

Tickets-of-Leave.—The following individuals connected with this district are advertised in the Government Gazette of April 1st, as having been deprived of their tickets for improper conduct:—William Barratt, drunkenness and suspicion of robbery, Stone bench; John Collins, absconding from his hired service, Muswellbrook bench; William Daley, absconding from his district, Maitland bench; Threadgold John, assaulting a constable, ditto; Charles Windmill, disorderly conduct, ditto.

Baker's Almanac.—We are glad to find that this little work still retains the popularity which its usefulness as a small pocketbook of reference, and also of memoranda, so fully entitle it. Besides the tables usually found in works of a similar description, it contains a great deal of local information, as well as a diary for every day in the year, properly ruled, with an adequate allowance of space for general remarks.

Sale of Books.—We perceive, from an advertisement, that Mr. Carruthers will sell by auction, on Wednesday next, an extensive collection of books. Among the works advertised are some of standard merit, including several which have long been received into the number of British classics. Money is never better expended than in the purchase of books, which afford to us companionship during hours that would otherwise be passed in solitary and unprofitable indolence. The literary portion of the population, at least, will no doubt be attracted to this sale.

Inquest.—On Saturday last, the coroner assembled a jury at the house of Mr. Reeves, publican, West Maitland, on view of the body of a man named Christopher Hill, who was drowned in a lagoon on the Hunter. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased, alarmed on hearing that his daughter had endangered her life by bathing, rushed into the lagoon in question with the intention (as is supposed) of saving her life, although the woman had been rescued previous to his arrival. The lagoon contained very deep water, and before any effectual assistance could be rendered to the unfortunate man it was found that life had become extinct. The jury returned a verdict of death from drowning, the deceased being at the time in a state of intoxication.

Stock.—We are glad to perceive some improvement in the prices of stock. At the sale of Captain Biddulph's property, on the 5th instant, by Mr. Dodds, a mixed herd of cattle of about three hundred realised £3 3s. per head; the mares (with foals by their sides) and horses, from £35 to £50. The attendance was much better than we have seen for some time past, and the competition amongst bidders spirited.

Crown Lands.—It is reported that the minimum price fixed upon crown lands at Moreton Bay is £1 per acre. An official announcement is every day expected on the subject.

Escape of a Prisoner.—On Wednesday last, two prisoners who had been committed by the Patrick's Plains Bench, on a charge of forging orders and cheques, were conveyed down to Maitland in a cart, in charge of a ticket-of-leave holder, who had been pressed for the purpose. Having arrived in Maitland with his charge, the temporary constable availed himself of the first public-house he reached within the town to refresh himself. While he was engaged in this congenial vocation, one of the prisoners, who were left entirely unguarded, took the opportunity to decamp. The consternation of the half-fuddled ticket-of-leave man may be conceived when having discussed his tippie he sallied forth and found that one of his birds had flown, and that none of the bystanders either could or would inform him of the direction of his escape, or his probable whereabouts. A search was immediately instituted for the missing culprit, but hitherto without success.

The Long Bridge.—The immediate neighbourhood of Maitland affords an example of a work of which any country might well be proud. We allude to the long bridge by which the road to the interior is carried over the broad belt of swampy ground, which would otherwise render it impassable during wet weather. This beautiful and serviceable erection is little noticed by the casual passenger, and it is only when viewed from beneath that its regular and solid construction can be properly estimated. It is beyond comparison the finest work of the kind, of which the Colony can boast, and with its long vistas of masonry columns, presents a perfect example of the utmost uniformity of design combined with the greatest regularity and stability of execution.

Better Times.—Indications of an improved state of things are now so clearly perceptible, that we can with confidence congratulate the residents of the district that the worst is passed away, and that the commencement of better times has at last taken place. Many circumstances which it is impossible to mistake, warrant us in circulating this statement; such for instance as the improved prices realized by stock sold at public auction, and the greater activity in building. At the various sales of stock lately held, improved and even remunerating prices have been

obtained, and that in certain cases where the terms of sale specified cash. This is a decided improvement on former times, when it was found almost impossible to effect sales on any terms. Another proof is also afforded by the increased traffic with the interior, the Times Coach which runs between Maitland and Darlington being generally full of passengers.

Prince of Wales Town.—Mr. Stubbs, of Sydney, has advertised for sale on Monday the 11th instant, a splendid tract of land on the Hunter, near Patrick's Plains, belonging to the Messrs. M'Dougall. This property has been laid out into a township, and named Prince of Wales Town. The situation is most convenient as a resting place for drays or stock travelling up or down the country.

Footpaths.—The practice of riding on the footpaths is exceedingly prevalent in the town, and is accompanied with much inconvenience to pedestrians as well as danger to the numerous children that are constantly sprawling about before almost every door. As in the present improved state of things there can be no necessity for this practice, the police ought to interfere to prevent it.

Constabulary.—A constable named Connor, lately employed in the Maitland police, was sentenced by the bench a few days ago to undergo a punishment of six months in irons, for embezzling the rations allowed by the government for the immigrants stationed at Maitland, the distribution of which was committed to his charge.

Mails.—The delivery of the Sydney mails brought by the steamers would be very much accelerated by landing them at the half-way house and transmitting them thence to Maitland overland. By an arrangement of this kind they would reach their destination at least two hours sooner than they now do by being landed at Morpeth. This was formerly the case, and, considering its advantages to the public, we hope it may be again reverted to.

