

SOCIAL CONDITION.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

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 on 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 twenty members elected by the Senate for a term of five years, together with three members appointed by the Governor in Council. It elects two of its members to be Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor respectively. 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 recognised 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 favorably with others. The Act provides for an endowment of £9,000 annually for maintenance and management. Additional grants have been voted annually by Parliament for maintenance, and from time to time for building purposes. Since 1853 the total amount received from the Government was £731,762—£154,012 for building and apparatus, £468,000 endowment under "Special Appropriation Act," 16 Vict. 34, and £109,750 additional endowment by annual votes of the Legislature. By Act No. 1926 of 1904 an additional endowment of £11,000 annually is provided for a period of ten years, conditionally on the University undertaking teaching in agriculture and mining, and granting a number of free scholarships to pupils from the primary schools. 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, &c., special small fees are charged.

Matricula-
tion and
attendance
at lectures.

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 1900 to 1904, were:—

MATRICULATION AND ATTENDANCE AT LECTURES, 1900 TO 1904.

Year.	Number Presented for—		Students who passed the Matriculation Examination.		Number Matriculated and Admitted as Under-graduates.	Number attending Lectures.
	Matriculation Examination.	Less than Required number of Subjects.	Number.	Percentage.		
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
1904	1,532	370	490	42·2	131	615

The number of candidates in 1903 was greater than in any year since 1892. Of the 615 students who attended lectures in 1904, 107 attended in Arts, 50 in Laws, 57 in Engineering, 249 in Medicine, 15 in Science, 103 in Music, and 34 in Education.

Degrees.

The number of degrees taken in 1904 was 157, 152 of which were direct and five *ad eundem*, as against a total of 742 for the five preceding years, or an average of 148 per year. The direct graduates numbered 713, and the *ad eundem* degrees 29 in the five preceding years. Of the total number of 3,657 degrees conferred, 270 were conferred on women, 268 of which were direct and two *ad eundem*; and 140 of which were the degree of Bachelor of Arts, 59 Master of Arts, 28 Bachelor of Medicine, one Doctor of Medicine, 24 Bachelor of Surgery, two Bachelor of Laws, one Doctor of Science, nine Bachelor of Science, five Master of Science, and one 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 1904—the years 1903 and 1904 being shown separately:—

DEGREES CONFERRED.

Degrees.	Prior to 1903.			During 1903.			During 1904.			Total.		
	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.
Bachelor of Arts ...	775	107	882	22	...	22	26	...	26	823	107	930
Master of Arts ...	425	155	580	19	2	21	15	3	18	459	160	619
Bachelor of Medicine	569	13	582	28	1	29	38	...	38	635	14	649
Doctor of Medicine ...	77	98	175	12	1	13	10	1	11	99	100	199
Bachelor of Surgery	483	3	486	30	...	30	34	...	34	547	3	550
Master of Surgery ...	9	...	9	2	...	2	3	...	3	14	...	14
Bachelor of Laws ...	302	9	311	9	...	9	9	...	9	320	9	329
Master of Laws ...	59	3	62	1	...	1	...	...	...	60	3	63
Doctor of Laws ...	15	20	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	20	35
Bachelor of Engineering	116	2	118	5	...	5	6	...	6	127	2	129
Bachelor of Mining Engineering ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	2	3	...	3
Master of Engineering	64	...	64	1	...	1	2	...	2	67	...	67
Bachelor of Science ...	29	3	32	2	...	2	6	...	6	37	3	40
Master of Science ...	12	...	12	4	1	5	...	...	...	16	1	17
Doctor of Science ...	1	3	4	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	4	6
Bachelor of Music ...	3	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Doctor of Music ...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Total ...	2939	420	3359	136	5	141	152	5	157	3227	430	3657

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
affiliate
colleges.

Trinity
College.

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 Warden of the college is Dr. A. Leeper, M.A., LL.D., late of Trinity College, Dublin, and of St. John's College, Oxford, who is assisted by a staff of ten tutors and lecturers. The college annually holds an examination for open scholarships and exhibitions.

Ormond
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, &c. 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 Dr. J. H. McFarland, M.A., LL.D.

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.

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 systematizing 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, 169 courses of lectures have been delivered, and 20,125 students enrolled. In 1904 there were eight centres, eight courses of lectures, and 950 students enrolled.

University extension.

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 education system of Victoria.

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.

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 six nor more than thirteen 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 twelve 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 one, two, two and a half, or three miles

in the case of children under seven, between seven and nine, between nine and eleven, and over eleven 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 six and under twelve who reside between two and a half and three miles from the nearest school, or 4d. per day for all children over six and under thirteen who reside three 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 seven days' imprisonment; and truant officers are appointed to see that the compulsory provisions are carried out.

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 seven or five 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.

Boards of Advice.

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. Pupils buy their own books and material. To cover the cost of the latter for paper work and cardboard modelling, 1d. per week is charged, and for woodwork 2d. per week. 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 teachers of infants 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 five years), hundreds of country teachers have been instructed, at the University and Training College, in such

New free subjects.

subjects as drawing, brush-work, paper-work, cardboard modelling, kindergarden, experimental science, and nature-study; while, at centres throughout the State, during the past three years, Saturday classes have been held in several of these subjects.

Drill,
swimming,
school gar-
dens, &c.

There were, on the 30th June, 1904, 18 Sloyd centres in operation, having accommodation for 3,740 boys; and eleven cookery centres, having accommodation for 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 arbor days.

Extra
subjects.

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, shorthand, and typewriting, fee not exceeding sixpence weekly; and bookkeeping and calisthenics, fee not exceeding threepence weekly; 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 over 12 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'
remunera-
tion and
classifica-
tion.

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.

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 three years, and to the 31st December for all previous years:—

State schools, teachers, and scholars, 1872 to 1904.

STATE SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1903-4.

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
1903-4	1,928	4,797	241,145	145,500	214,822

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-enrolment 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. A further reduction of 60, due to the same causes, took place in the year 1903-4. 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. A further reduction in enrolment and average attendance is observed for the year 1903-4, probably, to some extent, due to the same causes, and to migration from

Increase of schools and scholars.

the State. A reduction has also taken place in the number of instructors employed from 5,037 to 4,797.

Ages of
State
school
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 1903-4:—

AGES OF DISTINCT CHILDREN.

Ages.	Distinct Children Attending—					
	Day Schools.		Night Schools.		Total.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Under 6 years ...	10,042	4·70	...	...	10,042	4·67
6 to 13 „ ...	162,054	75·86	...	...	162,054	75·44
13 years and upwards ...	41,526	19·44	1,200	100	42,726	19·89
Total ...	213,622	100·00	1,200	100	214,822	100·00

Net
enrolment.

In the following return will be found a comparative statement for the year 1903, showing, for the various States of the Commonwealth and New Zealand, the mean population, the net enrolment of children in State and private schools, and the percentage of such enrolment to the population. The percentage in the Commonwealth is 20·63 (16·97 per cent. in State, and 3·66 in private schools), and in New Zealand 18·78 (16·42 per cent. in State, and 2·36 in private schools). The highest enrolment in State and private schools is in Victoria, 22·08 per cent., New South Wales coming next with 21·36:—

NET ENROLMENT OF SCHOLARS IN STATE AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1903.

State.	Mean Population.	Net Enrolment of Scholars —all Ages.			Percentage of Population.		
		State Primary Schools.	Private Schools.	Total.	State Primary Schools.	Private Schools.	Total.
Victoria ..	1,208,880	224,178	42,695	266,873	18·55	3·53	22·08
New South Wales ..	1,418,516	243,516	59,473	302,989	17·17	4·19	21·36
Queensland ..	512,690	90,025	15,721	105,746	17·56	3·07	20·63
South Australia ..	366,588	62,036	9,330	71,366	16·92	2·55	19·47
Western Australia ..	221,278	24,532	6,757	31,289	11·09	3·05	14·14
Tasmania ..	177,547	18,596	8,843	27,439	10·47	4·98	15·45
Total Australia ..	3,905,499	662,883	142,819	805,702	16·97	3·66	20·63
New Zealand ..	820,217	134,748	19,331	154,079	16·42	2·36	18·78

The cost of primary instruction in the Commonwealth and in New Zealand for the year 1903 is set out below. The average cost per scholar in Australia is £4 19s. 3d., and in New Zealand £4 15s. 2d. A general increase in all the States has taken place since 1899, but it has not been constant:—

COST OF PRIMARY INSTRUCTION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1903.

State.	Scholars in Average Attendance.	Administration and Maintenance.	Buildings.	Total.	Per Head of Scholars in Average Attendance.
		£	£	£	£ s. d.
Victoria	150,268	674,076	39,369	713,445	4 14 11
New South Wales ..	152,830	760,589	100,955	861,544	5 12 9
Queensland	69,759	268,053	9,006	277,059	3 19 5
South Australia ..	42,782	145,425	13,677	159,102	3 14 5
Western Australia ..	20,283	120,279	37,280	157,559	7 15 4
Tasmania	13,866	58,126	5,959	64,085	4 12 5
Total Australia	449,788	2,026,548	206,246	2,232,794	4 19 3
New Zealand	113,047	442,880	94,991	537,871	4 15 2

The items taken into consideration in compiling this average are:—instruction in day and night schools in primary subjects, as defined by Acts of Parliament, cost of training, cost of administration, cost of buildings, and pensions and gratuities.

Private schools, 1872 to 1903-4.

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 1903-4.

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
1903-4	787	2,360	42,214

On comparing the number of scholars with the number attending schools, it is seen that 16 per cent. of the scholars attending school during 1903-4 attended private schools, and the balance, 84 per cent., attended State schools.

Scholars attending State and private schools.

Ages of
scholars
at private
schools.

Of the 42,214 scholars attending private schools during 1903-4, 28,915, or 68 per cent., were at the compulsory school age (6 and under 13); 4,154, or about 10 per cent., under 6; and 9,145, or 22 per cent., were 13 and upwards. As compared with the ages of State school scholars shown in a 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.

THE VICTORIAN JUNIOR CADET SYSTEM.

By Major F. C. Eddy, M.A., Inspector of Schools, Victoria.

(From the Report of the Proceedings of the Federal Educational Congress, held in January, 1901.)

One of the most important branches of the educational training of boys in the primary schools should be that of physical culture. Such culture, under systematic and legitimate restrictions, should go hand in hand with the development of the mental powers, so as to fit the lads for the struggle of life, and make them, in the strict acceptance of the word, ideal citizens of the Commonwealth.

In all countries a place is found for physical culture in the ordinary curriculum of primary schools, and such culture is carried out with more or less success by some form of disciplinary exercises; but in no country in the world is there such a unique, scientific, systematized, and useful means of imparting physical education to boys, as that which obtains under the establishment of the Victorian Volunteer Cadet Corps.

Before entering upon any statement as to the history, aims, and operations of the Victorian Junior Cadet system, it may be as well to give some information as to the practice elsewhere respecting the military training of boys.

No cadet organization exists in connexion with the elementary schools of Great Britain and Ireland, but most of the renowned British public schools like Eton, Harrow, Winchester, and Wellington, have corps attached to the school, and these public school corps are the acknowledged recruiting grounds for officers in the army. There is, however, no central authority, each school having its own regulations, providing its own funds, and acting, as regards ordinary parades, quite independently. In some cases, however, these school corps take part in camp training and in field work with the local volunteers.

During the last few years junior cadet companies and battalions have been established in England, formed of lads twelve years of age and upwards.

The companies are attached to and must wear the same uniform as the local volunteer corps, but are not allowed to bear any special designation. One honorary officer with no higher rank than that of captain may be appointed, and this officer is nominated by the officer commanding the local volunteer corps.

Senior cadet corps, independent of volunteer corps, are also in process of establishment for youths of not less than fourteen and not

more than seventeen years of age, but the officers of these corps are not granted substantive commissions, that is, they have no military standing.

In Switzerland military training forms a portion of a school-boy's course, fitting him on leaving school to take his place at once in the ranks of the State militia. In the primary schools, which are open to boys between six and twelve years of age, squad drill without arms and gymnastics are effectively taught, and this form of drill is proceeded with in the continuation schools, where boys attend part of their time for technical and general instruction, and during the rest of the term are employed in earning their livelihood. In the secondary schools, *i.e.*, for boys over fourteen years, military drill with arms is compulsory, special efforts being made to promote a love for rifle shooting. In these schools the boys are prepared for all branches of the military service.

In New South Wales there is an admirable cadet force in connexion with the primary schools, but the organization rests, not on the military, but on a school department basis. Its head is not the General commanding the land forces, but the Inspector-General of schools who may, or may not, be a man of pronounced military instincts. In some measure the cadet systems of Victoria and the mother colony have had a similar aim. These States have established and encouraged the cadet movement with the idea that it is the most effective and most economical mode of training the majority of the male population to a patriotic love of arms.

In South Australia, the example of Victoria in regard to the cadet movement is being followed.

It may also be mentioned here that the establishment of cadet corps in connexion with the primary schools of England and Scotland, on the lines of the system in vogue in Victoria, is now engaging the earnest attention of the military and educational authorities.

For many years previous to the establishment of the Victorian volunteer cadet system attempts had been made in a spasmodic way to drill the boys in the State schools on military lines, but no well-defined action was taken by the State until Sir Frederick Sargood, K.C.M.G., became a member of the Service Cabinet. In 1884, as Minister of Defence, he availed himself of the opportunity of legislating for, and establishing a cadet system, which appeared to him from his military training here, and from his personal observations abroad, as most desirable and beneficial to introduce. He made provision for the formation of detachments of boys of certain age and stature in State schools, colleges, and public schools, wherever there was a sufficient number of pupils, and appointed a committee of teachers of public, private, and of State schools to draw up regulations and to deal with the question of uniform.

The uniform chosen by the committee was a plain peaked cap, and a coat and trousers of blue serge. The coat collar was lined with red cloth, so that, turned down, it did for civilian dress, and when turned up, as a makeshift uniform. Some few months ago a proposal was made that this nondescript uniform should be again

used, because it was economical from the parents' point of view, and consequently, the numerical strength of the cadet force would be largely increased. It was well that no definite action was taken as regards this matter, because, in the opinion of all the officers who have had lengthened experience, had such a proposal been carried out, it would have resulted in irreparable injury to the prestige and efficiency of the cadet corps as a military organization. If there is one commendable feature, as far as the boy is concerned, and which increases his self-respect as a cadet, it is the fact that he wears the uniform of a "Soldier of the Queen."

After the detachments had been formed, the next necessary step was to arm and equip the cadets. Old carbines with wooden barrels were first used for drill purposes, but Sir Frederick Sargood soon arrived at the conclusion that if the system were to be of any practical utility the lads should have proper facilities for rifle practice with a rifle suited to their strength. The light small-bore Francotte was ultimately selected, and this arm has proved to be eminently serviceable. The total number of Francotte rifles in the colony at the present time exceeds 4,000.

The Cadet Corps Committee, owing to the rapid growth of the movement, asked the Defence Department to take control of the various detachments. This request was acceded to, and accordingly the Victorian Cadet Force became a properly constituted military organization under the Discipline Act; and the success of the movement is entirely due to the fact that, while it has been fostered and encouraged by the Education Department and the Principals of the public schools, its true and enduring strength lay in its military basis. It is fervently hoped that, now that the various defence forces are federated, there will be no attempt to tack the cadet system under the control of the Education Department, because the result of such action would only court disaster in time. Any supporters of such a proposal are mistaken friends of the cadet cause.

On the military authorities taking over charge, substantive officers were appointed. The first commanding officer was Lieutenant-Colonel (then Major) Snee, with Lieutenant (now Colonel) Hoad, as Staff Officer. On the promotion of the latter Lieutenant (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Henry became Staff Officer, and on the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel Snee, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry became the commanding officer. Lieutenant-Colonel Henry still attempts to carry out the duties of the position, when he is not called away to perform duties that are quite foreign to cadet business.

The first brigade parade (912 strong) was held in August, 1886, in the presence of Sir Henry Loch and the Commandant.

About this time, too, the Education Department gave official sanction to teachers and boys to attend parade and rifle practice, and consequently the movement grew by leaps and bounds, there being at the end of 1886 over 2,000 cadets distributed throughout the length and breadth of the colony, while at the present time there are enrolled and in uniform over 4,000 young soldiers, prepared to do their duty to King and country.

In order that the various corps should be officered by suitable men, apart from those who already had commissions, classes for the instruction of teachers were established, and from these classes candidates were examined by the then Commandant, Colonel Brownrigg (one of the best officers who ever held command in Victoria), in both theory and practice, and received commissions from the Defence Department.

Amongst this number was Mr. (now Major) Gamble, who, by his enthusiasm and zeal for what he believed to be a national movement, and by his enlistment of inspectors of schools to act as battalion commanders, so that the vexed question of seniority could be settled, though he cannot be styled the father of the movement (which title belongs of right to Sir Frederick Sargood), yet deserves the greatest credit as one of the pioneers of the cadet cause.

The first encampment was held at Elsternwick in 1887, the muster being 1,843 of all ranks, and the rifle matches in connexion with this encampment were fired at the contiguous butts at Elwood. Colonel Disney reviewed the boy soldiers, and awarded great praise on the camp arrangements and the discipline generally.

In 1888, 1889, and 1890 camps were held at Langwarrin, and much improvement was shown by the lads in their military duties.

Since 1890, owing to merciless retrenchment, no general encampment has been held; but in October, 1900, the second battalion, composed of boys from the public and private schools of Melbourne and Geelong, went into camp at Langwarrin, and the results of the training there received were most satisfactory.

The expenses of the camp were borne by the officers and boys themselves, the Defence Department providing only transport and tents.

In view of the trend of military matters generally throughout the world, it would appear to be both politic and economic to have the encampment of junior cadets as a permanent fixture of each year's military arrangements.

Up to 1889, Colonel Brownrigg, who was then Commandant, took the most active and zealous interest in the growth of the cadet corps, and to that officer the greatest credit is due for his praiseworthy efforts to give permanent impetus to this national movement.

After Colonel Brownrigg came General Tulloch, who introduced the present uniform. Finding such a diversity in uniform, he gave orders that the whole junior forces should wear khaki, with soft felt hats, a numeral on the shoulder straps, and in the case of secondary schools, a school badge on the collar. He also allowed the motto (*Pro Deo et Patria*) to be used.

The strength of the cadet force rose to 4,000 in 1891, but through depression a ruinous policy of questionable retrenchment (which involved the abolition of any effective allowance) the numbers enrolled dwindled away, and in December, 1894, the muster roll of officers and boys (including the so-called senior cadets) was under 3,000. About that time it was seriously proposed to disband the cadets, but fortunately wiser counsels prevailed, and a great and irretrievable disaster (as proved conclusively by after events) was averted.

For some years, however, the cadet corps was starved, and it was only kept alive by teacher officers, who, without remuneration or suitable recognition in high places, remained loyal at their posts. A special meed of praise is due to the officers who stood steadfastly at the helm during the black years of retrenchment.

At the present time the Victorian Volunteer Cadet Corps is divided into two branches, viz., the senior cadets and the junior cadets. These are jointly under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry. In addition to their duties in connexion with cadet work, these officers are expected to examine and inspect the military drill of all the first, second, and third class State schools. Other military duties at head-quarters are also assigned to them. The senior cadet battalion is about 400 strong, and consists of youths between 15 and 19 years of age, of a minimum height of 5 feet 4 inches. Although they are called cadets, these young men have nothing whatever in common with the junior, that is, the school cadets. The battalion drills at night, goes with the militia into camp, and appears on all ceremonial parades as an adult unit. It is in reality a junior militia, and should be, as in England, attached to a volunteer or militia regiment, and its recruiting should be encouraged and fostered in every possible way, both from a civilian and military point of view.

The force at present consists of a splendid body of young fellows, under good discipline, and should be commanded, not by a staff officer, but by its own volunteer officers.

