

SOCIAL CONDITION.

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. It 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 20 members elected by the Senate. It elects two of its members to be Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor respectively. The ordinary tenure of office of Councillors is five years, but those members who were in office on 7th June, 1881, have a life tenure. The Senate consists of all male 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. The Governor of Victoria for the time being is the Visitor, and has authority to do all things which appertain to Visitors. By Royal letters patent of 14th March, 1859, it is declared that the degrees of the University of Melbourne shall be as fully recognized 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, however, compare favourably with others. There are three affiliated colleges, viz., Trinity, Ormond, and Queen's. The Act provides for an endowment of £9,000 annually for maintenance and management. Additional grants are voted annually by Parliament for maintenance, and from time to time for building purposes. There is a University Extension Board, appointed for the purpose of imparting the higher instruction to those people who,

The University of Melbourne.

being neither children nor specialists, constitute the great bulk of the intelligent and influential members of the community. This is done by the delivery of lectures, the inauguration of discussions, and the conduct of experiments and research. The University buildings, together with those of the affiliated colleges, are situated in 106 acres of ground, in the southern part of Carlton.

Matricula-
tion and
attendance
at lectures.

The number of students who presented themselves for the matriculation examination, the number that passed, as well as those matriculated, who entered the Melbourne University as undergraduates, and the number attending lectures, in each of the five years 1898 to 1902, were:—

Year.	Number Presented for—		Students who Passed the Matriculation Examination.		Number Matriculated and Admitted as Under-graduates.	Number Attending Lectures.
	Matriculation Examination.	Less than Required Number of Subjects.	Number.	Percentage.		
1898	1,315	175	482	42·3	117	691
1899	1,496	261	559	45·3	108	727
1900	1,479	320	443	38·2	101	647
1901	1,438	302	511	45·0	137	584
1902	1,415	368	490	46·8	124	621

The number of candidates has decreased since 1899, although the number in 1902 exceeded that in 1898. Of the 621 students who attended lectures in 1902, 122 attended in Arts, 55 in Laws, 69 in Engineering, 255 in Medicine, 14 in Science, 106 in Music.

Degrees.

The number of degrees taken in 1902 was 122, all of which were direct, as against a total of 633 for the four preceding years, or an average of 158 per year. The direct graduates numbered 602, and the ad eundem degrees 31 in the four preceding years. Of the total number of 3,359 degrees conferred, 217 were conferred on women, 215 of which were direct, and 2 ad eundem; and 111 of which were the degree of Bachelor of Arts, 47 Master of Arts, 27 Bachelor of Medicine, and 25 Bachelor of Surgery. The following table shows the number of degrees conferred at the University between the

date of its first opening and the end of 1902—the year 1902 and the period 1898-1901 being shown separately:—

Degrees.	Prior to 1898.			1898 to 1901.			During 1902.			Total.		
	Direct.	Ad Eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad Eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad Eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad Eundem.	Total.
Bachelor of Arts ...	620	103	723	139	4	143	16	...	16	775	107	882
Master of Arts ...	325	141	466	81	14	95	19	...	19	425	155	580
Bachelor of Medicine ...	436	13	449	106	...	106	27	...	27	569	13	582
Doctor of Medicine ...	46	90	136	22	8	30	9	...	9	77	98	175
Bachelor of Surgery ...	331	2	333	124	1	125	28	...	28	483	3	486
Master of Surgery ...	6	...	6	1	...	1	2	...	2	9	...	9
Bachelor of Laws ...	237	9	246	57	...	57	8	...	8	302	9	311
Master of Laws ...	42	2	44	14	1	15	3	...	3	59	3	62
Doctor of Laws ...	13	20	33	2	...	2	...	...	...	15	20	35
Bachelor of Engineering ...	91	2	93	19	...	19	6	...	6	116	2	118
Master of Engineering ...	46	...	46	17	...	17	1	...	1	64	...	64
Bachelor of Science ...	12	3	15	16	...	16	1	...	1	29	3	32
Master of Science ...	7	...	7	4	...	4	1	...	1	12	...	12
Doctor of Science ...	...	2	2	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	3	4
Bachelor of Music ...	3	1	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	2	5
Doctor of Music ...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	2
Total ...	2,215	389	2,604	602	31	633	122	...	122	2,939	420	3,359

The present system of “free, compulsory, and secular” education came into operation on the 1st January, 1873, the Act having been passed the previous year, and being now, with two Amending Acts passed in 1876 and 1889, consolidated in the “Education Act 1890,” which in turn has been amended by Act No. 1777, passed in December, 1901. Before the inception of the present system, 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, 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, which duplicate system continued in force until 1862, when it was abolished as being cumbrous and

The education system of Victoria.

costly. The "Common Schools Act 1862" transferred the powers of both Boards to a single Board of Education, provided a limit to the distance between which schools might be 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 would 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 designed to abolish denominationalism, nor did it reduce the number of small schools to any appreciable extent. It continued in force, however, for ten years, when it was repealed by the present Act in 1872. Under these 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 accepted or not, 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. Every facility is, however, afforded to the clergy of any denomination to assemble any of the children of the parents who desire it in a school room and impart religious instruction.

Main details
of the
system.

Compulsory
clauses.

In each school four hours at least are set apart during each school day for secular instruction, two hours of which are to be before, and two hours after, noon. Secular instruction, in the case of children over nine years of age, includes the teaching of some recognised lesson books on the laws of health and lessons from some recognised temperance lesson books. Parents and custodians of children, not less than 6 nor more than 13 years of age, are required to procure such children to attend a State school at least two hours before or after noon for at least 75 per cent. of the days on which school is open. Non-attendance may be excused for either of the four following causes:—(1) If the child is receiving efficient instruction in some other manner; or (2) has been prevented from attending by sickness, fear of infection, temporary or permanent infirmity, or any unavoidable cause; or (3) is 12 years of age and has been educated up to the standard, or has been excused by a general or particular order of the Minister; or (4) that there is no State school within 1, 2, 2½, or 3 miles in the case of children under 7, between 7 and 9, between 9 and 12, and over 12 years of age respectively. In regard to the latter cause, however, in cases where schools are closed through low average attendance, or where 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 6 and under 12 who

reside between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 miles from the nearest school, or 4d. per day for all children over 6 and under 15 who reside 3 miles or over from the nearest school. Parents and custodians who fail to make a child attend as provided may be summoned and fined 5s. for the first, and between 5s. and £1 for each subsequent offence, or in default 7 days' imprisonment; and truant officers are appointed to see that the compulsory provisions are carried out. There are at present 398 school districts, in each of which a Board of Advice is elected every three years by the ratepayers in the district, the members of such Boards being 7 or 5 according to the size or importance of the district. The main functions of a Board of Advice are:—To report on the condition of schools and premises, whether new ones are required, and as to books, furniture, gymnastic appliances or other requirements; to suspend teachers for misconduct, and report cause to the Minister; to visit schools, record the number present, and its opinion as to the general condition and the management of the schools in the district; and to endeavour to induce parents to send their children regularly to school, to compare the attendance with the roll, and report names of parents who fail to comply with the compulsory clauses. The following are the subjects instruction in which 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 previously mentioned; and sewing, needlework, cookery, and domestic economy for girls. For instruction in other branches, fees are charged to the parents, and the teacher is entitled to such fees if the inspector is satisfied with the instruction imparted. The following are the extra subjects and the fees chargeable:—Latin, French, German, and painting, for which the fee must not exceed one shilling weekly; natural science, euclid, algebra, trigonometry, fancy work, elocution, and shorthand, fee not exceeding sixpence weekly; and book-keeping and calisthenics, fee not exceeding threepence weekly; and such other subjects as may be approved by the Director. The instruction in extra subjects must not be given so as to interfere with the ordinary free instruction. Yearly examinations are held to determine the teachers' results and the standard of education of children who present themselves. The subjects are—reading, writing, spelling, composition, and arithmetic; and any child under 13 years of age who wishes exemption from further compulsory attendance may be so exempt on passing this test. Half-yearly examinations are also held for the examination of children not attending State schools who desire to prove that they are educated up to the standard. Male teachers are divided into eight classes and female teachers into seven classes, there being no female

Boards of Advice.

Free subjects.

Extra subjects.

Standard of education.

Teachers' remuneration and classification.

teachers in the first class. (The salaries for males, excluding pupil teachers, range from £70 to £288, and those for females, excluding pupil teachers and sewing mistresses, £56 to £138. In addition to these fixed salaries, a sum equal to one-half the amount of each salary is obtainable by way of results; the efficiency of the instruction imparted by the teacher being gauged by an inspector's examination of every scholar who has attended the school during any part of the two weeks preceding the visit, the examination being restricted to the free subjects. It was intended to abolish the system of payments by way of results by Act No. 1777, which provided for the repeal as from 31st August, 1902, of the provision contained in Sec. 23 of the principal Act, empowering the Governor-in-Council to make regulations for these payments. A substitute was provided by a subsequent Act, which, however, was afterwards withdrawn. The repeal of the power to make regulations for these payments did not affect the validity of the regulations then in force, and these payments are being continued for the present. In addition to the head and assistant teachers, there are four classes of male and female pupil teachers, with salaries ranging from £30 to £60 and £24 to £48 respectively, and monitors are appointed, males receiving £12 and females £10 per annum. Sewing mistresses receive £30 yearly.

