

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. The University consists of a Council and Senate, and is incorporated and made a body politic with perpetual succession. It has power to grant degrees, diplomas, certificates, and licences in all faculties except divinity. The Council consists of twenty members elected by the Senate for a term of five years, together with three members appointed by the Governor in Council. It elects two of its members to be Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor respectively. The Senate consists of all persons who have graduated doctor or master in the University. It elects a Warden annually from its members. Control and management are in the hands of the Council. Council and Senate conjointly make statutes and regulations. There is no religious test for admission. 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 others. 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 £200,000. The Act of 1853 (now incorporated in the *University Act 1915*) provides for an endowment of £9,000 annually for maintenance and management. Additional grants have been voted annually by Parliament for maintenance, and from time to time for building purposes. These amounted to £16,984 in 1916-17. Since 1853, the amount received from the Government has been £1,126,366—£222,922 for building and apparatus, £695,500 endowment under "Special Appropriation Act," 16 Vic. 34, and £207,944 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. These are charged as follows:—

For the degree of Bachelor of Arts, the fees are as for single subjects, and amount to about £45 for the three years' course.

For the degree of Bachelor of Science, £22 per annum.

For the degree of Bachelor of Laws, the fees are as for single subjects, and amount to about £78 for the four years' course.

For the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, £22 per annum.

For the degrees of Bachelor of Civil Engineering, Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, Bachelor of Mining Engineering, and Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, £22 for each of the 1st and 2nd years, and £25 for each of the 3rd and 4th years.

For the degree of Bachelor of Music and Diploma in Music, £12 12s. per annum.

For the degree of Bachelor of Agriculture, £21 per annum.

For the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science £22 for the 1st year, and £25 for each of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years.

For the Licence in Veterinary Science, £22 for the 1st year, and £25 for each of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years.

For the degree of Bachelor of Dental Science, fees are paid to the Australian College of Dentistry.

For the course for Diploma of Education, £6 6s. per annum for students of the Education Department. For other students, the fees are those of the course taken during the first two years, and £12 12s. for the 3rd year.

For the Diploma of Agriculture, £21 per annum.

For the Diplomas in Mining and in Metallurgy, £18 18s. for the 1st year, £21 for the 2nd year, and £25 4s. for the 3rd year.

For the Diploma of Architecture, £12 12s. per annum.

For single subjects, special fees are charged, ranging from £2 2s. each annually to £21, the latter fee being chargeable for Science subjects in which laboratory work plays a great part.

For admission to degrees, £7 7s. is payable by bachelors (except Dentistry, £3 3s.), and £10 10s. by masters and doctors.

For any diploma, £3 3s. is the fee.

For the Licence in Veterinary Science, £5 5s.

For certificates of matriculation, attendance upon lectures, &c., special small fees are charged.

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 had passed any subject at any previous public examination are reserved. The appended table gives the results of the public examinations conducted by the University during 1917:—

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1917.

Examination—	Number who attempted to Pass fully.	Number who Passed fully.	
		Total.	Percentage.
Junior, Public	933	554	59·38
„ Commercial	21	14	66·67
Senior, Public	376	211	56·12
Intermediate	2,352	986	41·92
School Leaving	736	353	47·96

No candidate attempted to pass fully in the Senior Commercial examination.

Degrees. The number of degrees taken in 1917 was 241, all of which were direct, as against a total of 1,430 for the preceding five years, or an average of 236 per annum for that period. During those five years 1,410 persons obtained direct and 20 *ad eundem* degrees. Of the total number of 6,621 degrees granted

since the establishment of the University, 716 have been conferred on women, 710 of which were direct and 6 *ad eundem*. These were apportioned as follows:—319 Bachelor of Arts, 140 Master of Arts, 75 Bachelor of Medicine, 6 Doctor of Medicine, 73 Bachelor of Surgery, 12 Bachelor of Laws, 2 Master of Laws, 4 Doctor of Science, 46 Bachelor of Science, 21 Master of Science, 13 Bachelor of Music, and 5 Bachelor of Dental Science. The following table shows the number of degrees conferred at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1917—the particulars for the years 1916 and 1917 being given separately:—

DEGREES CONFERRED.

Degrees.	Prior to 1916.			During 1916.			During 1917.			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 ...	1225	118	1343	45	..	45	50	...	50	1320	118	1438
Master of Arts ...	618	182	800	17	2	19	22	...	22	657	184	841
Doctor of Letters ...	4	1	5	1	...	1	...	...	...	5	1	6
Bachelor of Medicine	1145	15	1160	72	...	72	54	...	54	1271	15	1286
Doctor of Medicine	203	107	310	2	...	2	2	...	2	207	107	314
Bachelor of Surgery	1075	4	1079	72	...	72	55	...	55	1202	4	1206
Master of Surgery ...	24	...	24	2	...	2	1	...	1	27	...	27
Bachelor of Laws ...	455	12	467	17	...	17	5	...	5	477	12	489
Master of Laws ...	83	3	86	1	...	1	3	...	3	87	3	90
Doctor of Laws ...	16	23	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	23	39
Bachelor of Civil Engineering ...	194	2	196	5	...	5	4	...	4	203	2	205
Bachelor of Mining Engineering ...	31	1	32	4	...	4	3	...	3	38	1	39
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering ...	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	...	3
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering ...	1	...	1	3	...	3	1	...	1	5	...	5
Master of Engineering	76	...	76	3	...	3	1	...	1	80	...	80
Bachelor of Science	151	5	156	10	...	10	7	...	7	168	5	173
Master of Science ...	68	2	70	2	...	2	6	...	6	76	2	78
Doctor of Science ...	20	20	40	3	...	3	1	...	1	24	20	44
Bachelor of Music ...	14	2	16	2	...	2	7	...	7	23	2	25
Doctor of Music ...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Bachelor of Dental Science ...	96	...	96	30	...	30	10	...	10	136	...	136
Doctor of Dental Science ...	10	...	10	1	...	1	2	...	2	13	...	13
Bachelor of Veter- inary Science ...	42	...	42	7	...	7	4	...	4	53	...	53
Doctor of Veterinary Science ...	7	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	7
Bachelor of Agricul- tural Science ...	17	...	17	3	...	3	2	...	2	22	...	22
Total ...	5577	499	6076	302	2	304	241	..	241	6120	501	6621

Students attending lectures, and undergraduates admitted. The number of persons attending lectures has greatly increased during the past ten years, the total in 1917 having been 1,332 as compared with 980 in 1907, thus showing an advance of 36 per cent. To some extent this is due to the inclusion of new subjects in University teaching, principally Education, Agriculture, Metallurgy, Mining, Dentistry, Architecture, and the Veterinary courses; but, apart from these, the increase is very large. A great improvement is also shown in the admission of undergraduates the number having increased by 65 per cent. for the period mentioned.

PERSONS ADMITTED AS UNDERGRADUATES AND STUDENTS ATTENDING LECTURES, 1913 to 1917.

Year.	Number of Persons Matriculated and Admitted as Undergraduates.			Number of Students Attending Lectures.		
	Males	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1913 ...	205	82	287	1,015	315	1,330
1914 ...	283	81	364	1,089	300	1,389
1915 ...	234	82	316	955	396	1,351
1916 ...	264	100	364	852	445	1,297
1917 ...	237	136	373	842	490	1,332

Of the number attending lectures in 1917—1,332—430 were students in Arts and Education, 33 in Laws, 55 in Engineering, 509 in Medicine, 73 in Science, 128 in Music, 51 in Dentistry; 4 in Agriculture, 19 in Veterinary Science, and 20 in Architecture, and 5 were doing Science Research Work.

University finance. A statement of receipts and expenditure for the year 1917 is given below:—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1917.

	General Account.	Other Accounts.	All Departments.
	£	£	£
Receipts—			
Government Grants ..	21,300	5,558	26,858
Lecture, Degree, Examination, and other Fees ..	30,305	8,530	38,835
Other sources	1,895	7,905	9,800
Total	53,500	21,993	75,493
Expenditure	50,498	20,315	70,723

In addition, the University received the sum of £1,823 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, and of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of Victoria. Large residential colleges have been built upon the sites reserved for this purpose, which are situated 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. The Roman Catholic body has recently erected a college upon its site in Madeline-street. 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.

Trinity
College.

The Anglican Church was the first to avail itself of the right to establish an affiliated college. In 1869 Bishop Perry (then Lord Bishop of Melbourne) assisted by Professor Wilson, Sir William Stawell, Dean Macartney, and others, undertook to raise the funds required for the college buildings. Their efforts were crowned with success, and the building of Trinity was commenced in the following year. Its progress was remarkably rapid, and, in 1877, it was found necessary to increase the accommodation for students. In 1883 the Clarke buildings were erected by Sir W. J. and Mr. Joseph Clarke, and additions have been repeatedly made since that time. In 1886 Trinity College Hostel, for resident women students of the college, was established by the late Warden (Dr. Alex. Leeper), and was carried on until 1890 in houses rented by him. In 1890, mainly through the munificence of the late Janet Lady Clarke, the Hostel was supplied with permanent buildings erected within the College precincts, and named "The Janet Clarke Buildings." The Hostel forms an integral part of Trinity College, and the women students of the college consequently enjoy all its educational advantages. The Hostel, like the College itself, is open to students of all religious denominations. The college buildings consist of a chapel, dining hall, chemical and biological laboratories, lecture-room, libraries, billiard-room, and students' common-room, in addition to apartments for the Warden, tutors, and students. A handsome new chapel has been completed, at a cost of over £12,000, which was presented to the college by the late Mr. J. S. Horsfall, of Orrong, Teorak. The Warden of the college is J. C. V. Behan, M.A., LL.B. (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. In 1877 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria appointed a committee to take charge of the site assigned to it. It was decided to obtain the Crown grant for the land, and to proceed with the erection of a college so soon as the necessary funds should be raised. When £6,000 had been subscribed, Mr. Francis Ormond offered to subscribe £10,000 if an equal amount were first obtained from other sources. In less than a year this condition had been satisfied, and the buildings were commenced. The college, which bears the name of Mr. Ormond, was opened in March, 1881, under the mastership of Mr. J. H. MacFarland, M.A. (Cantab.). It was then announced that Mr. Ormond would bear the whole expense of the structural work, leaving the rest of the funds for fittings, equipment, &c. In 1883 the buildings were enlarged; and in 1887 Mr. Ormond added the Victoria Wing, naming it in honour of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign. The Dining Hall and the Master's Lodge, both of which are special features of the College architecture, were built in 1893. Mr. Ormond's benefactions, which amounted to £41,780 in his life-time, were increased under a bequest to a sum which will ultimately amount to more than £100,000. The college 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 all 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. At the north end of the college grounds is the Wyselaskie building, comprising the Wyselaskie Hall and two professors' residences. The first master (Dr. J. H. MacFarland, present Chancellor of the University of Melbourne) retired at the end of 1914, and Professor D. K. Picken, M.A. (Camb. and Glasg.), professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics in Victoria University College, Wellington, N.Z., was appointed to succeed him. In 1915 Mr. H. W. Allen, M.A. (Melbourne), senior tutor of the college, was appointed vice-master, an office formerly held by Mr. Darnley Naylor, now professor of Classics in the University of Adelaide; Mr. Allen subsequently enlisted and was given leave of absence until the end of his period of military service. The first chairman of the College Council was Dr. Alex. Morrison, Principal of Scotch College; the present chairman is the Rev. John Mathew, M.A., B.D. The Ormond Roll of Service—of men engaged in one or other of the services of war, at some time during the war—stood at something over 400 in May, 1918; 42 of these men had given their lives.

Queen's
College.

The Conference of the Methodist Church of Victoria, in 1878, appointed a committee to arrange for the building of a college. A request for donations met with a generous response, the first donor being Sir William McArthur, who made a gift of £1,000. The work of erecting the college was not, however, commenced until 1887. It was formally opened in March, 1888. The strenuous efforts of the Rev. W. A. Quick, in the establishment of the college, entitle him to the honour of being regarded as its founder. In 1889 large additions were made to the buildings, which now comprise fully equipped lecture-rooms, laboratories, library, reading-rooms, and apartments for the master, tutors, and students. Further additions were made in 1905, and the "coming of age" of the college was celebrated in 1909 by the enlargement of the building so as to provide a larger library and common-room, with the result that the college is now capable of accommodating about 70 students in residence. Its lectures are open to non-resident, as well as to resident, students. The master is the Rev. E. H. Sugden, M.A., B.Sc., Litt.D. During the last three years over 200 members of the college have gone to the front on active service and 25 have fallen at the post of duty.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

University
extension.

The system of local lectures and classes, known as University Extension, which has been in vogue in England for about 50 years, and has more lately been introduced into other countries of Europe and the United States, was organized in Victoria in 1891, under a Board appointed by the Melbourne University. The system aims at bringing teaching of the scope and standard of that given at the University itself within the reach of the numerous and constantly growing class of people whose position in life prevents them from attending lectures there, but who wish to devote their leisure to systematic reading and study. To these, material assistance is given by formal lectures, illustrated, where the subject requires it, by demonstrations and experiments, by informal classes and discussions, and by the examination and criticism of written essays. By thus systematizing the knowledge of the extension students, guiding their reading, and suggesting new methods and new directions of inquiry, the University imparts to them the higher education. The lectures are not of the ordinary popular kind. Their primary object is education, they seek to instruct and stimulate rather than to entertain; at the same time they endeavour to avoid pedantry and dullness. The lectures are delivered in courses, and thus fairly wide subjects may be treated with some approach to thoroughness. The movement is under the control of the University Extension Board, which consists of eighteen members, of whom not more than five may be non-graduates. This Board acts in conjunction with the local committees of the several centres scattered throughout the suburbs and country towns. The

Board supplies a list of suitable courses of lectures by competent and approved lecturers, and the local committee chooses the lecturer and subject.

