

Medical Superintendents and myself at the recent conference held under your presidency. We who have the immediate responsibility of caring for the insane feel a relief of tension in that we are well assured that your views on the responsibility of the State towards our charges correspond with ours. The State having taken over the oversight, care, and control of the mentally defective cannot evade that responsibility, questions of cost notwithstanding, so long as there is no actual waste. Under this heading we are dealing with building alone, but intimately associated with the building is the treatment of patients, for the skilled carrying-out of which certain types of buildings are necessary; and intimately associated with skilful treatment is a staff under proper control. In all these questions the above conception of the State's duty holds. When the accommodation is abreast or ahead of requirements we shall be, to quote a few of many examples, in a better position to deal with evasions of the law, to care for the sensitive, to answer misguided agitations for the discharge of patients unfit for discharge in their own or the public interest, and so forth. The realization of such matters will convey some significance of the sense of relaxing tension to which allusion has been made.

Buildings are in progress at each of the mental hospitals except Hokitika and Nelson. These two smaller institutions, mainly built in wood, are more or less congested structures of one story, but without proper fire-breaks, and it is evident that, in part at least, they require rebuilding. The case of Nelson as the more urgent has been taken in hand. A plan of a new kitchen and the consequential alterations is about completed, which will allow the central kitchen to be removed and leave a space between the two divisions of the institution behind the dining-hall. At Hokitika a small hospital ward will be added.

The fire at Sunnyside in the attic dormitory rendered it necessary to run up a temporary building, and this was done with the greatest expedition. Apropos of the fire, I would like to record the excellent work done by the staff, our brigade having six leads of hose at work with professional promptitude, a fact which, I understand, was remarked upon by the city fire brigade when it arrived. The damage done was comparatively little, the fire being confined to the dormitory between the limits of the cut-off walls. It is not intended to use the room as a dormitory again.

Farming Operations.

During the year under review the farms have been most successful, as may be noted in the following summary of expenditure and receipts:—

<i>Dr.</i>			<i>Cr.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Salaries and wages	4,076	13 6	By Cash sales of produce, &c. ..	5,837	4 10
Feed	2,944	15 3	Value of produce grown on farms and		
Seeds, &c., manures	1,126	7 5	consumed in the mental hospitals..	14,629	0 8
Implements, harness, repairs, &c. ..	795	4 6			
Stock	793	10 8			
Rents, rates, &c.	690	6 10			
Fencing, roading, &c.	257	12 9			
Harvesting, threshing, &c.	116	0 10			
Railages	119	8 10			
Buildings	115	16 11			
Sundries	211	4 1			
Balance	9,219	3 11			
	<u>£20,466</u>	<u>5 6</u>		<u>£20,466</u>	<u>5 6</u>

The value of the produce consumed is shown at wholesale prices ruling in the district. Compared with the previous year the cash sales were about £336 less, and the value of produce consumed increased by £557, a total increase of about £222. Had it not been for pioneering expenditure at Tokanui the balance would have been £10,609, or £92 more than 1912. The expenditure on individual farms is shown hereunder:—

—	Auckland.	Christchurch.	Seacliff.	Hokitika.	Nelson.	Porirua.	Tokanui.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries and wages	250 0 0	510 0 0	2,031 0 0	101 12 6	230 0 0	408 0 0	546 1 0	4,076 13 6
Feed	221 14 0	253 14 2	1,163 3 10	27 0 4	68 12 0	935 7 1	275 3 10	2,944 15 3
Seeds, &c., manures	186 15 4	159 9 10	243 12 2	26 7 0	41 0 10	271 8 11	197 13 4	1,126 7 5
Implements, harness, repairs, &c.	78 1 3	152 19 0	223 19 5	28 16 0	31 9 5	58 10 9	221 8 8	795 4 6
Stock	7 8 6	66 17 6	94 7 0	8 0 6	..	96 14 2	520 3 0	793 10 8
Rent, rates, &c. . .	..	431 11 3	143 18 1	..	..	114 17 6	..	690 6 10
Fencing, roading, &c.	13 12 2	113 8 8	26 19 6	..	4 19 7	57 10 1	41 2 9	257 12 9
Harvesting, threshing, &c.	..	39 16 8	54 15 5	..	21 8 9	..	..	116 0 10
Railage	0 7 5	..	80 0 0	..	4 15 0	..	34 6 5	119 8 10
Buildings	..	77 12 3	11 11 5	..	..	..	26 13 3	115 16 11
Sundries	20 7 8	172 1 5	16 3 3	..	..	..	2 11 9	211 4 1
Totals	778 6 4	1,977 10 9	4,089 10 1	191 16 4	402 5 7	1,942 8 6	1,865 4 0	11,247 1 7