Court of Requests.—The quarterly sitting of this court terminated on Thursday last. The number of causes disposed of amounted to 515, which exceeds by five the number on the rolls for the previous sittings.

Jeu d'Esprit.—A gentleman has sent us the following lines, which we publish, as evincing considerable wit, however our legal friends may be disposed to question their truth:—

As two lawyers were walking, one suddenly cries,
"This pain in my bowels brings tears to my eyes."
The other replied, "My dear brother in law,
You're the first lawyer with bowels that ever I saw."

CORRESPONDENCE.

WOOL SALES.

To the Editor of The Gazette.

Sir—In the Sydney Herald of the 22nd March we are treated with an account sales of wool, and a few lines as leader from the editors, wherein they call attention to the high prices brought by some of the wools, especially for those marked DR, PM1, and some others. This calling attention to certain marks in an account sales is, no doubt, very praiseworthy, but it is to be regretted that they are not more careful in pointing out the best marks. I (like honest Iago) am no arithmetician, and very possibly may have still left out the best mark, or blundered in my calculation, which is as follows:—

DR, 57 bales, average ... 23½d. per lb.
E in triangle, 16 bales, nearly 23
PB, 69 bales ... 22½
PM1, 18 bales ... 21½

Should my statement be correct, you will observe that there are two marks that have averaged more than the PM1, and I think ought to have been specified as such.

By inserting the above, or making any remark thereon which you may deem necessary, you will oblige

A SUBSCRIBER.

Merton, 31st March.

WEST MAITLAND CHURCH.

To the Editor of The Gazette.

Sir—Observing in your Gazette of this day an advertisement of the resolutions of a public meeting of subscribers to the West Maitland Church, amongst which it is resolved "that the meeting are persuaded that the money received from Government by H. I. Pilcher, Esq., was appropriated to the purpose for which it had been originally destined," I consider it a duty I owe to the public, as well as myself, not to pass over a resolution so insidiously worded. It would appear, from the tenor of this resolution, as if some doubt had existed in the mind of the public of the funds there mentioned being duly applied by me.

The facts are these:—Having undertaken to build the parsonage, I expended £860 15s. 2d. in its erection. When the work was finished, my accounts and vouchers were submitted to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, and by him to the proper officer, and approved; and then—and not till then—I received the sum of £294 from the Treasury. All the private subscriptions, independent of my own, amounted to £97: thus leaving me minus

on the expenditure £469 15s. 2d. These facts may be ascertained at any time by inspecting my accounts and receipts.

I do not believe that any person ever could entertain for a moment a doubt of the funds received by me being expended on the parsonage; therefore, such a resolution being proposed is an absurdity, unless got up for the express purpose of raising a doubt. If the meeting had come to the resolution of re-imbursing me, even a part of my extra expenditure, there would have been something intelligible in its motives; but, knowing (as most of the gentlemen present must have done) that my excess of expenditure beyond my receipts amounted to nearly £500, there appears such a grotesque superciliousness in passing this resolution that I hardly feel justified in treating it with gravity.

It is only to prevent the effect perhaps intended by the inditers of this resolution—for I believe the mover and seconder were not aware of the implied insinuation contained in it—that I wish these observations and facts laid before the public.

I remain, Sir, yours &c.

H. I. PILCHER.

Maitland, April 2, 1842.

To the Editor of The Gazette.

Sir—On Saturday afternoon, on passing by the Steam Mills, my attention was aroused by the cry of "a child in the water." On hastening to the spot, I found upon enquiry, that the child of a labouring man, amusing itself in gathering pumpkin flowers behind the mill, had accidentally fallen into the tank, a reservoir of eight feet deep, and which often contains water up to 120° Fahr. Provisionally however at this time its intensity was not injurious. Mr. Lee, surgeon, being in attendance, prompt assistance was rendered and the child was happily restored to its anxious parents.

I would hope, Sir, that the proprietors of the mill, for humanity sake, will secure so dangerous a place from accident in future.

I am, Sir, your respectfully,

AN OBSERVER.

West Maitland, March 28, 1842.

RURAL INTELLIGENCE.

VINE CULTURE.

CONTINUED.

Having already treated of the method of cultivating the grape for the purpose of producing a large quantity of wine, and of the necessary mode of cultivation for that purpose, I will now proceed to describe the mode of manufacturing raisins from the grapes thus grown. When the grapes are arrived at maturity, which may be ascertained by the foot stalks attaining a vigorous consistency and turning brown, our first care should be to select a fine, clear, and not too hot a day for collecting the bunches, for their preservation will depend on their being free from moisture, and not liable to an internal fermentation, which frequently supervenes in hot weather. The bunches before collection should have all decayed or spotted berries detached by means of scissors, the foot stalk should be separated from the bunch by the same means, and the bunch itself laid lightly on an oster or other hurdle covered with moss, which has previously been well dried—do not let the bunches touch each other on the hurdle—when the hurdle is covered with fruit, let it be carried by two men with great care, to prevent bruising, into a house or shed—let all the hurdles be laid out separately on a floor or table. If the following day is clear and serene, the hurdles should be carried with the same care into the open air, and exposed to the full force of the sun; the bunches should be gently turned on the moss every three or four hours, exposing successively each portion of the bunch to the action of the sun, and after continuing this process of returning the hurdles to the house every night and re-producing them every morning, for a few days, the grapes will become raisins, and then they should be carried to the fruit room.

