

1880.
NEW ZEALAND.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS OF NEW ZEALAND

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

The INSPECTOR of LUNATIC ASYLUMS to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,— Inspector of Lunatic Asylums' Office, Wellington, 6th July, 1880.
I have the honor to lay before you my fourth annual report on the lunatic asylums of the colony.

The number of registered insane on the 31st December, 1879, was 1,056. Their distribution is shown in the following tabular statement:—

ASYLUMS.	PATIENTS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Auckland	156	73	229
New Plymouth
Napier	13	6	19
Wellington	83	53	136
Nelson	34	26	60
Hokitika	57	20	77
Christchurch	146	86	232
Dunedin	206	97	303
Total	695	361	1,056
Increase over previous year	58	43	101

Compared with the numbers at the end of the previous year, there was a decrease at Christchurch of 2, at Napier of 4, at New Plymouth of 3; and an increase at Dunedin of 50, at Auckland of 33, at Wellington of 19, at Hokitika of 7, at Nelson of 1; and a total increase of 101.

The increase at the end of each of the last seven years was as follows:—

1873	55
1874	77
1875	56
1876	61
1877	81
1878	85
1879	101
Total	516

The proportion of the insane to the estimated general population at the end of the year (Maoris being excluded) was 1 in every 445. This, as might be naturally expected, compares favourably with the proportions found in older countries. For the year 1878 it was, in England, 1 in 360; in Scotland, 1 in 392; in New South Wales, 1 in 362; in Victoria, 1 in 304. There are, however, so many circumstances by which these proportions are liable to be influenced that they cannot be acknowledged as the data of very reliable inferences.

The total number of patients admitted during the year was 399, of whom 248 were males and 151 were females. Among this number were 79 re-admissions. The admissions exceeded those of the previous year by 21; the increase consisting of 1 male and 20 females, or of 7 in the number of the new cases, and of 14 in the re-admissions.