

SOCIAL CONDITION.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

The University of Melbourne.

The University of Melbourne was incorporated and endowed by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of Victoria, to which the Royal assent was given on 22nd January, 1853. The University buildings, together with those of the affiliated colleges, are situated on 106 acres of land in the southern part of Carlton. Under the provisions of Act No. 3285 assented to on 23rd October, 1923, the University is to consist of a Council and Convocation. It has power to grant degrees, diplomas, certificates, and licences in all faculties except divinity. There is no religious test for admission.

The Council is composed of 31 members, as follows :—

Eight to be appointed by the Governor in Council, of whom one shall be a member of the Legislative Council, two shall be members of the Legislative Assembly, one shall represent manufacturing and commercial interests, one shall represent agricultural interests, two shall represent industrial interests, and one shall be elected by the councils of the technical schools.

Ten to be elected by the Convocation, none of whom shall be a member of the teaching staff or other officer of the University or the head of an affiliated college.

Three (being professors or deans of faculties) to be elected by the professors.

One (a member of the teaching staff) to be elected by the teaching staff other than the professors.

Two to be elected by the undergraduates, but not to include any member of the teaching staff or any person under the full age of 21 years.

Two to be heads of affiliated colleges, and to be appointed by co-option of the Council.

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Three—the Director of Education, the Chairman of the Council of Agricultural Education, and the President of the Professorial Board—to be *ex officio* members of the Council.

The tenure of office of members of the Council is four years, but one-half of the number elected at the first election by the Convocation must retire at the end of two years, the Council determining by lot which of the members are to retire.

The Convocation consists of all graduates. It elects a Warden annually, or whenever a vacancy occurs, from its own members.

Power is given to the Convocation to submit suggestions to the Council with respect to the affairs of the University. Provision is made for the constitution of a standing committee of Convocation, consisting of the Warden of Convocation *ex officio* and not less than 40 other persons who are members of Convocation.

A University Students Loan Fund has been established to which a payment of £10,000 has been made from the Assurance Fund under the Transfer of Land Acts and a grant of £2,000 is to be made annually from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for ten years from 1st July, 1923. In addition, all moneys received in repayment with interest of loans to University students and all moneys standing to the credit of any trust fund in the Treasury in respect of loans to students made by the Treasurer of Victoria before the passing of Act No. 3285 are to be credited to the Fund. Out of this Fund loans may be made to students who are nominated by a committee of three members of the Council appointed for the purpose.

The Act of 1923 provided for an endowment of £45,000 annually from 1st July, 1923. An additional grant of £8,500 is to be made for each of the ten financial years commencing 1st July, 1923. The amount of this grant is to be expended on the maintenance within the University of a school (including a faculty) of commerce for the teaching of and conducting research in commerce and the granting of degrees or diplomas in commerce; also for teaching and conducting research in science, and the establishment and maintenance within the University of a University Extension Department.

By Royal letters patent of 14th March, 1859, it is declared that the degrees of the University of Melbourne shall be as fully recognised as those of any University in the United Kingdom. Scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes are provided in all the principal subjects, the cost being defrayed partly out of University funds and partly by private bequests. In the matter of endowment by private persons the Melbourne University does not compare favorably with other Universities. Still, the investments at present held as the result of private benefactions amount to about £358,000. In addition

gifts, which have been spent on buildings and equipment, amount to about £43,000. Since 1853 the amount received from the Government has been £1,715,782—£126,763 for building and apparatus, £884,500 endowment under "Special Appropriation Acts" 16 Vic. 34 and 13 George 3235, and £404,519 additional endowment by annual votes of the Legislature. In addition to grants from the Government the Council derives income from the fees paid by students for lectures, examinations, certificates, and diplomas.

Examinations. The system of junior and senior public and commercial examinations was superseded in December, 1917, by examinations for Intermediate and School Leaving Certificates. Under the regulations the rights of all candidates who have passed any subject of the junior or senior public examinations are reserved. The appended table gives the results of the public examinations conducted by the University during 1926 :—

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1926.

	Number who attempted to Pass fully.	Number who Passed fully.	
		Total.	Percentage.
Examination—			
Intermediate	4,421	1,909	43·18
Leaving	2,434	1,226	50·37

There is included in the above, a number of candidates, in whose cases Headmasters' Certificates were accepted as wholly or partially satisfying the requirements of the examination, qualified for Certificates as follows :—Intermediate 885; Leaving 376.

Degrees. The number of degrees taken in 1926 was 551, all of which were direct, as against a total of 2,730 for the preceding five years, or an average of 546 per annum for that period. During those five years all the degrees obtained were direct and none *ad eundem*. Of the total of 10,788 degrees granted since the establishment of the University, 1,595 have been conferred on women, 1,589 of which were direct and 6 *ad eundem*. These were apportioned as follows :—714 Bachelor of Arts, 273 Master of Arts, 179 Bachelor of Medicine, 13 Doctor of Medicine, 177 Bachelor of Surgery, 21 Bachelor of Laws, 3 Master of Laws, 5 Doctor of Science, 126 Bachelor of Science, 35 Master of Science, 35 Bachelor of Music, 13 Bachelor of Dental Science, and 1 Bachelor of Agricultural Science. The following

table shows the number of degrees conferred at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1926—the particulars for the years 1925 and 1926 being given separately:—

DEGREES CONFERRED.

Degrees	Prior to 1925.			During 1925.			During 1926.			Total.		
	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.
Bachelor of Arts ..	2016	118	2134	108	..	108	88	..	88	2212	118	2330
Master of Arts ..	877	184	1061	41	..	41	39	..	39	957	184	1141
Doctor of Letters ..	15	1	16	1	..	1	..	..	..	16	1	17
Bachelor of Medicine ..	1803	15	1818	145	..	145	124	..	124	2072	15	2087
Doctor of Medicine ..	276	107	383	8	..	8	11	..	11	295	107	402
Bachelor of Surgery ..	1734	4	1738	145	..	145	124	..	124	2003	4	2007
Master of Surgery ..	37	..	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	..	37
Bachelor of Laws ..	694	12	706	49	..	49	39	..	39	782	12	794
Master of Laws ..	131	3	134	4	..	4	10	..	10	145	3	148
Doctor of Laws ..	22	23	45	..	..	..	1	..	1	23	23	46
Bachelor of Civil Engineering ..	273	2	275	24	..	24	11	..	11	308	2	310
Bachelor of Mining Engineering ..	57	1	58	1	..	1	3	..	3	61	1	62
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering ..	15	..	15	1	..	1	1	..	1	17	..	17
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering ..	35	..	35	12	..	12	4	..	4	51	..	51
Bachelor of Metallurgical Engineering ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	2	..	2
Master of Engineering ..	102	..	102	6	..	6	10	..	10	118	..	118
Doctor of Engineering ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bachelor of Science ..	373	5	378	46	..	46	37	..	37	456	5	461
Master of Science ..	118	2	120	5	..	5	12	..	12	135	2	137
Doctor of Science ..	45	8	53	1	..	1	5	..	5	51	8	59
Bachelor of Music ..	38	2	40	7	..	7	1	..	1	46	2	48
Doctor of Music ..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Bachelor of Dental Science ..	283	..	283	23	..	23	18	..	18	324	..	324
Doctor of Dental Science ..	21	..	21	..	..	..	1	..	1	22	..	22
Bachelor of Veterinary Science ..	89	..	89	3	..	3	2	..	2	94	..	94
Master of Veterinary Science ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Doctor of Veterinary Science ..	10	..	10	1	..	1	..	..	..	11	..	11
Bachelor of Agricultural Science ..	36	..	36	10	..	10	8	..	8	54	..	54
Master of Agricultural Science ..	1	..	1	2	..	2	1	..	1	4	..	4
Total ..	9104	489	9593	644	..	644	551	..	551	10299	489	10788

NOTE.—*Ad eundem* degrees have been abolished.

Students attending lectures, and undergraduates admitted.

The number of persons attending lectures has greatly increased during the past ten years, the total in 1926 having been 2,720 as compared with 1,297 in 1916, thus showing an advance of 110 per cent. A great improvement is also shown in the admission of undergraduates, the number having increased by 66 per cent. in the period mentioned. Details for the last five years are given in the following statement :—

PERSONS ADMITTED AS UNDERGRADUATES AND STUDENTS ATTENDING LECTURES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Number of Persons Matriculated and Admitted as Undergraduates.			Number of Students Attending Lectures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1922 ..	422	126	548	1,973	672	2,645
1923 ..	348	148	496	1,848	636	2,484
1924 ..	374	135	509	1,764	659	2,423
1925 ..	463	137	600	1,919	638	2,557
1926 ..	444	161	605	2,019	701	2,720

Of the number attending lectures in 1926—2,720—714 were students in Arts, Education and Journalism, 263 in Laws, 210 in Engineering, 460 in Medicine, 208 in Science, 230 in Music, 91 in Dental Science, 401 in Commerce, 28 in Agriculture, 10 in Veterinary Science, 5 in Public Health, and 85 in Architecture, and 15 were doing Science Research Work.

University Finance.

A statement of receipts and expenditure for the year 1926 is given below :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1926.

	General Account.	Other Accounts.	All Departments.
	£	£	£
Receipts—			
Government Grants ..	47,150	19,316	66,466
Lecture, Degree, Examination, and other Fees ..	56,411	10,209	66,620
Other sources	10,597	55,233	65,830
Total	114,158	84,758	198,916
Expenditure	110,908	36,229	147,137

Included in the amounts shown above, the University received £37,232 from private benefactors, to be held in trust for scholarships and other purposes.

AFFILIATED COLLEGES.

**The
affiliated
colleges.**

The permission accorded by the "University Act of Incorporation" for the establishment of affiliated colleges has been taken advantage of by the clergy and people of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches of Victoria. Large residential colleges have been built upon the sites reserved for this purpose in the northern portion of the University grounds fronting Sydney-road and College-crescent, Carlton. These colleges, which admit students without regard to their religious beliefs, maintain efficient staffs of tutors and lecturers for the teaching of the principal subjects in each of the University courses. They also provide training for the ministers of their respective denominations. In 1906 the Australian College of Dentistry was formally affiliated with the University, which obtained certain rights of supervision and control, and in return undertook to recognise the professional teaching of the College in connexion with the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery.

Information relating to the foundation and progress of Trinity, Ormond, and Queen's Colleges is given in the *Year-Book* for 1917-18 on pages 319 to 321.

**Trinity
College.**

This college, which was established by the Anglican Church, is open to students of all religious denominations, and the same remark applies to Janet Clarke Hall. The latter was established for the benefit of women students, and is an integral part of Trinity College. The college buildings consist of a chapel, dining hall, chemical and biological laboratories, lecture-rooms, libraries, billiard-room, and students' common-room, in addition to accommodation for the Warden, tutors, and students.

The Warden of the college is J. C. V. Behan, M.A., LL.D. (Melb.), M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.)—first Rhodes Scholar for the State of Victoria, formerly Stowell Civil Law Fellow and Dean of University College, Oxford—who is assisted by a staff of tutors and lecturers. The college holds annually, in the month of November, an examination for open scholarships and exhibitions. Prospectuses may be obtained on application to the Warden.

**Ormond
College.**

This college, which was established by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is a residential college for students of the University of Melbourne (without restriction as to religious denomination). It has a staff of lecturers and tutors from whom the students receive the assistance they require in their University work; non-resident students are also admitted to the college classes. The work of the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is carried on in the Victoria Wing; there is an

independent staff of professors and lecturers for this work. Theological students may reside in the college if they are matriculated students of the University.

The *Year-Book* for 1919-20 contained a statement of the nature of the college buildings, and reference was made to additions and alterations to the buildings. This information was amplified in subsequent issues.

During the year 1926-27, two valuable benefactions have been received, viz., £500 from Mrs. Buckland, of Mirboo North, to found the Jack Buckland Engineering Scholarship as a memorial to her son—a distinguished old student of the college—who was killed, in the air, at Villers-Bretonneux on 6th May, 1918; and £500 from Mr. H. H. Kemp, the architect of all the new buildings, towards completion of the internal fittings and furnishing of the MacFarland Memorial Library—on condition that a further £1,500 was raised during the year. The past and present students have again risen to the occasion magnificently, with the result that not only the work contemplated, but other improvements of importance, are to be carried out. The Library is to be completed in blackwood. When completed (early in 1928, it is hoped) it will be a substantial addition to the architectural features of Victoria. The internal completion of the Library will make possible certain other important alterations in the college. It is hoped to proceed at the same time with the completion of the College War Memorial.

Rev. J. Gillies, M.A. (Glasgow), minister at Surrey Hills, has been appointed successor to Rev. Dr. Rentoul, in the Chair of New Testament Studies in Ormond College Theological Hall.

Dr. H. R. Dew, a past student who is senior Medical Tutor, has shared the Syme Prize of the University of Melbourne, for his research work on Hydatids. Dr. F. M. Burnet, another past student, was awarded one of the Beit Research Scholarships for research in Pathology at the Lister Institute, London. He returns early in 1928 to a research post in the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Melbourne.

The Master of the College is D. K. Picken, M.A. (Cambridge, Glasgow, Melbourne), formerly Professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics in Victoria University College, Wellington, N.Z. All inquiries as to admission, scholarships, &c., should be made to him.

This college was founded by the Methodist Church of Victoria, and its lectures are open to non-resident as well as resident students. It is capable of accommodating about 90 students in residence. The building comprises fully equipped lecture-rooms, laboratories, library, reading-rooms, and apartments for the Master, tutors, and students. It has been enlarged at a cost of some £50,000, and includes a central tower, a memorial chapel to soldiers who were connected with the Methodist Church, a new common room, a large library, and additional lecture rooms;

as well as some 40 additional students' rooms. The new portion of the building was opened in March, 1923. The Master is the Rev. E. H. Sugden, M.A., B.Sc., Litt.D., and the Vice-Master, Mr. K. H. Bailey, B.C.L. (Corpus Christi Coll., Oxford).

**Newman
College.**

Newman College is built in the section of the University Reserve granted by the Government of Victoria to the Roman Catholic Church in the Act of Incorporation of 2nd October, 1882. The foundation-stone was laid by the late Archbishop of Melbourne (the Most Reverend Thomas Joseph Carr, D.D.), on 11th June, 1916. It was founded by the generosity of the Roman Catholic people of the State of Victoria, and cost nearly £70,000. The Archbishop Carr Memorial Chapel, to be erected at a cost of £20,000, will be a striking addition to the College. A separate study and a bedroom are provided for each student. There is also provision of hot and cold shower and plunge baths, a large covered-in swimming bath, a gymnasium, and billiard and recreation rooms. The library consists of more than 10,000 volumes. Lectures, demonstrations, and private tuition are given in the College with the special object of assisting students in their University work. Women students as well as men extern students are admitted to all college lectures. St. Mary's Hall, Royal Park, is the residential hall for women students of Newman College. Students of the college enjoy the advantage of residence, instruction in the doctrine and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, and tuition supplementary to University lectures.

All applications for information, &c., should be made to the Rector. The present Rector is the Very Rev. J. M. Murphy, S.J., M.A. He is assisted by the Rev. Dominic Kelly, S.J., M.A., the Rev. Wilfrid Ryan, S.J., M.A., F.G.S., and a staff of competent lecturers and tutors.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

**University
extension.**

Tutorial Classes organized by the Workers' Educational Association of Victoria are conducted by the University Extension Board. The personnel of the Board, numbering 18 appointed by the University, comprises representatives from the Workers' Educational Association, Trades Hall Council and the teaching staff of the University and other persons representing the public. The Government grants a sum annually (now £2,500) for the development of Tutorial Class work. In addition to these classes, which are in operation in the city, suburbs, and country, the University Extension Board has inaugurated a system of advice by correspondence for the benefit of country students. This advice is confined to social and cultural subjects, and is not intended for those seeking to qualify for degrees. Its purpose is rather to cultivate knowledge of such subjects as will elevate the mind and fit the student the better to discharge the

more social functions of his daily life and citizenship. In this connexion and also for the arranging of Extension Lectures and Vacation Schools, the Government grant is £1,500.

Professor J. A. Gunn, M.A., Ph.D., is Director of University Extension and Chairman of the University Extension Board. The Secretary to the Board is Mr. J. P. Bainbridge, Registrar, University, Carlton.

THE STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

The
educational
system of
Victoria.

The present system of "free, compulsory, and secular" education came into operation on 1st January, 1873, the Act which introduced it having been passed in the previous year. Subsequently, this Act and two amending Acts passed in 1876 and 1889 were consolidated in the *Education Act* 1890, which in turn was amended by Act No. 1777 passed in December, 1901, Act No. 2205 passed in December, 1905, Act No. 2301 passed in December, 1910, and Act No. 2330 passed in October, 1911, and is now, with its amendments, incorporated in the *Education Act* 1915, No. 2644.

Under the Act of 1872 education was made free to all willing to accept it; compulsory, in the sense that whether they attend or do not attend State schools, evidence must be produced that all children are educated up to a certain standard; and secular, no teacher being allowed to give other than secular instruction in any State school building. Facilities are, however, afforded to persons other than State school teachers to give religious instruction, on one or two days each week, to the children of the parents who desire that their children shall receive such instruction. In each school four hours at least are set apart during each school day for secular instruction, two of which must be before, and two after, noon.

In December, 1910, an Act of Parliament of a most comprehensive and far-reaching character was passed. It marked a most important epoch in the history of education in Victoria, and laid the foundation of a complete national system from the infants' school to the highest educational institutions in the State. Power is given in this Act for the establishment of higher elementary schools, and of secondary and technical schools of various types, the aim being to create a co-ordinated system of public education, leading through elementary schools and evening continuation classes to trade and technical schools on the one hand, or through elementary schools and high schools to the University or to higher technical schools on the other. Provision is also made for evening continuation classes, in which the education of children who have left the day school at fourteen years of age may be continued till they are seventeen years of age. Power is given to make attendance at evening continuation classes compulsory in any district proclaimed for that purpose. Education is made compulsory in the

case of deaf and dumb, blind, and physically or mentally defective children between seven and sixteen years of age.

In order to provide for the due co-ordination of all branches of public education a Council of Public Education has been created, representative of the various educational and industrial interests of the State. This body, which consists of 20 members presided over by the Director of Education, reports annually to Parliament on the development of public education in Victoria and elsewhere.

**Compulsory
Clauses.** Parents and custodians of children not less than six nor more than fourteen years of age are required to cause such children (unless there is a "reasonable excuse") to attend a State school on every school half-day in each week. Non-attendance may be excused for any of the five following reasons :— (1) If the child is receiving efficient instruction in some other manner, and is complying with the prescribed conditions as to regularity of attendance ; or (2) has been prevented from attending by sickness, reasonable fear of infection, temporary or permanent infirmity, or any unavoidable cause ; or (3) has been excused by a general or particular order of the Minister ; or (4) is at least thirteen years of age, and has obtained a certificate of merit as prescribed ; or (5) that there is no State school within 1, 2, 2½, or 3 miles in the case of children under seven, between seven and nine, between nine and eleven, and over eleven years of age respectively. Parents and custodians who fail to make a child attend as provided may be summoned and fined not less than 2s., nor more than 10s., for each such offence, or in default may be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three days. Attendance officers are appointed to see that the compulsory provisions are carried out.

**Conveyance
allowance.** In cases where schools are closed through low average attendance, or where, though there is no school, the number of children would warrant the Department in establishing a school, allowances are made by the Department for the conveyance of children to the nearest school. The amount of the allowance is 3d. per day for children over six and under eleven who reside between 2½ and 3 miles from the nearest school, and 4d. per day for children over six and under fourteen who reside 4 miles or over from such school or, where schools have been closed, 3 miles therefrom. Where arrangements are made for the conveyance of pupils in numbers to district high schools, higher elementary schools, central schools, central classes, domestic arts schools or technical schools, the Department may, if the circumstances warrant it, grant an allowance on the £1 for £1 basis, up to a limit to be fixed, towards the cost of such conveyance.

**School
Committees.** Under Act No. 2301 (now incorporated in the *Education Act* 1915, No. 2644) provision was made for the appointment of a School Committee for each school consisting of not more than seven persons. The members of School Com-

mittees are nominated by the parents of children attending the school for which the Committee is to be appointed. The main duties of such Committees are :—(a) to exercise a general oversight over the buildings and grounds, and to report to the Minister on their condition when necessary ; (b) to carry out any necessary work referred to the Committee in connexion with maintenance or repair of or additions to buildings ; (c) to promote the beautifying and improvement of school grounds, the establishment and maintenance of school gardens and agricultural plots, the decoration of the schoolroom, and the formation of a school library and museum ; (d) to provide for the necessary cleansing and the sanitary services of the school ; (e) to visit the school from time to time ; (f) to use every endeavour to induce parents to send their children to school ; and (g) to arrange, where necessary, for suitable board and lodging at reasonable rates for teachers (especially women teachers) appointed to the school.

Free subjects. The following are the subjects in which instruction is absolutely free :—English (literature, reading, recitation, spelling, writing, composition, grammar), mathematics (arithmetic, algebra, geometry), nature knowledge (geography, science, nature-study), hygiene, history and civics, manual work (drawing, needlework, woodwork, and other occupations such as modelling in clay or plasticine, or brush drawing, or weaving with some material other than paper, for example, raffia), singing, physical training, and, where practicable, agriculture for boys, cookery and domestic economy for girls, gymnastics, and swimming. Pupils buy their own books and material.

