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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 cause 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, 1912 to 1916.

Particulars.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Number of institutions ...	368	381	389	398	391
Number of beds ...	14,574	15,225	15,345	16,374	15,811
Admissions during year ...	139,378	145,908	155,531	169,892	166,588
Indoor patients treated ...	144,692	152,077	164,349	179,829	176,279
Deaths ...	11,235	11,362	11,468	12,809	13,128
Expenditure ...	£ 1,102,134	1,264,605	1,255,658	1,280,461	1,351,160

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 1916 places the total at about 300,000.

Fuller details of hospital statistics are given for 1916 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, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'wlth.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government ...	4	...	2	8	23	2	2	41
Other ...	147	50	94	19	29	13	...	350
Total ...	151	50	94	27	52	15	2	391
Medical Staff—								
Males ...	769	87	166	95	50	34	2	1,226
Females ...	...	...	17	6	...	...	...	...
Total ...	769	87	183	101	50	34	2	1,226
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males ...	80	16	276	70	78	2	2	524
Females ...	1,872	816	939	451	420	164	6	4,668
Total ...	1,952	832	1,215	521	498	166	8	5,192
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, etc.	1,004	423	550	183	183	129	9	2,480
Capacity in cubic ft.	7,282,721	4,627,744	3,713,277	1,473,057	1,916,249	785,258	51,500	19,849,806
Number of beds ...	6,065	3,394	3,283	1,085	1,353	596	35	15,811
Cubic ft. to each bed	1,200	1,363	1,131	1,358	1,416	1,318	1,471	1,255

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; in New South Wales, the provision amounts to 473 beds; in Tasmania, 64 beds, and in Northern Territory, 22 beds.

**GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE  
COMMONWEALTH, 1916.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'wth.
<b>Indoor Relief: Distinct Persons</b>								
Treated—								
Males ... ..	39,776	19,052	23,999	6,283	7,375	4,117	270	100,872
Females ... ..	36,080	12,914	13,138	5,590	4,129	3,495	61	75,407
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>75,856</b>	<b>31,966</b>	<b>37,137</b>	<b>11,873</b>	<b>11,504</b>	<b>7,612</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>176,279</b>
<b>Inmates at beginning of Year—</b>								
Males ... ..	2,401	1,176	1,322	378	526	235	14	6,052
Females ... ..	1,962	850	699	276	254	206	3	4,250
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>4,363</b>	<b>2,026</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10,302</b>
<b>Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—</b>								
Males ... ..	37,375	17,876	22,677	6,244	6,849	3,862	280	95,183
Females ... ..	34,118	12,064	12,439	5,555	3,874	3,289	66	71,405
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>71,493</b>	<b>29,940</b>	<b>35,116</b>	<b>11,799</b>	<b>10,723</b>	<b>7,171</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>166,588</b>
<b>Discharges—Recovered:</b>								
Males ... ..	27,126	14,577	20,493	4,191	3,037	3,579	233	73,236
Females ... ..	27,028	10,274	11,339	3,762	1,777	3,142	44	57,366
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>54,154</b>	<b>*24,851</b>	<b>*31,832</b>	<b>7,953</b>	<b>4,814</b>	<b>*6,721</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>110,602</b>
<b>Relieved:</b>								
Males ... ..	6,332	...	...	1,021	2,765	...	30	10,148
Females ... ..	4,324	...	...	984	1,521	...	4	6,833
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>10,656</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>4,286</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>116,981</b>
<b>Unrelieved:</b>								
Males ... ..	982	149	481	351	342	37	3	2,345
Females ... ..	850	109	308	383	206	24	3	1,883
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4,228</b>
<b>Not stated:</b>								
Males ... ..	...	904	134	4	9	9	...	1,060
Females ... ..	...	539	50	1	6	7	...	603
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1,663</b>
<b>Deaths—</b>								
Males ... ..	3,094	2,072	1,661	679	697	274	14	8,491
Females ... ..	1,933	1,071	747	397	320	163	6	4,637
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>5,027</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13,128</b>
<b>Inmates at End of Year—</b>								
Males ... ..	2,242	1,350	1,230	376	525	218	24	5,965
Females ... ..	1,945	921	694	304	298	159	2	4,323
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>4,187</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>1,924</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10,288</b>
<b>Average Daily Number Resident—</b>								
Males ... ..	2,536	2,200	2,008	{ 414 321	572 272	238 196	11 2	10,963
Females ... ..	2,193							
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>4,729</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10,963</b>

\* Including relieved.

