officers of Her Majesty's General Hospital? Yes.

371. How long have you been so? Since the 8th May, 1876.

372. Have you any Ward or Wards placed specially under your care; if not, under what arrangements do you act? I have portions of Wards placed under my charge, comprising the same total number of beds as the other Honorary Medical Officers.

373. What is your opinion as to the manner in which the nursing has been performed here since the appointment of the Lady Superintendent and her Staff? It might have been performed better by a Staff of Nurses of the same strength.

374. Do you not think the comfort of the patients has been much increased since the introduction of female nursing? No, I do not.

375. Do you not think that female nursing has a softening and humanising influence upon the patients? I think it has.

376. What opinion have you formed of the *personnel* of the nursing staff as to temper, assiduity, and general care of the sick? In some cases nothing is left to be desired; in other cases, there have been instances of shortness of temper. I have had complaints of want of food from the patients; namely, that it was deficient in quantity, and not properly served.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—377. Does not the dieting of the patient rest with yourself? It does.

378. Does not the return of extras ordered by yourself depend more upon the House Steward than upon the nurse? I cannot answer that.

379. Are there any data, other than the Case-book, within the Ward which will enable the nurse to apportion the extras as ordered by yourself? None other but the Case-book.

*By the Chairman.*—380. There is no co-ordinate sheet answering to the Case-book left in the Ward? There is not.

381. Are you of opinion that the Lady Superintendent and nurses have met with cordial co-operation at the hands of the hospital authorities? I am; but I wish to add that the hospital authorities have not met with cordial co-operation on the part of the Lady Superintendent and nurses.

382. Could you give any instances of this want of co-operation on the part of the nurses? I can give an instance; the absence from the wards during a whole day of the lady nurses, without consulting the Surgeon Superintendent, the Honorary Medical Officers, or the House Surgeon.

383. Are you aware that the Lady Superintendent entered upon her duties at the General Hospital without any defined instructions? She had no instructions from the Honorary Medical Officers; I am not aware whether she received any from the Government.

384. Assuming that more ward accommodation is needed, what amount would you recommend? More ward accommodation is wanted for special cases, such as fever, *delirium tremens*, and infectious cases.

385. Do you think that the present recreation grounds are sufficient for the requirements of the patients? I do.

386. What is your opinion of the bath accommodation in this Hospital? It is sufficient in itself, but should be isolated from the sinks and water-closets.

387. What is the present amount of bath accommodation? There is a bath to every two wards in the main building.

*By Dr. Crowther.*—388. Do you think the bath and closet accommodation such as should exist in any well-regulated Hospital? So far as I have seen, I do.

*By the Chairman.*—389. In your opinion, can the Hospital be considered in a satisfactory condition until extensive improvements are made? Yes; I think it is in a satisfactory condition without extensive improvements.

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MR. SEAGER *re-examined.*

*By the Chairman.*—390. Information having been given by yourself that the "Diet Slips" of 1875 have been destroyed, will you state if you have those from which you have compiled your Extra Sheets for 1876? I have not, except for Wards Nos. 3 and 4, a portion of the Female Ward, and some of Dr. Perkins'.

391. Supposing you were called upon to show the data upon which you have founded your Extra Sheets, you would not be in a position to furnish it? I would not, except for 3 and 4 Wards, a portion of the Female Ward, and some of Dr. Perkins'.

392. In fact a majority of the wards have Diet Slips instead of Registers, and which have not been preserved? Yes.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1877.

MISS ABBOTT *re-examined.*

*By the Chairman.*—393. It has been stated in evidence that you, with the lady nurses, were absent from the wards during a whole day without consulting the Surgeon-Superintendent, the honorary Medical Officers, or the House Surgeon. Is that the case? I was once absent with three of the lady nurses, but I left Miss Rosamond Holden in charge.

394. Upon your arrival at the General Hospital were any instructions given to you in the matter of leaving the Hospital at any time either on your own behalf or that of the lady nurses? None whatever. No rules were ever given to me either about myself or the lady nurses.

395. Do you believe the wants of the sick and the requirements of the honorary medical officers have always been attended to during your own temporary absence? Always.

