

SOCIAL CONDITION.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

The Univer-
sity of
Melbourne.

The University of Melbourne was incorporated and endowed by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of Victoria, to which the Royal assent was given on 22nd January, 1853. The University buildings, together with those of the affiliated colleges, are situated in 106 acres of ground, in the southern part of Carlton. The University consists of a Council and Senate, and is incorporated and made a body politic with perpetual succession. It has power to grant degrees, diplomas, certificates, and licences in all faculties except divinity. The Council consists of 20 members elected by the Senate. It elects two of its members to be Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor respectively. The ordinary tenure of office of Councillors is five years, but those members who were in office on 7th June, 1881, have a life tenure. The Senate consists of all male persons who have graduated doctor or master in the University. It elects a Warden annually from its members. Control and management are in the hands of the Council. Council and Senate conjointly make statutes and regulations. There is no religious test for admission. The Governor of Victoria for the time being is the Visitor, and has authority to do all things which appertain to Visitors. By Royal letters patent of 14th March, 1859, it is declared that the degrees of the University of Melbourne shall be as fully recognized as those of any University in the United Kingdom. Scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes are provided in all the principal subjects, the cost being defrayed partly out of University funds and partly by private bequests. In the matter of endowment by private persons, the Melbourne University does not, however, compare favourably with others. The Act provides for an endowment of £9,000 annually for maintenance and management. Additional grants are voted annually by Parliament for maintenance, and from time to time for building purposes. Since 1853 the total amount received from the Government was £718,262—£154,012 for building and apparatus, £459,000 endowment under "Special Appropriation Act," 16 Vict. 34, and £105,250 additional endowment by annual votes of the Legislature. In addition, the Council derives income from the fees

paid by students for lectures, examinations, certificates, and diplomas. These are charged as follow:—

- For the degree of Bachelor of Arts, £12 12s. per annum.
- For the degree of Bachelor of Science, £21 per annum.
- For the degree of Bachelor of Laws, £12 12s. for each of the 1st and 2nd years; £25 4s. for each of the 3rd and 4th years.
- For the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, £21 per annum.
- For the degree of Bachelor of Civil Engineering, Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, Bachelor of Mining Engineering, £18 18s. for the 1st year; £21 for the 2nd year; £25 4s. for each of the 3rd and 4th years.
- For the degree of Bachelor of Music and Diploma in Music, £12 12s. per annum.
- For the course for Diploma of Education, £6 6s. per annum.
- For single subjects, special fees are charged, ranging from £3 3s. each annually for Art subjects to £21 for Science subjects, in which laboratory work plays a great part.
- For admission to degrees, £5 5s. is payable by bachelors, £10 10s. by masters, £5 5s. for any *ad eundem* degree.
- For any diploma, £3 3s. is the fee.
- For certificates of matriculation, attendance upon lectures, etc., special small fees are charged.

The number of students who presented themselves for the matriculation examination, the number that passed, as well as those matriculated, who entered the Melbourne University as undergraduates, and the number attending lectures, in each of the five years 1899 to 1903, were:—

Matricula-
tion and
attendance
at lectures.

MATRICULATION AND ATTENDANCE AT LECTURES, 1899 TO 1903.

Year.	Number Presented for—		Students who Passed the Matriculation Examination.		Number Matriculated and Admitted as Undergraduates.	Number Attending Lectures.
	Matriculation Examination.	Less than Required Number of Subjects.	Number.	Percentage.		
1899	1,496	261	559	45·3	108	727
1900	1,479	320	443	38·2	101	647
1901	1,438	302	511	45·0	137	584
1902	1,415	368	490	46·8	124	621
1903	1,566	367	478	39·9	111	628

The number of candidates in 1903 was greater than in any year since 1892. Of the 628 students who attended lectures in 1903, 123 attended in Arts, 51 in Laws, 64 in Engineering, 251 in Medicine, 13 in Science, 102 in Music, and 24 in Education.

The number of degrees taken in 1903 was 140, 135 of which were direct and 5 *ad eundem*, as against a total of 755 for the five preceding years, or an average of 151 per year. The direct graduates numbered 724, and the *ad eundem* degrees 31 in the five preceding years. Of the total number of 3,499 degrees conferred, 245 were conferred on women, 243

Degrees.

of which were direct and 2 ad eundem; and 125 of which were the degree of Bachelor of Arts, 55 Master of Arts, 26 Bachelor of Medicine, 1 Doctor of Medicine, 24 Bachelor of Surgery, 1 Bachelor of Laws, 7 Bachelor of Science, 5 Master of Science, and 1 Bachelor of Music. The following table shows the number of degrees conferred at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1903—the years 1902 and 1903 being shown separately:—

DEGREES CONFERRED.

Degrees.	Prior to 1902.			During 1902			During 1903			Total.		
	Direct.	Ad Eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad Eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad Eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad Eundem.	Total.
Bachelor of Arts ...	759	107	866	16	...	16	22	...	22	797	107	904
Master of Arts ...	406	155	561	19	...	19	19	2	21	444	157	601
Bachelor of Medicine ...	542	13	555	27	...	27	28	1	29	597	14	611
Doctor of Medicine ...	68	98	166	9	...	9	12	1	13	89	99	188
Bachelor of Surgery ...	455	3	458	28	...	28	30	...	30	513	3	516
Master of Surgery ...	7	...	7	2	...	2	2	...	2	11	...	11
Bachelor of Laws ...	294	9	303	8	...	8	9	...	9	311	9	320
Master of Laws ...	56	3	59	3	...	3	1	...	1	60	3	63
Doctor of Laws ...	15	20	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	20	35
Bachelor of Engineering ...	110	2	112	6	...	6	5	...	5	121	2	123
Master of Engineering ...	63	...	63	1	...	1	1	...	1	65	...	65
Bachelor of Science ...	28	3	31	1	...	1	2	...	2	31	3	34
Master of Science ...	11	...	11	1	...	1	4	1	5	16	1	17
Doctor of Science ...	...	3	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	4
Bachelor of Music ...	3	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Doctor of Music ...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Total ...	2,817	420	3,237	122	...	122	135	5	140	3,074	425	3,499

AFFILIATED COLLEGES.

The
affiliated
colleges.

The permission accorded by the "University Act of Incorporation" for the establishment of affiliated colleges has been taken advantage of by the clergy and people of the Church of England, and of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of Victoria. Substantial colleges have been built upon the sites reserved for this purpose, which are situated in the northern portion of the University grounds, fronting Sydney Road and College Crescent, Carlton. These colleges, which admit students without regard to their religious beliefs, are also training seminaries for the ministers of the respective denominations. There are efficient staffs of lecturers assisting the masters in teaching the principal subjects in each of the University courses. The Roman Catholic body has not yet erected a college upon its site in Madeline Street.

The Anglican Church was the first to avail itself of the right. In 1869, Bishop Perry (then Lord Bishop of Melbourne), assisted by Professor Wilson and others, undertook to raise the funds required for the college buildings. Their efforts were crowned with success, and the building of Trinity was commenced in the following year. Its progress was remarkably rapid, and in 1877 it was found necessary to increase the accommodation for students. In 1883 the Clarke buildings were erected by Sir W. J. and Mr. Joseph Clarke, and additions have been repeatedly made since that time. In 1886, Trinity College Hostel, a house of residence for women students of the college, was established by the present Warden, and was carried on until 1890 in houses rented by him. In 1890, mainly through the munificence of Janet Lady Clarke, the hostel was supplied with a permanent building, erected within the college precincts, and named "The Janet Clarke Buildings." The hostel forms an integral part of Trinity College, and the women students of the college consequently enjoy all its educational advantages on equal terms with the men students. The hostel is open to students of all religious denominations. The college buildings consist of a chapel, dining hall, chemical and biological laboratories, lecture rooms, libraries, and students' common room, in addition to apartments for the warden, tutors, and students. The master is Dr. A. Leeper, M.A., LL.D., Warden of the college.

Trinity
College.

In 1877, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria appointed a Committee to take charge of the site in its interests. Shortly afterwards it was resolved to raise subscriptions to obtain the Crown grant for the land, and to proceed with the erection of a college. When £6,000 was subscribed for the purpose, Mr. Francis Ormond offered £10,000, provided that the Church obtained £10,000 from other sources, and in less than a year the Council were in a position to receive Mr. Ormond's subscription. The buildings were at once commenced, and the college opened in March, 1881. It was then announced that Mr. Ormond would bear the whole expense of the structural part of the building, so that the remaining subscriptions could be entirely devoted to payments for fittings, improvements, repairs, etc. In 1883 the buildings were enlarged. In 1887 Mr. Ormond erected the Victoria wing, in honour of the late Queen's Jubilee. The buildings comprise lecture and reading rooms, common room, and masters', tutors', and students' quarters. Mr. Ormond's benefactions, amounting to £41,780 during his lifetime, were increased under his bequest to a sum which will ultimately amount to £67,000. The college bears the name of this generous donor. The master is Mr. J. H. McFarland, M.A.

Ormond
College.

Queen's
College.

The Conference of the Wesleyan Church in Victoria, in 1878, appointed a Committee to arrange for the building of a college. A request for donations met with a generous response, the first donor being Sir William McArthur, who made a gift of £1,000. The work of erecting the college was not, however, commenced until 1887. It was formally opened in March, 1888. The strenuous efforts of the Rev. W. A. Quick, in the establishment of the college, entitle him to the honour of being practically its founder. In 1889 large additions were made to the buildings, which now comprise fully equipped lecture rooms, laboratories, library, reading rooms, and apartments for the master, tutors, and students. The master is the Rev. E. H. Sugden, M.A., B.Sc.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

University
Extension

The system of local lectures and classes, known as University Extension, which has been in vogue in England for nearly 40 years, and has more lately been introduced into the countries of Europe and the United States, was organized in Victoria in 1891, under a Board appointed by the Melbourne University. The system aims at bringing teaching of the scope and standard of that given at the University itself within the reach of the numerous and constantly growing class of people whose position in life prevents them from attending lectures there, but who wish to devote their leisure to systematic reading and study. To these, material assistance is given by formal lectures, illustrated, where the subject requires it, by demonstrations and experiments, informal classes and discussions, checking written essays, and examinations, by men of special training. By thus systematising the knowledge of the extension students, guiding their reading, and suggesting new methods and new directions of inquiry, the higher education is imparted to them. The lectures are not of the ordinary popular kind. Their primary object is education, they seek to instruct and stimulate rather than to entertain; at the same time, they endeavour to avoid pedantry and dullness. The lectures are delivered in courses, and thus fairly wide subjects are able to be treated with some approach to thoroughness. The work is carried on by local committees, both in Melbourne and suburbs, and in urban centres, acting in conjunction with the Central Board. This body supplies a list of suitable courses of lectures by competent and approved lecturers, and the local committee chooses the lecturer and subject. Since 1891, 161 courses of lectures have been delivered, and 19,175 students enrolled. In 1903 there were 5 centres, 5 courses of lectures, and 930 students enrolled.

THE STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

The present system of "free, compulsory, and secular" education came into operation on the 1st January, 1873, the Act having been passed the previous year, and being now, with two Amending Acts passed in 1876 and 1889, consolidated in the "Education Act 1890," which in turn has been amended by Act No. 1777, passed in December, 1901. Before the inception of the present system, several different systems were tried. Prior to 1848 education was left to private enterprise; but in that year a denominational system was introduced and administered by a Board, subsidy being granted by the State. Under that system, religious as well as secular instruction was imparted by the teachers—the former being given according to the principles of the denomination to which the school was attached, the clergy of which also exercised control over the instruction imparted. On the separation of Port Phillip district from New South Wales in 1851, a Board of National Education was established in the new Colony of Victoria "for the formation and management of schools to be conducted under Lord Stanley's National System of Education, and for administering the funds in connexion therewith." There were thus two systems of education under separate Boards in operation at the same time, which duplicate system continued in force until 1862, when it was abolished as being cumbrous and costly. The "Common Schools Act 1862" transferred the powers of both Boards to a single Board of Education, provided a limit to the distance between which schools might be established, and fixed a minimum of scholars a school must have in order to entitle it to State aid; it prescribed, moreover, that four hours each day would be set apart for secular instruction, and that no child should be refused admission to any school on account of its religious persuasion. Although this Act caused some improvement, it was not designed to abolish denominationalism, nor did it reduce the number of small schools to any appreciable extent. It continued in force, however, for ten years, when it was repealed by the present Act in 1872. Under these systems, a fee ranging from 6d. to 2s. 6d. weekly was charged to all children except those whose parents were in destitute circumstances. Under the Act of 1872, education was made free to all willing to accept it; compulsory, in the sense that, whether accepted or not, evidence must be produced that all children are educated up to a certain standard; and secular, no teacher being allowed to give other than secular instruction in any State school building. Every facility is, however, afforded to the clergy of any denomination to assemble any of the children of the parents who desire it in a school room and impart religious instruction.

The education system of Victoria.

Main details
of the
system.

In each school four hours at least are set apart during each school day for secular instruction, two hours of which are to be before, and two hours after, noon. Secular instruction, in the case of children over nine years of age, includes the teaching of some recognised lesson books on the laws of health and lessons from some recognised temperance lesson books.

Compulsory
clauses.

Parents and custodians of children not less than 6 nor more than 13 years of age, are required to procure such children to attend a State school at least two hours before or after noon for at least 75 per cent. of the days on which school is open. Non-attendance may be excused for either of the four following causes:—(1) If the child is receiving efficient instruction in some other manner; or (2) has been prevented from attending by sickness, fear of infection, temporary or permanent infirmity, or any unavoidable cause; or (3) is 12 years of age and has been educated up to the standard, or has been excused by a general or particular order of the Minister; or (4) that there is no State school within 1, 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$, or 3 miles in the case of children under 7, between 7 and 9, between 9 and 12, and over 12 years of age respectively. In regard to the latter cause, however, in cases where schools are closed through low average attendance, or where the number of children would warrant the department in establishing a school, allowances are made by the department for the conveyance of children to the nearest school. The amount of the allowance is 3d. per day for children over 6 and under 12 who reside between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 miles from the nearest school, or 4d. per day for all children over 6 and under 15 who reside 3 miles or over from the nearest school. Parents and custodians who fail to make a child attend as provided may be summoned and fined 5s. for the first, and between 5s. and £1 for each subsequent offence, or in default 7 days' imprisonment; and truant officers are appointed to see that the compulsory provisions are carried out.

Boards of
Advice.

There are at present 374 school districts, in each of which a Board of Advice is elected every three years by the ratepayers in the district, the members of such Boards being 7 or 5 according to the size or importance of the district. The main functions of a Board of Advice are:—To report on the condition of schools and premises, whether new ones are required, and as to books, furniture, gymnastic appliances or other requirements; to suspend teachers for misconduct, and report cause to the Minister; to visit schools, record the number present, and its opinion as to the general condition and the management of the schools in the district; and to endeavour to induce parents to send their children

regularly to school, to compare the attendance with the roll, and report names of parents who fail to comply with the compulsory clauses.

The following are the subjects instruction in which is absolutely free:—Reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, drill, singing, drawing, elementary science, manual training, gymnastics, and swimming where practicable; lessons on the laws of health and on temperance previously mentioned; and sewing, needlework, cookery, and domestic economy for girls. For instruction in other branches, fees are charged to the parents, and the teacher is entitled to such fees if the inspector is satisfied with the instruction imparted.

Free subjects.

In the latter half of 1902, a revised programme of free instruction was issued, the provisions of which are such as to secure a more realistic treatment than formerly of the essential subjects of school education, and a larger share of attention to the training of the hand and eye through manual instruction in various forms. The requirements from infant teachers were also made such as to secure methods of teaching in accord with the principles enunciated by Froebel, the founder of the kindergarten system. Great activity has been displayed in the training of teachers for the new work. In January of each year (during the past four years), hundreds of country teachers have been instructed, at the University and Training College, in such subjects as drawing, brush work, paper work, cardboard modelling, kindergarten, experimental science, and nature study; while, at centres throughout the State, during the past two years, Saturday classes have been held in several of these subjects.

New free subjects.

