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CHAPTER VIII.

PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory.

Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings : (a) State ; (b) public ; and (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal hospitals for the insane in the various States, the Government and leased hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government asylums for the infirm in New South Wales. The other classes comprise public institutions of two kinds, namely :—(i) those partially subsidized by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the principal metropolitan hospitals. In the latter are included institutions established and endowed by individuals for the benefit of the needy generally. All charitable movements of a private character are included in the third group. A more or less accurate statistical account is possible in classes (a) and (b), but in regard to (c) complete tabulation is, for obvious reasons, impossible. Owing to differences in the method and date of collection and tabulation it is impossible to bring statistics of charitable institutions to a common year. In general, there is considerable want of harmony in the statistical information available for the different States.

No poor-rate is levied in Australia. Reference to old-age pensions, invalid pensions and maternity allowances, which are provided by the Commonwealth Government, will be found in the Chapter XXVI. "Public Finance".

From time to time relief funds have been organized for famine-stricken countries in various parts of the world, or for places where plagues, flood, fire, or earthquake have shown the need of urgent relief. Special funds were also raised for persons disabled or bereaved through war. Complete statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duty of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds which were instituted in consequence of the War of 1914-19, the total for Australia was estimated to exceed £12,500,000.

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

1. *Public Hospitals (other than Hospitals for the Insane).*—(i) *General.* All the State capitals have several large and well-equipped hospitals, and there is at least one in every important town. In large centres there are hospitals for infectious diseases, tubercular patients, women, children, incurables, etc.

The particulars given herein refer to public hospitals at the latest available date, and include all institutions affording hospital relief, whether general or special, with the exception of the hospitals for the insane and private hospitals conducted commercially. It is considered that the extension of the scope of these statistics to embrace both general and special institutions will afford a better comparison as between the various States than the statistics previously issued relating to general hospitals only. The particulars for New South Wales in the following tables relate to hospitals operating under the Public Hospitals Act, 1929-1940.

(ii) *Principal Hospitals in each State.* In earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, pp. 481-2) particulars respecting staff, accommodation, etc., of each of the principal hospitals were given.

(iii) *Number, Staff and Accommodation, 1939.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs and accommodation for the year 1939, or nearest available year, are given in the following table:—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS : NUMBER, STAFF AND ACCOMMODATION, 1939.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Hospitals ..	210	71	116	57	90	21	565
Medical Staff—							
Honorary	1,629	832	198	258	107	87	3,111
Salaried	444	224	173	69	23	38	971
Total	2,073	1,056	371	(b) 327	130	125	4,082
Nursing Staff	5,468	3,307	2,911	(b) 1,174	1,162	473	14,495
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	14,972	7,778	6,494	(b) 2,612	3,401	1,606	36,863

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1940; South Australia—31st December, 1939; Victoria—30th June, 1939. (b) Exclusive of particulars of Lying-in Homes, Sanatoria and Convalescent Homes.

The figures for accommodation shown in the table above include, where available, a considerable number of beds and cots for certain classes of cases in out-door or verandah sleeping places.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS : PATIENTS TREATED, 1939.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Indoor Relief—Inmates at beginning of year—							
Males	5,309	2,706	2,389	850	946	498	12,698
Females	5,801	2,893	2,132	864	998	579	13,267
Total	11,110	5,599	4,521	1,714	1,944	1,077	25,965
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—							
Males	111,996	39,725	57,769	18,226	24,423	9,959	262,098
Females	126,663	51,978	55,066	20,062	21,674	12,521	287,964
Total	238,659	91,703	112,835	38,288	46,097	22,480	550,062
Discharges—							
Males	106,418	36,793	54,984	17,050	23,199	9,402	247,846
Females	123,281	49,676	53,488	19,217	21,239	12,236	279,137
Total	229,699	86,469	108,472	36,267	44,438	21,638	526,983
Deaths—							
Males	5,476	2,929	2,632	1,154	1,112	554	13,857
Females	3,733	2,045	1,537	792	599	353	9,059
Total	9,209	4,974	4,169	1,946	1,711	907	22,916
Inmates at end of year—							
Males	5,411	2,709	2,542	872	1,058	501	13,093
Females	5,450	3,150	2,173	917	834	511	13,035
Total	10,861	5,859	4,715	1,789	1,892	1,012	26,128
Average Daily Number Resident	11,025	5,681	4,519	(b) 1,924	1,863	1,078	26,090

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table.