New Features. The course of study (issued February, 1920) contains provisions to secure a more realistic treatment than formerly of the essential subjects of school education, and a larger share of attention to the training of the hand and eye through manual instruction in various forms. The requirements from teachers of infants are also such as to secure methods of teaching in accord with the principles enunciated by Froebel, the founder of the kindergarten system and by Dr. Maria Montessori. Great activity has been displayed in the training of teachers for their work. During the past few years a large number of teachers have taken the course at the Teachers' College and the Melbourne University, and, in addition, hundreds have been instructed (especially in those subjects the method of teaching which has undergone modification recently) in special classes held in the evenings and on Saturdays at centres of population, and, on a larger scale still, during the Christmas vacations at what are called "Summer Schools." The Education Department, in collaboration with the Extension Board of the Melbourne University, held a vacation school at the University in May, 1925. It was attended by teachers and by members of the

general public, and lasted for a fortnight. Probably further schools of a like nature will be held. The vacation school appears to have established itself as a successful educational experiment in Victoria. Much attention has been given to the beautifying and improvement of school grounds by the planting of trees and shrubs, and by the establishment of school gardens. One day in each year—termed Arbor Day—is specially set apart for tree-planting, and for the giving of lessons on the value of trees. The teaching of elementary agriculture is warmly encouraged by both the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, and the subject is being dealt with in a very practical way.

There were, on 30th June, 1926, 78 woodwork centres in operation, having an attendance of 9,504 boys; and 65 drill, swimming, school gardens, &c. cookery centres, apart from those at the Domestic Arts Schools, with an attendance of nearly 13,000 girls. Ten Schools of Domestic Arts, attended by 3,050 girls, have been established. In these schools girls over twelve years of age are given, during the last two years of their school life, a training in the subjects of a comprehensive domestic arts course. At the same time their general education is continued. In addition to the instruction given in the woodwork centres woodwork is being taught to 639 boys in 54 country schools by the head teachers as one of the ordinary subjects. Swimming is taught in schools that have the necessary facilities, the children being formed into swimming clubs, which hold annual competitions at various centres. Drill is taught in all schools. During 1912 the system of physical training approved of by the Commonwealth military authorities was introduced. Nearly every State school now has its garden and some of the school gardens are among the beauty spots of their districts. The Victorian State Schools Horticultural Society, founded in 1913, assists teachers in obtaining the best seeds, seedlings, ornamental trees, and flowering shrubs. It has a nursery of its own at Oakleigh, maintained partly by members' subscriptions (5s. yearly), and partly by a Government grant. Most of the State schools are affiliated with the Society, which sent out in 1926 to its members, at reduced rates, 20,050 packets of seeds, 180,000 seedlings, 2,000 rooted roses, 12,000 shrubs, 3,000 herbaceous plants, 750 climbers, 5,000 indoor pot-plants, and 2,000 dahlias.

In addition to Arbor Day (to which reference has been made), other special days—Anzac Day, Discovery Day, Special days. Pioneers' Day, Shakespeare Day, Empire Day, and Bird Day—call for mention. The landing of the Australians and New Zealanders on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25th April, 1915, has been commemorated in the schools each year since, on Anzac Day, by the holding of a special service, consisting of hymns and addresses together with the saluting of the flag. The schools of Victoria held a celebration of Empire Day in 1905, being among the first of the

oversea Dominions to recognise the day, and have since enthusiastically kept it in remembrance year by year. The first sighting of Australia by Captain Cook in April, 1770, is commemorated on Discovery Day, though this is merging into Pioneers' Day, when honour is paid not only to explorers and discoverers but also to the early settlers—the path-finders in general. The date chosen for Pioneers' Day was the 19th of November, the day on which Edward Henty landed on the shores of Portland Bay to establish a pastoral and agricultural settlement in 1834. On Shakespeare Day, the teachers and children commemorate the birth of Shakespeare by readings from his works, and the recital and acting of selected passages. Bird Day has for its object the protection of native birds and their eggs. On that day lessons are given on bird life, and, where possible, bird-observing excursions are made. Over 61,000 of the older school children have joined the "Gould League of Bird Lovers," which was established for the protection of bird life.

Patriotic Fund. During the Great War the teachers and children in the State schools, with the aid of departmental officers, school committees, and parents, were instrumental in raising a sum of £440,000 for the Department's War Relief Fund. Particulars are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 333 and 334. The fund was closed in 1920. At the end of 1922, the executive committee of the fund transferred the balance of £84,910 to a body of seven trustees, who were empowered by the deed of trust to expend the money, as occasion arose, for the benefit of seriously disabled soldiers and their dependants. The sum of £40,000 was invested to form an old-age fund; £25,000 was set aside as a housing fund, and the remaining £20,000 is being used from time to time for the cases that stand in need of immediate assistance. On 30th June, 1927, there was a sum of £48,142 invested, and £2,802 to the credit of the general account.

Memorial School at Villers-Bretonneux. In 1921, the citizens of Melbourne decided to "adopt" the town of Villers-Bretonneux and to provide money to rebuild the ruined buildings, one of which was the school-house. The Education Department's War Relief Fund contributed £12,500 to defray part of the cost, and, in 1924, a fine structure, containing five bright class rooms, an assembly hall, manual training rooms, and teachers' residences was erected. The buildings surround a spacious quadrangle, and the class rooms lead off from a long airy passage, which runs parallel to the front length of the main building. The Assembly Hall is panelled in Victorian blackwood, the design including sixteen pilasters, each of which is surmounted by a carved cap representing Australian flora and fauna. The timber is beech with a frame of blackwood. The building with its fittings is a worthy gift on the part of Victoria, and a permanent memorial to the valor and devotion of those who fought and fell in defence of Villers-Bretonneux in 1918.

The principal street, which, before the war, and following the custom of French townships, was called the Grande Rue, is now called Rue de Melbourne. A park, of which only the site exists, and which is waiting to be cleared and laid out, will be called Parc de Melbourne.

The gratitude of the people of Villers-Bretonneux is expressed in the form of a pillar of stone near the school gates. Inscriptions on three of its four faces record the different phases of the construction of the groups of school buildings. For generations to come the pillar will be an eloquent memorial of what has been done in Villers-Bretonneux by the State of Victoria.

Schools have taken up the Junior Red Cross movement **Social Service.** in order to continue the training afforded by the Young Workers' Patriotic Guild, in which pupils earned money during the war period and gave it to the War Relief Fund. Members of the Junior Red Cross branches are assisting their local charities or helping local cases of indigence in their neighbourhood.

A widespread movement is being fostered for the carrying out of "home projects," as has been done in the **League of Young Gardeners.** United States of America. The idea is to link school, home, and farm in one common interest. The growing of sugar-beet, the culture of the potato, the selection of wheat, and the rearing of poultry and stock have engaged the united attention of children, teachers, and parents in various Victorian school districts.

A scheme for the utilization of waste lands by the **School Forestry.** establishment of school plantations of hardwood and softwood trees was inaugurated in 1923. Areas up to 70 acres in extent in the vicinity of State schools have been reserved for the purpose. These are vested in local trustees, are fenced by voluntary local effort, and are planted by the children at the rate of about two acres per year. When the trees reach maturity, the revenue derived from the sale of the timber will be used by the trust for the benefit of the school concerned. Monetary gains will accrue, and further gains also—a training in practical forestry, and a training in unselfish social service. In 1927 there were established 152 of these school plantations, with an area of 1,750 acres, and applications are being considered for 40 more.

The need for the medical inspection of school children **Medical Inspection.** has received widespread recognition, and the Victorian Education Department has followed the lead of progressive countries by appointing medical inspectors. They consist of eight full-time school medical officers and four district health officers. The latter perform part-time school medical inspection duties as well as the duties they are entrusted with by the Health Department. There are also two full-time school nurses employed. The medical officers devote

their time to investigating the hygienic condition of school premises and the physical and mental condition of the pupils, and to giving instruction to teachers.

A dental clinic has been established and is under the charge of three full-time school dentists with four dental attendants. Great service is being rendered by this clinic. In addition, two dentists, with attendants, are travelling from school to school in country districts, while another dentist and dental attendant have been appointed to work four months each year at Bendigo, four months at Ballarat, and four months at Geelong.

One of the travelling dentists referred to has been provided with a well-equipped dental motor van, and is thereby enabled to reach the children of schools remote from railway lines.

Under the provisions of Act No. 3416, assented to on 24th December, 1925, teachers in elementary schools are divided into five classes. This Act also provided that at least half of the male teachers shall be in classes above the Fifth Class in the following ratio :—

Class	I.	..	..	2
"	II.	..	..	3
"	III.	..	..	6
"	IV.	..	..	11
"	V.	..	..	22

For female teachers the following ratio was fixed :—

Class	II.A	..	..	1
"	II.	..	..	3
"	III.	..	..	9
"	IV.	..	..	27
"	V.	..	..	81

The salaries of males, excluding junior teachers, range from £156 to £600, and those of females, excluding junior teachers and sewing mistresses, range from £120 to £480. In addition to the head and assistant teachers, there are three classes of junior teachers, with commencing salaries ranging for males from £82 to £94 and for females from £62 to £74. The higher salary is paid to junior teachers who have passed the Leaving Examinations of the University of Melbourne. Those who do not possess that qualification are paid the lower amount. Sewing mistresses receive £60 yearly. Junior teachers residing away from home are paid an allowance sufficient to bring total emolument to £84 per annum.

Teachers in schools other than elementary were included in a Classified Roll for the Secondary Schools Division. This roll contains five classes for men (I., II., III., IV., V.) and five classes for women (II.A, II., III., IV., and V.). Excluding rates for junior teachers, which

are the same as those for elementary schools, salaries for teachers on the Secondary Roll range from £192 to £650 per annum for men and £168 to £528 per annum for women.

No definite ratio was provided in the Act for the Secondary Division, but the numbers in each class are determined by the Public Service Commissioner after report from the Committee of Classifiers, Secondary Schools Division.

The following statement shows the progress as regards State schools, teachers, and scholars since 1872. The figures relating to the number of schools and teachers refer to 30th June for all years to 1921, and to 31st December from the year 1922. Those relating to the number of scholars refer to the financial year ended 30th June, for the eight years ended 1916-17; the reference is to 31st December and the years ended on that date respectively for returns for years prior to 1901-2 and for the years 1917 to 1925 :—

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1925.

Year.	Number of Schools at end of Year.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct. Children (estimated).
1872	1,049	2,416	136,055	68,456	113,197
1880	1,810	4,215	229,723	119,520	195,736
1890	2,170	4,708	250,097	133,768	213,886
1900	1,948	4,977	243,667	147,020	218,240
1909-10 ..	2,036	4,957	235,042	145,968	206,263
1910-11 ..	2,059	5,087	234,766	146,464	204,086
1911-12 ..	2,093	5,533	238,111	151,247	205,695
1912-13 ..	2,127	5,683	241,042	152,600	209,172
1913-14 ..	2,175	5,710	246,447	158,213	214,986
1914-15 ..	2,227	6,085	250,264	160,885	218,427
1915-16 ..	2,225	6,194	257,726	161,632	221,777
1916-17 ..	2,202	6,275	254,033	161,034	221,202
1917 (31st Dec.)	2,236	6,455	†214,048	†161,574	†186,523
1918 „ ..	2,272	6,570	240,664	164,350	208,861
1919 „ ..	2,280	6,518	235,292	160,345	207,633
1920 „ ..	2,333	6,637	247,337	158,554	213,738
1921 „ ..	2,334	6,784	247,204	167,154	216,037
1922 „ ..	2,405	6,789	248,882	171,129	216,329
1923 „ ..	2,460	6,919	253,307	167,638	218,835
1924 „ ..	2,503	6,977	254,144	171,382	217,858
1925 „ ..	2,525	*7,020	255,101	175,131	220,295

* In addition to these teachers, 490 were temporarily employed on 31st December, 1925.

† These are the figures for the six months ended 31st December, 1917; hence the apparent falling off in "number enrolled" as compared with the number for the preceding year. Had the figures been compiled to June, 1918, probably the new number would have been greater, not less than that of the previous year. An increase in the same ratio as the increase in average attendance would fix the number at 255,280.

**Ages of State
school scholars.**

The following table shows the number and percentage of children attending State primary schools, below, at, and above the school age (6 and under 14), during the year ended 31st December, 1925* :—

AGES OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS, 1925.

Ages.	Net enrolment of Children attending Day Schools—	
	Number.	Percentage.
Under 6 years	14,671	6·7
6 to 14 „	193,061	87·6
14 years and upwards	12,563	5·7
Total	220,295	100·0

REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

**Registration
of teachers
and schools.**

By Act No. 2013, passed in 1905, all private schools and teachers of private schools had to be registered by the Teachers and Schools Registration Board. This Board consisted of three representatives of the Education Department, four of non-State schools, two of the University, and one of State-aided technical schools. Its chief functions were to see (1) that only qualified persons were employed in private schools; and (2) that private schools met requirements in hygienic matters. Under the provisions of Act No. 2301, passed in December, 1910, the Teachers and Schools Registration Board was abolished, and its duties were taken over by the Council of Public Education.

**Registered
schools, 1872
to 1926.**

The appended statement shows the number of registered schools, of instructors in same, and of individual scholars in attendance in 1872, the year before the adoption

* The latest statistics published by the Education Department of Victoria (*vide* "Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1925-26") are for the period ended 31st December, 1925.

of the present secular system, and in a number of subsequent years, including the latest year for which particulars are available :—

REGISTERED SCHOOLS AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1926.

Year.				Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Individual Scholars.
1872	...	...	...	888	1,841	24,781
1880	...	...	...	643	1,516	28,134
1890	...	...	...	791	2,037	40,181
1900	...	...	...	884	2,348	48,483
1909-10	...	...	...	641	2,067	49,964
1914-15	...	...	...	509	1,879	52,638
1915-16	...	...	...	495	1,909	57,400
1916-17	...	...	...	495	1,970	56,193
1917-18	...	...	...	499	2,002	58,366
1918 (31st December)	...	...	...	493	1,903	56,996
1919	"	...	...	486	1,991	56,684
1920	"	...	...	489	1,950	59,314
1921	"	...	...	486	2,063	59,922
1922	"	...	...	486	2,109	60,105
1923	"	...	...	489	2,154	64,195
1924	"	...	...	486	2,154	63,105
1925	"	...	...	490	2,163	64,265
1926	"	...	...	495	2,212	64,835

**Scholars
attending
State and
registered
schools.**

On comparing the number of scholars with the number attending schools, it is seen that 23 per cent. of the scholars during 1925 attended registered schools, and that the balance, 77 per cent., attended State primary and secondary schools.

THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

**Teachers'
College.**

During the year 1926, the training of teachers for the State Department was much modified and altered. In future, all intending teachers must complete a successful probationary period as Junior Teachers in the schools before entering one of the Teachers' Colleges. Junior teachers who do not complete their Leaving Certificate, or who are unable to obtain studentships at a Teachers' College will, at the end of five years, be asked to leave the Service. This will ensure a reasonable aptitude for the work of teaching.

There are three Teachers' Colleges in Victoria—Melbourne, Ballarat and Bendigo. The Melbourne College is the largest institution, training students for all types of teaching work; Ballarat and Bendigo are smaller colleges preparing teachers for work in the Rural Schools. From 1927 onwards, the only avenue of promotion in the Service will be through the Teachers' Colleges; that is, there will be no untrained teachers entering the Department's service. In order to make this

position possible, a new Teachers' College is to be built in Melbourne on a suitable site. This College will accommodate up to 600 students, while Ballarat and Bendigo will be able to take up to 100 each. Thus, in a few years' time, the three Colleges will have an output each year of 500 trained teachers for the Primary and Rural Schools, together with nearly 100 trained graduates for work in all kinds of Secondary Schools.

The courses of training in the Melbourne College at present are as follows :—

1. Primary Course for teachers going to take charge of Rural Schools. One year.
2. Infant Teachers' Course for students going out to Kindergarten work. Two years.
3. Manual Arts Course for students who will teach Arts and Crafts in the Secondary schools. Three years.
4. Domestic Arts Course for students who will teach Household subjects in the Secondary Schools. Three years.
5. Secondary Course for students who will teach general subjects in the High Schools. Four years.

The Secondary studentship is one of the most valuable in Australia. It involves a four years' course at the University without any expense to the student concerned. In addition, he receives an allowance for books and ordinary expenses. Thus, at the end of four years, he should have a University degree, the Diploma of Education and an assured position in a High School without any expense to himself.

In view of the extension and development of these facilities, and of the liberal allowances paid to students in training, it is expected that, before very long, the system of training teachers for the Victorian service will be able to compare favorably with most other modern systems of training in the world.

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

District High Schools. The Education Act of 1910 authorized the establishment of these schools in order to open a broad highway, at little or no cost to the parents of the pupils, leading from the elementary schools to the technical schools and the University. A further important function of these institutions is to give the necessary preliminary education to boys and girls intending to take up teaching. Under the scheme of training now in operation aspirants for the teaching profession are expected during the period spent at a district high school to complete their preliminary studies. Any pupil who has satisfactorily completed the work of Grade VI. in an elementary school is qualified for admission to a district high school. The course of study lasts for six years in the case of pupils who enter from the sixth grade of the elementary school after passing the qualifying examination, or for four or five years in the case of those who enter from the eighth grade after completing the course of the elementary school. Winners of Government scholarships are also trained at these schools, but parents are at

liberty to select an approved secondary school for the education of their boys and girls. Besides the day classes there are formed at a few of the district high schools evening classes for the instruction of teachers living in the vicinity, and correspondence classes for those residing at a distance. Eight of the District High Schools are specially equipped for the teaching of agriculture in addition to providing other courses of secondary education. There are district high schools at Ararat, Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Ballarat,* Benalla, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Coburg, Colac,* Dandenong, Echuca, Essendon, Frankston, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Kerang, Kyneton, Leongatha,* Maryborough, Melbourne, Mildura,* Mordialloc-Carrum, Northcote, Sale,* Shepparton,* St. Arnaud, Stawell, University (Carlton), Wangaratta,* Warracknabeal, Warragul,* Warrnambool, and Williamstown. The schools the names of which are asterisked are equipped with farms.

During the term ended 31st December, 1925, there were in attendance at these schools 8,190 pupils, of whom 4,081 were boys and 4,109 were girls. Education is free up to the age of fourteen years, after which a fee of £6 per annum is charged. Travelling expenses (up to £5 per annum) are provided for children living beyond four miles from the school, if the parents' income does not exceed £150 per annum. In special cases the Department has power to make grants in aid of school requisites up to £2 per annum, and of the cost of maintenance up to £26 per annum, to enable pupils to continue their studies at district high schools and higher elementary schools.

For the practical part of the work of training secondary teachers the institution now known as the University High School was opened in a State building in 1910, and the school was specially staffed by lecturers in methods of teaching in addition to the teachers of the ordinary form subjects of secondary schools. The practical training in teaching received at this school is part of what is prescribed for the course for the Diploma of Education at the Melbourne University. In its management of the school the Department is aided by an advisory committee from the Faculty of Education of the University.

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

On 31st December, 1925, there were forty-nine higher elementary schools—at Beaufort, Beechworth, Birchip, Boort, Bright, Camperdown, Casterton, Charlton, Chiltern, Clunes, Cohuna, Coleraine, Corryong, Daylesford, Dean, Dimboola, Donald, Euroa, Foster, Gisborne, Hampton, Heathcote, Inglewood, Korumburra, Kyabram, Lilydale, Maffra, Mansfield, Mirboo North, Murtoa, Nathalia, Nhill, Numurkah, Orbost, Portland, Port Fairy, Rainbow, Rochester, Rushworth, Rutherglen, Sea Lake, Seymour, Swan Hill, Terang, Traralgon, Werribee, Yarram, Yarrawonga, and Yea. During the term ended 31st December, 1925, there were in attendance at these schools 4,315 pupils, of whom

University
High School.

Higher
Elementary
Schools and
Classes.

2,235 were boys and 2,080 were girls. Education in the higher elementary schools is free throughout the course, which extends over two or four years.

There were also twenty-six schools, principally in the metropolitan area—known as “Central” schools—in which a preparatory course of secondary education was provided. These were attended by 3,853 pupils in 1925.

The purpose of the district high school and the higher elementary school is to provide the essentials of a good general education for pupils who have completed the work of the sixth grade in elementary schools, and are likely to profit by a further course of study, and to give them, in the third and fourth years, a specialized training which will help to prepare them for their several careers in life. These schools thus form a link between the elementary school and technical institutions, or the University, or vocations that may be followed by pupils upon the completion of the course of study.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS.

The Minister of Public Instruction awarded scholarships at the beginning of 1927 as under :—

No. and Kind.	Age Requirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
100 Junior scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Under 14½ years	4 years	Free tuition at a district high school and £4 for school requisites, or £12 towards tuition fees and school requisites at an approved registered secondary school; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or up to £5 for transit.
44 Senior scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	£40 towards expense of a course at the University.
60 Teaching scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	14-17 years	3 years	As for Junior scholarships.
50 Junior Technical scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Under 14 years	3 years	Free tuition at a junior technical school and £4 for school requisites; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or £5 for transit.
55 Senior Technical scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	16-18 years	3-5 years	Free tuition for full length of approved courses at technical schools; also £30 for day students and £10 for evening students.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS—*continued*.

No. and Kind.	Age Re- quirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
20 Free Places in agriculture, metallurgy, mining, or veterinary science at the University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	4-5 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University; also, in special cases, an allowance up to £50 for maintenance.
50 Free Places in any course (other than dental science) at the University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	
5 Free Places in an approved course at the University open to officers (other than teachers) in the employment of the Government of Victoria	Under 25 years.	3-4 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University, and the necessary leave of absence.
15 Free Places in the course for Arts, Commerce, Science or Education at the University open to certificated teachers of the Education Department	..	3-4 years	

In addition to these scholarships, there is a scheme whereby free tuition and allowances for school requisites up to £2 per annum and for maintenance up to £26 per annum or for transit up to £5 per annum may be granted to enable pupils who show special capacity and promise, and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances, to attend district high schools, higher elementary schools, schools of domestic arts, central schools, central classes and technical schools. Free tuition is allowed also to children of deceased or totally and permanently incapacitated sailors and soldiers attending district high schools or technical schools.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS.

