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CHAPTER VIII.

PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE, ETC.

A. INTRODUCTION.

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 homes 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 dates of collection and tabulation it is impossible to bring statistics of charitable institutions to a common year.

No poor-rate is levied in Australia. Reference to invalid and old-age pensions, maternity allowances, child endowment, widows' pensions, and unemployed and sickness benefits, which are provided by the Commonwealth Government, will be found at the end of this Chapter.

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 1914-19 War, the total for Australia was estimated to exceed £12,500,000.

B. THE LARGER CHARITIES OF AUSTRALIA.

§ 1. Public Hospitals (other than Hospitals for the Insane).

1. *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. The particulars for New South Wales in the following tables relate to hospitals operating under the control of the Hospitals Commission.

2. *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.

3. **Number, Staff and Accommodation, 1943-44.**—Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs and accommodation for the year 1943-44 are given in the following table :—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS : NUMBER, STAFF AND ACCOMMODATION, 1943-44.

| Particulars. | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S. Aust. (a) | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|---|--------|-------|---------|-----------------|----------|-------|--------|
| Number of Hospitals .. | 214 | 73 | 115 | 57 | 84 | 23 | 566 |
| Medical Staff— Honorary | 1,639 | 803 | 165 | 253 | 72 | 96 | 3,028 |
| Salaried | 336 | 268 | 172 | 117 | 35 | 50 | 978 |
| Total | 1,975 | 1,071 | 337 | 370 | 107 | 146 | 4,006 |
| Nursing Staff | 6,310 | 4,004 | 3,190 | 1,281 | 1,096 | 541 | 16,422 |
| Accommodation— Number of beds and cots | 16,820 | 7,468 | 6,965 | 2,956 | 3,447 | 1,895 | 39,551 |

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1943.

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

4. **Patients Treated.**—The following table furnishes particulars of patients treated.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS : INDOOR RELIEF, PATIENTS TREATED, 1943-44.

| Particulars. | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S. Aust. (a) | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|--|---------|--------|---------|-----------------|----------|--------|---------|
| Inmates at beginning of year— Males | 5,254 | 2,539 | 2,384 | 884 | 997 | 513 | 12,571 |
| Females | 6,279 | 2,985 | 2,458 | 860 | 973 | 598 | 14,153 |
| Total | 11,533 | 5,524 | 4,842 | 1,744 | 1,970 | 1,111 | 26,724 |
| Admissions and Re-admissions during year— Males | 115,922 | 39,817 | 62,804 | 18,036 | 23,904 | 11,019 | 271,502 |
| Females | 152,917 | 53,620 | 66,999 | 21,840 | 24,271 | 14,575 | 331,222 |
| Total | 268,839 | 93,437 | 129,803 | 39,876 | 48,175 | 25,594 | 605,724 |
| Discharges— Males | 109,820 | 36,700 | 59,999 | 16,680 | 22,802 | 10,489 | 256,490 |
| Females | 147,750 | 51,354 | 64,807 | 20,747 | 23,634 | 14,098 | 322,390 |
| Total | 257,570 | 88,054 | 124,806 | 37,427 | 46,436 | 24,587 | 578,880 |
| Deaths— Males | 5,906 | 3,150 | 2,880 | 1,369 | 1,160 | 556 | 15,021 |
| Females | 4,624 | 2,337 | 2,004 | 948 | 660 | 446 | 11,019 |
| Total | 10,530 | 5,487 | 4,884 | 2,317 | 1,820 | 1,002 | 26,040 |
| Inmates at end of year— Males | 5,450 | 2,506 | 2,309 | 871 | 939 | 487 | 12,562 |
| Females | 6,822 | 2,914 | 2,646 | 1,005 | 950 | 629 | 14,966 |
| Total | 12,272 | 5,420 | 4,955 | 1,876 | 1,889 | 1,116 | 27,528 |
| Average Daily Number Resident | 12,218 | 5,512 | 4,814 | 2,018 | 1,909 | 1,102 | 27,573 |

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1943.

5. Revenue and Expenditure.—The revenue and expenditure for the year 1943-44 were as follows:—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1943-44.

| Particulars. | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S. Aust. (a) | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Revenue— | | | | | | | |
| Government Aid .. | £ 61,550,016 | £ 1,353,132 | £ 713,385 | £ 321,120 | £ 324,517 | £ 120,773 | £ 4,382,943 |
| Municipal Aid .. | (c) | 105,269 | 199,109 | 51,005 | 2,897 | .. | 358,280 |
| Public Subscriptions, Legacies, etc. .. | (d) 887,944 | 479,251 | 27,524 | 44,445 | 19,070 | 20,651 | 1,478,894 |
| Fees .. | 1,106,779 | 441,804 | 644,518 | 222,863 | 262,219 | 119,177 | 2,797,360 |
| Other .. | (e) 210,209 | 109,187 | 112,058 | 11,068 | 23,231 | 9,682 | 475,435 |
| Total .. | 3,754,948 | 2,488,643 | 1,696,594 | 650,501 | 631,943 | 270,283 | 9,492,912 |
| Expenditure— | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 1,977,347 | 972,342 | 794,694 | 315,206 | 287,529 | 139,180 | 4,486,298 |
| Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds .. | 171,147 | 125,032 | 38,054 | 24,797 | 12,355 | 7,474 | 378,859 |
| All Other Ordinary Capital (f) .. | 1,422,125 | 669,172 | 787,948 | 252,085 | 237,896 | 122,473 | 3,491,699 |
| | (g) | 133,625 | 63,468 | 43,371 | 73,116 | .. | (h) 313,580 |
| Total .. | 4,370,619 | 1,900,171 | 1,684,164 | 635,459 | 610,896 | 269,127 | 8,670,436 |

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1943. (b) Includes State aid for buildings, £96,899.
(c) Included in "Other." (d) Includes legacies and bequests for capital purposes, £62,843.
(e) Includes loans raised under Section 37 of the Public Hospitals Act, £89,822. (f) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings. (g) Not available.
(h) Incomplete.

6. Summary for Five Years, 1939-40 to 1943-44.—A summary for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, medical and nursing staffs, beds, admissions, indoor patients treated, deaths, average daily number resident, revenue, and expenditure is 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. | | 1939-40. | 1940-41. | 1941-42. | 1942-43. | 1943-44. |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Institutions .. | No. | 566 | 564 | 566 | 562 | 566 |
| Medical Staff .. | " | 3,951 | 4,173 | 3,909 | 3,787 | 4,006 |
| Nursing Staff .. | " | 14,640 | 15,160 | 15,362 | 15,925 | 16,422 |
| Beds and Cots .. | " | 36,911 | 38,257 | 38,094 | 38,576 | 39,551 |
| Admissions during year .. | " | 555,968 | 591,107 | 568,401 | 585,937 | 605,724 |
| Total indoor cases treated | | | | | | |
| | No. | 582,159 | 617,314 | 595,353 | 610,434 | 632,448 |
| Deaths .. | " | 23,158 | 23,423 | 24,787 | 25,894 | 26,040 |
| Average daily resident .. | " | 26,252 | 27,386 | 25,854 | 26,059 | 27,573 |
| Revenue .. | £ | 7,882,226 | 8,205,444 | 8,657,310 | 8,757,344 | 9,492,912 |
| Expenditure .. | £ | 7,060,007 | 7,376,074 | 7,514,757 | 8,007,540 | 8,670,436 |

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. During 1943-44 there were 598,489 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 260,063 in Victoria, 279,030 in Queensland, 52,898 in South Australia, 55,292 (estimated) in Western Australia and 20,082 (estimated) in Tasmania.

