

1944
NEW ZEALAND

MENTAL HOSPITALS OF THE DOMINION

(REPORT ON) FOR 1943

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 78 of the Mental Defectives Act, 1911

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL to the Hon. A. H. NORDMEYER, Minister in Charge of the Department of Mental Hospitals

Wellington, 17th March, 1944.

SIR,—

I have the honour to present the annual report on mental hospitals for the year ending 31st December, 1943.

In accordance with the wartime requirements, I am presenting only those statistical tables which are essential to the continuity of departmental records, but there are certain other matters which require brief mention.

SHORTAGE OF STAFF

Arising from wartime conditions, we have experienced a shortage of female staff which has rendered it almost impossible to maintain that high standard of care and supervision which psychiatric patients require.

The extra work and the inability to have leave at regular periods have imposed upon our nurses a burden which has taxed their health, their patience, and their loyalty, and I cannot speak too highly of the way in which the big majority have measured up to their duty in this regard. The senior officers, the Matrons, Head Attendants, and others have loyally accepted added anxieties and responsibilities to a degree which merits the highest praise.

SERVICE PATIENTS

Exaggerated reports are heard occasionally as to the number of servicemen admitted to the mental hospitals suffering from psychiatric disorders. The following table shows the position from the commencement of hostilities until the end of last year :—

Admitted after Overseas Service.						Admitted from Camps, &c., in New Zealand.					
Admitted	..	..	..	..	110	Admitted	..	..	..	..	127
Discharged recovered	..	..	..	..	49	Discharged recovered	..	..	..	..	59
Discharged not recovered	..	..	..	..	13	Discharged not recovered	..	..	..	..	17
Died	..	..	..	..	2	Died	..	..	..	..	5
					64						81
Remaining	..	..	..	..	46	Remaining	..	..	..	..	46

These numbers are not high, and no doubt a large percentage of those remaining will have recovered before this report is printed.

APPRECIATION

My thanks are due to my medical colleagues, and to Mr. Sinclair, Chief Clerk, and other officers at Head Office, for loyal co-operation and assistance during the present very difficult conditions.

T. G. GRAY, Director-General.

TABLE VIII.—SHOWING THE ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND DEATHS FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1876, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1943 (EXCLUDING TRANSFERS)

						M.	F.	T.
In hospital, 31st December, 1875	..	..	..	..	..	482	254	736
Admissions	..	..	..	..	..	27,003	21,717	48,720
Discharged—						27,485	21,971	49,456
Recovered	..	..	..	..	..	9,181	8,421	17,602
Not recovered	..	..	..	..	..	3,199	2,894	6,093
Died	..	..	..	..	..	10,729	6,910	17,639
						23,109	18,225	41,334
Remaining on 31st December, 1943..	..	..	..	..	..	4,376	3,746	8,122