

(No. 136.)



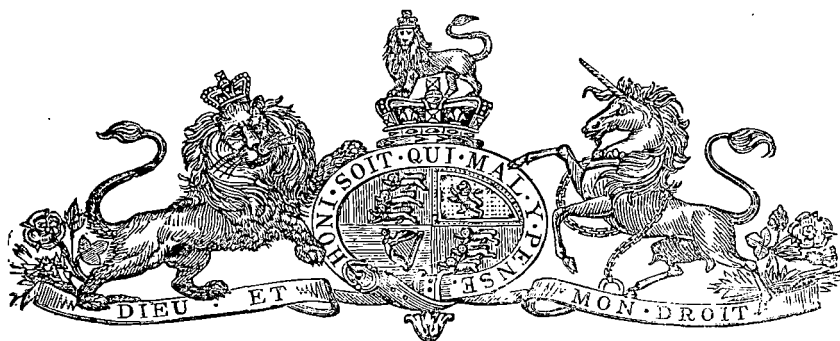
1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CASCADES HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE:

REPORT BY OFFICIAL VISITORS ON STATEMENTS MADE
BY THE REVEREND DEAN DUNDAS.

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



Macquarie-street, 11th October, 1889.

SIR,

IN compliance with your Minute on Dr. Coverdale's Report, dated 4th instant, with reference to the statements made from the pulpit of St. David's Cathedral Church by the Reverend Dean Dundas on the evening of Sunday, 15th September, reflecting on the condition of the patients of the Cascades Hospital for the Insane, which, at our request, were embodied in a letter from the Dean, dated 20th September, we have the honor to submit for your consideration the following Report which we have arrived at after careful investigation during the last few days

We examined Dr. Coverdale, the Surgeon-Superintendent; Mr. Samuel Smith and Mr. John Leary, Under-Attendants; Mr. John Evenden, Attendant and Under-Storekeeper; the Rev. Dean Dundas; and Mr. Wm. Lovett, the Auditor-General; and elicited the evidence herein enclosed, which was read over to them and is attested by their signatures thereto.

The statements contained in this evidence—though they may in some respects be regarded as contradictory—on the whole may be construed as controverting some of the representations made by the Dean; and in the case of Mr. Samuel Smith, and likewise in that of Mr. John Evenden, they contradict the evidence given before the Royal Commission in 1888.

The Reports made by ourselves to you on our frequent visits to the Asylum, as required by 49 Victoriae, No. 35, and based upon observations on the days of those visits, leave but little room to doubt that the management of the Asylum might have been improved by increased vigilance and zeal on the part of the Head of the Institution and his officers.

With regard to the representations quoted by the Dean, it appears that they have been based upon statements made to him by others, and upon the evidence in the Report of the Royal Commission, rather than on actual facts as witnessed by himself on his periodical, but short, visits during the last three or four years. This possibly accounts for his not having brought the state of things he has recently described under notice long since. In his evidence he says—"During the last two years the statements made to me were of such a general character that I did not feel justified in making any formal representation of them to the authorities until they were confirmed by perusal quite recently of the Report of the Royal Commission, and also by more precise information lately received from both present and past officials and patient De Bomford." And again—"I had conversations with Mr. Samuel Smith, Mr. Leary, and Mr. Richards. The information derived from Mr. S. Smith and Mr. Leary confirmed my statements."

We examined both these attendants, but could gather no confirmation of the statements made by the Dean in their evidence to us; and we particularly questioned them with reference thereto, as will be seen when we deal with the charges *seriatim*.

The main charges by the Dean are as follows, consisting of "quotations from the Report of the Special Commission (1888), and from the evidence taken in connection therewith"—

Evidence (1.)—"The sick do not get sufficient nourishment, nor are they allowed medical comforts." This is given by Mr. Samuel Smith before the Royal Commission, but to us Mr. Smith says—"I have always had instructions to find out what medical comforts the sick would wish, and these extras have always been given them in reason. When I gave evidence before the Royal Commission I did not really know what medical comforts comprised. The sick have always obtained sufficient nourishment and medical comforts as I now understand them. The food for the sick is always properly cooked."

