

**Adm. 101 No 220**

**Medical and Surgical Journal of Her Majesty's Convict Ship *Duchess of Northumberland* between the 16<sup>th</sup> November 1852 and the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1853 during which time the said ship has been employed in a voyage from Woolwich to Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land**

**Mr Charles Smith, Surgeon**

**Copy of the sick list of the *Duchess of Northumberland* Female Convict Ship**

When Put On Sick List	Name	Age	Quality	Disease or Hurt	When Put Off Sick List	No of days on the List
1852						
Nov <sup>r</sup> 24	Mary Anne Thompson	30		Pleuritis	December 6 <sup>th</sup>	8
"	Maria Nobbs	20		Catarrhus	Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	9
30	Mary Ann Phillips	24		Catarrhus	Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	13
Dec <sup>r</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mary Anne Walker	25		Psora	Dec 17	15
3	Anna Denham	25		Pleuritis	Dec 19	16
"	Margaret Jones	19		Hysteria	Dec 18	15
"	Anne Allen	24		Colica	Dec 21	18
10	Mary McGuire	25		Diarrhoea	Dec 23	13
14	Margaret Brown	30		Dysenteria	Dec 24	10
"	Johanna Walters	26		Hysteria	January 5 <sup>th</sup>	20
15	Mary Ferguson	26		Dysenteria	Dec 26	22
27	Anne Jones	42		Dysenteria	Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	14
"	Anne Estony	25		Catarrhus	Jan 15	18
"	Mary Blake	23		Dysenteria	Jan 21	24
"	Mary Anne Thompson	30		Pleuritis	Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>	9
"	Harriet Sherwin	21		Catarrhus	Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	11
"	Margaret Williams	34		Dysenteria	Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	8
1853						
Jan <sup>y</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Blackwood	19		Dysenteria	Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	25
"	Elizabeth Parry	29		Constipatio	Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	26
8	Jean Kerr	17		Dysenteria	Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	16
"	Agnes McLeod	28		Dysenteria	Jan 31	22
12	Margaret Williams	32		Dysenteria	Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	23
12	Sarah Todd	25		Contusio	Jan 18	6
15	Jane Nottingham	29		Diarrhoea	Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Died 28
17	Mary McGuire	21		Dysenteria	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	11
"	Catherine Roy	32		Diarrhoea	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	11
26	Anne Jones	42		Hepatitis	Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Died 16
February 4	Eliza Dore	28		Dysenteria	Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	19
8	Mary McGuire	21		Febris	Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	17
9	Caroline Burnish	23		Neuralgia	Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	12
10	Sarah Mason	39		Rheumatismus	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	17
12	Mary Patrison	25		Hepatitis	March 17	Died 23
12	Mary Moore	28		Febris	Feb 28	15
13	Elizabeth Beilby	21		Amenorrhoea	Feb 28	14
"	Hannah Sherwin	21		Febris	Feb 27	12
14	Barbara Cowie	35		Asthma	Feb 23	8
"	Anne Rosefield	42		Hepatitis	March 13 <sup>th</sup>	26

“	Jane Griffiths	21		Catarrhus	March 30 <sup>th</sup>	43
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Catherine McDonald	29		Colica	Feb 26	3
24	Mary Ann Miars	49		Diarrhoea	Feb 28	4
25	Jane Smith	23		Febris	March 16	18
28	Agnes Robertson	23		Dysentaria	March 8	8
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Catherine McDonald	33		Dyspepsia	March 15	9
“	Anne B. Gallop	32		Enteritis	April 8	33
6	Catherine Roy	21		Phlegmon	March 15	8
6	Barbara Cowie	25		Pneumonia	March 26	19
7	Mary Blake	24		Hysteria	March 16	8
“	Nancy Boylan	23		Dysentaria	April 10	33
8	Margaret Patterson	42		Dysentaria	April 15	37
10	Catherine McDonald	28		Dyspepsia	April 16	36
12	Flora Burns	30		Pneumonia	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Hosp. 59
“	Margaret Reid	29		Tonsillitis	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	28
“	Susan White	30		Phlegmon	April 23	42
17	Anne Fuller	30		Diarrhoea	April 10	23
“	Catherine Glasgow	25		Dyspepsia	April 22	Hosp. 35
19	Susannah Parry	29		Dyspepsia	April 22	Hosp 33
21	Johanna Walters	30		Hysteria	April 22	Hosp 31
28	Eliza Doris	27		Phlegmon	April 22	Hosp. 24
29	Caroline Baylis	23		Scorbutus	April 22	Hosp. 23
30	Jane Smith	21		Febris	April 25	25
Apl 10	Sarah Caravan	29		Catarrhus	April 26	Hosp. 15

