

Professor Hercus, of the Otago Medical School, continues to take a keen interest in the work of this institution, and I have to record my indebtedness to him and to the officers of his Department for their assistance. Wassermann and other tests for syphilis have been carried out by them in 1,323 cases, 56 males and 18 females giving positive reactions—5.6 per cent. of the number examined.

During the year malarial therapy was given to sixteen cases of general paralysis, with satisfactory results in the majority. Tryparsamide therapy has also been carried out, and several cases that have received both courses have made considerable improvement.

The Mental Hospital buildings and property have been maintained in good order by the artisan staff, and quite a number of alterations have been completed. The Reception House has been renovated, a sleeping-veranda to accommodate ten patients has been completed, and extensive alterations have been made to provide adequate dining-space. B Ward, one of the original buildings, has been demolished, and the new villa to replace it will soon be available for occupation. The farm house and buildings at Jenkins's Farm, Templeton, have been renovated, and twelve patients are now in residence there. The returns from the farm have been very satisfactory.

The patients' recreation has been arranged on the usual lines, but it is hoped that it will be possible to continue the weekly picture entertainments. A new wireless installation is required.

To the District Inspector (Mr. H. D. Acland) and Official Visitors (Mrs. Williams and Mr. H. H. Hanna) I tender my thanks for their regular visits and for their attention to the patients. I desire to record my thanks to Drs. Brown, Lewis, and Bellringer for the help they have afforded me in the medical and general work of the institution.

I have also to thank Mr. Thomas and the office staff, the Matrons, Head Attendants, and other heads of departments for their loyal and efficient assistance, and the staff as a whole for the satisfactory manner in which the work of the Hospital has been carried out.

SEACLIFF MENTAL HOSPITAL.

Dr. CHILDS reports :—

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1930.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,186 patients on the register (657 males and 529 females), while at the end of the year there were 1,221 (658 males and 563 females). The admissions numbered 176 (96 males and 80 females). Forty-four were discharged (22 males and 22 females), and 1 male patient was transferred to another hospital. The deaths numbered 96 (72 males and 24 females), the number over eighty years of age being 9 (7 males and 2 females), and over seventy being 28 (23 males and 5 females). At the beginning of the year there were 44 voluntary boarders (26 males and 18 females). During the year there were 32 admissions (13 males and 19 females). Twenty-five were discharged (12 males and 13 females). There were 3 deaths, and 2 females were committed. The average weekly number of patients resident during the year was 1,159 (635 males and 524 females). The number of patients placed on probation numbered 90 (44 males and 46 females).

The health of the patients has been, on the whole, good; but during the extremely cold weather from mid-August to mid-October there was an outbreak of influenza, many cases being followed by pneumonia, and this took a toll of the patients, especially the elderly male patients, and accounts for the fairly high death-rate. The health of the staff has been uniformly good, but I regret to report the death of Charge Nurse J. McGregor.

An extensive building programme has been in progress throughout the year. The new kitchen and laundry block is now occupied and in full running-order, while the demolition of the old kitchen block has been commenced. The new pipe-line supplying water from Double Hill is now completed, and supplies the institution with a plentiful supply of good water, the Neuropathic Unit also being connected up. The new villa at Waitati is almost ready for occupation, and this will afford welcome relief to the main building, as the overcrowding is at present rather a problem. The new villa will house the better type of chronic patient; it is well furnished, and is well suited for this purpose. A new day-room of pleasing structure has been added to F. 4, and, being well furnished, is an asset to the institution. A new recreation-park and shelter-shed have been opened on the female side, and this additional space has been much appreciated. The plumbers' yard has been roofed in and new machinery installed in this building. A considerable part of the lavatory accommodation of the main building and D Ward has been overhauled and brought up to date, and this has effected a considerable improvement. The Female Cottage has been renovated, the ceilings in F. 2 and F. 3 Wards renewed, and the snow gratings over the flat roofs of the Concert Hall, Male A, B, and C Wards have also been renewed. Renovations and repairs have been carried out at Cherry Farm Homestead, while the farm has been supplied with water from the Waikouaiti Borough Council's mains. The Fishing-station cottage at Karitane has also been repaired and renovated, and electric light installed. F. 3 Dining-room has had a new wooden floor put in, and this has been an improvement, making the room much warmer. A new bridge has been built at Orokonui Home, Waitati, and the cowyard at Simla Byres concreted. In addition to this, a considerable amount of minor work has been carried out. The work on the farm has proceeded steadily, and the farm itself is looking well. The usual routine of top-dressing, fencing, draining, and roadmaking has been carried out, while attention has been given to improvement of the dairy herd and to the breeding of stock. The gardens, as usual, have been well looked after, and show the attention received.