Tutorial Classes have been organized by a Joint Committee consisting of representatives from the Extension Board and the Workers' Educational Association respectively. The Government has decided to make an annual grant of £1,200 for the development of Tutorial Class work, and Professor Meredith Atkinson has been appointed Director of Tutorial Classes.

The Honorary Secretary of the Extension Board and the Joint Committee for Tutorial Classes is Dr. J. McKellar Stewart, The University, 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 has been 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. Before the inception of the present method several different systems were tried. Prior to 1848 education was left to private enterprise; but in that year a denominational system was introduced and administered by a Board, a subsidy being granted by the State. Under that system, religious as well as secular instruction was imparted by the teachers—the former being given according to the principles of the denomination to which the school was attached, the clergy of which also exercised control over the instruction imparted. On the separation of Port Phillip district from New South Wales in 1851, a Board of National Education was established in the new Colony of Victoria "for the formation and management of schools to be conducted under Lord Stanley's National system of Education, and for administering the funds in connexion therewith." There were thus two systems of education under separate boards in operation at the same time, the duplicate system continuing in force until 1862, when it was abolished as being cumbrous and costly. The *Common Schools Act* 1862 transferred the powers of both boards to a single Board of Education, provided a minimum distance which must exist between new schools established, and fixed a minimum of scholars a school must have in order to entitle it to State aid; it prescribed, moreover, that four hours each day should be set apart

for secular instruction, and that no child should be refused admission to any school on account of its religious persuasion. Although this Act caused some improvement, it was not such as to wholly abolish denominationalism, nor did it reduce the number of small schools in the towns to any appreciable extent. It continued in force, however, for ten years, when it was repealed by the Act of 1872. Under those systems a fee ranging from 6d. to 2s. 6d. weekly was charged to all children except those whose parents were in destitute circumstances. 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 are to be before, and two after, noon.

In December, 1910, an Act of Parliament of a most comprehensive and far-reaching character was passed. It marks a most important epoch in the history of education in Victoria, and lays the foundation of a complete national system from the infant 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 this 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; and truant officers are appointed to see that the compulsory provisions are carried out.

Conveyance allowance. 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 2½ and 3 miles from the nearest school, or 4d. per day for children over six and under fourteen who reside 4 miles or over from the nearest school.

School Committees. Under Act No. 2301 Boards of Advice were abolished and a School Committee of not more than seven persons for each school or group of schools was substituted. The members of School Committees shall be such persons as are nominated for the purpose by the parents of children attending the school or group of schools 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 for 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 the accommodation of teachers (especially women teachers) appointed to the school.

Free subjects.

The following are the subjects in which instruction is absolutely free:—Reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, drill, singing, drawing, elementary science, manual training, gymnastics, and swimming where practicable; lessons on the laws of health and on temperance; needlework, and, where practicable, cookery and domestic economy for girls. Pupils buy their own books and material.

New Features.

The programme of instruction in force 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. 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." 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, 1917, 62 woodwork centres in operation, having an attendance of 9,285 boys; and 57 cookery centres, with an attendance of 5,620 girls, also one laundry centre with 228 girls in attendance. Four Schools of Domestic Arts, attended by about 650 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 in 62 country schools by the head teacher 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.

Special days.

In addition to Arbor Day (to which reference has been made), three other special days—Anzac Day, Empire Day, and Bird Day—call for mention. The landing of the Australians and New Zealanders on the Gallipoli Peninsula on the 25th April, 1915, has been commemorated in the schools each year since, 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 over-sea Dominions to recognise the day, and have since enthusiastically kept it in remembrance year by year. (As the date of Discovery Day—the 19th April—is very close to that of Anzac Day, its celebration has been abandoned for a time.) 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. About 60,200 of the older school children have joined the "Gould League of Bird Lovers," which was established for the protection of bird life.

Patriotic Fund.

The teachers and children in the State schools, with the aid of departmental officers, school committees, and parents, have been instrumental in raising a sum of £274,000 for the Department's war relief fund. In addition to assisting our own kin, a portion of the sum raised has been forwarded to the sufferers in France, Belgium, Serbia, Poland, Montenegro, and Russia. Towards the erection, equipment, and maintenance of the military hospital at Caulfield £10,000 was allotted. In addition to the contributions in money, 400,000 articles of comfort, in the shape of warm garments, hospital foods, sick-room aids, materials for games and amusements, books, magazines, writing tablets and the like, have been sent oversea and to the front. A wide field for juvenile effort was thrown open by the creation of the "Young Workers' Patriotic Guild," the members of which are pledged to personal labour for the War Relief Fund. The boys and girls may select what payable hobby they choose, and he or she who earns a £1 by "personal productive effort" is rewarded with a handsome certificate in colors, signed by the Minister and the Director of Education. There are now 65,000 members of this Guild, and 12,918 certificates have been issued.

Medical inspection.

The need for the medical inspection of school children has received widespread recognition, and the Victorian Education Department has followed the lead of progressive countries by appointing four medical inspectors. They 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.

Teachers' remuneration and classification.

Under the provisions of Act No. 2713 male teachers are divided into six and female teachers into five classes, there being no female teachers in the first class. The salaries for males, excluding junior teachers, range from £120 to £500, and those for females, excluding junior teachers and sewing mistresses, from £80 to £250. In addition to the head and assistant teachers, there are four classes of junior teachers, with salaries ranging from £30 to £60. Sewing mistresses receive £40 yearly.

State schools, teachers, and scholars, 1872 to 1917.

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, and those relating to the number of scholars to the financial year ended 30th June, for the last sixteen years; the reference is to 31st December and the years ended on that date respectively for all previous returns:—

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1916-17.

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
1901-2 ...	2,041	5,066	257,355	150,939	228,241
1902-3 ...	1,988	5,037	251,655	150,268	224,178
1903-4 ...	1,928	4,797	241,145	145,500	214,822
1904-5 ...	1,935	4,689	234,614	143,362	210,200
1905-6 ...	1,953	4,598	229,179	142,216	203,119
1906-7 ...	1,974	4,721	231,759	147,270	203,782
1907-8 ...	2,017	4,665	233,893	143,551	205,541
1908-9 ...	2,035	4,808	233,337	146,106	205,278
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

* In addition to these teachers, 506 were temporarily employed on 30th June, 1917.

Children's attendance at school, 1872 and 1915.

In 1872, before attendance at school was free and compulsory, each child on the average attended 58 out of every 100 days the school was open; now each child attends 73 out of every 100 school days.

Ages of State school scholars. The following table shows the number and percentage of distinct children attending State schools, below, at, and above the school age (6 and under 14), during the year 1916-17:—

AGES OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS.

Ages.	Distinct Children Attending--					
	Day Schools.		Night Schools.		Total.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Under 6 years ...	13,930	6·3	...	...	13,930	6·3
6 to 14 ,, ...	186,141	84·2	7	5·8	186,148	84·2
14 years and upwards ...	21,010	9·5	114	94·2	21,124	9·5
Total ...	221,081	100·0	121	100·0	221,202	100·0

Children of school age receiving instruction.

The estimated number of children in the State at school age (6 to 14 years) on 30th June, 1917, was 224,738, and of these 222,888 were being instructed in State and private schools. The number of children not being instructed in schools was, therefore, 1,850, and, if allowance be made for those being taught at home, for others who, having obtained certificates of exemption, have left school, and for those bodily or mentally afflicted, it would appear that the number of children whose education is being wholly neglected is very small.

REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

Registration of teachers and schools.

By Act No. 1013, 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 1916-17.

The number of registered schools, instructors in same, and individual scholars in attendance for 1872, the year before the adoption of the present secular system, for a number of subsequent years, and for the latest year available, were :—

REGISTERED SCHOOLS AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1916-17.

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
1901-2	872	2,379	43,182
1902-3	798	2,369	42,695
1903-4	787	2,360	42,214
1904-5	771	2,289	43,014
1905-6*	757	2,397	48,732
1906-7	751	2,313	49,803
1907-8	696	2,188	50,058
1908-9	678	2,178	49,145
1909-10	641	2,067	49,964
1910-11	587	1,975	51,495
1911-12	548	1,856	48,391
1912-13	519	1,846	49,549
1913-14	512	1,844	50,480
1914-15	509	1,879	52,638
1915-16	495	1,909	57,400
1916-17	495	1,970	56,193

* In this year the *Registration of Teachers and Schools Act* came into operation.

Scholars
attending
State and
registered
schools.

On comparing the number of scholars with the number attending schools, it is seen that 20 per cent. of the scholars during 1916-17 attended registered schools, and the balance, 80 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, and also receiving instruction in certain subjects which are considered essential for a teacher. If at the end of two years they choose to enter the Service, they are appointed as Junior Teachers, and in the course of a few years they can 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. The first, for Kindergarten or Infant Teachers, is open to any young teacher of the Education Department who has passed the Intermediate examination and who has taught for two years; and is also open, on payment of a fee of £10 10s. per annum, to non-Departmental students who are at least seventeen years of age, and who have passed the Intermediate examination. This course, which is for two years, gives a thorough training in the work of such institutions as Free Kindergartens, the Primary Department of private schools and the Infant Department of State Schools, and imparts the necessary instruction in all subjects connected with Kindergarten work. Students of the course, who pass all the tests in Theory and Practice, are awarded the Trained Kindergarten and Infant Teacher's Certificate.

The second course—for Primary Teachers—is open to any young teachers of the Education Department who have passed an examination entitling them to matriculate, and who have spent at least one year in practical teaching; and is open on payment of a fee of £10 10s. per annum to any non-Departmental student who is seventeen years of age and who has passed the matriculation examination. This course, which is for two years, imparts the necessary skill for teaching classes in the Primary department of a private or State school. One of the years, either before or after the year spent in the College, must be given exclusively to practical work. The students of the course who pass all its tests are awarded a Trained Primary Teacher's Certificate. This course is open to non-Departmental students who are 17 years of

age, who have passed the Intermediate examination and wish to be registered under the Council of Education, but who do not desire to have the Trained Primary Teacher's Certificate.

The third course—for Secondary Teachers—is open to any young teachers of the Education Department who have passed the Leaving Certificate examination, and who have taught for at least one year in a school, or to candidates who have won Government Exhibitions, or who have already passed in two years in any Degree Course of the Melbourne University. This course, which is for three years, is almost wholly under the University of Melbourne, and gives at the end the Diploma of Education of that University. The Course is open to any student of the University qualifying to sit for that Diploma.

Certificates are granted at the end of these courses according to the standards set by the Council of Education for teachers of Registered Schools. The regulations of the Teachers' College have recently been widened so as to permit students who have been trained in private schools to enter the College. At the end of their course the Department will classify them and immediately find them positions. A selection Committee meets at the beginning of each year, and determines the number of students for each course, and the course that each candidate for admission will be allowed to take.

Recently the work in the Kindergarten Department has been extended. A Diploma in Kindergarten and Infant Room work will now be granted to all students who, having gained the Trained Infant Teacher's certificate and having taught for some four or five years afterwards, spend four years further in the study of Kindergarten and Infant Room methods. It is hoped that this course, which is open to State and private students, will be instrumental in causing Kindergarten teachers to introduce experimental methods in their work. In connexion with the Infant Teacher's Certificate the Teachers' College carries on a large correspondence class, by means of which some 100 Infant teachers scattered over the State are assisted to pass the examinations for this certificate.

Students of the Domestic Arts Hostel receive their instruction in Science, English, Drawing, and Education at the Teachers' College.

All Departmental students are entitled to free instruction, and, either to reside at the College, or to receive an allowance of £18 per annum if they live at home. The students who reside at the

College must, after they leave, repay to the Department a sum of £12 for every year spent at the College. All Departmental students receive an allowance of £12 per annum towards personal expenses. Every "State" student is required to enter into an agreement, by himself and an approved surety, not to relinquish his course of training without the permission of the Minister, and for four years (three years in the case of women students resigning on account of marriage) after the termination of his studentship to teach in any school to which he may be appointed. Successful State students receive appointments as sixth class teachers, the salary for males being from £140 to £170, and for females from £80 to £130 a year, according as they are appointed assistants or head teachers; or, if they hold the Secondary Teacher's Certificate, they may be appointed at higher salaries to High Schools or Elementary High Schools. During 1917 there were in all 379 students in training at the Teachers' College or in classes connected with it, of whom 60 were taking portion of their work at the University. Sixty-four of the students are in residence.

