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## SECTION XXIV.

## PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

## § 1. Introductory.

1. **General.**—Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings, viz.:—(a) State; (b) public; (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal lunatic asylums in the various States, the Government hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government asylums for infirm in New South Wales. The second class comprises public institutions of two kinds, viz.:—(i.) Institutions partially subsidised by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii.) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the Melbourne and other large metropolitan hospitals. In the latter are included institutions established and endowed by individuals for the benefit of the needy generally. All charitable movements of a private or special character are included in the third group.

A more or less accurate statistical account is possible in classes (a) and (b), but in regard to (c) complete tabulation is, for obvious reasons, impossible. Moreover, public response to special appeals, and summary relief in kind, cannot be statistically recorded. Hospitals, orphanages, homes, benevolent asylums, etc., naturally attract the largest share of charitable aid. There are, nevertheless, numerous other and minor charities which mark the course and measure the amount of a considerable volume of private beneficence. In institutions which receive Government aid, management and finance are usually relegated to executive bodies.

The distribution of wealth in the Australian Commonwealth, and the generally favourable conditions, as regards scope for the exercise of natural ability, operate to prevent the development of a permanent pauper class, and at the same time lessen in a dual way the burden of charity. This result is brought about by the increase, on the one hand, of the number of people whose prosperity enables them to relieve the indigent and unfortunate, and by the reduction, on the other, of the number who need assistance. Enactments of State Legislatures have decreed short hours and a liberal holiday allowance for large numbers of persons engaged in industrial and other pursuits, and, even in occupations not covered by Act of Parliament, the general conditions of employment often provide a considerable amount of leisure. This, coupled with an equable climate, enables the community to spend much of its time in the open air, with resultant advantages to its physique and general health. No poor-rate is levied in Australia, and Government aid without return is required only for the aged and disabled. Moreover, although Old Age Pensions are paid by the Commonwealth, the payments are looked upon rather in the light of a citizen's right than as a charity. Reference to the Old Age Pensions will be found in § 3, Miscellaneous, chap. xxxiv.

To meet temporary conditions, or rather, what ought to be temporary conditions, various relief works have been started from time to time, in which the able-bodied who may be forced to seek official relief are required to make some return for the assistance afforded.

In each of the States there are Government asylums for the care of the insane, and the condition of these unfortunates has been steadily ameliorated by the general advance in psychiatry.

Young children deprived of parental training and control are cared for and educated in "orphanages" and "industrial schools," and those who have been guilty of some specific offence, or who are beyond adequate parental control, are committed to "reformatories."

In common with other civilised communities, relief funds have from time to time been organised for famine-stricken territories (*e.g.*, China, India, etc.), or for places where plague, flood, fire, or earthquake has shewn the need of urgent relief. Statistical information in regard to this form of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duties of collectorship in charity appeals.

**2. Charity Reforms.**—The evident overlapping of charitable effort has on various occasions led to discussion regarding methods of collection and distribution. The great desideratum in charity organisation is that the available aid should be relegated solely to the relief of distress and suffering. The true interests of the sick poor would thus be conserved, and the real intention of the donors fulfilled. With greater public attention, improved administration has been brought about. Societies to prevent overlapping have been formed, resulting in improved economical collection and distribution of charitable aid, and a better system of using the available accommodation.

Other proposed reforms aim at ascertaining the causes of poverty and crime, and finding the necessary palliative. Increased provision of better houses and workrooms and improved sanitation are advocated, together with more stringent legislative measures to enforce cleanliness and healthy modes of life. Further, Factories Legislation, Health Acts, etc., have enacted provisions for safeguarding dangerous machinery, and permitting only competent persons to be employed thereon.

**3. Tabulation of Charities Statistics.**—Differences in the organisation of charities prevent uniform tabulation of statistics for all the States, but certain of the larger features of the statistics of benevolence have been combined for the whole Commonwealth. Combinations for the whole of Australia for the five years ended 1912 are given for hospitals, benevolent asylums, orphanages, and hospitals for the insane. Satisfactory tabulation for other charities is not yet possible. Where the combination has been for dissimilar periods the nearest years have been taken.