*By Mr. Travers.*—396. Has Dr. Perkins ever complained to you at any time of shortness of temper on the part of the nurses? No.

*By Mr. Whyte.*—397. Has Dr. Perkins ever spoken to you of complaints made to him by the patients of their food being deficient in quantity and not properly served? No; quite the reverse. In consequence of Dr. Perkins ordering too little food for his patients I have had to ask the head nurses to draw Dr. Turnley's attention to these cases.

## APPENDIX.

## A.

## LETTERS FROM THE LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

*Old Female Hospital, 6th March, 1876.*

DEAR SIR,

It is now three weeks since the system of female nursing commenced, and I quite hope by the end of the month that the various necessary changes will be completed, and that I and the nursing staff may have all the necessary conveniences for keeping the patients clean, and the arrangements for the nurses to attend to their wards with less waste of time and strength. First, the stores necessary for the week, soap, candles, &c. to be given out once a week. Second, a medicine chest in each ward. Third, cupboard on each floor for the linen and extras, the keys to be kept by the nurse in charge. Fourth, four tables for the use of the wards for meals. Fifthly, oil-cloth for the tables, teapots, ladles for soup, tins for the extras, tins for joints, large delf dishes for carving, dressing trays. Sixth, uniform for the patients, white calico shirts, moleskin trousers, blue flannel jumpers, blanket ponchos for warmth, all made at home but the trousers. Seventh, white counterpanes were promised and will add so much to the cleanliness and appearance of the wards. Eighth, the entire charge of the linen for the Hospital to be given over to me; all the patients' clothes will be sent to the wash, mended, &c. Begging your kind and immediate attention to these things, which I believe you will agree with me in considering indispensable for the satisfactory working of the Hospital.

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 13th March, 1876.*

DEAR DR. TURNLEY,

As you and I are always so occupied at the hours when we meet at the Hospital, may I bring under your notice the following points, which I think you will agree with me need amendment:—The yard adjoining the Female Lock Ward is most necessary for their use for air and exercise, and for a drying ground; while the men may use the verandah as a workshop, &c., it is impossible to prevent conversation, &c.; and the girls are therefore obliged to be locked into their ward. There are so many other places which could be used by the men for working in, unless the far better plan could be carried out of moving the Female Lock Ward to the large room belonging to Mr. Seals' old quarters, which has a small garden, &c. attached, and the Male Lock Ward would be the present female one. The present system of permitting patients to send for eatables, fish, fruit, eggs, &c., and cooking them in the ward is most objectionable, and must be unnecessary with a varied and liberal Hospital diet. The present back room used for the Sunday Service is extremely close and inconvenient from being the men servants' sleeping room; could there be any objection to holding the service in the large ward in the Nurses' Home? I have forms and benches, and should see that it was kept in proper order. Calico can be purchased in quantities from 2d. to 2½d. a yard, a shroud would only take three yards, surely then the utter indecency of the present arrangements might be ended, as our needlewoman could make all that are required, and the body could be prepared by the nurse for the coffin in the ward, and those who have no clothes be allowed a shroud for mere decency sake.

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 20th March, 1876.*

SIR,

THERE is an abundance of food supplied in the Hospital, but the want of variety in the form is much to be regretted: could not two or four ounce rolls be supplied for the patients? As the amount of bread which is wasted on the present system is considerable, I venture to suggest that a meeting of the honoraries be called so that a diet list may be arranged. Surely with a cook and an assistant in the kitchen it cannot be necessary for the nurses to make all the sago and arrowroot, &c. in the wards; it causes extra work and mess, and takes up time which could be far better employed.

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 19th April, 1876.*

DEAR DR. TURNLEY,

I ENCLOSE copies of what I spoke to you about as you desired. The book for personal linen I send as a pattern, and wish for two dozen similar ones. The ward book (to be made just the same) of these one dozen, one book for gate passes, perforated so as to tear off without inconvenience like postage stamps. The wine, brandy, &c. tickets to be gummed ready for the bottles, (about five hundred,) and could we have uniform bottles for the stimulants instead of the old oil bottles we now use?