Religious Instruction in State Schools. At the request of the Joint Council for Religious Instruction in Day Schools, Victoria, the Education Department sent out circulars to all the head teachers, and, as a result, the Council has been able to tabulate the following information from the answers received :—

Number of schools which returned answers to circular	2,460
Number of schools receiving religious instruction ..	949
Number of schools not receiving religious instruction	1,511
(These are chiefly outlying schools of low attendance. The large technical schools are also included.)	
Number of instructors engaged	2,181
Number of scholars enrolled for religious instruction	122,598
Net enrolment for the 2,460 schools	218,835

Information relating to Melbourne and suburbs and the rest of Victoria is given below. The area included in Melbourne and suburbs is a radius of ten miles from the Elizabeth-street Post Office, and includes a few schools outside that radius, as far as Croydon and Mordialloc.

MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	185
Number of instructors engaged	827
Number of pupils receiving religious instruction ..	64,322

REST OF VICTORIA.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	764
Number of instructors engaged	1,354
Pupils receiving religious instruction	58,276

The objective of the Joint Council is to obtain more instructors for those schools in the metropolis where the staffs are weak, and for the country schools where religious instruction is not given.

STANDARD OF EDUCATION.

Signing with marks. The number of marriages celebrated in 1925 was 13,370, and there were only 16 men and 12 women who showed their want of elementary education by signing the marriage register with a mark instead of in writing. This indicates a very high elementary standard of education in this State, which, in this respect, occupies the highest position in Australasia.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Technical schools. The whole of the technical schools in the State, prior to 1910, were under the control of local councils. Act No. 2301, passed in that year, provided for the schools being brought under the control of the Minister of Public Instruction. The Education Department, in all cases, retains the general direction of technical education. Regulations are issued defining the powers of the councils, allotting the Government grants, and providing for the instruction and examination of the students. The number of technical schools receiving aid from the State on 30th June, 1926, was 28.

The former lack of organized method in preparing pupils for courses in technical schools largely neutralized the efforts of the instructors in these institutions. In order to overcome this difficulty, junior or preparatory technical schools have been established in connexion with all the higher technical schools. These schools offer a course of two or three years' instruction for boys between the ages of twelve and a half and fifteen years. Instruction in English subjects is carried on in conjunction with mathematics and the more technical subjects. The curriculum is designed to qualify for entrance to the senior schools. A large majority of the students doing full day diploma courses come from the junior technical schools, while nearly all the effective trade students attending evening classes are drawn from that source.

The aim of the Victorian technical schools is to provide vocational courses of training in industrial subjects, and, as far as possible, to provide for the training of the expert technologist. The various branches of engineering and its subdivisions, mining, metallurgy, technical and agricultural chemistry, subjects connected with the building trades (including architecture) and with other trades, applied art, commercial subjects and those connected with household economy are included in their syllabuses. Trade courses correspond to the period of apprenticeship, which extends over five years.

The larger technical schools, such as the Working Men's College, the Swinburne Technical College, and the Ballarat and Bendigo Schools of Mines, have an extensive curriculum embracing the most important industrial subjects. Of the smaller schools, some in country districts have courses in mining,

metallurgy, and engineering subjects as well as courses in drawing and applied art work, while in a few schools the subjects taught are mainly drawing and art work. The only technical schools for women's industries are the College of Domestic Economy and the girls' junior technical departments in the Swinburne, Ballarat, Prahran, Box Hill, and Brighton Schools.

The fees per term range from 10s. per subject per annum to £35 per course of subjects per annum.

The following is a statement of the Government expenditure on each technical school during the five years ended 1925-26 :—

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Name.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£	£	£
*Ararat	154	130	129	91	53
Bairnsdale	4,237	3,246	3,376	3,696	3,742
Ballarat	18,463	17,883	18,181	20,358	19,421
Beechworth	1,119	1,079	1,205	1,334	1,301
Bendigo	11,217	11,398	12,222	11,973	16,466
Box Hill .. .. .	..	..	6,706	4,428	4,230
Brighton	10,558	16,883	16,169	13,675	14,303
Brunswick	13,100	8,367	8,590	10,467	11,649
Castlemaine	4,823	5,060	5,755	5,865	10,339
Caulfield	13,232	11,911	8,832	12,322	12,006
College of Domestic Economy ..	2,581	2,461	2,943	3,261	21,188
Collingwood	8,378	9,578	30,179	18,904	14,700
Daylesford	2,041	2,083	2,466	1,990	2,219
Echuca	2,411	2,586	2,607	4,438	8,400
Footscray	10,698	12,037	13,343	23,540	17,877
Geelong (Gordon Tech. Col.) ..	11,133	8,725	10,019	12,458	24,370
Glenferrie (Swinburne Tech. Col.)	15,122	16,675	21,728	20,540	20,840
†Horsham	1,199	511	6	..	..
Maryborough	4,919	5,233	5,604	5,439	6,729
Melbourne (Working Men's Col.)	29,013	33,956	33,434	35,277	40,575
Prahran	6,778	8,073	8,052	9,166	8,389
Richmond .. .. .	..	..	..	9,159	13,788
Sale	2,712	2,909	2,648	2,997	5,274
South Melbourne	8,734	9,020	9,014	9,982	10,340
Stawell	2,835	2,895	3,129	5,195	6,210
Sunshine	2,189	2,726	3,969	6,330	5,156
Wangaratta .. .. .	..	..	..	1,650	1,650
Warrnambool	4,661	4,806	5,433	8,107	13,658
West Melbourne	11,463	12,055	14,006	13,117	17,396
Wonthaggi	10,262	5,027	4,409	7,038	6,561
Other votes for technical schools	12,604	3,695	3,741	4,768	4,758
Miscellaneous	2,625	2,970	3,070	5,326	7,889
Total	229,261	223,978	260,965	292,891	351,477

* Closed 31st August, 1923.

† Closed 31st December, 1923.

College of
Dentistry and
Pharmacy.

Particulars relating to the Australian College of Dentistry and the Melbourne College of Pharmacy are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 516 to 519.

THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Working
Men's
College,
Melbourne.

The Working Men's College is a technical institution and school of mines, founded in 1887. It is open to all classes and both sexes, and supplies the higher technical instruction.

Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant. There are both day and evening courses.

Fees. All fees are payable in advance, and no refund is allowed. Examinations are held in November, and entrance to these examinations is free to students of the college attending the classes in which they present themselves for examination, provided they have made the necessary attendances, and completed sufficient Laboratory Work. The year is divided into three terms.

Fees Payable.

Full Day Courses.					Fee.		
					£	s.	d.
Preparatory School for Diploma Courses—							
First year	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 per term
Second year	...	...	...	...	4	7	6 „
Diploma Courses—Mechanical, Electrical, Municipal, Marine, and Mining Engineering—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 „
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 „
Third year	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 „
Diploma Course—Metallurgy—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 „
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 „
Third year	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 „
Diploma Courses—Applied Chemistry—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 „
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 „
Third year (Inorganic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 „
Fourth year (Organic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 „
Carpentry Apprenticeship Course	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 „
Motor Mechanics Course—							
First year	...	...	...	...	7	0	0 „
Second year	...	...	...	...	7	0	0 „
Woolsorting	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 „
Art Course, Full Time	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 „
„ „ Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 „

Evening Classes.					Fee.
Arithmetic	} Various amounts ranging from 15s. upwards per term.
Algebra	...	...	...	...
Geometry	...	...	...	...
Trigonometry	...	...	...	...
Graphical Algebra and Analytical Geometry	...	...	...	...
Differential and Integral Calculus	...	...	...	...
Practical Geometry	...	...	...	...
Applied Mechanics	...	...	...	...
Applied Electricity	...	...	...	...
Heat Engines	...	...	...	...
Architecture	...	...	...	...
Building Construction	...	...	...	...
Surveying	...	...	...	...
Civil Engineering	...	...	...	...
Hydraulics	...	...	...	...
Chemistry	...	...	...	...
Assaying	...	...	...	...
Metallurgy	...	...	...	...
Engineering Drawing	...	...	...	...
Science, Trade, Commercial, Mining, and numerous other Subjects	...	...	...	...
Evening Art and Applied Art Courses (Drawing, Design, Modelling, &c.)	30s. per term.
Preliminary Year for Courses for Experts' Certificates	35s. per term.
Courses for Experts' Certificates	From 40s. per term.

Special prizes are awarded to students annually. There is a prize to the best student in each year of the day courses, and to the best student in each of the evening classes. The Magee prize, of the annual value of £3, is awarded to the student who obtains highest marks at examination in the work of the senior mechanical drawing class. The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects awards prizes in the architecture and building construction classes, the Green Field Tap and Die Corporation gives a set of stocks and dies to the best student in fitting and turning, and Messrs Brown and Sharp give a set of fitter's tools to the best student in the second grade fitting and turning class, and a micrometer to the best student in milling. Several employers donate prizes, notably in the Printing and Plumbing trades.

The Beazley Bequest Scholarships, of which there are thirty-six of the value of £10, £12, £15, and £25, are awarded annually for trade subjects. The following scholarships cover five years' free instruction in the day courses:—The Danks (2), The Arnot, and The Colin Thompson. Twenty entrance scholarships, value £24 each, are awarded annually to the preparatory school for Day Courses; five, value £11 each, are awarded to the carpentry apprenticeship course of one year, and twenty-five, value £4 to £8, to the commercial day

classes. There are three scholarships available to students in the Preparatory School and tenable at the Diploma Courses, value £60 each. There are also numerous Government Scholarships available to students and tenable at the College or the University.

The receipts from the Government in 1926 amounted to £33,925.

About 180 classes are held in the following departments:—Commercial, Elocution and Music, Mathematics, Engineering and Science, Architecture, Chemistry, Mining and Metallurgy, Art and Applied Art, Rural Industries, and Trade Courses. The work is divided into—(1) day courses, and (2) evening courses and classes. In the day school students are prepared for the higher positions of industrial life in the following complete courses:—(1) Mechanical Engineering, (2) Electrical Engineering, (3) Civil Engineering, (4) Marine Engineering, (5) Mining Engineering, (6) Metallurgy, and (7) Applied Chemistry. To students who complete any of the above courses, pass the necessary examinations, and produce evidence of having obtained twelve months' approved practical experience, the Diploma of "Associateship" of the College is issued. The entrance standard for these courses is the Intermediate Certificate or the completion of a two years' course in the College Preparatory Technical School. The preparatory school bridges the gap between the Merit Certificate and the entrance to the Diploma Courses. It also gives a two years' preparation for industrial life in town or country.

In the Applied Art School classes are held in the following subjects:—Drawing, Design, Modelling, Architecture, Building Construction, Geometrical Drawing, Practical Plane and Solid Geometry, Perspective, Blackboard Drawing, Still Life Painting, Anatomy, Figure Drawing, Figure Composition, Book Illustration, Lettering, Illuminating, Stencilling, Leather Embossing, Decorative Metalwork, Silver-smithing, Jewellery, Engraving, Die Sinking, Lead Glazing, Stained Glass, Plaster Casting, Signwriting, Ticket Writing, Lithography, Process Engraving, Textile Design and Weaving, Dress-making, Millinery, and Plain and Decorative Needlework.

In the evening school the following courses for certificates are in operation:—Assayers, geologists, electrical engineers, civil engineers (municipal and hydraulic), mechanical and marine engineers, land surveyors, mechanical draughtsmen, public analysts, architects, carpenters, printers, signwriters and house decorators, plumbers, coach builders, and motor car body makers. The following figures

give an indication of the comparative amount of work done at the College during the years 1922 to 1926 :—

STUDENTS AT WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, 1922 TO 1926.

—	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Students enrolled—					
Average per term	2,465*	2,370	2,511	2,629	2,608
Males over 21	533	577	571	568	530
„ under 21—Apprentices ..	634	592	605	647	652
„ „ Others	1,025	946	1,059	1,099	1,102
Females	273	255	276	315	324
Fees received during the year ..	£11,354†	£11,504†	£11,891†	£13,063†	£13,504†
Average fee per student	99s. 7d.	99s. 2d.	93s. 10d.	99s.	103s. 6d.
Number of classes	176	175	177	179	178
„ instructors	117	116	128	131	131
Salaries paid instructors	£25,629	£25,764	£27,241	£29,234	£31,035

* In addition, 200 students were receiving vocational training for the Repatriation Department in 1922.

† This does not include fees for correspondence courses, which amounted to £797 in 1922, £539 in 1923, £1,034 in 1924, £1,057 in 1925, and £981 in 1926. The subjects taught by correspondence are those included in the college curriculum.

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

Public Library of Victoria. The buildings of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria cost £326,946. The funds were provided by the Government, as also were further moneys expended on maintenance (including salaries) and amounting, with the sum just named, to a total of £1,794,634 at the end of 1926. The Library consists of three distinct sections, viz. :—the Reference Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. In regard to the Reference Library, the librarian reports that 8,015 volumes were purchased, 3,201 volumes presented, 542 volumes obtained under the “Copyright Act,” and 49,646 newspapers added to the Library during the year 1926. At the end of that year the Reference Library contained 339,425 volumes. It is open to the public without payment on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 125,655 volumes during 1926, the number of persons to whom the books were lent being 8,428. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of the year mentioned was 46,061, of which 2,496 were added during the year.

National Gallery. The National Gallery at the end of 1926 contained 21,992 works of art, viz., 725 oil paintings, 5,497 objects of art, statuary, &c., and 15,770 water colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted), and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The school of painting in connexion

with the institution was attended during the year by 35 students, and the school of drawing by 140 students. The income from the Felton bequest amounted to £27,000, which was available for expenditure on paintings, statuary, and other works of art.

Industrial Museum. The Industrial and Technological Museum occupies the whole of the first floor of the building facing Swanston-street. At the end of 1926 it contained more than 10,000 exhibits.

National Museum. The collection in the National Museum, formerly kept in a building situated on the grounds of the Melbourne University, is now located in the Public Library Buildings. It comprises natural history, geology, and ethnology. The National Museum is open to the public free of charge on all week days throughout the year, except Christmas Day and Good Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

Patent Office Library. There is a free public library attached to the Department of Patents, which contains over 45,000 volumes, including specifications of inventions for which patents have been granted by the principal countries of the world, as well as Patents, Trade Marks, and Designs Acts and Regulations, and illustrated abridgments of inventions and official gazettes and indices.

The library also contains a comprehensive selection of scientific and technical works.

The library is open to the public on each week-day except Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.

A librarian is in attendance to facilitate searching through any section of the records.

Supreme Court Library. The Supreme Court Library at Melbourne has nineteen branches in the assize towns. It is free to members of the legal profession between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it closes at noon. It is supported by fees paid under Acts of Parliament and Rules of Court for the admission of barristers and solicitors.

OTHER LIBRARIES.

Free Libraries. Most of the suburban and country libraries receive Government aid—the amount granted in 1925-1926 to free libraries and country museums having been £4,000. Of these libraries 501 furnished returns in 1926, which show that they possessed 927,335 volumes, and received £97,936 in revenue, that the total expenditure was £83,318—£12,042 on books, &c., and £71,276 on maintenance—and that 2,307,170 visits were paid to the 421 institutions which kept records of the attendances of visitors.

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

Exhibition
Buildings,
Aquarium,
and Museum.

The Exhibition Buildings, which are situated in the Carlton Gardens, Melbourne, when first opened for the purpose of an exhibition in October, 1880, occupied a total space of 907,400 square feet. The original cost of the permanent structure, temporary annexes, &c., was £246,365. After the close of the exhibition, on 30th April, 1881, the annexes were removed, and the permanent building was vested in trustees. Another exhibition was opened in the building on 1st August, 1888, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the first Australian Colony. On that occasion a further sum of £262,954 was expended. At the close of the exhibition there was realized from the sale of various materials, including temporary annexes, a sum of £56,904.

The receipts for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1926, amounted to £7,976, consisting of rents £5,657, aquarium receipts £1,737, and other receipts £582. The expenditure totalled £8,468, viz.:—£3,082, expenses of the aquarium; and £5,386 for general maintenance, improvements to buildings, insurance and sundry expenses. The deposits and balances in banks to the credit of the trust at 30th June, 1926, amounted to £1,176.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

Botanic
Garden.

The Melbourne Botanic Garden, which was established in 1846, is situated on the south side of the Yarra, at a distance of about one mile from the city. The area of the garden proper is 102 acres, and includes lakes, lawns, groups, plantations, conservatories, &c. Associated with the Botanic Garden are the grounds of Government House, the Domain, the Alexandra Park and Gardens, and the Queen Victoria Gardens. The Botanic Garden and the Domain are administered by the Lands Department, the Government House Grounds temporarily by the Federal Government, and Alexandra Park and Queen Victoria Gardens solely by the Melbourne City Council. The whole reservation, probably the most valuable asset of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, embraces an area of approximately 320 acres, and, in addition to the divisions mentioned above, includes the grounds and buildings of the Observatory and the National Herbarium.

Records of the commencement of the Gardens and their progress are to be found in the *Descriptive Guide to the Botanic Gardens*, published by the Government Printer and obtainable at a price of 6d. A reference to some of the principal features appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 525 to 527.

The Gardens are open to the public daily from 7 a.m. in summer and 7.30 a.m. in winter, and are closed at sunset.

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL AND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

**Royal
Zoological
and Accli-
matisation
Gardens.**

The gardens of the Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria are situated in the centre of Royal Park, on the northern side of the city, nearly 2 miles distant from the Elizabeth Street Post Office, and can be reached by tramcars starting every few minutes from the lower end of Elizabeth-street, or by electric train to Royal Park Station. The West Brunswick electric trams from corner Collins and William streets run every few minutes, and it provides another facility for reaching the Gardens.

The ground enclosed contains 50 acres, rather more than half of which is laid out as a Zoological garden and the rest in deer paddocks. Most of the large animals of the world, such as the hippopotamus, giraffe, Indian elephant, &c., are exhibited there, as well as many native animals. The Patron of the Society is His Excellency the State Governor, and the Director is Mr. A. Wilkie.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

A brief statement of the history of this society and of the work carried on by it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 528 and 529. The membership subscription is 10s. per annum. Two shows are held each year, one in the autumn and one in spring. The members' monthly meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month.

The business of the society is vested in a committee, consisting of the president, four vice-presidents (two amateur and two professional), an honorary treasurer, and sixteen members (eight amateurs and eight professionals), the administrative work being conducted by the honorary secretary, Mr. A. J. Whiteher, "Hiawatha," 6 Pine-street, Hawthorn.

**Other
societies.**

There are about 40 other horticultural societies in the State, situated at Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Mildura, Terang, Traralgon, and other centres.

PUBLIC RESERVES.

**Public
reserves.**

The total area devoted to public reserves in Greater Melbourne in 1926 was 6,245 acres. A list of the public reserves in 1917, together with a statement of their respective areas, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 529 to 533.

A further statement showing the number and area of reserves in 17 of the largest towns outside Melbourne was given on page 533 of the same volume.

At the end of 1926 there were in the State, according to Ministers and Churches, returns received, 3,289 regular churches and chapels, and 1,595 other buildings where religious services were held—a total of 4,884 places of public worship—and these were attended by 2,332 regular clergymen. The following statement contains particulars in regard to the different denominations :—

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, 1926.

Denominations.	Number of Clergy, Ministers, &c.	Buildings used for Public Worship.		
		Churches and Chapels.	Other Buildings.	Total.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England ..	457	734	479	1,213
Presbyterian Church of Victoria	306	619	302	921
Free Presbyterian ..	3	10	3	13
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland ..	1	1	..	1
Methodist	296	839	431	1,270
Independent or Congrega- tional.. ..	68	80	43	123
Baptist	96	116	61	177
Lutheran	18	32	18	50
Salvation Army ..	531	146	38	184
Church of Christ ..	104	109	7	116
Church for Deaf Mutes ..	2	1	..	1
Other Protestant.. ..	25	31	25	56
Roman Catholic Church ..	384	561	181	742
New Church (or Swedenborgian)	1	2	..	2
Catholic Apostolic Church ..	11	1	..	1
Jews	4	3	3	6
Re-organized Church of Latter- Day Saints	20	3	3	6
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints	5	1	1	2
Total	2,332	3,289	1,595	4,884

The Sunday Schools of the various religious bodies numbered 3,015, and the teachers 23,240; the number of scholars on the rolls was 229,159—101,707 males and 127,452 females.

Religions of
the people.

The following table shows the principal religions of the people as ascertained at the census of 1921:—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 1921.

Religion.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent. of Population.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England	300,159	301,650	601,809	39·88
Protestant so stated	10,127	8,509	18,636	1·23
Presbyterian	125,741	131,331	257,072	17·04
Methodist	86,854	96,975	183,829	12·18
Independent or Congregational	7,175	8,718	15,893	1·05
Baptist	14,531	17,774	32,305	2·14
Lutheran	4,905	3,779	8,684	·58
Salvation Army	4,071	5,112	9,183	·61
Unitarian	253	173	426	·03
Church of Christ	9,862	12,388	22,250	1·47
Seventh Day Adventists	920	1,515	2,435	·16
Roman Catholic Church (including Catholic undefined, 6,847)	156,329	166,236	322,565	21·38
Other Christians	5,801	6,120	11,921	·79
Other Denominations—				
Jews	3,949	3,728	7,677	·51
Buddhist, Confucian, &c.	1,021	42	1,063	·07
Mohammedan	280	24	304	·02
Others (Non-Christian)	457	164	621	·04
Sceptics, &c.	8,334	3,991	12,325	·82
Total specified	740,769	768,229	1,508,998	100·00
„ unspecified	13,955	8,327	22,282	..
Grand Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	..

Religions per
cent. of
population,
1871 to 1921.

The next table shows the principal religions of the people per 100 of the population in the six census years 1871 to 1921:—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE PER 100 OF THE POPULATION, 1871 TO 1921.