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 to 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 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. Ten 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, Bairnsdale, Benalla, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Coburg, Echuca, Essendon, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Kyneton, Maryborough, Melbourne (two), St. Arnaud, Stawell, and Williamstown, and district high schools, which are

also equipped as agricultural high schools, at Ballarat, Colac, Leongatha, Mansfield, Mildura, Sale, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warragul, and Warrnambool. During the term ended 30th June, 1917, there were in attendance at these schools 5,534 pupils, of whom 2,866 were boys and 2,668 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 3 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.

**University
High School.**

For the practical part of the work of training secondary teachers the institution now known as the University High School was opened in a State building in 1910, and this 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.**

There are now seventeen higher elementary schools at Beechworth, Casterton, Charlton, Clunes, Corryong, Daylesford, Dean, Donald, Inglewood, Kerang, Kyabram, Nhill, Orbost, Portland, Rutherglen, Traralgon, and Warracknabeal. During the term ended 30th June, 1917, there were in attendance at these schools 1,562 pupils, of whom 787 were boys and 775 were girls. Education in the higher elementary schools is free throughout the course, which extends over two or four years.

There are also ten schools—four in the metropolitan area, two in urban centres, and four in country districts—in which higher elementary classes are held, and these were attended by 1,596 pupils in 1917.

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 that 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.

The Minister of Public Instruction may annually award scholarships as under :—

No. and Kind.	Age Requirement of Candidate.	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
100 Junior	Under 14½ years	4 years ..	Free tuition at a district high school and £4 for school requisites, or £12 for tuition and school requisites at an approved registered secondary school; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for board or up to £5 for transit.
40 Senior	Under 18½ years	4-6 years..	£40 annually towards expense of any course at the University.
50 Junior Technical	Under 14 years	2 years ..	Free tuition at a junior technical school, or, in the industrial course, at an approved district high or higher elementary school and £4 for school requisites; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for board, or up to £5 for transit.
55 Senior Technical	.. ..	3-5 years..	Free tuition for full length of approved courses at approved technical schools; also £30 for day students or £10 for night students.
60 Teaching	14-17 years ..	3 years ..	As for "Junior."
20 nominated courses	.. ..	4-6 years..	Free tuition in agriculture, mining or veterinary science at the University; also, in certain cases, a subsistence allowance up to £26.

In addition 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 in the cases of pupils of State secondary schools who show special aptitude and promise and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances.

STANDARD OF EDUCATION

The number of marriages celebrated in 1917, was 9,506, and there were 17 men and 15 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.

Signing with marks.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Technical
schools.

The whole of the Technical Schools in the State, prior to 1910, were under the control of local Councils. Act 2301, passed in that year, provided for the schools being 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 30th June, 1917, was 23.

The former lack of any organized method for preparing pupils for courses in Technical Schools largely neutralized the efforts of the instructors in such 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. The course has been very popular, and the accommodation has not been sufficient for the number of students coming forward.

The aim of the Victorian technical schools is to provide vocational courses of training in industrial subjects. The various branches of Engineering and its subdivisions, Mining, Metallurgy, Technical and Agricultural Chemistry, subjects connected with the building and 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, and the Ballarat and Bendigo Schools of Mines, have an extensive curriculum embracing the most important industrial subjects. The smaller schools in some country districts have courses for 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 is the College of Domestic Economy, and the girls' Junior Technical departments in the Swinburne and Ballarat 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 showing the Government expenditure on each technical school during the last five years. The expenditure

in 1916-17 was greater than for any corresponding period since technical schools were established :—

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1912-13 TO 1916-17.

Name.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
	£	£	£	£	£
Bairnsdale	913	2,019	1,280	1,276	1,179
Ballarat	4,475	6,019	10,847	8,393	8,383
Beechworth	1,065	689	711	864	723
Bendigo	5,447	7,605	5,061	5,033	5,396
Brunswick .. .. .	..	..	132	9,850	5,216
Castlemaine	816	3,358	1,428	1,758	2,100
Collingwood	5,379	3,662	3,092	5,571	4,353
Daylesford	416	900	2,238	850	1,028
Echuca	300	861	449	475	600
Footscray .. .. .	..	..	..	8,288	4,906
Geelong (Gordon Tech. Col.) ..	1,895	5,865	3,594	3,898	8,291
Glenferrie (Swinburne Tech. Col.)	5,062	4,244	6,458	8,443	11,338
Horsham	416	555	487	425	475
Kyneton	271	252	250	225	..
Maryborough	1,754	1,076	1,054	1,190	1,386
Melbourne (Working Men's College)	11,354	19,148	23,402	14,578	18,324
Melbourne Junior Technical School	4,391	7,073	6,929	6,573	6,780
Nhill	239	254	265	199	..
Prahran	100	213	1,756	4,926	3,914
Sale	400	455	400	400	410
South Melbourne (not yet opened)	..	..	..	5	5
Stawell (with Ararat Branch) ..	910	1,349	1,272	1,205	1,211
Sunshine	380	2,167	1,778	1,664	1,818
Warrnambool	163	2,557	1,439	1,892	2,860
College of Domestic Economy ..	948	901	970	904	795
Miscellaneous	2,044	2,432	2,560	1,315	1,514
Total	49,138	73,654	77,852	90,200	93,005

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.

THE 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.

Fees. All fees are payable in advance, and no refund is allowed. Students under 18 years of age, those under 21 in receipt of less wages than 25s. per week, and indentured apprentices, are admitted at reduced fees to many of the evening classes. 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.

Fees Payable.

Full Day Courses.					Fee.
Mechanical, Electrical, Municipal, Marine, and Mining Engineering—Diploma Courses—					
					£ s.
First year ...	...	...	...	...	3 10 per term
Second year ...	...	...	...	...	4 0 "
Third year ...	...	...	...	...	4 10 "
Metallurgy—Diploma Course—					
First year ...	...	..	...	...	3 10 "
Second year ...	...	...	...	...	4 0 "
Third year ...	...	...	...	...	4 10 "
Applied Chemistry—Diploma Course—					
First year ...	...	...	...	...	3 10 "
Second year ...	...	...	...	...	4 0 "
Third year ...	...	...	...	...	4 10 "
Fourth year ...	...	...	...	...	5 0 "
Woolsorting ...	...	...	...	...	5 0 "
Art Course, Full ...	...	...	...	...	1 10 "
„ „ Half-Day ...	...	...	...	...	1 0 "

Evening Classes.

Arithmetic	} Various amounts ranging from 5s. upwards per term.
Algebra ...	...	...	...	...
Geometry ...	...	...	...	...
Trigonometry ...	...	...	...	...
Practical Geometry ...	...	...	...	...
Dressmaking ...	...	...	...	...
Millinery ...	...	...	...	...
Applied Mechanics ...	...	...	...	...
Applied Electricity ...	...	...	...	...
Architecture ...	...	...	...	...
Building Construction ...	...	...	...	...
Surveying ...	...	...	...	...
Hydraulics ...	...	...	...	...
Chemistry ...	...	...	...	...
Assaying ...	...	...	...	...
Metallurgy ...	...	...	...	...
Engineering Drawing ...	...	...	...	...
Telephone Mechanics ...	...	...	...	...
Science, Trade, Commercial, and Mining, and numerous other Subjects ...	...	...	...	...
Evening Art Courses (Drawing, Design, Modelling)	10s. per term.
Evening Courses for Experts' Certificates	From 15s. 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 Turri prizes, awarded for original inventions of students, consist of two prizes of £5 5s., and four prizes of £1 1s. each. The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects awards prizes in the architecture and building construction classes, and the Wiley Russell Manufacturing Company awards a set of stocks and dies to the best student in fitting and turning.

The Beazley Bequest Scholarships, of which there are twenty-eight, of the value of £810 are awarded annually for trade subjects. The following scholarships cover four years' free instruction in the Day Courses:—The Danks (2), The Arnot, The Lady Gillott, and The Colin Thompson.

The receipts from the Government, in 1917, amounted to £16,804.

Over 160 classes are held in the following departments:—Commercial, Elocution and Music, Mathematics, Engineering, 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) Municipal 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, Weaving, Dressmaking, Millinery, Plain and Decorative Needlework.

In the evening school the following courses for certificates are in operation:—Assayers, geologists, electricians, municipal engineers, traction engineers, marine engineers, telephone artificers, mechanical draughtsmen, public analysts, architects, carpenters, printers, sign-writers and house decorators, plumbers, coach builders, and motor car body makers. There are also courses for marine engineers, and

for naval artificers, both fitters and wood workers. The following figures give an indication of the comparative amount of work done at the College during the years 1913 to 1917:—

STUDENTS AT WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, 1913 TO 1917.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Students enrolled—					
Average per term	2,341	2,318	2,360	2,312	2,483
Males over 21	574	614	497	424	390
„ under 21—Apprentices	701	734	818	878	754
„ „ Others	748	739	768	708	937
Females	318	281	277	302	402
Fees received during the year	£ 7,213	7,315	7,547	7,167	7,985
Average fee per student	61s. 5d.	63s. 0d.	63s. 4d.	61s. 0d.	64s. 8d.
Number of classes	160	163	164	168	172
„ instructors	85	86	87	89	95
Salaries paid instructors	£ 12,267	13,499	14,853	15,206	16,411

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

Public
Library of
Victoria.

The buildings of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria cost £325,346. 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 £1,552,475 at the end of 1917. 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 4,256 volumes were purchased, 2,902 volumes presented, 404 volumes obtained under the "Copyright Act," and 48,573 newspapers added to the Library during the year 1917. At the end of that year the Reference Library contained 251,294 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., and was visited during the year 1917 by about 450,000 persons. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 123,433 volumes during 1917, the number of persons to whom the books were lent being 7,747. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of the year mentioned was 34,967, of which 788 were added during the year.

National
Gallery.

The National Gallery at the end of 1917 contained 19,395 works of art, viz., 584 oil paintings, 4,686 objects of art, statuary, &c., and 14,125 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 in the year by 4 male and 15 female students, and the school of drawing by 38 male and 47 female students. The average annual income from the Felton bequest amounts to £8,000, which is expended 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 1917, it contained nearly 9,000 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 1917 the expenditure on specimens, furniture, materials, &c., was £560.

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 and official Gazettes of the principal countries of the world. 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 eighteen 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 1917 being £2,890. Of these libraries 471 furnished returns in 1917, which show that they possessed 882,326 volumes, and received £50,339 in revenue, that the total expenditure was £45,436—£7,340 on books, &c., and £38,096 on maintenance—and that 2,444,800 visits were paid to the 419 institutions which kept records of the attendances of visitors. As to the class of literature in general use, it appears, from particulars

received from a number of the institutions, that works of fiction are in much greater demand than any other class. Next come general literature, history, and travel, in that order.

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, etc., 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 this 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 year 1917 amounted to £3,804, consisting of rents, £1,443, and aquarium and other receipts, £2,361. The expenditure totalled £4,386, viz., £1,803 for expenses of the aquarium; and £2,583 for maintenance, improvement of the building and gardens, insurance, and sundry expenses. The deposits and balances in banks to the credit of the trust amount to £1,137.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

Botanic Garden. The Melbourne Botanic Garden, which has now had an existence of over 70 years, is situated on the south side of the River Yarra, and is at a distance of about a mile and a half from the city. The area of the garden proper, including lawns, groups, &c., is 88 acres, whilst that of the lake, including the added elbow, or bend of the River Yarra, amounts to 12 acres in addition. This now historic garden, together with the Government House grounds (62 acres), and the Domain (150 acres), extends over a total area of 312 acres. The facts as to the commencement and progress of the establishment, compiled from the most reliable sources, are to be found in the profusely illustrated edition of the "Descriptive Guide to the Botanic Gardens," published by the Government Printer in 1908, at a price of 1s.

Mr. J. Cronin has been curator of the gardens since 1910.

The gates are opened daily from April to September (inclusive) at 7.30 a.m., and from October to March (inclusive) at 7 a.m., and closed at sunset.

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL AND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

**Royal
Zoological
and Acclima-
tisation
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 Post Office, and can be reached by the tramcars starting every few minutes from the lower end of Elizabeth-street, or by rail to Royal Park Station. 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 are exhibited here, such as the hippopotamus, giraffe, Indian elephant, &c., as well as many native animals. The Patron of the Society is His Excellency the State Governor, and the Director is Mr. W. H. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., &c., &c.

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. 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 twenty members (ten amateurs and ten professionals), the administrative work being conducted by the secretary at 325 Collins-street, Melbourne (Tel., Central 10,459).

**Other
societies.**

There are about 40 other horticultural societies in the State, situated at Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Mildura, Terang, Traralgon, and other centres. The Government provided £151 in aid of these associations during the year ended 30th June, 1917.

PUBLIC RESERVES.

**Public
reserves.**

Greater Melbourne is amply supplied with public reserves and parks, the total area devoted to such purposes having been 6,126½ acres in 1917. A list of these reserves, together with a statement of their respective areas, appears 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 is given on page 533 of the same volume.

At the end of 1917 there were in the State 3,132 regular churches and chapels, and 1,910 other buildings where religious services were held—a total of 5,042 places of public worship—and these were attended by 1,992 regular clergymen. The following statement contains particulars in regard to the different denominations:—

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, 1917.

