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SECTION XXIV.

PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory.

1. **General.**—Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings, viz.:—(a) State; (b) public; (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal lunatic asylums in the various States, the Government hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government asylums for infirm in New South Wales. The second class comprises public institutions of two kinds, viz.:—(i.) Institutions partially subsidised by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii.) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the principal metropolitan hospitals. In the latter are included institutions established and endowed by individuals for the benefit of the needy generally. All charitable movements of a private character are included in the third group.

A more or less accurate statistical account is possible in classes (a) and (b), but in regard to (c) complete tabulation is, for obvious reasons, impossible. Moreover, public response to special appeals, and summary relief in kind, cannot be statistically recorded. Hospitals, orphanages, homes, benevolent asylums, etc., naturally attract the largest share of charitable aid; but there are numerous minor charities dependent upon private beneficence. In institutions which receive Government aid, management and finance are usually relegated to executive bodies.

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

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

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

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

From time to time relief funds have been organised for famine-stricken territories (*e.g.*, China, India, etc.), or for places where plague, flood, fire, or earthquake has shewn the need of urgent relief. Special funds are also raised for such as are disabled or bereaved through war. Complete statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duties of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds, which have been instituted in consequence of the war, the total for Australia, up to the end of July, 1916, has been estimated at £5,758,000.

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

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

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

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

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

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

HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1911 to 1915.

Particulars.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Number of institutions ...	355	368	381	389	398
Number of beds ...	13,732	14,574	15,235	15,345	16,374
Admissions during year ...	125,822	139,378	145,908	155,531	169,892
Indoor patients treated ...	133,652	144,692	152,077	164,349	179,829
Deaths ...	9,642	11,235	11,362	11,468	12,809
Expenditure ...	£ 916,984	1,102,134	1,264,605	1,255,658	1,280,461

In addition to those admitted to the institutions there are large numbers of out-patients. The exact number of these cannot be given, but a rough estimate of distinct cases for 1915 places the total at about 300,000.

Fuller details of hospital statistics are given for 1915 in the table below, the States and Northern Territory of the Commonwealth being shewn separately:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION OF HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1915.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'wth.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government ...	4	...	2	8	22	2	2	40
Other ...	147	61	87	19	31	13	...	358
Total ...	151	61	89	27	53	15	2	398
Medical Staff—								
Males ...	779	(a) 87	180 7	98 6	48	41	2	1,248
Females ...								
Total ...	779	87	187	104	48	41	2	1,248
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males ...	82	18	254	75	99	2	2	532
Females ...	1,740	765	918	432	445	157	5	4,462
Total ...	1,822	(a) 783	1,172	507	544	159	7	4,994
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, etc. ...	988	575	546	179	205	131	9	2,633
Capacity in cubic ft. ...	7,088,666	5,374,807	3,467,019	1,474,663	2,037,975	788,762	51,500	20,293,392
Number of beds ...	5,937	4,160	3,138	1,073	1,509	522	35	16,374
Cubic ft. to each bed	1,194	1,292	1,105	1,374	1,351	1,511	1,471	1,238

(a) Figures relate to 50 hospitals only.

In addition to the accommodation provided in the ordinary wards, a considerable amount of accommodation for certain classes of cases is furnished in out-door or verandah sleeping places. Full particulars are not available for all States, but in New South Wales alone, the provision amounts to 323 beds.

**GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE
COMMONWEALTH, 1915.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'with.
Indoor Relief: Distinct Persons Treated—								
Males	38,806	21,046	23,515	6,094	7,409	4,335	315	101,520
Females	34,377	19,917	12,169	4,586	3,917	3,306	37	78,309
Total	73,183	40,963	35,684	10,680	11,326	7,641	352	179,829
Inmates at beginning of Year—								
Males	2,175	1,876	1,184	396	508	230	13	6,182
Females	1,813	1,334	654	260	235	157	5	4,458
Total	3,988	3,010	1,838	656	743	387	18	10,640
Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—								
Males	36,631	19,370	22,331	6,060	6,901	4,105	361	95,759
Females	32,564	18,583	11,515	4,593	3,682	3,149	47	74,133
Total	69,195	37,953	33,846	10,653	10,583	7,254	408	169,892
Discharges—Recovered:								
Males	26,288	16,694	19,993	3,917	3,546	2,256	234	72,928
Females	25,660	16,995	10,456	3,150	2,105	2,002	33	60,401
Total	51,948	33,689	30,449	7,067	5,651	4,258	267	133,329
Relieved:								
Males	6,266	...	...	1,201	2,403	...	84	9,954
Females	4,163	...	...	854	1,990	...	9	6,121
Total	10,434	2 ...	2 ...	2,055	3,493	2 ...	93	16,075
Unrelieved:								
Males	896	176	414	316	370	35	3	2,210
Females	810	54	233	224	151	13	1	1,486
Total	1,706	230	647	540	521	48	4	3,696
Not stated:								
Males ... ..	...	561	115	3	6	1,543	2	2,230
Females ... ..	...	290	35	5	2	926	2	1,260
Total ... ..	...	851	150	8	8	2,469	4	3,490
Deaths—								
Males	3,003	2,058	1,673	641	558	259	37	8,220
Females	1,785	1,219	744	344	315	170	3	4,580
Total	4,788	3,277	2,417	985	873	429	40	12,809
Inmates at End of Year—								
Males	2,353	1,561	1,320	378	526	242	14	6,394
Females	1,954	1,355	701	276	254	195	3	4,738
Total	4,307	2,916	2,021	654	780	437	17	11,132
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males	2,289	2,370	2,004	422	497	230	21	11,031
Females	1,935								307	261	192	3
Total	4,224	2,370	2,004	729	758	422	24	11,031

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

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

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1915.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	C'with.
Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of patients, etc.	73,615	35,123	32,220	9,464	15,367	9,935	763	176,487
Government grants	265,580	84,935	132,199	63,010	68,239	24,768	4,864	643,595
Other	158,828	161,509	76,890	13,689	23,749	5,218	...	439,883
Total	498,023	281,567	241,309	86,163	107,355	39,921	5,627	1,259,965
Expenditure—								
Buildings	82,747	73,164	26,252	9,611	1,614	1,246	325	194,959
Salaries	182,923	236,723	87,595 ¹	30,243	51,956	14,538	2,392	1,041,700
Maintenance	203,441		124,072	42,819	45,262	17,586	2,147	
Other	38,880	4,335	9,832	3,606	8,191	7,424	...	72,318
Total	507,991	314,222	247,804	86,279	107,023	40,794	4,864	1,308,977

1. Including rent.

2. Principal Hospitals in each State.—The tables here given refer to general hospitals. In addition there are hospitals for "specials" (such as women's, children's, and infectious diseases hospitals), and institutions nearly allied to hospitals (such as consumptive sanatoria). Where the institutions carry on general hospital relief, they are still included with those establishments.

(i.) *New South Wales.* A Government hospital, with a staff of 13 medical officers and accommodation for 407 patients, is established at Little Bay, near Sydney. Altogether, there are four women's hospitals, one for women and children, and three children's hospitals in the metropolis. The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, with a medical staff of 71, and with 396 beds, is the largest metropolitan endowed institution. Amongst other large metropolitan hospitals may be mentioned the Sydney Hospital, with a medical staff of 84 and with 334 beds, St. Vincent's with 51 doctors and 190 beds, and Lewisham with 23 medical attendants and 169 beds. In extra-metropolitan areas the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives, which is a Government institution, provides accommodation for 300 patients. The Newcastle Hospital has 100 beds and a medical staff of 13. At the Carrington Convalescent Home at Camden, 110 patients may be admitted. The hospital in the Broken Hill district can accommodate 133.

(ii.) *Victoria.* There are several large metropolitan hospitals in Victoria. The largest of these, the Melbourne Hospital, has 318 beds; the Austin Hospital for Incurables has 230, the Alfred Hospital 192, St. Vincent's 138, and the Homœopathic 98. Amongst the country institutions, Bendigo has 218 beds, Geelong 205, and Ballarat 170.

(iii.) *Queensland.* Of the metropolitan hospitals, the largest is the Brisbane General, which can accommodate 316 patients. The Children's Hospital has 148 beds, the Diamantina 144, and the Mater Misericordiæ 112. Townsville Hospital, with 105 beds, is the largest of the country institutions, followed by Rockhampton with 100, Ipswich 94, Mackay 93, Charters Towers 92, and Mt. Morgan 71.

(iv.) *South Australia.* Including the Consumptive Home and Infectious Diseases Block, the Adelaide Hospital can accommodate a total of nearly 450 patients. The most important of the country hospitals are Port Augusta, Port Pirie, and Wallaroo, with 60, 49, and 43 beds respectively.