College for training teachers.

There is a college for the training of teachers, studentships entitling classified teachers who have passed the pupil teachers' course or pupil teachers who have passed their course to free instruction on competitive examination. The course of instruction in the Training College includes history, theory and practice of teaching, English language and literature, history of the British Empire, mathematics, Latin, and science.

Scholarships and exhibitions.

Any person may collect, raise, or give a sum of money towards founding a scholarship or exhibition in connection with any particular State school; and money or land, or both, may be bequeathed for that purpose. There are 40 departmental scholarships, each of the annual value of £10, tenable for three years, open to 6th class scholars under 14 years, upon competitive examination. The conditions are that after the award of scholarship the scholar shall at the next ensuing session become a student in one of the approved secondary schools or colleges; shall continue to attend, and shall obtain at the end of each year a favourable report from the authorities of the same; and shall pass an annual examination in proof of his progress. The holders of departmental scholarships under 17 years of age, who have attended regularly at an approved secondary school or college for the preceding two years, from the authorities of which good reports have been obtained, and

who have passed the matriculation examination at the University, are eligible to compete for twenty exhibitions annually awarded by the department. The exhibitions are allotted on competitive examination in English, algebra, and geometry, and any two of the four following languages:—Latin, Greek, French, or German; the examination being on the basis prescribed for the preceding matriculation. Each exhibition is of the annual value of £40, tenable for three years at technical schools, or for four years at the Melbourne University. An exhibitioner who passes four years without failure is entitled to continue for a year extra.

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 latest year, and to the 31st December for all previous years:—

State schools, teachers, and scholars, 1872 to 1902.

Year.	Number of Schools.	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
1898 ...	1,877	4,618	238,357	134,976	212,164
1899 ...	1,892	4,808	239,732	143,844	214,522
1900 ...	1,948	4,977	243,667	147,020	218,240
1901-2 ...	2,041	5,066	257,355	150,939	228,241

The falling off in the number of schools in 1898, as compared with 1890, was due to the closing of a number of small schools and the amalgamation of others. The decrease in the scholars enrolled during the same period was entirely due to the non-enrolment since 1892 of children under 4½ years of age, and to payments for conveyance being restricted to those between the ages of 5 and 13. Since 1898, however, there has been an annual increase in the number of schools, and a very satisfactory annual increase in the number of scholars. There has also been an increase in the number of teachers to keep pace with the growing number of scholars.

Increase of schools and scholars.

Ages of State
school
scholars.

The following are particulars of the number and percentage of distinct children attending State schools, below, at, and above the school age (6 and under 13) during the year 1901-2:—

Ages.	Distinct Children Attending—					
	Day Schools.		Night Schools.		Total.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Under 6 years ...	13,350	5·91	...	...	13,350	5·85
6 to 13 ...	171,233	75·79	...	...	171,233	75·02
13 years and upwards ...	41,339	18·30	2,319	100·0	43,658	19·13
Total ...	225,922	100·00	2,319	100·0	228,241	100·00

Private
schools
1872 to
1901-2.

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

Year (4th Quarter).	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
1898 ...	945	2,440	43,926
1899 ...	901	2,417	48,854
1900 ...	884	2,348	48,483
1901-2 ...	872	2,379	43,182

Scholars
attending
State and
private
schools.

On comparing the number of scholars with the number attending State schools, as shown in the preceding paragraph, it is seen that 16 per cent. of the scholars attending school during 1901-2 attended private schools, and the balance, 84 per cent., attended State schools.

Ages of
scholars
at private
schools.

Of the 43,182 scholars attending private schools during 1901-2, 68½ per cent. were at the compulsory school age (6 and under 13), 10 2-3 under 6, and 20 5-6 per cent. were 13 and upwards. As compared with the ages of State school scholars shown in the preceding table, it will be seen that there is a larger percentage under and above the compulsory age, but a smaller percentage at that age.

Education
of the peo-
ple, cen-
sus 1901.

The following statement, taken from the returns of the census of 1901, shows the number and percentage of persons

(excluding Chinese and Aborigines) in the State at different ages who could read and write, who could read only, or who were unable to read:—

Ages.	Numbers living in 1901.				Number in every 100 living at each age in 1901.		
	Able to read and write.	Able to read only.	Unable to read.	Total.	Able to read and write.	Able to read only.	Unable to read.
Under 6 years ...	4,811	5,237	146,796	156,844	3·07	3·34	93·59
6 to 13 years ...	175,797	8,046	11,251	195,094	90·12	4·12	5·76
13 „ 15 „ ...	50,547	65	220	50,832	99·44	·13	·43
15 „ 25 „ ...	222,076	239	1,245	223,560	99·34	·10	·56
25 „ 35 „ ...	187,879	288	1,512	189,679	99·05	·15	·80
35 „ 45 „ ...	155,206	650	1,994	157,850	98·32	·41	1·27
45 „ 55 „ ...	76,480	1,120	2,350	79,950	95·66	1·40	2·94
55 „ 65 „ ...	52,808	1,986	2,994	57,788	91·38	3·44	5·18
65 years and upwards	54,809	3,776	4,865	63,450	86·38	5·95	7·67
Unspecified adults ..	1,647	27	45	1,719	95·81	1·57	2·62
All ages ...	982,060	21,434	173,272	1,176,766	83·46	1·82	14·72
15 years and upwards	750,905	8,086	15,005	773,996	97·02	1·04	1·94
21 „ „ „	613,018	7,936	14,335	635,289	96·49	1·25	2·26

The number of children from 6 to 13 years of age includes those children whose ages were not specified, the total figures exclude those whose educational attainments were not returned, and in the ages 15 years and upwards are included the adults whose ages were unspecified.

The numbers of persons in every 10,000 of the population who could read and write, and who were unable to read, at the last two enumerations, were as follow:—

Education
1891 and
1901.

	In 1891.	In 1901.	
At all ages ...	8,318	8,528	could read
„	8,029	8,346	could write
„	1,682	1,472	could not read
Between 6 and 13 (school age)	9,389	9,424	could read
„	8,769	9,012	could write
„	611	576	could not read
At 15 and upwards	9,771	9,806	could read
„	9,573	9,702	could write
„	229	194	could not read
At 21 and upwards	9,728	9,774	could read
„	9,491	9,649	could write
„	272	226	could not read

A marked improvement is noticeable at all ages, and in regard to children at school age the proportion entirely illiterate was only 576 per 10,000.

Education
of boys and
girls 1891
and 1901.

A comparison of the results of the censuses of 1891 and 1901 in every 10,000 children of school age, i.e., between 6 and 13 years of age, indicates that the educational attainments of both boys and girls had materially improved, as there were proportionately more children able to read in 1901 than there were in 1891. This will be readily seen by an examination of the following figures:—

1891.		1901.	
Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
9,357	9,421	9,398	9,454 could read.
8,686	8,852	8,971	9,056 could write.
643	579	602	546 could not read.

It is always a noticeable fact that in Victoria girls are much more forward in regard to the rudiments of education than are boys. Whether it is owing to the fact of a closer application to lessons, of less distractions caused by sports and games, or of quicker natural abilities, it is hard to determine. This relative backwardness of boys is not a condition peculiar to Victoria, but is just as noticeable in the other States.

Education
of children
of different
sects.

The degree of education of children differs somewhat according to religious denomination, as will be seen by the following figures taken at the census of 1901:—

Religious Denominations.	Number aged 5 to 15 years.			Proportion per cent.		
	Able to read and write.	Ab'e to read only.	Unable to read.	Able to read and write.	Able to read only.	Unable to read.
Church of England ...	84,406	4,797	9,914	85.16	4.84	10.00
Presbyterian ...	36,808	2,032	4,232	85.46	4.72	9.82
Methodist ...	40,769	2,036	4,102	86.92	4.34	8.74
Other Protestants ...	18,022	858	2,028	86.20	4.10	9.70
Total Protestants ...	180,005	9,723	20,276	85.72	4.63	9.65
Roman Catholics ...	46,468	2,849	6,253	83.62	5.13	11.25
Jews ...	1,026	56	79	88.37	4.82	6.81
Residue ...	3,657	198	497	84.03	4.55	11.42
Total ...	231,156	12,826	27,105	85.27	4.73	10.00

In addition to these, there were 5,770 children between the ages of 5 and 15 whose education was unstated.

Education
of children
at census,
1901.

At the census of 1901 the number of children at school age (over 6 and under 13 years) resident in Victoria was 197,704, and of these 184,200 were receiving instruction, whilst the balance, 13,504, were not under instruction nor receiving any education whatsoever. There were also 43,353 children either

above or below the school age, making a total of 241,057 children under instruction. Of every 1,000 of these, 783 were educated at State schools, 33 at colleges and grammar schools, 72 at denominational schools, 63 at private schools, and 10 at unspecified schools, whilst the balance of 39 were educated at home. Of the 13,504 at school age who were returned as not receiving any instruction at all, 4,608 were in Melbourne and suburbs, 2,209 in country cities, towns, and boroughs, and 6,687 in rural districts. Of the children at school age resident in Melbourne and suburbs, 6.13 per cent., of those in country towns, &c., 7.03 per cent., and of those in rural districts 7.34 per cent. were not receiving instruction.

