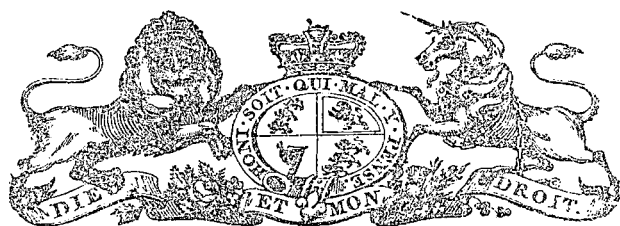


(No. 46.)



1860.

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TASMANIA.

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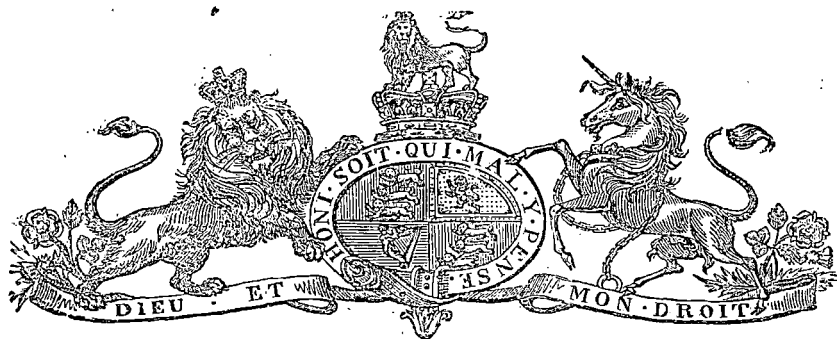
INQUEST DEPOSITIONS.

RETURN TO AN ORDER OF THE HOUSE.

*(Mr. Meredith, 9 August.)*

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 17 August, 1860.



ISLAND OF TASMANIA }  
(TO WIT.) }

THE Information on Oath of Witnesses taken this eighteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty, at the House of Correction for Females, situate at the Cascades, near Hobart Town, in the said Island of Tasmania, before me ALGERNON BURDETT JONES, Esquire, one of Her Majesty's Coroners for the said Island and its Dependencies, on view of the body of Mary M'Donald, then lying dead, as follows,\* viz. :—

*The Information on Oath of ELIZA HOLLIDAY, who saith—*

I AM a nurse belonging to Her Majesty's Colonial Hospital at Hobart Town. I have this day, in the presence of the Coroner and Jury now sitting, and of the witnesses Ann Reid, Mary Ann M'Guinness, John Serviss, Mr. Ringrose, Austin Atkins, and Mr. George Washington Turnley, seen the body of Mary M'Donald lying dead in the Dead-house attached to the House of Correction for Females at the Cascades, near Hobart Town. There were four other dead bodies of women in the Dead-house at the time, all of which I saw and identified as the bodies of Mary Ann M'Guinness, Ann Walker, Ruth Richmond, and Mary Reilly. I was removed from the Colonial Hospital to this building three months ago last Saturday. Ann Reid, another nurse, came with me and twenty-seven patients from the Hospital. Mary M'Donald and the other women, whose bodies I have seen to-day, were amongst them. When we arrived here, we all went into that part of the premises occupied by the invalids, and we have remained there up to the present time. Eleven of the patients and myself went into the big ward. Seven of the patients went into the little ward shown to the Jury to-day. That is the ward in which M'Donald and the other women were found dead. The nurse, Ann Reid, and nine of the patients went into a ward up stairs in a yard adjoining, all went on well till Sunday morning last. I went into the little ward then about seven o'clock. I perceived M'Guinness breathing hard and went over to her and asked her how she was, she said she felt very ill. I then went out of the room, as the other women seemed to be asleep. I did not go in again till breakfast time, about eight o'clock. Ann Reid followed me in. We saw M'Guinness, she was very stiff, not breathing at all. Ann Reid cried out, "She is dead." We went over to M'Donald and found that she was dead too. We went then to Ann Walker and found that she was dead. I said we had better send for the Doctor, and I sent some one for Dr. Turnley, I cannot say who it was I sent. Mr. Serviss came in at the time, and an alarm was made. Before he had come, Reid and I had been over to the other women. I perceived they were all breathing hard. I did not remove them. I never touched them till the Doctor, Mr. Turnley, came. This was about an hour and a-half afterwards. I threw the window in the ward open as soon as I found any of the women dead, and it was left open. Both doors were left open too; that is the door of the ward into the outer room, and the door of the outer room. On Saturday afternoon last, about four o'clock, I lit a fire in the outer room in a square iron moveable stove. I made the fire with wood and coal, I mean hard coal, not charcoal. I left both the doors and both the windows wide open. I left them open to let the smoke out. Mr. Serviss came in about a quarter of an hour afterwards and asked where the smoke was coming from. I told him that I had lit the fire because the women were complaining of the cold and the damp of the room. Mr. Serviss then went away. He spoke to one of the women, but not to me again. I do not know what he said. I left the fire there till it had burnt clear, then I put it into the inter room. It was then about half after four. After tea the women belonging to the ward sat round the fire. I was with them, with a woman from the big ward. I remained with them till half-past eight. The women were airing their clean linen, and said, "We will tell Mr. Turnley how we enjoyed ourselves with our bit of fire." At half-past eight the women from the big ward and I left them. They were all then as well as usual, and cheerful. They had all gone to bed, except Ann Walker who was airing her clothes in the outer room, and Mary Reilly and Catherine Dowd who were sitting by the fire. I should not have put the fire in had they not craved for it. The women used to have to come into the big ward to air their changes of clothes. The changes used to be damp. The stove now here is the stove I put in the room, and the coal now produced is the same kind of coal I made the fire with. I did not receive any orders