The cadets, properly so-called, *i.e.*, the pupils of the public, private, and State schools, on the 30th December, 1900, had a muster-roll of 146 officers and 3,379 cadets in uniform. To this list may be added 21 officers and 540 boys, who, though their detachments have been gazetted, have not as yet received their equipment.

This practically means, in round numbers, 4,000, and the time is not far distant when, with reasonable assistance from the State, the numbers might with ease be increased to a numerical strength greater than all the other military forces in Victoria taken together.

There are at present eight battalions in existence—three in the metropolis, and the remainder in the country. The second battalion consists of cadets from the leading public and private schools of Melbourne and Geelong. This battalion, owing to the size and age of the boys, could, with some degree of propriety, be styled the senior cadet battalion, in contradistinction to the junior cadet battalion of State schools.

From these remarks as to the present strength and disposition of the Victorian Volunteer Cadet Corps, it must be clear to all who take an interest in the matter that the present staff is utterly inadequate to do the work required to keep the various detachments in a high state of efficiency.

At present, owing to his multifarious duties, Colonel Henry is unable to visit the detachments with sufficient frequency. For the well-being of the movement it is absolutely essential that the staff should be materially strengthened, a permanent sergeant-major, or even two, should be appointed, and clerical

assistance provided for to relieve the staff officer from the voluminous routine clerical work that now demands so great a portion of his official time.

The total cost of the whole cadet system for the present year (1901) is £2,783. Of this amount, £763 is paid in salaries to the permanent staff; £1,000 in effective allowance; £600 in free ammunition; and the rest goes in incidental expenses. Of the £1,000 effective allowance, the senior cadets—numbering about 400—absorb £450, while the balance, £550, is distributed amongst the 91 detachments of junior cadets, numbering, as stated before, between 3,000 and 4,000. This means, in plain words, that the youthful army of junior cadets, who must ultimately be the fighting line of the State, only costs the Defence Department about £500 a year. In the year 1890-91, the amount voted for the cadet system was £6,400; the effective allowance being about £2,500. It is earnestly hoped that the Government will see its way clear to place such a sum again on the Estimates, in order that this truly national protection movement may be organized, and carried on in a thoroughly effective manner.

Cadet detachments may be established in any school where there are at least twenty boys of twelve years of age and upwards, and of a minimum height of 4 feet 6 inches. There must, in every case, be some qualified person willing to take charge, and to become responsible for the Government equipment issued. At least one hour's drill with arms must be given each week, and the various battalions must parade not less than six times a year. The uniform of all detachments must be the same. Officers are first appointed as acting-lieutenants, and on passing the prescribed examination, after six months' service, are gazetted lieutenants. In each battalion two senior lieutenants, after three years' service, may be promoted to be captains on passing a practical examination in battalion drill. The commissions of cadet officers rank the same as, but junior to, other commissioned officers. No one in the cadet force is sworn in. The musketry course consists of twenty-five rounds individual, and twenty rounds volley firing with ball, besides a preliminary practice of twenty rounds with blank ammunition. The effective allowance to officers in charge of detachments is £3, and to each detachment of cadets, £3 only per year. All ranks provide their own uniform. The equipment issued by the Defence Department consists of Francotte rifle, brown leather accoutrements, and waterproof cape, the cost of all which amounts to £3 15s. In addition to the above, each officer who is a teacher in the Department now receives £5 per annum from the Education Department.

The primary and ostensible object of the Victorian cadet system is to train the whole male population to arms, so as to lay the foundation of the largest possible defence force of reserves at the minimum of cost, both to the State and to the individual.

Another object is to permeate the schoolboy's mind with the best results of military discipline, and to teach prompt obedience, self-restraint, order, and respect for constituted authority. In addition, it affords a great measure of physical training and healthful exercise. It is true hand and eye education. The boy's physique is improved,

while the wearing of the national uniform elevates his ideas of self-respect and responsibility. Those facetious critics, who, not discerning the serious purpose of the cadet movement, talk of "playing at soldiers," fail to perceive that, apart from its high moral influence on the character of the boy, it becomes the readiest and most economical way of preparing him, when a man, to take his place in the ranks as a defender of the rights and liberty of his native country. The voluntary enlistment of the cadet system practically supplies the place of the conscription system, prevailing amongst European nations, and for this reason alone should commend itself to the patriotism of the loyal and law-abiding citizens.

In addition to the purely military aspect, it also has moral, healthful, and educational results of the highest value. Observation has shown that lessons of obedience, respect, subordination, such as these cadets obtain in their course of training, are of paramount importance in the formation of character, and it is confidently asserted that, both in public, private, and State schools, the tone and discipline of those which possess cadet detachments is superior to that of schools where there is no corps. The physical benefit is self-evident. Setting-up drill, gymnastic practice, manual and firing exercises, and military evolutions in the open air, strengthen the body and improve the mental energies—while some of the educational good derived in other ways is shown by the fact that, as a rule, the cadet boys, although giving so much time to drill and shooting, pass just as well, if not better, at examination, than other pupils not similarly circumstanced.

Another important feature in connexion with the cadet system is that a love for rifle-shooting is inculcated, which must result in inestimable benefit to the nation in case of war.

In addition to the ordinary musketry course specified by regulation, cadet rifle matches are held annually, and weekly competitions take place all over the State between town and country detachments.

At the last matches in December, more than 1,000 cadets competed in team and individual shooting, and in battle firing.

Results.

In the light of recent events, the following letter, sent to Lieut.-Col. Henry in 1893, by the late J. B. Wilson, M.A., for more than a quarter of a century head master of the Geelong Grammar School, reads marvellously like a prophecy:—"I regret to observe a tendency in certain quarters to decry the cadet force as a mere useless and expensive luxury—a thing to be retrenched out of existence. I regard it as educationally of the greatest value. Habit forms character, and where drill is thorough and efficient, as in such a corps as ours, the habits of prompt attention and subordination to authority are so ingrained as in after life not to be readily thrown aside. Then, as regards the colony in general, the disbandment of our cadets would be a short-sighted and mistaken policy. Can we ever tell in these days how soon and how unexpectedly a great war may burst out upon us? Can we rely so securely on our geographical position that our means of defence may be safely restricted to a handful of men to work the guns of our forts, or to man the gun-boats in our bay? In case of war, we should rejoice to know that we had thousands of

young men, the very flower of the colony, who could be rapidly formed into efficient soldiers. In comparison with such advantages, what, I ask, is the paltry cost of the cadet force?" The war in South Africa has conclusively shown the *raison d'être* of the cadet force as an important auxiliary arm of the State military defence system.

Not only Australia, but the Empire itself, owes an everlasting debt of gratitude to the Victorian Cadet Corps, for it has been ascertained that, of the various contingents sent from here who have fought so nobly for their country, at least 60 per cent. acquired their early military training, and their love for soldiering, in the ranks of the cadets.

Apropos of this subject, the remarks of Colonel Bingham, R.A., fit in appropriately here as illustrating the effectiveness of the force from an Imperial point of view.

It has been his duty to go through the papers for enrolment in the various contingents. He found that in probably two-thirds of them the candidates, in reply to questions as to previous service, answered that they had been so many years in the cadets. We see that these young men considered this was a recommendation. They had been cadets in the various schools, and afterwards were proud of the fact. He had seen men of all sorts, in all sorts of turn-outs, assemble in the barrack-square. He had noted how they had lined up without confusion, and how a sergeant-major had stepped forward, the order was given—"From the right, number," "Form fours, right," "Quick march," and off they went, as an organized drilled body. Visitors or Imperial officers and others had expressed surprise at this, and wondered how it came about. His reply had been that they had learnt the elements of drill in the cadet corps. He thought they had hardly grasped the possibilities of the cadet system as they had it in Victoria. He would have it that even in the small and remote schools, as far as possible, there should be at least a nucleus of boys who should be brought in touch with military training, each boy so trained would be a centre of influence, and would carry on the tradition of patriotism and loyalty and readiness to defend his country.

When the citizens seriously cogitate upon these facts, and when they learn that at least 25,000 young men are in the country who have served a course of at least two years of efficient drill and regular rifle shooting, they will not fail to recognise the immense economic value of the cadet corps to the State, and will also see the imperative necessity of rendering it encouragement and liberal assistance in every possible way.

In May, 1901, in connexion with the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales (then Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York), the V. V. Cadet Corps played a very prominent part in the various functions, which were celebrated during that time. At the Fleming-ton parade, 5,000 cadets from town and country were present, and their march past and their general efficiency evoked great enthusiasm and admiration and deeply impressed the Duke and the visitors from other countries.

Since that memorable time, the system continued in the same lines until the Federal Defence Bill was passed, and then the

Victorian Cadets were attached to the Federal Forces, under the District Commandant.

A Federal committee was selected to report on and devise a scheme for the federalization of the cadets in all the States.

Their report has been furnished to the Minister, and he proposes to adopt the general principles laid down therein, which are mainly formulated on the Victorian system.

DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Among those attending the State and private schools is a section of children who, by reason of their mental or physical deficiencies, are unable to benefit by the normal methods of instruction, and respecting the similar class in the schools of the United States the following is extracted from the Report of the Education Bureau of that country for 1891-2:—"There are a large number of children who may be called feeble-minded, and who often become destitute and degraded, and for whom it is difficult to provide. They are not imbeciles or idiots, but are dull or backward in their studies, and the causes of these conditions are for the most part physical. Their future is very uncertain. They may fall under the care of good people, or more frequently become the inmates of charitable institutions, which, if they leave—as they often do—they are liable to become injured or abused; and if they are girls or young women to fall into disgrace or ruin. How to prevent these unfortunate cases and protect the feeble-minded from distress and danger, has been much considered and acted upon by a number of societies and associations in England. Their general conclusion is that 'feeble-minded children should be separated from ordinary scholars in public elementary schools in order that they may receive special instruction; and that the attention of school authorities be particularly directed towards this object.'"

These remarks introduce the results of Dr. Francis Warner's examination of 50,027 English school children, made at the instigation of a joint committee of the British Medical Association and the Charity Organization Society. Dr. Warner's statistics are too voluminous to be inserted in this work, but the following table—extracted from the *Statistical Journal* of March, 1893—shows the number of cases that appeared to require special care and training on grounds of physical or mental condition amongst the 50,027 children examined, of whom 26,884 were boys and 23,143 were girls:—

Conditions on account of which Children were included as requiring Special Care.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Cases defective or exceptional in mental status ..	124	110	234
Epileptic, or with history of fits	36	18	54
Crippled, paralyzed, or maimed, &c.	155	84	239
Cases defective in development and of low nutrition, with abnormal nerve-signs and reported dull ..	192	157	349
	507	369	876
Some children appear in more than one of the classes given above, the actual number of children was	473	344	817

From this it would appear that 1·8 per cent. of the boys, 1·5 per cent. of the girls, and 1·6 per cent. of the total are cases requiring special methods of instruction. But these figures, as will be subsequently seen, are somewhat too high.

In 1896 a committee was appointed by the British Government for the purposes of—

- (a) Inquiring into the existing systems for the education of feeble-minded and defective children not under the charge of guardians, and not idiots and imbeciles, and to advise as to any changes, either with or without legislation, that may be desirable.
- (b) Reporting particularly upon the best practical means for discriminating on the one hand between the educable and non-educable classes of feeble-minded and defective children; and on the other hand between those children who may properly be taught in ordinary elementary schools by ordinary methods and those who should be taught in special schools.
- (c) Inquiring and reporting as to the provision of suitable elementary education for epileptic children, and to advise as to any changes that may be desirable.

In Dr. Warner's evidence before this committee a table was exhibited showing the number of mentally or physically defective children actually seen in the public elementary schools. The total number of children examined was 86,378. Of these there were found to be the following defectives:—

	Boys.	Girls.
Imbeciles, not epileptic or cripples	17	6
Imbecile and epileptic, but not crippled	2	2
Imbecile and crippled, but not epileptic	2	1
Feebly gifted mentally, but not crippled or epileptic	92	76
Feebly gifted mentally and epileptic, but not crippled	8	7
Feebly gifted mentally and crippled, but not epileptic	3	4
Feebly gifted mentally and blind, or nearly so	—	2
Mentally exceptional, not epileptic or crippled	7	9
Epileptic, but not mentally defective or crippled	39	43
Epileptic and crippled, but not mentally defective... ..	3	1
Crippled, but not mentally defective or epileptic	142	99
Children blind, dumb, or with chorea	4	5
Children dull, delicate, with defect in development, and abnormal nerve signs, but not given above as "exceptional children"	197	180
Total number of children who require special care and training	516	435

Thus there was a total of 951 children out of 86,378, or 1·1 per cent., who were defective either physically or mentally. It is clear, however, that those included under the first three headings should not have been found in schools at all. Further evidence by Dr. Warner gave 563 as the total number of mentally defective children—not idiots nor imbeciles and not epileptics—who are to be classed as requiring special care and training. This gives a percentage of 65.

But to this number must be added the number of feeble-minded children not in attendance at school at the time of the inquiry. Statistics were also obtained from Brunswick, Germany, where it was found that out of 13,176 children in the municipal schools 124, or '95 per cent., were pupils in the classes for defective children. Other estimates, based upon more or less reliable statistics, vary from '8 to 1'2 per cent. It is, therefore, safe to assume that approximately about 1 per cent. of the population of school age can be regarded as needing special instruction on account of mental or physical deficiencies.

As the outcome of the British Committee's Report, an Act was passed (62 and 63 Vict. c. 32) enabling school authorities to establish special schools and classes for children certified by the medical officer as "not being imbecile and not being dull and backward, yet by reason of mental or physical defect, incapable of properly benefiting by ordinary school instruction." Dr. Shuttleworth writes: (*Proceedings of the Third International Congress for the Welfare and Protection of Children 1902, page 248*)—"This Act, which is permissive only, has been adopted by a considerable number of school boards throughout the country, and a recent list issued by the Board of Education shows that not far short of 5,000 school places have been provided in special schools in different parts of the country, of which about 3,000 are for the mentally and physically defective children of London, where there are now more than sixty centres of special instruction." Provision for guides and conveyances is also made under certain conditions for those children otherwise unable to attend the schools.

In Germany there are two types of schools for feeble-minded children. 1st. Fully organized schools specially set apart for their use; 2nd. Special classes attached to the ordinary schools. In all large towns—except Berlin—the former is the rule. In an article by R. E. Hughes, M.A., B.Sc., on "*The Making of Citizens—A Study in Comparative Education*" it is stated that the essentials for the success of those special schools are:—

1. Small classes (never more than twenty children).
2. Special and appropriate premises and equipment.
3. Special methods of instruction and discipline.
4. The most skilful and sympathetic of teachers.

Also from the same article: "In Germany children are sent to these special schools only when, after having attended the ordinary school for two years, they show inability to profit by the instruction. They are then medically examined, and while attending the school a very minute and careful record is kept of their daily routine, health, and general behaviour. It is the duty of the schoolmaster to inform the school inspector of any such defective in his school. The children remain in the special school until they are about fourteen years of age, when, if they have reached the proficiency of an ordinary child of twelve, they may be dismissed. At the end of each term the special teacher informs the inspector whether any of his scholars are

fit to return to the ordinary school, and quite a number are so returned." As illustrating the high value of the work which the German schools for defective children have accomplished, the following table (taken from the article previously quoted) is given:—

Town.	Able to Gain their own Living.	Partly able to Earn their own Living.	Incapable of Gaining their own Living.	Total Number of Scholars.
Cologne	152	20	15	274
Frankfurt	the majority	..	10	127
Düsseldorf	90	9	5	119
Dresden	114	57	29	204

The balance, it is presumed, are held over for further observation. It is added, "It must not be forgotten that every child so saved is an enormous gain to the State, for, as Mr. Douglas Morrison has pointed out in his book on *Juvenile Offenders*, it is from the defective class that the criminals of the country are recruited. These young prisoners are almost invariably mentally and physically defective. Of children in reformatories, only some 13 per cent. are able to read or write with reasonable fluency, or, as Mr. Morrison puts it, 'had received an ordinary School Board education.'"

An effort was made by the Education Department of Victoria in 1900 to ascertain the number of children of school age not receiving instruction by reason of some mental or physical infirmity. This inquiry appears to have extended only to State schools in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong. The number of children so returned was 2,781, of whom 2,462 were stated to have been provided with reasonable excuses, such as receiving efficient instruction in some other manner; prevention from attending school by sickness, fear of infection, temporary or permanent infirmity, or any unavoidable cause, &c. The Department, however, estimated that 670 in those districts were of the class suffering from some form of mental or physical infirmity, and concluded on this basis that there could only have been about 1,000 of such children in the whole State. To these, of course, must be added the dull and backward children, who were in actual attendance at the schools. It must, however, be admitted that the inquiry was not sufficiently exhaustive to furnish a fair estimate of the number who would be benefited by special instruction. According to the Victorian census of 1901, there were 198,487 children of school age, *i.e.*, from age 6 to 13 years. It would be preferable to accept for Victoria the estimate of 1 per cent., which has been found to prevail elsewhere, and this would indicate that about 2,000 children require special instruction on account of mental or physical defects.

It would be impracticable in Victoria, on account of the comparative sparseness of population, to establish special schools or classes to the same extent as in England or Germany, but something might be done in the large centres of population. The success which has attended special instruction elsewhere in equipping so large a

proportion of deficient children, who otherwise might become criminals and encumbrances upon the State, either wholly or partly, to earn their own living, justifies serious consideration of this question of special instruction, if not from a humanitarian, at least from an economic point of view.

Efforts have been made by private individuals to collect and train in special schools such defective children as now find their way to State schools, where they cannot possibly receive the amount of individual attention which is so essential to their condition, but as their efforts have been necessarily of a limited character, the results can afford no criterion of what might be achieved upon a national basis.

Hitherto the State has taken charge of those children only whose condition renders their care in an institution necessary, and respecting whom Dr. McCreery furnishes the following:—

Defective
children
in institu-
tions.

There is a separate institution in the grounds of the Asylum at Kew, where idiots and imbeciles are maintained and trained. All are certified under the provisions of the Lunacy Act. On the 31st of December, 1904, there were 182 males and 136 females in this institution, and of these 36 males and 48 females were epileptics. Industrial, mental, and moral training is provided for all the children who possess any capability of improvement, which is about two-thirds of the whole number. The means of training are a modified kindergarten school and drill-room, work shops for carpentering, shoe, mat, and basket making, gardens, and ornamental grounds. These occupations, with kitchen and general work, furnish ample employment for the boys. Useful work is found for the girls in the laundry, sewing-room, and in domestic duties. A very considerable number of the children improve, some to a marked degree, and these are often removed by their friends or relations. A few of the inmates who become dangerous as they grow up are transferred to other institutions. The remainder are allowed to stay in this institution without any age limit. The necessity of a separate home for adult idiots and imbeciles will have to be considered in the future, but its need is not at present urgent.

The total number of cases admitted since the institution was opened in the year 1887 was 695 (396 males and 299 females). Of this number 377 have been taken off the books, as follows:—

7 males and	6 females recovered.
31 males and	23 females relieved.
25 males and	23 females not improved.
151 males and	111 females died.

The number remaining on 31st December, 1904, as before stated, being 182 males and 136 females, a total of 318.

TRAINING COLLEGE

College for
training
teachers.

There is a college for the training of teachers, studentships 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 education, history, English language and literature, history of the British

Empire, mathematics, Latin, science, music, drawing, manual training, domestic economy, and gymnastics. 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 education only.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS.

