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SECTION XXIV.

PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory.

1. **General.**—Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings, viz.:—(a) State; (b) public; (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal lunatic asylums in the various States, the Government hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government asylums for infirm in New South Wales. The second class comprises public institutions of two kinds, viz.:—(i.) Institutions partially subsidised by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii.) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the Melbourne and other large 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. Moreover, public response to special appeals, and summary relief in kind, cannot be statistically recorded. Hospitals, orphanages, homes, benevolent asylums, etc., naturally attract the largest share of charitable aid; but there are numerous minor charities dependent upon private beneficence. In institutions which receive Government aid, management and finance are usually relegated to executive bodies.

The scope which economic and industrial conditions in Australia afford for the exercise of natural ability, and the comparatively wide distribution of wealth throughout the Commonwealth, operate to prevent the development of a permanent pauper class, and at the same time lessen in a dual way the burden of charity. This result is brought about by the increase, on the one hand, of the number of people whose prosperity enables them to relieve the indigent and unfortunate, and by the reduction, on the other, of the number who need assistance. Enactments of State Legislatures have decreed short hours and a liberal holiday allowance for large numbers of persons engaged in industrial and other pursuits, and, even in occupations not covered by Act of Parliament, the general conditions of employment often provide a considerable amount of leisure. This, coupled with an equable climate, enables the community to spend much of its time in the open air, with resultant advantages to its physique and general health. No poor-rate is levied in Australia, and Government aid without return is required only for the aged and disabled. Moreover, although Old Age Pensions are paid by the Commonwealth, the payments are looked upon rather in the light of a citizen's right than as a charity. Reference to the Old Age Pensions will be found in § 4, *Miscellaneous*, chap. xxxiv.

To meet special and temporary conditions, various relief works have been started from time to time, in which the able-bodied who may be forced to seek official relief are required to make some return for the assistance afforded.

In each of the States there are Government asylums for the care of the insane, and the condition of these unfortunates has been steadily ameliorated by the general advance in psychiatry.

Young children deprived of parental training and control are cared for and educated in "orphanages" and "industrial schools," and those who have been guilty of some specific offence, or who are beyond effective parental control, are committed to "reformatories."

From time to time relief funds have been organised for famine-stricken territories (*e.g.*, China, India, etc.), or for places where plague, flood, fire, or earthquake has shewn the need of urgent relief. Special funds are also raised for such as are 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 duties of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds, which have been instituted in consequence of the war, the total for Australia, up to the end of July, 1916, has been estimated at £5,758,000.

2. Charity Reforms.—The evident overlapping of charitable effort has on various occasions led to discussion regarding methods of collection and distribution. The great desideratum in charity organisation is that the available aid should be relegated solely to the relief of distress and suffering. The true interests of the sick poor would thus be conserved, and the real intention of the donors fulfilled. With greater public attention, improved administration has been brought about. Societies to prevent overlapping have been formed, resulting in improved economical collection and distribution of charitable aid, and a better system of using the available accommodation.

Other proposed reforms aim at ascertaining the causes of poverty and crime, and finding the necessary palliative. Increased provision of better houses and workrooms and improved sanitation are advocated, together with more stringent legislative measures to enforce cleanliness and healthy modes of life. Further, Factories Legislation, Health Acts, etc., have enacted provisions for safeguarding dangerous machinery, and permitting only competent persons to be employed thereon.

3. Tabulation of Charities Statistics.—Differences in the organisation of charities prevent uniform tabulation of statistics for all the States, but certain of the larger features of the statistics of benevolence have been combined for the whole Commonwealth, and are shewn for a period extending over five years. Where the combination has been for dissimilar periods the nearest years have been taken. Satisfactory tabulation for other charities is not yet possible.

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

1. Hospitals.—All of 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 consumptives, women, children, infectious diseases, incurables, etc. The

number of hospitals in Australia, with the admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, is shewn in the following table. Only general hospitals are tabulated, since the working of "special" institutions is not properly comparable with those which treat every class of case.

HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1910 to 1914.