As a measure of the progress of education under the free, compulsory, and secular system, it may be mentioned that 90.12 per cent. of children of school age (6 to 13 years) at the census of 1901 were able to read and write, as against 87.69 at that of 1891, 81.70 in 1881, and 65.60 in 1871, just before the introduction of the system. The percentage just mentioned as being able to read and write at the census of 1901 (viz., 90.12) is considerably higher than that in any other State in the Commonwealth, the percentage being, at the 1901 census, 84.42 in Queensland (Australian born children only), 82.05 in Western Australia, 82.00 in South Australia, 80.35 in New South Wales, and 78.77 in Tasmania.

Education of children. Progress and comparison with other States.

The proportion of either sex who showed their want of elementary education, by signing the marriage register with a mark instead of in writing, is given in the following table for each fifth year from 1875, and for the years 1898 to 1902:—

Signing with marks.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Mean.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1875	5.48	9.43	7.46
1880	4.18	4.09	4.13
1885	2.56	2.62	2.59
1890	1.50	1.53	1.52
1895	.89	.67	.78
1898	.73	.62	.67
1899	.85	.68	.76
1900	.66	.85	.76
1901	.56	.50	.53
1902	.67	.54	.60

It will be observed that in proportion to the total numbers married, a very satisfactory increase has taken place during the 20 years ended with 1895 in the numbers of both sexes signing the marriage register in writing, in that nearly every year, as compared with its predecessor, a smaller proportion of persons signed with their marks. Since 1895, this proportion remained at a somewhat uniform level, until the last two years, when it was the lowest. It is probable, however,

Increased numbers signing in writing.

that the irreducible minimum has almost now been reached, for a certain residuum of the population will remain illiterate even under the compulsory system of education which prevails in Victoria. This is confirmed by the results of the census of 1901, which show that the percentage of males aged 21 years and upwards (exclusive of Chinese and Aborigines) who could not write was 3·18, and that of females aged 15 years and upwards, 3·23; whereas at the age groups 15 to 20, immediately following the school period, the percentage was ·81 for males and ·45 for females, so that the persons at all ages marrying in Victoria were not only far better instructed than the general population, but were quite as well educated as those who have just completed their school life.

Compared with England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, where the proportions signing with marks were 2·70, 2·37, and 11·94 respectively, the elementary educational standard is very high in this State, which in this respect occupies the highest position in Australasia.

Technical
schools.

All the technical schools—schools of art and design, and schools of mines—are now under the direct control of the Education Department, which has devised and established a scheme for promoting and directing secondary education generally, by which schools will be recognized in certain authorized centres only, and State grants restricted to certain specified subjects which bear a distinct relation to the industrial arts and the success with which they are taught. In the schools of art and design, the subjects taught comprise practical geometry, mechanical and architectural drawing, perspective, model, and freehand drawing. The schools of mines, which have been established at the principal mining centres, provide both theoretical and practical instruction, not only in all the subjects in any way connected with mining pursuits, but also in the arts and sciences generally; whilst a wide range of subjects is taught at the working men's and other colleges. In 1901-2, there were altogether 18 technical schools in the State. Five of these afforded instruction in science, art, and trade subjects; 5 in art and science; 2 in art and trade; while 5 schools confine their teaching to art; and 1 to science subjects only. Five schools, viz., the Working Men's College, Melbourne, and the Schools of Mines at Ballarat, Bendigo, Bairnsdale, and Stawell, are classed as certified science schools, and are eligible to receive State school exhibitioners. The Ballarat School of Mines has been affiliated to the Melbourne University since April, 1887, the privileges conferred by the affiliation, however, being restricted to matriculated students. The schools, as a whole, had, during the fourth term of 1902, an enrolment of 3,081 pupils; whilst the fees per quarter range, in the different schools, from 3s.

to £8 15s. The Government expenditure on all the institutions in 1901-2 amounted to £22,958. Of this, £15,400 was the ordinary Government grant for maintenance, which was supplemented by £1,365 for miscellaneous maintenance expenditure; £1,655 was for buildings, furniture, &c., and £4,538 was loan expenditure on buildings and equipment. Of the total amount, the Working Men's College (Melbourne) received £6,533; the Ballarat School of Mines, £5,694; the Bendigo School of Mines, £1,642; the Stawell School of Mines £1,398; and the Bairnsdale School of Mines, £1,248. These amounts are exclusive of £1,702 miscellaneous expenditure on all the technical schools.

In June, 1899, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the mining, agricultural, trades, and art schools of the State, and to report as to the best method of carrying on technical instruction in such schools; to consider the advisability of the affiliation of the mining schools with the University; to report as to the adoption in the State schools of elementary instruction in sciences pertaining to mining, agricultural, dairying, and manufacturing pursuits; and generally to recommend what means should be adopted for the better provision of a systematic course of technical instruction. The Commission was under the presidency of Mr. Theodore Fink, M.L.A. Many sittings were held, and, after the issue of five progress reports, the final report was presented in August, 1901. This report deals fully with the strides made in technical education in Germany and the principal European countries, and contains a survey of the systems in force in those countries, in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Japan, the Australian States, and New Zealand. A synopsis, historical and general, is also given of the system in vogue in Victoria. Some of the principal recommendations made by the Commission are:—The establishment of State continuation schools, in view of the need for some form of preparatory education bridging the gap between the State and technical schools; the abolition of the existing local councils of technical schools; and the substitution of committees representative of the best educational thought of the localities—such committees to be represented on a General Council of Education; the establishment in the suburbs of Melbourne of classes to afford working tradesmen a knowledge of drawing, geometry, and other subjects applied to their trades; a liberal provision for scholarships; the introduction of legislation for fixing the period of apprenticeship in different trades, and for affording facilities for attending technical classes during the earlier years of apprenticeship; the appointment of skilled tradesmen to supervise and report upon the instruction afforded in trade subjects; the establishment of a Central Technical Art School to afford instruction having the widest

Technical
educational,
Royal Com-
mission on.

application to the various industries of the country, and of a Technical Art Museum in connection therewith; the establishment of systematic courses in commercial education, and of a School of Domestic Economy at the Working Men's College, and the encouragement of science teaching by the secondary schools.

THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE.

BY F. A. CAMPBELL, ESQ., SECRETARY.

Working
Men's
College.

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 high-class instruction. Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant. Over one hundred classes are held in the following departments:—Commercial, elocution and music, mathematics, engineering, architecture, chemistry, mining and metallurgy, photography, art and applied art, rural industries, household economy, and trade courses. The work is divided into—(1) day courses, and (2) evening courses and classes. In the day courses, the lower technical school prepares for the higher technical school, and also gives boys after they have left school a course of practical training, fitting them to enter intelligently on any line of industrial work. The higher technical school prepares students for the higher positions of industrial life, and has the following complete courses:—(1) Mechanical engineering, (2) electrical engineering, (3) marine engineering, (4) mining engineering, (5) sanitary 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 evening school, the following courses have been laid for Experts' Certificates:—(A) carpenters, (B) fitters and machinists, (Ba) marine engineers, (C) cabinet makers, (D) plumbers, (E) house decorators, (F) modellers and terra cotta workers, (G) lithographic artists and draftsmen, (H) photography, (I) electricians, (J) assayers, (K) geologists, (L)

metallurgists. The following figures indicate the comparative amount of work done at the college during the years 1898 to 1902:—

STUDENTS AT WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, 1898 TO 1902.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Students enrolled—					
Average per term	1,786	1,943	2,100	2,162	2,364
Males over 21	437	459	482	564	455
„ under 21—Apprentices	85	112	127	146	147
„ „ Others	778	887	949	979	1,164
Females	486	485	542	473	598
Fees received during the year £	3,273	4,113	5,396	6,236	7,485
Average fee per student ...	36s. 10d.	43s. 6d.	51s. 3d.	57s. 8d.	63s. 8d.
Number of classes	119	128	134	156	161
„ instructors	44	46	49	51	53
Salaries paid instructors £	3,268	4,157	5,408	6,106	7,479

The buildings of the Melbourne Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery cost £209,063. These funds were provided by the Government, as also were further moneys expended on maintenance, amounting, with the sum just named, to a total of £963,658. At the end of 1902 the library contained 143,548 volumes (excluding duplicates). It is open to the public, without payment, on week days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., and was visited during the year by 331,006 persons. The library consists of three distinct sections, viz.:—the Public Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. The librarian reports that 3,716 volumes were purchased, 1,945 volumes presented, 180 volumes obtained under the “Copyright Act,” and 40,628 newspapers were added to the Reference Library during the year. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 167,847 volumes, extending over the whole range of English literature, during 1902, and the number of persons to whom the books were lent was 8,051. Of these volumes, 62 per cent. related to fiction, 15 to history, 6 to general literature, 9 to religion, philosophy, natural science and art, 5 to arts and trades, and 3 per cent. to social science. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of 1902 was 19,483, of which 1,957 were added during the year.

Melbourne
Public
Library.

The National Gallery at the end of 1902 contained 17,315 works of art, viz., 449 oil paintings, 3,470 objects of statuary, &c., and 13,396 water colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. It is opened at 10 a.m. and closed at 5 p.m. daily

Nationa
Gallery.

(Sundays and certain holidays excepted), also on Saturday evenings from 8 to 10 p.m. The school of painting in connexion with this institution was attended in the year by 8 male and 21 female students, and the school of design by 12 male and 42 female students. The students are encouraged to paint original works, by which means it is hoped the foundation may be laid of a school of art of purely Australian subjects.

