

Journal of the *Anna Maria* Convict Ship
Mr. W. McCrea, Surgeon
Between the 22nd September 1851 and the 4th February 1852
AOT, Adm. 101/3 (AOT Reel 3187)

GENERAL REMARKS

On the 30th September & the 1st of October 1851, two hundred Female Convicts & forty six children were sent on board; the Convicts from Millbank prison, & the children from workhouses and parishes throughout the Kingdom. The Convicts were in a clean and healthy condition, but the children generally bore marks of deficient nutrition.

The ship sailed from Woolwich on the 6th of October, from Gravesend on the 7th, and the Downs on the 8th. All down channel & nearly the whole way to the Cape the winds were foul, & the weather stormy. The voyage was consequently very protracted for the first 11 weeks & when at length fair winds arrived, the weather was wet cold & boisterous. We did not touch at any port on the way, & when the ship arrived at Hobart Town, many of the prisoners had suffered severely from dysentery; several requiring to be sent to Hospital; but with this exception the women were clean & healthy.

I am inclined to attribute the attacks of dysentery, which were so numerous, to the state of the weather; this was certainly a sufficient cause for it, but other influences might have acted in producing it, one of these certainly predisposed to the attacks, this was the change of diet from the prison to the ship; the result of this change was at first constipation, &, as the natural result of hardened faeces, consequent irritation of the colon. The biscuit supplied to the ship was by no means good, great part of it was mouldy to a greater or less extent, and nearly the whole of it gave indications to the sense of smell of decomposition going on in it; how far the consumption of this biscuit had a share in producing dysentery it is impossible in the present state of our knowledge to determine; the advocates of the parasitic theory would call it an immediate cause, but without going to this extent, I am of opinion that the impurity of the food most probably had a considerable effect in lowering the natural tone of the system, & rendering it more obnoxious to external influences [sic].

I cannot help expressing my opinion that if the food of the convicts whilst they are in prison was more nearly assimilated to their diet on board ship, for some time previous to their embarkation, the result would be highly beneficial.

The Febrile diseases which occurred were slight and amenable to the treatment adopted, which consisted of clearing out the stomach & the bowels, & restoring the secretions by alteratives¹ & Quinine.

The Cases of Scarlatina – fortunately the disease did not spread – were accompanied by sore throat, but they were mild & cured by nearly the same treatment as the Febrile cases.

The case of Epilepsy was in all probability the result of masturbation - the attacks were frequent & violent, & treatment did not seem to have much effect on them.

The case of Mania was at first supposed to be feigned, but the absence of sleep soon dispelled this idea, large doses of Tartar Emetic was the only remedy that had any influence on the disease.

The cases of Pleuritis were sharp but tractable, in both cases bleeding was necessary.

¹ Alteratives are herbs which have blood purifying and health restoring qualities.

One of the cases of Phthisis (No.2 in the Journal) terminated fatally; the other was rapidly recovering when sent to Hospital, the effects of strengthening the digestive organs in this case was manifest in a very striking manner, & doubtless good food would soon complete her cure.

The cases of cynanche² were simple and all yielded to one uniform mode of treatment, sharp purging, inhalation of the vapor of hot water & astringent gargles.

The Case of palpitation was one of organic disease of the valves of the heart, relief [sic] was procured by avoiding all sources of irritation, & giving tone to the digestive organs.

The Cases of diarrhea were simple, & easily cured by clearing out the bowels, & giving afterwards a few doses of Turpentine Castor Oil & Laudanum.

The case of Constipation was a severe one, threatening serious consequences, but was cured principally by turpentine Epithem³ & palpation in the direction of the colon.

The Cases of Rheumatism were in all probability the result of suppressed menstruation, they yielded to the remedied used.

The case of Ophthalmia was acute Conjunctivitis & was treated by cold lotions & the external use of nitrate of silver in a solution of two grains to the ounce.

Two of the cases of Ulcer were important enough to send to Hospital, but there was an extraordinary absence of this disease when so much exposure to wet prevailed.

There was also an unusually small amount of boils, but I presume the large number of cases of bowels complaints which occurred were ?vicarious of the former complaint.

One solitary case of Scurvy occurred in one of the children of the convicts, she speedily recovered under the use of port wine & lemon juice.

The cases of sprain & contusion need no comment.

