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## CHAPTER XI.

## PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

## § 1. Introductory.

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

No poor-rate is levied in Australia. Reference to old-age pensions, invalid pensions, and maternity allowances, which are provided by the Commonwealth, will be found in Division A §6 and 7 of Chapter VIII. "Finance."

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

## § 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

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

The particulars given herein refer to general hospitals at the latest available date, and include all institutions affording general hospital relief.

(ii) *Principal Hospitals in each State.* In earlier issues of the Official Year Book (See No. 22, pp. 481-2) particulars respecting staff, accommodation, etc., of each of the principal hospitals were given, but owing to considerations of space, are not included in this issue.

(iii) *Number, Staff, and Accommodation, 1929.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs, and accommodation for the year 1929, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table :—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, 1929 (a).

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Hospitals—							
Government .. .. .	4	..	1	11	25	3	44
Other .. .. .	162	55	111	38	57	13	436
Total .. .. .	166	55	112	49	82	16	480
Medical Staff—							
Males .. .. .	1,478	676	(b) 334 (b) 14	170	48	36	2,765
Females .. .. .				5	3	1	
Total .. .. .	1,478	676	(b) 348	175	51	37	2,765
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males .. .. .	113	2,302	(b) 457 (b) 2,504	104	170	4	11,461
Females .. .. .	3,532			1,012	1,004	259	
Total .. .. .	3,645	2,302	(b) 2,961	1,116	1,174	263	11,461
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories, wards, etc. . . . .	1,310	471	(c) 716	447	377	156	3,477
Capacity, in cubic feet. . . . .	10,273,953	5,503,881	(c) 4,794,631	2,446,668	2,273,854	1,015,509	26,313,496
Number of beds, etc. . . . .	8,988	4,440	(c) 4,080	1,949	2,276	887	22,629
Cubic feet to each bed. . . . .	1,145	1,238	(c) 1,175	1,255	999	1,145	1,163

) The figures relate to the years ended as follows :—New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania—31st December, 1929; Victoria—30th June, 1929; Queensland and Western Australia—30th June, 1930. The figures for Western Australia are an estimate for twelve months on the basis of eighteen months figures supplied. (b) Includes maternity hospitals and maternity wards in general hospitals. (c) Excludes maternity wards in general hospitals.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated. In addition to the facilities provided in the ordinary wards, a considerable amount of accommodation for certain classes of cases is furnished in out-door or verandah sleeping places, and this can be augmented; full particulars in connexion with these are not available. So far as the returns show, there were 1,453 out-door beds in New South Wales, 470 in Queensland, 178 in South Australia, 84 in Western Australia, and 53 in Tasmania. These figures are not included in the totals given in the table above.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1929(a),

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land. (b)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Indoor Relief — Total Cases Treated—							
Males .. .. .	76,753	27,159	37,797	12,618	16,094	7,153	177,574
Females .. .. .	75,402	22,014	26,883	13,169	13,283	7,205	157,956
Total .. .. .	152,155	49,173	64,680	25,787	29,377	14,358	335,530
Inmates at beginning of year—							
Males .. .. .	3,512	1,629	1,833	661	802	284	8,721
Females .. .. .	3,195	1,251	1,210	564	559	276	7,055
Total .. .. .	6,707	2,880	3,043	1,225	1,361	560	15,776