Any person may collect, raise, or give a sum of money towards founding a scholarship or exhibition in connexion with any particular State school; and money or land, or both, may be bequeathed for that purpose. By an amended regulation of 13th December, 1904, the Minister of Public Instruction may annually award eighty scholarships, each tenable for three years. Of these, forty are open to State school pupils, for the purpose of facilitating their higher education; and forty to pupils of State or other schools, to enable them to proceed to a diploma or degree in mining or agriculture at the University. The scholarship holders are to become students in a State continuation school, or an approved secondary school or college, and to obtain at the end of each year a satisfactory report of conduct and progress. Under specified conditions, cost of transit (not exceeding £5 per annum) may be allowed to a student who resides with his parents or guardians more than five miles from the school. Where it is impracticable for the student to reside with his parents or guardians, the Minister may make an allowance of £26 for board and residence, instead of the transit allowance. Scholars attending approved secondary schools and colleges will be granted an allowance of £8 per annum toward the expenses of their tuition. Holders of scholarships will be admitted free of cost as pupils in continuation schools, and receive instruction in such subjects as the Minister determines. The Minister may cancel any scholarship where the conditions are not observed, or where the scholar is guilty of disorderly or immoral conduct. Examination of State school

Scholarship
and exhibi-
tions.

pupils for scholarships, offered by secondary schools and colleges, may be held 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. Holders of these scholarships will be eligible to compete for exhibitions, subject to the conditions of the regulation relating thereto. Examinations were held in December last. Those candidates returned as meritorious will be permitted to make such arrangements as they please with the teachers of secondary schools, and with satisfactory progress reports and examinations, they will, in due course, be eligible to attend examination for an exhibition. The holders of scholarships under 17 years 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 ..	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	9,649	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.

Education
of boys and
girls 1891
and 1901.

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:—

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.

Education of children of different sects.

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 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 five and fifteen 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 the 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 comparison 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 1904:—

SIGNING THE MARRIAGE REGISTER WITH MARKS, 1875 TO 1904.

Year.	Men.		Women.		Mean.	
	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
1904	..	·65	..	·40	..	·52

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 proportion 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 fifteen to twenty, 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.

Increased numbers signing in writing.

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.

Religions of the people. The following table shows the principal religions of the people as ascertained at the census of 1901:—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 1901.

Religion.	Number.	Per cent. of Population.
Protestant Churches—		
Church of England (including Protestant, so stated)	432,704	36·52
Presbyterian Church of Victoria	190,725	16·09
Free Presbyterian	778	·07
Methodist	180,272	15·21
Independent or Congregational	17,141	1·45
Baptist	32,648	2·75
Evangelical Lutheran	13,935	1·18
Unitarian	788	·07
Church of Christ	10,682	·90
Welsh Calvinistic Methodist	1,257	·11
Society of Friends	251	·02
United Brethren or Moravian	144	·01
Australian Church	964	·08
Seventh Day Adventists	1,086	·09
Free Christian Church	71	·01
Other Protestant Churches	12,658	1·06
Total Protestant Churches	896,104	75·62
Roman Catholic Church	263,710	22·26
Other Denominations—		
New Church (or Swedenborgian)	146	·01
Catholic Apostolic Church	460	·04
Christian Israelites	258	·02
Spiritualists	913	·08
Salvation Army	8,830	·74
Greek Orthodox Church	367	·03
Jews	5,907	·50
Other Religions	3,293	·28
Sceptics	4,969	·42
Total specified	1,184,957	100·00
Unspecified	16,384	..
Grand Total	1,201,341	..

Protestants and Roman Catholics. The total number of Protestants of all denominations in 1901 was 896,104, as against 836,857 in 1891. In 1901 the Roman Catholics numbered 263,710; in 1891, 248,591. The rate of increase of each of these bodies in the ten years was, therefore, about the same as that of the population.

The Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists have improved their positions relatively to the total population since 1891. The proportion of members of the Church of England has remained almost stationary. The Independents have decreased from 22,100 to 17,141. Protestant sects.

In 1891 the adherents of the Salvation Army were enumerated at 13,521, but they numbered only 8,830 in 1901. Salvation Army.

At the end of 1903 there were 2,701 regular churches and chapels, and 1,842 other buildings, where religious services were held—a total of 4,543 places of public worship throughout the State—attended by 1,581 regular clergymen; the denominations represented being Protestant, with 890 clergymen, and 3,716 churches and other buildings; Roman Catholic, 242 clergymen and 671 churches; Swedenborgians, 1 clergyman and 2 buildings; Catholic Apostolic, 3 clergymen and 1 building; Christian Israelites, 1 clergyman and 1 building; Spiritualists, 2 clergymen and 2 buildings; Salvation Army, 434 officers and 142 buildings; Greek Church, 2 clergymen and 2 buildings; and the Jews, 6 ministers and 6 buildings. Ministers and churches.

The Sunday schools of the various religious bodies numbered 2,767, the teachers 20,408, and the number of scholars in attendance 213,451. The number of each sex cannot be stated, as some of the denominations are unable to furnish this information. Sunday schools.

Information for 1904 is not yet available.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

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 methods 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 aboli- Technical education, Royal Commission.

tion 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 connexion 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.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Technical schools.

All the technical schools, under which name are included the Schools of Mines, Working Men's Colleges, 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 1903-4, there were altogether 17 technical schools in the State. Five of these afforded instruction in science, art, and trade subjects; five in art and science; two in art and trade; while five schools confined their teaching to art. 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 1903-4, an average enrolment of 3,123 pupils for each term; whilst the fees per term ranged in the different schools from 3s. to £8 15s. The Government expenditure on all the institutions in 1903-4 amounted to £16,278. Of this, £15,075 was the ordinary Government grant for maintenance, which was supplemented by £833 for miscellaneous expenditure; and £370 was for buildings, furniture, &c. The students paid in fees £11,251, and subscriptions and donations amounted to £918.

The following is a statement showing the Government expenditure on each technical school during the financial year 1903-4:—

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1903-4.

Name.	Maintenance.	Inspection, Expenses of Examination, Apparatus, Fittings and Furniture, &c.	Total.
<i>Schools of Mines and Technical Schools.</i>			
	£	£	£
Bairnsdale	750	29	779
Ballarat	3,000	66	3,066
Bendigo	1,600	67	1,667
Castlemaine	400	..	400
Daylesford	275	..	275
Maryborough	350	10	360
Stawell	650	33	683
Kyneton	200	..	200
Sale	600	..	600
<i>Schools of Art.</i>			
Ballarat East	450	..	450
Echuca	100	..	100
Warrnambool	125	..	125
Nhill	150	..	150
Ballarat West	700	..	700
Gordon Technical College, Geelong ..	500	..	500
<i>Working Men's Colleges.</i>			
Melbourne	5,000	165	5,165
Horsham	225	..	225
Miscellaneous Expenditure ..	..	833	833
Total	15,075	1,203	16,278

SCHOOLS OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

The Bairnsdale District School of Mines was founded in 1890 for the purpose of giving instruction in such subjects as pertained to local industries. With this object in view, classes in chemistry, the principles of agriculture, metallurgical, and mining subjects, as well as drawing classes for artisans, were established. It was soon found that the metallurgical industry needed the greatest amount of attention, and in order that the school might be of real use to the community, a metallurgical plant for the treatment of auriferous and other ores was found to be necessary. This plant was erected, and has fulfilled its purpose, showing, as it did, that ores from East and North Gippsland, which were previously regarded as incapable of successful treatment in Australia, could be dealt with at the

Bairnsdale District.

school. The result has been that mines carrying refractory ore are now dealt with at a large profit. The students do all the work, and are thus trained not only in the principles, but also in the practice of metallurgy; and after having served what practically amounts to an apprenticeship for from three to four years, obtain diplomas, when they are capable of immediately taking charge of works. With the limited staff and accommodation available, it was not found possible to carry on the agricultural classes, although these, in the early days of the school, were very successful. Attention is now devoted principally to the mining and metallurgical courses, these courses having been fixed by the Education Department, which issues certificates on examination. Drawing, as far as it relates to technical subjects, is taught, and classes are conducted daily, and in the evenings for those who take up separate subjects, such as chemistry, mechanics, and mathematics. The students from the school have been very successful in after life. Many are now engaged in professional work in Victoria; others are in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, and South Africa.

Ballarat.

This is the oldest established School of Mines in Australasia, having been founded in 1870 "to impart instruction in the various branches of science relating to mining." It was established on the initiative of the public spirited and enlightened mining men of Ballarat—the resolution of the Mining Board (dating from 6th October, 1869. After consultation with Sir Roderick Murchison—at that time of the Royal School of Mines, London—and other educational and mining authorities, the plan was decided upon which the institution was to be modelled. With the old court-house rented from the Government as a building nucleus (to which laboratories were immediately afterwards added, supported by public subscription, and assisted by a modest Government grant), the first classes assembled on 23rd January, 1871, and the school was launched upon its career. Since that date, its income, which has steadily increased, has been drawn from students' fees, public subscriptions and donations, private bequests, and an annual grant from the Government. The four-acre block which the school already possesses, centrally situated as it is, constitutes an ideal site for a mining institution. From west to east it has a fall of 60 feet, well adapted for the battery and concentration plants, whilst one corner of the ground is within a few yards of the creek, allowing of the easy disposal of tailings. The general efficiency and usefulness of the school have recently been greatly promoted by extensive additions to the buildings and plant, and numerous improvements in the chemical, metallurgical, engineering, and mining departments. In the chemical laboratories—of which there are four—provision is made for upwards of 200 students. The assay laboratory, to which four weighing rooms are attached, contains upwards of thirty furnaces. This laboratory has been fitted with an experimental steam engine and boiler, and other apparatus of the most modern form. The engineering department is well supplied with theodolites, levels, and a quantity of

other surveying apparatus. The extensive new buildings erected as a mining laboratory continue to prove of eminent value to the school, where the most advanced systems of treating free and refractory gold ores have been introduced. The primary object of this laboratory is for the instruction of students in the large scale treatment of test parcels of ore for the public. This department also contains a furnace for roasting pyrites and provision for milling, concentrating, and chlorinating, and a model mine with ample equipment. In the department of geology and mineralogy, the students have the advantage of a well supplied lecture and demonstration room, where the determination of minerals by blowpipe tests, and the examination of rocks and minerals by microscopical tests, are made. The school has always concentrated its resources and energies upon mining education, aiming to do this one thing well rather than to risk loss of efficiency through diffuseness of effort. The aim is to make the instruction eminently practical, and so to train up the young mine managers and metallurgists that by the time they leave the school they shall be prepared at all points to complete their education at the mine and metallurgical works, and thus become, with the least possible delay, capable and trusted metallurgists and mine managers. The school has, however, since its commencement, acted the part of an information bureau upon subjects connected with mining, and is at present freely consulted upon questions associated with mining engineering, metallurgy, mining, geology, electrical technology, and similar subjects. It is greatly aided in this work by its being situated not only in a thriving city, but in the centre of a large mining and agricultural district, and of an interesting geological area full of varied and instructive features. Many mining claims are within sight of the buildings, and the deep alluvial fields of Allendale and Loddon are near at hand. Quartz vein mining, shallow and deep alluvial—illustrating a wide range of treatment from primitive methods up to the most approved processes—dredging plants, chlorination and cyanide works of latest patterns, besides foundries and engineering works, are all within easy reach. Regular visits of inspection are made to these and other objects of scientific interest by the school classes. These inspections are supplemented by holiday excursions much further afield. The directorates, mine managers, and works superintendents of the district greatly assist by affording ready facilities for the inspection of their works and mines, and by engaging students who are required to complete a prescribed course of practical work—one or two years as the case may be—before they can obtain their diplomas.

The entire mining district, with its mines and works, thus constitute one vast permanent object lesson for the school's use, and an ever active source of inspiration to the student. Practice in the laboratories and workshops of the school is made a special feature of the instruction, every candidate being required to pass an appointed time in one or more of these laboratories, according to the diploma or certificate he seeks.

The school draws its students from every Australian State, and from countries beyond the boundaries of the Commonwealth, whilst

its associates and certificated students are to be found occupying important and lucrative positions in most of the mining fields of the world. A very pleasing feature is the readiness with which students obtain suitable employment in mines and metallurgical works, either as chemists, metallurgists, mining engineers, assayers, officers in charge of cyanide plants, or mining managers. The school offers instruction to all persons who shall have entered their names and paid the prescribed fees, and these persons are admitted to examination in any particular subject. In the case of students taking single subjects, or such courses as that for certificate as mine manager, or for a certificate as assayer, no entrance examination is required. Students desirous of qualifying for one or more of the associated courses are expected to have a preliminary education up to matriculation standard, and to attend all the prescribed courses of instruction, unless they can produce to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners evidence of having attained elsewhere the degree of proficiency required in any subject or subjects. In such cases students may be excused from attendance or examination, or from both, in such subject or subjects, on a certificate from the Board of Examiners. The number of associate students—those taking a three or four years' course of special training—has been well maintained. Besides these, there are a number who have taken the assayers' course, which includes chemistry, assaying, metallurgy, and mineralogy, and is usually taken by those who cannot afford the time necessary to complete for a full associateship, or who desire to specialize in assaying. The total fees for lectures and practical work for an associate course is one hundred guineas, payable in yearly, half-yearly, or quarterly instalments.

Lectures on electricity and magnetism are given weekly to the scholars of State schools. Members of these classes, on passing a satisfactory examination, are admitted to the ordinary lecture classes of the school at a much reduced fee. The Council have now adopted a scheme suggested by the Director of Education, to train 150 of the senior boys from the local State schools.

The museum, library, and reading rooms are necessary adjuncts, and are open daily to the public. The museum, rich as it is in geological and mineralogical specimens, is of great aid to the students and to those interested in these and cognate branches of science.

The Scientific and Literary Society holds regularly, at the school, their fortnightly meetings, when highly interesting and instructive papers are read and much information given. That such a society is needed is shown by the large attendance at meetings and the interest displayed.

The Ironworkers' Association continues to hold its meetings at the school. Lectures are delivered weekly to its members and the public, and its library, containing upwards of 2,000 books, all of a scientific and technical character, is recognised as being one of the best selected scientific libraries in the State.

This school originated in 1873, as an offshoot of the local Mechanics' Institute. It was conducted as an independent institution until last year, when the two establishments were amalgamated under the control of the council of the School of Mines. The aims of the school are to impart sound instruction, chiefly in the various branches of science connected with mining operations, and to instruct students in the theory and practice of mining, in geology, mineralogy, physical geography, meteorology, in physical, natural, and applied science, electricity, chemistry, metallurgy, assaying, arithmetic, algebra, mathematics, surveying, astronomy, drawing and painting in their various branches, lithography, wood engraving, the theory and practice of the mechanical trades, modelling and carving, shorthand, telegraphy, and allied subjects, and such other subjects as may from time to time be deemed desirable by the Administrative Council. Examinations are held twice each year, and are conducted by the Education Department, Government certificates being issued to the successful candidates. Two scholarships of the value of £25 each are given by the Bendigo City Council in mining engineering and metallurgy. Five free scholarships are given by the council of the school to *bonâ fide* miners of the district in the course for mining managers' certificate. The establishment contains a large collection of casts of the figure and ornament from the Classic, the Gothic, and the Renaissance styles, and later work, together with many other objects and appliances. A reference library and reading-room contains many volumes of useful books, to which students have free access.

In October, 1887, a branch of the School of Mines was established in Castlemaine in a building which was granted for the purpose by the Government of the day. Classes in art subjects, as well as in chemistry, assaying, telegraphy, carpentry, languages, mathematics, and botany were at once commenced in a temporary school. In 1890 the permanent building was opened. Classes in metallurgy, electricity, geology, mineralogy, mining mechanics, engine-driving, surveying, shorthand, harmony, violin, elocution, physiology, and dress-cutting have since been instituted, and the instruction in art, amplified and extended. Scholarships have been founded by local residents and institutions, and are of great aid to the students. A complete cyaniding plant is being installed, and instruction in the subject has already been added to the programme. A branch School of Mines has also been formed at Maldon, teachers visiting that centre from the main institution in Castlemaine.

The Daylesford Technical School was founded in 1889, with the object of providing facilities for students to continue their school education, and removing the difficulties experienced by young miners in getting technical instruction in the various branches of their occupation. The borough council gave a building for the institution, where a commencement was at once made, a substantial new building taking the place of the old one in the course of the following year. The objects are defined as follow:—To foster and develop a knowledge of handicrafts, arts, and sciences, and all subjects

related directly and indirectly to scientific education, by the establishment of classes, workshops, laboratories, and museums. By this means the higher education is attainable in the district at a comparatively small cost.

Mary-
borough.

The Maryborough Technical School was established in 1888. The present building was opened in 1891. The number of students attending during 1904 was 106. J. La Gerche, B.A., is science instructor and registrar, and Andrew E. Anderson is art instructor. On the science side, classes are open in all branches of chemistry, metallurgy, mathematics, geology, and kindred subjects, and students enter for special courses in assaying, metallurgy, and electrical engineering. The art curriculum deals mainly with the technical side of art, and includes freehand drawing in all its branches, wood carving, modelling, machine and architectural drawing, design, &c. The school is managed by a local council, elected by subscribers of £1 1s. or over.

Stawell.

The Stawell School of Mines had its origin in 1882, when a School of Design was established by a number of citizens of Stawell enthusiastically working together and obtaining assistance from those anxious to have such an institution. The first classes were held in the Mechanics' Institute, and it was not until 1890 that the present buildings were occupied. During the interim the School of Design had been superseded by the School of Mines, in consequence of a greater demand for instruction in things appertaining to mining. Since that time there have been great alterations both in the school itself and its constitution, its work, and its success. For a number of years following 1890 it was prosperous, but when the mining industry waned the school began to lose touch with the people. It is now, however, recovering from its long quiescence, and the efforts that have been made of late years to revive the interest of the people have at last had the effect, it is hoped, of placing the school on a sound basis. The school is primarily intended to give thorough training in mining engineering and metallurgical work. A new branch of technical art work was introduced in 1904, and promises to be a success. The results achieved in the other branches during 1902, 1903, and 1904 have been very satisfactory; those in the former two years being exceptionally good.

As Stawell is essentially a mining town, this institution is of inestimable value to the people. With the other mining towns in Victoria, it is capable of much further development in regard to mining operations; and it is only by higher training in such subjects as are taught in schools of mines that hope for improvement in the direction of up-to-date methods of mining can be entertained.

Kyneton.

This school was established in 1888 by a few of the principal townsmen, who were influenced by the then prevailing wave of feeling with regard to the useful influence of technical education, and who desired to offer the younger members of the community some of the advantages which had hitherto been one of the attractions of the metropolis. They more especially desired to encourage an appreciation and cultivation of the arts and crafts; but science,

trade, and other classes have also received due attention. A large proportion of the youth of both sexes have passed through the school, and its influence has been marked in many ways. Some of the students have been enabled to occupy positions of importance where knowledge, art, and science are requisite. In the trade classes valuable work has been achieved, more especially in the engine-driving class, which has been phenomenally successful. The work of the school has always been as practical as possible, such subjects as the drawing and projection of plans of all kinds, modelling and casting, wood carving, and the necessary designing have been the most prominent in the art section. Mining men have been the principal science students, and, together with factory hands, have chiefly constituted the engine-driving class. Altogether over 100 pupils have passed through the various courses.

A School of Design was in existence in 1885, but the institution ^{Sale.} was projected on its present basis in 1889 under the title of School of Mines, Art, and Technology, which two years ago was changed to "Technical School." From its inception the management has been in the hands of the Mechanics' Institute committee, and two-thirds of the present building is used by the school classes, the remaining third being the institute proper. The old Mechanics' Institute, in which instruction was first given, was quite unfitted for the purpose in view, and in 1889 the committee resolved that an effort should be made to erect a suitable building. At a public meeting held that year, an appeal for funds resulted in a collection of £100. Induced by the interest shown, and by the promise of a subsidy from the Government, the committee erected the present commodious buildings in York-street at an ultimate cost, including site, of £5,000. To meet this outlay, the Government has contributed a building grant of £2,634, and the public, by bazaars, donations, &c., the remainder, and the building is now free of debt. The object of the school is to facilitate the attainment of a knowledge of the various handicrafts, arts, and sciences, and especially to improve the education of craftsmen and craftswomen by the establishment of classes, workrooms, laboratories, libraries, and museums. The classes are open to all who pay the prescribed fees, and pledge themselves to obey the rules of the institution. Since 1890, 835 students have been entered on the general register. The art department contains a general art and antique room, a modelling and wood-carving room, and a painting life room, with necessary appliances and accessories. Comprised in the school equipment is an extensive and costly collection of casts of ornaments, plant form, and figure from masterpieces of ancient art, the Italian Renaissance, Gothic, and French work, &c.; also a good collection of still life properties, weapons, and drapery. The subjects taught on the art side embrace engineering, drawing, architecture, perspective, geometry, building construction, industrial design, clay modelling, artistic anatomy, wood and chip carving, embossed leather work, ornamental lettering and illuminating, inlaid gesso work, freehand and model drawing, figure composition, drawing for reproduction, drawing and painting (all branches, including the life), cabinet-making, wood-turning, &c.,

and special courses for all artisans. The science department has been furnished at a cost of £1,500, and the subjects taught embrace agricultural chemistry, technical chemistry, botany, mineralogy, geology, mining geology, assaying, metallurgy, and mathematics. For 1904 the number of individual students for the whole school was 118 (72 males and 46 females), and the average attendance was 81.

