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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 § 6 and 7 of Chapter VIII. "Finance."

From time to time relief funds have been organized for famine-stricken countries in various parts of the world, or for places where plagues, flood, fire, or earthquake have shown the need of urgent relief. Special funds were also raised for persons disabled or bereaved through war. Complete statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duty of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds which were instituted in consequence of the war, 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 infectious diseases, consumptives, women, children, incurables, etc.

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

(a) *New South Wales*. A Government hospital, with a staff of 32 medical officers and accommodation for about 720 patients, is established at Little Bay, near Sydney. Altogether, there are 4 hospitals for women, 1 for women and children, and 3 for children in the metropolis. The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, with a medical staff of 90 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 69 and with 415 beds, St. Vincent's with 58 doctors and 220 beds, and Lewisham with 46 medical attendants and 292 beds. In extra-metropolitan areas the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives, which is a Government institution, provides accommodation for 419 patients. The Newcastle Hospital has 188 beds and a medical staff of 21. At the Carrington Convalescent Home at Camden there is provision for 110 patients. The hospital in the Broken Hill district can accommodate 186. Upwards of 300,000 out-patients received treatment at the various hospitals.

(b) *Victoria*. There are several large metropolitan hospitals in Victoria. In 1924-25 the largest of these, the Melbourne Hospital, had 358 beds, while attendances of out-patients in the twelve months exceeded 200,000; the Alfred Hospital had 340 beds, outpatients' attendances numbered 130,000; the Austin Hospital for Incurables had 290 beds, St. Vincent's 126, and the Homœopathic 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 Misericordiæ 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, 5,413 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital in 1924, and 1,686 at the Perth Children's Hospital. Of the country hospitals, Kalgoorlie returned 976 cases, Fremantle 1,087, Northam 657, and Woolloomoo 393.

(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, 1924.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs, and accommodation for the year 1924 are given in the appended table:—

#### GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land. <sup>b</sup>	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government .. ..	4	..	4	11	27	3	4	53
Other .. ..	154	53	94	32	37	11	1	382
Total .. ..	158	53	98	43	64	14	5	435
Medical Staff—								
Males .. ..	1,157	105	237	140	73	25	2	1,764
Females .. ..			8	8	..	..	..	
Total .. ..	1,157	105	245	157	73	25	2	1,764
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males .. ..	103	(a) 1	333	104	114	2	2	(a) 659
Females .. ..	2,854	(a) 921	1,569	773	708	219	8	(a) 7,052
Total .. ..	2,957	922	1,902	877	822	221	10	7,711
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, wards, etc.	1,186	447	633	346	284	144	12	3,052
Capacity, in cubic feet	8,898,888	5,237,582	4,263,602	2,140,070	2,624,457	965,000	135,000	24,264,599
Number of beds, etc. ..	7,880	3,815	3,953	1,635	1,914	744	45	19,986
Cubic feet to each bed	1,145	1,373	1,078	1,310	1,371	1,324	3,000	1,214

(a) Victorian figures are exclusive of 804 nursing staff and 18 dispensing staff, sexes not available.

(b) Queensland figures for 1923; figures for 1924 not available.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated for the year 1924. In addition to the facilities provided in the ordinary wards, a considerable amount of accommodation for certain classes of cases is furnished in outdoor 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 983 out-door beds in New South Wales, 168 in South Australia, 60 in Tasmania, and 30 in the Northern Territory. These figures are not included in the totals given in the table below:—

## GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Indoor Relief: Persons Treated—								
Males .. ..	57,688	19,783	30,850	10,929	10,637	5,936	359	136,132
Females .. ..	55,490	14,958	18,065	10,229	7,815	6,021	176	113,654
Total .. ..	113,178	34,691	49,815	21,158	18,452	11,957	535	249,786
Inmates at beginning of Year—								
Males .. ..	2,885	1,215	1,473	594	603	249	18	7,037
Females .. ..	2,431	985	813	465	356	236	3	5,289
Total .. ..	5,316	2,200	2,286	1,059	959	485	21	12,326
Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—								
Males .. ..	54,803	18,518	29,377	10,580	10,034	5,687	341	129,340
Females .. ..	53,059	13,973	18,152	9,905	7,450	5,785	173	108,506
Total .. ..	107,862	32,491	47,529	20,485	17,493	11,472	514	237,846
Discharges—Recovered:								
Males .. ..	39,724	15,849	26,644	5,545	5,340	5,319	290	98,711
Females .. ..	42,153	12,538	16,697	6,321	5,186	5,486	134	88,515
Total .. ..	81,877	a 28,387	a 43,341	11,866	10,526	a 10,805	424	187,226
Relieved:								
Males .. ..	9,855	b	b	2,897	3,518	b	..	c
Females .. ..	7,175	b	b	1,920	1,723	b	..	c
Total .. ..	17,030	b	b	4,817	5,241	b	..	c
Unrelieved:								
Males .. ..	1,757	154	670	548	239	58	..	3,426
Females .. ..	1,379	132	449	420	139	37	..	2,556
Total .. ..	3,136	286	1,119	968	378	95	..	5,982
Not stated:								
Males .. ..	..	397	..	771d	..	13	..	1,181
Females .. ..	..	255	..	814d	..	10	..	1,079
Total .. ..	..	652	..	1,585d	..	23	..	2,260
Deaths—								
Males .. ..	3,612	2,031	1,816	789	822	300	29	9,399
Females .. ..	2,311	1,126	867	464	387	224	6	5,385
Total .. ..	5,923	3,157	2,683	1,253	1,209	524	35	14,784
Inmates at end of year—								
Males .. ..	2,740	1,302	1,527	624	718	246	40	7,197
Females .. ..	2,472	907	838	431	380	264	36	5,328
Total .. ..	5,212	2,209	2,365	1,055	1,098	510	76	12,525
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males .. ..	c	2,185	2,627	616	704	247	30	c
Females .. ..				543	413	250	12	
Total .. ..	c	2,185	2,627	1,159	1,117	497	42	c

(a) Including relieved.

(b) Included in recovered.

(c) Not available.

(d) Included nursings without disease.

(e) Queensland figures for 1923; figures for 1924 not available.

(v) *Summary for Five Years, 1920 to 1924.* 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, 1920 TO 1924.

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Number of institutions ..	393	404	424	426	435
Number of beds ..	17,890	18,342	18,969	19,590	19,986
Admissions during year ..	202,053	205,072	209,018	227,168	237,846
Indoor patients treated ..	211,332	215,278	218,209	237,339	249,786
Deaths ..	14,475	13,969	13,485	14,637	14,784
Expenditure ..	£ 2,099,601	2,332,116	2,441,075	2,632,360	2,800,518

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 500,000.

(vi) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1924 were as follow :—

#### GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land. <sup>a</sup>	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—								
Fees of patients, etc.	167,112	69,095	63,241	72,261	66,808	27,987	572	467,166
Government grants	611,707	83,912	241,051	174,929	93,577	42,467	4,738	1,252,381
Other ..	496,696	303,407	191,824	38,103	43,532	9,122	20	1,082,704
Total ..	1,275,515	456,414	496,116	285,293	204,007	79,576	5,330	2,802,251
Expenditure—								
Salaries and Main-tenance ..	929,136	337,571	457,700	210,252	193,205	56,229	4,807	2,188,900
Buildings ..	241,029	85,673	45,576	65,004	4,149	5,468	340	447,239
Other ..	90,350	10,978	23,089	11,120	5,336	23,323	183	164,379
Total ..	1,260,515	434,222	526,365	286,376	202,690	85,020	5,330	2,800,518

(a) Queensland figures for 1923; figures for 1924 not available.

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 chiefly for women. Rookwood, the largest of these, had in 1924 an average number resident of 1,485, Newington 707, and Liverpool 631, and the Parramatta Homes 459. The State Labour Depot and Refuge at Randwick had 61 inmates during 1923.

(b) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Exclusive of the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. In 1924–25 the average daily number of indoor patients was 1,947, and there were 290 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 1,168.

(d) *Homes for Aged, South Australia.* At the Old Folks' Home, Magill, there were 407 inmates at the end of 1924, and 71 in the Aged Men's Home, Beaumont.