The fruit room should be very airy and dry, or rather it should be capable of admitting the air when dry, and excluding it when moist; after the raisins are made they require much attention in this respect, unless the air is free from moisture, it would be better to isolate the dried fruit as much as possible from its contact. After the raisins are thus perfectly freed from all superfluous moisture, they may at once be packed in boxes.

This process appears very plain and simple, but the grapes whilst undergoing desiccation require great care and attention, as well in taking precautions against their being bruised as in detaching any berries that undergo decomposition, and also in preventing the ravages of vermin and insects. A good and cheap method of avoiding injuries from ants in the day, when exposed to the sun, is to rest each hurdle on four inverted bottles, one to form a leg at each corner of the hurdle—the ravages of birds can only be prevented by keeping constant watch against their depredations. I have treated of this subject with brevity since the process in itself is so very simple, but constant and unremitting care and attention is necessary to produce good dried fruit, and constant practice will alone make people perfect in this apparently simple manipulation.

Having described the method of obtaining dried fruit, I will now give a few directions for preserving grapes for the table during the winter:—

The easiest is that of attaching branches by the small end to a piece of twine, so that the berries become isolated in this reversed position of the bunch, and suspending them in a dry place—many bunches may be fastened on the same string, only they should not be allowed to touch each other, they should be looked over once or twice a week, and any decayed berries cut out, by this method grapes have been preserved seven or eight months.

The next is more troublesome but more certain. After collecting the bunches with care, suspend them in an empty cask which has contained wine, when you have filled the cask so that the bunches are suspended without touching, inclose this cask in a larger one, and fill the intervening space between the two casks with wine. Grapes by this method may be kept for years.

Sometimes grapes are preserved between layers of fine straw, which has been previously well dried, but in this state they suffer much from mice.

If a small quantity of grapes only is required to be preserved, they may be placed on a board and covered with glass or earthenware, and these vessels covered with fine sand, this method is an excellent one for a family, where they are desirous of having fresh grapes in the middle of winter.

Another, and beautiful method of preserving grapes for the desert, is, to furnish yourself with a box about eight inches square, leave a hole in the bottom through which a strong stem of a vine should be passed, fill the box with earth and support it clear from the ground, this should be done

at pruning in the spring, this shoot will produce fruit—the earth in the box should be frequently watered. Sometime before the grapes begin to turn this shoot must be separated from the mother plant, and all the superfluous growth of the summer beyond the fruit be cut away; and the box with its fruit-bearing plant be placed in a sheltered situation unexposed to the sun, the box should occasionally be watered—in mid winter this box with its fruit in full vigour, may be placed on the table ornamented with moss. This method also provides strong and vigorous plants to fill the vacancies in a vineyard, and has the advantage of producing a fruit bearing plant the first year. After the fruit has been used, the plant may at once be taken from the box and placed in the vineyard where required.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS.

The last intelligence from this district confirms the report of a considerable fall of rain having taken place, and that more was expected. The soil had become so completely parched during the long drought, that nothing short of a thorough soaking was calculated to do any good, but once the earth becomes properly moistened, vegetation so long checked by the drought, will no doubt proceed with extraordinary vigour. Our friends from this part of the territory write in high spirits, and we hope they may experience a succession of favourable seasons to make amends in some degree for the losses sustained during the long period of drought now happily broken up.

NEWCASTLE.

From our Reporter.

Execution.—The unhappy culprit Thomas Homer, was executed this morning at nine o'clock, in presence of a large concourse of people who had assembled for the purpose of witnessing the melancholy scene. He died we believe, truly penitent, and was much agitated while praying at the gallows. The following confession was made by him to the Chaplain of the Gaol, the Rev. Charles Playell N. Wilton, in the condemned cell the night before his execution, and previous to his receiving the sacrament of the Lord's supper:—

"I have lost some of my master's sheep, Mr. Stone, his overseer, told me that the loss was occasioned by my using the gun (which I had been accustomed to take charge of) in going out to shoot birds. Mr. Stone told me to give him up the gun, and on my refusing to do so he made an attempt to take it from me, when I immediately pulled the trigger of the gun and shot him—after which I ran away and threw the gun into a water hole." The culprit denied his guilt until the day previous to his execution. On the scaffold he thanked Mr. Field, the governor of the Gaol, for his great kindness to him during the time of his imprisonment; as also the Chaplain, for his spiritual assistance, and requested the latter to state to the people who were witnessing his execution, that he was guilty of the crime of murder, and to warn them against sabbath breaking and bad company, which he said were the sins that had brought him to this untimely end. We were rather surprised to find that the gallows had not been erected in the old spot which commanded such a prominent position—whereas the place selected for the execution was in a hollow, and could only be witnessed by those assembled on the spot; however, we would strongly recommend in the case of an execution in future, that the gallows be erected nearer the goal, in order to save the wretched culprit the agony of feelings consequent upon walking to so great a distance to the place of punishment.

POLICE.

Before Majors Crumner, P. M. and B. Sullivan, J. P.