\*Before taking any evidence, the Jury not only viewed the body of Mary M'Donald, but those of the other four women, and inspected the ward in which they had all been sleeping together.  
18th July, 1860.

from any one to put the fire in the room. I put it in only because the women asked me. I am under Doctor Turnley's orders. I don't know whether I am under the orders of Mr. Atkins; I suppose I am. He has never given me any orders. He has never given any orders about the women from the Colonial Hospital that I know of. I was in bed, very ill, at the time the stove was issued: that was last Monday week. There were only six women in the little ward on Saturday night when I left it; viz., the five women who have died, and Catherine Dowd who is still living. When Doctor Turnley came up on Sunday morning last, he went into the big ward first, and then went into the little one. The women who remained alive in the little ward were then removed by his directions into the big ward. I never received any order to sleep in the little ward with the women who have died. No one slept there in charge of them. No nurse or person in authority visited the little ward after they had gone to bed. They used to go to bed about nine o'clock. I used not to remain with them usually in the evening till they went to bed. No stove, neither the one produced or any other, had been used in the little ward before. When I found the women were dead I did not send to inform Mr. Atkins or any of the Officers of his establishment. When I left the little ward on Saturday night, both the windows of the inner room and the outer room were shut. There is but one window to each room. Both the doors, viz., the door between the inner into the outer room and the door of the outer room, were open. When I went to the ward in the morning, the door of the outer room was shut, but the door of the inner room was open; both windows were shut. The inner door used always to be left open at night, but not the outer, because they could not bear the draught, the place was so damp. No portion of the windows used to be left open at night; they used to be open during the day. The women never complained to Mr. Turnley or any other Officer of the damp, that I know of. They used to complain amongst themselves, and to the women in the big ward. The day clothes they took off at night used to be damp in the morning from the dampness of the ward. I never complained of this to any one.

ELIZA HOLLIDAY.

Sworn before me this 18th day of July, 1860.

