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CHAPTER XI.

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 the infirm in New South Wales. The second class comprises public institutions of two kinds, viz. :—(i) those partially subsidized by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the principal metropolitan hospitals. In the latter are included institutions established and endowed by individuals for the benefit of the needy generally. All charitable movements of a private character are included in the third group. A more or less accurate statistical account is possible in classes (a) and (b), but in regard to (c) complete tabulation is, for obvious reasons, impossible.

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, Invalid Pensions, and Maternity Allowances 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 these matters will be found in § 6 and 7 of Chapter VIII.

From time to time relief funds have been organized for famine-stricken territories (e.g., China, India, etc.), or for places where plague, flood, fire, or earthquake has shown the need of urgent relief. Special funds were also raised for persons disabled or bereaved through war. Complete statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duty of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds which were instituted in consequence of the war, the total for Australia, up to the 31st December, 1919, was estimated to exceed £12,500,000 sterling.

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

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

(ii) *Principal Hospitals in each State.* The particulars given herein refer to general hospitals, and include all institutions affording general hospital relief.

(a) *New South Wales.* A Government hospital, with a staff of 32 medical officers and accommodation for about 700 patients, is established at Little Bay, near Sydney. Altogether, there are four hospitals for women, one for women and children, and three for children in the metropolis. The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, with a medical staff of 86, and with 584 beds, is the largest metropolitan endowed institution. Amongst other large metropolitan hospitals may be mentioned the Sydney Hospital, with a medical staff of 69 and with 382 beds, St. Vincent's with 44 doctors and 190 beds, and Lewisham with 29 medical attendants and 169 beds. In extra-metropolitan areas the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives, which is a Government institution, provides accommodation for 408 patients. The Newcastle Hospital has 180 beds and a medical staff of 21. At the Carrington Convalescent Home at Camden there is provision for 110 patients. The hospital in the Broken Hill district can accommodate 162.

(b) *Victoria.* There are several large metropolitan hospitals in Victoria. The largest of these, the Melbourne Hospital, has 358 beds ; the Austin Hospital for Incurables has 290, the Alfred Hospital 168, St. Vincent's 126, and the Homœopathic 98. Amongst the country institutions, Bendigo has 222 beds, Geelong 217, and Ballarat 170.

(c) *Queensland.* Of the metropolitan hospitals, the largest is the Brisbane General, which can accommodate 361 patients. The Children's Hospital has 250 beds, the Diamantina 174, and the Mater Misericordiæ 123. Ipswich Hospital, with 150 beds, is the largest of the country institutions, followed by Toowoomba with 130, Rockhampton

with 110, Townsville with 105, Maryborough 96, Charters Towers, 92, Bundaberg 92, Cairns 84, Mackay 84, and Mt. Morgan 71.

(d) *South Australia.* Including the Consumptive Home and Infectious Diseases Block, the Adelaide Hospital can accommodate a total of 580 patients. The most important of the country hospitals are at Port Augusta, Port Pirie, and Wallaroo, with 72, 58, and 48 beds respectively. The Adelaide Children's Hospital has 98 beds.

(e) *Western Australia.* Information regarding the capacity of the Western Australian hospitals is not available, but some idea of their comparative importance may be gained from the figures relating to cases treated. In the metropolis, 4,201 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital in 1921, and 1,744 at the Perth Children's Hospital. Of the country hospitals, Kalgoorlie returned 1,263 cases, Fremantle 1,116, and Woorloo 538.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are well-equipped general hospitals in Hobart and Launceston. The former has a medical staff of 4 and can accommodate 225 patients, and the latter has 190 beds and a medical staff of 3. Hospitals for women have been established in both centres, and there is a sanatorium for consumptives at Newtown. Outside the metropolitan area, the Devon Cottage Hospital has a medical staff of 2 and beds for 82 patients; the Lyell District Hospital can accommodate 44 patients, and there are other institutions in important country centres.

(g) *Northern Territory.* In addition to the hospitals at Darwin and Pine Creek, arrangements have been made for the supply of medicines and first aid to outlying stations.

