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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. Owing to differences in the method and date of collection and tabulation, it is impossible to bring statistics of charitable institutions to a common year.

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. The largest of these, the Melbourne Hospital, has 358 beds, while attendances of outpatients for the latest year available numbered 265,000; the Alfred Hospital had 340 beds, out-patients' attendances numbered 201,000; the Austin Hospital for Incurables had 294 beds, St. Vincent's 120, and the Homœopathic 73. Amongst the country institutions, Bendigo had 222 beds, Geelong 162, and Ballarat 202.

(c) *Queensland.* Of the metropolitan hospitals, the largest is the Brisbane General, which can accommodate 384 patients. The Children's Hospital has 260 beds, the

Diamantina 176, and the Mater Misericordiæ 127. The larger country hospitals are those at Toowoomba, Ipswich, Townsville, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Cairns, Charters Towers, and Maryborough.

(d) *South Australia.* Including the Consumptive Home and Infectious Diseases Block, the Adelaide Hospital can accommodate a total of 580 patients. The average daily number of patients in 1926 was 422, and the number in hospital at the end of the year was 374.

(e) *Western Australia.* In the metropolis 5,206 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital in 1926, 1,882 at the Perth Children's Hospital, and 1,624 at the King Edward Maternity Hospital. At Fremantle Hospital the cases treated numbered 1,388, at Kalgoorlie 909, at Northam 766, and at Collie 547.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are well-equipped general hospitals in Hobart and Launceston. The former can accommodate 250 patients, with additional verandah accommodation if required, and the latter has 253 beds. Hospitals for women have been established in both centres, and there is a sanatorium for consumptives at New Town. Outside the metropolitan area there are institutions in the important country centres, the principal being the Devon Cottage, and the Lyell District Hospitals.

(g) *Northern Territory.* In addition to the hospitals at Darwin and Pine Creek, supplies of medicines and first aid are available to outlying stations.

(iii) *Number, Staff, and Accommodation, 1926.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs, and accommodation for the year 1926, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government	4	..	3	11	27	3	3	51
Other	157	53	106	34	42	13	2	407
Total	161	53	109	45	69	16	5	468
Medical Staff—								
Males	927	} 114	270	159	56	46	1	} 1,876
Females	289		8	5	1	..	..
Total	1,216	114	278	164	57	46	1	1,876
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males	104	..	369	97	113	3	2	688
Females	3,125	983	2,027	890	816	238	12	8,091
Total	3,229	(a) 983	2,396	987	929	241	14	8,779
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, wards, etc.	1,227	458	691	386	301	155	10	3,228
Capacity, in cubic feet	9,322,830	5,200,175	4,662,281	2,267,558	2,660,139	1,016,486	31,600	25,161,069
Number of beds, etc. ..	8,245	3,902	3,955	1,775	2,015	809	83	20,784
Cubic feet to each bed	1,130	1,333	1,179	1,277	1,333	1,256	770	1,209