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 29th April, 1876.*

SIR,

I BEG to bring under your notice two great defects in the Hospital arrangements, one is that hot water is not laid on throughout the building, the other is that the lavatories are not provided with sinks. You are aware that the bath-rooms are supplied at present with hot water by coppers only, and that there is delay and difficulty in heating and adjusting the temperature, and that for common and almost hourly use hot water has to be fetched from the kitchen. The lavatories are supplied at present, in the absence of sinks, with troughs for washing and all cleansing purposes, and there is no means of disposing of the waste water but down the closets. I need not press on you that an abundant and ready supply of hot water is absolutely necessary, and under the present arrangements the delay and trouble of getting it often prevents its use. I submit that arrangements should be made as soon as possible to remedy this great inconvenience, and to place the Hospital in these respects in as good a position as every private house.

I am, &c.

Dr. TURNLEY.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 5th June, 1876.*

SIR,

I BEG to call your attention to the blinds in the women's wards. They are much too torn and old to be mended, and as blinds are necessary, if the material is supplied I will see that they are made, and a man must then put them up, as the rollers, &c. want adjusting. May I call your attention to the material used in Sydney for all the patients' beds, pillows, &c., "pulu," it is very cheap, very soft, shakes up and does not knot and mat as hair does. Pillows are wanted for nurses and patients, so I should be glad to have something decided on without delay.

I am, &c.

Dr. TURNLEY.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 5th June, 1876.*

DEAR DR. TURNLEY,

As I find difficulties raised when anything is required to be done by the men, to save discussion or any disagreeables I thought it well to ask you to give a distinct order as to the duties I require of them:—First, they empty the piece and dirt boxes, and bring up the coals. Second, light the bath fire, bath the patients, and leave the bath-room in order. Thirdly, fill any ticks or cushions which may be required. Fourthly, shake mats and coir matting once a week, and sweep women's yard. Fifthly, to assist in carrying up or down any patients.

I am, &c.

Dr. TURNLEY.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 27th June, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE long wished to ask you if it would be possible for me to submit to you any requisition I wish to make, and if it meets with your approval, to have your signature placed to it at once, so that I may forward it and so save the usually great delay of it having to pass through several hands.

Trusting this may meet with your approval.

I am, &c.

Dr. TURNLEY.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 3rd July, 1876.*

DEAR SIR,

As so many of the horsehair mattresses are quite unfit for use in their present condition, I thought, perhaps, the Tailor might have time to see to them. The hair requires picking, &c., and many require new ticks. As we are greatly in need of them, may I request your early attention to this matter.

I am, &c.

Dr. TURNLEY.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 4th July, 1876.*

DEAR DR. TURNLEY,

THE gas has been turned off at the meter at 7 o'clock for the last three days; the consequence is, no bread and milk can be made, or poultices for the patients. The reason given to you for this change may be, that the gas was found burning one morning at 8 o'clock, the night-nurse having forgotten to turn it out. This was a mere accident, and not likely to occur again, and the present want of gas is a very serious inconvenience.

I am, &c.

Dr. TURNLEY.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 17th August, 1876.*

DEAR DR. TURNLEY,

I MUST again call your attention to the state of the water-closets at the back of the Nurses' Home, which require immediate repairs. The last time the workmen attended to them, one or two were nearly as bad in a few days as they had been previously, so that they could hardly have been thoroughly looked to. Might the skylight that was blown off in the last storm be repaired, as the rain comes in very much?

I am, &c.

Dr. TURNLEY.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 17th August, 1876.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED this morning from you the letter from Mr. Huxtable with reference to the washing for the nursing staff. By the greatest care and management among the nurses, and in the house, I find it would be impossible for the washing to be done (at the Cascades rates for washing) under £80 a year. I could, of course, give the exact number of articles required, &c., but I have made a calculation, and find the sum to be £80 at the present prices for the articles.

I am, &c.