There were, on the 30th June, 1903, 18 Sloyd centres in operation, attended by 3,740 boys; and 11 cookery centres, attended by 1,430 girls. Military drill receives a large share of attention, and the bigger boys of the larger schools are enrolled in corps and provided with light rifles. The teaching of swimming is organized when practicable, the children being formed into swimming clubs, which hold annual competitions at Melbourne and Geelong. The cultivation of school gardens and the study of the elements of agriculture are warmly encouraged by the Department's officers; and every facility is made for the holding of arbour days.

Drill, swimming school gardens, &c.

The following are the extra subjects and the fees chargeable:—Latin, French, German, and painting, for which the fee must not exceed one shilling weekly; natural science, euclid, algebra, trigonometry, fancy work, elocution, and shorthand, fee not exceeding sixpence weekly; and book-keeping and calisthenics, fee not exceeding threepence weekly;

Extra subjects.

and such other subjects as may be approved by the Director. The instruction in extra subjects must not be given so as to interfere with the ordinary free instruction.

Standard of
education.

Yearly examinations are held to determine the quality of the work done by teachers, and to award merit certificates, and to grant certificates of exemption from compulsory attendance to children who present themselves. The subjects of examination for the latter certificates are:—Reading, writing, spelling, composition, and arithmetic; and any child under 13 years of age who wishes exemption from further compulsory attendance may be so exempt on passing this test. Half-yearly examinations are also held for the examination of children not attending State schools who desire to prove that they are educated up to the standard.

Teachers' remuneration and classification.

Male teachers are divided into eight classes and female teachers into seven classes, there being no female teachers in the first class. The salaries for males, excluding pupil teachers, range from £70 to £288, and those for females, excluding pupil teachers and sewing mistresses, £56 to £138. In addition to these fixed salaries, a sum equal to one-half the amount of each salary is obtainable by way of results; the efficiency of the instruction imparted by the teacher being gauged by an inspector's examination of every scholar who has attended the school during any part of the two weeks preceding the visit, the examination being restricted to the free subjects. It was intended to abolish the system of payments by way of results by Act No. 1777, which provided for the repeal as from 31st August, 1902, of the provision contained in Sec. 23 of the principal Act, empowering the Governor-in-Council to make regulations for these payments. A substitute was provided by a subsequent Act, which, however, was afterwards withdrawn. The repeal of the power to make regulations for these payments did not affect the validity of the regulations then in force, and these payments are being continued for the present. In addition to the head and assistant teachers, there are four classes of male and female pupil teachers, with salaries ranging from £30 to £60 and £24 to £48 respectively, and monitors are appointed, males receiving £12 and females £10 per annum. Sewing mistresses receive £30 yearly.

State schools, teachers, and scholars, 1872 to 1903.

The following statement shows the progress as regards State schools, teachers, and scholars since 1872. The figures relating to the number of schools and teachers refer to 30th June, and those relating to the number of scholars to the financial year ended 30th June, for the last two years, and to the 31st December for all previous years:—

STATE SCHOOLS, ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1902-3.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.		
			Enrolled during the year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct Children (estimated).
1872 ...	1,049	2,416	136,055	68,456	113,197
1880 ...	1,810	4,215	229,723	119,520	195,736
1890 ...	2,170	4,708	250,097	133,768	213,886
1898 ...	1,877	4,618	238,357	134,976	212,164
1899 ...	1,892	4,808	239,732	143,844	214,522
1900 ...	1,948	4,977	243,667	147,020	218,240
1901-2 ...	2,041	5,066	257,355	150,939	228,241
1902-3 ...	1,988	5,037	251,655	150,268	224,178

The falling off in the number of schools in 1898, as compared with 1890, was due to the closing of a number of small schools and the amalgamation of others. The decrease in the scholars enrolled during the same period was entirely due to the non-enrollment since 1892 of children under 4½ years of age, and to payments for conveyance being restricted to those between the ages of 5 and 13. From 1898 to 1902 there was an annual increase in the number of schools, and a very satisfactory annual increase in the number of scholars. During the year 1902-3, however, the reduction of 53 in the number of schools, as compared with the previous year, is due to the closing of some, and to the making of others into half-time schools, two of the latter being counted as one school. The reduction in the scholars enrolled, and in the attendance during the year 1902-3, instead of an increase, as in the preceding four years, is mainly due to the severity of the drought in that year, which caused the removal of families from drought-stricken areas, and a consequent decrease in the attendance.

Increase of schools and scholars.

The following are particulars of the number and percentage of distinct children attending State schools, below, at, and above the school age (6 and under 13) during the year 1902-3:—

Ages of State school scholars.

AGES OF DISTINCT CHILDREN.

Ages.	Distinct Children Attending—					
	Day Schools.		Night Schools.		Total.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Under 6 years ...	12,389	5·56	...	...	12,389	5·53
6 to 13 ...	168,430	75·57	...	...	168,430	75·13
13 years and upwards ...	42,050	18·87	1,309	100·0	43,359	19·34
Total ...	222,869	100·00	1,309	100·0	224,178	100·00

Private
schools,
1872 to
1902-3.

The number of private schools, instructors in same, and individual scholars in attendance in 1872, the year before the adoption of the present secular system, for a number of subsequent years, and for the latest year available, was:—

PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1902-3.

Year (4th Quarter).	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Individual Scholars.
1872 	888	1,841	24,781
1880 	643	1,516	28,134
1890 	791	2,037	40,181
1898 	945	2,440	43,926
1899 	901	2,417	48,854
1900 	884	2,348	48,483
1901-2 	872	2,379	43,182
1902-3 	798	2,369	42,695

Scholars
attending
State and
private
schools.

On comparing the number of scholars with the number attending State schools, as shown in the preceding paragraph, it is seen that 16 per cent. of the scholars attending school during 1902-3 attended private schools, and the balance, 84 per cent., attended State schools.

Ages of
scholars at
private
schools.

Of the 42,695 scholars attending private schools during 1902-3, 28,924, or 68 per cent., were at the compulsory school age (6 and under 13); 4,431, or about 10 per cent., under 6; and 9,340, or 22 per cent., were 13 and upwards. As compared with the ages of State school scholars shown in the preceding table, it will be seen that there is a larger percentage under and above the compulsory age, but a smaller percentage at that age.

TRAINING COLLEGE.

College for
training
teachers.

There is a college for the training of teachers, student-ships entitling classified teachers and first-class pupil teachers to free instruction on competitive examination. The course of instruction in the Training College extends over two years, and includes history, theory and practice of teaching, English language and literature, history of the British Empire, mathematics, Latin, science, music, drawing, and manual training. Holders of studentships are allowed to reside at the Training College upon the payment of £12 per annum towards the expense of their board and residence. Holders of studentships who may reside at home are entitled to an allowance of £18 per annum towards board and residence. Holders of State school exhibitions may be granted a studentship for any two years during the currency of their exhibition, but without allowance for board and residence (other than that payable to

them as exhibitioners.) Studentships, not exceeding five in number in any one year, may be granted to persons who have passed the matriculation examination of the Melbourne University, or an approved equivalent, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who have been classed as meritorious in the competitive examination above mentioned. Such students will be entitled to tuition in the course of instruction at the College free of expense, but without any allowance for board and residence. Every student will be required to enter into an agreement, by himself and an approved surety, not to relinquish his course of training without the permission of the Minister, and for four years after the termination of his studentship to teach in any school to which he may be appointed. Persons other than students may, on payment of a fee of £10 10s. per annum, be admitted to the course of instruction at the Training College, or, on payment of a fee of £4 4s. per annum, to the course of instruction in Theory and Practice of Teaching only.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS.

Any person may collect, raise, or give a sum of money towards founding a scholarship or exhibition in connection with any particular State school; and money or land, or both, may be bequeathed for that purpose. There are 40 departmental scholarships, each of the annual value of £10, tenable for three years, open to 6th class scholars under 14 years, upon competitive examination. The conditions are that after the award of scholarship the scholar shall at the next ensuing session become a student in one of the approved secondary schools or colleges; shall continue to attend, and shall obtain at the end of each year a favourable report from the authorities of the same. Where a scholar does not reside within 3 miles of an approved secondary school or college, the Minister may, at his discretion, allow him such sum (not exceeding £5 per annum) as will cover the cost of transit to and fro, if the school or college is easily accessible by rail or coach; or may increase the Scholarship to one of £20 per annum. Examinations of State school pupils for Scholarships offered by secondary schools or colleges may be held annually, under the supervision of the Department, provided that the conditions under which such Scholarships are to be offered have been previously approved by the Minister of Public Instruction. Holders of these Scholarships will be eligible to compete for Exhibitions subject to the conditions of the Regulation relating thereto. The Council of Agricultural Education offers five Scholarships triennially entitling the holders to be admitted free of charge to the Agricultural College for a course of training. The next examination will be held in December, 1906. The holders of scholarships under 17 years

Scholarships
and exhibi-
tions.

of age, who have attended regularly at an approved secondary school or college for the preceding two years, from the authorities of which good reports have been obtained, and who have passed the matriculation examination at the University, are eligible to compete for twenty exhibitions annually awarded by the department. The exhibitions are allotted on competitive examination in English, algebra, and geometry, and any two of the four following languages:—Latin, Greek, French, or German; the examination being on the basis prescribed for the preceding matriculation. Each exhibition is of the annual value of £40, tenable for three years at technical schools, or for four years at the Melbourne University.

CENSUS RETURNS.

Education of
the people,
census
1901.

The following statement, taken from the returns of the census of 1901, shows the number and percentage of persons (excluding Chinese and Aborigines) in the State at different ages who could read and write, who could read only, or who were unable to read:—

EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE, 1901.

Ages.	Numbers living in 1901.				Number in every 100 living at each age in 1901.		
	Able to read and write.	Able to read only.	Unable to read.	Total.	Able to read and write.	Able to read only.	Unable to read.
Under 6 years ...	4,811	5,237	146,796	156,844	3·07	3·34	93·59
6 to 13 years ...	175,797	8,046	11,251	195,094	90·12	4·12	5·76
13 „ 15 „ ...	50,547	65	220	50,832	99·44	·13	·43
15 „ 25 „ ...	222,076	239	1,245	223,560	99·34	·10	·56
25 „ 35 „ ...	187,879	288	1,512	189,679	99·05	·15	·80
35 „ 45 „ ...	155,206	650	1,994	157,850	98·32	·41	1·27
45 „ 55 „ ...	76,480	1,120	2,350	79,950	95·66	1·40	2·94
55 „ 65 „ ...	52,808	1,986	2,994	57,788	91·38	3·44	5·18
65 years and upwards	54,809	3,776	4,865	63,450	86·38	5·95	7·67
Unspecified adults...	1,647	27	45	1,719	95·81	1·57	2·62
All ages ...	982,060	21,434	173,272	1,176,766	83·46	1·82	14·72
15 years and upwards	750,905	8,086	15,005	773,996	97·02	1·04	1·94
21 „ „ „	613,018	7,936	14,335	635,289	96·49	1·25	2·26

The number of children from 6 to 13 years of age includes those children whose ages were not specified, the total figures exclude those whose educational attainments were not returned, and in the ages 15 years and upwards are included the adults whose ages were unspecified.

The numbers of persons in every 10,000 of the population who could read and write, and who were unable to read, at the last two enumerations, were as follow:—

	In 1891.	In 1901.
At all ages	8,318	8,528 could read
" " " " " "	8,029	8,346 could write
" " " " " "	1,682	1,472 could not read
Between 6 and 13 (school age)	9,389	9,424 could read
" " " " " "	8,769	9,012 could write
" " " " " "	611	576 could not read
At 15 and upwards	9,771	9,806 could read
" " " " " "	9,573	9,702 could write
" " " " " "	229	194 could not read
At 21 and upwards	9,728	9,774 could read
" " " " " "	9,491	9,619 could write
" " " " " "	272	226 could not read

Education
1891 and
1901.

A marked improvement is noticeable at all ages, and in regard to children at school age the proportion entirely illiterate was only 576 per 10,000.

A comparison of the results of the censuses of 1891 and 1901 in every 10,000 children of school age, i.e., between 6 and 13 years of age, indicates that the educational attainments of both boys and girls had materially improved, as there were proportionately more children able to read in 1901 than there were in 1891. This will be readily seen by an examination of the following figures:—

Education
of boys and
girls 1891
and 1901.

1891.		1901.	
Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
9,357	9,421	9,398	9,454 could read.
8,686	8,852	8,971	9,056 could write.
643	579	602	546 could not read.

It is always a noticeable fact that in Victoria girls are much more forward in regard to the rudiments of education than are boys. Whether it is owing to the fact of a closer application to lessons, of less distractions caused by sports and games, or of quicker natural abilities, it is hard to determine. This relative backwardness of boys is not a condition peculiar to Victoria, but is just as noticeable in the other States.

The degree of education of children differs somewhat according to religious denomination, as will be seen by the following figures taken at the census of 1901:—

Education
of children
of different
sects.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS, 1901.

Religious Denominations.	Number aged 5 to 15 years.			Proportion per cent.		
	Able to read and write.	Able to read only.	Unable to read.	Able to read and write.	Able to read only.	Unable to read.
Church of England ...	84,406	4,797	9,914	85·16	4·84	10·00
Presbyterian ...	36,808	2,032	4,232	85·46	4·72	9·82
Methodist ...	40,769	2,036	4,102	86·92	4·34	8·74
Other Protestants ...	18,022	858	2,028	86·20	4·10	9·70
Total Protestants ...	180,005	9,723	20,276	85·72	4·63	9·65
Roman Catholics ...	46,468	2,849	6,253	83·62	5·13	11·25
Jews ...	1,026	56	79	88·37	4·82	6·81
Residue ...	3,657	198	497	84·03	4·55	11·42
Total ...	231,156	12,826	27,105	85·27	4·73	10·00

In addition to these, there were 5,770 children between the ages of 5 and 15 whose education was unstated.

Education
of children
at census,
1901.

At the census of 1901 the number of children at school age (over 6 and under 13 years) resident in Victoria was 197,704, and of these 184,200 were receiving instruction, whilst the balance, 13,504, were not under instruction nor receiving any education whatsoever. There were also 43,353 children either above or below the school age, making a total of 241,057 children under instruction. Of every 1,000 of these, 783 were educated at State schools, 33 at colleges and grammar schools, 72 at denominational schools, 63 at private schools, and 10 at unspecified schools, whilst the balance of 39 were educated at home. Of the 13,504 at school age who were returned as not receiving any instruction at all, 4,608 were in Melbourne and suburbs, 2,209 in country cities, towns, and boroughs, and 6,687 in rural districts. Of the children at school age resident in Melbourne and suburbs, 6·13 per cent., of those in country towns, &c., 7·03 per cent., and of those in rural districts 7·34 per cent. were not receiving instruction.

Education
of children.
Progress
and com-
parison
with other
States.

As a measure of the progress of education under the free, compulsory, and secular system, it may be mentioned that 90·12 per cent. of children of school age (6 to 13 years) at the census of 1901 were able to read and write, as against 87·69 at that of 1891, 81·70 in 1881, and 65·60 in 1871, just before the introduction of the system. The percentage just mentioned as being able to read and write at the census of 1901 (viz., 90·12) is considerably higher than that in any other State in the Commonwealth, the percentage being, at the 1901

census, 84.42 in Queensland (Australian born children only), 82.05 in Western Australia, 82.00 in South Australia, 80.35 in New South Wales, and 78.77 in Tasmania.

STANDARD OF EDUCATION.