Mr. Leary says—"The sick are not neglected, nor are they kept short of comforts. They are very well attended. The previous witness (Smith) is very kind indeed to the sick patients. The sick patients get extra milk, gruel, eggs, rum, or almost anything in reason."

Dr. Coverdale says—"It is positively untrue that the sick do not get sufficient nourishment. They get what medical comforts are necessary. In many cases the patients are supplied with food and comforts of their own choosing, such as bacon, eggs, arrowroot, oatmeal, milk, &c.," and he quoted a case from the case-book to show the variety of nourishment patients sometimes get.

The Dean himself said—"No representations have been made to me by any of the patients as to want of food or clothing."

From these statements it does not appear that the sick patients are so badly treated as represented, especially as regards food and medical comforts.

Then, as regards the next charge, (2.)—"Patients are very badly clothed, and in consequence suffer from cold in the winter time."

Dr. Coverdale says—"The whole vote for clothing has been expended each year, and I am not aware of any instance of a patient suffering from want of clothing. The patients wear flannel shirts, as a rule, and some have flannel drawers, and all have coats when required, some having four or five in the year."

Mr. S. Smith says—"The men in the lower yard are well clothed, and do not suffer from cold."

Mr. Leary says—"The patients are sufficiently clothed, and kept warm in winter."

And Dr. Coverdale, in his reply to the Dean's letter, says—"As the freedom from colds in the Institution is remarkable, the statement should be received with caution."

The next statement is—"More attention to cleanliness of persons and clothes" is required, and "increased medical comforts ought to be given." This is contained in the Report of the Royal Commission.

In his reply to this Dr. Coverdale says—"With respect to cleanliness of persons, the statement is misleading, as the evidence only points to patients soiling themselves; and with regard to increased medical comforts, I think the question is one entirely for the consideration of the Medical Officer in charge.

Mr. Wm. Lovett, the Auditor-General, who visited the Institution a few weeks ago in order to see for himself, having heard the Dean's sermon, says—"With the exception of the hospital ward, I think the asylum is in a creditable state, and the general appearance of the patients was excellent."

Dr. Coverdale, in his evidence to us, states—"More attention is paid to the clothing, but there is no necessity for increasing the cleanliness of persons and clothes, because they are always kept sufficiently clean. All patients are bathed once a week, but the dirty ones as often as required."

Mr. S. Smith says—"The men in the lower yard are kept as clean as in any establishment in Tasmania."

Mr. Leary says—"It is not possible with the present staff to do more than is done for the cleanliness of the patients or the buildings."

The Dean supplements the above with other quotations from the Report of the Royal Commission, thus:—"Evenden—"The sick are neglected; the patients are not well attended to."

We specially examined Mr. Evenden on these points; and, in answer to our questions, he distinctly stated the opposite, as the following evidence shows:—"So far as I have seen, the sick have been well attended to. I was only for a short time employed in the Hospital ward, and during that time I never saw anything irregular. There was no ill treatment, nor anything of that kind. There happened to be no one actually sick at the time I had charge of it; but there was one patient who was confined from weakness to his bed, and the Doctor gave him spirits." And again—"So far as the patients generally are concerned, I think them well attended to; and the attendants, as a rule, are attentive upon the patients."

The next quotation of the Dean's is that "that the sick do not get any beef tea, arrowroot, or anything of the kind." We have the distinct assurance of Dr. Coverdale, which is confirmed by the under attendants, that the sick obtain whatever they require in the way of nourishing food and medical comforts, and he quoted a case in point; but, with regard to beef tea, he said—"The patients do not get beef tea, but soup, which they prefer to beef tea."

As regards the evidence that the discipline is unsatisfactory, this to some extent seems to have been brought about by the Surgeon-Superintendent in the past having given his instructions through other officers; but since the removal of Mr. Muirhead, the late Head Keeper, this seems to have been corrected.

