

ADM 101/35 (AOT Reel 3198)
Journal of His Majesty's convict ship 'Hope',
Mr Richard Lewis Surgeon,
between 28 February and 23 August 1842

GENERAL REMARKS

I have the Honor to lay before the Physician-General a summary of Cases of disease, which occurred on board the Convict-ship "Hope" (with 139 Female Prisoners, 27 Free settlers, and 44 of their children) during the Passage from Dublin to Van-Diemen's Land.

The first cases of disturbance of health were those of Erysipelas, one of these was attended by much fever, and required active depletion, but the others gave way to simple remedies. During the voyage many cases occurred of disturbance of the functions of the uterus, occasioning several forms of Hysteria, and among the rest the rather singular one of simulated Asthma, which came on in alarming Paroxysms three successive evenings, & which was removed by two full bleedings, but the function of the organ principally deranged was not so readily restored. I am sorry to have to report two fatal cases of Pneumonia, and also the death of two of the children, one of them only 5 weeks old, and both of whom came on board in an ill state of Health.

During the Passage that morbid condition of the system, so common in these voyages, arising from imperfect nutrition shewed itself in many cases, the mucous membrane was the part most affected. In several as Ellen Magrath, Ellen Nowland, Mary Halfpenny, Joanna Duggan and others the initiation had its principal seat in the Intestines occasioning Diarrhoea - with Marg^t Dunn it assumed most the form of Dysentery; violent spasm of the bowels with frequent loose motions streaked with blood. With Catherine Doeherty's daughter the mucous membrane of the bowels, suffered and also the Conjunctiva. With Catherine Ryan the mucous membrane of the bowels, the lungs and eyes became severely affected. In several others as Sarah Jorndan, Rose Murphy, Mary Gilmore, Celia Hart and several others the disturbance was principally confined to the stomach, occasioning Nausea, head-ache &c. In Ann Day there was an attack of tertian intermittent with very regular and complete interones[?]" and during each Paroxysm, she suffered severe pain of the Lungs, dyspnoea, violent cough and expectoration of thick mucus. So various were the forms assumed by this morbid state of the system that they seemed like different diseases bound together by common predisposing cause. In all there was more or less of febrile invitation. In former voyages I have seen instances of effusion within the cellular membrane of the lower extremities, with discoloured spots, and eruptions on the skin, but there was no appearance of the kind during our late voyage.

Richard Lewis