

Surgeon's Journal of Her Majesty's Female Convict Ship "Frances Charlotte"
 Mr John Osborne, Surgeon Superintendent
 Between the 28th July 1832
 and the 15th January 1833
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**Medical and Surgical Journal of Her Majesty's Convict Ship Frances Charlotte between
 the 28th July 1832 and the 15th Jan 1833 during which time the said ship has been
 employed in conveying prisoners to Van Diemen's Land**

#1

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.
<p style="text-align: center;">Cholera</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	1	<p style="text-align: center;">Ann Watts Aged 35 years A convict August 13th 1832 At Woolwich</p>	<p>Was taken ill this afternoon with nausea and soon afterwards with vomiting and purging. When she first complained I gave her <i>gr vi Sub. M Hyd.</i> and <i>gr i opii</i>. This remained only a few minutes on the stomach. I then repeated the dose of <i>Sub M. H.</i> and administer^d afterwards a draught of <i>Tinct Opii g^{ss} xxxx</i> and <i>Ether Sulp ʒi</i> A few hours after the first attack the pulse was hardly perceptible, the skin cold with extreme debility, and excessive thirst. The cramps in the stomach & lower extremities became very painful. <i>Apply^d Mustard Cataplasms</i> to the abdomen and had legs well rubed with <i>Tinct Camph.</i> and hot cloths & bladders of water appl^d. 14th Had a very restless night tossing about the bed and occasionally suffering extreme pain skin cold and clammy, voice indistinct. Repeated the <i>Sub M Hyd.</i> at intervals with <i>Conf. Arom.</i> and gave barley water as drink. The fluid voided by stool or thrown up from the stomach, the colour of whey without any appearance feculent matter. P.M. Cramps in the legs very troublesome – apply^d mustard poultices to them. The skin now quite dark and discoloured. 15th Had some sleep last night after a copious & fetid evacuation – appears free from pain this morning but extremely debilitated, gave her a little weak brandy & water - hot and <i>Ol Ricini ʒfs</i>. This person continued tolerably free from pain but the debility increased and she died on the 17th. She seemed to have got over the violence of the disease but had not constitutional stamina sufficient to rally afterwards being of a broken-down constitution.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cholera</p>	2	<p style="text-align: center;">Thos. Thoroughgood Aged 14 years A free government passenger Woolwich August 15th 1832</p>	<p>Was seized with violent vomiting and purging, cramps in the stomach and lower extremities. <i>Rx Sub M Hyd. gr vi</i> <i>Conf. Aromat q.s. ut ft Pilulæ – stat sumend.</i> <i>Rx Tinct Opii ʒfs Eth Sulp ʒj m.</i> Mustard poultices to his belly and legs – and bladder fill^d with hot water.</p>

			<p>The vomiting & purging continued throughout the evening with extreme thirst and debility. Repeated the Calomel and the Anodyne – and gave him Barley water slightly acidulated for drink He feels better this morning altho his stomach is still unsettled. Had copious dark evacuation and since then he seems much better.</p> <p>16th</p> <p>17th Slept tolerably well last night, stomach more settl^d. <i>Rx Ol Ricini ℥fs – in aqua menth.</i></p> <p>18th This boy is now convalescent and there appears every prospect of his recovery – gave him a little Sago & wine.</p> <p>19th Continues better. This boy recovered.</p>
Page 4 Cholera	3	<p>Maria Hayes A convict Aged 42 years Woolwich August 16th 1832</p>	<p>Extreme debility – no pulsation at the wrist – vomiting & purging of a whey-coloured fluid – cramps in the lower extremities and stomach. <i>Rx Sub M Hyd. gr x et Tinct Opii ℥i m</i> Bladder fill^d with hot water to her sides and chest and Mustard Poultices to the abdomen and legs. She is constantly asking for water but her voice so very weak that we could with difficulty understand what she said. Her skin became very dark during the night and covered with a clammy moisture. Died at 7 A.M. on the 17th.</p>
Cholera	4	<p>Ann Griffiths Aged 22 years A convict Woolwich August 17th 1832</p>	<p>Violent spasms in the stomach and legs with vomiting and purging. <i>Rx Ether Sulp et Tr Opii a a ℥fs Stat Sum^{ur}</i> <i>Rx Sub M. Hyd. gr vi</i> <i>Confec. Arom' Q.S. ut fiat Pillulæ</i> Appl^d the Mustard Cataplasms to the stomach and extremities together with the bladder of hot water and repeated the Calomel at intervals.</p> <p>18th This morning she had a copious evacuation and felt very much relieved. <i>Rx Aqua Menth ℥i</i> <i>Ol Ricini ℥fs M su</i> Recovered.</p>
Page 5 Cholera	5	<p>Eliza Harris Aged 26 years A convict Woolwich August 19th 1832</p>	<p>Was suddenly seized with violent vomiting and purging (having been an attendant in the Hospital) extreme debility- apply^d hot water in bladders to her sides and abdomen and Mustard Cataplasms to her extremities – She took occasionally Calomel and Anodynes but immediately threw them up – skin cold and moist, extreme thirst and restlessness - She continued very ill through the night and died this morning. 20th August.</p>
Cholera	6	<p>Ann Carter A convict Aged 19 years Woolwich August 19th 1832</p>	<p>Vomiting and purging accompany^d with violent spasms in the stomach and lower extremities. Administer^d <i>Calomel</i> in six grain doses at intervals of two hours with <i>Tinct Opii et Ether Sulp.</i> Apply^d bladders of hot water to her sides and mustard to the abdomen and legs. The nausea and vomiting continued</p>