The next charge is again quoted from the evidence:—"A patient was in a very filthy state;" and the Dean goes on to say—"The condition described by the last witness has, I believe, been constantly repeated in the cases of Anderson and Reilly." From the statements made to us, every needful attention has been paid to these patients, which necessarily involved their being cleansed frequently during the day,—a duty not always easy to perform very satisfactorily in these cases.

One of these patients, Reilly, has been suffering from constant diarrhœa; and, as he is helpless and imbecile, the difficulty of keeping him clean was increased. With regard to these patients, Dr. Coverdale says—"Anderson and Reilly were constantly attended to as regards cleanliness."

Mr Leary says—"I have never seen any patient in a filthy state. No sooner do they make themselves dirty than they are cleansed, and many of them several times a day."

The Dean repeats—"The sick have little or nothing but gruel and bread and butter." This point has already been answered by the evidence given above, here there is general testimony that the sick as a rule have all that they require as regards nourishment, and that in many instances the diet is changed according to the needs of the patient.

As regards the blankets, the Dean writes—"An insufficient supply of blankets has been allowed; and many of them, from constant washing, are thin and worn out, so that they can be of little use for supplying warmth."

We examined carefully into this matter; and, from our own observations, we considered the bedding in most instances to be ample,—four blankets being the usual allowance to each patient, besides a coverlet; but in the cases of the refractory patients in the cells, especially those who are in the habit of tearing up or soiling their blankets, the Surgeon-Superintendent has generally kept them supplied with the old or worn-out ones. These were replaced at our suggestion, and a better supply of blankets is now given out.

Mr. Lovett states—"We examined the bedding, which seemed to be in excellent order, except in the Hospital ward."

Mr. S. Smith says—"I have the Hospital ward under my care. The patients have no sheets, but all have four blankets. Anderson had four blankets at the time it was stated that he had only one blanket; but, as he suffers constantly from epileptic fits, he kicks about and throws everything off him while in that state. He has never suffered from the cold, as the ward always has a fire in it, both day and night."

As to boots, which, the Dean writes, "have not always been furnished when required," we have the assurance of Dr. Coverdale that "the boots are always issued as required, but many of the patients are very destructive of them;" and, as regards socks, Dr. Coverdale states—"Reilly would never wear socks."

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

C. E. BARNARD, *M.D.*, } *Official Visitors.*
F. W. MITCHELL,

The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Hobart.

136, *Macquarie-street*, 19th September, 1889.

REVEREND SIR,

I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to formulate and transmit to me, in order that the same may be inquired into, certain representations which I understand were made by you from the pulpit of St. David's Cathedral, in this City, on Sunday evening last, 15th instant, and which practically amount to serious charges against the administration of the Hospital for the Insane at the Cascades, a Government institution, in which the Official Visitors are directly and deeply interested.

I have, &c.

C. E. BARNARD, *M.D.*,
Chairman of the Official Visitors.

The Very Rev. Dean DUNDAS, Hobart.

Deanery, September 20th, 1889.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to yours of yesterday, requesting precise information as to the representations made by me in St. David's Cathedral on Sunday last concerning the Hospital for the Insane at the Cascades, I write to say that they are contained in the report of my sermon given in the *Tasmanian News* of Tuesday, the 17th inst., which I endorse as being substantially correct.

They consisted of the following quotations from the Report of Special Commission (1888), and from the evidence taken in connection therewith:—

Evidence—

- (1) "The sick do not get sufficient nourishment, nor are they allowed medical comforts."
- (2) Patients "are very badly clothed, and in consequence suffer from cold in the winter time."

Report—

"More attention to cleanliness of persons and clothes" is required, and "increased medical comforts" ought to be given.

I may supplement the above quotations from the evidence with the following :—

Evenden—"The sick are neglected ; the patients are not well attended to."

Muirhead—"The sick do not get any beef tea, arrowroot, or anything of the kind."

Mr. F. Mitchell—"I cannot say the discipline is satisfactory."

Dr. Coverdale—"In the winter time it is very wet and miserable."

