



NEW ZEALAND  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE,  
(PROVINCE OF NELSON.)

Published by Authority.

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*By His Honor's command,*

**ALFRED GREENFIELD, Provincial Secretary.**

VOL. XV.

NELSON, TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1867.

No. 19.

Superintendent's Office,  
Nelson, 10th June, 1867.

**T**HE SUPERINTENDENT directs the publication of the following Report for general information:—

ALFRED GREENFIELD,  
*Provincial Secretary.*

REPORT BY DR. CUSACK, ON THE NELSON HOSPITAL, FOR 1866-7.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED.		RESULT.	
Remaining March 31, 1866 .....	25	Discharged, cured .....	61
Admitted during twelve months...	72	"  relieved, or incurable	12
		Died .....	5
		Remaining March 31, 1867 .....	19
Total treated .....	97	Total .....	97

## NOMINAL RETURN OF DISEASES TREATED CLASSIFIED.

CLASS.	ORDER.	DISEASES.	No.	
Zymotici ... ..	Miasmatici ... ..	Febris Typhoides ... ..	3	
		" Continua ... ..	4	
		" Recurrens ... ..	1	
	Enthetici ... .. Dietici ... .. Parasitici ... ..	Erysipelas ... ..	1	
		Syphilis ... ..	7	
		Scorbutus... ..	1	
		Accephalocystitis ... ..	1	
Cachectici ... ..	Diathetici ... ..	Epithelioma ... ..	1	
		Carcinoma Osteoides ... ..	1	
	Phthisici ... ..	Rheumatismus ... ..	7	
		Phthisis Pulmonalis ... ..	8	
Monorganici ... ..	Cephalici ... ..	Paralysis ... ..	4	
		Delirium Tremens ... ..	1	
		Mania ... ..	1	
	Pneumonici ... ..	Bronchitis ... ..	6	
		Hydrothorax ... ..	1	
		Pneumonia ... ..	2	
		Laryngitis ... ..	1	
		Pleuritis ... ..	2	
		Emphysema ... ..	1	
		Hæmorrhoids ... ..	1	
		Ascitis ... ..	1	
		Dysentery ... ..	4	
	Diarrhœa... ..	1		
	Nephritici ... ..	Nephria ... ..	1	
		Myostici ... ..	Arthritis ... ..	3
			Synovitis ... ..	2
	Carotici ... ..	Ulcus ... ..	4	
		Paronychia ... ..	3	
	Dysopia ... ..	Entropion ... ..	1	
		Ophthalmia ... ..	2	
		Cataract ... ..	1	
		Amaurosis ... ..	1	
Metamorphici ... ..	Trophici ... ..	Atrophia .. ..	3	
Thanatici ... ..	Accidents ... ..	Fractura ... ..	9	
		Contusio ... ..	3	
		Vulnus Sclopitarium ... ..	1	
		Vulnus Incisum ... ..	2	
TOTAL ...			97	

Of the 97, 80 were males, 17 females, 28 gold miners chiefly from the West Coast, and 1 native.

In the two last annual reports, the faulty and insufficient accommodation of the present building was pointed out, and the liberal sum voted by the Council at its last session is now being devoted to the erection of a new hospital, designed by Mr. Blackett from the most approved plans, which will in all respects—excepting perhaps its inconvenient distance from the town and port—be well adapted to our present and prospective requirements.

Pending its completion, it will I presume, be a matter for deliberation by the Government, how what I have no doubt will be

the most perfect building of its kind in the Colony can be made to yield the greatest advantage to the public. It may facilitate this enquiry, if I indicate some points, which nearly five years experience as Physician to the Hospital has led me to believe require alteration.

1st. Most hospitals are supervised by a managing committee, nominated by the subscribers, or the Government, or conjointly, as the case may be, who make themselves acquainted with the details of the administration, the expenditure, the admission and discharge of patients, and other matters such as the fulfilment of the contracts, which I need not particularise. Hitherto no such committee has been appointed for this

hospital, and were it not for the great assiduity of one of our Magistrates, Captain Rough, who is a constant visitor at the hospital it would be practically uncared for by the public,—for the Superintendent could not possibly find time for such an office—and a great and unreasonable responsibility is thrown on the medical attendants, whose duty, besides their proper function of prescribing for the sick, should be confined, to conferring with the committee upon such matters as may require the advice of a Physician.

2nd. The position and tenure of office of the medical staff is very indefinite, and not such as to give them any permanent interest, in the welfare of an establishment to which they are only temporarily attached. Pending the removal of the Hospital to a site the great distance of which will occasion an increased demand upon their time, it will be necessary for the Government, if they wish to retain the services of professional men whose time is of any value, to consider whether it will be better to make a reasonable increase in the payment of the visiting staff, or to appoint a resident physician. Patients who resort to hospitals, generally do so from the desire they have, to be attended by medical men residing in the town, whose private practice and therefore range of experience is large. In England and Australia, it is usual to secure the services of such men, by a small salary, and by adding to the staff a junior medical man, as resident physician, who carries out the instruction of the visiting staff, and whose residence in the Hospital prevents any undue encroachment on their time. These posts in England are generally filled by young medical men, who have served their time in the hospital, and are glad to avail themselves of a small salary and the opportunity of acquiring increased experience. In this country a much larger salary would have to be paid, to secure and retain the services of an efficient man.

More than 25 per cent of the patients treated were gold-miners from the West Coast, and as the mining extended northwards into this province, there were evidences of an increased demand on the Hospital. During the past month (May,) there were more patients in the Hospital from the West Coast than at any time during the preceding twelve months.

I am informed that a good deal of sickness, such as is incidental to a mining population, exists at the West Coast, and that there is a general desire among the diggers under medical treatment, to be removed to Nelson,

for the sake of the more speedy recovery, which its better climate and accommodation effect. Those who can afford it come at their own expense, and are treated by myself and other medical men in hotels and lodging houses; but as many cannot do so, doubtless the item for medical expenditure on the gold-fields for the next year, will be very large, and it will, in an economical point of view, be desirable to enquire whether local hospitals should be maintained by the Province, or whether it will be better and cheaper to remove the patients, when practicable, by steamer to the Nelson Hospital, where provisions are cheaper, and the time requisite for recovery shorter.

It is usual to estimate the relative cost of hospitals by reference to the expense of each occupied bed per week. From our estimates of the past year it will be seen that the cost per patient per week in the Nelson Hospital is about 18s., a sum which would average somewhat less, were the number of patients to increase, as within certain limits no corresponding increase would be required to the administrative department.

Many patients come to the hospital, who have expended all their means in paying for the advice of uneducated persons professing to be medical men at the West Coast. To remedy this evil it will be desirable that some act should be passed by the General or Provincial Government, authorising the publication, once a year, of a list of the duly qualified medical practitioners, in New Zealand, for the information of persons requiring medical aid.

Warm baths of different forms are now considered a most valuable adjunct to medical treatment, when judiciously administered in suitable cases, and I had hoped that the establishment lately erected on the public reserve in Hardy-street, would be available for the hospital patients, and also for those under the care of medical men in private, as the ground was leased to the tenant for three years free of rent. As, however, the tenant publicly advertises some system of charlatan-ism, and practises as a medical man, though not in any way educated or legally qualified as such, I am precluded from sending either the hospital or my private patients to the baths, lest, by visiting them for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are properly administered, I might be thought in any way to sanction quackery. I think it my duty to call attention to the matter in hopes that Government may be able to find a remedy.

S. A. CUSACK, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Nelson, June 1, 1867.