

1853—4.

VICTORIA.

HEALTH OFFICER.

RETURN OF DISEASES

MOST PREVALENT ON BOARD

SHIPS PERFORMING QUARANTINE

DURING THE HALF-YEAR ENDING ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1852.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER,

FROM THE 1ST MAY, 1852, TO THE 30TH JUNE, 1853.

L A I D upon THE COUNCIL TABLE by THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by Command of HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, and ordered by THE COUNCIL to be printed, 19TH JANUARY, 1854.

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SCHEDULE.

1. Return of Diseases most prevalent on board Ships performing Quarantine, during the Half-year ending on the 31st of December, 1852.
2. Report of the Health Officer, from the 1st of May, 1852, to the 30th of June, 1853.

RETURN of the DISEASES which have been most prevalent on board SHIPS PERFORMING QUARANTINE in HOBSON'S BAY and at the SANATORY STATION, during the six months ending DECEMBER 31st, 1852.

Brain and Nerves.	Circulatory Organs.	Respiratory Organs.	Alimentary Canal.	Urinary Organs.	Hipatic System.	Glands.	Eyes.	Skin.	Cellular Texture.	Disease of Children.	Fevers.	Rheumatism.	Dropsy.	Veneral.	Scorbutic Disease.	Pregnancy and Parturition.	Ulcers.	Wounds and Accidents.	Uterine Organs.	Fractures and Dislocations.	Disease of Teeth.	Apoplexy.	Epilepsy.	TOTAL CASES TREATED.	
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
		5	146			1		1	2	1	325			1			1								483

REMARKS.—Under the head "Skin," was a case of small pox, afforded pratique on the 57th day from sickening. Under "Alimentary Canal," are classed diarrhœa and dysentery: 127 cases of former and 16 of latter were received from the *Ticonderoga*. Of the 325 cases of fever, 311 were from the *Ticonderoga*; the former was low typhus, generally accompanied with petechiæ, course very rapid, death sometimes preceded by furious delirium. About 60 died.

(Signed)

THOMAS HUNT,

Health Officer.

RETURN of DISEASES which have been most prevalent on board SHIPS PERFORMING
 QUARANTINE in HOBSON'S BAY, and at the SANATORY STATION, Ticonderoga
 Bay, Point Nepean, during the six months ending DECEMBER 31st, 1852.

1852. FROM 1st JULY, to 31st DECEMBER.	Small Pox.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Pertussis.	Abscess.	Ulcer.	Marasmus.	Parotidea.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis.	Syphilis.
SHIPS.												
WANATA .....	...	7	2	...	3							
LADY EVELINE	1	...	1									
H.M.S.S. VULCAN.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
CHANCE .....	...	4										
DELGANY .....	...	1										
BOMBAY.....	...	2										
TICONDEROGA.....	...	311	127	16	...	2	1	1	1			

(Signed)

THOMAS HUNT,
Health Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT.

(1ST MAY, 1852—30TH JUNE, 1853.)

The Annual Report of the Health Officer, from the 1st May, 1852, to the 30th June, 1853, as to the State of Health of all Vessels arriving in Hobson's Bay from beyond seas—i.e., from any Port not a Port in the Islands of New Holland, Tasmania, and New Zealand—such Vessels being distinguished, on their becoming visible from the Lighthouse at Gellibrand's Point, by a blue flag at the main, and subject to be boarded by him before any other communication with the shore was allowed.

Acting in accordance with the then existing regulations, and residing at Williamstown, and going alongside ships generally before they reached the Black Buoy, he boarded up to the 12th December, when his destination was changed to Ticonderoga Bay, Point Nepean, the newly-formed Sanatory Station, the following number of vessels, viz. :—

In May	1	Brought forward ...	62
June	7	In October	50
July	11	November... ..	41
August	21	And up to December 12th ...	22
September	22		
Carried forward ...	62	TOTAL	175

2.

ARRIVING FROM—

London	59	San Francisco ...	3	Table Bay	4
Plymouth	13	Sourabaya	2	Algoa Bay	1
Southampton ...	3	Manilla	1	Singapore	4
Bristol	4	Halifax	2	Cadiz	1
Cork	1	Liverpool	43	Shanghae	2
Jersey	1	Glasgow	8	Batavia	1
Calcutta	1	Leith	3	New York	6
Mauritius	7	Falmouth	1	Oporto	1
Madras	1	Greenock	1	Gottenburg	1

In fifty-seven of the London Passenger Ships the length of passage averaged 104 days, they brought 10,086 passengers, and reported sixty-three deaths during the voyage.