SCHOOLS OF ART.

Ballarat
East.

This school, which is governed by the council of the Ballarat Public Library, has well maintained its high standard during the past year, both in the number of students and the high percentage of passes gained at the examinations held by the Education Department. The individual students for the year reached 345, and, as far as the examination results are available, out of 66 entries 61 passes have been gained, many students securing excellent results.

Echuca
Technical
Art School.

This school was originated for the purpose of educating the working classes in the various handicrafts, and in art. No record has been retained of the successes of the school, but many of its pupils have been enabled, through the instruction which has been imparted, to obtain positions of trust and responsibility. The school is also a drawing centre for training State school teachers.

Warrnam-
bool.

The Warrnambool School of Art was opened in 1883. The subjects taught are drawing, wood-carving, modelling, and life study. During the year 37 students passed through the school, and their examination results were very satisfactory. The school is of value to the State school teachers of the district, who attend on Saturdays. Several of the students have been successful in the matriculation examination of the Melbourne University.

Nhill.

The Nhill School of Art and Technical College was formed, about ten years ago, by leading residents of the district, to impart instruction in the art of drawing, painting, practical geometry, building and engineering, drawing and construction, and general designing, &c., to those far removed from centres where these very necessary subjects were taught. An average of 45 students have annually availed themselves of the benefits of the institution. In addition, the State school teachers of the district have, in recent years, been afforded special facilities of free instruction by an accredited art instructor in the subjects they are required to teach in the State schools. Amongst the local craftsmen in the building and iron-workers' trades, carriage builders, smithwrights, mill hands, signwriters, painters and decorators, &c., are many former students. Some of these are now in positions of responsibility and trust, and carrying out the practical work which they had been taught in the school. A few are in business for themselves, and are still attending the school.

The usefulness of the institution is now further enhanced by the introduction of carpentry, joiners' and cabinet-makers' work, detailing drawings, and mensuration of quantities, modelling and carving, decoration in all branches, and designing for practical purposes.

In December, 1887, proposals were submitted for the establishment of a central art training school in connexion with the Public Art Gallery. Premises were secured by the council of the Art Gallery Association in 1891, and suitably equipped with funds provided by the Government. Mr. P. M. Carew-Smyth, who had received his training at South Kensington, was appointed director, a position which he retained till 1898, when he was appointed Government art inspector of Victoria. Under his supervision the school was opened in 1891, with an attendance of 19 students, which increased so rapidly that in 1893 larger premises had to be secured. Comprised in the school equipment is an extensive and costly collection of casts, both ornament and figure, including examples of the Elgin marbles, and many full-length antiques—works of the Italian Renaissance by Michael Angelo and Donatello; Gothic and French work, &c.; a good collection of still-life properties, weapons and draperies, the nucleus of a collection of costumes of various historic periods, and every requisite for the most elementary or advanced study. A special and—in Victoria—unique adjunct of the school is its art library and reading-room, containing the standard and latest works on architecture and technology, drawing and painting, sculpture and modelling, applied art and decoration, with the leading English and American monthly magazines devoted to these subjects. Many of these works being beyond the means of the average individual student, the facilities thus afforded for their perusal are invaluable. As showing their appreciation, it may be added that, except for some little outside assistance, the library is the result of the combined efforts of the students themselves. Their subscription thereto is 1s. per term, and quarterly meetings of members are held, at which papers are read on topics of interest to art students.

The work of the school is carried out in four main divisions—one is devoted to a general course, and embraces a thorough education in art drawing, painting, and modelling; the second is a technical and applied art division, and includes not only a regular technical art course, which can be varied to suit the needs of individual students, but also special courses of instruction for painters and decorators, wood-carvers, modellers, and others; the third is an architectural division for architects and architectural draughtsmen, builders, and carpenters; the fourth division is set apart for the training of art teachers—so many students of the school having been appointed to fill positions as teachers in technical and private schools in Victoria, a special feature has been made of the work of the school in this direction. A sketching club, with junior and senior divisions, is in active operation throughout the year, subjects being given in the junior division and criticised by the director once a fortnight. Public exhibitions of the year's work are held annually, and examinations at the end of each year by the Education Department, certificates being awarded to successful candidates on payment of a small fee.

The "Art Workers' Guild," formed by students in the applied art classes, under the former director, for the execution of commissions for work in carved wood, art needlework, *repoussé*, or decorative design, has lately merged into an Arts and Crafts Society under

the auspices of the Art Gallery Association, and now numbers some 70 members. Most of its active workers are local art-craftsmen, one-third of the entire number being past or present students in the school. Monthly meetings of the society are held therein, at which highly instructive lectures are delivered by its members, accompanied by more or less practical demonstrations.

Further measures to provide for the specific requirements of local trades will be given effect to shortly, and, encouraged by past successes, the council looks forward with confidence to a marked and growing extension of the popularity and practical usefulness of the institution, and a wider recognition of its inestimable value to the community in the near future.

GORDON TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

Gordon
Technical
College,
Geelong.

The idea of establishing a technical college in Geelong was first taken up early in 1885 by a few citizens, who were stimulated to adopt a more extensive system of technical instruction than that hitherto in operation at the local School of Design, the very limited means of which naturally hampered the prospect of anything further than the drawing classes being thought of. About this time the lamentable news of the death of General Gordon came to hand, and this was thought to be a favorable opportunity for the erection of a fitting memorial in his memory, and the establishment of a much-needed institution. In November, 1887, the first portion of the building was opened, and before the end of the following year operations were commenced for further additions, which have been added to from time to time, the total expenditure to date being £9,234.

The college, which stands in Fenwick-street, Geelong, occupies a central position, both for town and country students. The subjects included in the time-table are—Freehand and model drawing and decorative design, perspective, geometry, painting, oil and water colour, architectural drawing and building construction, artisans' drawing, mechanical drawing, applied mechanics, steam engines, engine-driving, galvanism and electricity, chemistry, mathematics, modelling, wood-carving, carpentry and junior carpentry, plumbing, wool-sorting, dressmaking, commercial course (embracing arithmetic, bookkeeping, writing and correspondence, typewriting, shorthand), elocution, cookery, and French. From this it will be seen that the curriculum includes classes for art, science, trade, commerce, and domestic economy. A leading feature of the work of the institution is the trade classes. A large sum has been expended in providing accommodation for these classes, and the council has met with great encouragement in so doing. The local Builders' and Contractors' Association endow four scholarships per annum for trade classes, and within recent years have devoted special attention in the matter of encouraging apprentices to attend the school. The same can be said as regards other sections of the building trade. The value of the institution to apprentices to the engineering trade is evidenced by the large number

attending the classes bearing on engineering. The engineering firms of the town, it is pleasing to note, make it compulsory for their apprentices to attend certain of the classes. The chemistry department of the institution is largely used by employes connected with the various manufacturing industries of the town and district, and the value of this class is being recognised by proprietors of such industries. Perhaps one of the most important classes in connexion with the institution is that of wool-sorting. A special building was recently erected for conducting this class, full facilities being provided for practical work in wool-sorting and classing and wool-washing. Students are drawn from all over the State.

The total enrolments for the various subjects for 1904 were 1,174; an average of 293.5 per quarter. The total number of individual students for the year in question was 401, the fees received totalling upwards of £485, and the subscriptions from the public £61.

The following is the expenditure to date in connexion with the building, &c.:—Cost of building, £9,235; furniture and apparatus, £1,266; payments to instructors, £7,799. Total receipts to hand are as follows:—Subscriptions, £2,902; fees from students, £5,435; general receipts, £1,811. Government grants to date are as follows:—Building grant, £6,685; appliances, £31; subsidy, £8,605; general, £4.

THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

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, Melbourne.

All fees are payable in advance, and no refund is allowed. Fees.
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 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.

FEES PAYABLE.

Subject.	Fee.
Mechanical, Electrical, Marine, and Mining Engineering—	
First year	£5 per term
Second year	£6 „
Third year	£8 „
Metallurgy—	
First year	£5 „
Second year	£6 „
Third year	£8 „
Applied Chemistry—	
First year	£5 „
Second year	£6 „
Third year	£7 „
Fourth year	£8 „

FEES PAYABLE—*continued.*

Subject.	Fee.
Arithmetic	} Various amounts ranging from 3s. upwards per term.
Algebra	
Practical Geometry	
Freehand Drawing	
Architecture	
Applied Mechanics	
Applied Electricity	
Building Construction	
Woolsorting	
Chemistry	
Cookery	
Millinery	
Dressmaking	
Mechanical Drawing	
Science, Art, Trade, Commercial, and Mining, and numerous 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. The Government grant in 1904 was £5,000, together with a sum of £165 towards inspection, examination, apparatus, &c.

By F. A. Campbell, Esq., Director.

Over 100 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 draughtsmen, (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 1900 to 1904:—

STUDENTS AT WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, 1900 TO 1904.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Students enrolled—					
Average per term	2,100	2,162	2,364	2,182	2,239
Males over 21	482	564	455	437	417
" under 21—Apprentices ..	127	146	147	145	166
" " Others	949	979	1,164	1,135	1,182
Females	542	473	598	465	474
Fees received during the year £	5,396	6,236	7,485	7,050	7,288
Average fee per student	51s. 3d.	57s. 8d.	63s. 8d.	65s. 7d.	65s. 1d.
Number of classes	134	156	161	163	167
" instructors	49	51	53	55	58
Salaries paid instructors	£ 5,408	6,106	7,479	6,392	7,512

HORSHAM WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE.

This college was founded in 1890, and met first in the State school, and afterwards in the hall at the Mechanics' Institute. In 1894 the present building—a roomy wooden structure—was erected at a cost of £820, £200 of which was raised locally. In addition to the main building, there is an outer building, containing the carpenter's workshop, a potters' kiln, gas generating plant and apparatus. The late Dr. Young, who was for years president, was untiring in his efforts to promote the welfare of the college, which he liberally supported. From the time of its initiation until his death he conducted the chemistry classes. When the college was first inaugurated, classes were held in arithmetic, bookkeeping, botany, chemistry, French, German, music, pottery, shorthand and telegraphy, in addition to the science subjects. The latter was abandoned when the subsidy for science subjects was withdrawn by the Government.

The present director, Mr. J. R. Tranthim-Fryer was appointed in June, 1904, since when the work of the college has been conducted on similar lines to the up-to-date technical colleges in the old world, where he was trained.

There are now over 100 students on the rolls, and the subjects taught include geometry, perspective, freehand and model drawing, painting in oil and water colours, modelling, moulding, and casting, *repoussé* work, wood carving, architectural and mechanical drawing, and drawing in black and white for reproduction. In addition to these, there are classes in fypewriting and shorthand, carpentry, and dressmaking, all well attended. Classes for cooking, bookkeeping, and wood-turning are in course of formation. A photographic club is attached to the college, and demonstrations in printing, toning, and enlarging are given, and are well attended. A teachers' drawing class is held on Saturdays, which any teachers in the district may attend free of charge.

Horsham
Working
Men's
College.

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

Public
Library of
Victoria.

The buildings of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria cost £218,357. 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 £1,008,801. At the end of 1904 the library contained 156,237 volumes. It is open to the public without payment on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted), between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and was visited during the year by 356,162 persons. The Library consists of three distinct sections, viz.:—The Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. The librarian reports that 4,616 volumes were purchased, 1,906 volumes presented, 215 volumes obtained under the "Copyright Act," and 41,773 newspapers were added to the Reference Library during the year. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 181,325 volumes during 1904, and the number of persons to whom the books were lent was 8,731. Of these volumes, 60 per cent. related to fiction, 13·8 to history, 6·9 to general literature, 10 to religion, philosophy, natural science and art, 6·5 to arts and trades, and 2·8 per cent. to social science. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of 1904 was 21,546, of which 1,029 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 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.

The National Gallery at the end of 1904 contained 17,530 works of art, viz., 466 oil paintings, 3,493 objects of statuary, &c., and 13,571 water colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted), and on Sundays it is open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The school of painting in connexion with this institution was attended in the year by 6 male and 17 female students, and the school of design by 24 male and 58 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.

National Gallery.

The Industrial and Technological Museum adjoins the National Gallery, and was opened on the 7th September, 1870. At the end of 1904 it contained 55,208 specimens. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted), and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. In 1904 the expenditure for specimens, furniture, material, &c., was £528. The payments for salaries and wages during the year amounted to £2,153.

National Museum

SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

There is a free library attached to the Commonwealth 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. The approximate value of the books is £3,500. The library is open to the public on each week day, except Saturday, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 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.

FREE LIBRARIES.

Most of the suburban and country libraries were in the habit of receiving Government aid up to 30th June, 1903. Of these, twenty-five are situated within 10 miles of Melbourne, and the remainder are to be found in the most important country towns throughout the State. The conditions under which the Government subsidize these institutions are as follow:—

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 was made by the Government for the purpose of aiding the funds of these institutions. At the end of the year, however, the Treasurer found himself in possession of a revenue surplus, out of which £3,000 was distributed amongst 324 libraries for the year 1904-5. Under an Appropriation Act, further sums of £1,000 for building, and £1,000 for general purposes, are provided, but these amounts are not yet distributed.

An effort has been made to obtain from each of the libraries throughout the State, a classified list of its books. Returns, however, have only been received from 265 libraries; but these serve to indicate fairly well the class of literature in general use by the public for reading and reference. The information received is tabulated as follows:—

	Volumes.
Fiction	313,414
History (including Philosophy, Social Science, and Economics)	26,099
Biography	14,661
Travel	17,319
Poetry and the Drama	8,680
General Literature	56,663
Theology and Religion	6,877
Natural Science	12,273
Fine Arts	2,028
Arts and Trades	5,788
Periodical Literature	7,626
Total number of volumes	471,428

It thus appears that works of fiction are on the shelves of the free libraries of the State, to the extent of 66·5 per cent. ; historical works, 5·6 per cent. ; biography, 3·1 per cent. ; travel, 3·7 per cent. ; poetry and the drama, 1·8 per cent. ; general literature, 12·0 per cent. ; theology and religion, 1·5 per cent. ; natural science, 2·6 per cent. ; fine arts, 4 per cent. ; arts and trades, 1·2 per cent. ; and periodical literature, 1·6 per cent. ; thus showing that the stock of books of fiction in country libraries approximates to the issue of the same class of works through the lending branch of the Melbourne 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. The total cost of the buildings including repairs up to the 31st December, 1904, was £7,151. During the year 1904, the Government grant was £25 ; the municipal grant, £50 ; private contributions, £192 ; and from all other sources, the sums received amounted to £498. The library now contains 9,280 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 24,500. Further important additions and improvements are now in contemplation whereby the general usefulness of the institute will be greatly enhanced.

City of
Ballarat
Free
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 17,098 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. Its progress during the past twelve months has been satisfactory, and it is gratifying to note that the public appreciate the facilities which it offers. The card system for issuing books to subscribers was adopted in May last, and has proved very successful, not only in the saving of book entering, but in cost. Three hundred and sixty-two new books in every department were added to the library during the year. The total cost of the buildings to 31st December, 1904, was £10,998. For the year 1904, £25 was received from the Government, £125 from the municipal council, £94 by private contributions, and £113 from all other sources. The number of visits paid to the library during the year was 30,000.

Ballarat
Public
Library.

Castlemaine
Free
Library
and
Mechanics'
Institute.

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 1904 the buildings erected cost £5,004. For additions to the 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 the end of the year 9,910 volumes, also magazines, newspapers, and illustrated papers. The income for the year from all sources was £439, the expenditure £405. The total number of visits was 25,000.

Geelong
Free
Library
and
Museum.

The Geelong Free Library and Museum is located in a handsome building, originally built as the Chamber of Commerce at a cost of about £20,000. 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. The total cost of buildings to date was £5,263. It has been mainly supported by residents of the town, and amply supplies all requirements. The average daily attendance is about 450. The library contains 5,715 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 natural history. In the art gallery are several excellent oil paintings, which add largely to the attraction of the institution. In 1904 the receipts were £185, and the expenditure £190.

Sandhurst
Mechanics'
Institute
and Free
Library.

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 11,000 volumes, and a liberal supply of periodical literature is kept up to date. The cost to date of building, &c., is £10,131. The institute is maintained by members' subscriptions, grants by the City Council, rents, and a subsidy from the Government, amounting altogether to £251. The institute has now been taken over by the Bendigo School of Mines, the council of which is carrying on both the subscribing and the free libraries as heretofore.

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, which 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 sixteen, six members being elected each year by the public, and six by the subscribers for the same term; three being trustees or permanent members of the committee, and the Mayor of Stawell is, *ex-officio*, its president. The receipts during 1904 were £397.

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, the total cost of the building to date being £3,307. 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. 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 7,000 volumes; an art gallery, and school of art.

Warrnambool
Mechanics'
Institute
and Free
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 1904, 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

Exhibition
Buildings,
Aquarium,
and
Museum.

scientific points of view. The receipts for the year amounted to £6,746, consisting of an advance from the Treasury of £300; rents, £1,722; and aquarium and other receipts, £4,724. The expenditure totalled £4,669, viz., £2,465 for wages, advertisements, feed, live stock, and miscellaneous items; and £2,204 for maintenance and improvement of the building and gardens, insurance, and sundry expenses. The deposits and balances in banks to the credit of the trust amount to £2,116.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

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.

The present features of the garden are its extensive undulating lawn areas and broad sweeping paths with varied groupings and marginal beds of ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, and useful plants. Large specimens of Australian and exotic trees and other vegetation are effectively disposed about the grounds. At suitable spots, rockeries and mounds have been formed and planted. Along the western and southern boundary fence an interesting plantation of Australian vegetation has been made, which contains many hundreds of representative trees and shrubs of the Continent.

When the present Director took charge of the gardens, about 2,500 species of plants were growing there, and these, having been added to during the past 30 years, now represent no less than 14,000 species. Many of the most valuable additions are large palms in great variety, arborescent and other ferns—as for instance, those in the rather extensive “Gully,” which has a thousand feet of winding pathway running through its centre. There are, besides, hundreds of rare ornamental and utilitarian plants, and a large collection of medicinal herbs.

An extensive “System Pavilion” was also formed, the plants all in large pots, classified in their natural orders, and, like the various collections in the outer grounds, conservatory, &c., have labels attached—giving both their scientific and common names, their orders, native countries, &c.

The “Museum of Botany and Plant Products” established by Mr. Guilfoyle contains many thousands of fully-named herbarium specimens; seeds in their seed vessels (or pods), fibres, and woods; products of food, medicinal, and other plants. 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 makes 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, has been erected a large domed structure with ten columns, which is known as the Temple of the Winds. This 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 very attractive to 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 60 years, and as a favorite 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 Royal Park, on the northern side of the city, distant nearly two miles from the Post Office,

Zoological
and Acclimatisation
Gardens.

and can be reached by the tramcars starting every few minutes from the lower end of Elizabeth-street, 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.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

By W. R. Church, Esq., F.R.H.S.V.

The initiation and progress of the horticultural interests in this State may justly be considered as due to the efforts of this society, which, as the Horticultural Society of Victoria, was started in the year 1849. Its pioneer members have by this time all passed away, but there remain a few who were members of the society in the early fifties and whose interest in the work of popularizing the growth of plants, flowers, and fruits still manifests itself.