§. 2. Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.

1. General.—The public provisions 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.

2. **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).

3. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1943-44 are given in the following table:—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1943-44.

| Particulars. | N.S.W. (a) | Vic. | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Revenue— | | | | | | | |
| Government Aid | 139,014 | 71,080 | 52,385 | 11,682 | 9,312 | 21,097 | 304,570 |
| Municipal Aid .. | .. | 1,034 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,034 |
| Public Subscriptions, Legacies | .. | 24,702 | 3,267 | .. | .. | 399 | } 314,603 |
| Fees .. | 69,698 | 82,292 | 57,724 | 8,722 | 22,953 | 15,039 | |
| Other .. | .. | 10,759 | 11,324 | 5,536 | 527 | 1,661 | |
| Total .. | 208,712 | 189,867 | 124,700 | 25,940 | 32,792 | 38,196 | 620,207 |
| Expenditure— | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages .. | 103,743 | 88,790 | 38,360 | 11,808 | 17,628 | 19,224 | 279,553 |
| Upkeep and Repair of Buildings .. | 8,620 | 11,549 | 5,830 | 1,220 | 1,647 | 1,420 | 30,286 |
| All Other(b) .. | 96,349 | 84,535 | 79,950 | 12,912 | 13,517 | 16,908 | 304,171 |
| Total .. | 208,712 | 184,874 | 124,140 | 25,940 | 32,792 | 37,552 | 614,010 |

(a) These figures relate to the three State Hospitals and Homes only, at 31st December, 1943.

(b) Includes £7,244 in Victoria and £954 in Western Australia, covering such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

§ 3. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.

1. **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 departmental inspections.

2. **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).

3. **Transactions of State Departments.**—The following table summarizes the transactions during 1943-44 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, 1943-44.

| Particulars. | N.S.W. | Vic. (a) | Q'land. (a) | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|---|-----------|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| <i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i> | | | | | | | |
| In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b) | 1,058 | 369 | 1,037 | 201 | 98 | 68 | 2,831 |
| In licensed or approved institutions | .. | 1,665 | .. | 76 | 450 | 142 | 2,333 |
| Boarded-out— | | | | | | | |
| With own mothers .. | 6,143 | 3,641 | 3,353 | 192 | 58 | 1,052 | 14,439 |
| With licensed foster-mothers, guardians, relatives and friends .. | 2,125 | 971 | 426 | 3,012 | 231 | 281 | 7,046 |
| Total children maintained or subsidized by the State | 9,326 | 6,646 | 4,816 | 3,481 | 837 | 1,543 | 26,649 |
| <i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i> | | | | | | | |
| In licensed or approved institutions | 1,188 | .. | .. | .. | 671 | .. | 1,859 |
| Boarded-out | 96 | .. | .. | 1,141 | 506 | .. | 1,743 |
| On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts) | 2,222 | 1,204 | 173 | 493 | 291 | .. | 4,383 |
| In service or apprenticed | 135 | 285 | 315 | 176 | 83 | .. | 994 |
| Adopted or otherwise placed | 251 | .. | 18 | .. | 137 | .. | 406 |
| Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State | 3,892 | 1,489 | 506 | 1,810 | 1,688 | .. | 9,385 |
| Total children under State control or supervision | 13,218 | 8,135 | 5,322 | 5,291 | 2,525 | 1,543 | 36,034 |
| Gross cost of children's relief | £ 393,871 | £ 223,232 | £ 173,061 | £ 69,530 | £ 20,801 | £ 13,020 | £ 893,515 |
| Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. | 44,760 | 22,322 | 15,344 | 10,523 | 9,494 | 2,161 | 104,604 |
| Net cost to State | 349,111 | 200,910 | 157,717 | 59,007 | 11,307 | 10,859 | 788,911 |

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1943.
2,692 children in receipt of Ration Relief.

(b) Includes inmates of hospitals.

(c) Includes

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 1944 there were 24 cases in residence at Little Bay, 46 at Peel Island, 75 at Fantome Island, 256 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 453 cases, 381 were aboriginals, 6 Asiatics and 66 Europeans.

§ 5. Hospitals for the Insane.

1. **General.**—The methods of compiling statistics of insanity are fairly uniform throughout the States, but there is an element of uncertainty as to possible differences in diagnosis in the early stages of the disease.

2. **Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1943-44.**—Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the following table for the year 1943-44 :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION. 1943-44.(a)

| Particulars. | N.S.W. | Victoria. | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|------|--------|
| Number of Institutions .. | 11 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 33 |
| Medical Staff— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 33 | 32 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 88 |
| Females | 6 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | 9 |
| Total | 39 | 32 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 97 |
| Nursing Staff and Attendants— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 766 | 508 | 282 | 175 | 149 | 79 | 1,959 |
| Females | 888 | 483 | 289 | 165 | 94 | 86 | 1,999 |
| Total | 1,654 | 991 | 571 | 340 | 243 | 159 | 3,958 |
| Accommodation— | | | | | | | |
| Number of beds and cots | 11,411 | 6,671 | 3,876 | 2,092 | 1,446 | 750 | 26,246 |

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows :—New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1944; Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia—31st December, 1943.

3. **Patients, 1943-44.**—Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for 1943-44 is given in the following table :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC. 1943-44.(a)

| Particulars. | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|---|--------|-------|---------|----------|----------|------|--------|
| Number of distinct persons treated during year (b)— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 6,817 | 3,841 | 2,674 | 1,085 | 1,006 | 393 | 15,816 |
| Females | 6,675 | 4,289 | 2,041 | 1,004 | 605 | 405 | 15,019 |
| Total | 13,492 | 8,130 | 4,715 | 2,089 | 1,611 | 798 | 30,835 |