(v.) *Western Australia.* Information regarding the capacity of the Western Australian hospitals is not available, but some idea of their comparative importance may be gained from the figures relating to cases treated. In the metropolis, 3657 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital, and 1361 at the Perth Children's. Of the country hospitals, Kalgoorlie returned 1187 cases, Fremantle 983, and Coolgardie 435.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* There are well-equipped general hospitals in Hobart and Launceston. The former has a medical staff of 11 and can accommodate 175 patients, and the latter has 160 beds and a medical staff of three. Hospitals for women have been established in both centres, and there is a sanatorium for consumptives at Newtown. Outside the metropolitan area, the Devon Cottage Hospital has a medical staff of 10, and beds for 60 patients; the Lyell District Hospital can accommodate 34 patients, and there are nine other institutions in important country centres.

(vii.) *Northern Territory.* In addition to the hospitals at Darwin and Pine Creek, arrangements have been made for the supply of medicines and first aid to outlying stations. Great improvements have recently been made by the Public Health Department in the sanitation of Darwin. Close supervision is also exercised over the sanitary conditions at railway camps.

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

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

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1915.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Revenue—							
Government aid	£ 98,075	£ 22,519	£ 27,520	£ 47,132	£ 57,959	£ 7,218	£ 260,423
Municipal aid ... ..	...	876	...	...	...	...	876
Public subs., legacies, etc....	3,681	7,418	1,058	...	...	...	12,157
Fees	14,363	10,363	...	316	...	1,213	26,255
Other	401	1,799	5,872	170	...	239	8,481
Total... ..	116,520	42,975	34,450	47,618	57,959	8,670	308,192
Expenditure—							
Buildings	3,998	1,541	1,329	20,070	...	173	27,111
Maintenance	107,389	41,511	32,633	27,548	17,981	6,235	233,497
Other	6,790	315	129	...	39,978	2,262	49,374
Total... ..	118,177	43,267	34,291	47,618	57,959	8,670	309,982

(i.) *Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales.* There were three asylum hospitals in New South Wales at the end of 1915. Rookwood, the largest of these, had an average number resident of 1384, Newington had 766, and Liverpool 594. At the Cottage Homes, situated at three separate localities in Parramatta, the average number resident was about 450. The State Labour Depot and Refuge at Randwick had 90 inmates at the end of 1915.

(ii.) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum had 686 inmates in 1915, the Victorian Home for Aged and Infirm 458, and the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor 222. Of the country benevolent asylums, Ballarat had 218 inmates, Bendigo 179, and Castlemaine 140.

(iii.) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 939 beds. The most important of these is at Dunwich (Stradbroke Island) with 821 beds, while there are small institutions at Nundah, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba. At the end of 1915 the inmates of the four institutions numbered 1108.

(iv.) *Destitute Asylum, Adelaide.* Outside of hospitals and lunatic asylums the destitute of South Australia are dealt with and relieved at the Destitute Asylum, Adelaide. The institution includes lying-in and children's departments. In the asylum the number of inmates at the beginning of 1915 was 316.

(v.) *Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia.* There are two of these homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. The Old Men's Home at Claremont had 631 inmates at the beginning of 1915, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 100 adult inmates. The children admitted during the year numbered 65.

(vi.) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. The New Town Infirmity and Consumptive Home, which has 231 beds, had 187 inmates at the end of June, 1916, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, which has 20 beds, had 19 inmates on the same date.

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

ORPHANAGES IN COMMONWEALTH, 1911 to 1915.

Particulars.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Number of institutions	41	41	42	50	50
Admissions	1,760	1,563	1,514	2,340	2,376
Total number of inmates during year ...	5,465	5,057	4,720	4,344	4,503
Deaths	12	18	18	46	48
Expenditure ¹	£ 74,415	63,362	72,091	86,390	93,758

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

(i.) *New South Wales.* The care of destitute and neglected children is entrusted to the State Children's Relief Board, whose officers are charged with a strict supervision regarding the welfare of the children and the treatment of them by those to whom they are boarded out. Provision is made for instruction in various trades and callings, and many

of the children become useful members of society. The number of children under the board's supervision in 1915-16 was 12,391. The board's expenditure in that year was £150,274, or £12 3s. per child.

There are also fifteen orphanages, and various farm homes, country homes for children, etc., with upwards of 1000 children under care.