Religion.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Protestant Churches—						
Church of England (including Protestant so stated)	36·01	36·74	37·33	36·52	37·02	41·11
Presbyterian	15·78	15·65	14·94	16·16	18·27	17·04
Methodist	13·16	13·58	14·14	15·21	13·76	12·18
Independent or Congregational	2·54	2·35	1·98	1·45	1·28	1·05
Baptist	2·28	2·40	2·50	2·75	2·43	2·14
Lutheran	1·47	1·32	1·39	1·18	·91	·58
Salvation Army .. ..	..	..	1·21	·74	·61	·61
Church of Christ	·50	·57	·74	·90	1·29	1·47
Other Protestant Churches	·51	·37	·66	1·45	·78	·78
Total Protestant Churches	72·25	72·98	74·89	76·36	76·35	76·96
Roman Catholic Church	23·83	24·02	22·24	22·26	22·31	21·38
Jews	·50	·51	·58	·50	·49	·51
Others	3·42	2·49	2·29	·88	·85	1·15
Total specified	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Friendly societies seem to have been established in Victoria very soon after the first settlement of the territory, but it was not until after the passing of the 1855 Act that any steps were taken for their registration as institutions recognized by law. That statute consolidated and amended the laws then in force relating to friendly societies, and was the first Act passed in this connexion by the Victorian Legislature after the separation of Victoria from New South Wales in 1851. It was assented to on 12th June, 1855, and provided for the appointment of a registrar, and also a certifying barrister, to whom the rules of a society had to be submitted for examination, and whose certificate, that these rules were in accordance with the law, was necessary before registration could be effected. It also provided that the tables of contributions should be certified by an actuary of an assurance company, or "some person" appointed by the registrar before the rules of the society could be registered.

Registration was not, however, made compulsory, and the actuarial certificate, given by the actuary appointed by the registrar under the provisions of the Act for this purpose, was only of a provisional nature, issued subject to the condition that the tables were to be submitted to him for approval after a certain period had elapsed. This temporary certificate was given because there were no data then available in Australia on which to calculate the amount necessary to provide the sickness benefits. As there was no power under the Act to compel a society to apply to the actuary for a renewal of the provisional certificate when the time covered by that certificate had expired, the registration of these institutions was unfortunately permanently effected with rates of contribution which afterwards proved to be, in almost every instance, inadequate. The control exercised over friendly societies as a result of this legislation was very slight.

No further serious attention was given by the Government to friendly societies until 1875, when a Commission was appointed to inquire into "the working of the Friendly Societies Statute, the position and operations of the societies registered under it, and what amendment, if any, is desirable in the existing law." The outcome of this Commission was the 1877 Act, which provided (*inter alia*) for the appointment of a barrister of not less than seven years' standing as registrar, and also that each society should furnish returns annually to the Government Statist, and once at least in every five years should either have its assets and liabilities valued by a valuer appointed by the society or send such particulars to the Government Statist as would enable him to have the valuation made. The fees for valuation were purposely fixed at a low rate, and average less than two-pence per member, the result being that, although it is competent for the societies to employ outside valuers, should they so desire, as a matter of fact they have rarely done so, and nearly all the valuations have been made by the Government Actuary. The passing of this Act had the effect of considerably increasing the control exercised by the Government over the operations of friendly societies.

In accordance with its provisions, an actuary was appointed under the Government Statist in 1881, whose chief duty was to make periodical valuations of the assets and liabilities of societies, and the result of these valuations disclosed the fact that, in almost every instance, the rates then being paid by the members were insufficient to provide the benefits which the societies had by their rules agreed to pay. The Act gave no power to enforce payment of adequate rates of contribution, and the actuary could not therefore compel a society to take such steps as would enable it to meet its liabilities, but could only give advice as to the best means to be adopted to secure that end. It is only just to the managing bodies of these institutions, however, to state that most of the principal societies made a serious effort to carry out the suggestions of the actuary. Several of them passed rules requiring future members to pay adequate rates of contribution, and in nearly every case some effort was made to improve the financial position.

It was not until 1907 that registration of societies was made compulsory, and that they were required to adopt adequate rates of contribution in respect of all members, existing as well as new members. An Act which was passed in that year embodied these provisions, the penalty for failure to adopt adequate rates of contribution being cancellation of registration. The operation of the Act, in so far as it related to the scale of contributions payable, was, however, limited to a period of eighteen months. This was a serious defect, as contributions which are sufficient at one time may at a future date become inadequate, owing to fluctuations in interest, sickness, or mortality rates or faulty management. To remedy this defect an amending Act was passed in the year 1911. This Act provides that, if a society receives two successive notifications from the Government Statist that its rates are inadequate, it must adopt adequate rates within twelve months of the second notification, otherwise its registration will be cancelled. There must be an interval of at least three years between the two notifications. It is expected that a society on receiving the first notification will take such steps to improve its position as will obviate the necessity for the second being issued.

The legislation which has been referred to has had a very beneficial effect on societies. Of fifteen societies having a membership of over 500 each, thirteen have assets whose ratio to liabilities exceeds, or closely approximates to, 20s. in the £1, and of all the Victorian societies only one has a lower ratio than 18s. in the £1. In Victoria the societies have received no subvention from the State.

If, on an actuarial valuation being made, a surplus is found to exist in any one fund of a society, the Government Statist may authorize the utilization of the whole or a portion of such surplus for the purposes of the same or any other fund.

Central bodies of societies are empowered by statute to appoint auditors to audit and inspect the accounts and securities of branches at such time as the central body may direct. Every trustee, treasurer, secretary, chairman or member of the committee

of management who takes any money or valuable thing in consideration of any benefit received or to be received by any member of an unregistered society is liable to a penalty of £50. Trade unions are exempted from registration. The investment of funds on leasehold property is now illegal, but the power to invest is extended to any securities on which a trustee is under any Act authorized to invest any trust funds in his hands. All loans on freehold property must be on first mortgage only, and are not to exceed three-fifths of the value as certified by a practical surveyor or valuer. The trustees are prohibited from investing on mortgage if the fee-simple of the property has been in the possession of a trustee or his wife during the previous five years. An Act passed in 1910 created a new stock for the special benefit of friendly societies, investment in which is optional and on which interest is payable at 4 per cent. The amount invested in the stock at the end of June, 1926, was £313,771. Prior to the year 1907 it was not lawful for a friendly societies' dispensary to sell patent or other medicines to members of friendly societies or their relatives, but this restriction has been amended, so that all benefit members, who have paid the full subscription to the dispensary and the full amount payable to their society for medicines and medical appliances, may now be supplied with medicines for which payment is required.

The *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 consolidates all Acts passed up to 1914 inclusive. An Act passed in 1915—the *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 (No. 2)—gave power to societies to reinsure with the Government or with an approved life assurance company their liabilities to members who were engaged on naval or military service in connexion with the war. The number of societies which took advantage of the scheme was twelve, and the number of their enlisted members was about 15,120. The sum paid by them in sickness and mortality benefits on account of those members under the contracts which were reinsured was about £232,000, and of this sum £46,500 was reimbursed to the societies by the Government in accordance with the arrangement made with it.

The amounts of the sickness and mortality benefits paid by all societies on account of members who took part in the war was about £286,000. In addition, the societies paid the contributions of enlisted members during their absence from Australia. The amount of these contributions was about £152,000.

An Act was passed in 1922 in relation to Dividing Societies, i.e., friendly societies which divide the whole or a portion of their funds each year. Its principal provisions are (1) that no dividing society shall be established in future unless it limits its membership to the employees of a particular Government department, municipality, company, or other body, firm or person; and (2) that every existing dividing society, the operations of which are not limited in the manner indicated, shall re-register every year, and, as a precedent to such re-registration, shall forward to the Registrar an actuarial certificate that its rates of contribution are adequate to provide the benefits specified in its rules.

Under the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, which was assented to on 2nd October, 1923, societies may provide for the payment of sums of money on the deaths of members, their husbands, wives, widows, children, or kindred up to an aggregate of £100 instead of sums for defraying the expenses of burial of members and the other persons mentioned. Societies are also permitted to contract with a person for the payment of a maximum amount of sick pay of £3 per week. Previously the periodical payment was limited to £2 per week. Another important provision of the Act is that the Government Statist may make or cause to be made such inspection and examination of the books of a society or branch as he deems necessary.

The societies perform a function which cannot be carried out with the same success by other means—that of providing for the loss which would otherwise be sustained by the wage-earners of the community and those dependent on them, through illness or death. Their organization enables them to keep in touch with their members, to guard against malingering, and to perform satisfactorily a work which, on account of its peculiar nature, could not be attended to satisfactorily by institutions organized on the lines of the ordinary insurance company. Their main objects are to afford relief in sickness, and to provide a moderate payment on the death of a member or his wife. The usual sickness benefits are 20s. per week during the first six months of sickness, 10s. per week during the second six months, and 5s. per week thereafter so long as the sickness continues. The member has also the benefit of medical attendance and medicine for himself and his near relatives. A sum of £20 is usually payable on the death of the member, and £10 on the death of his wife should she predecease him. In pursuance of the provisions of the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, referred to in a previous paragraph, members of some of the societies are now being given the opportunity to contribute for larger sickness and death benefits than those which have hitherto been provided. The benefits coming under the heading of medical attendance and medicine extend usually to the whole family, embracing in the general case member, wife, and children up to the age of 16 years in the case of males and 18 years in the case of females, widowed mother of unmarried member, and also widow and family after death of member on payment of medical fees.

The funds of the societies are divided into two or more portions. Of these the most important are the sick and funeral fund, out of which are payable the sickness and death benefits, and the medical and management fund, from which are taken the payments for medical attendance, medicines, and management expenses. The weekly contribution to the sick and funeral fund for the benefits above mentioned usually ranges from 6d. for entry ages 16 to 19 to 1s. for ages at entry 37 to 39. The contribution to the other fund is fixed irrespective of age at entry, the usual charge being from 8d. to 10d. per week, the rate varying according to the cost of medical benefits. The total sums payable by members thus ranges from about

1s. 2d. to 1s. 10d. per week. There are in addition small initiation fees, and, in some instances, registration fees for second wives.

Progress of friendly societies. The total membership of Victorian friendly societies increased from 157,750 at the end of 1915 to 157,820 in the middle of 1926—an increase during the ten and a half years of 70 members.

There was a slight decline in the membership between the ends of the years 1914 and 1917 due to deaths of members while on active service and to the absence from Victoria of many young men who might otherwise have joined the societies. A marked decrease in the membership of nearly all societies occurred in 1918 and 1919—the decrease in the earlier year was 7,004 in male and 1,619 in female members, and in the later year 3,918 in male and 1,360 in female members. In 1920 there was a further decline of 757 male and 502 female members, making a total loss for the three years of 11,679 males and 3,481 females. This numerical decrease was principally due to a dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies which led to the resignation of nearly all the medical officers as from 1st February, 1918. A settlement of the dispute was arrived at in 1920. In 1921 numerical recovery set in, there was an increase during that year of 618 male and 181 female members, and in 1922 of 2,448 male and 420 female members. During the eighteen months ended in June, 1924, there was a further increase of 5,660 and 492 male and female members respectively. In each of the periods of twelve months ended in June, 1925, and in June, 1926, the membership continued to advance, the increase being 1,229 males and 309 females in the period 1924–25, and 2,428 males and 14 females in the period 1925–26, making a total gain of 13,383 male members and 1,416 female members since the settlement of the medical dispute in 1920.

The funds increased during the ten and a half-year period 1916 to June, 1926, from £2,775,787 to £4,280,400, there being an addition of £1,504,613. They are well invested; the average rate of interest earned on the capital of the sick and funeral fund for the year 1925–26 was 5.44 per cent. There is a number of female societies, the particulars for which are included above. At the end of June, 1926, these had a membership of 11,110, and funds amounting to £99,216.

A table is appended showing the membership, revenue, expenditure, and total funds of friendly societies in Victoria during the five and a half years 1921 to June, 1926:—

Year.			Membership (end of year).	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Funds.
				£	£	£
1921	..	..	143,820	763,031	561,659	3,375,050
1922	..	..	146,688	790,788	616,040	3,549,798
1923–24*	..	..	153,840	1,193,550	905,296	3,838,052
1924–25	..	..	155,378	800,028	572,272	4,065,808
1925–26	..	..	157,820	820,550	605,958	4,280,400

* A period of eighteen months.

The statement which follows contains further information in regard to the societies for the five and a half years, 1921 to 1925-26 :—

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1921 TO 1925-26.

(Including Female Societies.)

—	1921.	1922.	1923-24.*	1924-25.	1925-26.
Number of societies ..	56	57	60	58	62
Number of branches ..	1,464	1,467	1,469	1,470	1,467
Average number of members ..	143,421	145,254	150,264	154,609	156,599
Number of members sick ..	27,342	26,275	41,688	28,850	31,093
Weeks for which sick pay was allowed ..	258,540	258,851	405,245	268,209	281,377
Deaths of members ..	1,302	1,299	2,153	1,394	1,428
Deaths of registered wives ..	526	476	771	480	543
	£	£	£	£	£
Income of sick and funeral fund.. ..	408,193	370,568	584,487	412,979	426,893
Income of incidental fund ..	319,957	385,821	544,879	346,582	353,632
Other Income ..	34,881	34,399	64,184	40,467	40,025
Total Income ..	763,031	790,788	1,193,550	800,028	820,550
Expenditure of sick and funeral fund ..	235,593	286,631	383,454	218,829	240,732
Expenditure of incidental fund.. ..	295,447	296,980	465,739	317,737	323,716
Other Expenditure ..	30,619	32,429	56,103	35,706	41,510
Total Expenditure ..	561,659	616,040	905,296	572,272	605,958
Amount to credit of sick and funeral fund ..	3,157,600	3,241,528	3,442,561	3,636,711	3,822,872
Amount to credit of incidental fund ..	134,413	223,223	302,363	331,208	361,124
Amount invested—sick and funeral fund ..	3,046,251	3,155,993	3,371,784	3,566,778	3,753,701
Amount invested—incidental fund ..	134,413	221,174	299,777	324,652	353,577
Amount invested—other funds ..	80,144	81,898	89,033	92,277	92,436
Total invested ..	3,260,808	3,459,065	3,760,594	3,983,707	4,199,714
„ funds ..	3,375,050	3,549,798	3,838,052	4,065,808	4,280,400

* A period of eighteen months.

NOTE.—There are juvenile branches connected with some of the societies, but the information in regard to these has not been considered of sufficient importance to be included in the above table.

During the twelve months ended in June, 1926, the societies lost by secession 10,516 members, which was equal to a rate of 6.7 per cent.; this was slightly less than the rate of 6.9 per cent. in 1924-25. The annual rate of secession during the period of eighteen months ended in the middle of 1924 was 6.5 per cent. It was also 6.5 per cent. in 1922, 7.8 per cent. in 1921, 8.2 per cent. in 1920, 8.5 per cent. in 1919, 7.5 per cent. in 1918, and 6.0 per cent. in 1917. The higher secession rates in the four years 1918-1921 were due mainly to the dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies, which is referred to in a previous paragraph. They were due, in part, to a

Secessions and expenses.

number of members, who had been on active service and whose contributions had been paid for them while absent from Australia, having failed to resume payment of contributions on their return. As a rule, most of the secessions are those of new members who allow their membership to lapse before they have time to appreciate its value. Expenses of management absorbed 19.4 per cent. of the contributions to all funds during the period 1925-26. This ratio is considerably below the usual rate in industrial assurance business. When it is remembered that the benefits and contributions are generally payable fortnightly and that this entails a great deal of administrative work, it will be seen that the rate of expense is very moderate.

Sickness and mortality experience, 1903-07.

An investigation was made into the sickness and mortality experience of three of the largest Victorian friendly societies for the period 1903-07. This relates to male lives only. Tables containing rates of sickness and mortality obtained by the investigation are given in the *Year-Book* for 1913-14.

Sickness and mortality, 1914-1925-26.

The following statement shows the number of weeks' sickness experienced by male members of ordinary friendly societies in respect of which claims for sick pay were received in 1914 (the last year unaffected by the war), 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924-25, and 1925-26; also the number of weeks' sickness per effective member and the number of deaths of male members of such societies in those years and the number per 1,000 effective members:—

Year.	Average Number of Effective Members.	Weeks of Sickness.			Deaths.	
		Number.	Number per Effective Member.		Number.	Number per 1,000 Effective Members.
		Weeks.	Weeks.	Days.		
1914 ..	125,952	216,520	1	4	1,263	10.03
1917 ..	128,989	257,847	2	0	2,409	18.68
1918 ..	125,667	288,088	2	2	2,457	19.55
1919 ..	119,308	382,247	3	1	2,080	17.43
1920 ..	114,797	278,401	2	3	1,313	11.44
1921 ..	113,666	240,207	2	1	1,224	10.77
1922 ..	115,426	241,021	2	1	1,221	10.58
1923 ..	118,502	249,113*	2	1	1,328*	11.21
1924-25	123,505	247,524	2	0	1,296	10.49
1925-26	124,925	259,208	2	0	1,325	10.61

* These represent two-thirds of the number for the period of eighteen months 1923-24.

The large increase in the sickness rate of 1919 was due chiefly to members who had been on active service having deferred until their return to the Commonwealth their claims for sick pay for incapacity arising out of sickness experienced and wounds received during previous years. It was also due in part to the influenza epidemic of that year.

In the following table the mortality rates of three of the largest Victorian Friendly Societies in recent years are compared with the Australian population mortality rates according to the mortality table known as the "Australian Life Table (males) 1920-1922." This table is based upon the mortality experience of the Commonwealth of Australia for the years mentioned. The rates given are averages for five-yearly age groups which have as their centres the ages shown in the table. Those relating to friendly societies apply only to members who did not take part in the war.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY MORTALITY RATES COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION.

Age next Birthday. (1).	Mortality Rates per 100 Lives of—		Ratio of Col. (2) to Col. (3). (4).
	Three large Friendly Societies, 1914-21. (2).	Australian Population, 1921. (3).	
18	·21	·23	Per cent. 91
23	·34	·32	106
28	·32	·37	86
33	·40	·43	93
38	·53	·54	98
43	·70	·72	97
48	·88	1·00	88
53	1·11	1·33	83
58	1·77	1·95	91
63	2·51	2·94	85
68	4·15	4·32	96
73	7·13	6·58	108
78	8·94	10·47	85
83	16·23	15·86	102
88	24·52	22·86	107
93	28·57	31·59	90
98	66·67	41·86	159

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

**Labour
legislation.**

The earliest attempt at regulating the conditions of labour in Victoria was made by the passing of an Act dated 11th November, 1873, forbidding the employment of any female for more than eight hours in any day in a factory. The same Act defined "factory" to be a place where not fewer than ten persons were working.

This small provision was administered by the Board of Public Health, and was followed, in 1885, by a much larger statute, providing for the registration of factories, their sanitation, fire escape, and guarding of machinery, and regulating the conditions of work generally to a much greater extent than formerly, besides providing for the closing of shops at fixed hours. These latter provisions were designed to give some relief to the employees, who could previously be kept at work in shops as long as their employers chose.

From that time onwards further legislative provisions were introduced at frequent intervals, and gradually the community has come to recognise the necessity of securing the health, comfort, and reasonable ease of the workers. The opposition, which was at first very strong, has gradually disappeared, until now it is safe to say that all sections of the community realize the humanitarian aspects of the movement, and have accepted the principle that the rights of work-people shall be conserved by law.

The interests of the factory worker as regards wages, personal safety, and health now receive a large amount of attention. Government inspectors prosecute employers wherever underpayment is found. They take proceedings also to carry out all the provisions of the factory laws. No one can occupy a factory unless the place is properly lighted and ventilated, has ample means of escape in case of fire, has all its machinery fenced and guarded, and has proper sanitary arrangements provided for both sexes. The Minister may now require the occupier of any factory, shop, or place to provide for the use of the employees a dining-room and a bath-room, and, for the use of the female employees, suitable sitting accommodation and a rest-room. The closing time of shops is carefully regulated. The hours of shop employees are restricted, and they must be given a half-holiday every week.

**Wages
Boards.**

The Wages Board method of fixing wages and settling the conditions of employment had its origin in Victoria.

It was introduced into an Act of Parliament in 1896 by Sir Alexander Peacock. The principle embodied in the British jury system that a man can only be tried by his peers is the essence of the

Victorian Wages Board system. The Boards are composed of equal numbers of employers and employees. The representatives are carefully chosen, so that every shade of interest in the trade shall be represented as fully as possible on the Board. The Board thus becomes a jury of trade experts, all of whom are versed in the requirements and intricacies of the trade they are dealing with.

An application for a Board in any trade which has not been brought under the Wages Board system can be made either by a Union or by a meeting of employees. Upon receipt of such an application the Minister usually orders the collection of figures to show the rates of wages, the average number of hours worked, the number of persons employed in the trade, and so on. If he finds that there is good reason therefor, the Governor in Council may appoint a Wages Board and define the scope of its operations. The Board consists of from six to ten members (half elected by employers and half by employees), who nominate some outside person as chairman; or, if no agreement can be arrived at as to such nomination, then the Minister appoints the chairman. The Board may fix the rates of payment either by piece-work or wages, or both; the maximum number of hours per week or per day for which such rates shall be paid; a higher rate for work done in excess of such maximum number of hours; the times of beginning and ending work, including the hours of each shift; a higher rate for work done outside such times; special rates for casual work in the case of any trade not usually carried on in a factory or shop, or for work done on Sundays and public holidays, and for time occupied in travelling to and from work; the day and latest hour when payment of wages is to be made, also what notice of termination of employment shall be given by either employer or worker; and the number of and the rates of pay to apprentices and improvers who may be employed. Casual work is now defined in the Act as work or labour during any week for not more than one-half of the maximum number of hours fixed by the Wages Board appointed to fix rates for the work in question.

