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## CHAPTER X.

### PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

#### § 1. Introductory.

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

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

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

#### § 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

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

The particulars given herein refer to public hospitals at the latest available date, and include all institutions affording hospital relief, whether general or special, with the exception of the hospitals for the insane and private hospitals conducted commercially. It is considered that the extension of the scope of these statistics to embrace both general and special institutions will afford a better comparison as between the various States than the statistics previously issued relating to general hospitals only. The particulars for New South Wales in the following tables relate to hospitals operating under the Public Hospitals Act, 1934.

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

(iii) *Number, Staff and Accommodation, 1934.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs and accommodation for the year 1934, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table :—

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS AND ACCOMMODATION, 1934.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Hospitals ..	173	70	117	54	93	19	526
Medical Staff—							
Honorary .. ..	1,473	814	233	224	135	73	2,952
Salaried .. ..	211	194	137	48	23	25	638
Total .. ..	1,684	1,008	370	(b) 272	(c) 158	98	3,590
Nursing Staff .. ..	3,771	2,152	2,044	767	(c) 752	358	9,844
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	11,751	6,917	6,106	2,255	2,911	1,250	31,190

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows :—New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia—30th June, 1935 ; South Australia and Tasmania—31st December, 1934 ; Victoria—30th June, 1934.

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

(c) Exclusive of "Leased" Hospitals.

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

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

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1934.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Indoor Relief—Inmates at beginning of year—							
Males .. ..	3,794	2,383	1,862	674	921	335	9,969
Females .. ..	3,993	2,694	1,668	731	723	387	10,196
Total .. ..	7,787	5,077	3,530	1,405	1,644	722	20,165
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—							
Males .. ..	82,481	35,997	44,358	14,541	18,939	7,700	204,016
Females .. ..	90,829	44,879	49,494	16,615	16,919	9,144	218,880
Total .. ..	173,310	80,876	84,852	31,156	35,858	16,844	422,896
Discharges—							
Males .. ..	77,951	33,095	41,976	13,512	17,705	7,250	191,489
Females .. ..	87,585	42,913	39,210	15,923	16,315	8,833	210,779
Total .. ..	165,536	76,008	81,186	29,435	34,020	16,083	402,268
Deaths—							
Males .. ..	4,371	2,756	2,248	1,010	1,188	445	12,018
Females .. ..	2,980	1,909	1,197	690	594	317	7,687
Total .. ..	7,351	4,665	3,445	1,700	1,782	762	19,705
Inmates at end of year—							
Males .. ..	3,953	2,520	1,996	693	967	340	10,478
Females .. ..	4,257	2,751	1,755	733	733	381	10,610
Total .. ..	8,210	5,280	3,751	1,426	1,700	721	21,088
Average Daily Number Resident—							
Males .. ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	745	(b)	359	(b)
Females .. ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	739	(b)	376	(b)
Total .. ..	8,069	5,078	3,669	(c) 1,484	1,662	735	20,697

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

(b) Not available.

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

(v) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1934 were as follows :—

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1934.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust. (b)	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government Aid ..	820,903	312,573	334,541	190,759	190,239	66,235	1,915,250
Municipal Aid ..	..	85,726	126,326	39,271	331	4,704	256,358
Public Subscriptions, Legacies, etc. .. ..	(d)420,167	289,438	88,178	21,616	24,554	14,337	858,290
Fees .. ..	370,816	163,600	165,254	74,125	102,479	47,249	923,523
Other .. ..	55,507	196,702	140,776	15,030	25,807	3,240	437,062
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>1,667,393</b>	<b>1,048,039</b>	<b>855,075</b>	<b>340,801</b>	<b>343,410</b>	<b>135,765</b>	<b>4,390,483</b>
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	679,090	374,061	337,621	140,465	146,009	61,176	1,738,422
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds .. ..	69,958	14,042	13,268	15,953	7,044	3,393	123,658
All Other Ordinary Capital (c) ..	599,019	380,549	379,389	146,097	141,285	63,576	1,710,515
	140,611	293,813	132,963	40,913	38,853	2,426	649,579
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>1,488,678</b>	<b>1,062,465</b>	<b>863,241</b>	<b>344,028</b>	<b>333,191</b>	<b>130,571</b>	<b>4,222,174</b>

(a) See note (a) to table on page 320. (b) Excluding "Leased" Hospitals, except for amounts of Government and Municipal Aid. (c) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings. (d) Includes systematic contributions, £198,099.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1930 to 1934.* Returns for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, beds, admissions, indoor patients treated, deaths and expenditure are given in the following table. The figures relate to both general and special hospitals. It should be noted that the statistics for the States cannot be brought to a common year, and consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years.

