

Surgeon's Journal of Her Majesty's Female Convict Ship *Elizabeth & Henry*
 Mr. Harvey Morris Surgeon Superintendent
 Between the 9th Sept^r 1846 and the 9th Jan^y 1847
 Adm. 101.24.7

Note written on the inside front cover of the journal –

Case 5. Great depravity of a female prisoner, and cruelty to her infant born on board. A.B.

(This should be Case 4)

PB100300.JPG

Copy of the sick list of the *Elizabeth and Henry* Female Convict Ship

| When Put On Sick List | Name | Age | Quality | Disease or Hurt | When Put Off Sick List | How Disposed Of |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sept ^r 20 th | Charlotte Ellis | 20 | Convict | Ulcers | Nov ^r 10 th | Cured |
| Two 25 th | Eliz th Blackenbury | 27 | Convict | Eruptions | Oct ^r 19 th | Cured |
| 26 th | Louisa Babtisti <i>(Baptisti)</i> | 23 | Convict | Ulcers | Nov ^r 5 th | Cured |
| 27 th | Isabella Burt | 6 weeks | Child of Convict | Tabes | Oct ^r 2 nd | D.D. |
| Oct ^r 11 th | Sarah Dufton | 20 | Convict | Diarrhoea | Oct ^r 20 th | Cured |
| 19 th | Ann Jackson | 41 | Convict | Ulcers | Nov ^r 16 th | Cured |
| 21 st | Jane Wilson | 3 | Child of Convict | Ophthalmia | Nov ^r 4 th | Cured |
| 22 nd | Henry Cornwell | 1 | Child of Convict | Diarrhoea | Jan ^y 7 th | Cured |
| 23 rd | Mary A. Cranston | 16 | Convict | Sore Throat | Oct ^r 30 th | Cured |
| 25 th | Elizabeth Brown | 2 | Child of Convict | Diarrhoea | Nov ^r 8 th | Cured |
| 30 th | Jacobina Wighton | 33 | Convict | Debility | Dec ^r 20 th | Cured |
| Nov ^r 1 st | Catherine Dunn | 8 | Child of Convict | Diarrhoea | Nov ^r 8 th | Cured |
| 8 th | Eliza Russell | 28 | Convict | Sore Throat | Nov ^r 20 th | Cured |
| 12 th | Emma Lewis | 23 | Convict | Chron Hepatitis | Dec ^r 22 nd | Cured |
| 17 th | Jane Johnstone | 18 | Convict | Incp Phthisis | Dec ^r 29 th | Relieved |
| 25 th | Ann Rugg | 36 | Convict | Rheumatism | Nov ^r 30 th | Cured |
| 26 th | Eliza Russell | 28 | Convict | Sore Throat | Dec ^r 10 th | Cured |
| 29 th | Mathew Bradley | 4 | Child of Convict | Ophthalmia | Dec ^r 12 th | Cured |
| Dec ^r 1 st | Mary Lane | 30 | Convict | Parturition | Jan ^y 1 st | Recovered |
| 4 th | Charlotte Jones | 19 | Convict | Sore Throat | Dec ^r 20 th | Cured |
| 6 th | Suzanna King | 30 | Convict | Parturition | Jan ^y 6 th | Recovered |
| 8 th | Mary Ann Dunn | 5 | Child of Convict | Ophthalmia | Dec ^r 27 th | Cured |
| 12 th | Ann Mood | 45 | Convict | Dyspepsia | Dec ^r 22 nd | Relieved |
| 13 th | M.A. Griffiths | 15 | Convict | Ulcer on Cornea | Jan ^y 2 nd | Cured |
| 18 th | Emma Kean | 24 | Convict | Sore Throat | Jan ^y 5 th | Cured |
| 20 th | Unity Rafferty | 35 | Convict | Ptyalism | Jan ^y 7 th | Relieved |
| 26 th | M.A. Rafferty | 5 | Child of Convict | Ophthalmia | Jan ^y 7 th | Relieved |

Two children were born during the voyage one of whom died within twenty-four hours of the birth and the other within a fortnight.

Harvey Morris Surgeon Superintendent.

