

PART VI.

SOCIAL CONDITION.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

The University of Melbourne was incorporated and endowed by an Act of the Governor and the Legislative Council of Victoria. The Royal assent was given on 22nd January, 1853. The University consists of a Council of 31 members and a Convocation consisting of all graduates. The University buildings, together with those of the affiliated residential colleges, are situated on 106 acres of land in the southern part of Carlton.

Payment to the University of an annual endowment of £45,000 from 1st July, 1923, was provided for in the *University Act 1923*. Under the provisions of the *University (Grant) Act 1933*, a further grant of £6,000 for research in Science and University extension was made payable annually as from 1st July, 1934. Other annual grants are £6,500 for a School of Agriculture, £3,300 for a Veterinary School, and £2,500 for a Chair of Obstetrics. For the financial year 1939-40 the additional appropriations included in the Budget amounted to £9,000. In addition to grants from the Government, the Council derives income from fees paid by students for lectures, examinations, certificates and diplomas.

By Act of Parliament in 1923, a University Students' Loan Fund was established and a transfer of £10,000 thereto from the Assurance Fund under the *Transfer of Land Act* was authorized. In addition, a grant of £10,000 was made to the Fund from the Consolidated Revenue. The Fund is administered by a special committee. Each student applying for a loan must satisfy the committee that he is possessed of ability and that, without assistance from the Fund, he will be unable to continue the University course. It is provided that interest at rates of 4-5 per cent. per annum shall be charged on all advances, and that the amount lent to any one student in any year shall not exceed £100.

Scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes are provided in all the principal subjects, the cost being defrayed partly out of University funds and partly by private bequests. The investments at present held as the result of private benefactions amount to £770,392. In addition, gifts, which have been spent on buildings and equipment, amount to £148,735.

The appended table gives the results of the public **Examinations.** examinations conducted by the University during December, 1939, and February, 1940 :—

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, DECEMBER, 1939, AND FEBRUARY, 1940.

Examination.	Number who attempted to Pass fully.	Number who Passed fully.	
		Total.	Percentage.
Intermediate	3,970	2,255	56·80
Leaving	2,516	1,464	58·18
Candidates entered for Certificates by Headmasters of Approved Schools—			
Intermediate	3,165	2,247	70·99
Leaving	1,073	645	60·11
Total—			
Intermediate	7,135	4,502	63·09
Leaving	3,589	2,109	58·76

Undergraduates admitted and degrees conferred. Candidates for degrees must matriculate as prescribed by the regulations before being admitted as undergraduates. The number of undergraduates admitted during each of the five years 1935-1939 was as follows :—1935, 686; 1936, 670; 1937, 728; 1938, 888; and 1939, 857. The number of degrees taken in 1939 was 596, as against an average of 516 per annum for the preceding five years. Of the total of 17,159 degrees granted since the establishment of the University, 3,012 have been conferred on women.

Students attending lectures. Of the 4,159 students who attended lectures in 1939, 914 were students in Arts; 114 in Education; 14 in Journalism; 302 in Laws; 194 in Engineering; 785 in Medicine; 486 in Science; 240 in Music; 104 in Dental Science; 668 in Commerce; 81 in Agriculture; 88 in Architecture; 4 in Veterinary Science; 47 in Public Administration; 9 in Medical Post-graduate courses; 39 in Science Research Work; 68 in Physical Education; and 2 in Dietetics. In addition there were 349 students not attending lectures but receiving correspondence tuition.

University
finance.

A statement of receipts and expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1939, is given below:—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MELBOURNE
UNIVERSITY, 1939.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Government Grants—		Salaries	172,427
General Account ..	51,500	Examiners' Fees	10,596
Other	22,100	Examination Expenses ..	5,850
Bequests and Donations ..	18,131	Fellowships, Scholarships, &c.	6,961
Fees—		Apparatus	32,912
Lecture	78,664	Books and Periodicals ..	4,691
Examination, &c. ..	48,455	Printing and Stationery ..	4,243
Interest and Dividends ..	38,937	Buildings and Grounds ..	89,668
Other Receipts	20,410	All other	36,648
Total	278,197	Total	363,996

There are five residential colleges affiliated with the University; Trinity, Ormond, Queen's, and Newman Colleges were established by the Church of England, the Presbyterian, the Methodist, and the Roman Catholic Churches respectively in Victoria. The University Women's College (not a Church foundation) was affiliated during 1937. Information relating to the foundation and progress of the colleges is given in previous issues of the *Year-Book*.

In 1906 the Australian College of Dentistry was formally affiliated with the University, which obtained certain rights of supervision and control and, in return, undertook to recognize the professional teaching of the College in connexion with the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Science.

Colleges of
Dentistry and
Pharmacy.

Particulars relating to the Australian College of Dentistry and the Melbourne College of Pharmacy are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 516 to 519.

University
Extension.

Tutorial and lecture classes, and study circles are organized and maintained by the University Extension Board in co-operation with the Workers' Educational Association. These classes are held in the city and suburbs and in a number of country towns. The Board also provides an extensive series of public lectures in the larger country towns, maintains reading and discussion circles in the smaller towns, and is also the means through which persons seeking advice or information from the University may be served. The Board's work is cultural and educational in the broadest sense. Its courses are not intended for those proceeding to degrees, but for the ordinary citizen of the State.

THE STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

**The
educational
system of
Victoria.**

The present system of "free, compulsory, and secular" education came into operation on 1st January, 1873, the Act which introduced it having been passed in the previous year.

Under the *Education Act* 1872, education to all willing to accept it was made "free, compulsory and secular"—free, because fees were not to be charged; compulsory, in the sense that, whether the children attend or do not attend State Schools, evidence must be produced that they are educated up to a certain standard; and secular, for the reason that no teacher is allowed to give other than secular instruction in any State School building. Facilities are, however, afforded to persons other than State school teachers to give religious instruction, on one or two days each week, to the children of those parents who desire that their children shall receive such instruction. In each school four hours at least are set apart during each school day for secular instruction, two of which must be before, and two after, mid-day. In practice the actual hours of instruction in the smaller primary schools are from 9.15 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with one hour for lunch, and in the larger primary schools from 9.15 a.m. to 4 p.m. with 1½ hours for lunch.

The *Education Act* 1910 was a measure of a most comprehensive and far-reaching character. It further defined compulsory education and, in addition, instituted the Council of Public Education and school committees, provided for medical inspection of pupils and set in motion machinery for the establishment of junior technical schools, higher elementary schools and high schools. This Act marked a distinctive epoch in the history of education in Victoria, in that it laid the foundation of a complete national system from the infants' school to the highest educational institutions in the State.

**Free
subjects.** The following are the subjects in which instruction is free:—English (literature, reading, recitation, spelling, writing, composition, grammar), mathematics (arithmetic, elementary algebra, practical geometry), nature knowledge (geography, general science, nature-study), health, history and civics, manual work (art, needlework, woodwork, and other forms of handwork such as modelling in clay or plasticine, paper folding and paper cutting, brush drawing, or weaving with some material other than paper, for example, raffia), music, and, where practicable, rural science or horticulture for boys, cookery and domestic arts for girls, and physical education including swimming. Pupils buy their own books and material. Provision, however, is made for a free supply of books and material in necessitous cases.

Compulsory attendance. In accordance with the provisions of the *Education Act* 1928, parents or guardians of children of not less than six nor more than fourteen years of age are required to cause such children to attend a school on every school half-day in each week unless there is a reasonable excuse for their non-attendance. Failure to comply with these provisions renders a parent or guardian liable to a fine of not less than 2s. nor more than 10s. for each offence or, in default, imprisonment for a term of not more than three days. Attendance officers are appointed for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the compulsory attendance provisions of the *Education Act*.

Conveyance allowance. An allowance for conveyance up to fourpence per day for each day's attendance at a State or Registered primary school may be granted to a child between the ages of six and fourteen years whose residence is more than four miles distant from the nearest existing State school and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances. Special conditions apply to children who are actually in attendance at a State school which is closed on account of low attendance.

Correspondence tuition. In May, 1914, there was inaugurated in Victoria the system of correspondence tuition for children in remote districts. Sets of graded exercises are sent out fortnightly and subsequently returned to the Correspondence school for correction. All the subjects of the course of study are thus taught, and with most successful results. Many children have reached the standards of the Intermediate and Leaving Certificates without having had any teaching except that given by correspondence tuition. For some years this tuition has been extended to include crippled and invalid children as well as children in remote districts. The total number enrolled for correspondence tuition on 30th June, 1940, was 2,007 (Primary 741, Secondary 1,266).

School Committees. Under Act No. 2301, now incorporated in the *Education Act* 1928 (No. 3671), provision was made for the appointment of a School Committee for each school. A statement of the main duties of these committees is given in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 199. School committees with mothers' clubs and other school bodies have been responsible for raising many thousands of pounds for school improvement. Advisory Councils take the place of School Committees in Girls' Schools, District High Schools, and Technical Schools.

Special schools Special schools have been established for those children whose disabilities make the ordinary schools unsuitable or undesirable. Such special schools include the Talbot School for Epileptics, the school for the blind, the school for the deaf and dumb, five schools for the feeble-minded (three residential), a school for child inmates of the Austin Hospital for Cancer and Chronic Diseases, a school for the inmates of the Convalescent Home of the Children's Hospital, and the schools in connexion with the institutions under the Children's Welfare Department. Two special schools for youthful prisoners have been provided (one in Pentridge Gaol and one in Castlemaine Reformatory) and a school established for young constables at the Police Depot.

Woodwork and Cookery Centres and other activities. On 30th June, 1940, there were in operation 89 woodwork centres, having an attendance of 9,347 boys; and 70 cookery centres (apart from those at Girls' Schools) with an attendance of 4,486 girls; at the same date in 1939, 9,532 boys were attending 86 woodwork centres and 4,123 girls were attending 67 cookery centres. Physical education is taught in all schools and field sports have been organized and encouraged as a successful adjunct to education. Instruction in swimming and life-saving methods is given at schools that have the necessary facilities. For the purpose of developing thrift and a spirit of social service in children, the Department fosters such activities as School Savings Banks, Social Service Leagues, Junior Safety Councils, &c.

School Savings Banks. At 30th June, 1940, there were 2,884 School Savings Banks and 208,012 depositors with £286,964 to their credit.

Victorian State Schools' War Relief Fund. A Victorian State Schools' War Relief Committee consisting of Departmental officials and representatives of organizations connected with the Department has been appointed by the Minister and has the authority of the Patriotic Funds Council to raise money for the following objects:—

- (1) To assist in the maintenance and education of children in Victoria (and such other children as it may be found possible to assist) adversely affected by the existing national emergency.
- (2) To purchase materials to be used in the schools to make articles of value to the Red Cross and the Junior Red Cross.
- (3) To assist in the provision of comforts for members of the Australian Defence Forces on service or in hospitals.
- (4) To assist members of the Australian Defence Forces and their dependants if in need.
- (5) Such other purposes of special appeals in connexion with the war as may be considered desirable by the Committee.

The Victorian State Schools' War Relief Depot began operations on the 18th June, 1940, and continued to despatch large quantities of wool and other material to schools to be made up into articles for the Australian Comforts Fund and the Australian Red Cross Society. At 30th June, 1940, the amount of money raised was £2,892.

Free Kindergarten Union. At 30th June, 1940, there were 31 kindergartens and nursery schools affiliated with the Free Kindergarten Union of Victoria at which 1,845 children below school age were enrolled. There were also two holiday homes. The movement receives from the Education Department an annual subsidy which in 1939-40 amounted to £2,500.

School forestry and horticulture. A scheme for the establishment of school tree plantations was inaugurated in 1923 with the co-operation of the Lands and State Forests Departments. Areas in the vicinity of State schools have been reserved for the purpose. At 30th June, 1940, there were established 386 of these plantations. During the past planting season 55,000 trees were planted. The Victorian State Schools Horticultural Society, founded in 1913, renders much assistance to pupils and teachers. The Society has established a nursery from which many thousands of packets of seeds, seedlings and shrubs are distributed annually to the schools throughout the State.

Young Farmers' Clubs. These have been established to interest pupils and young people generally in the agricultural life of the community. They are controlled by local committees of experts under the leadership of the head teacher of the school concerned. In the development of these clubs, the Education Department has the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture, the Royal Agricultural Society, and the Railways Department. On the 30th June, 1940, there were 334 affiliated clubs in operation.

Medical inspection. Medical inspection was established in 1909. The present staff consists of seven full-time medical officers; in addition some assistance is given by a district health officer, who, in conjunction with the duties performed by him as a member of the staff of the Public Health Department, examines some of the children in his district.

In 1939-40, 32,755 children and 1,727 teachers were examined by School Medical Officers.

