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CHAPTER VIII.

PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory.

Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings: (a) State; (b) public; and (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal hospitals for the insane in the various States, the Government and leased hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government asylums for the infirm in New South Wales. The other classes comprise public institutions of two kinds, viz.:—(i) those partially subsidized by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the principal metropolitan hospitals. In the latter are included institutions established and endowed by individuals for the benefit of the needy generally. All charitable movements of a private character are included in the third group. A more or less accurate statistical account is possible in classes (a) and (b), but in regard to (c) complete tabulation is, for obvious reasons, impossible. Owing to differences in the method and date of collection and tabulation it is impossible to bring statistics of charitable institutions to a common year. In general, there is considerable want of harmony in the statistical information available for the different States.

No poor-rate is levied in Australia. Reference to old-age pensions, invalid pensions and maternity allowances, which are provided by the Commonwealth Government, will be found in the Chapter XXVII.—Public Finance.

From time to time relief funds have been organized for famine-stricken countries in various parts of the world, or for places where plagues, flood, fire, or earthquake have shown the need of urgent relief. Special funds were also raised for persons disabled or bereaved through war. Complete statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duty of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds which were instituted in consequence of the war, the total for Australia was estimated to exceed £12,500,000.

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

1. Public Hospitals (other than Hospitals for the Insane).—(i) *General*. All the State capitals have several large and well-equipped hospitals, and there is at least one in every important town. In large centres there are hospitals for infectious diseases, consumptives, women, children, incurables, etc.

The particulars given herein refer to public hospitals at the latest available date, and include all institutions affording hospital relief, whether general or special, with the exception of the hospitals for the insane and private hospitals conducted commercially. It is considered that the extension of the scope of these statistics to embrace both general and special institutions will afford a better comparison as between the various States than the statistics previously issued relating to general hospitals only. The particulars for New South Wales in the following tables relate to hospitals operating under the Public Hospitals Act, 1929-1936.

(ii) *Principal Hospitals in each State*. In earlier issues of the Official Year Book (See No. 22, pp. 481-2) particulars respecting staff, accommodation, etc., of each of the principal hospitals were given.

(iii) *Number, Staff and Accommodation, 1935.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs and accommodation for the year 1935, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table:—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS AND ACCOMMODATION, 1935.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Hospitals ..	272	70	117	54	94	19	526
Medical Staff—							
Honorary	1,459	825	201	214	130	74	2,903
Salaried	234	199	150	61	27	23	691
Total	1,693	1,024	351	(b) 275	(c) 157	97	3,597
Nursing Staff	3,597	2,382	2,220	828	(c) 886	376	10,289
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	12,223	6,987	5,473	2,361	3,260	1,423	31,727

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1936; South Australia—31st December, 1935; Victoria—30th June, 1935.

(b) Exclusive of particulars of Lying-in Homes, Sanatoria and Convalescent Homes.

(c) Exclusive of "Leased" Hospitals.

The figures for accommodation shown in the above table include, where available, a considerable number of beds and cots for certain classes of cases in out-door or verandah sleeping places.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1935.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Indoor Relief—Inmates at beginning of year—							
Males	3,983	2,503	2,024	693	967	339	10,509
Females	4,239	2,731	1,721	733	733	377	10,534
Total	8,222	5,234	3,745	1,426	1,700	716	21,043
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—							
Males	90,914	36,576	47,480	14,584	19,509	8,792	217,855
Females	100,348	45,030	44,176	16,712	17,536	10,074	233,906
Total	191,262	81,606	91,656	31,296	37,045	18,866	451,761
Discharges—							
Males	85,878	33,807	44,958	13,532	18,379	8,306	204,860
Females	96,068	43,089	42,759	16,024	16,762	9,712	225,014
Total	182,516	76,896	87,717	29,556	35,141	18,018	429,874
Deaths—							
Males	4,767	2,765	2,317	1,038	1,198	436	12,551
Females	3,365	1,943	1,312	655	632	347	8,254
Total	8,132	4,708	3,659	1,693	1,830	783	20,805
Inmates at end of year—							
Males	4,252	2,507	2,199	707	899	389	10,953
Females	4,554	2,729	1,826	796	875	392	11,172
Total	8,806	5,236	4,025	1,503	1,774	781	22,125
Average Daily Number Resident—							
Males	(b)	(b)	(b)	753	(b)	339	(b)
Females	(b)	(b)	(b)	762	(b)	386	(b)
Total	8,621	5,155	3,892	(c) 1,515	1,749	725	21,657

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table.