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.**

Particulars.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Number of institutions ..	508	513	531	530	526
Number of beds .. ..	28,041	(b) 27,574	29,066	30,480	31,190
Admissions during year ..	353,190	353,266	378,777	405,190	422,896
Total indoor cases treated ..	370,743	371,315	397,795	424,877	443,061
Deaths .. ..	18,361	(a) 10,482	17,455	17,915	19,705
Expenditure .. ..	£ 4,318,212	3,524,414	3,518,087	3,809,570	4,222,174

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

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. So far as the returns show there were 503,685 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 238,233 in Victoria, 191,097 in Queensland, 48,765 in South Australia, and 38,802 in Tasmania.

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

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

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

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1934 are given in the following table:—

**BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1934.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Revenue—</b>							
Government Aid ..	106,656	38,980	34,522	9,724	10,017	11,427	211,326
Municipal Aid ..	..	892	..	..	5	..	897
Public Subs., Legacies, etc. .. ..	3,499	16,348	214	..	479	..	20,540
Fees .. ..	2,414	34,473	19,910	5,459	14,839	5,091	82,186
Other .. ..	31,932	12,449	191	1,198	744	293	46,857
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>144,551</b>	<b>103,142</b>	<b>54,837</b>	<b>16,381</b>	<b>26,084</b>	<b>16,811</b>	<b>361,806</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Salaries and Wages ..	69,880	28,879	54,767	5,788	11,704	8,088	179,106
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings .. ..	3,183	2,734	102	595	2,212	333	9,159
All Other (b) .. ..	70,979	69,720	22	9,998	12,373	8,390	171,482
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>144,042</b>	<b>101,333</b>	<b>54,891</b>	<b>16,381</b>	<b>26,289</b>	<b>16,811</b>	<b>359,747</b>

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania—31st December, 1934; Victoria—30th June, 1934; and Queensland and Western Australia—30th June, 1935. (b) Including £18,006 in Victoria and £102 in Western Australia, covering such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

**3. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.—(i) General.** The methods of caring for orphans and neglected children differ extensively, inasmuch as some of the children are more or less segregated in orphanages and industrial schools, while others are boarded-out with their mothers or female relatives or with approved foster mothers. The children in orphanages and similar institutions may receive, in addition to primary education, some craft training. In all cases employment is found for the children on their discharge from the institution, and they remain for some time under the supervision of the proper authorities. The conditions under which orphans, neglected children and children boarded-out live, are subject to frequent inspections. Apart from the amounts shown in (iii) below the gross expenditure on orphanages, etc., in 1934 was approximately £335,000.

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

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions during 1934 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, 1934.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc. (b) .. ..	938	470	792	210	45	183	2,638
In licensed or approved institutions .. ..	..	1,148	..	..	587	..	1,735
Boarded-out—							
With own mothers ..	10,328	7,300	5,547	} d7,020 (c)	d3,125	d3,263	43,671
With licensed foster mothers, guardians, relatives and friends	3,780	2,692	616				
Total children maintained or subsidized by the State	15,046	11,610	6,955	7,230	3,757	3,446	48,044
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions .. ..	829	..	..	..	65	..	894
Boarded-out .. ..	292	..	..	1,320	467	..	2,079
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts) .. ..	4,600	1,359	74	196	366	..	6,595
In service or apprenticed	245	359	427	211	241	..	1,483
Adopted or otherwise placed .. ..	244	..	11	21	..	..	276
Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State .. ..	6,210	1,718	512	1,748	1,139	..	11,327
Total children under State control or supervision ..	21,256	13,328	7,467	8,978	4,896	3,446	59,371
Gross cost of children's relief .. ..	£ 439,773	£ 264,358	£ 193,337	£ 43,896	£ 26,729	£ 14,879	£ 982,972
Receipts from parent's contributions, etc. ..	19,742	12,584	8,940	4,158	6,714	776	52,914
Net cost to State ..	420,031	251,774	184,397	39,738	20,015	14,103	930,058

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland—31st December, 1934; Other States—30th June, 1935. (b) Including inmates of hospitals. (c) Including 6,026 children in receipt of Ration Relief. (d) Mostly with own mothers.