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

(b) Excludes transfers to other institutions.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE: PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC.,
1943-44 (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 | 6,104 | 3,438 | 2,060 | 986 | 925 | 315 | 13,828 |
| Females | 5,850 | 3,818 | 1,689 | 906 | 549 | 337 | 13,149 |
| Total | 11,954 | 7,256 | 3,749 | 1,892 | 1,474 | 652 | 26,977 |
| Admissions and re-admissions excluding absconders retaken and transfers from other institutions— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 713 | 403 | 614 | 99 | 81 | 78 | 1,988 |
| Females | 825 | 471 | 352 | 98 | 56 | 68 | 1,870 |
| Total | 1,538 | 874 | 966 | 197 | 137 | 146 | 3,858 |
| Discharges (including absconders not retaken)— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 414 | 163 | 480 | 40 | 41 | 50 | 1,188 |
| Females | 418 | 161 | 146 | 34 | 20 | 50 | 829 |
| Total | 832 | 324 | 626 | 74 | 61 | 100 | 2,017 |
| Deaths— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 462 | 266 | 159 | 66 | 75 | 30 | 1,058 |
| Females | 409 | 288 | 111 | 60 | 23 | 28 | 919 |
| Total | 871 | 554 | 270 | 126 | 98 | 58 | 1,977 |
| Number of patients on books at end of year— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 5,941 | 3,412 | 2,035 | 979 | 890 | 313 | 13,570 |
| Females | 5,848 | 3,840 | 1,784 | 910 | 562 | 327 | 13,271 |
| Total | 11,789 | 7,252 | 3,819 | 1,889 | 1,452 | 640 | 26,841 |
| Average daily number resident— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 5,495 | 2,965 | 1,996 | 984 | 895 | 314 | 12,649 |
| Females | 5,240 | 3,354 | 1,670 | 899 | 531 | 332 | 12,026 |
| Total | 10,735 | 6,319 | 3,666 | 1,883 | 1,426 | 646 | 24,675 |
| Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 4.13 | 3.47 | 3.70 | 3.19 | 3.54 | 2.53 | 3.72 |
| Females | 4.08 | 3.82 | 3.46 | 2.92 | 2.43 | 2.69 | 3.67 |
| Total | 4.11 | 3.65 | 3.58 | 3.05 | 3.01 | 2.61 | 3.69 |
| Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population— | | | | | | | |
| Males | 3.84 | 3.03 | 3.65 | 3.22 | 3.58 | 2.55 | 3.48 |
| Females | 3.68 | 3.35 | 3.26 | 2.90 | 2.31 | 2.75 | 3.34 |
| Total | 3.76 | 3.19 | 3.46 | 3.06 | 2.97 | 2.88 | 3.41 |

(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.

4. Revenue and Expenditure 1943-44.—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 83 per cent.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : FINANCES, 1943-44.

| Particulars. | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | S. Aust. (a) | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|--|---------|---------|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Revenue (excluding Government Grants)— | | | | | | | |
| Fees of Patients | 155,455 | 81,854 | 42,819 | 43,546 | 24,949 | 10,217 | 358,840 |
| Other | 13,988 | 11,293 | 1,945 | 3 | 3,462 | 168 | 30,859 |
| Total | 169,443 | 93,147 | 44,764 | 43,549 | 28,411 | 10,385 | 389,699 |
| Expenditure— | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 533,831 | 331,647 | 186,332 | 110,477 | 94,399 | 50,076 | 1,306,762 |
| Upkeep and Repair of Buildings, &c. | 4,992 | 35,520 | 1,921 | 7,279 | 6,153 | .. | 55,865 |
| All Other(b) | 375,606 | 266,462 | 147,378 | 73,454 | 55,108 | 28,360 | 946,368 |
| Total | 914,429 | 633,629 | 335,631 | 191,210 | 155,660 | 78,436 | 2,308,995 |
| Expenditure per Average Daily Resident | £85/3/8 | £95/7/4 | £91/11/1 | £101/10/11 | £109/3/2 | £121/8/4 | £92/7/2 |

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1943. (b) Includes the following amounts for capital expenditure on Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings: New South Wales, £35,267; Victoria, £4,200; Queensland, £8,326; South Australia, £487; and Western Australia, £711.

5. Summary for Australia, 1939-40 to 1943-44.—The following table gives a summary of hospitals for the insane in Australia during each of the five years 1939-40 to 1943-44. 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. | 1939-40. | 1940-41. | 1941-42. | 1942-43. | 1943-44. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Institutions No. | 35 | 34 | 32 | 32 | 33 |
| Medical Staff " | 92 | 89 | 91 | 92 | 97 |
| Nursing Staff " | 5,023 | 4,270 | 3,948 | 3,714 | 3,958 |
| Beds " | 26,097 | 25,771 | 25,835 | 25,977 | 26,246 |
| Admissions " | 3,842 | 3,667 | 3,712 | 3,869 | 3,858 |
| Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc. " | 1,819 | 1,771 | 1,806 | 2,052 | 2,017 |
| Deaths " | 1,798 | 1,490 | 1,794 | 1,992 | 1,977 |
| Revenue (excluding Government Grants) £ | 294,446 | 311,089 | 308,907 | 388,213 | 389,699 |
| Expenditure—Total £ | 2,066,440 | 2,090,120 | 2,092,499 | 2,138,957 | 2,308,995 |
| —Per Average Daily Resident | £83/15/2 | £83/2/7 | £81/8/9 | £84/16/9 | £92/7/2 |

6. **Number of Insane, 1939-40 to 1943-44.**—The total number returned as under treatment shows slight fluctuations during the period but the proportion shows a slight decline in 1943-44. 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. | 1939-40 | 1940-41. | 1941-42. | 1942-43. | 1943-44. |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| NUMBER. | | | | | |
| New South Wales | 11,837 | 12,050 | 12,047 | 11,954 | 11,789 |
| Victoria | 7,226 | 7,285 | 7,340 | 7,256 | 7,252 |
| Queensland | 3,707 | 3,772 | 3,735 | 3,749 | 3,819 |
| South Australia | 1,800 | 1,847 | 1,905 | 1,892 | 1,889 |
| Western Australia | 1,482 | 1,473 | 1,480 | 1,474 | 1,452 |
| Tasmania | 640 | 641 | 639 | 652 | 640 |
| Australia | 26,692 | 27,068 | 27,152 | 26,977 | 26,841 |
| PER 1,000 OF POPULATION. | | | | | |
| New South Wales | 4.26 | 4.32 | 4.29 | 4.21 | 4.11 |
| Victoria | 3.87 | 3.83 | 3.79 | 3.69 | 3.65 |
| Queensland | 3.60 | 3.66 | 3.60 | 3.56 | 3.58 |
| South Australia | 3.01 | 3.09 | 3.16 | 3.09 | 3.05 |
| Western Australia | 3.16 | 3.15 | 3.14 | 3.07 | 3.01 |
| Tasmania | 2.67 | 2.67 | 2.66 | 2.69 | 2.61 |
| Australia | 3.80 | 3.85 | 3.83 | 3.75 | 3.69 |

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.

7. **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.

8. **Length of Residence in Hospital, 1943-44.**—(i) *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.

(ii) *Queensland.* The average residence of those who died during 1943-44 was 8 years 202 days for males, and 7 years 352 days for females; of those discharged, 174 days for males, and 1 year 128 days for females.

(iii) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during 1943 was 11 years 11 months 24 days for males, and 12 years 2 months 29 days for females; of those discharged, 2 years 26 days for males, and 3 years 3 months 20 days for females.

(iv) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died in 1943 was 12 years 7 months 10 days for males, and 11 years 11 months 1 day for females; of those discharged, 2 years 3 months 19 days for males, and 3 years 1 month 7 days for females.