(b) Not available.

(c) See footnote (b) to previous table.

(v) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1935 were as follows:—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1935.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust. (b)	Tas.	Total.
Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid ..	839,098	301,753	405,787	186,674	227,810	64,669	2,025,791
Municipal Aid ..	..	84,307	143,929	32,710	5,377	5,409	271,732
Public Subscriptions, Legacies, etc. ..	(d) 481,305	267,941	34,270	21,322	40,849	14,683	860,370
Fees ..	414,979	178,125	217,662	86,929	111,210	52,809	1,061,714
Other ..	60,677	210,337	133,378	9,492	28,727	3,864	446,475
Total ..	1,796,059	1,042,463	935,026	337,127	413,973	141,434	4,666,082
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds ..	710,093	392,110	369,051	148,325	171,165	74,449	1,896,093
All Other Ordinary Capital (c) ..	71,034	15,522	28,613	18,113	15,309	7,304	158,895
..	667,828	411,039	395,477	154,177	157,338	62,374	1,848,233
..	291,315	194,945	127,406	32,344	59,647	..	705,657
Total ..	1,773,270	1,013,616	921,147	352,959	403,159	141,127	4,608,878

(a) See note (a) to table on page 234. (b) Excluding "Leased" Hospitals, except for amounts of Government and Municipal Aid. These were subsidized from the Hospital Trust Fund to the extent of £1,181 in 1935-36. (c) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings. (d) Includes systematic contributions, £233,640.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1931 to 1935.* Returns for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, beds, admissions, indoor patients treated, deaths and expenditure are given in the following table. The figures relate to both general and special hospitals. It should be noted that the statistics for the States cannot be brought to a common year, and consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Number of institutions ..	513	531	530	526	526
Number of beds ..	(b) 27,574	29,066	30,480	31,190	31,727
Admissions during year ..	353,266	378,777	405,190	422,896	451,761
Total indoor cases treated ..	371,315	397,795	424,877	443,061	472,804
Deaths ..	(a) 10,482	17,455	17,915	19,705	20,805
Expenditure ..	£ 3,524,414	3,518,087	3,809,570	4,222,174	4,608,878

(a) Exclusive of New South Wales.

(b) Excluding out-door beds in New South Wales.

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. So far as the returns show there were 563,918 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 234,970 in Victoria, 212,801 in Queensland, 58,096 in South Australia, and 132,214 in Tasmania.

2. *Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.*—(i) *General.* The public provision for the care of indigent old people has been a feature of the social development of recent years in most countries. Numerous establishments exist in Australia for the housing and protection of persons no longer able to provide for themselves. These institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, bequests, etc.; while in many cases relatives of poor and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

An entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially difficult in the case of benevolent institutions, because the services provided by these institutions are not always identical. For example, in Western Australia, the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which statistics are not kept separately. Since the chief function of the institution is to help the destitute, it has been included amongst benevolent asylums. In Victoria, although several of the hospitals were formerly also benevolent asylums, a separation was effected and asylum patients were transferred to appropriate institutions.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars respecting the accommodation and the numbers of inmates of the principal institutions were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (*See No. 22, p. 485*).

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1935 are given in the following table:—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1935.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government Aid ..	108,678	36,289	30,313	9,697	11,537	12,303	208,817
Municipal Aid ..	75	911	..	..	5	..	991
Public Subs., Legacies, etc.	3,319	14,120	2,455	..	666	105	20,665
Fees	9,740	39,161	33,998	5,920	15,432	5,439	109,690
Other	37,253	12,667	11,889	1,179	701	265	63,954
Total	159,065	103,148	78,655	16,796	28,341	18,112	404,117
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages ..	78,538	30,294	72,776	6,197	11,584	8,629	208,018
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings	6,450	5,688	2,704	673	3,115	861	19,491
All Other (b)	75,663	59,883	4,329	9,926	13,734	8,622	172,157
Total	160,651	95,865	79,809	16,796	28,433	18,112	399,666

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales and South Australia—31st December, 1935; Victoria—30th June, 1935; and Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1936. (b) Including £5,318 in Victoria and £1,329 in Queensland, covering such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

3. *Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.*—(i) *General.* The methods of caring for orphans and neglected children differ extensively, inasmuch as some of the children are more or less segregated in orphanages and industrial schools, while others are boarded-out with their mothers or female relatives or with approved foster mothers. The children in orphanages and similar institutions may receive, in addition to primary education, some craft training. In all cases employment is found for the children on their discharge from the institution, and they remain for some time under the supervision of the proper authorities. The conditions under which orphans, neglected children and children boarded-out live, are subject to frequent inspections. Apart from the amounts shown in (iii) below the gross expenditure on orphanages, etc., in 1935 was approximately £390,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier Year Books (*See No. 22, p. 486*).