By an amendment of the law made in 1922 the Boards are given power to provide that in trades carried on in factories or shops a person working fewer hours than those fixed for an ordinary week's work shall be paid from 33 to 50 per cent. above ordinary wages' rate for the first half of such week's work. For each hour worked beyond the aforesaid first half ordinary rates are payable up to but *not exceeding* the wage fixed by the Board for the full week's work.

By this provision the wages of an employee are stabilized as far as possible. Previously he could be employed on a systematic short time principle each week, and be paid only *pro rata* for the hours worked. As a safeguard against imposition on the part of the worker, he is not entitled to any wages if he refuses to complete the full number of hours fixed as a week's work.

NEW BOARDS AND ALTERATION OF POWERS.

The powers conferred on the Governor in Council by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1920 to appoint Wages Boards without reference to Parliament were, during the year 1926, exercised in the following six cases :—

Two new Boards appointed as follows :—

Bottle Covers Board.
Frozen Goods Board.

Powers were extended in the case of one Board, viz. :—

Breadcarters Board.

Powers were adjusted in the case of three Boards, viz. :—

The Ice Board was deprived of the power to determine prices or rates to be paid to any persons employed in the trade of freezing, refrigerating, packing, or grading goods of any kind (other than ice cream) for the purpose of trade or sale in a frozen or refrigerated condition, but not including persons subject to the Determination of the Ice Board, and such power was conferred exclusively on the Frozen Goods Board.

The Storemen, Packers, and Sorters Board was deprived of the power to determine the prices or rates to be paid to any person employed in the trade of making flock or mungo (a) as a storeman, packer, or sorter, (b) in assisting a packer or sorter, (c) as an assembler, collector, or checker of goods in course of receipt or despatch, and such power was exclusively conferred on the Flock Board.

Powers were revoked in one case :—

The power given to the Builders' Labourers Board to determine prices or rates to be paid to any persons employed in the occupation of a builders' labourer engaged in the erection, repair, or demolition of bridges.

On 31st December, 1926, there were 183 Wages Boards existent or authorized, affecting about 205,000 employees.

A Wages Board, having been constituted, meets (until the first Determination is made) as often as it chooses, usually once a week, at the Factories Office. An officer of the Department of Labour acts as secretary. The chairmen and members of Boards are paid as follows :—

Three hours' attendance or less—Chairman, 15s. ; member, 7s. 6d.

Over three hours' attendance—Chairman, 30s. ; member, 15s.

Any member residing 10 miles or more from Melbourne is paid, in addition, train fares and 15s. per day expenses.

Provided that members are not to be paid fees, fares, or expenses for more than—

(a) Ten meetings in the first twelve months after the constitution of the Board.

(b) Six meetings in any subsequent year.

When computing the time occupied in attendance, intervals for meals are not to be counted.

After a Determination has been arrived at it is sent to the Minister of Labour and gazetted, and it thereupon becomes law. It is then the duty of the officers of the Department of Labour to enforce it. Where the Minister considers that any breach of the law is trivial, or has occurred through a mistake, he administers a warning; in more serious cases he orders a prosecution. The prosecutions are carried out by the officers of the Department of Labour, without expense to the worker, and on a conviction being obtained the Court may make an order for arrears of wages, that may be due for any period not exceeding twelve months, to be paid. It is, however, open to any worker, if he has made demand in writing on the employer within two months from the date same became due, to sue in a civil court for the amount of wages owing to him.

Appeals. Provision has been made in the law for the constitution of a Court of Industrial Appeals for deciding all appeals against a Determination of a Wages Board, and for dealing with any Determination of a Wages Board referred to the Court by the Minister. Seventy-five applications have been made for alteration of Determinations by the Court. Since 1st January, 1915, it has consisted of a President and two other persons. The President, who must be a Judge of the Supreme Court, holds such office for such period as the Governor in Council thinks fit, and must sit in every Court of Industrial Appeals. Mr. Justice J. R. Macfarlan has been appointed President. The other members can only act in the Court for which they are appointed, and one must be a representative of employers and the other a representative of employees. Each must be nominated in writing by the side which he represents, and must have been *bonâ fide* and actually engaged in the trade concerned for at least six months during the three years immediately preceding his nomination. Subject to the Act a majority decision decides every reference to the Court. Since its re-constitution in 1915 it has dealt with thirty-eight cases. The determination of the Court may now be altered by the Wages Boards without the leave of the Court if twelve months has elapsed since the date of the last Determination of the Court.

Rise in earnings. During the year 1926 Determinations made by 172 Boards appointed under the Act were in force. The following statement shows the average weekly wage paid to employees in certain trades (1) before the first Determination was

made, (2) in 1914, and (3) in 1926, the figures for the two last mentioned years being the amounts paid to the employees under the Determinations of Wages Boards:—

Trade.	Average Weekly Wage Paid to all Employees.		
	Before First Deter- mination was made.	In 1914.	In 1926.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aerated Water	1 6 7	1 17 8	3 19 4
Agricultural Implements	1 19 5	2 10 1	4 9 4
Asphalters	2 2 10	2 13 8	4 16 8
Bedsteadmakers	1 12 2	2 9 6	4 12 0
Boot	1 3 2	2 1 7	3 10 9
Bread	1 12 6	3 2 7	5 7 5
Brewers	1 14 4	2 10 2	5 8 7
Brushmakers	1 3 1	2 4 9	3 18 6
Candlemakers	1 4 8	2 4 2	4 11 1
Carpenters	2 7 6	3 3 10	5 14 6
Clothing	1 0 0	1 6 9	2 17 6
„ Waterproof	1 2 3	1 17 4	3 1 10
Commercial Clerks	1 10 7	2 9 6	3 13 9
Coopers	1 15 7	3 6 3	6 12 0
Engravers	1 16 11	2 5 11	3 18 7
Farriers	1 15 2	2 4 5	4 17 10
Furniture Trade—			
(a) European (Cabinet making &c.)	1 9 1	2 5 10	4 2 11
(b) European (Mantelpieces) ..	1 13 6	2 9 7	4 8 5
Glassworkers	1 14 11	2 7 3	4 14 7
Hairdressers	1 2 9	2 2 7	3 16 5
Ice	2 10 3	3 4 7	5 10 4
Jewellers	1 13 10	2 9 8	4 3 3
Lift Attendants	1 5 2	2 7 8	4 6 11
Malt	2 1 1	2 17 1	5 3 4
Marine Store	1 5 7	2 5 0	4 10 2
Millet Broom	1 7 11	2 2 9	3 17 1
Painters	2 0 9	2 14 11	5 6 7
Picture Frame	1 3 11	1 19 9	3 18 10
Plate Glass	1 7 6	2 5 11	4 14 6
Plumbers	1 12 8	2 14 4	5 7 10
Pottery	1 8 1	2 0 8	3 19 10
Saddlery	1 7 1	2 2 11	} 4 10 8*
„ Country	1 10 7	1 16 11	
Shops Board No. 1—(Boot Dealers)	1 6 11	2 0 11	3 2 0
Shops Board No. 3—(Butchers) ..	1 17 8	3 1 2	4 10 10
Shops Board No. 15—(Grocers) ..	1 7 4	2 6 8	3 17 0
Slaters and Tilers	2 0 8	3 7 3	4 16 3
Starch	1 0 9	2 0 6	4 10 4
Stonecutters	1 15 11	3 2 0	5 5 11
Tanners	1 11 9	2 10 6	4 9 10
Watchmakers	1 14 2	2 19 2	4 6 6
Wicker	1 2 11	2 2 4	3 17 3
Woodworkers	1 13 2	2 11 9	4 16 0
„ Country	2 9 0	2 14 11	4 18 5

* Now one Board (Saddlery and Harness).

Apprentices. The wages of apprentices in Victoria are fixed by the Wages Boards in each trade. These Boards also prescribe the form of indenture and the term of apprenticeship. Once a boy is indentured, it becomes the duty of the Department of Labour on the one hand to see that he is taught his trade properly, and on the other to enforce his proper attendance at his work, and generally to protect both parties and see that they carry out the agreement.

Factories. A factory is defined to mean any place in which four or more persons, other than a Chinese, or in which one or more Chinese are employed in any handicraft, or in preparing articles for trade or sale; or any place in which one or more are employed, if motive power be used in the preparation of such articles, or where furniture is made, or where bread or pastry is made or baked for sale, or in which electricity is generated for the supply of heat or light, or power, or in which coal gas is made; and also any clay pit or quarry worked in connexion with and occupied by the occupier of any pottery or brickyard. The expression "handicraft" includes any work done in a laundry or in dyeworks. Provision is made for the registration of factories, and inspectors are appointed to inspect and examine them in order to insure that the health requirements and other provisions of the Acts are complied with. The employment of males under 14 and females under 15 years of age is debarred, but provision is made by which a girl of 14 can receive permission to work in a factory if it be shown that the parents are poor, and that the best interests of the girl will be served. A strict limitation is placed on the hours of employment of all females and of males under sixteen. There are special provisions to guard against accidents, and persons in charge of engines and boilers must hold certificates of competency of service. The working hours of Chinese are specially restricted, with the object of preventing or lessening unfair competition. Every employee in a factory must be paid at least 2s. 6d. per week, this provision being, of course, intended as a protection for juvenile workers. All earnings must be paid at least once in every fortnight. There were registered in 1886 only 1,949 factories, with 39,506 employees, whereas in 1926 the figures were 10,624 factories, with 135,510 employees.

The Factories and Shops Acts were consolidated during the year 1915 by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915, No. 2650. No changes were effected in the law by this measure. The existing Acts were merely consolidated.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1919 (No. 3048), passed at the close of the year 1919, made some important changes in the law, but it consists mainly of machinery clauses designed in the interests of the smooth working of the law.

Two short Amending Acts passed at the close of the year 1920 made important alterations in the law.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3093, altered the procedure regarding the appointment of Wages Boards. Prior to that

Act coming into operation these Boards could only be created whilst Parliament was in session. The Governor in Council now has the power to appoint a Wages Board whenever it is deemed expedient to do so, and to alter the scope of any existing Wages Board.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3112, introduced a new principle into the legislation. For many years the closing hour of shops has been fixed by law. This Act for the first time fixed a legal opening hour which affects butchers' shops in the Metropolitan District.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1922, No. 3252, made some important alterations, the principal of which are as follows :—

A new scale of fees was fixed for registration of factories and shops, which resulted in an increase in revenue nearly sufficient to cover the whole cost of the administration of the Department of Labour.

The powers of Wages Boards were simplified and consolidated.

Rates for casual workers in factories and shops were put upon a different basis with a view to the stabilizing of the weekly wage.

The appointment of members of Wages Boards was simplified. Members had previously been appointed for three years, and much trouble was caused in getting new nominations at the date of expiry of each Board. Now Boards are appointed for one year, and every Board expires on the 30th September of each year, but will be automatically re-appointed unless objection is lodged. The result has been a saving of much time and expense as very few objections have been received.

The Minister now makes all appointments to fill vacancies instead of the Governor in Council.

The Governor in Council has now power to exempt new industries from the provisions of Wages Boards for six months, to enable operatives to learn their work.

Bread may now be sold at any hour of the day or night.

The provisions of the Act relating to the guarding of dangerous machinery have been extended so that chaffcutting machines on farms or elsewhere may be guarded for the protection of the workers.

Boards are empowered to fix what notice shall be given by either side of the termination of employment, also to fix the day and latest hour on which wages shall be paid.

Shortly stated, in the Metropolitan District, as defined in the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915, the hours for closing shops are as follows :—Hairdressers' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m., on Friday at

Shops,
Metropolitan
District.

9 p.m., and on Saturday at 1 p.m. Tobacconists' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.; if the shop be closed on Saturday at 1 p.m., it must be closed on Wednesday at 8 p.m., and may be kept open until 9 p.m. on Friday; if it be closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, it may be kept open until 8 p.m. on Friday and 9 p.m. on Saturday. Until a choice is made the shop must be closed on Wednesday at 1 p.m. Butchers' shops are required to close at 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 6 p.m. on Friday, and at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday. They are required to be closed till 6 a.m. on Saturday and 7.30 a.m. on other week days. All other shops (except Fourth Schedule shops) must be closed at 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday the closing hour is 9 p.m., and on Saturday 1 p.m.

The Fourth Schedule shops are :—

- Bread shops.
- Booksellers' and news agents' shops.
- Confectionery and pastry shops.
- Cooked meat (other than tinned meat) shops.
- Eating-houses.
- Fish and oyster shops.
- Flower shops.
- Fruit and vegetable shops.

The hours for closing such shops are not fixed by the Act, but the Governor in Council is given power to make Regulations for their closing. Section 2 of Act No. 3181, which came into force on 29th August, 1922, provides that such Regulations shall not apply to fruit shops in the area enclosed by Flinders, Spencer, Latrobe, Victoria, and Spring streets, Melbourne.

The following are the only cases where these Regulations have been made. The hour of closing on each day of the week is given :—

—	Regulation Gazetted.	Sun.	Mon.	Tu.	Wed.	Th.	F.	Saturday.
Booksellers and News Agents	18th May, 1927	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Cooked Meat (other than tinned meat) ..	27th October, 1920	..	6	6	6	6	9	1 and may re-open from 4 to 10 p.m.
Fruit and Vegetable (May to September inclusive only. See previous paragraph re exempted area) ..	16th October. 1918	..	7	7	7	7	..	..

Under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915 the Minister can grant permission to keepers of certain shops known as "small shops," who would ordinarily be required to close their shops at 6 p.m., to keep open till 8 p.m. Such permission can only be granted to widows and old people, or in cases of great hardship, and applies only to the Metropolitan District.

Provision is also made under the Acts for overtime and tea money for shop employees.

The shops provisions of the Acts now apply to the whole State. Previous to 1st January, 1915, they did not apply to shires or portions of shires unless the shopkeepers therein had petitioned for them to be extended, and there was little uniformity throughout the Country Districts either as to the hours of closing shops or the observance of a weekly half-holiday. A universal Saturday half-holiday was legalized by Act No. 2558, passed in November, 1914, the shops being allowed to remain open till 10 p.m. (now altered to 9 p.m.) on Fridays, and the Country Districts were thus brought into line with the Metropolitan District, in which the Saturday half-holiday had been observed for years. In certain cases an exemption may be petitioned for and the half-holiday fixed for a day other than Saturday.

The hours of closing *on other days* outside the Metropolitan District are fixed at 7 p.m., but, if a petition be received from a majority of any class of shopkeepers, they may be fixed earlier or later. The hours have been altered in accordance with this provision in a few municipalities. Hairdressers and tobacconists outside the Metropolitan Districts may choose either Wednesday or Saturday as the day on which they will observe the half-holiday, but, if they choose Wednesday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Friday and 10 p.m. on Saturday. If they choose Saturday, or do not make a choice of half-holiday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and 10 p.m. on Friday. Fourth Schedule shops are not affected by these provisions. Petrol may be sold at any hour to travellers to enable them to continue their journey.

Registration of shops became compulsory as from 1st March, 1915. The registration fee formerly ranged from 2s. 6d. to 63s., according to the number of persons employed, but from 1st March, 1923, it has varied from 2s. 6d. to £10 (Act 3252, Sec. 4). During the year 1915, 26,401 shops, employing 25,632 persons, were registered, whereas in 1926 the figures were 35,572 shops, with 39,269 employees.

Registered shops are divided into 27 classes. There was an increase for the year 1926 as compared with 1925 of 880 shops and 2,357 employees. Particulars of the increases and decreases in shops registered are given below:—

INCREASES AND DECREASES IN SHOPS REGISTERED, 1926.

	Metropolitan and Provincial Cities.		Country.		Whole State.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bread	160	..	1	..	161	..
Confectionery and Pastry	..	3	23	..	20	..
Booksellers, News Agents						
Fancy Goods Dealers						
Boot Dealers .. ..	..	30	7	..	..	23
Boot Repairers	3	..	..	21	..	18
Butchers	65	..	33	..	98	..
Chemists	7	..	7	..	14	..
Crockery	3	..	2	..	5	..
Cycle and Motor	56	..	71	..	127	..
Dairy Produce and Cooked						
Meat	24	..	16	..	40	..
Drapery	18	..	..	3	15	..
Fish	38	..	..	6	32	..
Florists	22	..	12	..	34	..
Fruit and Vegetable	231	..	8	..	239	..
Fuel and Fodder	15	..	..	12	3	..
Furniture .. .. .	..	11	..	3	..	14
Grocers	161	..	..	20	141	..
Hairdressers	83	..	36	..	119	..
Hardware .. .. .	..	52	..	67	..	119
Jewellery .. .. .	..	13	..	8	..	21
Leather Goods .. .. .	..	2	..	19	..	21
Men's Clothing .. ..	..	24	..	29	..	53
Musical Instruments ..	31	..	..	3	28	..
Tobacconists	100	..	2	..	102	..
Mixed .. .. .	..	56	16	..	..	40
Shops not classified ..	21	..	..	10	11	..
Totals	1,038	191	234	201	1,189	309

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Prior to 1st October, 1900, two labour bureaux were administered by the Railway Department. One registered men in search of work, and distributed all Government work, each Department paying the cost. The other was a Railway Staff Office, regulating and distributing all temporary and casual railway employment. Both these are now administered by an exchange under the control of the Labour Department, where applicants are

registered for temporary or casual employment, principally as artisans and labourers on Government works, including railways. Men are supplied, when work is available, according to their order of registration, subject to fitness. The Exchange also undertakes to supply workmen for private employment, and advances railway tickets to deserving applicants who may themselves have obtained employment in country districts, which they would otherwise be unable to reach, these advances being subject to orders for repayment out of earnings.

The following is a summary of the operations of the Exchange for the year 1926 in respect to registrations and applicants sent to employment :—

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Year and Month.				Number of Applicants for Work as Registered at the end of each Month in the Metropolis.	Number of Men for whom Employment was Obtained.
1926—January .. ..	..	..	..	2,335	175
February .. ..	..	..	..	1,887	209
March .. ..	..	..	..	2,367	467
April .. ..	..	..	..	2,011	404
May .. ..	..	..	..	2,735	588
June .. ..	..	..	..	2,411	281
July .. ..	..	..	..	2,817	286
August .. ..	..	..	..	4,218	391
September .. ..	..	..	..	3,250	604
October .. ..	..	..	..	2,299	649
November .. ..	..	..	..	2,277	456
December .. ..	..	..	..	1,888	439
Total .. ..	..	..	..	30,495	4,949

In the next table particulars are given of the operations of the Exchange during the five years ended 1926 :—

Year.				Registrations Effected.		Engagements Effected.
				In the City.	In the Country.	
1922 .. ..	..	..	..	12,361	1,065	1,913
1923 .. ..	..	..	..	11,233	718	1,703
1924 .. ..	..	..	..	14,030	526	2,550
1925 .. ..	..	..	..	26,105	1,311	3,068
1926 .. ..	..	..	..	30,495	2,250	4,949

Regarding the number of distinct individuals included in the registrations and engagements effected, the officer in charge of the Exchange states that the number of men who are regular applicants at the Exchange is very considerable, especially amongst unskilled labourers, and consequently a large allowance must be made for duplication of registrations. It would probably be safe to say that the number of distinct individuals applying in any one year would be represented by about half the registrations effected. Also in connexion with the engagements effected in the course of a year allowance must be made for the fact that the same applicants may be employed more than once during the year, and this further employment, it is considered, would represent about one-sixth to one-eighth of the engagements made.

During the year 1926 the number of railway tickets advanced was 4,458, valued at £4,297, of which £3,669 has been refunded. During the past twenty-six years 71,844 railway tickets have been advanced, of the value of £60,092, of which £42,492 has been refunded.

REPATRIATION.

On 8th April, 1918, Repatriation became an Australian national undertaking for the provision of benefits for Australian soldiers, sailors and nurses who served in the great war. On that date the Commonwealth Government established the Department of Repatriation, with (the late) Senator the Hon. E. D. Millen as first Minister. Its objects are to find employment for the fit, to re-establish the disabled, to provide for the dependants of those who have died and of those who are no longer able, in consequence of war disabilities, to support themselves, and to supply medical and surgical treatment for disabilities due to or aggravated by war service.

Organization of Department. A description of this is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, page 369.

The *Year-Book* for 1920-21 contains, on pages 383 to 385, an epitome of the main work of the Department, also particulars of the sustenance rates granted to applicants awaiting fulfilment by the Department of certain specified obligations, and of the rates of pension payable to ex-members of the Forces and their dependants.

Administration of Department. The administration of the Department has rested with the Repatriation Commission since 1st July, 1920, and its Head-quarters Office is at 54 Market-street, Melbourne. The Victorian branch office is in St. Kilda-road. The personnel of the Commission is Colonel J. M. Semmens, O.B.E., V.D., J.P. (Chairman), Lieut.-Colonel L. E. Tilney, D.S.O., and Major M. B. Ryan. The Deputy-Commissioner for Victoria is Mr. J. C. McPhee.

A Repatriation General Hospital (Caulfield), Repatriation Sanatorium (Macleod), Anzac Hostel (Brighton), Out-patient Clinic (St. Kilda-road), and Commonwealth Artificial Limb Factory (South Melbourne) are conducted.

Activities of Department. The activities of the Department include the administration of a wide variety of benefits, such as employment, vocational training, medical treatment, children's education, land settlement and assistance. Under "assistance" establishment in small businesses, furniture loans and grants, educational grants, equipment with tools of trade, and funeral expenses are provided. With the progress of time, the great majority of the ex-soldiers have become re-established in the community, and the benefits of assistance to establish small businesses, to secure furniture and tools of trade are now required only in very few cases. Also, vocational training is nearly completed, and with few exceptions, trainees have been absorbed in their respective callings. In co-operation with the State Governments a land settlement scheme has been devised, whereby the Federal Government loans the States money to provide the required holdings and to construct railways or other works necessary to their successful operation. Under this scheme the Commonwealth Government will also make available an average grant of £625 per settler. This will afford every ex-soldier possessing the natural aptitude and fitness an opportunity of ultimately owning his own farm. With the exception of South Australia, all the States have agreed to extend the benefits of the Land Settlement scheme to persons who were munition or war workers, and the Commonwealth Government's advance of £625 will be available for such persons.