(v) *Tasmania.* The average residence of those who died during 1943-44 was 9 years 157 days for males, and 9 years 174 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 170 days for males, and 1 year 297 days for females.

§ 6. 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 1943-44 was: New South Wales, £49,776; Victoria, £4,470; Queensland, £87,560; South Australia, £35,977; Western Australia, £38,260; Northern Territory, £23,333; Australian Capital Territory, £736; total for Australia, £240,112. At a census of aborigines taken at 30th June, 1944, in all States except New South Wales the number of full-blood and half-caste aborigines living in supervised camps was as follows:—

ABORIGINES IN SUPERVISED CAMPS, 30th JUNE, 1944.

| Particulars. | New South Wales. | Victoria. | Queensland. | South Australia. | Western Australia. | Northern Territory. | Total. |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------|
| | (a) | | | | | | (b) |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Full-bloods .. | 373 | 18 | 4,298 | 726 | 4,450 | 8,361 | 18,227 |
| Half-castes .. | 4,114 | 229 | 2,271 | 1,118 | 1,698 | 449 | 9,980 |

(a) At 30th June, 1941.

(b) Includes one full-blood and 101 half-castes in the Australian Capital Territory.

Particulars regarding total number of aborigines in each State will be found in the Chapter XIV. "Population".

§ 7. 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 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, warning provisions, 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 1943-44 being:—New South Wales, 9,881; Victoria, 7,816; Queensland, 1,319; South Australia, 957; Western Australia, 2,304; Tasmania, 242; and Fiji, which comes under the control of the Australian Federal Council, 456.

§ 8. 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.

§ 9. 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.

§ 10. 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.

C. SOCIAL SERVICES BENEFITS.

§ 1. Commonwealth Invalid and Old-age Pensions.

1. General.—In previous issues of the Official Year Book an account is given of the introduction of the old-age pension system in Australia, together with a detailed description of the Commonwealth Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908, which became operative on 1st July, 1909. Invalid pensions were first paid from 15th December, 1910. The following statement shows the rates of pension at July, 1909 and the rates as they have been varied since that date :—

RATES OF PENSION PAYABLE.

| Date from which Operative. | Pension Payable— | | Pensioner's Maximum Income including pension. | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| | Annual Rate. | Weekly Equivalent. | Annual Rate. | Weekly Equivalent. |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 1st July, 1909 | 26 0 0 | 0 10 0 | 52 0 0 | 1 0 0 |
| 12th October, 1916 | 32 10 0 | 0 12 6 | 58 10 0 | 1 2 6 |
| 1st January, 1920 | 39 0 0 | 0 15 0 | 65 0 0 | 1 5 0 |
| 13th September, 1923 | 45 10 0 | 0 17 6 | 78 0 0 | 1 10 0 |
| 8th October, 1925 | 52 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 84 10 0 | 1 12 6 |
| 23rd July, 1931 | 45 10 0 | 0 17 6 | 78 0 0 | 1 10 0 |
| 13th October, 1932 | 45 10 0 | 0 17 6 | 71 10 0 | 1 7 6 |
| 26th October, 1933 | 45 10 0 | 0 17 6 | 78 0 0 | 1 10 0 |
| 4th July, 1935 | 46 16 0 | 0 18 0 | 79 6 0 | 1 10 6 |
| 24th September, 1936 | 49 8 0 | 0 19 0 | 81 18 0 | 1 11 6 |
| 9th September, 1937 | 52 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 84 10 0 | 1 12 6 |
| 26th December, 1940 | 54 12 0 | 1 1 0 | 87 2 0 | 1 13 6 |
| 3rd April, 1941 | 55 18 0 | 1 1 6 | 88 8 0 | 1 14 0 |
| 11th December, 1941 | 61 2 0 | 1 3 6 | 93 12 0 | 1 16 0 |
| 2nd April, 1942 | 65 0 0 | 1 5 0 | 97 10 0 | 1 17 6 |
| 1st October, 1942 | 66 6 0 | 1 5 6 | 98 16 0 | 1 18 0 |
| 7th January, 1943 | 67 12 0 | 1 6 0 | 100 2 0 | 1 18 6 |
| 1st April, 1943 | 68 18 0 | 1 6 6 | 101 8 0 | 1 19 0 |
| 19th August, 1943 | 70 4 0 | 1 7 0 | 102 14 0 | 1 19 6 |
| 25th November, 1943(a) | 68 18 0 | 1 6 6 | 101 8 0 | 1 19 0 |
| 25th November, 1943 | 70 4 0 | 1 7 0 | 102 14 0 | 1 19 6 |
| 5th July, 1945 | 84 10 0 | 1 12 6 | 117 0 0 | 2 5 0 |

(a) Rate restored to £70 4s. per annum under National Security (Supplementary) Regulation 112A... Statutory Rule 315 of 1943.

Particulars relating to the provision of an adjustment of the pension rate in accordance with the variations of the Retail Price Index-number are given in the Official Year Book No. 35, p. 580. This provision was repealed by Act No. 16 of 1944 and the rate of pension reverted to £70 4s. per annum (£1 7s. per week).

Subject to the conditions of the Act, every person, who is not receiving an invalid pension, and who has attained the age of sixty-five years (in the case of females, sixty years), is, while in Australia, qualified to receive an old-age pension.

Asiatics and aboriginal natives of Australia, Africa, the Islands of the Pacific or New Zealand generally, are not eligible to receive an invalid or old-age pension, but the Act was amended in November, 1941 to include those Asiatics who are British subjects, and in May, 1942, to include, under certain conditions, aboriginal natives of Australia and of the Pacific Islands.

Invalid pensions were granted from 15th December, 1910. Subject to the conditions of the Act, every person above the age of sixteen years who is permanently incapacitated for work, and every permanently blind person above the age of sixteen years, provided that, in each case, an old-age pension is not being received, is, while in Australia, qualified to receive an invalid pension. A claimant for an invalid pension, or an invalid pensioner, may be required to undertake such training for a vocation or physical rehabilitation as is available. In 1920 special provision was made for a permanently blind person, by which the annual pension was at such a rate (not exceeding that shown in the table above), as would make his income plus that of his wife together with the pension equal to an amount not exceeding £221 per annum. This amount has since been varied from time to time. Under the amending Act of April, 1944, the amount of pension payable to a blind person is reducible by the amount (if any) by which the income of the pensioner and the pensioner's wife (or husband) exceeds £260 per annum (£5 per week). Where a husband and wife are both blind and qualified to receive a pension only half the combined income in excess of £260 per annum is deducted from each pension.

An amendment to the Act, assented to on 29th March, 1943, provided for the payment from 8th July, 1943 of an allowance not exceeding £39 per annum to wives of invalid pensioners, provided that they themselves are not invalid or old-age pensioners. This allowance is subject to the deduction of the amount by which the other income of the wife exceeds £32 10s. per annum (12s. 6d. per week) and of £1 for every complete £10 by which the net capital value of the accumulated property of the wife exceeds £50. Provision has also been made for the payment of an additional allowance of £13 per annum (5s. per week) where there are children under sixteen years of age. The same amendment provides for the payment from 1st July, 1943, of an amount not to exceed £10 towards the funeral costs of invalid and old-age pensioners.