Particulars.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Number of institutions ...	338	355	368	381	389
Number of beds ...	13,342	13,732	14,574	15,235	15,345
Admissions during year ...	119,091	125,822	139,378	145,908	155,531
Indoor patients treated ...	126,234	133,652	144,692	152,077	164,349
Deaths ...	8,946	9,642	11,235	11,362	11,468
Expenditure ...	£ 802,212	916,984	1,102,134	1,264,605	1,255,658

In addition to those admitted to the institutions there are large numbers of out-patients. The exact number of these cannot be given, but a rough estimate of distinct cases for 1914 places the total at about 300,000.

Fuller details of hospital statistics are given for 1914 in the table below, the States and Northern Territory of the Commonwealth being shewn separately :—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION OF HOSPITALS
IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1914.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'wlth.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government ...	3	50	2	8	21	2	2	88
Other ...	148	5	87	17	31	13	...	301
Total ...	151	55	89	25	52	15	2	389
Medical Staff—								
Males ...	781	91	191	98	57	39	2	1,271
Females ...			6	6	...	...	...
Total ...	781	91	197	104	57	39	2	1,271
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males ...	89	28	257	69	79	3	10	535
Females ...	1,698	753	870	420	426	143	1	4,311
Total ...	1,787	781	1,127	489	505	146	11	4,846
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, etc. ...	991	466	526	167	179	124	12	2,465
Capacity in cubic ft. ...	6,925,260	4,725,360	3,409,764	1,431,407	1,916,887	762,017	48,951	19,219,646
Number of beds ...	5,674	3,660	3,000	1,049	1,371	565	26	15,345
Cubic ft. to each bed	1,221	1,291	1,137	1,365	1,398	1,349	1,883	1,253

1. Inclusive, in Victoria, of 569 paid staff and 18 dispensing staff: sexes not stated.

**GENERAL HOSPITALS—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE
COMMONWEALTH, 1914.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'w'lh.
Indoor Relief: Distinct Persons								
Treated—								
Males	37,938	19,084	20,769	5,772	7,774	3,828	232	95,397
Females	32,216	14,520	11,027	4,372	3,833	2,918	66	68,952
Total	70,154	33,604	31,796	10,144	11,607	6,746	298	164,349
Inmates at beginning of Year—								
Males	2,067	1,457	1,118	371	510	177	19	5,719
Females	1,660	1,040	659	253	215	159	...	3,966
Total	3,727	2,497	1,777	624	725	336	19	9,705
Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—								
Males	35,871	17,627	19,651	6,040	7,264	3,651	213	90,317
Females	30,556	13,480	10,368	4,367	3,618	2,759	66	65,214
Total	66,427	31,107	30,019	10,407	10,882	6,410	279	155,531
Discharges—Recovered:								
Males	25,187	15,049	17,617	3,564	3,225	3,314	157	68,113
Females	23,967	11,903	9,425	2,829	1,767	2,596	46	52,533
Total	49,154	26,952	27,042	6,393	4,992	5,910	203	120,646
Relieved:								
Males	6,798	...	...	1,389	3,127	...	38	11,352
Females	3,985	...	...	897	1,347	...	10	6,239
Total	10,783	2 ...	2 ...	2,286	4,474	2 ...	48	17,591
Unrelieved:								
Males	980	196	463	440	308	35	3	2,425
Females	842	154	229	303	124	22	...	1,674
Total	1,822	350	692	743	432	57	3	4,099
Not stated:								
Males ... ..	...	559	112	21	19	20	...	731
Females ... ..	...	340	56	10	48	10	...	464
Total ... ..	...	899	168	31	67	30	...	1,195
Deaths—								
Males	2,724	1,809	1,402	601	606	229	13	7,384
Females	1,586	1,045	658	321	332	134	8	4,084
Total	4,310	2,854	2,060	922	938	363	21	11,468
Inmates at End of Year—								
Males	2,249	1,471	1,175	396	489	230	21	6,031
Females	1,836	1,078	659	260	215	156	2	4,206
Total	4,085	2,549	1,834	656	704	386	23	10,237
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males	2,219	2,521	1,857	{ 402 297	561 264	212 187	9 2	10,399
Females	1,863							
Total	4,087	2,521	1,857	699	825	399	11	10,399

1. Including relieved. 2. Included in recovered. 3. Cases relieved are included in those recovered, in Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania.

