

SOCIAL CONDITION.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

The University of Melbourne.

The University of Melbourne was incorporated and endowed by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of Victoria, to which the Royal assent was given on 22nd January, 1853. The University buildings, together with those of the affiliated colleges, are situated on 106 acres of land in the southern part of Carlton. Under the provisions of Act No. 3285 assented to on 23rd October, 1923, the University is to consist of a Council and Convocation. It has power to grant degrees, diplomas, certificates, and licences in all faculties except divinity. There is no religious test for admission.

The Council is composed of 31 members, as follows :—

Eight to be appointed by the Governor in Council, of whom one shall be a member of the Legislative Council, two shall be members of the Legislative Assembly, one shall represent manufacturing and commercial interests, one shall represent agricultural interests, two shall represent industrial interests, and one shall be elected by the councils of the technical schools.

Ten to be elected by the Convocation, none of whom shall be a member of the teaching staff or other officer of the University or the head of an affiliated college.

Three (being professors or deans of faculties) to be elected by the professors.

One (a member of the teaching staff) to be elected by the teaching staff other than the professors.

Two to be elected by the undergraduates, but not to include any member of the teaching staff or any person under the full age of 21 years.

Two to be heads of affiliated colleges, and to be appointed by co-option of the Council.

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Three—the Director of Education, the Chairman of the Council¹ of Agricultural Education, and the President of the Professorial Board—to be *ex officio* members of the Council.

The tenure of office of members of the Council is four years, but one-half of the number elected at the first election by the Convocation must retire at the end of two years, the Council determining by lot which of the members are to retire.

The Convocation consists of all graduates. It elects a Warden annually, or whenever a vacancy occurs, from its own members.

Power is given to the Convocation to submit suggestions to the Council with respect to the affairs of the University. Provision is made for the constitution of a standing committee of Convocation, consisting of the Warden of Convocation *ex officio* and not less than 40 other persons who are members of Convocation.

A University Students Loan Fund has been established to which a payment of £10,000 has been made from the Assurance Fund under the Transfer of Land Acts and a grant of £2,000 is to be made annually from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for ten years from 1st July, 1923. In addition, all moneys received in repayment with interest of loans to University students and all moneys standing to the credit of any trust fund in the Treasury in respect of loans to students made by the Treasurer of Victoria before the passing of Act No. 3285 are to be credited to the Fund. Out of this Fund loans may be made to students who are nominated by a committee of three members of the Council appointed for the purpose.

The Act of 1923 provides for an endowment of £45,000 annually from 1st July, 1923. An additional grant of £8,500 is to be made for each of the ten financial years commencing 1st July, 1923. The amount of this grant is to be expended on the maintenance within the University of a school (including a faculty) of commerce for the teaching of and conducting research in commerce and the granting of degrees or diplomas in commerce; also for teaching and conducting research in science, and the establishment and maintenance within the University of a University Extension Department.

By Royal letters patent of 14th March, 1859, it is declared that the degrees of the University of Melbourne shall be as fully recognised as those of any University in the United Kingdom. Scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes are provided in all the principal subjects, the cost being defrayed partly out of University funds and partly by private bequests. In the matter of endowment by private persons the Melbourne University does not compare favorably with other Universities. Still, the investments at present held as the result of private benefactions, together with donations which have been expended

on buildings and equipment, amount to about £304,000. Since 1853 the amount received from the Government has been £1,634,122—£407,678 for building and apparatus, £839,500 endowment under "Special Appropriation Acts" 16 Vic. 34 and 13 George 3285, and £386,944 additional endowment by annual votes of the Legislature. In addition to grants from the Government the Council derives income from the fees paid by students for lectures, examinations, certificates, and diplomas.

Examinations. The system of junior and senior public and commercial examinations was superseded in December, 1917, by examinations for Intermediate and School Leaving Certificates. Under the regulations the rights of all candidates who have passed any subject of the junior or senior public examinations are reserved. The appended table gives the results of the public examinations conducted by the University during 1924 :—

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MELBOURNE
UNIVERSITY, 1924.

—	Number who attempted to Pass fully.	Number who Passed fully.	
		Total.	Percentage.
Examination—			
Intermediate 	4,148	1,858	44·8
Leaving 	2,418	1,053	43·5

There is included in the above, a number of candidates, in whose cases Headmasters' Certificates were accepted as wholly or partially satisfying the requirements of the examination, qualified for Certificates as follows :—Intermediate 894; Leaving 10.

Degrees. The number of degrees taken in 1924 was 619, all of which were direct, as against a total of 2,058 for the preceding five years, or an average of 412 per annum for that period. During those five years all the degrees obtained were direct and none *ad eundem*. Of the total of 9,593 degrees granted since the establishment of the University, 1,384 have been conferred on women, 1,378 of which were direct and 6 *ad eundem*. These were apportioned as follows :—336 Bachelor of Arts, 239 Master of Arts, 149 Bachelor of Medicine, 11 Doctor of Medicine, 147 Bachelor of Surgery, 19 Bachelor of Laws, 2 Master of Laws, 5 Doctor of Science, 102 Bachelor of Science, 32 Master of Science, 28 Bachelor of Music, 13 Bachelor of Dental Science, and 1 Bachelor of Agricultural Science. The following

table shows the number of degrees conferred at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1924—the particulars for the years 1923 and 1924 being given separately:—

DEGREES CONFERRED.

Degrees	Prior to 1923.			During 1923.			During 1924.			Total.		
	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.
Bachelor of Arts ..	1754	118	1872	133	..	133	129	..	129	2016	118	2134
Master of Arts ..	803	184	987	38	..	38	36	..	36	877	184	1061
Doctor of Letters	12	1	13	2	..	2	1	..	1	15	1	16
Bachelor of Medicine	1565	15	1580	107	..	107	131	..	131	1803	15	1818
Doctor of Medicine	257	107	364	5	..	5	14	..	14	276	107	383
Bachelor of Surgery	1496	4	1500	107	..	107	131	..	131	1734	4	1738
Master of Surgery	35	..	35	1	..	1	1	..	1	37	..	37
Bachelor of Laws	618	12	630	39	..	39	37	..	37	694	12	706
Master of Laws ..	114	3	117	10	..	10	7	..	7	131	3	134
Doctor of Laws ..	21	23	44	1	..	1	..	..	..	22	23	45
Bachelor of Civil Engineering ..	250	2	252	10	..	10	13	..	13	273	2	275
Bachelor of Mining Engineering ..	50	1	51	5	..	5	2	..	2	57	1	58
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering	12	..	12	1	..	1	2	..	2	15	..	15
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering	19	..	19	8	..	8	8	..	8	35	..	35
Master of Engineering ..	87	..	87	5	..	5	10	..	10	102	..	102
Doctor of Engineering ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bachelor of Science	280	5	285	52	..	52	41	..	41	373	5	378
Master of Science	106	2	108	5	..	5	7	..	7	118	2	120
Doctor of Science	†28	20	48	*1	..	*1	4	..	4	33	20	53
Bachelor of Music	32	2	34	4	..	4	2	..	2	38	2	40
Doctor of Music ..	..	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	3
Bachelor of Dental Science ..	222	..	222	29	..	29	32	..	32	283	..	283
Doctor of Dental Science ..	20	..	20	1	..	1	..	..	..	21	..	21
Bachelor of Veterinary Science ..	75	..	75	6	..	6	8	..	8	89	..	89
Master of Veterinary Science ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Doctor of Veterinary Science ..	10	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	10
Bachelor of Agricultural Science	32	..	32	1	..	1	3	..	3	36	..	36
Master of Agricultural Science ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Total ..	7900	501	8401	573	..	573	619	..	619	9092	501	9593

* Degree by special grace.

† One of these degrees was by special grace.

NOTE.—*Ad eundem* degrees have been abolished.

Students attending lectures, and undergraduates admitted.

The number of persons attending lectures has greatly increased during the past ten years, the total in 1924 having been 2,423 as compared with 1,339 in 1914, thus showing an advance of 74 per cent. A great improvement is also shown in the admission of undergraduates, the number having increased by 40 per cent. in the period mentioned. Details for the last five years are given in the following statement :—

PERSONS ADMITTED AS UNDERGRADUATES AND STUDENTS ATTENDING LECTURES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Number of Persons Matriculated and Admitted as Undergraduates.			Number of Students Attending Lectures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1920 ..	591	155	746	1,910	620	2,530
1921 ..	460	150	610	2,003	651	2,654
1922 ..	422	126	548	1,973	672	2,645
1923 ..	348	148	496	1,848	636	2,484
1924 ..	374	135	509	1,764	659	2,423

Of the number attending lectures in 1924—2,423—708 were students in Arts and Education, 301 in Laws, 184 in Engineering, 526 in Medicine, 244 in Science, 226 in Music, 100 in Dentistry, 37 in Agriculture, 11 in Veterinary Science, 1 in Public Health, and 72 in Architecture, and 13 were doing Science Research Work.

University finance.

A statement of receipts and expenditure for the year 1924 is given below :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1924.

—		General Account.	Other Accounts.	All Departments.
		£	£	£
Receipts—				
Government Grants ..		45,500	18,142	63,642
Lecture, Degree, Examination, and other Fees ..		55,687	17,913	73,600
Other sources		6,892	27,076	33,968
Total		108,079	63,131	171,210
Expenditure		115,261	42,440	157,701

In addition to the amounts shown above, the University received £16,884 from private benefactors, to be held in trust for scholarships and other purposes.

AFFILIATED COLLEGES.

**The
affiliated
colleges.**

The permission accorded by the "University Act of Incorporation" for the establishment of affiliated colleges has been taken advantage of by the clergy and people of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches of Victoria. Large residential colleges have been built upon the sites reserved for this purpose in the northern portion of the University grounds fronting Sydney-road and College-crescent, Carlton. These colleges, which admit students without regard to their religious beliefs, maintain efficient staffs of tutors and lecturers for the teaching of the principal subjects in each of the University courses. They also provide training for the ministers of their respective denominations. In 1906 the Australian College of Dentistry was formally affiliated with the University, which obtained certain rights of supervision and control, and in return undertook to recognise the professional teaching of the College in connexion with the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery.

Information relating to the foundation and progress of Trinity, Ormond, and Queen's Colleges is given in the *Year-Book* for 1917-18 on pages 319 to 321.

**Trinity
College.**

This college, which was established by the Anglican Church, is open to students of all religious denominations, and the same remark applies to Janet Clarke Hall. The latter was established for the benefit of women students, and is an integral part of Trinity College. The college buildings consist of a chapel, dining hall, chemical and biological laboratories, lecture-rooms, libraries, billiard-room, and students' common-room, in addition to apartments for the Warden, tutors, and students.

The Warden of the college is J. C. V. Behan, M.A., LL.D. (Melb.), M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.)—first Rhodes Scholar for the State of Victoria, formerly Stowell Civil Law Fellow and Dean of University College, Oxford—who is assisted by a staff of tutors and lecturers. The college holds annually, in the month of November, an examination for open scholarships and exhibitions. Prospectuses may be obtained on application to the Warden.

**Ormond
College.**

This college, which was established by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is a residential college for students of the University of Melbourne (without restriction as to religious denomination). It has a staff of lecturers and tutors from whom the students receive the assistance they require in their University work; non-resident students are also admitted to the college classes. The work of the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is carried on in the Victoria Wing; there is an independent staff of professors and lecturers for this work. Theological students may reside in the college if they are matriculated students of the University.

The *Year-Book* for 1919-20 contained a statement of the nature of the college buildings, and reference was made to additions and alterations to the buildings. This information was amplified in subsequent issues.

The Building Debt (incurred in the recent completion of the main college building) has been very substantially reduced by the accruing of £16,000 from the Ormond Estate. It now stands at some £15,000.

The two most outstanding academic distinctions of the year have been (1) the election of Dr. G. M. Cherry to a Fellowship of Trinity College, Cambridge, (2) the appointment of Mr. E. J. Pitman, M.A., B.Sc. (resident tutor in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy), to be Professor of Mathematics in the University of Tasmania.

The Master of the College is D. K. Picken, M.A. (Cambridge, Glasgow, Melbourne), formerly Professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics in Victoria University College, Wellington, N.Z. All inquiries as to admission, scholarships, &c., should be made to him.

Queen's College. This college was founded by the Methodist Church of Victoria, and its lectures are open to non-resident as well as resident students. It is capable of accommodating about 90 students in residence. The building comprises fully equipped lecture-rooms, laboratories, library, reading-rooms, and apartments for the Master, tutors and students. It has been enlarged at a cost of some £50,000. and includes a central tower, a memorial chapel to soldiers who were connected with the Methodist Church, a new common room, a large library, and additional lecture rooms; as well as some 40 additional students' rooms. The new portion of the building was opened in March, 1923. The Master is the Rev. E. H. Sugden, M.A., B.Sc., Litt.D., and the Vice-Master, Mr. K. H. Bailey, B.C.L. (Corpus Christi Coll., Oxford).

Newman College. Newman College is built in the section of the University Reserve granted by the Government of Victoria to the Roman Catholic Church in the Act of Incorporation of 2nd October, 1882. The foundation-stone was laid by the late Archbishop of Melbourne (the Most Reverend Thomas Joseph Carr, D.D.), on 11th June, 1916. It was founded by the generosity of the Roman Catholic people of the State of Victoria, and cost nearly £70,000. The Archbishop Carr Memorial Chapel, to be erected at a cost of £20,000, will be a striking addition to the College. A separate study and a bedroom are provided for each student. There is also provision of hot and cold shower and plunge baths, a large covered-in swimming bath, a gymnasium, and billiard and recreation rooms. The library consists of more than 10,000 volumes. Lectures, demonstrations, and private tuition are given in the College with the special object of assisting students in their University work. Women students as well as men extern students are admitted to all college lectures. St. Mary's Hall, Royal Park, is the residential hall for women students of Newman

College. Students of the college enjoy the advantage of residence, instruction in the doctrine and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, and tuition supplementary to University lectures.

All applications for information, &c., should be made to the Rector. The present Rector is the Very Rev. J. M. Murphy, S.J., M.A. He is assisted by the Rev. Dominic Kelly, S.J., M.A., the Rev. Wilfrid Ryan, S.J., M.A., F.G.S., and a staff of competent lecturers and tutors.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

University extension.

Tutorial Classes organized by the Workers' Educational Association of Victoria are conducted by the University Extension Board. The personnel of the Board, numbering 22, appointed by the University, comprises an equal number of representatives from the Workers' Educational Association and the teaching staff of the University and other persons representing the public. The Government grants a sum annually (now £2,500) for the development of Tutorial Class work. In addition to these classes, which are in operation in the city, suburbs, and country, the University Extension Board has inaugurated a system of advice by correspondence for the benefit of country students. This advice is confined to social and cultural subjects, and is not intended for those seeking to qualify for degrees. Its purpose is rather to cultivate knowledge of such subjects as will elevate the mind and fit the student the better to discharge the more social functions of his daily life and citizenship. In this connexion and also for the arranging of Extension Lectures and Vacation Schools, the Government grant is £1,500.

Professor J. A. Gunn, M.A., Ph.D., is Director of Tutorial Classes and Chairman of the University Extension Board. The Secretary to the Board is Mr. S. D. Thompson, Education Department, Melbourne.

THE STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

The educational system of Victoria.

The present system of "free, compulsory, and secular" education came into operation on 1st January, 1873, the Act which introduced it having been passed in the previous year. Subsequently, this Act and two amending Acts passed in 1876 and 1889 were consolidated in the *Education Act* 1890, which in turn was amended by Act No. 1777 passed in December, 1901, Act No. 2205 passed in December, 1905, Act No. 2301 passed in December, 1910, and Act No. 2330 passed in October, 1911, and is now, with its amendments, incorporated in the *Education Act* 1915, No. 2644.

Under the Act of 1872 education was made free to all willing to accept it; compulsory, in the sense that, whether they attend

or do not attend State schools, evidence must be produced that all children are educated up to a certain standard; and secular, no teacher being allowed to give other than secular instruction in any State school building. Facilities are, however, afforded to persons other than State school teachers to give religious instruction, on one or two days each week, to the children of the parents who desire that their children shall receive such instruction. In each school four hours at least are set apart during each school day for secular instruction, two of which must be before, and two after, noon.

In December, 1910, an Act of Parliament of a most comprehensive and far-reaching character was passed. It marked a most important epoch in the history of education in Victoria, and laid the foundation of a complete national system from the infants' school to the highest educational institutions in the State. Power is given in this Act for the establishment of higher elementary schools, and of secondary and technical schools of various types, the aim being to create a co-ordinated system of public education, leading through elementary schools and evening continuation classes to trade and technical schools on the one hand, or through elementary schools and high schools to the University or to higher technical schools on the other. Provision is also made for evening continuation classes, in which the education of children who have left the day school at fourteen years of age may be continued till they are seventeen years of age. Power is given to make attendance at evening continuation classes compulsory in any district proclaimed for that purpose. Education is made compulsory in the case of deaf and dumb, blind, and physically or mentally defective children between seven and sixteen years of age.

In order to provide for the due co-ordination of all branches of public education a Council of Public Education has been created, representative of the various educational and industrial interests of the State. This body, which consists of 20 members presided over by the Director of Education, reports annually to Parliament on the development of public education in Victoria and elsewhere.

Compulsory
Clauses. Parents and custodians of children not less than six nor more than fourteen years of age are required to cause such children (unless there is a "reasonable excuse") to attend a State school on every school half-day in each week. Non-attendance may be excused for any of the five following reasons:— (1) If the child is receiving efficient instruction in some other manner, and is complying with the prescribed conditions as to regularity of attendance; or (2) has been prevented from attending by sickness, reasonable fear of infection, temporary or permanent infirmity, or any unavoidable cause; or (3) has been excused by a general or particular order of the Minister; or (4) is at least thirteen years of age, and has obtained a certificate of merit as prescribed; or (5) that there is no State school within 1, 2, 2½, or 3 miles in the case of children under

seven, between seven and nine, between nine and eleven, and over eleven years of age respectively. Parents and custodians who fail to make a child attend as provided may be summoned and fined not less than 2s., nor more than 10s., for each such offence, or in default may be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three days. Attendance officers are appointed to see that the compulsory provisions are carried out.

In cases where schools are closed through low average attendance, or where, though there is no school, the number of children would warrant the Department in establishing a school, allowances are made by the Department for the conveyance of children to the nearest school. The amount of the allowance is 3d. per day for children over six and under eleven who reside between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 miles from the nearest school, and 4d. per day for children over six and under fourteen who reside 4 miles or over from such school or, where schools have been closed, 3 miles therefrom.

School Committees. Under Act No. 2301 (now incorporated in the *Education Act 1915*, No. 2641) Boards of Advice were abolished and a School Committee for each school consisting of not more than seven persons was substituted therefor. The members of School Committees are nominated by the parents of children attending the school for which the Committee is to be appointed. The main duties of such Committees are :—(a) to exercise a general oversight over the buildings and grounds, and to report to the Minister on their condition when necessary ; (b) to carry out any necessary work referred to the Committee in connexion with maintenance or repair of or additions to buildings ; (c) to promote the beautifying and improvement of school grounds, the establishment and maintenance of school gardens and agricultural plots, the decoration of the schoolroom, and the formation of a school library and museum ; (d) to provide for the necessary cleansing and the sanitary services of the school ; (e) to visit the school from time to time ; (f) to use every endeavour to induce parents to send their children to school ; and (g) to arrange, where necessary, for suitable board and lodging at reasonable rates for teachers (especially women teachers) appointed to the school.

Free subjects. The following are the subjects in which instruction is absolutely free :—English (literature, reading, recitation, spelling, writing, composition, grammar), mathematics (arithmetic, algebra, geometry), nature knowledge (geography, science, nature-study), hygiene, history and civics, manual work (drawing, needlework, woodwork, and other occupations such as modelling in clay or plasticine, or brush drawing, or weaving with some material other than paper, for example, raffia), singing, physical training, and,

where practicable, agriculture for boys, cookery and domestic economy for girls, gymnastics, and swimming. Pupils buy their own books and material.

New Features. The course of study (issued February, 1920) contains provisions to secure a more realistic treatment than formerly of the essential subjects of school education, and a larger share of attention to the training of the hand and eye through manual instruction in various forms. The requirements from teachers of infants are also such as to secure methods of teaching in accord with the principles enunciated by Froebel, the founder of the kindergarten system and by Dr. Maria Montessori. Great activity has been displayed in the training of teachers for their work. During the past few years a large number of teachers have taken the course at the Teachers' College and the Melbourne University, and, in addition, hundreds have been instructed (especially in those subjects the method of teaching which has undergone modification recently) in special classes held in the evenings and on Saturdays at centres of population, and, on a larger scale still, during the Christmas vacations at what are called "Summer Schools." The Education Department, in collaboration with the Extension Board of the Melbourne University, held a vacation school at the University in May, 1925. It was attended by teachers and by members of the general public, and lasted for a fortnight. Probably further schools of a like nature will be held. The vacation school appears to have established itself as a successful educational experiment in Victoria. Much attention has been given to the beautifying and improvement of school grounds by the planting of trees and shrubs, and by the establishment of school gardens. One day in each year—termed Arbor Day—is specially set apart for tree-planting, and for the giving of lessons on the value of trees. The teaching of elementary agriculture is warmly encouraged by both the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, and the subject is being dealt with in a very practical way.