Charles Smith

Surgeon Superintendent



		6	<p><i>Aq: Fontana [lbj?] solve</i> A wine glassful three times every day - Is discharged from the Sick List</p>
Catarrhus PA302917jpg	2	<p>Maria Nobbs ætat: 20 was taken ill on the 27<sup>th</sup> November in The Downs and was discharged, cured on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1852</p>	<p>Of a weak and feeble constitution has been exposed during the last 10 days to wet &amp; cold weather her sleeping Berth is also near the main hatchway &amp; these causes brought on her present attack – Symptoms. – Severe pain in the legs and back. With cough and slight difficulty of breathing. A discharge from the eyes &amp; nose. – skin preternaturally hot. Pulse 90 &amp; soft. No appetite and considerable depression of strength. <i>Rx Aq: Ammon: Autat?: Zij</i> <i>Mist: Camphor: Zij</i> <i>Tinct: [Hyoscyamine??] Zfs m Ft. Mist: A</i> Tablespoonful every 3 hours, To have barley water for common drink. 28<sup>th</sup> Has passed a restless night with considerable pain over the upper sternal region. – <i>Cataplasma Sinapis</i> <i>applicator parti dolenti</i> – <i>Hab: Olei Ricini Zj</i> <i>Mist: Contin:</i> 30<sup>th</sup> Has improved since last report the cough less troublesome and the febrile symptoms have subsided complains of weakness and want of appetite. To have a little preserved soup with wine twice a day – <i>Rx Acidi Sulph: Ammol: Zj</i> <i>Disulph Quinine gr xv</i> <i>Aq: Fontana lbj solve</i> – a small wineglassful three times every day.- December 2<sup>nd</sup> There is but little change last report. The patient very weak &amp; complains of some pain in the Lumbar region – <i>Liniment Japonis Hab:</i> <i>Medicina Contin:</i> Dec<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Has improved very much last report. the muscular pains have subsided and the appetite and strength are gradually returning The same treatment to be continued. – 10<sup>th</sup> Has now completely recovered and is discharged from the Sick List and cautioned to avoid exposure to cold or night air.</p>
Colica PA302918jpg	3	<p>Anne Allen ætat: 24 was taken ill on the 8<sup>th</sup> December in The English Channel and was discharged, from the Sick List on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December</p>	<p>This woman is married and has borne two children. She has suffered much from Dyspepsia &amp; irregular menstruation during the last two years &amp; her digestive organs are at present in a disordered condition – Her feet have been constantly wet for some days from wearing bad shoes which has no doubt brought on this attack. Symptoms. Severe pain in the belly of a spasmodic character, abdominal muscle rigid &amp; tender to the touch. Bowels confined, pulse nearly natural Feet &amp; surface generally cold. Has had no catamenial discharge for six weeks. Bottles of hot water were applied to the feet and bowels, and large opiate administered but without giving any relief &amp; the pain became more severe and the pulse increased in strength and frequency – <i>VS. ad Z xv</i> <i>Cataplasma Sinapis (Sinapis) applied abdomen -</i> <i>Rx Hydrarg: Chloridi: gr vi</i></p>



