

The General Remarks of Charles Smith, the Surgeon Superintendent aboard the "Tory"
30 April 1848 – 6 August 1848

A NOSOLOGICAL SYNOPSIS of the Sick Book kept during the Period of this Journal, in conformity with the 30th Article of the Surgeon's Instructions.

Diseases Nosologically arranged	Numbers						No of such cases as are detailed in the Journal
	Total	Discharged to Duty	Sent to the Hospital	Died on Board	Invalided	Remaining	
Pyrexiaë							
Ord. I. Febres. Intermittentes Quotidiana Tertiana... Continuae. Synochus... Typhus	2	1	1				9
Ord. II. Phlegmasiaë. Phlogosis... Pneumonia... Rheumatismus...	3 2	3 1					7 14 5 11
Ord. III. Exanthemata. Variola Rubeola... Erysipelas... Vaccina....	4	4	1				2
Ord. IV. Haemorrhagiaë. Haemoptysis... Phthisis incipiens Phthisis confirmata Menorrhagia.....	1	1					4
Ord. V. Profluvia. Catarrhus..... Dysenteria.....	6 1	6 1					8 10
Neuroses.							
Ord. I. Comata. Apoplexia.....							
Ord. II. Adynamiaë. Dyspepsiaë.....	10	10					
Ord. III. Spasmi. Asthma..... Diarrhoea..... Colica.....	3 8	2 8	1				12 6
Ord. IV. Vesasiaë. Amentia..... Mania.....	6 1	6 1					
Cachexiaë.							
Ord. I. Marcores. Tabes.....							
Ord. II. Intumescentiaë. Anasarca..... Ascites..... Hydrothorax.....							
Ord. III. Impetigines.							

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Syphilis..... Scrophula..... Icterus..... Scorbutus.....	1 1	1 1	1				1 1
Locales.							
Ord. I. Dysæsthesiæ. Amaurosis.....							
Ord. II. Dysorexiæ. Anorecia.....	1	1					
Ord. III. Dyscinesiæ.							
Ord. IV. Apocenosés. Gonorrhœa.....	1	1					
Ord. V. Epischeses. Ischuria..... Obstipatio..... Dysuria.....	1 2	1 2					
Ord. VI. Tumores. Aneurisma.....							
Ord. VII. Ectopiæ. Hernia..... Prolapsus.....							
Ord. VIII. Dialyses. Vulnus..... Ulcus..... Contusio.....	4	4					

On referring to the preceding nosological synopsis, it will be seen that the Female Transports have in general, been very healthy during the passage from England to this place and that no fatal case has occurred and only a few of a severe character. The total number of sick and hurt amount to 50, of these forty-six have been cured on board and four sent to the Colonial Hospital in this Colony, nearly convalescent.

The convicts when received on board at Woolwich, were in general thin and pale, no doubt through much confinement in prison, many of them appeared to be suffering from mental depression at the prospect of leaving their friends and native country while a few were completely apathetic as in everything going on around them. During the first month, **dyspeptic afflictions** (*impairment of the power or function of digestion*) and calls of severe headache and constipation were common. Hysterical symptoms of various kinds frequently presented themselves; these complaints may be accounted for partly by the moral situation on which many of the females found themselves placed and partly by the nature of the lives some of them had led before being convicted.

Being deeply impressed with the influence of the mind on health, every means were taken to have the transports cheerfully and usefully occupied in making shirts (of which 500 were made up during the voyage) and in knitting. Regular morning and evening schools were established for reading and writing under the care of the Religious Instructor and every portion of the day set apart for some particular duty. Constant employment has no doubt a most beneficial effect on their health and adds very much to their comfort and happiness. Opportunities were taken to encourage the desponding by pointing out to them, the probability of their doing well in the Colony, provided their conduct deserved it, during the voyage and the great advantages that would accrue to them by a following out a regular and industrious course of life.

The prison was carefully cleaned out every morning and the scuttles opened, when the weather would permit. The swinging stoves with coke fires were used during damp or heavy weather and the "tween decks" preserved in a dry and comfortable condition. The temperature in the prison never exceeded 81° of Fahrenheit. The solution of the chloride of lime was freely used in the hospital and prison and ????? always with the best effect in destroying that ?????????????? which is present in every crowded vessel during hot weather.

Considerable attention was paid to the personal cleanliness of the convicts, the underclothing were regularly changed and the beds and bedding aired by hanging them up in the rigging. During the month of July the weather became much colder as we advanced southward and a few **catarrhal** (*inflammation of a mucous membrane*) and **rheumatic** affections occurred, but in general, the females were much improved in appearance

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and had completely lost that pale and sallow look which almost all had when received on board. They continued to improve during the remaining portion of July and first part of August and when discharged to the "Anson Hulk" at Hobart Town, the change that had taken place during the voyage was most striking, with the exception of four sent to the colonial hospital, they had all the aspect of high health.

