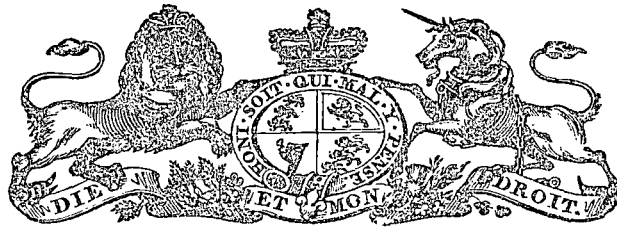


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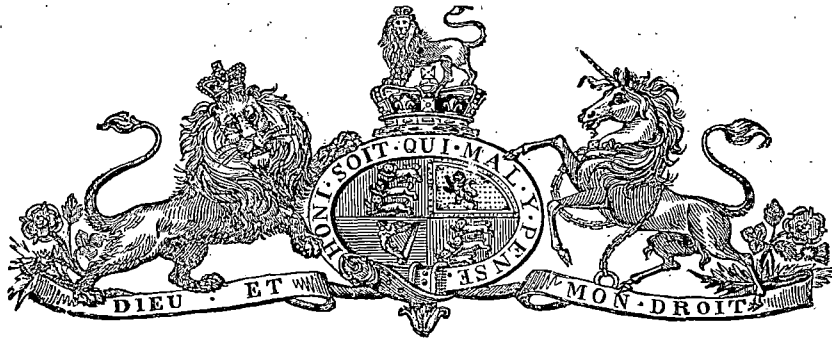
1860.

T A S M A N I A.

O R P H A N S C H O O L S.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be
printed, 21 August, 1860.



Colonial Secretary's Office, December, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward to Your Excellency the Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the Orphan Schools; and, in doing so, beg to express the regret of the Members that the business of Parliament should have interrupted their investigations, and prevented their adopting a report at an earlier period.

The enquiry of the Commission has been promptly assisted by the Medical and other authorities in connection with the Orphan Schools; and it is satisfactory to it, in closing its labours, that while the Commission has deemed it incumbent to offer suggestions for the improved management of the Institution, it is enabled to acknowledge that there has been no indisposition on the part of the Authorities to receive suggestions of that nature, and to give effect to them.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HENTY, *Chairman.*

ORPHAN SCHOOL COMMISSION REPORT.

1. WE, the undersigned Commissioners appointed by Your Excellency to enquire into the sanitary and other condition of the Queen's Orphan Schools, beg respectfully to submit the following Report:—

2. Following the order of the topics entered upon in our enquiry, the first is

DIET.

3. Insufficiency of diet has not appeared, from any evidence which we have been able to elicit, to have been the cause of mortality in the establishment: but as the diet ordered for all ages is alike, though in practice it is not so issued, the younger children having less bread and more milk, we have thought it desirable that different scales should be laid down for different ages,—and as recent investigations have thrown new light on the subject of dietetics, we have deemed it not improper to follow the conclusions to which those investigations have conducted; and we suggest an altered scale of diet (annexed to this Report) which embodies conditions that have been recently advantageously adopted in kindred Institutions in Europe. But, in suggesting an altered scale of diet, we are desirous that it should be clearly understood that modifications of that scale may, from time to time, be found expedient; it being provided that no change shall be made without a record of the grounds thereof, and of the concurrence in it of the proper authorities. The proposed dietary contemplates no addition to the quantities issued for the infants.

4. We suggest that the proper times for meals would be at 8 o'clock A.M. for breakfast, 12½ o'clock for dinner, and 6 o'clock P.M. for supper for the grown children.

5. The modes of cooking should partake of as much variety as practicable, and the following are recommended:—

Irish stews	2 days.
Soup and bouilli.....	2 days.
Baked meat	1 day.
Stewed beef	1 day.
Baked meat on Sunday.	

An economical and very efficient mode of preparing the Irish stews has been recommended by Dr. Balfour, at the Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea, and is worthy of being tried.

