

Surgeon's Journal of Her Majesty's Female Convict Ship Aurora
W.S.B. Jones, Surgeon Superintendent
26 March 1851–118th August 1851
Adm. 101-006-08

*Mentions the Solution of Chloride of Lime as a useful sanitary agent.
Extract medicine Book
A?B.*

**Medical and Surgical Journal of Her Majesty's Hired Convict Ship "Aurora" between
the 26th March and the 18th August during which time the said ship has been employed
in a voyage from England to Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land**

Nature of Disease	No. of Case	Men's Names, Ages, Qualities, Time when and where taken ill, and how disposed of.	The History, Symptoms, Treatment, and Daily Progress of the Disease or Hurt.
Rheumates Acutis PB050970	1	Susan Dwyer (aet: 20) Female Convict April 17 th 1851 Woolwich Discharged Cured May 6 th 1851	This female as attacked while laying off mooring's at the Royal Arsenal with very severe symptoms of Acute Rheumatism, the lower extremities principally the seat of suffering, the knees, and ankles, principally; the former swollen to an unnatural bulk, and very sensitive, febrile symptoms very great, skin, alternately dry, and moist, thirst, and bowels bound, pulse 90 She was attacked some months previously while at Millbank Penitentiary with similar symptoms and were then treated by leeches to the several large joints, & also purgative medicines. This female is of a very delicate frame, & suckling a child 18, months old, but who is weaned some time yet, from her peculiar circumstances as a Prisoner she afforded it occasionally from her own nourishment, while at Prison, but not since her arrival on board. <i>Low Diet</i> <i>Rx. Ol: Ricini Zi st.</i> The castor oil has not yet operated, symptoms much about the same <i>Repet^r: Ol: Ricini Zvj: c, Aqua Ol: Menth: Zi Fotis genu ter in die</i> 19 th Bowels have been freely acted upon, Sago diet <i>Cont^r: Fotis</i> 21 st Since last report she is gradually getting better, but that slowly; her general health has in some degree suffered, pain in the extremities still severe <i>Rx. Tinc: Colchici: g^{tt} x Carb: Magnesia^e -i Aqua Zi Mfti haustus ter in die</i> April 26 th Is considerably improved, skin well acted upon, and swelling reduced, in proportion to the suffering, bowels are keeping regular, <i>Little Soup</i> 30 th Is free from all pain, pulse natural, but feeble, impaired strength, and is reduced a good deal in bulk, <i>Omitt^r: Medicine A more generous Diet with Port Wine</i>
PB050971		April 17 th	

		May 3 ^d 6 th	Is now perfectly convalescent, and as the weather is favourable, comes and walks the deck, appetite good, to continue for a day or two the Diet Discharged the List, well.
PB050972 Hysteria & General Debility	2	Janet McGregor (aet: 30) Convict May 28 th 1851 at Sea June 5 th 1851 D ^d Cured.	<p>This woman is of Scotch Birth has been respectable and of a mild quiet disposition, so very opposite to the rest of her sex from the same quarter of the world on board, that one would be apt to overlook such a character, among a mass of Beings had I not thro keen discrimination found out her unpresuming feelings; She informed me that some eighteen months ago she was attacked with Typhus Fever, of a severe type when very prevalent in Edinburgh, She recovered from this; but eventually had a relapse, again recovered, from which period she never has enjoyed good health.</p> <p>She has an adult Daughter on board going out with her, who is of a similar disposition to the Mother, since being on board, despondency appears to pervade the mind, lowness of spirits leading to hysterical attacks: appetite gone, with nervous headaches, apparently of a distressing character, Pulse feeble, & quick, 95. Bowels open, Tongue clean, but red, thirst, with nausea, and occasional vomiting.</p> <p><i>Rx. Ol: Ricini Zvj</i> <i>Aqua Menth: pip: Zj Mft</i> <i>Haust: st: sum:</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Sago Diet</i></p> <p>Bowels have been well moved, but symptoms appear much about the same</p> <p><i>Rx. Sulph: Quinnæ g^r ij</i> <i>Aqua Font: Zi Mft</i> <i>haust: bis in die</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Preserved meats</i> <i>glass of Porter</i></p> <p>31st <i>Bibat Aqua Limon: ad libitum</i></p> <p>Improving gradually as the weather is getting cooler, appetite keener, spirits always low, has more vivacity now, says she is more contented as her daughter alluded too is very happy, who it appear's her happiness, is her principal aim, at least, as regards her future happiness.</p> <p>June 2nd <i>Cont^r. Medicinæ</i> <i>Diet</i> <i>Preserved meats and Wine</i></p> <p>Improving favourably, and gains strength from the medicine, and cooler set in of the weather, functions are regular.</p> <p>5th <i>Cont^r. Medicinæ &</i> <i>Diet as usual</i></p> <p>Convalescing so favourably, that it is deemed expedient to remove her from the Sick List.</p>
PB050973			
Convulvis Infant	3	Ann Buicks (9 months) (An Infant) (Convicts' child) 29 th May 1851 At Sea D ^d . D ^d . 31 May 1851	<p>This Infant on its reception on Board was of a delicate sickly constitution, and had a peculiar eruption about its nostrils, and pervaded under the Schneiderian membrane, apparently of a Syphilitic character, which gave way to slight mercurial remedial means from time to time, the child throve well until today, suddenly vague symptoms of hydrocephalus appeared to me to show themselves</p> <p><i>Rx. Ol: Ricini Zij: st:</i></p>

