



GENERAL HOSPITAL, LAUNCESTON.

ANNUAL REPORT for 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to lay before you the following Annual Report with regard to the cost, management, and condition of the above-named Hospital for the year 1881.

The Board of Management consists of twelve members; the members for the year being—

W. Barnes.
W. R. Barwood.
G. T. Collins.
B. P. Farrelly.
J. C. Ferguson.
A. Harrap.
J. F. Hobkirk.
W. Tyson, jun.
F. Stanfield.
J. A. Hardy, } *Hon. Medical Officers.*
R. W. Murphy, }
A. Douglas, Mayor, *ex officio.*

Sixteen Board and twelve Committee meetings were held during the year. The attendance of members on each occasion was good. At frequent intervals individual members have visited the Hospital to watch its management. One Honorary Medical Officer (Dr. Hardy) has been attentive to his duties and afforded valuable aid to the Hospital.

Although the Board are unanimous that the system of Honorary Medical Officers has not worked satisfactorily, there being no means of fixing responsibility on any one, and differences constantly occurring, yet the voluntary services rendered by the late Honorary Medical Officers were not unrecognised by the Board. In accepting the resignations of those gentlemen the Board passed a resolution thanking them for such services.

It is only just to Dr. Murphy to state that he constantly informed me that he was unable to spare time from his private practice to attend to his duties at the Hospital as an Honorary Medical Officer.

The new wing, kitchen, and nurses' quarters are being rapidly built,—the work and materials being apparently of the best description. Several improvements have been effected in the interior of the Hospital. The mortality to some extent was undoubtedly large, owing to overcrowding at times. On completion of the new wing I confidently look forward to much better results following the treatment of Patients.

In one or two items the expenditure has been in excess of what it was in the previous year. Venetian blinds and repairs to buildings contribute largely to swell the expenses. A reduction has been effected under the following heads:—Fuel, light and water, provisions and medical comforts, and clothing, bedding, and stores.

I avail myself of this opportunity to record the very great interest taken by every member of the Board in the management of the Hospital, and the willing and valuable assistance I have at all times received from them. It is due to this, and the unremitting attention of the House Surgeon, Matron, and other Officers, that the Hospital is now in a most satisfactory state.

The receipts from Paying Patients since the alteration in the rates have added considerably to the income of the Hospital, and show signs of increasing.

TABLE showing Number of Patients, and Cost per Head, or of each occupied Bed, for the Years 1880 and 1881.

Year.	Average Number of Patients.	Average Cost of Patients.	
		Upon whole Expenditure.	Upon net Expenditure.
1880.....	56.97	£ s. d. 73 15 0	£ s. d. 58 4 9.5
1881.....	49.36	81 14 11.1	63 10 2.9

From this it will be seen that the average number of Patients for 1881 is smaller than for 1880, which, with the small extra total cost of the Institution for the year (1881), accounts for the slight advance in the cost per head.

As a set-off also to this apparently increased expenditure, I am desirous of pointing out the very inadequate sum allowed for attendance and medicines for the Penal and Invalid Dépôt Establishments. Instead of a total amount of only £59 being charged to these Institutions, it seems to me that it would be only fair and reasonable if the Penal Establishment were charged £60, and the Invalid Dépôt £40, for the professional services rendered to them by their Visiting Surgeon.

It has been the constant desire of the Board, while studying the comfort of the Patients, to have every regard for economy.

Statement showing the number of In-patients treated during the year:—

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Remaining 1st January, 1881	43	14	57
Admitted during the year.....	357	128	485
	<u>400</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>542</u>
Discharged.....	317	115	432
Died	53	13	66
Remaining 1st January, 1882	<u>30</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>44</u>

Of the Patients admitted there died:—

On the day of admission	5
1st day after ditto	1
2nd ditto.....	6
3rd ditto	3
4th ditto	6
5th ditto	2
6th ditto	1
	<u>24</u>
After 7th day	42
TOTAL.....	<u>66</u>

Ages of those who died in the Hospital during the year were as follows:—

Under 10	0
Between 10 and 15.....	1
15 and 25	4
25 and 35.....	6
35 and 45.....	7
45 and 55.....	6
55 and 65	7
Over 65	35
Total	<u>66</u>

Comparative statement of certain statistics of 1880 and 1881 :—

	1880.	1881.
Number of in-patients treated.....	524	542
Ditto died.....	56	66
Ditto of out-patients treated	348	108
Ditto of diets issued to patients	20,795	18,118
Ditto of diets issued to staff	6060	7668
Daily average of in-patients	56·97	49·36
Average stay in Hospital of each patient	39·68	40·45

The following tabulated information is given as a basis of comparison with other Hospitals :—

GENERAL HOSPITAL, LAUNCESTON.