Some few years after its establishment, the society undertook the responsibility of forming and maintaining experimental gardens at Burnley—the park of which it formed a part being known as Survey Paddock—and Mr. Clarkson was intrusted with the direction of the work, acting for many years as honorary director. Upon his resignation in 1882, Mr. George Neilson took charge as curator and remained in that position until his much lamented death a few years ago. During all this time, the society was rendering most valued assistance to growers, especially in the establishment of the most complete and reliable type collection of fruits ever seen in Australasia. Horticulturists from all parts of Australia and New Zealand readily availed themselves of this magnificent collection in order to settle disputed questions of nomenclature of fruits, as very great pains were taken to insure absolute correctness of name of every variety planted among the collection. In 1885, Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria issued the warrant for the society to use the name of "Royal," and it has since worked under the full title of Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria.

The years of depression following the crash of the land boom had their full effect on the society, many of the most liberal donors to its funds being compelled to relinquish the financial support they had in past years generously accorded the committee. In 1891, the Government of the day undertook the establishment of a School of Horticulture, and the balance due to debenture-holders on the handsome show pavilion erected in the gardens having been paid by the Government, the estate was handed over to the management of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Neilson continuing as curator under the direction of a Board of Horticultural Advice to whose personnel the Government appointed three, the society three, with the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as Chairman. This arrangement worked with the utmost satisfaction until the death of the curator. Some years after that event, the Minister made a new departure by dissolving the board and placing the School of Horticulture under the sole auspices of the Department.

Since relinquishing the sole control of the Gardens, the society has set itself the task of giving instruction by means of lectures and exhibits at monthly meetings of members, and by imposing fruit and floral displays, all of which attract large attendances.

The President of the society is the Hon. William Anderson, of Southern Cross, in the Koroit district. He has held the position uninterruptedly for the past twenty years, which is sufficient to indicate the warm attachment of the members to one who bears the honored name of the "Grand Old Man of Horticulture."

The membership subscription is low enough (10s. per annum) to be within the reach of all lovers of horticulture, and as a consequence the list of members is an encouraging evidence of the society's popularity.

The business of the society is vested in a committee, consisting of the president, two vice-presidents (one amateur and one professional), an honorary treasurer, and sixteen members (eight amateurs and eight professionals), the administrative work being conducted by the secretary, Mr. W. R. Church, at offices in Prell's Buildings, corner of Collins and Queen streets, Melbourne.

There are 27 other horticultural societies in the State, situated at Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Mildura, Terang, Traralgon, Warrnambool, and other centres. The Government provided £251 in aid of these associations during the year ended 30th June, 1904. Other Societies.

METROPOLITAN PUBLIC RESERVES.

Greater Melbourne is amply supplied with public reserves and parks, the total area devoted to such purposes being 5,331½ acres in 1904, 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, 1904.

Municipality.	Name of Reserve.	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 Garden	18
"	Argyle Square	3¼
"	Curtain "	3½
"	Darling "	2
"	Lincoln "	3¼

AREA OF PARKS AND GARDENS IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS,
1904—continued.

Municipality.	Name of Reserve.	Area.
		Acres
Melbourne City	Macarthur Square	1
"	Murchison "	1
"	University "	3½
"	University Grounds	106
"	Friendly Societies' Grounds	25
"	Industrial Schools and Board of Health Depot	47
"	Melbourne Cricket Ground	9½
"	East Melbourne "	7
"	Scotch College "	7
"	Richmond Cricket Ground	6
"	Carlton "	5
"	Parliament Reserve	10
"	Ornamental Plantations	5
"	General Cemetery	101
"	Old Cemetery	8½
"	Military Parade Ground	5
"	Recreation (Brown's Hill)	7½
North Melbourne Town	Recreation	9½
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	7½
Northcote Town	Jika Park	5½
"	Recreation	7
South Melbourne City	Albert Park (part of)	464
"	St. Vincent Gardens	7½
"	Ornamental Plantations	2½
"	Cricket and Recreation (Warehousemen's)	8
Port Melbourne Town	Cricket Ground	7½
"	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
"	Recreation (Point Ormond)	54
"	"	1½
"	"	4½
"	"	11
"	"	15½
"	" Dandenong Road	22½
"	Cemetery	20
Brighton Town	Elsternwick Park	85
"	Recreation (Elsternwick)	14½
"	Beach Park	67
Essendon Town	Recreation	10½

AREA OF PARKS AND GARDENS IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS,
1904—continued.

Municipality.	Name of Reserve.	Area.
		Acres.
Essendon Town ...	Recreation	5½
" ...	Agricultural Society's Yards	30
" ...	Queen's Park	22
" ...	Water Reserve	11½
Flemington and Ken- sington Borough	Race-course	301
" ...	Recreation	5¾
Hawthorn City ...	"	15
Kew Borough ...	Studley Park	203
" ...	Lunatic Asylum	384
" ...	Cemetery	31
" ...	Recreation	16
Footscray City ...	Public Gardens and Recreation	10½
" ...	"	2¼
" ...	Cricket Ground, &c.	5¾
" ...	Recreation (Yarraville)	5
" ...	" (Footscray West)	15
Williamstown Town ...	Park	36
" ...	"	20
" ...	Recreation	9¾
" ...	Beach Park	20
" ...	Cemetery	15
" ...	Rifle Range	332
" ...	Cricket Ground	6¼
" ...	Public Garden	3½
" ...	Recreation (Newport)	13
Malvern Town ...	Park and Garden	8
" ...	Recreation	4½
" ...	Park and Garden (Waverley-road)	16
Caulfield Town ...	Race-course	144
" ...	Park	62
" ...	Park (East Caulfield)	17
" ...	Recreation	13
Oakleigh Borough ...	Recreation	8
" ...	Park and Garden	21
" ...	Park and Recreation	5
" ...	Cemetery	10
Outside urban muni- cipalities	Yarra Bend Asylum	350
	Camberwell Gardens	7
	Williamstown Race-course	190
	Total	5,331½

Public
Reserves in
Country
Towns.

Most of the large towns throughout the State also possess public gardens, parks, and reserves for recreation purposes. In the following tables are particulars respecting the most important of these:—

NUMBER AND AREA OF PARKS AND GARDENS OF COUNTRY TOWNS
IN VICTORIA, 1904.

Town.	Number of Reserves.	Area.
		Acres.
Ararat	2	35½
Bairnsdale	3	149
Ballarat	1	1,041
Ballarat East	10	172½
Beechworth	4	131
Bendigo	7	129
Castlemaine	3	109
Clunes	5	62½
Colac	1	38
Creswick	2	43
Daylesford	3	133
Eaglehawk	1	40
Echuca	3	249½
Geelong	5	240
Hamilton	4	46
Horsham	3	142¼
Kyneton	1	14
Korumburra	2	31½
Maldon	4	156
Maryborough	3	142
Portland	4	73
Port Fairy	1	26
Queenscliff	1	60
Sale	1	40
Sebastopol	1	36
Shepparton	3	73
St. Arnaud	2	63
Stawell	3	69¾
Wangaratta	2	110
Warrnambool	8	440

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Valuations
of 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 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 threepence 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.

The following is an epitome of the particulars furnished respecting friendly societies for the five years, 1899 to 1903:—

Friendly Societies.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1899 TO 1903.

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Number of societies ...	29	29	29	28	25
Number of branches ...	1,105	1,111	1,132	1,146	1,155
Average number of members	91,213	95,819	99,360	101,574	102,040
Number of members sick	21,083	18,007	20,832	20,708	19,133
Weeks for which ailment was allowed	165,616	157,235	169,289	168,830	171,327
Deaths of members ...	993	976	1,036	1,023	1,021
Deaths of registered wives	442	424	393	427	408
	£	£	£	£	£
Income of sick and funeral fund	186,547	203,569	202,394	202,044	209,799
Income of incidental fund	159,879	164,849	169,406	167,900	170,384
Total Income ...	346,426	368,418	371,800	383,763	380,183
Expenditure of sick and funeral fund	153,519	151,226	153,478	156,024	153,472
Expenditure of incidental fund	155,057	161,934	167,579	167,441	169,305
Total Expenditure...	308,576	313,160	321,057	337,284	322,777
Amount to credit of sick and funeral fund	1,166,184	1,218,527	1,267,443	1,313,463	1,369,790
Amount to credit of incidental fund	45,626	48,541	50,368	50,827	51,906
Amount invested—sick and funeral fund	1,103,433	1,141,678	1,205,151	1,249,809	1,311,823
Amount invested—incidental fund	36,026	36,784	39,522	41,793	43,086
Total invested ...	1,139,459	1,178,462	1,244,673	1,291,602	1,354,909

During the quinquennium ended with 1903, the number of members in friendly societies increased by 12,991, or by about 14½ per cent., the amount to the credit of the sick and funeral fund by £236,634, or nearly 21 per cent., and the total amount invested by £264,076, or over 24 per cent.

Growth of Friendly Societies.

In proportion to the number of effective members of Friendly Societies, the amount of sickness experienced in 1903 was about the average of recent years. The days per effective member for which ailment was allowed were equal to an average of 12'0 in that year, 12'0 in 1902, 12'0 in 1901, 11'3 in 1900, and 13'0 in 1899, but the average was only 10'5 during the sixteen years ended 1898. The death rate in 1903 was slightly below the average—the death rate per 1,000 members being 10'02 in 1903, 10'09 in 1902, 10'45 in 1901, 10'21 in 1900, 10'92 in 1899, and 10'60 for the 26 years ended 1903.

Sickness and death rates.

OCCUPATIONS.—CENSUS RETURNS.

Occupations, 1901.

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

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE, 1901.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ministering to—			
Government, Defence, &c.	6,719	165	6,884
Religion, Charity, Science, Education, &c. Board, Lodging, and Attendance	13,664	14,676	28,340
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 Animals, and Animal and Vegetable Sub- stances	18,217	3,428	21,645
Metal or Minerals (other than those used for Fuel and Light)	3,977	198	4,175
Minerals, &c., mainly used for Fuel and Light	2,044	162	2,206
Minerals, &c., mainly used for Fuel and Light	2,794	34	2,828
Engaged in—			
General Dealing and Mercantile Pursuits Speculating on Chance Events	16,091	4,446	20,537
Storage	284	1	285
Transport and Communication	1,093	..	1,093
Manufacturers of—			
Art and Mechanic Productions	30,318	1,198	31,516
Textile Fabrics, Dress and Fibrous Materials	20,676	1,748	22,424
Foods, Drinks, Narcotics, and Stimulants Animal and Vegetable Substances	10,664	28,450	39,114
Metals and Minerals (other than those used for Fuel and Light)	10,251	1,402	11,653
Materials used for Heat, Light, or Energy Constructors of Buildings, Roads, Railways, Earthworks, &c.	5,281	85	5,366
Engaged in Disposing of the Dead or Refuse Ill-defined Industrial Workers (chiefly Labourers)	14,315	88	14,403
Engaged on Land or with Animals, and in Obtaining Raw Products from Natural Sources	1,035	37	1,072
Persons—			
Of Independent Means	27,392	17	27,409
Dependent upon Natural Guardians	1,260	24	1,284
Dependent upon the State or upon Public or Private Support	22,653	855	23,508
Occupation not stated (chiefly Breadwinners)	140,149	24,998	165,147
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

The number of breadwinners and dependents were:—

BREADWINNERS AND DEPENDENTS, 1901.

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

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.

Proportion of breadwinners and dependents.

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.

Unemployed, 31st March, 1901.

FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

There are now nine Factories and Shops Acts in force in this State, viz.:—The "Factories and Shops Act 1890," and eight amending Acts. The amending Acts have been passed for limited periods, and, on the 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

Factory legislation.

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. Every employé in a factory must be paid at least 2s. 6d. per week. This provision is, of course, intended as a protection for juvenile workers.

Wages
Boards.

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 piece-work 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 may fix piece-work rates which may be paid, and also the lowest wages rates, and may also determine the number of improvers under 21 years of age who may be employed. There are thirty-eight Special Boards now in existence, affecting over 38,000 operatives.

Effect—
Rise in
earnings.

The Chief Inspector of Factories reports that determinations, made by thirty-seven Boards appointed under the Act, were in full operation during 1903, 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. 1d. in 1903, 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. 2d. in 1903; the average wage in the boot trade from £1 3s. 2d. to £1 7s. 3d.; and in the furniture trade from £1 9s. 1d. to £1 18s. 2d. In 1900, the average wage of persons engaged in the engraving trade was 36s. 11d., and in 1903, when the determination was in force, it was £2 3s. 7d., or an increase of 6s. 8d. In the pottery trade the average wage was £1 8s. 1d. in 1900, before the Wages Board fixed the rates, and in 1903, when the determination was in operation, it had risen to £1 15s. 8d., or an average increase of 7s. 7d. for each employé engaged in the trade.

GOVERNMENT LABOUR BUREAU.

Prior to the 1st October, 1900, two labour bureaux were administered by the Railway Department. One registered men in search of work, and distributed all Government work, each Department paying the cost. The other was a Railway Staff Office, regulating and distributing all temporary and casual railway employment. Both these are now administered by a bureau under the control of the Public Works Department, where applicants are registered for temporary or casual employment principally as artisans and labourers on Government works, including railways. Men are supplied when work is available according to their order of registration, subject to fitness. This bureau also undertakes to supply workmen for private employment, and advances railway tickets to deserving applicants who may themselves have obtained employment in country districts, which they would be otherwise unable to reach, these advances being subject to orders for repayment out of earnings.

The following is a summary of the operations of the bureau in respect to registrations and applicants sent to employment for the year 1904:—

GOVERNMENT LABOUR BUREAU.

Year and Month.	Number of Applicants for Work as Registered at the End of each Month.	Number of Men for whom Employment was Obtained.
1904—January	1,119	} 1,329
February	1,460	
March	1,263	
April	1,385	
May	2,052	
June	2,055	
July	2,489	
August	2,472	
September	2,224	
October	1,698	
November	1,359	
December	Figures not available	

During the year 1904 the number of railway tickets advanced was 532, valued at £430, of which £208 was refunded.

CHARITIES.

The total number of organizations administering charitable relief throughout the State which forwarded returns to the Government Statist for the year 1904 was 218. The number of these which received aid from the Government was 206 and the amount paid, including lunatic asylums, gaols, reformatories, and old-age pensions, was £523,520. The following is a list of the institutions and organizations which received no aid from the Government;—

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

Convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor.
Nazareth House, Ballarat.
Freemasons' Charitable Homes.
Distressed Actors' Homes.
Old Colonists' Homes.

ORPHAN ASYLUMS.

Nazareth House, Ballarat.
Livingstone Home, Cheltenham.

FEMALE REFUGE.

Magdalen Asylum, South Melbourne.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

Jewish Philanthropic Society, Ballarat.
Ladies' Benevolent Society, Brighton.
St. Vincent's, Bendigo.
Church of England Seamen's Mission.
Charity Organization Society.

Charitable
and Reformatory
Institutions.

In the following table will be found a summary containing full particulars of all these charitable and reformatory institutions, showing the number in each class, the daily average number of persons under care in institutions, the total number of distinct cases receiving outdoor relief, together with receipts and expenditure:—

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS—INMATES, RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1903-4.

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average Indoors	Outdoor Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (Including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
HOSPITALS.							
General Hospitals	45	2,064	59,701	£ 47,211	£ 88,224	£ 135,435	£ 124,787
Women's Hospital	1	77	1,080	2,000	6,035	8,035	8,261
Children's Hospital	1	87	14,643	500	9,646	10,146	10,292
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1	15	3,689	427	1,202	1,629	1,531
Consumptive Sanatorium	1	40	..	165	2,759	2,924	4,057
Convalescent Homes	2	44	..	370	1,121	1,491	1,422
Deaf and Dumb, Blind, and Eye and Ear Institutions	3	218	5,559	3,260	8,894	12,154	10,804
Hospitals for Insane and Idiot Asylum	10	4,606	..	119,819	17,844	137,663	137,663
Foundling Hospital	1	43	4	84	321	405	464
Total	65	7,194	84,676	173,836	136,046	309,882	299,281

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS—INMATES, RECEIPTS,
AND EXPENDITURE, 1903-4—*continued.*

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average Indoors.	Outdoor Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year)
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS AND SOCIETIES.							
Benevolent Asylums	8	2,464	2,330	20,462	13,693	34,155	35,032
Old Colonists' Association ..	1	50	15	..	6,918	6,918	2,887
Freemasons' Home	1	15	..	..	704	704	499
Old Actors' Home	1	5	21	..	607	607	569
Benevolent Societies	81	..	13,226	5,254	14,914	20,168	19,339
Orphan Asylums	9	1,394	..	5,710	14,777	20,487	20,508
Infant Asylum	1	63	31	350	2,097	2,447	1,300
Total	102	3,901	15,623	31,776	53,710	85,486	80,134
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	20	324	4,945	61,932	1,443	63,375	63,375
Female Refuges	10	642	..	2,015	17,916	19,931	21,208
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	6	138	..	566	4,128	4,694	4,514
Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society	1	..	484	95	586	681	676
Gaols and Penal Establishments ..	9	995	..	51,372	..	51,372	51,372
Total	46	2,099	5,429	115,980	24,073	140,053	141,145
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Old-Age Pensioners .. ..	..	..	11,609	201,688	3,495	205,183	205,183
Night Shelters (Dr. Singleton's) ..	2	..	..	60	28	88	118
Charity Organization Society	1	..	..	..	1,295	1,295	1,390
Free Dispensaries	2	..	5,583	180	380	560	728
Total	5	..	17,192	201,928	5,198	207,126	207,419
Grand Total	218	13,284	122,920	523,520	219,027	742,547	727,979

During the year which ended on 30th June, 1904, the Government granted £91,082 in aid of charitable institutions other than those solely under Government control—£89,368 for maintenance, and £1,714 for special purposes. These charities embrace 55 hospitals, including institutions for the blind, deaf and dumb, &c., which received £54,017; 102 benevolent homes and societies, which received £31,776; 17 reformatory institutions, which received £2,676; and there were other societies and associations organized for the distribution of relief (including old-age pensions) which received £201,928. The daily average number under care throughout the year in these and the Government institutions was 13,284, and there were 122,920 distinct cases of outdoor relief. The total cost of maintenance was £727,979.

With regard to the outdoor relief, it has been ascertained that in some institutions the "distinct cases treated" represent the actual number of persons treated; in others, they represent the actual cases of illness, accident, or disease; but in these latter cases, the books of the institutions do not furnish the necessary particulars as to the number of distinct persons. Again, it is considered probable that some obtained relief at more than one establishment, and that some,

in the course of the year, became inmates of one or other of our institutions. There is no available information upon which an estimate of these duplications can be based.

An effort was made during the course of last year to obtain from the heads of the various denominations throughout Victoria particulars of organizations under their control for the purpose of distributing the charity of the churches. The few returns which were received in response to this request have been tabulated with the general charities, but there is very little doubt that there are others respecting which no information has been forwarded—probably in many instances it is not available for want of records.

In addition, there were 2,403 neglected children for whom homes were found, either with private persons or in institutions, registered for the purpose.

Part VIII. of the *Neglected Children's Act 1890* deals with the committal of neglected children to the care of private persons or institutions approved by the Governor in Council, and also provides for the wardship of the children, and for their transference if found unfitted for such care, to the control of the Department for Neglected Children. The following return shows the societies and persons registered under the provisions of this part of the Act, and particulars respecting the children under their care during 1904:—

WORK OF SOCIETIES AND PERSONS REGISTERED UNDER PART VIII.
OF THE "NEGLECTED CHILDREN'S ACT."