Denominations.	Number of Clergy, Ministers, &c.	Buildings used for Public Worship.		
		Churches and Chapels.	Other Buildings.	Total.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England ...	422	699	589	1,288
Presbyterian Church of Victoria ...	275	586	517	1,103
Free Presbyterian ...	2	9	3	12
Methodist ...	256	843	445	1,288
Independent or Congregational ...	68	83	12	95
Baptist ...	79	107	65	172
Lutheran ...	22	48	13	61
Salvation Army ...	432	122	32	154
Church of Christ ...	72	81	10	91
Church for Deaf Mutes ...	1	1	...	1
Other Protestant ...	14	23	21	44
Roman Catholic Church ...	337	517	197	714
New Church (or Swedenborgian) ...	1	2	...	2
Catholic Apostolic Church ...	2	1	...	1
Greek Orthodox Church ...	1	1	...	1
Jews ...	6	6	3	9
Re-organized Church of Latter-Day Saints ...	2	3	3	6
Total ...	1,992	3,132	1,910	5,042

The Sunday Schools of the various religious bodies numbered 2,932, and the teachers 23,714; the number of scholars on the rolls was 224,771—100,085 males and 124,686 females.

Religions of
the people.

The following table shows the principal religions of the people as ascertained at the census of 1911 :—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA AT THE
CENSUS OF 1911.

Religion.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent. of Population.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England	225,601	225,486	451,087	35·14
Protestant so stated	13,376	10,740	24,116	1·83
Presbyterian	116,653	117,900	234,553	18·27
Methodist	84,376	92,286	176,662	13·76
Independent or Congregational	7,024	8,860	16,484	1·28
Baptist	14,134	17,110	31,244	2·43
Lutheran	7,025	4,657	11,682	·91
Salvation Army	3,409	4,390	7,799	·61
Unitarian	314	198	512	·04
Church of Christ	7,356	9,155	16,511	1·29
Seventh Day Adventists	551	892	1,443	·11
Other Protestant Churches	3,311	4,243	8,054	·63
Total	484,230	495,917	980,147	76·35
Roman Catholic Church	139,174	147,259	286,433	22·31
Other Denominations—				
Greek Catholic	385	88	473	·04
Jews	3,214	3,056	6,270	·49
Other Religions	3,081	669	3,750	·29
Sceptics, &c.	4,780	1,907	6,687	·52
Total specified	634,364	648,896	1,283,260	100·00
„ unspecified	20,727	11,064	31,791	..
Grand Total	655,591	659,960	1,315,551	..

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

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE PER 100 OF THE
POPULATION, 1861 TO 1911.

Religion.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
Protestant Churches—						
Church of England (including Protestant so stated)	40·60	36·01	36·74	37·33	36·52	37·02
Presbyterian	16·67	15·78	15·85	14·94	16·16	18·27
Methodist	8·90	13·16	13·58	14·14	15·21	13·76
Independent or Congregational	2·45	2·54	2·35	1·98	1·45	1·28
Baptist	1·72	2·28	2·40	2·50	2·75	2·43
Lutheran	1·92	1·47	1·32	1·39	1·18	·91
Salvation Army .. ..	..	..	..	1·21	·74	·61
Church of Christ .. ..	..	·50	·67	·74	·90	1·29
Other Protestant Churches	·59	·51	·37	·66	1·45	·78
Total Protestant Churches	72·85	72·25	72·98	74·89	76·36	76·35
Roman Catholic Church	21·02	23·83	24·02	22·24	22·26	22·31
Jews	·56	·50	·51	·58	·50	·49
Others	5·57	3·42	2·49	2·29	·88	·85
Total specified	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

* Included with "Other Protestant Churches."

**Protestants
and Roman
Catholics.**

The total number of Protestants of all denominations in 1911 was 980,147, as against 904,934 in 1901. The Roman Catholics numbered 286,433 in 1911, and 263,710 in 1901. The rate of increase of each of these bodies in the ten years was, therefore, about the same as that of the population.

**Protestant
Sects.**

The members of the Church of England and the Presbyterians had improved their positions relatively to the total population between 1901 and 1911, but the Independents had decreased from 17,141 to 16,484, and the adherents of the Salvation Army from 8,830 to 7,799.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Legislation.

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 table of contributions had to be certified to by an actuary of an assurance company, or "some person" appointed by the registrar before the latter could register the rules of the society.

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 under 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 nothing in 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 fully qualified barrister 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 not more than threepence 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 sixteen societies having a membership of over 500 each, twelve have assets whose ratio to liabilities exceeds, or closely approximates, to 20s. in the £1, and only one society (whose membership is under 500) has a lower ratio than 17s. in the £1. 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.

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)—gives power to societies to reinsure with the Government or with an approved life assurance company their liabilities to members who are engaged on active naval or military service in connexion with the present war. The terms and conditions of reinsurance are to be approved by the Government Statist, and the fulfilment of every contract is guaranteed by the Government of Victoria, which will pay out of consolidated revenue the amounts required to meet the liabilities under the reinsurance contracts, in so far as the premiums received from the societies are insufficient to provide for these. The arrangement in regard to reinsurance is to cease on the termination of the war, when the Government will pay to the societies the amounts required to discharge outstanding liabilities, and will return to them any surplus moneys in its possession.

Up to the end of September, 1918, 14 societies had taken advantage of the reinsurance scheme, or had notified their intention of doing so. The number of enlisted members in these societies at the date mentioned was about 14,752.

The societies decided at an early stage of the war to pay all contributions necessary to keep good on the books those of their members who had enlisted. The amount of such contributions which had been paid up to August, 1918, was about £108,352.

Registered societies must not contract to pay more than 40s. per week in sickness, and the practice now obtaining in Victoria is to pay a maximum of only 20s. per week. Central bodies 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 shall be 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. Interest is payable at 4 per cent., and investment is optional, but the societies are taking advantage of it to an increasing extent. The amount invested in the stock at the end of 1917 was £374,154. 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 the society for medicines and medical appliances, may now be supplied with medicines for which payment is required.

**Benefits of
friendly
societies.**

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 sufficient sum to cover funeral expenses on the death of a member or his wife. The usual sickness benefits payable are 20s. per week during the first six months' 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. 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 under eighteen years of age, 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 portions—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 6d. to 8d. per week, according to the cost incurred in providing medical benefits. The total sum payable by each member thus ranges from about 1s. to 1s. 8d. per week. There are in addition small initiation fees, and, in some instances, registration fees for second wives.

Progress of friendly societies.

The total membership of Victorian Friendly Societies increased from 111,557 in 1905, to 158,181 at the close of 1917—an increase during the twelve years of 46,624 members. In the year 1914 there was an increase of 2,461 members, but there was a decrease of 1,991 in 1915. This decrease was to be expected, as many young men who were eligible for membership were serving at the front, and a number of members of societies who were on active service had been killed or had died from wounds or disease during 1915. In 1916 the membership of ordinary male societies decreased by 565, the reason for the decrease being the same as in the previous year, but there was an increase of 704 in female and other societies. The number of members at the end of 1916 was, therefore, 139 more than at the beginning of the year. During 1917, there was an increase in the number of members of all societies of 292. The membership of ordinary male societies increased by 99. The funds increased during the twelve-year period, 1905–17, from £1,626,555 to £3,017,503—an addition of £1,390,948. These are well invested, the return from the sick and funeral fund averaging about 4½ per cent. for the year 1917. There is a number of female societies, the particulars for which are included above. At the end of 1917 these had a membership of 13,175 and funds amounting to £60,901.

A table is appended showing the membership, revenue, expenditure, and total funds of friendly societies in Victoria during the years 1913–1917 :—

Year.			Membership.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Funds.
				£	£	£
1913	...	...	157,280	608,785	477,292	2,490,957
1914	...	...	159,741	620,765	467,506	2,644,216
1915	...	...	157,750	634,649	503,078	2,775,787
1916	...	...	157,889	672,650	536,259	2,912,178
1917	...	...	158,181	653,055	547,730	3,017,503

The following is a more detailed statement in regard to the societies for the five years, 1913 to 1917:—

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1913 TO 1917.

(Including Female Societies.)

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Number of societies ...	47	46	45	46	48
Number of branches ...	1,501	1,524	1,533	1,522	1,516
Average number of members	155,601	158,511	158,746	157,819	158,035
Number of members sick	27,434	29,014	28,784	28,389	26,468
Weeks for which sick pay was allowed	220,462	230,979	239,134	291,077	275,388
Deaths of members ...	1,287	1,348	1,703	1,909	2,479
Deaths of registered wives	464	495	472	502	478
	£	£	£	£	£
Income of sick and funeral fund	327,829	342,294	347,795	361,380	357,525
Income of incidental fund	255,445	253,341	257,880	282,955	264,710
Other Income ...	23,511	25,130	28,974	23,315	30,820
Total Income ...	606,785	620,765	634,649	672,650	653,055
Expenditure of sick and funeral fund	196,382	194,873	213,775	216,712	251,250
Expenditure of incidental fund	252,028	250,199	259,713	265,508	268,647
Other Expenditure ...	28,882	22,434	29,590	24,039	27,833
Total Expenditure...	477,292	467,506	503,078	536,259	547,730
Amount to credit of sick and funeral fund	2,338,165	2,485,586	2,619,606	2,734,274	2,840,549
Amount to credit of incidental fund	90,011	93,153	91,320	108,767	104,830
Amount invested—sick and funeral fund	2,263,693	2,407,557	2,532,817	2,650,796	2,762,036
Amount invested—incidental fund	77,859	83,635	84,143	98,299	93,519
Amount invested—other funds	57,989	61,521	61,859	64,786	67,916
Total invested ...	2,399,541	2,552,713	2,678,819	2,813,881	2,923,471
„ funds ...	2,490,957	2,644,216	2,775,787	2,912,178	3,017,503

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.

Societies lost slightly less than 6 per cent. of their members in 1917 through secession. This is an improvement as compared with 1916, in which year the secession rate was 7 per cent. of the mean membership. Most of the secessions are those of new members who allow their membership to lapse before they have time to appreciate its value. In this respect the experience is similar to that which prevails in life assurance companies. Expenses of management absorbed about 17 per cent. of the contributions to all funds during 1917. This ratio is very similar to that prevailing in well-managed life assurance companies, and is considerably below

the rate in industrial assurance business. When it is remembered that the lodge element is an essential feature of friendly societies, and that a considerable outlay is unavoidable in connexion with the lodges, it would appear that the rate of expense is very moderate.

Sickness and
Mortality
Experience
1903-7.

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.

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 less 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 have been passed at frequent intervals, and gradually the community has come to recognize 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 factories laws. No one can occupy a factory unless the place is properly lighted, 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 closing time of shops is carefully regulated. The hours of shop employees are also restricted, and they must be given a half holiday every week.

**Wages
Boards.**

The Wages Board system 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 scheme. 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 he introduces into Parliament a resolution in favour of the appointment of a Special Board. After this resolution has been passed by both Houses of Parliament, the Governor in Council may, if he thinks fit, appoint a Special 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 are to nominate some outside person as chairman; or, if no agreement can be arrived at as to such nomination, then the Governor in Council 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 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, or for work done on Sundays and public holidays, and for time occupied in travelling to and from work; the number of and also 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 Special Board appointed to fix rates for the work in question.

Resolutions in favour of appointing two new Special Boards (the Chemists' Shops Board and the Dispensaries Board) were carried in both Houses of the Legislature during 1917.

The powers conferred on the Milliners' Board were during the year redefined in a new Resolution passed by Parliament. The Board has been renamed the Headwear Board.

On 31st December, 1917, there were 149 Special Boards existent or authorized, affecting about 150,000 employees. Two of these Boards have not been constituted, viz., the Slaughtering for Export Board and the Felt Hatters Board.