(b) See footnote (b) to previous table.

(v) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1939 were as follows:—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1939.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government Aid ..	61,242,440	483,710	634,479	272,563	531,052	90,718	3,254,962
Municipal Aid ..	(c)	80,120	293,486	51,108	571	..	425,285
Public Subscriptions, Legacies, etc. ..	(d)649,565	316,719	38,182	28,704	29,896	9,756	1,072,822
Fees ..	657,972	275,993	348,454	115,309	153,010	74,319	1,625,057
Other ..	(e) 409,029	(f) 238,851	96,601	9,678	38,501	19,818	812,478
Total ..	2,959,006	1,395,393	1,411,202	477,362	753,030	194,611	7,190,604
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	1,284,726	616,239	593,651	219,117	270,149	98,563	3,082,445
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds ..	89,259	15,520	25,511	27,657	4,896	6,949	169,992
All Other Ordinary Capital (g) ..	1,057,954	537,295	681,631	225,451	203,106	89,530	2,794,967
	(h)	330,233	104,393	21,773	271,475	..	(i) 727,874
Total ..	2,431,939	1,499,287	1,405,186	493,998	749,626	195,042	6,775,078

(a) See note (a) to table on page 188. (b) Includes State aid for buildings, £206,687.
(c) Included in "Other." (d) Includes legacies and bequests for capital purposes, £90,096.
(e) Includes loans raised under Section 37 of the Public Hospitals Act, £320,613. (f) Includes loan receipts, £139,649. (g) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings. (h) Not available. (i) Incomplete.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1935 to 1939.* Returns for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, beds, admissions, indoor patients treated, deaths and expenditure are given in the following table. The figures relate to both general and special hospitals. It should be noted that the statistics for the States cannot be brought to a common year, and consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS : AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Number of institutions ..	526	557	560	563	565
„ beds and cots ..	31,727	33,377	34,541	35,711	36,863
Admissions during year ..	451,761	481,727	511,648	527,055	550,062
Total indoor cases treated ..	472,804	504,521	535,342	552,051	576,027
Deaths ..	20,805	21,601	22,162	23,372	22,916
Expenditure ..	£ 4,608,878	5,134,247	5,965,484	6,351,955	6,775,078

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. So far as the returns show there were 595,325 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 261,209 in Victoria, 266,783 in Queensland, 65,435 in South Australia, and 16,291 in Tasmania during the last year.

2. *Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.*—(i) *General.* The public provision for the care of indigent old people has been a feature of the social development of recent years in most countries. Numerous establishments exist in Australia for the housing and protection of persons no longer able to provide for themselves. These institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, bequests, etc.; while in many cases relatives of poor and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

An entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially difficult in the case of benevolent institutions, because the services provided by these institutions are not always identical. For example, in Western Australia, the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which statistics are not kept separately. Since the chief function of the institution is to help the destitute, it has been included amongst benevolent asylums. In Victoria, although several of the hospitals were formerly also benevolent asylums, a separation was effected and asylum patients were transferred to appropriate institutions.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars respecting the accommodation and the number of inmates of the principal institutions were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, p. 485).

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1939 are given in the following table:—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1939.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government Aid ..	123,977	45,830	37,005	2,375	10,431	17,805	237,423
Municipal Aid ..	(b)	997	..	..	5	..	1,002
Public Subscriptions, Legacies ..	13,900	20,749	7,972	1,287	3,342	..	47,250
Fees ..	35,797	51,222	40,559	3,129	19,442	6,342	156,491
Other ..	4,219	12,995	8,806	758	141	260	27,179
Total ..	177,893	131,793	94,342	7,549	33,361	24,407	469,345
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages ..	82,187	45,793	28,107	3,571	14,886	12,569	187,113
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	3,177	2,692	2,796	239	687	538	10,129
All Other(c) ..	89,073	76,302	65,639	4,017	16,097	11,300	262,428
Total ..	174,437	124,787	96,542	7,827	31,670	24,407	459,670

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales and South Australia—31st December, 1939; Victoria—30th June, 1939; and Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1940. (b) Included in "Other." (c) Including £17,362 in Victoria, £8,380 in Queensland, and £938 in Western Australia, covering such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

3. *Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.*—(i) *General.* The methods of caring for orphans and neglected children differ extensively, inasmuch as some of the children are more or less segregated in orphanages and industrial schools, while others are boarded-out with their mothers or female relatives or with approved foster mothers. The children in orphanages and similar institutions may receive, in addition to primary education, some craft training. In all cases employment is found for the children on their discharge from the institution, and they remain for some time under the supervision of the proper authorities. The conditions under which orphans, neglected children and children boarded-out live, are subject to frequent inspections. Apart from the amounts shown in (iii) below the gross expenditure on orphanages, etc., in 1939 was approximately £400,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, p. 486).