## § 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

**1. Hospitals.**—Most of the State capitals have several large and well-equipped hospitals, and there is at least one in every important town. In large centres there are hospitals for consumptives, women, children, infectious diseases, incurables, etc. The

number of hospitals in Australia, with the admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, is shewn in the following table. Only general hospitals are tabulated, since the working of "special" institutions is not properly comparable with those which treat cases of all kinds. In 1909, the figures for assisted hospitals in Western Australia were included for the first time, not having been available for previous years.

### HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

Particulars.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Number of institutions ...	312	337	338	355	368
Number of beds ...	12,057	12,630	13,342	13,732	14,574
Admissions during year ...	107,292	112,102	119,091	125,822	139,378
Indoor patients treated ...	114,668	118,928	126,234	133,652	144,692
Deaths ...	8,560	8,814	8,946	9,642	11,235
Expenditure ...	£ 758,993	805,787	802,212	888,802	1,102,134

In addition to those admitted to the institutions there are large numbers of out-patients. The exact number of these cannot be given, but a rough estimate of distinct cases for 1912 places the total at about 300,000.

Fuller details of hospital statistics are given for 1912 in the table below, the States of the Commonwealth being shewn separately :—

### GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION OF HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1912.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'with
Number of Hospitals—								
Government ...	3	50	2	8	21	2	1	87
Other ...	143	5	79	15	29	10	...	281
Total ...	146	55	81	23	50	12	1	368
Medical Staff—								
Males ...	692	70	178 6	90 4	63	36	1	1,149
Females ...	9							
Total ...	701	70	184	94	63	36	1	1,149
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males ...	102	14	173	66	76	4	1	436
Females ...	1,465	648	731	360	406	127	5	3,742
Total ...	1,567	*1,167	904	426	482	131	6	*4,683
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, etc. ...	963	466	515	141	159	113	3	2,360
Capacity in cubic ft. ...	6,788,370	4,776,700	3,149,144	1,362,029	1,654,473	699,377	29,225	18,459,321
Number of beds ...	5,379	3,714	2,798	938	1,208	515	224	14,574
Cubic ft. to each bed	1,262	1,286	1,125	1,452	1,370	1,358	1,328	1,267

\* Inclusive, in Victoria, of 505 paid staff: sexes not stated. + Exclusive of beds on verandahs.

**GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE  
COMMONWEALTH, 1912.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'wlth.
<b>Indoor Relief: Distinct Persons</b>								
Treated—								
Males ... ..	33,571	17,769	19,049	4,984	6,878	3,097	211	85,559
Females ... ..	28,140	12,400	9,248	3,582	3,267	2,465	31	59,133
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>61,711</b>	<b>30,169</b>	<b>28,297</b>	<b>8,566</b>	<b>10,145</b>	<b>5,562</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>144,692</b>
<b>Inmates at beginning of Year—</b>								
Males ... ..	1,960	1,455	1,197	349	426	170	21	5,488
Females ... ..	1,412	985	526	220	161	150	2	3,456
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>3,372</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>1,633</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8,944</b>
<b>Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—</b>								
Males ... ..	31,611	17,576	17,942	5,041	6,452	2,927	198	81,747
Females ... ..	26,728	13,030	8,722	3,697	3,106	2,315	33	57,631
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>58,339</b>	<b>30,606</b>	<b>26,664</b>	<b>8,738</b>	<b>9,558</b>	<b>5,242</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>139,378</b>
<b>Discharges—Recovered:</b>								
Males ... ..	22,061	15,120	16,138	3,131	3,071	2,606	133	162,260
Females ... ..	20,635	11,530	7,868	2,467	1,581	2,061	26	146,218
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>42,746</b>	<b>*26,650</b>	<b>*24,006</b>	<b>5,598</b>	<b>4,652</b>	<b>*4,667</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>1108,478</b>
<b>Relieved:</b>								
Males ... ..	5,688	†	†	1,195	2,491	†	37	19,411
Females ... ..	3,640	†	†	729	1,115	†	3	†5,487
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>9,328</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>1,924</b>	<b>3,606</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>114,898</b>
<b>Unrelieved:</b>								
Males ... ..	347	239	349	222	208	21	10	1,896
Females ... ..	617	160	184	226	101	34	...	1,322
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3,218</b>
<b>Not stated:</b>								
Males ... ..	...	415	107	14	13	76	...	625
Females ... ..	...	269	37	18	4	60	...	388
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1,013</b>
<b>Deaths—</b>								
Males ... ..	2,885	1,818	1,335	476	616	220	17	7,387
Females ... ..	1,603	1,063	546	254	242	158	2	3,868
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>4,488</b>	<b>2,881</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11,235</b>
<b>Inmates at End of Year—</b>								
Males ... ..	2,090	1,439	1,120	352	479	174	22	5,676
Females ... ..	1,595	993	613	223	224	152	4	3,804
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>3,685</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9,480</b>
<b>Average Daily Number Resident—</b>								
Males ... ..	2,033	§	§	382	478	222	17	§
Females ... ..	1,540	§	§	271	224	153	3	§
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>3,573</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>§</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>§</b>