(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 595 inmates at the end of 1924, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 92 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 226 inmates on 30th June, 1925, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, with 31 beds, had 31 inmates on the same date.

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1924 are given in the following table:—

#### BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Revenue—</b>							
Government aid ..	148,633	25,275	43,229	44,623	13,515	9,961	285,236
Municipal aid ..	..	883	..	..	..	..	883
Public subs., legacies, etc.	3,617	30,626	2,800	2	..	..	37,045
Fees ..	18,704	23,680	..	3,303	11,433	4,768	61,893
Other ..	5,813	9,576	526	244	..	1,537	17,696
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>176,767</b>	<b>90,040</b>	<b>46,555</b>	<b>48,177</b>	<b>24,948</b>	<b>16,266</b>	<b>402,753</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Buildings ..	2,871	4,102	605	1,228	..	179	8,985
Maintenance ..	166,835	59,396	44,929	47,889	24,948	10,944	354,941
Other ..	5,773	6,351	1,055	..	..	5,143	18,322
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>175,479</b>	<b>69,849</b>	<b>46,589</b>	<b>49,117</b>	<b>24,948</b>	<b>16,266</b>	<b>382,248</b>

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 1924 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 reformatories 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, 1924, 152 inmates. At the Farm Home for Boys, Gosford, there were 248 inmates at the end of 1924.

(b) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1,690 beds. The daily average of the inmates was 1,645 in 1923–24. The expenditure in the same year was £48,596.

At the end of 1924 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 1924–25 was 329. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1925, was 263; in addition to which 1,510 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed; and 1,773 children were placed with licensed foster-mothers and others under the supervision of the Department. There were five deaths of children under State control.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1924 was 351, and the number of inmates on 31st December, 1924, was 288. There were no deaths during the year, and the expenditure amounted to £4,981.

(e) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, at 30th June, 1925, thirteen institutions classed as orphanages, industrial schools, etc., containing 415 boys and 294 girls. There were also 19 boys and 18 girls at the Government Receiving Dépôt at the 30th June, 1925.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are four industrial schools and one orphanage under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1924–25 numbered 45, and average daily number of inmates was 175. No deaths occurred during the year. The expenditure was £10,655.

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions in 1924 of State Departments for the relief of neglected children:—

## STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—SUMMARY, 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of children in institutions, boarded out, or on probation—							
Males .. ..	2,861	3,554	4,119	764	437	247	11,982
Females .. ..	2,491	2,934	3,668	646	351	232	10,322
Total .. ..	5,352	a6,488	7,787	1,410	788	479	22,304
Number of children boarded out with their own mothers and female relatives—							
Males .. ..	13,598	7,660	2,633	207	55	..	26,870
Females .. ..			2,497	156	64	..	
Total .. ..	13,598	7,660	5,130	363	119	..	26,870
Total .. ..	18,950	a 14,148	12,917	b 1,773	907	479	d 49,174
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost to State of children's relief ..	525,010	328,737	195,687	49,299	c28,703	13,965	1,141,401
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc. ..	15,719	17,840	12,790	5,828	5,390	1,440	59,007
Net cost .. ..	509,291	310,897	182,897	43,471	c23,313	12,525	1,082,394

(a) Excluding 26 incapacitated children maintained by the State. (b) Excluding 1,773 children (924 males and 849 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). 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 1924 there were 15 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., 1924.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, medical and nursing staff, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1924 :—

### HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions—							
Government .. ..	10	9	3	2	3	1	28
Private .. ..	2	(b) 5	..	..	..	..	7
Total .. ..	12	14	3	2	3	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males .. ..	24	22	{ 6 1	5	3	2	64
Females .. ..	1						
Total .. ..	25	22	7	5	3	2	64
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males .. ..	683	649	242	97	133	54	1,858
Females .. ..	624	612	182	95	74	62	1,649
Total .. ..	1,307 (g)	1,261	424	192	207	116	3,507
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories ..	(f)	1,282	566	507	44	407	(f)
Capacity, in cubic feet ..	(f)	3,757,735	2,046,916	894,163	714,714	878,590	(f)
Number of beds ..	(c) 6,840	5,540	2,802	1,317	1,186	702	(c) 18,387
Cubic feet to each bed ..	{ (d)(e) 600 (e)(c) 1,000 }	678	731	678	605	1,251	(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 95 cases at the end of 1924. Complete figures for these private asylums are not available. (c) Government hospitals only. (d) Ordinary dormitory. (e) Hospital dormitory. (f) Information not available. (g) Also 30 on clerical staff (males).