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions during 1939 of State Departments in connexion with children under their

control or supervision. In addition to neglected children, the figures include uncontrollable and convicted children who are wards of a Government authority, as well as poor children whose parents obtain assistance from the Government without giving up the legal right of custody.

CHILDREN UNDER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY : SUMMARY, 1939.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b)	991	439	1,002	152	35	202	2,821
In licensed or approved institutions .. ..	..	1,805	..	111	628	..	2,544
Boarded-out—							
With own mothers ..	9,513	7,905	5,413	} 47056 (c)	} 23,053	{ 2,457 379	{ 41,055
With licensed foster mothers, guardians, relatives and friends	2,982	1,848	449				
Total children maintained or subsidized by the State	13,486	11,997	6,864	7,319	3,716	3,038	46,420
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions	1,026	..	..	..	..	..	1,026
Boarded-out	167	..	..	1,174	446	..	1,787
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts)	1,674	1,281	134	227	375	..	3,691
In service or apprenticed	183	366	434	163	240	..	1,386
Adopted or otherwise placed	310	..	1	6	..	..	317
Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State	3,360	1,647	569	1,570	1,061	..	8,207
Total children under State control or supervision ..	16,846	13,644	7,433	8,889	4,777	3,038	54,627
Gross cost of children's relief	£ 477,203	£ 328,381	£ 195,449	£ 59,049	£ 22,207	£ 14,891	£ 1,097,180
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	21,611	10,617	9,130	4,496	8,047	872	54,773
Net cost to State ..	455,592	317,764	186,319	54,553	14,160	14,019	1,042,407

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—Victoria and Queensland—31st December, 1939; Other States—30th June, 1940. (b) Including inmates of hospitals. (c) Including 6,259 children in receipt of Ration Relief. (d) Mostly with own mothers. (e) In addition there were 196 children at Fairbridge Farm School and 110 at Tardun Agricultural School.

The total expenditure on children's relief in the previous table shows considerable variation amongst the States owing to the different methods of treating assistance to mothers with dependent children. In South Australia, Western Australia and

Tasmania, large amounts have been excluded from the total expenditure on this account owing to the difficulty of obtaining separate amounts for allowances made in respect of the dependent children only.

4. **Leper Hospitals.**—Isolation hospitals for the care and treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane, and Fantome Island, North Queensland); Western Australia (Derby); and the Northern Territory (Channel Island, near Darwin). At the end of 1940 there were 9 cases in residence at Little Bay, 105 in Queensland, 197 at Derby, and 84 at Channel Island. There were also 6 cases isolated in the south of Western Australia and 1 case in Victoria, which were European cases infected elsewhere. Of these 402 cases, 350 were aboriginals, 3 Asiatics and 49 Europeans.

5. **Hospitals for the Insane.**—(i) *General.* The methods of compiling statistics of insanity are fairly uniform throughout the States, but comparisons are of doubtful validity, because of an element of uncertainty as to possible differences in diagnosis in the early stages of the disease.

(ii) *Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1939.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the following table for the year 1939:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1939.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions ..	13	(b) 11	4	2	4	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males	32	30	7	7	6	2	84
Females	6	..	1	..	..	1	8
Total	38	30	8	7	6	3	92
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	1,064	767	305	170	139	70	2,515
Females	1,100	790	267	168	106	77	2,508
Total	2,164	1,557	572	338	245	147	5,023
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	11,698	6,538	3,710	1,892	1,454	805	26,097

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1940; other States—31st December, 1939. (b) Includes two licensed private houses, in which cases at the end of the year numbered 59; other particulars are not available.

