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No. 188.

BRITISH GUIANA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895-6.

(For Report for 1894-5, *see* No. 159 of this Series.)

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1897.

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BRITISH
GUIANA.
1895-6.

	Remaining at beginning of 1895-6.	Admitted in 1895-6.	Discharged.			Died.	Daily average in 1895-6.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		
Georgetown -	581	7,474	2,659	3,410	559	874	585
New Amsterdam	119	2,114	449	1,035	443	168	122
Suddie - -	41	876	182	518	105	116	50
Bartica - -	10	611	220	311	6	74	22
Morawhanna -	22	670	470	150	5	51	22

In addition to the above 38,334 persons received outdoor treatment from the hospital.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The average daily number in this asylum was 648, and the admissions during the year numbered 185. 100 patients were discharged, of whom 90 had recovered and 10 were relieved; 77 died during the year.

LEPER ASYLUMS.

The asylums at Mahaica and Gorchum contained at the close of the year 359 inmates, of whom 94 had been admitted during the year, 58 patients had died, and 31 had absconded. The diseases took the following forms:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Anæsthetic - -	163	45	208
Tubercular - -	49	19	68
Mixed - - -	60	13	73
Total - - -	—	—	349

There were nine non-leprous children and one case of yaws.

Amongst the other charitable institutions of the Colony are the almshouse in Georgetown with 609 inmates, the almshouse in New Amsterdam with 241 inmates, the orphan asylum with 77 children, and Catholic Orphanage (supported from private funds) with 44 girls.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

Postal business proper shows an increase in almost all its branches, but the period of depression through which the Colony is passing has left its mark on the telegraph and money order

branches. The total number of articles posted rose to 1,949,878, but the telegrams dropped from 88,225 to 87,219, and the local money orders fell short of the previous year by 4,000*l.*, being only 25,929*l.* Foreign money orders also show a decrease with all countries except Trinidad. Parcel post remained practically stationary.

There are 67 post offices scattered throughout the Colony. Of these 42 are telegraph stations, 36 money order offices, 20 savings banks, and 7 travelling offices.

The telephone accommodation is fully taken up and there are 422 subscribers. The rates charged are 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum for private houses and 5*l.* for business premises within a radius of 1½ miles from the Exchange, but a special charge is made for the country districts, where the telephone extends for some 15 miles.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The Savings Bank deposits again bear witness in some degree to the depression which has so generally affected the Colony. The amount at credit of depositors in the Treasury Savings Banks, which are used by the larger depositors, fell from 255,742*l.* to 233,226*l.*, but it is gratifying to find that the deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks, which the labouring classes avail themselves of, rose from 20,610*l.* to 25,919*l.*

The total deposits average 1*l.* per head of the population.

RAILWAYS, CANALS ROADS, AND TELEGRAPHS.

The details of the contract for the extension of the coast line of railway from Mahaica to Blairmont have been settled, and the contract has been signed with the Demerara Railway Company. When built this line will bring the whole country between the points mentioned within reach of the markets of Georgetown or New Amsterdam.

In the interior rapid progress has been made with the railway to connect the Demerara and the Essequibo rivers, and gold miners and timber workers in the Upper Essequibo will shortly have an easier and quicker route to the port of Georgetown.

Roads.

The populated portion of the Colony is intersected by 264 miles of roads, of which 163 miles were maintained from public funds at a cost of 18,221*l.*, and 101 miles by the proprietors of sugar estates, who receive a grant from the Colony of 4*s.* 2*d.* a rood towards their upkeep.