

No.137

Copy of Daily Sick Book & Synopsis

Received 7th July 1842

Journal of Convict Ship *Rajah*

Mr James Donovan MD Surgeon Superintendent.

Between the 19th March and 19th of July 1841

When Put on Sick List	Names	Age	Quality	Disease or Wound	When Put Off Sick List	How Disposed of
1841 April 17 th	Louisa Puddock	21	Female Convict	Cephalalgia	1841 April 20 th	off list
April 17 th	Elizabeth Alexander	19	Female Convict	Cephalalgia	April 20 th	off list
April 18 th	Lydia French	37	Female Convict	Syncope	April 25 th	off list
April 24 th	Mary Donovan	20	Female Convict	Ophthalmia	June 11 th	off list
April 30 th	Ann Chapman	22	Female Convict	Obstipation	May 10 th	off list
May 5 th	Elizabeth Howarth	26	Female Convict	Dysuria	May 18 th	off list
June 22 nd	Jane Bowie	48	Female Convict	Obstipation	July 18 th	off list
June 29 th	Sarah Parfitt	40	Female Convict	Diarrhoea	July 18 th	died
July 2 nd	Ann Jones	30	Female Convict	Prolapsus Uteri	July 18 th	off list
July 5 th	Agnes Agnew	21	Female Convict	Obstipation	July 8 th	off list

James Donovan MD
Surgeon Superintendent
Rajah

APPENDIX No.21, and Art. No.32 of the Surgeon's Instructions

MEDICAL and SURGICAL JOURNAL of His Majesty's the Convict Ship Rajah between the 19th of March 1841 and the 19th of July 1841 during which time the said Ship has been employed in a Voyage to Van Diemen's Land

Nature of Disease	No. of Case	Men's Names, Ages, Qualities, Time when and where taken ill, and how disposed of.	The History, Symptoms, Treatment, and Daily Progress of the Disease or Hurt.
Cephalalgia		<p>Louisa Puddock. Aged 21 years, Female Convict, taken ill on board April 17th 1841</p> <p>Put off the sick list April 20th 1841.</p>	<p>Louisa Puddock Aged 21 years was put on the list April 17th complaining of headache and sickness of the stomach which has been often disturbed. Her appetite is altogether gone as she appeared to suffer considerably from sea sickness. I had her removed into the Hospital as her bowels were confined for some days. I gave her 3 ... of the ... Hydrargym with ½ ... of Opium and in a short time after some of the Mag Sulf in solution to which was added ... Zinc... of Scheubart ...</p> <p>18th Bowels were moved twice in the night. She says the headache is less distressing, bad. The appetite is still bad. No uneasiness of the stomach complaint of the she took some boiled rice with a little wine.</p> <p>19th Feels much better. Sickness of stomach entirely and the appetite better.</p> <p>20th She was so much improved that she returned to her own berth and was put off the list.</p>
Cephalalgia		<p>Elizabeth Alexander. Aged 19, Female Convict, Taken ill on board April 17th 1841.</p> <p>Put off the sick list</p>	<p>Elizabeth Alexander Aged 19 years was put on the list April 17th. She has been for some days complaining of pain in her head as well as in her left side near the region of her heart. She says she can eat nothing. Her bowels are habitually costive and she has comonally[sic] suffered from haemorrhoids. She is also much dejected and low spirited. She was removed into Hospital and was given two pills consisting of three grains of Catomiland ... of Rhubarb and one of Ginger, some Na for drink as she complained much of thirst.</p> <p>18th Bowels moved once in the night. The headache is less, but she still complains of her side. A full inspiration produces no inconvenience whatever.</p> <p>19th She says that she feels better but that the pain in her side still continues. She seems to prefer the Hospital to her own berth and the Nurse tells me she makes no complaint during the day. I told her if the pain was not better tomorrow I should apply a blister to her side.</p> <p>20th No complaint of pain this morning. She accordingly returned to her berth and was put off the</p>