(a) Victorian figures are exclusive of 912 nursing staff and 18 dispensing staff, sexes not available.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated. In addition to the facilities 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 1,229 out-door beds in New South Wales, 149 in Queensland, 171 in South Australia, 58 in Western Australia, 67 in Tasmania, and 42 in the Northern Territory. These figures are not included in the totals given in the table below:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Indoor Relief: Persons Treated—								
Males	67,502	22,580	36,249	11,337	12,530	6,069	269	156,536
Females	63,501	17,249	23,885	10,640	9,225	6,423	123	131,046
Total	131,003	39,829	60,134	21,977	21,755	12,492	392	287,582
Inmates at beginning of year—								
Males	2,877	1,410	1,755	596	671	252	23	7,584
Females	2,631	968	1,143	436	436	256	5	5,875
Total	5,508	2,378	2,898	1,032	1,107	508	28	13,459
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—								
Males	64,625	21,170	34,494	10,996	11,859	5,817	246	149,207
Females	60,870	16,281	22,745	10,410	8,779	6,167	118	125,370
Total	125,495	37,451	57,239	21,406	20,638	11,984	364	274,577
Discharges—Recovered:								
Males	47,635	18,715	31,639	6,550	6,279	4,974	219	116,011
Females	48,279	14,702	21,119	7,138	5,901	5,437	101	102,677
Total	95,914	a 33,417	52,758	13,688	12,180	10,411	320	218,688
Relieved:								
Males	10,823	..	..	2,988	4,313	<i>b</i>	..	<i>c</i>
Females	8,118	..	..	2,224	2,242	<i>b</i>	..	<i>c</i>
Total	18,941	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	5,212	6,555	<i>b</i>	..	<i>c</i>
Unrelieved or Incurable:								
Males	1,997	250	693	580	357	451	..	4,328
Females	1,700	186	427	409	231	484	..	3,437
Total	3,697	436	1,120	989	588	935	..	7,765
Not stated or Indefinite:								
Males .. ..	..	143	..	97	..	55	..	295
Females .. ..	..	103	..	93	..	36	..	232
Total .. ..	..	246	..	190	..	91	..	527
Deaths—								
Males	3,979	2,036	1,971	793	831	315	19	9,944
Females	2,580	1,205	1,035	503	413	226	6	5,963
Total	6,559	3,241	3,006	1,296	1,244	541	25	15,912
Inmates at end of year—								
Males	3,068	1,436	1,736	584	750	274	31	7,879
Females	2,824	1,053	1,156	479	438	240	16	6,206
Total	5,892	2,489	2,892	1,063	1,188	514	47	14,085
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	636	684	254	29	<i>c</i>
Females	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>	524	424	270	17	<i>c</i>
Total	6,862	2,476	2,892	1,160	1,108	524	46	<i>c</i>

(a) Including relieved. (b) Included in recovered. In the case of Queensland the totals are exclusive of 210 males and 151 females removed to other institutions. (c) Not available.

(v) *Summary for Five Years, 1922 to 1926.* 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, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Number of institutions ..	424	426	435	450	458
Number of beds ..	18,969	19,590	19,986	20,718	20,784
Admissions during year ..	209,018	227,168	237,846	251,379	274,537
Indoor patients treated ..	218,209	237,339	249,786	264,311	287,582
Deaths ..	13,485	14,637	14,734	15,125	15,912
Expenditure ..	£ 2,441,075	2,632,360	2,800,518	3,090,546	3,404,622

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 1926 were as follow :—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—								
Fees of patients, etc.	211,942	81,460	105,005	76,630	74,559	32,610	700	582,906
Government grants	751,497	106,824	257,662	233,359	107,942	50,476	5,693	1,513,453
Other ..	663,751	392,453	227,451	54,850	53,344	9,186	..	1,406,041
Total ..	1,627,190	580,737	590,118	364,845	240,845	92,272	6,393	3,502,400
Expenditure—								
Salaries and Main- tenance ..	1,037,958	396,865	591,155	234,897	226,274	67,537	4,733	2,559,419
Buildings ..	(a)313,450	99,550	37,220	135,675	3,374	5,412	960	593,647
Other ..	158,821	27,636	24,225	11,503	7,742	21,629	..	251,556
Total ..	1,510,229	524,051	652,606	382,075	237,390	92,578	5,693	3,404,622

(a) Exclusive of Government Grants to new hospitals, £23,572.

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 several of the hospitals were also benevolent asylums, a separation was effected and asylum patients were transferred to appropriate institutions. 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 1924 an average number resident of 1,485, Newington 707, Liverpool 631, and the Parramatta Homes 459. The State Labour Depot and Refuge at Randwick had 61 inmates.

(b) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Exclusive of the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. The daily average of indoor patients approaches 2,000, with about 300 distinct cases of outdoor relief. Residents in the Old Colonists Homes in 1926 numbered 88.

(c) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 1,224 beds. The most important of these is at Dunwich (Stradbroke Island), and there are small institutions at Nundah, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba. The inmates of the four institutions in 1926 numbered about 1,700.

