

mentioned. No. 1 male ward, the description of which will serve for all the others, has the walls unplastered, consisting of the smoothed local stone, painted, which answers admirably. It is well lighted and ventilated. It contains three beds of the ordinary iron pattern, with straw palliasses and chaff mattresses, and very clean bedding. For each patient there is a suitable locker, and head-cards showing the diet and treatment. The rest of the furniture is plain and suitable. The beds are the same all through the hospital, except that there are two or three special patent beds for severe surgical and other cases, with their mattresses. A few unframed pictures adorn the walls. For the use of the patients in the right wing there is a good bath with hot and cold water, and a suitable closet, the passage to which is shut off by a neat kauri partition; while the whole is admirably ventilated by means of a cross draught. The back door of this right wing opens into a very neat concrete yard, which contains two tanks and a meat-safe. In the passage alongside Ward No. 3 there is a press for basins, &c., which was very dirty inside. The same general description will apply to the three small wards on the female side. All through the wards I was struck with the total absence of any attempt to please the eye or gratify the taste. If only the ladies of the town would interest themselves in the matter a very great deal might be done to beautify the wards and give that indefinable homelike appearance which gratifies so much and costs so little. At the time of my visit there were eight patients in all—five males and three females. They all spoke in the highest terms of the attention of Dr. Garland and the steward. With regard to the matron I noticed they were not quite so emphatic. The kitchen is a fine large well-furnished one, and kept exceedingly clean. The register- and prescription-books are well kept. At the rear of the right wing there is a neat stone building containing a coalhouse and a convenient dairy, which yields an abundant supply of milk and butter. A little further to the rear is a neat wooden mortuary, well furnished, except that it has no sink. There is a row of wooden sheds behind the left wing containing a washhouse with concrete floor, a built-in boiler, and fixed tubs; a lumber-shed; and a fowlhouse. The fever hospital is built of stone, and contains two wards 22ft. by 16ft., with a neat grate, two beds, lockers, tables, &c. A neat cream-coloured dado is painted on the stone. There is a neat kitchen, with a suitable stove. At the end of the passage, and opening to the back, is a room, 16ft. by 16ft., containing a bed and a movable bath. The closet is placed in a well-ventilated wooden projection. All round the building there is a concrete walk 4ft. wide, ending in a court behind also floored with concrete. I observed that the rain soaks through the southern side of the building. The out-patients for the nine months numbered sixty-nine; while the average number resident was nine and a half patients, at an average cost of 6s. per day.

25th January, 1887.

NELSON.

I HAVE this day made a careful inspection of this hospital. The estate consists of eight acres, pleasantly situated about a mile from town, and separated from the Asylum grounds by the Waimea Road. Close behind the building about two acres are planted with trees, which are well grown, and afford a series of shady walks. The rest of the ground lies fallow, there being no labour available for gardening. The hospital is a wooden building of one story, all except the central part, where the doctor's rooms are situated on a first floor over the main entrance. It is divided into a male and female side, each consisting of one large ward with the necessary offices. Behind there is a large separate ward at present unoccupied, but which serves as a fever ward when required. Externally the building has a very comfortable appearance: the large verandah which extends the whole length of the wards gives it a very pleasing and comfortable look, and is of immense advantage to the patients. The central part of the ground-floor, underneath the doctor's quarters, is occupied by a consulting-room, a waiting-room, a dispensary, kitchen, stores, and bath-room, as well as by a private room occupied by the dispenser and his wife. The wards are large, and well ventilated by means of sash-windows and openings in the walls and ceilings; the dimensions are 54ft. by 25ft., and 16ft. high. In the male ward there are twenty-four beds, and at present only sixteen patients; in the female ward there are five patients: total, twenty-one. Of these, I find eighteen have been in the hospital for periods varying from fourteen years to ten weeks—five have been over two years, nine have been from four to fourteen months, and five from ten to eight weeks. There remain, therefore, only three cases which ought in ordinary circumstances to be inmates of a hospital: such as are permitted to remain a longer period because of special reasons ought to bear a much smaller proportion to the whole than is the case in this institution. Even with the large proportion of chronic cases allowed to accumulate, the wards are too large for the population. The female ward especially is absurdly large for the number of patients. The furniture is plain, suitable, and substantial. The beds are of iron, with straw palliasses and hair mattresses; the bedding is clean and comfortable, though a good deal worn in some cases. A few unframed pictures adorn the walls, while books and periodicals are freely supplied from local contributions. I was present during the dinner-hour. The food was abundant and well cooked. It consisted of a fine piece of beef and a leg of mutton, with plenty of good potatoes; besides this, there was a sufficient quantity of fine fish (moki) for every patient who wanted it, while beef-tea, rather insipid in quality, was provided for such as needed it. I conversed with all the patients, and heard no complaints. Warm water for bathing purposes is provided by means of geysers, which serve the purpose well. Though in all essential respects this institution is evidently well managed, yet it strikes a stranger very forcibly that there is a certain slackness prevailing throughout. The rooms of the administrative part, as well as the wards and accessory offices, have all a somewhat slovenly appearance; while one or two of the stores, and especially the closet behind the kitchen, were untidy. The patients are not provided with hospital clothing, but there is a convalescent fund locally raised, from which clothes are furnished to poor people. The out-patients, I am informed, amount to about four hundred annually, and, as a rule, medicine is given free. I carefully examined the stores, drugs, and surgical