A.

1. What is the population of the town and districts benefited by the Hospital? This institution is the only one available to the inhabitants of all districts north of Campbell Town, with the exception of Fingal and Portland. Of town and districts, 53,102: *vide* last year's Report.
2. The character of the Hospital? General.
3. How long established? Seventeen years.
4. If the present buildings were erected as a Hospital? Yes.
5. What its original cost? £12,000.
6. If whole cost of construction contributed by Government? Yes.
7. Is whole of annual income contributed by Government? Yes, less—say £250—received from paying patients.
8. Any income from invested funds? Yes, small.
9. Any amount received by Board from donations? Yes.
10. Is control of institution under a Board or single officer? Board.
11. Number of its members? Twelve, appointed by the Governor in Council. Board has power to fill its own vacancies subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.
12. Any power or control exercised by Government? Yes, in money matters.

B.

1. Number of beds? 77.
2. Cubic space in wards? 94,676 $\frac{3}{4}$ feet.
3. Average number of in-patients daily through the year? Male and female, 49·36.
4. Number of self-supporting patients received during the year? 121.
5. Number of patients received during year who would have been more suitable for a Benevolent Asylum? About one-tenth.
6. Total number of in-patients received during the year? 542.

C.

1. Number of out-patients attended at Hospital? 108.
2. Number attended at their own homes? None.
3. Number of women attended in confinement at their own homes? None.

D.

1. Number of paid medical officers? One.
2. Annual amount of his salary? £400, with quarters.
3. Any paid non-resident medical officer? No.
4. Number of paid officers, exclusive of nurses and servants? Three: the Secretary to the Board, the House Steward, and Matron.
5. Annual amount of their salaries? £50, £100, and £100.
6. Number of nursing staff? Nine.
7. Amount of their salaries? £302 12s. 8d.
8. Number of servants? Eleven.
9. Amount of their salaries? £242 9s.
10. Total cost of salaries? £1174 18s. 5d.
11. Cost of allowances? £15.
12. Any enquiry officer concerning out-patients? No.

E.

1. Annual cost of provisions? £988 9s. 7d.
2. Ditto of wine, beer, spirits, &c.? £72 12s. 9d.
3. Washing done on premises? Yes.
4. Cost of fire and light? £360 12s. 3d.
5. Ditto of linen and bedding, furniture, and earthenware? £339 9s. 11d.
7. Ditto of drugs and surgical appliances? £503 15s. 5d.
8. Ditto of water supply? £30.
9. Ditto of printing and stationery? £21 19s. 3d.
10. Ditto of funerals? £56.
11. Ditto of repairs? £370 9s. 9d.
12. Ditto of each occupied bed? $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{On net expenditure, } £63 \text{ 10s. } 2\cdot9d. \\ \text{On gross expenditure, } £81 \text{ 14s. } 11\cdot1d. \end{array} \right.$

F.

1. Contract price of bread? 9s. 4½d. per 100 lbs.
2. Ditto of meat? £1 1s. 1½d. per 100 lbs.

Expenditure for the year 1881, arranged under the customary heads:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries				1174	18	5
Fuel, Light, and Water				390	12	3
Provisions and Groceries				988	9	7
Alcoholic Foods				72	12	9
Clothing, Bedding, and Stores.....				333	11	8
Funeral Expenses				56	0	0
Stationery and Advertising				21	19	3
Medicines and Surgical Instruments				503	15	5
Miscellaneous Expenses				2	9	3
House Allowance to House Steward				15	0	0
Furniture for Nurses' Quarters				5	18	3
Venetian Blinds.....				100	0	0
Repairs to Buildings				370	9	9
				<hr/>		
Gross Expenditure.....				£4035	16	7
Attendance and Medicines, Invalid Depôt	31	0	0			
Ditto, Penal Establishment	28	0	0			
Paid to Treasury, Fees for Patients	263	16	10			
Fees for Imperial Patients	7	9	6			
				<hr/>		
				330	6	4
				<hr/>		
Net Expenditure				£3705	10	3

Attached are the returns of all cases, in-door and out-door, treated at the Institution during the year, furnished by the House Surgeon.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.