The following is a list of Boards existent or authorized :—

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Aerated Water Trade | 37. Clothing (Waterproof) |
| 2. Aerated Water Carters | 38. Coal and Coke |
| 3. Agricultural Implements | 39. Confectioners |
| 4. Agricultural Implements
(Country) | 40. Coopers |
| 5. Asphalters | 41. Cordage |
| 6. Bagmakers | 42. Cycle Trade |
| 7. Bedsteadmakers | 43. Dispensaries |
| 8. Bill Posters | 44. Drapers |
| 9. Biscuit | 45. Dressmakers |
| 10. Boiler Makers | 46. Dyers and Clothes Cleaners |
| 11. Boot | 47. Electrical Installation |
| 12. Boot Dealers | 48. Electrical Supply |
| 13. Brassworkers | 49. Electroplaters |
| 14. Bread | 50. Engine-drivers (Factory) |
| 15. Bread (Country) | 51. Engine-drivers (Mining) |
| 16. Bread (Provincial) | 52. Engineering |
| 17. Bread Carters | 53. Engravers |
| 18. Brewers | 54. Farriers |
| 19. Bricklayers | 55. Fellmongers |
| 20. Brick Trade | 56. Fish and Poultry |
| 21. Brushmakers | 57. Flour |
| 22. Builders' Labourers | 58. Flour (Country) |
| 23. Butchers | 59. Fuel and Fodder |
| 24. Butchers (Country) | 60. Fuel and Fodder (Country) |
| 25. Butchers (Provincial) | 61. Furniture |
| 26. Butter | 62. Furniture Dealers |
| 27. Candlemakers | 63. Gardeners |
| 28. Cardboard Box Trade | 64. Gas Meter |
| 29. Carpenters | 65. Glass Workers |
| 30. Carriage | 66. Grocers |
| 31. Carters | 67. Grocers' Sundries |
| 32. Chaffcutters | 68. Grocers (Wholesale) |
| 33. Chemists' Shops | 69. Hairdressers |
| 34. Cigar Trade | 70. Ham and Bacon Curers |
| 35. Clerks (Commercial) | 71. Hardware |
| 36. Clothing (Manufacturing
Men's) | 72. Hats (Straw) |
| | 73. Hatters (Felt) |
| | 74. *Headwear |

* Formerly the Milliners Board.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 75. Horsehair | 113. Polish |
| 76. Hospital Attendants | 114. Pottery Trade |
| 77. Hotel Employees | 115. Printers |
| 78. Ice | 116. Printers (Country) |
| 79. Ironmoulders | 117. Printers (Provincial) |
| 80. Jam Trade | 118. Process Engravers |
| 81. Jewellers | 119. Quarry |
| 82. Knitters | 120. Rubber Trade |
| 83. Leather Goods | 121. Saddlery |
| 84. Lift | 122. Saddlery (Country) |
| 85. Livery Stable | 123. Sewer Builders |
| 86. Malt | 124. Shirt |
| 87. Manure (Animal) | 125. Shop Assistants (Country) |
| 88. Manure (Artificial) | 126. Slaters and Tilers |
| 89. Marine Store | 127. Slaughtering for Export |
| 90. Meat Preservers | 128. Soap and Soda |
| 91. Men's Clothing | 129. Starch |
| 92. Millet Broom | 130. Stationery |
| 93. Miners (Coal) | 131. Stone Cutters |
| 94. Miners (Gold) | 132. Storemen, Packers, and
Sorters |
| 95. Motor Drivers | 133. Tanners |
| 96. Nailmakers | 134. Tea Packing |
| 97. Night Watchmen's | 135. Tentmakers |
| 98. Office Cleaners | 136. Tiemakers |
| 99. Opticians | 137. Tilelayers |
| 100. Organ | 138. Timber Fellers |
| 101. Ovenmakers | 139. Tinsmiths |
| 102. Painters | 140. Tramway |
| 103. Paper | 141. Tuckpointers |
| 104. Paper Bag Trade | 142. Underclothing |
| 105. Pastrycooks | 143. Undertakers |
| 106. Perambulator | 144. Watchmakers |
| 107. Photographers | 145. Wicker |
| 108. Picture Frame | 146. Wireworkers |
| 109. Plasterers | 147. Woodworkers |
| 110. Plasterers (Fibrous) | 148. Woodworkers (Country) |
| 111. Plate Glass | 149. Woolen Trade |
| 112. Plumbers | |

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 members of the Board are paid 10s. a sitting, with the addition of necessary out-of-pocket expenses. The Chairman receives £1 per sitting. 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 order that any arrears of wages that may be due be paid. It is, however, open to any worker, if he has made demand in writing on the employers within two months from the date same became due, to sue in a civil court for the amount of wages owing to him. Employers must pay all wages due at least once in every fortnight.

Appeals.

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 Special Board, and for dealing with any Determination of a Special Board referred to the Court by the Minister. The Court has been asked to make or alter twenty-six Determinations. Since 1st January, 1915, the Court 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. The Honorable Sir H. E. A. Hodges 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 decides every reference to the Court. Since its re-constitution in 1915 the Court has dealt with twelve cases.

Rise in earnings.

During the year 1917 determinations made by 141 Boards appointed under the Act were in force. The figures taken from the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories show in most cases a considerable increase in average

earnings consequent thereon. Some instances of the increases are given below:—

Trade.	Average Weekly Wage Paid to all Employees.		Increase.
	Before First Determination was made.	In 1917.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aerated Water	1 6 7	2 4 1	0 17 6
Agricultural Implements	1 19 5	2 16 2	0 16 9
Asphalters	2 2 10	2 18 2	0 15 4
Bedsteadmakers	1 12 2	2 16 8	1 4 6
Boot	1 3 2	2 4 9	1 1 7
Boot Dealers	1 6 11	2 0 9	0 13 10
Bread	1 12 6	3 4 3	1 11 9
Brewers	1 14 4	2 16 0	1 1 8
Brushmakers	1 3 1	2 3 7	1 0 6
Butchers	1 17 8	3 0 1	1 2 5
Candlemakers	1 4 8	2 12 9	1 8 1
Carpenters	2 7 6	3 12 6	1 5 0
Clothing	1 0 0	1 12 7	0 12 7
„ Waterproof.. ..	1 2 3	1 15 0	0 12 9
Commercial Clerks	1 10 7	2 10 11	1 0 4
Coopers	1 15 7	3 17 4	2 1 9
Engravers	1 16 11	2 10 10	0 13 11
Farriers	1 15 2	3 0 1	1 4 11
Furniture Trade—			
(a) European (Cabinet making, &c).	1 9 1	2 12 1	1 3 0
(b) European (Mantelpieces)	1 13 6	2 16 7	1 3 1
Glassworkers	1 14 11	3 6 0	1 11 1
Grocers	1 7 4	2 8 7	1 1 3
Hairdressers	1 2 9	2 5 3	1 2 6
Ice	2 10 3	3 8 9	0 18 6
Jewellers	1 13 10	2 14 3	1 0 5
Lift Attendants	1 5 0	2 10 8	1 5 8
Malt	2 1 1	3 3 0	1 1 11
Marine Store	1 5 7	2 15 10	1 10 3
Men's Clothing	1 18 4	2 12 0	0 13 8
Millet Broom	1 7 11	2 12 6	1 4 7
Milliners	0 10 11	0 19 6	0 8 7
Painters	2 0 9	3 5 0	1 4 3
Picture Frame	1 3 11	2 0 5	0 16 6
Plate Glass	1 7 6	2 11 2	1 3 8
Plumbers	1 12 8	3 5 6	1 12 10
Pottery	1 8 1	2 9 1	1 1 0
Saddlery	1 7 1	2 11 10	1 4 9
„ Country	1 10 7	2 1 7	0 11 0
Slaters and Tilers	2 0 8	3 11 6	1 10 10
Starch	1 0 9	2 8 7	1 7 10
Stonecutters	1 15 11	3 2 11	1 7 0
Tanners	1 11 9	2 19 8	1 7 11
Watchmakers	1 14 2	3 2 2	1 8 0
Wicker	1 2 11	2 6 0	1 3 1
Woodworkers	1 13 2	2 18 3	1 5 1
„ Country	2 9 0	3 2 7	0 13 7

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.

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.

On 20th October, 1914, the *Apprentices Act 1914*, No. 2540, came into operation, and it will remain in force until six months after the publication in the *Government Gazette* of a proclamation that a state of war or danger of war no longer exists. The effect of this Act is that an employer may, on obtaining a permit from the Minister of Labour, employ his apprentices for the same number of hours in each week as his adult employees are employed, and pay them *pro rata*.

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, Thursday, and Friday at 8 p.m.; and on Wednesday or Saturday at 1 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 10 p.m. on Friday; if it be closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, it may be kept open till 11 p.m. on Saturday. Bicycle shops, dairy produce shops, flower shops, and pawnbrokers' shops (so far only as giving in or taking out pledges are concerned) are now required to close at 8 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 10 p.m. on Friday, and at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Butchers' shops are required to close at 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 8 p.m. on Friday, and at 1 p.m. on Saturday. 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 10 p.m., and on Saturday 1 p.m.

The Fourth Schedule shops are:—

- Booksellers' and news agents' shops.
- Chemists' shops.
- Coffee-houses.
- Confectioners.
- Cooked meat (other than tinned meat) shops.
- Eating-houses.

Fish and oyster shops.
 Fruit and vegetable shops.
 Restaurants.
 Tobacconists' shops.

The hours for closing such shops are not fixed by the Act, but may be fixed by regulation. Under a Regulation chemists' shops have to be closed at 10 p.m. on Friday, 1 p.m. on Saturday (re-opening from 6 to 8 p.m.) and 8 p.m. on other week days (including Sunday), and cooked meat shops are required to close at 10 p.m. on Friday, 11 p.m. on Saturday, and 8 p.m. on other week days.

Under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act 1915* the Minister can grant permission to certain shopkeepers, 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 only applies to the Metropolitan District.

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

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. 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 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 Fridays. 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 ranging from 2s. 6d. to 63s., according to the number of persons employed. During the year 1917 25,942 shops employing 26,795 persons were registered.

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 a 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 view 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 wages must be paid at least once in every fortnight. There were registered in 1886 only 1,949 factories with 39,506 employees, whereas in 1917 the figures were 7,772 factories with 97,561 employees.

GOVERNMENT LABOUR BUREAU.

Government Labour Bureau. 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 a bureau 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 bureau 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 be otherwise unable to reach, these advances being subject to orders for repayment out of earnings.

The following is a summary of the operations of the bureau for the year 1917 in respect to registrations and applicants sent to employment :—

GOVERNMENT LABOUR BUREAU.

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.
1917—January	977	418
February	725	247
March	1,012	346
April	748	191
May	808	559
June	752	351
July	639	319
August	709	149
September	751	189
October	630	511
November	472	339
December	278	266

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

Year.	Registrations Effected.		Engagements Effected.
	In the City.	In the Country.	
1913	22,858	6,185	7,441
1914	33,878	11,274	8,302
1915	26,369	7,914	7,884
1916	13,483	2,847	3,956
1917	10,448	2,127	3,885

Regarding the number of distinct individuals included in the registrations and engagements effected, the officer in charge of the bureau states that the number of men who are regular applicants at the bureau 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 1917 the number of railway tickets advanced was 3,419, valued at £2,930, of which £2,536 has been refunded. During the past seventeen years 31,960 railway tickets have been advanced, of the value of £24,467, of which £14,986 has been refunded.

**Workers'
Compensation
Act.**

The principal provisions of this Act are outlined in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 552 to 558.

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.

For the financial year 1917-18 the premiums paid and outstanding, less reinsurance premiums and refunds, amounted to £27,426 1s. 0d., as compared with £26,249 7s. 4d. in the previous year. The number of claims settled and in course of settlement was 1,376, and a sum of £11,227 3s. 4d. had actually been paid away in settlement of claims and progress payments, this being the net sum after deduction of an amount for which provision had been made in the accounts of the previous year. It was estimated that a further sum of £3,023 5s. 5d. would be required to provide for the outstanding liability in respect of the unsettled claims.

As a result of the operations of the Office to the 30th June, 1918, there was at that date a credit balance of £22,824 5s. 10d., of which £19,000 represented a general reserve fund and £3,824 5s. 10d. was set aside as a special provision for bonuses.

The Revenue Account and Profit and Loss Account of the Office for the year ended 30th June, 1918, and the balance-sheet as at that date, are given on a subsequent page.

In spite of the various reductions in rates made by the Department, in accordance with the experience gained, the premium income is the largest amount secured since the office was established. The expense rate shows a decrease as compared with the year 1916-17.

During the year the amount of £7,505 13s. 2d., previously credited to the Bonus Reserve Fund, was distributed to policy-holders in accordance with a system under which due consideration was given to the premiums received from and the claim experience of each individual policy-holder.

Whilst the present tendency of taxation is to increase owing to the war, the Department has not only been instrumental in reducing premiums charged to employers, but has also paid bonuses to persons

who have effected insurances with it. The amount now standing to the credit of the Bonus Reserve Fund for future distribution is £3,824 5s. 10d.

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 1917-18.

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	5,450
1916-17 ...	26,249	13,977	14,750	†7,500
1917-18 ...	27,426	14,250	19,000	3,824

* 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.

It is obligatory on every employer to obtain from the **Compulsory 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, 1918, was 48. 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 £279,000.

The amount quoted above as the minimum deposit required from insurance companies was based on the assumption that each company would charge the same rates of premium as were payable to the State Accident Insurance Office. It was quite at liberty to charge lower rates, but it seemed necessary to provide that, in the event of its doing so, the deposit lodged should be increased so that the interests of the policy-holders might be fully protected.

Up to the present (September, 1918) one scheme of compensation has been certified by a Judge of County Courts in accordance with Section 13 of the Act.

Schemes of Compensation.

STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1918.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Claims				14,394	9	5								
Less claims recovered and provision for unadjusted claims as at 30th June, 1917	124	4	1					80,000	6	4				
	3,043	2	0	3,167	6	1		8,174	5	4		27,426	1	0
												18,142	0	0
Provision for unearned premiums														
Provision for unadjusted claims														
Net Revenue, carried down														
				11,227	3	4								
				18,770	2	11								
				8,023	5	5								
				12,547	9	4								
Total				£40,568	1	0		Total				£40,568	1	0

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1918.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Administration Expenses					594	5	3
Agents' Expenses and Commission					1,141	5	0
Expenses of Management, including Salaries					3,511	12	0
Net Profit					8,074	5	10
Total				£13,321	8	1	
Net Revenue, brought down							
Interest on funds at Treasury					12,547	9	4
					773	18	0
Total				£13,321	8	1	

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1918.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
<i>Liabilities.</i>				<i>Assets.</i>			
Unearned Premiums				Amount of Funds at Treasury	24,686	13	6
Outstanding Claims				Premiums due	108	8	7
Agents' Balances				Treasury Interest Accrued	194	0	6
Sundry Accounts unpaid				Stamps on Hand	63	1	6
Bonus Reserve				General Reserve Fund	14,750	0	0
General Reserve				Bonus Reserve Fund	Nil		
Balance of Profit appropriated—							
General Reserve	4,250	0	0				
Bonus Reserve	3,824	5	10				
Total				Total			
				£39,787	4	1	

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 1917, was 233. The total receipts of all the organizations were £2,175,823, of which £1,673,225 was contributed by the Government, and £502,598 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure was £2,123,577. The daily average number under care indoors throughout the year in charitable and reformatory institutions was 15,268, and there were no less than 157,865 distinct cases of outdoor relief. With regard to the outdoor 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 of 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 outdoor relief, together with the receipts and expenditure:—

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.— INMATES, RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1916-17.

