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CHAPTER XI. 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 hospitals for the insane in the various States, the Government hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government asylums for the infirm in New South Wales. The second class comprises public institutions of two kinds, viz. :—(i) those partially subsidized by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the principal metropolitan hospitals. In the latter are included institutions established and endowed by individuals for the benefit of the needy generally. All charitable movements of a private character are included in the third group. A more or less accurate statistical account is possible in classes (a) and (b), but in regard to (c) complete tabulation is, for obvious reasons, impossible.

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, Invalid Pensions, and Maternity Allowances 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 these matters will be found in § 7 of Chapter VIII.

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

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

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

(ii) *Principal Hospitals in each State*. The particulars given herein refer to general hospitals, and include all institutions affording general hospital relief.

(a) *New South Wales*. A Government hospital, with a staff of 33 medical officers and accommodation for about 700 patients, is established at Little Bay, near Sydney. Altogether, there are four hospitals for women, one for women and children, and three for children in the metropolis. The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, with a medical staff of 89, and with 584 beds, is the largest metropolitan subsidized institution. Amongst other large metropolitan hospitals may be mentioned the Sydney Hospital, with a medical staff of 67 and with 382 beds, St. Vincent's with 44 doctors and 220 beds, and Lewisham with 34 medical attendants and 275 beds. In extra-metropolitan areas the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives, which is a Government institution, provides accommodation for 408 patients. The Newcastle Hospital has 180 beds and a medical staff of 25. At the Carrington Convalescent Home at Camden there is provision for 110 patients. The hospital in the Broken Hill district can accommodate 173. Upwards of 300,000 outpatients received treatment at the various hospitals.

(b) *Victoria*. There are several large metropolitan hospitals in Victoria. In 1922–23, the largest of these, the Melbourne Hospital, had 358 beds, attendances of outpatients in the twelve months were 193,884; the Alfred Hospital had 320 beds, outpatients' attendances numbered 78,603; the Austin Hospital for Incurables had 290 beds, St. Vincent's 126, and the Homeopathic 98. Amongst the country institutions, Bendigo had 222 beds, Geelong 217, and Ballarat 170.

(c) *Queensland*. Of the metropolitan hospitals, the largest is the Brisbane General, which can accommodate 361 patients. The Children's Hospital has 260 beds, the Diamantina 167, and the Mater Misericordiae 127. Ipswich Hospital, with 160 beds, is the largest of the country institutions, followed by Toowoomba with 148, Rockhampton

with 116, Townsville with 115, Bundaberg 110, Charters Towers 100, Maryborough 96, Cairns 84, Mackay 84, and Mt. Morgan 71.

(d) *South Australia.* Including the Consumptive Home and Infectious Diseases Block, the Adelaide Hospital can accommodate a total of 580 patients. The most important of the country hospitals are at Port Augusta, Port Pirie, and Wallaroo. The Adelaide Children's Hospital has 98 beds.

(e) *Western Australia.* Information regarding the capacity of the Western Australian hospitals is not available, but some idea of their comparative importance may be gained from the figures relating to cases treated. In the metropolis, 5,142 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital in 1923, and 1,774 at the Perth Children's Hospital. Of the country hospitals, Kalgoorlie returned 1,006 cases, Fremantle 1,027, Northam 575, and Wooroloo 492.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are well-equipped general hospitals in Hobart and Launceston. The former has a medical staff of 5 and can accommodate 225 patients, with additional verandah accommodation if required, and the latter has 226 beds and a medical staff of 4. Hospitals for women have been established in both centres, and there is a sanatorium for consumptives at Newtown. Outside the metropolitan area, the Devon Cottage Hospital has beds for 112 patients; the Lyell District Hospital can accommodate 45 patients, and there are other institutions in important country centres.

(g) *Northern Territory.* In addition to the hospitals at Darwin and Pine Creek, arrangements have been made for the supply of medicines and first aid to outlying stations.