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. **Leprosy Hospitals.**—Isolation hospitals for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane); and the Northern Territory (Channel Island, near Darwin). Another hospital is to be established near Derby, Western Australia. At the end of 1935 there were 19 cases in residence at Little Bay, 66 at Peel Island, and 115 at Channel Island. During the year 1935, 17 cases of leprosy were notified in Australia, of which 2 were in New South Wales, 6 in Queensland, 8 in Western Australia and 1 in the Northern Territory. There were 4 deaths from leprosy registered during 1935 in the Commonwealth and 10 in 1934.

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

(ii) *Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1934.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1934 :—

**HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1934.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions ..	13	(b) 13	3	2	4	1	36
Medical Staff—							
Males .. ..	34	29	6	6	4	2	81
Females .. ..	3	..	1	..	..	..	4
Total .. ..	37	29	7	6	4	2	85
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males .. ..	997	719	282	109	125	63	2,295
Females .. ..	985	691	223	97	101	75	2,172
Total .. ..	1,982	1,410	505	206	226	138	4,467
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	11,033	6,197	3,383	1,552	1,367	685	24,217

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows :—New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1935; other States—31st December, 1934. (b) Includes five licensed private houses, in which cases at the end of the year numbered 87; other particulars are not available.

(iii) *Patients, 1934.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1934 is given in the table hereunder :—

**HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1934.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of distinct persons treated during year (c)—							
Males .. ..	6,448	3,695	2,310	924	979	379	14,735
Females .. ..	5,504	3,980	1,563	808	530	356	12,801
Total .. ..	12,012	7,675	3,873	1,732	1,509	735	27,536

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Exclusive of five licensed private houses. (c) Exclusive of transfers to other institutions.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1934 (a)—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of patients on books at beginning of year—							
Males .. .. .	5,586	3,297	1,908	781	872	342	12,786
Females .. .. .	4,781	3,515	1,306	684	459	315	11,060
Total .. .. .	10,367	6,812	3,214	1,465	1,331	657	23,846
Admissions and re-admissions exclusive of absconders retaken (c)—							
Males .. .. .	862	308	370	143	107	37	1,917
Females .. .. .	783	465	250	124	71	41	1,734
Total .. .. .	1,645	863	620	267	178	78	3,651
Discharges (including absconders not retaken)—							
Males .. .. .	372	156	155	48	45	23	799
Females .. .. .	380	192	115	61	22	29	799
Total .. .. .	752	348	270	109	67	52	1,598
Deaths—							
Males .. .. .	349	196	166	56	56	28	851
Females .. .. .	230	204	79	48	31	24	616
Total .. .. .	579	400	245	104	87	52	1,467
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males .. .. .	5,727	3,343	1,957	820	878	328	13,053
Females .. .. .	4,954	3,584	1,362	699	477	303	11,379
Total .. .. .	10,681	6,927	3,319	1,519	1,355	631	24,432
Average daily number resident—							
Males .. .. .	5,322	2,827	1,924	806	854	331	12,064
Females .. .. .	4,395	3,132	1,304	690	465	313	10,299
Total .. .. .	9,717	5,959	3,228	1,496	1,319	644	22,363
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males .. .. .	4.28	3.67	3.86	2.80	3.73	2.83	3.84
Females .. .. .	3.79	3.87	2.96	2.40	2.30	2.69	3.44
Persons .. .. .	4.04	3.77	3.43	2.60	3.06	2.76	3.64
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males .. .. .	3.99	3.12	3.82	2.76	3.64	2.85	3.56
Females .. .. .	3.38	3.39	2.85	2.37	2.25	2.77	3.12
Persons .. .. .	3.69	3.25	3.36	2.56	2.99	2.80	3.34

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

(b) Exclusive of five licensed private houses.

(c) Exclusive of transfers to other Institutions.



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

(iv) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1934.* The revenue of Government asylums is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 86 per cent.

#### HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1934.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of Patients .. .. .	95,858	35,757	25,076	21,011	14,877	8,036	201,515
Other .. .. .	6,522	5,861	437	4,321	2,254	105	19,500
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>102,380</b>	<b>41,618</b>	<b>26,413</b>	<b>25,332</b>	<b>17,131</b>	<b>8,141</b>	<b>221,015</b>
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages .. .. .	402,416	242,606	130,305	47,269	56,561	32,392	911,549
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds .. .. .	7,243	17,114	..	4,796	4,285	934	34,372
All Other (b) .. .. .	199,166	136,786	97,462	85,182	40,824	21,680	581,100
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>608,825</b>	<b>396,506</b>	<b>227,767</b>	<b>137,247</b>	<b>101,670</b>	<b>55,006</b>	<b>1,527,021</b>
Expenditure per Average Daily Resident .. .. .	£62/13/1	£66/10/9	£70/11/2	£91/14/10	£77/1/7	£85/8/3	£68/5/8

