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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, namely :—(i) those partially subsidized by the State or by State endowments for maintenance, 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 lack 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, maternity allowances, child endowment and widows' pensions, which are provided by the Commonwealth Government, will be found in the Chapter XVII., "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 of 1914-19, 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, tubercular patients, 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 control of the Hospitals Commission.

(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, 1941-42.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs and accommodation for the year 1941-42, or nearest available year, are given in the following table:—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS : NUMBER, STAFF AND ACCOMMODATION, 1941-42.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (a)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Hospitals ..	213	75	115	56	85	22	566
Medical Staff—							
Honorary	1,618	867	126	238	84	90	3,023
Salaried	409	259	194	70	28	52	1,012
Total	2,027	1,126	320	(b) 308	112	142	4,035
Nursing Staff	5,869	3,600	3,038	(b) 1,178	1,188	489	15,362
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	16,009	7,395	6,629	(b) 2,676	3,520	1,865	38,094

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1941.

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

The figures for accommodation shown in the table above 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, 1941-42,

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (a)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Indoor Relief—Inmates at beginning of year—							
Males	5,658	2,820	2,424	856	962	535	13,255
Females	5,850	3,196	2,256	857	850	560	13,569
Total	11,508	6,016	4,680	1,713	1,812	1,095	26,824
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—							
Males	114,658	39,188	61,164	18,670	24,586	12,576	270,842
Females	132,426	49,357	58,879	20,210	24,545	12,142	297,559
Total	247,084	88,545	120,043	38,880	49,131	24,718	568,401
Discharges—							
Males	109,111	36,228	58,487	17,394	23,230	12,059	256,509
Females	128,741	47,492	57,493	19,276	23,785	11,751	288,538
Total	237,852	83,720	115,980	36,670	47,015	23,810	545,047
Deaths—							
Males	5,741	3,208	2,681	1,266	1,317	496	14,709
Females	4,065	2,248	1,682	900	756	427	10,078
Total	9,806	5,456	4,363	2,166	2,073	923	24,787
Inmates at end of year—							
Males	5,464	2,572	2,420	866	1,001	556	12,879
Females	5,470	2,813	1,960	891	854	526	12,514
Total	10,934	5,385	4,380	1,757	1,855	1,082	25,393
Average Daily Number Resident	11,063	5,480	4,481	(b) 1,939	1,844	1,047	25,854

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1941.

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

(v) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1941-42 were as follows:—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1941-42.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (a)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Revenue—							
Government Aid ..	£ 1,441,297	£ 737,623	£ 675,112	£ 303,437	£ 303,471	£ 103,369	£ 3,564,309
Municipal Aid ..	(c)	88,156	322,260	58,148	1,162	..	469,726
Public Subscriptions, Legacies, etc. ..	(d) 682,684	709,589	34,135	23,193	17,259	14,448	1,481,308
Fees ..	842,995	409,378	429,580	139,685	212,210	100,033	2,133,881
Other ..	(e) 637,182	(f) 227,855	119,975	6,830	8,979	7,265	1,008,086
Total ..	3,604,158	2,172,601	1,581,062	531,293	543,081	225,115	8,657,310
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds ..	1,519,322	647,375	641,731	239,725	274,765	107,985	3,430,903
All Other Ordinary Capital (g) ..	123,655 1,199,235 (h)	34,370 547,367 501,527	29,995 790,599 178,470	27,582 231,500 44,332	5,958 208,831 42,305	5,346 112,782 ..	226,906 3,090,314 (i) 766,634
Total ..	2,842,212	1,730,639	1,640,795	543,139	531,859	226,113	7,514,757