PB050974		31 st .	The Symptoms of water in the head became proving more apparent, the flush of the countenance, sudden screeching from a semicomatose state, the rolling too and, &fro of its little head when on the pillow, put a period to its existence at 9 OC. P.M. of this Evening in a convulsive state.
Leucorrhœa Hæmorrhoids & General Debility Therefrom	4	Eliz th Collings Aet: 24 Convict June 5 th 1851 at Sea June 29 th 1851 D ^d the List July 11 th Returned D ^d D ^d 26 th July 1851	<p>This woman is of a spare thin, delicate habit of body, of light hair, and the colour of the countenance most peculiar, not unlike that of a brimstone,</p> <p>It appears she has suffered from leucorrhœa, and internal hæmorrhoids, on examining which, they are most formidable, choking up nearly the rectum and give great pain, with discharge of blood, when at stool, and these sometimes are voided in a schibulous(sic) state render[ing] agony worse, from the dread of often visiting the privy, the passage will scarcely admit my little finger, and the profuse discharge from the vagina enhances somatically this general debility of the whole frame especially in the debilitating Latitudes we are at present in, that requires Tonic treatment,</p> <p><i>Rx. Disulph: Quinæ g^r. ij:</i> <i>Inf: Gentianæ Zj:</i> <i>Mft. haust: bis in die</i> <i>Cap^f. Slect: Sulph: Loti: c Cremor: Tart: Submur</i> <i>Generous Diet</i> <i>Preserved Meat & Port Wine</i></p> <p>12th Her general health is somewhat relieved by treatment and generous living, but still her stamina is very questionable, requiring rigid surveillance, and watching, <i>Cont^r: Medicine, and Diet</i></p> <p>June 29th This woman has wonderfully improved in her general health in every respect, that I consider her well enough to be removed the List.</p> <p>July 11th Returned upon the List with faint Symptoms of Scorbutus <i>Rx. Acid: Citrici: Sol: ter in die</i> <i>Preserved meat & Port Wine</i></p> <p>Died suddenly at 6 O.C. A.M. altho' an hour before asked for a glass of water, sensible in her usual manner.</p>
PB050975	5	Thos. James (9 months) Convict's Infant June 18 th 1851 at Sea June 11 th 1851 D ^d D ^d	This Infant with its mother, are of extremely delicate state of health from the commencement of coming on board, the former complaining of having no nourishment to give her offspring, so it was weaned, I should say prematurely from unavoidable circumstances, situated as we are, and with the unfortunate fellow Being's, we have to contend with, great are my dutie's, and it has been kept in its existence by spoon diet, gruel & arrow- root, alternately, and within this day, or two, water on the Brain has so manifested itself, that at one. O.C. AM. put a period to it's little existence, with much convulsive struggles, anticipated by myself and the Parent, for days past.

<p>“Parturition” (of a Female Co^t with Phthisical Symptoms in the mother)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Emma Williams (aet:20) Convict June 12th 1851 At Sea D^d. D^d. August 2nd 1851</p>	<p>At one O.C. AM.this delicate Female was delivered of a six or seven months Female child, of extremely small size, and features, but natural, and perfect in every respect.</p> <p>During the whole period of her uterine gestation she has suffered a good deal from a cough, without expectoration, of a most harassing nature, sometimes so peculiar to some Females under such circumstances, during this period.</p> <p>13th Both Mother and Child are doing well. A glass of Porter with Broth.</p> <p>17th Since last report the cough has been most harassing to the surprise of myself, Matron, & Midwife, naturally thinking on the birth of the Child these untoward symptoms would disappear, but it would appear that it is more harassing, and accompanied with some degree of expectoration of a questionable character, the mammae are tolerably filled with milk, appetite very fair, bowels somewhat bound,</p> <p><i>Rx. Inf: Sennae: Comp: Zijj st.</i></p> <p>Diet, preserved meat with Porter in lieu of Port Wine the latter too heating & stimulating, allowing the Cuddy the difference in price, at a fair valuation, in exchange for the wine.</p> <p>19th Symptoms much about the same, the secretion of milk is quite suspended and the Infant fed by Spoon Diet.</p> <p><i>Mist: Pectoral: tussis ungent, et haust: anodynes h.s.s.</i> <i>Diet as before</i></p> <p>Her temper and her disposition are naturally irritable, and she feels herself unnecessarily? rendering the symptoms more urgent, and acute.</p> <p>25th Cough has been very troublesome since last report with profuse expectorations, accompanied with pain in the region of the Scrobiculus Cordis, a Blister was applied over the site of the pain on the 23rd Inst: which is the third one that has been so applied since being placed upon the Sick List, and with relief, She has fallen a good deal in flesh, I presume a good deal arising from despondency, from her peculiar situation, as having given birth to an illegitimate offspring, independent of other matters best known to her own feelings, & conscience.</p> <p>The Infant is dwindling away rapidly, and at this date not expected to live, it is only the size of a common rabbit.</p>
<p>PB050976</p>		<p>For the mother</p>	<p><i>Rx. Disulph: Quinnæ g^r.ij</i> <i>Aqua Zi: Mft</i> <i>Haust: ter in die.</i> Diet as usual and whatever she fancies from the Cuddy Table.</p> <p>As the Mother lost her milk, or nourishment for the Infant, she is now, and has been for some days past suckled by a woman who lost her own Infant a short time ago.(Ann Buicks)</p> <p>Meridan: The Infant suddenly sunk within the space of about Four hours.</p> <p>27th The mother appears about the same- <i>Cont^r; Medicinæ and Diet.</i></p> <p>30th Is improving in strength but cough is still troublesome and a pain under the left mamma, has been most annoying since the 25th, which a Blister has removed,</p>
<p>PB050977</p>			