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions during 1935 of State Departments in connexion with children under their

control or supervision. In addition to neglected children, the figures include uncontrollable and convicted children who are wards of a Government authority, as well as poor children whose parents obtain assistance from the Government without giving up the legal right of custody.

CHILDREN UNDER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY.—SUMMARY, 1935.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc. (b)	799	472	856	240	41	210	2,618
In licensed or approved institutions .. .. .	..	1,295	..	..	585	..	1,880
Boarded-out—							
With own mothers ..	10,030	7,330	5,562	} 46,701 (c)	{ 2,516	} 43,224	42,523
With licensed foster mothers, guardians, relatives and friends	3,764	2,409	592				
Total children maintained or subsidized by the State	14,593	11,506	7,010	7,931	3,447	3,434	47,021
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions	910	..	..	..	22	..	932
Boarded-out	309	..	..	1,318	426	..	2,053
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts)	3,636	1,124	81	185	415	..	5,441
In service or apprenticed	315	384	417	234	112	..	1,462
Adopted or otherwise placed	213	..	17	23	..	..	253
Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State	5,383	1,508	515	1,760	975	..	10,141
Total children under State control or supervision ..	19,976	13,014	7,525	8,791	44,422	3,434	57,162
Gross cost of children's relief	£ 439,773	£ 260,723	£ 200,122	£ 44,685	£ 27,183	£ 14,589	£ 987,075
Receipts from parent's contributions, etc. ..	19,742	8,582	9,230	3,997	12,402	791	54,744
Net cost to State ..	420,031	252,141	190,892	40,688	14,781	13,798	932,331

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland—31st December, 1935; Other States—30th June, 1936. (b) Including inmates of hospitals. (c) Including 5,887 children in receipt of Ration Relief. (d) Mostly with own mothers. (e) In addition there were 261 children at Fairbridge Farm School.

The total expenditure on children's relief in the previous table shows considerable variation amongst the States owing to the different methods of treating assistance to mothers with dependent children. In South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, large amounts have been excluded from the total expenditure on this account owing to the difficulty of obtaining separate amounts for allowances made in respect of the dependent children only.

4. **Lepor Hospitals.**—Isolation hospitals for the care and treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane); Western Australia (Derby); and the Northern Territory (Channel Island, near Darwin). At the end of 1936 there were 16 cases in residence at Little Bay, 66 at Peel Island, 85 at Derby, and 117 at Channel Island. There were also 5 cases isolated in the south of Western Australia and 1 case in Victoria, which were European cases infected elsewhere.

During the year 1936, 18 cases of leprosy were notified in Australia of which 3 were in New South Wales, 7 in Queensland 7 in Western Australia and 1 in the Northern Territory. There were 3 deaths from leprosy registered during 1936 and 4 in 1935.

5. **Hospitals for the Insane.**—(i) *General.* The methods of compiling statistics of insanity are fairly uniform throughout the States, but comparisons are of doubtful validity, because of an element of uncertainty as to possible differences in diagnosis in the early stages of the disease.

(ii) *Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1935.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1935:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1935.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions ..	13	(b) 12	3	2	1	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males	33	26	6	6	1	3	78
Females	4		1				5
Total	37	26	7	6	1	3	83
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	1,047	728	295	120	128	70	2,388
Females	1,020	669	226	107	103	71	2,196
Total	2,067	1,397	521	227	231	141	4,584
Accommodation—							
* Number of beds and cots	11,377	6,298	3,419	1,682	1,419	685	24,880

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1936; other States—31st December, 1935. (b) Includes four licensed private houses, in which cases at the end of the year numbered 80; other particulars are not available.

