

to which a number of our citizens liberally subscribed. Ward tables of a very superior kind, and affording facilities for a variety of purposes, have been provided. The fire-places have had grates inserted in them for burning coal, and a number of other improvements have been made, not the least of which is the removal of two of the verandahs, and the admission thereby of more light and air into the wards. A profusion of cut flowers is constantly supplied by lady visitors. Everything here I found scrupulously clean and in its right place. The adjoining small kitchen and nurse's rooms are very neatly kept. The closets and urinals at the back of the hospital have been greatly improved. The walls and portions of the floor of the latter have been lined with lead (at my suggestion), the old concrete being absorbent, and giving off strong ammoniacal odours. The evil has been remedied in great measure, but it appears to be impossible (with the prevalent winds) to prevent bad smells entering the hospital at times from these places, which were ill-constructed from the beginning, having no proper intercepting lobby with cross ventilation. A commodious carpenter's shop has been erected, principally out of old material. The grounds immediately in front of the hospital have undergone great change for the better. What was formerly nothing but a wilderness is now a well-kept garden, with lawns and flower beds. A great deal of labour has been devoted to this work, which has been carried out with very small expenditure. The grounds behind the hospital are kept in a more orderly way than was formerly the case, but there is a great scarcity of out-door labour for this purpose. There are this day sixty-nine in-patients under treatment, an unusually small number. Of this number nineteen men and two women are fit subjects for a refuge. Three of the male patients are suffering from delirium tremens, one of them being very violent and noisy. They all occupy beds in one of the large wards, to the disturbance and great detriment of the other patients. There is no separate accommodation for such cases, the private wards being occupied for other purposes, and not being suited for violent persons. One of the wards is used as a day-room for the nurses, for whom no accommodation exists elsewhere. Two others are given up to the Lady Superintendent. I have before pointed out the want of a small addition to the hospital buildings for the purpose of supplying these deficiencies. With the above-named exceptions, the patients are all proper inmates of a hospital. That they are well treated and kindly nursed I have not the least doubt; indeed, I had the assurance of each individual to this effect. The amount collected for their maintenance is too small here, as elsewhere. The matter is one which would well repay improved legislation, and an approved system of collection. I have examined the stores supplied and the provisions, which are of good quality. There has lately been considerable extravagance in the kitchen department, to which attention has been directed, with promise of material reduction in expenditure. The consumption of alcoholic stimulants remains unnecessarily high. This is a matter which rests almost entirely with the Honorary Visiting Medical Officers. Dr. Chilton is at present the Resident Medical Superintendent, and I have formed a high opinion of his abilities in this capacity.

February 9th, 1885.

#### WESTPORT.

This hospital was visited on December 24th, 1884. I found eleven patients resident, ten males and one female; five of the former are "refuge cases." The total number of beds in the hospital is sixteen; since my last report some important additions have been made to the building. These additions are intended ultimately to form the central part of a much larger hospital, and will comprise an entrance passage, with four rooms and a store. At present the new space provided in this building is occupied by four beds, the remainder serving as a convalescent dining-room. It is intended, when funds are available, to build a new large ward for each sex, and a convalescent-room. It appears to me, on looking at the plan prepared by the architect, that the space allotted to the female ward should be reserved for a new kitchen. This will certainly be required, and demands a central situation near the warder's and matron's rooms. In view of the large works shortly to be undertaken at the harbour, and of the existence in the district of large collieries and quartz workings, it would appear necessary to enlarge and complete this hospital. I therefore recommend that a Government grant be made this year, so that a further portion of the work may be undertaken. The old building is in substantial repair, new piles having been inserted about six months ago; but the window-sashes will require renewal at no distant date. Internally, the appearance is bare and poverty-stricken. Very little furniture exists, other than the beds and tables. A mechanical bed, some few chairs, and a folding screen have recently been procured, but there is a great want of furniture and decoration. In the kitchen an American range has been introduced, but there is no proper hot water supply; and, if a bath be wanted, the copper in the wash-house must be brought into use. I noticed that an additional closet had been erected, but this is not properly cut off from the hospital by cross-ventilation. Means have also been taken for adding to the water supply. The garden is well kept, and vegetables are successfully grown by the steward's labour. Regarding the condition in which I found the hospital, I am glad to report a considerable improvement since my last visit. Everything was clean and in its right place. Sheets are not used upon all the beds, some of the "chronic" patients being allowed to sleep between the blankets. This practice is not conducive to cleanliness, nor does it save labour in washing. It has been abandoned in the other colonial hospitals, all of which now use sheets on every bed. I examined all the books, and found them properly kept. The consumption of stimulants has