The proportion of either sex who showed their want of elementary education, by signing the marriage register with a mark instead of in writing, is given in the following table for each fifth year from 1875, and for the years 1898 to 1903:—

SIGNING THE MARRIAGE REGISTER WITH MARKS, 1875 TO 1903.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Mean.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1875 ...	5.48 ...	9.43 ...	7.46
1880 ...	4.18 ...	4.09 ...	4.13
1885 ...	2.56 ...	2.62 ...	2.59
1890 ...	1.50 ...	1.53 ...	1.52
1895 ...	.89 ...	.67 ...	.78
1898 ...	.73 ...	.62 ...	.67
1899 ...	.85 ...	.68 ...	.76
1900 ...	.66 ...	.85 ...	.76
1901 ...	.56 ...	.50 ...	.53
1902 ...	.67 ...	.54 ...	.60
1903 ...	.69 ...	.50 ...	.59

It will be observed that in proportion to the total numbers married, a very satisfactory increase has taken place during the 20 years ended with 1895 in the numbers of both sexes signing the marriage register in writing, in that nearly every year, as compared with its predecessor, a smaller proportion of persons signed with their marks. Since 1895, this proportion remained at a somewhat uniform level, until the last three years, when it was the lowest. It is probable, however, that the irreducible minimum has almost now been reached, for a certain residuum of the population will remain illiterate even under the compulsory system of education which prevails in Victoria. This is confirmed by the results of the census of 1901, which show that the percentage of males aged 21 years and upwards (exclusive of Chinese and Aborigines) who could not write was 3.18, and that of females aged 15 years and upwards, 3.23; whereas at the age groups 15 to 20, immediately following the school period, the percentage was .81 for males and .45 for females, so that the persons at all ages now marrying in Victoria are not only far better instructed than the general population, but are quite as well educated as those who have just completed their school life.

Compared with England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, where the proportions signing with marks were 2.70, 2.37, and 8.45 respectively, the elementary educational standard is very high in this State, which in this respect occupies the highest position in Australasia.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Technical
schools.

All the technical schools, under which name are included the Schools of Mines, Working Men's College, and Schools of Art and Design, are managed by local councils elected by subscribers. The Education Department, however, retains the general direction of technical education, and decides when schools are to be opened. Regulations are issued defining the powers of the councils, allotting the Government grants, and providing for the instruction and examination of the students. In the schools of art and design, the subjects taught comprise practical geometry, mechanical and architectural drawing, perspective, model, and freehand drawing. The schools of mines, which have been established at the principal mining centres, provide both theoretical and practical instruction, not only in all the subjects in any way connected with mining pursuits, but also in the arts and sciences generally; whilst a wide range of subjects is taught at the working men's and other colleges. In 1902-3, there were altogether 18 technical schools in the State. Five of these afforded instruction in science, art, and trade subjects; 5 in art and science; 2 in art and trade; while 5 schools confined their teaching to art; and 1 to science subjects only. Five schools, viz., the Working Men's College, Melbourne, and the Schools of Mines at Ballarat, Bendigo, Bairnsdale, and Stawell, are classed as certified science schools, and are eligible to receive State school exhibitioners. The schools, as a whole, had, during 1902-3, an average enrollment of 3,173 pupils for each term; whilst the fees per quarter ranged in the different schools from 3s. to £8 15s. The Government expenditure on all the institutions in 1902-3 amounted to £16,430. Of this, £13,600 was the ordinary Government grant for maintenance, which was supplemented by £944 for miscellaneous maintenance expenditure; £1,601 was for buildings, furniture, &c., and £285 was loan expenditure on buildings and equipment. Of the total amount, the Working Men's College (Melbourne) received £4,714; the Ballarat School of Mines, £3,508; the Bendigo School of Mines, £1,501; the Stawell School of Mines, £605; and the Bairnsdale School of Mines, £726. These amounts are exclusive of £1,008 miscellaneous expenditure on all the technical schools.

Technical
education,
Royal Com-
mission on.

In June, 1899, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the mining, agricultural, trades, and art schools of the State, and to report as to the best method of carrying on technical instruction in such schools; to consider the advisability of the affiliation of the mining schools with the University; to report as to the adoption in the State schools of elementary instruction in sciences pertaining to mining.

agricultural, dairying, and manufacturing pursuits; and generally to recommend what means should be adopted for the better provision of a systematic course of technical instruction. The Commission was under the presidency of Mr. Theodore Fink, M.L.A. Many sittings were held, and, after the issue of five progress reports, the final report was presented in August, 1901. This report deals fully with the strides made in technical education in Germany and the principal European countries, and contains a survey of the systems in force in those countries, in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Japan, the Australian States, and New Zealand. A synopsis, historical and general, is also given of the system in vogue in Victoria. Some of the principal recommendations made by the Commission are:—The establishment of State continuation schools, in view of the need for some form of preparatory education bridging the gap between the State and technical schools; the abolition of the existing local councils of technical schools, and the substitution of committees representative of the best educational thought of the localities—such committees to be represented on a General Council of Education; the establishment in the suburbs of Melbourne of classes to afford working tradesmen a knowledge of drawing, geometry, and other subjects applied to their trades; a liberal provision for scholarships; the introduction of legislation for fixing the period of apprenticeship in different trades, and for affording facilities for attending technical classes during the earlier years of apprenticeship; the appointment of skilled tradesmen to supervise and report upon the instruction afforded in trade subjects; the establishment of a Central Technical Art School to afford instruction having the widest application to the various industries of the country, and of a Technical Art Museum in connection therewith; the establishment of systematic courses in commercial education, and of a School of Domestic Economy at the Working Men's College, and the encouragement of science teaching by the secondary schools.

THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE.

The Working Men's College is a technical institution and school of mines, founded in 1887. It is open to all classes and both sexes, and supplies high-class instruction. Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant.

Working
Men's
College.

All fees are payable in advance; and no refund is allowed. Students under 18 years of age, and those under 21 in receipt of less wages than 25s. per week, and indentured apprentices, are admitted at reduced fees to many of the classes. Examinations are held in July and December, and entrance

Fees.

to these examinations is free to students of the college attending the classes in which they present themselves for examination, provided they have made the necessary attendances.

FEEES PAYABLE.

Subject.	Fee.
Mechanical, Electrical, and Marine Engineering—	
First year	£5 per term.
Second year	£6 „
Third year	£8 „
Mining Engineering—	
First year	£5 „
Second year	£6 „
Third year	£8 „
Metallurgy—	
First year	£5 „
Second year	£6 „
Third year	£8 „
Arithmetic	} Various amounts ranging from 3s. upwards per term.
Practical Geometry	
Workshop Drawing	
Freehand Sketching	
Wood Working	
Algebra	
Mensuration	
Geometrical Development	
Metal Plate Working	
Mechanical Drawing	
English Literature, Science, Trade, Commercial, and Other Subjects	

Prizes.

Special prizes are awarded to students annually. The Magee prize is of the annual value of £3, and is awarded to the student who obtains highest marks at examination in the work of the senior mechanical drawing class. The Sir George Verdon prize is of an annual value equal to the interest on the amount of the donor's endowment of £210, and is awarded for excellence of design and workmanship in any technical or trade subject. The Turri prizes, awarded for original inventions of students, consist of one prize of £10 10s., two prizes of £5 5s., and five prizes of £1 1s. each.

By F. A. CAMPBELL, Esq., DIRECTOR.

Over one hundred classes are held in the following departments:—Commercial, elocution and music, mathematics, engineering, architecture, chemistry, mining and metallurgy, photography, art and applied art, rural industries, household economy, and trade courses. The work is divided into—(1) day courses, and (2) evening courses and classes. In the day courses, the lower technical school prepares for the higher technical school, and also gives boys after they have left school a course of practical training, fitting them to enter intelligently on any line of industrial work. The higher technical school prepares students for the higher positions of industrial life, and has the following complete courses:—(1) Mechanical engineering,

(2) electrical engineering, (3) marine engineering, (4) mining engineering, (5) sanitary engineering, (6) municipal engineering, (7) metallurgy, and (8) applied chemistry. To students who complete any of the above courses, pass the necessary examinations, and produce evidence of having obtained twelve months' approved practical experience, the Diploma of "Associateship" of the College is issued.

In the evening school, the following courses are in operation for Experts' Certificates:—(A) carpenters, (B) fitters and machinists, (Ba) marine engineers, (C) cabinet makers, (D) plumbers, (E) house decorators, (F) modellers and terra cotta workers, (G) lithographic artists and draftsmen, (H) photographers, (I) electricians, (J) assayers, (K) geologists, (L) metallurgists, (M) municipal engineers, (N) commercial, (O) wool. The following figures indicate the comparative amount of work done at the college during the years 1899 to 1903:—

STUDENTS AT WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, 1899 TO 1903.

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Students enrolled—					
Average per term	1,943	2,100	2,162	2,364	2,182
Males over 21	459	482	564	455	437
„ under 21—Apprentices ...	112	127	146	147	145
„ „ Others	887	949	979	1,164	1,135
Females	485	542	473	598	465
Fees received during the year £	4,113	5,396	6,236	7,485	7,050
Average fee per student ...	43s. 6d.	51s. 3d.	57s. 8d.	63s. 8d.	65s. 7d.
Number of classes	128	134	156	161	163
„ instructors	46	49	51	53	55
Salaries paid instructors £	4,157	5,408	6,106	7,479	6,392

MELBOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The buildings of the Melbourne Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery cost £215,202. These funds were provided by the Government, as also were further moneys expended on maintenance, amounting, with the sum just named, to a total of £988,935. At the end of 1903 the library contained 149,500 volumes. It is open to the public, without payment, on week days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., and was visited during the year by 354,376 persons. The library consists of three distinct sections, viz:—the Public Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. The librarian reports that 4,293 volumes were purchased, 1,412 volumes presented, 206 volumes obtained under the "Copyright Act," and 40,089 newspapers were added to the Reference Library during the year. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 178,775

Melbourne
Public
Library.

volumes during 1903, and the number of persons to whom the books were lent was 8,443. Of these volumes, 61·7 per cent. related to fiction, 13 to history, 6·8 to general literature, 9·3 to religion, philosophy, natural science and art, 5·7 to arts and trades, and 2·7 per cent. to social science. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of 1903 was 20,517, of which 1,034 were added during the year.

Following on the establishment of the Melbourne Public Library, libraries were founded in many of the larger urban towns. The attention of the original trustees of the Melbourne Library was directed to these institutions, and to the vast number of people whom the distance prevented from reaching the building. They, therefore, established a scheme by which the larger country centres should have the benefit of the collection, and forwarded cases of books on loan for fixed periods. To the country towns of less importance cases were also sent, and in many instances the nucleus of a local library was thus formed. This travelling library system, as it is called, thus greatly stimulated the library movement in those places where it had been begun, and inaugurated it in many places to which as yet it had not spread. At the present time loans are made up to 300 volumes at a time to the committees of free libraries and mechanics' institutes, and to the councils of municipalities, for a period of one year, with a further extension of time if required. The books are selected with a view to meeting the special requirements of the district to which they are to be forwarded, publications on mining being sent to mining centres, and those relating to agricultural and pastoral pursuits to those districts where these industries are carried on. Although this scheme is now in operation in many countries, research among library records does not reveal the existence of anything similar prior to its establishment in Melbourne, so that the credit of starting it seems to belong undoubtedly to the original trustees of our library. Many of the local libraries are now in a position to supply all the wants of their patrons without having recourse to these loans.

**National
Gallery.**

The National Gallery at the end of 1903 contained 17,327 works of art, viz., 450 oil paintings, 3,470 objects of statuary, &c., and 13,407 water colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. It is opened at 10 a.m. and closed at 5 p.m. daily on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted). The school of painting in connexion with this institution was attended in the year by 6 male and 18 female students, and the school of design by 25 male and 65 female students. The students are encouraged to paint original works, by which means it is hoped the foundation may be laid of a school of art of purely Australian subjects.

The Industrial and Technological Museum adjoins the National Gallery, and was opened on the 7th September, 1870. At the end of 1903 it contained 55,208 specimens. It is opened at 10 a.m. and closed at 5 p.m. daily on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted). Industrial Museum.

The collection in the National Museum, formerly kept in a building situated on the grounds of the Melbourne University, is now located in the Public Library Buildings. It comprises natural history, geology, and ethnology. The National Museum is open to the public free of charge on all week days throughout the year, except Thursdays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. In 1903 the expenditure for specimens, furniture, material, &c., was £660. The payments for salaries and wages during the year amounted to £2,230. National Museum.

FREE LIBRARIES,

Most of the suburban and country libraries have been in the habit of receiving Government aid. Of these, twenty-five are situated within ten miles of Melbourne, and received £156 during the year 1902-3; of the remainder, three hundred and fifteen are to be found in the most important country towns throughout the State. These received for the same year £2,344. Free Libraries.

Any of these institutions claiming to participate in the grant must be a free library solely, or a free library combined with a mechanics' institute, athenæum, or country museum, as the case may be, or a country museum solely; but strict compliance is required with the following regulation:—"That where the free library is part of or connected with a mechanics' or other institution all the books of such institution or all the articles in the museum, as the case may be, are to be available to the public in the free library or museum on all occasions when they are available to subscribers."

Grants are allotted for four purposes:—(1) Reduction of debt, (2) building, (3) books, and (4) maintenance.

(1) "Reduction of debt" will be the reduction of the existing debt of any institution.

(2) "Building" will comprise the erection of or repairs to and painting of buildings, fencing-in of the land, and providing furniture.

(3) "Books" will comprise the purchase of books, periodicals, and newspapers, and the binding of the same.

(4) "Maintenance" will comprise salaries, fuel, light, water, cleaning, and incidental expenses, but not more than thirty-three per centum of the total revenue (including the grant in aid) of any institution shall be expended under this head without the special permission of the Chief Secretary.

No institution shall receive from the grant more than the sum of £20 a year.

During the year 1903-4 no provision has been made by the Government for the purpose of aiding the funds of these institutions.

The number of public libraries and mechanics' institutes in the State who furnished returns in 1903 was 414; the cost of their erection was £719,321; the total of their receipts is as follows:—From Government, £22,012; from municipal councils, £3,119; from private contributions, £9,797; from all other sources, £23,430; a total of £58,358. The number of volumes (excluding duplicates, pamphlets, &c., in the Melbourne Public Library) is 847,579. The visits to institutions where records were kept numbered 3,239,648.

City of Ballarat Free Library.

This library was established in 1878, on a site situated at the corner of Sturt and Camp Streets, which was at the time occupied by the Mining Board, the District Mining Surveyor, and Registrar of Births and Deaths. These officials were, however, compensated by the founders of the library to the extent of £600. With the aid of donations from some of the citizens, gifts of books from others, and loans of books from the Melbourne Public Library, the Committee were enabled in course of time to thoroughly establish the institution. In 1901-2, a sum of £3,000 was expended on a new library and reading rooms. It now contains 9,000 volumes on science, history, travels, and other subjects, besides a supply of reviews, magazines, and newspapers of Great Britain and the Commonwealth. The number of visitors during the last twelve months was 243,144. Further important additions and improvements are now in contemplation whereby the general usefulness of the institute will be greatly enhanced.

Ballarat Public Library.

This institution was established in 1863 by a number of the prominent citizens of Ballarat, and since that time its progress has been most satisfactory. It is governed by a president and fifteen members of council. With assistance from the Government, town council, and local residents, very fine premises have been erected for the use of the general public. The library, which is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, except Sundays, contains 16,736 volumes, and adds to its

stock about 300 new works each year. It is also liberally supplied with the most important newspapers and periodical literature. A technical and art school is connected with this institution, and receives from the Government a grant of £450 per annum. It possesses a staff of capable and expert teachers who are carrying out good and successful work, with an average of 250 students, distributed over several classes.

This institute was established in 1854. It consists of two sections—the public and lending libraries—which are open to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. There is connected with it a reading room for members of either sex, also a special reading room for ladies. The library contains about 14,000 volumes, and a liberal supply of periodical literature is kept up to date. The institute is maintained by members' subscriptions, grants by the City Council, rents, and a subsidy from the Government, but its present financial condition is far from satisfactory, owing to want of public support and decreased grants from the Government during late years. An amalgamation with the Bendigo School of Mines is contemplated.

Sandhurst
Mechanics'
Institute.

The Geelong Free Library and Museum is located in a handsome building, originally built by the Chamber of Commerce at a cost of £11,000. It was purchased in 1876 from that body for £3,200 for the purposes of the library and museum, which, as an institution, had been in existence since 1854. It has been mainly supported by residents of the town, and amply supplies all requirements. The average daily attendance is about 460. The library contains over 5,500 books, comprising works of fiction, poetry and the drama, educational, scientific, geological, religious, biographical, classical, and other works, together with daily, weekly, and monthly publications. The museum contains an interesting collection of geological and mineralogical specimens, native weapons, and objects of national history. In the art gallery are several excellent oil paintings, which add largely to the attraction of the institution. In 1903 the receipts were £176, and the expenditure £186.