During 1939-40 all invalid pensions in force were specially reviewed, and at 30th June, 1940 all those pensioners who had become qualified for old-age pensions by age and residence were transferred to the old-age pension list. This transference has been continued since that date, though the numbers involved are naturally much smaller. Reciprocity between Australia and New Zealand in respect of invalid and old-age pensions operated from 1st September, 1943.

2. *Old-age Pensions.*—(i) *Number in force.* At 30th June, 1944 there were 257,186 old-age pensions in force. During 1944-45, 17,619 pensions claims were granted, and 1,616 pensioners were transferred from the invalid pension list, while 23,787 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths. The net decrease for the year was 4,552 and the total in existence at 30th June, 1945, 252,634.

(ii) *Sexes of Pensioners—States.* Of the pensioners at 30th June, 1945, 92,565 (or 37 per cent.) were males, and 160,069 (or 63 per cent.) were females. Details for each State are as follows :—

OLD-AGE PENSIONS : SEXES OF PENSIONERS AT 30th JUNE, 1945.

| State. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Masculinity.(a) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| New South Wales (b) .. | 37,748 | 65,681 | 103,429 | 57.47 |
| Victoria | 23,074 | 44,166 | 67,240 | 52.24 |
| Queensland | 13,366 | 19,344 | 32,710 | 69.10 |
| South Australia (c) .. | 7,507 | 14,523 | 22,030 | 51.69 |
| Western Australia .. | 7,148 | 10,565 | 17,713 | 67.66 |
| Tasmania | 3,722 | 5,790 | 9,512 | 64.28 |
| Total—30th June, 1945 .. | 92,565 | 160,069 | 252,634 | 57.83 |
| „ 1944 .. | 95,511 | 161,675 | 257,186 | 59.08 |
| „ 1943 .. | 101,648 | 165,591 | 267,239 | 61.38 |

(a) Number of males to each 100 females.
(c) Includes Northern Territory.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(iii) *Ages and Conjugal Conditions of Pensioners.* The recorded ages of the 17,619 persons (7,956 males and 9,663 females) to whom old-age pensions were granted during the year 1944-45 varied considerably, ranging from 2,238 at age 60 to 1 at age 98, but 13,203 were in the 60-70 group. The conjugal condition of these new pensioners was as follows :—Males—single, 1,344; married, 5,060; and widowed, 1,552; Females—single, 1,401; married, 5,680; and widowed, 2,582.

3. *Invalid Pensions.*—(i) *Number in force.* The number of invalid pensioners increased from 57,942 in 1943-44 to 58,281 in 1944-45, an increase of 339. Total pensions granted during the year were 8,186 while 6,231 pensions ceased through cancellations or deaths, and 1,616 were transferred to the old-age pension list.

(ii) *Sexes of Pensioners.* Of the 58,281 persons in receipt of invalid pensions on 30th June, 1945, 28,552, or 49 per cent. were males, and 29,729, or 51 per cent. were females. Details for the several States are as follows :—

INVALID PENSIONS : SEXES OF PENSIONERS AT 30th JUNE, 1945.

| State. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Masculinity.(a) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| New South Wales (b) .. | 13,117 | 12,858 | 25,975 | 102.01 |
| Victoria | 5,957 | 6,641 | 12,598 | 89.70 |
| Queensland | 4,639 | 4,446 | 9,085 | 104.34 |
| South Australia (c) .. | 1,845 | 2,665 | 4,510 | 69.23 |
| Western Australia .. | 1,691 | 1,723 | 3,414 | 98.14 |
| Tasmania | 1,303 | 1,396 | 2,699 | 93.34 |
| Total—30th June, 1945 .. | 28,552 | 29,729 | 58,281 | 96.04 |
| „ 1944 .. | 26,473 | 31,469 | 57,942 | 84.12 |
| „ 1943 .. | 25,496 | 32,585 | 58,081 | 78.24 |

(a) Number of males to each 100 females.
(c) Includes Northern Territory.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(iii) *Ages and Conjugal Conditions of Pensioners.* The recorded ages of the 8,186 persons (£5,260 males and 2,926 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1944-45 varied from 16 to 90, 3,236 or 40 per cent. being in the 45-59 years age-group.

The conjugal condition of persons to whom invalid pensions were granted during the year was as follows:—Males—single, 1,863; married, 3,092; and widowed, 305; Females—single, 1,740; married, 911; and widowed, 275.

4. *Cost of Administration.*—The total cost of administering invalid and old-age pensions, including wives' allowances, was in 1943-44 and 1944-45 about £201,000 or 0.92 per cent. of the amount paid to pensioners, Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals and for wives' allowances. The corresponding cost in 1942-43 was approximately £187,000 or 0.84 per cent. of the total payments.

The actual sum disbursed in invalid and old-age pensions in the financial year 1944-45, apart from the cost of administration but including the amount paid to asylums and hospitals for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, was £21,701,127 (59s. 1d. per head of mean population). In 1943-44 it was £21,699,100 (59s. 9d. per head).

5. *Summary.*—The following table gives details of invalid and old-age pensions and approximate cost of administration for the five years 1938-39 and 1941-42 to 1944-45:—

INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

| Year ended 30th June— | Number of Pensioners. | | | | Amount Paid in Pensions. | Total Payment to Pensioners and Institutions. (b) | Cost of Administration (approximate). | Cost of Administration per £100 paid to Pensioners and Institutions (approximate). | Average Fortnightly Pension as at 30th June. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|----------|---------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Old-age. | | Invalid. | Total. | | | | | |
| | No. | Est. No. per 1,000 of persons eligible on age qualification. (a) | | | | | | | |
| | | No. | No. | £ | £ | £ | s. d. | s. d. | |
| 1939 | 232,836 | 376 | 88,812 | 321,648 | 15,798,038 | 15,991,782 | 128,000 | 16 0 | 38 5 |
| 1942 | 275,456 | 411 | 60,597 | 336,053 | 19,058,159 | 19,257,025 | 120,000 | 12 6 | 48 4 |
| 1943 | 267,239 | 390 | 58,081 | 325,320 | 22,047,786 | 22,292,835 | 187,000 | 16 9 | 51 1 |
| 1944 | 257,186 | 367 | 57,942 | 315,128 | 21,479,933 | 21,699,100 | 201,000 | 18 6 | 51 11 |
| 1945 | 252,634 | 326 | 58,281 | 310,915 | 21,475,570 | 21,701,127 | 201,000 | 18 6 | 51 5 |

(a) Based on an estimate of the aggregate of males aged 65 and over and females aged 60 and over at 30th June of each year. (b) Includes allowances to wives of invalid pensioners from 1943-44, but excludes £105,336 in 1943-44 and £163,993 in 1944-45 for funeral benefits in respect of deaths of pensioners. (c) Changes in rate—see par. 1, page 244.