The revenue and expenditure of the institutions were as follows:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1914.

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	C'wth.
Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of patients, etc.	66,457	30,599	24,634	8,779	14,160	7,466	149	152,244
Government grants	255,923	70,530	161,665	58,033	72,569	22,678	5,301	646,699
Other ...	152,817	120,465	80,652	15,847	33,948	6,854	30	410,613
Total ...	475,197	221,594	266,951	82,659	120,677	36,998	5,480	1,209,556
Expenditure—								
Buildings ...	105,448	69,402	31,122	8,824	...	1,380	1,545	217,721
Salaries ...	181,338	190,502	87,087 ¹	30,831	50,708	14,134	1,906	...
Maintenance ...	185,808	...	107,945	39,516	73,084 ²	16,334	1,850	1,037,937
Other ...	37,960	4,092	7,587	2,289	...	4,966	...	...
Total ...	510,554	263,996	233,741	81,460	123,792	36,814	5,301	1,255,658

1. Including rent.

2. Including buildings.

2. **Hospitals for General and Special Cases.**—The tables here given refer to general hospitals. In addition there are hospitals for “specials” (such as women’s, children’s, and infectious diseases hospitals), and institutions nearly allied to hospitals (such as consumptive sanatoria). In the earliest numbers of the Commonwealth Year Book, these were tabulated with general hospitals. Where the institutions carry on general hospital relief, they are still included with those establishments.

(i.) *New South Wales.* A Government hospital is established at Little Bay. There are four women’s and one children’s hospitals in the metropolis. Other leading institutions are the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, Dental Hospital, Home for Incurables, Hospital for Infants and Asylum for Women and Children, Infants’ Home, etc. A feature of late years has been the establishment of general hospitals in many country towns of growing importance.

(ii.) *Victoria.* Special hospitals, not included in the above tabulation, comprise the Women’s Hospital, with infirmary and midwifery departments, the Children’s Hospital, the Hospital for Women and Children, a Government Consumptive Sanatorium, Inebriates’ Institute, Convalescent homes, etc.

(iii.) *Queensland.* There are six lying-in and two children’s hospitals in Queensland, and a sanatorium.

(iv.) *South Australia.* In connection with the leading general hospital in the metropolis, there is a consumptive home and infectious diseases block; there are also a children’s hospital, two lying-in homes, sanatorium, convalescent home, home for incurables, etc.

(v.) *Western Australia.* The leading general hospitals are Government establishments. There is a lying-in establishment in connection with the metropolitan women’s home. There are also homes for the dying and incurable, homes and rests for sailors, strangers, etc.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* In Tasmania there are several institutions which pay particular regard to “special cases”; these include two hospitals for contagious diseases; two

hospitals for women; a consumptive sanatorium; and a convalescent home. Other important institutions of a general nature are the New Town Charitable Establishment, and the Home for Invalids.

3. Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.—A marked increase has taken place in the amount of aid bestowed upon the aged. Two elements, each of them independent of the growth of population, have influenced this increase. One is, that the general age of the community has advanced—the large flow of immigration of fifty and sixty years ago having been mostly of persons in the prime of life; the other is the increased regard paid in all British communities to the well-being of the helpless. The result in Australia has been that numerous establishments have been founded for the housing and protection of such as are no longer able to care for themselves. The institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, charity performances, bequests, etc., and in many cases relatives of indigent and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