Drill, swimming, school gardens, &c. There were, on 30th June, 1924, 74 woodwork centres in operation, having an attendance of 8,016 boys; and 63 cookery centres, with an attendance of 6,000 girls. Five Schools of Domestic Arts, attended by 1,000 girls, have been established. In these schools girls over twelve years of age are given, during the last two years of their school life, a training in the subjects of a comprehensive domestic arts course. At the same time their general education is continued. In addition to the instruction given in the woodwork centres woodwork is being taught to 582 boys in 54 country schools by the head teachers as one of the ordinary subjects. Swimming is taught in schools that have

the necessary facilities, the children being formed into swimming clubs, which hold annual competitions at various centres. Drill is taught in all schools. During 1912 the system of physical training approved of by the Commonwealth military authorities was introduced. Nearly every State school now has its garden and some of the school gardens are among the beauty spots of their districts. The Victorian State Schools Horticultural Society, founded in 1913, assists teachers in obtaining the best seeds, seedlings, ornamental trees, and flowering shrubs. It has a nursery of its own at Oakleigh, maintained partly by members' subscriptions (5s. yearly), and partly by a Government grant. Most of the State schools are affiliated with the Society, which sent out in 1924 to its members, at reduced rates, 24,000 packets of seeds, 105,000 seedlings, 4,000 rooted roses, 8,000 shrubs, 2,000 herbaceous plants, 1,000 climbers, 5,000 indoor pot-plants, 4,000 dahlias, and 2,000 chrysanthemums.

**Special
days.**

In addition to Arbor Day (to which reference has been made), other special days—Anzac Day, Discovery Day, Pioneers' Day, Shakespeare Day, Empire Day, and Bird Day—call for mention. The landing of the Australians and New Zealanders on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25th April, 1915, has been commemorated in the schools each year since, on Anzac Day, by the holding of a special service, consisting of hymns and addresses together with the saluting of the flag. The schools of Victoria held a celebration of Empire Day in 1905, being among the first of the oversea Dominions to recognise the day, and have since enthusiastically kept it in remembrance year by year. The first sighting of Australia by Captain Cook in April, 1770, is commemorated on Discovery Day, though this is merging into Pioneers' Day, when honour is paid not only to explorers and discoverers but also to the early settlers—the path-finders in general. The date chosen for Pioneers' Day was the 19th of November, the day on which Edward Henty landed on the shores of Portland Bay to establish a pastoral and agricultural settlement in 1834. On Shakespeare Day, the teachers and children commemorate the birth of Shakespeare by readings from his works, and the recital and acting of selected passages. Bird Day has for its object the protection of native birds and their eggs. On that day lessons are given on bird life, and, where possible, bird-observing excursions are made. Over 61,000 of the older school children have joined the "Gould League of Bird Lovers," which was established for the protection of bird life.

**Patriotic
Fund.**

During the Great War the teachers and children in the State schools, with the aid of departmental officers, school committees, and parents, were instrumental in raising a sum of £440,000 for the Department's War Relief Fund. Particulars are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 333 and 334. The fund was closed in 1920. At the end of 1922, the executive committee

of the fund transferred the balance of £84,910 to a body of seven trustees, who were empowered by the deed of trust to expend the money, as occasion arose, for the benefit of seriously disabled soldiers and their dependants. The sum of £40,000 was invested to form an old-age fund; £25,000 was set aside as a housing fund, and the remaining £20,000 is being used from time to time for the cases that stand in need of immediate assistance.

Schools have taken up the Junior Red Cross movement **Social Service.** in order to continue the training afforded by the Young Workers' Patriotic Guild, in which pupils earned money during the war period and gave it to the War Relief Fund. Members of the Junior Red Cross branches are assisting their local charities or helping local cases of indigence in their neighbourhood.

A widespread movement is being fostered for the carry- **League of Young Gardeners.** ing out of "home projects," as has been done in the United States of America. The idea is to link school, home, and farm in one common interest. The growing of sugar-beet, the culture of the potato, the selection of wheat, and the rearing of poultry and stock have engaged the united attention of children, teachers, and parents in various Victorian school districts.

A scheme for the utilization of waste lands by the **School forestry.** establishment of school plantations of hardwood and softwood trees was inaugurated in 1923. Areas up to 50 acres in extent in the vicinity of State schools have been reserved for the purpose. These are vested in local trustees, are fenced by voluntary local effort, and are planted by the children at the rate of about two acres per year. When the trees reach maturity, the revenue derived from the sale of the timber will be used by the trust for the benefit of the school concerned. Monetary gains will accrue, and further gains also—a training in practical forestry, and a training in unselfish social service. By the end of June, 1925, there had been established 87 of these school plantations, and applications were being considered for 25 more.

The need for the medical inspection of school children **Medical inspection.** has received widespread recognition, and the Victorian Education Department has followed the lead of progressive countries by appointing eight medical inspectors. The medical officers devote their whole time to investigating the hygienic condition of school premises and the physical and mental condition of the pupils, and to giving instruction to teachers.

A dental clinic has been established and is under the **Dental Clinic.** charge of four dental officers. Great service is being rendered by this clinic.

Under the provisions of Act No. 3059, assented to on 14th September, 1920, male teachers are divided into **Teachers' remuneration and classification.** five and female teachers into four classes, there being no female teachers in the first class. The salaries of males, excluding junior teachers, range from £156 to £600, and those

of females, excluding junior teachers and sewing mistresses, range from £120 to £420. In addition to the head and assistant teachers, there are three classes of junior teachers, with salaries ranging for males from £60 to £84 and for females from £50 to £70. An annual allowance of £12 (in addition to salary) is paid to junior teachers who have passed the Intermediate Examination of the University of Melbourne, and of £24 to those who have passed the Leaving Examination. Sewing mistresses receive £60 yearly. Junior Teachers residing away from home are paid an allowance sufficient to bring total emolument to £84 per annum.

The following statement shows the progress as regards State schools, teachers, and scholars since 1872. The figures relating to the number of schools and teachers refer to 30th June for all years to 1921, and to 31st December for the years 1922 and 1923. Those relating to the number of scholars refer to the financial year ended 30th June, for the eight years ended 1916-17; the reference is to 31st December and the years ended on that date respectively for returns for years prior to 1901-2 and for the years 1917 to 1923 :—

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1923.

Year.	Number of Schools at end of Year.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct. Children (estimated).
1872	1,049	2,416	136,055	68,456	113,197
1880	1,810	4,215	229,723	119,520	195,736
1890	2,170	4,708	250,097	133,768	213,886
1900	1,948	4,977	243,667	147,020	218,240
1909-10 ..	2,036	4,957	235,042	145,968	206,263
1910-11 ..	2,059	5,087	234,766	146,464	204,086
1911-12 ..	2,093	5,533	238,111	151,247	205,695
1912-13 ..	2,127	5,683	241,042	152,600	209,172
1913-14 ..	2,175	5,710	246,447	158,213	214,986
1914-15 ..	2,227	6,085	250,264	160,885	218,427
1915-16 ..	2,225	6,194	257,726	161,632	221,777
1916-17 ..	2,202	6,275	254,033	161,034	221,202
1917 (31st Dec.)	2,236	6,455	†214,048	†161,574	†186,523
1918	2,272	6,570	240,664	164,350	208,861
1919	2,280	6,518	235,292	160,345	207,633
1920	2,333	6,637	247,337	158,554	213,738
1921	2,334	6,784	247,204	167,154	216,037
1922	2,405	6,789	248,882	171,129	216,329
1923	2,460	*6,919	253,307	167,638	218,835

* In addition to these teachers, 376 were temporarily employed on 31st December, 1923.

† These are the figures for the *six months* ended 31st December, 1917; hence the apparent falling off in "number enrolled" as compared with the number for the preceding year. Had the figures been compiled to June, 1918, probably the new number would have been greater, not less than that of the previous year. An increase in the same ratio as the increase in average attendance would fix the number at 255,280.

Ages of State school scholars.

The following table shows the number and percentage of children attending State primary schools, below, at, and above the school age (6 and under 14), during the year ended 31st December, 1923 :—

AGES OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS, 1923.

Ages.	Net Enrolment of Children Attending—					
	Day Schools.		Night Schools.		Total.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Under 6 years ...	12,936	5·9	...	...	12,936	5·9
6 to 14 „ ...	193,033	88·2	...	...	193,033	88·2
14 years and upwards ...	12,843	5·9	23	100·0	12,866	5·9
Total ...	218,812	100·0	23	100·0	218,835	100·0

REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.**Registration of teachers and schools.**

By Act No. 2013, passed in 1905, all private schools and teachers of private schools had to be registered by the Teachers and Schools Registration Board. This Board consisted of three representatives of the Education Department, four of non-State schools, two of the University, and one of State-aided technical schools. Its chief functions were to see (1) that only qualified persons were employed in private schools; and (2) that private schools met requirements in hygienic matters. Under the provisions of Act No. 2301, passed in December, 1910, the Teachers and Schools Registration Board was abolished, and its duties were taken over by the Council of Public Education.

Registered schools, 1872 to 1924.

The appended statement shows the number of registered schools, of instructors in same, and of individual scholars in attendance in 1872, the year before the adoption

* The latest statistics published by the Education Department of Victoria (*vide* "Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1923-24") are for the period ended 31st December, 1923.

of the present secular system, and in a number of subsequent years, including the latest year for which particulars are available :—

**REGISTERED SCHOOLS AND ATTENDANCE,
1872 TO 1924.**

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Individual Scholars.
1872 	888	1,841	24,781
1880 " 	643	1,516	28,134
1890 " 	791	2,037	40,181
1900 	884	2,348	48,483
1909-10 	641	2,067	49,964
1914-15 	509	1,879	52,638
1915-16 	495	1,909	57,400
1916-17 	495	1,970	56,193
1917-18 	499	2,002	58,366
1918 (31st December)	493	1,903	56,996
1919 " 	486	1,991	56,684
1920 " 	489	1,950	59,314
1921 " 	486	2,063	59,922
1922 " 	486	2,109	60,105
1923 " 	489	2,154	64,195
1924 " 	486	2,154	63,105

**Scholars
attending
State and
registered
schools.**

On comparing the number of scholars with the number attending schools, it is seen that 22 per cent. of the scholars during 1923 attended registered schools, and that the balance, 78 per cent., attended State primary and secondary schools.

THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

**Teachers'
College.**

In recent years the training of teachers for the State Department has been much modified and altered. Formerly, young people who had completed the State School course of education were employed as pupil teachers to teach the whole of each day, and during their three or four years' course they received

instruction, usually in the mornings or in the late afternoons, from the head masters and other qualified teachers of the staff. Now such young persons enter one or other of the High Schools throughout the State, where they stay for at least two years, receiving the groundwork of a good secondary education. The rules relating to entrance into the Service as junior teachers provide that candidates must be not less than 16 years of age and must hold the School Intermediate Certificate or an approved equivalent or higher qualification. Where a vacancy for a junior teacher exists, and there is no candidate qualified in accordance with the foregoing conditions, the Director may appoint the best qualified candidate, if necessary by competitive examination. Teachers can, in the course of a few years after being appointed, possess second class and first class certificates, and be enrolled as fully qualified teachers. The more ambitious of the intending teachers remain at the High Schools for at least three years, when they pass the Leaving Certificate examination. In some cases they remain a year longer in order to qualify themselves to enter for the course of training for Secondary Teachers. Intending teachers who wish to get higher certificates and to receive the best course of training available enter the Teachers' College. This is situated in a corner of the University Grounds, Carlton, and is at the present time in close connexion with the University.

There are three full courses of training at the Teachers' College. The first of these is for Kindergarten or Infant Teachers, the second for Primary Teachers, and the third for Secondary Teachers. In the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 338 to 340, particulars are given of the nature of the work carried on at the College, the qualifications which must be possessed by students desiring admission thereto, the fees payable, &c. The courses are open to students who intend to teach in Private Schools.

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

District High Schools. The Education Act of 1910 authorized the establishment of these schools in order to open a broad highway, at little or no cost to the parents of the pupils, leading from the elementary schools to the technical schools and the University. A further important function of these institutions is to give the necessary preliminary education to boys and girls intending to take up teaching. Under the scheme of training now in operation aspirants for the teaching profession are expected during the period spent at a district high school to complete their preliminary studies. Any pupil who has satisfactorily completed the work of Grade VI. in an elementary school is qualified for admission to a district high school. The course of study lasts for six years in the case of pupils who enter from the sixth grade of the elementary school after obtaining the qualifying certificate, or for four or five years in the case of those who enter from the eighth grade after completing the course of the elementary school. Winners of Government scholarships are also trained at these schools, but parents are at

liberty to select an approved secondary school for the education of their boys and girls. Besides the day classes there are formed at a few of the district high schools evening classes for the instruction of teachers living in the vicinity, and correspondence classes for those residing at a distance. Eight of the District High Schools are specially equipped for the teaching of agriculture in addition to providing other courses of secondary education. There are district high schools at Ararat, Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Ballarat,* Benalla, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Coburg, Colac,* Dandenong, Echuca, Essendon, Frankston, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Kerang, Kyneton, Leon-gatha,* Maryborough, Melbourne, Mildura,* Mordialloc-Carrum, Sale,* Shepparton,* St. Arnaud, Stawell, University (Carlton), Wangaratta,* Warracknabeal, Warragul,* Warrnambool, and Williams-town. The schools the names of which are asterisked are equipped with farms.

During the term ended 31st December, 1923, there were in attendance at these schools 7,203 pupils, of whom 3,715 were boys and 3,488 were girls. Education is free up to the age of fourteen years, after which a fee of £6 per annum is charged. Travelling expenses (up to £5 per annum) are provided for children living beyond four miles from the school, if the parents' income does not exceed £150 per annum. In special cases the Department has power to make grants in aid of school requisites up to £2 per annum, and of the cost of maintenance up to £26 per annum, to enable pupils to continue their studies at district high schools and higher elementary schools.

For the practical part of the work of training secondary teachers the institution now known as the University High School. School was opened in a State building in 1910, and the school was specially staffed by lecturers in methods of teaching in addition to the teachers of the ordinary form subjects of secondary schools. The practical training in teaching received at this school is part of what is prescribed for the course for the Diploma of Education at the Melbourne University. In its management of the school the Department is aided by an advisory committee from the Faculty of Arts of the University.

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

**Higher
Elementary
Schools and
Classes.**

On 31st December, 1923, there were forty-two higher elementary schools—at Beechworth, Birchip, Boort, Bright, Camperdown, Casterton, Charlton, Chiltern, Clunes, Corryong, Daylesford, Dimboola, Donald, Euroa, Foster, Hampton, Heathcote, Inglewood, Korumburra, Kyabram, Lilydale, Maffra, Mirboo North, Murtoa, Nathalia, Nhill, Orbost, Portarlington, Portland, Rainbow, Rochester, Rushworth, Rutherglen, Sea Lake, Seymour, Swan Hill, Traralgon, Warracknabeal, Werribee, Yarram, Yarrawonga, and Yea. During the term ended 31st December, 1923, there were in attendance at these schools 3,926 pupils, of whom 2,009 were boys and 1,917 were girls. Education in the higher elementary

schools is free throughout the course, which extends over two or four years.

There were also twenty-two schools, twelve in the metropolitan area and four in urban and six in country centres—known as “Central” schools—in which a preparatory course of secondary education was provided. These were attended by 3,172 pupils in 1923.

The purpose of the district high school and the higher elementary school is to provide the essentials of a good general education for pupils who have completed the work of the sixth grade in elementary schools, and are likely to profit by a further course of study, and to give them, in the third and fourth years, a specialized training which will help to prepare them for their several careers in life. These schools thus form a link between the elementary school and technical institutions, or the University, or vocations that may be followed by pupils upon the completion of the course of study.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS.

The Minister of Public Instruction awarded scholarships at the beginning of 1925 as under :—

No. and Kind.	Age Requirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
100 Junior scholarships open to candidates attending state and registered schools	Under 14½ years	4 years	Free tuition at a district high school and £4 for school requisites, or £12 towards tuition fees and school requisites at an approved registered secondary school; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or up to £5 for transit.
44 Senior scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	£40 towards expense of a course at the University.
60 Teaching scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	14-17 years	3 years	As for Junior scholarships.
50 Junior technical scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Under 14 years	3 years	Free tuition at a junior technical school and £4 for school requisites; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or £5 for transit.
55 Senior technical scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	16-18 years	3-5 years	Free tuition for full length of approved courses at technical schools; also £30 for day students and £10 for evening students.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS—*continued.*

No. and Kind.	Age Requirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
20 Free Places in agriculture, mining, or veterinary science at University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	4-5 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University; also, in special cases, an allowance up to £50 for maintenance.
50 Free Places in any course other than dental science at the University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	
5 Free Places in an approved course at the University open to officers (other than teachers) in the employment of the Government of Victoria	Under 25 years.	3-4 years	
15 Free Places in the course for Arts, Commerce, Science or Education at the University open to certificated teachers of the Education Department	..	3 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University, and the necessary leave of absence.

In addition to these scholarships, there is a scheme whereby free tuition and allowances for school requisites up to £2 per annum and for maintenance up to £26 per annum or for transit up to £5 per annum may be granted to enable pupils who show special capacity and promise, and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances, to attend district high schools, higher elementary schools, schools of domestic arts, central schools, central classes and technical schools. Free tuition is allowed also to children of deceased or totally and permanently incapacitated sailors and soldiers attending district high schools or technical schools.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS.

Religious Instruction in State Schools. At the request of the Joint Council for Religious Instruction in Day Schools, Victoria, the Education Department recently sent out circulars to all the head teachers, and, as a result, the Council has been able to tabulate the following information from the answers received :—

Number of schools which returned answers to circular	2,460
Number of schools receiving religious instruction ..	922
Number of schools not receiving religious instruction	1,538
(These are chiefly outlying schools of low attendance. The large technical schools are also included.)	
Number of instructors engaged	2,181
Number of scholars enrolled for religious instruction	122,598
Net enrolment for the 2,460 schools	218,835

Information relating to Melbourne and suburbs and the rest of Victoria is given below. The area included in Melbourne and suburbs is a radius of ten miles from the Elizabeth-street Post Office, and includes a few schools outside that radius, as far as Croydon and Mordialloc.

MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	185
Number of instructors engaged	827
Number of pupils receiving religious instruction ..	64,322

REST OF VICTORIA.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	764
Number of instructors engaged	1,354
Pupils receiving religious instruction	58,276

The objective of the Joint Council is to obtain more instructors for those schools in the metropolis where the staffs are weak, and for the country schools where religious instruction is not given.

STANDARD OF EDUCATION.

The number of marriages celebrated in 1924 was 13,296, and there were only 15 men and 11 women who showed their want of elementary education by signing the marriage register with a mark instead of in writing. This indicates a very high elementary standard of education in this State, which, in this respect, occupies the highest position in Australasia.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

The whole of the technical schools in the State, prior to 1910, were under the control of local councils. Act No. 2301, passed in that year, provided for the schools being brought under the control of the Minister of Public Instruction. The Education Department, in all cases, retains the general direction of technical education. Regulations are issued defining the powers of the councils, allotting the Government grants, and providing for the instruction and examination of the students. The number of technical schools receiving aid from the State on 31st December, 1924, was 26.

The former lack of organized method in preparing pupils for courses in technical schools largely neutralized the efforts of the instructors in these institutions. In order to overcome this difficulty, junior or preparatory technical schools have been established in connexion with all the higher technical schools. These schools offer a course of two or three years' instruction for boys between the ages of twelve and a half and fifteen years. Instruction in English subjects is carried on in conjunction with mathematics and the more technical subjects. The curriculum is designed to qualify for entrance to the senior schools. A large majority of the students doing full day diploma courses come from the junior technical schools, while nearly all the effective trade students attending evening classes are drawn from that source.

The aim of the Victorian technical schools is to provide vocational courses of training in industrial subjects, and, as far as possible, to provide for the training of the expert technologist. The various branches of engineering and its subdivisions, mining, metallurgy, technical and agricultural chemistry, subjects connected with the building trades (including architecture) and with other trades, applied art, commercial subjects and those connected with household economy are included in their syllabuses. Trade courses correspond to the period of apprenticeship, which extends over five years.

The larger technical schools, such as the Working Men's College, the Swinburne Technical College, and the Ballarat and Bendigo Schools of Mines, have an extensive curriculum embracing the most important industrial subjects. Of the smaller schools, some in country districts have courses in mining,

metallurgy, and engineering subjects as well as courses in drawing and applied art work, while in a few schools the subjects taught are mainly drawing and art work. The only technical schools for women's industries are the College of Domestic Economy and the girls' junior technical departments in the Swinburne, Ballarat, Prahran, Box Hill, and Brighton Schools.

The fees per term range from 10s. per subject per annum to £35 per course of subjects per annum.