(iii) *Number, Staff, and Accommodation, 1921.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs, and accommodation for the year 1921 are given in the appended table:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, 1921.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government ..	4	53	3	10	22	2	5	404
Other ..	153		91	21	28	12	..	
Total ..	157	53	94	31	50	14	5	404
Medical Staff—								
Males ..	949	101	217	123	54	23	1	1,482
Females ..			8	6	..	..	..
Total ..	949	101	225	129	54	23	1	1,482
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males ..	91	13	312	76	127	2	5	626
Females ..	2,455	932	1,406	612	570	199	10	6,184
Total ..	2,546	945	1,718	688	697	201	15	6,810
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, etc.	1,071	443	573	228	223	133	8	2,679
Capacity, in cubic feet	8,422,242	4,835,223	4,120,262	1,799,034	2,398,304	1,306,109	60,912	23,032,986
Number of beds, etc.	7,142	3,635	3,701	1,395	1,750	679	40	18,342
Cubic feet to each bed	1,179	1,330	1,113	1,290	1,366	1,892	1,523	1,256

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated for the year 1921. It may be noted that in addition to the accommodation provided in the ordinary wards, a considerable amount of accommodation for certain classes of cases is furnished in out-door or verandah sleeping places, but full particulars in connexion therewith are not available. So far as the returns show, there were 903 out-door beds in New South Wales, 47 in South Australia, 2 in Western Australia, 59 in Tasmania, and 20 in the Northern Territory. These figures are not included in the totals given in the table above.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1921.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Indoor Relief: Persons Treated—								
Males	50,540	19,520	27,016	7,495	9,002	4,836	166	118,575
Females	46,494	15,713	16,728	6,412	6,346	4,027	83	96,703
Total	97,034	35,233	43,744	13,907	15,348	9,763	249	215,278
Inmates at beginning of Year—								
Males	2,740	1,273	1,472	501	633	270	29	6,918
Females	2,226	1,021	866	281	369	253	7	5,023
Total	4,966	2,294	2,338	782	1,002	523	36	11,941
Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—								
Males	47,800	18,247	25,544	7,820	8,369	4,566	137	112,483
Females	44,268	14,692	15,862	7,040	5,977	4,674	76	92,589
Total	92,068	32,939	41,406	14,860	14,346	9,240	213	205,072
Discharges—Recovered :								
Males	34,424	15,662	23,350	4,865	4,066	4,217	128	86,722
Females	35,549	13,061	14,732	4,894	3,796	4,344	75	76,451
Total	69,973	a 28,723	a 38,082	9,759	7,862	a 8,561	213	163,173
Relieved :								
Males	8,583	b	b	1,742	3,077	b	..	c
Females	5,371	b	b	1,238	1,652	b	..	c
Total	13,954	b	b	2,980	4,729	b	..	c
Unrelieved :								
Males	1,589	66	493	417	339	79	..	2,983
Females	1,166	77	313	298	204	97	..	2,155
Total	2,755	143	806	715	543	176	..	5,138
Not stated :								
Males .. ..	..	598	161	44	..	17	..	820
Females .. ..	..	373	92	60	..	16	..	541
Total .. ..	..	971	253	104	..	33	..	1,361
Deaths—								
Males	3,294	1,989	1,607	697	899	313	12	8,811
Females	2,199	1,099	793	444	430	189	4	5,158
Total	5,493	3,088	2,400	1,141	1,329	502	16	13,969
Inmates at end of Year—								
Males	2,650	1,205	1,405	556	621	210	16	6,663
Females	2,209	1,103	798	387	264	281	4	5,046
Total	4,859	2,308	2,203	943	885	491	20	11,709
Average Daily Resident—								
Males	5,773	2,309	2,420	{ 563 442 }	617 370	241 275	18 4	13,032
Females								
Total	5,773	2,309	2,420	1,005	987	516	22	13,032

(a) Including relieved.

(b) Included in recovered.

(c) Not available.

(v) *Summary for Five Years, 1917 to 1921.* Comparative particulars for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, with the admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, are given 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.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1917 TO 1921.

Particulars.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Number of institutions ..	399	393	393	393	404
Number of beds ..	16,763	17,000	17,390	17,890	18,342
Admissions during year ..	164,889	174,379	193,920	202,053	205,072
Indoor patients treated ..	174,387	184,176	202,929	211,332	215,278
Deaths ..	11,885	12,494	15,758	14,475	13,969
Expenditure .. £	1,396,361	1,543,162	1,798,297	2,099,601	2,332,116

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 places the total at about 300,000.

