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## SECTION XXIV.

### PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

#### § 1. Introductory.

1. **General.**—Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings, viz. :—(a) State; (b) public; (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal lunatic asylums in the various States, the Government hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government asylums for the infirm in New South Wales. The second class comprises public institutions of two kinds, viz. :—(i) those partially subsidised by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the 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 Section xxxi., *Miscellaneous*, § 4 and 5.

From time to time relief funds have been organised for famine-stricken territories (e.g., China, India, etc.), or for places where plague, flood, fire, or earthquake has shewn the need of urgent relief. 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 have been instituted in consequence of the war, the total for Australia, up to 31st December, 1919, has been estimated to exceed £12,500,000 sterling.

#### § 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

1. **Hospitals.**—All of the State capitals have several large and well-equipped hospitals, and there is at least one in every important town. In large centres there are hospitals for consumptives, women, children, infectious diseases, incurables, etc. The number of hospitals in Australia, with the admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, is shewn in the following table. Only general hospitals are tabulated, since the working of "special" institutions is not properly comparable with those which treat every class of case.

HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1916 TO 1920.

Particulars.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Number of institutions ..	391	399	393	393	393
Number of beds ..	15,811	16,763	17,000	17,390	17,890
Admissions during year ..	166,588	164,889	174,379	193,920	202,053
Indoor patients treated ..	176,279	174,387	184,176	202,929	211,332
Deaths ..	13,128	11,885	12,494	15,758	14,475
Expenditure ..	£ 1,351,160	1,396,361	1,543,162	1,798,297	2,099,601

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.

Fuller details of hospital statistics are given for 1920 in the tables below, the States and Northern Territory of the Commonwealth being shewn separately :—

**GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION OF HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1920.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter. (a)	C'wealth.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government ..	4	52	3	10	23	2	5	393
Other ..	152		84	19	29	10	..	
Total ..	156	52	87	29	52	12	5	393
Medical Staff—								
Males ..	948	96	206	115	60	21	1	1,464
Females ..			12	5	..	..	..	
Total ..	948	96	218	120	60	21	1	1,464
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males ..	91	13	206	88	96	2	3	589
Females ..	2,312	893	1,244	569	574	184	7	5,783
Total ..	2,403	906	1,540	657	670	186	10	6,372
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, etc. ..	1,057	428	558	213	227	125	11	2,619
Capacity in cubic feet ..	8,160,944	4,942,279	4,014,572	1,693,943	2,119,369	887,109	60,912	21,879,128
Number of beds etc. ..	7,022	3,570	3,616	1,348	1,690	622	22	17,890
Cubic feet to each bed ..	1,162	1,384	1,110	1,257	1,431	1,426	3,000	1,223

(a) Year ended 30th June, 1919.

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. Full particulars are not available.

**GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1920.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter. (a)	C'wealth.
Indoor Relief: Distinct Persons Treated—								
Males ..	47,972	19,291	28,254	6,973	9,466	4,692	258	116,906
Females ..	43,796	15,716	17,748	6,035	6,298	4,695	138	94,426
Total ..	91,768	35,007	46,002	13,008	15,764	9,387	396	211,332
Inmates at beginning of Year—								
Males ..	2,403	1,184	1,368	488	582	232	19	6,276
Females ..	2,041	1,013	802	288	355	222	5	4,726
Total ..	4,444	2,197	2,170	776	937	454	24	11,002
Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—								
Males ..	45,569	18,107	26,886	7,580	8,884	4,460	229	111,715
Females ..	41,755	14,703	16,946	6,385	5,943	4,473	133	90,338
Total ..	87,324	32,810	43,832	13,965	14,827	8,933	362	202,053

