

SIR,—

Moray Place, Dunedin, 24th April, 1903.

I have the honour herewith to submit the medical report on the St. Vincent de Paul Industrial School, South Dunedin, for the year ending the 31st March, 1903.

During the past year the health of the inmates has, on the whole, been very good, but in the months of May and June, 1902, whooping-cough, which was then epidemic in Dunedin, visited the institution and affected many of the children. One of the children so affected, S. L. M., aged seven months, died on the 7th July, 1902, of the broncho-pneumonia which complicated the disease. The illness in this case was protracted—the infant was in the first instance a delicate one—and I have to record my satisfaction at the extreme care and assiduous attention and nursing that the patient received throughout from the Sisters of the Institution. I have also to record the death on the 26th July, 1902, of A. M. W., aged twelve months (also a delicate child), of broncho-pneumonia. Other cases of minor ailments have from time to time occurred; they have always been promptly reported to me, so as to receive early medical treatment, and the instructions have been in all instances carried out to my satisfaction. I desire to call attention to the fact, as calling for congratulation, that there has been no single case of scarlet fever in the institution, notwithstanding the widespread prevalence of this epidemic throughout Dunedin and suburbs. Should, however, infectious disease at any time make its appearance, the means for prompt and efficient isolation are easily available.

On each of my (unnotified) official monthly visits, I have had reason to be quite satisfied with the hygienic and general conditions as I found them; the children are certainly well cared for, their health is made a first care, and cleanliness of their persons and surroundings is a marked feature. Their sleeping apartments are roomy, well ventilated, and scrupulously clean. The fact that children, weakly and delicate at the time of their committal, in due course become healthy, fat, and strong, is one that carries its own inference.

In conclusion, I have to state my opinion that, from the hygienic and medical point of view, the condition and the results of this institution reflect the highest credit upon those whose duty it is to carry out the details of its management.

I have, &c.,

W. S. ROBERTS, Visiting Medical Officer.

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

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