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average Indoor Patients	Outdoor Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
HOSPITALS.							
General Hospitals	51	2,106	62,698	68,617	192,343	260,960	222,285
Women's Hospital	1	157	2,794	5,320	12,489	18,309	21,519
Children's Hospital	1	143	11,610	2,500	16,249	18,749	16,182
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1	28	2,917	850	2,741	3,591	2,791
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	1	102	..	3,691	1,017	4,708	4,708
Heatherton Sanatorium	1	84	..	2,402	2,740	5,142	5,142
Convalescent Homes	2	31	..	320	1,837	2,157	2,572
Deaf and Dumb, Blind, and Eye and Ear Institutions	4	330	9,620	4,050	19,273	23,323	17,394
Hospitals for Insane, Idiot Asylum, and Receiving House	12	5,365	..	228,921	28,151	257,072	257,072
Foundling Hospitals	2	277	..	3,908	5,468	9,361	8,791
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	1	250	..	13,255	81,359	94,614	93,758
Total	77	9,363	89,639	334,334	363,652	697,986	652,014

**CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.—INMATES,
RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1916-17—continued.**

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average Indoor Patients	Outdoor Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS AND SOCIETIES.							
Benevolent Asylums	8	1,910	870	17,996	31,207	49,203	47,919
Old Colonists' Association	1	72	..	..	5,349	5,349	4,621
Freemasons' Homes	1	18	..	..	1,794	1,794	1,792
Benevolent Societies	85	..	11,218	12,654	20,207	32,861	31,998
Orphan Asylums	10	1,648	..	4,477	31,361	35,838	33,773
Total	105	3,648	12,088	35,127	89,918	125,045	120,108
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	13	513	10,448	167,379	8,540	175,919	175,919
Lara Inebriates' Institution	1	24	..	1,749	1,020	2,769	2,769
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	1	28	..	481	1,654	2,135	2,010
Female Refuges	10	693	..	2,605	24,977	27,582	27,033
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	5	156	..	400	6,065	6,465	6,338
Prison Association of Victoria	1	..	461	350	575	925	869
Gaols and Penal Establishments	15	754	..	59,614	..	59,614	59,614
Total	46	2,168	10,909	232,578	42,831	275,409	274,552
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Old-age and Invalid Pensioners .. ..	..	..	36,985	1,070,386	..	1,070,386	1,070,386
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	1	89	..	706	2,743	3,443	2,992
Night Shelter (Dr. Singleton's)	1	..	3,342	..	9	9	18
Charity Organization Society	1	..	607	..	2,668	2,668	2,762
Free Dispensaries	2	..	4,295	100	777	877	760
Total	5	89	45,229	1,071,186	6,197	1,077,383	1,076,908
Grand Total	233	15,268	157,865	1,673,225	502,598	2,175,823	2,123,577

The receipts of all charitable institutions for the year 1916-17 amounted to £1,045,823, of which £543,225, or 52 per cent., was contributed by Government, and the expenditure amounted to £993,577. Of the Government contribution, £404,142 was expended on the Receiving House for the Insane, Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, the Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools, the Greenvale and Heatherton Sanatoria for Consumptives, and the Lara Inebriates' Institution, which are Government institutions.

The expenditure of charitable institutions has considerably increased during the past ten years. In 1908 it was £637,842, and it had increased to £993,577 in 1917. This is equivalent to an advance of about 56 per cent. The aid from Government increased by 42 per cent., and that from other sources by 83 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, 1908 TO 1917.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			
	Government aid.	Other.	Total.	Building and extra-ordinary Repairs.	Maintenance.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1908 ..	383,086	267,264	650,350	118,642	515,038	4,162	637,842
1909 ..	378,164	264,770	642,934	131,066	542,431	3,128	676,675
1910 ..	385,467	295,741	681,208	98,379	564,033	4,465	662,377
1911 ..	436,850	314,065	751,524	147,387	530,488	4,215	732,090
1912 ..	446,332	334,722	831,054	192,712	614,705	3,143	810,560
1913 ..	468,588	347,963	816,551	179,514	668,034	4,434	852,082
1914 ..	435,018	347,053	832,071	154,565	705,768	6,529	866,862
1915 ..	541,668	349,421	891,089	137,589	774,873	6,635	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	122,801	850,357	10,619	993,577

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, 1916-17.

Description of Institution.	Daily average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average cost of each Inmate.		
			£	s.	d.
General Hospitals	2,106	196,072	93	2	0
Women's Hospital	157	15,454	98	8	8
Children's Hospital	143	13,977	97	14	10
Eye and Ear Hospital	62	6,244	100	14	2
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	28	2,714	96	18	7
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	250	22,532	90	2	7
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ...	95	1,738	18	5	11
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	182	5,057	27	15	9
Greenville Sanatorium for Consumptives	162	4,708	46	3	2
Heatherton Sanatorium	84	4,891	58	4	6
Receiving Houses for the Insane	5,865	241,631	41	4	0
Hospitals for the Insane					
Idiot Asylum	1,910	44,611	23	7	2
Benevolent Asylums					
Convalescent Homes	31	2,003	64	12	3
Blind Asylums	160	4,292	26	16	6
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	98	3,787	38	12	10
Orphan Asylums	1,648	25,310	15	7	2
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	10,961	175,754	16	0	8
Female Refuges	693	25,816	37	5	1
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	156	5,275	33	16	3
Old Colonists' Association	72	3,525	48	19	2
Lara Inebriates' Institution	24	2,769	115	7	6
Brightside Inebriates' Institution ...	28	2,010	71	15	9
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	89	2,891	32	9	8
Freemasons' Home	18	899	49	18	11
Total	24,962	813,960	32	12	2

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 Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools, the Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows), and the Benevolent Asylums. As many of the wards of the Neglected Children's and

Reformatory 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 being somewhat higher. The average cost per inmate of the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, Female Refuges, and Salvation Army Homes would be reduced if allowance were made for mothers of infants in the first-named institution, and for infants in the two latter groups of institutions.

Of the total income of charitable institutions in 1916-17 slightly more than half was contributed by the Government, and about 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, 1916-17.

Receipts.	General Hospitals.	Women's Hospital.	Children's Hospital.	Eye and Ear Hospital.	Queen's Memorial Hospital.	Other Hospitals.	Other Institutions.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid	68,617	5,820	2,500	1,450	13,255	4,758	446,825	543,225
Municipal Grants	11,664	356	398	302	11,314	209	5,985	30,223
Private Contributions	35,230	1,095	4,766	527	..	1,755	44,195	87,568
Proceeds of Entertainments	39,130	117	259	..	..	697	5,694	45,897
Legacies, Bequests, Special Donations and Proceeds of Intestate Estates	32,824	2,254	5,198	1,382	3	2,345	15,469	59,475
Hospital Sunday and Church Donations	15,250	1,490	1,927	721	..	459	2,458	22,305
Contributions of Indoor Patients	32,894	4,171	1,432	1,144	..	1,341	60,104	101,086
Out-patients' Fees	8,162	231	1,338	1,528	..	553	..	11,812
Proceeds of Inmates' Labour .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	26,411	26,411
Interest or Rent	9,412	127	593	500	..	68	15,618	26,318
Other Receipts	7,777	2,648	338	267	70,042	767	9,659	91,498
Total	260,960	18,309	18,749	7,821	94,614	12,952	632,418	1,045,823

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, 1917, except in the case of the Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools, where it relates to the

Charitable institutions—accommodation.

calendar year 1917. Of the general hospitals, six are in Melbourne, and the remainder in country towns, eight of the latter being also benevolent asylums. The accommodation available for indoor patients was as follows :—

AMOUNT OF ACCOMMODATION, 1916-17.

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 ...	51	428	4,695,890	3,470	1,353
Women's Hospital ...	1	27	229,970	179	1,285
Children's Hospital ...	1	17	151,855	140	1,085
Eye and Ear Hospital ...	1	14	78,092	84	930
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1	4	25,720	30	857
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	1	50	499,098	514*	971
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows)	1	7	50,165	127	395
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	1	5	17,208	41	420
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	1	13	58,582	100	586
Heatherton Sanatorium ...	1	13	99,728	90	1,109
Receiving Houses for the Insane	2	22	67,182	65	1,034
Hospitals for the Insane ...	9	1,410	3,648,949	4,818	757
Idiot Asylum ...	1	20	114,288	326	351
Benevolent Asylums ...	8	185	1,980,350	2,405	823
Convalescent Homes ...	2	24	68,790	61	1,128
Blind Asylums ...	2	12	93,200	94	991
Deaf and Dumb Asylum ...	1	4	87,604	90	973
Orphan Asylums ...	10	89	880,276	1,714	514
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	13	58	271,420	604	449
Female Refugees ...	10	170	620,193	824	753
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	5	28	128,258	234	548
Lara Inebriates' Institution	1	11	46,796	50	936
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	1	39	46,151	55	840
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	1	20	70,669	89	794
Total ...	126	2,670	14,030,434	16,204	866

* Including Cots.

Charitable
Institutions
—Inmates
and deaths.

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

INMATES AND DEATHS, 1916-17.

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	23,639	2,106	2,739	9.6
Women's Hospital	4,469	157	99	2.2
Children's Hospital	2,699	143	386	14.3
Eye and Ear Hospital	1,215	62	4	.3
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	347	28	7	2.0
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	3,747	250	122	3.2
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows)	259	95	10	3.9
Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	252	182	4	1.6
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	293	102	6	2.1
Heatherton Sanatorium	276	84	90	32.6
Receiving Houses for the Insane	732	50	11	1.5
Hospitals for the Insane	6,405	5,475	380	5.9
Idiot Asylum	381	340	29	7.6
Benevolent Asylums	3,290	1,910	516	15.7
Convalescent Homes	877	31	1	.1
Blind Asylums	193	160	2	1.0
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	115	98	...	...
Orphan Asylums	2,105	1,648	7	.3
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	12,670	10,981	110	.9
Female Refugees	1,077	693	9	.8
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	879	156	2	.2
Old Colonists' Association	83	72	10	12.0
Lara Inebriates' Institution	151	24	...	...
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	76	28	...	...
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	110	89	1	\$.
Freemasons' Home	21	18	4	19.0
Total	71,361	24,962	4,549	6.4

In addition to the inmates shown in the above table, there were 70 mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, 118 infants in the Female Refugees, and 185 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 1916-17. The receipts, distinguishing moneys received from the

Government and other sources, and the expenditure per head for maintenance are also shown :—

NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN GENERAL HOSPITALS;
ALSO DEATHS, TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
PER HEAD FOR MAINTENANCE, 1916-17.

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.	
Amherst ..	122	404	61.0	15	£ 2,415	£ 645	£ 3,060	£ s. d. 45 6 7
Ararat ..	70	481	58.3	24	850	1,837	2,687	41 16 4
Ballarat ..	170	1,117	74.0	104	2,300	7,252	9,552	88 18 8
Beechworth ..	95	312	27.2	20	1,460	3,168	4,568	98 18 6
Bendigo ..	222	1,912	114.0	127	2,808	14,624	17,432	120 13 2
Castlemaine ..	75	449	33.0	39	800	2,054	2,854	76 8 6
Daylesford ..	52	157	15.3	15	453	1,926	2,379	81 10 1
Geelong ..	217	1,271	136.0	118	2,250	6,498	8,748	57 9 5
Hamilton ..	91	445	40.2	25	860	3,694	4,554	72 15 8
Kyneton ..	54	285	19.9	26	525	2,817	3,342	114 8 5
Maryborough ..	95	404	28.7	24	925	1,113	2,038	74 2 3
Melbourne ..	325	5,841	333.1	828	20,500	30,770	51,270	130 5 4
Alfred ..	168	2,442	159.5	276	6,453	15,606	22,059	118 8 0
Austin ..	230	497	220.3	207	5,650	14,995	20,645	55 12 7
Homeopathic ..	98	1,426	77.2	93	1,500	7,359	8,859	96 8 6
St. Vincent's ..	138	2,613	134.0	160	4,100	18,097	22,197	107 5 3
Mooroopna ..	80	831	55.4	57	1,650	5,854	7,504	70 17 4
Sale ..	72	637	42.2	44	950	2,393	3,343	92 5 6
Stawell ..	66	256	20.0	19	533	2,129	2,662	90 12 0
Swan Hill ..	52	332	19.3	22	475	2,994	3,469	110 5 2
Wangaratta ..	65	438	27.8	37	1,125	2,925	4,050	90 17 3
Warrnambool ..	89	503	46.0	52	875	1,900	2,775	57 10 10
Other Hospitals	824	5,536	363.6	413	9,220	41,693	50,913	98 0 8
Total ..	3,470	28,639	2,106.0	2,739	68,617	192,343	260,960	93 2 0

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, and a reference to its recent rebuilding.