GEO. COLLINS, *Chairman.*

THE out-door cases treated during the year were—

Diseases of Respiratory System	13	Diseases, Venereal	7
Brain and Nervous System..	4	Abscess and Ulcer.....	2
Blood, Heart, and Blood		Wounds and Injuries	4
Vessels	6	Uterine.....	1
Eye	2	Parasitic	3
Skin	12	Diathetic	3
Teeth, Bones, and Joints....	2	Tubercular	3
Digestive System.....	21	All others.....	13
Urinary System	2		
Fevers	3	Total of all cases treated.....	<hr/>
Rheumatics and Miasmatics.	7		108

GENERAL HOSPITAL, LAUNCESTON.

In-door Cases treated.

I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Miasmatic Diseases.*

	Cases.	Deaths.
Measles	5	
Scarlatina	2	
Diphtheria	3	1
Typhus, Infantile Fevers, and Typhoid... ..	7	4
Erysipelas	5	4
Carbuncle, Boil.....	2	
Influenza, Coryza, Catarrh	11	
Dysentery	1	1
Diarrhœa	6	
Rheumatism	51	1
Other Zymotics	5	
Total Order 1.....	98	11

ORDER 2.

Syphilis	25	
Gonorrhœa and Stricture.....	12	
Total Order 2.....	37	

ORDER 3.

Privation.....	4	4
Purpura and Scurvy	2	
Alcoholism { Del. Tremens.....	5	1
{ Intemperance.....	14	
Total Order 3.....	25	5

TOTAL CLASS I..... 160 32

II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Diathetic Diseases.*

Gout.....	2	
Dropsy	6	2
Cancer	5	4
Tumour	2	1
Total Order 1.....	15	7

ORDER 2.—*Tubercular Diseases.*

Scrofula	12	
Phthisis	20	5
Others	11	
Total Order 2.....	43	5

TOTAL CLASS II..... 58 17

III.—LOCAL DISEASES.

ORDER 1.—*Diseases Nervous System.*

Paralysis.....	16	3
Insanity	3	
Chorea.....	2	1
Epilepsy	8	
Brain Disease, &c.....	2	2
Total Order 1.....	31	6

ORDER 2.—*Diseases of Organs of Circulation.*

Pericarditis.....	4	
Heart Disease, &c.....	32	8
Total Order 2.....	36	8

ORDER 3.—*Diseases of Respiratory System.*

Laryngitis	1	
Bronchitis	36	4
Pleurisy	4	
Pneumonia	23	3
Asthma	7	2
Lung Disease, &c.....	27	1
Total Order 3.....	98	10

ORDER 4.—*Diseases Digestive System.*

Hernia.....	1	1
Stricture of Intestines	2	2
Stomach Disease, &c.....	20	1
Liver Disease, &c.....	7	2
Total Order 4.....	30	6

ORDER 5.—*Diseases of Urinary Organs.*

Kidney Disease, &c.....	21	1
Total Order 5.....	21	1

ORDER 6.—*Diseases Organs of Generation.*

Uterus Disease, &c.....	1	
Total Order 6.....	1	

ORDER 7.—*Diseases Locomotive System.*

Joint Disease, &c.....	14	
Total Order 7.....	14	

ORDER 8.—*Diseases of Integumentary System.*

Ulcer	4	
Skin Disease	16	
Total Order 8.....	20	

TOTAL CLASS III..... 71 7

IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

ORDER 4.—*Diseases of Nutrition.*

Atrophy and Debility	3	2
Total Class IV.....	3	2

V.—VIOLENCE.

ORDER 1.—*Accident or Negligence.*

Fractures, Contusions, &c.....	26	3
Wounds, Cuts.....	9	1
Burns and Scalds	1	
Sunstroke	1	
Poison	2	
Total Order 1.....	39	4

ORDER 3.—*Homicide.*

Murder and Manslaughter	1	1
Total Class V.....	40	5