The total number of sick as stated above, amount to 50, being in the ratio of 1 to 3. Of these, 2 cases have been reported under the head of **Synochus** (*a continuous fever*) as they nearly resembled that type of fever; the first N^o(9) was sent to the colonial hospital. The second was of a more tractable character and readily responded to the remedies prescribed. There were four cases of **erysipelas** (*superficial bacterial skin infection*), the first recurred before leaving England and was of a severe character, the remaining three were of less importance and readily gave way to the usual remedies. The bowel complaints, comprising **dysentery** (*inflammation of the intestine*) N^o(10), **colica** (*spasmodic pain in belly*) and **diarrhea**, amount to 13, some of the colicky afflictions were very troublesome, requiring acute treatment - large opiates, and injective enemata. Of the three cases of Diarrhea one was sent to the Colonial Hospital, the two cured on board were less obstinate, mercurial alteratives (*obsolete term used for drugs said to reestablish healthy functions of the system*), chalk, with catechu (*astringent extract from leaves formerly used in treatment of diarrhea*) and opium were used with success.

The **catarrhal afflictions** (*nasal congestion usually associated with having a cold*), six in number, were of a more varied character, in a few cases there was a good deal of respiratory disturbance, and Smart Pyrexia (*fever*) requiring the use of the lancet (*for blood letting*), antimonials (*wine containing antimony*), and counter-irritants, in others laxatives, and sudorifics (*causes sweating*) with abstemious regimes (*refraining from free use of food and strong drink*) were found sufficient to relieve the symptoms.

The **dyspeptic** complaints (*impairment of the power or function of digestion*) were numerous and difficult to treat, constipation, with severe headache and general debility were the most frequent symptoms, laxatives, bitters and tonics variously combined were exhibited, but only with partial benefit. There is little doubt but that the nature of life on board of ship; want of exercise tends much to aggravate these disorders. Towards the end of the voyage however, they had nearly all disappeared.

There is one case of **Menorrhagia** (*excessive menstrual flow*) reported, N^o(4). This patient was discharged in Van Diemen's Land in good health; the amelioration that had taken place in her appearance during the voyage was most striking.

Of the two **rheumatic afflictions**, one was cured on board, the other was sent to Colonial Hospital. They had both been the subject of the same complaint at a former period, the great vicissitudes of temperature during this voyage is not favourable to disorders of this kind.

The cases of **Phlogosis** (*inflammation*) were all cured on board, the proportion of this genus is comparatively low, inflammatory afflictions of the extremities being in general extremely common at sea.

No casualties of any importance occurred during the passage, only slight cases of **contusio** (*contusion, bruising*) four reported with the symptoms.

The only remaining case is one actioned under the heading of **Scorbutus** (*scurvy, lack of vitamin C*). No similar symptoms appeared in any of the other females and I am inclined to think that in this instance it was more the result of simple debility, than from any excess of salt provisions. The preserved potato now supplied is a valuable addition to the convicts rations and no doubt has a most beneficial effect in counteracting that peculiar influence which salt provisions are well known to have (when long continued). The potato was served out in the proportion of 2oz each female and there can be no question but that it contributed largely in the high state of health they enjoyed during the voyage out. Lime juice was served out in the proportion directed by the printed instructions.

Island of Van Diemen's
Hobart Town
August 19th 1848

Charles Smith,
Surgeon Superintendent, "Tory" Convict Ship

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Specific mention is made of the following convicts detailing their illness and treatment. However, these details have not been transcribed.

Margaret Hughes -	Syphilis (contagious venereal disease)
Letitia Warnes -	Erysipelas (superficial bacterial skin infection)
Sarah Susannah Crickmer -	Catarrhus (inflammation of mucous membrane)
Mary A. Clarke -	Menorrhagia (excessive menstrual flow)
Mary Ann Merton -	Rheumatism (inflammation of joints)
Helen (Ellen) Brown -	Colica (spasmodic pain in belly)
Mary Parting -	Phlogosis (inflammation)
Elizabeth (Eliza) Ridley -	Catarrhus (inflammation of mucous membrane)
Emma Smith -	Synochus (a continuous fever)
Bridget White -	Dysentery (inflammatory disorder of the intestine)
Jane Sparrow -	Rheumatism (inflammation of joints)
Jane Humphreys -	Diarrhea
Jane McLaren -	Scorbutus (scurvy)
Margaret Graham -	Phlogosis (inflammation)