

Surgeon's Report
(ADM 101/53 (AOT Reel 3204))

Mellish, Surgeon Superintendent John Love

GENERAL REMARKS

Agreeable to the 35th article of my Instructions the following statement will shew the number of women and children embarked in the Mellish female convict ship for passage to Van Diemens Land from whence received and at what time.

<i>7th May 1830 from Perth</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>18th May 1830 from Penitentiary</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>11th May 1830 from Dumfries</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>12th May 1830 from Aberdeen</i>	<i>3 with 3 children</i>
<i>12th May 1830 from Ayer, Stone Haven, Greenock and Paisley</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>17th May 1830 from Dumbarton</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>17th May 1830 from Edinburgh</i>	<i>27 with 2 children</i>
<i>17th May 1830 from Glasgow</i>	<i>12 with 2 children</i>
<i>17th & 18th May 1830 from Newgate</i>	<i>65 with 9 children</i>
<i>21st May 1830 from Inverness</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Between 11th and 25 from different parts of England - free women</i>	<i>14 with 45 children</i>
<i>Total Women</i>	<i>132 with 61 children</i>

The foregoing Journal contains the whole of the cases of sickness occurring on board the Mellish on passage to Van Diemens Land, and although three have died I am happy to say the general state of health was good and the remainder landed without any symptoms or appearance of disease. The general improvement in flesh and appearance was very evident in the whole of them, especially the children amounting to 61 in number, many of whom were puny,

delicate and mostly affected with worms. The most constant complaint among the women was obstinate constipation, it is surprising the quantity of medicine necessary to remove this complaint in some of them.

Of those who died Ann Thomas had been suffering from pectoral affection while in Newgate and was taken on board at her own request[?] solicitate and with a hope that her complaint would be benefited by removal from the confinement of a prison. Ann Saunders (or Fraser) case 2 although only 37 years of age was impaired and broken down in constitution. I could never trace any particular disease, but a constant and incessant vomiting especially when there was the least motion, appeared the most distressing although her appetite for food was great and remained so to the last.

Jean Anderson (case 7) who died of caries of the bones of the head and hear, was of a healthy appearance and nothing was known of her complaint until after sailing although it had been going on for years. I regret that no examination of the two last patients took place after death, in consequence of the boisterous and stormy state of the weather and the wet state of the Sick Bay, so much so that the patients were obliged to be removed to sleeping berths outside for the time. There are two cases which I have found it difficult to assign a name, and classification to these are Mary Riordan and Ann Saunders. To preserve health the people were all let on deck after breakfast and kept up until four in the afternoon with the exception of an hour to dinner provided always that the weather was mild and dry. The lower deck kept as dry as possible and cleaned by scraping or dry holystoning and occasionally aired by stoves, the bottom boards lifted every day and put into the upper berths during the day, bedding shook and spread out to air once a week. When lime-juice or wine was served every person was mustered and drunk their allowance at the tub on the quarter deck generally in my presence.

*John Love
Surgeon Superintendent*