(iii) *Number, Staff, and Accommodation, 1923.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs, and accommodation for the year 1923 are given in the appended table:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government	4	..	4	12	22	3	4	49
Other	154	53	94	31	32	12	1	377
Total	158	53	98	43	54	15	5	426
Medical Staff—								
Males	1,035	100	237	143	56	25	1	1,615
Females								
Total	1,035	100	245	153	56	25	1	1,615
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males	84	(a) 19	333	95	140	3	5	(a) 679
Females	2,753	(a) 886	1,569	768	631	208	10	(a) 6,825
Total	2,837	1,589	1,902	863	771	211	15	8,188
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, wards, etc.	1,159	439	633	308	238	147	11	2,935
Capacity, in cubic feet	8,949,898	4,837,220	4,263,602	2,150,186	2,555,829	965,000	120,000	23,841,735
Number of beds, etc.	7,772	3,682	3,953	1,647	1,762	729	45	19,590
Cubic feet to each bed	1,151	1,314	1,078	1,306	1,450	1,324	2,667	1,217

(a) Victorian figures, exclusive of 662 nursing staff and 22 dispensing staff, sexes not available.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated for the year 1923. In addition to the accommodation provided in the ordinary wards, a considerable amount of accommodation for certain classes of cases is furnished in out-door or verandah sleeping places, and this can be augmented; full particulars in connexion with these are not available. So far as the returns show, there were 975 out-door beds in New South Wales, 117 in South Australia, 60 in Tasmania, and 30 in the Northern Territory. These figures are not included in the totals given in the table above.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Indoor Relief : Persons Treated—								
Males	54,482	18,985	30,850	9,293	10,011	5,898	178	129,697
Females	51,664	15,194	18,965	8,832	7,074	5,834	79	107,642
Total	106,146	34,179	49,815	18,125	17,085	11,732	257	237,339
Inmates at beginning of Year—								
Males	2,738	1,172	1,473	561	568	231	24	6,767
Females	2,400	1,003	813	420	286	233	17	5,172
Total	5,138	2,175	2,286	981	854	464	41	11,939
Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—								
Males	51,744	17,813	29,377	9,680	9,443	5,667	148	123,872
Females	49,264	14,191	18,152	9,244	6,788	5,601	56	103,296
Total	101,008	32,004	47,529	18,924	16,231	11,268	204	227,168
Discharges—Recovered :								
Males	37,270	15,290	26,644	5,952	4,510	5,223	100	94,989
Females	39,617	12,785	16,697	6,583	4,333	5,297	40	85,352
Total	76,887	28,075	43,341	12,535	8,843	10,520	140	180,341
Relieved :								
Males	8,940	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	2,295	3,297	<i>b</i>	48	<i>c</i>
Females	5,933	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	1,672	1,632	<i>b</i>	29	<i>c</i>
Total	14,873	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	3,967	4,929	<i>b</i>	77	<i>c</i>
Unrelieved :								
Males	1,606	53	670	570	277	61	..	3,237
Females	1,257	33	449	399	144	72	..	2,354
Total	2,863	86	1,119	969	421	133	..	5,591
Not stated :								
Males .. ..	..	549	..	73	..	9	..	631
Females .. ..	..	340	..	76	..	12	..	428
Total .. ..	..	889	..	149	..	21	..	1,059
Deaths—								
Males	3,766	1,853	1,816	757	751	344	14	9,301
Females	2,412	1,050	867	469	322	214	2	5,336
Total	6,178	2,903	2,683	1,226	1,073	558	16	14,637
Inmates at end of Year—								
Males	2,900	1,240	1,527	594	608	261	10	7,140
Females	2,445	986	838	465	357	239	2	5,332
Total	5,345	2,226	2,365	1,059	965	500	12	12,472
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males	6,045	2,160	2,627	621	670	267	15	13,528
Females				501	364	254	4	
Total	6,045	2,160	2,627	1,122	1,034	521	19	13,528

(a) Including relieved.

(b) Included in recovered.

(c) Not available.

(v) *Summary for Five Years, 1919 to 1923.* Returns for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, are given in the following table. Figures for general hospitals only are tabulated, since the working of "special" institutions is not properly comparable with those which treat every class of case.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1919 TO 1923.

Particulars.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Number of institutions ..	393	393	404	424	426
Number of beds ..	17,390	17,890	18,342	18,969	19,590
Admissions during year ..	193,920	202,053	205,072	209,018	227,168
Indoor patients treated ..	202,929	211,332	215,278	218,209	237,339
Deaths ..	15,758	14,475	13,969	13,485	14,637
Expenditure ..	£ 1,798,297	2,099,601	2,332,116	2,441,075	2,612,764

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 places the total at about 300,000.