Captain Livesay, of the barque Matilda, appeared on information, for a breach of the Harbour Master's Act, in allowing some ballast to fall overboard while discharging a quantity of the same from his vessel. The Bench discharged the case in consequence of its having been fully proved by the Harbour Master and the Captain, that every precaution had been taken to prevent any of the ballast from falling into the water. We hope the Chief Constable will continue his vigilance to detect any cases of encroachment upon the port regulations, as the channel must not be filled up by the negligence of careless captains.

William Collins, and Mary his wife, both free immigrants, were charged by Mr. John Smith with stealing three pounds of butter. In consequence of their ignorance of the ways of the Colony, they were dismissed upon promise of appearance when called upon.

William Maloney, free by servitude, was charged by Mr. Richard Bligh, with having in his possession a pair of spurs which had been stolen from his house, at Maryland six weeks ago. Committed to take his trial at the Quarter Sessions.

Charles Benger holding a conditional pardon, was committed to take his trial for breaking into Mr. Bligh's store, and stealing therefrom a bed, three blankets and a musket.

We regret to observe, that the neighbourhood of the swamps near Newcastle is rife with petty larcenies, which it is to be hoped will now be completely put down.

State of Her Majesty's Gaol, April 6.—For trial, 48 males, and 2 females; other stations, 4 males; iron gang, 1; hard labour, 10 males and 9 females; cells, 5 males; debtors, 2 males; fines, 10 males and 3 females; bill, 1 male; assignment, 28 females. Total, 81 males and 42 females.

MANNING RIVER.

The Steamer Sovereign has lately visited this River, the largest vessel and the first of her class that has ever done so. The Captain of the Sovereign entered without a Pilot, although the passage is very intricate. The Steamer grounded on one of the numerous flats that occur at the mouth of the river, but was got off after a few hours delay, and came up as far as Tarree Wharf. She then took on board a cargo of ninety-four bales of wool, and a quantity of wheat. This river affords great facilities for steam navigation, and as the country on its banks and the numerous islands with which it is dotted, are composed of an exceeding rich and fertile soil, large quantities of agricultural produce could be raised on it. The forests on the banks of the river also abound with rosewood, cedar and hardwood, of a very fine description. This country is well adapted for being let out in farms to industrious emigrants of small capital, and the landholders should turn their attention to this. If they would exert themselves, this place would very soon support a regular steam communication with Sydney.

The numerous settlers on the river ought to endeavour to procure the Sovereign, or some other steamer to proceed on an excursion up the stream, in order to examine its tributaries, which are as yet very little known. Such a trip would be exceeding convenient to those who are desirous of purchasing lands in this fine district. The Manning and its tributaries are remarkable for the number of rich islands which they contain. Much of the adjacent country also consists of fertile plains of vast extent, and altogether, it is much to be desired that the public received a correct description of this beautiful, but hitherto little known territory. The wool taken by the Sovereign was brought from New England, and other sheep stations around the district, by small sailing crafts employed on the rivers.

JERRY'S PLAINS.

RACES.

On Tuesday, a great concourse of people assembled to witness these races, and considering that this is only the second year during which these sports have been established here, the attendance was far more numerous than could have been anticipated.

The races were well contested, the people orderly and quiet, not a disturbance of any kind having taken place, nor even a drunken person having been seen on the course. The manner in which the arrangements were effected, reflected the highest credit on those who had the control of them.

FIRST DAY.

First race—Five horses started. Prince Albert took the lead, and maintained it for the first mile and part of the second, but afterwards bolted, leaving the race to be decided by the others, who came in as follows:—

Mr. Holdstead, b. f. Cinderella, by Scratch, J. Ross	1 1
Mr. Waterford, b. h. Young Whisker, by Scratch, Shaw	2 2
Mr. E. Alcorn, b. g. Granby, by Emigrant, W. Smith	3 3
Mr. Hams, b. h. Prince Albert, by Scratch, J. Evans	bo'ted.
Mr. Rochford, b. h. Planet, by Dover, Freeman	dist.

The second heat was a close contested race by the three first, and nothing to spare, all the way round, but it was however won by the filly.

Second Race—The Ladies Purse. This was a capital race, but the Princess Royal carrying nine stone two pounds, of course had no chance; she managed however to save her distance, and on her rider being changed it entirely altered the state of matters, and caused the knowing ones to look queer, as well they might—betting five to three and three to one on the grey, but it was all up with her. The horses came in as follows:—

Mr. C. E. Doyle, g. f. Victoria, by Tos, Palmer	1 2 3
Mr. Duff, b. f. Miss Providence, by Providence, J. Evans	2 3 2
Mr. Hughes, c. f. Princess Royal, by Scratch, R. Alcorn	3 1 1

For the Sweepstakes, only two horses started.

Mr. Brown, Young St. John, by St. John, J. Evans	1 1
Mr. Cook, Pickpocket, by Whisker, J. Evans	2 2

Won easily by St. John.

SECOND DAY.

This was decidedly the best racing day. The greatest exertions were used both by owners and riders to obtain the superiority for their respective horses.

Previous to starting, ten to one was offered that St. John would be distanced, but those who offered it were very much disappointed, since he proved himself bottom and very nearly distanced the filly, (Cinderella.)

The first heat they went to work in good earnest, but the filly had nothing to boast of. Young Whisker being close on her flank, and Young St. John close on his.

In the second heat, the mare had a poor chance, she looked as if she had had a belly full, and did not seem much inclined for more, her rider however managed to bring her in third.