PB050978		<p>July 8th</p> <p>July 14th</p> <p>July 25th</p> <p>July 27th</p> <p>31st</p> <p>2nd August</p>	<p>and at the same time she complains of much pain in and about the fauces, the Sputum on the average, during the night, might be computed at about half a wine glass full.</p> <p><i>Cont. Medicinæ Diet generous</i></p> <p>Since last report, there appears evident Symptoms of confirmed Phthisis, the loss of flesh, and increase of cough, with great expectoration is so marked, altho' she may linger on under these Symptoms, for an indefinite period, every kindness and Sympathy is shown her in every respect, which indeed I attribute in prolonging her existence so long, during day time I have her carried up to my cabin for a change, a bed made up upon the deck which she feels grateful to a degree of,</p> <p><i>Cont. Disulph: Quinnæ</i></p> <p>Diet – whatever she fancies from Medical Comforts in Hospital, or the Cuddy Table.</p> <p>In this woman's case much is attributable to despondency in being brought to her present situation by seduction, & leading to Vice which she comments on occasionally.</p> <p>Since last report her state was very precarious but within these few day's back, a most surprising, & unlooked for change has manifested itself, altho' weak to a degree, but her cough has nearly left her, her nights are tolerably refreshing, the colliquative sweats gone, the appetite improving, sits up out of bed, bowels regular, and occasionally walks a little about, Pulse 80.</p> <p><i>Omitt. Medicinæ (Generous Diet with Port Wine)</i></p> <p><i>Appli^r Emp. Canth: pectore</i></p> <p>Since last report, her Symptoms have varied a great deal, like all Phthical patients – very captious(sic) and fancying all kind of diets, which is provided to our utmost endeavour's from the hospital comforts, as well as from the Cuddy Table.</p> <p><i>Mist: Pectoralis</i></p> <p><i>tussi unguents (Generous Diet with Port Wine)</i></p> <p>Very irritable and, capricious, feels low; and fretful, pulse sluggish, appetite entirely gone, cannot enjoy a single article proposed to her, very much emaciated, extremities</p> <p><i>œdmatous,</i></p> <p><i>App^r. Empl. Canth: pectoræ</i></p> <p><i>Cont. Mist: Pectotal: et Haust:</i></p> <p><i>Diet as she fancies</i></p> <p>Appears to be sinking fast. She is reduced to a perfect skeleton, and it is with the greatest effort she can throw up the expectoration, and has existed entirely upon Porter, and Port Wine, alternately, food of any kind, or description she cannot bear the smell, of, even.</p> <p><i>Haust: Anodyne omni nocte</i></p> <p>D^d D^d</p>
Dysenteria et Syphilis		<p>Eliza Williams (aet: 28) Convict July 6th 1851 At Sea D^d D^d July 9th 1851</p>	<p>This woman has been a prostitute, and has had the Syphilitic disease, in the worst form, the palate being destroyed, and it is with the greatest difficulty that she can articulate, and the odour that emanates from her breath, and person is so often disgusting a nature, that sickens everyone, her skin is cold and clammy, pulse feeble, appetite not bad.</p> <p>It appears that it never was intended at Millbank to</p>

