

Deposited by the Maternal & Dorcas Society 1949

HOBART MATERNAL & DORCAS SOCIETY

The Hobart Maternal & Dorcas Society was formed in 1835 by a number of charitable ladies, firstly "to assist married women during the time of their confinement" and secondly "to extend relief to the poor, as funds admit, especially to children who may be in want of suitable clothing to attend the infant, Sabbath or other schools". Boxes or bags were prepared containing clothing and blankets for the baby and mother, and soap and a bible. The bags were lent for a month, but food and other comforts were distributed as funds allowed. After the maternity Bonus Act of 1912 the Society more or less went into abeyance, except for special cases, and in 1949 it was finally wound up.

A brief history of the Society by W H Hudspeth was published in 1942 and is with the records (ref : RS1/11).

MINUTES

RS1/

2 Minute books 9 July 1835 – 24 Mar 1949

- 1 9 Jul 1835 – 2 Dec 1846
- 2 6 Jan 1847 – 3 Jan 1849
- 3 3 Jan 1849 – 1 May 1850
- 4 1 May 1850 – 4 Dec 1850
- 5 1 Jan 1851 – 7 Feb 1855
- 6 4 Apr 1855 – 4 Dec 1861
- 7 1 Jan 1862 – 4 Jan 1871
- 8 4 Jan 1871 – 7 Jan 1885
- 9 7 Jan 1885 – 2 Dec 1896
- 10 6 Jan 1897 – 7 Dec 1904
- 11 4 Jan 1905 – 1 Dec 1909
- 12 5 Jan 1910 – 3 Dec 1928
- 13 5 Jun 1929 – 24 Mar 1949

(13 small volumes)

CORRESPONDENCE

1 Correspondence 1848 – 1928

RS1/1 Correspondence contd.

Letters received and some draft replies.

- 1-2 Anna Maria Nixon to J Symons, Senior District Constable 12 Jan 1848 pawning of layettes, also reply (both 952)
- 3-4 Colonial Secretary to Miss F S J Dowbiggin, Hon Sec 8,9, June 1848 Colonial Secretary J E Bicheno about a case and reply (N1789 3 only)
- 5 Elizabeth Miller to Lady Denison (1856)
Farewell, thanks for help & box. Draft on back of Sabbath School printed notice.
- 6-21 Elizabeth Miller and Colonial Secretary Jun-Dec 1856 (y2905 - 13,20 only)
Letters from Colonial Secretary and Augusta Sophia Lady Fox Young about grants for cases of particular need (named).
- 22-26 Elizabeth Miller and Colonial Secretary Jun – Aug 1859 (y2905 – 24 only)
- 27 Elizabeth Miller to Colonial Hospital (1861) Need to establish a lying-in hospital.
- 28-32 Eliza Walch. Hon. Secretary – office holding Sep-Dec 1861
Correspondence with Lady Fox Young, Maria Davies and Mrs Gore Browne about office holding.
- 33 Frederick Buck to Mrs Lord 1 Mar 1868
Thanks for proceeds from concert
- 34-36 Martha C Clarke, Hon Secretary 1868-1869
Correspondence with Mrs Harriet Gore Browne and Mrs Georgiana E Du Cane.
- 37-40 Sarah Nutt, Hon Secretary 1881-1887
Correspondence
- 41 Ellen Hamilton treasurer 2 Jan 1892
To Mrs R S Bright Hon Secretary, resigning as treasurer
- 42 Hobart Town Clerk 3 Mar 1892
Donation transmitted
- 43 Adye Douglas, Chief Secretary 28 Sep 1892
Government Medical Officer to treat certain cases free.
Addressed to Mrs Ida Crowther, Acting Hon Secretary (H239)
- 44 Teresa Lady Hamilton 29 Nov 1892
Resigning as Patroness
- 45 Dr John Deans to Mrs Geo. Salier 1 Jun 1893
Charges
- 46 W S Green, “Waterloo House” 19 Apr 1893
Donation
- 47-49 C Butler & M E Lewis, Guesdon Charity Sep-Oct 1893
Correspondence between Ida Crowther, Hon Treasurer
And lawyers Charles Butler & N E Lewis about the Guesdon

charity bequest.