Dr. TURNLEY.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 8th September, 1876.*

DEAR SIR,

ONE of my head nurses requiring a bed tick to be filled with straw yesterday, sent it down to Mr. Seager, as usual, but he declined to have it done. Will you kindly let me know who I am to ask to fill the bed ticks, as I do not consider it part of the nurses' duty?

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 11th September, 1876.*

DEAR SIR,

MIGHT I again call your attention to a skylight which was blown off some time ago? Nurse Mary, who sleeps in the adjoining room, has been laid up with a very severe cold; and the servant sleeping in the room has a very bad cough. I attribute both to the draughts caused by the broken skylight, and trust it may be looked to as soon as possible. The gas in our dining-room is out of order, and gives such a wretched light we are obliged to burn candles. Can this be attended to? Black paint is required for marking; will you allow 2lbs. to be ordered?

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 25th September, 1876.*

SIR,

AS I find that we have not a sufficient quantity of pulu, I am writing to ask if some more could be procured; about as much more as we have had, I should think, would fill the remaining pillows. Perhaps the order could be sent by the steamer which leaves to-morrow, as I should be glad to get the pillows done as soon as possible.

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 9th October, 1876.*

DEAR SIR,

I MUST beg of you to take steps for the removal of the child from the Female Wards whose mother died last Monday. A Hospital Ward is not a place for an infant, and the time and attention it requires interfere with the nurses' work both day and night. I trust the child will be sent elsewhere as soon as possible.

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 4th December, 1876.*

MY DEAR SIR,

IN consequence of the difference which has occurred between Dr. Perkins and Miss Gordon, (the particulars of which you know,) the latter wishes to leave the Hospital at once instead of waiting until her engagement terminates at the end of the year. As Miss Gordon desires to return to Sydney by the *Tasman*, which sails on Tuesday at noon, would you kindly let me know whether the Government will accede to her wishes, and cancel her agreement at the earliest hour possible?

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 9th December, 1876.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I FIND that as we have got on very well with the work, I shall not require a needlewoman for the future; but, as the needlewoman at present does some part of the household work, my housemaid wishes for a little increase to her wages (8s. per week instead of 6s. as at present) in consequence of her duties being increased by having to do what the needlewoman has hitherto helped her in. Even with this increase the Government will be saved rather more than £20 per annum. Will you kindly let me know if this arrangement meets the approval of the Government?

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

*The Hospital, 12th December, 1876.*

DEAR DR. TURNLEY,

I AM writing to ask you if the large gate leading into the women's yard can be put to rights; at present it will not shut, and consequently we cannot prevent the men and women from talking together, which is undesirable. Also, could we have the chimneys in the main building swept, as the soot falling is most troublesome?

Dr. TURNLEY.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FLORENCE ABBOTT, L.S.

## B.

### MR. HUNTER'S REPORT.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 8th November, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that you will arrange with Dr. Turnley, Surgeon Superintendent of the General Hospital, to visit the Institution and consult with him upon the several subjects enumerated in the enclosed Memorandum, and furnish the Government, at as early a date as possible, with a Report detailing your views as to the best method of providing for the various requirements specified.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

HENRY HUNTER, Esquire, Macquarie-street.

### MEMORANDUM.

- The most suitable arrangements for a continuous supply of both hot and cold water.
- The closets in the lock-ward and the necessary alterations.
- The best plan for providing for the removal of all night soil, so as to avoid the necessity for emptying the tubs through the hole in the wall, as at present.
- Provision for the accommodation of the night nurses on the landings.
- Cells for the reception of insane women, or drunken women when injured.
- General bath accommodation.
- Receiving room for patients on admission, with store for private clothes and bath-room.



*Colonial Secretary's Office, 8th November, 1876.*

SIR, I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have requested Mr. Henry Hunter to arrange to visit the Hospital, and consult with you as to the best method of providing for the various requirements specified in the enclosed Memorandum, a duplicate of which I have forwarded to him, and then to furnish the Government with a Report at as early a date as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

*The Surgeon Superintendent, General Hospital.*

[Memorandum enclosed.]