(d) *Homes for Aged, South Australia.* At the Old Folks' Home, Magill, there were 450 inmates at the end of 1926, and 78 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 611 inmates at the end of 1926, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 93 adult inmates.

(f) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. The New Town Infirmary and Consumptive Home had 230 beds, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, had 31 beds in 1926.

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1926 are given in the following table :—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government aid ..	150,702	33,495	52,462	19,316	9,750	10,290	276,015
Municipal aid ..	..	881	..	..	..	..	881
Public subs., legacies, etc.	1,736	16,884	251	60	..	..	18,931
Fees ..	14,368	23,142	..	3,904	13,189	4,876	59,479
Other ..	4,257	9,896	3,016	395	..	1,291	18,855
Total ..	171,063	84,298	55,729	23,675	22,939	16,457	374,161
Expenditure—							
Buildings ..	2,533	5,100	74	3,159	..	269	11,135
Maintenance ..	162,756	64,330	54,996	14,956	23,939	12,806	333,783
Other ..	6,255	5,092	447	6,154	..	3,382	21,330
Total ..	171,544	74,522	55,517	24,269	23,939	16,457	366,248

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 1926 was approximately £200,000.

(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 Industrial School and Training Home for Girls there were on 31st December, 1925, 130 pupils. At the Farm Home for Boys, Gosford, there were 111 on the roll at the end of the year.

(b) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1,726 beds. The daily average number of inmates in 1925-26 was 1,688. The expenditure in the same year was £78,248.

At the end of 1926 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 depot. 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 during 1926 was about 2,000, and the expenditure for the year, £32,000.

There are also four industrial and reformatory schools with about 90 boys and 40 girls under detention.

(d) *South Australia.* At the end of the year 1926 the inmates in Neglected Children's Homes numbered 367, in orphan asylums 252, and in reformatories 103. The committals to these institutions during the last five years averaged 370.

(e) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, at 30th June, 1927, thirteen institutions classed as orphanages, industrial schools, etc., containing 394 boys and 257 girls. There were also 26 boys and 18 girls at the Government Receiving Depot.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are four industrial schools and one orphanage in the State. The average daily number of inmates was 187. The Boys' Training Home had 62 inmates at the end of 1926.

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions in 1926 of State Departments for the relief of neglected children :—

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—SUMMARY, 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of children in institutions, boarded out, or on probation—							
Males	3 070	3,780	1,391	738	506	270	9,755
Females	2,606	3,133	1,033	540	426	253	7,991
Total	5,676	6,913	2,424	1,278	932	523	17,746
Number of children boarded out with their own mothers and female relatives not included in above figures							
Males	10,014	8,532	2,826	153	209	..	24,695
Females			2,635	136	190	..	
Total	10,014	8,532	5,461	289	399	..	24,695
Total children under State control ..	15,690	15,445	7,885	1,567	1,331	523	42,441
Gross cost to State of children's relief ..	£ 584,037	£ 366,836	£ 206,513	£ 51,396	£ 26,899	£ 16,077	£ 1,251,758
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc. ..	17,928	17,968	12,788	5,260	5,429	1,473	60,846
Net cost	566,109	348,868	193,725	46,136	21,470	14,604	1,190,912

4. *Lepers.*—Isolation hospitals for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane); Western Australia (near Cossack); and the Northern Territory (near Darwin). At the end of 1927 there were 17 cases in residence at Little Bay, 73 at Peel Island, 7 in Western Australia, and 13 in North Australia. In the three years 1925 to 1927 a total of 44 cases of leprosy was reported in Australia, of which 33 were recorded in Queensland and 9 in Western Australia. In 1925 there were 2 deaths in Queensland, and in 1926 there were 6 deaths from this disease, 4 in Queensland, 1 in New South Wales, and 1 in North Australia.