			<p>Discharges. There is still considerable feculent purging of a light clay colour:-  <i>Rx Hydrarg: C. Crete: z fs</i>  <i>P. Ipecac: gr ij ℥</i>  <i>Confect: Aromat: q.s. ut</i>  <i>Ft. Pilul: vi</i> – one Pill to be taken nightly and morning. Is to have a glass of Port wine twice a day – <i>Mist: omitt:</i>  25<sup>th</sup> The medicines last prescribed have had a beneficial effect &amp; the patient has been gradually recovering – the stools are nearly natural, but she complains of weakness &amp; want of appetite. –<i>Hab: Infus: Gentian: Z vj</i>  <i>Infus: Carb:Ammon z ij</i>  <i>Carbon: Potass: z fs</i></p> <p>A wine glassful three times a day To have a littler soup with [wine etc?]  30<sup>th</sup> Nov. Is now completely recovered - discharged accordingly</p>
Diarrhoea	5	Jane Nottingham ætat: 29 was taken ill at Sea in the Bay of Biscay on the 15 <sup>th</sup> January and died on the 13 <sup>th</sup> February	<p>This woman has led a most dissipated and wandering life &amp; has been in 24 different Prisons for various misdemeanours. She is also of a potent and intractable disposition and appears to be at times partially insane – she is subject to frequent and copious discharges from the vagina of a muco-sanguineous character and often suffered from Dyspeptic attack &amp; irregularity of bowels. In all probability the result of Hepatic disorder – Her present illness has been brought on by damp feet, change of food etc – The pulse ranges from 80 to 90 is soft and compressible. The bowels are purged 5 or 6 times every day. The evacuations varying much in character – being sometimes dark &amp; slimy &amp; at others light coloured &amp; yeasty. There is pain in the right Hypochondrium and about the top of Right Shoulder. The skin is of a dusky &amp; unhealthy hue &amp; the tongue is covered with a thick dark brown or black fur. With great thirst. Indicative of grave derangement of the digestive organs.-</p> <p><i>Emplast: Vesicator: applicator lateri Dextri</i>  <i>Rx Hydrarg: c. Crete gr ij</i>  <i>P. Rhei gr iv</i>  <i>P. Torfeberis gr vj ℥</i></p> <p><i>Ft. Pulv:</i> - one powder to be taken night and morning - Diet to consist of Sago. Arrow Root or a little rice pudding. To have barley water for common drink.</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> The is no improvement since the [ <i>blank- words left out</i> ] the Blister rose well &amp; is discharging freely, but the evacuations are not changed, and the patient is losing flesh rapidly, the tongue is still very foul with excessive thirst – appetite occasionally ravenous at other times dull.-</p> <p>27<sup>th</sup> <i>Pulv: Contin:</i> - To take a small opiate at bed time.- There appears is some amelioration of the symptoms this morning the gums are tender and the Breath has a slight mercurial fœtor – The Blister is healed up To take a little soup once or twice a day with an 1oz of Port Wine</p> <p><i>Rx Mist Crete Z iv</i>  <i>Tinct: opii z j</i>  <i>Tinct: Catechu Zj ℥ Mist: -</i></p>