		April 20 th 1841	sick list.
Syncope		Lydia French. Aged 37 years, Female Convict, taken ill on board April 18 th 1841 Put off sick list April 25 th 1841.	Lydia French Aged 37 years was put on the list April 18 th . She was seized suddenly in her berth with a great difficulty of breathing and seemed to gasp for breath. When I saw her she was on pretended to be entirely unable to answer any question I put to her. She is apparently weak in health and has been an invalid constantly in the Penitentiary as I am informed. I had her removed into the Hospital and desired the Nurse to have a sharp look out upon her as I suspected her violent symptoms while her pulse was quite tranquil. She was given a little wine which soon recovered her. 19 th No particular complaint except of weakness. Says she is subject to frequent attacks similar to yesterday's. Her appetite does not seem impaired. She remained in Hospital for a few days but was discovered one morning by the Nurse attempting to disturb her stomach by introducing a quill down her throat. I told her I had now found out what was the matter with her. She returned to her berth and never again came before me as an invalid during the voyage.
Ophthalmia		Mary Donovan, Aged 20, Female Convict, taken ill on board April 24 th 1841.	Mary Donovan Aged 20 years was put on the list April 24 th complaining of pain in her right eye. Upon examining it I found it slightly inflamed, the vessels of the conjunctival being infected and the Fovea with their margins red. She is of a scrofulous habit of body, the glands of her neck being much enlarged and altogether her appearance shows deranged health. She was given two purgative pills and shortly afterwards a purgation draft as her bowels were slow and the tongue leaded . A solution of the acetate of lead was ordered to be kept constantly applied to the eye. 25 th Bowels frequently open. Infection of conjunctival vessels continues but the pain is somewhat less. 26 th Says she feels her eye better this morning. 27 th Redness of the eye as well as pain much increased. She has been crying almost constantly since yesterday in consequence of some dispute with one of the women. She is extremely obstinate and difficult to manage. She will scarcely allow an examination of the eye on account of pain caused by exposure to the light. The lotion was continued, a blister applied to the forehead and she took during the day a solution of Sulp of Magnesite which was added two grains of emetic ...ter. 28 th Pain less, complained this morning, other symptoms the same. Bowels freely moved, no complaint of disturbance of her stomach. The solution of the tantrate of antimony was continued without the magnesite. The blistered surface was dropped with ointment to which was added a small quantity of the Empl. Contl.

		<p>29th She was again crying last night when the Nurse was dressing the blister. The redness of the eye is rather increased which the intolerance of light is so great as to almost prevent any examination of it. There is no general excitement. A second blister was applied behind her right ear. The glands in her neck seem to be swelling as if they would suppurate. The Tanter Emetic was discontinued as she complained of being ... at the stomach, but the cold application to the eye was kept constantly in use.</p> <p>30th Says the pain is less this morning, but is much increased by the slightly exposure to the light. The blister discharged largely and was simply dropped.</p> <p>May 1st For a few days she seemed slowly to improve. The inflammation appeared gradually to ..., the pain was only complained of when the eye was exposed to the light on which account she cannot be permitted to go on deck and upon any attempt to control her she has immediate recourse to tears. The glands in the neck are becoming larger.</p> <p>On the 4th the pain was again severe, redness of the Fovea and lining membrane of the pal... more apparent. Red vessels are seen running along the conjunctiva to the cornea. The intolerance of light is so great as to make even an inadequate examination of eye a matter of great difficulty. The eye was f...ted with warm water in which chamomile flowers were infused and her bowels were again acted upon by sulp. of Mag. with tantrate of antimony.</p> <p>May 6th A small abscess in the eye has burst. It appears to have been formed beneath the conjunctiva low to the external edge of the cornea. The matter was brought away by my ringing warm water between the lids. She describes the pain as less but says she can no longer distinguish external objects.</p> <p>7th 8th The injection of warm water is repeated occasionally with a dosage. pain is less but the redness still continues. The bowels are regular. A few drops of Jinet juice were dropt into the eye. She also took a little iron with 2 grains of the sulphate of quinine. The Terri are ...lly without ever with a little spermaceti ointment.</p> <p>9th Symptoms as yesterday, the same treatment continued. The neck is puffy and swollen.</p> <p>10th The application of the tincture of opium although at first producing great pain seems to give her relief.</p> <p>11th Redness of the eye less and the discharge diminishing. She can distinguish objects but is very unwilling to expose the eye to the light. A poultice was applied to her neck to ...en the suppuration of the sluggish glands in hopes that the discharge ... be ...ful to the ...</p>
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		<p>Put off sick list June 11th 1841.</p>	<p>On the 19th the ship rolling heavily in the night she struck her head against the list of the ship when the other eye became slightly inflamed but it soon yielded to the application of the liquor plumbi acetate.</p> <p>21st I this morning exposed an abscess in the neck and the right ear which discharged a thick ...y matter. She was allowed a more liberal diet and her quantity of wine was increased. The eye appears to improve a little of the solution of nitrate of silver 2 grains to the ... was ...ted for the tincture of opium. She can now look upon objects with little pain and goes on deck daily having a shade over the eye.</p> <p>22nd The abscess continues to discharge and poultices are kept constantly applied. Another abscess is forming under the opposite ear. From this time the eye gradually improved but the neck became one mass of disease. Abscesses formed one after another which it was necessary to open. Her general health was rather better, she went daily on deck which she never could be persuaded to do when the eye was painful. I put her off the sick list on the 11th of June although she was a continued object of care during the voyage.</p>
	<p>Sarah Parfitt, Aged 40 years, Female Convict, was taken ill on board the ship June 29th 1841.</p>		<p>Sarah Parfitt was put on the list 29th of June suffering from diarrhoea. She was one of those who was affected in her intellect when she first came on board the ship. Indeed she was reported as weak in intellect in the report transmitted with her from the Penitentiary. She was however perfectly harmless and always quiet except when the ship was in the variable winds near the Equator when she as well as another similarly affected shewed some symptoms of violence. Upon enquiry it appeared that her bowels have been for some days out of order without any complaint on her part and it was the Nurse who observed her going frequently to the closet during the day. That now reported the circumstance to me her appetite has been bad for some days but she makes no complaint. She was taken into Hospital and was given some chalk mixture with tincture of opium.</p> <p>30th Bowels were moved three times in the night. The mixture was repeated to be taken every 2nd hour during the day.</p> <p>July 1st Frequent calls to stool but she passes but little watery mucous without tinermas or pain. 40 drops of the tincture of catechera was added to her mixture. She takes arrowroot with wine with great relish.</p> <p>2nd The diarrhoea is checked but she appears weak without any complaint of pain. She was ordered some preserved meat in addition to her arrowroot and wine.</p> <p>3rd Says she is better and eats with appetite but she is unwilling to get out of bed and her lies listless the whole day.</p>