In 1927 the main activities of the Repatriation Commission were confined to all matters pertaining to granting, reviewing, and assessing war pensions; medical treatment, which includes medical benefits to widows and orphans of deceased soldiers and widowed mothers of deceased unmarried soldiers, and the provision and renewal of artificial limbs and surgical aids; the granting and reviewing of Living Allowances; and the administration of the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.

Despite the progress of time and the fact that an ex-soldier may not have previously applied for medical benefits, the Repatriation Commission at all times is ready to investigate the causation of any physical incapacity and its attributability to war service. Treatment and artificial limbs and surgical aids are provided without cost to the ex-soldier.

Adequate arrangements still exist for the treatment of ex-soldiers of the Commonwealth suffering from disabilities who are resident in the British Isles, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and the United States of America. The Commission provides treatment

in its Institutions for ex-soldiers from these countries resident in the Commonwealth, and also carries out any medical re-examinations for pension review purposes.

The Repatriation Commission acts as the agent for the Imperial Government, the Dominions of New Zealand and Newfoundland, and the Union of South Africa, for the payment of War pensions to ex-members of the Forces of these countries residing in the Commonwealth.

**Summary of
Work of
Department.**

The following is a summary of the work of the Department in Victoria from its inauguration, 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1927 :—

Employment—

Number of applications received	..	..	85,848
Number of positions filled	..	..	47,941

Assistance other than vocational training and employment—

Number of applications received	..	..	236,708
Number of applications approved	..	..	216,084

Assistance granted—

Gifts	..	..	..	..	£3,140,965
Loans	..	..	..	..	523,147
General	..	..	..	..	1,458,345
Total	..	..	..	..	£5,122,457

Vocational training statistics from 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1927 :—

Number of applications received	..	..	16,548
Number of applications approved	..	..	11,733
Completed training	..	..	5,669
In training at 30th June, 1927	..	..	74

N.B.—The above figures relate to day training only.

**War
Pensions.**

Since 1st July, 1920, war pensions have been administered by the Repatriation Commission. The number of such pensions in force in Victoria on 30th June, 1927, was 86,480 and the annual liability of the Commonwealth Government in connexion therewith was £2,139,592. Of the total number of pensioners, 23,514 were incapacitated members of the Forces, and 62,966 were dependants of deceased and incapacitated members.

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable and reformatory institutions, &c. The total number of organizations throughout the State which administered relief to persons in necessitous circumstances or were of a reformatory character, and which forwarded returns to the Government Statist for the year 1926, was 245. The total receipts of all the organizations were £4,587,062, of which £3,558,638 was contributed by the Government and £1,028,424 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure was £4,529,140. The daily average number under care indoors throughout the year in charitable and reformatory institutions was 16,805 and there were no less than 229,631 distinct cases of out-door relief. With regard to the out-door relief, it has been ascertained that in some institutions the "distinct cases treated" represent the actual number of persons treated; in others, they represent the actual cases of illness, accident, or disease; in these latter cases, unfortunately, the books of the institutions do not furnish the necessary particulars as to the number of distinct persons. Again, it is considered probable that some obtained relief at more than one establishment, and that some, in the course of the year, became inmates of one or other of the institutions. There is no available information upon which an estimate of the number of these duplications can be based.

The following table gives in summarized form full particulars in relation to all these charitable and reformatory institutions, and shows the number in each class, the daily average number of persons under care in the institutions, and the total number of distinct cases receiving out-door relief, together with the receipts and expenditure:—

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.— INMATES, RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1925–26.

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average in-door Patients.	Out-door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
HOSPITALS.							
General Hospitals ..	53	2,476	80,070	106,824	473,913	580,737	524,051
Women's Hospital ..	1	188	5,891	5,686	34,938	40,624	49,112
Children's Hospital ..	1	226	20,102	6,950	75,298	82,248	78,151
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	65	9,806	4,395	15,822	20,217	27,721
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives ..	1	65	..	5,137	605	5,742	5,742
Heatherton Sanatorium ..	1	115	..	6,537	7,611	14,148	16,664
Convalescent Homes ..	2	50	..	300	3,032	3,332	3,095
Deaf and Dumb, Blind, and Eye and Ear Institutions ..	4	450	13,026	6,900	43,416	50,316	57,039
Hospitals for Insane, Idiot Asylum, and Receiving Houses ..	11	6,351	..	491,336	50,597	541,933	541,933
Foundling Hospitals ..	2	314	..	6,250	6,972	13,222	13,210
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	244	..	28,370	32,527	60,897	59,640
Total ..	78	10,544	128,895	668,685	744,731	1,413,416	1,376,358

**CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.—INMATES,
RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1925-26—continued.**

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average In-door Patients.	Out-door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Govern-ment.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS AND SOCIETIES.				£	£	£	£
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	1,921	281	33,495	50,803	84,298	74,522
Old Colonists' Association ..	1	88	..	..	11,451	11,451	4,795
Benevolent Societies ..	103	..	25,095	20,000	56,999	76,999	77,848
Orphan Asylums ..	10	1,688	..	7,614	76,563	84,177	78,248
Total ..	122	3,697	25,376	61,109	195,816	256,925	235,413
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Children's Welfare Depart-ment ..	12	568	14,587	355,020	17,968	372,988	372,988
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	40	..	3,054	1,281	4,335	4,335
Brightside Inebriates' Insti-tution ..	1	22	..	431	1,291	1,722	1,747
Female Refuges ..	10	675	..	3,257	43,755	47,012	47,780
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	3	142	..	320	8,122	8,442	8,540
Prisoners' Aid Society of Victoria	1	..	802	500	720	1,220	1,211
Gaols and Penal Establishments	13	979	..	116,541	..	116,541	116,541
Total ..	41	2,426	15,389	479,123	73,137	552,260	553,142
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Old-age and Invalid Pensioners ..	..	..	50,862	2,348,571	..	2,348,571	2,348,571
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	1	138	..	750	8,706	9,456	8,924
Charity Organization Society	1	..	124	..	4,995	4,995	5,296
Free Dispensaries ..	2	..	8,985	400	1,039	1,439	1,436
Total ..	4	138	59,971	2,349,721	14,740	2,364,461	2,364,227
Grand Total..	245	16,805	229,631	3,558,638	1,028,424	4,587,062	4,529,140

**Charitable
Institutions—
receipts and
expenditure.**

The receipts of all charitable institutions for the year 1925-26 amounted to £2,121,950, of which £1,093,526, or about 52 per cent., was contributed by Government, and the expenditure amounted to £2,064,028. Of the Government contribution, £861,084 was expended on the Receiving House for the Insane, Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, the Children's Welfare Department, the Greenvale and Heatherton Sanatoria for Consumptives, and the Lara Inebriates' Institution, which are Government institutions.

**Charitable
Institutions—
receipts and
expenditure,
1917-1926.**

The expenditure of charitable institutions has considerably increased during the past ten years. In 1917 it was £993,577, and it had increased to £2,064,028 in 1926. This is equivalent to an advance of about 108 per cent. The aid from Government increased by 101 per cent., and that from other sources by 105 per cent. in the period mentioned. Information in regard to the receipts and expenditure in each year of the period is given in the accompanying table :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1917 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			
	Government aid.	Other.	Total.	Building and extraordinary Repairs.	Main-tenance.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1917 ..	543,225	502,598	1,045,823	132,601	850,357	10,619	993,577
1918 ..	541,817	465,809	1,007,626	67,254	895,919	8,968	972,141
1919 ..	578,055	497,945	1,076,000	62,144	963,647	16,504	1,042,295
1920 ..	681,626	638,356	1,319,982	66,191	1,155,558	8,817	1,230,566
1921 ..	818,766	709,011	1,527,777	95,153	1,351,856	12,154	1,459,163
1922 ..	815,316	753,757	1,569,073	166,145	1,339,982	15,151	1,521,278
1923 ..	794,706	775,243	1,569,949	119,520	1,351,949	16,589	1,488,058
1924 ..	870,984	859,720	1,730,704	182,094	1,438,791	33,089	1,653,974
1925 ..	1,047,998	881,235	1,929,233	375,988	1,532,695	35,623	1,944,306
1926 ..	1,093,526	1,028,424	2,121,950	359,061	1,628,989	75,978	2,064,028

Charitable
Institutions
—average
cost per
inmate.

The following statement shows the average number of inmates of the respective institutions, the total cost of their maintenance, and the average cost for the year of each inmate :—

COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1925-26.

Description of Institution.	Daily Average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average Cost of each Inmate.		
			£	£	s. d.
General Hospitals	2,476	396,865	160	5	8
Women's Hospital	188	31,340	166	14	1
Children's Hospital	226	33,229	147	0	7
Eye and Ear Hospital	83	13,397	161	8	2
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	65	17,265	255	12	4
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	244	54,315	222	12	1
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ...	130	3,929	30	4	6
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	184	7,767	42	4	3
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	65	5,742	88	6	9
Heatherton Sanatorium	115	12,083	105	1	5
Receiving Houses for the Insane	6,351	432,202	68	1	1
Hospitals for the Insane					
Idiot Asylum	1,921	64,330	33	9	9
Benevolent Asylums					
Convalescent Homes	50	2,755	55	2	0
Blind Asylums	233	5,737	24	12	5
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	135	6,480	48	0	0
Orphan Asylums	1,688	38,090	22	11	4
Children's Welfare Department	15,155*	366,837	24	4	1
Female Refuges	675	27,213	40	6	4
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	142	6,951	48	19	0
Old Colonists' Association	88	4,739	53	17	1
Lara Inebriates' Institution	40	4,335	108	7	6
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	22	1,747	79	8	2
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	138	5,850	42	7	10
Total	30,414	1,543,198	50	14	10

* Including children boarded out with their own mothers.

In calculating the average cost of each inmate the cost of treating out-patients is necessarily included, as there is no available information showing the cost of in-patients and out-patients separately.

The institutions showing the lowest average cost per inmate are the Orphan Asylums, the Children's Welfare Department, Blind Asylums, the Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows), and the Benevolent Asylums. As many of the wards of the Children's Welfare Department

cost the State nothing—maintaining themselves at service or being supported by relatives—the cost of maintenance per head shown above is not a correct indication of the burden on the public. The true cost per head of those supported by the State is somewhat higher. The average cost per inmate of the Foundling Hospitals, Female Refuges, and Salvation Army Homes would be reduced if allowance were made for mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospitals, and for infants in the other institutions mentioned.

Of the total income of charitable institutions in 1925-26 more than half was contributed by the Government, and a little more than 10 per cent. was collected from patients. The receipts of hospitals and other charitable institutions in the State under various headings are shown hereunder :—

SOURCES OF INCOME OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS IN VICTORIA, 1925-26.

Receipts.	General Hospitals.	Women's Hospital.	Children's Hospital.	Eye and Ear Hospital.	Queen's Memorial Hospital.	Other Hospitals.	Other Institutions.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid	106,824	5,686	6,950	4,000	28,370	10,645	931,051	1,093,526
Municipal Grants	16,731	572	641	297	31,428	547	13,355	63,571
Private Contributions ..	63,100	2,315	8,046	2,126	..	2,584	92,363	170,534
Proceeds of Entertainments ..	21,695	933	1,693	26	..	202	2,974	27,523
Legacies, Bequests, Special Donations and Proceeds of Intestate Estates	224,969	13,880	54,136	1,589	57	8,144	66,524	369,299
Hospital Sunday and Church Donations	18,898	1,911	2,166	1,116	..	1,119	4,119	29,329
Contributions of Indoor Patients ..	61,443	9,948	3,565	2,301	707	3,617	107,216	188,797
Out-patients' Fees	20,017	1,009	2,685	3,098	..	2,617	47	29,473
Proceeds of Inmates' Labour ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,641	41,641
Interest or Rent	27,189	1,803	2,167	992	230	3,013	25,646	61,040
Other Sources	19,871	2,567	199	836	105	951	22,688	47,217
Total	580,737	40,624	82,248	16,381	60,897	33,439	1,307,624	2,121,950

Particulars relating to the accommodation in the most important of the various classes of charitable institutions in the State are given below. The information relates to the year ended 30th June, 1926, except in the case of the

Charitable Institutions—accommodation.

Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Children's Welfare Department, where it relates to the calendar year 1926. Of the general hospitals, six, are in Melbourne, and the remainder in country towns. The accommodation available for indoor patients was as follows :—

AMOUNT OF ACCOMMODATION, 1925-26.

Description of Institution.	Number of Institutions.	Dormitories.		Number of Beds for Inmates.	Number of Cubic Feet to each Bed.
		Number.	Capacity in Cubic Feet.		
General Hospitals ..	53	458	5,200,175	3,902	1,333
Women's Hospital ..	1	19	232,216	209	1,111
Children's Hospital ..	1	22	178,900	192	932
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	14	59,021	65	908
Eye and Ear Hospital ..	1	16	89,298	92	971
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	50	499,098	514	971
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ..	1	7	77,876	188	414
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home ..	1	3	129,250	113	1,144
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives ..	1	13	32,671	90	363
Heatherton Sanatorium ..	1	14	133,660	124	1,078
Receiving Houses for the Insane ..	2	22	63,782	94	678
Hospitals for the Insane ..	8	1,299	3,815,540	5,249	727
Idiot Asylum ..	1	20	114,288	312	366
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	181	2,565,339	2,268	1,131
Convalescent Homes ..	2	25	69,780	67	1,041
Blind Asylums ..	2	18	99,850	91	1,097
Deaf and Dumb Asylum ..	1	4	98,037	115	852
Orphan Asylums ..	10	89	886,825	1,705	520
Children's Welfare Department ..	12	71	661,472	980	675
Female Refugees ..	10	174	654,253	807	811
Salvation Army Rescue Homes ..	3	16	84,416	173	488
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	11	46,796	50	936
Brightside Inebriates' Institution ..	1	15	25,407	33	770
Talbot Colony for Epileptics ..	1	24	116,885	132	885
Total ..	124	2,585	15,934,835	17,565	907

Charitable
Institutions
—inmates
and deaths.

The next statement shows the number of inmates and of deaths in these institutions :—

INMATES AND DEATHS, 1925-26.

Description of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Daily Average.		
				per cent.
General Hospitals	39,829	2,476	3,241	8.1
Women's Hospital	5,537	188	83	1.5
Children's Hospital	3,972	226	443	11.2
Eye and Ear Hospital	2,096	83	14	.7
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1,642	65	44	2.7
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	3,216	244	81	2.5
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows)	239	130	20	8.4
Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	242	184	4	1.7
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	181	65	4	2.2
Heatherton Sanatorium	269	115	66	24.5
Receiving Houses for the Insane	954	85	38	4.0
Hospitals for the Insane	6,864	5,848	384	5.6
Idiot Asylum	452	418	19	4.2
Benevolent Asylums	3,609	1,921	471	13.1
Convalescent Homes	1,027	50	..	..
Blind Asylums	300	233	3	1.0
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	140	135	..	..
Orphan Asylums	2,273	1,688	3	.1
Children's Welfare Department	16,072	15,155	33	.2
Female Refuges	1,194	675	21	1.8
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	467	142	1	.2
Old Colonists' Association	99	88	5	5.1
Lara Inebriates' Institution	235	40	1	.4
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	72	22	1	1.4
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	169	138	4	2.4
Total	91,150	30,414	4,984	5.5

In addition to the inmates shown in the above table, there were 44 mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, 71 mothers of infants in St. Joseph's Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows, 346 infants in the Female Refuges, and 193 infants in Salvation Army Homes during the year.

The following statement contains particulars as to the number of beds, the number of patients treated, and the deaths which occurred in general hospitals during the year 1925-26. The receipts, distinguishing moneys received from the Government and from other sources, and the expenditure per head for

Patients
treated, etc.,
in hospitals.

maintenance (based on the average number of indoor patients) are also shown :—

**NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN GENERAL HOSPITALS;
ALSO DEATHS, TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
PER HEAD FOR MAINTENANCE, 1925-26.**

Hospital.	Number of Beds.	Total Indoor Patients treated during Year.	Average Daily Number of Indoor Patients treated.	Number of Deaths.	Receipts,			Expenditure per Head for Maintenance.		
					From Government.	Other.	Total.			
					£	£	£	£	s.	d.
Amherst ..	122	361	81.6	17	5,073	951	6,024	74	3	7
Ararat ..	60	506	25.5	29	1,050	2,413	3,463	132	3	2
Bairnsdale ..	39	399	24.8	48	1,300	2,974	4,274	136	1	9
Ballarat ..	202	1,787	93.2	119	3,000	13,507	16,507	109	11	8
Beechworth ..	100	302	23.3	26	800	2,829	3,629	132	12	4
Bendigo ..	262	1,478	90.0	145	5,211	21,427	26,638	165	2	3
Castlemaine ..	54	402	26.3	33	1,350	2,851	4,201	141	19	7
Colac ..	66	633	37.0	48	900	3,829	4,729	121	13	6
Daylesford ..	52	237	14.1	11	850	1,969	2,819	183	10	11
Dehuca ..	46	705	40.5	41	750	6,590	7,340	58	8	11
Geelong ..	162	1,662	85.0	117	3,425	12,377	15,802	178	19	4
Hamilton ..	91	723	40.3	24	1,000	4,341	5,341	123	3	6
Horsham ..	40	392	20.6	24	700	7,417	8,117	153	11	10
Kyneton ..	62	274	26.8	34	950	3,180	4,130	106	18	10
Maryborough ..	95	529	30.6	33	1,000	4,243	5,243	128	3	5
Melbourne ..	358	7,492	377.8	854	25,861	83,765	109,626	245	4	9
Alfred ..	340	6,553	313.5	511	16,353	74,066	90,419	192	12	4
Austin ..	294	589	286.2	218	6,800	24,575	31,375	125	2	1
Homoeopathic ..	114	1,611	90.2	107	2,250	11,817	14,067	173	16	6
St. Vincent's ..	120	2,717	128.0	178	7,500	99,731	107,231	214	8	3
Mildura ..	60	889	41.7	53	2,250	5,412	7,662	145	9	4
Mooroopna ..	106	1,376	85.4	81	3,500	12,908	16,408	96	16	1
Sale ..	66	851	58.4	54	1,500	4,549	6,049	129	13	10
Stawell ..	66	396	20.2	24	500	5,684	6,184	120	12	10
St. Arnaud ..	50	579	34.4	31	800	3,247	4,047	115	12	9
Swan Hill ..	68	448	30.3	27	1,000	4,005	5,005	107	10	6
Wangaratta ..	65	745	43.9	33	1,250	4,869	6,119	105	18	0
Warragul ..	50	474	26.2	33	739	2,923	3,662	107	8	10
Warrnambool ..	98	553	37.7	46	2,700	8,982	11,682	110	11	2
Williamstown ..	30	373	22.5	22	150	3,518	3,668	89	6	8
Wonthaggi ..	24	518	25.0	34	..	3,914	3,914	143	3	2
Other Hospitals*	540	3,275	195.3	186	6,312	29,050	35,362	162	18	6
Total ..	3,902	39,829	2,476.3	3,241	106,824	473,913	580,737	160	5	4

* 22 in number.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1922.

An Act (No. 3260) to amend the law relating to the management of hospitals and charities in the State of Victoria was passed by the State Parliament in the year 1922. Its principal provisions are as follows :—

Part I. provides for the appointment by the Governor in Council of a Board to be called the Charities Board of Victoria and to consist of 14 members, which is to be constituted as under :—

- (a) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Metropolitan Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;

- (b) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Country Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;
- (c) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies within the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (d) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies outside of the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (e) Two other persons, one of whom is to be appointed as a member of the Metropolitan Standing Committee and the other as a member of the Country Standing Committee to be provided for under the Act.

The duties of the Board are from time to time to make such inquiries as it thinks fit and to report to the Minister as to :—

- (a) What charitable relief is required to meet the needs of the diseased, infirm, incurable, poor, or destitute persons resident in Victoria (including children and convalescent patients) ;
- (b) What institutions or benevolent societies should in the opinion of the Board be subsidized ;
- (c) What sum of money should in the opinion of the Board be paid from the Fund, and for what purposes, to each subsidized institution or benevolent society in any financial year ; and
- (d) Any amendments of existing legislation and proposals for future legislation which are in its opinion desirable for carrying into effect any of the objects or purposes referred to in the Act, and in particular for improvement in and the prevention of overlapping in the administration of institutions and benevolent societies.

Special powers of the Board include the closing of any subsidized institution including a benevolent society (not being a separate institution) and the amalgamation of any two or more subsidized institutions (not being separate institutions). Before the Board can exercise the power of closing an institution it must be satisfied that the institution or benevolent society is seriously mismanaged or that the funds thereof are substantially applied otherwise than for affording the relief for which the institution or benevolent society exists, or that the accommodation provided is defective, insanitary, or unsuitable, or that relief can be provided more effectively and economically by some other institution or benevolent society. All institutions existing before the commencement of the Act must be registered within six months of a date to be fixed by the Board, and every institution established subsequently must register in order to participate in any grant or aid of any kind from the Consolidated Revenue or from any municipality. A

non-registered charity will not be allowed to appeal or apply to any person or body of persons for any contributions towards its funds.