\* Including relieved. † Included in recovered. ‡ Cases relieved are included in those recovered, in Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania. § Information not available.

The revenue and expenditure of the institutions were as follows:—

**GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1912.**

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W.Aust.*	Tas.	N.T.	C'with.
Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of patients, etc	58,416	25,151	20,713	8,638	12,709	6,765	166	132,558
Government grants	204,361	67,236	122,303	60,893	61,596	19,050	†	535,439†
Other ...	166,688	195,678	82,113	12,135	25,252	8,565	†	490,431†
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>429,465</b>	<b>288,065</b>	<b>225,129</b>	<b>81,666</b>	<b>99,557</b>	<b>34,380</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>1,158,428†</b>
Expenditure—								
Salaries ...	140,276	175,236	{ 73,532§ 96,455	25,021	39,092	24,786	{ 1,882 1,670	1,102,134
Maintenance ...	166,516			40,221				
Other, including buildings ...	108,527	97,265	27,317	16,604	61,162	10,113	1,459	
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>410,319</b>	<b>272,501</b>	<b>197,304</b>	<b>81,846</b>		<b>100,254</b>	<b>34,899</b>	<b>5,011</b>

\* Exclusive of assisted hospitals. † Information not available. ‡ Excluding Government grants, etc., Northern Territory. § Including rent.

2. **Hospitals for General and Special Cases.**—The tables here given refer to general hospitals. In addition there are hospitals for “specials” (such as women’s, children’s, and infectious diseases hospitals), and institutions nearly allied to hospitals (such as consumptive sanatoria). In the first and second numbers of the Commonwealth Year Book, these were tabulated with general hospitals. Where the institutions carry on general hospital relief, they are still included with those establishments.

(i.) *New South Wales.* A Government hospital is established at Little Bay. There are four women’s and one children’s hospitals in the metropolis. Other leading institutions are the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, Dental Hospital, Home for Incurables, Hospital for Infants and Asylum for Women and Children, Infants’ Home, etc. A feature of late years has been the establishment of general hospitals in many country towns of growing importance.

(ii.) *Victoria.* Special hospitals, not included in the above tabulation, comprise the Women’s Hospital, with infirmary and midwifery departments, the Children’s Hospital, the Hospital for Women and Children, a Government Consumptive Sanatorium, Inebriates’ Institute, Convalescent homes, etc.

(iii.) *Queensland.* There are six lying-in and two children’s hospitals in Queensland, and a sanatorium.

(iv.) *South Australia.* In connection with the leading general hospital in the metropolis, there is a consumptive home and infectious diseases block; there are also a children’s hospital, two lying-in homes, sanatorium, convalescent home, home for incurables, etc.

(v.) *Western Australia.* The leading general hospitals are Government establishments. There is a lying-in establishment in connection with the metropolitan women’s home. There are also homes for the dying and incurable, homes and rests for sailors, strangers, etc.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* In Tasmania there are several institutions, which pay particular regard to “special cases”; these include two hospitals for contagious diseases; two

hospitals for women; a consumptive sanatorium; and a convalescent home. Other important institutions of a general nature are the New Town Charitable Establishment, and the Home for Invalids.

3. **Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.**—A marked increase has taken place in the amount of aid bestowed upon the aged. Two elements, each of them independent of the growth of population, have influenced this increase. One is, that the general age of the community has advanced—the large flow of immigration of fifty and sixty years ago having been mostly of persons in the prime of life; the other is the increased regard paid in all British communities to the well-being of the helpless. The result in Australia has been that numerous establishments have been founded for the housing and protection of such as are no longer able to care for themselves. The institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, charity performances, bequests, etc., and in many cases relatives of indigent and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

The impossibility of an entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid, is especially marked in the case of benevolent institutions, since the conditions under which they have been established in the different centres in the Commonwealth have caused divergence in their development and in the classes of cases treated by them. For example, in Western Australia the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which the statistics are not separately kept. Since the predominating function of the Institution is aid to the destitute, it has been included among benevolent asylums. In Victoria, nine of the hospitals are also Benevolent asylums, and they are included wholly under the former. In South Australia, the Destitute Asylum includes lying-in and children's departments.

#### BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1912.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
<b>Revenue—</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government aid ... ..	49,247	18,418	27,490	15,307	25,422	...	135,884
Municipal aid ... ..	...	1,006	...	...	...	...	1,006
Public subs., legacies, etc....	3,824	11,200	768	...	...	...	15,792
Fees ... ..	144	7,077	...	438	...	...	7,659
Other ... ..	5,393	3,408	649	226	...	...	9,671
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>58,608</b>	<b>41,104</b>	<b>28,907</b>	<b>15,971</b>	<b>25,422</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>170,012</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Buildings ... ..	5,637	8,454	26	451	...	...	14,568
Maintenance ... ..	51,568	36,424	28,809	15,520	25,422	...	157,743
Other ... ..	2,360	442	144	...	...	...	2,946
<b>Total... ..</b>	<b>59,565</b>	<b>45,320</b>	<b>28,979</b>	<b>15,971</b>	<b>25,422</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>175,257</b>

(i.) *Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales.* There are six of these institutions in New South Wales, with something over 4000 beds, usually in continuous use. Inmates at the end of 1912 numbered 2879; deaths numbered 418; and the expenditure amounted to £35,369 for the six months ended 30th December, 1912.

(ii.) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. The daily average number indoors was 2045 for 1911-12, with 678 distinct cases of outdoor relief. Deaths numbered 514. The total expenditure was £45,320 (of which £8454 was spent on buildings), and receipts £41,104—£18,418 from Government and £22,686 from other sources.

(iii.) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 1079 beds. The total number in the asylums during 1912 was 1683, with a daily average of 1042. Deaths numbered 166. Expenditure amounted to £28,979, and receipts to £28,907, of which £27,490 was Government aid.

(iv.) *Destitute Asylum, Adelaide.* Outside of hospitals and lunatic asylums the destitute of South Australia are dealt with and relieved at the Destitute Asylum, Adelaide. The institution includes lying-in and children's departments. In the asylum the average number of inmates in 1911-12 was 297. There were eighty-six deaths during the year. Expenditure totalled £7287. In addition, £7756 was dispensed through the institution for outdoor relief of the destitute in both metropolitan and rural districts.

(v.) *Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia.* There are four of these homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. Attached to the Perth Women's Home is a lying-in department. Outdoor relief to the poor and aged is given, the amount expended being included in expenditure in the above table. Nearly thirteen hundred indoor cases were dealt with during 1912. There were 107 deaths.

(vi.) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. Beds numbered 283 in 1911-12. The total number of persons treated was 492, of whom 64 died. The daily average number resident was 217. Total expenditure was £4735, receipts amounting to the same sum, of which £4001 was contributed by the State.

4. **Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.**—The organisation of charitable effort varies greatly in regard to orphans and waifs. In many institutions shelter and some form of industrial training is offered to destitute children of all classes, whether orphans or not, while some of those styled orphanages do not confine their relief to orphans strictly so called. The figures in the next table are those for institutions where, it is believed, the principal effort is on behalf of those who are really orphans:—

#### ORPHANAGES IN COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

Particulars.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Number of institutions ... ..	38	42	42	41	41
Admissions ... ..	1,393	1,613	1,626	1,760	1,563
Total number of inmates during year ...	4,078	5,150	5,331	5,465	5,057
Deaths ... ..	19	14	22	12	18
Expenditure* ... ..	£ 65,154	61,088	72,882	74,415	63,362

\* Incomplete. Expenditure is not available for some orphanages.

(i.) *New South Wales.* The care of destitute and neglected children is entrusted to the State Children's Relief Board, whose officers are charged with a strict supervision regarding the welfare of the children and the treatment of them by those to whom they are boarded out. Useful trades and profitable occupations are taught, and many of the children become useful members of society. The number of children under the board's supervision in 1912-13 was 4734. The board's expenditure in that year was £110,770, or £23 8s. per child.