† Included in recovered.

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

**GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1916.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.*	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	C'wlth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—								
Fees of patients, etc.	85,551	34,953	36,509	14,553	19,782	11,362	596	203,306
Government grants	289,839	65,954	127,175	64,574	86,633	26,765	5,649	666,589
Other ...	187,999	155,175	79,569	13,406	23,240	8,068	...	467,457
Total ...	563,389	256,082	243,253	92,533	129,655	46,195	6,245	1,337,352
Expenditure—								
Buildings ...	84,636	50,990	26,471	6,288	128,717	1,724	430	1,351,160
Salaries ...	194,024	201,413	92,019†	33,631		21,355	2,756	
Maintenance ...	234,859	136,528	51,308	51,308		14,958	2,463	
Other ...	42,002	6,646	9,004	2,200		6,738	...	
Total ...	555,521	259,049	264,022	93,427	128,717	44,775	5,649	1,351,160

\* Year ended 30th June, 1916.

† Including rents.

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 17 medical officers and accommodation for 411 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 67, and with 410 beds, is the largest metropolitan endowed institution. Amongst other large metropolitan hospitals may be mentioned the Sydney Hospital, with a medical staff of 79 and with 334 beds, St. Vincent's with 49 doctors and 190 beds, and Lewisham with 24 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 16. At the Carrington Convalescent Home at Camden, 110 patients may be admitted. The hospital in the Broken Hill district can accommodate 138.

(ii.) *Victoria.* There are several large metropolitan hospitals in Victoria. The largest of these, the Melbourne Hospital, has 327 beds; the Austin Hospital for Incurables has 230, the Alfred Hospital 168, 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 167 beds, the Diamantina 144, and the Mater Misericordiæ 112. Ipswich Hospital, with 146 beds, is the largest of the country institutions, followed by Toowoomba with 128, Townsville with 105, Rockhampton with 100, Mackay and Maryborough 96 each, Charters Towers 92, Mt. Morgan 71, and Bundaberg 70.

(iv.) *South Australia.* Including the Consumptive Home and Infectious Diseases Block, the Adelaide Hospital can accommodate a total of nearly 440 patients. The most important of the country hospitals are Port Augusta, Port Pirie, and Wallaroo, with 61, 49, and 48 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, 3964 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital in 1916, and 896 at the Perth Children's. Of the country hospitals, Kalgoorlie returned 1358 cases, Fremantle 781, and Woorloo 533.

(vi.) *Tasmania*. There are well-equipped general hospitals in Hobart and Launceston. The former has a medical staff of 11 and can accommodate 185 patients, and the latter has 190 beds and a medical staff of two. 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 3, and beds for 95 patients; the Lyell District Hospital can accommodate 35 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, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
<b>Revenue—</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government aid ...	93,948	20,281	33,800	44,620	55,580	7,387	255,616
Municipal aid ...	...	891	...	...	...	...	891
Public subs., legacies, etc....	...	10,292	1,188	...	...	...	11,490
Fees ...	16,750	10,000	...	324	126	1,728	28,928
Other ...	...	2,644	2,516	179	...	138	5,477
<b>Total...</b>	<b>110,698</b>	<b>44,108</b>	<b>37,514</b>	<b>45,123</b>	<b>55,706</b>	<b>9,253</b>	<b>302,402</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Buildings ...	4,504	775	1,144	10,592	...	167	17,189
Maintenance ...	105,234	44,908	36,182	34,531	55,706	6,101	282,662
Other ...	960	3,441	230	...	...	2,985	7,616
<b>Total...</b>	<b>110,698</b>	<b>49,124</b>	<b>37,556</b>	<b>45,123</b>	<b>55,706</b>	<b>9,253</b>	<b>307,460</b>

(i.) *Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales*. There were three asylum hospitals in New South Wales at the end of 1916. Rookwood, the largest of these, had an average number resident of 1352, Newington had 757, and Liverpool 564. At the

Cottage Homes, situated at two separate localities in Parramatta, the average number resident was about 350. The State Labour Depot and Refuge at Randwick had 59 inmates at the end of 1916.

(ii.) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum had 693 inmates in 1916, the Victorian Home for Aged and Infirm 452, and the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor 220. Of the country benevolent asylums, Ballarat had 199 inmates, Bendigo 171, and Castlemaine 136.

(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 1916 the inmates of the four institutions numbered 1066.

(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 end of 1916 was 311.

