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(PROVINCE OF NEW MUNSTER.)

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By His Excellency's Command,
ALFRED DOMETT, Colonial Secretary.

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Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 22nd November, 1851.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF has been pleased
to direct the publication of the following
Report by the Colonial Surgeon at Whanganui, for general information.

By His Excellency's command.

(For the Colonial Secretary)

S. E. GRIMSTONE.

REPORT

ON THE

MEDICAL TOPOGRAPHY OF THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT.

The river Whanganui, called in some of the old maps, Knowsley, is a fine stream of water, running through a district of the same name, on the northern shore of Cooks' Straits. It has its origin in Tongariro, a mountain lying about 60 miles from the sea, and embouchures in Lat. 39, 57. 19. South, and in 175. 2. 8. East Longitude. Stretching at first considerably to the north-west, and pursuing a very tortuous course, its whole length is estimated at 240 miles.

The name is derived from the native Whanga, expanse, or according to another authority, fissure, and nui, great, both are applicable, the former, probably more so ages ago than at the present time, much of the land in the lower part of the district now dry bearing evidence of having been covered with fresh water.

A bar of shifting sand extends across the mouth, cut by a north and a south channel, the greatest depth is commonly in the latter and may be stated at seven feet low water, spring tides, with a rise of nine feet; the average depth at half flood, is eleven feet. A third channel sometimes makes its appearance sufficient for the passage of boats.

Inside the bar a sheet of smooth water presents itself, which having been crossed, the river is entered by a narrow gut. Immediately within the entrance a low sandy swamp forms the north shore, the opposite margin being bounded by a narrow strip of beach, along which are ranged hills, not sufficiently numerous to prevent occasional floods covering the low ground behind. A little higher up the sand flats cease, and banks of from twelve to several hundred feet high effectually confine the waters.

The distance to which the tide flows is about twenty miles, the average rate of current three knots and a half, along the tideway the depth varies from nine to twenty-four feet, low water.

Uances pass more than two hundred miles along the river, and have to encounter a succession of falls and rapids: the means of progression are long poles and occasionally a rope.

Three miles up, on the south bank, is the native village, Putiki-Warenui, and a mile higher, on the opposite side, the town of Petre, inhabited by Europeans, the computed distance of which from Wellington (the principal settlement in New Munster,) is one hundred and ten miles and a half.

The water of the river, until it reaches Petre, may be considered as an article of diet, nearly pure, but in that vicinity a large quantity of sea water often becomes mixed with it, and several samples drawn from the beach at low tide in summer evolved sulphuretted hydrogen gas within twenty-four hours afterwards. During freshes it is turbid and deposits much mud and exuvize on the low ground near the sea, but the numerous wild fowl of the locality and the action of wind and rain render them innocuous. Higher up such accumulations are prevented by the steepness of the banks.

For the purposes of this report and following the line of population the district of Whanganui is all that land immediately on either side of the river, and in the neighbourhood of its tributaries.

Lates are numerous, the most important being 'Virginia Water,' situated two miles from the town, at an elevation of about two hundred feet, it is a perfect natural reservoir of excellent water, fed by springs, and must ultimately become the source whence the inhabitants below will receive their supply.

Streams are everywhere met with, some of considerable size and tributary to the river, from the drainage of fertile and extensive tracts of country. The principal on the left bank are the Wakapapa, which rises near the main stream and falls into it about forty miles from its source. One hundred and twenty miles lower down, the Manganuitihau is received also from Tongariro. On the right bank, the Ongaruhe, the Ohure and the Tongarakau, are the most important. Many of the smaller streams are chalybeate and at Otaihure and Makokomiko, the former about one hundred, the latter one hundred and forty miles from the sea, salt springs issue from the river's bank, but no information has been obtained regarding their origin.

Suamps occupy much of the level ground, but being formed of surface water admit of easy drainage, their chief produce is a large growth of coarse grass, rush and flax. They are frequented by Europeans at all seasons and occupied by the natives, during the flax harvest, which is at that period of the summer, usually considered to be most favourable for the production of marsh miasm; but they do not appear to possess any properties prejudicial to health, beyond cold and moisture; some severe cases of Ileus have originated in them during the wetter months, but as the locale of fevers, they are unknown.

From Tongariro to the sea there are no mountains, but innumerable hills cover the surface of the country, extending in every direction: they enclose rich valleys and give existence to forests wherein much valuable timber is to be found. Medically, they are worth notice, on account of the immense quantity of pure water supplied by them, and the share they have in the production of land and sea breezes.

Climate.—I regret being unable to afford tabular information on this subject for an earlier period than the present year, but a somewhat correct opinion may be formed of it from the following observations;

STATE OF THE BAROMETER AND THERMOMETER UNDER SHELTER, FROM THE 1ST JANUARY TO THE 30TH JUNE, 1851.