The cases of dyspepsia were from impaired digestive organs consequent on other disease, they were sent to Hospital.

The case of Atrophy & Marasmus occurred in a child whose mother died on board, it terminated fatally.

The deck & sleeping places were kept extremely clean, the stoves were kept swinging constantly during the wet weather, & were most useful in keeping the deck dry & warm. The water closets were very small, & from suspicion of the locks of the outer doors having been picked, it was requisite to nail them up, this made the water closets very close, & with the constant use by 240 people, the stench would have been intolerable, had it not been for the effectual and perfect manner in which it was kept down by the use of the solution of Chloride of Zinc, plentifully poured into the water closets, & sprinkled about them; I have no doubt that the free use of this deoderizer prevented much sickness.

W. MCCREA M.D.
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² Cynanche: severe sore throat.

³ Epithem: 'Any external topical application to the body, except ointments and plasters, as a poultice, lotion, etc.' (Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, 1913).

Copy of daily Sick Book of the *Anna Maria* Convict Ship, from Sept. 1851 to Feb. 1852

When put on Sick List	Name	Age	Quality	Disease	When put off Sick List	How disposed of
1851 Oct 1	Lydia Day	22	Female Convict	Epilepsy	Oct 2	duty
Oct 2	Mary Ann Morris	21	Female Convict	Phlegmon	Oct 8	duty
Oct 3	Sarah Darlington	24	Female Convict	Sprain	Oct 9	duty
Oct 4	Sarah Gibson	34	Female Convict	Colica	Oct 12	duty
Oct 4	Mary Higgins	33	Female Convict	Ophthalmia	Oct 13	duty
Oct 9	Sarah Barber	23	Female Convict	Contusio	Oct 18	duty
Oct 12	Elizabeth Mallam	24	Female Convict	Dysentery	Oct 26	duty
Oct 13 ⁷	Henry Harris	2	Female Convict's child	Diarrhea	Oct 26	died
Oct 15	Frances Cartwright	25	Female Convict	Colica	Oct 18	duty
Oct 19	Ellen Moore	17	Female Convict	Febris	Nov 5	duty
Oct 19	Mary McIntyre	19	Female Convict	Febris	Oct 23	duty
Oct 22	Elizabeth McDonald	23	Female Convict	Cynanche	Oct 24	duty
Oct 23	Mary Ann Lane	21	Female Convict	Rheumatism	Nov 6	duty
Oct 27	Sarah Barber	24	Female Convict	Scarlatina	Nov 13	duty
Oct 28	Elizabeth Gibbs	23	Female Convict	Phlegmon	Oct 31	duty
Nov 4	Ann Selling	21	Female Convict	Fever	Nov 5	duty
Nov 7	Mary Kennedy	20	Female Convict	Phthisis	Dec 1	died
Nov 7	Jane Mulheron	18	Female Convict	Constipatio	Nov 13	duty
Nov 10	Mary Ann Brittain	22	Female Convict	Palpitatio	Nov 13	duty
Nov 15	Bridget Nelson	28	Female Convict	Scarlatina	Nov 18	duty
Nov 17	Elizabeth Mallam	24	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 1 1852	died
Nov 17	Thomas Connolly	½	Child of Female Convict	Diarrhea	Nov 20	died
Nov 21	Ann Wright	28	Female Convict	Diarrhea	Nov 25	duty
Nov 20	Elizabeth Douglas	21	Female Convict	Mania	Jan 27	Hospital
Nov 23	Catherine Fazakerly	30	Female Convict	Colica	Nov 24	duty
Nov 24	Margaret Mulvaney	8	Child of Female Convict	Scarlatina	Nov 28	duty
Nov 25	Sarah Barber	23	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 27	duty
Nov 25	Bridget Nelson	28	Female Convict	Rheumatism	Dec 2	duty
Nov 28	Sarah Gibson	34	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 27	duty
Dec 3	Mrs Pogson	30	Assistant Matron	Dysentery	Dec 11	duty
Dec 6	Catherine Bryceland	20	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 9	duty
Dec 6	Janet McKay	28	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 14	duty
Dec 6	Bridget McDermott	20	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 14	duty
Dec 7	Amelia Hawkins	22	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 18	duty
Dec 9	Catherine Casterton	18	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 15	duty
Dec 11	Mary Ann Squire	23	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 25	duty
Dec 13	Jane Park	21	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 21	duty
Dec 13	Eliza Howis	23	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 21	duty
Dec 13	Elizabeth Saunders	30	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 25	duty