(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 587 inmates at the end of 1916, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 121 adult inmates. The children admitted during the year numbered 45.

(vi.) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. The New Town Infirmary and Consumptive Home, which has 220 beds, had 178 inmates at the end of June, 1917, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, which has 21 beds, had 18 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, 1912 to 1916.

Particulars.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Number of institutions ... ..	41	42	50	50	48
Admissions ... ..	1,563	1,514	2,340	2,376	2,118
Total number of inmates during year ...	5,057	4,720	4,344	4,503	5,061
Deaths ... ..	18	18	46	48	35
Expenditure* ... ..	£ 63,362	72,091	86,390	93,758	79,526

\* 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 1916-17 was 11,976. The board's expenditure in that year was £168,623, or £14 2s. 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 reformatory and industrial schools maintained by the State. At the Parramatta Industrial School for Girls, to which a Training Home was attached in 1912, there were on 31st December, 1916, 155 inmates—125 in the Industrial School, and 30 in the Training Home. At the Farm Home for boys, Gosford, 80 boys were admitted, and 75 discharged. Of the latter, 5 were apprenticed and 59 released on probation.

(ii.) *Victoria*.—There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1613 beds. The total number under care in 1915-16 was 2101, of whom 1637 were inmates on 30th June, 1916. The expenditure in 1915-16 was £32,253. The Melbourne Protestant Asylum had 308 inmates on the 30th June, 1916, the Ballarat Asylum 215, Nazareth House, Ballarat, 228, Geelong Roman Catholic Boys 201, and Melbourne Roman Catholic Boys 184.

At the end of 1916 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, 1916, the wards of the State numbered 10,780—classed mostly as neglected children. There were also 37 children free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The total expenditure for 1916 was £167,799, of which £159,929 was borne by the Government.

(iii.) *Queensland*.—There are ten orphanages in Queensland. The number under care on 31st December, 1916, was 1077, and the expenditure for the year £23,104.

There are also six industrial and reformatory schools, with 105 boys and 82 girls under detention at the end of 1916. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1916 was 5764. The gross cost was £134,158, of which £127,346 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 1916-17 was 294. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1917, was 199, in addition to which 1645 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed. There were no deaths amongst children in industrial schools and reformatories, and of those placed out and in other institutions eight died. The number of children under State control on 30th June, 1917, was 1844. The expenditure for 1916-17 was £40,724, of which the Government aid was £37,344.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1916 was 312, of whom 231 were inmates on 31st December, 1916. There was one death in the year, and the expenditure amounted to £2889.

(v.) *Western Australia*.—In Western Australia there were, at the end of 1916, four orphanages, three orphanages and industrial schools, and two industrial schools, containing 446 boys and 356 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 1916 was 1761, and the net cost £23,454.

(vi.) *Tasmania*.—There are three industrial schools and one orphanage under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1916-17 numbered thirty-five and total inmates during the year 174. No deaths occurred. The expenditure was £3540.

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, 1917, was 256, the gross cost to the State of children's relief being £4040, of which £461 represents parents' contributions.

(vii.) *Neglected Children.* The following table summarises the number of neglected children under State Departments. Included in the figures are children boarded out with their own mothers, the numbers being, New South Wales 7923, Victoria 4984, Queensland 3101, South Australia 291, Western Australia 434, Tasmania 7; the total for the Commonwealth being 16,140.

#### STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—TRANSACTIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.*	Vict.	Qld.	S.A.†	W.A.	Tas.	Cwlth.
Number of Children under State control at end of year—							
Males ... ..	†	5,602	3,030	1,008	827	137	†
Females ... ..	†	5,178	2,734	836	934	119	†
Total ... ..	11,976	10,780	5,764	1,844	1,761	256	32,381
Gross cost to State of children's relief	£174,503	£167,799	£127,346	£37,344	£24,387	£4,040	£535,419
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc. ... ..	5,890	7,870	6,811	3,380	933	461	25,335
Net cost ... ..	168,623	159,929	120,535	33,964	23,454	3,579	510,084

\* For year ended 5th April following. † For the year ended 30th June, 1917.

‡ Details not available.

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 1915, later figures not being available:—

#### 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 ... ..	*27	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Queensland ... ..	†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‡	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Total ... ..	*†395	26	28	14	14	12	9	15	13	19

\* In addition, some Chinese.

† In addition, many Kanakas.