(a) Year ended 30th June, 1919.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1920—*continued*.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter. (d)	C'wealth
Discharges—Recovered :								
Males .. ..	31,343	15,196	24,174	4,646	4,020	4,043	203	83,630
Females .. ..	32,518	12,878	15,405	4,471	3,488	4,150	125	73,035
Total .. ..	63,866	28,074	39,579	9,117	7,508	8,193	328	156,665
Relieved :								
Males .. ..	8,898	(b)	(b)	1,512	3,586	(b)	..	(c)
Females .. ..	5,656	(b)	(b)	1,079	1,873	(b)	..	(c)
Total .. ..	14,554	(b)	(b)	2,591	5,459	(b)	..	(c)
Unrelieved :								
Males .. ..	1,525	64	531	662	345	101	..	3,228
Females .. ..	1,126	80	383	325	222	73	..	2,209
Total .. ..	2,651	144	914	987	567	174	..	5,437
Not stated :								
Males .. ..	..	826	271	34	..	14	..	1,145
Females .. ..	..	560	181	74	..	10	..	825
Total .. ..	..	1,386	452	108	..	24	..	1,970
Deaths—								
Males .. ..	3,462	1,937	1,808	713	882	281	16	9,099
Females .. ..	2,248	1,183	917	443	376	206	3	5,376
Total .. ..	5,710	3,120	2,725	1,156	1,258	487	19	14,475
Inmates at end of Year—								
Males .. ..	2,739	1,268	1,470	501	633	253	24	6,888
Females .. ..	2,248	1,015	862	281	339	256	17	5,018
Total .. ..	4,987	2,283	2,332	782	972	509	41	11,906
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males .. ..	5,466	2,237	2,440	505	652	239	20	12,544
Females .. ..				371	374	233	7	
Total .. ..	5,466	2,237	2,440	876	1,026	472	27	12,544

(a) Including relieved.

(b) Included in recovered.

(c) Not available.

(d) Year ended 30th June, 1919.

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

## GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1920.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter. (a)	C'wealth.
Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of patients, etc.	132,230	53,178	46,255	28,029	36,679	20,387	652	317,410
Government grants	453,818	60,101	222,902	96,188	105,530	43,949	6,178	993,666
Other .. ..	417,924	240,584	201,341	19,989	28,177	8,379	..	916,394
Total .. ..	1,008,972	353,863	470,498	144,206	170,386	72,715	6,830	2,227,470
Expenditure—								
Salaries .. ..	348,726	270,261	144,792	47,589	67,422	27,844	2,026	1,753,009
Maintenance .. ..	406,562		230,651	75,416	99,297	30,198	2,225	
Buildings .. ..	159,230	19,786	27,002	13,547	2,948	3,367	177	226,057
Other .. ..	79,082	1,602	13,605	8,036	4,161	11,647	2,402	120,535
Total .. ..	993,600	291,649	416,050	144,588	173,828	73,056	6,830	2,099,601

(a) Year ended 30th June, 1919.

2. **Principal Hospitals in each State.**—The tables here given refer to general hospitals. In addition there are hospitals for “specials” (such as women’s, children’s, and infectious diseases hospitals), and institutions nearly allied to hospitals (such as consumptive sanatoria). Where the institutions carry on general hospital relief, they are included with those establishments.

(i) *New South Wales.* A Government hospital, with a staff of 28 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 87, and with 584 beds, is the largest metropolitan endowed institution. Amongst other large metropolitan hospitals may be mentioned the Sydney Hospital, with a medical staff of 65 and with 398 beds, St. Vincent’s with 56 doctors and 190 beds, and Lewisham with 29 medical attendants and 169 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 20. At the Carrington Convalescent Home at Camden, 110 patients may be admitted. The hospital in the Broken Hill district can accommodate 162.

(ii) *Victoria.* There are several large metropolitan hospitals in Victoria. The largest of these, the Melbourne Hospital, has 350 beds; the Austin Hospital for Incurables has 290, the Alfred Hospital 168, St. Vincent’s 126, and the Homœopathic 98. Amongst the country institutions, Bendigo has 222 beds, Geelong 217, and Ballarat 170.

(iii) *Queensland.* Of the metropolitan hospitals, the largest is the Brisbane General, which can accommodate 361 patients. The Children’s Hospital has 250 beds, the Diamantina 174, and the Mater Misericordiæ 127. Ipswich Hospital, with 150 beds, is the largest of the country institutions, followed by Toowoomba with 130, Rockhampton with 110, Townsville with 105, Maryborough 96, Charters Towers 92, Bundaberg 92, Cairns 84, Mackay 84, and Mt. Morgan 71.

(iv) *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, with 72, 56, and 48 beds respectively. The Adelaide Children’s Hospital has 96 beds.

(v) *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, 4,539 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital in 1920, and 1,759 at the Perth Children’s Hospital. Of the country hospitals, Kalgoorlie returned 1,500 cases, Fremantle 1,229, and Wooroloo 540.