	BAR	COMETE	R.	TRER	MOMET	ER.
Montus.	Highest.	Lowest.	Medium.	Highest	Lowest.	Medium.
January February March April May June	30 30 30 30,3 30 29,9	29 29 29 29.3 29.3 20 28.5	29.5 29.5 29.5 29.8 29.5 29.2	74 76 73 65 62 60	68 70 59 53 48 40	71 73 66 59 55 50

The months of December, January and February, are the hottest; near the solstice the heat is very great, and natives engaged in field labour retire to some shady spot; headache, vertigo or apoplexy not unfrequently occurring when the precaution is neglected.

In winter, the temperature in the sun averages 90°, in the shade 49°, but much depends upon situation. On one side of a thick hedge-row exposed to a biting south-easter, the thermometer has been seen so low as 40°, while on the other side, summer heat has been indicated. Ice is sometimes deposited on standing water, during the winter nights, but disappears as the sun rises. Snow is rarely seen: hailstorms occur more frequently.

Within 60 miles to the south-east of Petre are portions of the Tararua and Ruahine mountains, which during the colder months are surmounted with snow, the south-easterly winds therefore are very severely felt in the lower part of the district occasionally, and from what has been stated regarding its influence on the temperature of exposed localities it will be readily seen that the character of the winter must be in a great measure governed by it. The north-west wind is milder, that from the north, warm and agreeable in winter, but in summer opressive; during its presence very little dew is deposited, but a considerable quantity if from any other quarter. It is most abundant when the land breeze only exists, and in the driest season is the never-failing preservative of vegetation. In settled weather land and sea breeze blow with regularity, the former commences at sunset, the latter about 10 a.m., the breeze for the day sometimes springing up soon afterwards. They are not uncommon in winter, but of course prevail most during summer. The usual winds near the Straits, are the north-west and the south-east, when from any other direction they seldom last long.

The following statement formed from observations made during the last six months will show their relative frequency.

January, S.E. 7 days, N.W. 20 days; S. 3 days; N.1 day. February ... 9 ... 19 ... W. 1 ... 1 ... March ... 11 ... 19 ... E. 2 ... April ... 11 ... 17 ... E. 2 ... 19 ... June ... 9 ... 12 17 ... 4 ...

The wettest months are usually those of May, June and July. The number of rainy days during the past half year, were, in

 January
 6

 February
 2

 March
 11

 April
 22

 May
 8

 June
 13

The quantity of rain in January and March was beyond the par of those months, that in February, April, May and June, may be considered the average. Thunder storms are not uncommon, and lightning is seen in all seasons. Falling stars are often observed, and meteorites reported occasionally.

Earthquakes have been known since the memory of the inhabitants, and tradition from a remote period tells of terrific changes on the earth's surface in consequence of them. No condition of weather or of atmosphere can be fixed upon as necessary for their production, having been felt on wet and on dry days, on the calm sultry summer evenings, and during the cold rough winds of winter. From the quickness with which they have usually passed, it has been difficult to decide on their direction, but several vertical shocks have been distinctly felt. During the last ten years only three of severity have been experienced, one in 1842 which opened a fissure on the river side, between high and low water marks, the others, (felt also at Wellington, where much destruction of property resulted) in 1848 within a few days of each other. The overthrow of a few ill-built chimnies was the extent of mischief.

Soil.—The low ground near the sea is composed of a sandy loam on a clay subsoil, a thick stratum of silex, or of pumice finely divided, and evidently a deposit occasionally intervening. Many hills in this part of the district were originally formed by sand drifts and are now thickly covered with fern. At a little distance from the river, and in the interior, a rich loam is everywhere found. In those swamps which have been examined the soil is light and porous, but abundantly rich with a thick substratum of pumice, resting on clay.

Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral Productions will, at some future day, when the advance of civilization throughout the district shall have rendered necessary the formation of roads, afford an abundant field for the researches of the naturalist. At present our knowledge of them is limited, but it will be only necessary for me to mention such as are more immediately connected with the interests of the inhabitants.

Wild Mammalia are few in number, the pig, cat, rat, mouse, and probably the dog, being the only terrestrials. A bat is seen filting about during the summer evenings and the whale may be often observed passing the river.

Of Birds, several Falco and a Strix are the Accipitres. The Sturnus Muscicapa, Turdus, Motacilla, Pyrgita, and Philedon families, are the more common Passerinæ. The Psittacus, Picus and Cuculus may be mentioned as Scansores. The domesticated Gallinæ are Pigeons, Turkeys, Common Fowl and Guinea Fowl, but the only wild members of the order appear to be the large Wood Pigeon, seen in almost every bush, and the rare Kakapo, inhabiting the wooded heights of the upper district. Of Grallæ are found the Charadrius, Tringa, Platalea, Numenieus, Ardea, Sultana, two of Himautopus, a Hematophus, an Apteryx, (the Grotesque Kiwi) and several of the Rallus family, the largest of which, is the Weka or Wood Hen. The Palmipedes are some Auas proper, several of the Carbo and Larus families, a Colymbus, and a bird of the Anser genus (Wio) about the size of a small duck, possessed of an osseous protuberance on each pinion, by means of, which it is enabled to climb the river banks. A Petrel (Titi) is often heard during the summer nights on its passsage from the sea to its nest inland, but is rarely seen. The domestic members of this order are the Cape and the British Goose, the common and the Muscovy Duck.