A. B. JONES, *Coroner.*

*The Information on Oath of ANNIE REID, who saith—*

I AM a nurse belonging to Her Majesty's Colonial Hospital. I came to this place about three months ago with the last witness, Eliza Holliday, and about twenty-seven female patients. They were all old women. I was under the orders of Doctor Turnley. Mr. Atkins used to come in and inspect the place and see if it were kept clean, and if any complaints were to be made they were made to him. Since I have been here, I have staid in the invalid yard during the day and have slept with some of the women from the Hospital in some rooms in the wash-house yard: these rooms are upstairs. At first I had ten women with me, but now there are only two. They have been drafted away by degrees into the wards in the invalid yard according as women left the latter. On Sunday morning last, about eight o'clock, I went into the little ward in the invalid yard to see the nurse Holliday, I found her in the inner room there holding up the head of one of the women, Mary Ann M'Guinness. I said, "What is the matter with M'Guinness?" Holliday said, "I really think M'Guinness is dead." I said, "It cannot be possible, she has only fainted." And I told Holliday to get some water. She went out and came back in a few minutes with an empty pannican in her hand. While she was away, I held M'Guinness up in my arms. I found her arms and face quite cold; but her body was warm. She never spoke. She was insensible, and her eyes were half closed. The nurse who has charge of the invalids belonging to the Imperial Government, and whose name is Mary M'Guinness, came in then, and on seeing Mary Ann M'Guinness, pronounced her to be dead. I then went to the woman, Ruth Richmond, and found her breathing very hard. She seemed to me to be dying. I then went to Mary M'Donald, whose body I have seen to-day in presence of Mr. Turnley, and I found her to be dead. She was quite cold and stiff. She had a sheet over her head. I then went to Ann Walker, and she had her face turned in to the wall. I called her several times but she made no answer. So I turned her over and found she was cold and dead. I did not call any one to my assistance. I was too much shocked to do anything. The nurse, M'Guinness, went out into the big ward, and just at that time Mr. Serviss came in with the women's breakfast; she told him, and he said he would send for the Doctor, Mr. Turnley. He went out and came back in a few minutes and said he had sent. Mr. Turnley came in about an hour and a quarter, and then the survivors in the little ward were removed into the larger one by his orders. Either Holliday or I remained in the little ward till Mr. Turnley came. I had been in the little ward on Saturday last about half after four. There was a fire burning there then in the stove now here. It was a coal fire. It was burning very bright and clear. The women were quite pleased with it, and were all sitting round it. They said, "We have a fire as well as those in the large room; we will not allow any one to come in unless they pay a forfeit; the room is warm and comfortable now." The room used to be rather damp. The women used to complain of the room being damp. They used to complain of so many things; I never paid attention to what they said. After they were dead I took down some clothes which were hanging against the wall, and these things were rather damp. When I went into the room on Saturday afternoon, the stove with the fire was standing just inside the doorway of the inner room. I did not remain there many minutes. I went there to see the fire. As I came out, I met Mr. Serviss and told him to go and look at the fire;

it was burning so nicely. He said, "Oh yes, I have seen it before." It was Holliday that lit the fire. I am not aware she got any orders to light it. It had never been lit before. I heard a woman named Baker, who was doing Holliday's duty for her when Holliday was ill about a fortnight ago, say that she had wanted to light a fire in the stove, and that Mr. Turnley had forbidden her. I went into the little ward with some dishes at five o'clock on Saturday evening. I saw the fire then. It was then in the same place as when I saw it before. From the appearance of the fire, I should say it had been kindled about three o'clock. It was not smoking.

ANNIE REID.

Sworn before me this 18th day of July, 1860.