(vi) *Tasmania.* There are well-equipped general hospitals in Hobart and Launceston. The former has a medical staff of 4 and can accommodate 225 patients, and the latter has 190 beds and a medical staff of 3. 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 a medical staff of 2, and beds for 82 patients; the Lyell District Hospital can accommodate 44 patients, and there are other institutions in important country centres.

(vii) *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.

3. **Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.**—A marked increase has taken place in the amount of aid bestowed upon the aged. Two elements, each of them independent of the growth of population, have influenced this increase. One is, that the general age of the community has advanced—the large flow of immigration of 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. The result in Australia has been that 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 the Commonwealth have caused divergence in their development and in the classes of cases treated by them. For example, in Western Australia the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which the statistics are not separately kept. Since the predominating function of the institution is aid to the destitute, it has been included amongst benevolent asylums. In Victoria, nine of the hospitals are also benevolent asylums, and they are included wholly under the former. In South Australia, the Destitute Asylum includes lying-in and children's departments.

#### BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1920.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Revenue—</b>							
Government aid .. ..	167,970	22,495	51,935	36,229	22,734	14,189	315,552
Municipal aid .. ..	..	516	..	..	..	..	816
Public subs., legacies, etc. ..	4,068	10,565	1,442	11	..	..	16,086
Fees .. ..	18,602	17,354	..	8,122	10,367	2,928	57,373
Other .. ..	6,876	7,450	1,257	315	..	1,036	16,934
<b>Total</b> .. ..	<b>197,516</b>	<b>58,680</b>	<b>54,634</b>	<b>44,677</b>	<b>33,101</b>	<b>18,153</b>	<b>406,761</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Buildings .. ..	1,724	1,041	3,078	668	..	513	7,024
Maintenance .. ..	185,781	57,054	50,793	44,078	33,101	15,980	386,787
Other .. ..	9,383	180	377	68	..	1,659	11,667
<b>Total</b> .. ..	<b>196,888</b>	<b>58,275</b>	<b>54,248</b>	<b>44,814</b>	<b>33,101</b>	<b>18,152</b>	<b>405,478</b>

(i) *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 1920 an average number resident of 1,274, Newington 706, and Liverpool 599. At the Cottage Homes, situated at two separate localities in Parramatta, the average number resident was about 451. The State Labour Depot and Refuge at Randwick had 648 inmates during 1920.

(ii) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. In 1919-20, the average daily number of indoor patients was 1,916, and there were 456 distinct cases of outdoor relief.

(iii) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 1,245 beds. The most important of these is at Dunwich (Stradbroke Island) with 1,127 beds, while there are small institutions at Nundah, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba. At the end of 1920 the inmates of the four institutions numbered 1,177.

(iv) *Destitute Asylum, Adelaide.* Outside of hospitals and lunatic asylums the destitute of South Australia are dealt with and relieved at the Destitute Asylum, Adelaide, and at the Aged Men's Home, Beaumont. The former institution includes lying-in and children's departments. In the asylum the number of inmates at the end of 1920 was 362; in the Beaumont Home it was 67.

(v) *Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia.* There are two of these homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. The Old Men's Home at Claremont had 568 inmates at the end of 1920, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 74 adult inmates.

(vi) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. The New Town Infirmary and Consumptive Home, with 220 beds, had 195 inmates at the end of June, 1921, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, with 23 beds, had 22 inmates on the same date.

**4. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.**—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 to orphans strictly so called. The expenditure on orphanages in 1920 was £159,607.

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

There are also orphanages, farm homes, country homes for children, etc., with upwards of 1,900 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 was attached in 1912, there were on 31st December, 1920, 124 inmates. At the Farm Home for boys, Gosford, 165 boys were admitted during 1920, and 141 discharged, including 115 who were released on probation.

(ii) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1,772 beds. The daily average of the inmates was 1,776 in 1919–20. The expenditure in the same year was £45,212.

At the end of 1920 there were three industrial and five 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.

(iii) *Queensland.* There are twelve orphanages in Queensland. The number under care on 31st December, 1920, was 1,113, and the expenditure for the year, £29,341.

There are also six industrial and reformatory schools, which had 131 boys and 43 girls under detention at the end of 1920.

(iv) *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 1920-21 was 313. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1921, was 265, in addition to which 1,587 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed. There were no deaths amongst children in industrial schools and reformatories, and of those placed out and in other institutions nine died.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1920 was 445, and the number of inmates on 31st December, 1920, was 273. There were no deaths during the year, and the expenditure amounted to £4,050.