Of Reptilia there are only a few small inoffen-

Of Reptilia there are only a few small inoffensive Sauria of the Lizard family, but the natives affirm the existence of a very large species among the hills on the upper part of the river, and name it the Mokopeke.

Of Pisces, the quantity obtainable in the river, and off its mouth is sufficient for the wants of a large population, but there being no regular fishing establishment, the supply is limited. The Clupea family are abundant, Clupea Alba being no less entitled to distinction than their British prototypes. Flounders, soles, eels, smelt, cod, gurnard and bream are plentiful. The Carcharia Vulgaris has been seen occasionally, and the Scillium is taken in large quantity by the natives, who consume it as food; the livers of these and other fishes are rejected, and a strong prejudice exists against that of the Hapuka, (a cod) which is considered poisonous, but it has been partaken of by Europeans without inconvenience.

The more common Mollusca are some of Turbo family, several of the Mytilus (salt and fresh water) some Cardiacea, Uniones, Myæ and Buccini. Of Annelides it is perhaps only necessary for me to mention a Leech, but not having seen a specimen, whether the Hirudo Officinalis, I am in doubt. Some small crab of the family Thelphusæ and Pinnotheres, the Cancer Astracus, (common in lakes and streams) and Crangon Vulgaris, are the more common edible Crustacea. Of Arachnidæ, two called by the natives Katipo are poisonous, the bite of one (a small black spider, with a red spot on the back) being particularly dreaded. The larvæ of lepidopterous insects inflict considerable injury on the gardens during the early growth and fructification of plants and demand the constant surveillance of the cultivator. A large Gryllus inhabits the fern land, but has not been known to commit the ravages imputed to it, in the northern part of the Island. The Apis mellifera has been introduced, and Musca vomitoria et equina have found a home in the district. The sand fly and the mosquito are the more troublesome Diptera, and the Pulex Irritans proves an invaluable admonisher to cleanliness.

In the Vegetable department are many trees and shrubs, parts of which are edible; but few or none suited to the European palate; to some, the natives are very partial, and occasionally, in their journies, subsist upon them; those most in use are the Pitau, or Mamaku (Cyathea Medullaris) an arborescent fern, the stem of which is sweet and pulpy. It is prepared by baking and affords a plentiful meal. The Kie-Kie, (Freycinetia Banksii) the fruit, about the size of a small pine apple, is of luscious sweetness; the blossoms of the Herekeke (Phormium tenax) afford a refreshing nectar in summer, very serviceable to the traveller. The Raupo, (Typha angustifolia) found in all swamps the root of which is slightly farinaceous. The berry of the Poroporo (a solanum) juice of the Tutu, (conaria sarmentosa) and the fruit of the Karaka (corynocarpus laevigator) but the most valuable is undoubtedly the root of the Aruhe, (Pteris esculenta) or fern, which when baked, pounded and sifted, affords a considerable quantity of farinaceous powder, highly nutritious and agreeable.

The apple, pear, quince, peach, plum, apricot, fig, cherry, grape, gooseberry, strawberry and raspberry, are becoming plentiful, their cultivation being attended to by both races. Musk, rock, Persian and other varieties of melon, are grown without protection from the weather, or the use of hot beds. Esculent vegetables, of nearly every kind used in Britain, are produced with little trouble, those principally consumed by the Aborigines are potatoes (one variety of which is said to be indigenous), the Tara (caladium esculentum)

Kumera, or sweet potatoe, (convolvulus batatus) some gourds, and degenerated Brassica. New Zealand spinach (Tetragonia expansa) grows over the

district, but is not used.

Materia Medica.—Several trees, plants and shrubs indigenous to New Zealand, and found in Whanganui, are reported by the aborigines to possess curative powers. From my own experience of their properties, I may mention the Hinau (Eleocarpus Hinau) the bark of which is a powerful astringent; the root of the Toe Toe, (Epacris pauciflora) laxative, similar in its operation to aloes, the root of the Phormium tenax, a simple bitter, and in large doses violently purgative; the juice of the Pua taua taua, (a clematis) escharotic, and the berry of the Kahikatea, (Podocarpus excelsus) stimulating and diuretic. The nasturtium aquatistimulating and diuretic. The nasturtium aquati-cum, anthemis nobilis, agrimonia eupatoria, and some menthae, salviæ, altheæ, and rumices, are to be met with wild. The only medicinals cultivated are Papaver somniferum, Digitalis purpurea, Nico-Tabacum, Taraxacum, Ruta graviolens, Cochliaria armoracia, and some mints and sage

grown for culinary purposes.