Name of Society or Person	Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.03.	Admissions during 1904.			Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.04.
		Court Commitals.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society	342	12	19	19	348
Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society	788	1	10	77	823
Clifden Home, Wedderburn	92	..	..	9	100
Gordon Institute, Melbourne	150	5	24	23	160
Try Society, Surrey-road, Hawksburn	62	2	..	62	68
Burwood Boys' Home	58	..	13	6	41
Geelong Try Boys' Brigade	137	..	..	53	186
Latrobe-street Ragged School	86	1	2	67	106
Mission	..	..	..	..	..
Mrs. Ida Berry (Rescue Home, Ballarat)	11	1	1	..	10
Rev. G. H. Cole Central Methodist Mission	17	..	14	5	30
Church of England Neglected Children's Aid Society	69	3	3	2	77
Western Neglected Children's Aid Society	226	33	6	13	264
Fitzroy Streets Mission	25	*	*	*	25
Mrs. Gold-pink, 235 Rathdown-street, Carlton	113	14	10	32	163
Total	2,176	72	102	368	2,403

* The admissions during 1904 are unknown.

Reviewing the whole question of our charities, their number, organization, management, and expense, and the constant appeals to the

Government, the churches, and the public for aid in their maintenance, it would seem to be a matter deserving of careful consideration, that some effort should be made in the direction of centralization of management and systematic control. A Royal Commission was appointed in 1891 to consider the whole question of the charities. Recommendations made, however, came to nothing; but the opinion of the Commission, then expressed, that there was waste of energy and funds in the unnecessary multiplication of collectors, managers, secretaries, &c., applies in even greater degree to-day. A scheme by which the labour of the officials could be economized, and the funds of the generous benefactors disposed of to the very best advantage over all our charitable institutions, would probably be the means of improving the management and materially reducing the cost of maintenance.

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, 1904, 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 1904. 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, 1903-4.

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	406	4,129,265	3,008	1,372·8
Women's Hospital ...	1	25	144,450	102	1,416·2
Children's Hospital ...	1	17	141,815	113	1,255·0
Eye and Ear Hospital ...	1	8	54,680	60	911·3
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1	6	24,864	16	1,554·0
Foundling Hospital ...	1	6	...	45	...
Consumptive Sanatorium...	1	15	56,000	95	589·5
Hospitals for the Insane ...	9	1,210	2,898,316	4,100	706·9
Idiot Asylum ...	1	20	114,288	305	374·7
Benevolent Asylums ...	8	211	1,732,574	2,741	632·1
Convalescent Homes ...	2	30	69,000	61	1,131·1
Blind Asylum ...	1	5	91,318	112	815·3
Deaf and Dumb Asylum ...	1	4	75,872	74	1,025·3
Orphan Asylums ...	9	79	731,032	1,338	546·4
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	20	97	326,785	723	452·0
Infant Asylum ...	1	3	15,336	52	294·9
Female Refuges ...	10	133	500,527	706	709·0
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	6	27	90,643	180	503·6
Total ...	119	2,302	11,196,765	13,831	809·5

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:—

INMATES AND DEATHS, 1903-4.

Description of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Daily Average.		
General Hospitals	21,876	2,064	2,204	10·1
Women's Hospital	2,100	77	42	2·0
Children's Hospital	1,531	87	127	8·0
Eye and Ear Hospital	704	52	1	·1
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	278	15	9	3·2
Foundling Hospital	96	43	16	16·7
Consumptive Sanatorium	185	40	3	1·6
Hospitals for the Insane	5,242	4,295	320	6·1
Idiot Asylum	347	311	18	5·2
Benevolent Asylums	3,860	2,464	433	11·2
Convalescent Homes	1,243	44	...	...
Blind Asylum	105	96	...	...
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	78	70	...	...
Orphan Asylums	1,777	1,394	6	·3
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	5,872	5,269	39	·7
Infant Asylum	108	63	8	7·4
Female Refuges	1,032	642	5	·5
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	540	138	4	·7
Old Colonists' Association	54	50	3	5·6
Old Actors' Home	5	5	...	...
Total	47,033	17,219	3,238	6·9

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 52 mothers of infants in the Infant Asylum, 105 infants in the Female Refuges, and 114 infants in Salvation Army Homes during the year.

Charitable institutions, receipts and expenditure.

The total receipts of all charitable institutions in the year 1903-4 amounted to £485,288, of which considerably more than one-half was contributed by Government, and the expenditure amounted to £470,925. Of the Government contribution, £181,751 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 EXPENDITURE, 1903-4.

Description of Institution.	Receipts.			Expenditure.
	From Government.	From other Sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
General Hospitals	47,211	88,224	135,435	124,787
Women's Hospital	2,000	6,035	8,035	8,261
Children's Hospital	500	9,646	10,146	10,292
Eye and Ear Hospital	800	2,992	3,792	3,567
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	427	1,202	1,629	1,531
Foundling Hospital	84	321	405	464
Consumptive Sanatorium	165	2,759	2,924	4,057
Hospitals for the Insane Idiot Asylum	119,819	17,844	137,663	137,663
Benevolent Asylums	20,462	13,693	34,155	35,032
Convalescent Homes	370	1,121	1,491	1,422
Blind Asylum	1,640	3,579	5,219	3,808
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	820	2,323	3,143	3,429
Orphan Asylums	5,710	14,777	20,487	20,508
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	61,932	1,443	63,375	63,375
Infant Asylum	350	2,097	2,447	1,300
Female Refuges	2,015	17,916	19,931	21,208
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	566	4,128	4,694	4,514
Old Colonists' Association ... ..	...	6,918	6,918	2,887
Old Actors' Home ... ..	...	607	607	569
Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society	95	586	681	676
Charity Organization Society ... ..	...	1,295	1,295	1,390
Benevolent Societies	5,254	14,914	20,168	19,339
Free Dispensaries	180	380	560	728
Dr. Singleton's Night Shelters	60	28	88	118
Total	270,460	214,828	485,288	470,925

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 institution—average cost per inmate.

COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1903-4.

Description of Institution.	Daily Average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average Cost of each Inmate per annum.
		£	£ s. d.
General Hospitals	2,064	114,426	55 8 9
Women's Hospital	77	7,205	93 11 5
Children's Hospital	87	8,432	96 18 5
Eye and Ear Hospital	52	3,484	67 0 0
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	15	1,461	97 8 0
Foundling Hospital	43	464	10 15 10
Consumptive Sanatorium	40	2,783	69 11 6

COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1903-4—*continued.*

Description of Institution.	Daily average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average cost of each Inmate per annum.
		£	£ s. d.
Hospitals for the Insane ...	4,606	137,663	29 17 9
Idiot Asylum ...			
Benevolent Asylums ...	2,464	34,282	13 18 3
Convalescent Homes ...	44	1,345	30 11 4
Blind Asylum ...	96	3,349	34 17 9
Deaf and Dumb Asylum ...	70	3,123	44 12 3
Orphan Asylums ...	1,394	17,494	12 11 0
Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools	5,269	63,375	12 0 7
Infant Asylum ...	63	1,247	19 15 10
Female Refuges ...	642	17,346	27 0 4
Salvation Army Rescue Homes ...	138	3,980	28 16 10
Old Colonists' Association ...	50	1,856	37 2 5
Old Actors' Home ...	5	569	113 16 0
Total ...	17,219	423,884	24 12 4

In calculating the average cost of each inmate per annum, the cost of treating out-patients is necessarily included, as there is no available information showing the cost of in-patients and out-patients separately.

The institutions showing the lowest average cost per inmate are the Foundling Hospital, 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 £17 2s. 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 those 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, two sites were 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 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, and additions had therefore to be made. The original building now forms the east wing of the main building. From that time up to the present day continual additions and alterations have been made in order to meet the growing demands of an increasing population, and equip the institution for the position it has held as the principal general hospital of Victoria, and the chief medical training school for University students. The wards now contain over 300 beds, in which between 4,000 and 5,000 in-patients are treated annually.

In the out-patients' department, 18,451 persons were treated last year, including 7,639 casualty cases. The aggregate number of attendances was 76,632.

As far as has been possible in an institution, the greater part of which was built over half a century ago, the hospital has been improved in accordance with the latest views of hospital construction,

and the requirements of modern science. A fine new operating theatre was built a few years ago, and last year the old original theatre was reconstructed and brought thoroughly up-to-date. In these two theatres during 1904, no fewer than 1,770 operations were performed. There is a most effective system of steam supply and hot-water pipes installed at this hospital, whereby the operating theatres and some of the wards are heated, the sterilizers are supplied with steam at a high temperature, and the theatres are provided with absolutely sterilized water.

Some years ago an excellently-equipped mortuary was added to the hospital, and a fine large lecture-room for University students. Other important additions have been two new wards for septic cases. These are the most up-to-date wards in the hospital, and have proved highly satisfactory. Another department of the institution which has been excellently equipped is the X rays room. A generous donation from the trustees of the estate of the late Edward Wilson recently provided for this highly useful department the latest and best equipment.

The usefulness of the Melbourne Hospital since its inauguration may be judged from the work carried out. The in-patients treated up to date number 180,467; the out-patients, 795,704.

In 1903-4, the Government granted £10,000 towards maintenance; the municipal grants were £773; private contributions amounted to £4,001; proceeds of entertainments, £434; legacies, bequests, &c., £11,100; Hospital Sunday, £1,802; payments and contributions by in-door patients, £1,724; fees, £1,173; and £3,237 was received from all other sources. The total receipts for the twelve months were £34,244.

Alfred
Hospital.

For many years before the establishment of this institution, the necessity for a second general hospital in Melbourne was recognised. It was not, however, until 1868, that 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 recognised 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 monthly for maintenance, &c., whilst the second receive a small and progressive salary after six months. Since the opening in 1871, 44,870 in-patients were treated, and of these 4,917 died in the establishment. The out-patients numbered 87,020, and the casualty cases 50,061. For the year ended 30th June, 1904, the daily average number of in-patients was 167.5. The total revenue from all sources was £11,852; £3,600

from the Government; £435 municipal grants; £1,643 private contributions; £821 proceeds of entertainments; £1,894 legacies, bequests, &c.; £732 Hospital Sunday; £1,456 contributions by in-door patients; £650 by out-door patients; and £621 all other receipts. The total expenditure was £10,917.

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 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, 1904, 125,321 patients have received treatment. During the year ended on that date, 7,928 patients were treated. The visits of out-patients during the same period were 20,053. The average stay of in-patients was 17 days for males and 18 days for females, which is an exceedingly low average. 899 operations were performed by the visiting honorary surgeons, and 1,497 casualty cases were attended to. The establishment has attached to it a school for training nurses, who have to serve a period of three 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 £4,496, made up of £1,200 Government grant; £253 municipal grants; £729 private contributions; £38 proceeds of entertainments; £851 legacies, bequests, &c.; £232 Hospital Sunday; £594 contributions by in-door, and £454 by out-door patients; and £145 from all other sources. The expenditure was £4,214—£275 for buildings; £3,844 for maintenance; and miscellaneous items, £95.

Homœo-
pathic
Hospital.

During the past year two important additions have been made to the institution by the erection of a new operating theatre, equipped with all the latest appliances, and lighted by electric light, also a new casualty-room for the reception of urgent cases, towards which Mr. James Mason, J.P., of Brighton-road, St. Kilda, donated the sum of £500.

The institution now contains sixteen dormitories, with 84 beds. On 30th June, 1904, there were remaining under care 24 men and 31 women.

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 sixteen 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 eight the accommodation for cancer

Austin
Hospital
for
Incurables.

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, 1904, 1,985 patients were admitted; of this number 1,356 died in the institution, 485 were discharged, and 144 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 treated during the year 1903-4 numbered 264, of whom 124 were new admissions, and the daily average was 140. The institution is well supported by the public.

Of the total expenditure, £7,120, £1,217 was spent on buildings; and £5,903 on maintenance and other expenses. The revenue was £6,755; made up of £1,000 Government grant; £224 municipal grants; £2,189 private contributions; £92 proceeds of entertainments; £1,558 legacies and bequests; £568 Hospital Sunday; £466 contributions from in-door patients; and £658 miscellaneous collections. The institution now contains 23 dormitories with 146 beds. There were 85 men and 59 women under care on 30th June, 1904.

St. Vincent's
Hospital.

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, 1904, 401 patients were admitted, which, with 27 remaining from the previous year, makes 428 treated. There were 379 discharged, cured or relieved; 25 died; leaving 24 remaining on 30th June, 1904. The number of out-patients who received treatment was 9,700. The total receipts were £2,711, made up of £700 Government grant; £81 from municipalities; £805 private contributions; £153 proceeds of entertainments; £130 legacies and bequests; £211 from Hospital Sunday; £329 payments by in-door, and £248 by out-door patients; and £54 from other sources. The expenditure was £3,017—£201 on buildings, and £2,816 on maintenance and miscellaneous expenses. The hospital contains sixteen dormitories with 36 beds.

Ballarat
District
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. The receipts for 1903-4 were £5,562, made up by £2,300 Government grant; £334 municipal grants; £899 private contributions; £570 proceeds of entertainments; £360 legacies, bequests, &c.; £112 Hospital Sunday; £260 contributions by in-door, and £144 by out-door patients; and £583 miscellaneous receipts. The expenditure was £5,522, £270 on buildings, and £5,252 on maintenance and miscellaneous expenses. There are twelve dormitories, and in the 170 beds there were 117 persons under care on 30th June, 1904.

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 six beds for patients from the district in the Austin Hospital for Incurables, at Heidelberg. The hospital now contains a detention ward of five 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 1,493, which, with 113 remaining at the close of the previous year, yields a total of 1,606 treated. The out-patients numbered 2,391, and their attendances 7,173. The receipts for 1903-4 were £6,732, comprising £2,600 Government grant; £337 municipal grant; £1,200 private contributions; £582 proceeds of entertainments; £293 legacies and bequests; £434 Hospital Sunday; £691 contributions by in-door, and £108 by out-door patients; and £487 from all other sources. The expenditure was £6,724—£193 on buildings, and £6,531 on maintenance and miscellaneous expenses. 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. It is managed by a committee of fifteen, two of whom are medical men; the staff comprises two resident medical officers, matron, night matron, three male and twenty-five female nurses, a resident secretary, and a working staff of five male and thirteen female servants. The institution contains 27 dormitories. There were 108 patients under care on 30th June, 1904.

Bendigo
Hospital

Castlemaine
Hospital.

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 1903, 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 1903-4 394 patients were admitted, 362 were discharged cured or relieved, 37 died, and 54 remained at the close of the year. The institution contains eight dormitories with 75 beds. The average number under care for the year was 50. The total receipts were £1,971, made up of £1,000 Government grant; £101 municipal grant; £324 private contributions; £91 proceeds of entertainments; £98 legacies and bequests; £38 Hospital Sunday; £250 contributed by in-door, and £31 by out-door patients; and £38 miscellaneous receipts. The expenditure was £2,188; £41 being spent on buildings, and £2,147 for maintenance and other expenses.

Geelong
Infirmary
and
Benevolent
Asylum.

This institution was opened on the 23rd April, 1852, and during the remainder of that year 150 patients were treated in the Infirmary and seven inmates were admitted to the Benevolent Asylum. It 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. It contains an operating theatre, with all modern appliances. It is proposed to erect a ward for the separate treatment of infectious diseases on land at rear of the present hospital in the near future. The only question that is delaying its erection is that of maintenance, which the municipal bodies are asked to guarantee, as they are responsible for the treatment of these cases. A sum of £1,264 is in hand towards the cost of this building. The laundry is fitted up with the latest steam washing machines, everything being washed and sterilized on the premises. There is also a plant in use for the manufacture of aerated waters.

The number of beds is 197, the average number occupied 152. During 1904, no less than 2,188 cases—917 in-door and 1,271 out-door—received relief, and there were 168 under care in the asylum at the close of the year. The total income from all sources for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1904, was £5,669 (including the grant in aid received from the Government, £2,560), and the total expenditure was £5,726.

Within spacious grounds, tastefully laid out, this hospital is an imposing structure, the grounds and buildings covering an area of 5 acres. The laudable objects of such an institution are well carried out, and a temporary home is provided for the sick and wounded, where the best medical advice and nursing are at the service of the sufferers. The hospital was established in a modest way in the early days of gold-mining in the fifties, when there were few houses in the district, and few of the gentler sex to minister to the sick. Fever was rife, and with the dearth of home comforts of any sort, the hospital came as a great boon to gold diggers. Since its establishment, it has increased in importance and dimensions, and many hundreds of people have regained health and strength under its auspices. There is a house surgeon, several honorary physicians, a dispenser, a matron, and a capable staff of nurses. The main building now contains eight dormitories with 77 beds, and a detached contagious diseases ward (a fine brick building recently erected by the municipalities of the district, assisted by the Government) contains ten beds. On the 30th June, 1903 there were 53 patients under care, and during the year 503 were admitted, giving a daily average of 51. The number remaining in the hospital on 30th June, 1904, was 67. The number of out-patients was 696, and their attendance, 2,572. The receipts during the year were £2,170—£930 Government grant; £87 municipal grant; £422 private contributions; £373 proceeds of entertainments; £48 legacies, bequests, &c.; £52 Hospital Sunday; £123 contributed by in-patients, and £110 by out-patients; and £25 miscellaneous collections. The expenditure was £1,856—£56 for buildings, and £1,800 for maintenance, &c.

Mary-
borough
Hospital.

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 obtain 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 temporary hospital, and a building of wood, canvas, and iron,

Stawell
Hospital
and
Benevolent
Asylum.

capable of accommodating twenty patients, was constructed. In February, 1859, this temporary hospital was opened, and before the end of that 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 six 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 twelve 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, 1904, was as follows:—In-patients, 368; out-patients (new cases), 405; number of attendances of out-patients, 1,937; daily average of in-patients, 42·7. The total revenue for the year was £2,116, made up of £910 Government grant; £103 municipal grant; £320 private contributions; £17 entertainments; £405 legacies, bequests, &c.; £63 Hospital Sunday; £169 payments by in-patients, and £29 by out-patients; and £100 miscellaneous. The expenditure was £1,825—£22 for buildings, and £1,803 for maintenance, &c.

Warrnam-
bool
Hospital
and
Benevolent
Asylum.

This institution was incorporated in 1872. During the year ended 30th June, 1904, 359 cases were treated—259 were discharged cured or relieved, 33 died, and 67 remained on 30th June. The total attendance of out-patients was 1,001. 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 £2,913, made up of £1,000 Government grant; £247 municipal grants; £307 private contributions; £774 legacies, &c.; £190 Hospital Sunday; £247 from in-patients; and £148 other receipts. The expenditure was £2,569—£177 on buildings, and £2,392 on maintenance and other expenses. There are ten dormitories containing 06 beds. The number of inmates at the end of the year 1903-4 was 286.

Women's
Hospital.

The necessity for establishing an institution of this kind forced itself upon the attention of the benevolent ladies of Melbourne nearly fifty 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, and it was the first institution of this special

nature erected in Australia. The work was first carried on in Collins-street, Eastern Hill, but a permanent site was eventually granted by the Government 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. Important and improved additions have since been made, including the Genevieve Ward Wing, constituting the largest portion of the midwifery department, nurses' quarters, and the infirmary and midwifery operating theatres. 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. It is a special training school in gynecology and midwifery for medical men and nurses, and the excellent work carried on is fully recognised. Up to 30th June, 1904, the number of patients admitted was 41,879, and the attendances of out-patients 179,507. During the year ended on that date, 2,012 patients were admitted, which, together with 88 remaining in at close of previous year, gives a total of 2,100 treated. There were also in the same period 4,313 attendances of 1,080 out-patients. There is now accommodation for 102 in-patients, each bed having the most liberal allowance of space. It is governed by a committee of 15 ladies and 6 gentlemen, on whom falls the responsibility of the effective working of the whole establishment. The professional work devolves chiefly on an honorary staff. The receipts were £8,035, made up of £2,000 Government grant, £289 municipal grant; £1,649 private contributions; £106 proceeds of entertainments; £2,182 legacies and bequests; £432 Hospital Sunday; £707 from patients; and £670 other receipts. The total expenditure was £8,261—£1,091 for buildings and £7,170 for maintenance and miscellaneous expenses. Every patient that passes through the wards is seen and spoken to by some lady or ladies of the Committee—many of them before admission, but all before leaving. No patient is discharged without inquiries being made as to her home, &c., and, where possible, want in this matter is also supplied. To prevent abuse of the charitable trust, certain ladies each week give much of their time to interviewing applicants for admission to inquire into their circumstances.