PA302921.jpg

			<p>A small wine glassful every 3 or 4 hours.- <i>Pulv: Omittat:</i></p> <p>The favourable change in the symptoms noticed at the last report was of very short duration. The patient has now a sunk &amp; exhausted aspect and the purging unless [.... ..] by the use of opiates is very harassing – both to the patient and the sick attendants.-</p> <p>Various astringents combined with opium were tried from time to time, counter irritation to the abdomen was also employed &amp; some with generous diet was administered. These remedies however produced no permanent beneficial effect. Low muttering delirium with great prostration of strength set in &amp; she gradually sank and died on the 13<sup>th</sup> January.</p>
<p>Hepatitis PA302922jpg</p> <p>PA302923jpg</p>	6	<p>Ann Jones ætat: 40 was taken ill at Sea on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January and died on the 11<sup>th</sup> February in Lat<sup>de</sup> Long<sup>de</sup></p>	<p>This woman is unmarried but has borne several children. She has led a very intemperate and wandering life, and she has been exposed to great vicissitudes of Temperatures in travelling the country as a Hawker. She has been repeatedly imprisoned for being drunk and disorderly &amp; at one time sustained a fracture of the skull while inebriated. Since that period she states that she has been subject to fits which appear to be of an Epileptic character. She is at times partially insane &amp; as she was sent on board against her own wish, her case has been altogether very intractable – Symptoms – Severe pain (&amp; difficulty of breathing) in the right Hypochondrium with a hard dry cough. Tongue dry and very much furred, pulse 100 &amp; small, countenance anxious of dirty, muddy complexion – bowels rather confined – stomach irritable with occasional Bilious vomiting.</p> <p><i>V.S. ad Zæ</i></p> <p><i>Habeat: olei Ricini Zj</i></p> <p>27<sup>th</sup> The Bloodletting has partially relieved the extreme difficulty of breathing and the bowels have been slightly moved by the oil, The blood abstracted is covered with a thin layer of Buff but the coagulum is thin &amp; without firmness.</p> <p><i>Rx Chloride Hydrarg: gr xxii</i> <i>P. opii gr vj ꝑ</i></p> <p><i>Confect Aromat: q.s. ut</i></p> <p><i>Ft Pilul:</i> one pill to be taken three times a day.- <i>Cucurbitula cruenta applicert: Parti Dolenti</i></p> <p>To have Barley water for common drink.</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> The intensity of the symptoms appear to be somewhat relieved The breathing is less difficult but there is still considerable pain and tenderness in the hepatic region, pulse 85 soft &amp; very compressible – <i>Emplast: Vesicator: applicat: Hypochondr: Dextri - Pil: contin:</i> To have [coffee?] for common drink Bottles of hot water to be applied the feet and lower extremities</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> There is a decided improvement in the symptoms since last report, There is less febrile excitement &amp; the pain and difficulty of breathing is considerably relieved – the gums are tender &amp; there is a coppery taste in the mouth. The Bowels are rather confined – To take a small dose of Sulphate of Magnesia – Blister to be kept open with the Unguent: Resinos:</p> <p>Takes a little oatmeal given occasionally</p>

		Feb <sup>y</sup>	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Continues to improve slowly, the tongue is clean and there is some slight return of appetite, bowels rather confined – Blister has healed up –  <i>Rx Antimon: Potass: Tart: zj</i>  <i>Ung: cetacei Z fs m</i>  <i>Ft. Unguent</i>  To be rubbed into the right Hypochondrium until a copious eruption appears –  <i>Rx Pil: Hydrarg: ij</i>  <i>P. Rhei gr ij</i>  - ?comonona (compono?) <u>aa</u> gr ij  <i>Ft. Pil: to be taken at bed time</i>  <i>Rx Sulphat: Quininæ ʒ j</i>  <i>Acid: Sulphin: Dil: zj</i>  <i>Aq: Fontana lbj solve</i></p> <p>a wine glassful to be taken three times a day.-  8<sup>th</sup> This woman had nearly regained her former condition of health when she was unfortunately seized with symptoms of a similar character but much more severe in character – 15<sup>th</sup> The same treatment was pursued although in a modified degree as during the first attack – [...] counterirritation mercurial alterative &amp; laxatives [irons?] &amp; generous diet latterly but these remedies have had no lasting effect in either relieving or curing this formidable disease –  About the 18<sup>th</sup> severe headache set in which was soon followed by delirium, great prostration of strength &amp; rigors in all probability the result of suppuration of the parenchyma of the liver – she lingered on in a state of insensibility to the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> when she died.</p>
Hepatitis PA302924.jpg	7	Mary Paterson ætat: 29 was taken ill at Sea on the 12 <sup>th</sup> of January and died at sea on the 17 <sup>th</sup> of March in Lat <sup>de</sup> Long <sup>de</sup>	<p>12<sup>th</sup> This patient states that she has not enjoyed good health for some years, She has been frequently in hospital under medical treatment for attacks of Hysteria, Dyspepsia &amp; has also suffered from general dropsy  She has not had a single day's health since coming on board. and if her previous history had been known I certainly would have protested about her being sent out as she was evidently not in a fit condition to undertake a long voyage. Antispasmodics and alteratives have been occasionally prescribed during the voyage – to relieve or palliate Hysterical or Dyspeptic symptoms as they presented themselves from time to time, a little rice Pudding or oatmeal Gruel are the only articles of food she can use.-  She was seized with severe pain in the right Hypochondrium with difficulty of breathing – nausea &amp; bilious vomiting. Pulse 90 small and soft, tongue much furred red at the edges, Bowels rather confined evacuations dark and pitchy. urine scant and of a very dark color as if mixed with viscus blood, on examining the right Hypochondrium and abdomen a considerable enlargement of the Liver was discovered, the viscus could be distinctly traced as far as the umbilicus &amp; was tender to the touch. The conjunction was also of a yellow tinge.-  Hab: Emplast: Vesicatorium, applicat: Hypochondri Dextri.-  <i>Rx Massa Pilul: Hydrarg: Z fs</i>  <i>Pulv: Rhei gr x ij</i></p>