Separate particulars of the payments to invalid and to old-age pensioners are not available but the total payments in 1944-45 in each State together with the annual liability at 30th June, 1945 are given in the following table:—

INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS : PAYMENTS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY.

| State. | Total Payments Invalid and Old-age Pensions, 1944-45. (a) | Annual Liability at 30th June, 1945. | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| | | Old-age Pensions. | Invalid Pensions. | Total. |
| | | £ | £ | £ |
| New South Wales (b) | 8,993,577 | 6,795,048 | 1,784,796 | 8,579,844 |
| Victoria | 5,604,739 | 4,530,877 | 857,480 | 5,388,357 |
| Queensland | 2,943,029 | 2,214,160 | 622,544 | 2,836,704 |
| South Australia (c) | 1,811,704 | 1,451,658 | 304,200 | 1,755,858 |
| Western Australia | 1,473,298 | 1,177,384 | 231,920 | 1,409,304 |
| Tasmania | 874,780 | 635,284 | 184,184 | 819,468 |
| Total—1944-45 | 21,701,127 | 16,804,411 | 3,985,124 | 20,789,535 |
| 1943-44 | 21,699,100 | 17,314,986 | 3,968,770 | 21,283,756 |
| 1942-43 | 22,292,835 | 17,702,594 | 3,913,130 | 21,615,724 |

(a) Includes amounts paid to Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals for the maintenance of pensioners, and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

§ 2. Commonwealth Child Endowment.

1. **General.**—The Commonwealth Child Endowment Act came into operation on 1st July, 1941, and provided for payment of 5s. per week (increased to 7s. 6d. per week from 26th June, 1945) for each child in excess of one under 16 years of age maintained in a family, and for children under 16 years of age in approved institutions. During the year 1944-45, 51,147 claims were granted. Cancellations amounted to 35,994 and the number of endowed family claims in force at 30th June, 1945 was 518,293, an increase of 15,153 during the year.

2. **Summary.**—The following table shows particulars of the operations under the Child Endowment Act during the year ended 30th June, 1945:—

CHILD ENDOWMENT : SUMMARY, 1944-45.

| State. | Claims in force at end of year. | Family Groups. | | | | Total Payments to Endowees and Institutions. |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | Endowed Children. | | Annual Liability at 30th June, 1945. | | |
| | | Total. | Average per claim. | Total. | Average Liability per claim. | |
| | | No. | No. | £ | £ | |
| New South Wales (a) | 205,472 | 365,436 | 1.78 | 7,126,002 | 34.68 | 4,699,888 |
| Victoria | 131,526 | 224,140 | 1.70 | 4,370,847 | 33.23 | 2,984,646 |
| Queensland | 81,047 | 152,257 | 1.88 | 2,969,011 | 36.63 | 1,983,075 |
| South Australia (b) | 42,381 | 71,918 | 1.70 | 1,402,401 | 33.09 | 934,578 |
| Western Australia | 38,643 | 68,316 | 1.77 | 1,332,162 | 34.47 | 905,508 |
| Tasmania | 19,224 | 38,354 | 2.00 | 747,903 | 38.90 | 528,554 |
| Total—1944-45 | 518,293 | 920,427 | 1.78 | 17,948,326 | 34.63 | 12,036,240 |
| 1943-44 | 503,140 | 903,577 | 1.80 | 11,746,501 | 23.35 | 12,256,976 |
| 1942-43 | 491,121 | 891,221 | 1.82 | 11,585,873 | 23.59 | 11,659,626 |
| 1941-42 | 487,674 | 895,558 | 1.84 | 11,642,254 | 23.87 | 11,302,863 |

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

In addition to the children endowed in families, child endowment benefits were paid in respect of children in approved institutions during 1941-42 to 1944-45 as follows: 1941-42, 14,289; 1942-43, 16,938; 1943-44, 18,396; and in 1944-45, 18,116.

In 1944-45 the cost of administration was £145,734 or 1.21 per cent. of the total payments made.

3. **Number of Children.**—The following table shows the number of claims in force, the number of endowed children and the number of unendowed children in endowed families, classified according to the number of children in the family:—

CHILD ENDOWMENT : NUMBER OF CHILDREN(a) AT 30th JUNE, 1945.

| Size of Family. | Claims of Endowed Families in force at 30th June, 1945. | Children. | | |
|------------------|---|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Endowed. | Unendowed in Endowed Families. | Total in Endowed Families. |
| Two children .. | 287,945 | 287,945 | 287,945 | 575,890 |
| Three „ .. | 131,924 | 263,848 | 131,924 | 395,772 |
| Four „ .. | 55,761 | 167,283 | 55,761 | 223,044 |
| Five „ .. | 24,218 | 96,872 | 24,218 | 121,090 |
| Six „ .. | 10,666 | 53,330 | 10,666 | 63,996 |
| Seven „ .. | 4,734 | 28,404 | 4,734 | 33,138 |
| Eight „ .. | 2,046 | 14,322 | 2,046 | 16,368 |
| Nine „ .. | 680 | 5,440 | 680 | 6,120 |
| Ten „ .. | 231 | 2,079 | 231 | 2,310 |
| Eleven „ .. | 68 | 680 | 68 | 748 |
| Twelve „ .. | 16 | 176 | 16 | 192 |
| Thirteen „ .. | 4 | 48 | 4 | 52 |
| Total 1944-45 .. | 518,293 | 920,427 | 518,293 | 1,438,720 |
| 1943-44 .. | 503,140 | 903,577 | 503,140 | 1,406,717 |
| 1942-43 .. | 491,121 | 891,221 | 491,121 | 1,382,342 |
| 1941-42 .. | 487,674 | 895,558 | 487,674 | 1,383,232 |

(a) Under 16 years of age.

§ 3. Commonwealth Widows' Pensions.

1. **General.**—The Widows' Pension Act operated from 1st July, 1942, and provided for the payment of a pension, subject to certain conditions of residence, character, property and nationality, (a) of £78 per annum (£1 10s. per week) to widows maintaining one or more children under 16 years of age; and (b) of £65 per annum (£1 5s. per week) to widows not maintaining children, but who are not less than 50 years of age. The rate for widows in class (a) was increased from 5th April, 1944 to £83 4s. per annum (£1 12s. per week, and from 18th September, 1945 to £97 10s. per annum (£1 17s. 6d. per week), and for widows in class (b) was increased from 5th April, 1944 to £70 4s. per annum (£1 7s. per week). The value of real and personal property permissible in respect of class (a), after deductions of charges and encumbrances thereon and excluding the value of a house owned and resided in, together with furniture and personal effects, must not exceed £1,000. For class (b) £100 is the maximum. The rate of pension is reducible by the amount by which a widow's other income exceeds £32 10s. per annum (12s. 6d. per week), and, in the case of a widow in class (b), by £1 per annum for every complete £10 by which the value of her real and personal estate, as defined above, exceeds £50.

Board and lodging received is regarded as income, and, in the case of widows in class (a), 5 per cent. of the value of the real personal property as defined above, or the net income therefrom, whichever is the greater. Payment by way of gift or allowance from a son or daughter is not regarded as income. Pensions may not be received at the same time under the Invalid and Old-age and Widows' Pensions Acts.