<p>PB050980</p>		<p>9th</p>	<p>have sent her out and also at Newgate from the condition she was in, and she has been actually pawned upon my hands, not an uncommon thing at Millbank to do by certain individuals, who wish to get rid of obnoxious persons.</p> <p><i>Rx. Mist: Cretæ: Comp: Zi Sumend:</i> (Fresh meat <i>Bibat: Suc: Lemonis ad libitum</i> <i>Diet, with, Port Wine)</i></p> <p>This morning a sudden change took place, the cadaverous look, sunken countenance, feeble pulse, cold clammy skin and sweat, indicating early dissolution with the constant diarrhoea, Wine and thin arrow-root was plied to her from time to time, but she sank at 8 O.C. P.M.</p> <p>There is no doubt that Scorbutus brought into action hitherto undetected Syphilitic action, from the peculiar & most rotten odour that emanated from her breath & person, and also her evacuations, which I recollect to have witnessed before in formidable Syphilitic cases both in Lock hospital's; as well as in the Navy.</p>
<p>Scorbutus</p>		<p>Louisa Coates aet: 24 Convict July 11th 1851 at Sea July 31st 1851 D^d cured July 14th July 23rd July 31st</p> <p>t</p>	<p>This woman is of a delicate constitution, and suckling an Infant, of about 8 months old, complains of a looseness in the Bowls of a watery nature, with a degree of debility and inertness, also of a pain referred under the left mammæ, appetite deficient, Pulse feeble, and a clammy taste in the mouth, accompanied by an offensive breath,</p> <p><i>Rx. Mist: Cretæ: Comp: ter in die</i> <i>4th hora, Fresh meat Diet with Port Wine</i></p> <p>The gums are spongy, & breath offensive, the secretion of milk is suspended, and the child weaned.</p> <p>The milk has returned. Scorbutus symptoms vanished, the mammæ became painfully tender that the weaning of the child, was suspended.</p> <p>The general health wonderfully improved, which shews the control, and efficacy of the Nitrate of Potass over this insidious disease.</p> <p><i>Omitt^r: Medicinæ</i> <i>Diet as usual</i> Discharged the List cured.</p>

A Nosological Synopsis of the Sick Book kept during the Period of this Journal, in conformity with the 30th Article of the Surgeons' Instructions.

Diseases Nosologically arranged	Numbers						Nos. of such Cases as are detailed in the Journal
	Total	Discharged to Duty	Sent to the Hospital	Died on board	Invalided	Remaining	
Pyrexiae							
Ord. I. Febres.							
Internulleates Quotutiana Tertiana							
Continua Synochus							
Typhus							
Ord. II. Phlegmasiae.							
Phlogosis							
Pneumonia							
Rheumatismus	1	1					
Cynanche Tonsil	1	1					
Bronchitis							
Ophthalmia	1	1					
Ord. III. Exanthemata.							
Variola							
Rubeola							
Erysipelas	1	1					
Vaccina							
Ord. IV. Haemorrhagiae							
Haemoptysis							
Phthisis incipiens	1			1			
Phthisis cosfirmata							
Ord. V. Profluvia.							
Catarrhus							
Dysenteria et Syphilis <i>Hæmorrhios</i>	1 1	1		1			
Neuroses.							
Ord. I. Comata.							
Apoplexia <i>Hydrocephal: et Conv.</i>	2		2				
Ord. II. Adynamiae.							
Dyspepsia							
Ord. III. Spasmi.							
Asthma							
Diarrhoea	1	1					
Cohea							
Ord. Iv. Vesaniae.							
Amentia							
Mania <i>Hysteria</i>	1	1					

Cachexiae.							
Ord. I. Marcores.							
Tabes	1			1			
Ord. II. Intumescentiae.							
Anasarca							
Ascites							
Hydrothorax							
Ord. III. Impetigines.							
Syphilis	1	1					
Scrophula							
Icterus							
Scorbutus	2	1		1			
Locales.							
Ord. I. Dysaethesiae.							
Amaurosis							
Ord. II. Dysorexiae.							
Ord. III. Dyscinesiae.							
Ord. IV. Apocenosos.							
Gonorrhoea <i>Leucorrhœa</i>	1	1					
Ord. V. Epischeses							
Ischuria							
Obstipatio							
Dysuria							
Ord. VI. Tumores.							
Aneurisma							
Ord. VII. Ectopiae.							
Hernia							
Prolapsus							
Luxatio							
Ord. VIII. Dialyses.							
Vulnus							
Ulcus <i>Anthrax</i>	1		1				
GENERAL TOTAL	17	10	1	6			
NOTE.—Medical Officers are desired particularly to Notice that the Numbers in each Disease and the general Total must not only correspond with the Sick Book, but also with the particulars contained in the several Nosological Returns for the period.							

GENERAL REMARKS

Dated at Hobart Town August 18th 1851

Surgeon's Journal of Her Majesty's hired Female Convict Ship "Aurora"
Mr W.B. Jones, Surgeon

During the period of this Journal from the time of embarking the Prisoners, Viz- 26th day of March 1851, to the date hereof, on a Voyage from England to this Colony, conveying thereto 232 Female Convicts, 35 adults, children, and Infants their families, Total 267.

There have been admitted on the Sick List in all (17.) Discharged off the List cured (10.) Discharged Dead of C^{ts} 3. Remaining on Sick List, - sent to the Colonial Hospital (1) D^d D^d of Infant's (3.)