Galvin—"A patient was in a very filthy state," &c., &c.

The condition described by the last witness has, I believe, been constantly repeated in the cases of Anderson and Reilly.

The state of affairs which I described as having existed in the past, on the strength of the above evidence, has, I understand, in many respects been continued up to the present. The sick have little or nothing but gruel and bread and butter. An insufficient supply of blankets has been allowed, and many of them "from constant washing are thin and worn out," so that they can be of little use for supply of warmth. Boots have not always been furnished when required. At the present moment Reilly has no socks on.

In conclusion, I repeat the statement which I made on Sunday, that "the *system* is not one which should be permitted to continue."

I believe that the mere rectification of a few details is not sufficient, but that a radical change is needed, and that no one who has imbibed the spirit of the old convict system should have the control of any of our charitable institutions.

I allege nothing against the Medical Superintendent personally, but he is out of sympathy with modern improvements, and in my opinion is too advanced in years to exercise the energetic oversight or to maintain the discipline which such an institution requires.

I have, &c.

C. E. BARNARD, *Esq.*, *M.D.*,
Chairman of the Official Visitors.

CHAS. L. DUNDAS, *Dean of Hobart.*

ANALYSIS of the Quotations from the Dean's Letter.

Evidence (1).—"The sick do not get sufficient nourishment, nor are they allowed medical comforts."

The evidence bearing immediately on this question is on pp. 15, No. 360, and 17, No. 404. A. Muirhead states : "Yes ; . . . but I have often thought they should receive *more* medical comforts in the shape of nourishment. They do not get any beef tea, arrowroot, or anything of the kind." S. Smith states : "They do not, however, get sufficient nourishment, nor are they allowed medical comforts."

Had I had an opportunity of commenting upon these statements before the Royal Commission, I could have supplemented my evidence that at the very time the first statement was made there was a patient in hospital receiving arrowroot (although in my reply, p. 11, No. 230, I remarked that patients prefer oatmeal) ; and that, in regard to the second, S. Smith acknowledged, when asked by myself, he did not know what was meant by medical comforts.

(2.) "Patients are very badly clothed, and, in consequence, suffer from cold in the winter time." This is the purport of S. Smith's reply, p. 17, No. 408 ; and at that time it was the duty of the head attendant to have acted in the matter ; but as it would seem he did not do so, and as the freedom from colds in the Institution is remarkable, the statement should be received with caution.

Report.—"More attention to cleanliness of persons and clothes is required, and increased medical comforts ought to be given." With respect to cleanliness of persons the statement is misleading, as the evidence only points to patients soiling themselves ; and with regard to increased medical comforts, I think the question is one entirely for the consideration of the medical officer in charge.

Evenden.—"The sick are neglected ; the patients are not well attended to." When asked the question, p. 15, No. 326, he answers "Yes, it cannot be otherwise, because the attendants are called away to do other work." And, again, No. 336, "I never saw any (medical comforts) issued. Mr. Smith has always been exceedingly kind to sick patients."

Muirhead.—"The sick do not get any beef tea, arrowroot, or anything of the kind." This point has already been considered, and it is necessary perhaps to observe that his evidence was opposed to facts and to the evidence given by myself.

Mr. F. Mitchell.—"I cannot say the discipline is satisfactory,"—but when the corollary is added,— "while such a case as I have mentioned is allowed to pass," p. 43, No. 1096, the scope of the remark becomes somewhat circumscribed.

Dr. Coverdale.—"In the winter time it is very wet and miserable," to which should be added, "On the whole, I do not think it suitable for a lunatic asylum." Under any circumstances, however, I fail to comprehend what my opinion of the place has to do with the management of the Institution.

Galvin.—"A patient was in a very filthy state, &c,"—here, again, the answer is not carried out, p. 19, No. 454,— "being covered with excrement." I am, as may be supposed, ignorant of the particulars of the case. I only know that when any of the three unfortunate idiots—Dent, Anderson, and Rielly—soil themselves, as they are in the habit of doing, it is the very unpleasant duty of the attendants to clean them."