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1941. (b) Includes State aid for buildings, £93,520.
 (c) Included in "Other." (d) Includes legacies and bequests for capital purposes, £24,434.
 (e) Includes loans raised under Section 37 of the Public Hospitals Act, £534,957. (f) Includes loan receipts, £71,750. (g) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings. (h) Not available. (i) Incomplete.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1936 to 1941-42.* 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 : AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941-42.
Number of institutions	557	560	563	565	565	566
" beds and cots ..	33,377	34,541	35,711	36,863	38,125	38,094
Admissions during year	481,727	511,648	527,055	550,062	583,820	568,401
Total indoor cases treated ..	504,521	535,342	552,051	576,027	610,053	595,225
Deaths ..	21,601	22,162	23,372	22,916	23,273	24,787
Expenditure ..	£ 5,134,247	5,965,484	6,351,955	6,775,078	7,160,016	7,514,757

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. In the last year there were 587,976 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 263,223 in Victoria, 255,095 in Queensland, 59,953 in South Australia, 57,816 in Western Australia and 117,132 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 number 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 1941 are given in the following table:—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1941.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			
Revenue—										
Government Aid	145,736	68,073	47,183	11,871	10,431	20,083	303,377			
Municipal Aid ..	(b)	885	..	..	5	..	890	
Public Subscriptions, Legacies	19,511	15,476	} 57,116	{ ..	3,342	396	} 262,980			
Fees	54,271	56,156						6,568	19,442	8,464
Other	5,387	10,021						4,734	141	1,955
Total ..	224,905	150,611	104,299	23,173	33,361	30,898	567,247			
Expenditure—										
Salaries and Wages ..	103,597	50,341	28,200	9,385	14,886	14,859	221,268			
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	4,295	3,722	11,429	1,280	687	1,401	22,814			
All Other(c) ..	117,768	93,860	65,641	12,508	16,097	14,296	320,170			
Total ..	225,660	147,923	105,270	23,173	31,670	30,556	564,252			

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales—31st December, 1941; Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1941; South Australia—31st December, 1940; and Western Australia—30th June, 1940. (b) Included in "Other." (c) Includes £31,045 in Victoria and £938 in Western Australia, 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 1941 was approximately £400,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, p. 486).

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions during 1941 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, 1941.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b)	953	328	1,037	169	31	42	2,560
In licensed or approved institutions .. ..	..	1,742	..	84	580	149	2,555
Boarded-out—							
With own mothers ..	6,994	5,680	5,324	312	82	1,781	20,173
With licensed foster-mothers, guardians, relatives and friends	2,534	1,424	443	6,028	213	341	10,983
Total children maintained or subsidized by the State	10,481	9,174	6,804	6,593	906	2,313	36,271
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions	1,067	..	..	..	..	..	1,067
Boarded-out	147	..	..	1,169	479	..	1,795
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts)	2,085	1,346	152	322	233	..	4,138
In service or apprenticed Adopted or otherwise placed	147	254	381	190	287	..	1,259
	228	..	6	8	..	..	242
Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State	3,674	1,600	539	1,689	999	..	8,501
Total children under State control or supervision ..	14,155	10,774	7,343	8,282	1,905	2,313	44,772
Gross cost of children's relief	£ 431,103	£ 292,480	£ 195,309	£ 59,876	£ 28,010	£ 14,848	£ 1,021,626
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	28,669	13,004	8,701	4,545	8,495	1,819	65,233
Net cost to State ..	402,434	279,476	186,608	55,331	19,515	13,029	956,393

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows :—New South Wales and Tasmania—30th June, 1942; Victoria—31st December, 1941; Queensland—31st December, 1940; Other States—30th June, 1941.

(b) Includes inmates of hospitals.

(c) Includes 5,618 children in receipt of Ration Relief.

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. **Leper Hospitals.**—Isolation hospitals for the care and treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane, and Fantome Island, North Queensland); Western Australia (Derby); and the Northern Territory (Channel Island, near Darwin). At the end of 1943 there were 18 cases in residence at Little Bay, 38 at Peel Island, 73 at Fantome Island, 267 at Derby, 47 at Channel Island, 1 at Coode Island Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria, and 4 isolated cases in the south of Western Australia. Of the 448 cases, 378 are aboriginals, 14 Asiatics and 56 Europeans.