**Industrial
Museum.**

The Industrial and Technological Museum joins the National Gallery, and was opened on the 7th September, 1870. At the end of 1902 it contained 55,162 specimens. It is opened at 10 a.m. and closed at 5 p.m. daily, Sundays and certain holidays excepted.

**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 consists of stuffed animals, birds, insects, specimens of minerals, and other objects of interest, which are entered in the catalogue, labelled, and classified, and is open to the public free of charge on all week days throughout the year, except Christmas Day and Good Friday, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. In 1902, in addition to presentations of value and interest, purchases were made to the extent of £1,069. The payments for salaries and wages during the year amounted to £2,214.

**Patent Office
Library.**

There is a free library attached to the Patent Office, Melbourne. This contains about 7,250 volumes, consisting of the patent records of Great Britain, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Germany, &c., and other works relating to Science, Patents, and Trade Marks. About 400 models of patented inventions may also be seen on application to the officer in charge. The approximate value of the books is £4,500, and the models £300. 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 rules of court for the admission of barristers and attorneys.

**Free
libraries,
&c.**

There are free libraries, athenæums, or scientific, literary, or mechanics' institutes, in most of the suburban and country towns of the State, and some of these institutions receive books on loan from the Melbourne Public Library.

The Trustees of the Exhibition Building report that the receipts in 1901-2 amounted to £4,154, consisting of rent £1,998, Aquarium admissions £1,499, and sundries £657; and the expenditure to £3,899, viz., Aquarium £1,340, buildings and grounds—maintenance £1,288, and improvements £190, general charges, including salaries, printing, &c., £1,015, and charges in connexion with letting the building £66.

Aquarium
and
Museum in
Exhibition
Building.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDENS.

BY W. R. GUILFOYLE, ESQ., DIRECTOR.

The Melbourne Botanic Garden 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), comprises a total of 312 acres. The facts as to the commencement and progress of the establishment, having been compiled from the most reliable sources, are to be found in the new illustrated "Guide Book," as published by the Government printer in 1901-2, from which the accompanying quotation has been taken:—

Botanic
Garden.

"The first site chosen for a Botanic Garden was an area of 50 acres, near to where the Spencer-street railway station is situated, and was selected by Mr. Hoddle, Surveyor-General, in 1842. Afterwards various other localities were proposed, but finally, owing mainly to the discrimination and taste of the Hon. Charles Joseph La Trobe, first Government Superintendent (afterwards Lieutenant-Governor) of the Province of Port Phillip, a portion of the present site was decided upon for the purpose. In September, 1845, Dr. Nicholson presented a petition, signed by three or four hundred of the citizens, headed by the Mayor, praying for the immediate establishment of the Botanic Garden, and the sum of £750 was thereupon voted—1845-6—for its maintenance. The first superintendent, or curator (Mr. John Arthur), was appointed 1st March, 1846, and he at once fenced in a 5-acre paddock, that portion of the gardens at present known as the Anderson-street Lawn, sloping towards the tea-house on the edge of Lake, in which he made good progress both as to cultivation and planting. Mr. Arthur, however, whose labours were much appreciated at the time, died in January, 1849. Mr. John Dallachy succeeded Mr. Arthur as curator, and insured such good results that, at the end of 1851, a progress report submitted to the Legislature showed that, in addition to an extension of cultivated ground, many kinds of exotic plants had been added to the collection, and also that the native vegetation had received attention. The various shows of the Horticultural Society were at that time held in the gardens. For several years prior to the retirement of Mr. Dallachy, a scientific arrangement of plants in a part of the gardens was undertaken by the then Government Botanist, Dr. Ferdinand Mueller (subsequently Baron Sir F. von Mueller), who had accompanied the Gregory Expedition in search of Leichhardt, the explorer. After the Baron had received the appointment as Director (1857), Mr. Dallachy was re-employed for several years as a collector of seeds and herbarium specimens for the gardens, and discovered many new and beautiful species in Queensland. The Baron held office as Director until 1873, when, with the view of enabling him to give undivided attention to his scientific labours as Government Botanist, he was relieved of control of the Botanic Gardens, and Mr. W. R. Guilfoyle was appointed to the position. Since 1873 the gardens have been entirely remodelled by him, and their area extended by more than 30 acres."

When I took charge of the grounds, I found about 3,000 species of plants growing there, and these, having been added to by me during the past 30 years, now represent no less than 14,000 species. Many of them are large and well-grown palms in great variety, also arborescent as well as other ferns—as for instance, several hundreds in the rather extensive “Gully.” There are, besides, other ornamental and utilitarian plants, together with a good-sized collection in the medicinal or herb garden.

A large “System Pavilion of Plants” was also formed, classified in their natural orders, which, like the whole of the various collections in the outer grounds, conservatory, &c., have their labels attached—giving both their scientific and common names, and also their orders, native countries, &c.

The “Museum of Plant Products” was formed some time ago, which contains many thousands of fully-named herbarium specimens; seeds in their seed vessels (or pods), fibres, and woods, representatives of plants yielding either food or articles for manufacture. Both the system pavilion and museum are largely visited by students connected with botanical classes, in colleges and schools.

It will be seen by the facts quoted that the Melbourne Botanic Garden has now had an existence of 57 years, and as a favourite resort, has become increasingly popular, being attended by many thousands of people on Sundays and holidays, whilst being on week days much used by citizens and others, including visitors from other States, colonies, &c., Great Britain, and other countries. The various grounds referred to are almost encircled by a much-used carriage way, which, having been inter-connected, comprises the Alexandra Avenue, and the South Yarra Drive, and now make one wide promenade of $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles in length.

The gardens of the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria are situated in the centre of the Royal Park, on the northern side of the city, and distant nearly two miles from the Post Office, and can be reached by the tramcars starting every few minutes, or by rail. 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. The present director of the society is Mr. D. Le Souëf.

Greater Melbourne is amply supplied with public reserves and parks, the total area devoted to such purposes being 5,322 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres in 1903, as against 5,226 in 1899. The following list of these reserves, together with a statement of their respective areas, has been supplied by the Lands Department:—

Zoological
and Accli-
matisation
Gardens.

Public
reserves in
Greater
Melbourne

Municipality.	Name of Reserve.	1903. Area.
		Acres.
Melbourne City	Royal Park...	425
"	Yarra	155
"	Prince's	97
"	Fawkner	102
"	Flinders	17
"	Park (Model Farm)	81
"	Botanic Garden and Domain	178
"	Zoological	55
"	Carlton	63
"	Fitzroy	64
"	Spring	21
"	Flagstaff	18
"	Argyle Square	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Curtain	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Darling	2
"	Lincoln	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Macarthur	1
"	Murchison	1
"	University	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	University Grounds	106
"	Friendly Societies' Grounds	25
"	Industrial Schools and Board of Health Depôt	47
"	Melbourne Cricket Ground	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	East Melbourne	7
"	Scotch College	7
"	Richmond	6
"	Carlton	5
"	Parliament Reserve	10
"	Ornamental Plantations	5
"	General Cemetery	101
"	Old Cemetery	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Military Parade Ground	5
"	Recreation (Brown's Hill)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
North Melbourne Town	Recreation	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fitzroy City	Edinburgh Park	34
"	Recreation	7
Collingwood City	Mayor's Park	6
"	Recreation	7
"	Darling Gardens	16
"	Victoria Park	10
Richmond City...	Richmond Park	156
"	Horticultural Gardens	33
"	Barkly Square	7
"	Municipal Reserve	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Northcote Town	Jika Park	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Melbourne City	Albert Park (part o ^c)	464
"	St. Vincent Gardens	7 $\frac{7}{8}$
"	Ornamental Plantations	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Cricket and Recreation (Warehousemen's)	8
Port Melbourne Town	Cricket Ground	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Park and Garden	58
"	"	2
"	Ornamental Plantations	17
Prahran City	Toorak Park	7

Municipality.	Name of Reserve.	•1903. Area.
		Acres.
Prahran City ...	Victoria Gardens ...	4
" ...	Gardens (Grattan-street) ...	2
St. Kilda City ...	St. Kilda Gardens ...	16
" ...	Albert Park (part of) ...	106
" ...	Recreation ...	54
" ...	" ...	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
" ...	" ...	11
" ...	" ...	15 $\frac{3}{4}$
" ...	" (Dandenong Road) ...	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ...	Cemetery ...	20
Brighton Town ...	Elsternwick Park ...	85
" ...	Recreation (Elsternwick) ...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ...	Beach Park ...	67
Essendon Town ...	Recreation ...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ...	" ...	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
" ...	Agricultural Society's Yards ...	30
" ...	Queen's Park ...	18
" ...	Water Reserve ...	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flemington and Kensington Borough	Racecourse ...	301
" ...	Recreation ...	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Hawthorn City ...	" ...	15
Kew Borough ...	Studley Park ...	203
Kew Borough ...	Lunatic Asylum ...	384
" ...	Cemetery ...	31
" ...	Recreation ...	16
Footscray City ...	Public Gardens and Recreation ...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ...	" ...	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
" ...	Cricket Ground, &c. ...	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
" ...	Recreation (Yarraville) ...	5
" ...	" (Footscray West) ...	15
Williamstown Town ...	Park ...	36
" ...	" ...	20
" ...	Recreation ...	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
" ...	Beach Park ...	20
" ...	Cemetery ...	15
" ...	Rifle Range ...	332
" ...	Cricket Ground ...	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
" ...	Public Garden ...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ...	Recreation (Newport) ...	13
Malvern Town ...	Park and Garden ...	8
" ...	Recreation ...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ...	Park and Garden (Waverley) ...	16
Caulfield Town ...	Racecourse ...	144
" ...	Park ...	62
" ...	Park (East Caulfield) ...	17
" ...	Recreation ...	13
Oakleigh Borough ...	Recreation ...	8
" ...	Park and Garden ...	21
" ...	Cemetery ...	10
Outside urban municipalities	Yarra Bend Asylum ...	350
	Camberwell Gardens ...	7
	Williamstown Racecourse ...	190
	Total ...	5,322 $\frac{1}{2}$