(iii) *Patients, 1924.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1924 is given in the table hereunder :—

### HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Admissions and re-admissions during year—							
Males .. ..	775	402	302	203	72	47	1,801
Females .. ..	653	407	208	177	34	45	1,524
Total .. ..	1,428	809	510	380	106	92	3,325
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males .. ..	290	84	132	85	24	12	627
Females .. ..	283	95	98	65	12	12	565
Total .. ..	573	179	230	150	36	24	1,192
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males .. ..	88	58	11	39	22	10	228
Females .. ..	87	56	12	50	4	9	218
Total .. ..	175	114	23	89	26	19	446

(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., 1924—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Absconders not retaken—							
Males .. .. .	10	18	..	..	..	..	28
Females .. .. .	1	1	..	2	..	..	4
Total .. .. .	11	19	..	2	..	..	32
Deaths—							
Males .. .. .	331	254	136	76	42	27	866
Females .. .. .	219	176	56	63	21	12	547
Total .. .. .	550	430	192	139	63	39	1,413
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males .. .. .	4,535	2,923	1,863	687	718	303	11,029
Females .. .. .	3,696	3,173	1,120	561	329	315	9,194
Total .. .. .	8,231	6,096	2,983	1,248	1,047	618	20,223
Average daily number resident—							
Males .. .. .	4,284	2,605	1,822	666	698	302	10,377
Females .. .. .	3,367	2,792	1,077	543	335	307	8,421
Total .. .. .	7,651	5,397	2,899	1,209	1,033	609	18,798
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males .. .. .	3.94	3.55	4.23	2.49	3.69	2.80	3.68
Females .. .. .	3.34	3.81	2.83	2.11	1.95	2.89	3.20
Persons .. .. .	3.65	3.68	3.57	2.30	2.87	2.84	3.44
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males .. .. .	3.77	3.20	4.18	2.46	3.62	2.82	3.50
Females .. .. .	3.08	3.38	2.76	2.07	2.01	2.87	2.96
Persons .. .. .	3.43	3.29	3.51	2.27	2.87	2.85	3.24

(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, 1920 to 1924.* The table hereunder gives a summary for hospitals for the insane in Australia for each of the five years 1920 to 1924. 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, 1920 TO 1924.

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Number of institutions (a) .. .. .	35	35	36	35	35
Number of beds .. .. .	17,468	17,224	18,047	18,303	18,387
Admissions .. .. .	3,501	3,254	3,226	3,342	3,325
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc. .. .. .	2,302	1,723	1,648	1,691	1,638
Deaths .. .. .	1,483	1,473	1,267	1,433	1,413
Expenditure .. .. .	1,414,055	1,398,148	1,303,907	1,401,459	1,494,025

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

(v) *Number of Insane, 1920 to 1924.* 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, 1920 TO 1924.

State.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales .. ..	7,889	7,970	7,991	8,112	8,231
Victoria .. ..	5,830	5,842	5,997	6,026	6,096
Queensland .. ..	2,745	2,753	2,842	2,869	2,983
South Australia .. ..	1,194	1,190	1,224	1,248	1,248
Western Australia .. ..	1,166	1,104	1,079	1,066	1,147
Tasmania .. ..	578	584	599	608	618
Total .. ..	19,402	19,443	19,732	19,929	20,223
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales .. ..	3.77	3.75	3.93	3.67	3.65
Victoria .. ..	3.82	3.77	3.77	3.71	3.68
Queensland .. ..	3.65	3.58	3.61	3.54	3.57
South Australia .. ..	2.43	2.37	2.39	2.38	2.30
Western Australia .. ..	3.52	3.48	3.15	3.00	2.87
Tasmania .. ..	2.72	2.67	2.74	2.78	2.84
Australia .. ..	3.58	3.53	3.61	3.47	3.44

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 1920 to 1924 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 9 to one in 13.