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Medical and Surgical Journal of Her Majesty's Convict Ship *Elizabeth & Henry* between the 9th September 1846 and the 7th January 1847 during which time the said ship has been employed in the transportation of Prisoners 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. |
|--|-------------|---|---|
| <p>Venereal Ulcers</p> <p>PB100302.JPG</p> <p>PB100303.JPG</p> | <p>1</p> | <p>Charlotte Ellis Æt 20 Convict taken ill 20th September Cured and put off Sick List 10th November</p> | <p>The young woman here named applied for relief for the first time on the 20th of September (only twelve days after embarkation). On examination several venereal ulcers were observed in the Vagina and Labia Pudenda which seemed to be of long standing although she says she was quite well on leaving Millbank, which statement may be true for as she acknowledges to having been under treatment for the venereal disease whilst in Prison it is quite possible the ulcers may have been kept in abeyance or even healed by the medicines then used and that they assumed their character when the woman ceased to be under medical treatment – this is a more probable way of accounting for their existence than to suppose they could have escaped the notice of the Millbank officers and certainly their appearance on the 20th of September must be accounted for in one or other of these ways however the treatment of the disease is what concerns me at present and as the now non mercurial plan which I hoped and confidently expected would succeed, failed I was obliged to have recourse to mercury; local applications such as Sulphate of Copper Nitrate of Silver Calomel in powder etc were used in conjunction with the Blue pill and they may have contributed much to the healing of the sores but I must confess their use was not attended with any marked alteration in the ulcers until the mercury began to affect the mouth and I was the less prepared for this result in consequence of my former experience having led me to believe that the venereal Disease in almost every form might be cured without mercury – whether the failure in this instance can be justly attributed to peculiarity of constitution or the local circumstances I am not prepared to say but I can positively assert that although local applications were fairly and patiently tried and although I had much confidence in their efficacy there was no alteration for the better in the ulcers until the system began to be affected by mercury.</p> |
| <p>Marasmus</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>Isabella Burt Otatis 6 weeks Child of convict put in Sick List 27th Sept^r D.D. 2nd Oct^r.</p> | <p>This Infant was for some time observed to be in a declining state of health and from the various reports made to me by several of the Prisoners regarding the mothers conduct as well as from what I myself observed I did not doubt the childs illness was caused by want of maternal care and tenderness, it also appears by the statement of some of the women who were acquainted with the this Prisoner at Millbank that during the latter weeks of gestation she conducted herself in such manner as to convince them that she wished the child might be born dead however I could not since she came under my care prove her guilty of any overt act by which the childs life</p> |

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| <p>PB100304.JPG</p> | | | <p>could be said to be endangered yet her general inattention and disregard to cleanliness before the death of the Infant and the total change that took place immediately after accounted to pretty strong circumstantial evidence that she contributed indirectly and knowingly to the death of her offspring.</p> <p>It is but justice to observe however that her change of conduct after the child died might have been produced by the conviction she correctly entertained namely that she would most certainly be punished for slatternly conduct or for any other misdemeanour when the protection which young children were invariably afforded their mothers had been removed from her but this is a subject more suited to my other Journal than to this and it is there entered upon more in total.</p> <p>The daily treatment I cannot give as it merely consisted in perpetual and unsuccessful attempts to supply the Infant with those numerous but nameless comforts and necessaries which nothing but maternal interest and affection can afford, consequently the child died of [Emaciation?] on the 2nd of October.</p> |
| <p>Diarrhoea</p> <p>PB100305.JPG</p> <p>PB100306.JPG</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>Henry Cornwall Otatis 1 year Taken ill 22 October and Discharged Cured Jan^y 7th</p> | <p>A severe attack of Diarrhoea reduced this child in a short space to the greatest possible state of Debility consistent with life; but as he eventually recovered under the palliative plan of treatment by which I mean combating symptoms as they presented themselves with Calomel Rhubarb Carb Magnesia Castor Oil Tinct Opii Aqua Menthe Pip and such like medicines I should not think the case worth noticing here if it were not for the purpose of showing the difference between two mothers under similar circumstances the one I now allude to (Cornwall) was as entirely affectionate towards her offspring as the one mentioned in the foregoing case was culpably regardless of the same and it is only justice to a science which does not now refuse additional facts to establish to truth; to add that maps representing a part of the back of the heads of these individuals may be accurately delineated by any Phrenologist who reads this and the preceding case and as I have not a single case worth recording merely on account of its medical or surgical interest I may as well mention another circumstance that occurred during the voyage which clearly and manfully proved that phrenological development will at least in some instances point out the propensities of individuals.</p> <p>A Prisoner named Ann Lemming who was generally well behaved but often became excessively violent in consequence of some real or imaginary slights offered to her illegitimate child came to me one day in a most outrageous passion to complain of a fellow prisoner. On enquiring into the matter I found the cause of Lemmings fury to be something that had been said of her child which was of too trivial a nature to call for my interference and as this was not the first time I had been annoyed by her in a similar way I was similarly out of temper and said – If you will make your child a perpetual source of quarrel between yourself and your fellow prisoners I shall take the</p> |