(vi) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1923 were as follow :—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—								
Fees of patients, etc.	156,297	68,239	63,241	53,798	49,449	29,124	537	420,685
Government grants	509,797	74,994	241,051	160,358	90,722	42,755	3,200	1,122,877
Other ..	499,805	298,014	191,824	41,136	48,197	9,822	..	1,088,798
Total ..	1,165,899	441,247	496,116	255,292	188,368	81,701	3,737	2,632,360
Expenditure—								
Salaries and Main- tenance ..	841,707	325,397	457,700	194,087	176,832	55,081	6,145	2,056,949
Buildings ..	218,025	52,234	45,576	50,042	1,355	3,012	480	370,724
Other ..	117,641	3,519	23,089	9,838	8,027	22,977	..	185,091
Total ..	1,177,373	381,150	526,365	253,967	186,214	81,070	6,625	2,632,360

2. *Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.*—(i) *General.* There has been a great increase in recent years in the amount of aid provided for 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 sixty and seventy 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. In Australia numerous establishments have been founded for the housing and protection of persons 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 Australia have resulted in differences 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 chief function of the

institution is aid to the destitute, it has been included amongst benevolent asylums. In Victoria, although nine of the hospitals are also benevolent asylums, they have been classed under hospitals. In South Australia, the Destitute Asylum includes lying-in and children's departments.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* The principal institutions of this nature in each State are as follows:—

(a) *Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales.* There are five asylums for the infirm maintained by the Government—four for men and one for women. Rookwood, the largest of these, had in 1922 an average number resident of 1,416, Newington 704, and Liverpool 645. At the Cottage Homes, situated at two separate localities in Parramatta, the average number resident was about 485. The State Labour Depot and Refuge at Randwick had 92 inmates during 1922.

(b) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. In 1922–23, the average daily number of indoor patients was 1,944, and there were 349 distinct cases of outdoor relief.

(c) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 1,259 beds. The most important of these is at Dunwich (Stradbroke Island) with 1,141 beds, while there are small institutions at Nundah, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba. At the end of 1923 the inmates of the four institutions numbered 1,163.

(d) *Destitute Asylum, South Australia.* Outside of hospitals and lunatic asylums the destitute of South Australia are dealt with and relieved at the Destitute Asylum and the Aged Men's Home, Beaumont. The former institution includes a children's department. In the asylum the number of inmates at the end of 1923 was 403; in the Beaumont Home it was 67.

(e) *Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia.* There are two homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. The Old Men's Home at Claremont had 571 inmates at the end of 1923, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 95 adult inmates.

(f) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. The New Town Infirmary and Consumptive Home, with 230 beds, had 219 inmates on 30th June, 1924, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, with 27 beds, had 27 inmates on the same date.

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1923 are given in the following table:—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government aid ..	147,394	19,991	42,059	42,361	12,358	10,148	274,311
Municipal aid ..		783	..	..	..	..	783
Public subs., legacies, etc.	3,639	25,790	2,389	25	..	..	31,843
Fees ..	26,185	20,128	..	1,038	10,762	4,246	62,359
Other ..	5,286	7,754	265	2,532	..	1,203	17,040
Total ..	182,504	74,446	44,713	45,956	23,120	15,597	386,336
Expenditure—							
Buildings ..	4,649	873	113	464	..	274	6,373
Maintenance..	170,463	59,528	44,193	38,432	23,120	10,275	346,011
Other ..	6,818	1,055	414	7,144	..	5,048	20,479
Total ..	181,930	61,456	44,720	46,040	23,120	15,597	372,863

3. **Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.**—(i) *General.* The organization of charitable effort varies greatly in regard to orphans and waifs. In many institutions, shelter and some form of industrial training are offered to destitute children of all classes whether orphans or not, while some of those styled orphanages do not confine their relief strictly to orphans. The expenditure on orphanages in 1923 was approximately £240,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* The principal institutions in each State are as follows :—

(a) *New South Wales.* The care of destitute and neglected children is entrusted to the State Children's Relief Board, whose officers supervise the welfare of the children and the treatment of them by those to whom they are boarded out. Provision is made for instruction in various trades and callings.

There are also orphanages, farm homes, country homes for children, etc., with upwards of 2,000 children under care.