A fund called "The Hospitals and Charities Fund" is kept in the Treasury. To this fund the Government contributed a sum of £193,356 for the financial year 1925-26, and £194,348 for 1926-27. The salary of an Inspector of Charities, who has been appointed under the Act, together with the remuneration of other necessary officers and expenses, are paid out of the fund. Subject to these payments the fund may be applied to the establishment or maintenance of subsidized institutions or benevolent societies, the cost of the erection of new buildings or of repairs, additions, alterations, or equipment of existing buildings used for the purposes of any subsidized institution or for any other prescribed purposes. Matters to be considered in making payments out of the fund are the financial position of each institution or benevolent society, and the amount likely to be contributed to it during the next financial year otherwise than from the fund, the probable net receipts and expenditure of that financial year, also the actual number of persons relieved by it, the average number of beds (if any) occupied, the average length of stay of patients, and the average cost per bed during the preceding financial year.

Other sections relate to restrictions on certain means of raising money for institutions, the incorporation and government of hospitals and philanthropic institutions generally, the liability of patients to contribute for the relief afforded them according to their means, and the power to resume land required for institutions in the manner provided by the *Lands Compensation Act 1915*.

Since the appointment of the Board some important reforms have been given effect to. The Caulfield Military Hospital has been taken over from the Defence Department and will be managed by the Melbourne Hospital. The whole of the Metropolitan General Hospitals are co-operating in the scheme, and have agreed, after the subsidies provided have been exhausted, to recompense the Melbourne Hospital for net expenditure on a proportionate basis of available beds in the respective institutions for the types of patients likely to be sent to Caulfield, viz., adult medical and surgical. To put the institution in working order substantial financial assistance was received from the Government. The official opening took place on 13th May, 1925, and 50 beds were at once made available. The number was subsequently increased to 150 beds and further accommodation to the extent of 25 beds is being arranged.

During the year 1926-27 accommodation has been arranged through the offices of the Board for 162 persons, principally by transferring patients from the metropolitan area to vacant accommodation in country institutions. This was done in order to make available more beds in the metropolitan area. In all cases the transfers were acquiesced in by the patients.

A standard has been set as the minimum requirements for a base hospital in the country. The number of occupied beds is to be not fewer than 50, giving in addition to general medical and surgical accommodation, beds for midwifery and children, each at least 5 per cent. of total accommodation. Fully established and equipped Out-Patients' Department to be established, available to patients at any time in case of emergency, and with at least tri-weekly attendance of honorary medical officer. Equipped sub-departments of radiology, pathology and bacteriology, massage, and other sub-departments to be maintained as the needs arise. Honorary attending medical officers to be elected to the various positions for a fixed term; applications to be called publicly. A training school for nurses to be in operation. The hospitals proposed to be raised to base grade, are:—Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Mildura, Mooroopna, Sale and Warrnambool. The committees of the larger provincial hospitals have adopted the Board's proposals, and plans have been approved of or are under consideration for the structural alterations or additions required. In Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Mooroopna and Warrnambool the works are in hand; at Horsham plans are completed whilst at Hamilton and Sale schemes are under consideration. It is anticipated that within a short time the nine hospitals concerned will be completed and equipped up to full base standard. When this is accomplished country patients will be able to take advantage of local facilities and thus relieve to a considerable extent the demand on metropolitan institutions. Each base hospital and the district hospitals at Daylesford, Stawell and Echuca have agreed to the Board's proposals to establish midwifery wards.

Combined hospitals and benevolent asylums have ceased to exist, and asylum patients have been transferred to appropriate institutions. The authorities of the hospitals affected are unanimous in the opinion that the decision of the Board has been attended with advantage to the patients and the institutions concerned.

Efforts are being made to improve public dispensaries and to install proper ambulance services in country districts, but so far without success.

During the three years ended June, 1927, continuous representations have been made by the Board to secure the reservation of the Parkville site for the provision of a hospital adequate for the demands of the districts north of the Yarra. The Faculty of Medicine of the Melbourne University has advocated the urgent need for a teaching hospital in connexion with the medical school and it is considered that if a hospital were built on this site this purpose would be satisfactorily served.

With regard to intermediate hospitals the Board is of opinion that these institutions should be established as adjuncts to existing hospitals and that the details of management be subject to conditions prescribed by regulations.

It is considered that institutions which exist for the welfare of orphans and neglected or destitute children should wherever practicable be under the care of religious organizations.

The suggestion is made that the organization of local relief should be vested in the municipal authorities operating in conjunction with the ladies' benevolent societies.

The origin of this institution belongs to the very earliest days of Melbourne. The *Year-Books* for 1915-16 and 1916-17 contain a statement of the circumstances associated with the foundation of the hospital in 1846, and a reference to its rebuilding in recent years.

It has always been the principal general hospital of Victoria, and the chief medical training school for University students. The wards now contain normally 358 beds. The number of in-patients treated in 1925-26 was 7,492, the daily average number being 378. In the out-patients' and casualty departments 48,300 persons were treated in that year. The aggregate number of attendances of out-patients was 265,348.

The usefulness of the Melbourne Hospital since its inauguration may be judged from the work carried out. The in-patients treated to 30th June, 1926, numbered 320,185, and the out-patients, 1,442,160.

In 1925-26 the Government grant for maintenance amounted to £25,861; the revenue derived from municipal grants was £1,647; private contributions amounted to £13,984; revenue from entertainments in aid to £126; bequests to £25,939; Hospital Sunday collections to £5,456; payments and contributions by indoor patients to £8,949; and out-patients' fees to £7,907; interest yielded a revenue of £12,173; and £7,584 was received from all other sources. The receipts for the twelve months reached a total of £109,626 and the expenditure was £95,217.

The Melbourne Hospital is also a training school for nurses, and has a nursing staff of 215. Attached to the hospital is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, which is endowed by the Trustees of the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust. The Institute is proving of valuable assistance in the many lines of research which are being conducted by an efficient and highly-trained staff.

To relieve the pressure on the City Hospitals the Convalescent Hospital at Caulfield was established in 1925. In five wards there are 125 beds open, 123 of which are occupied daily. The management is undertaken by the committee of the Melbourne Hospital. The total expenditure for the year 1925-26 was £20,427.

In the year 1868 a large committee of Melbourne citizens decided that the establishment of a second general hospital for Melbourne had become imperatively necessary. A site comprising 13 acres within the municipality of Prahran was secured, and the foundation stone of "The Prince Alfred Hospital" (so named in commemoration of the escape from assassination of Prince

Melbourne
Hospital.

Alfred
Hospital.

Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh), was laid in March, 1869. In May, 1871, the hospital was opened, the buildings being added to in 1885. In 1921 an extensive scheme of building expansion was approved, subject to funds becoming available. Since then remarkable progress has taken place. The whole of the original buildings have been remodelled and enlarged, while many buildings, including new wards, operating theatres, research and investigation departments, a fine new nurses' home, and important additions to existing buildings have been erected. The cost of works carried out in this scheme of expansion up to the end of June, 1927, was £171,545. The hospital is recognized by the Melbourne University as a clinical school for medical students, and is also a training school for nurses. On 30th June, 1927, there were 340 beds and cots in the Institution. The total number of in-patients who received treatment during the year 1925-26 was 6,553, and during 1926-27 the number was 6,485. In the out-patients and casualty departments, 37,643 persons were treated in 1925-26, while in 1926-27 the total was 37,647. The attendances of these patients rose in number from 172,149 in 1925-26 to 200,956 in 1926-27. The total of the receipts for the year 1926-27 in all the accounts was £68,690. The principal items of receipt were Government grants, £16,350; municipal grants, £1,385; private contributions, £5,375; revenue from entertainments in aid, £778; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,753; Lord Mayor's Fund, £2,780; in-door patients' fees, £8,495; out-door patients' fees, £6,804; interest, £629; visitors' contributions, £4,108; special donations and bequests, £14,933; donations from auxiliary, £2,275; and miscellaneous, £3,025 (including £1,422 Government on account V.D. Clinic). The total expenditure on maintenance was £73,967, and in addition £11,045 was spent on buildings, furniture, fittings, &c. The Alfred Hospital was equipped early in 1924 with a powerful wireless receiving plant, with installation throughout the different wards, enabling most of the patients to receive the benefit of wireless broad-casting by means of individual head telephone sets. The Hospital is recognized by the University of Melbourne as a clinical school for gynæcology and the diseases of children. During 1925 extensive additions were made to the X-ray pavilion and a fine new building for the bio-chemistry department was erected and equipped. This is now known as the Thos. Baker, Alice Baker and Eleanor Shaw Medical Research Institute, and its maintenance is guaranteed until 1931 by the sponsors of the Institute. Important additions to the out-patients' building are in preparation.

The Alfred Hospital has a very fine clinic for the treatment of venereal diseases, the institution being the first in this State to establish such a department.

During 1926 the Pathological Laboratory was enlarged by the addition of a museum, made possible by a generous donation from the estate of the late Mr. H. J. Stead. In the museum specimens are displayed in natural colors by an original scheme of reflected electric light.

Arrangements have been made for the teaching of students, and a screen has been provided for demonstrating lectures by lantern slides and moving pictures. The Hospital's activities in this direction are well to the fore amongst similar institutions of its kind.

Other Hospitals, &c. Statements showing the nature of the work performed by other hospitals, societies, &c., are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 568 to 582, and 586.

HEALTH ACT 1919.

The main features of this Act are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 383 to 385.

SANATORIA FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

Greenvale Sanatorium. The Greenvale Sanatorium at Broadmeadows for incipient and early stage cases was opened for the reception of patients on 10th May, 1905. It was established by the Government, and is under the control of the Public Health Department. Females only are now admitted to the institution, and provision is made for 90 patients. During the year ended 31st December, 1926, 185 patients were treated at the sanatorium, 60 of these being cases admitted during the previous year. Of this number, 60 did very well and were discharged apparently cured or greatly benefited, and 20 were discharged not benefited or incurable. Coupled with the last-mentioned cases were other patients who were discharged either at their own request after a brief stay, or for disciplinary reasons, and some who were sent in for a short period for educational purposes, making a total of 47. Three deaths occurred during the year. At the end of the period under review there were 55 patients remaining under care. The benefits of treatment and education that the institution affords to cases of consumption in the early stages have now been received by 5,587 patients. Of these, 3,434 had the disease arrested or their condition much improved; 1,085 were not benefited or were incurable; 115 died; and 898 left of their own accord. A most important function of the institution is the teaching of patients how to avoid communicating the disease to others. Immediately after the admission of a patient to the sanatorium the house or room vacated is disinfected under the supervision of the municipal council of the district, a centre of infection being thus removed.

Amherst and Heatherton Sanatoria. The Amherst Sanatorium, for early-stage cases, is maintained by the Government and administered by the local hospital authorities under the direction of the Public Health Department. It is now reserved for the treatment of males only, and there is, ordinarily, accommodation at the institution for 80 patients. During the year 1926, 210 patients were treated, of whom 109 were discharged with the disease arrested or their condition much

improved ; 11 left, not benefited ; 10 left of their own accord ; 6 died ; and 74 remained under treatment at the end of the year. Sanatorium treatment has now been received by 2,594 patients. Of these, 2,141 were discharged cured or relieved ; 94 left of their own accord ; 213 were incurable ; 72 died ; and 74 remained on 31st December, 1926.

There is a sanatorium for intermediate and advanced cases of both sexes at Heatherton, near Cheltenham, adjacent to the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum. The sanatorium now contains 124 beds. There were on 1st January, 1926, 109 persons in the institution, and the number admitted during the succeeding twelve months was 182, making a total of 291 who received treatment during the year 1926. Of these, 106 were discharged, 67 died, and 118 were under care at the end of the year.

With regard to other cases of advanced consumption, 89 beds are provided at the Austin Hospital, and 36 beds at Janefield, which is controlled by the Austin Hospital authorities.

**St. John
Ambulance
Association.**

The work carried on by this Association is referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 582. Its objects are to instruct all classes of people in the preliminary treatment of the sick and the injured. Full information in regard to the formation of classes may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. J. Harold Lord, 217 Lonsdale-street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 1370.)

**Victorian Civil
Ambulance
Service.**

This service attended to 12,250 calls, of which 2,002 were connected with accidents, during the year ended 30th June, 1927 ; the mileage travelled was 125,056. In 2,991 cases no fee was paid. Country trips, to the number of 728 (one of over 350 miles), were undertaken during the year. The decentralisation of the service has commenced by the inauguration of Ambulance Stations at Preston, Prahran and Hawthorn, with the intention of extending same to all suburban areas.

In addition, 19 Country Ambulance Stations have been successfully opened and operated since March, 1923, under the Country Division of the Service, with a view to providing ambulance facilities throughout all districts in Victoria. These Country Stations conveyed 1,688 patients, the distance covered being 27,633 miles.

The registered office and head depot is situated at 217 Lonsdale street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 121.)

**Charity
Organization
Society.**

A statement of the objects of this society appears in the *Year-Book* 1916-17, page 583.

The income and outgo for the year ended 30th June, 1926, were—Administration Account (for payment of all general expenses of management as well as all charges connected with the administration of the trust and relief funds)—Receipts, £2,212 ; expenditure, £2,591 ;

Trust Account (being donations for special applicants and objects)—Receipts, £2,687; expenditure, £2,899; Emergency Relief Account—Donations and refunds, £330; expenditure, £312. The number of separate cases dealt with during the year was 3,896, of which 1,938 had not previously come under the notice of the society. The total number of cases actually investigated was 2,321. During the year under review 147 men and women obtained temporary or permanent employment through the Society's assistance. The records of the Society now contain more than 38,000 social histories of distressed families and individuals.

**Royal
Humane
Society.**

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victoria Humane Society." Its objects are as follows:—(1) To bestow awards on all who promptly risk their lives to save those of their fellow-creatures; (2) To provide assistance, as far as it is in the power of the society, in all cases of apparent death occurring in any part of Australasia; (3) To restore the apparently drowned or dead, and to distinguish by awards all who, through skill and perseverance, are successful; (4) To collect and circulate information regarding the most approved methods and the best apparatus to be used for such purposes.

During the year ended 30th June, 1927, 73 applications for awards were investigated, with the result that 14 certificates, 15 bronze medals, 4 silver and 1 gold medal were granted. The receipts during 1926-27 amounted to £554, and the expenditure to £504. The institution has placed and maintains 343 life-buoys at various places on the coast, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs throughout all the Australian States and Fiji. The society has an honorary correspondent in the capital city of each State.

Swimming competitions have been inaugurated in the schools of the Commonwealth, and awards of medals and certificates are made to those pupils who attain proficiency in exercises which have special reference to saving life from drowning. The society makes a special feature of the development of swimming and life saving proficiency.

**Royal Life
Saving
Society.**

With a desire to minimize the great loss of life from drowning a society was established in Melbourne in 1904 entitled the "Royal Life Saving Society." Its objects are:—(1) To promote technical education in life saving and resuscitation of the apparently drowned; (2) To stimulate public opinion in favour of the general adoption of swimming and life saving as a branch of instruction in schools, colleges, &c.; (3) To encourage floating, diving, plunging, and such other swimming arts as would be of assistance to a person endeavouring to save life; (4) To arrange and promote public lectures, demonstrations and competitions, and to form classes of instruction, so as to bring about a widespread and thorough knowledge of the principles which underlie the art of natation.

The work done by the society has increased greatly since its inauguration, and in 1926-27 the awards granted totalled 1,897. The total income for 1926-27 was £1,294 and the expenditure £1,219. The whole of the State schools in Victoria have become affiliated to the society, and it is expected that the awards will be considerably increased as the result of this connexion.

The objects of this society are given in the *Year-Book of Animals* for 1916-17, page 589. During the year ended 30th June, 1926, 3,218 cases were dealt with by it, of which 2,172 were connected with cruelty to horses. There were 168 prosecutions in cases of deliberate cruelty, in nearly all of which the law was vindicated by the punishment of the offenders. The receipts for the year amounted to £8,078, and the expenditure to £3,424.

The initiation of the movement to assist in the maintenance of the Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities, which resulted in the inauguration of the Lord Mayor's Fund, is credited to the late Sir J. W. Swanson, K.B., a former Lord Mayor of Melbourne. The first definite step to make the fund a permanent one was taken in April, 1923, when a chief executive officer and organizing secretary was appointed. An important feature of the first year's work was the merging of the Hospital Saturday Fund in the Lord Mayor's Fund. No change was made in regard to the constitution or administrative functions of the Hospital Sunday committee. The receipts and disbursements of the Lord Mayor's Fund from 1st July, 1926, to 30th June, 1927, are given hereunder:—

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE LORD MAYOR'S FUND, 1ST JULY, 1926, TO 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Hospital Saturday (1926) ..	14,724	Distributions made to	
General donations, etc. ..	6,699	Institutions from General	
Police Carnival	3,341	Fund	23,075
Flower Day	2,525	Distributions to specified	
Donations for specified in-		donees	24,464
stitutions	24,464	Salaries of secretary and staff	1,750
		Miscellaneous	1,186
	51,753	Surplus	487
Less expenses, covered by		Purchase of Inscribed Gov-	
relative donations	291	ernment Stock (Endow-	
		ment A/c)	500
Total	51,462		51,462

The amounts allocated to the various charitable institutions in 1926-27 from the Lord Mayor's Fund, including Hospital Saturday receipts, and from the Hospital Sunday Fund were as follows :—

Institution.	From Lord Mayor's Fund.	From Hospital Sunday Fund.	Total.
	£	£	£
Melbourne Hospital	8,444	2,709	11,153
Alfred Hospital	3,642	2,048	5,690
Children's Hospital	2,897	1,086	3,983
Women's Hospital	1,907	862	2,769
Austin Hospital	1,810	1,008	2,818
St. Vincent's Hospital	2,213	846	3,059
Melbourne Benevolent Asylum	957	658	1,615
Queen Victoria Hospital	1,020	314	1,334
Homœopathic Hospital	1,187	410	1,597
Melbourne Ladies' Benevolent Society	1,170	..	1,170
Eye and Ear Hospital	858	395	1,253
Williamstown Hospital	315	164	479
Melbourne District Nursing Society	710	319	1,029
Salvation Army	453	..	453
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	550	281	831
St. John Ambulance Association	233	..	233
Other institutions	19,173	642	19,815
Total distributed	47,539	11,742	59,281

In Melbourne and suburbs the last Saturday and Sunday of October in each year are set apart for making collections for the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Funds. The following amounts were collected in each of the last ten years :—1917, £19,020 ; 1918, £22,447 ; 1919, £18,586 ; 1920, £19,750 ; 1921, £29,723 ; 1922, £20,368 (including a bequest of £2,461 from the estate of a deceased person) ; 1923, £24,013 ; 1924, £30,100 ; 1925, £31,100 ; and 1926, £32,000. The amount distributed in 1926 was £30,692.

The total amount which has been collected since the movement was inaugurated in 1873 is £612,532.

Wattle Day.

On a day fixed, about the middle of August in each year, ladies attired in white costumes sell sprigs of wattle blossom in the streets and elsewhere, and the amounts obtained are allotted to charities for children. The sums which have been raised each year during the last ten years are as follows :—1917, £7,000 ; 1918, £7,238 ; 1919, £5,393 ; 1920, £4,304 ; 1921, £5,951 ; 1922, £5,293 ; 1923,

£6,674; 1924, £7,645; 1925, £5,872; and 1926, £6,566. From 1915 to 1920 the Wattle Day collection was organized and controlled by the Commonwealth Button Fund, and emblematic "buttons" and badges were sold in addition to wattle blossom. The Commonwealth Button Fund was wound up in January, 1921, and the organization of the annual Wattle Day appeal is now undertaken by the Children's Welfare Association. This association consists of all the societies participating in the appeal, and its work is carried out by a body of voluntary assistants. From 1923 to 1925 Mrs. J. S. Winter was the hon. organizer for the movement. In 1926 Mrs. L. L. Haymanson organized the campaign in an honorary capacity.

INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Federal Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act. These pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Government under an act passed in 1908 and amending acts. The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains, on pages 591 to 597, information relating to the amounts of pensions payable and the persons entitled to receive them. The amounts have since been increased.

The maximum pension, whether old-age or invalid, is £1 per week. This rate was paid from 8th October, 1925. The commencing age for old-age pensions is 65 years in the case of men (60 years where a man is permanently incapacitated for work) and 60 years in the case of women.

The number of old-age and invalid pensioners in Victoria on 30th June, 1927, was as follows:—Old-age pensioners—men, 14,653; women, 24,049; total, 38,702. Invalid pensioners—men, 6,945; women, 8,382; total, 15,327.

Of the persons living in Victoria at or above the ages at which old-age pensions commence, 34½ per cent. were receiving pensions on 30th June, 1927.

Pensioners, 1901 to 1926-27. The State system of old-age pensions came into force on 18th January, 1901, and the highest number of pensioners was reached in November, 1901, when 16,300 were on the register. Alterations in the Act in the direction of compelling relatives, when in a position to do so, to support applicants for pensions had the effect of reducing the number to 10,732 in 1907. On 1st July, 1909, when the Federal Act came into operation, there were 12,368 old-age pensioners in Victoria. Thereafter the number rapidly increased, and on 30th June, 1927, it had reached a total of 38,702

(exclusive of invalid pensioners). The number of old-age and invalid pensioners at the end of each financial year from the inception of the system and the amount expended each year are shown in the following statement:—

**OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONERS IN VICTORIA.
1901 TO 1927.**

Financial Year.	Number of Pensioners at end of Period.			Actual Amount Paid in Pensions.
	Old-Age.	Invalid.	Total.	
13th January to 30th June, 1901 (under State Act)	16,275	...	16,275	£ 129,338
1901-2	14,570	...	14,570	292,432
1902-3	12,417	...	12,417	215,973
1903-4	11,609	...	11,609	205,150
1904-5	11,209	...	11,209	200,464
1905-6	10,990	...	10,990	189,127
1906-7	10,732	...	10,732	187,793
1907-8	11,288	...	11,288	233,573
1908-9	12,368	...	12,368	270,827
1909-10 (under Federal Act)...	20,218	...	20,218	470,656
1910-11 " " ...	23,722	2,272	25,994	573,699
1911-12 " " ...	24,449	3,162	27,611	672,593
1912-13 " " ...	25,434	3,918	29,352	715,924
1913-14 " " ...	27,150	4,844	31,994	795,449
1914-15 " " ...	28,365	6,054	34,419	839,718
1915-16 " " ...	28,446	6,869	35,315	908,159
1916-17 " " ...	29,064	7,921	36,985	1,070,386
1917-18 " " ...	29,159	8,901	38,060	1,168,498
1918-19 " " ...	29,179	9,337	38,516	1,199,787
1919-20 " " ...	29,565	10,277	39,842	1,348,100*
1920-21 " " ...	30,385	11,174	41,559	1,533,430*
1921-22 " " ...	30,958	11,444	42,402	1,581,898*
1922-23 " " ...	31,248	11,707	42,955	1,589,362*
1923-24 " " ...	32,603	12,220	44,823	1,947,069*
1924-25 " " ...	33,845	12,950	46,795	2,027,202*
1925-26 " " ...	36,800	14,062	50,862	2,348,571*
1926-27 " " ...	38,702	15,327	54,029	2,666,470*

* This includes payments of pensions of 2s. per week (increased to 3s. per week from 13th September, 1923, and to 4s. per week from 8th October, 1925) to inmates of Benevolent Asylums. There were 1,197 such pensions in force on 30th June, 1927.