(vi) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1921 were as follow :—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—								
Fees of patients, etc.	148,756	65,966	53,954	36,477	44,695	25,196	713	375,757
Government grants	507,268	64,552	246,967	127,224	101,031	43,088	6,265	1,096,395
Other ..	406,621	244,653	168,865	35,037	32,052	7,533	..	894,761
Total ..	1,062,645	375,171	469,786	198,738	177,778	75,817	6,978	2,366,913
Expenditure—								
Salaries ..	398,106	314,980	174,709	59,815	72,830	31,480	2,506	1,918,968
Maintenance ..	411,713		235,543	93,005	95,770	24,752	3,759	
Buildings ..	160,499		45,897	36,273	3,485	2,820	361	
Other ..	88,963		16,935	7,338	3,225	16,112	..	
Total ..	1,059,281	346,220	473,084	196,431	175,310	75,164	6,626	2,332,116

2. *Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.*—(i) *General.* 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 sixty and seventy 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 persons 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 Australia 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 amongst 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.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* The principal institutions of this nature in each State are as follows :—

(a) *Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales.* There are five asylums for the infirm maintained by the Government—four for men and one for women. Rookwood, the largest of these, had in 1921 an average number resident of 1,338, Newington 674, and Liverpool 629. At the Cottage Homes, situated at two separate localities in Parramatta, the average number resident was about 493. The State Labour Depot and Refuge at Randwick had 97 inmates during 1921.

(b) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. In 1920–21, the average daily number of indoor patients was 1,917, and there were 414 distinct cases of outdoor relief.

(c) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 1,259 beds. The most important of these is at Dunwich (Stradbroke Island) with 1,141 beds, while there are small institutions at Nundah, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba. At the end of 1921 the inmates of the four institutions numbered 1,179.

(d) *Destitute Asylum, Adelaide.* Outside of hospitals and lunatic asylums the destitute of South Australia are dealt with and relieved at the Destitute Asylum, Adelaide, and at the Aged Men's Home, Beaumont. The former institution includes lying-in and children's departments. In the asylum the number of inmates at the end of 1921 was 380; in the Beaumont Home it was 76.

(e) *Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia.* There are two of these homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. The Old Men's Home at Claremont had 583 inmates at the end of 1921, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 81 adult inmates.

(f) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. The New Town Infirmary and Consumptive Home, with 220 beds, had 195 inmates at the end of June, 1921, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, with 23 beds, had 22 inmates on the same date.

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1921 are given in the following table :—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government aid ..	173,120	22,855	54,190	45,060	19,940	11,471	326,636
Municipal aid ..	..	805	..	..	..	..	805
Public subs., legacies, etc.	5,966	14,085	1,546	25	..	..	21,622
Fees ..	24,274	18,643	..	5,768	8,749	3,558	60,992
Other ..	3,961	7,699	1,169	2,644	..	1,135	16,608
Total ..	207,321	64,087	56,905	53,497	28,689	16,164	426,663
Expenditure—							
Buildings ..	4,160	3,234	5,510	241	..	141	13,286
Maintenance ..	195,457	61,795	50,993	53,183	28,689	11,172	401,289
Other ..	9,149	3,027	375	82	..	4,851	17,484
Total ..	208,766	68,056	56,878	53,506	28,689	16,164	432,059

3. *Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.*—(i) *General.* The organization 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 expenditure on orphanages in 1921 was £176,717.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* The principal institutions in each State are as follows:—

(a) *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. Provision is made for instruction in various trades and callings.

There are also orphanages, farm homes, country homes for children, etc., with upwards of 1,900 children under care.

There are several reformatories and industrial schools maintained by the State. At the Parramatta Industrial School for Girls, to which a Training Home was attached in 1912, there were on 31st December, 1921, 153 inmates. At the Farm Home for boys, Gosford, there were 76 inmates at the end of 1921.

(b) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1,772 beds. The daily average of the inmates was 1,795 in 1920–21. The expenditure in the same year was £46,736.

At the end of 1921 there were three industrial and five reformatory schools in the State. Of these, one in each class is wholly controlled by the Government, being used merely as a receiving and distributing depot. 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.

(c) *Queensland.* There are twelve orphanages in Queensland. The number under care on 31st December, 1921, was 1,198, and the expenditure for the year, £30,428.

There are also six industrial and reformatory schools, which had 183 boys and 59 girls under detention at the end of 1921.