Page 6			<p>through the day. Pulse hardly perceptible – Eyes sunken and altogether a most death like appearance, excessive thirst. Skin dark, breath cold.</p> <p>20th Had a little sleep last night and this morning had a copious evacuation – dark and very offensive – Since then she has continued better.</p> <p><i>Rx Aqua Menth ℥ij Ol Ricini ℥fs</i></p> <p>21st Continues tolerably free from pain but occasionally slight spasms. Belly open^d once and still offensive.</p> <p>22 Slept a little last night, very disturbed and appears occasionally delirious. Gave a little Sago & Wine and open^d the bowels with three grains <i>Calomel</i> and a little <i>Ol Ricini</i>.</p> <p>This girl continued tolerably free from pain but still weaker until the morning of the 26th when she died.</p>
Cholera	7	<p>Phoebe Polbrook [Phoebe Pulbrook] Government passenger ages 13 years Woolwich 19th August 1832</p>	<p>Nausea – vomiting – purging – with violent spasms in the stomach and legs – extreme debility, thirst – skin and breath cold and eyes apparently sunk in her head.</p> <p>Prescrib^d <i>Calom</i>^l and <i>opiates</i> at intervals with Bladders of hot water to the stomach and mustard cataplasms.</p> <p>20th Spasms less frequent, had some rest last night – and belly open^d this morning. Repeat^d the <i>Calom</i>^l and afterwards a little <i>Ol Ricini</i>. This girl contin^d to improve with nourishing diet and paying attention to her bowels. Cured.</p>
Page 7 Cholera	8	<p>Ann Butler A convict Aged 18 years Woolwich August 24th 1832</p>	<p>This girl was suddenly taken ill with the usual symptoms of Cholera and in a very violent degree. gave her two tablespoons full of Salt in a gill of water and repeat^d every half hour until the vomiting ceas^d. After three doses her skin became something warmer and nausea ceas^d. During this time a mustard poultice was apply^d over the stomach and hot water in bladders to her sides and abdomen.</p> <p>24th <i>Rx Sub M Hyd. gr vi</i> <i>Conf. Arom^l gr x – m –</i></p> <p>Two hours after the pills I administer^d ℥fs <i>Ol Ricini</i> which procured a copious evacuation.</p> <p>This girl recovered.</p>
Cholera	9	<p>Sarah Polbrook [Pulbrook] A government passenger Aged 36 Woolwich 25th August 1832</p>	<p>Debility – with vomiting and purging- cramps very violent at intervals, skin cold – thirst excessive- eyes sunken and breath cold.</p> <p>Gave <i>Solution of Murias Sodæ</i> every half hour – after three doses the stomach became more settled and the skin looked more favourable. Hot water in Bladders to her stomach – and mustard to her sides and lower extremities – when the vomiting was reliev^d I gave small doses of <i>Calomel</i> and <i>Ether</i> at intervals.</p> <p>26th This morning a copious bilious evacuation – patient much relieved Recovered.</p>
Page 8 Cholera	10	<p>Joseph Polbrook A child aged 6 years August 25th 1832</p>	<p>Vomiting – purging and extreme debility – with occasional violent spasms. This child would not take the Saline Solution. I therefore gave him small doses of</p>