(iii) *Patients, 1939.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for 1939 is given in the table hereunder:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC. 1939.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of distinct persons treated during year (b)—							
Males	6,947	(c) 3,959	2,416	1,072	1,022	403	15,810
Females	6,400	(c) 4,386	1,790	961	601	394	14,532
Total	13,347	(c) 8,345	4,206	2,033	1,623	797	30,351

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Exclusive of transfers to other institutions. (c) Including 14 males and 60 females in licensed private houses.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE: PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1939(a)—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of patients on books at beginning of year—							
Males	6,078	3,471	2,100	931	923	313	13,816
Females	5,600	3,853	1,550	816	554	318	12,693
Total	11,678	7,326	3,650	1,747	1,477	631	26,509
Admissions and re-admissions exclusive of absconders retaken and transfers from other institutions—							
Males	860	488	316	141	99	90	2,003
Females	800	531	240	145	47	76	1,839
Total	1,669	1,019	556	286	146	166	3,842
Discharges (including absconders not retaken)—							
Males	377	238	144	51	30	55	895
Females	388	314	113	49	19	41	924
Total	765	552	257	100	49	96	1,819
Deaths—							
Males	417	258	163	73	68	31	1,010
Females	330	250	94	60	24	30	788
Total	747	508	257	133	92	61	1,798
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	6,153	3,463	2,109	948	924	317	13,914
Females	5,682	3,322	1,583	852	558	323	12,320
Total	11,835	7,285	3,692	1,800	1,482	640	26,734
Average daily number resident—							
Males	5,646	(b)2,930	2,024	938	918	314	12,770
Females	5,126	(b)3,331	1,475	839	545	318	11,634
Total	10,772	(b)5,261	3,499	1,777	1,463	632	24,404
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	4.41	3.65	3.94	3.18	3.78	2.61	3.92
Females	4.12	3.94	3.23	2.84	2.49	2.74	3.68
Total	4.26	3.80	3.60	3.01	3.16	2.67	3.80
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	4.06	3.15	3.81	3.15	3.76	2.60	3.62
Females	3.74	3.50	3.03	2.81	2.47	2.70	3.36
Total	3.90	3.33	3.44	2.98	3.15	2.65	3.49

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table.

(b) Excluding two licensed private houses.

In some States persons well advanced towards recovery are allowed to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are under supervision and their names are kept in the records.

(iv) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1939.* The revenue of Government hospitals for the insane is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 86 per cent.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : FINANCES, 1939.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Au-t.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue (exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients ..	128,314	56,997	31,661	30,735	18,975	8,275	274,957
Other ..	9,682	5,697	1,796	32	2,203	79	19,489
Total ..	137,996	62,694	33,457	30,767	21,178	8,354	294,446
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages ..	525,636	292,277	171,793	77,397	78,898	43,912	1,189,918
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings, &c. ..	16,252	28,597	3,866	8,718	2,385	1,130	60,948
All Other(b) ..	343,644	170,331	95,719	78,874	98,672	22,934	815,574
Total ..	884,932	497,205	271,383	161,989	179,955	67,976	2,066,440
Expenditure per Average Daily Resident ..	£82/3/0	£79/8/3	£77/11/2	£92/16/11	£123/0/1	£107/11/2	£84/13/6

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—South Australia—31st December, 1939; other States—30th June, 1940. (b) Includes the following amounts for capital expenditure on Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings: New South Wales, £67,889; Queensland, £17,107; South Australia, £19,855; Western Australia, £53,080.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1935 to 1939.* The table hereunder gives a summary of hospitals for the insane in Australia during each of the five years 1935 to 1939. The figures for the States cannot be brought to a common year; consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years. Licensed houses are included in all particulars save revenue and expenditure for New South Wales and Victoria. The figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols. In New South Wales the expenditure includes cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Number of institutions ..	35	34	36	35	35
„ „ beds ..	24,880	25,017	25,287	25,654	26,097
Admissions ..	3,819	3,565	3,678	3,757	3,842
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc. ..	1,715	1,566	1,573	1,800	1,819
Deaths ..	1,577	1,553	1,488	1,632	1,798
Expenditure—Total ..	£ 1,659,523	£ 1,771,406	£ 1,867,170	£ 1,903,817	£ 2,066,440
„ —Per Average Daily Resident ..	£72/6/4	£75/15/9	£78/8/1	£79/2/4	£84/13/6

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1935 to 1939.* The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, shows a continuous increase during the period covered by the following table. A more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases has resulted in a greater willingness in recent years to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an earlier stage, and an increase in the number of recorded cases, therefore, does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity.

INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS.