Geelong
Free
Library and
Museum.

This institute was established on a very small scale in 1855, but from that time onward it has continued to make steady and satisfactory progress. Up to the end of 1903 the buildings erected cost £4,998. For the erection of a large hall, which is used for general entertainments and meetings, accommodating 600 persons, a sum of £1,100 has been borrowed. There are at the present time 250 subscribers to the institution, which contains suitable and commodious reading and other rooms for the use of the general public, well equipped with books on various subjects, numbering at

Castlemaine
Library and
Mechanics'
Institute.

the end of the year 9,684 volumes, also magazines, newspapers, and illustrated papers. The income for the year from all sources was £464, the expenditure £418.

Warrnam-
bool
Mechanics'
Institute
and Free
Library

In October, 1853, a public meeting was held at Warrnambool for the purpose of petitioning the Government to reserve a block of land for the purposes of a mechanics' institute building site. The site then obtained was given up some years later, and that upon which the building now stands was obtained in its stead. It was not, however, until after the lapse of some years, in August, 1871, that the Committee were in a position to erect buildings thereon. In this year a reading room was erected, at a cost of £340, and in the September of the following year four additional rooms were added. In 1885, a large art gallery and museum was added, and opened free of all encumbrance. Valuable works of art, curiosities, and historical relics, were gradually collected by the curator. In 1889, the museum was transferred to the town council, which body removed the collection to the old court-house building, thus leaving the hall free for works of art, many of which were purchased at the Melbourne Exhibition of 1888. In the same year as the art gallery and museum were founded, a school of design was opened, and later on a class room was added to the building. This school has been successfully carried on up to the present time. Though not quite free from debt, the position of the institution is fairly satisfactory. It comprises a large reading room, furnished with the leading newspapers and magazines; a library, containing over 6,000 volumes; an art gallery, and school of art.

Stawell Free
Library and
Mechanics'
Institute.

This library dates its origin as far back as 1858, when the inhabitants of the Reef, Pleasant Creek, opened a building for the purpose of a mechanics' institute, circulating library, and reading room. This building served the needs of the people until 1866, when it was destroyed by a fire. It was replaced by a two-story structure, which, in addition, provided space for lodge and lecture rooms. This building was burnt in 1875, and replaced by the structure now known as the Stawell Free Library and Mechanics' Institute, the cost of which was about £4,000, and at the present time there is upon it an outstanding debt of £500. The library contains 6,500 volumes of various classes of literature, and is well supplied with newspapers, magazines, journals, and illustrated papers. The institute is managed by a committee of 16, 6 members being elected each year by the public, and 6 by the subscribers for the same term; 3 being trustees or permanent members of the committee, and the Mayor of Stawell is, ex officio, its president. The receipts during 1903 were £445.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

There is a free library attached to the Patent Office, Melbourne. This contains about 7,500 volumes, consisting of the patent records of Great Britain, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Germany, &c., and other works relating to Science, Patents, and Trade Marks. About 200 models of patented inventions may also be seen on application to the officer in charge. The approximate value of the books and models is £3,500. The library is open to the public on each week day, except Saturday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.

Patent Office
Library

The Supreme Court Library at Melbourne has eighteen branches in the assize towns. It is free to members of the legal profession between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it closes at noon. It is supported by fees paid under Acts of Parliament and rules of court for the admission of barristers and attorneys.

Supreme
Court
Library.

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

The Exhibition Buildings, which are situated in the Carlton Gardens, Melbourne, when first opened, in October, 1880, occupied a total space of 907,400 square feet. The original cost of the permanent structure was £132,951, of the temporary annexes, £83,111; gardens, £18,481; machinery, £5,715; organ, £5,560; and miscellaneous expenditure, £547—making a total of £246,365. After the close of the exhibition, on the 30th April, 1881, the annexes were removed, and the permanent building was vested in trustees. Another exhibition was opened in the building on the 1st August, 1888, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the first Australian Colony. On this occasion, a further sum of £125,178 was expended upon the re-erection of the annexes; £30,986 upon additions, alterations, and decorations to the permanent building; £4,854 upon the gardens; £16,471 upon machinery; £77,128 upon electric lighting; and £8,337 upon gas and gas fittings—making a total of £262,954. At the close of the exhibition, there was realized from the sale of various materials, including temporary annexes, a sum of £56,904. The property again reverted to the trustees, who report, for the year 1903, that all the buildings are in a good and substantial condition, the gardens well maintained, the oval improved, the aquarium and insectarium museums extremely useful, both from educational and scientific points of view. The receipts for the year amounted to £5,910, consisting of an advance from the Treasury of £300; rents, £3,758; and aquarium and other receipts, £1,852. The expenditure totalled

Exhibition
Buildings,
Aquarium,
and
Museum.

£5,228, viz., £1,849 for wages, advertisements, feed, live stock, and miscellaneous items; £3,379 for maintenance and improvement of the building and gardens, insurance and sundry expenses.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

BY W. R. GUILFOYLE, ESQ., DIRECTOR.

Botanic
Garden.

The Melbourne Botanic Garden is situated on the south side of the River Yarra, and is at a distance of about a mile and a half from the city. The area of the garden proper, including lawns, groups, &c., is 88 acres, whilst that of the lake, including the added elbow, or bend of the River Yarra, amounts to 12 acres in addition. This now historic garden, together with the Government House grounds (62 acres), and the Domain (150 acres), comprises a total of 312 acres. The facts as to the commencement and progress of the establishment, having been compiled from the most reliable sources, are to be found in the new illustrated "Guide Book," as published by the Government printer in 1901-2, from which the accompanying quotation has been taken:—

"The first site chosen for a Botanic Garden was an area of 50 acres, near to where the Spencer-street railway station is situated, and was selected by Mr. Hoddle, Surveyor-General, in 1842. Afterwards various other localities were proposed, but finally, owing mainly to the discrimination and taste of the Hon. Charles Joseph La Trobe, first Government Superintendent (afterwards Lieutenant-Governor) of the Province of Port Phillip, a portion of the present site was decided upon for the purpose. In September, 1845, Dr. Nicholson presented a petition, signed by three or four hundred of the citizens, headed by the Mayor, praying for the immediate establishment of the Botanic Garden, and the sum of £750 was thereupon voted—1845-6—for its maintenance. The first superintendent, or curator (Mr. John Arthur), was appointed 1st March, 1846, and he at once fenced in a 5-acre paddock, that portion of the gardens at present known as the Anderson-street Lawn, sloping towards the tea-house on the edge of Lake, in which he made good progress both as to cultivation and planting. Mr. Arthur, however, whose labours were much appreciated at the time, died in January, 1849. Mr. John Dallachy succeeded Mr. Arthur as curator, and insured such good results that, at the end of 1851, a progress report submitted to the Legislature showed that, in addition to an extension of cultivated ground, many kinds of exotic plants had been added to the collection, and also that the native vegetation had received attention. The various shows of the Horticultural Society were at that time held in the gardens. For several years prior to the retirement of Mr. Dallachy, a scientific arrangement of plants in a part of the gardens was undertaken by the then Government Botanist, Dr. Ferdinand Mueller (subsequently Baron Sir F. von Mueller), who had accompanied the Gregory Expedition in search of Leichhardt, the explorer. After the Baron had received the appointment as Director (1857), Mr. Dallachy was re-employed for several years as a collector of seeds and herbarium specimens for the gardens, and discovered many new and beautiful species in Queensland. The Baron held office as Director until 1873, when, with the view of enabling him to give undivided attention to his scientific labours as Government Botanist, he was relieved of control of the Botanic Gardens, and Mr. W. R. Guilfoyle was appointed to the position. Since 1873 the gardens have been entirely remodelled by him, and their area extended by more than 30 acres."

When I took charge of the grounds, I found about 3,000 species of plants growing there, and these, having been added

to by me during the past 30 years, now represent no less than 14,000 species. Many of them are large and well-grown palms in great variety, also arborescent as well as other ferns—as for instance, several hundreds in the rather extensive “Gully.” There are, besides, other ornamental and utilitarian plants, together with a good-sized collection in the medicinal or herb garden.

A large “System Pavilion of Plants” was also formed, classified in their natural orders, which, like the whole of the various collections in the outer grounds, conservatory, &c., have their labels attached—giving both their scientific and common names, and also their orders, native countries, &c.

The “Museum of Plant Products” was formed some time ago, which contains many thousands of fully-named herbarium specimens; seeds in their seed vessels (or pods), fibres, and woods, representatives of plants yielding either food or articles for manufacture. Both the system pavilion and museum are largely visited by students connected with botanical classes, in colleges and schools.

The grounds are almost encircled by a much-used carriage way, which, having been inter-connected, comprises the Alexandra Avenue, and the South Yarra Drive, and now make one wide promenade of $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles in length. Adjacent to the two entrances from the Alexandra Avenue, and on one of the highest points, close to Government House, I have erected, from my own design, a large domed structure with ten massive columns, which is known as the Temple of the Winds, and has been dedicated by the Director to the memory of the Hon. Charles Joseph La Trobe, the first Governor of Victoria, who selected the site for the Botanic Gardens in 1845-6. The Temple is a very attractive spot for visitors, as from it very fine views of the Gardens, Yarra Improvements, City, Eastern Suburbs, and the Dandenong and Healesville Ranges are to be obtained.

It will be seen by the facts quoted that the Melbourne Botanic Garden has now had an existence of 58 years, and as a favourite resort, has become increasingly popular, being attended by many thousands of people on Sundays and holidays, whilst being on week days much used by citizens and others, including visitors from other States, colonies, &c., Great Britain, and other countries.

The gardens of the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria are situated in the centre of the Royal Park, on the northern side of the city, and distant nearly two miles from

Zoological
and Accli-
matisation
Gardens.

the Post Office, and can be reached by the tramcars starting every few minutes, or by rail. The ground enclosed contains 50 acres, rather more than half of which is laid out as a zoological garden and the rest in deer paddocks, and are admittedly the finest zoological gardens in Australia. The present director of the society is Mr. D. Le Souëf.

MELBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

BY C. BOGUE LUFFMAN, ESQ., PRINCIPAL.

Melbourne
Horti-
cultural
Society.

The estate of the Melbourne Horticultural Society is situated at Richmond Park. It covers about 40 acres, and was originally a part of the old "police paddock," used for depasturing horses of the New South Wales troopers. About the year 1850 it was granted in trust to the Horticultural Society of Victoria, and for many years, under the name of the Horticultural Society's gardens, served as a propagating and distributing centre for such plants as had not previously gained a footing in the colony. By the year 1890 the Society's efforts as an educational body had practically ceased, and no funds were available whereby the two or three thousand trees and odd pieces of cultivated land might be maintained. The Government thereupon resumed control of the land, paid the Society's debts (some £1,500 odd), and decided to start an institution for the training of orchardists and small settlers. Up to this time the grounds had never been laid out to secure direct and efficient teaching; and as only casual and itinerant instructors were forthcoming, the school, during its early years, secured no special training to its students; and in 1897 almost ceased to exist. At this time the curator—an old servant of the Society—retired, and the present principal was appointed.

During the past seven years the estate has been almost entirely transformed in order that direct means might be provided for teaching the regular and casual students, and those visitors calling in search of special information. Previous to this, it was a jumble of useless old trees and poverty-stricken soil, the former of which have now been cleared away and the latter capped with new material. Effective roads and culverts have been laid, model orchard blocks, gardens, and a students' training ground have been prepared, and a large variety of instructive implementa got together for use in the class and field work.

Class room instruction is given in horticultural science, vegetable pathology, botany, chemistry of soils and plants, physical and commercial geography, entomology, measuring, levelling, designing, and plotting of homesteads, orchards, and

garden areas, and the most approved methods of raising and managing fruit trees and plants. Practical work includes the propagation and management of orchard trees, citrus, table grapes, bush fruits, harvesting, storing, packing, marketing, drying and canning fruit, vegetable culture, clearing, grading, and trenching of land, management of soils, manures, drainage, and villa gardening.

The principal and his assistant carry out this programme by affording lessons daily in the class room and field. Much of the landed estate is still in the rough, since the material employed in its improvement (city refuse) cannot be finally arranged till time has mellowed and settled it into firm, sweet loam. This secured, the school will possess greater advantages than any similar institution on the Australian continent.

In 1899, women students were first admitted, and up to the present year about 150 have passed through the institution. They have for the most part devoted their studies to the designing and making of villa gardens, vegetable and herb culture, and the special cultivation of table grapes and lemons—branches of commercial horticulture most suited to women.

Previous to 1903, instruction was free, but a fee of £5 per annum is now charged for admission of each student. There is a steady advance in the number of students, and every indication of the school doing generally helpful work in the service of the State. The flower gardens surrounding the principal's residence are noted for their beauty, and the instructional character of the work ever in progress makes the place well worth a visit at any season. The school year extends from February to December. Application for admission should be made to the Secretary for Agriculture, Public Offices, Melbourne.

There are 26 other horticultural societies in the State, situated at Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Mildura, Terang, Traralgon, Warrnambool, and other centres. The Government provided £300 in aid of these associations during the year ended 30th June, 1903.

Other societies.

METROPOLITAN PUBLIC RESERVES.

Greater Melbourne is amply supplied with public reserves and parks, the total area devoted to such purposes being 5,322½ acres in 1903, as against 5,226 in 1899. The following list of these reserves, together with a statement of their respective areas, has been supplied by the Lands Department:—

Public reserves in Greater Melbourne.

AREA OF PARKS AND GARDENS IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1903.

Municipality.	Name of Reserve.	1903. Area. Acres.
Melbourne City	Royal Park...	425
"	Yarra ...	155
"	Prince's ...	97
"	Fawkner ...	102
"	Flinders ...	17
"	Park (Model Farm) ...	81
"	Botanic Garden and Domain ...	178
"	Zoological " ...	55
"	Carlton " ...	63
"	Fitzroy " ...	64
"	Spring " ...	21
"	Flagstaff " ...	18
"	Argyle Square ...	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Curtain " ...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Darling " ...	2
"	Lincoln " ...	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Macarthur " ...	1
"	Murchison " ...	1
"	University " ...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	University Grounds ...	106
"	Friendly Societies' Grounds ...	25
"	Industrial Schools & Board of Health Depôt ...	47
"	Melbourne Cricket Ground ...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	East Melbourne " ...	7
"	Scotch College " ...	7
"	Richmond " ...	6
"	Carlton " ...	5
"	Parliament Reserve ...	10
"	Ornamental Plantations ...	5
"	General Cemetery ...	101
"	Old Cemetery ...	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Military Parade Ground ...	5
"	Recreation (Brown's Hill) ...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
North Melbourne Town	Recreation ...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fitzroy City	Edinburgh Park ...	34
"	Recreation ...	7
Collingwood City	Mayor's Park ...	6
"	Recreation ...	7
"	Darling Gardens ...	16
"	Victoria Park ...	10
Richmond City...	Richmond Park ...	156
"	Horticultural Gardens ...	33
"	Barkly Square ...	7
"	Municipal Reserve ...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Northcote Town	Jika Park ...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Melbourne City	Albert Park (part of) ...	464
"	St. Vincent Gardens ...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Ornamental Plantations ...	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Cricket and Recreation (Warehousemen's)	8
Port Melbourne Town	Cricket Ground ...	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Park and Garden ...	58
"	" " ...	2
"	Ornamental Plantations ...	17
Prahran City	Toorak Park ...	7
"	Victoria Gardens ...	4
"	Gardens (Grattan-street) ...	2
St. Kilda City	St. Kilda Gardens ...	16
"	Albert Park (part of) ...	106

AREA OF PARKS AND GARDENS IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1903—
continued.

