

1853—4.

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VICTORIA.

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## HEALTH OFFICER.

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REPORT FOR THE HALF-YEAR, ENDING ON THE  
31ST DECEMBER, 1853.

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*LAI*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, 25th January, 1854.

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ON the 16th August I received instructions, through the Colonial Surgeon, to relinquish my charge of the Sanitary Station, to take up my residence at Queenscliff, to board every Ship inward bound, and to pay occasional visits of Inspection to the Sanitary Station.

I found, upon attempting to carry out my duties, that it was quite impossible to board every inward bound Vessel, unless the Pilots were instructed to anchor them off Shortland's Bluff, an undue and undesirable detention possibly to such Vessels as arrive from any of the neighbouring Colonies, or even to such as arrive from long voyages without Passengers.

The instructions at present in force for the Pilots, are, to take all Ships to the Quarantine anchorage, on board of which there has been during the voyage, any serious amount of Sickness, or number of Deaths, or any Sickness exists.

All Government Immigrant Ships (and the necessity of performing Quarantine, or of communicating with the Sanitary Station, has been almost exclusively confined to them) are taken at once to the Quarantine anchorage, and brought up there, to afford time for a careful inspection of them.

The impracticability of fully carrying out my instructions has been represented, from time to time, to the Colonial Surgeon, but he has not yet communicated with me on the subject,

The number of Vessels boarded were, in July, 1; in August, 6; in September, 9; in October, 20; in November, 37; in December, 54; these were from long voyages, a few of them received a clean bill of Health, while rounded to off the Bluff; but the major part were lying at anchor off the Bluff, awaiting a Pilot.

## THE NUMBER OF VESSELS THAT HAVE PERFORMED QUARANTINE.

DATE.	SHIP.	TONS.	WHENCE.	DAYS OUT.	PASSENGERS.	DEATHS.
Sept. 17	<i>Australia</i> .	1029	Liverpool . .	109	369	8
" "	<i>Vixen</i> . . .	168	San Francisco	96	17	..
" 21	<i>Arabian</i> . .	450	Bristol . . .	121	49	9
" 30	<i>Charles</i> . .	1074	Liverpool . .	101	412	5
Oct. 4	<i>Statesman</i> .	784	Southampton	86	287	..
" 6	<i>Sabrina</i> . .	309	San Francisco	88	4	..
Decr. 10	<i>Emily Miner</i>	363	Ditto	82	..	..

The ship *Australia*, with 369 Government Immigrants, reported on her arrival, 8 deaths, 2 of which were from Typhus Fever, 11 cases of Fever then existing, and that 24 cases of the same disease had occurred during the voyage. All the Sick, with their Relations, were removed to the Hospital Ship *Lysander*, and to the Quarantine Station, and there placed under the charge of the Surgeon Superintendent of that Establishment. The remainder of the Passengers appearing to be healthy, they were allowed to proceed on their voyage, and she was afforded Pratique on the 19th. This subsequently proved to be a hasty step, as after passing the ordeal of examination by the Immigration Board, four of the single women who had been hired in Melbourne, sickened with Fever.

The ship *Arabian*, with 49 Passengers, reported 9 deaths on the voyage; 5 of them being from Scurvy, and that 5 very severe cases of that disease then existed on board; these were removed to the Sanitary Station.

The ship *Charles*, with 412 Government Immigrants, reported 5 deaths on the voyage, viz.: 2 from Dysentery, 2 from Hooping Cough, and 1 from Scurvy; that 8 cases of Hooping Cough, 5 of Scurvy, and about 100 of Diarrhæa and Dysentery had occurred during the voyage, and that 6 cases of Hooping Cough, 4 of Scurvy, and 1 of Rheumatism in a very debilitated state, then existed on board. Those suffering from Scurvy and Rheumatism were removed to the Sanitary Station.

The ship *Statesman*, with 287 Government Immigrants, reported no deaths, but that 2 cases of Fever had occurred during the voyage, and that 1 of Fever and one of Rheumatism then existed. These were removed to the Sanitary Station.

I have since received instructions, arising mainly out of the removal of this case of Rheumatism from the *Statesman*, not to detain at the Station, any person but those suffering from highly contagious diseases, such as Small Pox, Cholera, Fever, and Measles, and Scarletina in their most virulent forms.

The *Vixen*, the *Sabrina*, and the *Emily Miner*, from San Francisco, were anchored in the Quarantine anchorage, and detained there two days, in compliance with instructions received from The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, and a Proclamation published in the *Government Gazette* of the 12th August, to the effect that all Vessels arriving from California, the Sandwich Islands, and the New Hebrides, should be subjected to Quarantine for a period of not less than two days, the disease called Small Pox having been reported to exist in those places.

No sickness had occurred on board either of these Vessels, and each of them was provided with a clean Bill of Health from the port of San Francisco.

The Proclamation is still in force.

(Signed)

THOMAS HUNT,  
Health Officer.