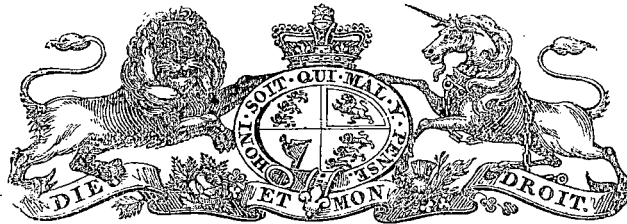


(No. 67.)



1895.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK :

REPORT FOR 1894.

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

Cost of printing—£1 16s.



HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, NEW NORFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JENICO WILLIAM JOSEPH, VISCOUNT GORMANSTON, Knight Commander 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 Official Visitors appointed under "The Insane Persons Hospital Act Amendment Act, 1885," 49 Vict. No. 35, to the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, have the honor to submit to you our Annual Report for the year 1894.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, we visited the Institution each month during the year, and made the usual inspection of the whole establishment.

Some of the visits were without previous notice, and on each occasion we made such inquiries, examinations, and inspections as are set forth in Section 6 of 49 Vict. No. 35, all of which have been duly entered in a book kept for the purpose, a copy of which Report, together with any other information we considered necessary, we transmitted to the Honorable the Chief Secretary after every visit. And on our several visits to the Institution we inquired as to the care, treatment, mental and bodily health of the patients, as well as into the arrangements for their maintenance and comfort, and also as to moneys paid for their maintenance, together with such other inquiries as seemed necessary. We also examined and signed the several books required by the Act to be kept, and duly inspected the orders and certificates for the reception of all patients admitted from time to time. The Medical Superintendent has on all occasions of our visits rendered assistance in these inquiries, and has produced for our inspection all the general books kept according to the Act, and furnished all returns as were required.

The number of patients remaining in the Institution on 31st December, 1893, according to the Medical Officer's Report, was, Males, 199, and Females, 165, or a total of 364; and at the close of this year this number had increased to a total of 367.

The admissions, 55 in number, were about the usual average, 31 of these being Males and 24 Females.

The number of patients discharged during the year was 22, being considerably less than during previous years.

The mortality during the year was exceptionally high—40 deaths occurring, of whom 26 were Males and 14 Females. The Medical Officer attributes much of this mortality to a severe epidemic of influenza that prevailed amongst the inmates for a considerable time during the year.

There was also a slight epidemic of measles during the year, which caused some alarm and inconvenience for a time, as no less than 13 cases occurred, but no deaths resulted from this cause. This disease had been brought into the Institution by a patient from the North Coast.

Many of the patients, both male and female, have been employed, as in former years, at various occupations, such as gardening, wood-cutting, and domestic work generally, and so have materially contributed towards their own maintenance while in the Institution.

The farm lands of the Institution have been brought into a good state of cultivation, and the result has been a decided increase of farm produce and vegetables, as shown in the statement prepared by the Medical Superintendent. Besides showing a profit in the working of the farm, the statement must be regarded as very satisfactory, as the patients have had the benefit of the extra vegetables and fruit grown during the year.

Owing to the presence in the Asylum of several criminal patients, some of whom are undoubtedly dangerous in their tendencies, it is very desirable that something should be done towards providing a special airing court, not only for their safe keeping, but in order that this particular class of patients may be kept apart from the ordinary patients.

It must be remembered that this is the only institution in the Colony where the criminal insane are now detained, and it is not in accordance with the maxims of modern improved treatment of insane to permit of this class of patients to commingle with those suffering from ordinary mental disease, whose recovery in consequence, in many instances, might be considerably retarded.

The steady increase of patients under treatment in the Institution has taxed the resources of the single-room accommodation for both males and females to the utmost. Several wards in the back division for males were converted into single rooms, all of which have been constantly occupied.

The sixteen single rooms taken from this back division to relieve the crowded condition of the female department will, before very long, be wanted back to accommodate the increasing number of males in this division; but in order to permit of this it would be necessary, in the first place, to increase the accommodation for the females. This can be readily and conveniently done by completing the second wing of the new building for females, plans of which, improved and completed, are in the hands of the Government. The present makeshift plan answers well as a temporary measure, but as the number of admissions are year by year increasing the total number in the Institution, larger accommodation will soon be needed. By completing the buildings in accordance with plans already carefully drawn out, ample accommodation for the comfort, proper treatment, and classification of the female patients will be afforded for many years to come.

Another improvement, which we have long advocated, and which in our opinion is urgently required, is a new laundry worthy of the name, to be fitted with modern appliances and adapted for the washing and disinfecting of the clothes and linen of at least 400 patients. The present system, though so long in vogue, is not able to cope completely and satisfactorily with the washing requirements of the present large number of patients of this Institution; as it was originally fitted up for about half the present number of patients, consequently the drying room, which is very defective, is unable to dry the large number of articles that are weekly washed, especially in winter. These articles have mostly to be dried in the wards—a most undesirable practice.

There is also an increasing difficulty in obtaining female patients of sufficiently robust health to do the heavy washing required, owing to the class of patients that are now usually admitted suffering mostly from debility or other complaints, rendering them unfitted for hard physical work.

Plans for a new laundry, kitchen, and dining-hall have been prepared, and were forwarded to the Honorable the Chief Secretary for his approval. The want of funds at the time, we believe, was the cause of these plans not being carried out; but we venture to hope that the Government will urge Parliament to provide the necessary amount to carry out these improvements at the earliest favourable opportunity.

STATEMENT showing actual Cost of the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, and other particulars for the under-mentioned Years.