In thirty-four of the Liverpool Passenger Ships the passage averaged 100 days, they brought 10,164 passengers, and reported sixty-seven deaths.

In thirteen Government Emigrant Ships, viz. :—two from London, two from Plymouth, and nine from Liverpool, bringing 6,321 immigrants, the deaths amounted to 359; and in four of these vessels, fitted up with two decks and bringing 3,105 immigrants, to 212.

The *Wanata* was placed in quarantine off St. Kilda, and added five deaths to the original number; and the *Ticonderoga*, during the six weeks she rode quarantine in Ticonderoga Bay, lost eighty-two more.

The excessive mortality on board the double-deck ships is made apparent by contrasting it with what occurred in the *Merlin*, 418 passengers, and the *Birmingham*, 460 passengers, total 878, each reporting one death, and one of these, if not both, from drowning. The healthy state of the *Great Britain* Steam Ship is also conspicuous, reporting one death only among 631 passengers.

The names of the London Passenger Ships are—

SHIPS.	No. of Days Passage.	No. of Passengers.	No. of Deaths.	SHIPS.	No. of Days Passage.	No. of Passengers.	No. of Deaths.
Fortitude	98	134	1	Brought forward ...	...	4756	29
Mariner	113	259	7	Meteor	109	36	1
Cheapside	103	102		Ballaarat	86	162	
M. Stuart Elphinstone	109	168	1	Marlborough	81	290	2
Dalhousie	84	240	1	Vimeira	89	105	
Mermaid	112	73		Admiral	91	115	
Ayrshire	120	73	1	Abel Gower	114	81	
Hero	93			Severn	105	226	
Monarch	103	25		Invincible	122	15	
Melbourne	87	39		Saghalien	113	12	
Blackfriars	96	172	1	Enchanter	98	26	
John Taylor	90	215		Dinapore	95	255	1
Statesman	92	275		Chalmers	114	253	2
Ferozepore	88	114		Arundel	120	289	4
Holyrood	108	203		Blorange	101	54	
Formosa	99	45		Isabella	116	275	4
Coldstream	109	148	1	Prince Alfred	101	263	
Shanghae	105	4		Atravida	84	84	
New Orleans	105	205	1	Orestes	115	144	3
Scindian	119	307	3	Anglesea	96	130	
Panama	101	196	1	Onyx	111	4	
Himalaya	97	205	1	Eliza	109	330	1
Lady Eveline	109	247	4	Blackwall	107	135	1
Agneta	98	15		Oriental	132	124	2
City of Poonah	101	162		Gloriana	99	225	1
Nepaul	102	366	5	Tulloch Castle	125	220	2
Emily	89	171	1	Washington Irving... ..	95	289	8
Windsor	89	136		Prince Albert	131	161	2
Hebrides	128	250		Appoline	99	156	
Diadem	113	207					
Carried forward ...	...	4756	29	TOTAL ... ..	...	9,215	63

LIVERPOOL PASSENGER SHIPS.

SHIPS.	No. of Days Passage.	No. of Passengers.	No. of Deaths.	SHIPS.	No. of Days Passage.	No. of Passengers.	No. of Deaths.
Collector	100	52		Brought forward ...	...	5549	38
Falcon	96	317	2	Gambia	113	264	1
Fanny	120	220	6	Delta	84	193	
Australia	106	442	5	Ellen	96	372	2
Lady Head	85	355		Maria	121	336	2
Geelong	115	196	6	James Carson	111	382	1
Emigrant	100	319	5	John Bunyan	102	373	4
Merlin	96	418	1	Alciope	89	236	2
Jane Pratt	95	233	1	El Dorado	93	363	2
Tippoo Saib... ..	96	400	3	Progress	110	198	3
Hibernia	104	365	2	Thorwaldsen	103	364	1
Mirzapore	108	252	1	Rip Van Winkle	101	298	3
Birmingham	90	460	1	Great Britain S. S... ..	82	630	1
Julia	85	167		Archer	120	4	
Serampore	98	232		Delgany	114	266	4
Mobile	91	366	3	Earl of Derby	105	326	3
Cambridge	81	401	1	Ann Bridson	97	10	
O'Hellia	88	354	1				
Carried forward ...	...	5549	38	TOTAL ... ..	...	10,164	67

SHIPS BRINGING GOVERNMENT EMIGRANTS.