The Act also provided, in respect of widows under 50 years of age not maintaining children, for the payment, in the case of necessitous circumstances, of an allowance of £1 5s. per week, which was increased to £1 7s. per week from 5th April, 1944, and to £1 12s. 6d. per week from 18th September, 1945, for a period not exceeding 26 weeks immediately after the death of the husband.

The term "widow" includes a dependent female (i.e., a woman, who for not less than three years immediately prior to his death has been living with a man, though not legally married to him, on a permanent and *bona fide* domestic basis); a deserted wife; a woman whose marriage has been dissolved and who has not remarried; and a woman whose husband is an inmate of a hospital for the insane.

The first payment under the Act was made on 27th July, 1942. The number of pensions current at 30th June, 1945 was 44,155 and the amount paid during 1944-45 was £2,965,446. The following table shows details of widows' pensions paid in each State in the year 1944-45 and for Australia for the years 1943-44 and 1942-43.

COMMONWEALTH WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1945.(a)

| State. | Pensions Current.(b) | | Children for whom Pensions Payable. | Average Four-weekly rate of Pension. | Amount paid in Pensions during 1944-45. | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | Number. | Per 10,000 of Population. | | | Amount. | Per head of Population.(c) |
| | | | No. | £ s. d. | £ | s. d. |
| New South Wales(d) | 17,022 | 58 | 6,924 | 5 10 0 | 1,200,589 | 8 4 |
| Victoria | 12,614 | 63 | 3,575 | 5 2 7 | 799,052 | 8 0 |
| Queensland | 6,492 | 60 | 2,332 | 5 6 2 | 436,943 | 8 2 |
| South Australia(e) .. | 3,569 | 56 | 1,023 | 5 2 10 | 231,932 | 7 4 |
| Western Australia .. | 2,894 | 59 | 812 | 5 2 4 | 192,763 | 7 11 |
| Tasmania | 1,564 | 63 | 618 | 5 6 0 | 103,567 | 8 5 |
| Total 1944-45 .. | 44,155 | 60 | 15,284 | 5 6 1 | 2,965,446 | 8 1 |
| 1943-44 .. | 42,212 | 58 | 16,107 | 5 6 8 | 2,800,702 | 7 8 |
| 1942-43 .. | 38,402 | 53 | 16,214 | 5 5 0 | 2,358,998 | 6 7 |

(a) The Commonwealth Government commenced to pay Widows' Pensions from 1st July, 1942.
 (b) Excludes nine (1944-45), eight (1943-44) and six (1942-43) pensions in respect of pensioners in Benevolent Asylums. (c) Based on mean population for the financial year. (d) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (e) Includes Northern Territory.

§ 4. Commonwealth Maternity Allowances.

1. **General.**—The Maternity Allowance Act 1912-1944 makes provision for the payment of maternity allowances. The most important conditions in the original Act were that the sum of five pounds was payable in the case of each confinement resulting in the birth of a viable child whether such child was born alive or dead. The mother must be a native of Australia or intend to settle permanently therein. No payment is

made to aliens. The Act was amended in May, 1942, to provide for the allowance to be paid to aboriginal natives of Australia, subject to certain conditions. The Financial Emergency Act 1931 reduced the allowance payable to £4 and limited the application of the original Act to those cases where the combined income of husband and wife did not exceed £260 (reduced to £208 by the Financial Emergency Act 1932) in the previous 12 months. There were further subsequent changes and at 30th June, 1943, the income limit was £247, with an additional £13 in respect of each previous living child under 14, the maximum being £338. The amount of the allowance was £4 10s. where there was no previous living child under 14 years of age, £5 where there were one or two previous living children under 14 and £7 10s. where there were three or more such children.

By an amendment to the Act in March, 1943, the income limit provisions were repealed and the allowances payable in respect of births from 1st July, 1943, were:— Where there are no other children under 14 years of age, £5; where there are one or two children under 14, £6; and where there are three or more children under 14, £7 10s.; together with the payment of £1 5s. for each of the four weeks before and after the birth of a child. By a further amendment, which operated from 5th April, 1944, the age of children taken into account was increased from 14 to 16 years of age, and the payment of £1 5s. per week was increased to £1 17s. 6d. per week when twins are born and to £2 10s. per week when triplets are born.

The following table gives a summary of the working of the Maternity Allowance Act for the five years 1938-39 and 1941-42 to 1944-45:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : SUMMARY.

| Year. | Claims Paid. | Claims Rejected. | Amount Paid. | Cost of Administration (approximate). | Cost per £100 allowance paid (approximate). |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | No. | No. | £ | £ | £ s. d. |
| 1938-39 .. | 80,916 | 6,272 | 436,614 | 16,959 | 3 17 8 |
| 1941-42 .. | 66,391 | 12,790 | 358,538 | 11,717 | 3 5 4 |
| 1942-43 .. | 51,956 | 15,872 | 281,052 | 10,000 | 3 11 2 |
| 1943-44 (a) .. | 149,067 | 3,564 | 2,287,000 | 18,000 | 0 15 9 |
| 1944-45 .. | 159,621 | 667 | 2,542,801 | 19,000 | 0 14 11 |
| Aggregate— 1912-13 to 1944-45 .. | 3,696,621 | 108,684 | 21,544,746 | 463,455 | 2 3 0 |

(a) Income qualification was abolished from 1st July, 1943.

2. Claims paid in each State.—The following table shows the number of maternity allowance claims paid in each State during the same five years:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE.

| Year ended 30th June— | N.S.W. (a) | Vic. | Q'land. | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | N.T. | Total. |
|------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| 1939 .. | 30,860 | 20,819 | 12,880 | 7,162 | 5,213 | 3,940 | 42 | 80,916 |
| 1942 .. | 24,481 | 16,120 | 12,113 | 5,724 | 4,320 | 3,620 | 13 | 66,391 |
| 1943 .. | 19,182 | 11,874 | 9,651 | 4,197 | 4,025 | 3,018 | 9 | 51,956 |
| 1944 .. | 57,792 | 38,653 | 23,743 | 12,636 | 10,439 | 5,804 | (b) | 149,067 |
| 1945 .. | 61,755 | 40,582 | 26,432 | 14,361 | 10,909 | 5,582 | (b) | 159,621 |
| Total, 1912-13 to 1944-45 .. | 1,460,696 | 960,323 | 557,562 | 321,678 | 237,073 | 158,165 | 1,124 | 3,696,621 |

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Included with South Australia.