(v) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, at the end of 1920, five orphanages, five orphanages and industrial schools, and two industrial schools, containing 485 boys and 418 girls. There were also 6 boys and 13 girls at the Government Receiving Depot at the 30th June, 1921.

(vi) *Tasmania.* There are three industrial schools and one orphanage under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1920-21 numbered 43, and average daily number of inmates was 149. One death occurred during the year. The expenditure was £4,607.

The New Town Training School for boys had 53 inmates at the end of June, 1920.

(vii) *Neglected Children.* The following table summarises the number of neglected children under State Departments:—

**STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—TRANSACTIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS, 1920.**

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas. (b)	C'wealth.
Number of Children under State control at end of year—							
Males .. .. .	3,118	3,387	1,610	821	562	273	9,771
Females .. .. .	2,285	2,839	1,213	712	555	224	7,823
Total .. .. .	5,403	6,226	2,823	1,533	1,117	497	17,599
Number of Children boarded out with their own mothers—							
Males .. .. .	12,839	3,431	2,842	180	145	1	25,586
Females .. .. .		3,497	2,555	139	155	2	
Total .. .. .	12,839	6,928	5,197	319	300	3	25,586
Total .. .. .	18,242	(c)13,179	8,020	(d)3,753	1,417	500	45,111
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost to State of children's relief .. .. .	390,652	250,125	194,826	47,482	29,712	12,035	924,832
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc. .. .. .	7,713	11,677	10,714	6,212	4,265	1,533	42,114
Net cost .. .. .	382,939	238,448	184,112	41,270	25,447	10,502	882,718

(a) For year ended 5th April following. (b) For the year ended 30th June, 1921. (c) Including 25 (2 males and 23 females) incapacitated children maintained by the State. (d) Including 1901 children (929 males and 972 females) placed with licensed foster-mothers and others.



5. **Lepers.**—Lazarets for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane, and Dayman Island, Torres 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 the Commonwealth, while at the 31st December, 1920, there were 24 lepers in the Little Bay lazaret.

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

#### HOSPITALS FOR INSANE, COMMONWEALTH, 1916 TO 1920.

Particulars.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Number of institutions <sup>(a)</sup> .. ..	35	34	34	35	35
Number of beds .. ..	16,673	16,808	17,178	17,308	17,468
Admissions .. ..	3,268	3,054	3,192	3,323	3,501
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,451	1,456	1,406	1,565	2,302
Deaths .. ..	1,459	1,306	1,383	1,699	1,483
Expenditure .. .. £	861,258	875,963	951,439	1,116,676	1,414,055

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

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

The number of insane persons in institutions in Australia at the end of each of the years 1916 to 1920 was as follows :—

#### INSANE PERSONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1916 TO 1920.

State.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
New South Wales ..	7,240	7,340	7,581	7,544	7,889
Victoria .. ..	5,793	5,833	5,915	5,846	5,830
Queensland .. ..	2,517	2,590	2,623	2,703	2,745
South Australia ..	1,158	1,175	1,153	1,187	1,194
Western Australia ..	1,045	1,066	1,123	1,148	1,166
Tasmania .. ..	545	570	575	578	578
Commonwealth ..	18,298	18,575	18,970	19,006	19,402

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria shews the highest rate of insanity, roughly 1 in 250 persons. It is stated that this is chiefly owing to the proportionately greater number of old persons in that State. On the other hand, in South Australia a considerably lower insanity rate has prevailed, averaging about 1 in 400, Tasmania following closely with an average of about 1 in 350.

## PROPORTION OF INSANE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1916 TO 1920.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
New South Wales ..	3.84	3.82	3.86	3.70	3.77
Victoria .. ..	4.12	4.12	4.12	3.89	3.82
Queensland .. ..	3.71	3.77	3.72	3.66	3.65
South Australia ..	2.62	2.63	2.52	2.46	2.43
Western Australia ..	3.41	3.41	3.62	3.51	3.52
Tasmania .. ..	2.79	2.88	2.83	2.75	2.72
Commonwealth ..	3.72	3.73	3.73	3.58	3.58

Consequent upon the development of a more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases, a greater willingness is being shewn to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an earlier stage than formerly. Hence an increase in the number of recorded cases does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity. It is important to bear this in mind, because the small progressive increase in the numbers in the first of the immediately preceding tables is probably to be attributed largely, if not solely, to this circumstance.