Third heat, the filly all at fault, not the least prospect of winning, and although the utmost exertion was used, there evidently was no chance of success, for, after she had passed the distance post she could hardly manage to gallop at all, and in fact, if she had had another quarter of a mile to go would have been quite distanced; the result was as follows:—

Mr. Holdstead, b. f. Cinderella, by Scratch, J. Ross	1 3 3
Mr. Waterford, b. h. Young Whisker, by Scratch, Shaw	2 1 1
Mr. Brown, St. John by St. John, J. Evans	3 2 2

A capital race between the second and last, all round the course.

For the Beaten Purse.

Granby cantered over the ground; and Pickpocket won the hack race.

During the course of the day, a match was made for £5 a side, between Mr. Ham's Prince Albert, J. Evans, and Mr. Holdstead's Doncaster, Noble

One mile—won easily by the Prince. This concluded the sports of the season.

In the evening the Stewards and a party of gentlemen sat down to a sumptuous dinner, prepared by mine host of the Victoria, which was kept up to a late hour, and gave general satisfaction. Throughout the evening the utmost harmony prevailed, and the party separated highly pleased at the result of the meeting, and with the manner in which the entertainment provided for them had been got up.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

HELEN.

Hark! hark to the herald's loud cry,
And the old minstrel's cheerful song,
Which tells that Helen fair must be
A haughty baron's bride ere long.
See the bold sutor flushed with pride,
Draw near unto the lady fair!
Her faded eye and bloodless cheek
Shewed that no kindred joy was there.
Again the herald's trumpet sounds—
No answer echoes to its call—
And Helen must the baron wed,
Unless before a knight he fall.
Ah! where is he, her chosen one,
To whom she gave her maiden heart?
Alas! loud waters roar between,
And far, far foaming oceans part.
For he, amid the Sarcen,
Upholds the honour of the Cross;
And, till his heart's resolve is gained,
Despises every earthly loss.
But joy! fast-far'ring breezes bear
His gallant bark to Albion's shore;
The Christian cause has triumphed,
And he will quit his home no more.
But lo! a distant sound is heard,
And nearer, clearer, still it grows!
Her hero rides in to the lists,
And loud his silver bugle blows.
Again the herald's trumpet sounds—
And onward rush the eager steeds—
When soon, beneath the assailant's feet,
A lifeless corse the baron bleeds.
Fair Helen tends her hero's wounds,
And pours her thanks to God above,
Who spared her own, her chosen one,
To glad her fond heart with his love.

THULE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TREATISE ON THE SCARLATINA OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

INTRODUCTION.

THE following observations on the Scarlatina of New South Wales are written to draw the attention of the public generally, and the medical profession particularly, to the epidemic which for many months raged in this colony.

When we consider that hundreds are now in their narrow homes, who, but for this disease, would be still living in all the innocence of childhood or the pride of strength and beauty—that the land is now crying aloud for labour to bring its fruits to perfection—that every ship-load of emigrants, to replace those that are cut off, withdraws so much solid money out of the colony—and that this epidemic will at some future period, probably, return, and become a standard disease of the colony, we may estimate the importance of making some effort to embody the grand features and character of the disease, with a view to establish its treatment on the surest and most correct principles, and to enable succeeding practitioners to profit by the experience of those who have had but too many opportunities of investigating it.

In the following epitome particular care has been taken to divest it of all professional cant, and to make it acceptable to persons of every rank and profession, so that any one who is buried far in the bush, away from medical assistance, may be able to contribute something towards saving the life of a fellow creature, and thus adding to the prosperity of the colony.

It will naturally be expected that something will be said on the causes of this disease; but at present the causes must be merely a matter of opinion, and would lead to discussions incompatible with this medium of publication. Let it suffice to observe, that the disease is so intimately connected with morbid collections in the vicinity of the liver and upper portion of the bowels, that we are unavoidably led to inquire—Is there anything peculiar in the diet of this colony which may lead to a morbid obstruction of the bowels? Certainly there is—viz., the paucity of vegetables and fruits. Hence, strong meat enters into the diet in a greater proportion than in any other country of the same degree of heat; for in most hot countries fruits and vegetables of all kinds are abundant, and are considered to the well-being of the human frame.

As the disease under consideration has been remarkably fatal to children, the history, treatment, &c., will be given as expressly applicable to them; for adults the treatment is the same, varied only in vigour and energy according to the age and strength of the patient or the intensity of the disease.

CHAPTER I.

Contents.—Scarlatina of Europe different from that in New South Wales—Divided into three stages—Symptoms—State of bowels—Indications of treatment—Future course of disease influenced by treatment in first stage.

The Scarlatina which was for some time prevalent in this colony differs so materially in its various characteristics from the disease which is known under that name in Europe, that it requires some stretch of the imagination to conceive it to be the same disease, and it is consequently inconsistent to know it by the same name; but the name has now been sealed by too many deaths to think of changing it at this period, and the time employed in finding a more appropriate term will be put to better advantage in making ourselves thoroughly conversant with the various forms in which this complaint has visited all ranks and ages, and scattered desolation and mourning over every other family in the country.

For the sake of perspicuity we shall divide the disease into three stages: the first stage is the formative or precursory stage, when the patient may be said to be sickening for the disease; the second stage is, from the period that the skin begins to exhibit change of colour until the height of the fever which accompanies that change is past, and the skin returns (partially or totally) to its natural state; the third, is that which supervenes on the eruptive stage.