There are several reformatory and industrial schools maintained by the State. At the Parramatta Industrial School for Girls, to which a Training Home is attached, there were on 31st December, 1922, 167 inmates. At the Farm Home for boys, Gosford, there were 70 inmates at the end of 1922.

(b) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1,687 beds. The daily average of the inmates was 1,677 in 1922–23. The expenditure in the same year was £47,921.

At the end of 1923 there were two industrial and four reformatory schools in the State. Of these, one in each class is wholly controlled by the Government, being used merely as a receiving and distributing dépôt. 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.

(c) *Queensland.* There are twelve orphanages in Queensland. The number under care on 31st December, 1923, was 1,000, and the expenditure for the year, £27,732.

There are also eight industrial and reformatory schools, which had 178 boys and 59 girls under detention at the end of 1923.

(d) *South Australia.* The State Children's Department exercises a supervision over the probationary and industrial schools and the reformatories. The total number of admissions into these institutions in 1923–24 was 232. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1924, was 252; in addition to which 1,531 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed; and 1,800 children were placed with licensed foster-mothers and others under the supervision of the Department. There were no deaths amongst children in industrial schools and reformatories, and of those placed out and in other institutions five died.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1923 was 306, and the number of inmates on 31st December, 1923, was 267. There were no deaths during the year, and the expenditure amounted to £4,777.

(e) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, at 30th June, 1924, thirteen institutions classed as orphanages, industrial schools, etc., containing 435 boys and 308 girls. There were also 10 boys and 19 girls at the Government Receiving Dépôt at the 30th June, 1924.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are four industrial schools and one orphanage under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1922–23 numbered 39, and average daily number of inmates was 187. No deaths occurred during the year. The expenditure was £7,247.

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions in 1923 of State Departments for the relief of neglected children :—

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—SUMMARY, 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of children in institutions, boarded out, or on probation—							
Males	2,795	3,500	4,061	953	514	276	12,099
Females	2,410	2,860	3,578	830	473	208	10,359
Total	5,205	a 6,360	7,639	1,783	987	484	22,458
Number of children boarded out with their own mothers—							
Males	12,039	7,641	2,496	69	68	..	24,806
Females			2,374	40	79	..	
Total	12,039	7,641	4,870	109	147	..	24,806
Total	17,244	a 14,001	12,509	b 1,892	1,134	484	d 47,264
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost to State of children's relief ..	443,431	314,045	189,323	49,016	c 26,233	13,141	1,035,189
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc. ..	12,560	14,589	12,158	5,715	5,435	970	51,427
Net cost	430,871	299,456	177,165	43,301	c 20,798	12,171	983,762

(a) Excluding 30 incapacitated children maintained by the State. (b) Excluding 1,800 children (870 males and 930 females) placed with licensed foster-mothers and others. (c) Maintenance State children only. (d) See notes (a) and (b).

4. *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 Strait); and the Northern Territory (Mud Island). Two deaths occurred in the latter in the year 1921–22. Quarantine and isolation stations have also been used for the segregation of patients. Up to 1915, 545 cases of leprosy had been recorded in Australia. Later information is not available, but between the calendar years 1916 to 1923 there were 48 deaths from the disease. At the end of 1922 there were 21 lepers in the Little Bay lazaret.

5. *Hospitals for the Insane*—(i) *General.* The method of compiling insanity statistics has been fairly uniform throughout the States, but differences in diagnosis of the early stages of the disease introduce an element of uncertainty which considerably affects the value of comparisons.

(ii) *Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1923.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, medical and nursing staff, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1923:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions—							
Government	9	9	3	2	3	1	27
Private	2	(b) 5	..	..	1	..	8
Total	11	14	3	2	4	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males	24	23	6	4	3	2	62
Females	1	..	1	1	..	..	3
Total	25	23	7	5	3	2	65
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	673	586	241	94	128	60	1,782
Females	596	545	187	95	70	68	1,561
Total	1,269	1,131	428	189	198	128	3,343
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories ..	(f)	1,352	565	507	44	407	(g)
Capacity, in cubic feet ..	(f)	3,681,419	2,046,916	894,163	714,714	878,590	(g)
Number of beds	(c) 6,840	5,477	2,873	1,317	1,186	610	(c) 18,303
Cubic feet to each bed ..	{ (d) (c) 600 (e) (c) 1,000 }	672	712	679 {	(e) 605 (g) 1,684 }	1,440	(f)

(a) Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong Hospitals. (b) There are five private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 97 cases at the end of 1923. Complete figures for these private asylums are not available. (c) Government hospitals only. (d) Ordinary dormitory. (e) Hospital dormitory. (f) Information not available. (g) Private hospitals.