Year.	Actual cost of Institution.	Daily cost per Patient, without deducting collections from all sources.	Daily cost per Patient, deducting collections from all sources and excluding estimated value of farm, garden, and dairy produce.	Average number resident daily.	Moneys received from all sources during the year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1890.....	12,661 1 5	0 2 2	0 1 7 ³ / ₄	318	3078 15 6
1891.....	13,756 17 6	0 2 4 ¹ / ₄	0 1 9 ¹ / ₄	319	3378 17 0
1892.....	13,234 13 6	0 2 2 ³ / ₄	0 1 7 ¹ / ₄	324	3626 17 8
1893.....	11,507 15 7	0 1 10 ¹ / ₄	0 1 3 ¹ / ₄	337	3692 5 10
1894.....	11,177 13 5	0 1 7 ³ / ₄	0 1 1	372	3858 15 8

The economical administration of the Hospital has received our close attention, and the steady reduction in expenditure with an increasing strength of patients is evidenced by the attached Return. Compared with New South Wales the cost per head is considerably in our favour.

It may be interesting to state here that the expenditure in 1894 with 372 patients was £550 less than in the year 1886 with 278 patients, or 100 patients less.

To effect financial reform in a Hospital for Insane is a difficult matter, owing to the peculiar necessities of such an Institution, and to the fact of its being a Hospital for treatment according to modern principles of psychology.

The figures above set forth we claim to be very satisfactory, as disclosing a prudent and steady economy, in preference to reduction to a level which might render the Hospital less efficient.

The completion of the improvements above sketched out would remove the present reproach the Asylum suffers from, as compared with the more complete Institutions for the Insane in the other Colonies.

The Boys' Cottage is occupied with 26 patients—idiots and imbeciles—many of whom are being trained to some useful occupation, as gardening and domestic work, and nearly all are induced to be useful in one way or another.

The fire brigade of the Asylum was exercised monthly in our presence at the time of our visit. The fire appliances are kept in an efficient state ready for any emergency. During the year this brigade rendered efficient help at a fire in the immediate neighbourhood of the Asylum.

The amusements of the patients have been duly attended to during the year, and were much appreciated. Fortnightly dances, the annual picnic, and the Christmas-tree were the chief social events of the year, and were thoroughly enjoyed.

Religious services were held every Sunday throughout the year by clergymen of the Churches of England and Rome respectively.

We append the Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent, accompanied by Returns and Tables, giving the usual statistics of the Institution.

We have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servants,

C. E. BARNARD, *M.D.*,

PHILIP S. SEAGER,

R. W. G. SHOBRIDGE, *J.P.*,

} *Official Visitors.*

April, 1895.

*Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk,
20th February, 1895.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward you my Report for the year 1894, with Appendices.

There were 364 patients in this Hospital on December 31st, 1893, viz., 199 males and 165 females; and 367 on December 31st, 1894, viz., 195 males and 172 females.

55 patients were admitted during the past year, viz., 31 males and 24 females, and 10 were re-admitted, viz., 3 males and 7 females.

The total number of patients treated was 429.

22 patients were discharged, viz., 12 males and 10 females. Of these 9 were discharged in accordance with Section 22 of 22 Vict. No. 23.

The percentage of discharges on admissions, excluding idiots and imbeciles, was 42.3.

One patient, a male, escaped during the year, and was away about four hours, but was brought back safely.

40 deaths occurred during the year, viz., 26 males and 14 females. Owing to a severe epidemic of influenza, the mortality has been higher than during any year for the last decade.

The percentage of deaths on number treated was 9.3.

13 cases of measles occurred, viz., 10 males and 3 females, but no deaths resulted from this disease.

The money received from paying patients amounted to £2836 17s. 3d. The fees from the Ladies' Cottage were £833 10s. 10d., and from the Gentlemen's Cottage, £911 12s. 3d.

The total amount from all sources, including £900 6s. from the Imperial Government, was £3858 15s. 8d.

The amount voted for the Institution was £12,664 2s. 6d., and the gross cost was £11,177 13s. 5d., but, deducting the total amount from all sources, including sale of stock, the cost was reduced to £7318 17s. 9d., or 1s. 1d. per patient per diem.

The farm, dairy, and garden have contributed large supplies for the use of the Institution.

The dairy has yielded 73,846 pints of milk, worth, at 3d. per quart, £461 10s. 9d.

The farm supplied 330½ dozen eggs, worth, at 1s. per dozen, £16 10s. 9d.; 273 pounds of ham, worth, at 1s. per pound, £13 13s.; and 2292 pounds of bacon, which, at 8d. per pound, would amount to £76 8s.

The sale of stock realised £108 6s. 9d.

The patients have performed a very large amount of work during the year.

The male patients have been employed at farming, gardening, painting, wood-cutting, in the tailor's shop, and in the kitchen and bakery, at carpentering and domestic work in connection with the wards and lavatories.

The women have been employed at needlework, domestic work in the wards and in the laundry.

The patients have been afforded the usual amusements, and I again take this opportunity of thanking the donors for their acceptable contributions to the Christmas-tree.

Nothing has been done towards providing this Hospital with a steam laundry, and the necessity for this is most urgent.

No provision has yet been made for the separation of the criminal insane here, and the presence of this class of mental cases in the wards with the ordinary insane has a highly detrimental effect on the latter.

There have been several changes in the staff. Mr. John Thomas Leary resigned his appointment as Senior Attendant owing to ill health, and Mr. Benjamin John Triffit was promoted to his post.

The usual religious services have been conducted.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. MACFARLANE, *M.D.*, *Superintendent and Medical Officer.*

*The Chairman of the Official Visitors,
Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.*