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1929—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land. (b)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<b>Admissions and Re-admissions during year—</b>							
Males .. ..	73,241	25,530	35,964	11,957	15,922	6,869	168,853
Females .. ..	72,207	20,763	25,673	12,605	12,724	6,929	150,801
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>145,448</b>	<b>46,293</b>	<b>61,637</b>	<b>24,562</b>	<b>28,016</b>	<b>13,798</b>	<b>319,754</b>
<b>Discharges—</b>							
<b>Recovered :</b>							
Males .. ..	55,795	22,707	32,988	5,378	7,174	6,142	130,184
Females .. ..	58,108	19,142	23,952	6,958	7,108	6,291	121,559
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>113,903</b>	<b>(c) 41,849</b>	<b>(e) 56,940</b>	<b>12,336</b>	<b>14,282</b>	<b>(c) 12,433</b>	<b>251,743</b>
Relieved :							
Males .. ..	10,442	..	..	4,656	6,747	..	21,845
Females .. ..	8,625	..	..	4,311	4,784	..	17,920
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>19,267</b>	<b>(d)</b>	<b>(d)</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>11,531</b>	<b>(d)</b>	<b>39,765</b>
Unrelieved or incurable :							
Males .. ..	2,208	61	763	787	386	277	4,482
Females .. ..	2,145	40	530	688	303	314	4,020
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>(e) 101</b>	<b>(i) 1,293</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>8,502</b>
Not stated or indefinite :							
Males .. ..	..	379	320	240	..	11	950
Females .. ..	..	338	214	136	..	7	695
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>(f) 717</b>	<b>(g) 534</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,645</b>
<b>Deaths—</b>							
Males .. ..	4,727	2,417	1,932	923	952	402	11,353
Females .. ..	3,046	1,309	1,013	524	485	274	6,651
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>7,773</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>1,447</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>18,004</b>
<b>Inmates at end of year—</b>							
Males .. ..	3,581	1,595	1,794	634	830	321	8,755
Females .. ..	3,278	1,185	1,174	552	608	319	7,116
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>6,859</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>2,968</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>15,871</b>
<b>Average Daily Number Resident—</b>							
Males .. ..	(h)	(h)	(h)	686	(h)	314	(h)
Females .. ..	(h)	(h)	(h)	622	(h)	307	(h)
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>7,501</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>3,207</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>16,927</b>

(a) See footnotes (a) to previous table. (b) Excludes maternity wards in general hospitals. (c) Including relieved. (d) Included in recovered. (e) Incurable only. (f) Includes unrelieved. (g) Removed to other institutions. (h) Not available. (i) Or at own request.

(v) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1929 were as follows:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1929 (a).

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land. (b)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Fees of patients, etc.	287,813	109,910	139,426	71,821	96,519	39,413	744,902
Government grants	903,078	179,097	379,287	300,305	122,531	57,101	1,941,399
Other .. ..	700,969	409,347	240,156	85,341	50,327	11,276	1,497,416
Total ..	1,891,860	698,354	758,869	457,467	269,377	107,790	4,183,717
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Main- tenance ..	1,288,578	488,435	659,975	272,475	244,027	78,017	3,031,507
Buildings ..	409,623	101,296	91,779	175,620	18,683	3,196	1,033,147
Other .. ..	151,456	33,386		17,888	7,124	23,096	
Total ..	1,849,657	623,117	751,754	465,983	269,834	104,309	4,064,654

(a) See note (a) to first table on page 340.

(b) Includes also Maternity Hospitals.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1925 to 1929.* Returns for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, are given in the following table. Figures for general hospitals only are tabulated, since the working of "special" institutions is not properly comparable with those which treat every class of case. It should be noted that the statistics for the States cannot be brought to a common year and consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Number of institutions ..	450	458	470	472	480
Number of beds .. ..	20,718	20,784	21,657	21,638	22,629
Admissions during year ..	251,379	274,577	287,662	311,103	319,754
Total indoor cases treated ..	264,389	288,036	302,296	326,049	335,530
Deaths .. .. .	15,125	15,912	16,287	17,265	18,004
Expenditure .. .. .	£ 3,090,546	3,404,322	3,656,890	3,862,048	4,064,654

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 places the total at about 800,000.

2. *Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.*—(i) *General.* There has been a great increase in recent years in the amount of aid provided for 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 seventy and eighty 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. In Australia numerous establishments have been founded for the housing and protection of persons 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 Australia have resulted in differences 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 chief function of the institution is aid to the destitute, it has been included amongst benevolent asylums. In Victoria, although several of the hospitals were also benevolent asylums, a separation was effected and asylum patients were transferred to appropriate institutions. In South Australia, the Destitute Asylum includes lying-in and children's departments.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars respecting the accommodation and the numbers of inmates of the principal institutions were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (See No. 22, p. 485), but owing to considerations of space cannot be repeated herein.