The following is a statement of the Government expenditure on each technical school during the five years ended 1923-24:—

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS OF MINES AND
TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Name.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ararat .. .. .	..	143	154	130	129
Bairnsdale	2,561	4,750	4,237	3,246	3,376
Ballarat	11,923	18,943	18,463	17,883	18,181
Beechworth	797	1,106	1,119	1,079	1,205
Bendigo	7,317	9,982	11,217	11,398	12,222
Box Hill .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6,706
Brighton	833	5,967	10,558	16,883	16,169
Brunswick	5,603	13,405	13,100	8,367	8,590
Castlemaine	3,249	4,902	4,823	5,066	5,755
Caulfield .. .. .	..	4,173	13,232	11,911	8,832
College of Domestic Economy ..	1,655	2,356	2,581	2,461	2,943
Collingwood	6,291	7,264	8,378	9,578	30,179
Daylesford	1,549	1,997	2,041	2,083	2,466
Echuca	1,697	2,650	2,411	2,586	2,607
Footscray	6,438	9,740	10,698	12,037	13,343
Geelong (Gordon Tech. Col.) ..	5,116	7,259	11,133	8,725	10,019
Glenferrie (Swinburne Tech. Col.)	10,216	13,963	15,122	16,675	21,728
Horsham	700	926	1,199	511	6
Maryborough	2,964	3,275	4,919	5,233	5,604
Melbourne (Working Men's Col.)	19,258	26,782	29,013	33,956	33,434
Prahran	5,272	6,474	6,778	8,073	8,052
Sale	1,690	2,405	2,712	2,909	2,648
South Melbourne	5,053	7,533	8,734	9,020	9,014
Stawell	2,010	2,742	2,835	2,895	3,129
Sunshine	1,940	3,341	2,189	2,726	3,969
Warrnambool	2,646	3,842	4,661	4,806	5,433
West Melbourne	8,226	10,243	11,463	12,055	14,006
Wonthaggi	932	3,164	10,262	5,027	4,409
Other votes for technical schools	9,860	10,579	12,604	3,695	3,741
Miscellaneous	1,698	2,309	2,625	2,970	3,070
Total	127,494	192,215	229,261	223,978	260,965

Particulars relating to the Australian College of Dentistry and the Melbourne College of Pharmacy are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 516 to 519.

College of
Dentistry and
Pharmacy.

THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Working
Men's
College,
Melbourne.

The Working Men's College is a technical institution and school of mines, founded in 1887. It is open to all classes and both sexes, and supplies the higher technical instruction.

Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant. There are both day and evening courses.

All fees are payable in advance, and no refund is allowed. Examinations are held in November, and entrance to these examinations is free to students of the college attending the classes in which they present themselves for examination, provided they have made the necessary attendances, and completed sufficient Laboratory Work. The year is divided into three terms.

Fees Payable.

Full Day Courses.					Fee.		
					£	s.	d.
Preparatory School for Diploma Courses—							
First year	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 per term
Second year	...	...	...	...	4	7	6 "
Diploma Courses—Mechanical, Electrical, Municipal, Marine, and Mining Engineering—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 "
Third year	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 "
Diploma Course—Metallurgy—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 "
Third year	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 "
Diploma Courses—Applied Chemistry—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 "
Third year (Inorganic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 "
Fourth year (Organic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 "
Carpentry Apprenticeship Course	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 "
Motor Mechanics Course—							
First year	...	...	...	...	7	0	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	7	0	0 "
Woolsorting	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 "
Art Course, Full Time	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 "
" " Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 "
Dressmaking, Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 "
Millinery, Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 "

Evening Classes.				Fee.
Arithmetic	Various amounts ranging from 10s. upwards per term
Algebra	...	...	...
Geometry	...	...	...
Trigonometry	...	...	...
Graphical Algebra and Analytical Geometry	...	...	...
Differential and Integral Calculus	...	...	...
Practical Geometry	...	...	...
Dressmaking	...	...	...
Millinery	...	...	...
Applied Mechanics	...	...	...
Applied Electricity	...	...	...
Heat Engines	...	...	...
Architecture	...	...	...
Building Construction	...	...	...
Surveying	...	...	...
Civil Engineering	...	...	...
Hydraulics	...	...	...
Chemistry	...	...	...
Assaying	...	...	...
Metallurgy	...	...	...
Engineering Drawing	...	...	...
Science, Trade, Commercial, Mining, and numerous other Subjects	...	...	...
Evening Art and Applied Art Courses (Drawing, Design, Modelling, &c.)	30s. per term.
Preliminary Year for Courses for Experts' Certificates	35s. per term.
Courses for Experts' Certificates	From 40s. per term.

Special prizes are awarded to students annually. There is a prize to the best student in each year of the day courses, and to the best student in each of the evening classes. The Magee prize, of the annual value of £3, is awarded to the student who obtains highest marks at examination in the work of the senior mechanical drawing class. The Sir George Verdon prize, which is of an annual value equal to the interest on the amount of the donor's endowment of £210, is awarded for excellence of design and workmanship in the technical or trade subject selected by the council at the beginning of each year. The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects awards prizes in the architecture and building construction classes, the Green Field Tap and Die Corporation gives a set of stocks and dies to the best student in fitting and turning, and Messrs Brown and Sharp give a set of fitter's tools to the best student in the second grade fitting and turning class, and another to the best student in milling. Several employers donate prizes, notably in the Printing and Plumbing trades.

The Beazley Bequest Scholarships, of which there are thirty of the value of £8 10s., are awarded annually for trade subjects. The following scholarships cover five years' free instruction in the day courses:—The Danks (2), The Arnot, and The Colin Thompson. Twenty entrance scholarships, value £24 each, are awarded annually to the preparatory school for Day Courses; five, value £11 each, are awarded to the carpentry apprenticeship course of one year, and twenty-five, value £4 to £8, to the commercial day classes. There are three scholarships available to students in the Preparatory School and tenable at the Diploma Courses, value £60 each. There are also numerous Government Scholarships available to students and tenable at the College or the University.

The receipts from the Government in 1924 amounted to £30,950.

About 180 classes are held in the following departments:—Commercial, Elocution and Music, Mathematics, Engineering and Science, Architecture, Chemistry, Mining and Metallurgy, Art and Applied Art, Rural Industries, and Trade Courses. The work is divided into—(1) day courses, and (2) evening courses and classes. In the day school students are prepared for the higher positions of industrial life in the following complete courses:—(1) Mechanical Engineering, (2) Electrical Engineering, (3) Civil Engineering, (4) Marine Engineering, (5) Mining Engineering, (6) Metallurgy, and (7) Applied Chemistry. To students who complete any of the above courses, pass the necessary examinations, and produce evidence of having obtained twelve months' approved practical experience, the Diploma of "Associateship" of the College is issued.

In the Applied Art School classes are held in the following subjects:—Drawing, Design, Modelling, Architecture, Building Construction, Geometrical Drawing, Practical Plane and Solid Geometry, Perspective, Blackboard Drawing, Still Life Painting, Anatomy, Figure Drawing, Figure Composition, Book Illustration, Lettering, Illuminating, Stencilling, Leather Embossing, Decorative Metalwork, Silver-smithing, Jewellery, Engraving, Die Sinking, Lead Glazing, Stained Glass, Plaster Casting, Signwriting, Ticket Writing, Lithography, Process Engraving, Textile Design and Weaving, Dress-making, Millinery, and Plain and Decorative Needlework.

In the evening school the following courses for certificates are in operation:—Assayers, geologists, electrical engineers, civil engineers (municipal and hydraulic), mechanical and marine engineers, land surveyors, mechanical draughtsmen, public analysts, architects, carpenters, printers, signwriters and house decorators, plumbers, coach builders, and motor car body makers. The following figures give an indication of the comparative amount of work done at the College during the years 1920 to 1924:—

STUDENTS AT WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, 1920 TO 1924.

—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Students enrolled—					
Average per term	2,634*	2,604*	2,465*	2,370*	2,511*
Males over 21	449	586	533	577	571
„ under 21—Apprentices ..	778	601	634	592	605
„ „ Others	1,095	1,109	1,025	946	1,059
Females	312	308	273	255	276
Fees received during the year ..	£11,839†	£9,263†	£11,354†	£11,504†	£11,891†
Average fee per student	124s. 0d.	96s. 3d.	99s. 7d.	99s. 2d.	93s. 10d.
Number of classes	173	180	176	175	177
„ instructors	97	115	117	116	128
Salaries paid instructors	£20,027	£24,390	£25,629	£25,764	£27,241

* In addition, over 370 students were receiving vocational training for the Repatriation Department during 1920, 230 in 1921, and 200 in 1922.

† This does not include fees for correspondence courses, which amounted to £4,461 in 1920, £1,752 in 1921, £797 in 1922, £539 in 1923, and £1,034 in 1924. The subjects taught by correspondence are those included in the college curriculum.

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

Public Library of Victoria. The buildings of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria cost £326,946. The funds were provided by the Government, as also were further moneys expended on maintenance (including salaries) and amounting, with the sum just named, to a total of £1,713,045 at the end of 1924. The Library consists of three distinct sections, viz. :—the Reference Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. In regard to the Reference Library, the librarian reports that 6,050 volumes were purchased, 2,520 volumes presented, 321 volumes obtained under the "Copyright Act," and 47,871 newspapers added to the Library during the year 1924. At the end of that year the Reference Library contained 307,325 volumes. It is open to the public without payment on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 118,116 volumes during 1924, the number of persons to whom the books were lent being 8,264. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of the year mentioned was 42,314, of which 2,256 were added during the year.

National Gallery. The National Gallery at the end of 1924 contained 20,560 works of art, viz., 677 oil paintings, 5,370 objects of art, statuary, &c., and 14,513 water colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted), and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The school of painting in connexion with the institution was attended during the year by 24 students, and the school of drawing by 128 students. The income from the Felton bequest amounted to £24,000, which is available for expenditure on paintings, statuary, and other works of art.

Industrial Museum. The Industrial and Technological Museum occupies the whole of the first floor front of the institution. At the end of 1924 it contained more than 9,300 exhibits.

National Museum. The collection in the National Museum, formerly kept in a building situated on the grounds of the Melbourne University, is now located in the Public Library Buildings. It comprises natural history, geology, and ethnology. The National Museum is open to the public free of charge on all week days throughout the year, except Thursdays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. In 1924 the expenditure on specimens, furniture, materials, &c., was £764.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

**Patent
Office
Library.**

There is a free library attached to the Commonwealth Department of Patents, which contains over 10,000 volumes, including the Patents Acts, official Gazettes and patents specifications of the principal countries of the world, and a comprehensive selection of technical works. The library is open to the public on each week day, except Saturday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.

**Supreme
Court
Library.**

The Supreme Court Library at Melbourne has nineteen branches in the assize towns. It is free to members of the legal profession between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it closes at noon. It is supported by fees paid under Acts of Parliament and Rules of Court for the admission of barristers and solicitors.

OTHER LIBRARIES.

**Free
Libraries.**

Most of the suburban and country libraries receive Government aid—the amount granted in 1923-1924 having been £3,000. Of these libraries 523 furnished returns in 1924, which show that they possessed 958,110 volumes, and received £102,375 in revenue, that the total expenditure was £91,902—£12,411 on books, &c., and £79,491 on maintenance—and that 2,326,320 visits were paid to the 427 institutions which kept records of the attendances of visitors.

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

**Exhibition
Buildings,
Aquarium,
and Museum.**

The Exhibition Buildings, which are situated in the Carlton Gardens, Melbourne, when first opened for the purpose of an exhibition in October, 1880, occupied a total space of 907,400 square feet. The original cost of the permanent structure, temporary annexes, &c., was £246,365. After the close of the exhibition, on 30th April, 1881, the annexes were removed, and the permanent building was vested in trustees. Another exhibition was opened in the building on 1st August, 1888, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the first Australian Colony. On that occasion a further sum of £262,954 was expended. At the close of the exhibition there was realized from the sale of various materials, including temporary annexes, a sum of £56,904.

The receipts for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1924, amounted to £7,555, consisting of rents, £4,311, aquarium receipts, £2,702, and other receipts, £542. The expenditure totalled £9,169, viz.:—£3,191, expenses of the aquarium; and £5,978 for general maintenance, improvements to buildings, insurance and sundry expenses. The deposits and balances in banks to the credit of the trust at 30th June, 1924, amounted to £398.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

Botanic Garden. The Melbourne Botanic Garden, which was established over 70 years ago, is situated on the south side of the Yarra, at a distance of about one mile from the city. The area of the garden proper is 102 acres, and includes lakes, lawns, groups, plantations, conservatories, &c. Associated with the Botanic Garden are the grounds of Government House, the Domain, the Alexandra Park and Gardens, and the Queen Victoria Gardens. The Botanic Garden and the Domain are administered by the Lands Department, the Government House Grounds temporarily by the Federal Government, and Alexandra Park and Queen Victoria Gardens solely by the Melbourne City Council. The whole reservation, probably the most valuable asset of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, embraces an area of approximately 320 acres, and, in addition to the divisions mentioned above, includes the grounds and buildings of the Observatory and the National Herbarium.

Records of the commencement of the Gardens and their progress until 1908 are to be found in the *Descriptive Guide to the Botanic Gardens*, published by the Government Printer in that year, and obtainable at a price of 6d. A reference to some of the principal features appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916–17, pages 525 to 527.

The Gardens are open to the public daily from 7 a.m. in summer and 7.30 a.m. in winter, and are closed at sunset.

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL AND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Gardens. The gardens of the Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria are situated in the centre of Royal Park, on the northern side of the city, nearly 2 miles distant from the Elizabeth Street Post Office, and can be reached by tramcars starting every few minutes from the lower end of Elizabeth-street, or by electric train to Royal Park Station. The electric

tramway from West Brunswick, through Royal Park, is now completed, and it provides another facility for reaching the Gardens.

The ground enclosed contains 50 acres, rather more than half of which is laid out as a Zoological garden and the rest in deer paddocks. Most of the large animals of the world, such as the hippopotamus, giraffe, Indian elephant, &c., are exhibited there, as well as many native animals. The Patron of the Society is His Excellency the State Governor, and the Director is Mr. A. Wilkie.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

A brief statement of the history of this society and of the work carried on by it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 528 and 529. The membership subscription is 10s. per annum. Two shows are held each year, one in the autumn and one in spring. The members' monthly meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month.

The business of the society is vested in a committee, consisting of the president, four vice-presidents (two amateur and two professional), an honorary treasurer, and sixteen members (eight amateurs and eight professionals), the administrative work being conducted by the secretary, Mr. A. J. Whitcher, "Hiawatha," 6 Pine-street, Hawthorn.

Other societies.

There are about 40 other horticultural societies in the State, situated at Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Mildura, Terang, Traralgon, and other centres.

PUBLIC RESERVES.

Public reserves.

Greater Melbourne is amply supplied with public reserves and parks, the total area devoted to such purposes having been 6,222½ acres in 1924. A list of the public reserves in 1917, together with a statement of their respective areas, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 529 to 533.

A further statement showing the number and area of reserves in 17 of the largest towns outside Melbourne was given on page 533 of the same volume.

At the end of 1924 there were in the State, according to returns received, 3,297 regular churches and chapels, and 1,667 other buildings where religious services were held—a total of 4,964 places of public worship—and these were attended by 2,304 regular clergymen. The following statement contains particulars in regard to the different denominations :—

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, 1924.

Denominations.	Number of Clergy, Ministers, &c.	Buildings used for Public Worship.		
		Churches and Chapels.	Other Buildings.	Total.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England ..	438	730	594	1,324
Presbyterian Church of Victoria	295	625	317	942
Free Presbyterian ..	4	7	2	9
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland ..	1	1	..	1
Methodist	315	823	338	1,161
Independent or Congrega- tional.. ..	76	80	48	128
Baptist	100	115	45	160
Lutheran	24	46	18	64
Salvation Army	544	168	39	207
Church of Christ	95	100	16	116
Church for Deaf Mutes ..	2	1	1	2
Other Protestant.. ..	21	32	17	49
Roman Catholic Church ..	356	558	227	785
New Church (or Swedenborgian)	1	2	..	2
Catholic Apostolic Church ..	12	1	..	1
Jews	5	4	2	6
Re-organized Church of Latter- Day Saints	11	3	3	6
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints	4	1	..	1
Total	2,304	3,297	1,667	4,964

The Sunday Schools of the various religious bodies numbered 2,999, and the teachers 23,229 ; the number of scholars on the rolls was 229,674—105,211 males and 124,463 females.

Religions of
the people.

The following table shows the principal religions of the people as ascertained at the census of 1921:—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 1921.

Religion.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent. of Population.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England	300,159	301,650	601,809	39·88
Protestant so stated	10,127	8,509	18,636	1·23
Presbyterian	125,741	131,331	257,072	17·04
Methodist	86,854	96,975	183,829	12·18
Independent or Congregational	7,175	8,718	15,893	1·05
Baptist	14,531	17,774	32,305	2·14
Lutheran	4,905	3,779	8,684	·58
Salvation Army	4,071	5,112	9,183	·61
Unitarian	253	173	426	·03
Church of Christ	9,862	12,388	22,250	1·47
Seventh Day Adventists	920	1,515	2,435	·16
Roman Catholic Church (including Catholic undefined, 6,847)	156,329	166,236	322,565	21·38
Other Christians	5,801	6,120	11,921	·79
Other Denominations—				
Jews	3,949	3,728	7,677	·51
Buddhist, Confucian, &c.	1,021	42	1,063	·07
Mohammedan	280	24	304	·02
Others (Non-Christian)	457	164	621	·04
Sceptics, &c.	8,334	3,991	12,325	·82
Total specified	740,769	768,229	1,508,998	100·00
„ unspecified	13,955	8,327	22,282	..
Grand Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	..

Religions per
cent. of
population,
1871 to 1921.

The next table shows the principal religions of the people per 100 of the population in the six census years 1871 to 1921:—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE PER 100 OF THE POPULATION, 1871 TO 1921.

Religion.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Protestant Churches—						
Church of England (including Protestant so stated)	36·01	36·74	37·33	36·52	37·02	41·11
Presbyterian	15·78	15·65	14·94	16·16	18·27	17·04
Methodist	13·16	13·58	14·14	15·21	13·76	12·18
Independent or Congregational	2·54	2·35	1·98	1·45	1·28	1·05
Baptist	2·28	2·40	2·50	2·75	2·43	2·14
Lutheran	1·47	1·32	1·39	1·18	·91	·58
Salvation Army .. ..	..	..	1·21	·74	·61	·61
Church of Christ	·50	·57	·74	·90	1·29	1·47
Other Protestant Churches	·51	·37	·66	1·45	·78	·78
Total Protestant Churches	72·25	72·98	74·89	76·36	76·35	76·96
Roman Catholic Church	23·83	24·02	22·24	22·26	22·31	21·38
Jews	·50	·51	·58	·50	·49	·51
Others	3·42	2·49	2·29	·88	·85	1·15
Total specified	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Friendly societies seem to have been established in Victoria very soon after the first settlement of the territory, but it was not until after the passing of the 1855 Act that any steps were taken for their registration as institutions recognised by law. That statute consolidated and amended the laws then in force relating to friendly societies, and was the first Act passed in this connexion by the Victorian Legislature after the separation of Victoria from New South Wales in 1851. It was assented to on 12th June, 1855, and provided for the appointment of a registrar, and also a certifying barrister, to whom the rules of a society had to be submitted for examination, and whose certificate, that these rules were in accordance with the law, was necessary before registration could be effected. It also provided that the tables of contributions should be certified by an actuary of an assurance company, or "some person" appointed by the registrar before the rules of the society could be registered.

Registration was not, however, made compulsory, and the actuarial certificate, given by the actuary appointed by the registrar under the provisions of the Act for this purpose, was only of a provisional nature, issued subject to the condition that the tables were to be submitted to him for approval after a certain period had elapsed. This temporary certificate was given because there were no data then available in Australia on which to calculate the amount necessary to provide the sickness benefits. As there was no power under the Act to compel a society to apply to the actuary for a renewal of the provisional certificate when the time covered by that certificate had expired, the registration of these institutions was unfortunately permanently effected with rates of contribution which afterwards proved to be, in almost every instance, inadequate. The control exercised over friendly societies as a result of this legislation was very slight.

No further serious attention was given by the Government to friendly societies until 1875, when a Commission was appointed to inquire into "the working of the Friendly Societies Statute, the position and operations of the societies registered under it, and what amendment, if any, is desirable in the existing law." The outcome of this Commission was the 1877 Act, which provided (*inter alia*) for the appointment of a barrister of not less than seven years' standing as registrar, and also that each society should furnish returns annually to the Government Statist, and once at least in every five years should either have its assets and liabilities valued by a valuer appointed by the society or send such particulars to the Government Statist as would enable him to have the valuation made. The fees for valuation were purposely fixed at a low rate, and average less than two-pence per member, the result being that, although it is competent for the societies to employ outside valuers, should they so desire, as a matter of fact they have rarely done so, and nearly all the valuations

have been made by the Government Actuary. The passing of this Act had the effect of considerably increasing the control exercised by the Government over the operations of friendly societies.

In accordance with its provisions, an actuary was appointed under the Government Statist in 1881, whose chief duty was to make periodical valuations of the assets and liabilities of societies, and the result of these valuations disclosed the fact that, in almost every instance, the rates then being paid by the members were insufficient to provide the benefits which the societies had by their rules agreed to pay. The Act gave no power to enforce payment of adequate rates of contribution, and the actuary could not therefore compel a society to take such steps as would enable it to meet its liabilities, but could only give advice as to the best means to be adopted to secure that end. It is only just to the managing bodies of these institutions, however, to state that most of the principal societies made a serious effort to carry out the suggestions of the actuary. Several of them passed rules requiring future members to pay adequate rates of contribution, and in nearly every case some effort was made to improve the financial position.