Municipality.	Name of Reserve.	1903. Area. Acres.
St. Kilda City	Recreation	54
"	"	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	11
"	"	15 $\frac{3}{4}$
"	" (Dandenong Road)	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Cemetery	20
Brighton Town	Elsternwick Park	85
"	Recreation (Elsternwick)	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Beach Park	67
Essendon Town	Recreation	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Agricultural Society's Yards	30
"	Queen's Park	18
"	Water Reserve	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flemington and Kensington Borough	Racecourse	301
"	Recreation	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Hawthorn City	"	15
Kew Borough	Studley Park	203
"	Lunatic Asylum	384
"	Cemetery	31
"	Recreation	16
Footscray City	Public Gardens and Recreation	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
"	Cricket Ground, &c.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Recreation (Yarraville)	5
"	" (Footscray West)	15
Williamstown Town	Park	36
"	"	20
"	Recreation	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
"	Beach Park	20
"	Cemetery	15
"	Rifle Range	332
"	Cricket Ground	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
"	Public Garden	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Recreation (Newport)	13
Malvern Town	Park and Garden	8
"	Recreation	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	Park and Garden (Waverley)	16
Caulfield Town	Racecourse	144
"	Park	62
"	Park (East Caulfield)	17
"	Recreation	13
Oakleigh Borough	Recreation	8
"	Park and Garden	21
"	Cemetery	10
Outside urban municipalities {	Yarra Bend Asylum	350
	Camberwell Gardens	7
	Williamstown Racecourse	190
	Total	5,322 $\frac{1}{2}$

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Friendly Societies are regulated under the "Friendly Societies Act 1890," and amendments thereof in the Acts of 1891, 1896, and 1900, which, amongst other provisions, prescribe that each society shall furnish returns annually to the

Valuations
of Friendly
Societies.

Government Actuary for Friendly Societies, and once in every five years shall cause its assets and liabilities to be valued to the satisfaction of that officer. The fees for valuation have purposely been fixed low, and average no more than three-pence per member, the result being that, although it is competent for the societies to employ outside valuers if they desire it, as a matter of fact they very rarely do so, and all the valuations are now made by the Government Actuary for Friendly Societies, Mr. Evan F. Owen, A.I.A.

Friendly
Societies.

The following is an epitome of the particulars furnished respecting Friendly Societies for the five years, 1898 to 1902:—

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1898 TO 1902.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Number of societies ...	31	29	29	29	28
„ branches ...	1,088	1,105	1,111	1,132	1,146
Average number of members	86,369	91,213	95,819	99,360	101,574
Number of members sick	18,693	21,083	18,007	20,832	20,708
Weeks for which aliment was allowed	160,611	165,616	157,235	169,289	168,830
Deaths of members ...	931	993	976	1,036	1,023
„ registered wives	481	442	424	393	427
	£	£	£	£	£
Income of sick and funeral fund	173,443	186,547	203,569	202,394	202,044
Income of incidental fund	150,111	159,879	164,849	169,406	181,719
Total income ...	323,554	346,426	368,418	371,800	383,763
Expenditure of sick and funeral fund	146,505	153,519	151,226	153,478	156,024
Expenditure of incidental fund	146,722	155,057	161,934	167,579	181,260
Total expenditure	293,227	308,576	313,160	321,057	337,284
Amount to credit of sick and funeral fund	1,133,156	1,166,184	1,218,527	1,267,443	1,313,463
Amount to credit of incidental fund	40,804	45,626	48,541	50,368	50,827
Amount invested—sick and funeral fund	1,059,374	1,103,433	1,141,678	1,205,151	1,249,809
Amount invested—incidental fund	31,459	36,026	36,784	39,522	41,793
Total invested ...	1,090,833	1,139,459	1,178,462	1,244,673	1,291,602

Growth of
Friendly
Societies.

During the quinquennium ended with 1902, the number of members in Friendly Societies increased by 15,205, or by about 18 per cent., the amount to the credit of the sick and funeral fund by £180,307, or 16 per cent., and the total amount invested by £200,769, or 18 per cent.

Sickness
and death
rates.

In proportion to the number of effective members of Friendly Societies, the amount of sickness experienced in 1902 was somewhat below the average of recent years. The days per effective member for which aliment was allowed were equal

to an average of 11·6 in that year, 12·0 in 1901, 11·3 in 1900, 13·0 in 1899, and 13·0 in 1898, but the average was only 10·6 during the fifteen years ended 1897. The death rate in 1902 was slightly below the average—the death rate per 1,000 members being 10·09 in 1902, 10·45 in 1901, 10·21 in 1900, 10·92 in 1899, 10·82 in 1898, and 10·63 for the 25 years ended 1902.

OCCUPATIONS.—CENSUS RETURNS.

The occupations of the people in 1901 were ascertained at the census. The various divisions of employment, under 28 heads, were:—

Occupations, 1901.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE, 1901.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ministering to—			
Government, Defence, etc. ...	6,719	165	6,884
Religion, Charity, Science, Education, etc. ...	13,664	14,676	28,340
Board, Lodging, and Attendance ...	13,129	53,686	66,815
Dealing in—			
Money and Real Property ...	10,039	2,760	12,799
Art and Mechanic Productions ...	3,720	934	4,654
Textile Fabrics, Dress and Fibrous Materials	6,374	2,452	8,826
Foods, Drinks, Narcotics and Stimulants ...	18,217	3,428	21,645
Animals, and Animal and Vegetable Substances	3,977	198	4,175
Metal or Minerals (other than those used for Fuel and Light)	2,044	162	2,206
Minerals, etc., mainly used for Fuel and Light	2,794	34	2,828
Engaged in—			
General Dealing and Mercantile Pursuits ...	16,091	4,446	20,537
Speculating on Chance Events ...	284	1	285
Storage ...	1,093	...	1,093
Transport and Communication ...	30,318	1,198	31,516
Manufacturers of—			
Art and Mechanic Productions ...	20,676	1,748	22,424
Textile Fabrics, Dress and Fibrous Materials	10,664	28,450	39,114
Foods, Drinks, Narcotics, and Stimulants ...	10,251	1,402	11,653
Animal and Vegetable Substances ...	5,281	85	5,366
Metals and Minerals (other than those used for Fuel and Light)	14,315	88	14,403
Materials used for Heat, Light, or Energy	1,035	37	1,072
Constructors of Buildings, Roads, Railways, Earthworks, etc.	27,392	17	27,409
Engaged in Disposing of the Dead or Refuse	1,260	24	1,284
Ill-defined Industrial Workers (chiefly labourers)	22,653	855	23,508
Engaged on Land or with Animals, and in Obtaining Raw Products from Natural Sources	140,149	24,998	165,147
Persons—			
Of Independent Means ...	7,242	2,824	10,066
Dependent upon Natural Guardians ...	203,279	444,931	648,210
Dependent upon the State or upon Public or Private Support	7,701	6,444	14,145
Occupation not stated (chiefly Breadwinners)...	3,522	1,415	4,937
Total ...	603,883	597,458	1,201,341

Bread-win
ners and
depend-
ents, 1901.

The number of breadwinners and dependents were:—

BREADWINNERS AND DEPENDENTS, 1901.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.
Breadwinners ...	389,381	144,668	534,049	65	24	45
Dependents ...	210,980	451,375	662,355	35	76	55
Total ...	600,361	596,043	1,196,404	100	100	100

Proportion
of bread-
winners
and de-
pendents.

The proportion of breadwinners was 100 to every 124 dependents, which was almost the same as at the previous census, when 100 breadwinners supported 125 dependents. It will be seen, too, that nearly one-fourth of the females in Victoria were returned as earning their own living.

Unem-
ployed,
31st March,
1901.

Provision was made in the census schedules for ascertaining the number of persons unemployed for more than a week prior to the enumeration. The information then collected shows that 13,795 male and 2,647 female wage-earners were returned as idle at that time.

FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

Factory
legislation.

There are now eight Factories and Shops Acts in force in this State, viz.:—The “Factories and Shops Act 1890,” and seven amending Acts. The amending Acts have been passed for limited periods, and, on 10th September, 1902, lapsed altogether owing to the sudden ending of the session of Parliament without any Act being carried to continue the Acts in force. The Acts and Regulations, and the determinations of the great majority of the Boards were, however, revived, and continued in force, by the “Factories and Shops Continuance Act 1902,” until the 31st October, 1903. On the 30th October, 1903, the “Factories and Shops Act 1903” was passed, and continued all the amending Acts in force until the 31st December, 1905. A factory is defined to mean any place in which four or more persons other than a Chinese, or in which one or more Chinese are employed in any handicraft, or in preparing articles for trade or sale; or any place in which one or more are employed, if motive power be used in the preparation of such articles, or where furniture is made, or where bread or pastry is made or baked for sale. The expression handicraft includes any work done in a laundry or dyeworks. Provision is made for the registration of factories; and inspectors are appointed to inspect and examine them in order to see that the health requirements and other provisions of the Acts are complied with

A record is to be kept in every factory of the names, work, and wages of all employés, and the ages of those under 16. The employment of persons under 13 is debarred, and a strict limitation is placed on the hours of employment for other young persons; and there are special provisions to guard against accidents, for the inspection of boilers, and against the employment of uncertificated persons to control them. All shops, except chemists, news agents, eating houses, &c., must close at seven p.m. on week days and at ten p.m. on Saturdays; but municipal councils are empowered to make by-laws permitting all shops of a particular class to remain open later, or providing that such shops be closed for one afternoon in each week, on petition by a majority of the shop-keepers of the same class; but the Act provides that all shop assistants shall have a half-holiday in each week. The working hours of Chinese are specially restricted, in order to try to prevent or lessen unfair competition.

The most important provision contained in the Act of 1896, and extended by subsequent Acts, is in regard to the formation of Boards to fix the rates of wages and piecework in various trades, for which purpose it is provided that, to determine the lowest prices or rates to be paid, the Governor-in-Council may appoint special Boards, if a resolution in favour of creating a Board for any process, trade, or business has been carried in both Houses of Parliament, consisting of from four to ten members (half elected by employers and half by employés), who are to nominate some outside person as chairman; or if no agreement can be arrived at as to such nomination, then the Governor-in-Council shall appoint the chairman. The Board so appointed shall agree upon the rates or prices to be charged, and shall also determine the number of improvers under 21 years of age who may be employed, and the lowest price or rate of pay; but no one shall receive less than 2s. 6d. per week in any case.

The Chief Inspector of Factories reports that determinations, made by twenty-nine Boards elected under the Act, were in full operation during 1902, and furnishes figures showing the increase in average earnings consequent thereon. For instance, the average weekly wage for all employés (including boys) in the bread-making trade was £1 12s. 6d. in 1896, prior to the Wages Board being in operation, and £2 2s. 10d. in 1902, when its determination was in full force. Likewise, the average wage of persons employed in the clothing trade increased from £1 in 1896 to £1 2s. 5d. in 1902; the average wage in the boot trade from £1 3s. 2d. to £1 8s. 3d.; and in the furniture trade from £1 9s. 1d. to £1 19s. 6d. In 1900, the average wage of persons engaged in the engraving trade was 36s. 11d., and in 1902, when the determination was in force, it was

Wages
Boards.Effect—
rise in
earnings

49s. 10d., or an increase of 12s. 11d. In the pottery trade the average wage was £1 8s. 1d. in 1900, before the Wages Board fixed the rates, and in 1902, when the determination was in operation it had risen to £1 16s. 4d., or an average increase of 8s. 3d. for each employé engaged in the trade.

HOSPITAL SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

Hospital
Saturday
and
Sunday.

In Melbourne and suburbs, the last Saturday and Sunday of October in each year are set apart for making collections in aid of the charitable institutions. The clergy of the various denominations take an active part in the movement, preaching sermons appropriate to the occasion, and otherwise helping it forward. The church collections on this Sunday are entirely devoted in aid of the fund. Sunday school superintendents, business firms, their employés, and others lend valuable assistance in making collections. The following are the amounts collected since the movement was inaugurated:—

COLLECTIONS, 1873 TO 1902.

1873 to 1898	...	£190,104	1901	...	£6,034
1899	...	5,853	1902	...	6,669
1900	...	5,901	Total	...	£214,561

The returns for 1903 are not yet available.

Distribution
of moneys
collected
on Hospital
Saturday
and
Sunday.

The amounts distributed to the various charitable institutions, as well as the total sums collected, from the inception of the fund, and for the year 1902, were as under:—

DISTRIBUTION, 1873 TO 1902.

Institution.	Amount Distributed.		
	1873 to 1901.	1902.	Total.
	£	£	£
Melbourne Hospital	61,802	1,654	63,456
Alfred Hospital	26,903	598	27,501
Benevolent Asylum	18,614	411	19,025
Women's Hospital	18,558	569	19,127
Children's Hospital	23,125	879	24,004
Eye and Ear Hospital	10,100	290	10,390
Homœopathic Hospital	10,064	261	10,325
Victorian Home for Aged and Infirm	6,842	149	6,991
Richmond Dispensary	1,330	35	1,365
Collingwood Dispensary	1,900	...	1,900
Austin Hospital for Incurables	10,122	581	10,703
Convalescent Home for Women	1,790	125	1,915
Convalescent Home for Men	1,275	125	1,400
Melbourne District Nursing Society	576	77	653
St. Vincent's Hospital	2,505	245	2,750
Sanatorium for Consumptives, Echuca and Macedon	790	223	1,013
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	308	106	414
Melbourne Dental Hospital	20	20	40
Total Distributed	196,624	6,348	202,972
Total Collected	207,892	6,669	214,561

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Particulars relating to the most important of the various classes of charitable institutions in the State are as follow. The information relates to the year ended the 30th June, 1903, except for the Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools, in which cases it relates to the calendar year 1903. Of the general hospitals, six are in Melbourne, the remainder in country towns, nine of the latter being also benevolent asylums. The accommodation available for indoor patients was as follows:—

Charitable
institutions
—accom-
modation.

AMOUNT OF ACCOMMODATION, 1902-3.

Description of Institution.	Number of Institutions.	Dormitories.		Number of Beds for Inmates.	Number of Cubic Feet to each Bed.
		Number.	Capacity in Cubic Feet.		
General Hospitals ...	45	393	4,070,321	2,956	1,376.9
Women's Hospital...	1	24	142,486	93	1,532.1
Children's Hospital ...	1	17	125,076	113	1,106.9
Eye and Ear Hospital ...	1	8	54,680	60	911.3
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1	3	23,894	18	1,327.4
Consumptive Sanatorium ...	1	15	56,000	95	589.5
Hospitals for the Insane ...	6	1,193	2,870,227	4,066	705.9
Idiot Asylum ...	1	20	114,288	286	399.6
Benevolent Asylums ...	6	179	1,663,766	2,434	683.6
Convalescent Homes ...	2	29	69,000	61	1,131.1
Blind Asylum ...	1	5	91,318	112	815.3
Deaf and Dumb Asylum ...	1	4	75,872	74	1,025.2
Orphan Asylums ...	7	55	605,979	1,483	559.5
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	15	...	...	...	...
Infant Asylum ...	1	8	38,821	54	718.9
Female Refugees ...	9	129	393,039	539	729.2
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	6	39	101,317	228	444.4
Total ...	105	2,121	10,496,084	12,272	855.3

The regulations of the Board of Public Health require an allowance of 1,200 cubic feet for each inmate in hospitals, and the above statement shows that, with two exceptions, this requirement has been complied with.

The following statement shows the number of inmates and of deaths in these institutions:—

Charitable
institutions
—inmates
and deaths.

INMATES AND DEATHS, 1902-3.

Description of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Daily Average.		
				Per Cent.
General Hospitals ...	21,509	2,023	2,320	10·78
Women's Hospital ...	1,929	66	41	2·13
Children's Hospital ...	1,302	87	113	8·68
Eye and Ear Hospital ...	813	49	6	·74
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	236	17	11	4·66
Consumptive Sanatorium	155	39	..	...
Hospitals for the Insane	5,200	4,262	342	6·58
Idiot Asylum ...	331	296	20	6·04
Benevolent Asylums ...	3,889	2,415	470	12·09
Convalescent Homes ...	1,160	39	1	·09
Blind Asylum ...	108	93	4	3·70
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	75	69	8	10·67
Orphan Asylums ...	1,482	1,138	7	·47
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	6,299	5,503	53	·84
Infant Asylum ...	114	61	7	6·14
Female Refuges ...	835	479	17	2·04
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	573	145	...	...
Total ...	46,010	16,781	3,420	7·43

By comparing the above table with that preceding it, overcrowding seems to exist in the Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, the Infant Asylum, and the Orphan Asylums, as the daily average number of inmates in those institutions is greater than the number of beds provided.

In addition to the inmates shown above, there were 59 mothers of infants in the Infant Asylum, 111 infants in the Female Refuges, and 135 infants in Salvation Army Homes during the year.

