

woman generally employed, and my own family is always attending upon the female patients. I was instructed by His Honor the Superintendent to employ assistance that was required, and pay them out of the contingencies' account; and I may state, as I did to Captain Fraser, that the Provincial surgeon is very attentive to this department, and I deny that any patient has become idiotic for the want of proper medical treatment or other attendance. Captain Fraser expressed himself highly satisfied with both the Gaol and Asylum, and asked me to allow him to make an entry in the Visiting Book to that effect.

The following is a true copy; also a copy of Dr. Alexander's entry in the Visiting Book:—

[Copy.]

"4th July, 1873.—Visited the Gaol; found it perfectly clean, and everything in as satisfactory state.

" (Signed)

T. FRASER,
"Visiting Justice, Otago."

"Saw all the lunatics, who appear to be very well heeded.

" (Signed)

T. FRASER,
"Inspector, Lunatic Asylum, Otago."

"18th August, 1869.—Visited the Gaol, and inspected the insane. The place in good order, and clean. The insane well fed, and carefully attended to.

" (Signed)

E. W. ALEXANDER,
"Medical Officer, Dunedin Asylum."

You will see by this statement that the worst cases have been in Dunedin and other Asylums, and found to be incurable, and I believe sent to this Province to get rid of them.

I have, &c.,

W. MILLER,
Keeper of the Asylum.

To H. B. Sealy, Esq., Inspector of Asylum, Napier.

Enclosure 2.

Mr. H. B. SEALY to His Honor J. D. ORMOND.

SIR,—

Resident Magistrate's Court, Napier, 22nd September, 1873.

My attention having been called to a statement reported in *Hansard*, as having been made by the Hon. Captain Fraser, in the Legislative Council, and knowing that the statement contained very gross inaccuracies, and a charge of the gravest character against all connected with the management of the Lunatic Asylum at Napier, I felt it my duty to request the Master, Mr. William Miller, to furnish me with a written reply to the charges referred to. I was very much surprised on reading Captain Fraser's statements, and I am bound to express my belief that they are almost entirely unfounded. I have been the Inspector of the Asylum for about eighteen months, and have visited it from time to time without any previous notice to the Master, who in fact has been absent on more than one occasion of my visits. It has always appeared to me that the lunatics were kindly and carefully attended, as far as the circumstances permitted. No doubt in the large Asylums of Canterbury and Dunedin (both of which I inspected in March last), there are means of mental and physical employment, and also appliances for restraint in the case of violent patients, which we do not possess in the small Asylum in Napier. It may also be regarded as a disadvantage that the Asylum should be in any way connected with the gaol. There is but one patient, however, to whom a removal would I think be desirable: I refer to Archibald Gardiner, who, as Mr. Miller's report states, came here from Dunedin in 1863. He has long lucid intervals, with occasional violent fits. He has several times been discharged, but on returning to his home at Wairoa, has again become violent, and been recommitted. This man has twice lately, during his lucid intervals, made appeals to me for his discharge. On inquiry, however, finding that he had been several times discharged, and that he is sometimes dangerously violent, I came to the conclusion that I would not sanction his discharge; but on your Honor's return I would urge his removal to one of the larger Asylums, where he would have employment and amusement, and his confinement would be rendered much more tolerable than it can be here where his companions are generally those in a worse state of insanity. It does not appear that Gardiner (who was in a cell at time of the Hon. Captain Fraser's visit) is worse than at the time of his arrival, some ten years ago. I request you to make such use of this letter as you may think proper, with a view to the refutation of statements so unjust to all concerned.

I have, &c.,

H. B. SEALY, R.M.,
Inspector of Lunatic Asylum, Napier.

His Honor J. D. Ormond, M.H.R.,
General Government Agent, &c., Napier.