The impossibility of an entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially marked in the case of benevolent institutions, since the conditions under which they have been established in the different centres in the Commonwealth have caused divergence in their development and in the classes of cases treated by them. For example, in Western Australia the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which the statistics are not separately kept. Since the predominating function of the Institution is aid to the destitute, it has been included among benevolent asylums. In Victoria, nine of the hospitals are also Benevolent asylums, and they are included wholly under the former. In South Australia, the Destitute Asylum includes lying-in and children's departments.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1914.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government aid ...	82,394	15,714	31,833	21,480	45,283	7,108	203,812
Municipal aid ...	...	891	...	...	...	...	891
Public subs., legacies, etc....	3,154	7,624	931	...	...	...	11,709
Fees ...	9,273	9,376	...	458	...	799	19,905
Other ...	317	1,981	3,247	192	...	217	5,954
Total...	95,137	35,586	36,011	22,130	45,283	8,124	242,271
Expenditure—							
Buildings ...	2,518	2,020	3,295	127	...	789	8,749
Maintenance ...	89,931	38,643	30,575	22,003	15,639	5,536	202,327
Other ...	2,910	199	2,221	...	29,644	1,799	36,773
Total...	95,359	40,862	36,091	22,130	45,283	8,124	247,849

(i.) *Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales.* There are six of these institutions in New South Wales, with something over 4000 beds, usually in continuous use. Inmates at the end of 1914 numbered 3124; deaths numbered 894; and the expenditure amounted to £84,146 for the twelve months ended 30th December, 1914.

(ii.) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. The daily average number indoors was 2025 for 1913-14, with 963 distinct cases of outdoor relief. Deaths numbered 450. The total expenditure was £40,862 (of which £2020 was spent on buildings), and receipts £35,586—£15,714 from Government and £19,872 from other sources.

(iii.) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 936 beds. The total number in the asylums during 1914 was 1641, with a daily average of about 1030. Deaths numbered 144. Expenditure amounted to £36,091, and receipts to £36,011, of which £31,833 was Government aid.

(iv.) *Destitute Asylum, Adelaide.* Outside of hospitals and lunatic asylums the destitute of South Australia are dealt with and relieved at the Destitute Asylum, Adelaide. The institution includes lying-in and children's departments. In the asylum the average number of inmates in 1913-14 was 301. There were seventy deaths during the year. Expenditure totalled £8315. In addition, £14,012 was dispensed through the institution for outdoor relief of the destitute in both metropolitan and rural districts.

(v.) *Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia.* There are three of these homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. Attached to the Perth Women's Home is a lying-in department. Outdoor relief to the poor and aged is given, the amount expended being included in expenditure in the previous table. More than eighteen hundred indoor cases were dealt with during 1914. There were 99 deaths.

(vi.) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. Beds numbered 251 in 1914-15. The total number of persons treated was 326, of whom 50 died. The daily average number resident was 191. Total expenditure was £8124, receipts amounting to the same sum, of which £7108 was contributed by the State.

4. **Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.**—The organisation of charitable effort varies greatly in regard to orphans and waifs. In many institutions shelter and some form of industrial training are offered to destitute children of all classes, whether orphans or not, while some of those styled orphanages do not confine their relief to orphans strictly so called. The figures in the next table are those for institutions where, it is believed, the principal effort is on behalf of those who are really orphans:—

ORPHANAGES IN COMMONWEALTH, 1910 to 1914.

Particulars.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Number of institutions	42	41	41	42	50
Admissions	1,626	1,760	1,563	1,514	2,340
Total number of inmates during year ...	5,331	5,465	5,057	4,720	4,344
Deaths	22	12	18	18	46
Expenditure ¹	£ 72,882	74,415	63,362	72,091	86,390

1. Incomplete. Expenditure is not available for some orphanages.

(i.) *New South Wales.* The care of destitute and neglected children is entrusted to the State Children's Relief Board, whose officers are charged with a strict supervision regarding the welfare of the children and the treatment of them by those to whom they are boarded out. Useful trades and profitable occupations are taught, and many of the children become useful members of society. The number of children under the board's supervision in 1914-15 was 11,492. The board's expenditure in that year was £128,252, or £11 3s. per child.

There are also fourteen orphanages, with 683 persons under care on 31st December, 1914.

In the year 1914, there were five deaths, and the expenditure was £13,296, exclusive of four institutions from which no particulars were received.

There are several reformatories and industrial schools maintained by the State. At the Parramatta Industrial School for Girls, to which a Training Home has lately been annexed, there was, during 1914, a gross enrolment of 186, with a daily average attendance of 129. At the Farm Home for boys, Gosford, the gross enrolment during 1914 was 122, the average attendance being 263.