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., 1926.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, medical and nursing staff, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1926 :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
Number of institutions—							
Government	11	8	3	1	3	1	27
Private	2	(c) 4	..	..	1	..	7
Total	13	12	3	1	4	1	34
Medical Staff—							
Males	22	26	6	4	4	2	64
Females	2	..	1	..	..	..	3
Total	24	26	7	4	4	2	67
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	772	681	266	90	131	63	2,003
Females	728	636	207	86	80	71	1,808
Total	1,500	1,317	473	176	211	134	3,811
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories	(a)	1,313	566	488	44	419	(d)
Capacity, in cubic feet	(a)	3,921,380	2,046,916	858,423	714,714	896,680	(d)
Number of beds	7,235	5,555	2,828	1,333	1,186	748	18,885
Cubic feet to each bed	(b) 800	706	723	644	605	1,251	(d)

(a) Not available. (b) Ordinary, 600; hospital, 1,000. (c) Cases at the end of the year numbered 96; other particulars not available. (d) Incomplete.

(iii) *Patients, 1926.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1926 is given in the table hereunder :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Admissions and re-admissions during year—							
Males	894	434	280	129	124	52	1,913
Females	676	407	199	120	83	54	1,539
Total	1,570	841	479	249	207	106	3,452
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	303	79	154	37	23	12	608
Females	304	90	98	34	19	18	563
Total	607	169	252	71	42	30	1,171
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	84	62	17	28	16	9	216
Females	73	61	10	29	18	14	205
Total	157	123	27	57	34	23	421

(a) Exclusive of four private licensed houses.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1926—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Absconders not retaken—							
Males	20	7	..	1	..	..	28
Females	1	2	..	..	..	..	3
Total	21	9	..	1	..	..	31
Deaths—							
Males	369	208	168	74	41	27	887
Females	243	195	67	39	14	14	572
Total	612	403	235	113	55	41	1,459
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	4,730	3,055	1,847	696	772	307	11,407
Females	3,840	3,274	1,153	586	392	308	9,553
Total	8,570	6,329	3,000	1,282	1,164	615	20,960
Average daily number resident—							
Males	4,498	2,626	1,870	701	777	305	10,777
Females	3,554	2,841	1,099	579	362	305	8,740
Total	8,052	5,467	2,969	1,280	1,139	610	19,517
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	3.94	3.58	3.97	2.38	3.80	2.89	3.65
Females	3.33	3.81	2.77	2.14	2.23	2.84	3.20
Persons	3.64	3.70	3.40	2.26	3.07	2.86	3.43
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	3.79	3.11	4.05	2.43	3.86	2.90	3.49
Females	3.12	3.33	2.66	2.14	2.08	2.87	2.95
Persons	3.46	3.22	3.39	2.29	3.04	2.89	3.23

(a) Exclusive of four 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, 1922 to 1926.* The table hereunder gives a summary for hospitals for the insane in Australia for each of the five years 1922 to 1926. Licensed houses (except as regards expenditure) are included in the totals for New South Wales and Victoria. The figures are exclusive of reception houses, and observation wards in gaols. In the case of New South Wales the expenditure figures include cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Number of institutions	36	35	35	36	34
Number of beds	18,047	18,303	18,387	18,797	18,885
Admissions	3,226	3,342	3,325	3,441	3,452
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,648	1,691	1,638	1,613	1,592
Deaths	1,267	1,433	1,413	1,416	1,459
Expenditure	£ 1,303,907	1,401,459	1,494,025	1,649,626	1,629,242

(v) *Number of Insane, 1922 to 1926.* 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, 1922 TO 1926.

State.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	7,991	8,112	8,231	8,397	8,570
Victoria	5,997	6,026	6,096	6,192	6,329
Queensland	2,842	2,869	2,983	2,983	3,000
South Australia	1,224	1,248	1,248	1,302	1,282
Western Australia	1,079	1,066	1,047	1,088	1,164
Tasmania	599	608	618	603	615
Total	19,732	19,929	20,223	20,565	20,960
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales	3.93	3.67	3.65	3.65	3.64
Victoria	3.77	3.71	3.68	3.67	3.70
Queensland	3.61	3.54	3.57	3.46	3.40
South Australia	2.39	2.38	2.30	2.36	2.26
Western Australia	3.15	3.00	2.87	2.92	3.07
Tasmania	2.74	2.78	2.84	2.78	2.86
Australia	3.61	3.47	3.44	3.43	3.43

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria and New South Wales show 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 those States. On the other hand, in South Australia a considerably lower insanity rate has prevailed, averaging about 1 in 430, 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 1922 to 1926 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 11 to one in 12.

