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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 34 medical officers and accommodation for about 777 patients, is established at Little Bay, near Sydney. Altogether, there are 5 hospitals for women, and 3 for children in the metropolis. The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, with a medical staff of 99 and with 530 beds, is the largest metropolitan subsidized institution. Amongst other large metropolitan hospitals may be mentioned the Sydney Hospital, with a medical staff of 76 and with 380 beds, St. Vincent's with 50 doctors and 260 beds, and Lewisham with 60 medical attendants and 232 beds. In extra-metropolitan areas the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives, which is a Government institution, provides accommodation for 441 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 400,000 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 302,000; the Alfred Hospital has 340 beds, outpatients' attendances numbered 244,000; the Austin Hospital for Incurables has 301 beds, St. Vincent's 120, and the Homœopathic 117. Amongst the country institutions, Bendigo has 262 beds, Geelong 208, and Ballarat 205.

(c) *Queensland.* Of the metropolitan hospitals, the largest is the Brisbane General, which can accommodate 409 patients. The Children's Hospital has 229 beds, the

Diamantina 176, and the Mater Misericordiæ 152. 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 1927 was 438 and the number in hospital at the end of the year was 389.

(e) *Western Australia.* In the metropolis 4,373 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital in 1927, 2,241 at the Perth Children's Hospital, and 1,855 at the King Edward Maternity Hospital. At Fremantle Hospital the cases treated numbered 1,434, at Kalgoorlie 879, at Northam 914, and at Collie 637.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are well-equipped general hospitals in Hobart and Launceston. The former can accommodate 250 patients, 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.* Government Hospitals are established at Darwin, Maranboy, and Pine Creek. The latter institution, however, was closed down in December, 1927, owing to the number of admissions not justifying the cost of maintenance. It is proposed in the near future to supply all Police Stations with adequate supplies of stock mixtures and lotions in concentrated form to meet outbreaks of the commoner maladies. These concentrated mixtures will be made available to station managers and others requiring them at a cost sufficient to cover expenses. In addition, standard specifics for the treatment of minor maladies will be sold through storekeepers in Darwin and in the country at a low figure.

(iii) *Number, Staff, and Accommodation, 1927.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs, and accommodation for the year 1927, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter. (a)	Total.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government ..	4	..	1	11	26	3	3	48
Other ..	161	55	106	35	50	13	2	422
Total ..	165	55	107	46	76	16	5	470
Medical Staff—								
Males ..	1,266	(b)118	{ 328 12	168 5	63 1	31 ..	1 ..	1,993
Females ..								
Total ..	1,266	(b)118	340	173	64	31	1	1,993
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males ..	110	2,009	{ 349 2,116	102 935	153 890	2 244	2 12	10,140
Females ..	3,216							
Total ..	3,326	2,009	2,465	1,037	1,043	246	14	10,140
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, wards, etc. ..	1,256	463	681	411	333	157	10	3,311
Capacity, in cubic feet ..	9,656,927	5,156,671	4,594,313	2,383,757	2,268,576	1,017,268	31,600	25,109,112
Number of beds, etc. ..	8,683	4,110	4,009	1,857	2,138	777	83	21,657
Cubic feet to each bed ..	1,112	1,255	1,146	1,284	1,061	1,309	381	1,159

(a) Previous year's figures.

(b) Salaried staff only.