	<p>Died July 18th 1841.</p>	<p>4th Bowles frequently moved in the night. No alteration in the nature of the discharge which continues watery and with scarcely any faecal matter. No complaint of pain. The tongue is moist but red at the edges, appetite the Nurse tells is good. Pulse weak. She was ordered the chalk mixture with the catechera during the day.</p> <p>5th Diarrhoea again checked. No complaint but she will not leave her bed and is manifestly becoming weaker. She takes a little wine with water and asks for it often.</p> <p>July 6th No alteration since yesterday. Bowels are quiet.</p> <p>7th But little sleep in the night. Bowels moved only twice these two days, the discharges are still liquid. She eats a little with appetite.</p> <p>8th She becomes weaker every day without complaint of any pain.</p> <p>9th Bowels again disordered, frequent stools in the night with scarcely any faecal matter. She will not call the Nurse to give her the bed pan so unwilling is she to make the slightest exertion. The Revd Mr Davis visited her when she would scarcely answer or speak to him.</p> <p>10th Bowles still relaxed. She takes the chalk mixture and tincture of cat....</p> <p>11th Tolerably easy during the day without any apparent improvement.</p> <p>On the 12th no sleep in the night but is perfectly easy now she asks only for a little wine which is given her.</p> <p>13th Bowels again disordered. She is very weak. She continued to linger in this state for a few days longer and died about half past 12 o'clock on the morning of the 18th of July, the day we arrived in Hobarton. Her body was sent on shore the following morning for burial.</p>
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A Nosological Synopsis of the Sick Book kept during the Period of this Journal, in conformity with the 30th Article of the Surgeons' Instructions.

Diseases Nosologically arranged	Numbers					Nos. of such Cases as are detailed in the Journal
	Total	Discharged to Duty	Sent to the Hospital	Died on board	Invalided	
Pyrexiae						
Ord. I. Febres.						
Internulleates Quotutiana						
Tertiana						
Continua Synochus						
Typhus						
Ord. II. Phlegmasiae.						
Phlogosis						
Pneumonia						
Rheumatismus						
Ophthalmia	1	1				1
Ord. III. Exanthemata.						
Variola						
Rubeola						
Erysipelas						
Vaccina						
Ord. IV. Haemorrhagiae						
Haemoptysis						
Phthisis incipiens						
Phthisis cosfirmata						
Ord. V. Profluvia.						
Catarrhus						
Dysenteria						
Neuroses.						
Ord. I. Comata.						
Apoplexia						
Ord. II. Adynamiae.						
Dyspepsia						
Ord. III. Spasmi.						
Asthma						
Diarrhoea	1			1		1
Colica						
Syncope	1	1				1
Ord. Iv. Vesaniae.						
Amentia						
Mania						
Cachexiae.						
Ord. I. Marcores.						
Tabes						
Ord. II. Intumescenciae.						
Anasarca						
Ascites						
Hydrothorax						
Ord. III. Impetigines.						
Syphilis	8	8				