*Hobart Town, 18th November, 1876.*

SIR, In compliance with the instructions contained in your communication of the 8th instant, I have the honor to report that I visited the General Hospital by appointment with Dr. Turnley, who kindly accompanied me over the whole Institution, and afforded me every required information.

The following are replies to the several subjects enumerated in your Memorandum :—

1. The supply of both hot and cold water. This would be a large undertaking, and is one of much importance to the Institution. As additional buildings are in contemplation, plans being in course of preparation for them, I would advise that the water supply to the entire Hospital should be embraced in those additions and alterations, instead of spending funds upon a temporary provision to the present wards. I refer principally to the supply of hot water. In the new buildings I shall propose a steam boiler for this purpose, and have wash-house, drying chamber, &c. in connection therewith.

2. Closets in the Lock wards.—The present condition of these demands immediate attention. The one for the Female Division is, or has been, a dry-earth closet, but is quite unfit for use. I recommend its immediate repair, or the substitution of a new one; and an additional one might be provided for the nurses' use, to be placed in the small room off the ward. For the men there is an old building in the yard, which could be re-shingled, some of the partitions dividing the interior at present be removed, and two or three dry-earth closets, of best description, be placed therein. Another similar convenience should be in the Men's Ward, instead of the objectionable night-stools at present in use there.

3. The proper arrangement of earth-closets, with regular supply of dry earth, and to be systematically cleared away, say three times a week, would obviate the necessity for emptying the tubs, as at present, through the hole in the wall referred to. I should prefer, with good and proper drainage, the water-closet system to the earth-closets; but I recommend the latter as the least costly and best, under the present circumstances, as the provision will be but temporary.

4. Accommodation for the Night Nurses on the landings.—This merely requires a partition, the upper part of glass, to be erected across the landing at top of the principal staircase; or, a light folding screen, about 7 feet high, might be provided, so that during the day the whole could be thrown open. I would suggest a small gas-stove within the enclosure, which, in winter time especially, would be a great comfort and convenience.

5. Cells for the reception of insane or drunken Women.—These, I am of opinion, should not form any part of another building, but be entirely detached, on account of the great disturbance such patients generally create when taken in, and during detention. In the plans for additions some retired spot can be found for such a building, and I would not advise that expense should be incurred now in making any further temporary provision beyond what already exists.

6. General Bath accommodation.—This would be in connection with the hot and cold water supply, and is dealt with under paragraph 1. I shall propose to use portable baths for the wards, to be filled with hot or cold water, laid on at some convenient position on each floor. When complete bath accommodation is provided the small rooms off the wards, at present used for hot baths, would be available for nurses' retiring rooms, with windows inserted, enabling the wards to be overlooked therefrom. This would prove, I believe, a useful and convenient arrangement.

7. Receiving-room and Store for private clothes.—These would also be embraced in the new plans, and are, indeed, very urgently needed. I propose to include in my plans a receiving room, bath, fumigating-room, and clothes store.

The present lavatory and water-closet accommodation in the main building require considerable and, in my opinion, immediate alteration. The only means the nurses have of drawing cold water is from taps over the sinks in the water-closets, which latter, together with fixed urinals, are in no way screened off, and may, of course, be at any time occupied. I would suggest the enlargement of the towers, I may call them, containing the water-closets, &c., so as to separate more completely the closets from the wards. I would let the lavatories remain as they are, supply them with hot as well as cold water, and fit up in each a proper "housemaid's sink" for emptying slops, &c. The closets I should throw further back and screen entirely off. This would not be a very costly alteration, and it is one which might be made, except as regards the hot water supply, without reference to the contemplated general additions and improvements. Now that female nurses are engaged, a glance at the present water-closet, urinal, and lavatory arrangements is sufficient to show the necessity there is for alteration in this important particular.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY HUNTER.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

## C.

## MR. PREGNELL'S LETTER.

SIR,  
THE under-mentioned are the different kinds of articles that I have been in the habit of sending to the Hospital for the last few months:—2 sheep, and from 40 to 50 lbs. of beef daily: the beef is generally pieces for roasting and boiling; a quarter of lamb or 2 or 3 ox tails on Saturdays; corn beef once or twice a week,—once for certain every week; and on the 6th instant I sent about 22 lbs. of corn beef, being rather short of fresh beef.