(iii) *Patients, 1923.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1923 is given in the table hereunder:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Admissions and re-admissions during year—							
Males	774	470	313	208	82	49	1,896
Females	622	357	198	180	43	46	1,446
Total	1,396	827	511	388	125	95	3,342
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	269	106	167	76	23	12	653
Females	266	98	111	70	13	18	576
Total	535	204	278	146	36	30	1,229
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	89	54	14	59	19	12	247
Females	72	55	11	51	16	10	215
Total	161	109	25	110	35	22	462

(a) 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.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1923—*continued*.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Absconders not retaken—							
Males	6	11	..	1	..	..	18
Females	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	7	11	..	1	..	..	19
Deaths—							
Males	371	276	120	65	44	22	898
Females	201	198	61	42	21	12	535
Total	572	474	181	107	65	34	1,433
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	4,479	2,932	1,797	934	734	305	10,931
Females	3,633	3,094	1,072	564	332	303	8,998
Total	8,112	6,026	2,869	1,248	1,066	608	19,929
Average daily number resident—							
Males	4,217	2,626	1,788	686	729	302	10,348
Females	3,245	2,750	1,015	555	340	298	8,203
Total	7,462	5,376	2,803	1,241	1,069	600	18,551
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	4.00	3.64	4.20	2.58	3.88	2.78	3.73
Females	3.36	3.78	2.80	2.18	2.02	2.77	3.12
Persons	3.67	3.71	3.54	2.38	3.00	2.78	3.47
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	3.78	3.30	4.23	2.64	3.92	2.80	3.57
Females	3.03	3.40	2.68	2.16	2.10	2.78	2.94
Persons	3.41	3.34	3.49	2.40	3.07	2.79	3.26

(a) 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 States persons well advanced towards recovery are allowed to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are under supervision and their names are kept on the books. The figures for admissions, etc., include absconders captured and re-admitted. Generally, very few escapees succeed in avoiding capture.

(iv) *Summary for Australia, 1919 to 1923.* The table hereunder gives a summary for hospitals for the insane in Australia for each of the five years 1919 to 1923. Licensed houses (except as regards expenditure) are included in the totals for New South Wales and Victoria, in the latter the figures are exclusive of reception houses, and observation wards in gaols:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1919 TO 1923.

Particulars.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Number of institutions (a)	35	35	35	36	35
Number of beds	17,308	17,468	17,224	18,047	18,303
Admissions	3,323	3,501	3,254	3,226	3,342
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,565	2,302	1,723	1,648	1,691
Deaths	1,699	1,483	1,473	1,267	1,433
Expenditure	£ 1,116,676	1,414,055	1,398,148	1,303,907	1,401,459

(a) Exclusive of receiving wards at general hospitals, and including licensed houses for insane in Victoria.

(v) *Number of Insane, 1919 to 1923.* The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, has changed very little during recent years. The next table gives the number of insane under official care in Australia and the proportion per 1,000 of population for the last five years.

INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS, 1919 TO 1923.

State.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales ..	7,544	7,889	7,970	7,991	8,112
Victoria ..	5,846	5,830	5,842	5,997	6,026
Queensland ..	2,703	2,745	2,753	2,842	2,869
South Australia ..	1,187	1,194	1,190	1,224	1,248
Western Australia ..	1,148	1,166	1,104	1,079	1,066
Tasmania ..	578	578	584	599	608
Total ..	19,006	19,402	19,443	19,732	19,929
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales ..	3.70	3.77	3.75	3.93	3.67
Victoria ..	3.89	3.82	3.77	3.77	3.71
Queensland ..	3.66	3.65	3.58	3.61	3.54
South Australia ..	2.46	2.43	2.37	2.39	2.38
Western Australia ..	3.51	3.52	3.48	3.15	3.00
Tasmania ..	2.75	2.72	2.67	2.74	2.78
Australia ..	3.58	3.58	3.53	3.61	3.47

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria shows the highest rate of insanity, roughly 1 in 270 persons. It is stated that this is chiefly owing to the proportionately greater number of the aged in that State. On the other hand, in South Australia a considerably lower insanity rate has prevailed, averaging about 1 in 420, Tasmania being next with an average of about 1 in 360.