3. **Claims Paid at the Various Rates.**—The following table shows the number of claims granted in each State at the various rates in respect of maternity allowances (see p. 251), chargeable to the National Welfare Fund during the year 1944-45 :—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE, 1944-45.

| State. | Single Births. | | | Multiple Births. | | | | | | Total number of claims granted. |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------------------------|
| | £15. | £16. | £17 10s. | Twins. | | | Triplets. | | | |
| | | | | £20. | £21. | £22 10s. | £25. | £26. | £27 10s. | |
| No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | |
| N.S. Wales(a) | 23,292 | 27,439 | 10,277 | 237 | 340 | 161 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 61,755 |
| Victoria | 15,670 | 18,496 | 5,927 | 173 | 221 | 90 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 40,582 |
| Queensland | 9,566 | 11,448 | 5,098 | 94 | 138 | 84 | 2 | .. | 2 | 26,432 |
| Sth. Australia(b) | 5,576 | 6,597 | 2,022 | 58 | 83 | 23 | .. | 1 | 1 | 14,361 |
| Western Australia | 3,830 | 5,087 | 1,860 | 34 | 77 | 20 | .. | 1 | .. | 10,909 |
| Tasmania | 1,826 | 2,343 | 1,350 | 20 | 22 | 21 | .. | .. | .. | 5,582 |
| Total | 59,760 | 71,410 | 26,534 | 616 | 881 | 399 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 159,621 |

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

§ 5. Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

1. **General.**—A very important addition was made to Commonwealth social legislation when the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act received the Royal Assent on 5th April, 1944.

The Act came into operation on 1st July, 1945, and is financed from the National Welfare Fund. The first payments were made on 19th July, 1945.

Persons eligible include all males between the ages of 16 and 65 years and all females between the ages of 16 and 60 years who have lived in Australia for the twelve months immediately preceding a claim for benefit and who are not qualified to receive a service pension under the Soldier's Repatriation Act or an invalid, old-age or widow's pension.

The payment of unemployment benefit is subject to the claimant being capable of undertaking and willing to accept suitable employment. Except where the applicant lives in remote or inaccessible areas of Australia or where for some good reason it is impossible to do so, the payment of sickness benefit is subject to the production of a medical certificate or some other satisfactory evidence.

2. **Rates of Benefits.**—The rates of benefits for both unemployment and sickness are as follows :—

| Unmarried male or female— | | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| 16 years and under 17 years | | 15 | 0 per week. |
| 17 " " 18 " | | 15 | 0 " |
| 18 " " 21 " | | 20 | 0 " |
| 21 years and over | | 25 | 0 " |

A married person, whether adult or minor, may receive an additional 20s. per week for a dependent spouse and 5s. per week for an unendowed child.

All benefits are subject to a means test which disregards the value of property owned by claimant and permits the possession of income up to the following amounts :—

| Unmarried male and female— | | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| 16 years and under 17 years | | 5 | 0 per week. |
| 17 " " 18 " | | 10 | 0 " |
| 18 " " 21 " | | 15 | 0 " |
| In all other cases | | 20 | 0 " |

3. **Means Test.**—In applying the means test for sickness benefit, any amount up to 20s. per week received by claimant from a friendly society or other approved benefit society is disregarded. For the purpose of calculating unemployment benefit, the income of the family group is taken into account, but in the case of sickness benefit the claimant's income only will be considered in determining whether there shall be reduction in benefit because of the possession of other income.

Where a person is entitled to some other payment such as war pension or worker's compensation in respect of the disability for which he claims sickness benefit, payment will be made only to the extent to which such other payment is less than the amount of benefit.

In the case of unemployment the Act provides for payment of benefit for the duration of the unemployment, and in the case of sickness for the duration of temporary incapacity. Where incapacity through sickness becomes permanent, an invalid pension may be granted, subject to the conditions governing the grant of invalid pensions.

4. **Waiting Period.**—There is a waiting period of seven days in respect of which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable.

5. **Special Benefit.**—In cases of hardship where a person is not qualified for either sickness or unemployment benefit by reason of his inability to comply with one or other of the statutory requirements, a special benefit, at a rate not exceeding that which might otherwise have been payable, may be authorized.

6. **Administration.**—For convenience of administration, Commonwealth Employment Service Officers act as Registrars and in their offices are officers of the Department of Social Services to attend to the detailed duties with the exception that in parts of Queensland and the districts of Newcastle, New South Wales, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory and Adelaide, South Australia, Social Service officers have the sole control. Payment of benefits is made by cheques issued by the Deputy-Director of Social Services in the metropolitan areas and by Registrars in country districts.

§ 6. Hospital Benefits Act.

Under this Act, which was assented to on 11th October, 1945, the Commonwealth Government has entered into an agreement with the States to pay to the States the benefit rate of six shillings per day for each bed occupied, provided the States agree to abolish the means test for admission into public wards and to cease charging fees for patients admitted.

The allowance of six shillings per day provided by the Commonwealth was given with the object of reimbursing the States the amount of money they would lose because of the abolition of fees in public wards and for the loss of any charitable donations. The Commonwealth Government has undertaken to increase the amount if the States can prove that the costs of running hospitals have increased.

The agreement provides for the Commonwealth to pay a similar amount for intermediate and private-ward patients in public hospitals towards the cost of hospital treatment, and for the State Government to reduce the hospital fees by the equivalent of the benefit rate, thus relieving the patients of fees to this extent.

Private hospitals are entitled to claim six shillings a day for each occupied bed. These hospitals must be approved by a joint committee of Commonwealth and State Health authorities before payment of benefit is made. The hospitals are required to reduce the account by the amount of the benefit received from the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth and States have agreed to form a National Hospitals Commission of Commonwealth and State representatives, the functions of which will be to advise the Commonwealth and State Governments on any hospital matters referred to it by the Commonwealth or State Governments.

§ 7. Tuberculosis Act.

This act was assented to on 11th October, 1945, and embodies the following four principles :—

- (a) The earlier the disease is recognized the better the prospect of recovery for the patient and the better from the point of view of the community. Accordingly, the Commonwealth proposal is aimed at encouraging the States to establish additional diagnostic facilities. Section 4 of the Act provides for the Commonwealth to subsidize pound for pound the expenditure of the States in the maintenance of diagnostic facilities, such as clinics, dispensaries, X-ray equipment, etc. The Commonwealth is to provide up to a maximum of £50,000 per year on this basis.
- (b) The Commonwealth will pay to the States a subsidy of six shillings a day per bed occupied in tuberculosis hospitals. Payment is subject to the condition that free treatment is given and no fees are charged in public wards.
- (c) Many patients, after a period in a hospital or sanatorium, require further care. To assist the States to extend after-care facilities, the Commonwealth proposes to make available up to £50,000 per annum, on a pound for pound basis, for maintenance expenditure on after-care facilities established after the commencement of the Act.
- (d) Medical authorities are agreed that an adequate level of nutrition should be maintained as a first line of resistance to tuberculosis. To this end, the Government will provide special allowances for the families of sufferers from tuberculosis. This allowance will be paid only in those cases where the fight against the disease will be positively assisted. It is not an automatic grant to all cases of tuberculosis.

§ 8. Pharmaceutical Benefits Act.

This Act passed all stages of the Commonwealth Parliament in March, 1944. It embodied a scheme for providing pharmaceutical benefits to all persons ordinarily resident in Australia. This Act was the subject of a High Court action and, as a result, it became impossible to put it into effect.