

Inspected 23rd September, 1897, and 31st March, 1898. Three of the single private rooms are being converted into one long ward, and there has also been added a room for the use of convalescent patients, with a library attached. These have been erected by local subscriptions subsidised by Government. Mrs. Mackay has had some difficulty in getting a suitable assistant nurse during the past year, but the housekeeping department of this hospital is admirable—managed with economy.

AUCKLAND HOSPITAL.

Number of patients on 31st March, 1897	138
Admitted during the year	1,300
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Total under treatment	1,438
Discharged	1,181
Died	118
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Remaining on 31st March, 1898	139

Sex.—1,006 males, 432 females.

Localities from which Patients came.—Auckland City and suburbs, 869; Auckland District, 353; North Auckland, 62; South of New Zealand, 48; Coromandel, 32; Thames, 27; shipping, 47.

Nationality.—English, 382; Scotch, 80; Irish, 192; New Zealand, 618; Australian, 57; Canadian, 10; American, 10; German, 20; Swedish, 18; Indian, 8; Japanese, 4; Belgian, 2; Italian, 1; Maltese, 3; Spanish, 2; Portuguese, 4; Mauritius, 2; Ceylonese, 2; Swiss, 1; Newfoundland, 1; South Sea Islands, 7; French, 3; South African, 3; Greek, 1; Dutch, 4; Danish, 3.

Religion.—Church of England, 708; Roman Catholic, 329; Presbyterian, 188; Wesleyan, 115; Baptist, 28; Lutheran, 21; Congregationalist, 10; Salvationist, 11; Church of Christ, 9; Hebrew, 9; Unitarian, 1; Plymouth Brethren, 8; Freethinker, 1.

Total collective days' stay in hospital, 44,132; individual average days' stay, 30·69. Daily average cost per head, 4s. 1½d.; less patients' payments, 2s. 11d.

Outdoor Patients.—Individual cases, 389; attendances, 5,276.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

<i>Revenue.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
From Government ...	3,085	0 2	Rations ...	2,258	12 2
Local bodies ...	3,085	0 2	Nurses' Home maintenance ...	607	1 7
Subscriptions and donations ...	28	11 3	Wines, spirits, ale, and porter ...	43	6 9
Bequests ...	350	4 10	Surgery and dispensary ...	963	15 10
Patients' payments ...	2,686	18 7	Fuel and light ...	745	16 10
Rents ...	107	17 2	Bedding and clothing ...	200	3 5
			Furniture and earthenware ...	108	17 7
			Washing and laundry ...	276	11 10
			Salaries and wages ...	2,819	15 6
			Water-supply ...	211	14 9
			Funerals ...	32	2 3
			Maintenance of grounds ...	124	6 4
			Repairs ...	516	0 6
			Printing, advertising, postage, and stationery ...	107	15 1
			Legal expenses ...	11	11 9
			Insurance ...	21	18 9
			Proportion of office expenses ...	227	15 0
			Interest ...	7	5 9
			Other expenses ...	59	0 6
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Total ...	£9,343	12 2	Total ...	£9,343	12 2

This hospital has been inspected by me three times during the year. The turmoil among the nursing staff which had prevailed for a considerable time seems to have settled down. On my last visit it appeared as if a feeling of good-will between the nurses and the matron was beginning to emerge, and that the vexed question of the proper authorities to appoint probationers would gradually settle itself. Some years ago, when the present system of having a medical superintendent to take charge of the hospital was being discussed, I was obliged to express my doubts of the wisdom of the plan. Ever since I have been actuated by a desire to indulge in no criticism that I could avoid, in order to give every opportunity of proving itself successful to the new method of government; and I call attention to the matter now simply in order to urge the necessity for caution regarding the recent proposal to have two resident assistants to Dr. Baldwin. What with attempts to limit the nursing staff to eight hours' work a day, and a well-paid medical superintendent with two assistants, there is a great danger that the organization will break down of its own weight. The alarming prevalence of typhoid fever in this district ought to cause great searchings of heart to those who are responsible for the water-supply and the sanitary arrangements of Auckland and its suburbs. The actual working of the hospital, apart from the problems arising from the organization of the medical and nursing staff, is satisfactory. The greatest credit is due to the Board for the careful way in which the patients' payments for maintenance is looked after. In this respect their example is a credit to the district and a guide to the colony.