There are several reformatories and industrial schools maintained by the State. At the Parramatta Industrial School for Girls, to which a Training Home has lately been annexed, there was, during 1915, a gross enrolment of 209, with a daily average attendance of 146. At the Farm Home for boys, Gosford, the gross enrolment during 1915 was 171, the average attendance being 96.

(ii.) *Victoria*.—There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1639 beds. The total number under care in 1914-15 was 2144, of whom 1662 were inmates on 30th June, 1915. The expenditure in 1915-16 was £28,929. The Melbourne Protestant Asylum had 306 inmates on the 30th June, 1916, the Ballarat Asylum 231, Nazareth House, Ballarat, 227, Geelong Roman Catholic Boys 191, and Melbourne Roman Catholic Boys 189.

At the end of 1915 there were six schools for neglected children and seven reformatory schools in the State. Of these, two in each class are wholly controlled by the Government, being used merely as receiving and distributing depots. The children are sent thence to situations, foster homes, or other institutions dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management, receiving an allowance for State wards. Many of the reformatory children are placed with friends, or licensed out. On 31st December, 1915, the wards of the State numbered 10,176—classed mostly as neglected children. There were also 35 children free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The total expenditure for 1915 was £155,977, of which £149,324 was borne by the Government.

(iii.) *Queensland*.—There are ten orphanages in Queensland. The number under care on 31st December, 1915, was 1084, and the expenditure for the year £20,032.

There are also six industrial and reformatory schools, with 115 boys and 83 girls under detention at the end of 1915. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1915 was 5594. The gross cost was £80,579, of which £75,424 was borne by the Government.

(iv.) *South Australia*.—The State Children's Department exercises a supervision over the probationary and industrial schools and the reformatories. The total number of admissions into these institutions in 1914-15 was 217. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1916, was 231, in addition to which 1538 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed. There was one death amongst children in industrial schools, and of those placed out and in other institutions eleven died. The number of children under State control on 30th June, 1916, was 1769. The expenditure for 1915-16 was £33,464, of which the Government aid was £30,219.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1915 was 316, of whom 231 were inmates on 31st December, 1915. There was one death in the year, and the expenditure amounted to £3971.

(v.) *Western Australia*.—In Western Australia there were, at the end of 1915, four orphanages, three orphanages and industrial schools, and two industrial schools, containing 454 boys and 406 girls. There were also eight boys and thirteen girls at the Government Receiving Depot. The total number of children in charge of the State Children's Department at the end of 1915 was 1246, and the net cost £44,118.

(vi.) *Tasmania*.—There are three industrial schools and one orphanage under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1915-16 numbered twenty-eight, and total inmates during the year 195. No deaths occurred. The expenditure was £3312.

The New Town Training School for boys had 32 inmates at the end of June, 1916.

Under the boarding-out system upwards of 200 children are placed out. The total number of children under State control at the end of June, 1916, was 245, the gross cost to the State of children's relief being £3879, of which £382 represents parents' contributions.

(vii.) *Neglected Children*. The following table summarises the number of neglected children under State Departments. In New South Wales and Victoria a number of children are boarded out with their own mothers, the figures for the year in question being 7310 and 4681 respectively. Similar provisions are in force in some of the other States; the figures, however, are not available.

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—TRANSACTIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS, 1915.

Particulars.	N.S.W. ¹	Vict.	Qld.	S.A. ²	W.A.	Tas.	Cwth.
Number of Children under State control at end of year—							
Males	7,415	5,271	2,946	970	636	142	17,380
Females	4,976	4,905	2,648	799	610	103	14,041
Total	12,391	10,176	5,594	1,769	1,246	245	31,421
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost to State of children's relief	156,631	155,977	80,579	32,464	44,696	3,379	474,226
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc.	6,357	6,653	5,155	3,245	578	382	22,370
Net cost	150,274	149,324	75,424	29,219	44,118	3,497	451,856

1. For year ended 5th April following. 2. For the year ended 30th June, 1916.

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

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

State.	1855 to 1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
New South Wales ...	140	4	2	2	5	3	4	2	4	3
Victoria	127	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Queensland	² 186	21	23	8	6	7	4	12	8	10
South Australia ...	37	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Western Australia ...	4	...	3	4	3	2	...	...	...	5
Tasmania	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Territory ³ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Total	¹ ² 395	26	28	14	14	12	9	15	13	19

1. In addition, some Chinese. 2. In addition, many Kanakas.
3. As from the year 1911.

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

HOSPITALS FOR INSANE,¹ COMMONWEALTH, 1911 to 1915.