The leading features in regard to institutions for the care of the insane are given below for 1920 :—

## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1920.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Number of Institutions—							
Government .. ..	9	9	3	1	3	1	26
Private .. .. .	3	(b)5	..	..	1	..	9
Total .. .. .	12	14	3	1	4	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males .. .. .	22	21	6	3	3	2	57
Females .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Total .. .. .	23	21	7	3	3	2	59
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males .. .. .	664	563	252	91	128	89	1,787
Females .. .. .	549	529	230	62	63	62	1,495
Total .. .. .	1,213	1,092	482	153	191	151	3,282
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories ..	(c)353	1,436	554	(f)	44	407	(f)
Capacity in cubic feet ..	3,582,976	3,662,328	1,921,271	(f)	714,714	878,590	(f)
Number of beds .. ..	6,303	5,269	2,774	1,237	1,186	699	17,468
Cubic feet to each bed ..	{ (d) 600 } { (e)1,000 }	{ } { 695 }	{ } { 693 }	{ (f) }	{ (c)605 } { (g)1,684 }	{ } { 1,256 }	{ (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 end of 1920. 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.

## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1920.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Admissions and re-admissions during year—							
Males .. .. .	826	465	318	160	132	40	1,941
Females .. .. .	728	399	180	130	79	44	1,560
Total .. .. .	1,554	864	498	290	211	84	3,501
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males .. .. .	301	77	145	72	40	17	652
Females .. .. .	284	150	95	40	28	14	611
Total .. .. .	585	227	240	112	68	31	1,263
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males .. .. .	374	75	18	38	15	11	531
Females .. .. .	353	97	8	32	9	9	508
Total .. .. .	727	172	26	70	24	20	1,039
Absconders not retaken—							
Males .. .. .	8	6	..	1	3	..	18
Females .. .. .	2	1	..	1	..	..	4
Total .. .. .	10	7	..	2	3	..	22
Deaths—							
Males .. .. .	354	274	125	52	65	16	886
Females .. .. .	235	200	65	47	33	17	597
Total .. .. .	589	474	190	99	98	33	1,483
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males .. .. .	4,483	2,888	1,758	659	804	286	10,878
Females .. .. .	3,406	2,942	987	535	362	292	8,524
Total .. .. .	7,889	5,830	2,745	1,194	1,166	578	19,402
Average daily number resident—							
Males .. .. .	4,248	2,621	1,732	658	795	286	10,340
Females .. .. .	3,049	2,589	962	529	353	288	7,770
Total .. .. .	7,297	5,210	2,694	1,187	1,148	574	18,110
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males .. .. .	4.20	3.83	4.43	2.69	4.55	2.67	3.95
Females .. .. .	3.33	3.80	2.78	2.18	2.35	2.77	3.20
Persons .. .. .	3.77	3.82	3.65	2.43	3.52	2.72	3.58
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males .. .. .	4.03	3.51	4.40	2.71	4.53	2.68	3.79
Females .. .. .	3.02	3.37	2.74	2.17	2.30	2.75	2.95
Persons .. .. .	3.53	3.44	3.62	2.44	3.49	2.72	3.38

(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 of the States it is the practice to allow persons well advanced towards recovery to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are nevertheless under supervision of the asylum authorities and are kept on the books. The figures for admission, etc., include absconders captured and readmitted. Very few escapees succeed in avoiding capture.

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 88 per cent.

### HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE (GOVERNMENT ONLY), REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1920.

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Grants ..	499,584	376,928	208,632	(b)	(b)	47,726	d1,132,870
Fees of Patients ..	61,917	33,246	12,505	15,904	8,102	6,823	138,497
Other ..	2,123	5,228	1,165	812	2,709	823	12,860
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>563,624</b>	<b>415,402</b>	<b>222,302</b>	<b>c16,716</b>	<b>c10,811</b>	<b>55,372</b>	<b>d1,284,227</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Salaries ..	279,435	181,266	101,376	25,797	40,273	24,058	652,205
Maintenance ..	253,769	204,855	96,050	43,569	39,873	30,189	668,305
Buildings ..		24,186	31,123	..	..	1,085	56,394
Other ..	30,420	5,095	984	612	..	40	37,151
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>563,624</b>	<b>415,402</b>	<b>229,533</b>	<b>69,978</b>	<b>80,146</b>	<b>55,372</b>	<b>1,414,055</b>

(a) Year ended 30th June, 1921. (b) Not available. (c) Exclusive of Government grants.  
(d) Exclusive of Government grants in South Australia and Western Australia.