A more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases has resulted in a greater willingness in recent years to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an earlier stage. Hence an increase in the number of recorded cases does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity and the small increment in the numbers in the first of the immediately preceding tables is probably, if not solely, due to this circumstance.

(vi) *Causes of Insanity.* The proportion of causes of insanity to the total ascertained causes in Australia in the five years 1919 to 1923 shows that hereditary influence has 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. Cases due to intemperance in drink range from one in nine to one in thirteen.

INSANITY.—PERCENTAGE OF CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1919 TO 1923.

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety ..	8.4	9.3	10.6	12.6	11.4
Intemperance in drink ..	8.7	10.9	7.7	8.9	9.4
Hereditary influence, ascertained ; congenital defect, ascertained ..	21.1	23.7	21.2	21.8	22.9
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life ..	5.8	6.0	7.5	7.6	7.0
Previous attacks ..	12.4	12.5	11.5	12.4	13.6
Accident, including sunstroke ..	1.8	1.7	0.8	1.3	1.5
Old age ..	8.1	10.6	9.2	11.7	11.1
Venereal disease ..	(a)	7.1	5.6	3.3	5.2
Other causes ascertained ..	33.7	18.2	25.9	20.4	17.9
All ascertained causes ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Not available.

(vii) *Length of Residence in Hospital.* (a) *New South Wales.* Particulars are not available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals during the year of persons who died or were discharged. There are three State Reception Houses, where suspected persons are confined for observation, being subsequently either discharged or transferred to lunatic asylums. In one of the gaols, observation wards have been instituted with similar functions.

(b) *Victoria.* Particulars are not available as to the average length of residence in hospitals during the year of persons who died or were discharged. There are lunacy wards in two of the general hospitals; also a State receiving house where persons are placed for observation, and subsequently discharged or transferred to asylums.

(c) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died during the year was 8 years 123 days for males and 8 years 60 days for females; and of those who were discharged, 271 days for males and 1 year 25 days for females. There are three reception houses for observation of the insane.

(d) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 6 years 237 days for males and 7 years 259 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 48 days for males and 1 year 56 days for females.

(e) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged about 6 years 270 days for males and 10 years 23 days for females; of those who were discharged, 2 years 135 days for males and 1 year 176 days for females.

(f) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 7 years 300 days for males and 15 years 30 days for females; that of those discharged, 160 days for males and 1 year 330 days for females.

(viii) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1923.* 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 90 per cent.

HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients	73,133	35,296	24,664	15,531	9,273	7,639	165,536
Other	1,960	6,004	985	655	2,625	963	13,192
Total	75,093	41,300	25,649	16,186	11,898	8,602	178,728
Expenditure—							
Salaries	315,251	213,887	111,809	39,607	49,520	25,401	755,475
Maintenance	227,963	168,039	67,724	41,932	..	23,884	529,342
Buildings .. ..	..	33,128	3,803	3,948	..	773	41,652
Other	32,287	5,402	1,540	..	35,706	55	74,990
Total	575,501	420,456	184,876	85,487	85,226	49,913	1,401,459

(a) Year ended 30th June, 1924.

6. *Care of the Feeble-minded.**—(i) *General.* The Mental Deficiency Act of 1920, which came into operation in Tasmania in March, 1922, was the first legislation in Australia dealing with the feeble-minded. This Act was based on the British Act of 1913. In 1913 South Australia passed a Mental Deficiency Act relating to the insane, idiots and imbeciles, which is really a lunacy act, as it deals in part with low-grade defectives, and makes no distinction between mental disorder and mental deficiency. In 1925 Bills for Acts relating to the care of mental defectives were being prepared in New South Wales and Victoria.

* Information supplied by the Department of Public Health, Tasmania.