Friendly Societies are regulated under the "Friendly Societies Act 1890," and amendments thereof in the Acts of 1891, 1896, and 1900, which, amongst other provisions, prescribe that each society shall furnish returns annually to the Government Actuary for Friendly Societies, and once in every five years shall cause its assets and liabilities to be valued to the satisfaction of that officer. The fees for valuation have purposely been fixed low, and average no more than three-pence per member, the result being that, although it is competent for the societies to employ outside valuers if they desire it, as a matter of fact they very rarely do so, and all the valuations are now made by the Government Actuary for Friendly Societies, Mr. Evan F. Owen, A.I.A.

Valuations
of Friendly
Societies.

The following is an epitome of the particulars furnished respecting Friendly Societies for the five years, 1898 to 1902:—

Friendly
Societies.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Number of societies	31	29	29	29	28
„ branches ...	1,088	1,105	1,111	1,132	1,146
Average number of members	86,369	91,213	95,819	99,360	101,574
Number of members sick	18,693	21,083	18,007	20,832	20,708
Weeks for which alim-ent was allowed	160,611	165,616	157,235	169,289	168,830
Deaths of members ...	931	993	976	1,036	1,023
„ registered wives	481	442	424	393	427
	£	£	£	£	£
Income of sick and funeral fund	173,443	186,547	203,569	202,394	202,044
Income of incidental fund	150,111	159,879	164,849	169,406	181,719
Total income ...	323,554	346,426	368,418	371,800	383,763
Expenditure of sick and funeral fund	146,505	153,519	151,226	153,478	156,024
Expenditure of incidental fund	146,722	155,057	161,934	167,579	181,260
Total expenditure	293,227	308,576	313,160	321,057	337,284
Amount to credit of sick and funeral fund	1,133,156	1,166,184	1,218,527	1,267,443	1,313,463
Amount to credit of incidental fund	40,804	45,626	48,541	50,368	50,827
Amount invested—sick and funeral fund	1,059,374	1,103,433	1,141,678	1,205,151	1,249,809
Amount invested—in-cidental fund	31,459	36,026	36,784	39,522	41,793
Total invested ...	1,090,833	1,139,459	1,178,462	1,244,673	1,291,602

During the quinquennium ended with 1902, the number of members in Friendly Societies increased by 15,205, or by about 18 per cent., the amount to the credit of the sick and funeral fund by £180,307, or 16 per cent., and the total amount invested by £200,769, or 18 per cent.

Growth of
Friendly
Societies.

In proportion to the number of effective members of Friendly Societies, the amount of sickness experienced in 1902

Sickness
and death
rates.

was somewhat below the average of recent years. The days per effective member for which alimant was allowed were equal to an average of 11·6 in that year, 12·0 in 1901, 11·3 in 1900, 13·0 in 1899, and 13·0 in 1898, but the average was only 10·6 during the fifteen years ended 1897. The death rate in 1902 was slightly below the average—the death rate per 1,000 members being 10·09 in 1902, 10·45 in 1901, 10·21 in 1900, 10·92 in 1899, 10·82 in 1898, and 10·63 for the 25 years ended 1902.

The occupations of the people in 1901 were ascertained at the census. The various divisions of employment, under 28 heads, were:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ministering to—			
Government, Defence, etc.	6,719	165	6,884
Religion, Charity, Science, Education, etc. ...	13,664	14,676	28,340
Board, Lodging, and Attendance	13,129	53,686	66,815
Dealing in—			
Money and Real Property	10,039	2,760	12,799
Art and Mechanic Productions	3,720	934	4,654
Textile Fabrics, Dress and Fibrous Materials	6,374	2,452	8,826
Foods, Drinks, Narcotics and Stimulants ...	18,217	3,428	21,645
Animals, and Animal and Vegetable Sub- stances	3,977	198	4,175
Metal or Minerals (other than those used for Fuel and Light)	2,044	162	2,206
Minerals, etc., mainly used for Fuel and Light	2,794	34	2,828
Engaged in—			
General Dealing and Mercantile Pursuits ...	16,091	4,446	20,537
Speculating on Chance Events	284	1	285
Storage	1,093	...	1,093
Transport and Communication	30,318	1,198	31,516
Manufacturers of—			
Art and Mechanic Productions	20,676	1,748	22,424
Textile Fabrics, Dress and Fibrous Materials	10,664	28,450	39,114
Foods, Drinks, Narcotics, and Stimulants ...	10,251	1,402	11,653
Animal and Vegetable Substances	5,281	85	5,366
Metals and Minerals (other than those used for Fuel and Light)	14,315	88	14,403
Materials used for Heat, Light, or Energy	1,035	37	1,072
Constructors of Buildings, Roads, Railways, Earthworks, etc.	27,392	17	27,409
Engaged in Disposing of the Dead or Refuse...	1,260	24	1,284
Ill-defined Industrial Workers (chiefly labourers)	22,653	855	23,508
Engaged on Land or with Animals, and in Obtaining Raw Products from Natural Sources	140,149	24,998	165,147
Persons—			
Of Independent Means	7,242	2,824	10,066
Dependent upon Natural Guardians	203,279	444,931	648,210
Dependent upon the State or upon Public or Private Support	7,701	6,444	14,145
Occupation not stated (chiefly Breadwinners)...	3,522	1,415	4,937
Total	608,883	597,458	1,201,341

The number of breadwinners and dependents were:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.
Breadwinners ...	389,381	144,668	534,049	65	24	45
Dependents ...	210,980	451,375	662,355	35	76	55
Total ...	600,361	596,043	1,196,404	100	100	100

Bread-winners and dependents, 1901.

The proportion of breadwinners was 100 to every 124 dependents, which was almost the same as at the previous census, when 100 breadwinners supported 125 dependents. It will be seen, too, that nearly one-fourth of the females in Victoria were returned as earning their own living.

Proportion of breadwinners and dependents.

Provision was made in the census schedules for ascertaining the number of persons unemployed for more than a week prior to the enumeration. The information then collected shows that 13,795 male and 2,647 female wage-earners were returned as idle at that time.

Unemployed, 31st March, 1901.

The "Factories and Shops Act 1896" (No. 1445) is an important piece of social legislation, and is to be read in conjunction with the "Factories and Shops Act 1890." 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. The expression handicraft includes any work done in a laundry or dyeworks. Provision is made for the registration of factories; and inspectors are appointed to inspect and examine them in order to see that the health requirements and other provisions of the Acts are complied with. A record is to be kept in every factory of the names, work, and wages of all employes, and the ages of those under 16. The employment of persons under 13 is debarred, and a strict limitation is placed on the hours of employment for other young persons; and there are special provisions to guard against accidents, for the inspection of boilers, and against the employment of uncertificated persons to control them. All shops, except chemists, news agents, eating houses, &c., must close at seven p.m. on week days and at ten p.m. on Saturdays; but municipal councils are empowered to make by-laws permitting all shops of a particular class to remain open later, or providing that such shops be closed for one afternoon in each week, on petition by a majority of the shop-

Factory legislation.

keepers of the same class; but the Act provides that all shop assistants shall have a half-holiday in each week. The working hours of Chinese are specially restricted, in order to try to prevent or lessen unfair competition. The most important provision, however, which is provided in the Act of 1896, is in regard to the formation of Boards to fix the rates of wages and piecework in various trades, for which purpose it is provided that, to determine the lowest prices or rates to be paid, the Governor-in-Council may appoint special Boards consisting of from four to ten members (half elected by employers and half by employés), 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 shall appoint the chairman. The Board so appointed shall agree upon the rates or prices to be charged, and shall also determine the number of apprentices or improvers under 18 years of age who may be employed, and the lowest price or rate of pay; but no one shall receive less than 2s. 6d. per week in any case. Several amending Acts have been passed since the 1896 measure was placed on the Statute Book, extending to many and diverse occupations the beneficial provisions of the original Act. The Acts continued in force until 1st November, 1903, and a Bill was brought before Parliament continuing the 1896 Act and all enactments amending the same, until otherwise provided by Parliament. This was subsequently altered amending and limiting the duration of the Acts to two years, from the 31st December, 1903. The Chief Inspector of Factories reports that determinations, made by twenty-nine Boards elected under the Act, were in full operation during 1902, and furnishes figures showing the increase in average earnings consequent thereon. For instance, the average weekly wage for all employés (including boys) in the bread-making trade was £1 12s. 6d. in 1896, prior to the Wages Board being in operation, and £2 2s. 10d. in 1902, when its determination was in full force. Likewise, the average wage of persons employed in the clothing trade increased from £1 in 1896 to £1 2s. 5d. in 1902; the average wage in the boot trade from £1 3s. 2d. to £1 8s. 3d.; and in the furniture trade from £1 9s. 1d. to £1 19s. 6d. In 1900, the average wage of persons engaged in the engraving trade was 36s. 11d., and in 1902, when the determination was in force, it was 49s. 10d., or an increase of 12s. 11d. In the pottery trade the average wage was £1 8s. 1d. in 1900, before the Wages Board fixed the rates, and in 1902, when the determination was in operation it had risen to £1 16s. 4d., or an average increase of 8s. 3d. for each employé engaged in the trade.

