

In this connection I must mention that a small orchard and garden has been established under the direction of the Matron, and this form of outdoor activity is very popular with our female patients.

The old buildings at Nelson—they were erected in 1874—are in a state of dilapidation, and as they are virtually beyond repair it is hoped that the plan for evacuating the children elsewhere can soon be carried into effect.

I would draw attention to the antiquated telephone system at Ngawhatu and urge its replacement by a modern automatic system with fire-alarm connection ; as it is, both telephone and the existing alarm are unreliable.

An extra telephone-line to Ngawhatu is necessary so that a connection can be established between York's Valley and the nurses' home.

A number of individuals and organizations continue to be generous with monetary and other gifts, particularly to our children, and this is very much appreciated. The revenue from the canteen has enabled us to increase recreational facilities for the patients, a matter of no small importance in view of the fact that we have not yet an entertainment or cinema-hall.

To the staff generally for their co-operation I have to offer my sincere thanks.

### HOKITIKA MENTAL HOSPITAL

DR. CHILDS reports :—

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

The number of cases under care during the year was 562 (267 males and 295 females).

The admissions numbered 19 (10 males and 9 females) there were 14 transfers (1 male and 13 females), and 5 voluntary boarders, all males.

Patients discharged were 18 (10 males and 8 females), voluntary boarders 7 (5 males and 2 females), while there was 1 transfer, a male.

There were 33 deaths (14 males and 19 females). At the end of the year 5 males and 3 females remained on probation.

The health of the patients generally has been satisfactory.

Dr. R. T. Hay was in charge of the hospital from 23rd August, 1945, to the end of the year.

The Grey River Hospital Clinic has been held monthly, occasional visits made to patients at their homes, visits paid to the Westland Hospital, and consultations held here at the hospital.

Owing to the shortage of staff there has been little opportunity for occupational therapy classes, but all patients capable have been suitably occupied in some way.

The clergy have made frequent visits and held regular services. Mrs. Fane has performed the duties of Official Visitor in a capable manner.

The usual routine of farming and gardening has been carried on with the usual satisfactory results.

The painting gang has been fully occupied during the year and has done very useful work. The exterior of two villas "Wio" and "Porere" have been painted under Public Works Department contract. The usual maintenance work has been carried out, including the rebuilding of two chimneys at Iringatau.

The switch-receiver house was finished in February, but electrical apparatus has not yet been installed. "Egmont," a very old building, was demolished, and the site is to be used for a Medical Officer's residence.

Recreations and amusements have played a substantial part in the life of the hospital, and I would like to thank the Hokitika Band for playing for the dances, and the Revue Society and others for entertaining the patients.

A very successful picnic was held.

I would like to thank various ladies' committees for holding outside functions for women patients.

All returned men were welcomed back by the staff in a series of social functions.

A telephone has been installed in the nurses' home.

The canteen is now firmly established, and very popular.