(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 1,264 out-door beds in New South Wales, 23 in Queensland, 182 in South Australia, 33 in Western Australia, 124 in Tasmania, and 42 in the Northern Territory. These figures are not included in the totals given in the table above.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter. (d)	Total.
Indoor Relief — Distinct Persons Treated:								
Males	69,388	25,227	34,733	12,095	13,042	6,427	269	161,181
Females	68,566	19,422	24,267	11,938	9,996	6,356	123	140,668
Total	137,954	44,649	59,000	24,033	23,038	12,783	392	301,849
Inmates at beginning of year—								
Males	3,335	1,508	1,700	584	750	267	23	8,167
Females	3,076	1,107	1,119	470	433	243	5	6,467
Total	6,411	2,615	2,819	1,063	1,183	510	28	14,634
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—								
Males	66,053	23,719	33,033	11,791	12,292	6,160	246	153,294
Females	65,490	18,315	23,148	11,626	9,558	6,113	118	134,368
Total	131,543	42,034	56,181	23,417	21,850	12,273	364	287,662
Discharges—								
Recovered:								
Males	50,666	26,931	30,362	6,265	6,342	5,386	219	120,171
Females	53,153	16,645	21,513	7,283	5,798	5,407	101	109,900
Total	103,819	a 37,576	a 51,875	13,548	12,140	a 10,793	320	230,071
Relieved:								
Males	9,625	..	..	3,670	4,695	..	..	17,990
Females	8,057	..	..	3,072	3,049	..	..	14,178
Total	17,682	b	b	6,742	7,744	b	..	32,168
Unrelieved or Incurable:								
Males	1,611	106	641	753	394	443	..	3,948
Females	1,615	45	458	559	239	422	..	3,338
Total	3,226	151	1,099	1,312	633	865	..	7,286
Not stated or Indefinite:								
Males .. ..	..	408	..	210	..	13	..	631
Females .. ..	..	339	..	167	..	10	..	516
Total .. ..	..	747	..	377	..	23	..	1,147
Deaths—								
Males	4,212	2,156	1,841	873	830	321	19	10,252
Females	2,685	1,209	1,013	523	378	221	6	6,035
Total	6,897	3,365	2,854	1,396	1,208	542	25	16,287
Inmates at end of year—								
Males	3,274	1,626	1,659	604	781	264	31	8,239
Females	3,056	1,184	1,099	501	532	296	16	6,684
Total	6,330	2,810	2,758	1,105	1,313	560	47	14,923
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males	c	c	c	644	c	277	29	c
Females	c	c	c	565	c	288	17	c
Total	7,174	2,649	2,809	1,209	1,104	565	46	15,556

(a) Including relieved.

(b) Included in recovered.

(c) Not available.

(d) Previous year's figures.

(e) Incomplete.

(f) Total cases.

(v) *Summary for Five Years, 1923 to 1927.* 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, 1923 TO 1927.

Particulars.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Number of institutions ..	426	435	450	458	470
Number of beds ..	19,590	19,986	20,718	20,784	21,657
Admissions during year ..	227,168	237,846	251,379	274,577	287,662
Indoor patients treated ..	237,339	249,786	264,311	287,582	301,849
Deaths ..	14,637	14,784	15,125	15,912	16,287
Expenditure ..	2,632,360	2,800,518	3,090,546	3,404,622	3,656,890

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 700,000.

(vi) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1927 were as follows:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter. (b)	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—								
Fees of patients, etc.	233,000	89,073	113,632	74,716	76,029	34,384	700	621,534
Government grants	788,740	153,379	283,959	250,209	125,005	53,159	5,693	1,660,144
Other	693,279	364,233	206,139	50,703	59,731	10,850	..	1,384,935
Total ..	1,715,019	606,685	603,730	375,628	260,765	98,393	6,393	3,666,613
Expenditure—								
Salaries and Maintenance ..	1,125,174	452,431	599,926	254,442	247,356	70,912	4,733	2,754,974
Buildings	(a)377,809	92,430	46,560	109,054	7,772	3,759	960	638,344
Other	168,076	14,066	25,081	24,807	6,632	24,910	..	263,572
Total ..	1,671,059	558,927	671,567	388,303	261,760	99,581	5,693	3,656,890

(a) Exclusive of Government Grants to new hospitals, £2,150.

(b) Previous year's figures.

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. These institutions were established as asylums for aged and destitute persons, but since the introduction of the old-age pension system, the character of the work of three of the institutions has changed considerably, and they are now used to a large extent for the treatment of chronic ailments. They contain special wards for persons suffering from cancer, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases. Rookwood, the largest of these, had in 1927 an average number resident of 1,490, Newington 678, Liverpool 722, and the two Parramatta Homes 452.