		Woolwich	<i>Calomet</i> with Tinct Opii and <i>Eth' Sulp.</i> applying constantly bladders of hot water – the evacuations were quite colourless and free from foetor. He continued very weak and apparently insensible altho not suffering much pain until the 3 rd Sept ^r when he died.
Cholera	11	Mary Rawlins Aged 34 A convict Woolwich August 25 th 1832 26 th	Extreme debility – nausea – vomiting & purging – with violent cramps occasionally in his stomach and legs. Administer ^d the Saline Solution of <i>Murias Sodæ</i> every half hour until the stomach became more settled and the heat of skin return ^d – bladders of hot water always to the abdomen and sides which appeared to afford relief – rub ^d the legs with Tinct Camp. <i>Rx Calom [] gr vi Conf Aron Q. Suff. ft Pilulæ</i> Afterwards a little Castor Oil which occasioned a copious bilious evacuation. Recovered.
Page 9 Cholera	12	Eliza Black A convict Aged 21 years Woolwich August 26 th 1832 27 th	Vomiting & purging of a watery fluid – extreme debility and violent spasms occasionally apply ^d hot water in bladders to the abdomen – with mustard cataplasms to the sides and lower extremities – and gave every half hour 4 oz of Solution of <i>Murias Sodæ</i> . Gave six grains of <i>Sub M Hyd.</i> with a little <i>Pulv Zing.</i> – and afterwards <i>Ol Ricini</i> and a few drops of <i>Ol Cajeput:</i> in the evening. She had a copious bilious evacuation and afterwards had some refreshing sleep. Recovered.
Cholera	13	Sarah Wood A Government passenger Aged 16 years Woolwich 28 th August 1832 29 th	Was taken suddenly ill with the usual symptoms of cholera – vomiting, purging – cramps and extreme debility – sunk eyes, cold breath with thirst. Administered a tablespoon full of salt in water – and had it repeated after vomiting, in the evening her stomach became more settled and her skin more natural, had hot water apply ^d to her chest and abdomen. <i>Rx Sub M Hyd. g vi</i> <i>Eth' Sulp et Tinct opii aa ʒfs</i> Finds herself reliev ^d , bowels open ^d this morning with <i>Ol Ricini</i> Recovered.
Page 10 Cholera	14	Louisa Massey Govern ^t Passenger Aged 5 years Woolwich August 28 th 1832	Debility, nausea – purging with violent spasms – apply ^d hot water to her chest and abdomen and administered <i>Sub M Hyd. et Pulv Rhei with Sedatives</i> – the child continued extremely unwell without any hope of recovery until the 3 rd Sept ^r when she died.
	15 16 17		Three of the ship's crew were also affected with cholera and two of them who died appear to have led dissipated lives – died after a few hours illness – the third recovered. He took the Solution of Salt until his stomach became a little settled – afterwards he had some bilious evacuations – and he got quite well in a week. His constitution appeared good – and he was not more than eighteen years