A. B. JONES, *Coroner.*

*The Information on Oath of GEORGE WASHINGTON TURNLEY, who saith—*

I AM a legally qualified Medical Practitioner and Resident House Surgeon of Her Majesty's Colonial Hospital, at Hobart Town, and I have this day, in presence of the Coroner, the Jury now sitting, and the witnesses Eliza Holliday, Ann Reid, Ringrose Austin Atkins, John Serviss, and Mary M'Guinness, seen the body of Mary M'Donald, and four other women, lying dead at dead-house attached to this establishment. On the morning of Sunday, the 15th instant, I received a notice from Mr. Atkins that two of the Colonial Paupers were dead, and that three were seriously ill. I immediately started from Town, and arrived at the Factory at about 10 o'clock. Upon visiting the ward in which the deceased was, I found her and two others dead, (Ann Walker and Mary Ann M'Guinness). I ordered that three other women who were in the same ward should be removed into the large ward. I had them placed near the open windows, and used such measures as I thought necessary for their restoration. One, Ruth Richmond, lived until the following day, and another, Mary Reilly, died on the 17th instant. I made a *post mortem* examination of the body of Mary M'Donald to day. The appearances presented were the following:—There were not any marks of violence on the body which was well nourished. The viscera of the abdomen were healthy. The heart was flabby and friable, evidently going through the process of fatty degeneration. The lungs were gorged with blood, which here, as in other parts of the body, was very fluid. On exposing the interior of the air tubes, their mucous membrane was found very vascular, and of a very dark colour from the deposition of carbon in a state of minute division. The brain was much more vascular than natural, and the ventricles contained a considerable quantity of serum. I believe that the deceased came to her death by poisoning from inhaling carbonic acid gas. The burning of coal, such as that produced, which I believe to be what is commonly called Port Arthur Coal, in an open stove like that produced, in a room without any aperture, would produce carbonic acid gas in sufficient quantity to destroy life. I know the room in which the deceased M'Donald and the four other women, who have died, slept. There was only one other woman slept in the room with them; she has been affected in the same way as the rest, but is recovering. She is not yet fit to be examined. The room is twenty-five feet six inches long, by twelve feet and six inches wide, and eleven feet high, and contains three thousand three hundred cubic feet. There is an outer room into which the inner room opens by a double door. This outer room measures twenty-five feet six inches in length, eleven feet in width, and eleven feet in height, and contains three thousand and twenty-five cubic feet; allowing, in both rooms, one thousand and fifty-four cubic feet of breathing space to each woman. The minimum breathing space allowed in Hospitals in the United Kingdom now is eight hundred cubic feet, and the maximum about two thousand five hundred cubic feet. There was no means of ventilating either the inner or the outer rooms, except by the doors and windows, of which there was one to each room. There was no fireplace in either room. The rooms were dull and dismal, but did not strike me as being damp. About a fortnight ago, Mr. Atkins asked me if it would do harm to put a fire in an open stove in one of the rooms. I said, "No, it would do good if put there during the day time when the patients were out." I did not know any fire had been lit in them till I found the women dead. About ten days ago, a woman named Baker, who was doing Holliday's duty, asked me if she should put a fire in the rooms, and I said, "No, not till you have got some charcoal." I did not consider it desirable a fire should be made in an open stove from Port Arthur Coal. The women who slept in the room were under my medical charge. I had no other charge of them that I know of. I visited them twice a week to see if there were any sick. I saw them oftener, if any were sick. I believe the nurses to be under my orders, and under Mr. Atkins's orders too. About three months ago, twenty-seven invalid women were removed from the Colonial Hospital to relieve the overcrowded state of the Female Hospital. They were then placed in that part of this building which had been set apart for the Imperial Invalids. The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, (Mr. Henty), and the Comptroller-General of Convicts, (Mr. Nairn), came with me; and, with Mr. Atkins, inspected the building. And it was then decided that these twenty-seven women should be removed to the part of the building they have been in. Mr. Henty and Mr. Nairn saw the room in which the women who have died slept. They did not go inside it. They looked in through the window. The window was open, there are iron bars to it. Two of the women who have died, and the one survivor, were blind. Two nurses came with the twenty-seven women from the Hospital. I understood that one of these nurses was to sleep in the ward where the women have died. At the Hospital the patients are, and have been, wholly under my supervision, with a Steward and Matron under me, to carry out the arrangements. The Comptroller-General could only receive a certain number of Colonial Invalids into the large ward. That is why the six women were put to sleep in the ward in which the fire was made in the stove. It was intended these women should inhabit the large ward during the day time. I had repeatedly ordered the nurses to leave the door of the inner room open at night, as also a

portion of the windows. If this had been done, I consider there would have been ventilation sufficient. Had the top of the windows been open on Saturday night last I believe it would have been sufficient to have prevented fatal results from the carbonic acid gas evolved from the fire.