It was not until 1907 that registration of societies was made compulsory, and that they were required to adopt adequate rates of contribution in respect of all members, existing as well as new members. An Act which was passed in that year embodied these provisions, the penalty for failure to adopt adequate rates of contribution being cancellation of registration. The operation of the Act, in so far as it related to the scale of contributions payable, was, however, limited to a period of eighteen months. This was a serious defect, as contributions which are sufficient at one time may at a future date become inadequate, owing to fluctuations in interest, sickness, or mortality rates or faulty management. To remedy this defect an amending Act was passed in the year 1911. This Act provides that, if a society receives two successive notifications from the Government Statist that its rates are inadequate, it must adopt adequate rates within twelve months of the second notification, otherwise its registration will be cancelled. There must be an interval of at least three years between the two notifications. It is expected that a society on receiving the first notification will take such steps to improve its position as will obviate the necessity for the second being issued.

The legislation which has been referred to has had a very beneficial effect on societies. Of fifteen societies having a membership of over 500 each, thirteen have assets whose ratio to liabilities exceeds, or closely approximates to, 20s. in the £, and of all the Victorian societies only one has a lower ratio than 18s. in the £. In Victoria the societies have received no subvention from the State.

If, on an actuarial valuation being made, a surplus is found to exist in any one fund of a society, the Government Statist may authorize the utilization of the whole or a portion of such surplus for the purposes of the same or any other fund.

Central bodies of societies are empowered by statute to appoint auditors to audit and inspect the accounts and securities of branches at such time as the central body may direct. Every trustee, treasurer, secretary, chairman or member of the committee of management who takes any money or valuable thing in consideration of any benefit received or to be received by any member of an unregistered society is liable to a penalty of £50. Trade unions are exempted from registration. The investment of funds on leasehold property is now illegal, but the power to invest is extended to any securities on which a trustee is under any Act authorized to invest any trust funds in his hands. All loans on freehold property must be on first mortgage only, and are not to exceed three-fifths of the value as certified by a practical surveyor or valuer. The trustees are prohibited from investing on mortgage if the fee-simple of the property has been in the possession of a trustee or his wife during the previous five years. An Act passed in 1910 created a new stock for the special benefit of friendly societies, investment in which is optional and on which interest is payable at 4 per cent. The amount invested in the stock at the end of June, 1924, was £326,636. Prior to the year 1907 it was not lawful for a friendly societies' dispensary to sell patent or other medicines to members of friendly societies or their relatives, but this restriction has been amended, so that all benefit members, who have paid the full subscription to the dispensary and the full amount payable to their society for medicines and medical appliances, may now be supplied with medicines for which payment is required.

The *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 consolidates all Acts passed up to 1914 inclusive. An Act passed in 1915—the *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 (No. 2)—gave power to societies to reinsure with the Government or with an approved life assurance company their liabilities to members who were engaged on naval or military service in connexion with the war. The number of societies which took advantage of the scheme was twelve, and the number of their enlisted members was about 15,120. The sum paid by them in sickness and mortality benefits on account of those members under the contracts which were reinsured was about £232,000, and of this sum £46,500 was reimbursed to the societies by the Government in accordance with the arrangement made with it.

The amounts of the sickness and mortality benefits paid by all societies on account of members who took part in the war was about £286,000. In addition, the societies paid the contributions of enlisted members during their absence from Australia. The amount of these contributions was about £152,000.

An Act was passed in 1922 in relation to Dividing Societies, *i.e.*, friendly societies which divide the whole or a portion of their funds each year. Its principal provisions are (1) that no dividing society shall be established in future unless it limits its membership to the employees of a particular Government department, municipality, company, or other

body firm or person; and (2) that every existing dividing society, the operations of which are not limited in the manner indicated, shall re-register every year, and, as a precedent to such re-registration, shall forward to the Registrar an actuarial certificate that its rates of contribution are adequate to provide the benefits specified in its rules.

Under the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, which was assented to on 2nd October, 1923, societies may provide for the payment of sums of money on the deaths of members, their husbands, wives, widows, children, or kindred up to an aggregate of £100 instead of sums for defraying the expenses of burial of members and the other persons mentioned. Societies are also permitted to contract with a person for the payment of a maximum amount of sick pay of £3 per week. Previously the periodical payment was limited to £2 per week. Another important provision of the Act is that the Government Statist may make or cause to be made such inspection and examination of the books of a society or branch as he deems necessary.

The societies perform a function which cannot be carried out with the same success by other means—that of providing for the loss which would otherwise be sustained by the wage-earners of the community and those dependent on them, through illness or death. Their organization enables them to keep in touch with their members, to guard against malingering, and to perform satisfactorily a work which, on account of its peculiar nature, could not be attended to satisfactorily by institutions organized on the lines of the ordinary insurance company. Their main objects are to afford relief in sickness, and to provide a moderate payment on the death of a member or his wife. The usual sickness benefits are 20s. per week during the first six months of sickness, 10s. per week during the second six months, and 5s. per week thereafter so long as the sickness continues. The member has also the benefit of medical attendance and medicine for himself and his near relatives. A sum of £20 is usually payable on the death of the member, and of £10 on the death of his wife should she predecease him. In pursuance of the provisions of the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, referred to in a previous paragraph, members of some of the societies are now being given the opportunity to contribute for larger sickness and death benefits than those which have hitherto been provided. The benefits coming under the heading of medical attendance and medicine extend usually to the whole family, embracing in the general case member, wife, and children up to the age of 16 years in the case of males and 18 years in the case of females, widowed mother of unmarried member, and also widow and family after death of member on payment of medical fees.

The funds of the societies are divided into two or more portions. Of these the most important are the sick and funeral fund, out of which are payable the sickness and death benefits, and the medical and management fund, from which are taken the payments for medical attendance, medicines, and management expenses. The

weekly contribution to the sick and funeral fund varies with the age at entry, and for the benefits above mentioned usually ranges from 6d. to 1s. per week. The contribution to the other fund generally remains uniform throughout life, the usual charge being from 8d. to 10d. per week. The total sum payable by each member thus ranges from about 1s. 2d. to 1s. 10d. per week. There are in addition small initiation fees, and, in some instances, registration fees for second wives.

The total membership of Victorian friendly societies decreased from 157,280 at the end of 1913 to 153,840 in the middle of 1924—a decrease during the ten and a half years of 3,440 members.

There was a slight decline in the membership between the ends of the years 1914 and 1917 due to deaths of members while on active service and to the absence from Victoria of many young men who might otherwise have joined the societies. A marked decrease in the membership of nearly all societies occurred in 1918 and 1919—the decrease in the earlier year was 7,004 in male and 1,619 in female members, and in the later year 3,918 in male and 1,360 in female members. In 1920 there was a further decline of 757 male and 502 female members, making a total loss for the three years of 11,679 males and 3,481 females. This numerical decrease was principally due to a dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies which led to the resignation of nearly all the medical officers as from 1st February, 1918. A settlement of the dispute has now been arrived at between the Association and all the societies. In 1921 numerical recovery set in, there was an increase during that year of 618 male and 181 female members, and in 1922 of 2,448 male and 420 female members. During the eighteen months ended in June, 1924, there was a further increase of 6,660 and 492 male and female members respectively.

The funds increased during the ten and a half-year period 1913–22 and 1923–24 from £2,490,957 to £3,838,052, there being an addition of £1,347,095. They are well invested, the return from the sick and funeral fund for the year 1923 averaging 5.15 per cent. There is a number of female societies, the particulars for which are included above. At the end of June, 1924, these had a membership of 10,787 and funds amounting to £88,590.

A table is appended showing the membership, revenue, expenditure, and total funds of friendly societies in Victoria during the five and a half years 1919–22 and 1923–24:—

Year.			Membership (end of year).	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Funds.
				£	£	£
1919	..	..	144,280	664,526	680,943	3,056,666
1920	..	..	143,021	681,232	564,220	3,173,678
1921	..	..	143,820	763,031	561,659	3,375,050
1922	..	..	146,688	790,788	616,040	3,549,798
1923–24*	..	..	153,840	1,193,550	905,296	3,838,052

* A period of eighteen months.

The statement which follows contains further information in regard to the societies for the five and a half years, 1919 to 1923-24 :—

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1919 TO 1923-24.

(Including Female Societies.)

—	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923-24.*
Number of societies ..	49	55	56	57	60
Number of branches ..	1,489	1,475	1,464	1,467	1,469
Average number of members ..	146,919	143,651	143,421	145,254	150,264
Number of members sick ..	46,612	29,063	27,342	26,275	41,688
Weeks for which sick pay was allowed ..	406,817	294,818	258,540	258,851	405,245
Deaths of members ..	2,211	1,381	1,302	1,299	2,153
Deaths of registered wives ..	751	471	526	476	771
	£	£	£	£	£
Income of sick and funeral fund.. ..	367,878	358,726	408,193	370,568	584,487
Income of incidental fund ..	265,672	289,367	319,957	385,821	544,879
Other Income ..	30,976	33,139	34,881	34,399	64,184
Total Income ..	664,526	681,232	763,031	790,788	1,193,550
Expenditure of sick and funeral fund ..	375,733	250,589	235,593	286,631	383,454
Expenditure of incidental fund.. ..	276,442	282,592	295,447	296,980	465,739
Other Expenditure ..	28,768	31,039	30,619	32,429	56,103
Total Expenditure ..	680,943	564,220	561,659	616,040	905,296
Amount to credit of sick and funeral fund ..	2,876,863	2,985,000	3,157,600	3,241,528	3,442,561
Amount to credit of incidental fund ..	103,128	109,903	134,413	223,223	302,363
Amount invested—sick and funeral fund ..	2,783,425	2,889,409	3,046,251	3,155,993	3,371,784
Amount invested—incidental fund ..	103,128	109,871	134,413	221,174	299,777
Amount invested—other funds ..	71,268	76,680	80,144	81,898	89,033
Total invested ..	2,957,821	3,075,960	3,260,808	3,459,065	3,760,594
„ funds ..	3,056,666	3,173,678	3,375,050	3,549,798	3,838,052

* A period of eighteen months.

NOTE.—There are juvenile branches connected with some of the societies, but the information in regard to these has not been considered of sufficient importance to be included in the above table.

During the eighteen months ended in the middle of 1924 the societies lost by secession 14,314 members, which number, after being reduced by one-third so as to make it applicable to a twelve months period, was equivalent to an annual loss of 6.5 per cent. The rate of secession was also 6.5 per cent. in 1922, 7.8 per cent. in 1921, 8.2 per cent. in 1920, 8.5 per cent. in 1919, 7.5 per cent. in 1918, and 6.0 per cent. in 1917. The higher secession rates in the four years 1918-1921 were due mainly to the dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies, which is referred to in a previous paragraph. They were due, in part, to a

Secessions and expenses.

number of members who had been on active service and whose contributions had been paid for them while absent from Australia having failed to resume payment of contributions on their return. As a rule, most of the secessions are those of new members who allow their membership to lapse before they have time to appreciate its value. Expenses of management absorbed $19\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the contributions to all funds during the period 1923-24. This ratio is considerably below the usual rate in industrial assurance business. When it is remembered that the benefits and contributions are generally payable fortnightly and that this entails a great deal of administrative work, it will be seen that the rate of expense is very moderate.

Sickness and mortality experience, 1903-07. An investigation was made into the sickness and mortality experience of three of the largest Victorian friendly societies for the period 1903-07. This relates to male lives only. Tables containing rates of sickness and mortality obtained by the investigation are given in the *Year-Book* for 1913-14.

Sickness and mortality, 1914-23. The following statement shows the number of weeks' sickness experienced by male members of ordinary friendly societies, and the number per effective member, in respect of which claims for sick pay were received in 1914 (the last year unaffected by the war), 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, and 1923; also the number of deaths of male members of such societies in those years and the number per 1,000 effective members:—

Year.	Average Number of Effective Members.	Weeks of Sickness.			Deaths.	
		Number.	Number per Effective Member.		Number.	Number per 1,000 Effective Members.
		Weeks.	Weeks.	Days.		
1914..	125,952	216,520	1	4	1,263	10·03
1917..	128,989	257,847	2	0	2,409	18·68
1918..	125,667	288,088	2	2	2,457	19·55
1919..	119,308	382,247	3	1	2,080	17·43
1920..	114,797	278,401	2	3	1,313	11·44
1921..	113,666	240,207	2	1	1,224	10·77
1922..	115,426	241,021	2	1	1,221	10·58
1923.*	118,502	249,113*	2	1	1,328*	11·21

* These represent two-thirds of the number for the period 1923-24.

The large increase in the sickness rate of 1919 was due chiefly to members who had been on active service having deferred until their return to the Commonwealth their claims for sick pay for incapacity arising out of sickness experienced and wounds received during previous years. It was also due in part to the influenza epidemic of that year.

**Mortality
compared with
Australian
Population
Rates.**

In the following table the mortality rates of three of the largest Victorian Friendly Societies in recent years are compared with the Australian population mortality rates according to the mortality table known as the "Australian Life Table (males) 1901-1910." This table is based upon the mortality experience of the Commonwealth of Australia for the years mentioned. No table has been published showing the Australian experience for a later period. The rates given are averages for five-yearly age groups which have as their centres the ages shown in the table. Those relating to friendly societies apply only to members who did not take part in the war.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY MORTALITY RATES COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION.

Age next Birthday.	Mortality Rates per 100 Lives of—		Ratio of Col. (2) to Col. (3).
	Three large Friendly Societies, 1914-21.	Australian Population, 1911.	
(1).	(2).	(3).	(4).
			Per cent.
18	·21	·32	66
23	·34	·41	83
28	·32	·48	67
33	·40	·57	70
38	·53	·72	74
43	·70	·94	74
48	·88	1·23	72
53	1·11	1·59	70
58	1·77	2·16	82
63	2·51	3·15	80
68	4·15	4·87	85
73	7·13	7·69	93
78	8·94	11·40	78
83	16·23	16·12	101
88	24·52	22·61	108
93	28·57	31·15	92
98	66·67	41·42	161

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

**Labour
legislation.**

The earliest attempt at regulating the conditions of labour in Victoria was made by the passing of an Act dated 11th November, 1873, forbidding the employment of any female for more than eight hours in any day in a factory. The

same Act defined "factory" to be a place where not fewer than ten persons were working.

This small provision was administered by the Board of Public Health, and was followed, in 1885, by a much larger statute, providing for the registration of factories, their sanitation, fire escape, and guarding of machinery, and regulating the conditions of work generally to a much greater extent than formerly, besides providing for the closing of shops at fixed hours. These latter provisions were designed to give some relief to the employees, who could previously be kept at work in shops as long as their employers chose.

From that time onwards further legislative provisions were introduced at frequent intervals, and gradually the community has come to recognise the necessity of securing the health, comfort, and reasonable ease of the workers. The opposition, which was at first very strong, has gradually disappeared, until now it is safe to say that all sections of the community realize the humanitarian aspects of the movement, and have accepted the principle that the rights of work-people shall be conserved by law.

The interests of the factory worker as regards wages, personal safety, and health now receive a large amount of attention. Government inspectors prosecute employers wherever underpayment is found. They take proceedings also to carry out all the provisions of the factory laws. No one can occupy a factory unless the place is properly lighted and ventilated, has ample means of escape in case of fire, has all its machinery fenced and guarded, and has proper sanitary arrangements provided for both sexes. The Minister may now require the occupier of any factory, shop, or place to provide for the use of the employees a dining-room and a bath-room, and, for the use of the female employees, suitable sitting accommodation and a rest-room. The closing time of shops is carefully regulated. The hours of shop employees are restricted, and they must be given a half-holiday every week.

Wages Boards. The Wages Board method of fixing wages and settling the conditions of employment had its origin in Victoria. It was introduced into an Act of Parliament in 1896 by Sir Alexander Peacock. The principle embodied in the British jury system that a man can only be tried by his peers is the essence of the Victorian Wages Board system. The Boards are composed of equal numbers of employers and employees. The representatives are carefully chosen, so that every shade of interest in the trade shall be represented as fully as possible on the Board. The Board thus becomes a jury of trade experts, all of whom are versed in the requirements and intricacies of the trade they are dealing with.

An application for a Board in any trade which has not been brought under the Wages Board system can be made either by

a Union or by a meeting of employees. Upon receipt of such an application the Minister usually orders the collection of figures to show the rates of wages, the average number of hours worked, the number of persons employed in the trade, and so on. If he finds that there is good reason therefor, the Governor in Council may appoint a Wages Board and define the scope of its operations. The Board consists of from six to ten members (half elected by employers and half by employees), who nominate some outside person as chairman; or, if no agreement can be arrived at as to such nomination, then the Minister appoints the chairman. The Board may fix the rates of payment either by piece-work or wages, or both; the maximum number of hours per week or per day for which such rates shall be paid; a higher rate for work done in excess of such maximum number of hours; the times of beginning and ending work, including the hours of each shift; a higher rate for work done outside such times; special rates for casual work in the case of any trade not usually carried on in a factory or shop, or for work done on Sundays and public holidays, and for time occupied in travelling to and from work; the day and latest hour when payment of wages is to be made, also what notice of termination of employment shall be given by either employer or worker; and the number of and the rates of pay to apprentices and improvers who may be employed. Casual work is now defined in the Act as work or labour during any week for not more than one-half of the maximum number of hours fixed by the Wages Board appointed to fix rates for the work in question.

By an amendment of the law made in 1922 the Boards are given power to provide that in trades carried on in factories or shops a person working fewer hours than those fixed for an ordinary week's work shall be paid from 33 to 50 per cent. above ordinary wages' rate for the first half of such week's work. For each hour worked beyond the aforesaid first half ordinary rates are payable up to but *not exceeding* the wage fixed by the Board for the full week's work.

By this provision the wages of an employee are stabilized as far as possible. Previously he could be employed on a systematic short time principle each week, and be paid only *pro rata* for the hours worked. As a safeguard against imposition on the part of the worker, he is not entitled to any wages if he refuses to complete the full number of hours fixed as a week's work.

NEW BOARDS AND ALTERATION OF POWERS.

The powers conferred on the Governor in Council by the *Factories and Shops Act 1920* to appoint Wages Boards without reference to

Parliament were, during the year 1924, exercised in the following eleven cases :—

Carters and Drivers Board ..	Appointed in lieu of the Aerated Water Carters, Carters and Livery Stable Boards, and also to take over certain powers previously conferred on the Pastrycooks Board.
Clerks (Timber Trade) Board.	
Entertainment Employees (Non-performers) Board.	
Gas Works Board.	
Glue and Gelatine Board.	
Pottery Board	Appointed in lieu of the Pottery-Glazed, Pottery-Glazed (Country), Pottery-Unglazed, Pottery-Unglazed (Country) Boards.
Saddlery and Harness Board	Appointed in lieu of the Saddlery and Saddlery (Country) Boards.
Wharfs and Jetties Board.	
Wire Fence and Tubular Gate Board.	
Woodworkers Board ..	{ Appointed in lieu of the Timber Fellers, Woodworkers, and Woodworkers (Country) Boards.
Woodworkers (Country) Board	

Powers were varied in ten cases, as follows :—

Boilermakers Board.	Musical Instruments Board.
Dental Mechanics Board.	Plate Glass Board.
Furniture Board.	Quarry Board.
Glue and Gelatine Board.	Storemen, Packers and Sorters Board.
Leather Goods Board.	Tanners Board.

Powers were extended in the case of the

Builders Labourers Board.

The Commercial Clerks Board was deprived of the power to determine prices or rates to be paid to any person employed in the timber trade as a clerk, and such power was conferred exclusively on the Clerks (Timber Trade) Board.

On 31st December, 1924, there were 183 Wages Boards existent or authorized, affecting about 192,300 employees.

A Wages Board, having been constituted, meets (until the first Determination is made) as often as it chooses, usually once a week, at the Factories Office. An officer of the Department of Labour acts as secretary. The chairmen and members of Boards are paid as follows :—

Three hours' attendance or less—Chairman, 15s. ; member, 7s. 6d.
 Over three hours' attendance—Chairman, 30s. ; member, 15s.
 Any member residing 10 miles or more from Melbourne is paid, in addition, train fares and 15s. per day expenses.

Provided that members are not to be paid fees, fares, or expenses for more than—

(a) Ten meetings in the first twelve months after the constitution of the Board.

(b) Six meetings in any subsequent year.

When computing the time occupied in attendance, intervals for meals are not to be counted.

After a Determination has been arrived at it is sent to the Minister of Labour and gazetted, and it thereupon becomes law. It is then the duty of the officers of the Department of Labour to enforce it. Where the Minister considers that any breach of the law is trivial, or has occurred through a mistake, he administers a warning; in more serious cases he orders a prosecution. The prosecutions are carried out by the officers of the Department of Labour, without expense to the worker, and on a conviction being obtained the Court may make an order for arrears of wages, that may be due for any period not exceeding twelve months, to be paid. It is, however, open to any worker, if he has made demand in writing on the employer within two months from the date same became due, to sue in a civil court for the amount of wages owing to him.