An Act to provide for the payment of old age pensions was passed in 1900. The minimum age of a pensioner is 65 years, but pensions may be granted to persons under that age if they have been permanently disabled through having

Wages
Boards.

Effect—
rise in
earnings.

Old age
pensions.

been engaged in mining or any unhealthy or hazardous occupation. The period of residence in the State required to entitle a person to a pension is 20 years, five of which must be continuous and immediately preceding the application. A person who has deserted, without just cause, wife, husband, or children, for a period of 12 months in the preceding five years, is debarred from pension rights. The absence of serious criminal taint, to the extent of not having been imprisoned for periods amounting to five years during the whole qualifying period of residence, or to six months or upwards in the preceding five years, is insisted upon. Three convictions for drunkenness during the preceding two years is a disqualification. An applicant must be a British subject by birth, or a naturalized subject of not less than six months' standing, but Chinese and Asiatics, whether naturalized or not, and Aborigines are excluded. Relatives may be summoned to show cause why they do not support applicants for pensions, and may be ordered to do so. Originally the maximum pension was 10s. per week, but in the Amending Act of 1901 it was reduced to 8s. per week. The number who actually received pensions during 1902-3 was 15,167; 1,570 pensions were cancelled, and 1,180 pensioners died during the year—leaving 12,417 pensioners on the 30th June, 1903. The following are the amounts paid since the inception of the system on 1st January, 1901, during the last three financial years, viz.:—

In 1900-01	...	...	...	...	£129,338
1901-02	...	...	...	...	292,432
1902-03	...	...	...	...	215,755
					£637,525
	Total	...	...	...	£637,525

The following statement shows the proportion of persons, aged 65 years and upwards, to the population in the three States paying old age pensions, also the proportion drawing old age pensions, and the percentage of the latter to the former:—

Proportion of population 65 and upwards receiving old age pensions in two Australian States and New Zealand.

State or Colony.	Number in Every 10,000 Persons.		Proportion of those Eligible on an Age Basis receiving Pensions.
	65 and Upwards.	Receiving Old Age Pensions.	
	1901.	1902.	Per Cent.
Victoria	552	117	21
New South Wales	344	166	48
New Zealand (including Maoris)	414	157	38

It thus appears that New South Wales is paying pensions to almost half of those eligible to receive them under the age qualification, New Zealand to nearly two-fifths, but in Victoria

Pensions paid in states compared.

only about a fifth of those so qualified are the recipients of this character of State aid.

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 clergy of the various denominations take an active part in the movement, preaching sermons appropriate to the occasion, and otherwise helping it forward. The church collections on this Sunday are entirely devoted in aid of the fund. Sunday school superintendents, business firms, their employes, and others lend valuable assistance in making collections. The following are the amounts collected since the movement was inaugurated:—

1873 to 1898	...	...	...	...	£190,104
1899	...	...	...	...	5,853
1900	...	...	...	...	5,901
1901	...	...	...	...	6,034
1902	...	...	...	...	6,669
Total					£214,561

The amounts distributed to the various charitable institutions, as well as the total sums collected, from the inception of the fund, and for the year 1902, were as under:—

Institution.	Amount Distributed.		
	1873 to 1901.	1902.	Total.
	£	£	£
Melbourne Hospital	61,802	1,654	63,456
Alfred Hospital	26,903	598	27,501
Benevolent Asylum	18,614	411	19,025
Women's Hospital	18,558	569	19,127
Children's Hospital	23,125	879	24,004
Eye and Ear Hospital	10,100	290	10,390
Homoeopathic Hospital	10,064	261	10,325
Victorian Home for Aged and Infirm	6,842	149	6,991
Richmond Dispensary	1,330	35	1,365
Collingwood Dispensary	1,900	...	1,900
Austin Hospital for Incurables	10,122	581	10,703
Convalescent Home for Women	1,790	125	1,915
Convalescent Home for Men	1,275	125	1,400
Melbourne District Nursing Society	576	77	653
St. Vincent's Hospital	2,505	245	2,750
Sanatorium for Consumptives, Echuca and Macedon	790	223	1,013
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	308	106	414
Melbourne Dental Hospital	20	20	40
Total Distributed	196,624	6,348	202,972
Total Collected	207,892	6,669	214,561

Particulars relating to the most important of the various classes of charitable institutions in the State are shown in the following table. The information relates to the year ended the 30th June, 1902, except for the Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Industrial and Reformatory Schools, in which cases it relates to the calendar year 1902. Of the general hospitals, six are in Melbourne, the remainder in country towns, nine of the latter being also benevolent asylums. The accommodation available for indoor patients was as follows:—

Charitable
institution
—accom-
modation.

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	45	394	4,178,389	2,963	1,410·2
Women's Hospital... ..	1	24	142,486	93	1,532·1
Children's Hospital	1	12	59,176	79	749·1
Eye and Ear Hospital	1	8	54,680	60	911·3
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1	3	18,084	15	1,205·6
Consumptive Sanatorium	1	18	59,000	97	608·2
Hospitals for the Insane	6	1,181	2,815,219	4,083	689·5
Idiot Asylum	1	20	114,288	276	414·1
Benevolent Asylums	6	179	1,663,766	2,437	682·7
Convalescent Homes	2	31	71,000	63	1,127·0
Blind Asylum	1	5	91,318	112	815·3
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	1	4	75,872	74	1,025·2
Orphan Asylums	7	55	533,794	1,005	531·1
Industrial and Reformatory Schools	14	...	...	...	...
Infant Asylum	1	8	38,821	54	718·9
Female Refuges	9	124	320,775	537	597·3
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	6	39	101,317	225	450·3
Total	104	2,105	10,337,985	12,173	849·2

The regulations of the Board of Public Health require an allowance of 1,200 cubic feet for each inmate in hospitals, and the above statement shows that, with two exceptions, this requirement has been complied with.

Charitable
institutions
—inmates
and deaths.

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

Description of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Daily Average.		
General Hospitals ...	21,193	1,988	2,272	Per Cent. 10·72
Women's Hospital ...	1,716	66	40	2·33
Children's Hospital ...	1,294	84	101	7·80
Eye and Ear Hospital ...	805	54	2	·25
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	195	11	4	2·05
Consumptive Sanatorium	147	47	1	·68
Hospitals for the Insane	5,208	4,237	307	5·89
Idiot Asylum ...	324	287	25	7·71
Benevolent Asylums ...	3,670	2,138	414	11·28
Convalescent Homes ...	1,049	39	1	·09
Blind Asylum ...	108	95	...	...
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	77	66	...	...
Orphan Asylums ...	1,413	1,086	2	·14
Industrial and Reformatory Schools	6,636	5,700	75	1·13
Infant Asylum ...	94	51	15	15·96
Female Refuges ...	827	481	6	·72
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	564	144	2	·35
Total ...	45,320	16,574	3,267	7·21

By comparing the above table with that preceding it, overcrowding seems to exist in the Children's Hospital, the Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Orphan Asylums, as the daily average number of inmates in those institutions was greater than the number of beds provided.

In addition to the inmates shown above, there were 45 mothers of infants in the Infant Asylum, 113 infants in the Female Refuges, and 108 infants in Salvation Army Homes during the year.

Charitable
institutions
—receipts
and ex-
penditure.

The total receipts of all charitable institutions in the year 1901-2 amounted to £455,690, of which three-fifths were contributed by Government, and the expenditure amounted to £458,882. Of the Government contribution, £201,071 was expended on the Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Industrial and Reformatory Schools, which are Government institutions.

Description of Institution.	Receipts.			Expenditure.
	From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
General Hospitals	54,383	65,429	119,812	129,215
Women's Hospital	2,400	6,038	8,438	8,264
Children's Hospital	450	8,233	8,683	8,779
Eye and Ear Hospital	800	3,301	4,101	3,952
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	385	1,357	1,742	1,376
Consumptive Sanatorium	200	7,231	7,431	3,613
Hospitals for the Insane Idiot Asylum	130,852	15,344	146,196	146,196
Benevolent Asylums	22,022	12,560	34,582	34,797
Convalescent Homes	450	1,298	1,748	1,388
Blind Asylum	2,000	3,252	5,252	4,355
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	1,000	2,194	3,194	3,192
Orphan Asylums	6,550	15,537	22,087	19,635
Industrial and Reformatory Schools	70,219	1,791	72,010	72,010
Infant Asylum	255	827	1,082	1,331
Female Refuges	2,019	12,858	14,877	15,945
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	690	3,765	4,455	4,834
Total	294,675	161,015	455,690	458,882

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

Charitable institutions—average cost per inmate.