			old. Hot bladders with mustard poultices and calomel were occasionally employed
Page 11 Pyrexia	18	Hannah Cross A convict Aged 26 years Sheerness September 5 th 1832	Lassitude – hot skin, thirst: and restlessness. Pulse full – belly slow, took 16 oz blood from the arm, and prescribed <i>1oz Sulp Mag - Inf Sennæ</i> . 6 th Finds herself much better, has slight cough today and still a little fever, gave nitrous mixture with antimonial wine at intervals. 7 th Perspires freely during the night and is now much relieved. 8 th Rx Ol Ricini ζ i – continued to improve daily and was dich ^d cured 20 th September.
Pyrexia	19	Eliz'h Emerson A convict Aged 22 years August 12 th 1832	13 th Pain ^d chest – with slight cough occasionally, pulse hard & strong – skin hot, with thirst and restlessness. <i>Emittere Sang. brach ζxvi – app^r Emp: Lyttæ stern.</i> Ord ^d nitrous mixture and antimonial wine. Finds her chest relieved, belly slow – Rx Ol Ricini et aqua menth a a ζ i – gave barley water slightly acidulated as drink. Slept well last night and perspired freely – continue the nitrous mixture. Rx Ol Ricini ζ i 26 th September cured.
Page 12 Pyrexia	20	Matilda Finucane (Finnigan) Aged 19 years At Sea Oct ^r 24 th 1832	Headache – hot skin – thirst and constipation. <i>Rx Sub M Hyd gr vi nocte sumend^r</i> 15 th Rx Inf Sennæ ζ iv – Sulp Mag. ζ fs m. 26 th She is now much relieved. 27 th Rx Sulp Mag. ζ i Cured
Pyrexia	21	Sarah Kain Aged 21 years Oct ^r 24 th 1832	25 th Pains in her arms & legs, thirst and constipation. <i>Rx Sub M Hyd gr iij</i> <i>Antim Pot. gr v m nocte sum^d.</i> 26 th Rx Inf Sennæ ζ ij Finds herself better, had her extremities rubbed with <i>Linim Camp Inf Sennæ ζij</i> Cured
Dysentery	22	Louisa Wright Aged 26 years A convict At Sea Nov ^r 3 rd 1832	5 th Pain in the abdomen with repeated inclination to stool without being able to void any faeces – thirst and pyrexia. <i>Rx Sub M Hyd gr v</i> <i>Rhei. Pulv gr x m stat Sumd^{ur}.</i> 4 th Pain has continued and occasionally very acute. <i>Rx Ol Ricini ζi in aqua menth</i> and ord ^d hot fomentation to the abdomen. The bowels were opened and very offensive matter discharg ^d . She still however continues very unwell – Rept the Calomel. This woman continued very unwell until the 8 th decem ^r when she died.

Page 13 Dysentery	23	Jane Bradley Aged 19 years A convict At Sea Nov. 4 th 1832	Violent pain in the abdomen with almost constant inclination to stool without voiding any thing but a very offensive fluid – prescrib ^d <i>Calomel & Pulv Zing with Ol Ricini</i> & fomentations. 5 th Had an evacuation this morning and is easier. Repeated the calomel with hot fomentations to the abdomen. 6 th Repeated the Calomel & Ginger – and afterwards <i>Ol Ricini</i> . 8 th Continues to improve, her mouth sore 9 th Convalescent Disch ^d cured the 18 th Nov ^r .
Dysentery	24	Mary Smyth A convict Aged 18 years At Sea Nov 3 rd 1832	Constant inclination to stool with griping pain in the abdomen <i>Rx Sub M Hyd gr vi</i> <i>Pulv Zing gr x nocte Sum^d</i> 9 th <i>Rx Ol Ricini ʒi</i> 10 th The bowels appear to be well opened – constant griping pain continues with occasional slight discharge of blood & mucous – administered <i>Calomel and opium</i> – daily – until the griping pain subsided and the mouth became slightly affected – and occasionally a little <i>Ol Ricini and Aqua Menth</i> . She gradually got better. Cured Nov 24 th
Page 14 Dysentery	25	Jane Kewley A convict Aged 35 years At Sea Nov 3 rd 1832	Violent griping pain in her bowels, with frequent inclination to stool – <i>Rx Sub M Hyd gr vi</i> <i>Pulv Zing gr x m noct. Sum^d</i> . 4 th <i>Rx Ol Ricini ʒi-</i> 5 th Belly opened but pain and griping continues. Administ ^d <i>Calomel and Opium</i> and apply ^d bladders of hot water to the abdomen. 6 th Not reliev ^d – <i>rept. Sub M Hyd</i> 7 th Repeat ^d the <i>Calom^l and Opium</i> . This person contin ^d to get worse – and the medicine did not produce the slightest effect upon her mouth. Died Nov 14 th
Dysentery	26	Elspet Rennie Aged 22 years A convict At Sea Nov 20 th 1832	Violent griping pain in her bowels with constant inclination to stool – her treatment was like the former patient – after taking <i>Sub M Hyd</i> for a few days, her mouth became affected and she gradually got better. Cured
Pyrexia	27	Jane Prosser Aged 19 years A convict At Sea Nov 20 th 1832	Headach, hot skin and thirst with a slow state of the bowels. <i>Rx Sub M Hyd gr iij</i> <i>Pulv Antim gr v m noct Sum^d</i> . 21 st <i>Rx Sulp Mag ʒi</i> 22 nd Much better today. Disch ^d .