‡ 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,\* 1912 to 1916.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

Particulars.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Number of institutions ... ..	35	35	35	34	35
Number of beds ... ..	15,911	16,115	16,432	16,417	16,673
Admissions ... ..	3,017	3,153	3,339	3,118	3,268
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc. ...	1,365	1,415	1,574	1,491	1,451
Deaths ... ..	1,311	1,292	1,270	1,341	1,459
Expenditure ... ..	£693,772	772,984	755,697	815,200	861,258

\* 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 1912-1916 was as follows:—

## INSANE PERSONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1912 to 1916.

State.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
New South Wales ... ..	6,470	6,639	6,906	7,063	7,240
Victoria ... ..	5,470	5,631	5,729	5,767	5,793
Queensland ... ..	2,322	2,370	2,448	2,441	2,517
South Australia ... ..	1,082	1,082	1,080	1,137	1,158
Western Australia ... ..	876	933	981	1,009	1,045
Tasmania ... ..	534	526	537	522	545
Commonwealth ... ..	16,754	17,181	17,681	17,939	18,298

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, 1912 to 1916.

(COMMONWEALTH).

State.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
PER 1000 OF THE POPULATION.					
New South Wales ...	3.64	3.62	3.71	3.78	3.92
Victoria ...	3.96	3.98	4.00	4.04	4.15
Queensland ...	2.65	3.60	3.62	3.55	3.70
South Australia ...	2.50	2.46	2.42	2.58	2.67
Western Australia ...	2.86	2.91	3.04	3.13	2.38
Tasmania ...	2.71	2.61	2.67	2.62	2.72
Commonwealth ...	3.54	3.53	3.58	3.62	3.75

Consequent upon the development of a more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases, a greater willingness is being shewn 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 1916:—

## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1916.

(COMMONWEALTH).

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vict.*	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Number of Institutions—							
Government ...	9	9	3	1	3	1	26
Private ...	3	†5	...	...	1	...	9
Total ...	12	14	3	1	4	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males ...	20	20	7	2	2	3	54
Females ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Total ...	21	20	7	2	3	3	56
Nursing Staff & Attendants—							
Males ...	613	540	181	92	126	83	1,635
Females ...	491	516	126	61	55	57	1,306
Total ...	1,104	1,056	307	153	181	140	2,941
Accommodation—							
No. of dormitories ...	‡341	1,424	504	¶	34	334	¶
Capacity in cubic feet ...	‡3,548,975	3,760,637	1,457,902	¶	672,157	706,704	¶
No. of beds ...	‡6,238	5,132	2,526	1,189	1,034	554	16,673
Cubic feet to each bed ...	{ \$600 } { ‡11,000 }	{ } { 733 }	{ } { 577 }	{ } { ¶ }	{ } { 650 }	{ } { 1,276 }	{ } { ¶ }

\* Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong hospitals. † There are five private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 90 cases at end of 1916. Other figures for these private asylums are not available. ‡ Government hospitals only. § Ordinary dormitory. ¶ Hospital dormitory. ¶ Information not available.

## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.*	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Admissions & re-admissions during year—							
Males ... ..	856	403	301	168	146	42	1,916
Females ... ..	570	369	171	134	70	38	1,352
Total ... ..	1,426	772	472	302	216	80	3,268
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males ... ..	313	105	116	73	46	12	665
Females ... ..	233	100	107	60	26	11	537
Total ... ..	546	205	223	133	72	23	1,202
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males ... ..	47	43	11	11	10	1	123
Females ... ..	37	43	8	11	3	4	106
Total ... ..	84	86	19	22	13	5	229
Absconders not retaken—							
Males ... ..	9	5	...	2	4	...	20
Females ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	9	5	...	2	4	...	20
Deaths—							
Males ... ..	396	251	105	81	62	18	913
Females ... ..	214	200	49	43	29	11	546
Total ... ..	610	451	154	124	91	29	1,459
No. of patients on books at end of year—							
Males ... ..	4,244	2,882	1,616	638	744	280	10,404
Females ... ..	2,996	2,911	901	520	301	265	7,894
Total ... ..	7,240	5,793	2,517	1,158	1,045	545	18,298
Average daily number resident—							
Males ... ..	4,084	2,607	1,581	637	724	276	9,909
Females ... ..	2,737	2,541	897	506	290	261	7,232
Total ... ..	6,821	5,148	2,478	1,143	1,014	537	17,141
No. of patients on books at end of year per 1000 of population—							
Males ... ..	4.60	4.32	4.83	3.17	4.65	2.80	4.33
Females ... ..	3.20	3.97	2.77	2.25	2.02	2.65	3.19
Persons ... ..	3.90	4.14	3.76	2.68	3.38	2.73	3.75
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1000 of mean population—							
Males ... ..	4.34	3.83	4.47	3.11	4.34	2.77	4.04
Females ... ..	2.96	3.48	2.77	2.22	1.96	2.65	2.95
Persons ... ..	3.65	3.65	3.66	2.64	3.22	2.71	3.49