Minerals are not yet known to be either various or abundant. Native iron in a minute state of division is plentiful among the sand hills, and its pyrites and oxyde exist to some extent throughout the district. The mud of swamps is therefore used by the aborigines to strike the black colour on their mats, a decoction of Hinau bark being used as Traces of copper and arsenic have been occasionally found, and samples of coal taken from the surface, though not good, were pro-nounced (after having been employed in the manufacture of several iron implements,) superior to some obtained from Wellington, and said to be Australian. On the upper part of the river are several caverns, with the usual garniture of Stalactytes and Stalagmytes. Most of the cliffs near the sea are composed of Testacea and Testaceous fossils, embedded in a matrix of clay, sand some contain carnellans, correlines, crystals, and homatites.

Agriculture.—From causes presently to be noticed, the cultivation of the soil has been much retarded. The implements in use among the Europeans are the plough, harrow, and hoe, the aborigines employ the hoe and the spade their ancient tools being now rarely seen. Barley, oats, maize and wheat, are annually raised. The quantity of maize is considerable, that of wheat small owing

to the absence of mills.

Roads.—With natural wisdom, the aboriginal population avoiding unnecessary labour located themselves along the main streams from different points of which passes have been formed to other settlements. The example has been fol-lowed by those Europeans who had the opportunity; but internal communication generally, is very defective, and it is to be regretted that the settlers do not open up the country in their immediate neighbourhood. A moderate yearly expenditure, under proper management, would greatly increase the value of their land, and as draining would be a necessary part of the work, improve their health and longevity.

Intercourse with other districts is maintained by sea and by the coast line, the latter to the west-ward is decidedly bad for any description of travel-lers, that to Wellington good for passengers, but the transit of merchandize is effected principally by

shipping.

Population.—The aboriginal and European population, following a census for 1850, as regards the former, taken by order of the Government, is.

Aborigines......3,374
Europeans, including military.....698

Total 4.072

By the same returns the number of adult aboriginal males is stated to be 1,289, of adult females 1,169, of boys 499, and of girls 417. The births were 52; deaths 50.

The men are robust, active, but not so capable of continued exertion as Europeans, their complexion when free from Tatoo, a light olive, hair, eyebrows, and lashes black, teeth white, even, hair, eyebrows, and lashes black, soon and closely encircled at the neck by the gums, dress is a shirt, over which is thrown a rug or a blanket. The women are rather fairer than the men, their average height 5 feet, when young, good-looking, but not handsome, hair, eyebrows and lashes black, and the teeth perhaps more beautiful than those of the men. The dress is a loose gown of common print or calico, buttoned round the neck, a rug or a blanket being usually added; the native mats formerly so common, are now seldom The garments of children are similar to those of adults, and all travel with bare feet. The clothing rarely or never undergoes the process of washing, except among those more immediately in contact with the settlers, and is a very imperfect protection from the weather. The ornaments in use depend from the ear or neck, and are worn by both sexes, they most usually consist of a piece of greenstone (jade) fashioned into shape and polished, or a shark's tooth. The custom of smearing the body with oil and red ochre, formerly much in fashion, is now never seen in the European neighbourhood, but their persons are seldom clean. Tatooing still continues to be practised, and by a similar process the women's lips are stained blue, and a not un-pleasant looking figure sometimes imprinted on the chin. Nearly all the adult females are covered with the cicatrices of wounds, self-inflicted during the days of mourning. The whole population occupies 140 miles of the river banks, from the sea upwards, and is distributed among 34 pas or villages, the the principal of which, but not the most populous, is the missionary station of Putiki Warenui. pa is generally surrounded by a wooden fence and the houses built, without regularity, of a coarse grass, or a rush, they are seldom of larger dimensions than six feet by eight, with only room enough to stand upright when in the middle. The entrance, through which it is just possible to crawl on the hands and knees, is closed at night by a piece of wood, there is no chimney, but the fire is placed on the floor, the smoke escaping through the loose materials of the roof and walls. A mat manufactured from the leaves of the Phormium tenax, or some dried fern thrown on one side of the dwelling, forms the occasional luxury of a bed, the bedding being the garments worn during the day. An attempt at improved architecture is sometimes seen, in a greater height of wall, the addition of a small window, or a door of larger dimensions than ordinary. At Putiki Warenui a regular town has been laid out by order of the Government, many o'd wigwams removed, and a few houses of more respectable preten-sions substituted, a growing taste for European garments is also noticed, and several of the young men are never seen out of full costume.

