

Charleston Hospital is another of those institutions that are left high and dry by the receding tide of a goldfield's population. The main object of the Hospital has come to be that it is a means of enabling the people to induce a doctor to remain in the place, and it is apparent that having got a man who is professionally capable, they are content to wink at his conduct in certain respects. The Hospital, with the exception indicated, is well managed, and the patients are made very comfortable.

CHRISTCHURCH HOSPITAL.

Number of patients on 31st March, 1890	...	...	...	91
Admitted during the year	...	...	...	1,058
Total under treatment				1,149
Discharged	...	...	...	979
Died	...	...	...	74
Remaining on 31st March, 1891				96

Sex.—764 males, 385 females.

Localities from which Patients came.—Christchurch and suburbs, 835; Lyttelton, 66; Amuri, 10; Kaikoura, 12; Akaroa, 22; Ashburton, 12; Greymouth, 2; Wellington, 2; Auckland, 2; Waimate, 1; Ashley County, 71; North Canterbury District and no home, 108; Hokitika, 1; Westport, 2; Napier, 1; unknown, 2.

Country.—England, 401; New Zealand, 373; Ireland, 206; Scotland, 78; Germany, 21; Australia, 12; Wales, 12; Sweden, 8; Tasmania, 7; India, 7; America, 6; Norway, 4; Italy, 3; Denmark, 3; Holland, 2; Switzerland, 2; Austria, 2; Russia, 1; unknown, 1.

Religion.—Church of England, 560; Roman Catholic, 223; non-episcopal, 366.

Total collective days' stay in hospital, 39,657; individual average days' stay, 34.51. Daily average cost per head, 3s. 5½d.; less patients' payments, 3s. 0¾d.

Outdoor Patients.—Individual cases, 922; attendances, 2,840.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

<i>Revenue.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
From Government	3,050	7	2	Rations	1,622	2	6
Local bodies and Hospital Board	2,318	1	3	Wines, spirits, ale, &c...	280	0	2
Subscriptions and donations	71	7	6	Surgery and dispensary	674	18	8
Patients' payments	796	1	3	Fuel and light	688	16	0
Other sources	24	1	0	Bedding and clothing	151	4	4
Balance from last year	1,367	9	6	Furniture and earthenware	150	13	5
				Salaries and wages (including washing and laundry)	2,673	0	0
				Funerals	17	17	6
				Repairs	251	10	10
				Additions to buildings	188	18	4
				Printing, advertising, postage, and stationery	64	12	7
				Interest	10	18	10
				Insurance	54	7	6
				Casual ward, Lyttelton	35	13	7
				Other expenses	216	19	10
Total	£7,627	7	8	Total	£7,081	14	1

I have inspected this Hospital several times in the course of the year, and have always found it in good order. The large wards are patterns of comfort and freshness. At every visit, however, I am more and more impressed with the fact that, while the matron and most of the nurses are efficient, the nursing-staff is inferior as a whole to that of Auckland, and especially of Wellington. The House Surgeon ought to insist on all vacancies being filled with well-educated young women, capable of profiting by such special training as every modern hospital of this size ought to impart to its nurses. A nurses' home is very much required, and a separate sitting-room is a matter of great urgency.

By this year's returns an increase of 215 is shown in the total number of patients under treatment, giving an increase of 6,228 in the total collective days' stay in the Hospital, and yet the total expenditure was £125 less than last year. This gives a decided reduction in the average daily cost per patient. It will be observed that the percentage of cost of administration on the total expenditure is comparatively high, being 38.66, while in Dunedin, where like Christchurch all the washing is done in their own laundry, it is only 34.50.

COROMANDEL HOSPITAL.

Number of patients on 31st March, 1890	...	...	...	11
Admitted during the year	...	...	...	11
Total under treatment				11
Discharged	...	...	...	9
Died	...	...	...	1
Remaining on 31st March, 1891				1

Sex.—11 males.