(ii.) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1635 beds. The total number under care in 1913-14 was 2139, of whom 1654 were inmates on 30th June, 1914. In the year 1913-14 there were 486 admissions and five deaths. The annual expenditure in 1911-12 was £27,463, in 1912-13 £25,243, and in 1913-14 £29,780.

At the end of 1914 there were three industrial and nine reformatory schools in the State. Of these, one industrial and one reformatory school are wholly controlled by the Government, being used merely as receiving and distributing depots. The children are sent thence to situations, foster homes, or other institutions dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management, receiving an allowance for State wards. Many of the reformatory children are placed with friends, or licensed out. On 31st December, 1914, the wards of the State numbered 9339—classed mostly as neglected children. There were also some children free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The total expenditure for 1914 was £129,600, of which £123,322 was borne by the Government.

(iii.) *Queensland.* There are eleven orphanages in Queensland. The number under care on 31st December, 1914, was 1031. In 1914 the expenditure was £17,225, and the number of deaths 32.

There are also six industrial and reformatory schools. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1914 was 5066. The gross cost was £65,025, of which £60,565 was borne by the Government.

(iv.) *South Australia.* The State Children's Department exercises a supervision over the probationary and industrial schools, the reformatories, and the Methodist Home. The total number of admissions into these institutions in 1913-14 was 233. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1914, was 221, in addition to which 1388 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed. There were no deaths of children in industrial schools, but of those placed out and in other institutions eighteen died. The number of children under State control on 30th June, 1914, was 1609. The expenditure for 1913-14 was £28,983 in gross, of which the Government aid was £25,718.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1914 was 226, of whom 215 were inmates on 31st December, 1914. There were no deaths in the year, and the expenditure amounted to £4389.

(v.) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, at the 30th June, 1914, six orphanages, in which the number of inmates was 576 (324 boys and 252 girls), a decrease of 37 from the previous year. There were also four industrial schools, in which there were at the same date 95 inmates (60 boys and 35 girls), an increase of 17 from the previous year. There were also 23 boys and 28 girls at the Government Receiving Depot. The total number of children in charge of the State Children's Department at 30th June, 1914, was 1228. The cost of the above institutions for the year ended 30th June, 1914, was as follows:—Six orphanages, £12,000; four industrial schools and Government receiving depot, £3984; and maintenance of boarded-out children, salaries, and other expenses, £5749, making a total of £21,733. As a sum of £768 was received from parents for contributions, and also a sum of £99 for license fees, the net cost was £20,965.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* There were five admissions to the orphanage in 1914-15, and 39 inmates at 30th June, 1915. No deaths occurred. Expenditure amounted to £834.

There are three industrial schools under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1914-15 numbered twenty-eight, and total inmates during the year 122. No deaths occurred. The expenditure was £2547.

Under the boarding-out system upwards of 200 children are placed out. The total number of children under State control at the end of June, 1915, was 220, the gross cost to the State of children's relief being £3162, of which £194 represents parents' contributions.

(vii.) *Neglected Children.* The following table summarises the number of neglected children under State Departments. In New South Wales and Victoria a number of children are boarded out with their own mothers, the figures for the year in question being 6612 and 4144 respectively. Similar provisions are in force in some of the other States; the figures, however, are not available.

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—TRANSACTIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1914.

Particulars.	N.S.W. ¹	Vict.	Qld.	S.A. ²	W.A.	Tas.	Cwth.
Number of Children under State control at end of year—							
Males	36,867	4,823	2,636	861	674	130	15,991
Females	34,625	4,516	2,430	748	554	90	12,963
Total	11,492	9,339	5,066	1,609	1,228	220	28,954
Gross cost to State of children's relief	£ 134,446	£ 129,600	£ 65,025	£ 28,983	£ 21,733	£ 3,162	£ 382,949
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc.	6,194	6,278	4,460	3,265	768	194	21,159
Net cost	128,252	123,322	60,565	25,718	20,965	2,968	361,790

1. For year ended 5th April following. 2. For the year ended 30th June, 1914. 3. Estimated.

5. **Lepers.**—Lazarets for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane, and Dayman Island, Torres Strait); and the Northern Territory (Mud Island). Quarantine and isolation stations have also been used for the segregation of patients. A great deal of information concerning the beginning and progress of leprosy in Australia was collected and published by the late Dr. J. Ashburton Thompson, while Chief Government Medical Officer and President of the Board of Health, New South Wales, from whose reports the following table has been compiled, up to and including the year 1911:—

CASES OF LEPROSY RECORDED IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1855 to 1915.

