

BATHS.

The total number of baths for each month under their different headings was as follows :—

1896-97.	1s.	8d.	6d.	Free.	Totals.	Number of Visitors taking a Course of Baths.
April	7	695	284	22	1,008	110
May	3	282	131	...	416	43
June	8	131	19	...	158	29
July	1	191	34	...	226	27
August	4	101	40	...	145	22
September	6	351	88	29	474	48
October	14	365	119	49	547	60
November	13	756	228	26	1,023	84
December	44	744	568	26	1,382	128
January	23	1,292	562	28	1,905	140
February	19	1,026	265	31	1,341	103
March	15	779	208	...	1,002	73
	157	6,713	2,546	211	9,627	867

The total amount of cash received for bath-fees was £290 4s. 9d. This shows an increase of £50 over last year, and also an increase of 1,846 in the number of baths taken this year.

IMPROVEMENTS.

During the year the Postal Department put a small porch on to the office. This is a great convenience to the public and ourselves. There has also been a small room, 10 ft. by 10 ft., built at the back of the old bath-house for a massage-room. This work was formerly carried on in one of the baths.

Two awnings have been erected, one over ladies' swimming-pool, the other over gentlemen's. This is a great improvement in summer time, and makes a bath in the pool very enjoyable.

There has been a water-supply pipe laid on to the bowling- and tennis-greens.

PAINTING AND REPAIRS TO BATH-HOUSES AND COTTAGE.

During last winter and spring we gave the two bath-houses and cottage three coats of paint and varnished the inside of the old bath-house. This has greatly freshened up the appearance of the buildings.

NEW PLANTATIONS.

Last spring we planted 4,200 trees on the south and east boundaries of the enclosure. This completes the new plantation around the springs 66 ft. wide, with seven rows of trees.

THERMAL ACTION.

On the 27th February, at 9.10 p.m., there was a sharp shock of earthquake, which caused the springs to be very active for several hours afterwards.

NEW WORKS AND SALARIES.

	£	s.	d.
Material and cartage	142	10	3
Gardening and general work	141	12	0
Supplies to baths	27	10	6
Piles for sanatorium	18	14	0
Caretakers' salary	220	0	0
Subsidy to doctor for medical attendance at springs	100	0	0
	£650	6	9

J. ROGERS, Caretaker.

REPORT BY VISITING MEDICAL OFFICER.

During the past season the tourist traffic has been very extensive, the present well-conducted accommodation-houses being inadequate to cope with it. While the greater number of the visitors has been of the tourist class, there has been a large number of invalid visitors. There seems reason to believe that, on the completion of the Government Sanatorium, the latter class will considerably increase. Visitors have come from all parts of this island, and also from the North Island, while even Australia has contributed a few. Many tourists complain of the length of the journey to Hanmer, and some have asked about the possibility of an issue of special excursion tickets from remote parts of the island.

During the past season about twenty-five of the visitors have been patients of mine. I have little doubt that were my circuit less wide this number would be increased considerably.