Page 15 Dysentery	28	Elice Bradley A convict Aged 32 years At Sea Nov 24 th 1832	<p>Frequent griping pain in the bowels, accompan^d with a constant inclination to stool – <i>Rx Sub M Hyd gr vi</i> <i>Pulv Zing gr v -m –</i> 25th The bowels were freely open^d and the stools most offensive with blood and matter – pain & griping still continues. <i>rept^r Calom^l & opium –</i> 27th Nothing reliev^d – <i>rept^r the Calom^l</i> which does not appear to affect the mouth. This patient contin^d to get worse – the mouth not at all affect^d Died Dec 16th</p>
Dysentery	29	Ann Crowdy A convict Aged 30 years At Sea Dec ^r 4 th 1832	<p>Constant inclination to stool with severe griping pain in the abdomen. <i>Rx Sub M. Hyd gr vi noct. sum^d</i> 5th <i>Rx Ol Ricini ʒi</i> – apply^d bladders of hot water to the abdomen. 6th Bowels freely open^d – pain still continues at intervals, evacuations very offensive. This person took Calomel daily & opium until her mouth became sore. The disease then gradually abated – the evacuations more natural and less offensive and she recover^d.</p>
Page 16 Dysentery	30	Sarah Rowley A convict Aged 19 years Dec ^r 7 th 1832	<p>Pain in the belly with frequent inclination to stool – and voids occasionally – small quantities of blood mix^d with pus - administ^d <i>Calom^l gr v & opium</i> and afterwards <i>Ol Ricini</i>. 8th Bowels open^d and the evacuations extremely offensive – griping pain still continues. <i>rept^r Sub M Hyd.</i> 9th <i>rept^r the Sub M Hyd.</i> contin^d to use <i>Sub M Hyd</i> until the mouth became affected – when the disease gradually declined - recover^d.</p>
Dysentery	31	Marg^t Dixon Aged 46 A convict At Sea Dec ^r 10 th 1832	<p>Violent pain in the bowels with constant inclination to stool. <i>Rx Sub M Hyd gr v</i> <i>Pulv Zing. gr x noct. sum^d</i> 11th <i>Ol Ricini ʒi</i> 12th Bowels well opened – evacuations very offensive, pain still continues & occasionally very violent, gave <i>Calomel and opium</i> daily until the mouth became sore. 18th Mouth slightly affect^d- <i>Rx Ol Ricini ʒi</i> 19th Continues better – Disch^d 24th</p>

ABSTRACT of the preceding JOURNAL, being a summary of all the Cases contained therein, Nosologically arranged.

Nature of the Disease or Hurt	Numbers						Nos. of such Cases as are detailed in the Journal
	Put on the Sick List	Discharged to Duty	Sent to the Hospital	Died on board	Invalided	Remaining	
Cholera Morbus	17	2		8			
Pyrexia	5	5					
Dysentery	9	6		3			

GENERAL REMARKS

I have little to offer as remarks worthy of observation. The cholera of which there were 17 cases and eight deaths on board the Frances Charlotte made its appearance on the 13th of August when nearly all the prisoners and free passengers had embarked for van Diemen's Land. It appeared of a very malignant character. I did not find Calomel and Sedatives of any avail during the second stage and I would be disposed to place more confidence in a Solution of Murias Soda repeated at intervals – particularly if the person ill of cholera were of a young and robust constitution, but in many cases nothing medicinal seemed to have any affect whatever. Nearly all those who died of cholera in this ship were persons of debilitated and broken down constitutions by early dissipation. To avoid as much as possible all risk from infection when any person died of cholera I had the body immediately roll^d up in a blanket moistened with a saturated Solution of Chloride of lime and over that a tarr^d blanket and shell. These precautions were useful in giving confidence to the persons employed in the Hospital and who assist^d in burying the dead – and with one exception none so employed were taken ill.

After leaving England the ship continued very healthy with the exception of some cases of Dysentery and slight fever – and I could not form any opinion how the Dysentery was occasioned.

J Osborne
Surgeon Supt.