State.	1855 to 1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
New South Wales ...	140	4	2	2	5	3	4	2	4	3
Victoria	127	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Queensland	2186	21	23	8	6	7	4	12	8	10
South Australia ...	37	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Western Australia ...	4	...	3	4	3	2	...	...	...	5
Tasmania	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Territory ³ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Total	1 2395	26	28	14	14	12	9	15	13	19

1. In addition, some Chinese.

2. In addition, many Kanakas.

3. As from the year 1911.

6. Hospitals for the Insane.—The method of compiling insanity statistics has been fairly uniform throughout the States, but the various methods of observing the early stages of the development of insanity introduce an element of uncertainty which considerably reduces the value of comparison. In the summary given below, licensed houses (except as regards expenditure) are included in the total for New South Wales and Victoria, but in the latter State the figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols:—

HOSPITALS FOR INSANE,¹ COMMONWEALTH, 1910 to 1914.

Particulars.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Number of institutions	31	33	35	35	35
Number of beds	14,978	15,825	15,911	16,115	16,432
Admissions	2,936	3,079	3,017	3,153	3,339
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc. ...	1,632	1,404	1,365	1,415	1,574
Deaths	1,177	1,246	1,311	1,292	1,270
Expenditure	£561,677	616,302	693,772	772,984	755,697

1. Exclusive of receiving wards at two general hospitals and including six licensed houses for insane in Victoria.

The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, has changed very little during recent years. In the next table the number of insane under official care in Australia is given, and in the table following, the proportion of insane to population.

The number of insane persons in institutions in Australia at the end of each of the years 1910-1914 was as follows:—

INSANE PERSONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1910 to 1914.

State.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
New South Wales	6,148	6,351	6,470	6,639	6,906
Victoria	5,241	5,340	5,470	5,631	5,729
Queensland	2,260	2,283	2,322	2,370	2,448
South Australia	1,055	1,084	1,082	1,082	1,080
Western Australia	793	842	876	933	981
Tasmania	505	521	534	526	537
Commonwealth	16,002	16,421	16,754	17,181	17,681

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria shews the highest rate of insanity, roughly one in 250 persons. It is stated that this is chiefly owing to the proportionately greater number of old persons in that State. On the other hand, in South Australia a considerably lower insanity rate has prevailed, averaging about one in 400, Tasmania following closely with an average of about one in 370.

PROPORTION OF INSANE, COMMONWEALTH, 1910 to 1914.

State.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
PER 1000 OF THE POPULATION.					
New South Wales ...	3.74	3.79	3.64	3.62	3.71
Victoria ...	4.03	3.92	3.96	3.98	4.00
Queensland ...	3.77	3.67	3.65	3.60	3.62
South Australia ...	2.57	2.57	2.50	2.46	2.42
Western Australia ...	2.87	2.86	2.86	2.91	3.04
Tasmania ...	2.61	2.69	2.71	2.61	2.67
Commonwealth ...	3.62	3.59	3.54	3.53	3.58

Consequent upon the development of a more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases, a greater willingness is being shewn to submit necessary cases to treatment at an earlier stage than formerly. Hence an increase in the number of recorded cases does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity. It is important to bear this in mind, because the small progressive increase in the numbers in the first of the immediately preceding tables is probably to be attributed largely, if not solely, to this circumstance.