(d) *South Australia.* The State Children's Department exercises a supervision over the probationary and industrial schools and the reformatories. The total number of admissions into these institutions in 1921–22 was 268. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1922, was 255, in addition to which 1,509 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed. There were no deaths amongst children in industrial schools and reformatories, and of those placed out and in other institutions nine died.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1921 was 328, and the number of inmates on 31st December, 1921, was 256. There was one death during the year, and the expenditure amounted to £3,412.

(e) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, at the end of 1921, five orphanages, five orphanages and industrial schools, and two industrial schools, containing 476 boys and 447 girls. There were also 20 boys and 27 girls at the Government Receiving Depot at the 30th June, 1922.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are three industrial schools and one orphanage under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1920–21 numbered 43, and average daily number of inmates was 149. One death occurred during the year. The expenditure was £4,607.

The Newtown Training School for boys had 53 inmates at the end of June, 1921.

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions in 1921 of State Departments for the relief of neglected children :—

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—SUMMARY, 1921.

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas. (b)	Total.
Number of children in institutions, boarded out, or on probation—							
Males	3,129	3,421	1,632	793	483	264	9,722
Females	2,310	2,805	1,275	691	613	250	7,944
Total	5,439	(c) 6,226	2,907	1,484	1,096	514	17,666
Number of children boarded out with their own mothers—							
Males	11,854	7,534	2,464	1,073	268	..	26,938
Females			2,415	1,051	279	..	
Total	11,854	7,534	4,879	2,124	547	..	26,938
Total	17,293	13,760	7,786	43,608	1,643	514	44,604
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost to State of children's relief ..	457,626	294,660	197,607	49,236	23,319	13,602	1,036,050
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc. ..	8,921	12,280	12,101	5,738	5,556	953	45,549
Net cost	448,705	282,380	185,506	43,498	17,763	12,649	990,501

(a) For year ending 5th April following. (b) For the year ended 30th June, 1922. (c) Excluding 24 incapacitated children maintained by the State. (d) Excluding 1,844 children (915 males and 929 females) placed with licensed foster-mothers and others.

4. **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). Two deaths occurred in the latter in the year 1921–22. Quarantine and isolation stations have also been used for the segregation of patients. Up to 1915, 545 cases of leprosy had been recorded in the Commonwealth (between the calendar years 1916 to 1922 inclusive there were 40 deaths from this cause), while at the 31st December, 1921, there were 22 lepers in the Little Bay lazaret.

5. **Hospitals for the Insane.**—(i) *General.* The method of compiling insanity statistics has been fairly uniform throughout the States, but differences in diagnosis of the early stages of the disease introduce an element of uncertainty which considerably reduces the value of comparison.

(ii) *Number of Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1921.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, medical and nursing staff, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1921 :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1921.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions—							
Government	9	9	3	1	3	1	26
Private	3	(b) 5	..	..	1	..	9
Total	12	14	3	1	4	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males	22	21	6	3	3	2	57
Females	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Total	23	21	7	3	3	2	59
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	664	583	221	96	132	56	1,752
Females	557	543	169	87	68	64	1,488
Total	1,221	1,126	390	183	200	120	3,240
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories	(c) 353	(c) 1,396	557	(f) 44	44	407	..
Capacity, in cubic feet	(c) 3,582,976	(c) 3,630,553	1,922,291	(f) 714,714	714,714	878,590	..
Number of beds	(c) 6,303	5,299	2,506	1,245	1,186	685	17,224
Cubic feet to each bed	{ (d) 600 (e) 1,000 }	685	767	(f) { (c) 605 (g) 1,684 }	{ (c) 605 (g) 1,684 }	1,233	..

(a) Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong Hospitals. (b) There are five private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 99 cases at the end of 1921. Complete figures for these private asylums are not available. (c) Government hospitals only. (d) Ordinary dormitory. (e) Hospital dormitory. (f) Information not available. (g) Private hospitals.