(i) *New South Wales.* No particulars are available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals during the year of persons who died or were discharged.

There are also 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.

(ii) *Victoria.* No particulars are 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.

(iii) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died during the year was 8 years 1 month for males and 10 years for females; and of those who were discharged, 9 months for males and 1 year for females.

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

(iv) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 5 years and 7 months for males and 8 years 5 months for females; of those discharged, 1 year and 11 months for males and 1 year and 6 months for females.

(v) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 3 years 3 months for males and 3 years 7 months for females; of those who were discharged, 22 months for males and 2 years and 2 months for females.

(vi) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 6 years 2 months for males and 9 years 7 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year for males and 4 years and 5 months for females.

(vii) *Causes of Insanity.* The proportion of causes of insanity to the total of ascertained causes in Australia in the five years 1916–20 shows that hereditary influences have been the chief factor, more than one-fifth of the total ascertained causes coming under this head. Domestic troubles, adverse circumstances, etc., have also been a fruitful source. Cases due to intemperance in drink range from one in nine to one in twelve.

**PROPORTION OF ASCERTAINED CAUSES, ETC., OF INSANITY, COMMONWEALTH,  
1916 TO 1920.**

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety ..	9.6	9.7	9.9	8.4	9.3
Intemperance in drink ..	10.3	10.5	10.2	8.7	10.9
Hereditary influence, ascertained ; congenital defect, ascertained ..	22.4	21.8	22.1	21.1	23.7
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life ..	5.1	6.0	4.9	5.8	6.0
Previous attacks ..	14.9	14.1	14.6	12.4	12.5
Accident, including sunstroke ..	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.7
Old age ..	10.0	9.8	9.4	8.1	10.6
Other causes ascertained ..	25.9	26.2	27.4	33.7	25.3
All ascertained causes ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**7. Treatment of Inebriates.**—The treatment of inebriates is referred to in the section dealing with Public Justice hereinbefore. (See page 773.)

**8. Protection of Aborigines.**—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where the blacks are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic in habit of life, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come under the notice of the Boards. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The approximate annual expenditure on maintenance, etc., is—New South Wales, £35,000; Victoria, £4,000; Queensland, £21,000; South Australia, £27,000; Western Australia, £35,000; Northern Territory, £3,000; total for Commonwealth, £125,000. In 1920 in New South Wales the average number receiving monthly aid was 2,582; in Victoria there were 293 under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board; in Queensland, at the end of 1920, there were 2,974 aborigines at the mission stations; in South Australia, there were 823 inmates at mission stations, while in Western Australia the aborigines and half-castes in the native institutions numbered 548. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory about 300 were in residence, but casual assistance and medical attendance are given to large numbers of natives every year.

**9. 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. By stimulating the acquirement of the art of swimming in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., it is desired to bring about a widespread and thorough knowledge of natation and life-saving; while life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances are provided on ocean beaches and at places where they are likely to be in demand. Upwards of 3,000 certificates of proficiency in various grades are annually issued after examination.

**10. 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.

11. **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 particularised include asylums for the deaf, dumb, and blind, maternity institutions and infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, crèches, homes of hope, rescue homes, free kindergarten and ragged schools, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, ambulance and health societies, boys' brigades, humane and animals' protection societies, prisoners' aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bush fires and mining accident relief funds, etc.

12. **State Expenditure on Charities.**—The table below gives the amount expended by Government 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 :—

## STATE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1916 TO 1920.

State or Territory.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	876,767	863,713	962,901	1,148,360	2,391,057
Victoria ..	525,682	543,225	541,817	578,055	1,230,566
Queensland ..	324,143	372,342	417,743	516,944	933,547
South Australia ..	162,849	191,748	166,250	195,687	416,303
Western Australia ..	247,589	178,477	249,361	289,404	451,738
Tasmania ..	79,494	88,445	95,867	121,371	199,206
Northern Territory ..	5,649	4,488	4,156	6,178	(a) 6,178
Commonwealth ..	2,222,173	2,242,438	2,438,095	2,855,999	5,628,595

(a) Expenditure for 1920 not available.

13. **Total Charitable Expenditure.**—The expenditure in the Commonwealth in money on hospitals, charities, and all forms of relief publicly given, comprising the amounts furnished by Government and those raised by public subscription, etc., but excluding old-age pensions, exceeds £4,600,000 annually.