There are also twelve orphanages, with about 700 persons under care. Deaths are but one or two annually, and the yearly expenditure fluctuates between £7000 and £10,000.

New South Wales had in 1910 three reformatory institutions—the Carpenterian State Reformatory, and the "Sobraon" State Training Ship for boys; and the Girls' State Industrial School.



The training ship attained very satisfactory results. In forty years more than 5000 boys were dealt with, and the records shew that 98 per cent. of these have developed into good citizens. In 1911 the "Sobraon" was purchased by the Commonwealth, to be used in connection with naval training. The boys were placed in the Mittagong Farm Homes and the Brush Farm Home and Reformatory. To the Reformatory are sent boys who have been convicted in the courts, whom it is desired to keep apart from other prisoners, and who are taught useful trades.

For 1912 the figures are:—Brush Farm Home for boys (Carpenterian Reformatory)—enrolment, 158; Girls' Industrial School—enrolment, 145.

(ii.) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1581 beds. The total number under care in 1911-12 was about 2000. Average annual admissions are about 500. Deaths numbered seven in 1911-12. The average annual expenditure is about £23,000. In 1912 it was £27,463.

At the end of 1912 there were three industrial and nine reformatory schools in the State. Of these, one industrial and one reformatory school are wholly controlled by the Government, being used merely as receiving and distributing depôts. The children are sent thence to situations, foster homes or other institutions dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management, receiving an allowance for State wards. Many of the reformatory children are placed with friends or licensed out. On 31st December, 1912, the wards of the State numbered 7784—classed mostly as neglected children. There were also some children free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The total expenditure for 1912 was £107,619, of which £103,092 was borne by the Government.

Under Government control, but not administered as charity, are the training ships "John Murray" and "Dart," on which general instruction is imparted and special training given in technical seamanship.

(iii.) *Queensland.* There are seven orphanages in Queensland, with over 1000 beds. The number under care is about 1000, deaths averaging seven per annum. The expenditure in 1912 was £13,990.

There are also six industrial and reformatory schools. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1912 was 4498. The gross cost was £53,907, of which £50,233 was borne by the Government.

(iv.) *South Australia.* The State Children's Department exercises a supervision over the probationary and industrial schools, the reformatories, and the Methodist Home. The total number of admissions into these institutions in 1911-12 was 205. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1912, was 178, in addition to which 1352 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed. There were eleven deaths of children in industrial schools, and eight of those placed out and in other institutions. The number of children under State control on 30th June, 1912, was 1530. The expenditure for 1911-12 was £27,312 in gross, of which the Government aid was £24,840.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1912 was 300. There were no deaths in the year, and expenditure amounted to £3553.

(v.) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, in 1912, eight orphanages (including industrial orphanage schools). The inmates in these institutions during the year were 818, and the number in institutions on 31st December was 755. There were no deaths during the year. The State expenditure was about £10,000.

In the Government Industrial School there were, at the end of 1912, 52 inmates, 87 having been admitted during the year. No deaths occurred. At the end of 1912 825 children were under State control. The net cost to the State was £14,107, parents' contributions amounting to £663.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* There were three admissions to the orphanage in 1912-13, and forty-two inmates during the year. No deaths occurred. Expenditure amounted to £575.

There are three industrial schools under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1912-13 numbered nineteen, and total inmates during the year 118. No deaths occurred. The expenditure was £2810.

Under the boarding-out system upwards of 200 children are placed out at an expenditure of between £2000 and £2600. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1912 was 196, the gross cost to the State of children's relief being £2586, of which £231 represents parents' contributions.

(vii.) *Neglected Children.* The following table summarises the number of neglected children under State Departments. In New South Wales a number of children are boarded out with their own mothers, and the inclusion of these would make the total number of State-aided children in that State 10,120. Similar provisions are in force in some of the other States, the figures, however, not being available.

**STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—TRANSACTION OF STATE DEPARTMENTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1912.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.*	Vict.	Qld.	S.A.†	W.A.‡	Tas.	Cwlth.
Number of Children under State control at end of year—							
Males ... ..	2,756	4,065	2,258	823	465	131	10,498
Females ... ..	1,978	3,719	2,240	707	360	65	9,069
Total ... ..	4,734	7,784	4,498	1,530	825	196	19,567
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost to State of children's relief	116,654	107,619	53,907	27,312	14,770	2,586	322,848
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc.	5,884	4,527	3,674	2,472	663	231	17,451
Net cost ... ..	110,770	103,092	50,233	24,840	14,107	2,355	305,397

\* For year ended 5th April following. † For year ended 30th June preceding. ‡ For the year 1911.