\* 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 escapees 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, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Revenue (exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of patients ...	£ 47,638	£ 21,848	£ 7,585	£ 8,595	£ 3,927	£ 4,830	£ 94,423
Other ...	2,614	...	4,508	753	1,158	790	9,823
Total ...	50,252	21,848	12,093	9,348	5,085	5,620	104,246
Expenditure—							
Salaries ...	170,730	111,731	49,770	15,814	29,825	14,395	392,265
Maintenance ...	145,379	124,506	60,396	28,307	29,290	19,423	468,993
Buildings ...	...	11,970	20,555	...	...	...	...
Other ...	23,625	...	3,431	2,111	...	...	...
Total ...	339,734	248,207	134,152	46,232	59,115	33,818	861,258

(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; 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 7 years 7 months for males and 10 years 3 months for females; and of those who were discharged, 14 months for males and 12 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 1 month for males and 5 years for females; of those discharged, 1 year and 3 months for males and 2 years and 2 months for females.

(v.) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 5 years 2 months for males and 3 years 1 month for females; of those who were discharged, 1 year and 3 months for males and 7 months for females.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 7 years 3 months for males and 9 years 2 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 3 months for males and 8 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 1912-1916 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,  
1912 to 1916.**

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety ... ..	11.8	7.6	10.1	10.6	9.6
Intemperance in drink ... ..	16.3	16.3	12.9	11.6	10.3
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained ... ..	21.7	22.6	16.6	22.9	22.4
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life ... ..	6.6	6.0	4.9	7.1	5.1
Previous attacks ... ..	9.5	8.7	10.8	13.0	14.9
Accident, including sunstroke ... ..	2.3	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.8
Old age ... ..	9.2	10.2	8.4	8.2	10.0
Other causes ascertained ... ..	22.6	26.0	34.1	24.9	25.9
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 883.)

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 1916 was 2071, of whom 899 were adults; in Victoria there were 281 under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board on the 30th June, 1916; in Queensland, at the end of 1916, there were 2999 aborigines at the mission stations; in South Australia, there were 753 inmates at mission stations, while in Western Australia the aborigines and half-castes in the native institutions numbered 373. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory about 300 were in residence, but casual assistance and medical attendance are given to large numbers of natives every year.

9. **Royal Life Saving Society.**—In each of the State Capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established. Life preservation is the object of the Society, and its immediate objects are (a) educative and (b) remedial. By stimulating the acquirement of the art of swimming in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., it is desired to bring about a widespread and thorough knowledge of natation and life-saving; while life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances are provided on ocean beaches and at places where they are likely to be in demand. Certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued after examination. In the year 1917-18 the number of certificates issued in New South Wales was 658; in Victoria 1039; in Queensland 532; in South Australia 16; in Western Australia 531; in Tasmania 114; making a total for the Commonwealth of 2890.

**10. Royal Humane Society.**—The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has for its objects (a) to grant awards for skill, promptness, and perseverance in life saving; (b) to provide assistance in cases of danger and apparent death; (c) to restore the apparently drowned; (d) to collect and circulate the latest information regarding approved methods and apparatus for life saving. In 1917, 89 awards of medals and certificates were made. Upwards of 350 lifebuoys have been provided at various places on the coasts, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in the various States. Swimming is encouraged amongst school children, and awards made for proficiency.

**11. 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.

**12. 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, 1912 to 1916.

State or Territory.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	576,886	683,102	711,453	779,303	876,767
Victoria ...	446,332	468,588	485,018	541,668	525,682
Queensland ...	262,171	261,237	321,597	307,899	324,143
South Australia ...	118,931	117,204	129,281	167,272	162,849
Western Australia ...	184,940	201,215	222,417	228,064	247,589
Tasmania ...	45,166	62,205	70,387	78,092	79,494
Northern Territory ...	5,328	5,602	5,301	4,864	5,649
Commonwealth ...	1,639,754	1,799,153	1,945,454	2,107,162	2,222,173

**13. 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.