*Pro John Pregnell,*  
CHARLES PREGNELL.

M<sup>r</sup>. C. H. HUXTABLE.

C.M.—14. 12. 76.

## D.

## RETURNS FROM THE COLONIAL STOREKEEPER.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Bread.</i>	<i>Meat.</i>
1876.	lbs.	lbs.
January .....	2675	3395
February .....	2575	3201
March .....	2914	3764
April .....	2828	3485
May .....	3084	3821
June .....	2768	3323
July .....	3000	3179
August .....	3326	3869
September .....	3309	3830
October .....	3120	3923
November .....	2860	3449
December .....	2900	3424
TOTAL .....	35,359	42,663

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

C. H. HUXTABLE, *Colonial Storekeeper.*

## MEMO.

## GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOBART TOWN.

The Surgeon-Superintendent, the House Steward, the House Surgeon, and the Dispenser receive no Rations.

The Gate-keeper receives the following Ration daily:—1 lb. bread, 1 lb. meat, 1 lb. vegetables,  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. tea,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. barley,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. salt,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint milk.

Authority in appointment from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

C. H. HUXTABLE, *Colonial Storekeeper.*

8th December, 1876.

## E.

## RETURN FROM SURGEON-SUPERINTENDENT.

1875.

Number of Wardsmen, 7; Nurses, 5; Total, 12.

Gate-keepers—James Ware, Charles Williams. Cook—John Johnson. Assistant Cook—John Shepherd, an Invalid. Tailor and Barber—William Pilfoed, John Sugrue. Dr. Turnley's Groom—John Easton, an Invalid. Other Helpers—William Foot, Samuel Bass, Invalids. Dispensary Assistant—Isaac Barron. Messenger—James E. Ware.

Nurses and Warders, 12; Attendants, 11; Total, 23.

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Surgeon Superintendent.*

General Hospital, 22 December, 1876.

## F.

## CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING NURSE LUCY BRACKLEY.

## MEMO.

Will the Lady Superintendent be good enough to inform me, for the information of the Royal Commission on the General Hospital, Hobart Town, when nurse Brackley was discharged from the General Hospital, and for what cause? Please furnish her Christian name.

H. E. SMITH, *Secretary*.  
16th December, 1876.

MISS ABBOTT, *Lady Superintendent, General Hospital, Hobart Town.*

## MEMO.

THE Lady Superintendent begs to inform Mr. Smith that "Lucy Brackley" was discharged from her situation at the General Hospital on the 24th of October last, for disobedience in a case which endangered life, untrustworthiness, dishonesty, and untruthfulness.—*The Hospital, December 16th.*

*Royal Commission on the General Hospital,  
Hobart Town, 18th December, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by direction of the Royal Commission on the General Hospital, Hobart Town, to enquire the circumstances under which Lucy Brackley, formerly a nurse at the General Hospital, received an appointment (on or about the 24th October last) as Nurse at the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk?

Will you be good enough to say whether she was recommended to you by any officer of the General Hospital? If so, please forward a copy of such recommendation for the information of the Commissioners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. E. SMITH, *Secretary*.

*The Surgeon Superintendent, Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.*

*Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 19th December, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in reply to your letter of the 18th instant, to state that Lucy Brackley, who was engaged as a Nurse on this Establishment on the 26th October last, was recommended to me by Dr. Macfarlane, but as I have lost or mislaid that gentleman's note, I regret that I am unable to furnish a copy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. HUSTON.

H. E. SMITH, *Esq., Secretary to Royal Commission,  
General Hospital, Hobart Town.*

## HOSPITAL REPORT.

*(In continuation of Paper No. 4.)*

*To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania.*

The humble Memorial of CHARLES SEAGER, Clerk, Steward, and Storekeeper of the General Hospital, Hobart Town.

SHOWETH:

THAT on the 11th day of December last Your Excellency appointed a Commission to enquire into the general condition and management of the General Hospital.