Particulars.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Number of institutions	33	35	35	35	34
Number of beds	15,825	15,911	16,115	16,432	16,417
Admissions	3,079	3,017	3,153	3,339	3,118
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc. ...	1,404	1,365	1,415	1,574	1,491
Deaths	1,246	1,311	1,292	1,270	1,341
Expenditure	£616,302	693,772	772,984	755,697	815,200

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

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

The number of insane persons in institutions in Australia at the end of each of the years 1911-1915 was as follows:—

INSANE PERSONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1911 to 1915.

State.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
New South Wales	6,351	6,470	6,639	6,906	7,063
Victoria	5,340	5,470	5,631	5,729	5,767
Queensland	2,283	2,322	2,370	2,448	2,441
South Australia	1,084	1,082	1,082	1,080	1,137
Western Australia	842	876	933	981	1,009
Tasmania	521	534	526	537	522
Commonwealth	16,421	16,754	17,181	17,681	17,939

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

PROPORTION OF INSANE, COMMONWEALTH, 1911 to 1915.

State.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
PER 1000 OF THE POPULATION.					
New South Wales ...	3.79	3.64	3.62	3.71	3.78
Victoria ...	3.92	3.96	3.98	4.00	4.04
Queensland ...	3.67	3.65	3.60	3.62	3.55
South Australia ...	2.57	2.50	2.46	2.42	2.58
Western Australia ...	2.86	2.86	2.91	3.04	3.12
Tasmania ...	2.69	2.71	2.61	2.67	2.62
Commonwealth ...	3.59	3.54	3.53	3.58	3.62

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

The leading features in regard to institutions for the care of the insane are given below for 1915:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, COMMONWEALTH, 1915.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vict. ¹	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Number of Institutions—							
Government ...	9	9	3	1	1	1	24
Private ...	3	2 ⁶	...	...	1	...	10
Total ...	12	15	3	1	2	1	34
Medical Staff—							
Males ...	20	21	7	2	2	3	55
Females ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Total ...	21	21	7	2	3	3	57
Nursing Staff & Attendants—							
Males ...	581	539	178	72	125	81	1,576
Females ...	492	510	109	57	60	57	1,285
Total ...	1,073	1,049	287	129	185	138	2,861
Accommodation—							
No. of dormitories ...	³ 346	1,423	495	°...	34	394	°...
Capacity in cubic feet ...	³ 3,548,975	3,773,900	1,415,913	°...	672,157	706,704	°...
No. of beds ...	³ 6,238	5,208	2,222	1,169	1,026	554	16,417
Cubic feet to each bed ...	⁶ 600 °1,000	725	1,889	°...	655	1,276	°...

1. Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong hospitals. * 2. There are six private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 95 cases at end of 1915. Other figures for these private asylums are not available. 3. Government hospitals only. 4. Ordinary dormitory. 5. Hospital dormitory. 6. Information not available.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1915.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. ¹	Q'd.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Admissions & re-admissions during year—							
Males	809	434	272	166	115	31	1,827
Females	537	390	157	114	68	25	1,291
Total	1,346	824	429	280	183	56	3,118
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	338	108	130	62	49	14	701
Females	230	110	85	47	32	13	517
Total	568	218	215	109	81	27	1,218
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	84	64	11	15	5	2	181
Females	44	39	8	10	5	5	111
Total	128	103	19	25	10	7	292
Absconders not retaken—							
Males	4	5	...	...	...	...	9
Females ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	4	5	...	...	...	...	9
Deaths—							
Males	310	262	114	50	41	20	797
Females	179	199	88	39	22	17	544
Total	489	461	202	89	63	37	1,341
No. of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	4,153	2,882	1,547	637	720	269	10,208
Females	2,910	2,885	894	500	289	253	7,731
Total	7,063	5,767	2,441	1,137	1,009	522	17,939
Average daily number resident—							
Males	3,967	2,622	1,529	619	706	270	9,713
Females	2,643	2,509	900	495	275	259	7,081
Total	6,610	5,131	2,429	1,114	981	529	16,794
No. of patients on books at end of year per 1000 of population—							
Males	4.31	4.09	4.19	2.94	4.08	2.64	4.03
Females	3.20	4.00	2.81	2.24	1.98	2.60	3.20
Persons	3.77	4.04	3.55	2.58	3.13	2.62	3.62
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1000 of mean population—							
Males	4.12	3.72	4.14	2.85	4.00	2.65	3.83
Females	2.91	3.48	2.83	2.22	1.89	2.66	2.93
Persons	3.53	3.60	3.54	2.53	3.04	2.65	3.39