Of these stages, each differs in length of time and violence of the symptoms, according to the virulence of the attack, and the greater or less susceptibility of the constitution to morbid impressions when the patient is taken ill; thus, imminent danger hangs over an adult who is seized after a debauch. The duration of the first stage may be said to be from one to two days, during which time the patient shews by various symptoms that his whole system is deranged; the stomach is irritable, and rejects for hours the lightest food; the eyes are dull; the eyelids droop; the cheeks are flushed, or unusually pale; the relish for food departs; the head is hot, and the feet cold, and the countenance of the child often presents an unusually haggard appearance; the pulse is quick, regular, and more or less strong according to the robustness and age of the child; on inquiring with regard to the bowels, they are sometimes confined, but more frequently the mother says the child has been purged, but on looking at the motions (which in these cases is particularly necessary) it appears that although the child may have had frequent calls to stool, the motions are deficient in both quantity and quality, the child very frequently having at different times passed some fluid matter mixed with lumps of mucus. Here, then, is a wide field for erroneous treatment: for astringent medicines, if administered, will only aggravate the disease, and render its future course more unmanageable. The great point in this stage is, to unload the bowels and liver, so as to prevent internal congestion of every kind at a future period, when the child may be hanging between life and death. To this end, calomel, or hydrarg. cum creta, with pulv. rhei, should be administered, or castor oil, or whatever purgative may be judged expedient, proportioned and repeated according to the condition, &c., of the patient. If an infant at the breast, it is an excellent plan to give the mother ten to fifteen grains of rhubarb, which will act effectually on the infant through the milk. But in every case, whatever other purgative is employed, it is essential that some preparation of mercury be internally administered: for the acrid, irritating materials which in this disease are found in the bowels, lie so high up in the intestines, in the vicinity of the liver and duodenum, that nothing is of much avail in severe cases without calomel, or something analogous in its effects. It cannot be too deeply impressed on the mind of the medical attendant, that the future course of this disease will be materially affected by the treatment adopted in this its first stage. If every effort is used to unload the alimentary canal, from the duodenum downwards, till by the appearance of the motions it is evident that noxious concretions are being evacuated, there will be no fear of being able to cope with the future stages of the disease; but if, on the contrary, the surgeon has been called in too late, or if the bowels shew an unwillingness to respond to the usual purgatives, considerable fears may even now be entertained for the patient, because the cutaneous eruption is about to fall on him when his bowels are loaded with effete matter, and unable to sustain that general irritation which always (and in this complaint more particularly) accompanies any extensive eruption on the skin. Calomel, hydrarg. cum creta, pulv. rhei, or jalapæ, and castor oil, variously combined, and repeated at intervals, according to the age of the patient and state of the bowels, are the most suitable purgatives; salts are of little use, because the object at this time is to clear out the bowels, and not to reduce their circulating fluids. The child should be put into a hot bath at bed-time, to cleanse the skin, and prepare it for a mild reception of the eruption.

To be continued.

POLICE.

WEST MAITLAND.

Monday, 28th March.—Before E. D. Day, Esq., Police Magistrate.

Mary Crumfield was brought up on a charge of having stolen property on her premises. It appeared, from the evidence of the witnesses examined in this case, that Mr. Nicholson, of the steam mills, having been informed that the prisoner had been seen to enter the hut of one of his men at a very late hour of the previous night, procured a constable, and on obtaining admission into the house in question, found her in the act of dressing herself. Mr. Nicholson had previously missed quantities of flour, and bags, and on searching the house with a constable they found about a half-hundredweight of second quality flour on a table, which he had every reason to believe was his property. They also found the bag produced, which Mr. Hughes identified as having, at one time at least, been his property, if it were not so now, and that he had

always bags belonging to him at Mr. Nicholson's mill, similarly marked. The prisoner endeavoured to account for the bag being in her possession by saying that she obtained it from a person named Reid, with whom she had formerly lived, and who left her, when he lost his ticket, five bags of flour. The prisoner was committed to take her trial at next Quarter Sessions.

EAST MAITLAND.

Tuesday, 29th March.—Donald MacLennan, an immigrant Highlander, was charged on the information of the chief constable with being drunk in the streets. The swarthy Gael admitted that he was decidedly very drunk—more so than ever he remembered to have been before. Fined in the usual penalty and discharged.

Isabella Campbell, a matronly looking dame, who has frequently done penance in purse and person for the unfeminine vice of drunkenness, was again placed at the bar, charged with indulging in strong potations to an extent that strongly affected her powers of locomotion, and was decidedly an insult to the crown and dignity of her Majesty. The present was the third occasion on which the defendant had appeared at the bar since her release from gaol a short time ago. Her present position she attributed to an over-dose of gin and cloves, which she had incautiously and innocently consented to swallow, ignorant as she was of the powerful and peculiar effects of that celebrated mixture. The defendant made the most solemn protestations that she never would again be seen before his worship—that the present was indeed her last appearance on that or any other stage. She was fined ten shillings—and it will remain for time to shew in how far her purposes of amendment are sincere.

William O'Brien, a prisoner of the crown, assigned to Mr. Christian, was charged with disobedience of orders and gross neglect during the illness of his master. The case was a very aggravated one, and the culprit was sentenced to receive a punishment of a hundred lashes.