6. As to cooking a varied form of diet, however, in a more efficient and economical manner, we would mention that experiments have recently been made at Woolwich, by the Barrack and Hospital Improvement Committee, on the capabilities of a newly invented apparatus, which will probably supersede the mode of cooking now in vogue in the Army. (*Lancet*, May 7th, 1859.)

VENTILATION.

7. The dormitories are quite inadequate for the proper accommodation of the number of inmates occupying them; and we advise such alterations and additions as will secure a space of 500 cubic feet for each child, and that a space of not less than 1000 cubic feet should be allowed for each patient in Hospital, which will afford a proper space between the beds, at present too close to each other.

8. For the wooden tubs used as urinals we advise that common chamber utensils or other improved substitutes should be found. Each dormitory should also be provided with one or more water-closets, so arranged that no effluvia from them should enter the Ward.

DRAINAGE.

9. The drainage at the period of our inspection was not in a satisfactory state, nor could we ascertain the precise locality of the main drains.

Contemplating alterations in this important feature in the physical arrangements of the Institution, we would recommend that all the drains should be so arranged as to admit of any faults or imperfections being easily rectified, and of their being regularly flushed and scoured. Drainage under the buildings is open to serious objections.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

10. The supply of Water is good and sufficient, but it is desirable it should be conducted from its source to the building through a large earthenware pipe, and attention be given to its being extensively distributed.

ACCOMMODATION.

11. We have alluded already, under the head of Ventilation, to the crowded condition of parts of the establishment. Its appropriation to infant children was an object not contemplated on its formation; and when, in the year 1854, they were admitted, the accommodation for the elder children was unavoidably reduced to insufficient limits. The central parts of the building, including the two cloisters, were fitted up for the infants; and other erections were made there obstructing the proper ventilation of the dwelling, including a set of privies, ill arranged, and so close to the dormitories as to be exceedingly offensive. One of the infants' dormitories was so confined that we ventured to suggest an immediate relief by appropriating a school-room, which was, without much inconvenience, made available as a dormitory. Without entering further into details than will be found in our remarks under the several heads of "Ventilation," "Hospitals," and "Privies," we recommend that the whole of that part of the establishment appropriated to infants should be devoted, as formerly, to the elder children, and that the cloisters be restored to their original purposes.

12. This change will necessitate the erection of entirely new buildings for the infants, for which a good site presents itself in close proximity.

Advantage might be taken to provide in these new buildings for the infants and nursing mothers hitherto kept at the Brickfields. The outlay necessary in giving effect to these proposals must inevitably be considerable,—but that is a matter beyond our province.

HOSPITALS.

13. For the three faulty and insufficient Hospitals in the establishment at present, we recommend the substitution of a new General Hospital provided with suitable wards for the sick, and proper accommodation for the attendants, who are now very insufficiently lodged; a circumstance which adds much to the difficulty of obtaining suitable persons in such capacity.

PRIVIES.

14. We advise, as the present Privies are too near the day and night apartments, that new ones be erected for all the divisions at localities convenient to the buildings, and connected with them by covered ways; the water supply to be so arranged that every thing offensive should be at once swept away; in the meantime the best practicable improvements should be temporarily made to the present privies.

KITCHENS.

15. We advise that the proposed new building for the infants should have a separate kitchen, and that there be provided one other kitchen for the boys and girls. Also one kitchen for the new Hospital, and one bakery for the whole establishment.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

16. In the opinion of the Commissioners the Superintendent, as the Officer responsible for the management of the Institution, should have his residence there, or as near thereto as is practicable.

With regard to the educational arrangements, inasmuch as the inspection of the Schools has been remitted to the Board of Education, we have refrained, unless incidentally, from entering into any investigation, and we have no observations to offer. We would, however, draw attention to the importance of some recreation being found for the children during the long evenings, in order to prevent the necessity of their being sent so early to their dormitories.

We recommend the appointment of special Officers for the purpose of greater supervision during the night, when the children have retired to their dormitories.

The Lavatories should have gratings over the whole flooring, to afford better protection against cold and damp.

The clothing appears generally to be good, and we have only to suggest that in winter the vests worn be lined with flannel.