<p>PA302925jpg</p>		<p>16<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><i>P. Scammoni aa</i> <math>\varnothing</math>-<i>j</i>  <i>Confect:</i> " <i>Aromat: qs.</i> <math>\#</math>  <i>Ft. Pilul: xij</i> Two pills to be taken at bed time – To have effervescing Draughts of citric acid and Carbonat:  Potass: every two hours  Has passed a sleepless night the blister has risen well and the Breathing is somewhat easier Blistered surface to be kept open and dressed with (<i>Unguent: Hydrarg: Fort: zj. Ung: Celacei Zfs</i> <math>\#</math>).</p> <p>The Bowels were opened twice with copious dark evacuations urine more free. The feet and the legs are swollen and pit on pressure &amp; the extremities generally are cold, and much numbed. To take a little Rice twice a day – <i>Pil: Contin:</i> -  To have the effervescing draughts ad libitum:-  The Breathing is now much easier and the Liver appears to be somewhat reduced in size – the Pills have acted freely without however producing much watery purging The urine is still scanty but does not contain albumin the swelling of the lower extremities has increased very much &amp; is extending up to the trunk. The feet and legs are quite tender.-  Two small Blisters to be applied to the calves of the legs to allow the fluid to drain away from the cellular tissue,-  Blister to be kept open.-  The gums are slightly touched.-  <i>Rx Tinct: Digitalis g<sup>ii</sup>. xx</i>  <i>Aq: Menthe: Pip: Z j</i> <math>\#</math>  <i>Ft. Haust: ter in die Sumend:</i>  (a small wine glassful to be taken three times every day)  <i>P. omittat:</i>  25<sup>th</sup> There is not much change since last report – the diuretic mixture acted freely on the Kidney and increased the quantity of urine – The two Blisters were very effectual in relieving the swelling of the limbs, but the benefit produced was only temporary. &amp; the lower extremities are now much swollen – The cough continues with inability to lie on the left side. The face is anxious and of a dusky hue – leaving I think little doubt of the existence of organic disease of the Liver – <i>Mist: omittat:</i> To take 1oz of Port Wine twice a day.- &amp; a small occasional does of <i>P. Rhubarb</i> to regulate the bowels.-</p>
<p>PA302926jpg</p>		<p>30</p>	<p>Much the same as on the 30<sup>th</sup> The debility is perhaps increased &amp; the evacuation is becoming more apparent.- She has also suffered latterly from hiccup and sleeplessness for the relief of which opiates have been given at bed time.- The Blister has healed up.  <i>Rx. Antimon: Potass: Tart: zj</i>  <i>Ung: Celacei: Zj</i> <math>\#</math>.  <i>Ft. Ung:</i> To be well rubbed over the right Hypochondrium until a copious eruption appears-  Continue opiates at bedtime</p> <p>8 – No improvement since last report The [diapucal??] (effusion is extending over the abdomen and the difficulty of Breathing has rather increased. The patient has also become very Hysterical and is much distressed with flatulence, hiccup and the Globus Hystericus- the evacuations are of a dark color and the disease appears</p>