It has always been the principal general hospital of Victoria, and the chief medical training school for University students. The wards now contain 325 beds, in which 5,841 in-patients were treated in 1916-17. In the out-patients' department 29,346 persons were treated in that year, including 8,469 casualty cases. The aggregate number of attendances was 144,284.

The usefulness of the Melbourne Hospital since its inauguration may be judged from the work carried out. The in-patients treated to 30th June, 1917, numbered 257,811; the out-patients, 1,088,871.

In 1916-17 the Government grant for maintenance amounted to £15,500 and for the re-building fund to £5,000; the revenue derived from municipal grants was £784; private contributions amounted to £6,206; bequests to £4,100; Hospital Sunday collections to £5,705; payments and contributions by in-door patients to £3,930; and out-patients' fees to £2,715; interest yielded a revenue of £3,633; and £3,697 was received from all other sources. The receipts for the twelve months reached a total of £51,270. The expenditure was £48,366—£3,762 for buildings, £43,392 for maintenance, and £1,212 miscellaneous items.

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

Other
Hospitals, &c.

Alfred Hospital.
 Homoeopathic Hospital.
 Austin Hospital.
 St. Vincent's Hospital.
 Women's Hospital.
 Queen Victoria Hospital.
 Children's Hospital.
 Eye and Ear Hospital.
 Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.
 Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution.
 Benevolent Asylums.
 Benevolent Societies.
 Orphan Asylums.
 Convalescent Homes.
 Free Dispensaries.
 St. Joseph's Foundling Hospital.
 Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home.
 Refuges for Women.
 Salvation Army Rescue Homes.
 Night Shelter.
 Prison Association of Victoria.
 Australian Health Society.

CONSUMPTION SANATORIA.

Greenvale Consumption Sanatorium. The Greenvale Consumption Sanatorium at Broadmeadows for incipient cases was opened for the reception of patients on 10th May, 1905. This institution was established by the Government, and is under the control of the permanent head of the Public Health Department. During the year ended 31st December, 1917, 272 patients were treated at the sanatorium, 58 of these being cases admitted during the previous year. Of this number, 108 did very well, 77 were classed as incurable, and 40 were discharged at their own request, or for special reasons (some of these being cases sent in for a short period for educational purposes). Six deaths occurred during the year. At the end of the period under review there were 41 patients remaining under care. The benefits of treatment and education that this institution affords to cases of consumption in the early stages have now been received by 3,754 patients. Of these, 2,537 had the disease arrested or their condition much improved; 666 were incurable; 56 died; 454 left of their own accord; and 41 remained at end of 1917. 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. There is now accommodation for the treatment of 100 patients.

Amherst and Heatherton Sanatoria. The Amherst Sanatorium, for incipient cases, is maintained by the Government and administered by the local hospital authorities under the direction of the Public Health Department. It is for the treatment of females only. At this institution there is accommodation for 60 patients. During the year 1917, 210 patients were treated, of whom 154 were discharged, their condition being much improved; 21 left, described as incurable; 2 died; and 33 remained under treatment at the end of the year. Sanatorium treatment has now been received by 1,603 patients; of these, 1,438 were discharged cured or relieved; 27 left of their own accord; 87 were incurable; 18 died; and 33 remained on 31st December, 1917.

There is a sanatorium for intermediate and advanced cases at Heatherton, near Cheltenham Benevolent Asylum, containing 92 beds. There were on 1st January, 1917, 74 persons in the institution, and the number admitted during the succeeding twelve months was 192, making a total of 266 who received treatment during the year 1917. Of these, 111 were discharged, 80 died, and 75 were under care at the end of the year.

With regard to other cases of advanced consumption, 125 beds are provided at Austin Hospital, 20 of these being specially set apart for cases nominated by the Honorable the Minister of Health.

**St. John
Ambulance
Association.**

The work carried on by this Association is referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 582. Full information in regard to the formation of classes may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. J. Harold Lord, 463 Swanston-street, Melbourne, 'Phone Central 122.

**Victorian Civil
Ambulance
Service.**

This service, which is associated with St. John Ambulance Association, attended to 8,487 calls, of which 1,273 were accidents, during the year ended 30th April, 1918, and the mileage travelled was 79,328. In 1,694 cases no fee was paid. Country trips, to the number of 54, were undertaken during the year, one journey extending over 200 miles.

**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, 1917, 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, £1,435; expenditure, £1,221; Trust Account (being donations for special applicants and objects)—Receipts, £1,120; expenditure, £1,443; Emergency Relief Account—Donations and refunds, £113; expenditure, £98. The number of separate cases dealt with during the year was 1,412, of which 607 were new cases investigated. The result of the investigation into these 607 cases showed that in 506 instances distress was due to misfortune, and in 91 to misconduct; while 10 cases come under other headings.

LABOUR COLONY, LEONGATHA.

**Labour
Colony,
Leongatha.**

The Labour Colony at Leongatha was established by a proclamation of 26th September, 1893, which set apart and appropriated under the *Settlement on Lands Act* 1893 about 800 acres in the township. By a further proclamation of 24th April, 1903, the colony was abolished, and the land resumed by the Lands Department, although the colonists were still maintained on the land. After the trustees of the old colony had all retired the Minister of Lands instructed the Director of Agriculture, on 13th June, 1903, to take over the farm and manage it as a Labour Establishment, virtually as a Labour Colony for the relief of destitute men in Melbourne who desired to go there. No order was given that the number admitted to the Establishment was to be reduced, and the destitute were as freely admitted as formerly, but in many instances they were not maintained there so long, orders being issued that when a man had earned £2 he should leave in search of work. On 14th June, 1904, 462 acres of the old Labour Colony lands, including the homestead, were proclaimed a Labour Colony, and trustees were appointed to act from 1st July, 1904. Subsequently 40 acres were alienated for a gravel reserve, and 40 acres for a High School.

The object sought by its establishment was to afford temporary relief at sustenance wages to able-bodied destitute men. During the first year of its existence 1,013 men were sent to the colony, and up to the present 9,267 applicants have been afforded relief. The colonists are instructed in the general work of farming, dairying, and fruit and vegetable growing, and pig breeding is carried on extensively. The cost of maintenance, including food, wages, and management, for the last financial year, was 9s. 3d. per week per man.

At 30th June, 1918, there was a credit balance of £81 in the trust accounts. The receipts from sales, &c. during 1917-18 amounted to £1,881, as follows:—Dairy, £910; pigs, £314; hides, bones, &c., £104; wages of men working off the place, £30; prizes, £19; rent, £62; dairy herd, £326; nursery, £103; and miscellaneous, £13.

The following are the amounts of Government grants expended since the establishment of the Colony:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1893-4 to 1897-8	14,840 3 9	1913-14	100 0 0
1898-9 to 1902-3	16,977 5 4	1914-15	500 0 0
1903-4 to 1907-8	4,445 6 8	1915-16	500 0 0
1908-9	549 19 9	1916-17	375 0 0
1909-10	550 0 0	1917-18	375 0 0
1910-11	550 0 0		
1911-12	400 0 0	Total	40,562 15 6
1912-13	400 0 0		

The present trustees are P. J. Carroll, Esq. (chairman and superintendent), J. R. Pescott, Esq., S. Whitehead, Esq., F. Johnston, Esq., and T. Keiley, Esq. Mr. W. H. Crate is the secretary, and the city address is Government Labour Bureau, corner of King and Bourke streets, Melbourne.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victorian 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

Humane
Society.

most approved methods and the best apparatus to be used for such purposes.

During the year ended 30th June, 1918, 68 applications for awards were investigated, with the result that 20 certificates, 14 bronze medals, and 8 silver medals were granted. The receipts during 1917-18 amounted to £455, and the expenditure to £449. 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. Of the honorary awards distributed in 1917-18, 18 were for deeds of bravery performed in Victoria, 1 in New South Wales, 6 in Western Australia, 4 in Tasmania, 6 in Queensland, 6 in South Australia, and 1 in New Zealand. 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. Owing to the appointment of these gentlemen and as the awards made by the society appear to give complete satisfaction throughout the States, there is no necessity for forming local branches of the society in the other States.

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.

**Royal Life
Saving
Society.**

are :—

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

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.

The work done by the society has increased greatly since its inauguration, and in 1917-18 the awards granted totalled 1,041, which is the largest number in one season. Life saving classes have been formed in connexion with the Victorian police, and the consent of the authorities has been obtained to allow members of the force who have obtained awards to wear the official badge of the society on their arms. The whole of the State schools in Victoria have become affiliated to the society, and it is considered that the awards will be considerably increased as the result of this connexion.

Society for the Protection of Animals. The objects of the Society are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 589. During the year ended 30th June, 1917, 2,040 cases were dealt with by the society, of which 1,641 were connected with cruelty to horses. There were 122 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 £764 and the expenditure to £383.

Hospital Saturday and Sunday. In Melbourne and suburbs the last Saturday and Sunday of October in each year are set apart for making collections in aid of the charitable institutions. The following amounts were collected in each of the last five years:— 1913, £12,274; 1914, £11,686; 1915, £15,911; 1916, £18,525; and 1917, £19,020.

The total amount which has been collected since the movement was inaugurated in 1873 is £384,444.

The amounts distributed to the various charitable institutions in 1917 are given below. The amount collected in that year was £19,020:—

	£
Melbourne Hospital	4,783
Children's Hospital	2,082
Alfred Hospital	2,039
St. Vincent's Hospital	1,698
Women's Hospital	1,512
Benevolent Asylum	1,239
Austin Hospital	1,180
Homœopathic Hospital	1,039
Eye and Ear Hospital	924
St. John Ambulance Association	500
Melbourne District Nursing Society	500
Queen Victoria Hospital	331
Other Institutions	700
Total distributed	18,527

Wattle Day.

On a day fixed, about the beginning of September in each year, ladies attired in white costumes sell sprigs of wattle blossom in the streets and elsewhere, and the amounts obtained are usually allotted to the children's charities. The sums which have been raised each year during the last five years are as follows:—1914, £2,115; 1915, £2,553; 1916, £8,604; and 1917, £7,000.

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.

Amendments have been made during the last year which affect the payments to dependants of members of the Commonwealth ~~naval~~ and military forces.

The maximum pension, whether old-age or invalid, is 12s. 6d. per week, and 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.

Invalid pensions are, subject to conditions set forth in the Act, payable to every person above the age of 16 years who is permanently incapacitated for work by reason of an accident or of his being an invalid, or who is permanently blind, and who is not receiving an old-age pension.

The number of old-age and invalid pensioners in Victoria on 30th June, 1918, was as follows:—Old-age pensioners—Men, 10,975; women, 18,184; total, 29,159. Invalid pensioners—Men, 4,288; women, 4,613; total, 8,901.

Of the persons living in Victoria at or above the ages at which old-age pensions commence, 31 per cent. were receiving pensions on 30th June, 1918.

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

Pensioners, 1901 to 1917-18.

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, 1918, it had reached a total of 29,159 (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 1918.

Financial Year.	Number of Pensioners at end of Period.			Actual Amount Paid in Pensions.
	Old-Age.	Invalid.	Total.	
15th 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

Maternity Allowance.

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, 1918, was 196,426 and the total of the allowances paid in the State to that date was £982,130.

War Pensions.

The number of war pensions in force Victoria on 30th June, 1918, was 34,341, and the annual liability of the Commonwealth Government in connexion therewith was £1,128,478.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT.

The subjoined table sets forth the numbers under the care of the Department for the years 1916 and 1917 :—

Lunacy
Department.

	On 31st December—		Increase (+). Decrease (-).
	1916.	1917.	
In State Hospitals... ..	5,105	5,133	+ 28
On Trial Leave from State Hospitals	576	571	- 5
Boarded out	112	129	+ 17
In Licensed Houses	75	71	- 4
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses	15	15	...
Total Number of Registered Insane...	5,883	5,919	+ 36
In Receiving Institutions	51	52	+ 1
Total	5,934	5,971	+ 37
Voluntary Boarders	46	34	- 12
Cases of Mental Disorder in Returned Soldiers	16	84	+ 68

(Not included in other statistics).

The low increments noted in 1915 and 1916 were maintained in 1917, so that, for these years at least, war conditions have not materially increased the burden of the State so far as cases of mental disorder and defect are concerned. The average annual increment over a period of fifteen years or so has approximated 100 cases for whom provision of some sort has to be made, but strangely enough these war years have very low increments and a similar condition of things has been observed in Great Britain and Ireland.

In 1916 there were actually 26 less patients in the State Hospitals for the Insane at the end of the year as contrasted with the beginning, but this year there has been an increase of 28, bringing us back to the figures at the end of 1915. In 1916 there was a very large addition to the numbers of those out on trial leave from the State Hospitals, but this year the numbers have fallen somewhat, whilst the number of those boarded out has increased. A large number of patients (140) have been admitted under the voluntary boarder clauses of the Act, the number resident at the end of the year being 34, as against 46 in the previous year. Necessarily there has been a steady increase in the cases of mental disorder amongst returned soldiers, but many of those figuring in this return belong to other States of the Commonwealth; still we must anticipate a further increase in these numbers, and it is satisfactory to know that special provision is being made for them. They should be enumerated separately in the lunacy statistical returns.