INSANITY.—PERCENTAGE OF CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1922 TO 1926.

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety ..	12.6	11.4	13.1	15.0	11.6
Intemperance in drink ..	8.9	9.4	8.0	8.4	9.1
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained ..	21.8	22.9	24.6	22.8	18.5
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life ..	7.6	7.0	8.4	7.1	7.1
Previous attacks ..	12.4	13.6	12.9	11.4	12.5
Accident, including sunstroke ..	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.0
Old age ..	11.7	11.1	10.8	10.1	10.2
Veneral disease ..	3.3	5.2	5.5	5.8	6.1
Other causes ascertained ..	20.4	17.9	15.4	18.2	23.9
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 four 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 6 years 357 days for males and 6 years 235 days for females; and of those who were discharged, 1 year 135 days for males and 1 year 27 days for females. There are three reception houses for observation of the insane.

(d) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 5 years 6 months and 9 days for males, and 4 years 3 months and 11 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 7 months and 19 days for males, and 1 year 7 months and 19 days for females.

(e) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 5 years 1 month and 17 days for males, and 5 years 5 months and 12 days for females; of those who were discharged, 1 year 11 months and 26 days for males, and 2 years 4 months and 22 days for females.

(f) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 8 years 6 months and 3 days for males, and 8 years 8 months and 1 day for females; that of those discharged, 5 months and 6 days for males, and 2 years and 2 months for females.

(viii) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1926.* 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 87 per cent.

HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1926.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients	85,964	57,378	31,507	16,767	14,980	7,225	213,821
Other	2,795	5,411	1,245	797	3,536	135	13,919
Total	88,759	62,789	32,752	17,564	18,516	7,360	227,740
Expenditure—							
Salaries	379,451	275,594	129,257	42,354	61,848	30,210	918,714
Maintenance	242,036	180,291	86,281	40,323	..	21,442	570,378
Buildings .. ..	..	41,542	8,368	7,375	..	681	57,966
Other	35,291	6,659	..	244	39,925	65	82,184
Total	656,778	504,086	223,906	90,301	101,773	52,398	1,629,242

6. *Care of the Feeble-minded.*—An account of the treatment of the feeble-minded, supplied by the Public Health Department of Tasmania, appeared in Official Year Book No. 19, pp. 477 and 478. Considerations of space, however, preclude its repetition in the present volume.

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 expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1926–27 was, New South Wales, £28,000; Victoria, £8,700; Queensland, £50,000; South Australia, £28,000; Western Australia, £30,000; Northern Territory, £10,000; total for Australia, £153,000. In New South Wales the number

of full-bloods receiving aid in 1926 was 394, and of half-castes, 1,272. The total numbers of those living on reserves were full-bloods, 424, and half-castes, 1,958. At the 30th June, 1926, there were 55 full-bloods and 282 three-quarter and half-castes under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board at the chief station in Victoria. In Queensland in 1926 there were more than 3,500 aboriginals at the various stations. At the 30th June, 1926, there were 750 inmates, of whom 140 were full-bloods, at mission stations in South Australia, while in Western Australia the adult aborigines and half-castes in the native institutions in the year 1926 numbered 596. 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, 1922 TO 1926.

State or Territory.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,532,039	2,754,759	2,941,515	3,230,625	3,452,596
Victoria	1,521,278	1,488,058	1,653,974	1,944,306	2,064,028
Queensland	975,028	991,753	991,753	1,145,535	1,190,863
South Australia	551,596	546,528	621,315	679,088	766,513
Western Australia	457,661	468,179	508,809	534,522	551,616
Tasmania	216,580	215,494	228,246	237,834	235,169
Northern Territory	5,585	6,625	5,330	3,162	4,309
Total	6,259,787	6,471,396	6,950,942	7,775,072	8,265,094

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