Dec 13	Mary Ann Crawford	17	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 25	duty
Dec 15	Eliza James	19	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 26	duty
Dec 16	Frances Blick	39	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 21	duty
Dec 17	Marion Archibald	41	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 26	duty
Dec 18	Elizabeth McDonald	23	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 21	duty
Dec 21	Mary Anne Thomas	19	Female Convict	Cynanche	Dec 23	duty
Dec 21	Henry Kennedy	1	Child of a Female Convict	Atrophy (marasmus)	Dec 22	died
Dec 25	Elizabeth Bosanko	31	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 30	duty
Dec 27	Ellen Purday	50	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 29	duty
Dec 28	Esther Gilbert	23	Female Convict	Dysentery	Dec 31	duty
Dec 28	Eliza James	18	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 9	duty
Dec 28	Grace Brown	1	Child of a Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 11	died
Dec 28	Ann Brown	3	Child of a Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 4	died
Dec 28	Eliza Brown	6	Child of a Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 27 1852	Hospital
Dec 28	Isobel Ingles	31	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 9	duty
Dec 28	Eliz ^h Bosanko	1	Child of a Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 27	Hospital
Dec 28	Mary Smith	21	Female Convict	Pleuritis	Jan 4	duty
Dec 28	Elizabeth Saunders	30	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 8	died
Dec 31	Caroline Hampton	20	Female Convict	Cynanche	Jan 1	duty
1852 Jan 5	Mary Ann Crawford	17	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 9	duty
Jan 5	Catherine Casterton	18	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 27	Hospital
Jan 5	Ann Brown	37	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 22	died
Jan 7	James Howis	3	Child of a Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 17	died
Jan 11	Margaret Smith	21	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 23	duty
Jan 12	Hannah Oliver	31	Female Convict	Phthisis	Jan 27	Hospital
Jan 13	Mary Andrews	6	Child of a Female Convict	Scurvy	Jan 19	duty
Jan 14	Mary Ann Squire	22	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 23	duty
Jan 15	Mary Anne Lane	21	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 21	duty
Jan 16	Eliza James	19	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 20	duty
Jan 17	Sarah Gibson	34	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 21	duty
Jan 18	Mary Ann Crawford	17	Dysentery	Dysentery	Jan 21	duty
Jan 18	Caroline Pogson	1	Child of Matron	Dysentery	Jan 31	duty
Jan 26	Eliza Holiday	21	Female Convict	Ulcus	Jan 27	Hospital
Jan 26	Maria Meyrick	26	Female Convict	Cynanche	Jan 27	duty
Jan 26	Mary Williams	24	Female Convict	Dyspepsia	Jan 27	Hospital
Jan 26	Bridget McIntyre	15	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 27	Hospital
Jan 26	Martha Rogers	23	Female Convict	Dyspepsia	Jan 27	Hospital
Jan 27	Elizabeth Brown	40	Female Convict	Ulcus	Jan 27	Hospital
Jan 28	Margaret Douglas	31	Female Convict	Phlegmon	Feb 4 1852	duty
Jan 28	Bridget Graham	¾	Child of a Female Convict	Dysentery	Feb 4	duty

Jan 28	William Howis	1	Child of a Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 30 1851	duty
Jan 28	Lydia Day	22	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 31	duty
Jan 28	Mary Blick	14	daughter of a Female Convict	Diarrhea	Jan 30	duty
Jan 28	Mary Ann Crawford	17	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 31	Hospital
Jan 29	Bridget Clabby	16	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 31	Hospital
Jan 30	Mary Mead	26	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 31	Hospital
Jan 30	Eliza Lair	27	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 31	Hospital
Jan 31	Elizabeth Johnson	20	Female Convict	Cynanche	Feb 2	duty
Jan 31	Eliza Bell	30	Female Convict	Pleuritis	Feb 3	duty
Jan 31	Margaret Tattersall	24	Female Convict	Dysentery	Jan 31	Hospital
Feb 1	Mary Ann Squire	23	Female Convict	Dysentery	Feb 3	duty
Feb 2	Mary Ann Powhill	26	Female Convict	Dysentery	Feb 3	duty
Feb 2	Isbel Turnbull	49	Female Convict	Ulcus	Feb 3	duty

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