The total receipts of all charitable institutions in the year 1902-3 amounted to £441,446, of which more than three-fifths were contributed by Government, and the expenditure amounted to £459,812. Of the Government contribution, £187,934 was expended on the Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools, which are Government institutions.

Charitable
institutions
—receipts
and ex-
penditure.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1902-3.

Description of Institution.	Receipts.			Expenditure.
	From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
General Hospitals	49,078	74,484	123,562	130,268
Women's Hospital	2,568	5,352	7,920	7,154
Children's Hospital	642	6,835	7,477	18,592
Eye and Ear Hospital	800	3,469	4,269	4,443
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	160	1,140	1,300	1,737
Consumptive Sanatorium	165	2,595	2,760	2,931
Hospitals for the Insane	121,823	19,741	141,564	141,564
Idiot Asylum				
Benevolent Asylums	21,220	14,636	35,856	34,667
Convalescent Homes	385	1,068	1,453	1,418
Blind Asylum	1,640	2,818	4,458	4,248
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	820	2,675	3,495	3,236
Orphan Asylums	5,560	14,354	19,914	19,564
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	66,111	1,280	67,391	67,391
Infant Asylum	585	667	1,252	1,273
Female Refugees	2,084	12,381	14,465	16,589
Salvation Army Rescue Homes ...	566	3,744	4,310	4,737
Total	274,207	167,239	441,446	459,812

The following statement shows the average number of inmates of the respective institutions, the total cost of their maintenance, and the average cost per annum of each inmate:—

Charitable institutions—average cost per inmate.

COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1902-3.

Description of Institution.	Daily Average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average Cost of Each Inmate Per Annum.		
			£	s.	d.
General Hospitals	2,023	118,145	58	8	0
Women's Hospital	66	7,102	107	12	1
Children's Hospital	87	8,462	97	5	3
Eye and Ear Hospital	49	3,619	73	17	2
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	17	1,408	82	16	6
Consumptive Sanatorium	39	2,918	74	16	5
Hospitals for the Insane	4,262	141,564	31	1	2
Idiot Asylum	296				
Benevolent Asylums	2,415	33,936	14	1	0
Convalescent Homes	39	1,364	34	19	6
Blind Asylum	93	3,612	38	16	9
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	69	3,188	46	4	1
Orphan Asylums	1,138	16,878	14	16	7
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	5,503	67,391	12	4	11
Infant Asylum	61	1,262	20	13	9
Female Refugees	479	13,230	27	12	5
Salvation Army Rescue Homes ...	145	4,526	31	4	3
Total	16,781	428,605	25	10	10

The institutions showing the lowest average cost per inmate are the Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools, the Orphan Asylums, and the Benevolent Asylums. As many of the children of the Industrial and Reformatory Schools cost the State nothing—maintaining themselves at service or being supported by relatives—the cost of maintenance per head shown above is somewhat misleading, the true cost per head of those supported by the State being about £16 16s. The average cost per inmate of the Infant Asylum, Female Refuges, and Salvation Army Homes would be reduced if allowance were made for mothers of infants in the first-named institution, and for infants in the two latter groups of institutions.

Melbourne
Hospital.

The origin of this institution belongs to the very earliest days of Melbourne. Five years from the foundation of the city, the great desirability, and even necessity, of providing some establishment for the receipt, nursing, and treatment of the sick poor, and for the relief of victims of accidents, was apparent. A public meeting, presided over by the Superintendent of the Province, Mr. Latrobe, and attended by the leading people of the settlement, was held on 1st March, 1841, and resolutions were unanimously and enthusiastically agreed to in favour of the foundation of a hospital where the best medical advice and the most skilful surgical treatment available should be at the service of those who were in indigent circumstances, as well as those who should be admitted as paying patients. The severity of the struggle for existence in these early days, and the poverty of the people of the settlement, retarded for a time the collection of subscriptions. In a year, only £300 had been received; but urgent requirements were met by the establishment of a dispensary in a small brick cottage in Little Collins Street rented for the purpose. The grant in aid, which had been fully expected, was refused by the Government in Sydney. But the charitable work was not thereby doomed, and private donations enabled larger premises, in Bourke Street West, to be engaged for hospital purposes. It was intimated that no more than £500 could in any event be expected from Sydney, and the indignation and disappointment in Melbourne culminated in a meeting of prominent colonists at the house of Dr. Palmer, afterwards President of the Legislative Council under responsible Government. Strong representations were made to the Governor, Sir George Gipps, who promised the memorialists a site for the hospital, and a money grant by way of building fund and endowment. In February, 1845, the two sites offered, namely, the hay and corn market reserve, between Flinders Lane and Flinders Street, on the east side of Collins Street, and a block, in a then sequestered corner

of the town, bounded by Lonsdale, Little Lonsdale, Swanston, and Russell Streets. The latter site was ultimately chosen, and upon it the building of the hospital was commenced.

As an intimation had been received from Sydney that the Government was prepared to advance £1,000 if a like amount was subscribed in Melbourne, immediate steps were taken to fulfil the condition. £265 was raised at the meeting, where also a governing body was appointed. The first entertainment raised nearly £60, and was given by some gentlemen amateurs who had formed themselves into a philharmonic society. In January, 1846, tenders were called for. The foundation stone was laid on the same day as that of the original Prince's Bridge. Early in 1848, the building was ready for occupation, a staff was appointed, and, in March of that year, two patients were admitted, and four out-patients treated. By July, 1848, all the beds, 21 in number, were occupied, and even at that early date applications for admission exceeded the available accommodation. Additions had therefore to be made. The original building now forms the east wing of the main building. During the first five years, 1,151 in-patients and 684 out-patients were treated in the institution. From 1853 the numbers steadily increased, generally in about the same ratio as the population of the colony. The grand total, as exhibited in the annual report for 1902-3, being 176,057 in-patients and 777,253 out-patients. During the year ended 30th June, 1903, the numbers treated were 4,328 in-patients and 18,597 out-patients. The institution contains 34 wards and 318 beds, and the expenditure during 1902-3 was £26,568.

For many years before the establishment of this institution, the necessity for a second general hospital in Melbourne was recognized. It was not, however, until 1868, when it was finally resolved that a charitable institution should be erected as a memorial of the providential escape of H.R.H. Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, from assassination during his visit to Sydney. A site of 13 acres within the municipality of Prahran was secured, and the foundation stone was laid in March, 1869, by His Royal Highness, after whom the hospital was named. In May, 1871, the establishment was opened, and additions were made in 1885. In 1888, a fire occurred, which entirely destroyed a portion of the original buildings. During the year 1901-2, further additions were made. This hospital is recognized by the Melbourne University as a clinical school for medical students, and, in addition, a training school for nurses, was established in 1880, the term of instruction decided upon being one year, but this was subsequently increased to three years. The pupils are of two grades—the first pay an entrance fee and a fixed sum

Alfred
Hospital.

monthly for maintenance, &c.; whilst the second receive a small and progressive salary after six months. Since the opening in 1871, 42,960 in-patients were treated, and of these 4,722 died in the establishment. The out-patients numbered 82,270, and the casualty cases 48,003. For the year ended 30th June, 1903, the daily average number of in-patients was 165. The total revenue from all sources was £10,400, and the total expenditure £10,700. The cost per occupied bed was £55 12s. 1d., this sum being £3 5s. 1d. above the mean expenditure of all hospitals, but considerably below that of those situated in the metropolitan area.

Homoeo-
pathic
Hospital

This institution was first established in 1869 as a dispensary, in Spring Street, Melbourne. In 1876, the buildings were enlarged, and founded as a hospital for the treatment of both in and out patients. In 1881, owing to annually increasing demands for the treatment of in-patients, it was decided to remove the institution to its present site on St. Kilda Road, and the northern wing and administration quarters were then erected. In 1890, the southern wing, which is reserved for accidents and surgical cases, was added, the cost being met by a gift of £9,000 made by Mr. James S. Hosie, of Melbourne. Since the institution was first opened, up to 30th June, 1903, 117,393 patients have received treatment. During the year ended on that date, 8,302 patients were treated. The visits of out-patients during the same period were 18,933. The average stay of in-patients was 18 days. 800 operations were performed by the visiting honorary surgeons, and 1,670 casualty cases were attended to. The establishment has attached to it a school for training nurses, who have to serve a period of 3 years, and pass prescribed examinations. Visitors are admitted on Sundays and Wednesdays, between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. The income for the year was £4,358, and the expenditure £3,878.

Austin
Hospital
for In-
curables

This hospital for incurables, the only one of its kind in Victoria, is situated on a block of 17 acres at Heidelberg. Its origin belongs to the year 1880, when Mrs. Thomas Austin, of Barwon Park, Winchelsea, offered £6,000 for the purposes of the institution. Other donations quickly followed, and the Government of the day granted the present site. The hospital was opened in August, 1882, and provided accommodation for 66 patients. In 1884, a wing, containing 16 beds for the reception of cancer patients, was opened, and in 1900 another wing was added for consumptives, containing 41 beds. Alterations in 1897 increased by 8 the accommodation for cancer patients. The Nurses' Home, with accommodation for 30 nurses and women servants, was erected and furnished in 1897. In 1901, the children's wing was erected, and a laundry has since

been added. Up to 30th June, 1903, 1,861 patients were admitted; of this number 1,267 died in the institution, 454 were discharged, and 140 were occupying beds in the various wards. The patients treated have been all of the one class, i.e., chronic or incurable, many of them reaching the hospital in a dying condition. Amongst the number set out as having been discharged, a fair percentage, say, 45 per cent., have benefited very considerably from the treatment received in the institution, the remaining 55 per cent. having left of their own accord, many of them preferring to die amongst their friends and relatives. Practically no cures have been effected at the establishment. The patients received during the year 1902-3 numbered 247, and the daily average was 136. The institution is well supported by the public. Out of the total expenditure, only about 3s. in the £1 is obtained from the Government and municipal bodies. The receipts were £6,592, and the expenditure £7,620.

This hospital was founded in 1893, and is conducted by the Sisters of Charity; but, though associated with the Roman Catholic Church, the work of the institution is carried on upon entirely unsectarian lines. The site is in Victoria Parade, Fitzroy. The utility of the hospital causes applications for admission from patients urgently needing treatment to be greatly in excess of the means of complying with them, and the construction of a new building is being carried on. During the year ended 30th June, 1903, 439 patients were admitted, which, with 25 remaining from the previous year, makes 464 treated. The number of out-patients who received treatment was 7,440. The receipts were £3,081, and the expenditure £2,922.

St. Vincent's
Hospital.

The foundation stone of this hospital was laid on the 25th December, 1855, and on the 1st January following a memorial stone was laid to commemorate the completion of the main building. On the Queen's Birthday, 1869, the foundation stone of the Prince Alfred Memorial Ward was laid. This building provides accommodation for 75 beds. On 23rd March, 1897, a public meeting of the ladies of the district was held, when it was decided to collect funds for the purpose of building wards to accommodate 50 female patients, and on 21st June, 1897, was laid the foundation stone of the Queen Victoria Women's Ward, in commemoration of the Jubilee of Her Majesty, the late Queen Victoria, and this building was completed and opened on 26th October, 1900. The establishment is now fully equipped for the accommodation of 170 patients, and its work and usefulness are of a high character.

Ballarat
District
Hospital.

Bendigo
Hospital.

This establishment was founded in 1853, upon a site of 10 acres, which was permanently reserved in 1856, when the main portion of the present building was erected to provide accommodation for 60 patients, the Bowen wing having been subsequently added. This hospital, through the munificence of Mr. George Lansell, has the right to 6 beds for patients from the district in the Austin Hospital for Incurables, at Heidelberg. The hospital now contains a detention ward of 5 rooms for male and female insane patients, where they are kept under observation for limited periods prior to discharge or transfer to a public asylum. There is also a special cottage set apart for contagious diseases, which, however, is not adequate to meet the wants of the district, and local effort is now being made to raise the necessary funds whereby this cottage may be enlarged. The buildings provide accommodation for 172 patients, but during the last ten years the daily average has only been 118. The number of patients received during the year was 1,519, which, with 101 remaining at the close of the previous year, yields a total of 1,620 treated. The out-patients numbered 2,405, and their attendances 6,018. The receipts were £7,981, and the expenditure £8,655. The institution is endowed to the extent of nearly £11,500 (£2,500 of which is in real estate); but, from the report of the past year, it would appear that this fund is in a stationary condition, the balance remaining much the same as at 30th June, 1902.

Geelong
Infirmary
and
Benevolent
Asylum.

This institution was opened on the 23rd April, 1852, and during the remainder of the year 150 patients were treated in the Infirmary and 7 inmates were admitted to the Benevolent Asylum. The institution is managed by a President, assisted by a Committee of 22 persons, who meet once a month for the transaction of business. The staff consists of a resident surgeon and assistants, a matron, wardman, and women nurses and probationers. A nurses training school is a special feature of this establishment, twelve nurses being constantly under tuition, the course of instruction extending over a term of three years. The buildings being now over 50 years old are showing signs of age, but everything is done to keep the wards in an up-to-date condition. There is a handsome new out-patients' department, which is kept quite apart from the general hospital. The number of beds is 223, the average number occupied 153. During 1903, no less than 2,037 cases—865 indoor and 1,172 outdoor—received relief, and there were 131 under care in the asylum at the close of the year. The total income from all sources for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1903, was £6,544 (including the grant in aid received from the Government, £2,540), and the total expenditure was £5,430.

There are no official records in existence dealing with the formation and early history of this hospital. Many attempts have been made by members of various committees in the past to obtain reliable data and original documents to enable them to do so, but unfortunately, without success. During the past year, however, some important private documents have been discovered which throw some light upon the subject. From these it appears that a public meeting was convened at Castlemaine on the 17th February, 1853, when it was resolved that a hospital should be established for (1) the reception of sick persons who are totally destitute; (2) for accidents; and (3) for those who are able to pay to be attended by their own medical men if desired. On the 24th May, 1853, the hospital appears to have been opened in a good building, 30 feet long by 20 feet wide, with a detached surgery, kitchen, and men's room. The first resident surgeon was appointed to the institution about the middle of 1853. Cases of leprosy were treated early in the sixties, in a tent specially set apart for the purpose, but, in 1870, the patients were all removed to Melbourne, and there strictly isolated. In 1902-3, 407 patients were admitted, 306 were discharged cured or relieved, 42 died, and 59 remained at the close of the year.

Castlemaine
Hospital.

This institution was incorporated in 1872. During the year ended 30th June, 1903, 345 cases were treated in the institution, viz., 277 in the hospital and 68 in the benevolent asylum. The daily average of hospital patients was 23, of benevolent inmates 35. The total attendances of out-patients was 484. An isolated building in the hospital grounds has been set apart for the reception and treatment of contagious cases. The receipts for the year were £2,702, and the expenditure £1,982.

Warrnam-
bool Hos-
pital and
Benevolent
Asylum.

The Pleasant Creek Hospital was established in 1858, and its inauguration was brought about through the desire of the benevolent people of the district to establish a charity where the accidents and sicknesses incidental to the mining industry, which the discovery of gold had developed, might be successfully treated. The bark huts and small calico tents in which the bulk of the community then resided were altogether unfit to accommodate the victims of accidents, or the sufferers from the prevalent dysentery and enteric, and the nearest hospital was 80 miles away, at Ballarat. A number of the residents, therefore, decided to arouse public sympathy and assistance in the establishment of a district hospital, and after much display of energy and many meetings, the institution was formally organized on 7th August, 1858, under the style of the Pleasant Creek Hospital. The committee decided, in the urgent interests of the suffering, to erect a

Stawell
Hospital
and
Benevolent
Asylum.

temporary hospital, and a building of wood, canvas, and iron, capable of accommodating 20 patients, was constructed. In February, 1859, this temporary hospital was opened, and before the end of the year 67 patients had been admitted. It was at once perceived that the hospital was of immense value, meeting, as it did, the requirements not only of the gold-fields population, but receiving and treating the sick and wounded of the whole of that part of the western portion of the State, the large pastoral districts extending northwards to the Mallee and westwards to the South Australian border. In 1861, the permanent building was opened, on the admirable site of 19 acres, which the Government had granted. Numerous additional wards have from time to time been constructed, and in 1883 the scope of the operations of the charity was widened by the incorporation with the hospital of a benevolent asylum; its name also was altered to the Stawell Hospital and Benevolent Asylum. The buildings are now capable of accommodating 47 patients in the hospital and 16 inmates in the benevolent asylum. A special ward with 6 beds has lately been set apart for consumptive patients from any part of the State. A new building is now being constructed for the purpose of an Infectious Diseases Hospital, and will provide for 12 patients. It will be designated the W. H. Syme ward, its whole structure, furnishing, and equipment being generously provided as a free gift by the widow of the late Dr. W. H. Syme, who for many years was an honorary surgeon of the institution. The relief afforded during the year ended 30th June, 1903, was as follows:—In-patients, 349; out-patients (new cases), 363; number of attendances of out-patients, 1,757; daily average of in-patients, 42. The revenue for the year was £2,357, and the expenditure £2,202.