J. COVERDALE, *M.D.*

28th September, 1889.

ENQUIRY by the Official Visitors, on the 8th, 9th, and 11th October, 1889, with reference to certain Charges against the Management of the Cascades Hospital for the Insane, contained in a letter by Rev. Dean Dundas, dated 20th September.

At the Cascades Hospital for the Insane, on 8th October, 1889.

Present—DR. BARNARD AND F. W. MITCHELL, ESQ., J.P.

The Chairman, Dr. Barnard, read a telegram from Dr. Gray, at New Norfolk, stating that he was unable to attend on account of professional duties.

DR. COVERDALE, Surgeon-Superintendent, called in and examined, and, in answer to questions, said as follows:—

The Dean has been visiting the Asylum once a week between eighteen months and two years.

The average length of each visit would be about ten minutes. I have never known him to go round unless asked to see a sick patient, which has not occurred more than once in about nine months. One of the warders accompanies him—either Leary or Smith, the under-attendants. He has never made any remark to me as to the treatment of inmates. The only other clergymen that visit the Asylum are the Roman Catholic priests. They have never made any representations to me as to the treatment of patients or their condition. There is no book in which the clergy note their visits.

I go round the whole of the Establishment every morning and occasionally during the day. I go round at night occasionally when I have a sick patient to attend, and have occasionally visited after dark to see the patients in bed.

A great number of visitors come to the Asylum, but not to examine into the condition of the place. Mr. Lovett, the Auditor-General, recently paid a visit to the Asylum, and expressed his very great satisfaction to myself and also to Under-Attendant Leary at the general appearance of the place and condition of the patients.

Visitors merely sign their names in the visiting book without making any remarks. Visitors generally express verbally their satisfaction at the condition of the patients and the cleanliness of the place.

I have read the article in the *Tasmanian News* of 17th September referring to the Asylum.

It is positively untrue that the sick do not get sufficient nourishment. They get what medical comforts are necessary. The issue of medical comforts is made without stint. The patients do not get beef tea, but soup, which they prefer to beef tea. In many cases the patients are supplied with food and comforts of their own choosing, such as bacon, eggs, arrowroot, oatmeal, milk, &c.; see, for example, *Case Book*, pages 144 and 98. The vote for these purposes is always expended.

The whole vote for clothing has been expended each year; and I am not aware of any instance of a patient suffering for want of clothing. The patients wear flannel shirts as a rule, and some have flannel drawers, and all have coats when required, some having four or five in the year. More attention is paid to the clothing, but there is no necessity for increasing the cleanliness of persons and clothes, because they are always kept sufficiently clean, or to increase the issue of medical comforts since the date of the Royal Commission. With my present appliances it is impossible to do so. All patients are bathed once a week, but the dirty ones as often as required.

The sick are not neglected. There is always a man in attendance on the sick. His duties are to be constantly in the sick ward to attend to the wants of the sick. I am not aware of any instance in which the sick have not received every attention.

The discipline of the establishment, as a whole, is good, and it has only been infringed by concessions to patient De Bomford, approved of by the Government, and, as a matter of course, the want of discipline would be increased by any further privilege being granted. Anderson and Reilly were constantly attended to as regards cleanliness.

The boots are issued always as required, but many of the patients are very destructive of them.

Reilly would never wear socks.

I do not consider De Bomford in a state of mind to be able to give reliable information as to any matters connected with the Asylum, as he is given to exaggerating trifles, and is inordinately suspicious.

J. COVERDALE, M.D.

DR. COVERDALE, recalled, stated:—

Anderson was not moved to the hospital ward on account of any sores, but I thought he would be better if confined to his bed. He had no ulcerated sores, but boils.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH, Under Attendant, called in and examined.

I have read the article in the *Tasmanian News* of 17th September. The statements therein contained are untrue. So far as my men are concerned, that is, those in the lower yard, they are warmly enough clothed and bedded, and they have plenty to eat. The sick are well attended to, and not in any way neglected. One of the attendants is always present in the hospital ward. The sick get all the medical comforts they require—extra milk, rum, gruel, soup, and, in fact, anything they fancy.