In all the pas are Ware punis (sleeping houses) formed by erecting a low roof over an excavation in the ground, and thickly covering it with earth, a wood fire generally occupies the centre of the floor, and the principle of their construction being to exclude as much as possible the external air, they are very warm and of course very unwholesome. Formerly the chief men only used them, but now all have the entrée, the winter evenings are here spent in debate or conversation, and it would be difficult to decide whether those who remain to sleep, or they who retire to their private dwellings, suffer the greatest amount of injury.

The food usually consumed is vegetable, with occasionally wild birds, pork, or fish, the drink water, and the fuel wood.

A high degree of intelligence, great attention, and consequently, a retentive memory, are qualities common to the race, and of which the inhabitants of this part of the Islands possess their share. Good humour, hospitality to strangers, liberality to relations, faithfulness to employers, and truthfulness on matters of importance, are the more common favourable characteristics: those of a contrary nature are a disregard of kindnesses, a love of idleness, jealousy towards members of other tribes, a strong tendency to deceit and misrepresentation on ordinary matters, corrupt conversation, and promiscuous intercourse between the unmarried sexes.

Marriages with Church service have been lately on the increase, in ten villages within thirty miles of the sea, out of 490 adults 328 are united after christian practice. Their spiritual condition, or rather the assumed state, may be ascertained by the following numbers of:—

Unbaptized	 	 	 712
Wesleyan	 	 	 200
Church of England	 	 	 2462

Total 3,374

Attempts have been made at the Missionary stations to form native schools for children, but it does not appear that they have been successful, a regular attendance of scholars is difficult to be enforced, and parental authority never exerted. It is among young men that a desire for improvement is mostly found, and here the influence of an European population becomes directly evident; our mode of buying and selling, the relative value of coins, and the postal communication kept up with the other settlements awaken curiosity and emulation, and with these aids the teacher's task is easy. Out of 730 of all ages, more immediately under the notice of the Church Missionary, 227 can read and write, and 47 perform the first four rules of arithmetic; on making a trading visit to the town it is customary for those who have thus far improved to sell by weight; the value of the commodity being worked out on a slate, with which they are generally provided.

Employments and amusements are gardening, agriculture, fishing, spearing birds, making or repairing canoes, weaving mats, (now seldom practised) ornamental carving, Divine services, religious and political discussions, and the general news of the day. With the exception of religious duties, which they perform with a solemnity worthy imitation, the cheerfulness with which they enter upon these occupations give them rather the character of amusements, in fact they have no others for their old pastime of Ti, Haka, and similar frivolities are now rarely seen. Their voices are well formed for harmony, but they have no idea of musical effect, and their few barbarous wind instruments are seldom used. The tobacco pipe is a constant source of enjoyment, being seldom out of the mouth, its use is common to both sexes, and it may be said to all ages; the tobacco used is negrohead and its bad effects on the system are often observed where used to excess.

It will not be proceeding beyond the province of my report to remark that, when it is considered that the aborigines of this district were always reputed to be the worst of a savage race, and that the same causes which operated against the increase of Europeans have retarded their civilization, the amount of improvement among them now stated is perhaps as much as can be fairly expected. Half a dozen years have not elapsed, since they manifested extreme jealousy of our intentions, and scanned every

passing event with careful interest; the settlers at that time unprotected by a military force were made to feel their veakness and found British rule too feeble to give redress. But we now see a friendly confidence in the place of jealousy, a careful avoidance of offence, instead of an aptness at aggression, and some of the principal chiefs who at one time contended and stood hostile with the Government, now seeking distinction in its service. Several leading men are employed as magistrates in adminstering justice among their own people, and it is a well ascertained fact, that the decision of these officers is never disputed, if found consistent with our laws. It must, however, be confessed that the passions which formerly agitated are slumbering and not extinct.

Europeans first settled in the district in 1840, but several potent causes tended for a long time to render their numbers and labours utterly insignificant. Since the establishment of peace with the natives in 1847, from which period only the birth of the settlement can be dated, the population has increased and its present constitution is:—

Total 808

This number of civilians is exclusive of those on the neighbouring rivers of Whangaihu, Turakina, &c. The proportion of males to females, is as 3 to 2, the number of births during the last eighteen months 25, of deaths 2, marriages 3. Nearly three fourths of the population live in the town, the remainder are engaged in pastoral and agricultural pursuits.

The houses of Petre are built usually of wood, of one story and detached, each has a small piece of garden ground, in which are raised some of the fruits and vegetables consumed; there are a few springs of good water on private property, and some wells have been sunk, those near the river are liable to the influx of brackish water, from the occasional presence of which, and the quantity of debris constantly falling into it, the stream inshore is scarcely fit for aught but external purposes. Ample reserves have been made for streets but as yet no improvement has been made therein.