5. **Lepers.**—Lazarets for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane, and Dayman Island, Torres Straits); and the Northern Territory (Mud Island). Quarantine and isolation stations have also been used for the segregation of patients. A great deal of information concerning the beginning and progress of leprosy in Australia has been collected and published by Dr. J. Ashburton Thompson, Chief Government Medical Officer and President of the Board of Health, New South Wales, from whose reports the following table has been compiled:—

**CASES OF LEPROSY RECORDED IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1855 to 1911.**

State.	1855 to 1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	Total.
New South Wales ... ..	140	4	2	2	5	3	156
Victoria ... ..	*27	—	—	—	—	—	*27
Queensland ... ..	†186	21	23	8	6	6	†250
South Australia ... ..	37	1	—	—	—	—	.38
Western Australia ... ..	4	—	3	4	3	2	16
Tasmania ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total ... ..	*†395	26	28	14	14	11	*†488

\* In addition, some Chinese.

† In addition, many Kanakas.

6. **Hospitals for the Insane.**—The method of compiling insanity statistics has been fairly uniform throughout the States, but the various methods of observing the early stages of the development of the insanity introduce an element of uncertainty which considerably reduces the value of comparison. In the summary given below, licensed houses (except as regards expenditure) are included in the total for New South Wales and Victoria, but in the latter State the figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols:—

#### HOSPITALS FOR INSANE,\* COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

Particulars.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Number of institutions ... ..	30	31	31	33	35
Number of beds ... ..	14,317	14,546	14,978	15,825	15,911
Admissions ... ..	2,638	2,740	2,936	3,079	3,017
Total number under treatment ... ..	17,373	17,915	18,870	19,036	19,669
Discharged as recovered, relieved, &c. ... ..	1,159	1,245	1,309	1,404	1,365
Deaths ... ..	1,071	1,046	1,177	1,246	1,311
Expenditure ... ..	£511,468	514,531	561,677	616,302	693,772

\* Exclusive of receiving wards at two general hospitals and including six licensed houses for insane in Victoria.

The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, has changed very little during recent years. In the next table the number of insane under official care in Australia is given, and in the table following the proportion of insane to population.

The number of insane persons in institutions in Australia at the end of each of the last five years was as follows:—

#### INSANE PERSONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
New South Wales ... ..	5,673	5,902	6,148	6,351	6,160
Victoria ... ..	5,014	5,097	5,241	5,340	5,470
Queensland ... ..	2,184	2,227	2,260	2,283	2,322
South Australia ... ..	1,051	1,051	1,055	1,084	1,082
Western Australia ... ..	707	782	793	842	871
Tasmania ... ..	507	506	505	521	534
Commonwealth ... ..	15,136	15,565	16,002	16,421	16,439

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria shews the highest rate of insanity, roughly one in 250 persons. It is stated that this is chiefly owing to the proportionately greater number of old persons in that State. On the other hand, in Western Australia, where the population is much younger, a considerably lower insanity rate has prevailed, being about one in 400 in 1908, and about one in 350 in the four following years.

## PROPORTION OF INSANE, COMMONWEALTH, 1908 to 1912.

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
PER 1000 OF THE POPULATION.					
New South Wales ... ..	3.58	3.66	3.74	3.79	3.46
Victoria ... ..	4.01	3.99	4.03	3.92	3.96
Queensland ... ..	3.92	3.85	3.77	3.67	3.65
South Australia ... ..	2.70	2.65	2.57	2.57	2.50
Western Australia ... ..	2.72	2.94	2.87	2.86	2.84
Tasmania ... ..	2.64	2.62	2.61	2.69	2.71
Commonwealth ... ..	3.58	3.60	3.62	3.59	3.47

Consequent upon the development of a more rational attitude to the treatment of mental cases, a greater willingness is being shewn to submit necessary cases to treatment at an earlier stage than formerly. Hence an increase in the number of recorded cases does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity. It is important to bear this in mind, because the small progressive increase in the preceding table is probably to be attributed largely, if not solely, to this circumstance. The increase in expenditure is another evidence of the greater care bestowed on the insane.