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1929 are given in the following table :—

## BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1929.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Revenue—</b>							
Government aid ..	165,593	29,422	57,145	11,151	8,402	11,096	282,809
Municipal aid ..	11	709	..	..	..	..	720
Public subs., legacies, etc.	3,365	28,352	169	4,006	..	..	35,892
Fees ..	38,508	30,473	..	16,359	20,073	5,053	110,466
Other ..	5,193	19,659	4,477	920	..	2,219	32,468
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>212,670</b>	<b>108,615</b>	<b>61,791</b>	<b>32,436</b>	<b>28,475</b>	<b>18,368</b>	<b>462,355</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Buildings ..	5,330	7,383	719	3,739	..	334	17,505
Maintenance ..	195,870	71,901	60,438	16,366	28,475	12,851	385,901
Other ..	12,662	14,956	849	13,230	..	5,183	46,880
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>213,862</b>	<b>94,240</b>	<b>62,006</b>	<b>33,335</b>	<b>28,475</b>	<b>18,368</b>	<b>450,286</b>

(a) See note (a) to first table on page 340.

3. *Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.—(i) General.* The organization 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 strictly to orphans. The expenditure on orphanages in 1929 was approximately £246,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier Year Books (See No. 22, p. 486), but considerations of space prevent their repetition herein.

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions in 1929 of State Departments for the relief of neglected children :—

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—SUMMARY, 1929 (a).

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>Number of children in institutions, boarded out, or on probation—</i>							
Males .. ..	3,088	4,044	1,350	670	459	327	9,938
Females .. ..	2,605	3,396	954	479	339	240	8,013
Total .. ..	5,693	7,440	2,304	1,149	793	567	17,951
<i>Number of children boarded out with their own mothers and female relatives—not included in above figures—</i>							
Males .. ..	10,083	10,244	3,021	127	28	..	26,509
Females .. ..			2,884	78	44	..	
Total .. ..	10,083	10,244	5,905	205	72	..	26,509
Total children under State control ..	15,776	17,684	8,209	1,354	870	567	44,480
<i>Gross cost to State of children's relief ..</i>							
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
553,575	444,815	207,837	55,550	26,785	15,923	1,304,485	
<i>Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..</i>							
22,055	15,717	12,107	2,155	4,849	1,091	57,974	
Net cost .. ..	531,520	429,098	195,730	53,395	21,936	14,832	1,246,511

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland—31st December, 1929; other States—30th June, 1930.

4. *Lepers.*—Isolation hospitals for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane); Western Australia (near Cossack); and the Northern Territory (near Darwin). At the end of 1930 there were 20 cases in residence at Little Bay, 54 at Peel Island, 15 in Western Australia and 34 in North Australia. During the year 1930 a total of 12 cases of leprosy was reported in Australia, of which 4 were recorded in New South Wales, and 8 in Queensland. In 1929 there were 4 deaths from this disease, and in 1930 the number of deaths recorded was 16, 4 in New South Wales, 11 in Queensland and 1 in Western Australia.

5. *Hospitals for the Insane.*—(i) *General.* The method of compiling insanity statistics has been fairly uniform throughout the States, but differences in diagnosis of the early stages of the disease introduce an element of uncertainty which considerably affects the value of comparisons.

(ii) *Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1929.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, medical and nursing staff, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1929:—

**HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1929(a).**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<b>Number of Institutions—</b>							
Government .. .. .	11	8	3	2	5	1	30
Private .. .. .	3	(c) 4	..	..	1	..	8
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Medical Staff—</b>							
Males .. .. .	29	28	6	6	5	2	76
Females .. .. .	4	..	1	..	..	..	5
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Nursing Staff and Attendants—</b>							
Males .. .. .	853	684	274	101	132	64	2,108
Females .. .. .	803	661	207	93	101	71	1,936
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>4,044</b>
<b>Accommodation—</b>							
Number of dormitories ..	(b)	1,358	584	517	66	419	(b)
Capacity, in cubic feet ..	(b)	4,050,052	1,993,452	1,000,072	783,474	896,680	(b)
Number of beds .. .. .	8,895	5,932	2,606	1,486	(d)1,284	748	20,951
Cubic feet to each bed ..	(b)	683	765	673	1,154	1,199	(b)

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—New South Wales and Queensland—30th June, 1930; other States—31st December, 1929. (b) Not available. (c) Cases at the end of the year numbered 89; other particulars not available. (d) Includes 605 beds on verandahs or out of doors.