(iii) *Patients Treated, 1921.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1921 is given in the table hereunder :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, DEATHS, ETC., 1921.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Admissions and re-admissions during year—							
Males	819	383	267	148	94	44	1,755
Females	658	419	187	124	65	46	1,499
Total	1,477	802	454	272	159	90	3,254
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	324	81	128	57	25	14	629
Females	290	113	93	50	26	15	587
Total	614	194	221	107	51	29	1,216
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	98	74	12	42	56	7	289
Females	69	77	8	29	21	14	218
Total	167	151	20	71	77	21	507

(a) 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.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, DEATHS, ETC., 1921—
continued.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Absconders not retaken—							
Males	9	8	..	..	1	..	18
Females .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	9	8	..	..	1	..	18
Deaths—							
Males	386	242	140	51	56	17	892
Females	220	198	65	45	36	17	581
Total	606	440	205	96	92	34	1,473
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	4,485	2,869	1,745	656	760	292	10,807
Females	3,485	2,973	1,008	534	344	292	8,636
Total	7,970	5,842	2,753	1,190	1,104	584	19,443
Average daily number resident—							
Males	4,269	2,613	1,750	661	769	292	10,354
Females	3,122	2,646	993	540	358	295	7,954
Total	7,391	5,259	2,743	1,201	1,127	587	18,308
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	4.14	3.75	4.30	2.60	4.26	2.65	3.86
Females	3.84	3.78	2.49	2.14	2.19	2.69	3.19
Persons	3.75	3.77	3.58	2.37	3.48	2.67	3.53
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	3.98	3.45	4.34	2.65	4.33	2.71	3.73
Females	3.02	3.39	2.75	2.18	2.30	2.70	2.96
Persons	3.51	3.42	3.59	2.41	3.38	2.75	3.35

(a) 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 admissions, etc., include absconders captured and re-admitted. Very few escapees succeed in avoiding capture.

(iv) *Summary for Australia, 1917 to 1921.* The table hereunder gives in summarized form particulars regarding hospitals for the insane in Australia for each of the five years 1917 to 1921. It may be pointed out that licensed houses (except as regards expenditure) are included in the totals for New South Wales and Victoria, while in the latter State the figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1917 TO 1921.

Particulars.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Number of institutions (a) ..	34	34	35	35	35
Number of beds	16,808	17,176	17,308	17,468	17,224
Admissions	3,054	3,192	3,323	3,501	3,254
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,456	1,406	1,565	2,302	1,723
Deaths	1,306	1,383	1,699	1,483	1,473
Expenditure	£ 875,963	951,439	1,116,676	1,414,055	1,398,148

(a) Exclusive of receiving wards at general hospitals, and including licensed houses for insane in Victoria.

(v) *Number of Insane, 1917 to 1921.* 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, together with the proportion of insane per 1,000 of population.

The number of insane persons in institutions in Australia at the end of each of the years 1917 to 1921 was as follows:—

INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS, 1917 TO 1921.

State.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	7,340	7,581	7,544	7,889	7,970
Victoria	5,833	5,915	5,846	5,830	5,842
Queensland	2,590	2,623	2,703	2,745	2,753
South Australia	1,176	1,153	1,187	1,194	1,190
Western Australia	1,066	1,123	1,148	1,166	1,104
Tasmania	570	575	578	578	584
Total	18,575	18,970	19,006	19,402	19,443

PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

New South Wales	3.82	3.86	3.70	3.77	3.75
Victoria	4.12	4.12	3.89	3.82	3.77
Queensland	3.77	3.72	3.66	3.65	3.58
South Australia	2.63	2.52	2.46	2.43	2.37
Western Australia	3.41	3.62	3.51	3.52	3.48
Tasmania	2.88	2.83	2.75	2.72	2.67
Australia	3.73	3.73	3.58	3.58	3.53

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria shows the highest rate of insanity, roughly 1 in 260 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 1 in 420, Tasmania following closely with an average of about 1 in 360.

Consequent upon the development of a more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases, a greater willingness is being shown to submit afflicted persons 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.

(vi) *Causes of Insanity.* The proportion of causes of insanity to the total of ascertained causes in Australia in the five years 1917 to 1921 shows 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. Cases due to intemperance in drink range from one in nine to one in thirteen.

INSANITY.—PERCENTAGE OF CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1917 TO 1921.

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety ..	9.7	9.9	8.4	9.3	10.6
Intemperance in drink ..	10.5	10.2	8.7	10.9	7.7
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained ..	21.8	22.1	21.1	23.7	21.2
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life ..	6.0	4.9	5.8	6.0	7.5
Previous attacks ..	14.1	14.6	12.4	12.5	11.5
Accident, including sunstroke ..	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.7	0.8
Old age ..	9.8	9.4	8.1	10.6	9.2
Venereal disease ..	(a)	(a)	(a)	7.1	5.6
Other causes ascertained ..	26.2	27.4	33.7	18.2	25.9
All ascertained causes ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Not available.