That in forwarding the Commission to the Hon. W. L. Crowther, M.L.C., the Colonial Secretary requested the attention of the Commissioners to several subjects, one of which was as follows:—

“2. The reasons that have induced the Lady Superintendent to state, as set forth in her letter of the 4th inst., that under no circumstances would she or the Lady Nurses consent to remain if the services of the present House Steward and Gatekeeper are retained in the establishment.”

That on the 12th January instant the Commissioners furnished their Report to Your Excellency, and on subject 2, which appears in the preceding paragraph, reported as follows:—

“We believe that the reasons adduced by the Lady Superintendent are well established and deserve immediate attention.”

“With regard to the House Steward and Gatekeeper the evidence taken exhibits a divided interest existing at the General Hospital, and shows plainly since the arrival of the Lady Superintendent and superior nurses a general want of co-operation on the part of the former, and of due subordination and respect on the part of the latter.”

That up to the date of the publication of the Report your Memorialist was quite unaware that the Lady Superintendent had made any complaint against your Memorialist.

That during the examination of your Memorialist before the said Commission no evidence taken against him was read to him, nor was he made acquainted with the charges against him excepting from the questions which were put to him by Mr. Travers.

That your Memorialist has been employed in the General Hospital for 19 years, 17 of which have been in the service of the Colonial Government, and during that period has always performed his duty to the satisfaction of the head of the establishment.

That since the change in the system of nursing at the Hospital the relative duties of the different officers have never been defined, and the work of your Memorialist has increased to a considerable extent, so much so that his daily duties now extend from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M. during the whole year.

Your Memorialist would further point out that at no time during his examination before the said Commission was he informed that he was on his trial, nor was he asked to produce any evidence as to the manner in which he had performed his duties.

Your Memorialist would respectfully point out that, although the Surgeon-Superintendent attends daily at the Hospital, on only one occasion, according to the complaints published in the Report of the Commission, was any complaint made by the Lady Superintendent against your Memorialist.

Your Memorialist therefore humbly prays that before the recommendations of the Commission are carried into effect Your Excellency will cause further enquiry to be made as to the charges alleged against your Memorialist, and that your Memorialist may have an opportunity of answering the same.

And your Memorialist will ever pray, &c.

C. SEAGER,  
20 January, 1877.

Since writing the above I have seen the printed evidence of Miss Rosamond Holden, p. 27, wherein, in reference to a certain patient—Malachi Durr—I am reported to have used the expression, “The wretch, I would roast him as long as he had any breath.” I much regret to say, in the irritation of the moment, I did use some expression of this kind, but not in the man’s presence. But I spoke as an old soldier—Durr was a traitor: as one of the Military Guard on board the *Lady Franklin* he connived with the convicts, and allowed them to overpower his comrades of the guard and seize the ship.

Although the next witness after Miss R. Holden I was not asked for any explanation of the above expression.

*To His Excellency* FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, *Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania.*

The Memorial of the undersigned, being the entire Medical Staff of the General Hospital, Hobart Town; viz.—

G. W. Turnley, Surgeon-Superintendent for 18 years.  
T. C. Smart, Honorary Medical Officer for 16 years.  
Henry Butler, ditto 15 years.  
R. S. Bright, ditto 17 years.  
H. A. Perkins, ditto 9 months.  
W. H. Macfarlane, House Surgeon 2½ years.

SHOWETH:

THAT the Report of the Royal Commission appointed by Your Excellency to enquire into the management of the Hospital recommends the removal of Mr. Seager, House Steward and Storekeeper, from office.

That Mr. Seager has held that position for a period of 19 years without any complaint or charge being made against him, having previously been Quarter-Master Sergeant of the 12th Regiment.

That in 1860 a Board of Management was appointed to manage the Hospital, and that this Board was set aside in 1873. That in 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1867, 1868, 1869, and 1870, Mr. Seager, in conjunction with the other Officers of the Hospital, received the thanks of the Board for his zeal and efficiency.

That charges have been made against Mr. Seager before the Commission which he was allowed no opportunity of refuting, nor of defending himself against, nor of calling witnesses in his behalf.