Scorbutus	11	Elizabeth Bayliss ætat: was put on the Sick List on the 28 <sup>th</sup> March and was discharged to the Colonial Hospital on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	This woman has been in delicate health during the voyage, and has required to be supported with wine & medical comforts, she has latterly become much debilitated & symptoms of Scurvy have presented themselves – i.e.– a spongy condition of the Gums which bleed on the slightest touch – large diffused dark colored patches are under the skin [are dirtly(directly?) ] resulting from effused blood - &c_ wine with generous diet with small doses Nitrat: Potass were administered but without much apparent benefit immediately on arrival in Van Diemen’s Land it was deemed advisable to send her to the Colonial Hospital where she would be supplied Fresh Meat and vegetables the Scorbutic Symptoms being no doubt the result of imperfect nutrition.
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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	Numbers						Nos. of such Cases as are detailed in the Journal		Numbers						Nos. of such Cases as are detailed in the Journal			
	Total	Discharged to Duty	Sent to the Hospital	Died on Board	Invalided	Remaining			Total	Discharged to Duty	Sent to the Hospital	Died on Board	Invalided	Remaining				
Fever	Continued .....	4	4	"	"	"	"		Brought up .....									
	Intermittent .....								Gonorrhœa .....									
	Remittent .....								Stricture .....									
Eruptive Fevers	Small Pox .....								Syphilis .....									
	Scarlatina .....																	
Diseases of the Brain, Nerves, &c.	Apoplexy .....								Diseases of the Joints, Muscles, Bones, &c.	Rheumatism .....	1	1	"	"	"	"		
	Epilepsy .....							Gout .....										
	Delirium Tremens ..																	
	<i>Neuralgia</i> .....	1	1	"	"	"	"		Diseases of the Senses, &c. of the Membranes, and of the Organs of Vision and Hearing	Ophthalmia .....								
								Amaurosis .....										
Diseases of the Respiratory Organs	Bronchitis .....								Diseases of the Skin, Glandular System, and Cellular Tissue	Deafness .....								
	Pleuritis .....	3	3	"	"	"	1	Herpes .....										
	Hæmoptysis .....							Psora .....		1	1	"	"	"	"			
	Phthisis .....							Serofula .....										
	Catarrh .....	6	5	1	"	"	2	Bubo ( <i>Symp</i> ) .....										
	Influenza .....							Ulcer .....										
	<i>Asthma</i> .....	1	1	"	"	"		Phlegmone .....		3	2	1	"	"	"	10		
<i>Pneumonia</i> .....	2	1	1	"	"		Erysipelas .....											
Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels	Palpitation .....							<i>Cervicæ</i> .....										
	Hæmorrhoids .....							<i>Spondyliæ</i> .....	1	1	"	"	"	8				
Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels	Enteritis .....	1	1	"	"	"		Wounds, Accidents, Injuries, &c.	Wounds .....									
	Dysentery .....	14	14	"	"	"	4		Fractures .....									
	Diarrhœa .....	5	4	"	1	"	5		Dislocations .....									
	Cholera .....								Sprains .....	1	1	"	"	"				
	Constipation .....	1	1	"	"	"			Contusions .....									
	<i>Colica</i> .....	2	2	"	"	"	3		Hernia .....									
Diseases of the Liver, &c.	Hepatitis .....	3	7	"	2	"	6	4	Dyspepsia .....	4	2	2	"	"	9			
	Jaundice .....							6	Atrophy .....	5	4	1	"	"				
									<i>Hysteria</i> .....									
								<i>Antropophagia</i> .....	1	1	"	"	"					
								<i>Scabietus</i> .....	1	1	1	"	"	11				
TOTALS carried up.....	43	38	2	3	"	"		GENERAL TOTAL.....	61	57	4	3	"	"				