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

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

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

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE (GOVERNMENT ONLY), REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1915.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Revenue (exclusive of Government Grants)—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of patients ...	45,236	22,396	9,297	9,753	3,533	5,000	95,215
Other ...	2,144	...	2,244	524	1,052	524	6,488
Total ...	47,380	22,396	11,541	10,277	4,585	5,524	101,703
Expenditure—							
Salaries ...	148,700	109,753	46,009	17,598	27,630	14,569	364,259
Maintenance ...	126,547	117,669	54,163	25,956	23,577	19,122	367,033
Buildings ...	...	53,986	...	...	...	...	53,986
Other ...	23,478	...	1,973	170	2,553	1,748	29,922
Total ...	298,725	281,408	102,144	43,724	53,760	35,439	815,200

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

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

(ii.) *Victoria.* The average residence in the hospitals of those who died was 8 years 3 months for males and 12 years 11 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 3 months for males and 1 year 9 months for females.

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

(iii.) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died was 6 years 3 months for males and 7 years 9 months for females; and of those who were discharged, 12 months for males and 18 months for females.

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

(iv.) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 7 years and 2 months for males and 7 years 5 months for females; of those discharged, 1 year and 10 months for males and 13 months for females.

(v.) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 2 years 9 months for males and 3 years 10 months for females; of those who were discharged, 1 year and 5 months for males and 10 months for females.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 10 years 6 months for males and 9 years 7 months for females; that of those discharged, 2 years 2 months for males and 10 months for females.

(vii.) *Causes of Insanity.* The proportion of causes of insanity to the total of ascertained causes in Australia in the five years 1911-1915 shews that hereditary influences have been the chief factor, more than one-fifth of the total ascertained causes

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

**PROPORTION OF ASCERTAINED CAUSES, Etc., OF INSANITY, COMMONWEALTH,
1911 TO 1915.**

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety	10.6	11.8	7.6	10.1	10.6
Intemperance in drink	15.0	16.3	16.3	12.9	11.6
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained	18.7	21.7	22.6	16.6	22.9
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life	5.9	6.6	6.0	4.9	7.1
Previous attacks	9.3	9.5	8.7	10.8	13.0
Accident, including sunstroke	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.2	1.7
Old age	9.9	9.2	10.2	8.4	8.2
Other causes ascertained	27.6	22.6	26.0	34.1	24.9
All ascertained causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

7. Treatment of Inebriates.—The treatment of inebriates is referred to in the section dealing with Public Justice hereinbefore. (See page 853.)

8. Protection of Aborigines.—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where the blacks are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic in habit of life, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come under the notice of the boards. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The estimated average annual expenditure on maintenance, etc., for the last five years was—New South Wales, £25,000; Victoria, £4000; Queensland, £21,000; South Australia, £19,000; Western Australia, £25,000; Northern Territory, £3000; total for Commonwealth, £97,000. In New South Wales the average number receiving monthly aid in 1915 was 2121, of whom 917 were adults; in Victoria there were 283 under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board on the 30th June, 1915; in Queensland, at the end of 1915, there were 2497 aborigines at the mission stations; in South Australia, at the end of 1915, there were 753 inmates at mission stations, while in Western Australia the aborigines and half-castes in the native institutions numbered 350. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory about 300 were in residence, but casual assistance and medical attendance is given to large numbers of natives every year.

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

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

STATE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1911 to 1915.

State or Territory.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	518,484	576,886	683,102	711,453	779,303
Victoria ...	436,859	446,332	468,588	485,018	541,668
Queensland ...	237,224	262,171	261,237	321,597	307,899
South Australia ...	98,236	118,931	117,204	129,281	167,272
Western Australia ...	177,743	184,940	201,215	222,417	228,064
Tasmania ...	43,245	45,166	62,205	70,387	78,092
Northern Territory ...	...	5,328	5,602	5,301	4,864
Commonwealth ...	1,511,791	1,639,754	1,799,153	1,945,454	2,107,162

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