In reference to the industrial training of the children, we would advise that every incidental means afforded by the establishment should be taken advantage of, consistently with their years, to give them habits of industry.

At present the supplies for the Officers and Servants of the establishment are sent in by the Contractor with those for the children, and form one united delivery; we would advise the expediency of the supplies for the children being, in future, delivered separate from all others.

We feel that it would be a serious omission in this Report, and one involving some personal injustice, were we to pass unnoticed in it statements which have been prominently put before the public, and reiterated before us in his evidence, by Mr. Hall, in respect to the rate of mortality which has prevailed in the Queen's Orphan Schools. Having instituted a most careful and dispassionate inquiry into these statements, we find that they are not borne out by a fair view of facts, but that they are based on the statistics of two periods of time which, in our judgment, should be kept wholly distinct. In 1842 the present Medical Officer of the Orphan Schools, then only recently appointed, represented to the proper authorities the faulty distribution of the diet as then issued; and at his instance various improvements were introduced, not only in respect to the diet, but to the general treatment as well of the children. By the year 1843 a sufficient period had not elapsed for these changes to have produced their anticipated results, and furthermore in that year a prevailing epidemic of a peculiarly malignant and fatal character attacked almost all the children; the mortality from which, however, although high, there is no evidence to show exceeded, in proportion to the numbers who suffered from it, that which prevailed elsewhere in the Colony.

Between the years 1844 and 1853 inclusive no epidemic prevailed: the improvements adopted at the instance of Mr. Bedford were fairly established, and the consequence was that the death rate for the entire of those ten years—a period exhibiting a fair average of time, and one freed from any disturbing causes—was low. In 1854 again the mortality became considerable; but it is fully accounted for in the fact of the admission, in that year, of a number of very young and delicate children transferred from the Government nurseries in consequence of their debility.

We have not failed, in prosecuting the enquiries referred to us, to institute comparisons between the rates of mortality in Institutions any way analogous to the Orphan Schools.

In conclusion, we desire to acknowledge the great assistance we have derived from the "Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Army," published in 1858, which we have adopted as our guide on several questions which have engaged our attention, and in connection with which our suggestions are now offered.

WM. HENTY.
J. W. AGNEW, *M.D.*
FRED. M. INNES.
W. NAIRN.
W. BENSON.

I do not agree with that portion of the Report which recommends a Resident Superintendent. A Resident Officer of this kind is necessary in Establishments with adults; but in Schools and Lunatic Asylums the persons teaching and treating those under their care must not have their due authority too frequently interfered with, as it would be by a Resident Officer placed over them.

E. S. P. BEDFORD.

SCALE A. for Children 8 years of Age and upwards :—

Daily Rate—Meat, 8 ozs. (including Bone.)
 Potatoes, 8 ozs. (other vegetables may be substituted, viz.—16 ozs.
 of Cabbage (other items for substitution are those
 which appear in the dietary of the other Hospitals)
 for 8 ozs. of Potatoes.
 Bread, (20 per cent. quality) 1 lb.
 Oatmeal, 2 ozs. or
 Cocoa, 1 oz. equally between breakfast and supper.
 Sugar, 1 oz.
 Milk, $\frac{3}{4}$ pint.
 Rice, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
 Salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

On Sunday, in lieu of 3 ozs. of the Bread, the following are to be substituted :—

Currants, 1 oz.
 Suet, 1 oz.
 Flour, 2 ozs.

The Meat to be either Beef or Mutton varied from time to time.

SCALE B. for Children from 6 years of Age to 8 years of Age :—

Meat, 6 ozs.
 The remainder as in *Scale A.*

SCALE C. from 3 to 6 years of Age :—

Meat, 4 ozs.
 Vegetables, 6 ozs.
 Bread, 12 ozs.
 Milk, 1 pint.
 Oatmeal, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
 Sugar, $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.
 Salt, } on each of the 2 days for Soup 2 ozs.
 Rice, }

SCALE D.

Finest Bread, 10 ozs.
 Meat for broth, 4 ozs.
 Vegetables, 4 ozs.
 Milk, 1 pint.
 Sugar, 1 oz.
 Sago, 2 ozs.