The leading features in regard to institutions for the care of the insane are given below for 1914:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION,
COMMONWEALTH, 1914.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. ¹	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Number of Institutions—							
Government ...	9	9	3	1	2	1	25
Private ...	3	26	...	...	1	...	10
Total ...	12	15	3	1	3	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males ...	20	19	7	2	3	3	54
Females ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total ...	21	19	7	2	3	3	55
Nursing Staff & Attendants—							
Males ...	560	532	173	71	121	79	1,536
Females ...	437	502	106	59	54	56	1,214
Total ...	997	1,034	279	130	175	135	2,750
Accommodation—							
No. of dormitories ...	346	1,420	430	7...	34	334	7...
Capacity in cubic feet ...	3,548,975	3,761,775	1,329,655	7...	672,157	706,704	7...
No. of beds ...	3,605	5,224	2,429	1,154	1,026	554	16,432
Cubic feet to each bed ...	3,400	720	547	7...	655	1,276	7...

1. Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong hospitals. 2. There are six private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 98 cases at end of 1914. Other figures for these private asylums are not available. 3. Government hospitals only. 4. Ordinary dormitory. 5. Hospital dormitory. 6. Also 26 on clerical staff (males). 7. Information not available.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1914.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. ¹	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Admissions & re-admissions during year—							
Males	878	445	324	150	165	34	1,996
Females	543	362	196	134	78	30	1,343
Total	1,421	807	520	284	243	64	3,339
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	341	128	152	4	58	10	693
Females	222	92	94	3	40	9	460
Total	563	220	246	7	98	19	1,153
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	69	47	11	88	9	6	230
Females	48	45	4	61	4	10	172
Total	117	92	15	149	13	16	402
Absconders no retaken—							
Males	5	14	...	...	...	...	19
Females ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	5	14	...	...	...	...	19
Deaths—							
Males	301	210	103	75	67	13	769
Females	168	174	78	55	17	9	501
Total	469	384	181	130	84	22	1,270
No. of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	4,080	2,886	1,530	598	700	274	10,068
Females	2,826	2,843	918	482	281	263	7,613
Total	6,906	5,729	2,448	1,080	981	537	17,681
Average daily number resident—							
Males	3,900	2,584	1,507	612	683	273	9,559
Females	2,608	2,462	900	477	286	260	6,973
Total	6,508	5,046	2,407	1,089	949	533	16,532
No. of patients on books at end of year per 1000 of population—							
Males	4.22	4.05	4.20	2.67	3.91	2.65	3.95
Females	3.15	3.96	2.94	2.17	1.95	2.69	3.19
Persons	3.71	4.00	3.62	2.42	3.04	2.67	3.58
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1000 of mean population—							
Males	4.01	3.63	4.13	2.73	3.76	2.66	3.74
Females	2.95	3.46	2.90	2.17	1.87	2.72	2.95
Persons	3.51	3.54	3.57	2.45	2.93	2.69	3.36

1. Exclusive of inmates of the Receiving House, Royal Park, and of Receiving Wards attached to the hospitals at Bendigo and Geelong, and of five private licensed houses.

In some of the States it is the practice to allow persons well advanced towards recovery to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are nevertheless under supervision of the asylum authorities and are kept on the books. The figures for admission, etc., include absconders, captured, and readmitted. Very few escapees succeed in avoiding capture.

The revenue of Government asylums is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 87 per cent.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE (GOVERNMENT ONLY), REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1914.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Revenue (exclusive of Government Grants)—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of patients ...	44,147	23,184	9,367	6,744	4,371	4,978	92,791
Other ...	1,974	...	1,757	227	1,035	575	5,568
Total ...	46,121	23,184	11,124	6,971	5,406	5,553	98,359
Expenditure—							
Salaries ...	146,524	107,977	46,069	15,401	27,141	14,288	357,400
Maintenance ...	108,007	101,214	36,912	21,451	22,299	7,855	297,738
Buildings ...	...	54,817	...	1,296	1,815	3,065	60,993
Other ...	28,283	...	1,593	2,607	...	7,083	39,566
Total ...	282,814	264,008	84,574	40,755	51,255	32,291	755,697

(i.) *New South Wales.* The latest return available shows that the average length of residence in the hospitals of persons who died was 4 years 8 months for males and 5 years 9 months for females; and that of persons who were discharged was 1 year 2 months for males and 1 year 7 months for females.