That your Memorialists have had unequalled opportunities of judging how his duties have been performed in their daily work at the Hospital as Medical Officers for the periods mentioned after their names at the beginning of this Memorial.

That your Memorialists have always found him at his post,—his day's work extending from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M.,—faithful and zealous in the discharge of his duty, and always ready to afford them any assistance in his power.

That, from their knowledge of him, and the general oversight which they have had of his work, they know and affirm that he has served the Hospital and Government well and faithfully for 19 years.

That your Memorialists cannot but express their regret that no opportunity was afforded them while under examination by the Commission of recording their knowledge of Mr. Seager's long and valuable services as an Officer of the Government, although from the lengthened period of observation above referred to they were in a position to bear valuable testimony to the efficient manner in which his duties have always been performed.

And your Memorialists would earnestly solicit that Your Excellency would be pleased to afford Mr. Seager an opportunity of being heard by witnesses or otherwise before action is taken to carry into effect the recommendation of the Commission.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c.

GEORGE TURNLEY.  
THOS. C. SMART.  
HENRY BUTLER.  
R. S. BRIGHT.  
H. ALLEINE PERKINS.  
W. H. MACFARLANE.

*To His Excellency* FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, *Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

The humble Memorial of JAMES WARE, Gatekeeper of the General Hospital, Hobart Town.

SHOWETH:

THAT the Report of the Royal Commissioners appointed by Your Excellency to enquire into the Management of the Hospital recommends the removal of your Memorialist from Office. That your Memorialist has been employed in the Hospital for ten years as Wardsman, Messenger, and Gatekeeper respectively. That your Memorialist has always performed his duties to the satisfaction of the Surgeon-Superintendent, no fault having ever been found with him.

That your Memorialist was not informed of Miss Abbott's letter as to his removal, and did not have the charges read to him when before the Commission.

As far as your Memorialist knows, no complaint has been made to the Surgeon-Superintendent by the Lady Superintendent as to his conduct.

Your Memorialist therefore prays that Your Excellency will cause further enquiries to be made before the recommendation of the Commissioners is carried into effect.

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

JAMES WARE.

*General Hospital, Hobart Town, 19th January, 1877.*

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*To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania.*

THE Memorial of the undersigned, being the entire Medical Staff of the General Hospital, Hobart Town; viz.—

G. W. Turnley, Surgeon-Superintendent for 18 years.  
T. C. Smart, Honorary Medical Officer for 16 years.  
Henry Butler, ditto 15 years.  
R. S. Bright, ditto 17 years.  
H. A. Perkins, ditto 9 months.  
W. H. Macfarlane, House Surgeon, 2½ years.

SHOWETH :

That the Report of the Royal Commission appointed by Your Excellency to enquire into the management of the Hospital recommends the removal of James Ware, the Gatekeeper, from office.

That within our knowledge he has been employed at the Hospital as Wardsman, Messenger, and Gatekeeper successively for 10 years.

That he has been promoted from one situation to another in consequence of the zealous, faithful, and efficient manner in which his duties have been discharged.

That your Memorialists, from their daily intercourse with Ware during the periods of their respective service as Medical Officers of the Institution, have had ample opportunities of witnessing the manner in which his duties have been conducted, and can testify to his invariable assiduity and zeal in the affairs of his office.

That charges have been made against Ware before the Commission which he was allowed no opportunity of refuting, nor of defending himself against, nor of calling witnesses in his behalf.

That your Memorialists cannot but express their regret that no opportunity was afforded them while under examination by the Commission of recording their knowledge of Ware's long and valuable services as an officer of the Government, although from the lengthened period of observation above referred to they were in a position to bear valuable testimony to the efficient manner in which his duties have always been performed.

And your Memorialists would earnestly solicit that Your Excellency would be pleased to afford Ware an opportunity of being heard by witnesses or otherwise before action is taken to carry into effect the recommendations of the Commission.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c.

GEORGE TURNLEY.  
THOS. C. SMART.  
HENRY BUTLER.  
R. S. BRIGHT.  
H. ALLEINE PERKINS.  
W. H. MACFARLANE.