The leading features in regard to institutions for the care of the insane are given below for 1912:—

**HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION,  
COMMONWEALTH, 1912.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vict.*	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
<b>Number of Institutions—</b>							
Government ... ..	9	9	3	1	2	1	25
Private ... ..	3	6†	...	...	1	...	10†
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Medical Staff—</b>							
Males ... ..	20	19	7	2	3	3	54
Females ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Nursing Staff &amp; Attendants—</b>							
Males ... ..	564	462	141	73	64	71	1,395
Females ... ..	471	442	89	56	35	52	1,145
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>2,540</b>
<b>Accommodation—</b>							
No. of dormitories ... ..	1331	1,389	442	¶	33	365	¶
Capacity in cubic feet ... ..	13,413,012	3,444,100	1,353,918	¶	620,952	781,932	¶
No. of beds ... ..	15,971	5,052	2,306	1,159	762	661	15,911
Cubic feet to each bed ... ..	{ 1600\$ 11,000	682	587	¶	815	1,183	¶

\* Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong hospitals. † There are six private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 109 cases at end of 1912. Other figures for these private asylums are not available. ‡ Government hospitals only. § Ordinary dormitory. || Hospital dormitory. ¶ Information not available

## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1912.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.*	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with
<b>No. of distinct persons treated during year</b>							
Males ... ..	4,751	3,170	1,756	758	630	308	11,373
Females ... ..	3,173	3,015	1,012	559	240	297	8,296
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>7,924</b>	<b>6,185</b>	<b>2,768</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>19,669</b>
<b>Admissions &amp; re-admissions during year—</b>							
Males ... ..	741	456	293	142	160	44	1,836
Females ... ..	472	350	152	91	76	40	1,181
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3,017</b>
<b>Discharges—Recovered—</b>							
Males ... ..	287	96	113	1	51	18	566
Females ... ..	199	104	83	...	45	17	448
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,014</b>
<b>Relieved and unrelieved—</b>							
Males ... ..	62	43	17	64	15	2	203
Females ... ..	43	41	9	48	3	4	148
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>351</b>
<b>Absconders—</b>							
Males ... ..	2	5	...	...	...	...	7
Females ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Deaths—</b>							
Males ... ..	335	235	132	78	58	19	857
Females ... ..	166	151	52	44	30	11	454
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1,311</b>
<b>Inmates at end of year—</b>							
Males ... ..	3,718	2,758	1,454	615	630	269	9,444
Females ... ..	2,442	2,712	868	467	241	265	6,995
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>6,160</b>	<b>5,470</b>	<b>2,322</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>16,439</b>
<b>Average daily number resident—</b>							
Males ... ..	3,716	2,529	1,432	605	615	268	9,165
Females ... ..	2,418	2,409	852	462	242	258	6,641
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>6,134</b>	<b>4,938</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>15,806</b>

\* Exclusive of inmates of the Receiving House, Royal Park, and of Receiving Wards attached to the hospitals at Bendigo and Geelong, and of five private licensed houses.

In some of the States it is the practice to allow persons well advanced towards recovery to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are nevertheless under supervision of the asylum authorities and are kept on the books. These patients are not shewn in the above table as inmates. In nearly every case absconders are retaken. They are shewn above as readmitted.

The revenue of Government asylums is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 86 per cent.

**HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE (GOVERNMENT ONLY), REVENUE AND  
EXPENDITURE, 1912.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
<b>Revenue—</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of patients ...	37,723	27,109	7,620	6,799	3,961	5,208	88,419
Other ...	3,745	...	1,195	23	883	461	6,307
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>41,468</b>	<b>27,108</b>	<b>8,815</b>	<b>6,822</b>	<b>4,844</b>	<b>5,669</b>	<b>94,726</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Salaries ...	129,671	93,107	37,020	16,340	21,127	10,364	307,629
Maintenance ...	108,360	94,285	32,344	20,986	20,000	5,953	281,928
Other ...	28,265	*67,745	757	...	...	7,448	104,215
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>266,296</b>	<b>255,137</b>	<b>70,121</b>	<b>37,326</b>	<b>41,127</b>	<b>23,765</b>	<b>693,772</b>

\* Buildings and repairs.