There are also two State reception houses, where suspected persons are confined for observation, being subsequently either discharged or transferred to lunatic asylums. In two of the gaols observation wards have been instituted, with similar functions.

(ii.) *Victoria.* The average residence in the hospitals of those who died was 8 years 5 months for males and 10 years 5 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 7 months for males and 2 years 1 month for females.

There are lunacy wards in two of the general hospitals; and also a State receiving house where persons are placed for observation, and subsequently discharged or transferred to asylums.

(iii.) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died was 4 years 8 months for males and 5 years 10 months for females; and of those who were discharged, 8 months for males and 10 months for females.

There are also three reception houses for insane, which act as depots to which patients are sent with a view to determining whether their mental illness is of a merely temporary character, readily to be relieved, or is of such a nature as to need further treatment at the State asylums.

(iv.) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 6 years and 5 months for males and 7 years 5 months for females; of those discharged, 1 year and 1 month for males and 8 months for females.

(v.) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 2 years 10 months for males and 6 years 1 month for females; of those who were discharged, 9 months for males and females respectively.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 8 years for males and 17 years 2 months for females; that of those discharged, 2 years 9 months for males and 1 year and 2 months for females.

(vii.) *Causes of Insanity.* The proportion of causes of insanity to the total of ascertained causes in Australia in the five years 1910-1914 shews that hereditary influences have been the chief factor, more than one-fifth of the total ascertained causes.

coming under this head. Domestic troubles, adverse circumstances, etc., have also been a fruitful source. About one case in six was due to intemperance in drink.

**PROPORTION OF ASCERTAINED CAUSES, Etc., OF INSANITY, COMMONWEALTH,
1910 TO 1914.**

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety	12.0	10.6	11.8	7.6	10.1
Intemperance in drink	14.4	15.0	16.3	16.3	12.9
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained	16.9	18.7	21.7	22.6	16.6
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life	5.4	5.9	6.6	6.0	4.9
Previous attacks	12.2	9.3	9.5	8.7	10.8
Accident, including sunstroke	2.1	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.2
Old age	10.8	9.9	9.2	10.2	8.4
Other causes ascertained	26.2	27.6	22.6	26.0	34.1
All ascertained causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

7. Treatment of Inebriates.—The treatment of inebriates is referred to in the section dealing with Public Justice hereinbefore. (See page 839.)

8. Protection of Aborigines.—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where the blacks are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic in habit of life, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come under the notice of the boards. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The estimated average annual expenditure on maintenance, etc., for the last five years was—New South Wales, £20,000; Victoria, £4000; Queensland, £16,000; South Australia, including Northern Territory, £14,000; Western Australia, £24,000; total for Commonwealth, £78,000.

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 ranges 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 infirm. The institutions not so particularised include asylums for the deaf, dumb, and blind, maternity institutions and infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, crèches, homes of hope, rescue homes, free kindergarten and ragged schools, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, ambulance and health societies, boys' brigades, humane and animals' protection societies, prisoners' aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bush fires and mining accident relief funds, etc.

10. State Expenditure on Charities.—The table below gives the amount expended by Government on charities in each of the last five years, the figures for the various States being compiled, as far as possible, on the same basis :—

STATE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1910 to 1914.

State or Territory.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	528,289	518,484	576,886	683,102	711,453
Victoria ...	385,467	436,859	446,332	468,588	485,018
Queensland ...	205,577	237,224	262,171	261,237	321,597
South Australia ...	87,112	98,236	118,931	117,204	129,281
Western Australia ...	139,700	177,743	184,940	201,215	222,417
Tasmania ...	39,558	43,245	45,166	62,205	70,387
Northern Territory ...	...	...	5,328	5,602	5,301
Commonwealth ...	1,385,703	1,511,791	1,639,754	1,799,153	1,945,454

11. **Total Charitable Expenditure.**—The expenditure in the Commonwealth in money on hospitals, charities, and all forms of relief publicly given, comprising the amounts furnished by Government and those raised by public subscription, etc., but excluding old-age pensions, exceeds £3,000,000 annually.