(iii) *Patients, 1935.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1935 is given in the table hereunder:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1935.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of distinct persons treated during year (c)—							
Males	6,598	3,784	2,315	956	1,003	383	15,039
Females	5,783	4,143	1,612	832	566	360	13,296
Total	12,381	7,927	3,927	1,788	1,569	743	28,335

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Including 19 males and 85 females in licensed private houses. (c) Exclusive of transfers to other institutions.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1935 (a)—continued.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of patients on books at beginning of year—							
Males	5,727	3,359	1,957	820	878	328	13,069
Females	4,954	3,646	1,362	699	477	303	11,441
Total	10,681	7,005	3,319	1,519	1,355	631	24,510
Admissions and re-admissions exclusive of absconders retaken and transfers from other Institutions—							
Males	893	423	330	135	125	55	1,961
Females	844	497	238	133	89	57	1,858
Total	1,737	920	568	268	214	112	3,819
Discharges (including absconders not retaken)—							
Males	386	170	186	66	32	36	876
Females	364	223	134	71	21	26	839
Total	750	393	320	137	53	62	1,715
Deaths—							
Males	392	246	164	44	60	29	935
Females	267	227	82	35	15	16	642
Total	659	473	246	79	75	45	1,577
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	5,842	3,366	1,937	846	911	318	13,220
Females	5,167	3,693	1,384	726	530	318	11,818
Total	11,009	7,059	3,321	1,572	1,441	636	25,038
Average daily number resident—							
Males	5,431	(b)2,844	1,959	829	870	322	12,255
Females	4,683	(b)3,154	1,348	713	483	312	10,693
Total	10,114	(b)5,998	3,307	1,542	1,353	634	22,948
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	4.34	3.69	3.77	2.88	3.84	2.73	3.56
Females	3.92	3.97	2.96	2.48	2.52	2.81	3.55
Persons	4.13	3.83	3.39	2.68	3.22	2.77	3.71
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	4.04	3.12	3.85	2.83	3.68	2.76	3.59
Females	3.57	3.39	2.91	2.44	2.31	2.75	3.23
Persons	3.81	3.26	3.40	2.64	3.04	2.75	3.41

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table.

(b) Exclusive of four licensed private houses.

In some States persons well advanced towards recovery are allowed to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are under supervision and their names are kept in the records.

(iv) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1935.* The revenue of Government asylums is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 86 per cent.

HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1935.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Taa.	Total.
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of Patients	101,480	40,825	27,858	22,130	15,633	8,525	216,441
Other	6,659	4,098	1,187	4,874	2,084	88	18,990
Total	108,139	44,923	29,045	27,004	17,707	8,613	235,431
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	423,892	266,071	140,264	49,556	57,881	31,099	968,703
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds	11,274	41,743	..	3,597	1,607	1,724	59,945
All Other (b)	255,178	146,878	78,987	48,971	33,188	24,013	630,815
Total	733,344	454,692	219,251	102,124	92,070	57,436	1,659,523
Expenditure per Average Daily Resident	£72/10/2	£75/16/1	£66/6/0	£66/4/7	£68/9/11	£90/11/10	£72/6/4

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—South Australia—31st December, 1935; other States—30th June, 1936. (b) Includes the following amounts for capital expenditure on Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings: New South Wales, £61,255; Queensland, £13,078; South Australia, £24,419; Western Australia, £960.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1931 to 1935.* The table hereunder gives a summary of hospitals for the insane in Australia during each of the five years 1931 to 1935. The figures for the States cannot be brought to a common year; consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years. Licensed houses are included in all particulars save revenue and expenditure for New South Wales and Victoria. The figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols. In New South Wales the expenditure includes cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Number of institutions	36	36	37	36	35
„ „ beds	22,540	23,440	24,427	24,217	24,880
Admissions	3,314	3,318	3,471	3,651	3,810
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,497	1,523	1,566	1,598	1,715
Deaths	1,503	1,422	1,498	1,467	1,577
Expenditure—Total	£1,356,387	1,355,515	1,374,111	1,527,021	1,659,523
„ —Per Average Daily Resident	£63/2/6	£62/8/7	£62/14/5	£68/5/8	£72/6/4

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1931 to 1935.* The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, shows a continuous increase during the period covered by the following table and may possibly be a reflection of the financial stress of the period.

INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS.

