

on trial; eight males and twelve females were confined to bed. There were no patients suffering from bedsores. There were no serious accidents or casualties. Since last inspection six males and nine females are shown by the restraint register as having to be restrained, mostly to prevent them from injuring themselves or others. Messrs. Ewington and Lawson call attention to this matter in the case of two women. I have inquired into it, and find that one of the women so restrained nearly killed the Matron, and the other tore the bandages off an ulcer. The number of patients discharged since last inspection was fifteen males and seven females. Nineteen males and five females have died. Thirteen males and sixteen females have been admitted to trial. Mr. Ewington continues his unwearied vigilance in all matters affecting the patients' and attendants' welfare. I am glad to see that Mr. Lawson has been appointed as his colleague. The outbreak of sporadic typhoid which unfortunately prevailed for some time has not up to the present been satisfactorily accounted for. The explanation hazarded by Dr. Barraclough is to my mind inadequate, and I wish to say that I absolve him from any blame or neglect in this matter. The care and attention with which the patients—the seven persons at first affected, and the two in the second attack—were nursed deserve commendation.

CHRISTCHURCH MENTAL HOSPITAL.

13th August, 1904.—To-day and yesterday I was engaged in inspecting this Hospital. I find everything going on in the satisfactory way which I have been used to see for so many years. In all essential respects nothing could be better than the administration of this institution, provided only separate accommodation were available for cases requiring hospital treatment, for imbeciles, idiots, and epileptics, and for the separation of criminal lunatics. Usually this last class are capable only of amelioration, and it would be a great boon if one of our gaols were adapted for their treatment. This day the number of male patients is 285, and of females 242: total, 527. Two females and three males are under restraint. The unusual number of twenty-one are confined to bed, chiefly old heart cases and feverish colds; all are being carefully attended to. Dr. Crosby, who did his work so well as assistant medical officer here, has been promoted to take charge of Seacliff during Dr. Truby King's absence through illness. Dr. Campbell has taken his place till Dr. Crosby's return. The farm and gardens are in first-rate order.

25th February, 1905.—This Hospital has been carefully inspected and found in excellent order in all its departments. The patients are well cared for in all respects as regards their food, their bedding, and clothing; I found nothing to find fault with. Order and cleanliness are everywhere, and the untiring energy and care so characteristic of Dr. Levinge are reflected in every part of the institution. His successor will find it hard to maintain the high level to which this Hospital has been raised by him.

SEACLIFF MENTAL HOSPITAL.

17th August, 1904.—I visited this Hospital at an unusual time to see how things were going on during Dr. King's absence on sick-leave. Dr. Crosby has had a long and varied experience of dealing with the mentally diseased, and his knowledge of and faculty for administration were well known to me before his taking up such a responsible position as Acting-Superintendent of Seacliff. I find he has taken a firm grasp of his various duties, and is eminently successful in his management of the patients, the staff, and the institution as a whole. I have discussed with him the recent and convalescent cases especially, and found that great care and attention are devoted to their varying necessities. A good spirit pervades the staff. The appointment of a lady medical assistant as a trial was resolved on, and Miss Baker, M.B., has been appointed. It will be interesting to see how this progressive step results. The male patients to-day are 434, females 257: total, 691. I examined all the clothing, bedding, boots, &c., and found them suitable, except that the boots do not wear as well as formerly, and special instructions have been given to particularly watch the quality of these articles for the future, and if need be an expert will be called in to examine and compare them with the samples. The linoleum on both sides of the building is worn out, and there is urgent necessity for laying down new material to replace it. A good deal of painting requires to be done in the main building, and two coats are required to paint the outside of the Simla auxiliary, as well as two or three of the rooms. The cost of this latter work will be about £70. There are sixty-nine patients over the statutory accommodation. Thirty-six men of this number will be provided for shortly in the new building near the farmstead. The new single rooms on the female side will give accommodation for thirty-six patients. As yet only the timber is ready. The need for a decent day-room for the male attendants, as I have so often pointed out, is urgent. The farming operations are well advanced, but the roads are in a worse state than I have ever seen them in, mainly owing to the loss of the steam-crusher all the time it was required at Waitati. I leave quite satisfied this institution will be well managed by Dr. Crosby.

18th February, 1905.—This Hospital is working very harmoniously. The number of patients to-day is 433 males and 258 females. Three males and four females are confined to bed. There are no bedsores in the institution. Working on the farm, 104 men; in garden and out of doors, 75 men; and in the workshops, 25. The farm is in good order. The cows are of the best quality of Ayrshires. The poultry department yields 190 dozen a week of the best eggs, of which the Dunedin Hospital takes fifty dozen. There is great demand for poultry and pigs, and a good profit is made. Last month 112 fowls were sold for £16; twenty-four pigs were sold in the same time for £22 13s. 3d., and the quantity of fish taken was in January 7,844 lb. Of this, 2,000 lb. has been beautifully smoked. Fresh fish was supplied to the amount of 1,900 lb. free to the Industrial School (Caversham), Dunedin Hospital, and Sunnyside. The average price of our meat by contract is 3d. per pound. By the substitution of fish a saving of £30 a month is at present being effected, with great benefit to the patients. Here, as in all our mental Hospitals,