GEORGE TURNLEY.

Sworn before me this 18th day of July, 1860.

A. B. JONES, *Coroner*.

MEMO.

Inquest adjourned to Friday, 20th July instant, at 11 A.M.

18th July, 1860.

A. B. JONES.

MEMO.

The Jury, on re-assembling this day, expressed a wish to see the ward again in which Mary M'Donald and the five other women had been sleeping. It was shown to them, as well as the large ward and the rooms up stairs, which had been occupied by the other Invalid Paupers. I accompanied them. We saw the survivor, Dowd; she was evidently not in a fit state to give evidence.

20th July, 1860.

A. B. JONES.

*The Information on Oath of MARY ANN M'GUINNESS, who saith—*

I AM nurse of the large ward in the invalid yard at the House of Correction for Females at the Cascades, and have charge of the invalids kept at the expense of the Imperial Government. There are eighteen of them. I took charge of them on the first June last. At the time I took charge, there were in the ward some invalids belonging to the Colonial Government. There were twenty-seven of them. To the best of my recollection there were fifteen in my ward, six in the little ward where the women have died, and the remainder in some place upstairs; I cannot say where, for I was never there. Some of the invalids left the establishment, and as they left my ward, others were drafted into it from the place upstairs. The little ward was kept full; only one woman was removed out of it since I have been here. All the Colonial invalids got their meals along with the Imperial invalids in my ward, and were permitted to sit there during the day time. The women who were in the little ward were permitted to come in there, and all did so, except Ruth Richmond, who has been confined to bed ever since I have been here. I considered the Colonial invalids to be under Mr. Turnley's control. The Imperial invalids I considered were under Mr. Bedford's control. I received my orders about the latter from Mr. Bedford. I never received any orders at all about the former from Mr. Turnley. Mr. Atkins used to see that the food of both classes was correct. He also saw that the cleaning of the large ward was done properly. I cannot say whether he looked after the cleaning of the little ward and the place upstairs. The two nurses who have charge of the Colonial invalids are not under my orders. They do the cleaning of that part of my ward where the Colonial invalids are. I do that part where the Imperial ones remain. They are divided, mine at one end, the Colonial ones at the other. I know nothing about the death of Mary M'Donald and the other women, only seeing the fire standing between the doorway of the inner room in the little ward on Saturday evening last about five o'clock. It was burning brightly. Mr. Serviss came, and I called him to come and see the fire. He went and looked at it, and said, "the women are not to put it in till it be burnt clearly, and then they are to take it out again." He did not say at what hour they were to take it out, or how long they were to leave it in, for I went away at once. About ten o'clock on the night of Saturday last, I went into the outer room of the little ward to empty some slops in the closets there, and I found all the women there quiet, and the fire burning brightly. The fire was then in the inner room inside the doorway. The double door of the inner room was open. I found the outer door of the outer room closed, and I closed it again when I went out. I was not in there above two or three minutes. Both the windows were closed at six o'clock. I know that the window in the inside room was so then, for I went in with nurse Holliday then. Four of the women were then in bed, and two of them, Reilly and Dowd, were sitting by the fire. I am sure the window of the outer room was closed then too. I cannot say whether they were opened or not afterwards. The outer door of the outer room of the little ward was never locked at night. The outer door of the large ward (my ward) was never locked at night. The door of my ward leading into the wash-yard was. If anything particular occurred at night, I could make it known to the night officer by ringing a bell. I had never seen a fire in the little ward until Saturday last. It was in a little open stove like that now produced. I do not know who ordered it to be put in the room. The women did not object to its being put there. They were all very glad it had been put there. I have heard the women who were in the little ward complain amongst themselves of the cold and dampness in that ward. They never spoke of this, that I know of, to an officer. I never heard them complain of the smell of the closets. I do not know what they might have done to their own nurses. The closets are in the outer room. There are three of them. They are made with tubs, which are removed night and morning. These closets are used by all the invalids in the day time. The tubs are emptied at five o'clock in the afternoon and then put back again. The tubs are made of wood. They have not been changed since I have been here. The women from the little ward came into my ward at breakfast time, about half-after seven. They returned to the little ward after tea, about six. They were not compelled to go to bed then. The women who slept in the little ward could stay in the large ward, if they liked, till nine, when the bell for silence rang, but they did not usually do so.