(b) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* In this State there are eight institutions. The daily average of indoor patients in 1927 was 1,898, with about 329 distinct cases of outdoor relief. Residents in the Old Colonists Homes in 1927 numbered 89.

(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 total number of inmates in the four institutions during 1927–28 was 1,688.

(d) *Homes for Aged, South Australia.* At the Old Folks' Home, Magill, there were 492 inmates at the end of 1927, and 81 in the Aged Men's Home, Beaumont, conducted by the Salvation Army.

(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 619 inmates at the end of 1927, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 94 adult inmates.

(f) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. The New Town Infirmary and Consumptive Home has 230 beds, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, 31 beds. The average number of inmates during 1927 was 260.

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1927 are given in the following table:—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government aid ..	148,982	29,815	56,379	10,684	11,550	12,603	270,013
Municipal aid ..	..	887	..	..	..	..	887
Public subs., legacies, etc.	1,664	13,253	162	15	..	..	15,094
Fees ..	25,191	22,591	1,620	4,419	14,308	4,167	72,296
Other ..	7,204	7,650	3,148	6,587	..	944	25,533
Total ..	183,041	74,196	61,309	21,705	25,858	17,714	383,823
Expenditure—							
Buildings ..	4,104	8,708	104	778	8,799	238	22,731
Maintenance ..	175,866	64,118	60,717	14,730	17,059	12,552	345,042
Other ..	5,558	4,487	579	6,335	..	4,924	21,883
Total ..	185,528	77,313	61,400	21,843	25,858	17,714	389,656

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 1927 was approximately £210,000.

(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 Training Home for Girls there were, on 31st December, 1926, 167 pupils. At the Farm Home for Boys, Gosford, there were 263 on the roll at the end of the year.

(b) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1,662 beds. The daily average number of inmates in 1926-27 was 1,662. The expenditure in the same year was £64,120.

At the end of 1927 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 1927 was about 2,213, and the expenditure for the year, £27,116.

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 1927 the inmates in Neglected Children's Homes numbered 366, in orphan asylums 243, and in reformatories 115. The committals to these institutions during the last five years averaged 370.

(e) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, at 30th June, 1928, sixteen institutions, including the Government Receiving Depot, classed as orphanages, industrial schools, etc., containing 506 boys and 321 girls.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are four industrial schools and one orphanage in the State. The average daily number of inmates was 195. The Ashley Boys' Training Home at Deloraine had 60 inmates at the end of 1927.

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions in 1927 of State Departments for the relief of neglected children :—

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—SUMMARY, 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of children in institutions, boarded out, or on probation—							
Males	3,099	3,889	1,276	689	456	329	9,738
Females	2,626	3,272	1,134	483	365	253	8,133
Total	5,725	7,161	2,410	1,172	821	582	17,871
Number of children boarded out with their own mothers and female relatives not included in above figures—							
Males	10,225	9,094	2,781	164	33	..	25,104
Females			2,637	122	48	..	
Total	10,225	9,094	5,418	286	81	..	25,104
Total children under State control ..	15,950	16,255	7,828	1,458	902	582	42,975
Gross cost to State of children's relief ..	£ 526,657	£ 385,681	£ 201,814	£ 56,111	£ 25,729	£ 16,245	£ 1,212,237
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	18,351	17,509	12,080	4,402	5,545	1,486	59,373
Net cost	508,306	368,172	189,734	51,709	20,184	14,759	1,152,864

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, 77 at Peel Island, 7 in Western Australia and 16 in North Australia. During the year 1927 a total of 10 cases of leprosy was reported in Australia, of which 8 were recorded in Queensland and 2 in New South Wales. In 1926 there were six deaths from this disease, and in 1927 the number of deaths recorded was four, two in each of the States of New South Wales and Queensland.