In this establishment, 10 patients remained under care on 30th June, 1903. During the year, 268 were admitted, making a total of 278 treated; 254 were discharged cured or relieved, seven of them at their own request. The deaths numbered 9, and 15 were under care at the end of the year. The in-patient accommodation consists of 16 beds. The total number of cases of out-patients treated was 3,689, the attendances numbering 14,225. The income for 1903-4 was £1,629, made up as follows:—Government grant, £427; municipal grant, £94; private contributions, £192; proceeds of entertainments, £63; legacies and bequests, £70; Hospital Sunday, £130; out-patients' contributions, £455; in-patients' contributions, £135; and miscellaneous receipts, £63. The expenditure was £1,531 for maintenance, &c.

The Children's Hospital, Melbourne, was established in 1870 for the purpose of treating the general and peculiar ailments of children. The patients treated come in from almost every part of the State,

Queen
Victoria
Memorial
Hospital.

Children's
Hospital,
Melbourn

over 100 districts being tabulated as those whence the in-patients came, 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 89 in-door patients at the commencement of the financial year. During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1904, there were 1,442 additional in-door patients admitted, of whom 1,320 were discharged relieved, 127 died, and 84 remained at the close of the year. The attendances of 14,643 out-door patients for the year were 80,158. The total attendances of 213,733 out-door patients since the foundation were 1,012,508, and of in-door patients treated 20,500. The hospital is situated in Rathdown, Pelham, and Drummond Streets, Carlton, and connected with the institution is a convalescent home at Brighton Beach, containing 22 cots. The number of convalescent children passing through this establishment during the year 1903-4 was 365. The cost of maintenance was £8,491, which, with £1,801, expended on buildings, gave a total expenditure of £10,292. The receipts were £10,146—made up of £500 Government grant; £388, municipal grant; £1,638, voluntary contributions; £1,790, proceeds of entertainments; £2,963, bequests; £1,448, Hospital Sunday; £508, contributions by out-patients, and £480, by in-patients; and £431, interest and miscellaneous expenses.

Eye and Ear
Hospital.

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 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 of the Commonwealth; New Zealand also contributing its quota. The in-patients received during 1904 numbered 666, making, with 38 in the institution at the commencement of the year, a total of 704 treated. The patients discharged numbered 659, of whom 624 were stated to be cured or relieved, and 32 to be incurable. Three were discharged at their own request, and 1 died. Besides these, there were 5,559 out-patients treated, 98 of this number being from the other States and New Zealand. The total number of attendances was 28,734, and of operations 893. The hospital buildings are situated on a fine site in Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, but the accommodation is quite insufficient, and negotiations for the acquirement of the adjoining land belonging to the Melbourne and Metropolitan

Board of Works, have so far been unsuccessful. The receipts for the year 1903-4 were £3,792—made up of £800 Government grant; £270, from municipalities; £822, private contributions; £215, legacies, bequests, &c.; and £1,685, other sources. The expenditure was £3,567—£3,395 for maintenance, &c., and £172 for buildings.

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 utilized as a 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 Blind Workers' Sick Benefit Society." Its funds are maintained by weekly contributions by its members, and it is subsidized 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. It contains 5 dormitories, with 112 beds. There were under care on 1st July, 1903, 95 persons; 10 were admitted during the year; 10 were discharged at their own request, leaving 95 at the end of the financial year. The total amount received for goods manufactured was £4,825. There is now no debt on the institution. The total number of pupils and workers on the roll is 91; classified as follows:—Resident pupils, 46; day pupils, 4; journeymen and non-resident workers, 41. The total receipts in 1903-4 were £5,219, comprising—£1,640, Government grant; £194, municipal grant; £1,348, private contributions;

£1,167, legacies and bequests; and £870 from all other sources. The expenditure was £3,808—£61 for buildings, and the balance maintenance and miscellaneous expenses.

VICTORIAN DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.

By John Adcock, Esq., Superintendent and Secretary.

Deaf and
Dumb
Institution.

The Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution occupies a site on the St. Kilda-road, and is a Home and School combined for deaf children from all parts of the State, irrespective of creed or nationality. At the beginning of the year there were 67 pupils on the roll. During the year 11 new pupils were admitted, and 4 discharged, thus leaving 74 pupils on the roll on the 30th June, 1904, viz., 31 boys and 43 girls. Since the year 1862, when the institution was fairly launched, 433 deaf children have enjoyed its benefits. 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 very satisfactory results. In addition to the ordinary school work, many of the boys are taught boot-making and gardening, and the girls dressmaking, plain and fancy needlework, and all kinds of domestic duties. The receipts for the year amounted to £3,143—made up of £820, Government grant; £197, municipal grant; £950, private contributions; £214, legacies and bequests; and £962, from all other sources. The expenditure was £3,429—£422 for buildings, and £3,007 for maintenance, &c. £337 has been added to the endowment account, the total to the credit of which fund is now £12,367—most of which is invested in Government stock, the interest only being available for maintenance purposes.

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.

Benevolent
asylums.

In addition to the nine Benevolent Asylums connected with general hospitals, there are eight other of these institutions in the State; two are situated at Ballarat, one each at Bendigo, Beechworth, and Castle-maine, the remaining three being in Melbourne. The number of inmates on the 1st July, 1903, was 2,507; the number admitted during the year 1,353; the total discharged cured, relieved, or otherwise, and died was 1,382; leaving under care on 30th June, 1904, in all the institutions, 2,478. The Government grant in aid for the year 1903-4 was £20,462; from municipalities a sum of £1,161 was received; private contributions amounted to £3,191; proceeds of entertainments, £1,351; legacies, bequests, and special donations, £922; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,177; payments by patients, £1,869; from all other sources, £3,099 was received, making a total income of £33,232. The expenditure was £35,037.

Benevolent
societies.

Eighty-one benevolent or philanthropic societies furnished returns for the year ended 30th June, 1904. 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 connexion 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 13,226; the receipts amounted to £20,168, of which £5,254 was from Government, £1,417 from municipalities, and £13,497 from private sources; the expenditure was £19,339.

There are nine of these establishments in the State, situated at Ballarat, Geelong, Cheltenham, and Melbourne. The number of children under care on the 1st July, 1903, was 1,361; the number admitted during the 12 months was 416; the total discharged and died, 406, leaving under care on 30th June, 1904, 1,371. This shows overcrowding to a very slight extent, as the daily average in attendance was 1,394, and the number of beds only 1,338. In two of these establishments the Nazareth Home at Ballarat, and the Livingstone Home at Cheltenham, the particulars respecting cost of maintenance, &c., cannot be furnished, as the managements, on the score of economy, keep no books of accounts. In the other seven institutions, the total expenditure was £19,455—made up of £5,710, Government grant; £419, municipal grants; £3,694, private contributions; £729, proceeds of entertainments; £4,164, legacies and bequests; £317, Hospital Sunday contributions; £2,376, payments on account of orphans maintained; and £2,046, other receipts. The total expenditure was £5,145—£3,026 for buildings, and £2,119 for maintenance and other expenses.

Orphan
asylums.

There are two consumptive sanatoriums, situated at Echuca and Macedon, with 95 beds. On 1st July, 1903, there were under care 21 males and 16 females, and 83 males and 65 females were admitted during the year; 50 males and 41 females were discharged cured or relieved; 24 males and 11 females were discharged incurable, and 3 males and 6 females were discharged at their own request; 2 males and 1 female died, leaving under care on 30th June, 1904, 25 males and 22 females. The Government grant in aid was £165; municipal donations amounted to £139, private contributions to £496, proceeds of entertainment £114, legacies, bequests, &c., £541; Hospital Sunday distribution, £292; relatives contributed £1,027; interest amounted to £116; and all other charges to £34, making a total of £2,924. The expenditure on buildings was £1,243; on maintenance and miscellaneous expenses, £2,814—a total of £4,057.

Sanatoriums
for Con-
sumptives.

In addition to the hospitals, there are 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 1903-4 was 43; 1,200 were admitted, and 1,196 were discharged during the year, and 47 remained under care on the 30th June, 1904. The Government grant in aid of these institutions amounted to £370; municipal grants, £92; private contributions, £276; proceeds of entertainments, £19; legacies, bequests, &c., £255; Hospital Sunday, &c., £281; from relatives, £90; and from interest and other sources, £108—a total of £1,491. The expenditure was £77 on buildings, &c.; £1,345 on maintenance—a total of £1,422.

Convales-
cent homes.

Two free dispensaries furnished returns for 1904—the Collingwood and Fitzroy Free Medical Dispensary, and the Richmond General Dispensary. The individuals treated during the year ended 30th June, 1904, numbered 5,583. The visits to or by these persons

Free dis-
pensaries.

numbered 20,328. The total receipts amounted to £560, of which £180 was from Government and £380 from other sources. The total expenditure was £728.

Broad-
meadows
Foundling
Hospital.

This hospital was established on the 1st April, 1901. The original cost of the buildings was £2,200, and £1,320 has been expended since that time in additions and improvements. Since its establishment, 101 mothers have been admitted, and on 31st December last there were 17 remaining under care. The total number of infants admitted was 175; 54 deaths have occurred, 11 of the infants have been adopted, 19 have been boarded out, and 39 taken by relatives, while 52 were under care at the end of the year. The institution contains 7 dormitories and 52 beds. It 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.

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, 1904, the number of infants admitted was 44, besides which 64 were under the care of the institution at the commencement of the year. The number who died during the year was 8; 38 were discharged or adopted; thus the number remaining under the control of the institution at the end of the year was 62, of whom 32 were boarded out. Besides the infants, there were 52 mothers under the care of the institution during the year, of whom 37 were discharged, and 15 remained at the close of the year. The receipts amounted to £1,495, of which £350 was from Government, and £1,145 from private sources; and the expenditure was £1,264. During the year, many applications for the admission of infants had to be refused for want of accommodation. Plans for a new building have been approved, and the committee hope that before long a new wing will be added, which will give accommodation to a larger number.

Refuges for
fallen
women

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 ten in number, the Magdalen Asylum at South Melbourne furnishing returns for the first time this year, 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, 1904, the Government subsidized these establishments to the extent of £2,015; in addition, they received £80 aid from the municipalities; £1,278 from private contributions; £31 from Hospital Sunday and Church collections; £737 from legacies, bequests, and special donations; £15,406 from the labour of the inmates; £110, contributions on behalf of patients; and £274 from all other sources; making a total of £19,931. The total expenditure was £21,208, made up of £2,169, buildings and extraordinary repairs, £195 ordinary repairs, and £18,844 maintenance of inmates and miscellaneous expenditure.

There were 1,032 female inmates in these institutions during the year ended 30th June, 1904; 27 were in the Ballarat Home, 14 in the Bendigo Rescue Home, 81 in the Elizabeth Fry Retreat, South Yarra, 19 in the Geelong Female Refuge, 469 in the Magdalen Asylum at Abbotsford, 66 in the Carlton Refuge, 58 in the South Yarra Home, 85 in the Temporary Home for Fallen and Friendless Women, at Collingwood, 18 in the House of Mercy, at Cheltenham, and 195 in the Magdalen Asylum, South Melbourne. In addition, there were 105 children in the institutions with their mothers; 12 at Ballarat, 10 at Bendigo, 9 at Geelong, 52 at Carlton, 1 at South Yarra Home, and 21 at Collingwood. During the year 10 children were born in the Ballarat Home and 6 at Geelong. The total number under care in all the institutions on 30th June, 1904, was 650 women and 50 children; 203 women and 31 children were either placed in service or restored to friends; 2 women were married; 94 women left voluntarily; 15 (one accompanied by a child) were expelled for misconduct; 54 woman and 3 children were sent to other institutions; homes were found for 13 children; 9 women and 9 children left otherwise; and 5 women and 13 children died during the year. The total discharges numbered 382 women and 71 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 needlework, embroidery, &c., also provide occupation to a limited extent.

There are six of these establishments controlled by the Salvation Army at Abbotsford, Ballarat, Bendigo, Brunswick, Fitzroy, and Geelong. The establishments contained 180 beds on 1st July, 1903, when there were under care 135 adults and 19 children. During the year 405 adults and 95 children were admitted; 326 were placed at service or restored to friends; 15 were discharged at their own request; 12 were sent to hospitals and other institutions; and there were 42 adults discharged for various reasons, with 71 children. The Army received £566 from the Government, in aid of these institutions; £173 from private contributions, £3,457 from the proceeds of the labour of the inmates, and £498 from all other sources—a total of £4,694. The

Salvation
Army
Rescue
Homes.

total expenditure was £4,514, made up of £536 for buildings and repairs, £3,955 for maintenance, and £23 for miscellaneous expenses.

Night shelters.

At Dr. Singleton's Night Shelters, Collingwood, 16,873 cases were accommodated during the year 1903-4, viz., 8,120 men, 8,484 women, and 269 children. The expenses were £118, 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.

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 necessaries, 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 connexion with the moral reformation of the young offender. The improvement of the hardened criminal is a matter of great difficulty, but the society is a valuable help to those who have not become confirmed in careers of crime and wrong doing, and minimizes the tendencies of drifting into the criminal class of those who have formed vicious and evil habits. The number of individuals relieved in 1903-4 was 484. The receipts were £680, including grants from the Government and the Penal Department, and contributions from private sources; and the expenditure was £676.

St. John's Ambulance Association.

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 14,096; the number of persons who are fully qualified is 681; 2,066 railway employes and 553 members of the police force have been specially educated in the work; and 8,171 certificates and medallions have been issued. An ambulance waggon is stationed at 25 Lang-lane (Tel. 3264), 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.

CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY.

By T. C. Mackley, Esq., Secretary.

Charity Organization Society.

The society has been established in Melbourne since 1887, its objects being:—(1) To encourage and organize charitable work and to promote co-operation therein; (2) To check imposture and professional mendicity, and to discourage indiscriminate alms-giving; (3)

To inquire into all applications for assistance, with the view of ascertaining if and in what way each case can be helped; (4) To afford (where necessary) immediate relief during inquiry or pending arrangements with charitable institutions or aid from other sources; (5) To maintain a woodyard, or other labour test, so that the means of earning food or shelter shall be open to any applicant able and willing to work; (6) To establish a loan fund; (7) To keep records of all cases for the purpose of reference, and to maintain a Central Register of help given by all relieving agencies. 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 nominee of each of the charities represented, and of twenty members elected at an annual meeting of subscribers of the society. The income of the year ended 30th June, 1904, was—General account (for administration expenses)—Receipts, £779; expenditure, £772. Trust Account (being donations for special applicants and objects)—Receipts, £496; expenditure, £532. Emergency Relief Account—Receipts, £18; expenditure, £83. Woodyard—Receipts, £473; expenditure, £445. The number of cases dealt with during the year was 1,166, of which the new cases investigated were 627. The result of the inquiry shows that in 535 instances distress was due to misfortune, and in 64 to misconduct; 28 cases come under other headings. 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.

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 eleven years ago. Such institutions are regarded as a valuable resource for effectively assisting certain classes of the unemployed in adverse time 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. The Charity Organization Society, however, 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 partly 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.

LABOUR COLONY, LEONGATHA.

Labour
Colony,
Leongatha.

The Labour Colony at Leongatha was established by a proclamation of 26th September, 1893, setting apart and appropriating, under the *Settlement on Lands Act* 1893, about 800 acres in the township. By a further proclamation of 24th April, 1903; the colony was abolished, and the land resumed by the Lands Department, although the colonists were still maintained on the land.

The object sought by its establishment was to afford temporary relief at sustenance wages to able-bodied destitute men. During the first year of its existence 1,013 men were sent to the colony, and up to the present, 6,160 men have been afforded relief. The colonists are instructed in the general work of farming, dairying, fruit and vegetable growing. Pig breeding is carried on extensively, and bees and poultry are also raised. During the year ended 30th June, 1904, 593 men were admitted, a weekly average of 79 was maintained during the whole year—337 left looking for work, 137 left with engagements, 15 were discharged for various reasons, and 104 were at work on the 30th June, 1904. The cost of maintenance, including food, wages, and management, was 6s. 6d. per week per man.

After the trustees of the old colony had all retired the Minister of Lands instructed the Director of Agriculture, on 13th June, 1903, to take over the farm and manage it as a Labour Establishment, virtually as a Labour Colony for the relief of destitute men in Melbourne who desired to go there. No order was given that the number admitted to the Establishment was to be reduced, and the destitute were as freely admitted as formerly, but in many instances were not maintained there so long, orders being issued that when a man had earned £2 he should leave in search of work.

When the accounts were balanced for the financial year ending 30th June, 1903, it was found that there was a credit balance of £672 in trust accounts.

The total expense for the year was £2,619, which included £226 fares and freights; £67 plant and tools; £23 building material, and £51 live stock.

The receipts from sales amounted to £1,425, as follows:—

Dairy produce	...	...	£561	15	6
Farm produce and garden	...	...	239	18	11
Pigs	...	...	295	19	9
Cattle	...	...	119	19	6
Hides, bones, &c.	...	...	119	13	10
Sheep	...	...	36	0	8
Poultry	...	...	22	5	3
Bees	...	...	3	16	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	25	11	11

The following is the amount of Government grants spent annually since the establishment of the Colony:—

1893-4	...	... £4,213	15	2
1894-5	...	... 3,203	8	0
1895-6	...	... 2,473	13	1
1896-7	...	... 2,219	14	4
1897-8	...	... 2,729	13	2
1898-9	...	... 4,091	8	1
1899-1900	...	... 3,884	5	11
1900-1	...	... 3,000	0	0
1901-2	...	... 2,374	3	6
1902-3	...	... 3,627	7	10
1903-4	...	... 1,998	18	11
Total	...	...	£33,816	8 0

It will be seen that the Government grant for 1903-4—£1,999 is the lowest that has ever been made, and is £1,628 less than that of the year 1902-3. The amount of cash in hand on the 30th June, 1904, was £1,485. Consequently, £1,000 will be sufficient provision for the year 1904-5.

On the 14th June, 1904, 460 acres or thereabouts of the old Labour Colony lands, including the homestead, were proclaimed a Labour Colony, and Trustees were appointed to act from 1st July, 1904. The Trustees appointed were—Messrs. S. Williamson Wallace, Elgar James Nevell, John Henry Mullaly, James Richard Pescott, and Patrick Joseph Carroll.

Although the profits from the farm will be reduced owing to the restricted area, there will still be work in clearing and cultivation to enable men to be sent to Leongatha for several years. By the continuation of this colony no man need starve in the city. Every week applications are made by destitute unemployed men to be sent to the Institution. A greater number apply in winter than in spring or summer, and without an asylum of this kind it is hard to conceive what would become of these destitute individuals. In every large community there is always a great number of human derelicts without criminal tendencies; and provision (other than gaols) where men can get work that is remunerative to the State, must of necessity be made; and this Institution, therefore, should come in time to acquire a national character. It is now almost self-supporting, and, in a few years' time, by the adoption of improved methods in management, should become entirely self-supporting. From the late director's experience of the relief that has been afforded to many people on the verge of starvation, he considers the Institution an excellent one in the interests of society as a whole.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SOCIETY.

By J. G. Burrows, Esq., Secretary.

The "Australian Health Society" was established in Melbourne in 1875. It consists of about 300 members, and is managed by a Health Society.

president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, two secretaries (one being a lady), and fifteen members of council. Its objects are:—(1) To create an educated 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 recognised laws whereby health is maintained and disease is prevented; (3) to seek the removal of all noxious influences deleterious to the 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 health lectures and the holding of meetings for women for instruction in the laws of health 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, in September, 1904, of pupils (over 11 years of age) attending schools in country districts. Of those pupils who presented themselves for examination, 28 received the Health Society's certificate. These examinations are conducted annually by the council of the society, alternately in the metropolitan and country schools. The society receives no pecuniary aid from the Government, its work being carried on by voluntary subscriptions ranging from 5s. per annum upwards.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

By William Hamilton, Esq., Secretary.