Three school nurses render invaluable service in visiting the homes of the children and in persuading parents to obtain treatment for the defects notified by the School Medical Officers. In 1939-40, they made 6,946 visits to 5,570 homes.

In 1921 the first two school dentists were appointed. The present staff consists of nine full time fully qualified dentists, having the assistance of eleven dental attendants. Treatment is begun with children in the first year of their school life.

In 1939-40, 28,374 children received treatment by the school dentists.

The total cost of the Medical, Dental, and Nursing Services in 1939-40 was £16,206.

At present Student Teachers are trained at the Melbourne Teachers' College. Those who have passed the School Leaving Examination and in Arithmetic for the School Intermediate Certificate or its equivalent may be admitted to the College, provided they have had at least one year's teaching experience and that their teaching abilities have been satisfactorily reported on by their Inspectors.

The following table shows the progress as regards State schools, teachers, and scholars since 1872 :—

VICTORIA—STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1939.

Year	Number of Schools at end of Year.	Number of Instructors.*	Number of Scholars.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct Children (Estimated).
1872	1,049	2,416	136,055	68,456	113,197
1880	1,810	4,215	229,723	119,520	195,736
1890	2,170	4,708	250,097	133,768	213,886
1900	1,948	4,977	243,667	147,020	218,240
1909-10	2,036	4,957	235,042	145,968	206,263
1920 (31st December)	2,333	6,637	247,337	158,554	213,738
1930	2,598	7,665	260,319	184,228	228,756
1931	2,590	7,613	261,673	187,443	232,286
1932	2,613	7,461	262,417	189,101	232,586
1933	2,609	7,371	264,697	190,977	234,174
1934	2,617	7,397	259,750	185,082	230,470
1935	2,606	7,353	256,564	182,442	226,728
1936	2,600	7,314	250,070	179,420	219,645
1937	2,589	7,394	234,228	153,381	209,043
1938	2,591	7,242	227,233	159,022	201,457
1939	2,585	7,316	221,219	155,441	194,725

* Exclusive of teachers temporarily employed, the number of whom was 81 on 31st December, 1938, and 71 on 31st December, 1939.

VICTORIA—STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1938, AND 1939.

Class of School.	Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct Children (Estimated).
Central Schools* and Classes ..	1938	30	5,684	4,916	5,561
	1939	30	6,613	5,514	6,361
Higher Elementary Schools ..	1938	48	4,485	3,712	4,434
	1939	48	4,713	3,723	4,660
Girls' Schools	1938	12	3,490	2,625	3,426
	1939	12	3,949	3,016	3,917
Junior Technical Schools† ..	1938	27	9,135	7,580	9,021
	1939	27	10,171	8,405	10,083
District High Schools ..	1938	37	14,326	12,420	14,144
	1939	37	16,658	13,518	16,087
Total	1938	154	37,120	31,253	36,586
	1939	154	42,104	34,176	41,108

* Central Schools are not independent establishments. They are worked in conjunction with Primary Schools.

† Junior Technical Schools are worked in conjunction with Technical Schools.

Ages of State school scholars. The following table shows the number of children attending State Schools (Senior Technical Schools excepted) below, at, and above the school age (from 6 to 14 years), during the years ended 31st December, 1938, and 1939 :—

VICTORIA—AGES OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS, 1938 AND 1939.

Class of School.	Year.	Under 6 Years.	From 6 to 14 Years.	Over 14 Years.	Total. —
Primary Schools	1938	14,902	176,910	9,645	201,457
	1939	15,298	170,678	9,347	195,323
Central Schools	1938	..	4,344	1,217	5,561
	1939	..	4,801	1,560	6,361
Higher Elementary Schools ..	1938	..	2,366	2,068	4,434
	1939	..	2,436	2,224	4,660
Girls' Schools	1938	..	1,875	1,551	3,426
	1939	..	2,140	1,777	3,917
Junior Technical Schools ..	1938	..	4,170	4,851	9,021
	1939	..	4,705	5,378	10,083
District High Schools ..	1938	..	5,778	8,366	14,144
	1939	..	6,174	9,315	15,489
Total	1938	14,902	195,443	27,698	238,043
	1939	15,298	190,934	29,601	235,833
Estimated number after making allowance for duplicate enrolments between the various types of schools ..	1938	14,775	192,797	27,230	234,802
	1939	15,177	188,541	29,140	232,858

**Council of
Public
Education.**

The Council of Public Education is appointed under Section 83 of the *Education Act* 1928 and is mainly concerned with schools other than State schools. Its chief functions relate to the registration of teachers and schools under Part VI. of the Act, i.e., to ensure that schools are registered, that such schools are adequately staffed, and that only qualified persons are employed therein.

In this Part, school is defined as "An assembly at appointed times of three or more persons between the ages of six years and eighteen years for the purpose of their being instructed by a teacher or teachers in all or any of the undermentioned subjects, namely :—

Reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, English or other language, mathematics, history, any natural or experimental or applied science, bookkeeping, shorthand, accountancy ;

but 'school' does not include the University of Melbourne or any college affiliated therewith or any assembly of persons all of whom are members of not more than two families, or any State school, or any school aided by the State, or any school in any part of Victoria declared by the Governor in Council to be a sparsely populated district for the purposes of this Act."

No person may teach in a school unless he is registered or has obtained the express permission of the Council to be employed temporarily therein.

**Registered
schools,
teachers and
pupils, 1938
and 1939.**

As at 31st December the number of registered schools was 516 in 1938 and 514 in 1939, and the number of persons employed therein was 2,654 and 2,719 respectively. The number of individual scholars was 74,299 in 1938 and 75,398 in 1939. Particulars of registered schools for the years 1872 to 1928 appear in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 203, and for successive years in subsequent issues of the *Year-Book*.

The number and ages of pupils in attendance at registered schools are shown hereunder :—

VICTORIA—NUMBER AND AGES OF PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE AT REGISTERED SCHOOLS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1938, AND 1939.

Age Groups.	Gross Enrolment.		Net Number of Pupils (Estimated).	
	1938.	1939.	1938.	1939.
Under 6 years	6,124	6,665	5,757	6,305
From 6 to 14 years	56,519	56,473	51,466	51,963
Above 14 years	17,518	17,517	17,076	17,130
Total	80,161	80,655	74,299	75,398

Percentage of scholars attending registered schools. Of the total number of scholars attending schools in 1939, approximately 24 per cent. attended registered schools.

Number and ages of children in all schools. After allowance has been made for duplicate enrolment caused by the attendance of children at both State schools and registered schools, it is estimated that the number of individual children at school during the years 1938 and 1939 was as follows :—

VICTORIA—NUMBER (ESTIMATED) OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN UNDER INSTRUCTION AT SCHOOL DURING THE YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1938, AND 1939.

Age Groups.	1938.	1939.
Under 6 years	20,409	21,349
From 6 to 14 years	243,133	239,374
Above 14 years	43,956	45,920
Total	307,493	306,643

STATE SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The purpose of the higher elementary school and the district high school is to provide the essentials of a good general education for pupils who have completed the work of the sixth grade in primary schools, and who are likely to profit by a further course of study, and to give them, in the third and fourth years at secondary schools, a specialized training which will help to prepare them for their chosen careers in life. A statement in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, pages 204 and 205, shows the nature of these schools.

**Higher
Elementary
Schools.**

There are 48 higher elementary schools. During the term ended 31st December, 1938, there was an average attendance at these schools of 3,712 pupils, of whom 1,840 were boys and 1,872 were girls. During the corresponding term in 1939, the attendance was 3,723, of whom 1,849 were boys and 1,874 were girls. In the higher elementary schools a four-years' course up to School Intermediate Certificate is provided.

**Central Schools
and Classes.**

In 21 central schools in the metropolitan area and 9 schools with central classes in country centres a two-years' preparatory course of secondary education is provided. This course was attended by 4,916 pupils in 1938 and by 5,514 in 1939. Pupils from these schools have priority of admission to district high schools.

Girls' Schools.

There are 12 girls' schools, of which ten are in the Metropolitan Area and one each in Ballarat and Bendigo. During the term ended 31st December, 1939, there were 3,016 girls in attendance at these schools, compared with 2,625 during the corresponding term in 1938. A three-years' course is provided which leads to the certificate of proficiency in home arts and crafts at the age of fifteen years.

**District
High Schools.**

There are 37 district high schools, three of which, in addition to providing other courses of secondary education, have school farms attached. In district high schools, a six-years' course is provided. At the end of the fifth year pupils may obtain the School Leaving Certificate which, under certain conditions, qualifies for Matriculation; at the end of the sixth year pupils may sit for School Leaving Certificate Honours. During the term ended 31st December, 1938, there were in attendance at these schools 12,420 pupils, of whom 5,642 were boys and 6,778 were girls. During the corresponding term in 1939, the attendance was 13,518, comprising 7,210 boys and 6,308 girls.

**University
High School.**

For the practical part of the work of training secondary teachers, the institution now known as the University High School was opened in 1910, and, in addition to the teachers of the ordinary form subjects of secondary schools, the school was specially staffed by lecturers in methods of teaching. This is the official practising school for the work of the Diploma of Education of the University of Melbourne.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS.

The Minister of Public Instruction awarded scholarships at the beginning of 1940 as under :—

Number and Kind.	Age Requirements of Candidates.	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
600 Junior Scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Not over 14½ years on 1st January, 1940	4 years	Free tuition at a State secondary school and £4 p.a. for school requisites, or £16 p.a. towards tuition fees and school requisites at an approved registered secondary school; also in certain cases up to £26 p.a. for maintenance or up to £5 for transit
300 Free Places at State secondary schools open to candidates attending State schools	Not over 14½ years on 1st January, 1940	4 years	Free tuition at a State secondary school and £4 p.a. for school requisites; also in certain cases up to £26 p.a. for maintenance or up to £5 p.a. for transit
100 Teaching Scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Between 14½ years and 16½ years on 1st January, 1940	3 years	As for Junior Scholarships
50 Junior Technical Scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Not over 12½ years on 1st January, 1940	3 years	Free tuition at a junior technical school or approved State secondary school and £4 p.a. for school requisites, or £16 p.a. towards tuition fees and school requisites at an approved registered secondary school; also in certain cases up to £26 p.a. for maintenance or up to £5 p.a. for transit
50 Intermediate Technical Scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Not over 14½ years on 1st January, 1940	1 year	Free tuition at a junior technical school and £10 p.a.; also in certain cases up to £26 p.a. for maintenance or £5 p.a. for transit
135 Senior Technical Scholarships open to candidates attending State, technical and registered schools	No age limit	Up to 5 years	Free tuition at senior technical schools; also £30 p.a. in case of day scholars and £10 p.a. or £5 p.a. in case of evening scholars
44 Senior Scholarships open to candidates attending State, registered and technical schools	Not over 18½ years on 1st January, 1940	Up to 6 years	£40 p.a. towards expense of course at University
70 Free Places at University of Melbourne open to candidates attending State, registered, and technical schools	No age limit	Up to 6 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations in an approved course at University
5 Free Places at University of Melbourne open to officers (other than teachers) of the Government of Victoria	Not over 25 years on 1st January, 1940	Up to 4 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations in an approved course at the University. Leave on full pay to attend lectures and examinations
15 Free Places at University of Melbourne open to teachers of Education Department	No age limit	Up to 4 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations in an approved course at the University

In addition to these scholarships, there is a scheme whereby free tuition and allowances for school requisites up to £2 per annum and for maintenance up to £26 per annum or for transit up to £5 per annum may be granted to enable pupils who show special aptitude and promise and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances to attend State secondary and technical schools. Free tuition is granted to children of deceased or totally and permanently incapacitated sailors and soldiers, attending State secondary or technical schools.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

The technical schools in the State were originally under the control of local school councils. In 1910, however, legislation was passed which provided for all schools established after that year to be under the control of the Minister of Public Instruction. The number of technical schools receiving aid from the State on 30th June, 1940, was 30, of which 16 have been established since the passing of the *Education Act* 1910. The gross enrolment for the year 1938 comprised 9,135 junior and 26,859 senior students and, for the year 1939, 10,171 junior and 28,844 senior students.

Victorian technical schools provide practical laboratory and workshop training, together with instruction in the principles of Science and Art, as applied to industries. They also provide instruction in subjects connected with or preparatory to industrial, commercial, agricultural, mining, and domestic pursuits.

Full-time day and evening professional courses are provided in the various branches of engineering, mining, metallurgy, architecture, applied chemistry, applied physics, agriculture, art and applied art, commercial work, foremanship work, and institutional management. Full-time and part-time day and evening trade courses are also provided in trades connected with electrical and mechanical engineering, motor, building, furniture, printing, bootmaking, and women's industries.

Associated with every technical school, with the exception of the Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy, the Melbourne Technical College, and the William Angliss Food Trades School, is a full-time day junior technical or preparatory section, which provides for a three years' course of study. Pupils who have completed the Sixth grade course in primary schools are eligible for admission. Prior to enrolment in metropolitan schools an entrance examination is held, which is open to pupils from all schools, both State and private.