Description of Institution.	Daily Average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average Cost of Each Inmate Per Annum.		
			£	s.	d.
General Hospitals	1,988	109,029	54	16	10
Women's Hospital	66	7,216	109	6	8
Children's Hospital	84	6,866	81	14	9
Eye and Ear Hospital	54	3,502	64	17	0
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	11	1,003	91	3	8
Consumptive Sanatorium	47	2,223	47	6	0
Hospitals for the Insane Idiot Asylum	4,237	146,196	32	6	4
Benevolent Asylums	2,138	31,173	14	11	7
Convalescent Homes	39	1,233	31	12	4
Blind Asylum	95	3,034	31	18	9
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	66	3,062	46	7	11
Orphan Asylums	1,086	15,698	14	9	1
Industrial and Reformatory Schools	5,700	72,010	12	12	8
Infant Asylum	51	850	16	13	4
Female Refuges	481	12,362	25	14	0
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	144	4,249	29	10	2
Total	16,574	419,706	25	6	6

The institutions showing the lowest average cost per inmate are the Industrial and Reformatory Schools, the Orphan Asylums, and the Benevolent Asylums. As many of the children of the Industrial and Reformatory Schools cost the State nothing—maintaining themselves at service or being supported by relatives—the cost of maintenance per head shown above is somewhat misleading, the true cost per head of those supported by the State being about £17 10s. The average cost per inmate of the Infant Asylum, 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.

Convalescent homes.

In addition to the hospitals, there were two Convalescent Homes—one for men, situated at Cheltenham, and the other for women at Clayton—with accommodation for 63 inmates. The number of inmates at the beginning of the year 1901-2 was 44; 1,005 were admitted, and 1,015 were discharged during the year, and 34 remained under care on the 30th June, 1902.

Free dispensaries.

Two free dispensaries furnished returns for 1902. The individuals treated during the year ended 30th June, 1902, numbered 4,930. The visits to or by these persons numbered 17,533. The total receipts amounted to £679, of which £235 was from Government and £444 from other sources. The total expenditure was £1,045.

Lunatic asylums, 1902.

The number of persons admitted to lunatic asylums during the year 1902 was 796, the number discharged recovered was 358, and relieved 55. The number of patients remaining in the asylums on the 31st December, 1902, was 4,547, or a proportion of 1 in every 265 of the population, as compared with 4,501, or 1 in every 269 of the population, in the preceding year. Of those discharged recovered in 1902, as many as 78 per cent. had been in the asylums for less than 12 months, 13 per cent. from 1 to 2 years, and 6 per cent. from 2 to 5 years. After this length of time in the asylums recoveries are not at all likely to take place. Of those who died, 41 per cent. had not been resident 12 months, 30 per cent. from 1 to 5 years, 10 per cent. from 5 to 10 years, 5 per cent. from 10 to 15 years, 3 per cent. from 15 to 20 years, 5 per cent. from 20 to 25 years, and about 6 per cent. were in longer than 25 years. These facts tend to show that mortality is heavy during the early stages of treatment, and that the death rate amongst those inmates who have a lengthened asylum residence is very light, and no doubt this result generally aids in making the large asylum population to which attention has been repeatedly directed.

Admissions, discharges &c., lunatic asylums, 1848 to 1902.

Since the opening of the first asylum in 1848 up to the end of 1902, 31,693 persons have been admitted, viz., 18,198 males, and 13,495 females. The proportion who recovered was

29 per cent. of males, and 33 per cent of females, whilst 4 and 6½ per cent. respectively were relieved, 21 per cent. and 22 per cent. (including transfers) were not improved, 33 and 22 per cent. died, and 13 and 16 per cent. respectively still remain under care in the institutions.

The number of lunatics in the different Australian States and New Zealand, and their proportion to the total population of each State on 31st December, 1901, were:—

Lunatics in Australia and New Zealand.

State or Colony.	Number of Lunatics on 31st December, 1901.	
	Total.	Per 100,000 of Population.
Victoria	4,501	372
New Zealand	2,773	352
Queensland	1,752	343
New South Wales	4,475	324
South Australia	988	270
Tasmania	426	245
Western Australia	340	175

The figures of 1901 are used, as those for 1902 for all the States are not yet available.

The recoveries of patients in the Victorian lunatic asylums in 1901 were below the average of the 20 years ended with 1901. the proportion in that year being 3,888 per 10,000 admitted, as compared with 4,025 in the period stated. The proportion of recoveries in 1901 was lower than in South Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland, but higher than in Western Australia and Tasmania.

Recoveries of lunatics in Australia, 1901.

	Recoveries per 10,000 Admissions.		Recoveries per 10,000 Admissions.
South Australia	5,093	Victoria	3,888
New South Wales	4,693	Western Australia	3,830
Queensland	4,353	Tasmania	3,231

The mortality of lunatic asylum patients was higher in Victoria in 1901 than in any of the other States with the exception of South Australia. This will be seen by the following figures:—

Deaths of lunatics in Australia and New Zealand.

	Deaths per 10,000 Resident Patients.
South Australia	834
Victoria	768
New South Wales	683
Western Australia	681
New Zealand	639
Queensland	583
Tasmania	550

Industrial
and re-
formatory
schools.

There were at the end of 1902 three industrial and ten reformatory schools in the State, one of the former being a servants' training school. The State industrial schools are used merely as receiving depôts, the children being sent as soon as possible after commitment to the schools either to foster homes, or to private farm reformatories partly supported by the State. Many of the inmates of the State reformatories are either placed with friends or licensed out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1902, numbered 5,745, and in addition, there were 34 others free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. Of the total number under control, only 343 are described as reformatory children; 199 of these were in reformatory schools, 79 were maintaining themselves at service, 64 were placed with relatives without cost to the State, and one was an inmate of a gaol. The balance, 5,402, are described as neglected children, of whom 3,753 were boarded out in foster homes, 736 were maintaining themselves at service, 762 were living with relatives without cost to the State, 140 were inmates of institutions for neglected children, 9 were in hospitals, and two in gaols.

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 five shillings per week for each child. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service. The number of children boarded out at the end of 1902 was 3,753, as against 3,701 in 1901, 3,331 in 1900, 3,113 in 1899, and 2,791 in 1898; the number placed with friends on probation was 825 in 1902, as against 780 in 1901, 719 in 1900, 689 in 1899, and 673 in 1898; and the number at service or apprenticed, 815 at the end of 1902, as against 851 in 1901, 842 in 1900, 820 in 1899, and 799 in 1898.

The circumstances leading to the commitment of these children are as follow, the particulars having been obtained from the orders:—The total number of children placed under care in the schools in 1902 was 894, and in only 370 cases, or 41 per cent. of the whole, were the parents held to be blameable; the father in 245, the mother in 70, and both parents in 55 cases. There were 524 cases in which the parents were held to be blameless; in 293 instances the father was dead and the mother poor, but of good character; in 21 both parents were dead; in 54 the parents were alive, but, though held to be of good character, were too poor to support their children; in 34 the father was poor and the mother dead; in 82 both parents were the victims of misfortune; in 15 the

parents were unknown; and in 25 cases the father was unknown, and the mother unable, either through sickness or poverty, to maintain her offspring.

The Government expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1902 to £61,262, and for reformatory school children to £6,589; the expenses of administration amounted to £4,160, making a total gross expenditure of £72,011. A sum of £1,792 was received from parents for maintenance, making the net expenditure £70,219. The average number of neglected children under supervision during the year was 5,396; of this total, 3,727 were maintained in foster homes at an average annual cost per head to the State of £14 18s. 11d., 82 were in Government receiving depôts at £35 19s. 6d. per head, and 90 were in private industrial schools costing £14 2s. 11d. per head; 736 were at service earning their own living, and 761 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The average number of reformatory wards under supervision during the year was 357. Of this number, 214 were maintained in private schools at an average annual cost per head of £30 15s. 10d., 79 were at service earning their own living, and 64 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The average net cost per head of neglected and reformatory school children who were maintained by the State during the year was £17 14s. 2d.

Cost of maintenance of industrial and reformatory children.

There were 827 female inmates of these refuges during the year ended 30th June, 1902; 93 were at the temporary home at Collingwood, 441 at the Magdalen Asylum, Abbotsford, 59 at the Carlton Refuge, 21 at the Ballarat Home, 16 at the Bendigo Rescue Home, 17 at the Geelong Refuge, 77 at the South Yarra Home, 73 at the Elizabeth Fry Retreat, and 30 at the House of Mercy, Cheltenham; 47 children accompanied their mothers to the Carlton Refuge, 30 to the Temporary Home for Friendless and Fallen Women, Collingwood, 17 to the Ballarat Home, 7 to the Bendigo Rescue Home, 12 to the Geelong Refuge, and 1 to the South Yarra Home. Of the total number of children, 16 died during the year. Nine women from the Magdalen Asylum, 5 from the South Yarra Home, 5 from the Elizabeth Fry Retreat, 1 from the Geelong Female Refuge, and 1 from the House of Mercy, Cheltenham, were discharged for misconduct, and 6 in the Magdalen Asylum died. The objects of these institutions are—(1) To provide a refuge for fallen women who are desirous to return to the paths of virtue; (2) to aid the reformation of these women, and fit them to again become useful members of society; (3) to assist in procuring situations, or otherwise providing for them on leaving the institution.

Refuges for fallen women.