FROM LONDON.				LIVERPOOL— <i>continued.</i>			
SHIPS.	No. of Days Passage.	No. of Passengers.	No. of Deaths.	SHIPS.	No. of Days Passage.	No. of Passengers.	No. of Deaths.
Bombay	114	706	24	Brought forward ...	...	3,140	119
Appoline	99	186		Marco Polo	75	888	53
FROM PLYMOUTH.				Miltiades	100	310	9
Chowringhee ...	114	327	17	Chance	97	471	42
Lady Macdonald ...	97	281	12	Theodore	107	419	24
FROM LIVERPOOL.				Ticonderoga	91	715	96
Garland	95	351	19	Hope	93	378	16
Europa	90	493	8	TOTAL ... ..	...	6,321	359
Wanata	97	796	39				
Carried forward ...	...	3,140	119				

Placed in a tabular form, the proportion of deaths to the number of passengers, and the rate per cent. of such deaths, stands thus,—

	No. of Passengers.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per cent.
Great Britain Steam Ship	630	1	·142
Merlin and Birmingham... ..	878	2	·227
London Passenger Ships	9,215	63	·68
Liverpool "	10,164	67	·65
Both added together	19,379	130	·63
Among Government Immigrants ...	6,321	359	5·7
In the four Double-deckers	3,105	212	6·82
In the Ticonderoga on arrival* ...	811	96	11·83
In ditto on quitting quarantine ...	811	178	21·95

The ships placed in quarantine in Hobson's Bay, and ordered to the Quarantine Anchorage off the St. Kilda shore, were,—

1852, September 17th, the <i>Wanata</i>	1852, October 19th, H.M.S.S. <i>Vulcan</i> .
October 15th, the <i>Lady Eveline</i> .	„ 28th, the <i>Chance</i> .

The *Wanata*.—This ship reported on her arrival that eighteen cases of typhus fever had occurred on the voyage, twenty of pertussis, and a few of measles, and that typhus fever then existed. The sick were transhipped into the *Fanny*, a vessel of 950 tons, hired for the purpose of an hospital ship, where three adults died of fever. She received pratique on the 4th October.

The *Lady Eveline*.—This vessel reported on her arrival that twenty-three cases of variola had occurred during the voyage, two of whom had died, and that a bad confluent case existed then. Strict guard was maintained around her by H.M. Police Ship *Apollo* and a boat's crew, yet many of her crew and some of her passengers escaped in her boats. Nothing was done to relieve her until the 29th, fourteen days after her arrival, when 238 of her passengers were transhipped into the *Fanny*, she having previously landed her occupants from the *Wanata*; these received pratique on the 11th November, and were succeeded by the remaining sixty-four souls. She was afforded pratique on the 21st November.

H.M.S.S. *Vulcan*.—This vessel had on board, in all, 859 souls; her surgeon reported that fifteen deaths had occurred, none from serious contagious diseases, and that both passengers and crew were then in a remarkably healthy condition, with the exception of one sailor, in whom small pox had shown itself about ten days since. Under these circumstances the yellow flag was hoisted, and strict quarantine observed. On the 31st, twelve days after arrival, having received a letter from her Commander, informing him that a difference of opinion prevailed between the Medical Officer of the ship and the Surgeon of the 40th Regiment, then on board, as to the exact nature of the disease, and requesting him to visit the ship and decide, he repaired on board, and being convinced, after a careful examination of the patient, that the case was one of secondary syphilis, assuming the form of syphilitic pustular eruption, and not variola, he forthwith afforded her pratique.

The *Chance*.—This vessel was placed in quarantine from her arrival on the 28th October, to the 11th November, when, having boarded her, and ascertained by personal inspection that the cases reported typhus fever by her Surgeon were of a much more simple character, pratique was afforded her. The circumstance of H.M.S.S. *Vulcan*, with the sometime-expected large body of troops on board, in all probability likely to be detained for an indefinite period, for so serious a disease as the small pox, that, too, having only just made its appearance, and likely to spread, directed attention to some mode of relieving her and some better arrangement than existed for drafting the sick out of the numerous vessels expected. No ordinary vessel could have accommodated her passengers, or taken in their baggage. The *Wanata*, of 1,442 tons, was taken up for the purpose, but objected to by the commanding officer of the troops, as having been so recently in quarantine, and the scene of much contagious disease. The old quarantine ground on the

* The *Ticonderoga* having left Liverpool with 811 souls on board, reported upon her entering Port Phillip Heads, 96 deaths, giving a per centage of 11·83 deaths on the voyage. Before her quitting the Sanatory Station at Point Nepean, where she was detained six weeks, her deaths amounted to 178, giving a total per centage of 21·95 deaths.—T. H.

Red Bluff, near Brighton, was considered too contiguous to the densely crowded metropolis and surrounding district; Swan Island was reported upon as low, swampy, subject to inroads from the sea, and unfit for the purposes required.