MARY ANN <sup>her</sup> × M'GUINNESS,  
mark.

Sworn before me this 20th day of July, 1860.

A. B. JONES, *Coroner*.

*The Information on Oath of JOHN SERVISS, who saith—*

I AM gate-keeper at the House of Correction for Females, at the Cascades. I saw the body of Mary M'Donald, and four other women, lying dead at the said House of Correction on Wednesday last, in presence of the Coroner, Jury, and Mr. Turnley. On Tuesday week last, Mr. Atkins told me that Dr. Turnley had said, the women in the little ward in the invalid yard might have a fire in that ward in the day time to air it; but that it must be removed before night: and he directed me to get a ship stove, and have a fire lit in the yard with coals, and then have it put into the ward after the smoke had been burnt out. On Friday last, I brought the iron ship stove now produced into the yard, and told the nurses that they were to light a fire in it, and after the smoke had been burnt out of it, they were to remove it into the room. I did not tell any of the nurses in particular. Mary Ann M'Guinness was present, and I think Annie Reid, but I am not positive. I do not recollect having seen Eliza Holliday. To the best of my belief, she was not there. I did not see her. I was standing at the gateway of the yard, and the nurses were standing at the door of the outer room of the little ward. I saw or heard nothing more of the stove and fire till the afternoon of the same day, about four o'clock, when, as I went in with the coals, one of the invalids, I do not know which, said to me, "Look at the nice fire we have got." I was close to it then. It was standing just by the coal box, inside the outer room of the little ward, near the door. The fire was burning very brightly. I said, "Be particular and take this out to-night." The nurse, M'Guinness, said, "All right Sir." I went away about ten minutes afterwards. My reason for telling them to be particular to remove the stove and fire at night was, because Mr. Atkins had told me so. I had no idea the fire would do any harm if left in the ward at night. I know nothing more of what occurred till the following morning about half-past seven or eight o'clock, when the watch-woman informed me that the invalid yard call bell had rung; and, on my going immediately there, I found two women in the little ward dead, and another dying. I reported it at once to Mr. Atkins. By Mr. Atkins desire, Mr. Turnley was sent for immediately. No fire had ever been lit in the same place before. I never heard the women complain of the room being damp or cold. Mr. Turnley told me one day that the women had complained of its being damp, and asked me if I thought it were so. I told him, I did not. I consider the invalids were under the controul of the nurses. Mr. Turnley gave the orders to the nurses about the Colonial Invalids and none else. No Officer had controul over the nursery. The night Officer used to visit the invalid wards at night up to ten o'clock. I cannot say whether she went into the little ward or not. The nurse never told me that Doctor Turnley had refused to let the women have a fire in the little ward until he had sent some charcoal up.

JOHN SERVISS.

Sworn before me this 20th day of July, 1860.