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., 1927.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, medical and nursing staff, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1927 :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	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	26		6	4	4	2	66
Females	3	24	1	..	..	..	4
Total	29	24	7	4	4	2	70
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	815	681	257	93	129	61	2,036
Females	755	649	206	86	82	71	1,849
Total	1,570	1,330	463	179	211	132	3,885
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories ..	(a)	1,342	584	488	44	419	(d)
Capacity, in cubic feet ..	(a)	4,018,834	1,993,452	858,243	714,714	896,680	(d)
Number of beds	7,367	5,996	2,841	1,336	1,186	748	19,474
Cubic feet to each bed ..	(b) 800	670	702	642	605	1,251	(a)

(a) Not available. (b) Ordinary, 600; hospital, 1,000. (c) Cases at the end of the year numbered 91; other particulars not available. (d) Incomplete.

(iii) *Patients, 1927.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1927 is given in the table hereunder:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Admissions and re-admissions during year—							
Males	882	430	278	167	130	44	1,931
Females	732	395	188	105	74	41	1,535
Total	1,614	825	466	272	204	85	3,466
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	286	68	126	53	28	17	578
Females	240	97	107	30	21	8	503
Total	526	165	233	83	49	25	1,081
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	99	86	11	24	38	5	263
Females	89	83	6	31	13	10	232
Total	188	169	17	55	51	15	495

(a) Exclusive of four private licensed houses.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1927—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Absconders not retaken—							
Males	13	10	..	..	..	..	23
Females .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Total	13	12	..	..	..	..	25
Deaths—							
Males	341	268	103	66	46	19	848
Females	218	180	91	44	34	18	685
Total	559	448	199	110	80	37	1,433
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	4,873	3,053	1,880	720	790	310	11,626
Females	4,025	3,307	1,137	586	898	318	9,766
Total	8,898	6,360	3,017	1,306	1,188	623	21,392
Average daily number resident—							
Males	4,616	2,663	1,851	700	784	307	10,921
Females	3,657	2,875	1,099	574	374	308	8,887
Total	8,273	5,538	2,950	1,274	1,158	615	19,808
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	3.98	3.52	3.96	2.41	3.73	2.90	3.64
Females	3.42	3.78	2.68	2.11	2.20	2.88	3.21
Persons	3.71	3.65	3.36	2.27	3.03	2.89	3.48
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	3.82	3.10	3.93	2.37	3.79	2.95	3.46
Females	3.14	3.31	2.61	2.08	2.10	2.91	2.95
Persons	3.49	3.21	3.31	2.23	3.01	2.93	3.21

(a) Exclusive of four private licensed houses.

(b) Exclusive of 321 voluntary patients.

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, 1923 to 1927.* The table hereunder gives a summary for hospitals for the insane in Australia for each of the five years 1923 to 1927. Licensed houses are included in the number of institutions for Victoria, and in all particulars save expenditure for New South Wales. 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, 1923 TO 1927.

Particulars.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Number of institutions	35	35	36	34	34
Number of beds	18,303	18,387	18,797	18,885	19,474
Admissions	3,342	3,325	3,441	3,452	3,466
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,691	1,638	1,613	1,592	1,576
Deaths	1,433	1,413	1,416	1,459	1,433
Expenditure	1,401,459	1,494,025	1,649,626	1,629,242	1,666,061

(v) *Number of Insane, 1923 to 1927.* 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, 1923 TO 1927.

State.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	8,112	8,231	8,397	8,570	8,898
Victoria	6,026	6,096	6,192	6,329	6,360
Queensland	2,869	2,983	2,983	3,000	3,017
South Australia	1,248	1,248	1,302	1,282	1,306
Western Australia	1,066	1,047	1,088	1,164	1,188
Tasmania	608	618	603	615	623
Australia	19,929	20,223	20,565	20,960	21,392
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales	3.67	3.65	3.65	3.64	3.71
Victoria	3.71	3.68	3.67	3.70	3.65
Queensland	3.54	3.57	3.46	3.40	3.36
South Australia	2.38	2.30	2.36	2.26	2.27
Western Australia	3.00	2.87	2.92	3.07	3.03
Tasmania	2.78	2.84	2.78	2.86	2.89
Australia	3.47	3.44	3.43	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 435, Tasmania being next with an average of about 1 in 350.