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 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, 1904, 60 applications for awards were investigated with the result that 18 certificates, 11 bronze medals, and 2 silver medals, were granted. The receipts during the year amounted to £559, and the expenditure to £420. The institution has placed and maintains 438 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 1903-4, 20 were for deeds of bravery performed in Victoria, 2 for similar acts in New South Wales, 5 in Queensland, 2 in New Zealand, and 2 in South Australia. The society has 141 honorary correspondents, residing as follow, viz. :—43 in Victoria, 36 in New South Wales, 25

in New Zealand, 22 in Queensland, 8 in Tasmania, 3 in South Australia; and 4 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.

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 recognised 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, 1904, 873 cases were dealt with by the society, of which 536 were connected with cruelty to horses. There were 84 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 £580 and the expenditure to £512.

Society for the Protection of Animals.

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 employes, and others lend valuable assistance in making collections. The following are the amounts collected since the movement was inaugurated:—

COLLECTIONS, 1873 TO 1903.

		£			£
1873 to 1898	...	190,104	1902	...	6,669
1899	...	5,853	1903	...	7,058
1900	...	5,901			
1901	...	6,034	Total	...	£221,619

The returns for 1904 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 1903, were as under:—

DISTRIBUTION, 1873 TO 1903.

Institution.	Amount Distributed.		
	1873 to 1902.	1903.	Total.
	£	£	£
Melbourne Hospital	63,456	1,755	65,211
Alfred Hospital	27,501	771	28,272
Benevolent Asylum	19,025	526	19,551
Women's Hospital	19,127	477	19,604
Children's Hospital	24,004	821	24,825
Eye and Ear Hospital	10,390	307	10,697
Homœopathic Hospital	10,325	256	10,581
Victorian Home for Aged and Infirm	6,991	172	7,163
Richmond Dispensary	1,365	40	1,405
Collingwood Dispensary	1,900	...	1,900
Austin Hospital for Incurables	10,703	568	11,271
Convalescent Home for Women	1,915	140	2,055
" " Men	1,400	140	1,540
Melbourne District Nursing Society	653	67	720
St. Vincent's Hospital	2,750	212	2,962
Sanatorium for Consumptives, Echuca and Macedon	1,013	289	1,302
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	414	144	558
Melbourne Dental Hospital	40	20	60
Victorian Infant Asylum ... ..	...	40	40
Total distributed	202,972	6,745	209,717
Total collected	214,561	7,058	221,619

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 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. Under the Amending Act of

1903 pensions are only granted and the amount fixed by the Treasurer of the State, after recommendation of the Commissioners. The maximum rate of pension (8s. per week) is retained. 12,040 persons were entitled to receive pensions on 31st December, 1903. Between 1st January, 1904, and 31st December, 1904, 846 pensions were granted to new applicants and 81 pensions were restored; 527 pensions were cancelled, and 1,015 pensioners died, leaving 11,425 persons entitled to pensions on 31st December, 1904, of whom 11,263 are receiving payment from last schedules prepared. (The remaining 162 pensioners are inmates of hospitals or have had their pensions temporarily suspended.) Of the persons entitled to pensions on 31st December, 1904, 4,863 were resident in Melbourne and suburbs; 791 in Ballarat and district; 543 in Bendigo and district; 352 in Geelong; 150 in Maryborough; 138 in Daylesford; 137 in Warrnambool, and the remainder were 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
1903-04	...	...	205,150
From 1st July, 1904, to 31st December, 1904	...	...	104,955
Total	...	...	<u>£947,848</u>

The following statement shows the estimated number of persons aged 65 years and over in the three States paying old-age pensions, the number of persons receiving pensions, the proportion of the latter to the former, and the annual amount payable:—

Old-age
Pensions
in Aus-
tralia and
New
Zealand.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1904.

State or Colony.	Estimated Number of Persons Aged 65 Years and Upwards.	Number of Persons Receiving Old Age Pensions.	Proportion of those Eligible on an Age Basis Receiving Pensions.	Annual Amount Payable.
			Per cent.	£
Victoria	67,434	11,425	17	198,033
New South Wales	52,173	20,900	40	497,520
New Zealand	37,500	11,926	32	200,915
Total	157,137	44,251	28	896,468

It thus appears that New South Wales is paying pensions to two-fifths of those eligible to receive them under the age qualification. New Zealand to one-third, but in Victoria only about one-sixth of those so qualified are on the pension list.

Besides Victoria, only New South Wales and New Zealand have, in Australasia, provided pensions for their aged people. In New South Wales, the scheme sanctioned by Parliament specifies a pension of £26 a year, diminished by £1 for every £1 of income above £26 a year, and by £1 for every £15 of property the pensioner possesses. Persons under 65 years of age but over 60 years are entitled to pensions if they are incapacitated by sickness or injury from earning their livelihood.

In New Zealand, every person 65 years of age and over, is eligible for a pension, provided he has resided continuously in the colony for 25 years, and does not receive income in excess of £52 a year, nor possess property exceeding £270 in value. The maximum pension is £18 a year with a deduction of £1 per annum for each £1 of income above £34 a year, and for each £15 of property above £50.

The law of New South Wales and New Zealand, unlike that of Victoria, makes no provision for relatives of aged impecunious persons being compelled to support them.

The following return is an estimate of the number of people aged 65 and upwards whose age made them eligible on 1st October last to receive old-age pensions in Australia. In Victoria the estimated number is 67,464; in New South Wales, 52,173; in the other States, 43,263, or 162,900 in the Commonwealth of Australia. On the basis of the Victorian system of old-age pensions, 17 per cent. of these would be drawing pensions, and on that of New South Wales, 40 per cent. :—

AGES AT CENSUS, 1901, AND PROBABLE SURVIVORS AGED 65 AND UPWARDS ON 1ST OCTOBER, 1904.

Age at Census, 1901.	Victoria.		New South Wales.		Other States.		Australia.	
	Population at Census.	Survivors aged 65 and upwards on 1st October, 1904.	Population at Census.	Survivors aged 65 and upwards on 1st October, 1904.	Population at Census.	Survivors aged 65 and upwards on 1st October, 1904.	Population at Census.	Survivors aged 65 and upwards on 1st October, 1904.
61 years ...	4,454	2,108	4,764	2,254	3,920	1,855	13,138	6,217
62 " ...	5,342	5,127	5,054	4,850	4,433	4,255	14,829	14,232
63 " ...	5,321	5,177	5,090	4,943	4,435	4,315	14,846	14,435
64 " ...	5,726	5,561	5,340	5,186	4,648	4,513	15,714	15,260
65 to 70 years	29,923	25,106	22,300	18,711	16,763	14,063	68,986	57,880
70 " 75 "	20,141	14,847	13,010	9,591	11,189	8,248	44,340	32,686
75 " 80 "	9,964	6,496	6,437	4,199	5,909	3,858	22,310	14,553
80 " 85 "	4,518	2,502	3,475	1,924	3,098	1,716	11,091	6,142
85 " 90 "	1,190	463	1,077	419	952	374	3,225	1,256
90 " 100 "	312	75	391	94	270	66	973	235
100 and over ...	23	2	17	2	6	...	46	4
Total popula- tion, 65 and upwards	...	67,464	...	52,173	...	43,263	...	162,900

The 67,464 persons aged 65 years and upwards living in Victoria in 1904 are described as follow:—

CONDITION OF PERSONS RESIDING IN VICTORIA AGED 65 YEARS AND UPWARDS, 1904.

	Number.
Independent or Provided for—	
Earning their own living ...	22,459
Members of Friendly Societies ...	2,500
Government Pensioners ...	3,149
Possessed of independent means ...	3,271
Total	31,379
Dependent—	
Residing in Benevolent Institutions ...	3,000
Old-age Pensioners	11,609
Dependent on Relatives	21,410
Total Dependent	36,019
Criminals	66
Total Aged 65 Years and Upwards	67,464

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The number of cases admitted to lunatic asylums during the year 1904 was 761, the number discharged recovered was 277, and relieved 65. The number of patients remaining in the asylums on the 31st December, 1904, was 4,642, or a proportion of 1 in every 261 of the population, as compared with 4,570, or 1 in every 264 of the population, in the preceding year. Of those discharged recovered in 1904, as many as 82 per cent. had been in the asylums for less than twelve months, 9 per cent. from 1 to 2 years, and 4 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, 35 per cent. had been resident under twelve months, 34 per cent. from 1 to 5 years, 16 per cent. from 5 to 10 years, 7 per cent. from 10 to 15 years, 4 per cent. from 15 to 20 years, 5 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.

Since the opening of the first asylum in 1848 up to the end of 1904, 33,616 persons have been admitted, viz., 19,229 males, and 14,387 females. The proportion who recovered was 29 per cent. of males, and 33 per cent. of females, whilst 4 and 7 per cent. respectively were relieved, 21 and 22 per cent. (including transfers) were not improved, 33 and 23 per cent. died, and 13 and 15 per cent. respectively still remain under care in the institutions.

Admissions, discharges, &c., lunatic asylums, 1848 to 1904.

Lunatics in Australia and New Zealand.

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, 1903, were:—

NUMBER OF LUNATICS IN STATES.

State or Colony.	Number of Lunatics on 31st December, 1903.	
	Total.	Per 1,000 of Population.
Victoria	4 570	378
Queensland	1,852	359
New Zealand	2,959	3 15
New South Wales	4,935	345
South Australia	962	264
Tasmania	451	251
Western Australia (1902)	365	170

Recoveries of lunatics in Australia, 1903.

The recoveries of patients in the Victorian lunatic asylums in 1903 were above the average of the twenty-two years ended with 1903, the proportion in that year being 4,229 per 10,000 admitted, as compared with 4,059 in the period stated.

RECOVERIES.

	Recoveries per 10,000 Admissions.		Recoveries per 10,000 Admissions.
Western Australia (1902) ...	5,172	Victoria	4,229
South Australia	4,561	Queensland	4,006
Tasmania	4,557	New South Wales ...	3,559

Deaths of lunatics in Australia and New Zealand.

The mortality of lunatic asylum patients was higher in Victoria in 1903 than in any of the other States with the exception of South Australia. This will be seen by the following figures:—

DEATHS.

	Deaths per 10,000 Resident Patients.		Deaths per 10,000 Resident Patients.
South Australia	1,283	Tasmania	740
Victoria	832	Western Australia (1902) ...	621
New South Wales	758	New Zealand	596
Queensland	742		

INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Industrial and reformatory schools.

There were at the end of 1904 three industrial and eleven reformatory schools in the State. Two of them (one industrial and one reformatory school) are wholly maintained and managed by the Government, and are used merely as receiving and distributing depôts, the children being sent as soon as possible after admission thereto to foster homes, situations, or to other institutions for dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management and receive a capitation allowance from the Government for those inmates who are wards of the Department. Many of the inmates of the reformatories are either placed with friends or licensed out. The wards of

the State on 31st December, 1904, numbered 5,176, and in addition there were 44 others free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. Of the total number under control, only 287 are described as reformatory children; 189 of these were in reformatory schools, 62 were maintaining themselves at service, 33 were placed with relatives without cost to the State, 2 were in hospitals, and 1 was on a visit to friends. The balance, 4,889, are described as neglected children, of whom 3,154 were boarded out in foster homes, 826 were maintaining themselves at service, 769 were living with relatives without cost to the State, 132 were inmates of institutions for neglected children, 4 were in hospitals, and 4 on visits to relatives.

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 1904 was 3,154, as against 3,363 in 1903, 3,753 in 1902, 3,701 in 1901, and 3,331 in 1900; the number placed with friends on probation was 769 in 1904, as against 825 in 1903 and 1902, 780 in 1901, and 719 in 1900; and the number at service or apprenticed 826 in 1904, as against 831 in 1903, 815 in 1902, 851 in 1901, and 842 in 1900.

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 1904 was 445, and in only 219, or 49 per cent. of the whole, were the parents held to be blameable—the father in 140, the mother in 47, and both parents in 32 cases. There were 226 cases in which the parents were held to be blameless; in 77 the father was dead and the mother poor, but of good character; in 16 both parents were dead; in 61 the parents were alive, but, though held to be of good character, were too poor to support their children; in 18 the father was poor and the mother dead; in 27 both parents were the victims of misfortune; in 9 the parents were unknown; in 7 the father was unknown and the mother dead; and in 11 the father was unknown and the mother unable, through sickness or poverty, to maintain her offspring.

The Government expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1904 to £52,777, and for reformatory school children to £5,785; the expenses of administration amounted to £4,568, making a total gross expenditure of £63,130. A sum of £1,389 was received from parents for maintenance, and £54 from other sources, making the net expenditure £61,687. The average number of neglected children under supervision during the year was 4,999, of this total, 3,229 were maintained in foster homes at an average annual cost per head to the State of £14 12s. 6d., 86 were in Government receiving depôts at £30 17s. 8d. per head, and 90 were in private industrial schools costing £14 3s. 7d. per head; 826 were at service earning their own living, and 769 were with relatives

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

and others at no cost to the State. The average number of reformatory wards under supervision during the year was 295. Of this number, 200 were maintained in private schools at an average annual cost per head of £29 os. 6d., 62 were at service earning their own living, and 33 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 £17 2s. 4d.

VICTORIAN MINING ACCIDENT RELIEF FUND.

In December, 1882, an inrush of water in the New Australasian Company's mine at Creswick caused the deaths of 22 miners. Consequent on the disaster 79 persons—comprising 18 widows and 61 children—were left in destitute circumstances. Public subscriptions to the amount of £21,602 were raised throughout Victoria for the relief of the widows and orphan children of those who lost their lives, and upon the Government promising to subsidize the fund to the extent of £5,000, it was decided to make it a permanent and national one. An executive committee of representative gentlemen was appointed to administer the fund, which was deposited in banks, averaging about 5 per cent. interest per annum. In July, 1884, the late Mr. E. L. Zox, M.P.; one of the committee, introduced a Bill into the Legislative Assembly to enable the committee appointed to manage the fund to hand over their functions to a body of trustees proposed to be incorporated under the name of the "Victorian Mining Accident Relief Trustees." This was done in order to place the fund on a proper footing and so as to obtain a larger income from the investment of the capital, which was then hardly adequate to meet the demands on it. This Bill, which became law in December, 1884, provided for subsidizing the fund from time to time by Parliament, but this has never been carried out. The trustees appointed comprised the Minister of Mines, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Mayors of the cities of Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, the Town of Ballarat East, the Borough of Creswick, and the President of the Miners' Association for the time being respectively. Permission was given to invest the moneys in Government debentures, stock, in incorporated banks—£5,000 being the limit in any one institution, or on first mortgages of freehold land and tenements in the city of Melbourne and suburbs.

In 1885 the sum of £20,000 was lent on the property known as "Our Lodgings," situated in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, for three years at 6 per cent. per annum, precaution being taken to obtain the joint and several bond of the directors of the company for the due payment of the interest and principal. At the expiration of the period stated the company having fulfilled the conditions attached to the mortgage, obtained a release.

In 1888 the sum of £20,000 was again invested for seven years at 5½ per cent. per annum on mortgage over the land and buildings in Queen Street occupied by Messrs. Jacobs, Hart, and Co. This investment did not, however, turn out to be a satisfactory one and the mortgagor finally asked the trustees to release him from his obligations on handing over the property, together with a sum of £1,000. This latter proposal was agreed to by the trustees.

In view of the importance of this action in relation to the investment of public trust moneys, a board was appointed by Parliament to investigate the affairs of the trust, and to ascertain whether such release should be granted on the conditions set out, or whether the Relief Fund would be benefited by the adoption of another course than that proposed by the trustees. After careful review of the evidence, the board made a full report as to the condition of the fund. The constitution of the trust was considered to be defective and the formation of a new body was recommended, such body to consist of five members to be appointed by the Governor in Council, and to hold office for five years. It was further advised that the future investment of the Relief Fund be strictly confined to Government stock or debentures, and that the Act should be amended accordingly; that the mortgagor be released from his mortgage on the conditions stipulated by him; and that effect should be given to the expressed intention of Parliament to subsidize the fund, and to establish its permanency.

These recommendations were acted upon except as regards subsidizing the fund, which has not yet been done; and on the 31st December, 1903, the amount to the credit of the fund was £13,949, of which £12,000 was the estimated value of freehold premises in Queen street, £1,300 was in Government debentures, £513 bank deposit receipts, and £136 cash in hand. At the end of 1903 there were seven widows as a charge on the fund, receiving 15s. per week each.

BENDIGO MINERS' ASSOCIATION—THE WATSON FUND.

About the middle of the year 1889 the idea suggested itself to Mr. J. B. Watson of doing something for the permanently injured miners of the Bendigo District. It was immediately after the occurrence of a severe mining accident that Mr. Watson sent a letter to the Miners' Association with an offer to contribute £1,500, at the rate of £100 per year unconditionally, or to give £150 per year for 10 years, if the Society would contribute a like amount. His proposal was brought under the notice of the Committee of Management with the result that a Select Committee was appointed to bring up a report, and at the same time to formulate a scheme. It was thought that the sum of money was not sufficient to meet the liability that would be likely to occur. It was ultimately decided to recommend the members to accept Mr. Watson's offer of £150 for 10 years, and at the same time to cover it with the sum of £200 per year, to be made by levy on all members. This scheme was laid before Mr. Watson and the members, and accepted by both parties, and it was arranged that all gifts and donations that could be procured should be credited to a fund to be known as the Watson Sustentation Fund. It was decided that the collections of 1890 should be reserved strictly for revenue purposes, and that the benefits should not come into full operation until 1891, so as to give the fund a good start, and place it on a sure foundation. Payments were accordingly first made in 1891, at the rate of 5s. per week, and this rate was maintained for about two years, when the sick pay was increased to 7s. 6d. per week. Further changes were afterwards made, as necessity arose.

The following return shows the receipts and expenditure, from the inception of the fund. In the column "Administration" the item £152 for 1903 includes £132 expenses in connexion with the sale of property:—

PERSONS RELIEVED, RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: WATSON
SUSTENTATION FUND.

Date.	Relieved during the Year.	On Funds at end of Year.	Deaths during the Year.	Receipts.		
				From the Founder, J. B. Watson.	Other Receipts.	Total Receipts.
				£	£	£
1890 ...	...	...	...	150	1,467	1,617
1891 ...	11	11	...	150	56	206
1892 ...	26	26	...	150	503	653
1893 ...	44	44	...	150	452	602
1894 ...	43	43	...	150	790	940
1895 ...	43	38	5	150	734	884
1896 ...	57	48	9	150	543	693
1897 ...	56	52	4	150	1,680	1,830
1898 ...	57	48	9	150	944	1,094
1899 ...	56	41	15	150	524	674
1900 ...	54	47	7	...	641	641
1901 ...	66	48	18	...	591	591
1902 ...	52	41	11	...	549	549
1903 ...	50	43	7	...	872	872
Total ...	...	...	85	1,500	10,346	11,846

Expenditure.

Date.	Sick Pay.	Donations to Members and Wives and Families of Deceased Members.	Administration.	Total Expenditure.	Balance at End of Year.
	£	£	£	£	£
1890 ...	...	...	...	...	1,617
1891 ...	104	87	6	197	1,626
1892 ...	330	150	8	488	1,791
1893 ...	570	116	9	695	1,697
1894 ...	578	64	6	648	1,989
1895 ...	777	98	7	882	1,991
1896 ...	845	107	34	986	1,698
1897 ...	946	121	17	1,084	2,444
1898 ...	917	99	10	1,026	2,512
1899 ...	872	61	7	940	2,245
1900 ...	973	65	11	1,049	1,837
1901 ...	765	140	9	914	1,514
1902 ...	842	28	11	881	1,182
1903 ...	827	39	152	1,018	1,038
Total ...	9,346	1,175	287	10,808	—