Senior technical schools, such as the Melbourne Technical College (formerly Working Men's College), the Swinburne Technical College (Glenferrie), the Gordon Institute of Technology (Geelong), the Ballarat School of Mines, the Bendigo School of Mines, and the Footscray Technical School, are general purpose technical schools providing generally full day and evening professional courses and full-time and part time day and evening trade and commercial courses. Specialized instruction is given at provincial centres, such as at Geelong, in wool-classing and sorting and architecture, and at Ballarat and Bendigo in chemistry and mining. The smaller country schools

have full-time or part-time farm utility courses specially adapted to the needs of the local district, in addition to the junior preparatory and certain full-time and part-time senior courses associated with engineering, building, commerce, and art and applied art.

The technical schools for women's industries are the Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy, the Box Hill Technical School, and women's sections at Ballarat, Brighton, Castlemaine, Maryborough, Prahran, Sale, Sunshine, Warrnambool, and Wonthaggi, technical schools, the Swinburne Technical College (Glenferrie), and the Gordon Institute of Technology (Geelong).

The fees per term range from 10s. per subject to £8 per course of subjects.

Government expenditure on each technical school during each of the five years ended 1939-40 is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1935-36 TO 1939-40.

School.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
	£	£	£	£	£
Bairnsdale	2,778	2,980	3,375	3,479	3,855
Ballarat	14,997	16,209	16,877	17,453	26,160
Bendigo	10,804	11,694	12,121	12,609	13,485
Box Hill	11,624	6,205	5,851	6,201	6,540
Brighton	12,487	13,586	14,358	15,161	22,005
Brunswick	10,200	12,596	13,212	13,768	18,494
Castlemaine	4,936	5,440	6,057	6,886	7,114
Caulfield	12,762	14,100	15,029	25,136	16,493
Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy	6,459	6,699	7,998	9,319	10,646
Collingwood	19,692	21,643	25,749	33,618	26,822
Daylesford	2,507	2,738	3,036	3,065	3,431
Echuca	3,947	6,759	5,454	5,333	5,409
Essendon .. .. .	..	..	467	29,437	13,780
Footscray	16,001	19,325	30,626	27,712	27,489
Geelong (Gordon Institute of Technology)	12,080	15,878	16,125	23,150	17,684
Glenferrie (Swinburne Tech. Col.)	22,908	26,609	28,696	30,322	30,528
Maryborough	7,106	7,997	8,957	9,492	9,059
Melbourne (Technical College)	50,693	55,800	110,758	76,363	53,430
Prahran	10,221	13,927	13,021	13,820	17,608
Preston	1,470	23,173	10,548	12,017	14,397
Richmond	10,893	14,812	13,348	11,985	13,745
Sale	4,033	4,763	5,566	6,017	6,168
South Melbourne	10,572	12,190	12,599	12,216	13,422
Stawell	3,147	3,704	4,218	6,175	4,172
Sunshine	5,439	6,325	6,391	19,541	10,555
Wangaratta	4,128	4,321	4,930	5,547	5,540
Warrnambool	5,707	5,753	7,138	6,673	6,854
William Angliss Food Trades .. .. .	..	..	..	496	26,336
Wonthaggi	5,358	6,361	6,480	6,639	6,760
Yallourn	12,726	6,471	4,907	5,843	6,420
Other votes for technical schools	4,797	7,021	7,933	9,489	11,513
Miscellaneous	2,906	3,095	2,957	3,677	3,769
Total	303,378	358,264	433,782	468,739	459,683

The Melbourne Technical College. The Melbourne Technical College was founded in 1887, as the Working Men's College, by the late Hon. Francis Ormond. It is open to both sexes, and supplies higher technical instruction. Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant. There are both day and evening courses.

Scholarships and Prizes. The College Council awards scholarships annually to students of Junior Technical Schools. Various other scholarships which have been donated by manufacturers, commercial associations, and other bodies are available to senior students of the College.

Every year the Council awards a prize to the best student of each of the day courses, and in each of the evening classes. Several valuable prizes are also given annually by employers and others interested in technical education.

Day Courses and Fees. All fees are payable in advance. The year is divided into three terms. The day courses and the scale of fees per term for the year 1941 are shown in the following table:—

Diploma Courses.	Fee per Term.	Other Day Courses.	Fee per Term.
Applied Chemistry ..	£5 10s. for the first and second years and £6 10s. thereafter	Architecture	£ s. d.
Chemical Engineering		Commercial—Full Day ..	4 10 0
Metallurgy		Five Half-days	5 0 0
Metallurgical Engineering		Engineering Machine Shop—Special Full Day ..	3 0 0
Mining Engineering ..		Electrical Trades—Special Full Day	3 0 0
Applied Science		Art Course—Full Time ..	3 0 0
Mechanical Engineering		Five Half-days	4 0 0
Electrical Engineering		Wool-sorting—Full Courses	3 0 0
Civil Engineering		Special Course	8 0 0
Municipal Engineering		Photography—Full Day ..	1 15 0
Communication Engineering		Motor Mechanics—Trade Course	6 0 0
Automotive Engineering			5 0 0

Evening Courses and Classes. In the evening school, the following courses for certificates are in operation:—Assayers; geologists; aero, civil, electrical, mechanical, and structural engineers; communication and production engineering; land surveyors; mechanical draughtsmen; public analysts; art; architects; industrial chemists; heat treatment; mine managers; mine surveying; primary and secondary metallurgy; and building, constructional engineering and printing trades. An evening course for the diploma of chemistry is also in operation. The fees for evening tuition range from £1 10s. per term to £3 10s. per term according to the course taken.

The evening classes are also open to students who, instead of undertaking a full course, receive instruction in any one or more subjects of any course. Tuition is also given by correspondence.

During 1940 the College accommodated 900 Defence trainees from the R.A.A.F., the Army, and the Factory Board.

Details relating to the College during the years 1935 to 1939 are shown in the following table:—

MELBOURNE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, 1935 TO 1939.

	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Individual students enrolled ..	7,102	8,304	8,807	9,958	9,926†
Males	6,263	7,634	8,103	8,804	8,671
Females	839	670	704	1,154	1,255
Number of classes	380	382	388	396	396
Number of Instructors	284	291	306	360	408
Salaries paid to Instructors ..£	43,461	49,134†	55,228†	63,721†	58,744†
Government grant£	33,367	37,082	42,456	44,861	44,016
Fees received during the year* ..£	24,890	27,547	31,376	37,818	38,620
Average fee per student per year	70s. 0d.	66s. 4d.	71s. 3d.	75s. 11d.	77s. 10d.

* Not including fees for correspondence courses, which amounted to £1,300 in 1935, £1,462 in 1936, £1,513 in 1937, £1,768 in 1938, and £1,556 in 1939. The subjects taught by correspondence are those included in the college curriculum.

† Includes salaries paid to those instructors employed at the Melbourne Technical College but under the control of the Education Department.

‡ Junior school conducted at West Melbourne closed to permit of erection of Food Trades School. Staff transferred to new Essendon Technical School.

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

The Library consists of three distinct sections, viz. :— the Reference Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending (Travelling) Library. In regard to the Reference Library, the librarian reports that 4,195 volumes were purchased, 2,208 volumes presented, 254 volumes obtained under the "Libraries Act," and 47,616 newspapers added to the Library during the year 1939. At the end of that year the Reference Library contained 486,090 volumes and 84,134 pamphlets. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 223,661 volumes during 1939, an increase of 7,994 compared with 1938, the number of persons to whom the books were lent being 11,346, which was 439 greater than the number in 1938. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of 1939 was 85,593, of which 4,545 were added during the year. At the same date there were 17,593 volumes in the Travelling Libraries.

The buildings of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria cost £438,865. With the exception of the sum of £35,000 received from the McAllan bequest, the whole of the money required to meet the cost of the buildings was provided by Parliament.

**Public
Library of
Victoria.**

National Gallery. The National Gallery at the end of 1939 contained 29,172 works of art, viz., 937 oil paintings, 7,689 objects of art, statuary, &c., and 20,546 water color drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. During 1939, the Trustees of the Felton Bequest provided the sum of £21,500 for the purchase of works of art, the total of such purchases to the end of the year amounting to £531,293. The school of painting in connexion with the institution was attended during the year by 41 students and the school of drawing by 106 students.

National and Industrial Museums. The National Museum and the Industrial and Technological Museum are located in the Public Library Buildings. The collections in the former comprise natural history, geology, and ethnology, while, in the latter, more than 10,000 exhibits are displayed.

FREE LIBRARIES.

There are about 420 free libraries in Victoria. Statistics for the year ended 31st December, 1939, were collected from 69 of the more important of these libraries, 26 of which are situated in the metropolitan area and 43 in the cities and chief towns in other parts of the State. The total receipts of these 69 libraries were £68,232, towards which the Government contributed £36,009 and municipal councils £13,565. The total expenditure was £68,689, of which £12,205 represented the cost of the purchase of books, magazines, &c. There were 1,076,005 volumes in these libraries on the 31st December, 1939; of that number 589,276 were in the Public Library of Victoria, Melbourne.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

The Melbourne Botanic Garden, which was established in 1896, is situated on the south side of the River Yarra. The area of the garden proper is 102 acres, and includes lakes, lawns, groups, plantations, conservatories, &c. Adjoining the Botanic Garden are the grounds of Government House, the Shrine, the Domain, the Observatory, the Alexandra Park and Gardens, and the Queen Victoria Gardens. The whole reservation, probably the most valuable asset of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, embraces an area of approximately 320 acres.

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL AND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

The gardens of the Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria are situated in Royal Park, on the northern side of the city of Melbourne. The ground enclosed contains 50 acres, rather more than half of which is laid out as a Zoological garden and the rest in deer paddocks, and spacious lawns for the convenience of visitors. Most of the large animals of the world are represented there, as well as many native animals.

PUBLIC RESERVES.

On 1st October, 1938, the area (to nearest acre) devoted to public reserves in Greater Melbourne was 9,121 acres, of which 2,741 acres were acquired by the municipal councils at a cost of £710,978.

The particulars for each municipality comprising Greater Melbourne are shown in the following table:—

GREATER MELBOURNE—PUBLIC RESERVES, ETC., AS AT 1ST OCTOBER, 1938.

Municipality.	Total Area of Municipality.	Area of Public Reserves, &c.			Purchase Price of Freehold Land Used for Reserves.
		Crown Land.	Freehold Land.	Total Area.	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	£
Cities—					
Box Hill	5,120	224	107	331	32,370
Brighton	3,308	148	97	245	44,110
Brunswick	2,719	..	74	74	19,486
Camberwell	8,352	8	464	472	92,845
Caulfield	5,600	273	84	357	3,906
Chelsea	3,040	8	21	29	6,100
Coburg	4,800	38	164	202	23,103
Collingwood	1,139	85	15	100	3,800
Essendon	4,000	106	244	350	54,486
Fitzroy	923	38	8	46	1,015
Footscray	3,982	133	52	185	17,025
Hawthorn	2,402	18	113	131	38,302
Heidelberg (excluding Greensborough Ward)	8,800	368	254	622	43,770
Kew	3,523	638	79	717	20,604
Malvern	3,996	29	321	350	52,000
Melbourne	7,740	2,027	1	2,028	550
Moorabbin	13,360	99	56	155	17,840
Mordialloc	3,351	120	24	144	9,960
Northcote	2,850	50	69	119	19,934
Oakleigh	2,658	47	31	78	10,290
Port Melbourne	2,366	49	..	49	..
Prahran	2,320	7	74	81	91,064
Preston	8,800	24	229	253	48,254
Richmond	1,430	228	1	229	7,213
Sandringham	3,740	191	103	294	38,205
South Melbourne	2,303	524	1	525	1,450
St. Kilda	2,049	307	4	311	2,807
Williamstown	2,775	502	10	512	9,009
Shire—					
Braybrook (excluding Western Riding)	8,480	90	42	132	1,480
Total	125,926	6,379	2,742	9,121	710,978

HOUSING.

The history of events leading up to the appointment of the Housing Commission together with an epitome of the provisions of the *Housing Act* 1937 and the *Slum Reclamation and Housing Act* 1938 will be found in the *Year-Book* for 1937-38, pages 224 and 225. The initial operations of the Commission are summarized in the *Year-Book* for 1938-39.

The first major building scheme of the Commission at Fishermen's Bend is in full operation. As at 31st October, 1940, contracts had been let for the whole of the 376 houses to be erected there, of which approximately half, comprising the whole of the eastern section of the scheme, were nearing completion. A further 36 units were being erected on land adjoining the original housing scheme at Port Melbourne.