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., 1941.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the following table for the year 1941:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1941.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions ..	11	9	5	2	4	1	32
Medical Staff—							
Males	30	31	8	7	4	2	82
Females	6	..	1	..	..	1	8
Total	36	31	9	7	4	3	90
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	720	521	299	172	142	79	1,933
Females	772	563	276	171	103	80	1,965
Total	1,492	1,084	575	343	245	159	3,898
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	11,181	6,587	3,779	1,910	1,509	750	25,716

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1942; Victoria—31st December, 1941; South and Western Australia—31st December, 1940.

(iii) *Patients, 1941.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for 1941 is given in the table hereunder:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC. 1941.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of distinct persons treated during year (b)—							
Males	7,106	3,871	2,423	1,075	1,016	390	15,881
Females	6,617	4,305	1,920	965	607	432	14,846
Total	13,723	8,176	4,343	2,040	1,623	822	30,727

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

(b) Excludes transfers to other institutions.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE: PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1941(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	6,261	3,484	2,135	948	924	308	14,060
Females	5,789	3,801	1,637	852	558	333	12,970
Total	12,050	7,285	3,772	1,800	1,482	641	27,030
Admissions and re-admissions excluding absconders retaken and transfers from other institutions—							
Males	845	387	288	127	92	82	1,821
Females	828	504	283	113	49	99	1,876
Total	1,673	891	571	240	141	181	3,697
Discharges (including absconders not retaken)—							
Males	454	186	192	49	34	47	962
Females	428	215	122	51	21	63	900
Total	882	401	314	100	55	110	1,862
Deaths—							
Males	433	216	163	53	59	23	947
Females	361	218	131	40	36	23	809
Total	794	434	294	93	95	46	1,756
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	6,219	3,469	2,068	973	923	320	13,972
Females	5,828	3,872	1,667	874	550	346	13,137
Total	12,047	7,341	3,735	1,847	1,473	666	27,109
Average daily number resident—							
Males	5,929	2,968	2,035	956	916	320	13,124
Females	5,391	3,401	1,601	859	539	340	12,131
Total	11,320	6,369	3,636	1,815	1,455	660	25,255
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	4.45	3.61	3.85	3.26	3.77	2.64	3.91
Females	4.18	3.96	3.35	2.92	2.46	2.92	3.73
Total	4.28	3.79	3.61	3.09	3.15	2.78	3.82
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	4.19	3.09	3.77	3.20	3.74	2.64	3.67
Females	3.84	3.48	3.22	2.87	2.41	2.87	3.42
Total	4.02	3.30	3.51	3.03	3.11	2.76	3.56

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

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, 1941.* The revenue of Government hospitals for the insane is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 85 per cent.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : FINANCES, 1941.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Taa.	Total.
Revenue (excluding Government Grants)—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of Patients	134,055	56,179	33,399	34,914	17,935	8,424	284,906
Other	9,590	6,772	1,535	50	2,414	105	20,466
Total	143,645	62,951	34,934	34,964	20,349	8,529	305,372
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	565,771	300,388	176,604	82,850	79,757	43,951	1,249,321
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings, &c.	5,487	18,052	..	5,803	1,330	1,020	31,692
All Other(b)	299,890	208,057	137,989	68,801	83,746	24,655	823,138
Total	871,148	526,497	314,593	157,454	164,833	69,626	2,104,151
Expenditure per Average Daily Resident	£76/19/2	£82/13/4	£86/10/5	£86/15/0	£113/5/9	£105/9/11	£83/6/4