State.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	11,009	11,145	11,473	11,678	11,835
Victoria	7,059	7,209	7,302	7,326	7,285
Queensland	3,321	3,368	3,544	3,650	3,692
South Australia	1,572	1,627	1,709	1,747	1,800
Western Australia	1,441	1,488	1,521	1,477	1,482
Tasmania	636	647	635	631	640
Australia	25,038	25,484	26,184	26,509	26,734
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales	4.13	4.14	4.22	4.25	4.26
Victoria	3.83	3.89	3.93	3.91	3.86
Queensland	3.39	3.39	3.53	3.59	3.60
South Australia	2.68	2.76	2.89	2.94	3.01
Western Australia	3.22	3.30	3.33	3.19	3.18
Tasmania	2.77	2.78	2.71	2.67	2.67
Australia	3.71	3.74	3.82	3.82	3.80

The difference between States in the number of insane persons in institutions per 1,000 of population may be due to some extent to differences in classification.

(vii) *Causes of Insanity.* The general information available respecting the causes of the insanity of persons admitted to institutions is too unsatisfactory to be given in detail.

(viii) *Length of Residence in Hospital, 1939.* (a) *New South Wales and Victoria.* Particulars are not available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals of persons who died or were discharged during the year.

(b) *Queensland.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 10 years 326 days for males, and 6 years 304 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 82 days for males, and 1 year 227 days for females.

(c) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 6 years 7 months 18 days for males, and 9 years 9 months 27 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 2 months 5 days for males, and 1 year 2 months 11 days for females.

(d) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 12 years 2 months for males, and 9 years 10 months 20 days for females; of those discharged, 2 years 2 months 20 days for males, and 2 years 1 month and 28 days for females.

(e) *Tasmania.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 13 years 6 months and 25 days for males, and 12 years and 6 months 19 days for females; of those discharged, 2 years for males, and 2 years 1 month and 9 days for females.

6. *Care of the Feeble-minded.*—An account of the treatment of the feeble-minded in Tasmania supplied by the Public Health Department of Tasmania, appeared in Official Year Book No. 19, pp. 477-8.

7. *Protection of Aborigines.*—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where these people are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come near the stations. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1939-40 was: New South Wales, £69,000; Victoria, £7,430; Queensland

£72,201; South Australia, £31,088; Western Australia, £47,381; Northern Territory £17,844; total for Australia, £244,944. According to the latest census taken by this Bureau, the number of full-blood and half-caste aborigines living in supervised camps in each State at 30th June, 1940, was as follows:—

ABORIGINES IN SUPERVISED CAMPS, 30th JUNE, 1940.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Northern Territory.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Full-bloods ..	454	39	5,033	384	3,329	6,505	15,744
Half-castes ..	5,681	349	2,681	938	2,099	699	(a) 12,747

(a) Including 212 in Tasmania and 88 in the Australian Capital Territory.

Particulars regarding total numbers of aborigines in each State will be found in the Chapter XII. "Population."

8. Royal Life Saving Society.—In each of the State capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established, and in some States sub-centres have also been established in the larger provincial districts. In 1934 an Australian Federal Council of this Society was formed with headquarters at Melbourne, and each State centre, or branch, as it is now called, is controlled by the new organization. Saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves and other suitable places. Numerous certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination throughout Australia, the number for the individual States for 1939–40 being:—New South Wales, 15,919; Victoria, 5,328; Queensland, 1,270; South Australia, 601; Western Australia, 1,862; Tasmania, 366; and Fiji, which comes under the control of the Australian Federal Council, 157.

9. Royal Humane Society.—The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has for its objects (a) to grant awards for skill, promptness and perseverance in life-saving, where the rescuer has risked his or her life; (b) to provide assistance in cases of danger and apparent death; (c) to restore the apparently drowned; (d) to collect and circulate the latest information regarding approved methods and apparatus for life-saving. Awards of medals and certificates are made numbering about 100 annually. Swimming is encouraged amongst school children, and awards are made for proficiency.

10. Other Charitable Institutions.—Owing to variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and the infirm. The institutions not so particularized include asylums for the deaf, dumb and blind, infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, creches, homes of hope, rescue homes, free kindergarten and ragged schools, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, ambulance and health societies, boys' brigades, humane and animals' protection societies, prisoners' aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bush fire and mining accident relief funds, etc.

11. Total Expenditure on Charities.—Issues of the Official Year Book prior to No. 24 embodied statistics of expenditure on charities. The returns available, however, included a portion only of direct expenditure by Governments, and, in general, there is lack of harmony in the information available for the different States. Pending the result of further inquiry it has been decided to omit this table from the present chapter.