It is more than probable that these years of low increments will be succeeded by years of high admission rates and increases in the

residuum, as it is most unlikely that the lessons of the war will so affect the social fabric as to make insanity any more uncommon for many years to come; even if intemperance and venereal disease be so combatted as to diminish the numerous cases arising therefrom, the great predisposing factor of heredity will continue, and we may find added thereto industrial distress and lack of occupation as causative factors.

With regard to the admissions to the State Hospitals, there has been a very definite decrease in the last two years, as the following table shows:—

Year.	First Admissions.			Re-admissions.			Total Admissions.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1910	379	328	707	43	52	95	802
1911	366	315	681	66	70	136	817
1912	411	298	709	45	52	97	806
1913	461	331	792	33	33	66	858
1914	407	306	713	38	56	94	807
1915	371	315	686	63	75	138	824
1916	342	317	659	61	52	113	772
1917	363	325	688	39	35	74	762

Voluntary Boarders (not included in above figures)—

1915 (admissions)	..	90
1916	..	136
1917	..	140

The proportion of insane to the total population is 1 in 238·4.

BLIND AND DEAF AND DUMB PERSONS IN VICTORIA.

At the census of 1911 there were 1,102 blind persons (595 males and 507 females) enumerated in the State. This is an increase of 20 as compared with ten years previously.

There was 1 blind person in every 1,193 of mixed sexes, or 1 blind male in every 1,102 males, and 1 blind female in every 1,302 females. Deaf mutes numbered 535 (280 males and 255 females) in 1911, as compared with 410 in 1901. There was thus 1 deaf mute in every 2,459 of the total population, or 1 in 2,341 of the males and 1 in 2,588 of the females.

Blind and deaf and dumb persons in Victoria.

NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN.

Neglected and reformatory children. There were at the end of 1917 three industrial and six 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 depôts, 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 Neglected Children's and Reformatory Department. Many of the inmates of the reformatories are either placed with friends or licensed out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1917, numbered 11,143—10,966 neglected and 177 reformatory children—and there were 38 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, 1913 TO 1917.

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.	
1913 ...	6,786	675	566	328	7	8,362
1914 ...	7,486	741	539	370	13	9,149
1915 ...	8,040	911	625	401	7	9,984
1916 ...	8,801	788	625	365	6	10,585
1917 ...	9,130	848	532	444	12	10,966

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.	
1913 ...	140	17	30	...	4	191
1914 ...	143	24	19	4	...	190
1915 ...	120	29	43	...	...	192
1916 ...	129	28	35	3	...	195
1917 ...	120	26	27	4	...	177

Children boarded out, &c. The welfare of the children boarded out is cared for by honorary committees, who send reports to the Department as to their general condition. The rate paid by the Government to persons accepting charge of these children is 10s. per week for children under 12 months, 7s. per week for children between

12 months and 2 years of age, and 6s. per week for children aged 2 years and over. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service.

The circumstances leading to the commitment of children to the care of the Department in 1917 were as follows:—

CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF THE STATE, 1917.

Cases in which Parents were held to be—	Number.
Blamable—One Parent—	
Father deserted and mother poor	455
" " " " an invalid	2
" " " " in a lunatic asylum	3
" " " " dead	23
" divorced and mother poor	4
" drunkard	3
" " " " dead	1
" in England and mother dead	1
" in gaol and mother poor	69
" " " " dead	1
" on active service and mother poor	7
" unknown and mother poor	23
" " " " an invalid	2
" " " " mentally weak	2
" " " " in lunatic asylum	3
" " " " dead	3
" Mother bad character and father dead	2
" deserted and father poor	3
" " " " dead	2
" " " " on active service	3
" drunkard and father poor	10
" " " " an invalid	3
" " " " on active service	10
" immoral	1
" " " " dead	3
" " " " poor	8
" " " " on active service	8
" in gaol and father poor	3
" of doubtful character and father poor	4
Both parents—	
" Father drunkard and mother deserted	5
" deserted and mother of doubtful character	4
" " " " immoral	6
" " " " in gaol	6
" unknown and mother deserted	9
" " " " of bad character	1
" " " " immoral	4
" " " " in gaol	1
" Parents deserted	3
" drunkards	10
" in gaol	2
" unknown	10
" Total	715

CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF THE STATE, 1917—
continued.

Cases in which Parents were held to be—	Number.
Blameless—Both Parents—	
Father dead and mother poor	639
" " " " in lunatic asylum	1
" " " " in hospital	1
" " " " an invalid	2
" " " " blind	1
" " " " dead	13
" " " " in lunatic asylum	6
" " " " in hospital	6
" " " " mentally weak	1
" in hospital and mother poor	5
" an invalid " "	274
" interned and mother poor	3
" in lunatic asylum and mother poor	39
" on active service and mother in lunatic asylum	1
Parents poor	86
" dead	14
Total	1,092
Total number of children placed under control during the year	1,807

The number of children placed under care in 1917, viz., 1,807, was 81 less than in the previous year. The great increase in the wards of the State during the last nine years is largely due to the fact that many children were during these years taken as wards and returned to their mothers, the number of such in 1917 being 1,161, as compared with 1,154 in 1916, 1,475 in 1915, 1,172 in 1914, 1,231 in 1913, 1,040 in 1912, 747 in 1911, 750 in 1910, and 668 in 1909. The total number of children boarded out with their own mothers at the end of 1917 was 5,151. It is also due in part to the operation of the Infant Life Protection Act, 140 children in 1917 having come directly under the control of the Department through this legislative act, apart from those who are supervised and inspected by the officers of the Neglected Children's Department, but are maintained by their relatives.

Cost of
maintenance
of neglected
and reforma-
tory children.

The Governmental expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1917 to £165,216, and that for reformatory school children to £3,705; the expenses of administration amounted to £6,833, making a total gross

expenditure of £175,754. A sum of £8,508 was received from parents for maintenance, and £32 from other sources, making the net expenditure £167,214. The number of neglected children under supervision on 31st December, 1917, was 10,966; of this total, 3,979 were maintained in foster homes, 5,151 were boarded out with their mothers, 101 were in Government receiving depôts, 31 were in private industrial schools, 282 were in other institutions, 532 were at service earning their own living, 30 were in hospitals, 10 were on visits to friends, 2 were in gaol, and 848 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The number of reformatory wards under supervision on 31st December, 1917, was 177. Of this number 120 were maintained in private schools, 27 were in service earning their own living, 4 were in gaol, and 26 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 following tabulation:—

NET COST TO THE STATE OF NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1908 TO 1917.

Year.			Net Expenditure.	Year.			Net Expenditure.
			£				£
1908	..	..	68,743	1913	..	..	114,264
1909	..	..	76,457	1914	..	..	122,564
1910	..	..	86,160	1915	..	..	149,324
1911	..	..	93,781	1916	..	..	159,929
1912	..	..	103,092	1917	..	..	167,214

Neglected children maintained by societies or private persons.

Part VIII. of the *Neglected Children's 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 Department for Neglected Children. 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 1917 :—

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

Name of Society or Person.	Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.16.	Admissions during 1917.			Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.17.
		Court Committals.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Burwood Boys' Home	60	8	14	11	70
Church of England Neglected Children's Aid Society	126	7	3	37	129
Clifden Home, Wedderburn ..	16	..	..	..	16
Gordon Institute, Melbourne ..	140	4	1	21	132
Methodist Boys' Training Farm, Burwood East	53	3	1	28	65
Methodist Homes for Children ..	413	4	15	24	413
Mission Rescue and Children's Home, Ballarat East	22	..	..	8	15
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society	293	1	13	25	291
Presbyterian Rescue Home, Elsternwick	36	3	5	1	35
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills	179	2	..	56	139
Try Society, Surrey-road, Hawksburn	33	1	..	51	36
Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society	155	..	2	55	160
Sutherland Home	197	4	12	65	193
Total	1,723	37	66	382	1,699

Total number of neglected and orphan children.

The number of children who were under the guardianship of the State or maintained in public institutions or by societies on 31st December, 1917, reached the large total of 14,786, viz., 11,143 under the control of the Neglected Children's Department, 1,699 under the supervision of societies registered under Part VIII. of the Neglected Children's Act, 285 in Foundling Hospitals, and 1,659 in Orphan Asylums.

Infant Life Protection Act.

With a 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, 1917, there were 585 children under supervision in registered homes under the provisions of this Act. The deaths during the year numbered 26. In addition, 140 children became wards of the Neglected Children's Department by the operation of Section 15 of the Act. One hundred and ninety-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. A fund was established, out of which the widows and children to a certain age were paid weekly allowances, and on 31st December, 1917, there remained six widows, who were receiving 15s. per week each. At that date the amount at credit was £15,756, of which £12,000 was the estimated value of freehold premises in Queen-street, Melbourne, £3,600 was in Government debentures, £100 was in Commonwealth War Loan, and £56 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)—related to the constitution of a Fund to be 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 employees' contributions should commence from 2nd April, 1910. Committees were formed at the collieries (numbering 7 in 1917), their principal functions being to collect contributions, and, subject to the approval of the Board, to allot the allowances.

During 1917 the contributions from employees amounted to £1,299, and the allowances paid at the mines totalled £766. For the year ended 31st December, 1917, the total revenue was £2,271—

remittances from committees at the mines amounting to £654, interest to £391, and the balance coming equally from the mine-owners (£613) and the Government (£613). The expenditure included £664 paid in allowances and £333 cost of administration. The accumulated funds amounted to £11,321—£8,700 invested in 3½ per cent. Government stock, £2,550 in 4½ per cent. Commonwealth war loan, and £71 bank balance. Relief was given in 266 non-fatal cases. In respect to non-fatal accidents there are ten persons on the permanently disabled list, the number of children dependent upon such persons being eleven. Three fatal accidents occurred during the year, and there are nine widows, two mothers and thirteen children receiving aid from the fund as the result of fatalities in 1917 and previous years.

WATSON SUSTENTATION FUND.

**The Watson
Sustentation
Fund.**

The circumstances under which this fund was inaugurated are 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 relieved, &c., and of receipts and expenditure:—From the inception of the fund in 1891 to the end of 1917 the total expenditure was £29,242, of which £25,663 represented sick pay and £3,016 donations to members and wives and families of deceased members. During 1917, 120 members were relieved and 30 died, and 80 were on the funds at the end of the year. The receipts for the year were £1,887. Sick pay for 1917 amounted to £2,025, donations to members and wives and families of deceased members to £68, and expenses of administration to £10; the total expenditure being £2,103. The balance in hand at the end of the year 1916 was £1,322, and at the end of 1917 £1,106.

QUEEN'S FUND.

Queen's Fund. This fund was inaugurated 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 1917-18 was 70, to whom £492 was allotted either by way of grant or loan, and the cost of management was £103.

In addition to the ordinary receipts of the fund (£666) an amount of £410 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 or infirmity were unable to earn their living. A sum of £407 was distributed in this manner, £2 was expended on management, and £228 remained in the bank at the date of balancing. The accumulated fund on 20th June, 1918, was £14,911.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR BUREAU.

The Immigration Bureau, which is now a branch of the Labour Department, deals with the subject of assisted immigration, and generally conducts overseas advertising.

Prior to the war, Victoria followed an active policy of encouraging immigration by propaganda in Great Britain and other countries; by the arrangement of cheap fares from Great Britain and America, with substantial monetary assistance towards fares, and by providing facilities in this State for settlement on the land, or by obtaining employment for new arrivals.

The general aim was to induce the immigration of persons with capital and otherwise qualified to undertake for themselves settlement on the land, or of men or lads desirous of engaging in agricultural employment; also to bring to Victoria women qualified and prepared to accept domestic employment.

Under war conditions, however, operations have been reduced to a limited system of nominated passages under which specially reduced fares are being provided to enable chiefly the wives and families or other near relatives of persons resident here to rejoin them, though even in such cases there is, at present, a difficulty in obtaining passports and berthage accommodation from the United Kingdom.

The Government is now chiefly occupied and concerned, so far as land settlement goes, with the repatriation of Australian soldiers, and all the resources of the State are being called into requisition to satisfactorily provide for the re-establishment on the land of Australian or British soldiers as they become discharged. The Act of the Victorian Parliament, under which this land settlement is being carried on, places ex-soldiers of the British Army on a footing similar to that accorded to discharged Australian soldiers. The Victorian Government, therefore, in the disposal of Crown lands, or in the subdivision

of areas, which are being repurchased by the State from private owners, is giving first claim and preference to returned soldiers as against all other applicants.

Subject to these conditions, the Government, through the Bureau and in other ways, affords all advice and assistance possible to prospective settlers arriving from overseas, whether desiring to undertake land settlement or to obtain employment.

Nomination forms and all particulars as to rates, &c., may be obtained on application to the Officer in Charge, Immigration Bureau, 555 Flinders-street, Melbourne, and inquiries in Great Britain should be addressed to the Emigration Commissioner, care of the Agent-General for Victoria, Melbourne-place, Strand, London, W.C., No. 2.