(vii) *Length of Residence in Hospital.* (a) *New South Wales.* No particulars are available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals during the year of persons who died or were discharged.

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

(b) *Victoria.* No particulars are available as to the average length of residence in hospitals during the year of persons who died or were discharged.

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

(c) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died during the year was 8 years 35 days for males and 9 years 172 days for females; and of those who were discharged, 288 days for males and 1 year 69 days 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, easily relieved, or is of such a nature as to need further treatment at the State asylums.

(d) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 7 years and 2 months for males and 7 years 7 months for females; of those discharged, 1 year and 11 months for males and 1 year and 4 months for females.

(e) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged about 5 years for males and 3 years 8 months for females; of those who were discharged, 3 years and 2 months for males and 2 years and 3 months for females.

(f) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 16 years 1 month for males and 11 years 5 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year and 9 months for males and 1 year and 11 months for females.

(viii) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1921.* 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 (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1921.

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Grants ..	449,025	340,875	196,972	85,085	84,886	41,528	1,198,371
Fees of Patients ..	77,661	39,070	17,951	14,197	8,895	6,628	164,402
Other ..	2,022	3,910	1,639	976	..	999	9,546
Total ..	528,708	383,855	216,562	100,258	93,781	49,155	1,372,319
Expenditure—							
Salaries ..	292,610	182,870	114,818	30,479	54,101	24,725	699,603
Maintenance ..	217,953	172,634	67,680	44,131	39,680	23,879	565,957
Buildings ..	..	22,976	36,173	25,071	..	551	84,771
Other ..	40,056	5,375	1,809	577	..	..	47,817
Total ..	550,619	383,855	220,480	100,258	93,781	49,155	1,398,148

(a) Year ended 30th June, 1922.

6. *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 approximate annual expenditure on maintenance, etc., is—New South Wales, £35,000; Victoria, £4,000; Queensland, £21,000; South Australia, £27,000; Western Australia, £35,000; Northern Territory, £3,000; total for Australia, £125,000. In 1921 in New South Wales the average number receiving monthly aid was 1,906; in Victoria there were 331 under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board; in Queensland, at the end of 1921, there were 3,437 aborigines at the mission stations; in South Australia, in 1920, there were 823 inmates at mission stations, while in Western Australia the aborigines and half-castes in the native institutions in the year 1921–22 numbered 460. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory about 300 were in residence, but casual assistance and medical attendance are given to large numbers of natives every year.

7. *Royal Life Saving Society.*—In each of the State capitals, “centres” of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established. Life preservation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. By stimulating the acquirement of the art of swimming in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., it is desired to bring about a widespread and thorough knowledge of natation and life-saving; while life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances are provided on ocean beaches and at places where they are likely to be in demand. Upwards of 3,000 certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination.

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; (b) to provide assistance in cases of danger and apparent death; (c) to restore the apparently drowned; (d) to collect and circulate the latest information regarding approved methods and apparatus for life saving. Awards of medals and certificates are made numbering about 100 annually. Upwards of 350 lifebuoys have been provided at various places on the coasts, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in the various States. Swimming is encouraged amongst school children, and awards are made for proficiency.

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 infirm. The institutions not so particularized 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 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, 1917 TO 1921.

State or Territory.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	863,713	962,901	1,148,360	2,391,057	2,540,606
Victoria ..	543,225	541,817	578,055	1,230,566	1,459,163
Queensland ..	372,342	417,743	516,944	933,547	1,017,817
South Australia ..	191,748	166,250	195,687	416,303	520,879
Western Australia ..	178,477	249,361	289,404	451,738	475,802
Tasmania ..	88,445	95,867	121,371	199,206	206,513
Northern Territory ..	4,488	4,156	6,178	(a)6,178	6,265
Total ..	2,242,438	2,438,095	2,855,999	5,628,595	6,227,045

(a) Expenditure for 1920 not available.

11. Total Receipts.—The total receipts in Australia by hospitals, charities, benevolent institutions, and societies affording public relief, including the amounts furnished by Government and those raised by public subscription, etc., but excluding old-age pensions, amounted in 1921 to about £6,331,000.