A prisoner of the Crown named Rogers, lately employed in the survey department, was placed at the bar under a charge of illegally disposing of a quantity of maize, with which he had been entrusted in his capacity of bullock driver. In his depositions it appeared that Rogers was accompanied by a female who enacted the part of vendor on the occasion. Several parties proved having purchased maize taken from the dray of which the prisoner had charge. He was sentenced to be worked for the period of twelve months in irons.

Patrick Welsh, bond, assigned to Mr. Turner, charged with disobedience of orders, was sentenced to receive a punishment of 50 lashes.

Cyrus Noyes, appeared on summons issued on the affidavit of his lawful wife Helen Noyes, whom with her infant child he had deserted, to shew cause why he should not be compelled to afford them support according to the act. Noyes attempted to prove that the lady had left him of her own accord, and without any just cause, but the attempt was not very successful. The bench made an order that the defendant should pay seven shillings per week towards the maintenance of the complainant, but recommended an amicable adjustment of the quarrel between the parties. Noyes accordingly offered to receive his spouse again into his favour and affection, an overture which as we understood was acceded to on her part.

James Hogan, free by servitude, and James McNal, free by servitude, boatmen, on the river Hunter, were placed at the bar, charged by James Edwards, a clerk in the employment of Mr. Manning, at Morpeth, with stealing a quantity of coal tar from the yard of the Steam Company's Stores, early on the morning of Tuesday last. The circumstances were these:—At an early hour in the morning in question Mr. Edwards was awakened by a noise, and on getting up and proceeding to the front part of the store he observed two men creeping under the window. He afterwards proceeded to the back part of the stores and perceived two men pouring tar out of a cask, but before he had time to unfasten the door they had gone. He afterwards went round by Swales's, and on returning observed a black hat peeping above Mr. Anlaby's wharf, he accordingly made towards it and observed two men pushing off in a boat. Having no other means of annoying them he threw a stone which fell into the boat, and from the crash which followed, appeared to the witness to have broken some crockery. Mr. Edwards then procured a constable with whom he went down the river to the Paterson, where they found the same boat which he had seen at the wharf moored to the bush, and the two prisoners lying in it asleep, or pretending to be so. The bottom of the boat was covered with coal tar, which they also observed floating on the water during their progress down the river. In the boat there was also found a saucepan which had been recently broken, apparently from the blow of a stone, the grit from which still adhered to it. The latter part of Mr. Edwards' evidence was corroborated by Kelly the constable, who accompanied him. Rogan

in his defence said that he had purchased tar for the repair of his boat from a trader on the Paterson, and McNab stated that he was profoundly ignorant of the transaction. The prisoners were committed for trial.

James Fitzgerald assigned to Mr. Portus, of the Steam Mills, Morpeth, charged with disobedience of orders and general neglectful conduct. The behaviour of the prisoner it appeared had been particularly flagrant and ungrateful. Mr. Portus had taken the trouble to learn him a useful trade, that of an engineer, and the man had repaid the attention thus bestowed upon him, with the grossest inattention to the interests of his master. Sentenced to receive fifty lashes.

IMPOUNDING NOTICES.

At Jerry's Plains, from J. Hales, Esq., on the 26th March.—One strawberry or grizzled bullock, branded WSH on off rump, 4 over W of shoulder; one red bullock, down horns, branded S over 244 within a diamond on off rump; one red steer, branded PG over PG on near hip. If not released previously, they will be sold on Tuesday the 19th April, agreeably to Act of Council. 1 s.

At Singleton, Patrick's Plains, on the 26th March.—One dark brown cow, off horn drooping down, branded like X on off rump, 3 B conjoined on near rump, a red bull calf by her side, damages 5s.; one red cow, branded 35 on off rump, like Co 6 off side neck, KING near ribs, a red bull calf by her side, branded KING, damages 5s.; one red poley cow, white belly, branded WL-L on near and off ribs, 4 off rump, damages 2s. 6d.; one strawberry cow, branded SM on near rump, 43 and N off rump, C 6 off side neck, a white bull calf by her side, branded N on off ribs, d-mages 5s.; one yellow cow, small snail horns, TE over LW, LW underneath, conjoined on off rump, CW off ribs, WS near ribs, a red heifer, branded IH on off rump and ribs, IH near rump, damages 2s. 6d.; one small horned strawberry cow, branded R conjoined and X on off rump, RK near rump, off ear slit, a strawberry bull calf by her side, damages 5s.; one spotted poley cow, branded WT on off rump, like WC off hip, damages 2s. 6d.; one yellow bullock, near ear slit, branded GD on near hip, damages 2s. 6d.; one red and white steer, an indescribable brand on off rump. If the above described cattle are not released on or before the 22nd April, they will be sold at noon of that day, agreeably to Act of Council. 15s. 3d.

SYDNEY EXTRACTS.