Provision has been made in the law for the constitution of a Court of Industrial Appeals for deciding all appeals against a Determination of a Wages Board, and for dealing with any Determination of a Wages Board referred to the Court by the Minister. The Court has been asked to make or alter sixty-one Determinations. Since 1st January, 1915, it has consisted of a President and two other persons. The President, who must be a Judge of the Supreme Court, holds such office for such period as the Governor in Council thinks fit, and must sit in every Court of Industrial Appeals. Mr. Justice J. R. Macfarlan has been appointed President. The other members can only act in the Court for which they are appointed, and one must be a representative of employers and the other a representative of employees. Each must be nominated in writing by the side which he represents, and must have been *bonâ fide* and actually engaged in the trade concerned for at least six months during the three years immediately preceding his nomination. Subject to the Act a majority decision decides every reference to the Court. Since its re-constitution in 1915 it has dealt with forty-three cases. The determination of the Court may now be altered by the Wages Boards without the leave of the Court if twelve months has elapsed since the date of the last Determination of the Court.

Rise in earnings. During the year 1924 Determinations made by 167 Boards appointed under the Act were in force. The following statement shows the average weekly wage paid to employees in certain trades (1) before the first Determination was made, (2) in 1914, and (3) in 1924, the figures for the two last

mentioned years being the amounts paid to the employees under the Determinations of Wages Boards:—

Trade.	Average Weekly Wage Paid to all Employees.		
	Before First Determination was made.	In 1914.	In 1924.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aerated Water	1 6 7	1 17 8	3 16 0
Agricultural Implements	1 19 5	2 10 1	4 7 9
Asphalters	2 2 10	2 13 8	4 12 2
Bedsteadmakers	1 12 2	2 9 6	4 8 4
Boot	1 3 2	2 1 7	3 8 8
Bread	1 12 6	3 2 7	5 7 8
Brewers	1 14 4	2 10 2	4 15 4
Brushmakers	1 3 1	2 4 9	3 10 7
Candlemakers	1 4 8	2 4 2	3 19 4
Carpenters	2 7 6	3 3 10	5 12 6
Clothing	1 0 0	1 6 9	2 14 5
„ Waterproof	1 2 3	1 17 4	3 1 9
Commercial Clerks	1 10 7	2 9 6	3 13 5
Coopers	1 15 7	3 6 3	6 0 10
Engravers	1 16 11	2 5 11	4 4 7
Farriers	1 15 2	2 4 5	4 6 11
Furniture Trade—			
(a) European (Cabinet making &c.)	1 9 1	2 5 10	4 2 8
(b) European (Mantelpieces) ..	1 13 6	2 9 7	4 12 9
Glassworkers	1 14 11	2 7 3	4 13 9
Hairdressers	1 2 9	2 2 7	3 10 1
Ice	2 10 3	3 4 7	5 13 10
Jewellers	1 13 10	2 9 8	4 1 9
Lift Attendants	1 5 0	2 7 8	4 1 8
Malt	2 1 1	2 17 1	5 0 3
Marine Store	1 5 7	2 5 0	4 5 7
Millet Broom	1 7 11	2 2 9	3 12 7
Painters	2 0 9	2 14 11	4 18 5
Picture Frame	1 3 11	1 19 9	4 2 7
Plate Glass	1 7 6	2 5 11	4 9 11
Plumbers	1 12 8	2 14 4	5 4 10
Pottery	1 8 1	2 0 8	} ..
„ (Glazed) .. ..	..	..
„ (Unglazed) .. ..	..	..
„ (Glazed) — Country .. ..	..	..
„ (Unglazed)— „ .. ..	..	..	4 2 1
Saddlery	1 7 1	2 2 11	4 5 3
„ Country	1 10 7	1 16 11	3 5 4
Shops Board No. 1—(Boot Dealers)	1 6 11	2 0 11	2 19 7
Shops Board No. 3—(Butchers) ..	1 17 8	3 1 2	4 7 9
Shops Board No. 15—(Grocers) ..	1 7 4	2 6 8	3 16 11
Slaters and Tilers	2 0 8	3 7 3	4 17 11
Starch	1 0 9	2 0 6	4 16 0
Stonecutters	1 15 11	3 2 0	5 7 9
Tanners	1 11 9	2 10 6	4 7 2
Watchmakers	1 14 2	2 19 2	4 12 10
Wicker	1 2 11	2 2 4	3 19 1
Woodworkers	1 13 2	2 11 9	4 12 5
„ Country	2 9 0	2 14 11	4 17 4

Apprentices. The wages of apprentices in Victoria are fixed by the Wages Boards in each trade. These Boards also prescribe the form of indenture and the term of apprenticeship. Once a boy is indentured, it becomes the duty of the Department of Labour on the one hand to see that he is taught his trade properly, and on the other to enforce his proper attendance at his work, and generally to protect both parties and see that they carry out the agreement.

Factories. A factory is defined to mean any place in which four or more persons, other than a Chinese, or in which one or more Chinese are employed in any handicraft, or in preparing articles for trade or sale; or any place in which one or more are employed, if motive power be used in the preparation of such articles, or where furniture is made, or where bread or pastry is made or baked for sale, or in which electricity is generated for the supply of heat or light, or power, or in which coal gas is made; and also any clay pit or quarry worked in connexion with and occupied by the occupier of any pottery or brickyard. The expression "handicraft" includes any work done in a laundry or in dyeworks. Provision is made for the registration of factories, and inspectors are appointed to inspect and examine them in order to insure that the health requirements and other provisions of the Acts are complied with. The employment of males under 14 and females under 15 years of age is debarred, but provision is made by which a girl of 14 can receive permission to work in a factory if it be shown that the parents are poor, and that the best interests of the girl will be served. A strict limitation is placed on the hours of employment of all females and of males under sixteen. There are special provisions to guard against accidents, and persons in charge of engines and boilers must hold certificates of competency of service. The working hours of Chinese are specially restricted, with the object of preventing or lessening unfair competition. Every employee in a factory must be paid at least 2s. 6d. per week, this provision being, of course, intended as a protection for juvenile workers. All earnings must be paid at least once in every fortnight. There were registered in 1886 only 1,949 factories, with 39,506 employees, whereas in 1924 the figures were 10,012 factories, with 129,147 employees.

Factory legislation. The *Factories and Shops Acts* were consolidated during the year 1915 by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915, No. 2650. No changes were effected in the law by this measure. The existing Acts were merely consolidated.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1919 (No. 3048), passed at the close of the year 1919, made some important changes in the law, but it consists mainly of machinery clauses designed in the interests of the smooth working of the law.

Two short Amending Acts passed at the close of the year 1920 made important alterations in the law.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3093, altered the procedure regarding the appointment of Wages Boards. Prior to that Act coming into operation these Boards could only be created whilst Parliament was in session. The Governor in Council now has the power to appoint a Wages Board whenever it is deemed expedient to do so, and to alter the scope of any existing Wages Board.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3112, introduced a new principle into the legislation. For many years the closing hour of shops has been fixed by law. This Act for the first time fixed a legal opening hour which affects butchers' shops in the Metropolitan District.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1922, No. 3252, made some important alterations, the principal of which are as follows :—

A new scale of fees was fixed for registration of factories and shops, which resulted in an increase in revenue nearly sufficient to cover the whole cost of the administration of the Department of Labour.

The powers of Wages Boards were simplified and consolidated.

Rates for casual workers in factories and shops were put upon a different basis with a view to the stabilizing of the weekly wage.

The appointment of members of Wages Boards was simplified. Members had previously been appointed for three years, and much trouble was caused in getting new nominations at the date of expiry of each Board. Now Boards are appointed for one year, and every Board expires on the 30th September of each year, but will be automatically re-appointed unless objection is lodged. The result has been a saving of much time and expense as very few objections have been received.

The Minister now makes all appointments to fill vacancies instead of the Governor in Council.

The Governor in Council has now power to exempt new industries from the provisions of Wages Boards for six months, to enable operatives to learn their work.

Bread may now be sold at any hour of the day or night.

The provisions of the Act relating to the guarding of dangerous machinery have been extended so that chaffcutting machines on farms or elsewhere may be guarded for the protection of the workers.

Boards are empowered to fix what notice shall be given by either side of the termination of employment, also to fix the day and latest hour on which wages shall be paid.

**Shops,
Metropolitan
District.**

Shortly stated, in the Metropolitan District, as defined in the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915, the hours for closing shops are as follows:—Hairdressers' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m., on Friday at 9 p.m., and on Saturday at 1 p.m. Tobacconists' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.; if the shop be closed on Saturday at 1 p.m., it must be closed on Wednesday at 8 p.m., and may be kept open until 9 p.m. on Friday; if it be closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, it may be kept open until 8 p.m. on Friday and 9 p.m. on Saturday. Until a choice is made the shop must be closed on Wednesday at 1 p.m. Butchers' shops are required to close at 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 6 p.m. on Friday, and at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday. They are required to be closed till 6 a.m. on Saturday and 7.30 a.m. on other week days. All other shops (except Fourth Schedule shops) must be closed at 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday the closing hour is 9 p.m., and on Saturday 1 p.m.

The Fourth Schedule shops are:—

- Bread shops.
- Booksellers' and news agents' shops.
- Confectionery and pastry shops.
- Cooked meat (other than tinned meat) shops.
- Eating-houses.
- Fish and oyster shops.
- Flower shops.
- Fruit and vegetable shops.

The hours for closing such shops are not fixed by the Act, but the Governor in Council is given power to make Regulations for their closing. Section 2 of Act No. 3181, which came into force on 29th August, 1922, provides that such Regulations shall not apply to fruit shops in the area enclosed by Flinders, Spencer, Latrobe, Victoria, and Spring streets, Melbourne.

The following are the only cases where these Regulations have been made. The hour of closing on each day of the week is given:—

—	Regulation Gazetted.	Sun.	Mon.	Tu.	Wed.	Th.	F.	Saturday.
		P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Cooked Meat (other than tinned meat)..	27th October, 1920	..	6	6	6	6	9	1
Fruit and Vegetable (May to September inclusive only. See previous paragraph re exempted area)...	16th October, 1918	..	7	7	7	7	..	..

Under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act 1915* the Minister can grant permission to keepers of certain shops known as "small shops," who would ordinarily be required to close their shops at 6 p.m., to keep open till 8 p.m. Such permission can only be granted to widows and old people, or in cases of great hardship, and applies only to the Metropolitan District.

Provision is also made under the Acts for overtime and tea money for shop employees.

**Shops outside
the Metropolitan
District.**

The shops provisions of the Acts now apply to the whole State. Previous to 1st January, 1915, they did not apply to shires or portions of shires unless the shopkeepers therein had petitioned for them to be extended, and there was little uniformity throughout the Country Districts either as to the hours of closing shops or the observance of a weekly half-holiday. A universal Saturday half-holiday was legalized by Act No. 2558, passed in November, 1914, the shops being allowed to remain open till 10 p.m. (now altered to 9 p.m.) on Fridays, and the Country Districts were thus brought into line with the Metropolitan District, in which the Saturday half-holiday had been observed for years. In certain cases an exemption may be petitioned for and the half-holiday fixed for a day other than Saturday.

The hours of closing *on other days* outside the Metropolitan District are fixed at 7 p.m., but, if a petition be received from a majority of any class of shopkeepers, they may be fixed earlier or later. The hours have been altered in accordance with this provision in a few municipalities. Hairdressers and tobacconists outside the Metropolitan Districts may choose either Wednesday or Saturday as the day on which they will observe the half-holiday, but, if they choose Wednesday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Friday and 10 p.m. on Saturday. If they choose Saturday, or do not make a choice of half-holiday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and 10 p.m. on Friday. Fourth Schedule shops are not affected by these provisions. Petrol may be sold at any hour to travellers to enable them to continue their journey.

Registration of shops became compulsory as from 1st March, 1915. The registration fee formerly ranged from

2s. 6d. to 63s., according to the number of persons employed, but from 1st March, 1923, it has varied from 2s. 6d. to £10 (Act 3252, Sec. 4). During the year 1924, 33,388 shops, employing 34,853 persons, were registered, as compared with 32,301 shops, employing 33,133 persons, in 1923.

Registered shops are divided into 27 classes. There was an increase for the year 1924 as compared with 1923 of 1,087 shops, and 1,720 employees. Particulars of the increases and decreases in shops registered are given below:—

INCREASES AND DECREASES IN SHOPS REGISTERED, 1924.

	Metropolitan and Provincial Cities.		Country.		Whole State.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bread	162	..	89	..	251	..
Confectionery and Pastry } Booksellers, News Agents } Fancy Goods Dealers }	30	..	..	7	23	..
Boot Dealers	13	..	10	..	23	..
Boot Repairers	6	..	..	26	..	20
Butchers	42	..	21	..	63	..
Chemists	12	..	5	..	17	..
Crockery .. ..	..	7	..	3	..	10
Cycle and Motor	59	..	31	..	90	..
Dairy Produce and Cooked Meat	57	..	11	..	68	..
Drapery	60	..	59	..	119	..
Fish	8	..	..	2	6	..
Florists	28	..	2	..	30	..
Fruit and Vegetable	9	..	74	..	83	..
Fuel and Fodder	18	..	..	17	1	..
Furniture	53	..	10	..	63	..
Grocers	26	..	..	58	..	32
Hairdressers	24	..	..	5	19	..
Hardware	56	..	..	23	33	..
Jewellery	3	..	1	..	4	..
Leather Goods	1	..	10	..	11	..
Men's Clothing	31	..	23	..	54	..
Musical Instruments	52	..	..	..	52	..
Tobacconists	77	..	..	12	65	..
Mixed	1	..	79	..	80	..
Shops not classified .. ..	..	34	28	..	..	6
Totals	828	41	453	153	1,155	68

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Government Labour Exchange. Prior to 1st October, 1900, two labour bureaux were administered by the Railway Department. One registered men in search of work, and distributed all Government work, each Department paying the cost. The other was a Railway Staff Office, regulating and distributing all temporary and casual railway employment. Both these are now administered by an exchange under the control of the Labour Department, where applicants are

registered for temporary or casual employment, principally as artisans and labourers on Government works, including railways. Men are supplied, when work is available, according to their order of registration, subject to fitness. The Exchange also undertakes to supply workmen for private employment, and advances railway tickets to deserving applicants who may themselves have obtained employment in country districts, which they would otherwise be unable to reach, these advances being subject to orders for repayment out of earnings.

The following is a summary of the operations of the Exchange for the year 1924 in respect to registrations and applicants sent to employment :—

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Year and Month.			Number of Applicants for Work as Registered at the end of each Month in the Metropolis.	Number of Men for whom Employment was Obtained.
1924—January .. ..	..	..	807	337
February .. ..	..	..	844	93
March .. ..	..	..	553	250
April .. ..	..	..	710	55
May .. ..	..	..	825	147
June .. ..	..	..	961	105
July .. ..	..	..	1,503	422
August .. ..	..	..	2,204	292
September .. ..	..	..	1,594	175
October .. ..	..	..	1,587	180
November .. ..	..	..	1,106	391
December .. ..	..	..	1,336	105
Total .. ..	..	..	14,030	2,550

In the next table particulars are given of the operations of the Exchange during the last five years :—

Year.			Registrations Effected.		Engagements Effected.
			In the City.	In the Country.	
1920 .. ..	..	..	11,798	1,357	6,656
1921 .. ..	..	..	15,376	1,274	4,457
1922 .. ..	..	..	12,361	1,065	1,913
1923 .. ..	..	..	11,233	718	1,703
1924 .. ..	..	..	14,030	526	2,550

Regarding the number of distinct individuals included in the registrations and engagements effected, the officer in charge of the Exchange states that the number of men who are regular applicants at the Exchange is very considerable, especially amongst unskilled labourers, and consequently a large allowance must be made for duplication of registrations. It would probably be safe to say that the number of distinct individuals applying in any one year would be represented by about half the registrations effected. Also in connexion with the engagements effected in the course of a year allowance must be made for the fact that the same applicants may be employed more than once during the year, and this further employment, it is considered, would represent about one-sixth to one-eighth of the engagements made.

During the year 1924 the number of railway tickets advanced was 4,017, valued at £3,682, of which £3,045 has been refunded. During the past twenty-four years 62,604 railway tickets have been advanced, of the value of £51,328, of which £34,964 has been refunded.

REPATRIATION.

On 8th April, 1918, Repatriation became an Australian national undertaking for the provision of benefits for Australian soldiers, sailors and nurses who served in the great war. On that date the Commonwealth Government established the Department of Repatriation, with (the late) Senator the Hon. E. D. Millen as first Minister. Its objects are to find employment for the fit, to re-establish the disabled, to provide for the dependants of those who have died and of those who are no longer able to support themselves, and to supply medical and surgical treatment for disabilities due to or aggravated by war service.

Organization of Department. A description of this is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, page 369.

The *Year-Book* for 1920-21 contains, on pages 383 to 385, an epitome of the main work of the Department, also particulars of the sustenance rates granted to applicants awaiting fulfilment by the Department of certain specified obligations, and of the rates of pension payable to ex-members of the Forces and their dependants.

Activities of Department. The activities of the Department include the administration of a wide variety of benefits, such as employment, vocational training, medical treatment, children's education, land settlement and assistance. Under "assistance" establishment in

small businesses, furniture loans and grants, educational grants, equipment with tools of trade, and funeral expenses are provided. In co-operation with the State Governments a land settlement scheme has been devised, whereby the Federal Government loans the States money to provide the required holdings and to construct railways or other works necessary to their successful operation. Under this scheme the Commonwealth Government will also make available an average grant of £625 per settler. This will afford every ex-soldier possessing the natural aptitude and fitness an opportunity of ultimately owning his own farm. With the exception of South Australia, all the States have agreed to extend the benefits of the Land Settlement scheme to persons who were munition or war workers, and the Commonwealth Government's advance of £625 will be available for such persons.

The following is a summary of the work of the Department in Victoria from its inauguration, 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1925 :—

**Summary of
Work of
Department.**

Employment—

Number of applications received	..	..	84,624
Number of positions filled	..	..	47,761

Assistance other than vocational training and employment—

Number of applications received	..	..	211,261
Number of applications approved	..	..	192,180

Assistance granted—

Gifts	..	..	..	..	£3,060,356
Loans	..	..	..	..	517,266
General	..	..	..	..	1,201,315

Total £4,778,937

Vocational training statistics from 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1925 :—

Number of applications received	..	..	16,534
Number of applications approved	..	..	11,721
Completed training	..	..	5,513
In training at 30th June, 1925	..	..	248

N.B.—The above figures relate to day training only.

War Pensions.

Since 1st July, 1920, war pensions have been administered by the Repatriation Commission. The number of such pensions in force in Victoria on 30th June, 1925, was 81,753 and the annual liability of the Commonwealth Government in connexion therewith was £2,060,526. Of the total number of pensioners, 23,834 were incapacitated members of the Forces, and 57,919 were dependants of deceased and incapacitated members.

Workers' Compensation Act.

The principal provisions of this Act are outlined in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 552 to 558. It was amended by an Act (No. 3,217) passed in December, 1922.

The latter Act made the following alterations :—

- (1.) The maximum weekly compensation was increased from £1 10s. to £2.
- (2.) The maximum compensation for total disability or on death (with total dependency) was increased from £500 to £600.
- (3.) The payment for funeral expenses was increased from £50 to £75.
- (4.) The minimum weekly payment to an adult worker was fixed at £1.
- (5.) Various anomalies in the Fourth Schedule were corrected, and
- (6.) Men who contract to fell trees and deliver timber were included in the definition "worker."

STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

A State Accident Insurance Office was established shortly after the passing of the Workers' Compensation Act for the purpose of enabling employers to obtain from the State policies of insurance indemnifying them against their liability in relation to workers' compensation. It commenced business on the day on which the Act came into operation—7th November, 1914.

The following table contains a statement of the premium income, the claims paid, and the accumulated funds for each year since the establishment of the office :—

PREMIUMS RECEIVED, CLAIMS PAID, AND ACCUMULATED FUNDS OF THE STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE, 1914-15 to 1924-25.

Year.	Premiums received, less Reinsurances, Rebates, &c.	Claims (including those outstanding).	Accumulated Funds.	
			General Reserve.	Bonus Reserve.
	£	£	£	£
1914-15* ..	27,502	3,006	2,750	1,494
1915-16 ..	25,647	12,370	9,750	5,459
1916-17 ..	26,249	13,977	14,750	†7,506
1917-18 ..	27,426	14,250	19,000	3,824
1918-19 ..	28,650	17,567	23,000	6,986
1919-20 ..	32,473	21,412	26,000	†10,080
1920-21 ..	39,363	26,863	28,500	2,702
1921-22 ..	42,475	26,765	32,000	6,747
1922-23 ..	50,222	26,752	38,500	†14,552
1923-24 ..	57,748	38,664	42,500	6,094
1924-25 ..	62,627	37,049	49,500	13,363

* Refers to a period of eight months only (7th November, 1914, to 30th June, 1915). Insurance was not compulsory until 7th May, 1915.

† Bonus distributed amongst policy holders in the year.