Twenty-two houses have been erected in West Brunswick and a further 80 in Bell Street Estates, Preston. Further estates were being developed in Oakover-road, Preston (26 houses), Bailey-avenue, Preston (32 houses), Patterson-street, Preston (38 houses), Raglan-street, Preston (96 houses), and Murray-road, Preston (74 houses). Contracts for all of these houses had been let and works were in progress.

Regulations under Section 8 of the *Slum Reclamation and Housing Act* prescribing standards of fitness for houses have been proclaimed. Inspections of houses are now being carried out by officers of the various municipal Councils specially authorized for the purpose. To the 31st October, 1940, 953 reports had been received by the Commission upon sub-standard houses throughout the State, all of which were declared to be unfit for human habitation. The Commission ordered 471 of these to be demolished and 482 to be repaired and altered to comply with the regulations.

Tenants of the new houses are mainly persons who are de housed by the Commission's operations. There are families, however, for whom the Commission may make special provision. These include persons who are seriously overcrowded in their present dwellings or who, because of the number of children in the family, are unable to obtain suitable housing accommodation. At 31st October, 1940, 50 large families with a total of 372 children had been rehoused.

The houses constructed by the Commission are of types specifically designed to accommodate families ranging from two to twelve persons.

VICTORIA—RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

A statement showing the number of adherents to the various religious denominations and sects as ascertained at the Census of 4th April, 1921, and of 30th June, 1933, appears in the *Year-Book* for 1937-38, page 226.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

The principal legislative provisions relating to friendly societies are contained in the *Friendly Societies Act 1928*, a summary of which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 (pages 383-387). Amending Acts were passed in 1934, 1938, and 1939. The main provisions of the first of these amending Acts are given in the *Year-Book* for 1934-35, page 213, and those of the remaining two amending Acts are given in the *Year-Book* for 1938-39, page 237.

The legislative supervision exercised over friendly societies has had a very beneficial effect. There are 29 friendly societies in Victoria which are required by the statute to have made a quinquennial valuation of their assets and liabilities by an actuary. The latest valuation reports show that there were only three societies with a ratio of assets to liabilities of less than 20s. in the £.

Since the year 1908, all the actuarial valuations of the assets and liabilities of societies have been made by the Government Statist, who is required by statute to be a fully qualified actuary.

The total membership of Victorian Friendly Societies at 30th June, 1939, was 218,666, classified as follows:—

Members Contributing for—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Sick and Funeral benefit	167,974	19,356	187,330
Medical benefit only (including widows)	11,947	12,807	24,754
No benefits (honorary)	4,143	2,439	6,582
Grand Total	184,064	34,602	218,666

The total number of members contributing for sick and funeral benefits increased by 29,182, or more than 18 per cent., between the end of June, 1934, and the end of June, 1938. There was a fall of 1,712 in this class of membership during 1938-39 as the result of a marked decline in the number of admissions and of an increase in the number of departures due, probably, to the passing of the *National Health and Pensions Insurance Act 1938*.

The total funds, exclusive of those of dispensaries, increased during a period of five years ended June, 1939, by £715,689, or more than 12 per cent. The funds at the end of the period amounted to £6,305,458. The funds are well invested, the average rate of interest obtained on the sick and funeral funds during 1938-39 being 4·48 per cent.

The total assets of the dispensaries at the end of 1938-39 amounted to £201,601.

Separate funds to provide for payments to hospitals for treatment received by members and their dependants have been established by all societies with the exception of a few small societies, dividing societies and societies of a special nature. The benefit payments made from these funds in 1938-39 amounted to £17,789.

The statement which follows contains information (exclusive of that relating to dispensaries) in regard to the societies for the five years, 1934-35 to 1938-39:—

VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1934-35 TO 1938-39.

NOTE.—*The figures given below for "Other Funds" include all monetary transactions of societies other than ordinary friendly societies, and, for each of the years 1935-36 to 1938-39, they include also transactions similar to some which, in earlier years, were included in Medical and Management Funds.*

	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Number of societies	55	59	67	76	77
Number of branches	1,444	1,449	1,459	1,478	1,477
Number of members contributing at end of year for sick and funeral benefits*	166,180	172,290	180,462	189,042	187,330
Number of members (including widows) contributing at end of year for medical benefits only .. .. .	..	..	..	23,510	24,754
Number of members who received sick pay	41,057	41,777	40,451	41,883	45,012
Weeks for which sick pay was allowed	460,787	468,648	471,676	478,305	500,111
Deaths of members contributing for sick and funeral benefits	1,833	1,777	1,929	1,985	2,096
Deaths of wives entitled to funeral benefits	633	626	646	669	712
Receipts—	£	£	£	£	£
Sick and Funeral Funds	441,648	465,365	469,383	516,639	499,013
Medical and Management Funds	428,771	404,720	414,964	439,968	456,659
Other Funds	39,299	97,761	143,628†	118,224	187,588
Less inter-fund transfers	- 28,688	- 43,748	- 79,697	- 56,225	- 112,762
Total Receipts	881,030	924,098	948,278†	1,018,606	1,030,498
Expenditure—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	349,200	330,105	329,986	352,024	397,885
Medical and Management Funds	411,572	389,521	410,281	425,479	444,861
Other Funds	34,655	104,044	156,803	113,122	158,403
Less inter-fund transfers	- 28,688	- 43,748	- 79,697	- 56,225	- 112,762
Total Expenditure	766,739	779,922	817,373	834,400	888,387
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	114,291	144,176	130,905†	184,206	142,111
Amount of Funds—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	4,574,842	4,710,102	4,849,499	5,014,114	5,115,242
Medical and Management Funds	996,754	209,595	314,278	228,767	240,565
Other Funds	132,464	928,539	915,364†	920,466	949,651
Total Funds	5,704,060	5,848,236	5,979,141†	6,163,347	6,305,458
Disposal of Funds—					
Amounts invested—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	4,560,403	4,692,657	4,834,827	4,994,356	5,100,290
Medical and Management Funds	988,360	200,110	205,461	218,525	230,910
Other Funds	129,299	925,652	910,534†	912,544	922,162
Amounts uninvested—					
All Funds	25,998	29,817	28,319	37,922	52,096

NOTE.—There are juvenile branches connected with some of the societies, but the information in regard to these has not been considered of sufficient importance to be included in the above statement.

* The figures shown for each of the first three years include about 1,000 members contributing for medical benefits only.

† After the deduction of an overstatement of £407.

Secessions and expenses.

During the twelve months ended June, 1939, the societies lost by secession 10,574 sick and funeral benefit members; this was equal to about 5.6 per cent. of the membership at the beginning of that period. The corresponding rates of secession in 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37, and 1937-38 were 5.1, 5.0, 5.0, and 4.6 respectively. As a rule, most of the secessions were those of new members who allowed their membership to lapse before they had time to appreciate its value. The cost of management per member in the year 1938-39, was 15s., which was 4d. more than the cost in the year 1937-38.

Sickness and mortality experience.

The following statements show in regard to members of societies (other than dividing societies and societies of a special nature) the number of weeks' sickness in respect of which claims for sick pay were granted since 1926-27. The years 1927-28 and 1928-29 immediately preceded the financial depression. The statements show also the number of weeks' sickness per effective member, the number of deaths of members, and the number per 1,000 effective members:—

MALE BRANCHES.

Year.	Average Number of Effective Members.	Weeks of Sickness.		Deaths.	
		Number.	Per Average Effective Member.	Number.	Per 1,000 Average Effective Members.
		Weeks.	Weeks. Days.		
1927-28 ..	128,924	290,583	2 2	1,423	11.04
1928-29 ..	130,733	315,499	2 2	1,484	11.35
1929-30 ..	131,655	321,799	2 3	1,515	11.51
1930-31 ..	129,596	345,687	2 4	1,331	10.27
1931-32 ..	126,228	393,315	3 1	1,615	12.79
1932-33 ..	124,970	395,222	3 1	1,562	12.50
1933-34 ..	126,471	411,979	3 2	1,599	12.64
1934-35 ..	130,152	424,341	3 2	1,732	13.31
1935-36 ..	134,336	432,467	3 1	1,671	12.44
1936-37 ..	139,413	434,234	3 1	1,794	12.87
1937-38 ..	143,583	434,073	3 0	1,823	12.70
1938-39 ..	146,137	450,925	3 1	1,910	13.07

FEMALE BRANCHES.

Year.	Average Number of Effective Members.	Weeks of Sickness.		Deaths.	
		Number.	Per Average Effective Member.	Number.	Per 1,000 Average Effective Members.
		Weeks.	Weeks. Days.		
1927-28	9,957	17,571	1 5	50	5·02
1928-29	10,228	19,510	1 5	47	4·60
1929-30	10,717	21,288	2 0	45	4·20
1930-31	10,897	22,250	2 0	51	4·68
1931-32	10,935	25,103	2 2	47	4·30
1932-33	11,246	27,248	2 3	40	3·56
1933-34	11,759	28,448	2 3	44	3·74
1934-35	12,318	30,414	2 3	56	4·55
1935-36	12,761	30,553	2 2	56	4·39
1936-37	13,166	30,441	2 2	64	4·86
1937-38	14,940	36,054	2 2	86	5·76
1938-39	15,165	37,733	2 3	80	5·28

NOTE.—Effective members are those entitled to claim sick and funeral benefits.

The rate of sickness per average effective male member rose steadily after 1928-29 until it became three weeks and two days in 1933-34, at which it remained during the following year. In each of the succeeding two years the rate was three weeks and one day—the same figure as in 1919. The rate in the last-mentioned year was abnormal; this was due chiefly to members who had been on active service in the Great War having deferred until their return to Victoria their claims for sick pay for incapacity arising out of sickness experienced and wounds received during previous years. It was also due in part to the influenza epidemic of that year.

The trend of sickness per average effective female member followed closely that of male members during the corresponding period.

At the end of 1938-39 there were 33 United Friendly Societies' Dispensaries registered, under the Friendly Societies Acts of Victoria, as separate friendly societies. The chief object for which these dispensaries are established is to provide the societies with a means of supplying medicine and medical and surgical appliances to their members and to persons claiming through members. Some of the dispensaries provide also the services of medical officers. The number of members connected with the dispensaries at the end of 1938-39 was 141,957. As the greater portions of the receipts and expenditure of the dispensaries are interwoven with those of the medical and management funds of the ordinary friendly societies, they are not given here. The assets and liabilities of the dispensaries at the end of 1938-39 amounted to £201,601 and £26,868 respectively. The assets consisted of freehold property, £126,940; stock, fittings, and sundry debtors, £50,609; cash, £21,426; and securities, £2,626. The liabilities consisted of sundry creditors, £10,846; bank overdrafts, £9,322; and mortgages, £6,700.

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

Labour legislation. The earliest attempt at regulating the conditions of labour in Victoria was made by the passing of an Act dated 11th November, 1873, forbidding the employment of any female in a factory for more than eight hours in any day.

The abovementioned Act defined "factory" to be a place where not fewer than ten persons were working. That definition has since been broadened until now it includes any place in which mechanical power exceeding one-half horse power is in use or in which four or more persons are engaged in any handicraft or in preparing articles for trade or sale. (In some circumstances, notably where bread or pastry is baked for trade or sale, or where a process involving the use of a compound of lead is employed, one or more persons constitutes a factory even where no mechanical power is used.)

Since the passing of the original Act, the general recognition of the necessity of securing the health, the comfort and the safety of the workers has been expressed in many further legislative enactments.

Number of Factories. In 1939 there were registered 12,678 factories in which 187,690 persons were employed.

Amending Factory Legislation. The *Factories and Shops Act* 1934 made important alterations in the law relating to the supervision and regulation of factories and shops. The principal alterations (apart from those described under Wages Boards) are as follow :—

Work in the manufacture of boots and shoes in factories from Monday to Friday before 7.30 a.m. or after 6 p.m., on a Saturday before 7.30 a.m. or after 2 p.m., or on a Sunday is prohibited. To meet the exigencies of trade, power is given to the Minister of Labour to suspend, for not more than two months, the operation of this prohibition.

The carting or delivery in the Metropolitan District of bread on sale before 6 a.m. or after 6 p.m. on any day and of the making (other than dough-making) or baking of bread on a Sunday is prohibited.

The carting of goods, &c., on a Sunday, except perishable and certain other goods, unless a permit to do such carting has been obtained from the Chief Inspector of Factories, is prohibited.

A premium for employing any person under the age of 21 years in work to which a determination of any Wages Board (other than the Chemists' Board) applies is forbidden. The sum of £100 is fixed as the maximum amount of premium payable to a chemist under any apprenticeship agreement.