Point Nepean was then fixed upon; and the attention of the proper authorities had hardly been directed to it, when the *Ticonderoga* immigrant ship entered the Heads, reporting 100 deaths from the worst form of typhus fever, and nearly every soul on board of her, including even her crew, sick. The Pilot in charge directed her to an anchorage on the Nepean side, about three-quarters of a mile from Observatory Point; this was on the 4th November, and immediately on the news reaching Williamstown, fresh meat, vegetables, medicines, medical comforts, &c., were forwarded by H.M.S. *Empire*; a Surgeon was also sent down, and in a few days a second. The *Lysander*, a ship of about 500 tons, having been hired for the purpose of a store and quarters for the officers of the 40th Regiment at the time it was supposed that the troops would have to perform quarantine at Point Nepean, and having completed taking in her water and stores before the error committed by the Surgeon of H.M.S.S. *Vulcan* had been remedied, was also ordered down to the station, and took up an anchorage near the *Ticonderoga*, had her between decks fitted up as an hospital capable of accommodating about fifty patients, and supplied with a Surgeon and every requisite. The immigrants were landed, and accommodated in tents raised with the sails and spars of the ship, and in two or three small huts occupied by some lime-burners, who were displaced and ultimately compensated for being so suddenly called upon to remove. Wells were dug, a contract entered into with Mr. John Barker, of Cape Sehanck, distant from the Sanatory Station about twenty-five miles, to supply beef at 5d. per lb.; and milk, eggs, and other delicacies were furnished by the neighbouring lime-burners. The *Ticonderoga's* fittings were taken down and thrown overboard, she was thoroughly washed with a solution of chloride of lime and then whitewashed. Shortly after landing the immigrants, a marked improvement manifested itself among them; and in about six weeks from the commencement of quarantine, she was allowed to re-embark them and received pratique. About eighty deaths took place in these six weeks, among them an officer of the ship and the steward. The great mortality seems to have been occasioned by the crowded state of her decks and want of proper ventilation, particularly through the lower deck; this caused debility and sickness among her passengers to such an extent that a sufficient number could not be found to keep them clean; dirt and filth of the most loathsome description accumulated, tainting the atmosphere and affecting every one who came within its influence, as with a poison.

The ships that have communicated with the Sanatory Station since its commencement and the arrival of the *Ticonderoga*, are—

1852—November 10th, the <i>Delgany</i>.	|	1853—April 6th, the <i>Confiance</i> .
December 9th, the <i>Bombay</i> .		May 16th, the <i>Calliope</i> .
1853—January 2nd, the <i>Allison</i>.	|	June 13th, the <i>Childe Harold</i> .
„ 19th, the <i>Priscilla</i> .		„ 25th, the <i>Genghis Khan</i> .

The *Delgany* anchored off the Station on the 10th, having one case of fever on board, this died, and she received pratique on the 16th.

The *Bombay*, of 1,279 tons, with 706 Government Emigrants, anchored off the Station, reporting twenty-four deaths from various causes, and two cases of fever existing; these were transhipped into the *Lysander*, one of them died; but the remainder of her very large number of immigrants being generally healthy, and the ship in a clean condition, she was afforded pratique on the 12th.

The *Allison* Government Emigrant Ship, having been sent back from Hobson's Bay for typhus fever, anchored off the Station and reported seven deaths from that disease; three more died from the same cause while she lay there. The immigrants were landed, accommodated in tents, and rationed with flour, oatmeal, &c., from the ship. She received pratique on the 7th of February.

The *Priscilla* Government Emigrant Ship, many of the immigrants being from the Isle of Skye, anchored off the Station and was detained until the 23rd February for a bad form of scarlatina then existing; thirty-one deaths from measles had occurred on the voyage, and six from scarlatina or its sequelæ took place while she was in quarantine.

The *Confiance* Government Emigration Ship landed 137 souls at the Station and then proceeded on her voyage to Geelong; twenty-three of whom were affected with whooping-cough, and fifteen with scurvy; they were declared healthy in about a month, but were not forwarded to their destination until the 31st May, no prior opportunity being afforded. The Health Officer has since received instructions from the principal Medical Officer not to draft cases of whooping-cough from any arriving ship.

The *Calliope* Government Emigrant Ship from Southampton sent twenty-six souls to the Station and then proceeded on her voyage; among them, four were affected with fever, one with scurvy, and six with debility consequent upon disease. Fifteen of these were forwarded to Hobson's Bay by H.M.S. *Empire*, on the 18th June.