The net profit for the year amounted to £14,269, of which £7,000 has been set aside for the General Reserve Fund, and £7,269 for Bonus Reserve. The expense rate of the year 1924-25 was 13.1 per cent. This satisfactory figure is the result of careful regard to economy, and is the lowest expense rate of any insurance office in Australasia transacting Workers' Compensation Insurance business. The number of claims settled in the year mentioned and in course of settlement at the end of the year was 3,060, including 17 death claims.

It is obligatory on every employer to obtain from the **Compulsory Insurance.** State Accident Insurance Office or from an insurance company approved by the Governor in Council a policy of accident insurance for the full amount of his liability to pay compensation under the Act.

The number of insurance companies approved by the Governor in Council as at 30th June, 1925, was 60. One of the conditions of approval was that the company should deposit with the Treasurer a sum of not less than £6,000 (except in the case of subsidiary or acquired companies, where provision has been made for a smaller deposit), which sum was to be held in trust to insure the due fulfilment of policy obligations. The total amount lodged by all the companies which had been approved at the date mentioned was £335,000.

Schemes of Compensation. Up to the present (November, 1925) one scheme of compensation has been certified by a Judge of County Courts in accordance with Section 13 of the Act.

Accounts. The Revenue Account and Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 30th June, 1925, and the Balance-sheet as at the end of that year are appended :—

STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1925.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Claims	442	19	1	37,049	3	4			
Less claims recovered									
Provision for unadjusted claims as at 30th June, 1924	9,165	0	0						
				9,607	19	1			
Provision for unearned premiums							27,441	4	3
Provision for unadjusted claims							28,182	11	6
Net Revenue, carried down							12,692	0	0
							20,298	18	0
Total							£88,614	13	9

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Premiums for year	65,113	4	4			
Less reinsurances and rebates	2,485	5	7			
				62,627	18	9
Provision for unearned premiums, 1924				25,986	15	0
Total				£88,614	13	9

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1925.

	£	s.	d.
Administration Expenses, Acts Nos. 2750-3217	200	0	0
Agents' Expenses and Commission	2,743	19	11
Expenses of Management, including Salaries	5,299	7	4
Net Profit	14,269	17	1
Total	£22,513	4	4

	£	s.	d.
Net Revenue, brought down	20,298	18	0
Interest on Investments and Funds at Treasury	2,214	6	4
Total	£22,513	4	4

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1925.

<i>Liabilities.</i>				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Unearned Premiums .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,182	11	6
Outstanding Claims .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,692	0	0
Sundry Accounts unpaid—									
On account Agents .. .. .	..	..	..		686	11	7		
Others .. .. .	..	..	..		91	11	8		
							778	3	3
General Reserve .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	42,500	0	0
Bonus Reserve .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,093	19	6
Bonus Distribution Account, 1923 (amounts unclaimed) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,075	5	2
Profit for year 1924-25 to be appropriated—									
To General Reserve .. .. .	..	..	..		7,000	0	0		
Bonus Reserve .. .. .	..	..	..		7,269	17	1		
							14,269	17	1
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	£105,591	16	6

<i>Assets.</i>									
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Amount of Fund at Treasury ..	..	..	..	..	..	53,089	18	9	
Premiums due ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,270	16	4	
Treasury Interest Accrued ..	..	..	..	..	..	525	16	11	
Stamps on Hand ..	..	..	..	..	..	35	19	10	
General Reserve Fund ..	..	..	..	..	..	42,500	0	0	
Bonus Reserve Fund ..	..	..	..	..	..	6,093	19	6	
Bonus Distribution Fund, 1923—									
Balance at Bank ..	..	..	1,050	5	2				
Cash on hand ..	..	..	25	0	0				
						1,075	5	2	

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable and reformatory institutions, &c.

The total number of organizations throughout the State which administered relief to persons in necessitous circumstances or were of a reformatory character, and which forwarded returns to the Government Statist for the year 1924, was 251. The total receipts of all the organizations were £3,778,895, of which £2,919,175 was contributed by the Government and £859,720 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure was £3,702,165. The daily average number under care indoors throughout the year in charitable and reformatory institutions was 16,148.5, and there were no less than 203,876 distinct cases of out-door relief. With regard to the out-door relief, it has been ascertained that in some institutions the "distinct cases treated" represent the actual number of persons treated; in others, they represent the actual cases of illness, accident, or disease; in these latter cases, unfortunately, the books of the institutions do not furnish the necessary particulars as to the number of distinct persons. Again, it is considered probable that some obtained relief at more than one establishment, and that some, in the course of the year, became inmates of one or other of the institutions. There is no available information upon which an estimate of the number of these duplications can be based.

The following table gives in summarized form full particulars in relation to all these charitable and reformatory institutions, and shows the number in each class, the daily average number of persons under care in the institutions, and the total number of distinct cases receiving out-door relief, together with the receipts and expenditure:—

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.— INMATES, RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1923-24.

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average in-door Patients.	Out-door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
HOSPITALS.							
General Hospitals ..	53	2,185.4	66,925	83,912	372,502	456,414	434,222
Women's Hospital ..	1	188.8	4,617	4,186	28,816	33,002	35,890
Children's Hospital ..	1	192.5	18,257	5,120	65,189	70,309	41,604
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	60.1	7,409	750	10,708	11,458	14,353
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives ..	1	71.0	..	6,311	525	6,836	6,836
Heatherton Sanatorium ..	1	113.8	..	5,299	6,056	11,355	10,619
Convalescent Homes ..	2	48.7	..	290	3,426	3,716	2,951
Deaf and Dumb, Blind, and Eye and Ear Institutions ..	4	392.5	15,157	4,609	43,429	48,038	45,231
Hospitals for Insane, Idiot Asylum, and Receiving Houses ..	12	6,138.0	..	371,298	47,158	418,456	418,456
Foundling Hospitals ..	2	295.5	..	5,000	9,547	14,547	13,787
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	451.0	..	24,848	27,268	52,116	60,518
Total ..	79	10,137.3	112,365	511,623	614,624	1,126,247	1,084,467

**CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.—INMATES,
RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1923-24—continued.**

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institu- tions.	Daily Average in-door Patients.	Out- door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Govern- ment.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS AND SOCIETIES.							
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	1,946·6	290	25,275	64,765	90,040	69,849
Old Colonists' Association ..	1	76·5	..	..	7,874	7,874	4,250
Benevolent Societies ..	104	..	25,335	8,176	44,140	52,316	45,842
Orphan Asylums ..	10	1,644·8	..	4,100	45,667	49,767	48,596
Total ..	123	3,667·9	25,625	37,551	162,446	199,997	168,537
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Children's Welfare Depart- ment ..	13	554·0	13,520	314,815	15,794	330,609	330,609
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	39·0	..	3,066	1,287	4,353	4,353
Brightside Inebriates' Insti- tution ..	1	21·8	..	253	1,633	1,886	2,218
Female Refuges ..	10	687·0	..	2,257	43,869	46,126	44,405
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	3	138·0	..	339	7,764	8,103	7,920
Prisoners' Aid Society of Victoria	1	..	736	380	549	929	1,056
Gaols and Penal Establishments	16	782·0	..	101,122	..	101,122	101,122
Total ..	45	2,221·8	14,256	422,232	70,896	493,128	491,683
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Old-age and Invalid Pensioners ..	..	..	44,823	1,947,069	..	1,947,069	1,947,069
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	1	121·5	..	650	7,483	8,133	6,808
Charity Organization Society	1	..	462	..	3,430	3,430	2,699
Free Dispensaries ..	2	..	6,345	50	841	891	902
Total ..	4	121·5	51,630	1,947,769	11,754	1,959,523	1,957,478
Grand Total..	251	16,148·5	203,876	2,919,175	859,720	3,778,895	3,702,165

**Charitable
Institutions—
receipts and
expenditure.**

The receipts of all charitable institutions for the year 1923-24 amounted to £1,730,704, of which £870,984, or 50 per cent., was contributed by Government, and the expenditure amounted to £1,653,974. Of the Government contribution, £700,789 was expended on the Receiving House for the Insane, Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, the Children's Welfare Department, the Greenvale and Heatherton Sanatoria for Consumptives, and the Lara Inebriates' Institution, which are Government institutions.

**Charitable
Institutions—
receipts and
expenditure,
1915-1924.**

The expenditure of charitable institutions has considerably increased during the past ten years. In 1915 it was £919,147, and it had increased to £1,653,974 in 1924. This is equivalent to an advance of about 80 per cent. The aid from Government increased by 61 per cent., and that from other sources by 146 per cent. in the period mentioned. Information in regard to the receipts and expenditure in each year of the period is given in the accompanying table :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1915 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			
	Govern- ment aid.	Other.	Total.	Building and extra- ordinary Repairs.	Main- tenance.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915 ..	541,668	349,421	891,089	137,589	774,873	6,685	919,147
1916 ..	525,682	418,050	943,732	89,904	846,339	8,863	945,106
1917 ..	543,225	502,598	1,045,823	132,601	850,357	10,619	993,577
1918 ..	541,817	465,809	1,007,626	67,254	895,919	8,968	972,141
1919 ..	578,055	497,945	1,076,000	62,144	963,647	16,504	1,042,295
1920 ..	681,626	638,356	1,319,982	66,191	1,155,558	8,817	1,230,566
1921 ..	818,766	709,011	1,527,777	95,153	1,351,856	12,154	1,459,163
1922 ..	815,816	753,757	1,569,073	166,145	1,339,982	15,151	1,521,278
1923 ..	794,706	775,243	1,569,949	119,520	1,351,949	16,589	1,488,058
1924 ..	870,984	859,720	1,730,704	182,094	1,438,791	33,089	1,653,974

Charitable
Institutions
—average
cost per
inmate.

The following statement shows the average number of inmates of the respective institutions, the total cost of their maintenance, and the average cost for the year of each inmate :—

COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1923-24.

Description of Institution.	Daily average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average cost of each Inmate.
		£	£ s. d.
General Hospitals	2,185	337,571	154 9 11
Women's Hospital	189	28,360	150 1 1
Children's Hospital	192	32,715	170 7 10
Eye and Ear Hospital	71	10,851	152 16 7
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	60	12,300	205 0 0
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	451	52,898	117 5 10
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ...	130	3,934	30 5 3
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	165	6,716	40 14 1
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	71	6,565	92 9 4
Heatherton Sanatorium	114	10,307	90 8 3
Receiving Houses for the Insane Hospitals for the Insane	6,138	385,328	62 15 7
Idiot Asylum			
Benevolent Asylums	1,947	59,396	30 10 2
Convalescent Homes	49	2,650	54 1 8
Blind Asylums	200	5,298	26 9 10
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	121	5,558	45 18 8
Orphan Asylums	1,647	34,037	20 13 4
Children's Welfare Department	14,074*	328,737	23 7 2
Female Refuges	687	42,306	61 11 7
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	138	7,465	54 1 11
Old Colonists' Association	76	3,915	51 10 3
Lara Inebriates' Institution	39	3,957	101 9 3
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	22	2,218	100 16 4
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	121	5,210	43 1 2
Total	28,887	1,388,292	48 1 2

* Including children boarded out with their own mothers.

In calculating the average cost of each inmate the cost of treating out-patients is necessarily included, as there is no available information showing the cost of in-patients and out-patients separately.

The institutions showing the lowest average cost per inmate are the Orphan Asylums, the Children's Welfare Department, Blind Asylums, the Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows), and the Benevolent Asylums. As many of the wards of the Children's Welfare Department

cost the State nothing—maintaining themselves at service or being supported by relatives—the cost of maintenance per head shown above is not a correct indication of the burden on the public. The true cost per head of those supported by the State is somewhat higher. The average cost per inmate of the Foundling Hospitals, Female Refuges, and Salvation Army Homes would be reduced if allowance were made for mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospitals, and for infants in the other institutions mentioned.

Of the total income of charitable institutions in 1923-24 more than half was contributed by the Government, and 11 per cent. was collected from patients. The receipts of hospitals and other charitable institutions in the State under various headings are shown hereunder :—

SOURCES OF INCOME OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS
IN VICTORIA, 1923-24.

Receipts.	General Hospitals.	Women's Hospital.	Children's Hospital.	Eye and Ear Hospital.	Queen's Memorial Hospital.	Other Hospitals.	Other Institutions.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid	83,912	4,186	5,120	2,250	24,848	5,750	744,918	870,984
Municipal Grants	16,624	557	596	371	26,592	495	9,805	55,040
Private Contributions ..	80,584	3,323	7,965	2,328	..	3,232	79,375	176,807
Proceeds of Entertainments ..	27,837	180	793	63	..	351	4,959	34,183
Legacies, Bequests, Special Donations and Proceeds of Intestate Estates ..	129,698	8,416	45,099	945	..	6,874	61,563	252,595
Hospital Sunday and Church Donations	19,395	1,934	3,304	940	..	699	2,677	28,949
Contributions of Indoor Patients	52,057	8,922	3,058	1,959	261	3,162	99,437	168,856
Out-patients' Fees	17,038	692	2,265	2,374	..	1,902	..	24,271
Proceeds of Inmates' Labour	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,567	41,567
Interest or Rent	19,214	1,553	2,079	706	300	1,013	20,374	45,239
Other Sources	10,055	3,239	30	273	115	2,527	15,974	32,213
Total	456,414	33,002	70,309	12,209	52,116	26,005	1,050,649	1,730,704

Particulars relating to the accommodation in the most important of the various classes of charitable institutions in the State are given below. The information relates to the year ended 30th June, 1924, except in the case of the

Charitable Institutions—accommodation.

Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Children's Welfare Department, where it relates to the calendar year 1924. Of the general hospitals, six are in Melbourne, and the remainder in country towns. The accommodation available for indoor patients was as follows :—

AMOUNT OF ACCOMMODATION, 1923-24.

Description of Institution.	Number of Institutions.	Dormitories.		Number of Beds for Inmates.	Number of Cubic Feet. to each Bed.
		Number.	Capacity in Cubic Feet.		
General Hospitals ..	53	447	5,237,582	3,815	1,373
Women's Hospital ..	1	27	229,970	209	1,100
Children's Hospital ..	1	22	178,900	188	952
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	14	59,021	65	908
Eye and Ear Hospital ..	1	16	89,298	92	971
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	50	499,098	514	971
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ..	1	7	77,876	182	428
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home ..	1	3	129,250	113	1,144
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives ..	1	13	58,582	90	651
Heatherton Sanatorium ..	1	14	133,660	124	1,078
Receiving Houses for the Insane ..	2	22	63,782	83	768
Hospitals for the Insane ..	9	1,268	3,651,895	5,193	703
Idiot Asylum ..	1	20	114,288	353	324
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	184	2,565,335	2,305	1,113
Convalescent Homes ..	2	22	66,810	59	1,132
Blind Asylums ..	2	15	80,912	87	930
Deaf and Dumb Asylum ..	1	4	98,037	115	852
Orphan Asylums ..	10	85	868,143	1,690	514
Children's Welfare Department ..	13	71	661,472	980	675
Female Refuges ..	10	173	630,990	805	784
Salvation Army Rescue Homes ..	3	16	84,418	173	488
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	11	46,796	50	936
Brightside Inebriates' Institution ..	1	13	25,407	33	770
Talbot Colony for Epileptics ..	1	23	107,669	116	928
Total ..	126	2,540	15,759,191	17,434	904

Charitable
institutions
—inmates
and deaths.

The next statement shows the number of inmates and of deaths in these institutions :—

INMATES AND DEATHS, 1923-24.

Description of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Daily Average.		
				per cent.
General Hospitals	34,691	2,185·4	3,157	9·1
Women's Hospital	5,568	188·8	94	1·7
Children's Hospital	3,885	192·5	462	11·9
Eye and Ear Hospital	1,702	71·2	6	·4
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1,236	60·1	42	3·4
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	4,331	451·0	119	2·7
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows)	209	130·5	20	9·6
Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	239	165·0	5	2·1
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	268	71·0	5	1·9
Heatherton Sanatorium	319	113·8	93	29·2
Receiving Houses for the Insane	855	72·5	27	3·2
Hospitals for the Insane	6,940	5,676·0	402	5·8
Idiot Asylum	434	389·5	29	6·7
Benevolent Asylums	3,736	1,946·6	542	14·5
Convalescent Homes	887	48·7	..	..
Blind Asylums	228	200·4	7	3·1
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	141	120·9	..	..
Orphan Asylums	2,198	1,644·8	6	·3
Children's Welfare Department	14,892	14,074·0	40	·3
Female Refuges	1,282	687·0	13	1·0
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	450	138·0	3	·7
Old Colonists' Association	86	76·5	7	8·1
Lara Inebriates' Institution	230	39·0	..	..
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	71	21·8	..	..
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	147	121·5	1	·7
Total	85,025	28,886·5	5,080	6·0

In addition to the inmates shown in the above table, there were 45 mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, 74 mothers of infants in St. Joseph's Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows, 307 infants in the Female Refuges, and 193 infants in Salvation Army Homes during the year.

Patients
treated, etc.,
in hospitals.

The following statement contains particulars as to the number of beds, the number of patients treated, and the deaths which occurred in general hospitals during the year 1923-24. The receipts, distinguishing moneys received from the Government and from other sources, and the expenditure per head for

maintenance (based on the average number of indoor patients) are also shown :—

**NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN GENERAL HOSPITALS;
ALSO DEATHS, TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
PER HEAD FOR MAINTENANCE, 1923-24.**

Hospital.	Number of Beds.	Total Indoor Patients treated during Year.	Average Daily Number of Indoor Patients treated.	Number of Deaths.	Receipts.			Expenditure per Head for Maintenance.
					From Government.	Other.	Total.	
					£	£	£	£ s. d.
Amherst ..	100	389	69.0	23	3,289	1,210	4,499	59 11 11
Ararat ..	60	506	27.4	39	900	2,371	3,271	125 7 4
Barinsdale ..	39	458	26.6	37	550	2,733	3,283	115 6 0
Ballarat ..	192	1,332	73.5	117	2,600	15,455	18,055	117 5 7
Beechworth ..	95	278	16.1	23	550	2,036	2,586	127 15 3
Bendigo ..	222	1,492	88.1	153	4,010	9,867	13,877	172 16 4
Castlemaine ..	75	332	24.8	33	960	2,867	3,827	117 18 10
Colac ..	66	690	33.2	42	820	3,353	4,173	137 8 10
Daylesford ..	52	162	18.0	18	375	1,423	1,798	112 13 4
Echuca ..	46	430	22.7	32	600	1,568	2,168	91 11 9
Geelong ..	217	1,302	67.5	94	2,375	9,019	11,394	156 8 11
Hamilton ..	91	673	34.3	25	1,007	3,485	4,492	151 19 8
Horsham ..	40	435	22.4	19	535	5,932	6,467	129 3 11
Kyneton ..	54	357	27.0	31	600	2,573	3,173	99 11 10
Maryborough ..	95	423	25.3	21	850	1,868	2,718	106 8 1
Melbourne ..	358	7,126	395.0	1,001	22,433	76,453	98,891	210 5 9
Alfred ..	340	4,002	175.5	361	9,800	56,775	66,575	246 7 10
Austin ..	293	574	264.9	225	5,800	38,091	43,891	108 18 2
Homoeopathic ..	73	1,063	61.2	78	1,600	16,982	18,582	221 5 6
St. Vincent's ..	120	2,638	128.0	167	5,750	31,608	37,358	188 7 4
Mildura ..	46	831	46.0	54	800	4,780	5,580	139 15 8
Mooroopna ..	104	1,299	81.6	71	1,400	6,544	7,944	89 6 3
Sale ..	68	968	55.5	74	1,000	7,207	8,207	103 8 10
Stawell ..	66	297	16.5	19	400	2,404	2,804	135 6 8
St. Arnaud ..	50	579	30.0	39	3,150	12,749	15,899	108 16 8
Swan Hill ..	52	388	26.4	31	650	4,170	4,820	122 11 6
Wangaratta ..	65	721	42.3	35	1,000	3,709	4,709	86 12 5
Warragul ..	45	458	23.6	31	860	3,726	4,586	113 12 11
Warrnambool ..	92	462	35.2	27	3,900	4,986	8,886	107 3 9
Williamstown ..	30	342	26.9	26	100	2,628	2,728	83 10 10
Wonthaggi ..	28	391	18.9	27	..	3,556	3,556	198 10 4
Other Hospitals	541	3,293	188.0	184	5,243	30,374	35,617	153 3 2
Total ..	3,815	34,691	2185.4	3,157	83,912	372,502	456,414	154 9 4

* 22 in number.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1922.

An Act (No. 3260) to amend the law relating to the management of hospitals and charities in the State of Victoria was passed by the State Parliament in the year 1922. Its principal provisions are as follows :—

Part I. provides for the appointment by the Governor in Council of a Board to be called the Charities Board of Victoria and to consist of 14 members, which is to be constituted as under :—

- (a) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Metropolitan Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;

- (b) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Country Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;
- (c) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies within the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (d) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies outside of the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (e) Two other persons, one of whom is to be appointed as a member of the Metropolitan Standing Committee and the other as a member of the Country Standing Committee to be provided for under the Act.