## GENERAL REMARKS

Having been appointed Surgeon Superintendent of the female Convict Ship "Duchess of Northumberland" I immediately proceeded to Deptford and reported myself to the Captain Superintendent of that Dockyard and in compliance with instructions from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November I received a letter from captain O'Brien desiring me to repair to Millbank Penitentiary & examine 220 Female Convicts as to their fitness to undertake a voyage to Van Diemen's Land I found them all in good health with two exceptions, on the 17<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 219 Females were received on board one being left behind sick we also received 34 children [most?] of whom were infants the others were of different ages varying from two to ten years – on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November weighed anchor etc. During the first six weeks the weather was very stormy being a succession of westerly gales with much rain and occasionally very high seas so as to render it necessary to batten down hatchways fore & aft - during this period the Decks were constantly wet & the Thermometer varying from 40° to 50° - yet notwithstanding we had little sickness on board. The females suffered a good deal from Sea Sickness, lowness of spirits etc required the use of wine & medical comforts to support them, but they did not appear to be at all affected by the Battering down of the Hatchways, the ventilating tubes admitting the necessary quantity of air for the purpose of Respiration. There can be little doubt I think that the patent ventilating tubes of [Dreuts? Eilmore?] will be of great benefit to the comfort and even safety of convicts or Emigrants at sea during very heavy weather, In proceeding on our voyage through the tropics the health of the adults continued to be unusually good – several children died from teething & [as last?] two adults whose cases I have fully reported in this Journal. The Thermometer ranged from 81 to 82 – but it occasionally rose as high as 86° - The prison was carefully ventilated during this period and the females kept as much on deck as possible, The Bath was filled two or three times every morning during the hot water<sup>(sic)</sup> and a certain number allowed to Bathe every other morning which no doubt contributed much to the healthy condition of the Females, Their minds were employed in sewing or knitting reading etc – and they were encouraged to take exercise on deck whenever the nature of the weather would permit.-

The Beds were got up from the prison every second day during the voyage, and the lower deck cleaned Sir W<sup>m</sup> Burnett's Solution of Chloride of Zinc was also regularly used more particularly in the Hospital and water closets and invariably with the most satisfactory result. The Sulphuretted Hydrogen Gas so abundantly produced in many ships is completely destroyed by this liquid and disease thereby prevented.-

On referring to the Synopsis it will be seen that the number of sick, during the voyage, is unusually small, being altogether 61, of these three died and 8 more sent to the Colonial Hospital. Three cases of Pleuritis were reported, all of whom got well and were discharged. - The Catarrhal cases 6 in number were of various degrees of severity. In two - there were considerable respiratory disturbance & high Febrile symptoms, requiring the use of the Lance, & Antimon: Potassi; Tart: with countirritation to the chest – 4 cases of Fever are mentioned these are simple continued in all probability the result of disordered primæ via, purgatives & diaphoretics were employed at first and tonics with wine during the convalescent stage. A large number of Dysentori cases are reported, amongst whom no deaths occurred, although all the Dysenteric symptoms were well marked, there were only one or two of severe character, [.....] of Mercury Ipecac & opium were the principal medicines employed with careful attention to direction – of the three cases of Hepatitis reported, 2 proved fatal - & are given at length in the Journal – these were Females hardly in a condition to leave England as they had been the subjects of severe liver disease on former occasions which had never been altogether relieved & their constitution generally much impaired.-

The remaining cases reported are of not of much interest. Two Rheumatic attacks were rather obstinate but yielded at last to opium & Quinine in small doses – a Boy of about 8 years of age sustained a fracture of the Femur in its middle portion. Pasteboard splints were applied and he recovered the use of the extremity in 5 weeks without any perceptible deformity. The same boy swallowed a quantity of Solution of Chloride Zinc which immediately producing free vomiting large drinks of Preserved Milk were given every half hour & apparently with very good results as the

gastric irritation gradually subsided leaving however a hot acid sensation about the Fauces & œsophagus which disappeared in a few days.

Charles Smith  
Surgeon

Island of Van Diemen's  
May 5<sup>th</sup> 1853