The *Childe Harold* Government Emigrant Ship landed two families, the two women being affected with extreme debility.

The *Genghis Khan* Government Emigrant Ship landed two families, one member in each being affected with scarlatina. She reported twenty-eight deaths during her voyage, twenty-four of which had been from measles and its sequelæ.

The Sanatory Station is admirably adapted for the purposes required: its position isolated; its anchorage good and easy of access, both from outside the Heads, when a vessel takes a Pilot there, and from Shortland's Bluff; the soil sandy and at all times dry; the air pure;

water is procured, by sinking wells to the depth of twelve to fifteen feet, in abundance, and of sufficient purity, somewhat aluminous and impregnated with lime, although this differs in extent in different wells; a root resembling sarsaparilla, wild parsley, and a herb known here as penny royal, grow wild and cure scurvy in a short time; and by the kindness of Mr. John Barker, of Cape Schank, who has furnished a supply of plants, American cress is now added; there is a good supply of firewood for years; fresh meat—beef, was supplied by Mr. Barker at 5d. per lb., and is now by Jas. Ford (one mile and a half) at 4d. He and the neighbouring lime-burners can generally supply milk, butter, and eggs. Other provisions, such as flour, biscuit, sugar, tea, salt, &c., have hitherto been principally obtained from ships communicating with the Station or anchored at the Bluff; the due supply of these articles from Melbourne, through the Colonial Storekeeper, is subject to very great delay, inasmuch as at this moment (July 9th) flour, bread, sugar and salt, requisitioned for early in May, have not yet been received; many convenient opportunities of forwarding supplies from town by the lime craft occur, but the Immigration Agent has decided that they should not be employed, but the usual mode of transmission through the Harbour Master of Williamstown be adhered to. The Health Officer, who is the resident Superintendent on the Station, and acts as Medical Officer and Storekeeper also, with all the other occupants of the ground, are as yet accommodated in tents only; but permanent buildings are in course of erection, though much delayed for want of timber. The sick are accommodated and treated on board the *Lysander*, which is also made use of as a store ship.

The state of health of vessels arriving at the Heads is ascertained by the Pilot and the officer of Customs stationed at Shortland's Bluff, and if any contagious sickness is reported to them by the Surgeon or Commander, the ships are brought to the quarantine anchorage, and a blue or yellow flag hoisted at the main.

Mounted Police are urgently required, particularly when wrecks occur at Point Nepean; and should the eastern boundary (in length one mile and a quarter) be securely fenced, excellent pasturage would be afforded for the horses. Oaten hay can be grown in any quantity.

NUMBER OF SOULS RECEIVED AT THE SANATORY STATION SINCE ITS FORMATION, ON THE
4TH NOVEMBER, 1852.

	Souls.	Men.	Women.	Children.
Per Ticonderoga... ..	715			
Delgany... ..	1	1		
Bombay	2	2		
Allison	311			
Priscilla	265			
Confiance	137	30	30	77
Calliope	26	5	11	10
Childe Harold	7	2	2	3
Genghis Khan	8	3	4	1
TOTAL	1,472			

NUMBER OF DEATHS IN THE SAME PERIOD.

	Souls.	Men.	Women.	Children.
Ex Ticonderoga... ..	82			
Delgany	1	1		
Bombay	1	1		
Allison	6	1	4	1
Priscilla	11	2	5	4
Confiance	4	...	...	4
Calliope	1	...	...	1
Childe Harold				
Genghis Khan				
TOTAL	106			

(Signed) **THOMAS HUNT,**
Health Officer.

RETURN of the DISEASES which have been most prevalent at the SANATORY STATION during the SIX MONTHS ending JUNE 30th, 1853.

Brain and Nerves.	No.	1
Circulatory Organs.	No.	1
Respiratory Organs.	No.	38
Alimentary Canal.	No.	33
Urinary Organs.	No.	1
Hipatic System.	No.	1
Eyes.	No.	12
Skin.	No.	7
Cellular Texture.	No.	3
Disease of Children.	No.	4
Fevers.	No.	27
Rheumatism.	No.	4
Dropsy.	No.	5
Veneral.	No.	1
Scorbutic Diseases.	No.	17
Pregnancy and Parturition.	No.	5
Ulcers.	No.	3
Wounds and Accidents.	No.	1
General Debility.	No.	17
Cancer.	No.	
Uterine Organs.	No.	
Fractures and Dislocations.	No.	
Disease of Teeth.	No.	
Apoplexy.	No.	
Epilepsy.	No.	
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES TREATED.	No.	181

(Signed)

THOMAS HUNT,

Health Officer.