Provisions are abundant, beef, mutton, pork, fish, fowl, eggs, flour and potatoes being the articles of diet principally in use.

diet principally in use.

The military inhabit two stockades, formed on hills situated near the centre of the Town, about 150 yards apart and running parallel with each other, at right angles to the river. The men appear to enjoy excellent health. A regular hospital is established in the barracks under the charge of an assistant Surgeon.

A civil Hospital has been recently opened in the Town, intended principally for the reception of aborigines. It is a handsome building, and well situated, every native coming into the Town from the interior, or proceeding up the river from the coast, having to pass it. The size is small, but it is well adapted as the nucleus of a larger building, the arrangements, so far as they extend, are good and calculated to obtain the end in view; the rooms intended for the reception of patients are principally on the ground floor, and will contain twenty beds, allowing the usual space for each, the other conveniences are a bath room, a dispensary, a kitchen, and a steam apparatus to supply the lavatory, a water closet, tank, attendants rooms, and a store closet. The staff consists of one surgeon, who acts also as dispenser, and a male and female attendant. At the present time the Institution is nearly full, the patients are perfectly aware of the advantages derivable from medical treatment, and place

implicit confidence in the means employed, a self will sometimes manifests itself, but well tempered firmness soon re-establishes a proper feeling. It has been asserted that these Institutions are likely to become politically useful; and the following case will probably add strength to the opinion. An aboriginal female of Tunnhaere having been beaten by a man of a different tribe, lay ill for several weeks, and at length, as she appeared to be dying, was removed to the hospital. On examination, it was ascertained that no bodily injuries existed, but that having been surrounded by persons who treated her as one whose earthly career had ended, she resigned herself to the event. The absence of her tormentors, and the stimulus of a warm bath and nutritious diet soon restored her without the aid of medicine, and she was discharged in a few days perfectly well. As the case arose out of a question of right to land, it is most probable that serious death.

DISEASES.—According to tradition, the district was visited many years ago by three great and fatal epidemics, two of a dysenteric, the other of an exanthematous character, and said to have spread from the North of the Island, apart from this it might have been considered, not many years since, that epidemic diseases were unknown, but the increase of civilization has brought the natives acquainted with some, justly attributed by them to intercourse with Europeans. Influenza is probably one of these, and Pertussis and Cynanche parotidea certainly. The last named disease made its first appearance this winter, and it is worthy of remark that, in several cases of recession, Testitis, Epididymitis, and hernia humoralis, which do not appear to have been formerly, so much known, followed, whether or not from metastasis, further experience must decide.

The absence of fevers, as the result of marsh malaria has been already remarked upon. During a ten years residence in the district I have not witnessed a case of either the remittent or intermittent form, and were it not that many of the conditions favourable to their production are seldom absent from the native pas and some other parts of the district, I should be tempted to say, they are non existent. With regard to those of a continued form, I am equally sceptical, numerous cases have been met with, where the general symptoms were typhoid, but previous neglected local disease could always be elearly traced. Without therefore the presence of idiopathic fevers being denied their extreme rarity must be asserted, the natives indeed describe an affection (Kikiki) the prominent symptom of which is a violent shaking of the whole body occurring at intervals, but although an increased heat of skin is said to exist coldness is never complained of, and from all the information gleaned regarding it, I am inclined to the opinion that it is not a disease sui generis, but an occasional phenomenon in the progress of several disorders.

The preceding observations apply exclusively to the aboriginal inhabitants; among the Europeans several cases of common continued fever having occurred, and like influenza, pertussis and aynanche parotidea, it will be ultimately perhaps common to both races.

There is a disease, called in the native language Ngerengere, seen occasionally in Whanganui, the subjects being from Taupo, a district in the immediate neighbourhood of Tongariro, it is said to be endemical to that place, but I have met with those who affirm its existence in the South Island. The first symptoms are said to be, a degree of constriction in the skin of the affected parts; which are ge-

nerally the loins, extremities and face, a degree of puffiness and heat follows, the skin becoming of a dusky red, the eyeballs prominent, and the lachrymal secretion flowing down the cheeks; after a lapse of time, varying from one to three or more years, the puffiness increases to a considerable swelling, the face attaining to a large size, the cellular substance and skin, the former of which is sinfiltrated with a serous fluid, ulcerate, and death soom ensues. During the early stages the skin loses its sensibility, and may be severely pinched without the sensation of pain; the flexor muscles of the upper extremity often become paralyzed, and the fingers occasionally drop off; whether or not the alimentary canal suffers, I have not been able to ascertain; it will be remarked that many of these synaptoms are similar to those which exist in lepratuberculose; the natives consider it is contagious, and their treatment of it is by incisions into the swelling and fomentations, the ingredients of which are a variety of banks, and leaves without reference to their individual properties. Having met with but to give the result of my own experience.