On the arrival of the Prisoners on board at Woolwich, there were no less than 14 Infants at the Breast, of these, Two very sickly ones died, and a five to six months child, who lived only 13 days after its birth. The fourth that followed was a woman, who was not intended at Newgate Prison to be sent out, as she was labouring under Secondary Syphilis in the worst form, the palate was quite destroyed and the offensive state she was in before dissolution, was most obnoxious. Scorbutus had suddenly seized her, and Dysenteric Diarrhoea, combined carried her off, an easy prey having no stamina to withstand such ravages, constitution so undermined; this woman was unhandsomely pawned upon my hands from Millbank Prison, and that direct from the Infirmary, under medical treatment, as well as many others, which I think highly derogatory to those in authority.

The Two Last Cases are Nos. 4. & 6. in this Journal, it will manifest to all in the case of Elizabeth Collins, the insidious character of Scorbutus, altho' the Symptoms of the disease were purely superficial apparently nothing showing itself of the disease, except shortness of breathing, which prominent Symptom in advanced Scurvy has before now, come under my notice amongst Convicts, to administer Antiscorbutics at nearly the twelfth hour will avoid nothing; Important internal organic disease have become deeply implicated, altho' shewing no external appearances, and neither internal urgent Symptoms worth noticing either by my own observation, or the feelings of the Patient in manifestation of immediate dissolution, careful as I am always with the Prisoner, not too overlook their trivial complaints – even among the most artful, and degraded of Criminals.

The last case is No.6 Emma Williams who was delivered of a 5 months' Child and who also died 13 day's after birth – not having properly arrived at its natural vigour & maturity.

Phthisis had shown itself before she was delivered, and a slight check to the disease was experienced about the period of parturition, but very shortly afterwards a rapid galloping progress to confirmed stage of the disease, baffling every kind of treatment, carrying her off a perfect shadow. She was kept alive for a longer period, by kind, soothing treatment, and fed by everything she might fancy from the Cuddy Table.

I had anticipated that disease would have subsided after her confinement, as it often happens in many similar cases, but in this instance it was quite the reverse.

PB050984

General Regulations Adopted on Board

The Prisoners are to conduct themselves at all times in a respectful manner to the Officers, Matron, and other persons placed in authority over them.

Communication with any person, or persons of the Ship's Company, is strictly forbidden, except on duty, or under sanction of the Surgeon Superintendent.

The main prison decks are to be under the care of Surgeon Superintendent, assisted by overseers, who are to attend the cleanliness, maintain order, and report any irregularity.

The Prison Deck is to be kept dry by the messes, the water is not to be spilled, and washing cannot be permitted A.M. 6. Prisoners to roll up and stow bedding, & proceed to wash persons.

8, Breakfast, 12. Dinner 5. P.M. supper

Two women chosen from two messes in rotation to attend at the serving out of Provisions, to see justice done.

One Woman from each mess to attend, & receive rations, and allowances,

Two Overseer Cleaners will have the water closets thoroughly cleansed each morning and evening, throwing up the Solution of Chloride of Zinc.

On Monday's, Issues of Soap, and Vinegar, Tuesday's and Friday's, general washing days.

Two women from each Mess are to wash the clothes of mess, washing can only be done on the appointed days, except by express permission of the Surgeon Superintendent. No exchange or alteration of clothes permitted.

A watch at night is to be kept by the Overseers, one for each side, they are to deliver? every four hours, their duty is to manifest order and decency. theft, fighting, profane and disgusting language will be punished severely.

Prisoners who are appointed to classes, for instruction in reading and writing are required to place themselves with the least possible delay in their respective classes, and diligently apply themselves.

It is expected that no person will attempt to be absent from the classes, without proper authority, anyone doing so, will be reported to Surgⁿ Super^t.

Noise and confusion cannot be allowed during the time of instruction, nor can anyone be permitted to run up and down the hatchway's, except in case of necessity

A?.B. A report of the Character & Progress of the Scholars, during the Voyage, is sent to the Authorities of the Colony.

W.B. Jones M.D.

Surgⁿ Super^t.

(to be stuck up in a conspicuous part of the Prison, and to be Frequently read to the Prisoners, from time to time.)

PB050985

Recapitulation of daily proceeding's as recorded in my Journal on, board the Convict Ship "Aurora".

As health is the primary inculcation to be studied by Surgeon Superintendent's of Convict Ship's, where a dense mass of Human Being's are so closely congregated together, it will be observed on a reference to the Journal in question, from the daily routine therein contained during a most tempestuous voyage, that cleanliness was the first object from dawn of day to its close, whenever practicable, and thus prosecuted systematically both in person, and also in the various compartments of the Ship, disseminating the Solution of Chloride of Zinc, liberally, morning, and evening, in the specified proportions, within Prison, especially in the neighbourhood of, and thrown up? the respective Privies, also into the Ship's well, from time to time.