The conditions have been amended under which material may be issued from factories or other places for the manufacture of wearing apparel or of boots to licensed outside workers. No person shall issue or give out material for the purpose of its being prepared or manufactured outside a factory as a fabric of linen, wool, silk or cotton or as articles of wearing apparel or boots or shoes for trade or sale except to a person licensed as an outside worker. An outworker is not permitted to employ any person other than members of his own family who are under 14 years of age or have been granted permission by the Secretary for Labour. Factory occupiers are not permitted to employ a greater number of licensed outside workers than one for every ten or fraction of ten workers employed in the factory. Occupiers of factories are required to keep a complete record of work issued to outside workers.

The occupier of every factory where more than 600 persons are employed, or where work of a hazardous nature is performed and more than 300 persons are employed, shall, if directed, provide an ambulance room properly equipped and under the charge of a qualified attendant.

One of the most important provisions of the Act is designed to prevent the contravention of the determination of Wages Boards in the Bread Trade by the performance of work under contract. A Bread Trade Tribunal may be established consisting of a judge of the County Court, one representative of employers and one of employees. Power is given to the Tribunal to deal with any case where proceedings are taken against any person for contravention of a determination in which such person alleges that, under the contract, the relation between himself and the person in respect of whom such determination is alleged to have been contravened is not the relation of employer and employee. All questions of law, or of the amount of any penalty to be imposed or of the costs to be awarded, shall be decided by the President alone, but in all other matters the decision of the majority shall be the decision of the Tribunal. Penalties varying from £20 to £200 may be imposed for breaches of determinations. The Governor in Council may by proclamation extend to other trades the provisions relating to the Bread Trade Tribunal and such extensions have been made in connexion with ten other trades, namely:—Boot, Butchers, Carters and Drivers, Electrical and Radio Goods, Fibrous Plasterers, Musicians, Quarry, Furniture-dealers, Fuel, and Bricklayers.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1936 provides that the Chief Inspector of Factories, after due inquiry, may refuse to register or may cancel the registration of any factory or shop. The object of this provision is to give power to the Chief Inspector to deal with any deliberate attempt to evade the provisions of the Factories and Shops Acts or the determinations thereunder. If the Chief Inspector refuses to register, or if he cancels the registration of a factory or shop, the occupier thereof may appeal in respect of such refusal or cancellation

to a Court of Petty Sessions consisting of a police magistrate sitting alone. The decision of the Court is final. As mentioned previously the provisions of earlier Acts which restricted the powers of Wages Boards have been repealed, and the 1936 Act gives the Boards authority to deal with any industrial matter other than the preferential employment of unionists. An important provision in this Act is that all legal proceedings for offences against the Factories and Shops Acts within the Metropolitan District shall be heard by the Metropolitan Industrial Court instead of by various Courts of Petty Sessions as formerly. The legislation has as its object uniformity in the manner of dealing with offenders and in the imposition of penalties.

The *Factories and Shops Act 1938* (No. 4578) which became operative on the 28th November, 1938, deals with two matters only—restriction of the hours of trading in motor spirit, motor oil, and motor accessories, and restriction of the hours of carting aerated waters, cordials, or ice cream.

Section 2 restricts the sale of motor spirit, motor oil, and motor accessories to definite hours set out in the Act, but allows the trade in case of emergency to supply petrol, &c., outside the hours fixed, on the signed statement by the traveller as to the circumstances. The traveller's statement must be written and signed in a prescribed book. Penalties are provided both for selling in contravention of the Act and for making a false statement in the emergency book.

The hours during which petrol may be sold other than in case of emergency are as follows:—

Metropolitan District—

Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays	7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fridays	7 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Outside Metropolitan District—

Sundays, Public Holidays, and days on which half-holiday is observed locally	7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
On the usual late trading day	7 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.
On other days of the week	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Both within and outside the Metropolitan District, petrol, oil, and accessories may be sold until midnight on the days immediately preceding Good Friday and Anzac Day, but on these two holidays, shops must be closed and no sales effected.

Section 3 of the 1938 Act places further restrictions on the carting and delivery of goods. The Section amends the original provisions of Section 130 of the Principal Act and Section 18 of Act 4275 (1934) by providing that aerated waters, cordials or ice cream may not be carted on Sunday from the place of manufacture or any depot of the manufacturer to any shop. On days other than Sundays, from the 16th April to the 31st October, the goods referred to may not be carted outside the hours fixed for carting ordinary merchandise.

There was a short amending Act passed in 1939, its whole purpose being to allow the sale of fruit on racecourses and sports grounds during hours when regular fruit shops must be closed.

The hours for closing of shops in both metropolitan and country districts, as defined in the Factories and Shops Acts, are as set out in the following tables:—

VICTORIA—CLOSING HOURS FOR ALL SHOPS SITUATED WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, AS DEFINED BY THE FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS.

Class of Shop.	Hours of Closing.						Effect of Closing Shop for the whole of a Public Holiday which falls on any Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.	
	Mon.	Tu.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.	Sat.		
1. Booksellers and Newsagents*	p.m. 8	p.m. 8	p.m. 8	p.m. 8	p.m. 9.30	p.m. 1 Can re-open 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. 12.30	May remain open on half-holiday	
2. Butcher	5	5	5	5	6		May remain open on preceding day till 8 p.m.	
3. Bread, Confectionery, and Pastry	Closing hours not fixed by shopkeeper may therefore decide for himself when his shop shall close					law. The decide for close	No effect	
4. Cooked Meat (other than tinned meat)*	6	6	6	6	9	1	Same as No. 1	
5. Fish and Oyster	Same as No. 3						No effect	
6. Flower	Same as No. 3						No effect	
7. Fruit and Vegetable* †	During May, June, July, August, September, and October						7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | .. | 1	No effect
8. Hairdressers and Tobacconists	Other months						7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 1	No effect May remain open on preceding day till 9 p.m.
9. Motor oil, motor spirit and accessories	Special provisions, see under <i>Factories and Shops Act 1938</i> (page 241.)							
10. All shops of any kind not mentioned above	6	6	6	6	9	1	May remain open on preceding day till 9 p.m.	

NOTE.—On the Thursday preceding Good Friday and on the last day on which the shop is open preceding Christmas Day a shopkeeper may keep his shop open one hour later than the hour fixed for closing.

* These hours were fixed by Regulation under section 84.

† Regulation not applicable to central portion of City of Melbourne.

VICTORIA—CLOSING HOURS FOR ALL SHOPS OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN THE FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS.

Class of Shop.	Hours of Closing.						Effect of Closing Shop for the whole of a Public Holiday which falls on any Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.
	Mon.	Tu.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.	Sat.	
1. Booksellers and Newsagents	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	No effect
2. Butchers	7	7	7	7	9	1	May remain open preceding day until 9 p.m.
3. Bread, Confectionery, and Pastry	Same as No. 1						No effect
4. Cooked Meat (other than tinned meat)	Same as No. 1						No effect
5. Fish and Oyster	Same as No. 1						No effect
6. Flower	Same as No. 1						No effect
7. Fruit and Vegetable ..	Same as No. 1						No effect
8. Hairdressers or Tobacconists at Ballarat, Bendigo, Warrnambool, Geelong District, Castlemaine, Eaglehawk, Sebastopol, and Kyneton	7	7	7	7	10	1	May remain open preceding day until 10 p.m.
9. Hairdressers or Tobacconists in } } If Wednesday chosen for half-holiday } If Saturday chosen for half-holiday } parts of Victoria	7	7	1	7	7	10	} May remain open preceding day until 10 p.m.
	7	7	7	7	10	1	
10. Motor oil, motor spirit and accessories	Special provisions, see under <i>Factories and Shops Act 1938</i> (page 241.)						
11. All shops of any kind not mentioned above	7	7	7	7	9	1	May remain open preceding day until 9 p.m.

NOTE.—The hours given in this table are the shop closing hours as fixed by law. The Factories Acts, however, provide for their alteration and variation by regulation wherever a majority of shopkeepers sign a petition. There are so many regulations in force throughout the country districts of Victoria applying to different localities that it would be impracticable to print them here. The hours given above must therefore be taken to be varied wherever such a regulation is in force.

On the Thursday preceding Good Friday and on the last day on which the shop is open preceding Christmas Day a shopkeeper may keep his shop open one hour later than the hour fixed for closing. The Minister has power to vary the hours of closing in certain circumstances when Christmas Day is observed on a Monday.

Registration of shops became compulsory as from 1st March, 1915. At the end of that year there were 26,401 registered shops with 25,632 employees. The annual registration fee, which is based on the number of persons employed in the shop, varies from 2s. 6d. to £10.

Registration of Shops.

Registered shops are divided into 26 classes. During the year 1939, there was an increase compared with 1938 of 125 shops and of 1,220 employees. Particulars of the shops registered and number of employees are given below:—

VICTORIA—SHOPS REGISTERED AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, 1939.

Class of Shop.	Metropolitan.		Provincial Cities and Country.		Whole State.	
	No. of Shops.	No. of Em- ployees.	No. of Shops.	No. of Em- ployees.	No. of Shops.	No. of Em- ployees.
Bread, Confectionery, and Pastry	4,311	1,606	2,485	904	6,796	2,510
Booksellers, Newsagents	957	775	476	384	1,433	1,159
Boot Dealers	319	947	294	385	613	1,332
Boot Repairers	845	42	569	72	1,414	114
Butchers	1,247	2,430	1,090	1,645	2,337	4,075
Chemists	562	871	383	442	945	1,313
Crockery	48	128	15	19	63	147
Cycle and Motor, and Motor Requisites	1,045	1,749	1,296	1,361	2,341	3,110
Dairy Produce and Cooked Meat	812	668	167	173	979	841
Drapery and Men's Clothing	2,005	10,405	1,381	3,079	3,386	13,484
Electrical and Radio	326	610	245	259	571	849
Fancy Goods Dealers	276	1,452	210	410	486	1,862
Fish	422	174	144	59	566	233
Florists	371	246	111	64	482	310
Fruit and Vegetable	1,686	417	989	417	2,675	834
Fuel and Fodder	1,099	526	335	341	1,434	867
Furniture	399	1,469	179	373	578	1,842
Grocers	2,711	2,541	1,476	1,631	4,187	4,172
Hairdressers	1,527	1,385	1,037	491	2,564	1,876
Hardware	480	1,411	488	815	968	2,226
Jewellery	238	313	191	113	429	426
Leather Goods	116	182	229	59	345	241
Musical Instruments	37	215	36	36	73	251
Tobacconists	1,362	149	303	51	1,662	200
Mixed	333	120	1,464	3,274	1,797	3,394
Shops not classified	1,265	1,684	863	453	2,128	2,137
Total 1939	24,799	32,515	16,453	17,290	41,252	49,805
Total 1938	24,739	31,769	16,388	16,816	41,127	48,585
Total 1937	24,659	30,223	16,140	15,469	40,799	45,692
Total 1936	24,364	28,197	16,205	14,905	40,569	43,102
Total 1935	24,455	27,807	15,877	13,962	40,332	41,769

Wages
Boards.

The Wages Board method of fixing wages and of settling the conditions of employment had its origin in Victoria and was incorporated in an Act of Parliament introduced in the year 1896. A Board may be appointed for any trade or branch thereof. Each Board shall consist of not less than four nor more than ten members and a chairman (not being one of such members) nominated by the members of the Board. In the event of a nomination not being so made the chairman shall be appointed by the Minister of Labour. Originally, each Board was composed of equal numbers of employers and employees, with a qualification that each representative should be actively engaged in the trade concerned. However, under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act* 1934, this qualification was relaxed to permit of a paid officer of any corporation, public body, or association of employers being nominated as one of the members to represent employers and, if such officer is appointed, then one of the representatives of the employees on that Board shall likewise be an officer of the trade union concerned.

The Act of 1934 empowers a Board to determine that the wages rates and piecework prices fixed in any determination made by it shall be automatically adjusted, at prescribed periods, to accord as nearly as practicable with the variation in the cost of living, as indicated by such retail price index-numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician as the Board considers appropriate. This Act, as amended by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1936, also provides that where, under any Commonwealth Act, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration or a Conciliation Commissioner makes or has made an award with respect to employers and employees in any industry, the Wages Board for every trade concerned, as soon as may be, shall incorporate in any of its determinations those provisions of such award which the Board is, under the *Factories and Shops Acts*, empowered to include.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1936 gives Wages Boards the same powers relating to wages and conditions of labour as those incorporated in the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. These powers enable Wages Boards to make determinations that are not inconsistent with awards of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. Any Wages Board has now the power to determine any industrial matter

whatsoever in relation to any trade or branch of trade for which such board has been appointed and, in particular, to determine all matters relating to—

- (a) work and days and hours of work ;
- (b) pay, wages and reward ;
- (c) privileges, rights and duties of employers and employees ;
- (d) the mode, terms and conditions of employment or non-employment ;
- (e) the relations of employers and employees ;
- (f) the employment or non-employment of persons of any sex or age ;
- (g) the demarcation of functions of any employees or class of employees ; and
- (h) all questions of what is fair and right in relation to any industrial matter having regard to the interests of the persons immediately concerned and of society as a whole.