The more frequent causes of death among the adults appear to be neglected pulmonary affections, long existent rheumatic complaints wearing out the strength and constitution; scrofula, in its advanced stages of ulceration, and luce veneres. Among children dissolution is most commonly produced by neglected catarrhal and bronchial diseases, diarrhæa and dysentery.

The following table will show the frequency of different diseases, treated, within the last three months, at the native hospital, the subjects being aboriginal:

Diseases. No. of Second Second					
Catarrhus 29 29 Diarrhœa 22 22 Cynanche parotidea 16 16 Bronchitis 11 10 1 Lues Venerea 11 7 4 Dysepsia 10 10 Dysenteria 9 8 1 Ulcus 6 5 1 Morbus testis 5 3 2 Aphthæ 3 3 Contusio 2 2 Absoessus 2 2 Psoriasis 2 2 Morbus cordis 2 2 Ambustio	Diseases.		Discharged,	Remain.	Died.
	Catarrhus Diarrhœa Cynanche parotidea Bronchitis Luas Venerea. Dyspepsia Dysenteria Ulcus Morbus testis. Aphthæ Contusio Opthalmia Hernia humoralis Abacessus Psoriasis Morbus cordis Ambustio Fungus Hydrops pericardii Pityriasis capitis Porrigo Melancholia Cynanche tonsillaris Ferunculus Hœmaturia Phthisis laryngea "pulmonalis Bubo simplex	29 22 11 11 10 6 5 3 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1	29 22 16 10 7 10 8 5 3 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 1	1 1 2 2 2	
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Of the rheumatic cases, two were acute, the bronchial affections were subacute and chronic, the venereal, balanitic and gonorrheal principally. I have not met with a case of Hunterian chancre; but ulcerations, sometimes scrofulous phagedonie, are common;—of the morbi testis, two consisted of scrofulous hypertrophy: the morbus cordis were dilatation of the right side, the case of Fungus is severe, but I cannot call it Fungus hœmatodes. The Hydrops pericardii is of five years standing and followed pericarditis; the melancholic patient on admission was verging on the monomaniacal; the laryingeal and pulmonary phthises were hopeless cases, and the latter must ere this have ended fatally. The subject of Ambustio, was a young child and its severity preluded hope from the first.

Phthisis pulmonalis tuberculosa does not appear to be of very frequent occurrence, but extreme cases of tracheal and pulmonary disease simulating it are constantly met with.

Out of two hundred aborigines, taken promiscuously, twenty one were found to have glandular swellings, or cicatrices, from their suppuration, in the neck.

Malacosteon has not been observed, but distortion of the vertebral column from caries, is occasionally seen, and two cases of talipes are known, in one of which the gastroenemii are reduced to the mere fasciæ, and progression effected on the hands and knees.

Chorea, epilepsia and cretinism are unheard of, but insanity is far from rare, and derangement of the mental functions without febrile excitement often occurs in the progress of chronic disease. Apoplexia, more or less severe, is frequent during the warm months, and sometimes fatal.

Defective vision from deposits of lymph on the cornea is now and then complained of, but total blindness is uncommon. Dysecæa occasionally presents itself, a common cause being absence of cleanliness, and two cases of mutitas surdorum have been witnessed.

Hernia umbilicalis is common, other forms rare. I have met with but one (double inguinal protrusion) from malformed abdominal parieties.

sion) from malformed abdominal parieties.

Calculus is unknown, and renal disease, though reported frequent by the aborigines, who mistake other affections for it, is in reality rare.

The process of parturition is nearly always safe, as regards the mother, but the child's life is not unfrequently lost. Abortion sometimes takes place,

and menorrhagia, dysmenorrhæa and irregular menstruation require occasional attention. The usual catameneal period is at the age of ten.

The natives do not appear to be blessed with a very long life, very few being met with whose ages exceed sixty-five.

I have seen no monstrosites in the district, and but one Albino.

In the above category, nothing has been said relative to scrofula beyond its being a frequent cause of death, because it so universally prevails, that the native constitution may be said to be essentially scrofulous. It cannot arise from intermarriages in the same family, they not being practised; nor from lues venerea, the state of constitution and those suffering from it, generally disqualifying them for reproduction. Deficient clothing, bad lodging, improper diet, and the humid atmosphere of an unimproved country, may be considered the remote causes of this and nearly every other disease afficting the race. Previous to the commencement of a journey no preparation is made against weather, but the chance of arriving at, or being enabled to erect some temporary shelter alone depended on. In their trading visits to the town they pass the night, even at mid-winter, without any other protection than a miserable fire, round which they huddle, and should rain descend, a blanket or other garment, is taken from the person and erected into a sort of tent. Yet, in order to be near their market, they prefer this wretchedness to the comparative comfort of Putiki pa, which is within a very short distance.