The advantages of these proceedings cannot be questioned, and will be best appreciated by judging of final results, that is on arrival in the Colony, and this will be commented upon, "*Seriatum*"

I shall confine myself to our daily proceedings, and beg a reference to page 27th of daily Journal to a copy of a letter addressed to the Medical Director General of the Navy in Latitude 7-39^N Longitude 23-41^E: but which on due reflection, might be transcribed here,

Convict Ship "Aurora"
May 23rd 1851

Sir,

"In conformity with the Printed Instructions, for Surgeon's Superintendents of Prison "Ship's, I respectfully beg leave to report to you on the state and progress of this Ship since "leaving the Downs, 27th day of April to the date hereto for the information of the Admiralty.

"It is very satisfactory in being able to state that all on board are in the enjoyment of "the best of health, and that the Prisoners, conduct themselves correctly, and orderly, since "leaving Woolwich so that nothing transpires to mar Public Services

"There are 232 Female Convicts, but inclusive of their children, & Infants, in all 267. "the largest number of Prisoners I believe of this class ever sent to a Penal Colony in one Ship "from Millbank and it is necessary here to recapitulate the proceeding's, and daily routine "carried on in a sanitary point of view, But suffice it to say, that it is conducted precisely, on "similar principals to that adopted when Surgeon of the "Bangalore" C.S. of last year; the "Solution of the Chloride of Lime is most sedulously disseminated throughout every "compartment of the Prison, and adjacent parts contiguous to it, and which rendered as usual "everything sweet and wholesome, and which is duly appreciated by the Prisoners "themselves.

"As there has been but Two individuals admitted upon the Sick List altogether since "leaving England, one with severe acute Rheumatism, and the other with Cynanche "Tonsillitis, but who are now discharged the List, cured, and there remains not one on the "List, at the present date, so there appears every probability from the healthy condition of "everyone, that the Voyage will be prosecuted throughout.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

& & &
W,B, J.

There is no question that the Chloride of Zinc posses unqualified advantages, as a disinfectant destroying any thing, having the least tendency to obnoxious odour, hence its congenial, powerful antiseptic properties, in the preservation of health, the greatest of all blessings, more especially under certain circumstances, as in crowded Ship's, carrying a large number of Human Beings, as Troop Ship's, Convict Ship's, Immigrant Ship's, the Convict Ship being more prone to disease from their unfortunate mode of living before conviction and labouring under a variety of diseases, by living a profligate life, and that probably for a series of years.

On First joining these Classes of Ship's, it is usual to draw up a code of regulations for the guidance of Prisoners, which are stuck up conspicuously within the Prison, as in the case of this Present Ship, but I always have observed my verbal orders, much better attended to, than written ones.

The first duty every morning after the Beddings were properly rolled up, and stowed, the admittance of Prisoners on deck for ablution, by messes, under cover of screens especially provided to Female Convict Ship's, under the surveillance of the Matron, & her Deputy, and this was done as early in the morning compatible to season and clime; Within the tropics 4, 5, &6. O.C. AM. Daily, when all went thro the process of a thorough ablution, by good doucing of buckets of Salt Water.

The whole of the Prisoners from the time of leaving England, to our destination were daily allowed every consistent privilege on deck, the poop, and after part of the Ship as the quarter deck, assigned to them, apart from the fore, as much as possible from the Ship's Company and Boy's, being more under my own eyes, and cognizance, satisfactory to myself that no impropriety should take place during voyage, and I fully believe, as far as I am able to judge, nothing clandestine has transpired as I have been most vigilant myself; no person could be more on the alert.

The Superintendence when issuing out Lime Juice and Wine daily, is an indisputable duty on the part of the Surgeon Superintendant, more especially when within the Tropics, not only to see this duty property served out correctly, but compelling them to drink it at the Tub before you, It affords the Surgeon, a favourable opportunity by the whole of them, at the call of the roll, passing in rotation, from one side of deck to the other to detect hidden disease in whatever form it may happen to develop itself, whether in the countenance, skin, muscular contractions, or the respiratory organs, especially, a prominent feature, and constant attendant in that most insidious of all diseases, ("Scorbutus")

As I look upon Dinner the principal of all meals, my presence during that period, I was as particular in discharging, as any other of my public routine of duty on board, to superintend in person, the meat properly weighed, and served out justly, and fairly, well proportioned in lean and fat, by which means, the results are general satisfaction, the Prisoners perceiving their general interests so much studied, prevents murmuring, and discontent, but independent of all this, it must be viewed as a salutary measure in sanitary point of view upon the health of the Convict individually.

After the Prison, Hospital, etc, are thoroughly cleaned every morning by dry scraping, and the sprinkling, and flannel washing the boards with the Chloride of Zinc (in Solution) in the usual manner as recommended; the Matron, and her assistants report to me when the Prison is ready for my inspection.