The Governor's Excursion.—It will be remembered, that on the night of the day on which the Governor left Sydney, and the two following days, the weather was extremely variable, but at sea it appears it was still worse, for the *Shamrock* met with a succession of gales from all points of the compass, which delayed her so much that, instead of arriving at Moreton Bay early on Tuesday morning, as was expected, she did not get there until Thursday. His Excellency and suite landed on that day, and proceeded to Brisbane town, and subsequently to other portions of the district, particularly the Limestone Plains, at the head of the navigation of the Brisbane and Bremer. The country was looking exceedingly beautiful, there being an abundance of grass of a very fine description. The river Brisbane is supposed to be navigable for vessels the size of the *Shamrock* for ninety miles, where the Limestone Plains commence, and where there will be a town, probably the chief town of the district. We understand that His Excellency and party were highly delighted with the country. A serious accident occurred to Mr. Parker, the Private Secretary, the day after the arrival of the steamer; his horse, without the least warning, threw up his hind legs, and pitched him over his head; he fell heavily on his shoulder, and fractured his collarbone in a very frightful manner, the end of the bone protruding through the skin; the accident occurred about twenty miles from Brisbane town, where Mr. Meredith proceeded for medical assistance, which was procured, and the bone being set, and no fever coming on, Mr. Parker is rapidly recovering. The *Shamrock* remained at anchor until Wednesday morning, when the passengers embarked; at eleven o'clock she got under-way, and arrived safe in Sydney at eight o'clock on Friday evening.—*Herald.*

Heartless Robbery.—On Friday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, a poor woman named Cochran, residing in York-street, who endeavours to support herself by keeping a small shop and boarding labourers, had saved £3 15s., which she had locked in her box in a back room, was robbed of her savings by some party who carried off her box and the contents, which had been effected by taking it out at the back window while she was busy in her shop. The box was afterwards found, broken open, and minus the cash, between the market sheds.—*Herald.*

EXTRACTS.

When Achilles applauded Phillip as a man who could drink freely, Demosthenes replied that it was a good quality in a sponge, but not in a king.

A very loquacious female witness whom the opposing counsel could not silence, so far kept him at bay, and by way of browbeating her he exclaimed—"Why, woman, there is brass enough in your face to make a kettle." "And sauce enough in yours," she instantly rejoined, "to fill it."

RETAIL PRICE CURRENT.

	£	s.	d.
Ale—			
Dunbar's, per dozen	0	15	0
Bass's, hogshead	6	15	0
Beer—			
Hunter Brewery, hogshead	2	5	0
Bread, loaf of 4 lbs.	0	1	0
Butter, fresh, lb.	0	2	0
Bricks, 1000	1	5	0
—, flooring, 8 in. sq., doz.	0	3	0
Butcher's meat—			
Beef, lb.	0	0	3
Mutton	0	0	3
Pork	0	0	6
Veal	0	0	6
Cheese	0	0	10
Candles—			
Mould, lb.	0	0	10
Dip	0	0	8
Coffee, lb.	0	1	8
Coal, ton	1	3	0
Eggs, dozen	0	1	10
Flour—			
First quality, 100 lbs.	1	1	0
Second	0	18	0
Bran, 100 lbs.	0	6	0
Firewood, load	0	5	0
Grain—			
Wheat, bushel	0	6	6
Maize	0	5	6
Oats (Derwent)	0	9	0
Barley	3s.	0	5
Hay, ton	£6	8	0
Hops, lb.	0	2	0
Hides (green), lb.	0	0	1½
Lime, bushel	0	1	6
Milk, gallon	0	1	4
Porter—			
Colonial, hogshead	0	15	0
English, dozen	0	15	0
Rice, lb.	0	0	3
Salt, cwt.	0	8	0
Soap, lb., per box	0	0	5
Spirits—			
Brandy, gallon	1	3	6
Gin	1	2	6
Rum	0	17	0
Stock—			
Bullocks, fat	£6	7	0
— working	£5	10	0
Cows, milch	£3	10s.	0
Sheep, ewes	10s.	0	15
— wethers	10s.	0	12
Horses	£20	10	60
Poultry—Ducks, couple	0	4	0
— Fowls	0	3	6
— Geese	1	0	0
Sugar—			
Mauritius, lb.	0	0	6
Loaf	0	0	8
Turpentine, gallon	0	19	0
Tea, lb.	0	3	6
Tobacco, lb.	0	4	0
Timber—			
Cedar, cut, foot	0	0	4
Hardwood, 100 feet	0	16	0
Joists	0	0	0
Shingles, 1000	0	12	0
Vegetables—			
Onions, lb.	0	0	4
Potatoes, cwt.	0	4	0
Wool, lb.	1s.	0	1
Wines—			
Port, dozen	2	2	0
Sherry	1	15	0
Claret	3	10	0
Champagne	3	15	0
House Rent—			
Cottage of two rooms, per week	0	6	0
Cottage of four rooms, brick	0	12	0
— six	0	15	0
House	2	0	0
Small farms in the immediate vicinity of the town may be obtained on lease at an annual rental of about 40s. per acre.			

TERMS.

SUBSCRIPTION—Ten shillings per quarter: single number, one shilling. The quarters terminate the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December, respectively. Subscribers who are not resident in Maitland are required to pay six months' subscription in advance, or give reference to a respectable agent in town.

ADVERTISEMENTS—For eight lines, and under, three shillings and sixpence, and one penny for every additional line, for each insertion. The number of insertions must be legibly written on each advertisement, or it will be continued till countermanded, and charged to the party. Advertisements cannot be received later than twelve o'clock on Friday morning; and orders to withdraw advertisements must be sent to the office before four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, or they cannot be attended to. No verbal communication respecting the insertion, withdrawal, or alteration of advertisements, will be attended to. Advertisements from non-subscribers must be paid for previous to insertion.

All letters must be post-paid.

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