

There is a parochial Pauper asylum, with about eight lunatic berths, supported by parochial funds, which is in a very bad state and destitute of any artificial sewerage or drainage, and of baths and lavatories. The latrines are "very primitive." There is no sufficient ventilation. The patients are employed in menial services. Restraint is said to be very rare, but is unrecorded. The parish doctor visits when summoned by the keeper, and the Colonial Surgeon occasionally. "Neither register nor records are kept," and the Governor never visits. There is no information on several important points.

Despatches,
Aug. 7 and 17,
1863.

85. *Cape of Good Hope*.—(1.) The Somerset hospital at Cape Town appears to be in a satisfactory condition, except as regards visitation.

(2.) The Albany hospital at Graham's Town is in part an asylum for aged paupers. The government is vested in a committee of management, members of which visit and report frequently. Under the present system a resident lay-superintendent is the immediate manager, and there are two non-resident visiting doctors, with honorary salaries of 25*l.* per annum. It is to be desired that greater powers and direct control over the whole establishment should be given, with an increased salary, if necessary, to one of these. A proper outfall should also be substituted for the cesspools into which the sewage at present flows.

(3.) The hospital at Port Elizabeth is sanitarily very imperfect. There is no drainage, and no proper baths. The latrines and the ventilation are very bad. There are two non-resident medical officers. A similar transfer of powers and responsibility to one of these is here also desirable.

(4.) The lunatic asylum at Robben Island is in a very bad state, with much contemplation of improvements, for some of which funds were granted in the last session. It is under the management of a surgeon-superintendent, who acts under rules laid down by the Governor. The present rules were framed at a time when the asylum was much smaller than it now is, and require alteration.

The sewerage, drainage, latrines, water-supply, lavatories, and baths have been, and indeed, even at the present time, still appear to be, bad and defective in the extreme. The space allowed to each patient is, from overcrowding, only 500 cubic feet, and there are no day-rooms. There is no system of subordination amongst the attendants, who seem to have been left to perform their duties in their own way, without check or supervision. These defects indeed are all said to be in course of being remedied, but there are others which equally demand immediate reform. The patients are employed in menial services, and frequently subjected to mechanical restraint on frivolous grounds—for "being foolish in manner and action," or for attempts to escape. The only regular visits are those of the General Medical Committee. There are no proper records or returns of the grounds of detention or circumstances of admission of the patients, and complaints are made that they are not admitted directly to the asylum, but are sent, in the first place, to Somerset hospital, whence the certificates are seldom forwarded to Robben Island, so that there are no securities against improper confinement.

Despatch,
June 22, 1863.

86. *Natal*.—The Grey's hospital is also a lunatic asylum and a poor asylum. There is no artificial sewerage or drainage. The arrangement of the building, which consist of wards opening from both sides into a central passage, is very strongly objected to by the physician as preventing ventilation, and tending only to diffuse miasma, especially as the passage is bent at the ends by being continued through the wings. There is one non-resident doctor, whose powers and responsibility are not described. There are no regular visits, and none but an annual report.

In the Durban hospital no fault appears, except that each patient has only 700 cubic feet of space, and that there is no system of visitation. The doctor is non-resident.

Despatch,
Feb. 16, 1863.
Despatch,
May 27, 1863.

87. *Heligoland*.—There is no hospital or asylum in Heligoland.

88. *Gibraltar*.—The condition of the Civil hospital of Gibraltar is very unsatisfactory. The drains are too small, ineffective, and very offensive; the latrines very badly constructed and ill-placed. There is nothing in the nature of a lavatory, except some tubs in an open yard. The smell of the kitchen diffuses itself over the building. Of the wards, the 6th Catholic, the 3rd Hebrew, the 5th and 6th Protestant, and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Female