Having no Religious Instructor, the duty of reading within the Prison, and Prayers devolving upon me daily, Devine Service performed by myself every Sunday, morning and evening.

Schooling below, and on deck, according to the state of the weather, morning, and evening, the numerous Children joining in with the Women.

In conclusion, what has been the result of such strict & rigid mode of carrying out so onerous a charge on a long trying voyage, with such species of the human race to contend with; why by strict extraction of order, coupled by unity of deportment, this; not only enhances respect, but amalgamates with it fear, from the cunning, artful, untutored, for it must not be expected, brutal force, either by language or gesture, will the British Convict be overcome, or be governed by, for the whole matter rests in a nut-shell, which is this; The admixture of Sympathy and Kindness, when deserving of it, but blended with firmness of purpose.

J.W.Jones M.D.

Surgeon Superintendant

To the
Medical Director
General of the day
& & &
Admiralty

Copy of the sick list of the Aurora Female Convict Ship

Days When Put On Sick List	Name	Age	Quality	Disease or Hurt	When Put Off Sick List	How Disposed Of
1851 17 April 17 th	Susan Dwyer	20	Convict	Acute Rheumat:	May 6	D ^d . List
9 May 8 th	Eliza Ward	19	D ^o .	Cynanche Tonsil:	-17	D ^d . List
35 - 28 th	Jane Blake	18	D ^o .	Syphilis	July 7	D ^d . List
8 - "	Janet McGrigor	38	D ^o .	Hysteria c birth-general debility	June 5 th	D ^d . List
2 - "	Ann Burks	9 months Infant	Convicts Infant	Convulvis Infant:	May 31	D ^d .D ^d .
24 June 5 th	Eliz th Collins	24	Convict	Leucorrhoea Haemorrhoids & General Debility	June 29 th	D ^d . List
1 - 10 th	Thos James	9 months	D ^o . Infant	Hydrochep:	July 9 th	D ^d . D ^d .
51 12 th	Emma Williams	20	Convict	Parturis Female C ^d Phth: Incip:	Aug ^t 2	D ^d . D ^d .
13 22 nd	Emma Williams (christened after the mother)	13 days old	Infant	Cachexia Infanti	June 25 th	D ^d . D ^d .
3 July 6	Eliza Williams	28	Convict	Dysenteria et Syphilis	July 9 th	D ^d .D ^d .
14 -"	Marg ^t Young	27	D ^o .	Erysipelas of face	July 25	D ^d . List
21 -"	Louisa Coates	21	D ^o .	Scorbutus	July 31 st	D ^d . List
20 - "	Eliz th Collins	24	D ^o .	Scorbutus	July 26 th	D ^d . D ^d .
5 - 26	Eliza Bevan	23	D ^o .	Diarrhoea	July 31	D ^d . List
6 August 1	Cath ^c Douglas	46	D ^o .	Dysenteris & Haemorrhoids	Aug ^t 7	D ^d . List
3 -7	Mary Ann Maule	16	D ^o .	Ophthalmia	-10	D ^d . List
2 -9	Sarah Nevan	20	D ^o .	Anthrax	-"	D ^d . to the Hospital

Date	Ther ^r	Bar ^r	Remarks, etc March 1851
26 March			Joined "Aurora" C.S. at Deptford
27			Fitting out Prison by shipwrights
28			D ^o . D ^o .
29			D ^o . D ^o .
30			D ^o . D ^o .
31			D ^o . D ^o .

Date	Ther ^r	Bar ^r	Remarks, etc April 1851
1			Fitting up Prison
2			D ^o .
3			D ^o .
4			D ^o .
5			Prison completed & only inspected
6			Bilge water very foul threw down Two gallons Chloride of Zinc
7			the well, Ship towed down to Woolwich
8			Employed in various ways within the prison, disseminating the Chloride of Zinc, afterwards swing stoves
9			D ^o . D ^o .
10			D ^o . D ^o .
11			Inspected Prisoners at Millbank
12			Disseminating Chloride of Zinc as before, afterwards stoves
13			D ^o . D ^o .
14			Received 222 female Prisoners & 14 Infants
15			D ^o . a Convict child
16			D ^o . D ^o . D ^o .
17			D ^o . Ten more Female Convicts
18			Making 232 and 7 children D ^o . one child more Total 267
19			Cleansing of the Prison with the Solution
20			D ^o . D ^o .
21			D ^o . D ^o .
22			Exchanged 2, Females & Infants with others
23			G ⁿ ? order of Secretary of State cleansing of Prison with Solution
24			Received sailing orders
25			Dropp ^d down to Gravesend
26			10 A.M. got under weigh
27			Anchor ^d off Deal; at 6 AM got under weigh
28	55	29, 80	A fine day, cleansing of Prison etc
29	54	29, 68	Blowing hard, much sea sickness prevailing
30	54	29, 70	D ^o . Squally