The Act also empowered the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Labour, to appoint a Wages Board known as the "General Board" to determine the wages, etc., of persons in any trade specified by the Governor in Council in which no Wages Board Determination was operative. This provision had for its object the protection of persons engaged in industries which previously were unregulated by any Determination. Forty-one separate trades have been so specified.

Wages Boards are not empowered to determine any matter relating to the preferential employment or dismissal of persons as being or as not being members of any organization, association or body.

Enforcement of Determinations. A statement of the procedure with regard to the application and enforcement of determinations of Wages Boards appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, on page 395.

Court of Industrial Appeals. The constitution of the Court of Industrial Appeals, and the procedure in respect of appeals against a determination are described in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 396.

During 1939, the Court of Industrial Appeals dealt with only one case—that regarding the wages and conditions of persons employed in boot shops. The Court issued an amended Determination decreasing the wages of female employees 23 years of age or over.

Two new Wages Boards were appointed during 1939.

**New Boards
and Alterations
of Powers.**

The Tar and Bitumen Board provides for persons employed at tar distillation or in the manufacture or preparation of bituminous emulsions, tar distillates, asphaltic concrete, or other road surfacing preparations.

The Electrical Trade Board supersedes the Electrical Supply Board and the Electrical Installation Board which had operated since 1911 and 1912 respectively. The new Board combines the powers of the superseded Boards and applies also to certain classes of employment which were not previously covered. The new Board has power to legislate for persons wheresoever employed in any process, trade, business, or occupation connected with—

- (a) the generation or distribution of electricity ;
- (b) the manufacture, repair, maintenance, and installation of all classes of electrical appliances including the laying or erection of cables or wires.

Alterations were made in the Powers of the following Boards :—

Asbestos-Cement Workers Board.—This Board was deprived of the power to fix rates for persons fixing corrugated asbestos sheeting on roofs or walls of buildings. The power to deal with persons fixing such materials on roofs has been conferred on the Plumbers Board and with persons fixing such material on walls on the Carpenters Board.

Caretakers Board.—Persons employed as caretakers of buildings containing flats or containing halls let for public entertainment or for other purposes are now subject to this Board.

Carpenters Board.—Power to provide for persons fixing corrugated asbestos sheeting on walls of buildings was conferred on this Board and removed from the power of the Asbestos-Cement Workers Board.

Engineers and Brassworkers (Skilled) Board.—Skilled persons employed making or repairing cash registers and machines similar to duplicating machines have been brought under the scope of the Board.

Engineers and Brassworkers (Unskilled) Board.—Unskilled persons engaged on work referred to in the preceding paragraph are now subject to this Board.

Excavation or Roadwork Board.—This Board was given additional powers to deal with asphaltting or tar paving, except where such work is subject to the Builders' Labourers Board. The original Asphalters Board, which formerly provided for these employees, has been divested of all its powers. The Excavation or Roadwork Board was also given power to provide for persons employed excavating, handling, or removing gravel, such power being taken from the Sand Pit Board.

Garden Employees Board.—Power was given to the Garden Employees Board to enable it to deal with persons employed as gardeners or garden labourers in the laying-out, cultivation, or keeping in order of a bowling green or tennis court or of a garden connected therewith.

Grocers Sundries Board.—Additional powers were conferred on this Board to enable it to deal with persons employed in the process, trade, or business of—

- (1) manufacturing or preparing honey,
- (2) preparing for trade or sale peanuts or other edible nuts.

Lime Burners Board.—In addition to providing for persons making lime, this Board now has power to deal also with those pulverizing or bagging limestone.

Plumbers Board.—The fixing of corrugated asbestos sheeting on roofs of buildings is now within the jurisdiction of this Board, the power to deal with such operations being taken from the Asbestos Cement Workers Board.

Pottery Board.—This Board was given power to provide for persons digging clay whether or not such operation is carried out directly in connexion with a pottery.

Process Engravers Board.—The powers of the Process Engravers Board were varied to include persons employed in the process, trade or business of making blocks for photogravure or rotogravure work.

Shops Board No. 18 (Miscellaneous Shops).—Because of the appointment of a Board to deal with the sale of electrical goods and wireless sets it was necessary to add this class of shop to the exemptions from the Shops Board No. 18. At the same time, provision was made for persons employed as outside salesmen in connexion with shops subject to the Shops Board No. 18.

Tilelayers Board.—Power was conferred on this Board to enable it to deal with persons employed laying or fixing glass sheets or pieces of surface area not exceeding $2\frac{1}{2}$ square feet each as a substitute for tiles. The Plate Glass Board was deprived of this Power.

Fixation of weekly hours by Boards. Wages Boards, when fixing weekly wages, also determine, almost invariably, the maximum number of hours for which such weekly wages shall be payable and provide overtime rates for time worked in excess of the number of hours fixed. The Commercial Travellers Board, however, has departed from this practice.

During the year 1939, the determinations of 187 Boards were in force, in 156 of which a uniform set of hours for all employees was prescribed. In 30 determinations, however, varying sets of hours according to the class of work or to the sex of the worker were fixed by the Boards. The particulars are summarized in the following table :—

VICTORIA—WAGES BOARDS—DETERMINATIONS OF HOURS.

Boards which Determined Fixed Hours for all Employees.			Boards which Determined Differential Hours for Employees.		
Number of Boards.	Weekly Hours Adopted.		Number of Boards.	Weekly Hours Adopted.	
4	..	Less than 44	2	..	47 and 44
112	..	44	1	..	47 „ 46
9	..	46	13	..	48 „ 44
1	..	46½	1	..	48 „ 46
1	..	47	2	..	48 „ 47
28	..	48	3	..	48 and over 48
1	..	More than 48	1	..	42, 45 and 46
2	..	44 and 40	1	..	46, 48 and 50
4	..	46 „ 44			

On 31st December, 1939, there were 194 Wages Boards existent or authorized, affecting about 252,000 employees.

THE BASIC WAGE.

The first basic wage, as such, was declared in 1907 by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The rate of wage declared was 7s. per day or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne and by virtue of the fact that it had been determined in connexion with H. V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works it became popularly known as the "Harvester Wage."

In 1913 the Court took cognizance of the Retail Price Index-Numbers compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician covering food, groceries and the rent of all houses ("A" series) and thereafter the basic wage was adjusted in accordance with variations disclosed by that index.

An amount known as the "Powers three shillings" was added in 1922 to the weekly rate of wage for the purpose of securing to the worker, during a period of rising prices, the full equivalent of the "Harvester" standard. The system of making regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage was also instituted in that year.

In 1931, in view of the depressed financial conditions prevailing, the Court reduced all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent.

In consequence of continued applications from organizations of employees for the cancellation of the order providing for the 10 per cent. reduction, the Court, in its judgment of 5th May, 1933, transferred the basis of fixation and adjustment of wages to a new set of Index Numbers—Harvester—All Items Index ("D" Series). This award was made applicable only to workers who had suffered the full 10 per cent. reduction.

The judgment of the Arbitration Court relative to the Basic Wage Inquiry of 1934 ordered a vital change in the method of calculating the basic wage. The "Harvester" standard supplemented by the "Powers three shillings" was superseded by the "All Items" Index Numbers ("C" Series) as the measure for assessment and adjustment of the basic wage and the 10 per cent. reduction of wages—mentioned above—was removed.

As a result of the Basic Wage Inquiry of 1937, the Arbitration Court prepared and issued its own series of retail price index numbers. This is based upon and corresponds with the Commonwealth Statistician's "All Items" series, but it is specially numbered for convenience in the adjustment of the basic wage. Provision was also made for the addition of a "fixed loading" of six shillings to the existing wage, payable in two instalments.

Applications by organisations of employees for an increase in the basic wage prescribed by awards of the Arbitration Court were considered at the Basic Wage Inquiry of 1940-41. The Court was of the opinion that the application should not be dismissed but should stand over for further consideration after 30th June, 1941.

Basic weekly rates of wage and the date on which they became payable are shown hereunder for the years 1929-1940:—

MELBOURNE—BASIC WEEKLY WAGE.

Year—	Basic Weekly Wage Payable in Melbourne on—			
	1st February.	1st May.	1st August.	1st November.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1929 ..	4 6 0	4 9 6	4 10 0	4 10 0
1930 ..	4 10 0	4 6 0	4 5 6	4 3 0
1931 ..	3 10 2*	3 8 5	3 5 8	3 3 5
1932 ..	3 3 5	3 3 11	3 3 0	3 1 8
1933 ..	3 0 4	3 3 4†	3 2 5	3 2 10
1934 ..	3 3 4	..	..	..
	1st March.	1st June.	1st September.	1st December.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1934 ..	..	3 4 0†	3 4 0	3 4 0
1935 ..	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0
1936 ..	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 9 0
1937 ..	3 9 0	3 9 0	3 13 0§	3 17 0
1938 ..	3 17 0	3 17 0	3 18 0	3 19 0
1939 ..	3 19 0	4 1 0	4 1 0	4 0 0
	1st February.	1st May.	1st August.	1st November.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1940 ..	4 1 0	4 2 0	4 4 0	4 4 0

* 10 per cent. reduction became operative and continued to operate until 31st May, 1934.

† "D" Series Index Numbers—Commonwealth Arbitration Court's Award of 5th May, 1933 (less 10 per cent. reduction)—operative until 31st May, 1934.

‡ "C" Series Index Numbers—Commonwealth Arbitration Court's Award of 17th April, 1934—operative until 31st August, 1937.

§ Commonwealth Arbitration Court Series Index Numbers.—Award of 23rd June, 1937 (operative from 1st September onwards). The Court ordered a "fixed loading" addition of six shillings to the existing wage—three shillings to be added as from the commencement of the first pay period in July, 1937, and October, 1937, respectively.

Basic Wage— Prior to 1934, the basic wage for Victoria differed only
Outside slightly from that for Melbourne. In its judgment in
Metropolitan that year, the Court made special reference to the basic
Area. wage payable in industries outside the metropolitan area, and it ruled that, except in certain specified districts where the cost of living appeared to be correctly indicated by the local "All Items" Index Numbers, or where known circumstances indicated that the general rule should not apply, the basic wage for provincial places should be a constant three shillings per week less than that for the metropolitan district in the same State. Special provision was made also for assessing or adjusting the wage in certain places.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

Retail Price
Index-
Numbers—
"C" Series.

The "C" Series (all items) of retail price index-numbers for Melbourne is prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician. This series comprises the costs of food, groceries, rent of four and five-roomed houses, clothing, and miscellaneous expenditure and is applied to the majority of awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in accordance with its judgment of 17th April, 1934. It was superseded by an index number of the Court's own construction as described in the Report of the "Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937" (see page 250). The weighted average for the six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period, 1923-27, expressed as 1,000, is the basis of comparison in the following table:—

MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, "C"
SERIES, "ALL ITEMS," 1914-1940.

Period.	Retail Price Index-Numbers Household Expenditure. "All Items."	Year.	Retail Price Index-Numbers Household Expenditure. "All Items."
November, 1914 ..	671	1934	801
November, 1921 ..	1003	1935	824
Years 1923-1927 ..	990	1936	844
1929 ..	1017	1937	868
1930 ..	956	1938	896
1931 ..	846	1939	924
1932 ..	813	1940	964
1933 ..	789		.

APPRENTICESHIP COMMISSION.

Under the *Apprenticeship Act 1928* (No. 3636), which was proclaimed on 8th May, 1928, an Apprenticeship Commission was appointed to administer the Act and to supervise apprenticeship in trades proclaimed as apprenticeship trades thereunder. The provisions of the Acts apply only within the Metropolitan District as proclaimed under such Acts.

The proclaimed apprenticeship trades, and the number of probationers and apprentices employed under the Act on 30th June in each of the years 1936 to 1940 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—PROCLAIMED APPRENTICESHIP TRADES
1936 TO 1940.

Trade.	Number of Probationers and Apprentices Employed under Act on 30th June—				
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Plumbing and Gasfitting ..	150	224	303	372	431
Carpentry and Joinery ..	175	230	287	314	315
Painting, Decorating, and Sign-writing	42	66	81	103	117
Plastering	13	21	26	31	37
Printing	532	568	649	690	699
Electrical	279	357	475	527	582
Motor Mechanics	151	229	293	369	383
Bootmaking	606	638	584	564	571
Moulding	116	185	250	261	252
Engineering	49	417	815	1,095	1,614
Fibrous Plastering .. .. .	..	..	45	85	104
Boiler-making and/or Steel Construction .. .. .	..	..	31	63	100
Sheet Metal .. .. .	..	..	5	30	64
Bread Making and Baking ..	..	..	..	18	59
Pastrycooking .. .. .	..	..	..	4	30
Butchering and/or Small Goods Making* .. .. .	..	..	..	..	52
Cooking* .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2
Total	2,113	2,935	3,844	4,526	5,412

* Proclaimed as apprenticeship trades on 11th October, 1939 and 8th May, 1940, respectively.