(ii) *Administration of the Tasmanian Act.* In Tasmania the Act is administered by a Mental Deficiency Board, which consists of the Director of Public Health as Chairman, the Director of the State Psychological Clinic, a medical practitioner with a knowledge of psychiatry, a representative of the Education Department, and a representative of the University of Tasmania. The examining work is under the direction of the State Psychological Clinic. The Act is the first British Statute to make legal recognition of the clinical psychologist. Provision is made for the ascertainment and registration of all defectives in the State, and for their education. The methods of treatment, care and protection, comprise (a) supervision in the community, (b) guardianship, and (c) institutional care. The New Town Infirmary has been declared to be a Government Institution for Defectives, and the Reformatory section of the Hobart Gaol has been declared to be a Government Institution for the care of criminal defectives. The examination by the Clinic includes ascertainment of and investigation into such particulars concerning the bodily (physical and medical), mental, and social conditions, the pedagogical, personal, and family history of persons alleged to be defectives, as well as any conditions and circumstances which may be necessary for diagnosis. During the years 1922–23 to 1924–25, 763 children and adults were examined by the Psychological Clinic, while 263 persons have been ascertained to be defectives, certified and registered. The latter have been classified as follows:—Idiots 5; Imbeciles 44; Feeble-minded 214.

In addition, there are idiots and imbeciles in the New Norfolk Mental Diseases Hospital dealt with under the Lunacy Act, and there are unascertained imbeciles and feeble-minded adults in the New Town Infirmary (Benevolent Home). So far 130 defectives have come under the direct control of the Mental Deficiency Board, and have been dealt with as follows:—Institution 12; Guardianship 24; Supervision 84; Parole 10.

The Education Department controls feeble-minded children in the State Schools and provides special classes for them. On attaining the age of 14 or 16 years, according as they are or are not in special classes, these defectives are notified by the Department to the Mental Deficiency Board, which then assumes the control of them. A state school population of about 19,000 children has been surveyed by the Clinic, and the percentage of feeble-minded (moron) children of school age has been ascertained to be about 0.5 per cent. The percentage of all grades of defectives in the whole population is not likely to exceed 0.3 per cent.

7. 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, 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 approximate annual expenditure on maintenance, etc., is—New South Wales, £35,000; Victoria, £6,000; Queensland, £40,000; South Australia, £25,000; Western Australia, £35,000; Northern Territory, £10,000; total for Australia, £151,000. In 1924 in New South Wales the number of full-bloods receiving aid was 1,554, in addition to which there were half-castes, quadroons, and octoroons; in Victoria there were 317 under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board; in Queensland, at the end of 1923, there were 3,755 aborigines at the mission stations; in South Australia, in 1923, there were about 800 inmates at mission stations, while in Western Australia the adult aborigines and half-castes in the native institutions in the year 1923 numbered 534. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory about 1,500 were in residence, but casual assistance and medical attendance are given to large numbers of natives every year.

8. Royal Life Saving Society.—In each of the State capitals, “centres” of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established. Life preservation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves, and other suitable places. Upwards of 3,000 certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination.

9. **Royal Humane Society.**—The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has for its objects (a) to grant awards for skill, promptness, and perseverance in life saving; (b) to provide assistance in cases of danger and apparent death; (c) to restore the apparently drowned; (d) to collect and circulate the latest information regarding approved methods and apparatus for life saving. Awards of medals and certificates are made numbering about 100 annually. Upwards of 350 lifebuoys have been provided at various places on the coasts, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in the various States. Swimming is encouraged amongst school children, and awards are made for proficiency.

10. **Other Charitable Institutions.**—Owing to variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and infirm. The institutions not so particularized 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.

11. **Total Expenditure on Charities.**—The table below gives the total expenditure on charities (excluding Old-age pensions) in each of the last five years, the figures for the various States being compiled, as far as possible, on the same basis:—

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1919 TO 1923.

State or Territory.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	1,856,751	2,391,057	2,540,606	2,532,039	2,754,759
Victoria ..	1,042,295	1,230,566	1,459,163	1,521,278	1,488,058
Queensland ..	796,688	933,547	1,017,817	975,028	991,753
South Australia ..	348,268	416,303	520,879	551,596	546,528
Western Australia ..	398,901	451,738	475,802	457,661	468,179
Tasmania ..	161,764	199,206	206,513	216,580	215,494
Northern Territory ..	6,830	6,178	6,265	5,585	6,625
Total ..	4,611,497	5,628,595	6,227,045	6,259,767	6,471,396

The figures include expenditure from Government and private sources of all institutions and societies affording relief, for which particulars are available.