Mary-
borough
Hospital.

The Maryborough Hospital was established in 1854, and incorporated in 1864. The number of patients admitted since the foundation of the institution has steadily increased year by year, till, in 1902-3, it had amounted to 420, with a daily average of 42. The number of out-door patients was 778, who attended on 2,603 separate occasions, this being the largest on record during any one year. The receipts for the year 1902-3 were £2,121, and the expenditure £1,996.

Women's
Hospital.

The necessity for establishing an institution of this kind forced itself upon the attention of the benevolent ladies of Melbourne nearly 50 years ago. In 1856 it was definitely founded, its original title being the Melbourne Lying-in Hospital and Infirmary for diseases of women and children. The work of the institution was first carried on in Collins Street, Eastern Hill, but a permanent site was eventually found in Madeline Street, Carlton, where the hospital was opened in 1858, its title being altered in 1868 to Women's

Hospital, the name it now bears. The institution, early in its career, attained a high reputation for the efficient help it afforded, and the accommodation had to be augmented from time to time to meet increasing demands. The institution is a training school for medical men and nurses, and the excellent work carried on is fully recognized. Up to 30th June, 1903, the number of patients admitted was 10,804, and the attendances of out-patients 175,194. During the year ended on that date, 411 patients were admitted, which, together with 29 remaining in at close of previous year, gives a total of 440 treated. There were also in the same period 4,726 attendances of 1,036 out-patients. The receipts for the year were £7,920, the expenditure £7,154.

The Children's Hospital, Melbourne, was established for the purpose of treating the general and peculiar ailments of children. The patients treated come in from almost every part of the State, over 100 districts being tabulated as those whence the in-patients come, including places so widely apart as Swan Hill and Yarram, Camperdown and Rochester. Every infantile ailment is treated—febrile, constitutional, and developmental troubles being dealt with in large numbers. Numerous cases of accidents and casualties are also admitted. Many of the cots have been endowed by the generosity of private donors or of public bodies. On 8th May, 1903, the Princess May Pavilion—a wing of the building containing 40 beds—was opened, thus affording accommodation for over 500 children during the year. Babies' wards have also been instituted. The hospital had 84 in-door patients at the commencement of the financial year. During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1903, there were 1,218 additional in-door patients admitted, of whom 1,100 were discharged relieved, 113 died, and 89 remained at the close of the year. The attendances of out-door patients for the year were 77,895. The total attendances of out-door patients since the foundation were 932,350, and of in-door patients treated 18,969. The hospital is situated in Rathdown, Pelham, and Drummond Streets, Carlton, and connected with the institution is a convalescent home at Brighton Beach, containing 21 cots. The number of convalescent children passing through this establishment during the year 1902-3 was 297.

Children's
Hospital,
Melbourne.

The Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital deals not only with the diseases which, as the name of the institution implies, fall to be treated there, but also with diseases in parts adjacent to the eye and ear, viz., the nose, pharynx, naso-pharynx, and larynx. Thus classes of ailments are treated in this institution which not only are the cause of extreme suffering in themselves, but also, when unchecked, the means of producing

Eye and Ear
Hospital.

much helplessness and poverty, arising from deafness, blindness, &c., and entailing a heavy burden on the community. It places within the reach of all persons, without distinction of creed or country, every attainable means for the relief or cure of diseases of the eye and ear. The patients treated are distributed throughout the whole State—Bairnsdale and Omeo in the east, Casterton and Coleraine in the west, and Echuca and Mildura on the Murray, as well as almost every other centre of importance, contributing to the cases treated. The in-patients received during 1903 numbered 759, making, with 54 in the institution at the commencement of the year, a total of 813 treated. The patients discharged numbered 775, of whom 719 were stated to be cured or relieved, and 56 to be incurable. Besides these, there were 5,623 out-patients treated, 129 of this number being from the other States and New Zealand. The hospital buildings are situated on a fine site in Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.

Lunatic
asylums,
1903.

The number of cases admitted to lunatic asylums during the year 1903 was 766, the number discharged recovered was 324, and relieved 48. The number of patients remaining in the asylums on the 31st December, 1903, was 4,570, or a proportion of 1 in every 264 of the population, as compared with 4,547, or 1 in every 265 of the population, in the preceding year. Of those discharged recovered in 1903, as many as 75 per cent. had been in the asylums for less than 12 months, 15 per cent. from 1 to 2 years, and 7 per cent. from 2 to 5 years. After this length of time in the asylums recoveries are not at all likely to take place. Of those who died, 32 per cent. had not been resident 12 months, 30 per cent. from 1 to 5 years, 13 per cent. from 5 to 10 years, 8 per cent. from 10 to 15 years, 5 per cent. from 15 to 20 years, 6 per cent. from 20 to 25 years, and about 6 per cent. were in longer than 25 years. These facts tend to show that mortality is heavy during the early stages of treatment, and that the death rate amongst those inmates who have a lengthened asylum residence is very light, and no doubt this result generally aids in making the large asylum population to which attention has been repeatedly directed.

Admission,
discharge,
&c., lunatic
asylums,
1848 to 1903.

Since the opening of the first asylum in 1848 up to the end of 1903, 32,691 persons have been admitted, viz., 18,765 males, and 13,926 females. The proportion who recovered was 29 per cent. of males, and 33 per cent. of females, whilst 4 and 6 per cent. respectively were relieved, 21 per cent. and 22 per cent. (including transfers) were not improved, 33 and 23 per cent. died, and 13 and 16 per cent. respectively still remain under care in the institutions.

The number of lunatics in the different Australian States and New Zealand, and their proportion to the total population of each State on 31st December, 1902, were:—

Lunatics in Australia and New Zealand.

NUMBER OF LUNATICS IN STATES.

State or Colony.	Number of Lunatics on 31st December, 1902.	
	Total.	Per 100,000 of Population.
Victoria	4,547	375
Queensland	1,813	355
New Zealand	2,848	353
New South Wales	4,673	332
South Australia	991	271
Tasmania	441	249
Western Australia (1901)	340	175

The recoveries of patients in the Victorian lunatic asylums in 1902 were above the average of the 21 years ended with 1902, the proportion in that year being 4,497 per 10,000 admitted, as compared with 4,051 in the period stated. The proportion of recoveries in 1902 was higher than in any other Australian State, with the exception of Tasmania.

Recoveries of lunatics in Australia, 1902.

RECOVERIES.

Recoveries per 10,000 Admissions.		Recoveries per 10,000 Admissions.	
Tasmania	4,625	New South Wales	3,991
Victoria	4,497	Queensland	3,864
South Australia	4,476	Western Australia (1901)	3,830

The mortality of lunatic asylum patients was higher in Victoria in 1902 than in any of the other States with the exception of South Australia. This will be seen by the following figures:—

Deaths of lunatics in Australia and New Zealand.

DEATHS.

Deaths per 10,000 Resident Patients.		Deaths per 10,000 Resident Patients.	
South Australia	1,076	Tasmania	641
Victoria	763	New Zealand	623
New South Wales	718	Queensland	505
Western Australia (1901)	681		

There are seven of these institutions in the State; situated, one at Ballarat, Bendigo, Beechworth, and Castlemaine, the remaining three being in Melbourne. The number of inmates on the 1st July, 1902, was 2,437; the number admitted during the year 1,452; the total discharged, cured, relieved, or otherwise, and died, was 1,448; leaving under care on 30th June, 1903, in all the institutions, 2,441. The Government grant-in-aid for the year 1902-3 was £21,220; from municipalities a sum of £1,120 was received; private contributions amounted to £3,165; proceeds of entertainments, £1,142; legacies, bequests, and special donations, £2,663; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,037; payments by patients, £1,875; interest on moneys invested, £2,462; from all other sources, £1,172 was received,

Benevolent asylums.

making a total income of £35,856. The expenditure was £34,667. At the close of the year the assets of the institutions amounted to £1,159; the liabilities to £4,154; and the endowment funds to £62,302. There are nine other benevolent institutions carried on in connection with general hospitals situate at Ararat, Daylesford, Geelong, Hamilton, Maldon, Port Fairy, Portland, Stawell, and Warrnambool.

Benevolent
societies.

Seventy-seven benevolent or philanthropic societies furnished returns for the year ended 30th June, 1903. These associations are for the relief of distressed or indigent persons, and are generally managed by ladies. The names of two of the societies indicate their connection with the Jewish body, but no distinctive denomination is perceptible in the titles of any of the others, with the exception of the Central Methodist Mission, and Church of England Seamen's Mission. The distinct adult individuals relieved during the year numbered about 15,573; the receipts amounted to £16,483, of which £5,960 was from Government and £10,523 from private sources; and the expenditure to £20,140.

Convalescent
homes.

In addition to the hospitals, there were two Convalescent Homes—one for men, situated at Cheltenham, and the other for women at Clayton—with accommodation for 61 inmates. The number of inmates at the beginning of the year 1902-3 was 34; 1,126 were admitted, and 1,117 were discharged during the year, and 43 remained under care on the 30th June, 1903.

Free dis-
pensaries.

Two free dispensaries furnished returns for 1903—the Collingwood and Fitzroy Free Medical Dispensary, and the Richmond General Dispensary. The individuals treated during the year ended 30th June, 1903, numbered 5,265. The visits to or by these persons numbered 19,512. The total receipts amounted to £602, of which £180 was from Government and £422 from other sources. The total expenditure was £703.

Orphan
asylum.

There are seven of these establishments in the State receiving aid from the Government—situated at Ballarat, Geelong, and Melbourne. The number of children under care on the 1st July, 1902, was 1,123; the number admitted during the 12 months was 359; the total discharged and died, 309; leaving under care on 30th June, 1903, 1,173. This shows overcrowding to a very slight extent, as the accommodation for beds is only 1,083. The total receipts of these establishments was £19,914, and the expenditure was £19,564. At the close of the year, the managing bodies of the various institutions report the assets to be £555; liabilities, £2,933; and the endowment or other special funds, £46,586.

Broad-
meadows
Foundling
Hospital.

This hospital was established on the 1st April, 1901. The original cost of the buildings was £2,200, and £557 has been expended since that time in additions and improvements. The

institution is supported chiefly by donations and collections. It is managed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, whose aim is to protect infant life, procure suitable homes for the children, and afford shelter to destitute mothers. The present condition of the establishment is satisfactory.

There were at the end of 1903 three industrial and ten reformatory schools in the State, one of the former being a servants' training school. The State industrial schools are used merely as receiving depôts, the children being sent as soon as possible after commitment to the schools either to foster homes, or to private farm reformatories partly supported by the State. Many of the inmates of the State reformatories are either placed with friends or licensed out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1903, numbered 5,361, and in addition, there were 41 others free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. Of the total number under control, only 316 are described as reformatory children; 192 of these were in reformatory schools, 64 were maintaining themselves at service, 54 were placed with relatives without cost to the State, 3 were in hospitals, and 3 were inmates of gaols. The balance, 5,045, are described as neglected children, of whom 3,363 were boarded out in foster homes, 767 were maintaining themselves at service, 771 were living with relatives without cost to the State, 134 were inmates of institutions for neglected children, 9 were in hospitals, and 1 in gaol.

Industrial
and re-
formatory
schools.

The welfare of the children boarded out is cared for by honorary committees, who send reports to the department as to their general condition. The rate paid by the Government to persons accepting charge of these children is five shillings per week for each child. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service. The number of children boarded out at the end of 1903 was 3,363, as against 3,753 in 1902, 3,701 in 1901, 3,331 in 1900, and 3,113 in 1899; the number placed with friends on probation was 825 in 1903, as against 825 in 1902, 780 in 1901, 719 in 1900, and 689 in 1899; and the number at service or apprenticed, 831 in 1903, as against 815 in 1902, 851 in 1901, 842 in 1900, and 820 in 1899.

Children
boarded
out, &c.

The circumstances leading to the commitment of these children are as follow, the particulars having been obtained from the orders:—The total number of children placed under control in the schools in 1903 was 480, and in only 208, or 43 per cent. of the whole, were the parents held to be blameable—the father in 150, the mother in 34, and both parents in 24 cases. There were 272 cases in which the parents were held to be blameless; in 108 the father was dead and the mother poor, but of good character; in 20 both parents were dead;

in 55 the parents were alive, but, though held to be of good character, were too poor to support their children; in 27 the father was poor and the mother dead; in 33 both parents were the victims of misfortune; in 7 the parents were unknown; in 10 the father was unknown and the mother dead; and in 12 the father was unknown and the mother unable, through sickness or poverty, to maintain her offspring.

Cost of
mainten-
ance of
neglected
and re-
formatory
children.

The Government expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1903 to £56,839, and for reformatory school children to £6,380; the expenses of administration amounted to £4,172, making a total gross expenditure of £67,391. A sum of £1,226 was received from parents for maintenance, and £54 from other sources, making the net expenditure £66,111. The average number of neglected children under supervision during the year was 5,250, of this total, 3,547 were maintained in foster homes at an average annual cost per head to the State of £14 9s. 10d., 79 were in Government receiving depôts at £35 11s. 7d. per head, and 90 were in private industrial schools costing £14 9s. 7d. per head; 765 were at service earning their own living, and 769 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The average number of reformatory wards under supervision during the year was 330. Of this number, 212 were maintained in private schools at an average annual cost per head of £30 1s. 11d., 64 were at service earning their own living, and 54 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The average net cost per head of neglected and reformatory school children who were maintained by the State during the year was £16 16s. 7d.

Victorian
Infant
Asylum.

The objects of the Victorian Infant Asylum and Foundling Hospital are the prevention of infanticide, the saving of infant life from the many evils arising from baby-farming, and the rescuing of mothers of illegitimate children from further degradation. Every child admitted must be brought by the mother or some authorized person, who must enter the child's name and the date of birth in a register kept for the purpose, and must undertake to contribute something towards its support. During the year ended 30th June, 1903, the number of infants admitted was 57, besides which 58 were under the care of the institution at the commencement of the year. The number who died during the year was 7; 34 were discharged or adopted; and 10 were boarded out; thus the number remaining under the control of the institution at the end of the year was 64, of whom 39 were boarded out. Besides the infants, there were 59 mothers under the care of the institution during the year, of whom 44 were discharged, and 15 remained at the close of the year. The receipts during the year amounted to £1,252, of which £585 was from Government, and £667 from private sources; and the expenditure was £1,273. During the year, 81 applications for the admission of infants had to be

refused for want of accommodation. Plans for a new building have been approved of, and the committee hope that before long a new wing will be added, which will give accommodation to a larger number.

The general objects of these institutions are—(1) To provide a refuge for women who have fallen into vice and who are desirous of return to the paths of virtue; (2) to reclaim such women from evil courses and fit them to become useful members of society; (3) to assist in procuring situations or in other ways providing for them on leaving the institutions. At the present time these refuges are nine in number, and are all situated in or near large centres of population. A Commission, which made an investigation of these charities in 1891, expressed opinion that there was waste of energy and funds in their management and maintenance, and that they might be advantageously worked together with economy and efficiency. The Commission advocated the removal of all the inmates to one central establishment in the country where the general surroundings would be more home like, and thereby tend to further the reformation of the women. Nothing has, however, been done in this direction up to the present time. During the year ended 30th June, 1903, the Government subsidised these establishments to the extent of £2,084; in addition, they received £62 aid from the municipalities; £903 from private contributions; £32 from Hospital Sunday and church collections; £571 from legacies, bequests, and special donations; £10,404 from the labour of the inmates; £107 contributions on behalf of patients; and £302 from all other sources; making a total of £14,465. The total expenditure was £16,589, made up of £3,227 buildings and extraordinary repairs, £476 ordinary repairs, and £12,886 maintenance of inmates and miscellaneous expenditure.