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows :—South Australia—31st December, 1940; Western Australia—30th June, 1941; other States—30th June, 1942. (b) Includes the following amounts for capital expenditure on Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings: New South Wales, £32,758; Queensland, £38,081; South Australia, £5,608; Western Australia, £35,080.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1937 to 1941.* The table hereunder gives a summary of hospitals for the insane in Australia during each of the five years 1937 to 1941. 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 excepting revenue and expenditure for New South Wales. The figures exclude those 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.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Number of institutions	36	35	35	34	32
„ „ beds	25,287	25,654	26,097	25,771	25,716
Admissions	3,678	3,757	3,842	3,667	3,697
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,573	1,800	1,819	1,801	1,862
Deaths	1,488	1,632	1,798	1,490	1,756
Expenditure—Total	£1,867,170	1,903,817	2,066,440	2,090,110	2,104,151
„ —Per Average Daily Resident	£78/8/1	£79/2/4	£84/13/6	£84/3/1	£83/6/4

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1937 to 1941.* The total number returned as under treatment shows a continuous increase during the period but the proportion showed a slight decline in 1941. 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.

INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS.

State.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	11,473	11,678	11,835	12,050	12,047
Victoria	7,302	7,326	7,285	7,285	7,341
Queensland	3,544	3,650	3,692	3,772	3,735
South Australia	1,709	1,747	1,800	1,847	(a) 1,902
Western Australia	1,521	1,477	1,482	1,473	(a) 1,472
Tasmania	635	631	640	641	666
Australia	26,184	26,509	26,734	27,068	27,163
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales	4.22	4.25	4.26	4.32	4.29
Victoria	3.93	3.91	3.86	3.83	3.79
Queensland	3.53	3.59	3.60	3.66	3.61
South Australia	2.89	2.94	3.01	3.09	3.17
Western Australia	3.33	3.19	3.18	3.15	3.17
Tasmania	2.71	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.78
Australia	3.82	3.82	3.80	3.85	3.83

(a) 31st December, 1941.

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.

(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, 1941.* (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 1941-42 was 9 years 358 days for males, and 7 years 336 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 207 days for males, and 1 year 191 days for females.

(c) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during 1940 was 8 years 6 months 22 days for males, and 9 years 4 months 12 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 8 months 23 days for males, and 1 year 6 months 13 days for females.

(d) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died in 1940 was 12 years 5 months 19 days for males, and 7 years 5 months 25 days for females; of those discharged, 2 years 1 month 16 days for males, and 3 years and 5 days for females.

(e) *Tasmania.* The average residence of those who died during 1940-41 was 4 years 10 months and 15 days for males, and 14 years and 8 months 14 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 3 months 3 days for males, and 1 year and 22 days for females.

6. *Care of the Feeble-minded.*—An account of the treatment of the feeble-minded in Tasmania supplied by the Public Health Department of Tasmania, appeared in Official Year Book No. 19, pp. 477-8.

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 1942-43 was: New South Wales, £63,967; Victoria, £4,505; Queensland, £66,531; South Australia, £34,105, Western Australia, £40,146; Northern Territory, £23,398; Australian Capital Territory, £321; total for Australia, £232,973. According to the latest census taken by this Bureau, the number of full-blood and half-caste aborigines living in supervised camps in each State at 30th June, 1941, was as follows:—

ABORIGINES IN SUPERVISED CAMPS, 30th JUNE, 1941.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Northern Territory.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Full-bloods ..	373	33	4,853	517	3,503	6,329	15,608
Half-castes ..	4,114	351	2,463	1,076	2,153	783	(a) 11,207

(a) Including 184 in Tasmania and 83 in the Australian Capital Territory.

Particulars regarding total numbers of aborigines in each State will be found in the Chapter XII. "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. In 1934 an Australian Federal Council of this Society was formed with headquarters 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 number for the individual States for 1939-40 being:—New South Wales, 15,919; Victoria, 5,328; Queensland, 1,270; South Australia, 601; Western Australia, 1,862; Tasmania, 366; and Fiji, which comes under the control of the Australian Federal Council, 157.

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. 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 fire 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.