

JOURNAL OF HER MAJESTY'S FEMALE CONVICT SHIP  
'STATELY'

Mr. J.W.Elliott Surgeon  
Between the 14th May,  
and 10th September 1849.

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GENERAL REMARKS

The "Stately" chartered to carry Female convicts to Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land fitted at Deptford in the usual way and dropped down to Woolwich May 19th where she embarked her convicts 169 in number from Millbank May 14th. Sailed May 16th having previously relanded one of the Prisoners per order. During the passage down the Channel we experienced contrary winds and severe weather, nearly the whole of the Prisoners under my superintendence being confined below in a helpless and suffering condition from sea sickness, in this state with the hatchways constantly housed over disease suddenly began to manifest itself. One woman was marked with Erysipelas of the face and scalp, a disease which prevailed to considerable degree at Millbank at the time of their embarkation, and three others with fever of a low typhoid type. Apprehensive of continuing longer at sea, I ordered (the) Ship into the Port of Plymouth, \_\_\_? additional cases of Erysipelas were \_\_\_? immediately added to the List \_\_\_ing a total of 4 of this number, one died on the morning of the 27th of May. On the 3rd of June one of the women having manifested symptoms of insanity, I wrote the Inspectors of Prison and had her relanded. June 4th, no new cases of sickness having occurred during the past week, and all traces of disease seemingly arrested, I in compliance with instructions from Rear Admiral Superintendent Sir John Lewis(?) Bart proceeded to sea and continued healthy till the morning of the 23rd of June when another of the prisoners was seized with Erysipelas in a most virulent form, but who eventually recovered. August 18th a sixth case was added and on the 23rd of the same month I was attacked myself. September 2nd anchored off Hobart Town in a perfectly healthy state.

During the above period 43 patients were placed on the sick list with various complaints of whom 1 died of Erysipelas, 2 of Enteritis and one Gastritis, the Erysipelas patients manifested the usual premonitory symptoms - shiver(ing) followed by fever accompanied (by) more or less swelling of the subcu(taneous?) lymphatic ganglia behind the \_\_\_? and under the jaw, in every \_\_\_? the nose was the first part attacked, subsequently the inflammation extending itself to the face and scalp.

The treatment consisted in Bleeding, Emetics, Mercurial Purgatives, free Incisions(?) and warm fomentations to the part. Blisters between the shoulders, and Camphor, and Quinine \_\_\_?, the Nitrate of Silver was likewise used with advantage and Chloride of Lime wash applied to the part - tepid, also proved beneficial.

The greatest attention was bestowed to dryness, cleanliness, and ventilation, also the daily sprinkling of the Clothes, Bedding, and different parts of the Ship with the Chloride of Lime Solution which I found a most powerful agent in speedily removing all noxious and offensive smells, and I have no hesitation in stating that to its extensive use

on board, I have to attribute our immunity from disease which at one time threatened to assail all on board.

Weather in the month of May mostly clear and fine marked with strong \_\_\_? and W.S.W. winds. Barometer (vari?)ed from 29.40 Inches( $\approx$  995 HPa) to 30.00 Inches ( $\approx$  1016 Hpa). The (thermom?)eter between 58 and 64 (degrees F) - occasional \_\_\_ing showers. June and July N.E. and S.E. trade. Barometer averaging from 28.80 to 30.10. Thermometer from 70 to 80 and 83 in the shade. In August the winds were strong from N.E., S.S.W and N, also S.W. by W., S.S.W. The Barometer ranged from 29.30 to 29.90. Thermometer ranging from 43 to 56 and 60. A high Sea and frequent hail storms breaking over the Ship.

John W. Elliott  
Surgeon Superintendent

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