The men in the lower yard are well clothed and do not suffer from cold.

The men under my charge are kept as clean as in any establishment in Tasmania. It is not true that the sick are neglected here. I have the hospital ward under my care. Anderson was in the hospital ward. He was in a bad state when admitted four months ago—sores all over his body and much emaciated—and by the attention he received was brought round. The patients have no sheets, but all have four blankets. Anderson had four blankets at the time it was stated that he had only one blanket; but as he suffers constantly from epileptic fits, he kicks about and throws everything off him while in that state. When in a fit attendants look after him. He has never suffered from the cold, as the ward always has a fire in it both day and night.

The Dean has not been into the lower yard during the last fortnight, but, as a rule, he comes once a week. He stays about five to eight minutes. He goes to see the sick patients. He has never made any remark to me of the ill-treatment of the patients. The Roman Catholic Priests also visit the lower yard occasionally. I do not know of any case of bad treatment of a patient.

Have always had instructions to find out what medical comforts the sick would wish, and these extras have always been given to them in reason. When I gave evidence before the Royal Commission I did not really know what "medical comforts" comprised. The sick have always obtained sufficient nourishment and medical comforts as I now understand them. The food for the sick is always properly cooked.

I am aware that the Dean has had private conversation with Patient De Bomford without the presence of an attendant, though there should be one. Other visitors have also free access to this patient without interruption. I consider these privileges interfere with the discipline of the establishment. Visitors generally speak well of the Asylum as regards cleanliness of the patients and wards.

SAMUEL SMITH.

MR. JOHN LEARY, *Under Attendant, called in and examined.*

I did not give evidence before the Royal Commission. I do not know for what reason. I have read the article in the *Tasmanian News* of the 17th September, reflecting on this Asylum. The statements contained in that article are not true. The patients generally, and sick included, do get sufficient nourishment and medical comforts. The patients are sufficiently clothed, and kept warm in winter. It is not possible, with the present staff, to do more than is done for the cleanliness of the patients or the buildings.

The sick are not neglected, nor are they kept short of comforts. They are very well attended. The previous witness is very kind indeed to the sick patients. The sick patients get extra milk, gruel, eggs, rum, or almost anything in reason.

I have never seen any patient in a filthy state. No sooner do they make themselves dirty than they are cleansed, and many of them several times a day.

Anderson was under my charge for six months. The first few months he was violent and strong. Then he took a change for the worse, having more fits than usual, and became weak and in a low state.

There were no "scabs" on his body, but a few pimples and small boils, which seemed to be constitutional. They were not bedsores, and were not caused by want of cleanliness. He never wore flannels, as he was in the habit of tearing up all his clothing. A canvas suit was obtained, and he had a warm duck frock underneath. I have never heard him complain of the cold. There is a good fire all day in the smoking room.

Mr. Lovett, Auditor-General, visited the Asylum three weeks ago, and went carefully through the establishment, and afterwards expressed his satisfaction at all he saw, saying that the patients were better off than many people in Hobart.

Other visitors have expressed their satisfaction.

The Dean visits once a week, and his stay lasts about ten minutes. He has never been near the cells except twice. The last time was after visiting patient De Bomford.

The patient De Bomford is in the habit of receiving so many visitors that the services of an attendant are not always available to be present for the full time the visitors remain.

JOHN LEARY.

MINUTES of adjourned Meeting held at the Treasurer's Waiting Room, on 9th October, 1889.

Present—DR. BARNARD AND F. W. MITCHELL, Esq., J.P.

The Very Rev. DEAN DUNDAS, called in and examined.

This is my letter (*letter produced*). The statements therein contained were based on the Report of the Royal Commission as confirmed partly by my own observation and partly by information derived both from present and past officials; also, from one patient, De Bomford. I had conversations with Mr. Samuel Smith, Mr. Leary, and Mr. Richards. The information derived from Mr. S. Smith and Mr. Leary confirmed my statements.