The duties of the Board are from time to time to make such inquiries as it thinks fit and to report to the Minister as to :—

- (a) What charitable relief is required to meet the needs of the diseased, infirm, incurable, poor, or destitute persons resident in Victoria (including children and convalescent patients) ;
- (b) What institutions or benevolent societies should in the opinion of the Board be subsidized ;
- (c) What sum of money should in the opinion of the Board be paid from the Fund, and for what purposes, to each subsidized institution or benevolent society in any financial year ; and
- (d) Any amendments of existing legislation and proposals for future legislation which are in its opinion desirable for carrying into effect any of the objects or purposes referred to in the Act, and in particular for improvement in and the prevention of overlapping in the administration of institutions and benevolent societies.

Special powers of the Board include the closing of any subsidized institution including a benevolent society (not being a separate institution) and the amalgamation of any two or more subsidized institutions (not being separate institutions). Before the Board can exercise the power of closing an institution it must be satisfied that the institution or benevolent society is seriously mismanaged or that the funds thereof are substantially applied otherwise than for affording the relief for which the institution or benevolent society exists, or that the accommodation provided is defective, insanitary, or unsuitable, or that relief can be provided more effectively and economically by some other institution or benevolent society. All institutions existing before the commencement of the Act must be registered within six months of a date to be

fixed by the Board, and every institution established subsequently must register in order to participate in any grant or aid of any kind from the Consolidated Revenue or from any municipality. A non-registered charity will not be allowed to appeal or apply to any person or body of persons for any contributions towards its funds.

A fund called "The Hospitals and Charities Fund" is kept in the Treasury. To this fund the Government contributed a sum of £128,163 for the financial year 1923-24, and £156,548 for 1924-25. The salary of an Inspector of Charities, who has been appointed under the Act, together with the remuneration of other necessary officers and expenses, are paid out of the fund. Subject to these payments the fund may be applied to the establishment or maintenance of subsidized institutions or benevolent societies, the cost of the erection of new buildings or of repairs, additions, alterations, or equipment of existing buildings used for the purposes of any subsidized institution or for any other prescribed purposes. Matters to be considered in making payments out of the fund are the financial position of each institution or benevolent society, and the amount likely to be contributed to it during the next financial year otherwise than from the fund, the probable net receipts and expenditure of that financial year, also the actual number of persons relieved by it, the average number of beds (if any) occupied, the average length of stay of patients, and the average cost per bed during the preceding financial year.

Other sections relate to restrictions on certain means of raising money for institutions, the incorporation and government of hospitals and philanthropic institutions generally, the liability of patients to contribute for the relief afforded them according to their means, and the power to resume land required for institutions in the manner provided by the *Lands Compensation Act 1915*.

Since the appointment of the Board some important reforms have been given effect to. The Caulfield Military Hospital has been taken over from the Defence Department and will be managed by the Melbourne Hospital. The whole of the Metropolitan General Hospitals are co-operating in the scheme, and have agreed, after the subsidies provided have been exhausted, to recompense the Melbourne Hospital for net expenditure on a proportionate basis of available beds in the respective institutions for the types of patients likely to be sent to Caulfield, viz., adult medical and surgical. To put the institution in working order substantial financial assistance was received from the Government. The official opening took place on 13th May, 1925, and 50 beds were at once made available. The number was subsequently increased to 100 beds and it is probable that further additional beds will have to be provided.

During the year 1924-25 patients to the number of 145 were transferred from the metropolitan area to vacant accommodation in country

institutions. This was done in order to make available more beds in the metropolitan area. In all cases the transfers were acquiesced in by the patients.

A standard has been set as the minimum requirements for a base hospital in the country. The number of occupied beds is to be not fewer than 50, giving in addition to general medical and surgical accommodation, beds for midwifery and children, each at least 5 per cent. of total accommodation. Fully established and equipped Out-Patients' Department to be established, available to patients at any time in case of emergency, and with at least tri-weekly attendance of honorary medical officer. Equipped sub-departments of radiology, pathology and bacteriology, massage, and other sub-departments to be maintained as the needs arise. Honorary attending medical officers to be elected to the various positions for a fixed term; applications to be called publicly. A training school for nurses to be in operation. The hospitals proposed to be raised to base grade, are:—Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Mildura, Mooroopna, Sale and Warrnambool. The committees of the larger provincial hospitals have adopted the Board's proposals, and plans have been approved of or are under consideration for the structural alterations or additions required. In Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Mooroopna and Warrnambool the works are in hand; at Horsham plans are completed whilst, at Hamilton and Sale schemes are under consideration. It is anticipated that within two years the nine hospitals concerned will be completed and equipped up to full base standard. When this is accomplished country patients will be able to take advantage of local facilities and thus relieve to a considerable extent the demand on metropolitan institutions. Each base hospital and the district hospitals at Daylesford, Stawell and Echuca have agreed to the Board's proposals to establish midwifery wards.

Combined hospitals and benevolent asylums have ceased to exist, and asylum patients have been transferred to appropriate institutions. The authorities of the hospitals affected are unanimous in the opinion that the decision of the Board has been attended with advantage to the patients and the institutions concerned.

Efforts are being made to improve public dispensaries and to install proper ambulance services in country districts, but so far without success.

During the year 1924-25 continuous representations have been made by the Board to secure the reservation of the Parkville site for the provision of a hospital adequate for the demands of the districts north of the Yarra. The Faculty of Medicine of the Melbourne University has advocated the urgent need for a teaching hospital in connexion with the medical school and it is considered that if a hospital were built on this site this purpose would be satisfactorily served.

With regard to intermediate hospitals the Board is of opinion that these institutions should be established as adjuncts to existing hospitals and that the details of management be subject to conditions prescribed by regulations.

It is considered that institutions which exist for the welfare of orphans and neglected or destitute children should wherever practicable be under the care of religious organizations.

The suggestion is made that the organization of local relief should be vested in the municipal authorities operating in conjunction with the ladies' benevolent societies.

The origin of this institution belongs to the very earliest days of Melbourne. The *Year-Books* for 1915-16 and 1916-17 contain a statement of the circumstances associated with the foundation of the hospital in 1846, and a reference to its rebuilding in recent years.

**Melbourne
Hospital.**

It has always been the principal general hospital of Victoria, and the chief medical training school for University students. The wards now contain normally 358 beds. The number of in-patients treated in 1923-24 was 7,126, the daily average number being 395. In the out-patients' and casualty departments 45,080 persons were treated in that year. The aggregate number of attendances of out-patients was 215,959.

The usefulness of the Melbourne Hospital since its inauguration may be judged from the work carried out. The in-patients treated to 30th June, 1924, numbered 305,641, and the out-patients, 1,348,299.

In 1923-24 the Government grant for maintenance amounted to £22,438; the revenue derived from municipal grants was £1,375; private contributions amounted to £23,518; revenue from entertainments in aid to £175; bequests to £18,029; Hospital Sunday collections to £5,758; payments and contributions by indoor patients to £10,485; and out-patients' fees to £7,360; interest yielded a revenue of £8,534; and £3,219 was received from all other sources. The receipts for the twelve months reached a total of £98,891 and the expenditure was £94,005.

The Melbourne Hospital is also a training school for nurses, and has a nursing staff of 165. Attached to the hospital is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, which is endowed by the Trustees of the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust. The Institute is proving of valuable assistance in the many lines of research which are being conducted by an efficient and highly-trained staff.

**Alfred
Hospital.**

In the year 1868 a large committee of Melbourne citizens decided that the establishment of a second general hospital for Melbourne had become imperatively necessary. A site comprising 13 acres within the municipality of Prahran was secured, and the foundation stone of "The Prince Alfred Hospital" (so named in commemoration of the escape from assassination of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh,) was laid in March, 1869. In May, 1871, the hospital was opened, the buildings being added to in 1885. In 1921 an extensive scheme of building expansion was approved, subject to

funds becoming available. Since then remarkable progress has taken place. The whole of the original buildings have been remodelled and enlarged, while many buildings, including new wards, operating theatres, research and investigation departments, a fine new nurses' home, and important additions to existing buildings have been erected. The cost of works carried out in this scheme of expansion up to the end of June, 1925, was £134,000. The hospital is recognized by the Melbourne University as a clinical school for medical students, and is also a training school for nurses. On 30th June, 1925, there were 340 beds and cots in the Institution. The total number of in-patients who received treatment during the year 1923-24 was 4,002, and during 1924-25 the number was 6,079. In the out-patients and casualty departments, 27,534 persons were treated in 1923-24, while in 1924-25 the total was 32,281. The attendances of these patients rose in number from 95,415 in 1923-24 to 129,633 in 1924-25. The total of the receipts for the year 1924-25 in all the accounts was £65,823. The principal items of receipt were Government grants, £10,000; municipal grants, £1,196; private contributions, £6,220; revenue from entertainments in aid, £1,015; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,336; Lord Mayor's Fund, £1,596; in-door patients' fees, £7,142; out-door patients' fees, £6,180; interest, £1,210; visitors' contributions, £3,725; special donations and bequests, £15,656; and miscellaneous, £3,453 (including £1,029 Government on account V.D. Clinic). The total expenditure on maintenance was £55,225, and in addition £20,623 was spent on buildings, furniture, fittings, &c. The Alfred Hospital was equipped early in 1924 with a powerful wireless receiving plant, with installation throughout the different wards, enabling most of the patients to receive the benefit of wireless broad-casting by means of individual head telephone sets. The Hospital is recognized by the University of Melbourne as a clinical school for gynaecology and the diseases of children. During 1925, extensive additions were made to the X-ray pavilion and a fine new building for the bio-chemistry department was erected and equipped. Important additions to the out-patients building are in progress.

The Alfred Hospital has a very fine clinic for the treatment of venereal diseases, the institution being the first in this State to establish such a department.

Other Hospitals, &c. Statements showing the nature of the work performed by other hospitals, societies, &c., are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 568 to 582, and 586.

HEALTH ACT 1919.

The main features of this Act are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 383 to 385.

SANATORIA FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

**Greenvale
Sanatorium.**

The Greenvale Sanatorium at Broadmeadows for incipient and early stage cases was opened for the reception of patients on 10th May, 1905. It was established by the Government, and is under the control of the Public Health Department. Females only are now admitted to the institution, and provision is made for 90 patients. During the year ended 31st December, 1924, 250 patients were treated at the sanatorium, 72 of these being cases admitted during the previous year. Of this number, 30 did very well and were discharged apparently cured or greatly benefited, 52 were discharged benefited but with the disease not arrested, and 48 were discharged not benefited or incurable. Coupled with the last-mentioned cases were other patients who were discharged either at their own request after a brief stay, or for disciplinary reasons, and some who were sent in for a short period for educational purposes, making a total of 62. Five deaths occurred during the year. At the end of the period under review there were 53 patients remaining under care. The benefits of treatment and education that the institution affords to cases of consumption in the early stages have now been received by 5,343 patients. Of these, 3,324 had the disease arrested or their condition much improved; 1,037 were not benefited or were incurable; 108 died; and 821 left of their own accord. A most important function of the institution is the teaching of patients how to avoid communicating the disease to others. Immediately after the admission of a patient to the sanatorium the house or room vacated is disinfected under the supervision of the municipal council of the district, a centre of infection being thus removed.

**Amherst
and
Heatherton
Sanatoria.**

The Amherst Sanatorium, for early-stage cases, is maintained by the Government and administered by the local hospital authorities under the direction of the Public Health Department. It is now reserved for the treatment of males only, and there is, ordinarily, accommodation at the institution for 60 patients but supplementary accommodation is provided when necessary. During the year 1924, 213 patients were treated, of whom 130 were discharged with the disease arrested or their condition much improved; 6 left of their own accord; 5 left, not benefited; 5 died; and 67 remained under treatment at the end of the year. Sanatorium treatment has now been received by 2,314 patients. Of these, 1,911 were discharged cured or relieved; 83 left of their own accord; 193 were incurable; 60 died; and 67 remained on 31st December, 1924.

There is a sanatorium for intermediate and advanced cases of both sexes at Heatherton, near Cheltenham, adjacent to the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum. The sanatorium now contains 124 beds. There were on 1st January, 1924, 119 persons in the institution, and the

number admitted during the succeeding twelve months was 174, making a total of 293 who received treatment during the year 1924. Of these, 102 were discharged, 72 died, and 119 were under care at the end of the year.

With regard to other cases of advanced consumption, 158 beds are provided at the Austin Hospital.

St. John Ambulance Association. The work carried on by this Association is referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 582. Its objects are to instruct all classes of people in the preliminary treatment of the sick and the injured. Full information in regard to the formation of classes may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. J. Harold Lord, 217 Lonsdale-street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 1370.)

Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. This service attended to 10,382 calls, of which 1,588 were accidents, during the year ended 30th June, 1925; the mileage travelled was 100,497. In 1,522 cases no fee was paid. Country trips, to the number of 736 (one of over 200 miles), were undertaken during the year. The decentralisation of the service has commenced by the inauguration of Ambulance Stations at Preston and Hawthorn, with the intention of extending same to all suburban areas.

In addition, eleven Country Ambulance Stations have been successfully opened and operated since March, 1923, with a view to providing ambulance facilities throughout all districts in Victoria.

The registered office and head dépôt is situated at 217 Lonsdale-street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 121.)

Charity Organization Society. A statement of the objects of this society appears in the *Year-Book* 1916-17, page 583.

The income and outgo for the year ended 30th June, 1925, were—Administration Account (for payment of all general expenses of management as well as all charges connected with the administration of the trust and relief funds)—Receipts, £1,456; expenditure, £1,779; Trust Account (being donations for special applicants and objects)—Receipts, £2,203; expenditure, £1,187; Emergency Relief Account—Donations and refunds, £177; expenditure, £216. The number of separate cases dealt with during the year was 2,490, of which 1,220 had not previously come under the notice of the society. The total number of cases actually investigated was 1,503. During the year under review 134 men and women obtained temporary or permanent employment through the Society's assistance, and about 334 men were provided with work at the Society's wood-yard. The records of the Society now contain more than 34,000 social histories of distressed families and individuals.

Royal Humane Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victoria Humane Society." Its objects are as follows:—(1) To bestow awards on all who promptly risk their lives to save those of their fellow-creatures; (2) To provide assistance, as far as it is in the power of the society, in all cases of apparent death occurring in any part of Australasia; (3) To restore the apparently drowned or dead, and to distinguish by awards all who, through skill and perseverance, are successful; (4) To collect and circulate information regarding the most approved methods and the best apparatus to be used for such purposes.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, 92 applications for awards were investigated, with the result that 17 certificates, 34 bronze medals, 14 silver and 2 gold medals were granted. The receipts during 1924-25 amounted to £522, and the expenditure to £439. The institution has placed and maintains 343 life-buoys at various places on the coast, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs throughout all the Australian States and Fiji. The society has 156 honorary correspondents residing as follows:—54 in Victoria, 35 in New South Wales, 25 in New Zealand, 28 in Queensland, 8 in Tasmania, 3 in South Australia, and 3 in Western Australia.

Swimming competitions have been inaugurated in the schools of the Commonwealth, and awards of medals and certificates are made to those pupils who attain proficiency in exercises which have special reference to saving life from drowning. The society makes a special feature of the development of swimming and life saving proficiency.

Royal Life Saving Society.

With a desire to minimize the great loss of life from drowning a society was established in Melbourne in 1904 entitled the "Royal Life Saving Society." Its objects are:—(1) To promote technical education in life saving and resuscitation of the apparently drowned; (2) To stimulate public opinion in favour of the general adoption of swimming and life saving as a branch of instruction in schools, colleges, &c.; (3) To encourage floating, diving, plunging, and such other swimming arts as would be of assistance to a person endeavouring to save life; (4) To arrange and promote public lectures, demonstrations and competitions, and to form classes of instruction, so as to bring about a widespread and thorough knowledge of the principles which underlie the art of natation; (5) To arrange and promote lectures, motion picture exhibitions, demonstrations and competitions, and compile and disseminate propaganda literature for the purpose of educating the members of the community in the principles of avoiding and preventing accidents of all kinds.

The work done by the society has increased greatly since its inauguration, and in 1924-25 the awards granted totalled 2,107. This number

is considerably larger than in 1923-24, when the awards totalled 963, but the increase is partly accounted for by the fact that the report of the society for 1923-24 dealt with the operations for a period of only ten months, instead of twelve months as in 1924-25. The whole of the State schools in Victoria have become affiliated to the society, and it is expected that the awards will be considerably increased as the result of this connexion.

Society for the Protection of Animals. The objects of this society are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 589. During the year ended 30th June, 1924, 3,653 cases were dealt with by it, of which 2,974 were connected with cruelty to horses. There were 296 prosecutions in cases of deliberate cruelty, in nearly all of which the law was vindicated by the punishment of the offenders. The receipts for the year amounted to £6,540, and the expenditure to £3,533.

Lord Mayor's Fund. The initiation of the movement to assist in the maintenance of the Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities, which resulted in the inauguration of the Lord Mayor's Fund, is credited to the late Sir J. W. Swanson, K.B., a former Lord Mayor of Melbourne. The first definite step to make the fund a permanent one was taken in April, 1923, when a chief executive officer and organizing secretary was appointed. An important feature of the first year's work was the merging of the Hospital Saturday Fund in the Lord Mayor's Fund. No change was made in regard to the constitution or administrative functions of the Hospital Sunday committee. The receipts and disbursements of the Lord Mayor's Fund from 1st July, 1924, to 30th June, 1925, are given hereunder :—

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE LORD MAYOR'S FUND, 1ST JULY, 1924, TO 30TH JUNE, 1925.

Receipts	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Hospital Saturday (1924) ..	13,205	Distributions made to	
General donations.. ..	1,052	Institutions from General	
Police Carnival	2,827	Fund	18,854
Flower Day	2,577	Distributions to specified	
Old-time Footballers Match..	1,893	donees	19,040
Donations for specified in-		Salaries of secretary and staff	1,503
stitutions	19,040	Miscellaneous	1,208
Other	399	Surplus	388
Total	40,993		40,993

The amounts allocated to the various charitable institutions in 1924-25 from the Lord Mayor's Fund, including Hospital Saturday receipts, and from the Hospital Sunday Fund were as follows :—

Institution.	From Lord Mayor's Fund.	From Hospital Sunday Fund.	Total.
	£	£	£
Melbourne Hospital	6,035	3,144	9,179
Alfred Hospital	2,264	1,280	3,544
Children's Hospital	2,446	1,159	3,605
Women's Hospital	1,873	1,071	2,944
Austin Hospital	1,640	975	2,615
St. Vincent's Hospital	1,666	971	2,637
Melbourne Benevolent Asylum	1,191	872	2,063
Queen Victoria Hospital	910	291	1,201
Homœopathic Hospital	1,019	344	1,363
Melbourne Ladies' Benevolent Society	1,657	..	1,657
Eye and Ear Hospital	1,421	411	1,832
Williamstown Hospital	366	80	446
Melbourne District Nursing Society	454	122	576
Salvation Army	312	..	312
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	557	166	723
St. John Ambulance Association	281	..	281
Other institutions	13,803	659	14,462
Total distributed	37,895	11,545	49,440

Hospital Saturday and Sunday. In Melbourne and suburbs the last Saturday and Sunday of October in each year are set apart for making collections for the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Funds. The following amounts were collected in each of the last nine years :—1916, £18,525 ; 1917, £19,020 ; 1918, £22,447 ; 1919, £18,586 ; 1920, £19,750 ; 1921, £29,723 ; 1922, £20,368 (including a bequest of £2,461 from the estate of a deceased person) ; 1923, £24,013 ; and 1924, £30,100. The amount distributed in 1924 was £27,900.

The total amount which has been collected since the movement was inaugurated in 1873 is £549,431.

Wattle Day. On a day fixed, about the middle of August in each year, ladies attired in white costumes sell sprigs of wattle blossom in the streets and elsewhere, and the amounts obtained are allotted to charities for children. The sums which have been raised each year during the last eleven years are as follows :—1914, £2,115 ; 1915, £2,553 ; 1916, £3,604 ; 1917, £7,000 ; 1918 £7,238 ; 1919, £5,393 ; 1920,

£4,304; 1921, £5,951; 1922, £5,293; 1923, £6,674; and 1924, £7,645. From 1915 to 1920 the Wattle Day collection was organized and controlled by the Commonwealth Button Fund, and emblematic "buttons" and badges were sold in addition to wattle blossom. The Commonwealth Button Fund was wound up in January, 1921, and the organization of the annual Wattle Day appeal is now undertaken by the Children's Welfare Association, 149 Swanston-street, Melbourne. This association consists of all the societies participating in the appeal, and its work is carried out by a body of voluntary assistants. From 1923 Mrs. J. S. Winter is the hon. organiser for the movement.

INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Federal Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act. These pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Government under an act passed in 1908 and amending acts. The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains, on pages 591 to 597, information relating to the amounts of pensions payable and the persons entitled to receive them. The amounts have since been increased.

The maximum pension, whether old-age or invalid, is £1 per week. This rate was paid from 8th October, 1925. The commencing age for old-age pensions is 65 years in the case of men (60 years where a man is permanently incapacitated for work) and 60 years in the case of women.

The number of old-age and invalid pensioners in Victoria on 30th June, 1925, was as follows:—Old-age pensioners—men, 12,713; women, 21,132; total, 33,845. Invalid pensioners—men, 5,973; women, 6,977; total, 12,950.