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

The Government Labour Exchange is under the control of the Labour Department. Applicants are registered for temporary or casual employment, principally as artisans and labourers on Government works, including railways. When work is available, men, if suitable, are selected for employment according to the order of their registration. The Exchange also provides workmen for private employment.

Workers who secure country employment on their own initiative, and are considered deserving, may, on application, be granted railway tickets, the cost of which is repayable from their earnings. During the financial year ended 30th June, 1940, there were advanced 3,754 rail tickets, valued at £2,775, of which £1,155 has been repaid. During the same period, £144 was repaid in respect of advances made in previous years.

The total number of rail tickets issued in the 39 years ended 30th June, 1940, was 166,910, valued at £135,340, of which £107,742 has been repaid.

The operations of the Exchange for the year 1939 in respect of registrations and applicants sent to employment are summarized in the following tables:—

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.—PERSONS REGISTERED AND EMPLOYMENT OBTAINED, 1939.

Year and Month.	Applications for Employment in the Metropolis.		Number of Men for whom Employment was Obtained.	
	Number Registered during Month.	Number remaining on Register at end of Month.	In the Metropolis.	In the Country.
1939—January	2,462	11,102	505	511
February	2,265	10,983	449	1,215
March	2,603	10,626	653	1,135
April	2,098	10,609	603	1,450
May	2,346	10,555	661	1,091
June	2,920	11,134	297	503
July	2,668	11,736	468	821
August	2,440	11,939	375	720
September	2,562	11,692	450	1,053
October	1,764	9,789	683	833
November	1,680	8,448	388	846
December	1,758	7,904	596	659
Total	27,566	..	6,128	10,817

VICTORIA—PERSONS REGISTERED AND EMPLOYMENT OBTAINED, 1935-1939.

Year.	Registrations Effected.		Engagements Effected.
	In the City.	In the Country.	
1935	49,909	35,936	29,031
1936	42,487	27,591	29,890
1937	32,076	23,781	20,252
1938	28,207	22,997	13,758
1939	27,566	24,174	16,945

It must be understood that the number of registrations effected does not represent distinct individuals as there is a large number of men who register more than once at the Exchange each year. Although it is known that these duplications are numerous, the actual extent cannot be ascertained. The fact that the figures quoted do not include the large numbers of labourers engaged "on the job" for Government earthworks in the country also requires recognition.

Unemployment. The number of male persons registered as unemployed at the Government Labour Exchange and its Branches of which there are 41 in the Metropolitan Area and 280 in the Country in the last week of each month of the period of twelve months ended on the 30th June, in each of the five years 1935-36 to 1939-40 is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE—MONTHLY REGISTRATIONS, 1935-36 TO 1939-40.

Last Week of Month of—	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
July	30,002	20,431	17,377	18,626	21,139
August	28,608	19,369	17,679	18,986	21,938
September	27,179	19,084	17,262	18,697	20,703
October	24,399	18,761	16,339	18,478	17,768
November	20,837	17,560	15,593	18,523	14,946
December	20,198	18,189	15,801	19,280	13,742
January	18,990	18,136	16,206	20,094	12,739
February	18,828	16,906	15,137	19,217	11,577
March	16,962	16,842	14,801	18,714	11,109
April	17,839	16,735	15,633	18,350	11,467
May	17,937	14,785	15,709	18,528	10,476
June	18,552	14,895	16,669	19,902	9,671

During the period under review the highest number of registrations was recorded in the month of July, 1935. The marked decrease in the number of registrations since that date reflects the improved employment condition.

The rates of tax and of stamp duties for the relief of unemployment on incomes and wages earned during the year ended 30th June, 1931, appear on pages 255 and 256 of the *Year-Book* for 1930-31. The Stamps (Unemployment Relief) Acts expired on 5th November, 1932, and legislative provision was made for the collection of relief moneys by annual assessment instead of by stamp duty. Particulars of the tax are given in Part "Finance" of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

The revenue raised by unemployment relief taxation from the date of the commencement of the operation of the tax in 1930-31 to 30th June, 1940, amounted to £17,802,729, of which £203,731 was refunded to taxpayers, the net revenue being £17,598,998. The yearly net collections of tax during the last five years were as follow:—1935-36, £1,970,334; 1936-37, £1,944,382; 1937-38, £1,927,355; 1938-39, £1,874,270; and 1939-40, £1,994,258.

In addition to the revenue from the above-mentioned taxation, moneys for relief have been raised by way of loan, and contributions and grants have been made by the Commonwealth Parliament. Loans for relief purposes were first raised during the year 1932-33. The loan expenditure during the eight years 1932-33 to 1939-40 was £12,192,834. The total cost of relief during the eleven years, 1929-30 to 1939-40, was £31,813,640, of which £17,441,676 was raised by taxation, and £12,350,156 by loans; Commonwealth loan contributions and grants amounted to £1,848,276 and £173,532 was provided by interest on advances, &c. At 30th June, 1940, the balance to the credit of the Unemployment Relief Fund was £157,322. Details of the disbursements from the Unemployment Relief Fund, Loan, and other Funds from 1st July, 1929, to 30th June, 1940, are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE ON UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF, 1929-30 TO 1939-40.

Allocation of Expenditure.	Total Expended to 30th June, 1939, from—			Expended during 1939-40 from—			Total Expended to 30th June, 1940, from—		
	Unemploy- ment Relief Fund.	Loans, Common- wealth Loan Con- tributions and Grants.	Total.	Unemploy- ment Relief Fund.	Loans, Common- wealth Loan Con- tributions and Grants.	Total.	Unemploy- ment Relief Fund.	Loans, Common- wealth Loan Con- tributions and Grants.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sustenance and Sustenance Work	10,879,094	140,900	11,019,994	1,232,247	4,856	1,232,247	12,111,341	140,900	12,252,241
Municipalities	705,551	318,040	1,023,591	..	..	4,856	705,551	322,896	1,028,447
Departmental, &c.—									
Public Works and Mines	671,060	1,467,000	2,138,060	27,164	258,129	285,293	698,244	1,725,129	2,423,353
Railways	15,011	2,374,851	2,389,862	..	181,285	181,285	15,011	2,556,136	2,571,147
Lands	147,249	261,422	408,671	604	44,571	45,175	147,853	305,993	453,846
Treasurer	296,888	1,099,372	1,396,260	4,968	470,790	475,758	301,856	1,570,162	1,872,018
Country Roads Board	280,146	1,456,435	1,736,581	896	52,759	53,655	221,042	1,509,194	1,730,236
Forests and Foresters' Quarters	198,218	1,519,882	1,718,100	378	139,465	139,843	198,596	1,659,347	1,857,943
State Rivers and Water Supply	304,827	2,467,371	2,772,198	8,497	290,916	299,413	313,324	2,758,287	3,071,611
Commission .. .. .	..	91,477	91,477	..	..	..	..	91,477	91,477
Closer Settlement Commission ..	..	138,500	138,500	..	..	..	..	138,500	138,500
State Electricity Commission ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works .. .. .	..	527,000	527,000	..	78,250	78,250	..	605,250	605,250
Sewerage Authorities .. .. .	..	244,306	244,306	..	6,807	6,807	..	251,113	251,113
Waterworks Trusts .. .. .	..	91,158	91,158	..	39,983	39,983	..	131,141	131,141
Miscellaneous*	273,684	402,078	675,762	74,400	30,829	105,229	348,084	432,907	780,991
Expenditure on Relief	13,711,728	12,599,792	26,311,520	1,349,154	1,598,640	2,947,794	15,060,882	14,198,432	29,259,314
Administration	642,900	..	642,900	88,713	..	88,713	731,613	..	731,613
Interest and Sinking Fund on Loans	1,375,357	..	1,375,357	447,356	..	447,356	1,822,713	..	1,822,713
Refund of Taxes	198,086	..	198,086	5,644	..	5,644	203,730	..	203,730
Total Expenditure	15,928,071	12,599,792	28,527,863	1,890,867	1,598,640	3,489,507	17,818,938	14,198,432	32,017,370

* Including (a) Commonwealth and State joint relief to Local Authorities (municipalities, sewerage, and water authorities) for debt service charges.
(b) Commonwealth and State Youth Employment Grant.

Sustenance. Every male person who receives sustenance is required, on demand, and in return for such sustenance, to perform work (of such a class as is prescribed on the recommendation of the Employment Council of Victoria) for the municipality within whose municipal district sustenance is received.

On 3rd July, 1933, on the recommendation of the Employment Council of Victoria, a scheme was brought into operation under which genuine unemployed male persons have been, as far as practicable, provided with some employment each week.

The results of the working of the scheme are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—WORK BY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN RETURN FOR SUSTENANCE, 1939 AND 1940.

Month of—	1939.		1940.	
	Total Number of Units in Receipt of Sustenance.*	Number Working in Return for Sustenance.	Total Number of Units in Receipt of Sustenance.*	Number Working in Return for Sustenance.
January ..	15,975	13,555	11,406	10,123
February ..	15,625	13,339	10,021	9,152
March ..	14,824	12,524	9,423	8,552
April ..	15,306	12,932	9,869	8,915
May ..	15,024	13,040	9,552	8,619
June ..	15,653	13,666	8,744	7,988
July ..	17,008	14,732	8,685	7,929
August ..	17,860	14,745	8,084	7,376
September ..	17,661	14,489	7,569	6,920
October ..	15,375	12,757	6,635	6,091
November ..	12,888	11,275	6,058	5,570
December ..	12,128	10,884	6,008	5,528

* Including number working in return for sustenance.

Sustenance is provided at the same rates in every part of Victoria and is distributed through the agency of Public Assistance Committees appointed under the provisions of the *Unemployment Relief (Administration) Act 1932*.

Persons eligible to receive sustenance in accordance with the above-mentioned Act may be granted sustenance as set out in the following scales, but so that the total amount of the income received by a family unit and the value of the sustenance granted shall in no case exceed £4 Os. 6d. in any one week.

VICTORIA—RATES OF SUSTENANCE TO UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.

Family Unit.	Maximum Weekly Permissible Income.	Maximum Weekly Sustenance that may be Granted to—		
		Unemployable Applicant for whom Sustenance has been Specially Authorized by the Hon. the Minister. (3)	Employable Applicant for whom Work in Return for Sustenance is not provided. (4)	Employable Male Working in Return for Sustenance <i>vide</i> Section (8) of the Act. (5)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Itinerant unemployed male	10 0	..	11 6	18 3
Approved prospector ..	12 0	..	11 6	18 3
Individual residing with strangers or relatives other than parents ..	12 0	6 9	11 6	18 3
Two	20 0	10 3	19 3	31 9
Three	25 0	..	..	..
For every additional member of the family unit, there shall be added to the sum of 25s., a sum of 2s. 6d. for each such additional member		And for each unemployed dependant irrespective of age, residing with the applicant, 5s. 3d. per week; provided in any instance the total value of sustenance does not exceed £4 0s. 6d. per week		And for each unemployed dependant residing with the applicant, 5s. 3d. per week for each male dependant under 21 years of age and each female dependant irrespective of age, and 10s. 6d. per week for each male 21 years and over; provided in any instance the total value of sustenance does not exceed £4 0s. 6d. per week

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

There were 798 charitable and reformatory organizations throughout the State in 1939. The total receipts of these organizations during the year ended 30th June, 1939, amounted to £3,468,095, of which £1,553,157 was contributed by the Government and £1,914,938 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure was £3,510,172. These particulars do not include payments, which amounted to £4,307,432 during 1938-39, made by the Commonwealth Government to old-age and invalid pensioners of this State. The daily average number under care indoors was 22,447, and there were 455,090 cases of out-door relief during the year. These numbers, in respect of indoor and out-door patients, refer to the "cases" treated and not to persons. It is considered probable that some persons obtained relief or became inmates at more than one establishment, but there is no information upon which an estimate of the number of these duplications can be based.

A summary of the particulars in respect of charitable and reformatory institutions is given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.—INMATES, RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1938-39.