A. B. JONES, *Coroner.**The Information on Oath of MR. RINGROSE AUSTIN ATKINS, who saith—*

I AM keeper of the House of Correction for Females, and have charge of the Depôt for Invalid Females belonging to the Imperial Government, which is attached to the House of Correction. About three months ago, twenty-seven invalid patients belonging to the Colonial Government were sent to the Invalid Depôt here, by order of the Colonial Secretary and Comptroller-General. A portion were placed in the large ward there, seven in the little ward, and the remainder in some rooms upstairs. Those in the rooms upstairs were drafted into the large ward below as vacancies occurred, principally because being infirm they objected to the having to go up and down stairs. I never interfered with the arrangements regarding them. I considered them to be under the control of the medical officer, Mr. Turnley. Had I seen them doing anything wrong, I would have checked them, and brought it under Mr. Turnley's notice when he came to the building. I never saw them doing anything wrong. I have no reason to find fault at all. I did not consider the nurses who were with the invalids to be under my control. I was told when they came, that I was to have nothing to do with them except to issue diets for them, and see that they got them. I inspected them daily, generally at their dinner hour, and I used to ask them if they received all that had been ordered for them. None of them made any complaints to me. They said several times that they were better off than they had been at Her Majesty's Colonial Hospital, and that their provisions were better and more ample here than at the Hospital. Doctor Bedford has the control over the Imperial invalids. I carry out his instructions. I do no more than see that they are carried out, and that the place is kept clean and in proper order. About the fifth of this month the clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Seaman, told me he thought the little ward was cold. I informed Mr. Turnley of this some few days afterwards, and proposed that a ship stove should be put in it, with a fire in the day time for a couple of hours when the women were out, and the windows and doors open. He quite agreed with me, and I gave directions to Mr. Serviss to have a fire put in for two hours during the day, and to be careful to see it was taken out again. This was on Monday week last. Being in the large ward at dinner time on Thursday week last, when Mr. Serviss was there, I asked him if he had had a stove put in the little ward. He said, "No, I will do it to-morrow, I have not had time, I have been very busy." When I went in on the following day, Friday last, I asked a woman named Baker, who was acting as nurse, whether the stove had been put in. She said, "No; Doctor Turnley has said it ought not to be put in unless we had charcoal." I said "Very good; it cannot be done, as I have no charcoal for that purpose." I heard nothing more about the matter till Sunday morning last, about a quarter after eight, when Mr. Serviss came to me and reported that there were three women dead and three others in a dying state. I told him at once to send for Mr. Turnley, and I went up to the ward. I did nothing till Mr. Turnley came.

then I followed his requests. He asked me if the survivors could be removed into the large ward, and it was done. Only a certain number of women are allowed to be put in the large ward. This restriction is by order of Doctor Bedford. Mr. Turnley sent for Doctor Bedford as soon as he came, Doctor Bedford arrived about three quarters of an hour afterwards. I was aware that the leaving of an open fire in a room closed and unventilated would be destructive to life. That is the reason I gave the order that the stove and fire should not be left in the little ward except for two hours during the day time. I was not aware, on Saturday, that Mr. Serviss had put the fire in the ward on that day. The matron of the House of Correction visits the invalid wards daily, besides myself; and Mr. Serviss is in there frequently during the day. A female officer visits these wards between nine and ten at night. Miss Galt was that officer on Saturday night last. Should there be anything required during the night after that, the nurse has directions to ring the bell; and the night officer, Mr. Smith, to communicate with the matron and myself. The officers of the establishment and the medical men have had nothing to do with the construction of the building. The arrangement, with regard to the Colonial Pauper Invalids being here, was merely temporary.

R. A. ATKINS,

Sworn before me this 20th day of July, 1860.

A. B. JONES, *Coroner.*

*The Information on Oath of MISS MARGARET GALT, who saith—*

I AM a warder at the House of Correction for Females. It was my duty to visit the wards of the Establishment between nine and ten on Saturday night last. I visited the large ward in the Invalid Depôt on that night, but I did not go into the little ward. I asked the nurses if all were right, and they said, "Yes." Had I seen a fire burning in an open stove in a ward where there was no ventilation I should have taken notice of it. I think I would have ordered it to be removed, for I should have known it to be injurious to life. I had no occasion to visit the Invalid Depôt during the day of Saturday last. I had visited the large ward at twenty minutes after seven on that day. I used occasionally to go into the little ward, sometimes of my own accord, sometimes when called on. I did not consider it my duty to do so, as there was a free nurse in charge. I am an officer of the House of Correction, not of the Invalid Depôt.

MARGARET GALT.

Sworn before me this 20th day of July, 1860.

A. B. JONES, *Coroner.*

MEMO.—The jury, after having returned their verdict, stated, on my asking them, that they believed that the four other women came to their death from the same cause, and in the same manner, as Mary M'Donald. Mr. Atkins, Keeper of the House of Correction, then asked them, if they blamed him in any way; and the jury all stated they did not.

A. B. JONES.

20th July, 1860.