Refuges for
fallen
women.

There were 835 female inmates in these institutions during the year ended 30th June, 1903; 26 were in the Ballarat Home, 18 in the Bendigo Rescue Home, 84 in the Elizabeth Fry Retreat, South Yarra, 16 in the Geelong Female Refuge, 458 in the Magdalen Asylum at Abbotsford, 52 in the Carlton Refuge, 75 in the South Yarra Home, 84 in the Temporary Home for Fallen and Friendless Women, at Collingwood, and 22 in the House of Mercy, at Cheltenham. In addition, there were 91 children in the institutions with their mothers; 8 at Ballarat, 9 at Bendigo, 7 at Geelong, 39 at Carlton, 1 at South Yarra Home, and 27 at Collingwood. During the year, 14 children were born in the Ballarat Home and 6 at Geelong. The total number under care in all the institutions on 30th June, 1903, was 492 women and 49 children. 161 women and 16 children were either placed in service or restored to friends; 3 women were married; 106 women (one accompanied by a child) left voluntarily; 17 were expelled for misconduct; 19 women and

3 children were sent to other institutions; homes were found for 9 children; 20 women and 15 children left otherwise; and 17 women and 18 children died during the year. The total discharges numbered 343 women and 62 children.

The women while under care in these institutions are expected to work to the best of their ability, a suitable share of labour being allotted to each. Laundry work is the chief means of providing employment, whilst sewing, art needle-work, embroidery, &c., also provide occupation to a limited extent.

Night
shelters.

At Dr. Singleton's Night Shelters, Collingwood, 15,422 cases were accommodated during the year 1902-3, viz., 8,797 men, 6,324 women, and 301 children. The expenses were £88, which were defrayed out of the "General Charity Fund," but there were also numerous contributions in the shape of food. This charity is truly a boon, affording as it does a clean quiet haven of rest for the homeless, after the weariness of a day out of doors.

Society for
the Pro-
tection of
Animals.

The Victorian Society for the Protection of Animals has been established for about 30 years. By the enforcement of the existing laws, and the procuring of such further legislation as may be deemed expedient, it seeks to prevent wanton and unnecessary cruelty. The creation of a wholesome and enlightened public opinion is also aimed at, since it is recognized that to excite and sustain such opinion regarding man's duty to the lower animals is even of greater force than the law, particularly in those classes of cases where pain and suffering may actually be caused in ignorance, and where consequently a little more knowledge of animals would result in the diminution of the unconscious practice of cruelty. To this end, papers and leaflets dealing with the proper, humane, and considerate treatment of animals are widely distributed. Honorary agents of the society are appointed in the principal centres, and these, by disinterested service in the cause of mercy, under the supervision and in co-operation with the secretary and inspector in Melbourne, forward the work of the institution in every portion of the State. During the year ended 30th June, 1903, 774 cases were dealt with by the society, of which 541 were connected with cruelty to horses. There were 117 prosecutions in cases of deliberate cruelty, in nearly all of which the law was vindicated by the punishment of the offenders. The receipts for the year amounted to £428, and the expenditure to £436.

Victorian
Discharged
Prisoners'
Aid
Society.

Since 1872 a society has been in existence for the purpose of affording assistance to discharged prisoners, and offering them inducements to return to the paths of honesty and industry. Relief is afforded by gifts of money, clothes, blankets,

and other necessities, railway passes, and various kinds of tools of trade; and those who desire it are supplied for a time with board and lodging in Melbourne, or are provided with means to go into the interior, or to leave the State. The society also takes charge of and distributes the sums earned by the prisoners whilst under detention. The work is aided by honorary correspondents in country centres. Very valuable aid is given in connection with the moral reformation of the young offender. The improvement of the hardened criminal is a matter of great difficulty, but the society is valuable help to those who have not become confirmed in careers of crime and wrong doing, and minimises the tendencies of drifting into the criminal class of those who have formed vicious and evil habits. The number of individuals relieved in 1902-3 was 580. The receipts were £831, including grants from the Government, the Penal Department, and private sources; and the expenditure was £749.

This association was established in Victoria in 1883. Its objects are to instruct all classes in the preliminary treatment of the sick and injured. Since the inception of the association, its influence has been steadily increasing, and the number of people instructed is growing larger every day. The total number who have been instructed to date is 13,678; the number of persons who are fully qualified is 656; 2,047 railway employes and 553 members of the police force have been specially educated in the work; and 7,943 certificates and medallions have been issued. An ambulance waggon is stationed at the back of the Grand Hotel, Spring Street, which may be summoned when required. Ashford litters are also provided for the use of the public in cases of accident in the city and suburbs, and first aid is generally rendered by trained firemen.

St. John's
Ambulance
Association

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

An Act to provide for the payment of old age pensions was passed in 1900. The minimum age of a pensioner is 65 years, but pensions may be granted to persons under that age if they have been permanently disabled through having been engaged in mining or any unhealthy or hazardous occupation. The period of residence in the State required to entitle a person to a pension is 20 years, five of which must be continuous and immediately preceding the application. A person who has deserted, without just cause, wife, husband, or children, for a period of 12 months in the preceding five years, is debarred from pension rights. The absence of serious criminal taint, to the extent of not having been imprisoned for periods amounting to five years during the whole qualifying period of residence, or to six months or upwards in the preceding five years, is insisted upon. Three convictions for

Old age
pensions

drunkenness during the preceding two years is a disqualification. An applicant must be a British subject by birth, or a naturalized subject of not less than six months' standing, but Chinese and Asiatics, whether naturalized or not, and Aborigines are excluded. Relatives may be summoned to show cause why they do not support applicants for pensions, and may be ordered to do so. Originally the maximum pension was 10s. per week, but in the Amending Act of 1901 it was reduced to 8s. per week. 12,417 persons were entitled to receive pensions on 30th June, 1903. Between 1st July and 31st December, 1903, 515 pensions were granted to new applicants and 8 pensions were restored; 343 pensions were cancelled and 557 pensioners died, leaving 12,040 pensioners on 31st December, 1903, of whom 5,147 were resident in Melbourne and suburbs; 827 in Ballarat and district; 600 in Bendigo and district; 367 in Geelong; 151 in Maryborough; 148 in Daylesford; 141 in Warrnambool; and the remainder are scattered throughout the other districts of the State. The following are the amounts paid since the inception of the system on 1st January, 1901, viz.:—

In 1900-01	...	...	...	...	£129,338
1901-02	...	...	...	...	292,432
1902-03	...	...	...	...	215,973
From 1st July, 1903, to 31st December, 1903					104,271
Total	...	...	...	...	£742,014

Proportion of population 65 and upwards receiving old age pensions in two Australian States and New Zealand.

The following statement shows the proportion of persons, aged 65 years and upwards, to the population in the three States paying old age pensions, also the proportion drawing old age pensions, and the percentage of the latter to the former:—

PROPORTION RECEIVING OLD AGE PENSIONS.

State or Colony.	Number in Every 10,000 Persons.		Proportion of those Eligible on an Age Basis receiving Pensions.
	65 and Upwards.	Receiving Old Age Pensions.	
	1901.	1902.	Per Cent.
Victoria	552	117	21
New South Wales	344	166	48
New Zealand (including Maoris)	414	157	38

Pensions paid in states compared.

It thus appears that New South Wales is paying pensions to almost half of those eligible to receive them under the age qualification, New Zealand to nearly two-fifths, but in Victoria only about a fifth of those so qualified are the recipients of this character of State aid.

CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

Charity Organisation Society.

This society has been well to the fore in regard to the establishment of labour colonies. That at Leongatha was founded by the advice and with the assistance of the society

ten years ago. Such institutions are regarded as a valuable resource for, effectively assisting certain classes of the unemployed in adverse times and seasons. Although the Leongatha colony has not been altogether a success, it is hoped that future efforts will be benefited by the knowledge of the errors that attended its experimental establishment, and the Charity Organisation Society has been instrumental in securing the continuation of the colony until another has been founded and equipped. The lack of suitable employment for the poor is met by the employment office of the society, through which a large number of persons have been given work, permanent in some cases and temporary in others, which otherwise would not have reached them.

By T. C. MACKLEY, Esq., SECRETARY.

A Charity Organisation Society has been established in Melbourne since 1887, its objects being:—(1) Promotion of co-operation in charitable work; (2) adequate inquiry into all applications for assistance; (3) distribution of immediate relief in kind pending inquiry or arrangements with existing charities; (4) compilation of records of all cases for facility of reference; (5) administration of a loan fund; (6) maintenance of a wood-yard or other labour test, so that the means of earning food and shelter shall be opened to all applicants able to work; (7) to encourage charitable work where and in so far as no suitable society exists; (8) discouragement of indiscriminate alms-giving, imposture, and professional mendicity; (9) encouragement of charitable work in localities where no suitable societies are in existence. The society is managed by an executive committee elected by a council empowered to make rules and regulations for the conduct of its business. This council consists of a representative of each of the charities, and of twenty members elected at an annual meeting of subscribers of the society. The income of the year ended 30th June, 1903, was:—General account (for administration expenses)—Receipts, £615; expenditure, £777. Trust Account (being donations for special applicants and objects)—Receipts, £586; expenditure, £546. Emergency Relief Account—Receipts, £131; expenditure, £85. Woodyard—Receipts, £420; expenditure, £420. The number of cases dealt with during the year was 1,294, of which the new cases investigated were 745, the result of the inquiry being that 616 were set down as being satisfactory and 129 as unsatisfactory. The society claims to have prevented a large amount of imposture, to have relieved subscribers of the annoying feeling that their benevolence was often wasted on unworthy objects, and to have stimulated and directed the flow of charity. Especially good work has been done in cases where employment has been found for those who, without the society's aid, might have degenerated into permanent burdens on public or private

charity, and in the large number of cases in which relatives of indigent persons have been induced to recognise natural claims in a community where no legal obligation is entailed by relationship other than that of husband to wife and of parent to infant. The woodyard is a very practical part of the society's work. It affords a test of the sincerity of men who ask help on the ground that they cannot get work; and it gives temporary work to those who really need it.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SOCIETY.

By J. G. BURROWS, Esq., SECRETARY.

Health
Society.

An Australian Health Society was established in Melbourne in 1875. It consists of about 300 members, and is managed by a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, two secretaries (one being a lady), and fifteen members of council. Its objects are:—(1) To create and educate public opinion with regard to sanitary matters in general, by the aid of the platform, the press, and other suitable means; (2) to induce and assist people, by personal influence, example, and encouragement, to live in accordance with the recognized laws whereby health is maintained and disease is prevented; (3) to seek removal of all noxious influences deleterious to public health, and to influence and facilitate legislation in that direction. To effect these objects, the society distributes pamphlets, tracts, and wall sheets, bearing upon the preservation of health; maintains a lending library of specially selected works for the use of members; and arranges for the delivery of public lectures annually in Melbourne and suburbs. In pursuance of the plan of testing the work done in the inculcation of health and temperance lessons in the State schools, an examination was arranged to be held, with the concurrence of the Minister of Public Instruction, on 16th September, 1903, of pupils (over 11 years of age) attending the schools in the metropolitan district. Of those pupils who presented themselves for examination, 75 received the Health Society's certificate. These examinations are conducted annually by the council of the society, alternately in the metropolitan and country schools. At the previous examination, in the metropolitan district, 658 pupils competed, of whom 37 per cent. passed. No pecuniary aid is received from the Government, the work of the society being carried on by subscriptions ranging from 5s. per annum upwards.

VICTORIAN DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE.

By JOHN ADCOCK, Esq., SUPERINTENDENT.

Deaf and
Dumb
Institution

The Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution occupies a site on the St. Kilda Road. At the beginning of the year there were 70 pupils on the roll. During the year 5 new pupils were admitted and 8 were discharged, thus leaving the number

of pupils on the 30th June, 1903, 67 (32 boys and 35 girls). Since the year 1862, when the institution was fairly launched, there have been received into it over 422 children, 355 of whom have been discharged, most of them being capable of maintaining themselves. The combined oral and manual system of teaching, which is used in the majority of similar institutions throughout the world, is also used here, with most satisfactory results. In addition to the ordinary school work, many of the boys are taught gardening and bootmaking, and the girls domestic duties. The total receipts for the year were £3,095 (the sum allotted out of the charitable vote being £820). Bequests amounting to £500 were received, £400 of which was added to the endowment account; the total to the credit of which fund is now £12,029, most of which is invested in Government stock, the interest only being used for maintenance purposes.

ROYAL VICTORIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

By J. THURSTON HOGARTH, ESQ., SUPERINTENDENT AND SECRETARY.

The Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind occupies a site on the St. Kilda-road, Melbourne. The institution is strictly undenominational in its character, and its objects are to give a suitable scholastic and religious education to the young blind of the State, and to teach them trades or professions by means of which they may earn an independent livelihood. It is further intended, as far as the exigencies of trade will permit, to give employment in its industrial department to blind people, who, having completed their term of training, may be unable to get work elsewhere. This, however, is restricted to the demand for the goods made. The institute is not in any sense a benevolent asylum for the indigent blind, who can not only be maintained cheaper, but can be better cared for in the ordinary institutions for the care of the destitute. The scholastic education is similar to that in the State schools, varied only in the apparatus and means employed; and examinations are held annually by the Education department, the percentage gained at the last being 100. Music is an important part of the education of the blind, and those who display exceptional talent are trained for the musical profession, and the skill of the pupils is utilised as means of raising revenue for the institution by means of concerts and band performances in various parts of the State. In the industrial branch, pupils are trained in the trades of brush, basket, mat, and matting making, the period of training varying from two to five years; and employment is then given to non-resident ex-pupils, who are paid wages at piece-work rates ruling in the various trades. Some less proficient workers have their wages supplemented by a bonus. Its outside workers are assisted in times of sickness by "The Institute for Blind."

Blind Workers' Sick Benefit Society." Its funds are maintained by weekly contributions by its members, and it is subsidised by a grant from the board of management equal to the amount of the members' contributions. This society is managed by a committee of its members, assisted by the principal of the institution, and the accountant, who acts as honorary treasurer. There is now no debt on the institution. The total number of pupils and workers on the roll is 96; classified as follows:—Resident pupils, 54; day pupils, 2; journeymen and non-resident workers, 40.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

BY WILLIAM HAMILTON, ESQ., SECRETARY.

Humane
Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victorian Humane Society." Its objects are as follow:—(1) To bestow rewards on all who promptly risk their own lives to save those of their fellow-creatures. (2) To provide assistance, as far as it is in the power of the society, in all cases of apparent death occurring in any part of Australasia. (3) To restore the apparently drowned or dead, and to distinguish by rewards all who, through skill and perseverance, are, under Providence, successful. (4) To collect and circulate information regarding the most approved methods and the best apparatus to be used for such purposes. During the year ended 30th June, 1903, 65 applications for awards were investigated, with the result that 21 certificates and 9 bronze medals were granted. The receipts during the year amounted to £540, and the expenditure to £478. The institution has placed and maintains 430 life-buoys at various places on the coast, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs throughout all the Australian States and Fiji. Of the honorary awards distributed in 1902-3, 17 were for deeds of bravery performed in Victoria, 5 for similar acts in New South Wales, 3 in Queensland, 3 in New Zealand, and 1 in Western Australia. The society has 146 honorary correspondents, residing as follow, viz.:—45 in Victoria, 34 in New South Wales, 26 in New Zealand, 25 in Queensland, 8 in Tasmania, 3 in South Australia, and 5 in Western Australia. Owing to the appointment of these gentlemen and to the awards made by the society appearing to give complete satisfaction throughout the States, there is no urgency for forming local branches of the society in the other States.

Swimming competitions have been inaugurated in the schools of the Commonwealth, and awards of medals and certificates are made to those pupils who attain proficiency in exercises which have special reference to saving life from drowning.