Of the persons living in Victoria at or above the ages at which old-age pensions commence, 30 per cent. were receiving pensions on 30th June, 1925.

Pensioners, 1901 to 1923-24. The State system of old-age pensions came into force on 18th January, 1901, and the highest number of pensioners was reached in November, 1901, when 16,300 were on the register. Alterations in the Act in the direction of compelling relatives, when in a position to do so, to support applicants for pensions had the effect of reducing the number to 10,732 in 1907. On 1st July, 1909, when the Federal Act came into operation, there were 12,368 old-age pensioners in Victoria. Thereafter the number rapidly increased, and on 30th June, 1925, it had reached a total of 33,845

(exclusive of invalid pensioners). The number of old-age and invalid pensioners at the end of each financial year from the inception of the system and the amount expended each year are shown in the following statement :—

OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONERS IN VICTORIA.
1901 TO 1925.

Financial Year.	Number of Pensioners at end of Period.			Actual Amount Paid in Pensions.
	Old-Age.	Invalid.	Total.	
18th January to 30th June, 1901 (under State Act)	16,275	...	16,275	£ 129,338
1901-2	14,570	...	14,570	292,432
1902-3	12,417	...	12,417	215,973
1903-4	11,609	...	11,609	205,150
1904-5	11,209	...	11,209	200,464
1905-6	10,990	...	10,990	189,127
1906-7	10,732	...	10,732	187,793
1907-8	11,288	...	11,288	233,573
1908-9	12,368	...	12,368	270,827
1909-10 (under Federal Act)...	20,218	...	20,218	470,656
1910-11 " " ...	23,722	2,272	25,994	573,699
1911-12 " " ...	24,449	3,162	27,611	672,593
1912-13 " " ...	25,434	3,918	29,352	715,924
1913-14 " " ...	27,150	4,844	31,994	795,449
1914-15 " " ...	28,365	6,054	34,419	839,718
1915-16 " " ...	28,446	6,869	35,315	908,159
1916-17 " " ...	29,064	7,921	36,985	1,070,386
1917-18 " " ...	29,159	8,901	38,060	1,168,498
1918-19 " " ...	29,179	9,337	38,516	1,199,787
1919-20 " " ...	29,565	10,277	39,842	1,348,100*
1920-21 " " ...	30,385	11,171	41,559	1,533,430*
1921-22 " " ...	30,958	11,444	42,402	1,581,898*
1922-23 " " ...	31,248	11,707	42,955	1,589,362*
1923-24 " " ...	32,603	12,220	44,823	1,947,069*
1924-25 " " ...	33,845	12,950	46,795	2,027,202*

* This includes payments of pensions of 2s. per week (increased to 3s. per week from 13th September, 1923) to inmates of Benevolent Asylums. There were 1,165 such pensions in force on 30th June, 1925.

An act was passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1912, providing for the payment, on application, of £5 to the mother of every child born in the Commonwealth on and after 10th October, 1912. The number of claims granted in Victoria to 30th June, 1925, was 443,119, and the total of the allowances paid in the State to that date was £2,215,595.

For the year ended 30th June, 1925, the number of claims granted was 36,971, and the amount paid in allowances, £184,855.

Maternity Allowance.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT.

**Lunacy
Department.**

The subjoined table sets forth the numbers under the care of the Department for the years 1923 and 1924 :—

INSANE PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF THE LUNACY DEPARTMENT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1923 AND 1924.

	On 31st December—		Increase (+). Decrease (—).
	1923.	1924.	
In State Hospitals	5,341	5,366	+ 25
On Trial Leave from State Hospitals ..	551	600	+ 49
Boarded Out	134	130	— 4
In Licensed Houses	81	79	— 2
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses ..	16	16	
Total Number of Registered Insane ..	6,123	6,191	+ 68
In Receiving Institutions	81	72	— 9
Total	6,204	6,263	+ 59

Voluntary Boarders	63	62	— 1
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Cases of Mental Disorder in Returned Soldiers (not included in other statistics)	127	133	+ 6
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The number of admissions to Hospitals for Insane for each of the years 1920 to 1924 is given below :—

Year.	First Admissions.			Re-admissions.			Total Admissions.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1920	421	354	775	44	45	89	864
1921	341	335	676	42	84	126	802
1922	388	330	718	46	74	120	838
1923	379	284	663	91	73	164	827
1924	349	314	663	53	93	146	809

The voluntary boarders are not included in the above figures. The number of such boarders admitted during the last eight years was as follows:—140 in 1917, 163 in 1918, 167 in 1919, 193 in 1920, 198 in 1921, 176 in 1922, 173 in 1923 and 202 in 1924.

There does not appear to be any noteworthy departure from the normal in the statistics of the year 1924, except that there has been a diminution in the number of males admitted and remaining, whilst there is an increase in the female numbers. This has been more or less the case for the last four years, and is an indication that the population of Victoria is becoming, in numbers at least, increasingly feminine.

Whilst there has been a decrease in the number of deaths, the discharges have remained stationary, but those out on trial leave or probation from the State Institutions have increased, so that an addition of 68 in the numbers of the registered insane is accounted for.

There were 62 voluntary boarders and 133 cases of mental disorder in returned soldiers under the care of the Department at the end of the year. During the year 1924, 202 persons applied for voluntary treatment to one or other of the Institutions in or under the inspection of the Department.

With a substantial increase in the population of the State and what may be regarded as a stationary lunacy rate, the ratio of insane to population is now 1 to 268 as against 1 in 249 in the year 1908.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

**Neglected and
reformatory
children.**

There were at the end of 1924 two industrial and four reformatory schools in the State. Two of these (one industrial and one reformatory school) are wholly maintained and managed by the Government, and are used merely as receiving and distributing dépôts, the children being sent as soon as possible after admission thereto to foster homes or situations, or to other institutions for dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management and receive a capitation allowance from the Government for those inmates who are wards of the Children's Welfare Department. Many of the inmates of the reformatories are either placed with friends or licensed out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1924, numbered 6,488—6,363

neglected and 125 reformatory children—and there were 26 others, free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The following table shows the number of neglected and reformatory children under control at the end of each of the last five years :—

NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	NUMBER OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Neglected Children.
	Boarded Out.	Placed with friends on Probation.	Maintaining themselves at Service or Apprenticed.	In Institutions (including Hospitals)	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1920 ...	4,128	1,021	448	497	...	*6,094
1921 ...	4,281	860	458	498	7	*6,104
1922 ...	4,189	904	434	515	5	*6,047
1923 ...	4,133	1,172	431	510	1	*6,247
1924 ...	4,123	1,263	480	495	2	*6,363

Year.	NUMBER OF REFORMATORY CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Reformatory Children.
	In Reformatory Schools.	Placed with Relatives.	Maintaining themselves at Service.	In Institutions (including Hospitals).	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1920 ...	86	30	13	3	...	132
1921 ...	78	13	27	4	...	122
1922 ...	65	23	29	3	1	121
1923 ...	64	22	26	1	...	113
1924 ..	75	30	19	...	1	125

* Under the provisions of section 9 of the *Children's Maintenance Act* 1919, 5,392 children who had previously been committed as "neglected" children and boarded out to their mothers, were discharged as wards of the State, but payments for their maintenance were continued to the mothers. At the end of 1924 there were 7,660 such children.

The welfare of the children boarded out is cared for by **Children boarded out, &c.** honorary committees, who send to the Department reports as to their general condition. The rate paid by the Government to persons accepting charge of these children is 12s. 6d. per week for children under 18 months, and 8s. per week for those over that age. These rates have been payable since 1st December, 1921. For the previous twelve months the rates were 11s. 6d. per week for children under 12 months, and 8s. per week for those of an

older age. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service.

Children committed to the care of the State, 1924. The circumstances leading to the commitment of children to the care of the Department in 1924 were as follows :—

Cases in which Parents were held to be—	Number.
Blamable—One Parent—	
Father deserted and mother an invalid	2
" " " dead	22
" " " in hospital	2
" " " poor	175
" drunkard	18
" in gaol	10
" " " dead	1
" unknown	4
" " " poor	42
Mother deserted and father dead	9
" " " poor	13
" drunkard	1
" of doubtful character and father poor	6
" " " " dead ...	4
Both Parents—	
Father drunkard and mother drunkard	3
" unknown	7
" " " of doubtful character	10
Parents deserted	8
" of doubtful character	15
" unknown	11
Total	363
Blameless—Both Parents—	
Father an invalid and mother dead	4
" " " poor	18
" dead and mother poor	73
" " " in hospital	3
" in asylum; and mother poor	4
" " " dead	2
" " " invalid	2
" " " doubtful	1
" hospital	3
" " " dead	2
" poor	46
" " " in asylum	5
" " " an invalid	7
Parents poor	258
" dead	91
Total	519
Total number of children placed under control during the year..	882

CHILDREN'S MAINTENANCE ACT 1919, No. 3001.

A statement of the principal provisions of this Act is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 395 and 396. For the twelve months ended 31st December, 1924, assistance was granted under the Children's Maintenance Act in respect of 2,088 children, and 7,660 children were boarded out to their mothers at the end of the year, an increase of 19 as compared with the number at the end of the previous year, viz., 7,641.

The following statement shows the number of wards of the State and of children boarded out with their mothers for the years 1911 to 1924 inclusive :—

WARDS OF STATE AND CHILDREN BOARDED OUT WITH MOTHERS, 1911 TO 1924.

Year.	Number boarded out to Foster Mothers at end of Year.	Number boarded out with Mothers at end of Year.	Total number boarded out at end of Year.	Total Cost of maintenance of boarded out Children.	Other Wards of State.	Total Wards of State and Children† boarded out with Mothers.
1911 ..	2,958	2,358	5,316	£ 74,719	1,865	7,181
1912 ..	2,991	2,978	5,969	83,327	1,815	7,784
1913 ..	3,090	3,696	6,786	93,509	1,767	8,553
1914 ..	3,342	4,144	7,486	102,051	1,853	9,339
1915 ..	3,359	4,681	8,040	127,898*	2,136	10,176
1916 ..	3,817	4,984	8,801	140,752	1,979	10,780
1917 ..	3,979	5,151	9,130	147,794	2,013	11,143
1918 ..	3,981	5,324	9,305	153,350	2,042	11,347
1919 ..	3,989	6,206†	10,195	161,044*	2,142	12,337
1920 ..	4,128	6,928†	11,056	210,457*	2,098	13,154
1921 ..	4,281	7,534†	11,815	240,555*	1,945	13,760
1922 ..	4,189	7,651†	11,840	264,257	1,979	13,819
1923 ..	4,133	7,641†	11,774	281,344	2,227	14,001
1924 ..	4,123	7,660†	11,783	288,562	2,365	14,148

* Payment for children over the age of two years was increased from 5s. to 6s. per week from 1st April, 1915, and from 6s. to 7s. per week from 1st December, 1919. On 1st November, 1920, payment was increased from 10s. to 11s. 6d. per week for children under the age of 12 months, and from 7s. to 8s. per week for all over that age. From 1st December, 1921, the rate of pay for children under the age of 12 months was increased from 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per week, and for those between 12 and 18 months from 8s. to 12s. 6d. per week.

† Not wards of State.

‡ These children were wards of State prior to 1919.

Cost of
maintenance
of neglected
and reforma-
tory children.

The governmental expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1924 to £310,897, and that for reformatory school children to £3,810; the expenses of administration amounted to £14,030, making a total gross expenditure of £328,737. A sum of £14,802 was received from parents for maintenance, and of £992 from other sources, making the net expenditure £312,943. The number of neglected children under supervision on 31st December, 1924, was 6,363; of this total, 4,123 were maintained in foster homes, 189 were in Government receiving dépôts, 30 were in private industrial schools, 258 were in other institutions, 480 were at service earning their own living, 18 were in hospitals, 2 were in gaol, and 1,263 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The number of reformatory wards under supervision on 31st December, 1924, was 125. Of this number 75 were maintained in private schools, 19 were in service earning their own living, 1 was in hospital, and 30 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children has increased greatly during the past ten years, as is shown by the statement which follows:—

NET COST TO THE STATE OF NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.			Net Expenditure.	Year.			Net Expenditure.
			£				£
1915	..	..	149,324	1920	..	..	238,448
1916	..	..	159,929	1921	..	..	282,380
1917	..	..	167,214	1922	..	..	295,440
1918	..	..	171,474	1923	..	..	299,456
1919	..	..	181,385	1924	..	..	312,943

Neglected
children
maintained
by societies
or private
persons.

Part VIII. of the *Children's Welfare Act* 1915 deals with the committal of neglected children to the care of private persons or institutions approved by the Governor in Council, and also provides for the wardship of the children, and for their transference, if there be sufficient cause, to the control of the Children's Welfare Department. The following return shows the societies and persons registered under the

provisions of this part of the Act, and gives particulars respecting the children under their care during 1924 :—

WORK OF SOCIETIES AND PERSONS REGISTERED UNDER PART VIII. OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT.

Name of Society or Person.	Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.23.	Admissions during 1924.			Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.24.
		Court Committals.	Transfer of Guardian-ship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Melbourne Orphan Asylum ..	228	..	..	67	240
Burwood Boys' Home ..	36	3	..	63	43
Church of England Mission ..	129	5	7	41	136
Gordon Institute, Melbourne ..	86	5	2	19	68
Methodist Boys' Training Farm, Burwood East ..	83	7	1	33	87
Methodist Homes for Children ..	289	8	8	20	306
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Children's Aid Society ..	301	2	15	19	296
Presbyterian Rescue Home, Elsternwick ..	37	..	5	1	32
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills	320	..	129	127	318
Try Society, Surrey-road, Hawksburn ..	65	38	..	21	59
Victorian Children's Aid Society ..	135	4	3	35	126
Sutherland Home ..	132	5	5	79	178
Minton Boys' Home, Frankston	72	..	..	16	35
Church of England Boys' Home, Auburn ..	47	..	6	..	48
Kilmany Park Boys' Home*	..	..	..	23	21
Total	2,010	77	181	564	1,993

* Approved under Part VIII. of Children's Welfare Act for first time in 1924.

The number of children who were under the guardianship of the State or maintained in public institutions or by societies on 31st December, 1924, reached the large total of 17,886, viz., 6,514 (6,488 State wards and 26 incapacitated) under the control of the Children's Welfare Department, 7,660 boarded out with mothers, 1,993 under the supervision of societies registered under Part VIII. of the Children's Welfare Act, 295 in Foundling Hospitals, and 1,424 in Orphan Asylums.

Infant Life Protection Act. With the view generally of exercising more efficient supervision over unprotected child life, and of lessening the excessive mortality amongst boarded-out children, the State Legislature passed an act, No. 2102 (which came into force on 31st December, 1907), to amend the Infant Life Protection Act of 1890. These acts are now incorporated in the *Infant Life Protection Act 1915* (No. 2670).

On 31st December, 1924, there were 422 children under supervision in registered homes under the provisions of this Act. The

deaths during the year numbered 29. In addition, 97 children became wards of the Children's Welfare Department by the operation of section 15 of the Act. Thirty-seven cases of adoption of children were notified during the year. Five female inspectors are engaged in the work of inspection.

RELIEF FUNDS.

VICTORIAN MINING ACCIDENT RELIEF FUND.

Victorian Mining Accident Relief Fund. In December, 1882, an inrush of water in the New Australasian Company's mine at Creswick caused the deaths of 22 miners. Consequent on this disaster 79 persons, comprising 18 widows and 61 children, were left in destitute circumstances. Public subscriptions to the amount of £21,602 were raised throughout Victoria for the relief of the widows and orphan children of those who lost their lives, and a fund was established, out of which the widows and children to a certain age were paid weekly allowances. On 31st December, 1924, there remained on the fund five widows, who were receiving 15s. per week each. In addition to the amounts paid to these recipients, grants of surplus moneys are made annually to deserving cases. In 1924, the sum so allotted was £394. The amount at credit of the fund on that date was £17,616, of which £12,000 was the estimated value of freehold premises in Queen-street, Melbourne, £5,607 was in Government inscribed stock and debentures, and £9 was cash in hand.

VICTORIAN COAL MINERS' ACCIDENTS RELIEF FUND.

Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Fund. A provision of the *Coal Mines Regulation Act* 1909 (No. 2240)—now the *Coal Mines Regulation Act* 1915 (No. 2630)—relates to the constitution of a Fund called the Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Fund, to which every person employed in a coal mine is compelled to contribute 4½d. per week, the mine-owners paying an amount equal to one-half of that deducted from the miners' wages, and the Government of Victoria a sum equal to the payment by the owners. The Board held its first meeting on 4th April, 1910, and decided that the employers' contributions should commence from 2nd April, 1910. Committees were formed at the collieries (numbering 10 in 1924), their principal functions being to collect contributions and, subject to the approval of the Board, to allot the allowances.

During 1924 the contributions from employees amounted to £1,836, and the allowances paid at the mines totalled £1,057. For the year ended 31st December, 1924, the total revenue was £3,399—remittances from committees at the mines amounting to £809, and interest to £860, and the balance being contributed by the mine-owners (£869) and the Government (£861). The expenditure included £1,178 paid in allowances in addition to the amounts paid at the mines, and £424 cost of administration. The accumulated funds amounted to £20,702

—£8,700 invested in Victorian Government 3½ per cent. inscribed stock, £1,300 in Victorian Government 6 per cent. inscribed stock, £10,250 in Commonwealth inscribed stock, and £452 bank balance. Relief was given in 434 non-fatal cases. In respect to non-fatal accidents, there are 19 persons on the permanently disabled list, the number of children dependent upon such persons being 14. Three fatal accidents occurred during the year. There are 11 widows, 3 mothers, and 25 children receiving aid from the fund as the result of fatalities during 1924 and previous years.

WATSON SUSTENTATION FUND.

**The Watson
Sustentation
Fund.**

This fund was inaugurated as the result of an offer made by the late Mr. J. B. Watson to the Bendigo Miners' Association about the year 1889. Information in relation to its establishment is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 612. Payments to beneficiaries were first made in 1891 at the rate of 5s. per week, and this rate was maintained for about two years, when the sick pay was increased to 7s. 6d. per week. Further changes were afterwards made as necessity arose.

The following are the particulars of members of the Fund relieved, &c., and of receipts and expenditure :—From the inception of the Fund in 1891 to the end of 1924 the total expenditure was £38,540, of which £34,592 represented sick pay and £3,191 donations to members and wives and families of deceased members. During 1924, 49 members were relieved and 7 died, and 42 were on the funds at the end of the year. The receipts for the year were £750. Sick pay for 1924 amounted to £576, donations to members and wives and families of deceased members to £36, and expenses of administration to £33; the total expenditure being £645. The balance in hand at the end of the year 1923 was £634, and at the end of 1924, £739.

QUEEN'S FUND.

Queen's Fund. This fund was instituted in 1887 by Lady Loch to commemorate the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria. It is for the relief of women in distress, and it is arranged that only the interest on the capital shall be expended yearly. The number of women relieved during 1924-25 was 70, to whom £871 was allotted either by way of grant or loan, and the cost of management was £136. The accumulated fund on 30th June, 1925, was £16,175. In addition to the ordinary receipts of the Fund for the year 1924-25 (£757) an amount of £312 was received from the trustees of the Walter and Elizabeth Hall Trust for distribution to governesses, nurses, and ladies in similar positions who from age, misfortune, or infirmity were unable to earn their living. A sum of £312 was distributed in this manner, £2 was expended on management, and £15 remained in the bank at the date of balancing.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS.**Patriotic
Funds.**

The *Year-Book* for 1918-19 contains, on pages 391 and 392, a statement of the collections in money and the value of the goods contributed in the State of Victoria to the various Patriotic Funds from the outbreak of hostilities to the 31st December, 1918. The total amount for the State, including contributions received after the last-mentioned date, is estimated to have been well over £4,000,000.

IMMIGRATION BUREAU.**Immigration
Bureau.**

The Immigration Bureau, which is a branch of the Lands Department, deals with the subject of assisted immigration to Victoria.

On 1st March, 1921, a joint Commonwealth and State Scheme of Immigration came into operation, and from that date the Government of the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for the booking of passages for nominated and other settlers proceeding to Australia, and took over all administrative work in London, including advertising and the medical inspection of prospective settlers.

Approval of nominations is dealt with by the State authorities, who also indicate the classes and numbers of persons who it is considered may be absorbed in the population without detriment to local artisans and other residents, and for whom it is desired that passages be arranged. To the States is also intrusted the matter of settling on the land or providing employment for new arrivals.

The Government, through this Bureau and in other ways, affords all advice and assistance possible to prospective settlers arriving from overseas, whether desiring to take up land or to obtain employment. In the cases of private purchases of land by new arrivals, valuations on their behalf will, if desired, be made by expert officers free of charge. Nominated passages may be arranged from Great Britain, also under special conditions from Canada and other British Dominions and the United States of America. The Government contributes from £16 10s. upwards towards the fares of approved nominees from Great Britain, special concessions being available in the cases of married couples, widows and widowers with young families.

Nomination forms and all particulars as to rates, &c., may be obtained on application to the Officer-in-Charge, Immigration Bureau, 17 Russell-street, Melbourne, with whom nominations should be lodged. Inquiries in Great Britain should be addressed to the Director, Commonwealth Migration and Settlement Office, Australia House, Strand, London.