- 50 Viscountess Gormanston, Patroness 15 Dec 1893
Accepting office as Patroness.
- 51-61 Donors and Collectors 1894
Correspondence with collectors and donors, including the Hebrew congregation and the Relief Committee.
- 62-68 Donors 1895-1896
Correspondence with donors including A G Webster & Sons and St Joseph's Convent.
- 69-71 Donors Jan – May 1897
Letters from donors.
- 72 Georgie Dobson to Mrs Bright 31 May 1897
Accepting membership of committee.
- 73 Mrs Emily Dobson 10 Jun 1897
Resigning from Society.
- 74-76 Secretary's correspondence received 1897
Government acknowledgement of application for grant, donations.
- 77-79 May Dobson 1897
Too young for committee work.
- 80-84 Secretary's correspondence received 1898-1900
- 85 Janet T Cole, Deloraine to Mrs Bright 31 Aug 1901
Thanks for suggestions for newly formed society.
- 86 Jane E Perkins 4 Oct 1901
Swansea case.
- 87-92 Secretary's correspondence 1902
Including; grateful recipient; donation from A G Havelock, Governor's wife; case details by Louisa Fooks.
- 93-104 Secretary's correspondence 1903
Including; A Ireland, Secretary Central Hobart Mission, about a case; formation of a branch at Bridgewater; suggestion of amalgamation with the Nurse's association.
- 105-106 Emily Dobson, National Council of Women, Feb 1904.
- 107 E Kippax General Store 8 Mar 1904
Bill.
- 108 Emma Butler, Glenorchy 14 Dec 1904
List of subscribers.
- 109A Julia Barrett (nee Burgess) to Mrs Nibarts 29 May 1905
Her mother's work as secretary in the early years and herself joining the committee in 1846.
- 109B M Fysh to Mrs Bright Aug 1905
Northern executive's grievances
- 110-116 Secretary's correspondence Oct 1905-1908
Including grateful recipient.

- RS1/1 Correspondence contd.
- 117-118 A Ireland May 1909
A case.
 - 119-121 Secretary's correspondence 1909
Member, case, donation.
 - 122-123 Alexandra Hospital 1909-1910
Co-operation.
 - 124-128 Secretary's correspondence 1912
Police about bag not returned, sympathy conveyed to
Mrs Crowther.
 - 129 Home of Mercy 13 Dec 1913
Thanks for donation.
 - 130-135 Flora Atkins, Ellen Mcrae 1914-1915
Thanks for gifts.
 - 136-138 Donations acknowledged 1926-1928
Thanks for donations to District Nurses Association,
Child Welfare Association.
 - 139-149 Miscellaneous undated letters.
Thanks, Jane Butler accepting charge of a district
and later resigning and likely to be leaving Hobart, Julie
Brownell acceptance, Harriet Salier about minutes of meeting.
- (letters in envelopes in box)

CASES

- 3 List of cases 1884 -1887
Alphabetical list of women receiving help, giving names of Dorcas
Society members responsible for the case, some names deleted.
(notebook)

ACCOUNTS

- 5 Account books Nov 1836-Dec1947
Accounts of receipts and expenditure
 - 1 Nov 1836 - Dec 1853
 - 2 1851
 - 3 Mar 1859 – Dec 1869
 - 4 Jan 1885 – Dec 1893
 - 5 Jan 1894 – Dec 1947
- (5 vols.)

RS1/ Accounts contd.

5(11) Annual statements of account 1855 – 1864, 1882 (2 items)

5(6,7) Accounts for payment 1892 – 1908

1892, 1899, 1900-1, 1906-1908 (+ undated, 1 receipt 1920)
(150 items)

5(8,9) Bank passbooks 1889 – 1892, 1936 -1949

Hobart Savings Bank

8 1889-1892

9 1936-1949

(2 vols)

5(10) Tradesman's order book ND

4 Subscriptions and donations 1847 - 1907

Including:

1 List of subscribers (alphabetical) 1847- 1849 (1 vol.)

4 Lists of subscriptions and donations ND (5 items) (see also
annual reports)

2 Account of money collected 1898 (8 items)

3 Account of money collected 1906-7 (notebook)

5 List of subscriptions 1907 (29 items)

6 List of subscriptions 1908-9 (also draft report – 61 items)

REPORTS

10 Annual reports 1841 - 1911

Including years:

1844-46, 1850, 1855-57, 1859-60, 1862, 1867-68, 1870-72, 1875,
1877-1894, 1896-1911

(printed booklets – note missing years are available in the State Library)
(91 items)

9 Draft annual reports 1864, 1866-1868, 1906

Most include lists of subscriptions

CLOSING OF SOCIETY

8 Dissolution and assets 1947 -1949

File relating to the dissolution of the Society and the distribution
of its assets.

RS1/

MISCELLANEOUS

- 2(14) History of the Society 1892 – 1899
Miscellaneous minutes of meetings and account of the history of
The Society as read to a meeting of the National Council of Women.
- 7 Benefit Concert Program and miscellaneous news cuttings 1894, 1942
Theatre Royal program for benefit concert for the Dorcas Society
And the Girls Industrial School 19 Nov 1894. Also miscellaneous
Mercury cuttings referring to the Dorcas Society used by W H Hudspeth
when writing *The Hobart Maternal and Dorcas Society* (see 11 below)
- 11 *The Hobart Maternal and Dorcas Society*, W H Hudspeth, 1942
OBM Hobart (printed pamphlet)
- 6 Model Lodging-Houses Association 1855
Hobart Town for Model lodging Houses and Cottages for the
Working classes: broadside requesting subscriptions (printed paper).