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| | | | <p>brat away from you altogether and give him in charge to someone else.</p> <p>When I here state that the organ of Philoprogenitiveness in this woman's head was so very large that the occiput appeared not only to project backwards but to fall downwards I need not tell a believer in Phrenology that I heard no more complaints from her during the voyage, however she never forgave me for calling her child a brat and as self esteem is by no means deficient in her head I do not expect she ever will.</p> |
| <p>Parturition</p> <p>PB100307.JPG</p> <p>PB100308.JPG</p> | 4 | <p>Mary Lane Otatis 30 taken ill December the 1st put off the Sick List January 1st 1847 The Infant died on the 12th of December 1846</p> | <p>There was nothing in the case of the woman here named that could interest a medical man, the Labour was natural and recovery so far as regarded the Mother was more rapid than usual. The child also was healthy and full grown when born so that I should have passed the matter in silence did not the fate of the Infant render it necessary to mention a few facts which will not only throw the probable cause of the childs death but also the mistaken humanity of many Philanthropic Individuals who do not consider punishment necessary in the management of convicts.</p> <p>Shortly after the Prisoners came on board; this woman and one who had an Infant at the breast were reported with others for an offence which was clearly proved against them and as I wished to make an early impression and establish order as quickly as possible all the women concerned except these two received some sort of punishment. The immunity of Lane and the other as well as the causes of it soon became generally known and the consequences were that from that hour until the voyage terminated there was not an instance of misbehaviour in the ship which had not a woman large in the family way or one with a young child at the beginning and the end of it. The woman here alluded to had been frequently reported for making use of the most disgusting language and once (and that only a few days previously to her confinement) for dancing in a state of perfect nudity before her fellow Prisoners but of course I could not punish her, and although I felt satisfied very soon after the child was born that she neglected it I could do no more than threaten her which she cared not for and consequently the child died – soon after death a post mortem examination was instituted but there was nothing in the appearance of the surface of the body or of the brain or of the viscera of the child or abdomen to indicate that personal violence had been used but the state of the scrotum and the parts about the anus showed clearly enough that the Infant had been cruelly neglected however it did not require a post mortem examination to prove that for it was sufficiently manifest during the life of the unhappy child.</p> <p>In conclusion I have only to express my conviction; that had the woman with young children and those in the family way been punished when they misbehaved and had their treatment been in all respects similar to their fellow Prisoners both Lanes child and Burt's would be alive this day it is therefore unnecessary for me to say, that they should all be punished when they deserve it.</p> |

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| <p>Parturition</p> <p>PB100309.JPG</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>Susanna King Otatis 30 Taken ill December the 6th Put off the Sick List January 6th Infant died within twenty-four hours of its birth.</p> | <p>This was a natural labour and although the child died within twenty-four hours of its birth no blame can with a shadow of justice be attributed to the mother for unlike the woman last named she seemed to entertain a most maternal and affectionate regard for her offspring and from the manner in which she solicited to be allowed to nurse Lane's Infant when she heard of its mother's conduct as well as from the slowness of her own recovery there can be no doubt the death of her child caused her much distress although she (having had children previously) must have anticipated that result the first moment she beheld her Infant; Indeed the emaciated appearance of the creature left no hope even with an affectionate mother that it could continue to breathe many hours.</p> <p>Should the foregoing be considered an imperfect account of the Infants case I must confess my inability to enlarge upon the mother further than by saying that the principle of life did not appear to me to be sufficiently established to enable the child to breathe at all and that it ceased to do so within four and twenty hours of its birth.</p> |