Eighty benevolent or philanthropic societies furnished returns for the year ended 30th June, 1901. These associa-

Benevolent societies.

tions are for the relief of distressed or indigent persons, and are generally managed by ladies. The names of two of the societies indicate their connexion with the Jewish body, but no distinctive denomination is perceptible in the titles of any of the others, with the exception of the Central Methodist Mission, and Church of England Seamen's Mission. The persons relieved during the year numbered about 17,885; the receipts amounted to £17,987, of which £8,015 was from Government and £9,972 from private sources; and the expenditure to £16,362.

Night
shelters.

At Dr. Singleton's Night Shelters, Collingwood, 13,570 cases were accommodated during the year 1901-2, viz., 8,487 men, 4,899 women, and 184 children. The expenses were £82, which were defrayed out of the "General Charity Fund," but there were also numerous contributions in the shape of food.

Society for
the Pro-
tection of
Animals.

The Victorian Society for the Protection of Animals has been established for about 30 years, its objects being, by enforcement of the existing laws, to prevent cruelty to animals, to procure such further legislation as may be found expedient, and to excite and sustain an intelligent public opinion regarding man's duty to the lower animals. In the year ended 30th June, 1902, the cases dealt with by the society numbered 731, of which 481 were for cruelty to horses. There were 113 prosecutions, which resulted in 107 persons being fined, and 6 dismissed. The receipts during the year amounted to £526 and the expenditure to £419.

Victorian
Discharged
Prisoners'
Aid
Society.

Since 1872 a society has been in existence in Melbourne for the purpose of affording assistance to discharged prisoners, and offering them inducements to return to the paths of honesty and industry. Relief is afforded by gifts of money, clothes, blankets, and other necessaries, and those who desire it are supplied for a time with board and lodging in Melbourne, or are provided with means to go into the interior, or to leave the State. The society also takes charge of and distributes the sums earned by the prisoners whilst under detention. The number of individuals relieved in 1902-3 was 580. The receipts in the same year amounted to £832, including grants from Government, the Penal Department, and private sources; and the expenditure to £750.

ROYAL VICTORIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

BY J. THURSTON HOGARTH ESQ., SUPERINTENDENT AND SECRETARY.

Institute for
Blind.

The Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind occupies a site on the St. Kilda-road, Melbourne. The institution is strictly undenominational in its character, and its objects are to give a suitable scholastic and religious education to the

young blind of the State, and to teach them trades or professions by means of which, on completion of their term of training, they may earn an independent livelihood. It is further intended, as far as the exigencies of trade will permit, to give employment in its industrial department to blind work-people who may be unable to get work elsewhere. This, however, is restricted to the demand for the goods made. The institute is not in any sense a benevolent asylum for the indigent blind, who can not only be maintained cheaper, but can be better cared for in the ordinary institutions for the care of the destitute. The scholastic education is similar to that in the State schools, varied only in the apparatus and means employed; and examinations are held annually by the Education department, the percentage gained at the last being 100. Music is an important part of the education of the blind, and those who display exceptional talent are trained for the musical profession, and the skill of the pupils is utilised as means of raising revenue for the institution by means of concerts and band performances in various parts of the State. In the industrial branch, pupils are trained in the trades of brush, basket, mat, and matting making, the period of training varying from two to five years; and employment is then given to non-resident ex-pupils, who are paid wages at piece-work rates ruling in the various trades. Some less proficient workers have their wages supplemented by a bonus. Its outside workers are assisted in times of sickness by "The Blind Workers' Sick Benefit Society." Its funds are maintained by weekly contributions by its members, and it is subsidised by a grant from the board of management equal to the amount of the members' contributions. This society is managed by a committee of its members, assisted by the principal of the institution, and the accountant, who acts as honorary treasurer. There is now no debt on the institution. The sales in the manufacturing department amounted to £4,836, being £587 more than the previous year. The total number of pupils and workers on the roll is 96, classified as follows:— Resident pupils, 55; day pupils, 2; journeymen and non-resident workers, 39.

VICTORIAN DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.

BY JNO. ADCOCK, ESQ., SUPERINTENDENT.

The Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution occupies a site on the St. Kilda-road. At the beginning of the year there were 64 pupils on the roll. During the year, 13 new pupils were admitted, and 7 have been discharged, thus leaving the number of pupils, on the 30th June, 1902, 70 (33 boys and 37 girls). Since the year 1862, when the institution was fairly

Deaf and
Dumb
Institution.

launched, there have been received into it over 417 children, 347 of whom have been discharged, most of them being capable of maintaining themselves. The work of the school has been carried on with a great measure of success, and the combined oral and manual system of teaching has proved very satisfactory. A number of the boys are being instructed in boot-making and gardening, and the girls in domestic duties, and all are making good progress. The total receipts for the year were £3,194—the sum allotted out of the charitable vote being £1,000. Bequests, amounting to £648, were received and added to the endowment account, the total to the credit of which fund is now £11,629—most of which is invested in Government stock, the interest only being used for maintenance purposes.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

BY WILLIAM HAMILTON, ESQ., SECRETARY.

Humane
Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victorian Humane Society." Its objects are as follow:—(1) To bestow rewards on all who promptly risk their own 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 rewards all who, through skill and perseverance, are, under Providence, successful. (4) To collect information regarding the most approved methods and the best apparatus to be used for such purposes. During the year ended 30th June, 1902, 93 applications for awards were investigated, with the result that 27 certificates and 24 bronze medals were granted. The receipts during the year amounted to £557, and the expenditure to £423. The institution has placed and maintains 426 life-buoys at various places on the coast, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs throughout all the Australasian States and Fiji. Of the honorary awards distributed in 1901-2, 19 were for deeds of bravery performed in Victoria, 14 for similar acts in New South Wales, 4 in Queensland, 4 in New Zealand, 3 in Tasmania, 1 in Fiji, and 6 in Western Australia. The society has 148 honorary correspondents, residing as follow, viz.:—45 in Victoria, 33 in New South Wales, 27 in New Zealand, 27 in Queensland, 8 in Tasmania, 3 in South Australia, and 5 in Western Australia. Owing to the appointment of these gentlemen and to the awards made by the society appearing to give complete satisfaction throughout the States, there is no urgency for forming local branches of the society in the other States.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SOCIETY.

BY J. G. BURROWS, ESQ., SECRETARY.

An Australian Health Society was established in Melbourne in 1875. It consists of about 300 members, and is managed by a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, two secretaries (one being a lady), and fifteen members of council. Its objects are:—(1) To create and educate public opinion with regard to sanitary matters in general, by the aid of the platform, the press, and other suitable means; (2) to induce and assist people, by personal influence, example, and encouragement, to live in accordance with the recognized laws whereby health is maintained and disease is prevented; (3) to seek removal of all noxious influences deleterious to public health, and to influence and facilitate legislation in that direction. To effect these objects, the society distributes pamphlets, tracts, and wall sheets, bearing upon the preservation of health; maintains a lending library of specially selected works for the use of members; and arranges for the delivery of public lectures annually. During the year 1901-2, courses of health lectures were given in Melbourne, Richmond, and Kew. In pursuance of the plan of testing the work done in the inculcation of health and temperance lessons in the State schools, an examination was arranged to be held, with the concurrence of the Minister of Public Instruction, in the Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Geelong, Wangaratta, and Warrnambool schools. Of those pupils who presented themselves for examination, twenty-six received the Health Society's certificate. These examinations are conducted annually by the council of the society, alternately in the metropolitan and country schools. In the previous year, in the metropolitan district, 658 pupils competed, of whom 37 per cent. passed. No pecuniary aid is received from the Government, the work of the society being carried on by subscriptions ranging from 5s. per annum upwards.

CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY.

BY T. C. MACKLEY, ESQ., SECRETARY.

A Charity Organization Society has been established in Melbourne since 1887, its objects being:—(1) Promotion of co-operation in charitable work; (2) adequate inquiry into all applications for assistance; (3) distribution of immediate relief in kind pending inquiry or arrangements with existing charities; (4) compilation of records of all cases for facility of reference; (5) administration of a loan fund; (6) maintenance of a wood-yard or other labour test, so that the means of earning food and shelter shall be opened to all applicants able to work; (7) to encourage charitable work where and in so far as

no suitable society exists; (8) discouragement of indiscriminate alms-giving, imposture, and professional mendicity; (9) encouragement of charitable work in localities where no suitable societies are in existence. The society is managed by an executive committee elected by a council empowered to make rules and regulations for the conduct of its business. This council consists of a representative of each of the charities, and of twenty members elected at an annual meeting of subscribers of the society. The income of the year ended 30th June, 1902, including balance from the previous year, was £1,694, the expenditure £1,351, and the balance carried forward was £343. The new cases investigated by the society during the year numbered 640, the result of the inquiry being that 495 were set down as satisfactory and 145 as unsatisfactory. The society claims to have prevented a large amount of imposture, to have relieved subscribers of the annoying feeling that their benevolence was being wasted on unworthy objects, and to have stimulated and directed the flow of charity. Especially good work has been done in cases where employment has been found for those who, without the society's aid, might have degenerated into permanent burdens on public or private charity, and in the large number of cases in which relatives of indigent persons have been induced to recognize natural claims in a community where no legal obligation is entailed by relationship other than that of husband to wife and of parent to infant. The wood-yard is a very practical part of the society's work. It affords a test of the sincerity of men who ask help on the ground that they cannot get work; and it gives temporary work to those who really need it.