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 1923 to 1927 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 15.

INSANITY.—PERCENTAGES OF CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1923 TO 1927.

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety ..	11.4	13.1	15.0	11.6	9.0
Intemperance in drink ..	9.4	8.0	8.4	9.1	6.8
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained	22.9	24.6	22.8	18.5	26.7
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life	7.0	8.4	7.1	7.1	7.6
Previous attacks	13.6	12.9	11.4	12.5	12.4
Accident, including sunstroke ..	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.8
Old age	11.1	10.8	10.1	10.2	12.3
Veneral disease	5.2	5.5	5.8	6.1	6.3
Other causes ascertained ..	17.9	15.4	18.2	23.9	18.1
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 where discharged. There are lunacy wards in two of the general hospitals; also a State receiving house where persons are placed for observation, and subsequently discharged or transferred to asylums.

(c) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died during the year was 8 years 127 days for males and 7 years 164 days for females; and of those who were discharged, 1 year 145 days for males and 1 year 186 days for females. There are three reception houses for observation of the insane.

(d) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 10 years 1 month for males, and 10 years 3 months and 8 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 4 months and 7 days for males, and 2 years 8 months and 4 days for females.

(e) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 4 years 10 months and 13 days for males, and 7 years 1 month and 4 days for females; of those who were discharged, 4 years 1 month and 27 days for males, and 9 months and 6 days for females.

(f) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 9 years and 1 month for males, and 8 years and 2 months for females; that of those discharged, 2 years and 7 months for males, and 6 years and 6 months for females.

(viii) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1927.* The revenue of Government asylums is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 86 per cent.

HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1927.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients	95,333	58,670	28,977	17,384	15,545	8,009	223,918
Other	3,585	5,946	1,481	1,113	3,880	301	16,306
Total	98,918	64,616	30,458	18,497	19,425	8,310	240,224
Expenditure—							
Salaries	404,517	280,050	119,383	45,499	60,240	31,479	941,168
Maintenance	250,161	176,829	92,759	45,298	37,905	20,056	623,008
Buildings .. .. .	.. .. .	40,824	8,782	4,603	.. .. .	1,533	55,742
Other	34,428	5,788	.. .. .	.. .. .	3,771	2,156	46,143
Total	689,106	503,491	220,924	95,400	101,916	55,224	1,666,061

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 1927–28 was, New South Wales, £38,000; Victoria, £7,569; Queensland, £60,625; South Australia, £22,980; Western Australia, £29,251; Northern Territory, £9,648; total for Australia, £168,073. In New South Wales the number

of aborigines receiving aid in 1927 was 1688. The total numbers of those living on reserves were full bloods, 424, and half-castes, 1,958. At the 30th June, 1927, there were 63 full-bloods and 271 three-quarter and half-castes under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board at the chief stations in Victoria. In Queensland in 1927 there were 3,248 aborigines permanently resident at the various stations. At the 30th June, 1927, there were 740 inmates, of whom 138 were full-bloods, at mission stations in South Australia, and in Western Australia the aborigines and half-castes at similar institutions in the year 1927 numbered 688, while an average of 1551 natives were rationed each month by the Aborigines Department. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory approximately 1,450 full bloods and 200 half-castes 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 the 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, 1923 TO 1927.

State or Territory.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,754,759	2,941,515	3,230,625	3,452,596	3,684,996
Victoria	1,488,058	1,653,974	1,944,306	2,064,029	2,058,064
Queensland	991,753	991,753	1,145,535	1,190,863	1,230,830
South Australia	546,528	621,315	679,088	766,513	806,325
Western Australia	468,179	508,809	534,522	551,616	575,133
Tasmania	215,494	228,246	237,834	235,169	245,582
Total	6,464,771	6,945,612	7,771,910	8,260,785	8,600,930

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