Scrophula							
Icterus							
Locales.							
Ord. I. Dysaethesiae.							
Amaurosis							
Ord. II. Dysorexiae.							
Ord. III. Dyscinesiae.							
Ord. IV. Apocenos.							
Gonorrhoea							
Ord. V. Epischeses							
Ischuria							
Obstipatio	5	5					2
Dysuria	1	1					
Ord. VI. Tumores.							
Aneurisma							
Ord. VII. Ectopiae.							
Hernia							
Prolapsus							
Prolapsus Uteri	1	1					
Ord. VIII. Dialyses.							
Vulnus							
Uleus							
GENERAL TOTAL	10	9		1			5
NOTE.—Medical Officers are desired particularly to Notice that the Numbers in each Disease and the general Total must not only correspond with the Sick Book, but also with the particulars contained in the several Nosological Returns for the period.							

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Female Convicts who first embarked on board the Female Convict Ship Rajah at Woolwich were from the General Penitentiary at Millbank. On the morning of the 19th of March 141 a steamer came alongside with 24 who had been selected by the Ladies Members of the Society for the reformation of Female prisoners as the best conducted and most suited to fill the different situations on board the ship such as Mess Women, Hospital Nurse &c &c. They all appeared in tolerably good health. On the following day 127 Female Convicts and 6 of their children were received on board from the same place. Some of those were aged, seven between 51 and 60 years, one lately convalescent from some acute disease but the rest unexceptionable although some of them appeared somewhat delicate. On the 24th of March 25 Female Convicts and one child were received on board from Newgate and the day after 11 others and one child from the same place. Three also were received from the General Penitentiary. There were females four children belonging to convicts on board sent from different Parishes during our stay at Woolwich. During the same time ten females and two children were removed from the ship, five by an order from the Home Office and the remaining five in consequence of insanity. In the evening of the third day after she came on board, one of the women who was appointed Hospital Nurse became outrageously violent and on the next day it became necessary to confine a second similarly attacked. Both were removed on shore on the 25th of March. Shortly after three others shewing violent symptoms of derangement were separated from the rest and removed into Hospital. They also were sent on shore on the 29th of March according to my request as the uproar which they continually kept up altogether prevented my exertions to establish order among the Prisoners. There still were four who were weak in their Intellect but they were quiet and easily managed. They gave little trouble on the passage except when detained near the Equator. Three of them were for a short time violent. Two of them under 20 years of age appear to have permanently recovered. Another aged 53 years continued silly all the time and the fourth aged 40 years died from the effects of a diarrhoea which I regret to think she concealed for some time. It may be right to mention that all those cases of derangement were exhibited in Females received on board from the General Penitentiary, where I understand, they are subjected to the silent system. There was no similar symptom among those sent from Newgate who however were not in number, one fourth of the others. There were also several **eryliptical** and hysterical seizures the first and second day after their arrival on board among those from the Penitentiary from which those from Newgate were exempt. We left Woolwich on the 5th of April having on board 180 Female Convicts and 10 children. The weather was fortunately very fine during the early part of our passage so that with exception of one day there was but little inconvenience felt from sea sickness. While the ship was **treatment** near the line in the variable space the heat between decks at night was very oppressive, but happily it produced no other ill effects than severely trying the temper of the women. Indeed, during the whole voyage one was in a singular degree free from sickness. Purgative medicines certainly were in constant request and in many instances necessary but I thought it right rather to discontinue once the practice of having recourse to medicine upon every trifling occasion and in that way kept it somewhat in check. One case of scrophulous ophthalmia was both severe and obstinate. For some time I thought the loss of the right eye more than probable. A small abscess beneath the conjunctiva near the cornea gave way but afterwards healed without involving the other ...tures of the eye so that she eventually recovered without sustaining any injury. Upon different occasions during the passage I vaccinated some of the women and children but in no instance did the operation succeed in fact every person on board had been previously vaccinated. On my arrival in the Colony I ascertained that they were abundantly supplied with fresh vaccine matter. With very few exceptions the health of all was upon their arrival in Hobarton much improved and considerably better than when they embarked at Woolwich. The single fatal case occurred on the morning of day we anchored in Van Diemen's Land. The body was sent on shore the following day for burial. In the month of April the thermometer varied from 44° to 79°, in May from 86° to 67°, in June from 66° to 47° and in July it averaged 53°.

James Donovan MD
Surgeon Superintendent
Female Convict Ship
Rajah