I have been visiting the Institution for three years and a half. I more often go once a fortnight. My visits are chiefly for taking service, and last about from twenty minutes to half-an-hour. I very rarely went round the Institution, as I did not think it my business. I heard complaints certainly more than two years ago—complaints with reference to the bad management of the Institution generally. During the last two years the statements made to me were of such a general character that I did not feel justified in making any formal representation of them to the authorities, until they were confirmed by perusal quite recently of the Report of the Royal Commission, and also by more precise information lately received from

both present and past officials and patient De Bomford. I paid my last visit about a fortnight ago. The question put to me as to whether I observed any improvement on my last visit is too general for me to reply to. With regard to details, there was an improvement in the manner in which Reilly's camisole was placed upon him, his arms being fastened in front instead of behind as formerly. He still had no socks on.

As regards the bedding, there is certainly an improvement upon what is described in the Report of the Royal Commission.

There was an immense improvement in the condition of patient Anderson upon my last visit. I have never seen the patient at meals. I have not examined the food.

No representations have been made to me by any of the patients as to want of food or clothing. I am decidedly of opinion that Dr. Coverdale is not in accord with the downright necessity for improvement in the present administration of this Asylum.

CHAS. L. DUNDAS.

WILLIAM LOVETT, *Esq., Auditor-General, called in and examined.*

I paid a visit to the Cascades Asylum on the 18th September, having heard, on the previous Sunday, the Dean's sermon on the subject of the management of the Institution. I was accompanied by my wife. I found three patients in the Hospital ward. There was one having tea, and seemed comfortable, but the other two seemed very uncomfortable. There was a very little fire in the grate. One of the patients complained of a bad pain in his chest, and could not sleep at night. My wife enquired if they were doing anything to relieve him. The reply was, the Doctor was sending him a bottle of medicine sometimes. Mrs. Lovett considered he was suffering from something which she could have relieved in a short time if she had the appliances, such as hot water and material for poultices. The attendants right through the establishment complained that they were not sufficiently numerous to attend to the wants of the patients properly. We did not see the patients at their meals, nor did we examine the food. With the exception of the Hospital ward, I think the Asylum is in a creditable state; and the general appearance of the patients was excellent. We examined the bedding, which seemed to be in excellent order, except in the Hospital ward. The upper dormitory seemed to be very comfortable and airy. The cells did not seem to be very different from those at the New Norfolk Institution.

W. LOVETT.

At the Cascades Hospital for the Insane, on 11th October, 1889.

Present—DR. BARNARD AND F. W. MITCHELL, Esq., J.P.

MR. JOHN EVENDEN *called in and examined.*

I am an Attendant. I have been so for three years next December. My duties at present are Under Storekeeper and Attendant in the yards. I have had no special charge of the sick. In the upper yard I only act as gatekeeper. In the lower yard I perform general duties. So far as I have seen, the sick have been well attended to. I was only for a short time employed in the Hospital ward, and during that time never saw anything irregular. There was no ill-treatment, nor anything of that kind. There happened to be no one actually sick at the time I had charge of it, but there was one patient who was confined, more from weakness, to his bed, and the Doctor gave him spirits. During the last six months I have known the Doctor to visit the Hospital ward at least twice during the night. This is so far as the sick are concerned.

So far as the patients generally are concerned, I think them well attended to; and the attendants, as a rule, are attentive upon the patients.

I think, as a rule, more clothing might have been issued with advantage; but, latterly, every requisition of the attendant in charge of the yard has been complied with,—that is during the last six weeks or two months.

There are eight attendants in the establishment, and we have now fifty-one patients, besides five paupers, who assist as cook, messenger, carpenter, one who takes round the rations, and one at the Doctor's.

I consider another attendant is absolutely necessary, especially when I am called away for other duty, as is frequently the case. There are five attendants on duty during the day, and one during the night, and one on duty in the sick ward during the night, and two sleep there.

JOHN EVENDEN.