An act was passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1912, providing for the payment, on application, of £5 to the mother of every child born in the Commonwealth on and after 10th October, 1912. The number of claims granted in Victoria to 30th June, 1927, was 514,346 and the total of the allowances paid in the State to that date was £2,571,730.

For the year ended 30th June, 1927, the number of claims granted was 35,202, and the amount paid in allowances, £176,010.

Maternity Allowance.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT.

Lunacy Department. The subjoined table sets forth the numbers under the care of the Department for the years 1925 and 1926 :—

INSANE PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF THE LUNACY DEPARTMENT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1925 AND 1926.

	On 31st December—		Increase (+). Decrease (-).
	1925.	1926.	
In State Hospitals	5,406	5,493	+ 87
On Trial Leave from State Hospitals	659	703	+ 49
Boarded Out	127	128	+ 1
In Licensed Houses	75	86	+ 11
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses	15	10	- 5
Total Number of Registered Insane	6,282	6,425	+ 143
In Receiving Institutions	93	87	- 6
Total	6,375	6,512	+ 137
Voluntary Boarders	72	64	- 8
Cases of Mental Disorder in Returned Soldiers (not included in other statistics)	150	158	+ 8

The number of admissions to Hospitals for Insane for each of the years 1922 to 1926 is given below :—

Year.	First Admissions.			Re-admissions.			Total Admissions.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1922	388	330	718	46	74	120	838
1923	379	284	663	91	73	164	827
1924	349	314	663	53	93	146	809
1925	370	283	653	29	64	93	746
1926	384	345	729	50	62	112	841

The number of discharges from, and the deaths in, the Hospitals for the Insane for each of the years 1922 to 1926 are given below :—

Year.	Discharges.			Deaths.			Total of Discharges and Deaths.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1922 ..	156	143	299	231	145	376	675
1923 ..	160	153	313	276	198	474	787
1924 ..	142	151	293	254	176	430	723
1925 ..	147	145	292	198	158	356	648
1926 ..	141	151	292	208	195	403	695

With the exception of 1920, the admission rate for 1926 is the highest the Department of the Hospitals for the Insane has to record. The number admitted to the Receiving Houses also is the highest for five years. The result is that, whilst there has been an increase in the number of those allowed out on trial leave, and a slightly increased death rate, there is an increase in the numbers resident in the State Hospitals of 87, and in the total number of the registered insane of 143. The ratio of insane to population has risen, therefore, to 1 to 266 from 1 to 268. The important figure, however, is that there is an increase of 87 persons for which accommodation has to be provided for in the State Hospitals, increases in the private and military Institutions being comparatively unimportant in this respect.

There were 194 patients received on voluntary requests into the various Institutions known to the Department, of whom 153 were discharged subsequently.

The discharges from the State Hospitals totalled 292, and from the Receiving Houses, 298.

Deaths totalled 403, i.e., 47 more than in 1925, but the rate is still appreciably below the death rate of the last 25 years, and calls for no special comment.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Neglected and reformatory children. There were at the end of 1926 two industrial and four reformatory schools in the State. Two of these (one industrial and one reformatory school) are wholly maintained and managed by the Government, and are used merely as receiving and distributing dépôts, the children being sent as soon as possible after admission thereto to foster homes or situations, or to other institutions for dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management and receive a capitation allowance from the Government for those inmates who are wards of

the Children's Welfare Department. Many of the inmates of the reformatories are either placed with friends or licensed out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1926, numbered 6,913—6,772 neglected and 141 reformatory children—and there were 28 others, free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The following table shows the number of neglected and reformatory children under control at the end of each of the last five years :—

NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	NUMBER OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Neglected Children.
	Boarded Out.	Placed with friends on Probation.	Maintaining themselves at Service or Apprenticed.	In Institutions (including Hospitals)	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1922 ...	4,189	904	434	515	5	*6,047
1923 ...	4,133	1,172	431	510	1	*6,247
1924 ...	4,123	1,263	480	495	2	*6,363
1925 ...	4,212	1,355	501	508	1	*6,577
1926 ...	4,263	1,497	470	533	9	*6,772

Year.	NUMBER OF REFORMATORY CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Reformatory Children.
	In Reformatory Schools.	Placed with Relatives.	Maintaining themselves at Service.	In Institutions (including Hospitals).	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1922 ...	65	23	29	3	1	121
1923 ...	64	22	26	1	...	113
1924 ...	75	30	19	...	1	125
1925 ...	86	29	19	1	...	135
1926 ...	83	45	13	...	...	141

* Under the provisions of section 9 of the *Children's Maintenance Act* 1919, 5,392 children, who had previously been committed as "neglected" children and boarded out to their mothers, were discharged as wards of the State, but payments for their maintenance were continued to the mothers. At the end of 1926 there were 8,532 such children.

Children boarded out, &c.

The welfare of the children boarded out is cared for by honorary committees, who send to the Department reports as to their general condition. The rate paid by the Government to persons accepting charge of these children is 12s. 6d. per week for children under 18 months, and 8s. per week for those over that age. These rates have been payable since 1st December, 1921. For the previous twelve months the rates were 11s. 6d. per week for children under 12 months, and 8s. per week for those of an older age. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service.

Children committed to the care of the State, 1926. The circumstances leading to the commitment of children to the care of the Department in 1926 were as follows :—

Cases in which Parents were held to be—						Number.
Blameable—One Parent—						
Father	deserted	and	mother	dead	.. ..	22
"	"	"	"	in asylum	.. ..	4
"	"	"	"	poor	.. ..	269
"	drunkard	"	"	dead	.. ..	1
"	"	"	"	poor	.. ..	9
"	in gaol	"	"	dead	.. ..	5
"	"	"	"	invalid	.. ..	4
"	"	"	"	poor	.. ..	7
"	of doubtful character	and	mother	poor	.. ..	1
"	unknown	and	mother	dead	.. ..	9
"	"	"	"	invalid	.. ..	3
"	"	"	"	mental	.. ..	5
"	"	"	"	poor	.. ..	29
Mother	deserted	and	father	dead	.. ..	8
"	"	"	"	invalid	.. ..	8
"	"	"	"	poor	.. ..	12
"	drunkard	"	"	dead	.. ..	3
"	of doubtful character	and	father	dead	.. ..	19
"	"	"	"	invalid	.. ..	2
"	"	"	"	poor	.. ..	2
Both Parents—						
Father	deserted	and	mother	of doubtful character	.. ..	16
"	drunkard	"	"	"	.. ..	5
"	in gaol	and	mother	deserted	.. ..	2
"	of doubtful character	and	mother	deserted	.. ..	4
"	unknown	and	mother	deserted	.. ..	15
"	"	"	"	of doubtful character	.. ..	5
Parents	deserted	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	36
"	of doubtful character	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	2
"	unknown	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	8
Total						515
Blameless—Both Parents—						
Father	an invalid	and	mother	dead	.. ..	16
"	"	"	"	poor	.. ..	14
"	dead	and	mother	an invalid	.. ..	3
"	"	"	"	insane	.. ..	3
"	"	"	"	poor	.. ..	65
"	in asylum	and	mother	dead	.. ..	4
"	"	"	"	poor	.. ..	1
"	in Sanatorium	and	mother	dead	.. ..	5
"	poor	and	mother	an invalid	.. ..	6
"	"	"	"	dead	.. ..	21
"	"	"	"	in asylum	.. ..	4
Parents	dead	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	77
"	invalids	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	2
"	poor	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	107
Total						328
Total number of children placed under control during the year ..						843

CHILDREN'S MAINTENANCE ACT 1919, No. 3001.

A statement of the principal provisions of this Act is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 395 and 396. For the twelve months ended 31st December, 1926, assistance was granted under the Children's Maintenance Act in respect of 2,731 children, and 8,532 children were boarded out to their mothers at the end of the year, an increase of 378 as compared with the number at the end of the previous year, viz., 8,154.

The following statement shows the number of wards of the State and of children boarded out with their mothers for the years 1911 to 1926 inclusive :—

WARDS OF STATE AND CHILDREN BOARDED OUT WITH MOTHERS, 1911 TO 1926.

Year.	Number boarded out to Foster Mothers at end of Year.	Number boarded out with Mothers at end of Year.	Total number boarded out at end of Year.	Total Cost of maintenance of boarded out Children.	Other Wards of State.	Total Wards of State and Children† boarded out with Mothers.
				£		
1911 ..	2,958	2,358	5,316	74,719	1,865	7,181
1912 ..	2,991	2,978	5,969	83,327	1,815	7,784
1913 ..	3,090	3,696	6,786	93,509	1,767	8,553
1914 ..	3,342	4,144	7,486	102,051	1,853	9,339
1915 ..	3,359	4,681	8,040	127,898*	2,136	10,176
1916 ..	3,817	4,984	8,801	140,752	1,979	10,780
1917 ..	3,979	5,151	9,130	147,794	2,013	11,143
1918 ..	3,981	5,324	9,305	153,350	2,042	11,347
1919 ..	3,989	6,206†	10,195	161,944*	2,142	12,337
1920 ..	4,128	6,928†	11,056	210,457*	2,098	13,154
1921 ..	4,281	7,534†	11,815	249,555*	1,945	13,760
1922 ..	4,189	7,651†	11,840	264,257	1,979	13,819
1923 ..	4,133	7,641†	11,774	268,255	2,227	14,001
1924 ..	4,123	7,660†	11,783	274,628	2,365	14,148
1925 ..	4,212	8,154†	12,366	284,384	2,500	14,866
1926 ..	4,263	8,532†	12,795	308,250	2,650	15,445

* Payment for children over the age of two years was increased from 5s. to 6s. per week from 1st April, 1915, and from 6s. to 7s. per week from 1st December, 1919. On 1st November, 1920, payment was increased from 10s. to 11s. 6d. per week for children under the age of 12 months, and from 7s. to 8s. per week for all over that age. From 1st December, 1921, the rate of pay for children under the age of 12 months was increased from 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per week, and for those between 12 and 18 months from 8s. to 12s. 6d. per week.

† Not wards of State.

‡ These children were wards of State prior to 1919.

Cost of
maintenance
of neglected
and reforma-
tory children.

The governmental expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1926 to £346,579, and that for reformatory school children to £4,476; the expenses of administration amounted to £15,781, making a total gross expenditure of £366,836. A sum of £17,857 was received from parents for maintenance, and of £111 from other sources, making the net expenditure £348,868. The number of neglected children under supervision on 31st December, 1926, was 6,772; of this total, 4,263 were maintained in foster homes, 208 were in Government receiving dépôts, 294 were in other institutions, 470 were at service earning their own living, 31 were in hospitals, 9 were on a visit, and 1,497 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The number of reformatory wards under supervision on 31st December, 1926, was 141. Of this number 83 were maintained in private schools, 13 were in service earning their own living, and 45 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children has increased greatly during the past ten years, as is shown by the statement which follows :—

NET COST TO THE STATE OF NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1917 TO 1926.

Year.			Net Expenditure.	Year.			Net Expenditure.
			£				£
1917	..	..	167,214	1922	..	..	295,440
1918	..	..	171,474	1923	..	..	299,456
1919	..	..	181,385	1924	..	..	312,943
1920	..	..	238,448	1925	..	..	322,710
1921	..	..	282,380	1926	..	..	348,868

Neglected
children
maintained
by societies
or private
persons.

Part VIII. of the *Children's Welfare Act* 1915 deals with the committal of neglected children to the care of private persons or institutions approved by the Governor in Council, and also provides for the wardship of the children, and for their transference, if there be sufficient cause, to the control of the Children's Welfare Department. The following return shows the societies and persons registered under the provisions of this part of the Act, and gives particulars respecting the children under their care during 1926 :—

WORK OF SOCIETIES AND PERSONS REGISTERED UNDER PART VIII. OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT.

Name of Society or Person.	Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.25.	Admissions during 1926.			Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.26.
		Court Committals.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Melbourne Orphanage Asylum, Brighton	304	..	..	96	309
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Society	289	1	7	29	286
Victorian Children's Aid Society	132	..	9	43	134
Church of England Mission..	132	5	7	30	130
Methodist Homes, Cheltenham	300	3	7	49	206
Gordon Institute ..	64	3	1	9	63
Burwood Boys' Home	48	2	..	43	30
Methodist Boys' Home (Central Mission Training Farm) ..	75	10	..	32	82
Presbyterian Girls' Home, Elsternwick ..	36	1	3	..	33
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills	167	3	155	131	120
Sutherland Homes ..	156	..	4	67	164
Minton Boys' Home, (Ragged Boys' Home) ..	43	..	31	..	56
Church of England Boys' Home, Auburn and Canterbury ..	57	..	8	..	57
Kilmany Park Boys' Home, Sale	36	3	3	9	45
Seaside Garden Home for Boys, Newhaven ..	83	9	..	84	105
Mrs. Emily Dare, 56 Francis-street, Yarraville ..	..	5	33	..	33
Church of England Home, Clarendon-street, East Melbourne ..	29	2	13	34	49
St. Agnes' Home for Girls, Glenroy ..	29	..	13	20	35
St. Nicholas' Home for Boys, Glenroy ..	..	..	19	54	49
Central Mission, 47 Lang-street, South Yarra ..	4	7	..	8	3
Total	1,984	54	313	747	1,994

Total number of neglected and orphan children. The number of children who were under the guardianship of the State or maintained in public institutions or by societies on 31st December, 1926, reached the large total of 19,233, viz., 6,941 (6,913 State wards and 28 incapacitated) under the control of the Children's Welfare Department, 8,532 boarded out with mothers, 1,994 under the supervision of societies registered under Part VIII. of the Children's Welfare Act, 352 in Foundling Hospitals, and 1,414 in Orphan Asylums.

Infant Life Protection Act. With the view generally of exercising more efficient supervision over unprotected child life, and of lessening the excessive mortality amongst boarded-out children, the State Legislature passed an act, No. 2102 (which came into force on 31st December, 1907), to amend the Infant Life Protection Act of 1890. These acts are now incorporated in the *Infant Life Protection Act 1915* (No. 2670).

On 31st December, 1926, there were 364 children under supervision in registered homes under the provisions of this Act. The deaths during the year numbered 19. In addition, 127 children became wards of the Children's Welfare Department by the operation of section 15 of the Act. Forty-four cases of adoption of children were notified during the year. Five female inspectors are engaged in the work of inspection.

RELIEF FUNDS.

VICTORIAN MINING ACCIDENT RELIEF FUND

Victorian
Mining
Accident
Relief Fund.

In December, 1882, an inrush of water in the New Australasian Company's mine at Creswick caused the deaths of 22 miners. Consequent on this disaster 79 persons, comprising 18 widows and 61 children, were left in destitute circumstances. Public subscriptions to the amount of £21,602 were raised throughout Victoria for the relief of the widows and orphan children of those who lost their lives, and a fund was established, out of which the widows and children to a certain age were paid weekly allowances. On 31st December, 1926, there remained on the fund five widows, who were receiving 15s. per week each. In addition to the amounts paid to these recipients, grants of surplus moneys are made annually to deserving cases. In 1926, the sum so allotted was £927. The amount at credit of the fund on that date was £24,616, of which £9,500 was a mortgage on freehold premises in Queen-street, Melbourne, £9,500 was invested in Commonwealth bonds, £5,607 was in Victorian Government inscribed stock and debentures, and £9 was cash in hand.

VICTORIAN COAL MINERS' ACCIDENTS RELIEF FUND.

Victorian
Coal Miners'
Accidents
Relief Fund.

A provision of the *Coal Mines Regulation Act* 1909 (No. 2240)—now the *Coal Mines Regulation Act* 1915 (No. 2630)—relates to the constitution of a Fund called the Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Fund, to which every person employed in a coal mine is compelled to contribute 4½d. per week, the mine-owners paying an amount equal to one-half of that deducted from the miners' wages, and the Government of Victoria a sum equal to the payment by the owners. The Board held its first meeting on 4th April, 1910, and decided that the employers' contributions should commence from 2nd April, 1910. Committees were formed at the collieries (numbering 7 in 1926), their principal functions being to collect contributions and, subject to the approval of the Board, to allot the allowances.

During 1926 the contributions from employees amounted to £1,569, and the allowances paid at the mines totalled £1,041. For the year ended 31st December, 1926, the total revenue was £3,435—remittances from committees at the mines amounting to £706, miscellaneous to £1, and interest to £1,074, and the balance being contributed

by the mine-owners (£823) and the Government (£831). The expenditure included £1,568 paid in allowances in addition to the amounts paid at the mines, and £411 cost of administration. The accumulated funds amounted to £24,040—£8,700 invested in Victorian Government $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. inscribed stock, £1,300 in Victorian Government 6 per cent. inscribed stock, £1,100 in Victorian Government $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. inscribed stock, £12,500 in Commonwealth inscribed stock, and £440 bank balance. Relief was given in 373 non-fatal cases. In respect to non-fatal accidents, there are 23 persons on the permanently disabled list, the number of children dependent upon such persons being 15. Two fatal accidents occurred during the year. There are 15 widows, 2 mothers, and 21 children receiving aid from the fund as the result of fatalities during 1926 and previous years.

WATSON SUSTENTATION FUND.

**The Watson
Sustentation
Fund.**

This fund was inaugurated as the result of an offer made by the late Mr. J. B. Watson to the Bendigo Miners' Association about the year 1889. Information in relation to its establishment is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 612. Payments to beneficiaries were first made in 1891 at the rate of 5s. per week, and this rate was maintained for about two years, when the sick pay was increased to 7s. 6d. per week. Further changes were afterwards made as necessity arose.

The following are the particulars of members of the Fund relieved, &c., and of receipts and expenditure:—From the inception of the Fund in 1891 to the end of 1926 the total expenditure was £39,662, of which £35,530 represented sick pay and £3,314 donations to members and wives and families of deceased members. During 1926, 42 members were relieved and 13 died, and 29 were on the funds at the end of the year. The receipts for the year were £647. Sick pay for 1926 amounted to £444, donations to members and wives and families of deceased members to £86, and expenses of administration to £30; the total expenditure being £560. The balance in hand at the end of the year 1925 was £764, and at the end of 1926, £851.

QUEEN'S FUND.

Queen's Fund.

This fund was instituted in 1887 by Lady Loch to commemorate the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria. It is for the relief of women in distress, and it is arranged that only the interest on the capital shall be expended yearly. The number of women relieved during 1926-27 was 50, to whom £542 was allotted either by way of grant or loan, and the cost of management was £230. The accumulated fund on 30th June, 1927, was £17,076. In addition to the ordinary receipts of the Fund for the year 1926-27 (£762) an amount of £260 was received from the trustees of the Walter and Elizabeth Hall Trust for distribution to governesses, nurses, and ladies

in similar positions who from age, misfortune, or infirmity were unable to earn their living. A sum of £260 was distributed in this manner, £1 was expended on management, and £17 remained in the bank at the date of balancing.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS.

Patriotic Funds.

The *Year-Book* for 1918-19 contains, on pages 391 and 392, a statement of the collections in money and the value of the goods contributed in the State of Victoria to the various Patriotic Funds from the outbreak of hostilities to the 31st December, 1918. The total amount for the State, including contributions received after the last-mentioned date, is estimated to have been well over £4,000,000.

IMMIGRATION BUREAU.

Immigration Bureau.

The Immigration Bureau, which is a branch of the Lands Department, deals with the subject of assisted immigration to Victoria.

On 1st March, 1921, a joint Commonwealth and State Scheme of Immigration came into operation, and from that date the Government of the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for the booking of passages for nominated and other settlers proceeding to Australia, and took over all administrative work in London, including advertising and the medical inspection of prospective settlers.

Approval of nominations is dealt with by the State authorities, who also indicate the classes and numbers of persons who it is considered may be absorbed in the population without detriment to local artisans and other residents, and for whom it is desired that passages be arranged. To the States is also intrusted the matter of settling on the land or providing employment for new arrivals.

The Government, through this Bureau and in other ways, affords all advice and assistance possible to prospective settlers arriving from overseas, whether desiring to take up land or to obtain employment. In the cases of private purchases of land by new arrivals, valuations on their behalf will, if desired, be made by expert officers free of charge. Nominated passages may be arranged from Great Britain, also under special conditions from Canada and other British Dominions and the United States of America. The Government contributes from £16 10s. upwards towards the fares of approved nominees from Great Britain, special concessions being available in the cases of married couples, widows and widowers with young families.

Nomination forms and all particulars as to rates, &c., may be obtained on application to the Officer-in-Charge, Immigration Bureau, 17 Russell-street, Melbourne, with whom nominations should be lodged. Inquiries in Great Britain should be addressed to the Director, Commonwealth Migration and Settlement Office, Australia House, Strand, London.