Date	Ther ^F	Bar ^F	Remarks, etc May 1851
1May	54	29 - 75	Fresh breezes with squalls
2	58	29 - 81	Breezes but fine
3	58	29 - 90	Fine breezes
4	57	29 - 80	Squally with rain
5	58	30 -	Fine breezes
6	59	30 - 5	D ^o
7	61	30 - 21	D ^o
8	66	30 - 9	D ^o
9	68	30 - 10	Fresh breeze (off Madeira)
10	70	30 - 10	Fine nearly becalmed
11	69	30 - 20	North East Trade Wind
12	69	30 - 10	D ^o
13	70	30 - 8	D ^o
14	70	30 - 5	D ^o
15	73	30 - 5	D ^o
16	75	30 - 10	D ^o
17	75	30 - 8	D ^o
18	76	30 - 5	D ^o
19	78	29 - 80	D ^o
20	76	29 - 90	D ^o
21	79	30	D ^o
22	80	29 - 90	D ^o sultry
23	80	29 - 90	D ^o D ^o Sent letter on Service to Director General
24	85	29 - 90	Very hot
25	85	29 - 90	D ^o
26	80	29 - 90	Heavy rains , (variables)
27	80	29 - 90	Very heavy rains (D ^o)
28	79	29 - 90	Cool after rains (D ^o)
29	84	29 - 90	Hot day with slight rain (D ^o)
30	80	29 - 90	South East trades commencing
31	80	29 - 90	D ^o D ^o but a vague character

Date	Ther ^F	Bar ^F	Remarks, etc June 1851
1	83	29 - 99	Variable winds slight breezes & calms
2	84	29 - 99	D ^o D ^o
3	85	29 - 99	D ^o D ^o
4	82	29 - 99	D ^o D ^o
5	82	29 - 99	D ^o D ^o
6	84	29 - 98	Commencement apparently of the S.E.Trades
7	82	29 - 98	S.E. confirmed
8	82	29 - 80	D ^o
9	84	29 - 80	D ^o
10	83	29 - 74	D ^o
11	81	30	D ^o
12	80	30	D ^o
13	78	30 - 10	D ^o
14	77	30 - 5	D ^o
15	78	30 - 5	D ^o
16	76	30	D ^o
17	75	30	Squalls, variable winds & showers
18	74	29 - 97	D ^o D ^o D ^o
19	71	29 - 85	D ^o D ^o D ^o
20	70	29 - 84	D ^o D ^o D ^o
21	71	29 - 90	D ^o D ^o D ^o
22	72	29 - 91	Fine
23	70	29 - 92	D ^o
24	69	30	D ^o but cloudy
25	68	30	D ^o D ^o
26	67	29 - 99	Fine breezes, D ^o
27	67	29 - 98	D ^o D ^o drizzling rain
28	66	29 - 60	Stiff breezes D ^o
29	64	29 - 61	D ^o Do
30	61	29 - 62	Fine breezes

Date	Ther ^F	Bar ^F	Remarks, etc July 1851
1	58	29 - 54	Heavy sea, & variable weather
2	55	29 - 30	D ^o D ^o squally (heavy)
3	64	29 - 50	D ^o D ^o
4	63	29 - 64	D ^o D ^o
5	63	29 - 75	D ^o D ^o rains
6	64	29 - 80	D ^o D ^o
7	61	29 - 60	D ^o D ^o
8	62	29 - 71	D ^o D ^o sleet
9	60	29 - 85	D ^o D ^o
10	55	29 - 90	D ^o D ^o
11	55	29 - 80	D ^o D ^o
12	56	29 - 10	Blowing a hurricane
13	50	29 - 85	D ^o a gale
14	45	29 - 30	D ^o hard with hail
15	45	29 - 30	D ^o D ^o
16	46	29 - 30	D ^o D ^o
17	41	29 - 50	Moderating, southerly aspect
18	50	29 - 50	D ^o
19	54	29 -	Blowing fresh
20	57	29 - 96	D ^o a gale of wind
21	48	28 - 96	D ^o a gale of wind
22	50	29 -	D ^o D ^o

23	51	28 - 96	D° D°
24	54	29 - 40	Fine weather from the Southward
25	56	29 - 10	Dirty rainy weather with hail
26	50	28 - 75	Gales in succession with hail
27	50	28 - 70	D° D°
28	51	28 - 90	Weather moderating squally
29	51	28 - 65	D° somewhat shady
30	50	28 - 90	D° squally, and cold hail
31	48	28 - 95	D° Do D° D°

Date	Ther ^r	Bar ^r	Remarks, etc August 1851
1	51	29 - 20	Fine squally with hale
2	54	29 - 90	D° and occasional rain
3	57	28 - 80	Boisterous weather
4	51	28 - 45	A gale of wind
5	50	28 - 91	Fine weather (with a heavy sea)
6	55	29 - 40	D°
7	54	29 - 50	D°
8	55	29 - 90	D°
9	57	29 - 90	D° made land
10	57	29 - 90	Arrived in Hobart Town
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			Landed all the Prisoners.