#### INSANITY.—PERCENTAGE OF CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1920 TO 1924.

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety ..	9.3	10.6	12.6	11.4	13.1
Intemperance in drink ..	10.9	7.7	8.9	9.4	8.0
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained ..	23.7	21.2	21.8	22.9	24.6
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life ..	6.0	7.5	7.6	7.0	8.4
Previous attacks ..	12.5	11.5	12.4	13.6	12.9
Accident, including sunstroke ..	1.7	0.8	1.3	1.5	1.3
Old age ..	10.6	9.2	11.7	11.1	10.8
Veneral disease ..	7.1	5.6	3.3	5.2	5.5
Other causes ascertained ..	18.2	25.9	20.4	17.9	15.4
All ascertained causes ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(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 7 years 179 days for males and 10 years 127 days for females; and of those who were discharged, 315 days for males and 1 year 52 days for females. There are three reception houses for observation of the insane.

(d) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 9 years 14 days for males and 6 years 147 days for females; of those discharged, 222 days for males and 336 days for females.

(e) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged about 8 years 104 days for males and 9 years 120 days for females; of those who were discharged, 3 years 30 days for males and 1 year 74 days for females.

(f) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 10 years 332 days for males and 11 years 49 days for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 154 days for males and 1 year 4 days for females.

(viii) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1924.* 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, 1924.

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria. (a)	Q'land. (a)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania. (a)	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients .. ..	76,668	59,314	22,689	15,486	10,734	7,970	192,861
Other .. ..	2,662	5,467	1,167	1,176	2,463	420	13,355
Total .. ..	79,330	64,781	23,856	16,662	13,197	8,390	206,216
Expenditure—							
Salaries .. ..	314,075	253,762	124,089	38,068	53,204	28,374	811,572
Maintenance .. ..	216,432	172,662	67,319	46,873	39,312	22,505	564,903
Buildings .. ..	..	36,289	17,031	15,173	..	764	69,257
Other .. ..	40,167	6,872	1,161	..	..	93	48,293
Total .. ..	570,674	469,585	209,600	99,914	92,516	51,736	1,494,025

(a) Year ended 30th June, 1925.

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 1925-26, 1,010 children and adults were examined by the Psychological Clinic, while 331 persons have been ascertained to be defectives, certified and registered. The later have been classified as follows:—Idiots, 8; Imbeciles, 49; Feeble-minded, 274.

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, 190 defectives have come under the direct control of the Mental Deficiency Board, and have been dealt with as follows:—Institution, 31; Guardianship, 29; Supervision, 118; Parole, 12.

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 23,000 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. 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, £38,000; Victoria, £6,000; Queensland, £40,000; South Australia, £25,000; Western Australia, £31,000; Northern Territory, £10,000; total for Australia, £150,000. In 1924 in New South Wales the number of full-bloods receiving aid was 1,855, 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 1924, there were about 650 inmates at mission stations, while in Western Australia the adult aborigines and half-castes in the native institutions in the year 1924 numbered 540. 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 in each of the last five years, the figures for the various States being compiled, as far as possible, on the same basis. For the reason given in § 1. 1. the cost of old-age and invalid pensions and of maternity allowances is not included:—

#### TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1920 TO 1924.

State or Territory.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	2,391,057	2,540,606	2,532,039	2,754,759	2,941,515
Victoria ..	1,230,566	1,459,163	1,521,278	1,488,058	1,653,974
Queensland ..	933,547	1,017,817	975,028	991,753	991,753 <sup>a</sup>
South Australia ..	416,303	520,879	551,596	546,528	621,315
Western Australia ..	451,738	475,802	457,661	468,179	508,809
Tasmania ..	199,206	206,513	216,580	215,494	228,246
Northern Territory ..	6,178	6,265	5,585	6,625	5,330
Total ..	5,628,595	6,227,045	6,259,767	6,471,396	6,950,942

(a) Year 1923; figures for 1924 not available.

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