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—South Australia—31st December, 1934; other States—30th June, 1935. (b) Includes the following amounts for capital expenditure on Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings: New South Wales, £84,395; Queensland, £33,093; South Australia, £3,773; Western Australia, £10,027.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1930 to 1934.* The table hereunder gives a summary of hospitals for the insane in Australia during each of the five years 1930 to 1934. 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 the number of institutions for Victoria, and in all particulars save revenue and expenditure for New South Wales. The figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols. In New South Wales the expenditure includes cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals:—

#### HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Number of institutions .. .. .	37	36	36	37	36
"  "  beds .. .. .	21,779	22,540	23,440	24,427	24,217
Admissions .. .. .	3,443	3,314	3,318	3,471	3,651
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,558	1,497	1,523	1,566	1,598
Deaths .. .. .	1,297	1,503	1,422	1,498	1,467
Expenditure—Total .. .. .	£1,539,003	1,356,387	1,355,515	1,374,111	1,527,021
—Per Average Daily Resident .. .. .	£72/17/8	£63/2/6	£62/8/7	£62/14/5	£68/5/8

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1930 to 1934.* The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, shows a continuous increase during the period covered by the following table and may possibly be a reflection of the financial stress of the period.

## INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS.

State.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales .. ..	9,670	9,894	10,122	10,367	10,681
Victoria .. ..	6,669	6,704	6,742	6,812	6,927
Queensland .. ..	3,108	3,162	3,194	3,214	3,319
South Australia .. ..	1,404	1,395	1,410	1,465	1,519
Western Australia .. ..	1,274	1,275	1,320	1,331	1,355
Tasmania .. ..	635	646	661	667	631
<b>Australia .. ..</b>	<b>22,760</b>	<b>23,076</b>	<b>23,449</b>	<b>23,856</b>	<b>24,432</b>

## PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

New South Wales .. ..	3.79	3.84	3.89	3.95	4.04
Victoria .. ..	3.72	3.72	3.72	3.73	3.77
Queensland .. ..	3.35	3.37	3.37	3.35	3.43
South Australia .. ..	2.44	2.42	2.43	2.51	2.60
Western Australia .. ..	2.95	2.94	3.02	3.02	3.06
Tasmania .. ..	2.82	2.85	2.90	2.93	2.76
<b>Australia .. ..</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>3.52</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>3.58</b>	<b>3.64</b>

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

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

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

(viii) *Length of Residence in Hospital, 1934.* (a) *New South Wales and Victoria.* Particulars are not available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals of persons who died or were discharged during the year.

(b) *Queensland.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 8 years 289 days for males, and 8 years 124 days for females; of those discharged, 336 days for males, and 324 days for females.

(c) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 10 years 7 months 18 days for males, and 8 years 2 months 21 days for females; of those discharged, 10 months 8 days for males, and 1 year 2 months 29 days for females.

(d) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 10 years 7 months 17 days for males, and 7 years 2 months 7 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 7 months 13 days for males, and 2 years 7 days for females.

(e) *Tasmania*. The average residence of those who died during the year was 9 years 8 months for males, and 16 years 2 months for females; of those discharged, 1 year 11 months for males, and 2 years for females.

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

7. **Protection of Aborigines.**—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where these people are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come near the stations. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1934-35 was: New South Wales, £47,630; Victoria, £7,456; Queensland, £43,951; South Australia, £26,505; Western Australia, £22,608; Northern Territory, £6,922; total for Australia, £155,072. According to the latest census taken by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the numbers of full-blood and half-caste aborigines living in supervised camps in each State at 30th June, 1935, were as follows:—

ABORIGINES.(a)—AUSTRALIA—30th JUNE, 1935.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Northern Territory.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Full-bloods ..	523	25	5,676	83	1,730	3,102	11,139
Half-castes ..	3,693	154	1,967	645	761	374	(b) 7,839

(a) Living in supervised camps. See letterpress above table. (b) Including 188 in Tasmania and 57 in the Federal Capital Territory.

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

8. **Royal Life Saving Society.**—In each of the State capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established, and in some States sub-centres have also been established in the larger provincial districts. Recently an Australian Federal Council of this Society has been formed with head-quarters at Melbourne, and each State centre or branch as it is now called is controlled by the new Organization. Saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves and other suitable places. Numerous certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination throughout Australia, the numbers for the individual States for 1935 being:—New South Wales, 4,992; Victoria, 950; Queensland, 544; South Australia, 786; Western Australia, 1,040; and Tasmania, 170.

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

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

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