(iii) *Patients, 1929.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1929 is given in the table hereunder:—

**HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1929(a).**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<b>Admissions and re-admissions during year—</b>							
Males .. .. .	914	459	290	145	112	61	1,981
Females .. .. .	680	400	196	115	51	39	1,490
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,594</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,471</b>
<b>Discharges—Recovered—</b>							
Males .. .. .	290	75	128	39	23	24	579
Females .. .. .	244	109	99	28	13	14	505
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1,084</b>
<b>Relieved and unrelieved—</b>							
Males .. .. .	127	120	8	24	25	8	312
Females .. .. .	82	93	9	28	12	5	229
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>541</b>

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

(b) Exclusive of four private licensed houses.



## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1929(a)—continued.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Absconders not retaken—							
Males .. .. .	14	11	..	1	..	..	26
Females .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Total .. .. .	14	13	..	1	..	..	28
Deaths—							
Males .. .. .	317	235	160	65	49	19	845
Females .. .. .	247	193	72	53	18	23	606
Total .. .. .	564	428	232	118	67	42	1,451
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males .. .. .	5,177	3,168	1,871	761	831	314	12,122
Females .. .. .	4,200	3,363	1,171	613	421	308	10,076
Total .. .. .	9,377	6,531	3,042	1,374	1,252	622	22,198
Average daily number resident—							
Males .. .. .	4,843	2,731	1,889	754	823	311	11,351
Females .. .. .	3,855	2,948	1,142	604	390	305	9,244
Total .. .. .	8,698	5,679	3,031	1,358	1,213	616	20,595
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males .. .. .	4.11	3.59	3.79	2.54	3.68	2.89	3.70
Females .. .. .	3.45	3.76	2.67	2.18	2.21	2.79	3.21
Persons .. .. .	3.78	3.68	3.27	2.37	3.00	2.84	3.46
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males .. .. .	3.86	3.11	3.86	2.52	3.69	2.93	3.48
Females .. .. .	3.19	3.31	2.63	2.16	2.07	2.83	2.97
Persons .. .. .	3.53	3.21	3.28	2.34	2.95	2.88	3.23

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

(b) Exclusive of four private licensed houses.

In some States persons well advanced towards recovery are allowed to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are under supervision and their names are kept on the books. The figures for admissions, etc., include absconders captured and re-admitted. Generally, very few escapees succeed in avoiding capture.

(iv) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1929.* 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 85 per cent.

## HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1929(a).

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients .. .. .	£ 114,451	£ 51,026	£ 24,787	£ 17,951	£ 15,336	£ 8,698	£ 232,249
Other .. .. .	3,170	6,698	646	1,593	6,623	746	19,476
Total .. .. .	117,621	57,724	25,433	19,544	21,959	9,444	251,725
Expenditure—							
Salaries .. .. .	438,257	290,715	138,525	49,299	66,248	35,122	1,018,166
Maintenance .. .. .	246,674	165,623	80,694	51,400	41,078	21,487	606,956
Buildings .. .. .	..	35,039	5,398	10,654	2,154	..	53,245
Other .. .. .	29,349	6,880	..	2,276	2,183	2,547	43,235
Total .. .. .	714,280	498,257	224,617	113,629	111,663	59,156	1,721,002
Expenditure per Inmate .. .. .	£76/3/6	£76/5/10	£73/16/9	£82/14/0	£89/3/9	£95/2/1	£77/11/2

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia—30th June, 1930; other States—31st December, 1929.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1925 to 1929.* The table hereunder gives a summary for hospitals for the insane in Australia for each of the five years 1925 to 1929. The figures for the States cannot be brought to a common year; consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years. Licensed houses are included in the number of institutions for Victoria, and in all particulars save expenditure for New South Wales. The figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols. In the case of New South Wales the expenditure figures include cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Number of institutions .. ..	36	34	34	36	38
Number of beds .. ..	18,797	18,885	19,474	19,467	20,951
Admissions .. ..	3,441	3,452	3,466	3,537	3,471
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,613	1,592	1,576	1,669	1,625
Deaths .. ..	1,416	1,459	1,433	1,429	1,451
Expenditure—Total .. ..	£ 1,649,626	1,629,242	1,666,061	1,706,259	1,721,602
„ —Per Inmate .. ..	£80/4/4	£77/14/7	£77/17/8	£78/3/2	£77/11/2

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1925 to 1929.* The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, has changed very little during recent years. The next table gives the number of insane under official care in Australia, and the proportion per 1,000 of population for the last five years.

INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS, 1925 TO 1929.

State.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales .. ..	8,397	8,570	8,898	9,104	9,377
Victoria .. ..	6,192	6,329	6,360	6,501	6,531
Queensland .. ..	2,983	3,000	3,017	3,032	3,042
South Australia .. ..	1,302	1,282	1,306	1,350	1,374
Western Australia .. ..	1,088	1,164	1,188	1,229	1,252
Tasmania .. ..	603	615	623	615	622
Australia .. ..	20,565	20,960	21,392	21,831	22,198

PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

New South Wales .. ..	3.65	3.64	3.71	3.72	3.78
Victoria .. ..	3.67	3.70	3.65	3.60	3.68
Queensland .. ..	3.46	3.40	3.36	3.31	3.27
South Australia .. ..	2.36	2.26	2.27	2.33	2.37
Western Australia .. ..	2.92	3.07	3.03	3.03	3.00
Tasmania .. ..	2.78	2.86	2.89	2.84	2.84
Australia .. ..	3.43	3.43	3.43	3.45	3.46

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

A more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases has resulted in a greater willingness in recent years to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an earlier stage. Hence an increase in the number of recorded cases does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity, and the small increment in the numbers in the first of the immediately preceding tables is probably, if not solely, due to this circumstance.

(vii) *Causes of Insanity.* The general information available respecting the causes of the insanity of persons admitted to institutions is too unsatisfactory to be given in detail. The figures for previous attacks and ascertained hereditary influence and ascertained congenital defect, though not entirely satisfactory, may, however, be mentioned. Of the total admissions and re-admissions during the year 1929, 15 per cent had been subject to previous attacks of insanity, while "ascertained hereditary influence and ascertained congenital defect" were responsible for 26 per cent. The figure for previous attacks is exclusive of South Australia, for which no particulars are available.

(viii) *Length of Residence in Hospital.* Information concerning the length of residence of persons who died or were discharged is given in earlier Year Books (See No. 22 p. 491), but owing to considerations of space, cannot be included in this issue.

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

7. *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, 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 expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1929-30 was, New South Wales, £37,746; Victoria, £8,734; Queensland, £61,301; South Australia, £24,025; Western Australia, £26,796; Northern Territory, £9,675; total for Australia, £168,277. In New South Wales the number of aboriginals living on reserves in 1929 was 2,369. At the 30th June, 1929, there were 47 full-bloods and 281 three-quarter and half-castes under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board at stations in Victoria. In Queensland in 1928-29 there were 4,267 aborigines permanently resident at the various stations. At the 30th June, 1930, there were 823 inmates, of whom 117 were full-bloods, at mission stations in South Australia, and in Western Australia the aborigines and half-castes supported at similar institutions in the year 1929-30 numbered 945 (including 179 supported by the State), while an average of 1,415 natives were rationed each month by the Aborigines Department. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory approximately 1,250 full-bloods and 100 half-castes were in residence, but casual assistance and medical attention are given to large numbers of natives every year.

8. *Royal Life Saving Society.*—In each of the State capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established and in some States sub-centres have been established in the larger provincial districts. Saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves, and other suitable places. Upwards of 12,000 certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination throughout Australia, the numbers for the individual States for 1930 being New South Wales, 4,633; Victoria, 2,645; Queensland, 1,823; South Australia, 679; Western Australia, 2,253; and Tasmania, 120.

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

10. *Other Charitable Institutions.*—Owing to variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and the infirm. The institutions not so particularized include asylums for the deaf, dumb, and blind, 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.

11. *Total Expenditure on Charities.* Previous issues of the Official Year Book embodied statistics of expenditure on charities. The returns available, however, included a portion only of direct expenditure by Governments, and, in general, there is a want of harmony in the information available for the different States. Pending the result of further inquiry it has been decided to omit this table from the present chapter.