Before closing the Report, it may be necessary to mention that the old superstitions of 'Atua' and 'Taipo' (exciting spirits of disease) pass away where ever Christian doctrines are received. All the patients who have been hitherto received into the hospital happen to be believers, and the only cases in which the old notion was adhered to was that of melancholia, which circumstance in a civilized person would be pathognomonic of the disorder.

On the subject of Epizootics I have nothing to state worthy of interest.

George Rees, M.D., Colonial Surgeon, Whanganui.

July 29th, 1851.

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REMARKS.	Progress of disease arrested Recovered Discharged in a hopeless state Recovered Do.	Do. Do. Do. Scrofulus; still in Hospital and doing well Recovered Health restored Recovered Recovered Do.	Do. Do. Do. Left of his accord to attend a Magistrate's Recovered Do. Do.	Dopendent on diseased vertebra, and still Health restored Recovered Do. Do.	Still in Hospital, but doing well Health restored Still in Hospital, doing well Recovered Do.	In a hopeless state Recovered Still in Hospital Still in Hospital Recovered Still in Hospital, doing well Left in a hopeless state		
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Registrar-General's Office, Wellington, 3rd November, 1851.

PURSUANT to the Provisions of the 40th, 41st, and 42nd Clauses of the "Marriage Ordinance," Sess. 8, No. 7, 1847, the following list of Officiating Ministers is herewith published for general information.

ROBERT R. STRANG, Registrar-General.

Names.	RELIGIOUS BODIES.	RESIDENCES.
Reverend W. Colenso		Ahuriri. Wairoa.
,, O. Hadfield		Wellington.
,, S. Williams. ,, R. Taylor. ,, H. Butt		Otaki. Wanganui.
,, T. L. Tudor	Church of England.	\ \} Nelson.
,, Edward Puckle		Canterbury
,, James Wilson, John A. Fenton, Octavius Matthias		Settlement.
,, Wm. Alymer	Church of Scotland.	Wellington. Nelson. Otago.
,, James Duncan, ,, James Watkin, John Aldred	Reformed Presbyterian Church.	
,, S. Ironside	Wesleyan Methodist Society.	Nelson. Patea.
,, W. Kirk		Wanganui. Otago.
,, J. Forest		Wellington and the Hutt.
,, A. Garin	Roman Catholic Church.	Nelson.
" S. Pezant		Otaki, Ahuriri.
,, J. Lampila	Lutheran Church.	Ruapuke, Fo- veaux Strait.
" Henry Green	Primitive Methodist Society. Congregational.	Nelson. Wellington. Wellington.

I, ROBERT RODGER STRANG, Registrar-General for the Province of New Munster, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the "List of Officiating Ministers" for the said Province, compiled by me in conformity with the instructions contained in Clauses 40, 41, and 42, of the Marriage Ordinance, Sess. 8, No. 7.

ROBERT R. STRANG,

Registrar-General.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington, 3rd November, 1851.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, SHEWING THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE PROVINCE OF NEW MUNSTER, NEW ZEALAND, FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 3018 OF THE YEARS 1850 AND 1851, RESPECTIVELY.

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Otago is omitted in this Return, the necessary information not having been received from that settlement.

During this quarter (1851) debentures to the amount of £132:16:0 were issued to Mr. Charles Grace in compensation for his ejectment from his property under Crown Grant to Mr. David Scott.

GODFREY J. THOMAS,

AUDITOR-GENERAL.

AUDIT-OFFICE,
Wellington, 14th November, 1851.

TOTAL AMOUNT of Notes in circulation at
the Office of the Colonial Bank of Issue,
at Wellington, on the 15th day of No-
vember, 1851:—

Amount of Notes in circulation on the 15th day of November, 1851, being the close of the preceding four weeks, viz.:—

£5 and upwards Under £5		••••	••••	£ 665 5801
	Total			€ 6466

Total £2466

I, Henry W. Petre, the Colonial Treasurer, do hereby certify that the above is a true account, as required by the Ordinance, No. 16, Session 8.

HENRY W. PETRE, Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, Wellington, 17th day of Nevember, 1851.

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The sum of four thousand pounds has been invested, under the warrant of His

Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, in the public funds in England, through the Commissariat Department, by arrangements made through the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

HENRY W. PETRE, Colonial Treasurer.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that Joseph Crocome, of Waikouaiti, in the district of Otago, in the Province of New Munster, Surgeon, has this day submitted for my examination sufficient and satisfactory proof that he is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London, in accordance with the provisions of an Ordinance passed by the Provincial Council of New Munster Sess. I, No. 2, entitled an Ordinance to define the qualifications, and to provide for the remuneration in certain cases of Medical Practitioners."

Dated, at the Resident Magistrate's Court, Dunedin, Otago, this 8th day of October, 1851.

> A. CHETHAM STRODE, Resident Magistrate.

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