

After much turmoil, this institution has entered on what, I hope, will be a long period of effective and peaceful work. I think there will be a danger to the efficiency of the nursing staff if the proportion of experienced nurses to probationers is allowed to fall by pressing economy too far.

It is a great pity that a proper supply of hot water was not provided for the fever wards. This ought to be remedied as soon as possible, considering how important properly-regulated bathing has become in the treatment of typhoid fever.

I noticed a considerable falling-off in the amount recovered from patients for their maintenance and treatment in the Hospital, and on inquiry I found that, since February, 1891, patients coming from the northern districts are charged only 3s. per day, while the daily cost per head is 4s. 11½d. The grounds round the Hospital are not kept so well as they ought to be, and especially the tennis-lawn in front ought to be kept in better order.

As a whole, this Hospital is thoroughly well managed, and deserves the confidence of the public.

I am glad to find that the Board won their case on appeal against Lovett, for I am certain that surgeons all over the country would have found their position very embarrassing had it been otherwise. Nowadays many fractures and other injuries are successfully treated which formerly would have been held to necessitate immediate amputation; and if the risk of failure which has to be faced in such cases were to be made a ground for actions of mal-praxis, wooden legs would be commoner than we hope to see them.

BLLENHEIM HOSPITAL.

Number of patients on 31st March, 1891	...	...	...	21
Admitted during the year...	...	...	...	90
				—
Total under treatment	...	...	...	111
Discharged	...	...	...	78
Died	...	...	...	8
				—
Remaining on 31st March, 1892	...	...	...	25

Sex.—85 males, 26 females.

Localities from which Patients came.—Marlborough, Wellington, Napier.

Nationality.—English, 52; Irish, 16; Scotch, 10; Maori, 1; New Zealand, 27; German, 1; Victorian, 2; Chinese, 1; French, 1.

Religion.—Church of England, 67; Roman Catholic, 23; Wesleyan, 8; Presbyterian, 11; Freethinker, 1; Confucian, 1.

Total collective days' stay in hospital, 7,638; individual average days' stay, 68·81. Daily average cost per head, 3s. 11d.; less patients' payments, 3s. 7½d.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

<i>Revenue.</i>			£	s.	d.	<i>Expenditure.</i>			£	s.	d.
From Government	...	...	743	15	4	Rations	...	...	477	13	1
Local bodies	...	...	629	5	5	Wines, spirits, ale, &c.	...	...	20	11	6
Patients' payments	...	...	126	7	0	Aerated waters	...	...	8	10	0
						Surgery and dispensary	...	...	184	4	10
						Fuel and light	...	...	70	10	0
						Bedding and clothing	...	...	78	7	2
						Furniture and earthenware	...	...	85	12	6
						Washing and laundry	...	...	10	0	0
						Salaries and wages	...	...	427	19	4
						Funerals	...	...	36	0	0
						Repairs	...	...	39	12	7
						Printing, advertising, postage, and stationery	...	...	23	13	2
						Interest	...	...	4	5	7
						Insurance	...	...	11	0	0
						Other expenses	...	...	21	8	0
Total	...	...	£1,499	7	9	Total	...	...	£1,499	7	9

This Hospital continues to be one of the most effective country hospitals in the colony. Its surgical record for the year is even brilliant. Dr. Cleghorn's success in cases of brain surgery shows what can be done by a man who keeps himself thoroughly abreast of the most recent developments of medical science.

CHARLESTON HOSPITAL.

Number of patients on 31st March, 1891	...	...	...	5
Admitted during the year	...	...	...	28
				—
Total under treatment	...	...	...	33
Discharged	...	...	...	25
Died	...	...	...	4
				—
Remaining on 31st March, 1892	...	...	...	4