

This Hospital was built when the population was larger, and the district more prosperous. I observe that the number of patients admitted this year was eighty-two, as against fifty-four last year.

This is a well-designed, substantial stone building. The doctor is capable and attentive, and the nursing is good. The cost per head has been reduced considerably this year in consequence of the larger number of patients. I am further bound to admit that the average stay of individuals in this Hospital is the lowest but one in the colony, which shows that no slackness has been allowed in that direction.

DUNEDIN HOSPITAL.

Number of patients on 31st March, 1890	...	...	...	101
Admitted during the year	...	...	...	834
Total under treatment				935
Discharged	...	...	...	753
Died	...	...	...	98

Remaining on 31st March, 1891 84

Sex.—566 males, 369 females.

Localities from which Patients came.—Dunedin and suburbs, 455; South Dunedin, 59; North-east Valley, 28; St. Clair and Caversham, 51; Mosgiel and Taieri, 23; Milton, 18; Port Chalmers, 21; shipping, 24; Palmerston, 16; Merton and Blueskin, 14; Peninsula and Anderson's Bay, 15; Lawrence, 11; St. Kilda, 6; Green Island, 4; Balclutha, 4; Catlin's, 5; Clinton, 3; Outram, 6; Oamaru, 6; Christchurch, 3; Kaitangata, 3; Nenthorn, 2; Waipori, 4; Roslyn, 7; Mornington, 10; Purakanui, 4; Shotover, 3; other districts, 130.

Country.—England and Wales, 266; New Zealand, 225; Scotland, 193; Ireland, 139; New Hebrides, 3; Victoria, 11; South Africa, 3; United States, 6; Norway, 3; Sweden, 9; Denmark, 3; China, 19; Holland, 2; France, 5; Germany, 7; Tasmania, 13; New South Wales, 2; Switzerland, 1; New Brunswick, 1; Poland, 2; Turkey, 2; Jersey, 5; India, 1; South Australia, 2; St. Helena, 1; Cape St. Vincent, 1; Guernsey, 1; Hanover, 1; other countries, 8.

Religion.—Church of England, 316; Presbyterian, 285; Roman Catholic, 177; Wesleyan, 49; Baptist, 37; Congregational, 12; Salvationist, 11; Christian Brethren, 5; Lutheran, 5; Church of Christ, 3; Freethinkers, 3; Independent, 3; Jewish, 2; Buddhist, 1; Tabernacle, 1; Free Church, 1; Confucian, 19; other religions, 5.

Total collective days' stay in hospital, 33,765; individual average days' stay, 36·10. Daily average cost per head, 3s. 10d.; less patients' payments, 3s. 4½d.

Outdoor Patients, 1,569; attendances, 5,999.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

<i>Revenue.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
From Government	2,855	18 8	Rations	1,626	14 2
Local bodies	2,470	2 11	Wines, spirits, &c.	220	9 8
Subscriptions and donations	217	13 9	Surgery and dispensary	908	10 0
Students' fees	110	5 0	Fuel and light	474	13 10
Sale of medicine, Dunedin Gaol	23	17 6	Bedding and clothing	86	8 5
Sales	63	13 1	Furniture and earthenware	235	10 8
Patients' payments	763	9 8	Salaries and wages	2,101	9 7
Other sources	28	0 0	Water-supply	52	0 0
Balance from last year	4	3 1	Funerals	24	7 6
			Repairs	353	19 6
			Printing, advertising, postage, and stationery	132	6 8
			Interest	2	6 0
			Insurance	28	1 0
			Other expenses	226	17 11
Total	£6,537	3 8	Total	£6,473	14 11

This Hospital has gone recently through such an ordeal as must have effectually brought to light any weak spots in its organization, with the result that by universal consent the administration has been excellent. The points singled out for adverse criticism were the want of accommodation for a staff of trained nurses, the structural defects of the building and its insanitary condition, the low and swampy character of the site, the necessity for new wards, and especially of wards for special cases, and of isolating wards. The report of the Commissioners, with the printed evidence, has been laid already on the table of the House, so that I may confine myself to a statement of my opinion regarding the suitability of the plans which have been proposed for what is practically a new hospital, and towards the erection of which a request has been made by the trustees for a Government grant. My objections were laid before the trustees in the following letter, to which I have nothing to add, except that the nurses' home is placed in such a position that it cuts off the sunshine from some of the back wards of the proposed extension, which, as I have said in my letter, ought in any case to be condemned for containing so many enclosed and sunless spaces, where the air must be cold and stagnant, and that it seems superfluous to build a nurses' home at all when it is proposed to retain for administrative purposes a building so immensely larger than is required for that end.