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 | Remaining | |
| Pyrexiae | | | | | | | |
| Ord. I. Febres. | | | | | | | |
| Internulleates Quotutiana | | | | | | | |
| Tertiana | | | | | | | |
| Continua Synochus | | | | | | | |
| Typhus | | | | | | | |
| Ord. II. Phlegmasiae. | | | | | | | |
| Phlogosis | | | | | | | |
| Pneumonia | | | | | | | |
| Rheumatismus | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| <i>Ophthalmia</i> | 5 | 5 | | | | | |
| <i>Hepatitis</i> | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Ord. III. Exanthemata. | | | | | | | |
| Variola | | | | | | | |
| Rubeola | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | | | | | | | |
| Vaccina | | | | | | | |
| Ord. IV. Haemorrhagiae | | | | | | | |
| Haemoptysis | | | | | | | |
| Phthisis incipiens | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Phthisis cosfirmata | | | | | | | |
| Ord. V. Profluvia. | | | | | | | |
| Catarrhus | 5 | 5 | | | | | |
| Dysenteria | | | | | | | |
| Neuroses. | | | | | | | |
| Ord. I. Comata. | | | | | | | |
| Apoplexia | | | | | | | |
| Ord. II. Adynamiae. | | | | | | | |
| Dyspepsia | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| Ord. III. Spasmi. | | | | | | | |
| Asthma | | | | | | | |
| Diarrhoea | 4 | 4 | | | | | |
| Colica | | | | | | | |
| Ord. Iv. Vesaniae. | | | | | | | |
| Amentia | | | | | | | |
| Mania | | | | | | | |
| Cachexiae. | | | | | | | |
| Ord. I. Marcores. | | | | | | | |
| Tabes | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| Ord. II. Intumescenciae. | | | | | | | |
| Anasarca | | | | | | | |
| Ascites | | | | | | | |
| Hydrothorax | | | | | | | |

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| Ord. III. Impetigines. | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Scrophula | | | | | | | |
| Icterus | | | | | | | |
| Scorbutus | | | | | | | |
| Locales. | | | | | | | |
| Ord. I. Dysaethesiae. | | | | | | | |
| Amaurosis | | | | | | | |
| Ord. II. Dysorexiae. | | | | | | | |
| Ord. III. Dyscinesiae. | | | | | | | |
| Ord. IV. Apocenosos. | | | | | | | |
| Gonorrhoea | | | | | | | |
| <i>Ptyalism</i> | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Ord. V. Epischeses | | | | | | | |
| Ischuria | | | | | | | |
| Obstipatio | | | | | | | |
| Dysuria | | | | | | | |
| Ord. VI. Tumores. | | | | | | | |
| Aneurisma | | | | | | | |
| <i>Parturition</i> | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| Ord. VII. Ectopiae. | | | | | | | |
| Hernia | | | | | | | |
| Prolapsus | | | | | | | |
| Luxatio | | | | | | | |
| Ord. VIII. Dialyses. | | | | | | | |
| Vulnus | | | | | | | |
| Ulcus | 3 | 3 | | | | | |
| GENERAL TOTAL | 27 | 26 | | 1 | | | |
| 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

One hundred and sixty-nine Female Prisoners, and twenty-five of their children, were the total number received on board this ship for a passage to Van Diemen's Land, but as one of the children died during the voyage, only the hundred and sixty-nine convicts, and twenty-four children, were delivered up to the authorities at Hobart Town, all these were in good health on being transferred to their respective asylums, and as the few cases of disease that did occur during the period of their being under my charge, were of a simple character, and easily cured, I should be at a loss to find any that could be said to deserve a place in this journal, had it not been for circumstances, not purely medical, which may perhaps be considered to give some trifling importance to those I have spoken of.

The two births that occurred during the voyage (vide Cases Four & Five) would have been equally undeserving attention had it not been for the fate of the Infants, but as their mothers are explained in the cases referred to; it is unnecessary to allude to them here, therefore I shall only add that although the cases I have detailed are few, and short, I believe nothing worthy of notice has been omitted.

The vaccine virus did not produce the slightest effect in any instance, although it had been tried in two cases where there could have been no possible doubt that the children had neither had the Small Pox, or been previously vaccinated.

Harvey Morris
Surgeon R.N.