

Venereal, are by much too small and overcrowded. The 5th Catholic and 5th Protestant wards, and two of the Venereal wards, are intolerably offensive from the poison of the latrines, besides being ill-ventilated. The 6th Protestant ward is occupied by a female maniac, who is a great annoyance, and should at once be removed to the asylum, which is not full. The nurses are too few, and are consequently worked day and night. Visits of inspection are rare and irregular.

This institution seems to suffer from a divided command, a large portion of the funds being subscribed and controlled by different religious communities separately, and the subscribers of each persuasion being on bad terms with the rest.

The lunatic asylum is a mere adjunct to the gaol, and seems to be very badly managed by a superintendent and his wife with 80*l.* per annum, and a male assistant keeper with only 25*l.*, without allowances. The stores are kept by the superintendent, the accounts by the civil gaoler. There is no employment or provision for exercise, except in walking. Records, visits, and reports are all very insufficient. There are only from four to five patients, but some better arrangement ought to be devised than one which leaves the difficult and delicate care of insanity to an ordinary gaoler. There is no information as to the nature of the powers, duties, or responsibilities of the medical officer. He should be required to attend personally to every part of the management, and the visitors of the hospital might conveniently extend their supervision to the asylum.

89. *Labuan*.—There is neither asylum nor civil hospital in Labuan.

Despatch,
March 20, 1863.

90. *Hong Kong*.—There is no lunatic asylum in Hong Kong.

In addition to four military and naval hospitals there is a Government civil hospital with about fifty patients, and a Lock hospital, which admitted 485 cases in the course of 1862. These two stand close together, and the same remarks seem generally to apply to both. Syphilis is the predominant disease, even in the former.

Despatch,
April 22, 1863.

It is reported that "water has lately been introduced within the enclosure, but has not yet been carried into the buildings. The sewerage and drainage is very defective. There are no proper water-closets. Everything is carried away by hand, but it is by no means easy to keep the dwelling free from noxious exhalations, especially in hot weather." There are no baths of any kind. The Governor visits once a-year, and receives an annual report. It does not appear that there is any other visitation or report.

If, in the absence of proper visits and reports, it were possible to judge solely, it would seem that, excepting the great sanitary defects above-mentioned, these two hospitals are well managed.

91. *Tasmania*.—Since 1860 the Civil hospital has been under the management of a board of twelve members, appointed by and responsible to the colonial Government. The asylum is administered by nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor.

Despatch,
July 21, 1863.

One female and two male wards at the asylum give only from 600 to 650 cubic feet per head, but in other respects both these institutions appear to be admirably conducted, and the board and the commissioners are on the watch to improve them.

92. *Victoria*.—The Victorian hospitals are generally satisfactory, but not without defects.

Despatch,
Aug. 25, 1863.

That at Melbourne is not visited by superior civil authorities.

The Geelong hospital is sanitarily defective. Open drains discharge themselves into a gutter in the street; the sewage collects in cesspools and is carted away, and there are no latrines. There are none but portable baths. Six of the wards allow less than 700 cubic feet of space per head, and none more than 820. The only visits are those of the members of the Committee of Management appointed by the subscribers, and the reports are insufficient.

The report of the Committee for 1862 is very favourable.

In the Castlemaine hospital there are no latrines within doors. The space allotted to each patient is very insufficient, the most roomy ward giving only 800, and the two worst less than 325 cubic feet per head, whilst the average is 533. The provisions for visitation and reports seem to be insufficient. The Committee complain that the action taken by the Government with reference to private contributions has, with other causes, prevented them from