(i.) *New South Wales.* The latest return available shews that the average length of residence in the hospitals of persons who died, was 4 years 8 months for males and 5 years 9 months for females; and that of persons who were discharged, was 1 year 2 months for males and 1 year 7 months for females.

There are also two State reception houses, where suspected persons are confined for observation, being subsequently either discharged or transferred to lunatic asylums. In two of the gaols observation wards have been instituted, with similar functions.

(ii.) *Victoria.* The average residence in the hospitals of those who died was 6 years 5 months for males, and 9 years 10 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 3 months for males, and 1 year 4 months for females.

There are lunacy wards in two of the general hospitals; and also a State receiving house where persons are placed for observation, and subsequently discharged or transferred to asylums.

(iii.) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died was 7 years 10 months for males and 9 years 3 months for females; and of those who were discharged, 1 year and 3 months for males and 1 year and 4 months for females.

There are also three reception houses for insane, which act as depôts to which patients are sent with a view to determining whether their mental illness is of a merely temporary character, readily to be relieved, or is of such a nature as to need further treatment at the State asylums.

(iv.) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 6 years and 5 months for males and 9 years for females; of those discharged, 11 months for males and 8 months for females.

(v.) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 2 years 5 months for males and 4 years 3 months for females; of those who were discharged, 1 year 2 months for males and 1 year 1 month for females.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 10 years 4 months for males and 8 years 4 months for females; that of those discharged, 10 months for males and 1 year 2 months for females.

(vii.) *Causes of Insanity.* The proportion of causes of insanity to the total of ascertained causes in Australia in the five years 1908-1912 shews that hereditary influences have been the chief factor, more than one-fifth of the total ascertained causes coming under this head. Domestic troubles, adverse circumstances, etc., have also been a fruitful source. About one case in six was due to intemperance in drink.

**PROPORTION OF ASCERTAINED CAUSES, etc., OF INSANITY, COMMONWEALTH,  
1908 to 1912.**

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1908.	1909.	1910	1911.	1912.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances,					
mental anxiety ... ..	14.5	11.5	12.0	10.6	11.8
Intemperance in drink ... ..	12.9	10.1	14.4	15.0	16.3
Hereditary influence, ascertained; con-					
genital defect, ascertained ... ..	18.8	15.0	16.9	18.7	21.7
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and					
puerperal state, uterine and ovarian					
disorders, puberty, change of life ...	6.8	6.4	5.4	5.9	6.6
Previous attacks ... ..	13.5	12.0	12.2	9.3	9.5
Accident, including sunstroke ... ..	4.0	3.0	2.1	3.0	2.3
Old age ... ..	8.0	9.7	10.8	9.9	9.2
Other causes ascertained ... ..	21.5	32.3	26.2	27.6	22.6
<b>All ascertained causes ... ..</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

7. **Treatment of Inebriates.**—The treatment of inebriates is referred to in the section dealing with Public Justice hereinbefore. (See page 803.)

8. **Protection of Aborigines.**—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where the blacks are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic in habit of life, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come under the notice of the boards. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The average annual expenditure on maintenance, etc., for the last five years was—New South Wales, £19,000; Victoria, £4200; Queensland, £14,800; South Australia, including Northern Territory, £13,500; Western Australia, £23,500; Commonwealth, £75,000.

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

10. **State Expenditure on Charities.**—The table below gives the amount expended by Government on charities in each of the last five years. In some of the States amounts have been included for minor items, which in other States are charged to other heads:—

## STATE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1908 to 1912.

State.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ... ..	481,887	519,327	528,289	518,484	576,886
Victoria ... ..	383,086	378,165	385,467	436,859	446,332
Queensland ... ..	216,144	200,141	205,577	237,224	262,171
South Australia ... ..	88,752	88,618	87,112	98,236	118,931
Western Australia ... ..	175,839	149,892	139,700	177,734	184,940
Tasmania ... ..	47,537	36,316	39,558	43,245	45,166
Commonwealth ... ..	1,393,245	1,372,459	1,385,703	1,511,782	1,634,426

11. **Total Charitable Expenditure.**—The expenditure in the Commonwealth in money on hospitals, charities, and all forms of relief publicly given, comprising the amounts furnished by Government and those raised by public subscription, etc., but excluding old-age pensions, exceeds £2,700,000 annually.