State.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	9,894	10,122	10,367	10,681	11,009
Victoria	6,704	6,742	6,812	6,927	7,059
Queensland	3,162	3,194	3,214	3,319	3,321
South Australia	1,395	1,410	1,465	1,519	1,572
Western Australia	1,275	1,320	1,331	1,355	1,441
Tasmania	646	661	667	631	656
Australia	23,076	23,449	23,856	24,432	25,038
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales	3.84	3.89	3.95	4.04	4.13
Victoria	3.72	3.72	3.73	3.77	3.83
Queensland	3.37	3.37	3.35	3.43	3.39
South Australia	2.42	2.43	2.51	2.60	2.68
Western Australia	2.94	3.02	3.02	3.06	3.22
Tasmania	2.85	2.90	2.93	2.76	2.77
Australia	3.52	3.55	3.58	3.64	3.71

The difference between States in the number of insane persons in institutions per 1,000 of population may be due to some extent to differences in classification.

A more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases has resulted in a greater willingness in recent years to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an earlier stage, and an increase in the number of recorded cases, therefore, does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity.

(vii) *Causes of Insanity.* The general information available respecting the causes of the insanity of persons admitted to institutions is too unsatisfactory to be given in detail.

(viii) *Length of Residence in Hospital, 1935.* (a) *New South Wales and Victoria.* Particulars are not available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals of persons who died or were discharged during the year.

(b) *Queensland.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 8 years 335 days for males, and 6 years 92 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 77 days for males, and 1 year 249 days for females.

(c) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 11 years 6 months 16 days for males, and 9 years 1 month 15 days for females; of those discharged, 9 months 5 days for males, and 1 year 8 months 11 days for females.

(d) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 10 years 1 month 25 days for males, and 4 years 7 months 1 day for females; of those discharged, 2 years 8 months 26 days for males, and 3 years 10 months and 5 days for females.

(e) *Tasmania.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 17 years 10 months and 10 days for males, and 9 years 9 months and 22 days for females: of those discharged, 3 years 9 months and 20 days for males and 1 year 1 month and 12 days for females.

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

7. **Protection of Aborigines.**—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where these people are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come near the stations. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1935–36 was: New South Wales, £50,610; Victoria, £7,817; Queensland, £46,486; South Australia, £28,719; Western Australia, £24,174; Northern Territory, £6,921; total for Australia, £164,727. According to the latest census taken by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the numbers of full-blood and half-caste aborigines living in supervised camps in each State at 30th June, 1936, were as follows:—

ABORIGINES.(a)—AUSTRALIA—30th JUNE, 1936.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Northern Territory.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Full-bloods ..	483	47	8,295	69	2,253	5,966	17,113
Half-castes ..	3,504	136	2,963	804	1,254	618	(b)9,621

(a) Living in supervised camps. See letterpress above table. (b) Including 233 in Tasmania and 70 in the Federal Capital Territory.

Particulars regarding total numbers of aborigines in each State will be found in the Chapter dealing with Population.

8. **Royal Life Saving Society.**—In each of the State capitals, “centres” of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established, and in some States sub-centres have also been established in the larger provincial districts. Recently an Australian Federal Council of this Society has been formed with head-quarters at Melbourne, and each State centre or branch as it is now called is controlled by the new Organization. Saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves and other suitable places. Numerous certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination throughout Australia, the numbers for the individual States for 1936 being:—New South Wales, 7,819; Victoria, 1,557; Queensland, 1,183; South Australia, 768; Western Australia, 1,303; Tasmania, 121; and Fiji, which comes under the control of the Australian Federal Council, 22.

9. **Royal Humane Society.**—The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has for its objects (a) to grant awards for skill, promptness and perseverance in life-saving, where the rescuer has risked his or her life; (b) to provide assistance in cases of danger and apparent death; (c) to restore the apparently drowned; (d) to collect and circulate the latest information regarding approved methods and apparatus for life-saving. Awards of medals and certificates are made numbering about 100 annually. Upwards of 300 lifebuoys have been provided at various places on the coasts, rivers, lakes and reservoirs in the various States. Swimming is encouraged amongst school children, and awards are made for proficiency.

10. **Other Charitable Institutions.**—Owing to variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and the infirm. The institutions not so particularized include asylums for the deaf, dumb and blind, infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged, poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, crèches, homes of hope, rescue homes, free kindergarten and ragged schools, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, ambulance and health societies, boys' brigades, humane and animals' protection societies, prisoners' aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bush fires and mining accident relief funds, etc.

11. **Total Expenditure on Charities.**—Issues of the Official Year Book, prior to No. 24, embodied statistics of expenditure on charities. The returns available, however, included a portion only of direct expenditure by Governments, and, in general, there is lack of harmony in the information available for the different States. Pending the result of further inquiry it has been decided to omit this table from the present chapter.