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average In-door Patients or Inmates	Number of Cases of Out-door Relief.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government. (exc. Loans.)	From Other Sources.	Total.	
HOSPITALS.							
Special—				£	£	£	£
Austin Hospital	1	410	..	25,521	75,570	101,091	111,514
Children's Hospital	1	408	17,404	34,869	60,676	95,545	93,702
Melbourne Dental Hospital	1	..	27,004	3,304	9,051	12,355	13,066
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	130	10,218	10,513	24,628	35,141	37,903
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	1	96	..	1,056	4,941	5,997	6,081
Eye and Ear Hospital	1	101	33,221	8,031	19,292	27,323	26,839
Women's Hospital	1	284	8,589	18,716	58,866	77,582	95,152
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	1	324	..	38,576	44,037	82,613	89,862
General Hospitals—							
Metropolitan	5	1,157	139,379	146,457	286,317	432,774	499,388
Country	49	2,039	20,836	148,897	290,145	439,042	437,163
Auxiliary Hospitals	2	296	4,558	21,719	18,897	40,616	43,283
Foundling Hospitals and Infants' Homes	5	409	210	8,319	22,977	31,296	27,366
Convalescent Homes	2	52	..	939	2,966	3,905	3,926
Sanatoria	3	337	..	23,991	13,341	37,332	37,332
Mental Hospitals and Receiving Houses	12	6,261	..	438,207	55,709	493,916	493,916
Total	86	12,304	261,419	929,115	987,413	1,916,528	2,016,493
ASYLUMS AND ORPHANAGES.							
Benevolent Homes	10	2,266	558	45,830	85,963	131,793	124,787
Orphanages	29	3,492	..	66,357	131,104	197,461	206,554
Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institutions	3	230	545	3,300	49,365	52,665	48,863
Total	42	5,997	1,103	115,487	266,432	381,919	380,204
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Rescue Homes and Female Refuges	13	970	..	7,541	71,269	78,810	80,838
Inebriates' Institutions	2	46	..	1,121	2,956	4,077	4,076
Children's Welfare Department	6	1,888	12,667	317,764	10,617	328,381	328,381
Gaols and Penal Establishments	10	1,242	..	126,355	..	126,355	126,355
Total	31	4,146	12,667	452,781	84,842	537,623	539,650
MISCELLANEOUS INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.							
Benevolent Societies	*229	..	37,775	11,915	50,468	62,383	64,124
Other Societies	*410	..	142,126	43,859	525,783	569,642	509,701
Total	639	..	179,901	55,774	576,251	632,025	573,825
Grand Total	798	22,447	455,090	1,553,157	1,914,938	3,468,095	3,510,172

* Inclusive of branches.

Income of
Charitable
Institutions.

The receipts of hospitals, charitable, and reformatory institutions (excluding gaols and penal establishments) in the State under various headings for the year 1938-39 are shown hereunder :—

VICTORIA—SOURCES OF INCOME OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1938-39.

Receipts.	Public Hospitals.	Founding Hospitals and Infants' Homes.	Benevolent Homes.	Orphanages.	Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institutions.	Rescue Homes and Female Refugees.	Other Institutions.*	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid ..	457,659	8,319	45,830	66,357	3,300	7,541	837,796	1,426,802
Municipal Grants and Contributions	74,679	175	997	763	722	225	43,611	121,172
Private Contributions ..	96,279	4,438	4,898	26,811	12,218	4,797	308,081	457,522
Proceeds of Entertainments	41,237	439	1,674	2,243	12,027	93	..	57,713
Legacies, Bequests and Donations	158,556	8,360	12,348	38,803	11,129	4,608	996	234,800
Hospital Sunday and Church Donations ..	19,199	414	1,829	1,869	228	496	116	24,151
Contributions of Indoor Patients	198,593	2,804	51,222	11,877	4,036	4,320	71,838	344,690
Out-patients' Fees ..	65,440	..	..	..	..	..	..	65,440
Proceeds of Inmates' Labour	475	87	871	18,459	2,544	55,198	39	77,673
Interest or Rent ..	31,857	2,556	10,741	15,240	3,273	681	29	64,377
Loan Receipts	139,649	..	..	6,000	..	..	..	145,649
Other Sources	66,456	3,704	1,383	9,039	3,188	851	237,130	321,751
Total	1,350,079	31,296	131,793	197,461	52,665	78,810	1,499,636	3,341,740

* Including Department of Mental Hygiene, Children's Welfare Department, and Benevolent Societies, but excluding Gaols and Penal Establishments.

Charitable
Institutions—
receipts and
expenditure.

Information relating to the receipts and expenditure of charitable institutions (excluding gaols and penal establishments) during each year of the period of five years ended on 30th June, 1939, is given in the following table. For the year 1938-39, Government aid was equivalent to 42·70 per cent. of the total receipts; municipal grants and payments to 3·63 per cent.; payments of inmates and out-patients to 12·27 per cent.; private contributions to 13·69 per cent.; legacies, bequests, and donations

to 7·02 per cent.; receipts from Lord Mayor's Fund, &c., to 0·72 per cent.; interest and rent to 1·93 per cent.; loan receipts to 4·36 per cent.; and receipts from all other sources to 13·68 per cent.

VICTORIA—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1934-35 TO 1938-39.

Heading.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid	1,035,668	1,129,198	1,293,103	1,399,115	1,426,802
Municipal Grants and Contributions	112,409	112,093	107,473	110,674	121,172
Patients' and Inmates' Contributions	281,196	310,413	360,185	391,036	410,130
Private Contributions	211,164	191,835	248,275	224,198	457,5
Legacies, Bequests and Donations..	189,095	167,619	309,056	294,168	234,800
Lord Mayor's Fund, Hospital Sunday, and Church Dorations ..	19,347	22,947	22,631	24,850	24,151
Interest or Rent	58,124	61,120	62,046	65,943	64,377
Loan Receipts	135,982	33,859	131,553	169,275	145,649
Other Sources	325,792	381,702	385,364	390,759	457,137
Total Receipts	2,368,777	2,410,786	2,919,686	3,070,018	3,341,740
<i>Expenditure.</i>					
Ordinary	2,033,932	2,181,202	2,335,156	2,543,470	2,896,702
Extraordinary	74,626	63,821	61,334	64,596	69,885
Building	219,299	180,349	353,692	431,936	417,230
Total Expenditure	2,327,857	2,425,372	2,750,182	3,040,002	3,383,817

Charitable Institutions—Accommodation and Inmates. The next table shows the accommodation available and the number of inmates maintained in the named institutions during the year ended 30th June, 1939 :—

VICTORIA—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, ACCOMMODATION, AND INMATES, 1938-39.

Institution.	Number of Beds.	Number of Inmates.	
		Total during the Year.	Daily Average.
Austin Hospital	495	1,322	410
Children's Hospital	448	4,652	408
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	141	3,352	130
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	138	141	96
Eye and Ear Hospital	120	2,802	101
Women's Hospital	285	9,264	284
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	720	4,085	324
General Hospitals—Metropolitan	1,158	23,075	1,157
" " Country	3,453	40,388	2,040
Auxiliary Hospitals	320	6,068	296
Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows	260	406	249
Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	100	239	81
Tweddle Hospital for Babies	10	106	9
Bethany Home, Geelong	43	71	36
St. Gabriel's Babies' Home	36	107	34
Convalescent Homes	73	1,006	52
Greenvale Sanatorium	100	304	101
Heatherton Sanatorium	124	314	117
Gresswell Sanatorium	140	406	119
Mental Hospitals	6,538	8,735	6,261
Benevolent Homes	2,562	4,761	2,266
Orphanages	3,607	5,158	3,492
Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylums	264	310	239
Rescue Homes and Female Refuges	1,186	2,082	970
Inebriates' Institutions	63	123	46
Children's Welfare Department .. .. .	..	16,841	13,747
Total	22,384	136,118	33,065

* Number under control.

In addition to the inmates shown in the above table, there were 58 mothers of infants in the Tweddle Hospital, 83 in the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, 122 in St. Joseph's Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows, 6 in Bethany Home, Geelong, and 628 infants in the Female Refuges during the year.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1928.

An Act to consolidate the law relating to the management of Hospitals and Charities in the State of Victoria was passed in the year 1928 and proclaimed on 18th December, 1929; important amendments were passed in 1936 and 1939.

The Charities Board of Victoria, which was constituted under the *Hospitals and Charities Act 1922*, commenced to function in 1923.

The number of members then was fourteen, but these were increased to sixteen under the amendments of 1939. Members are appointed by the Governor-in-Council as follows:—

- (a) Four persons nominated by the body known as the Metropolitan Hospitals Association, one at least of whom shall be a legally qualified medical practitioner.
- (b) Four persons nominated by the body known as the Country Hospitals Association, one at least of whom shall be a legally qualified medical practitioner.
- (c) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies within the metropolis (other than hospitals) one at least of whom shall be a woman.
- (d) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies outside of the metropolis (other than hospitals) one at least of whom shall be a woman.
- (e) Four other persons of whom two shall also be appointed as members of the Metropolitan Standing Committee and two as members of the Country Standing Committee hereinafter provided for.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Inspector of Charities, who is appointed by the Governor-in-Council and is *ex officio* Secretary of the Board and of each of the Standing Committees.

Broadly, the duties of the Charities Board are—

- (1) To keep a register of all hospitals, asylums, institutions and benevolent societies as defined by the Hospitals and Charities Acts.
- (2) To make such inquiries as it thinks fit and report to the Minister (Treasurer) as to—
 - (a) what charitable relief is required to meet the needs of the diseased, infirm, incurable, poor or destitute persons resident in Victoria (including children and convalescent patients);
 - (b) what institutions or benevolent societies should in the opinion of the Board be subsidized;
 - (c) what sum of money should in the opinion of the Board be paid from the Fund and for what purposes to each subsidized institution or benevolent society in any financial year; and

- (d) any amendments of existing legislation and proposals for future legislation which are in its opinion desirable for carrying into effect any of the objects or purposes referred to in this Act and in particular for improvement of and the prevention of overlapping in the administration of institutions or benevolent societies.
- (3) To make or cause to be made careful inquiry into the administration (including the keeping of accounts) and management of every subsidized institution or benevolent society.
- (4) To cause an inspection to be made from time to time and at least once in every financial year of every subsidized institution.
- (5) Whenever the Board deems it necessary, to make or cause to be made, an inspection of any registered unsubsidized institution and an inquiry into the accommodation provided for the persons receiving relief therein and those aspects of administration and management which affect the health and welfare of such persons and to make or cause to be made such inquiry as the Board thinks proper into the administration (including the keeping of accounts) management and activities of, and the relief afforded by any registered benevolent society.

No charitable institution or benevolent society may be established without the consent in writing of the Charities Board nor may any person collect or attempt to collect any money for or towards the purpose or the alleged purpose of the establishment of any institution or benevolent society except with the authority of the Board.

The Hospitals and Charities Fund is established at the Treasury and into it are paid :—

- (1) Monies appropriated by Parliament (now fixed under the *Hospitals and Charities (Fund) Act* 1939 at £440,000).
- (2) Five per cent. of the money invested in the Totalizator in respect of each race or division of a race where the races are held on courses within the radius of 20 miles of Melbourne and 2½ per cent. in respect of races held on courses situated elsewhere in Victoria. (*Totalizator Act* 1930 as amended by the *Totalizator Act* 1934.)

Since the date of the operation of the Act the sum of £1,239,667 has been paid. The total amount available for distribution from the Hospitals and Charities Fund for 1939-40, including Totalizator Receipts, was £620,505. Loan and grants amounting to £470,640 were made to institutions from National Loan Recovery Funds during 1939-40 for building purposes.

In making recommendations to the Minister as to what sums of money from Hospitals and Charities Fund should be paid to each subsidized institution or benevolent society in any financial year, the following matters are taken into consideration in each case :—

- (a) The financial position of such institution or benevolent society and the amount likely to be contributed to it during the financial year other than that from the Fund.
- (b) The probable net receipts and expenditure for the financial year.
- (c) The actual number of persons relieved during the preceding financial year.
- (d) The average number of beds (if any) occupied during the preceding financial year and the average cost per bed.
- (e) The average length of stay of each in-patient during the preceding financial year.
- (f) The general conditions and management.
- (g) Any exceptional circumstances with regard to the geographical position.
- (h) Such other matters as are prescribed or as the Board thinks fit.

Regulations were framed in 1929 covering the provision of accommodation for intermediate and private patients in public hospitals. During the year 1939-40, 41 of the 49 hospitals outside the metropolis admitted paying patients in accordance with these Regulations. In the metropolis four hospitals are now admitting intermediate and/or private patients. The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital was first to take advantage of the Regulations and a new wing, named the "Jessie McPherson Community Hospital," was opened in 1931. The Alfred Hospital followed in 1933, when "Hamilton Russell House" was opened, and, at St. Vincent's Hospital, one floor of a section of the building was set aside for this purpose and patients admitted in 1934. In 1939, at the Austin Hospital for Chronic Diseases, an intermediate section "Heidelberg House," was opened.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

The principal general hospitals in the State are the Royal Melbourne, the Alfred, St. Vincent's, and Prince Henry's Hospitals. The social services rendered by each of these hospitals is briefly described in the following paragraphs.

Royal Melbourne Hospital. The origin of this institution belongs to the earliest days of Melbourne. The *Year-Books* for 1915-16 and 1916-17 contain a statement of the circumstances associated with the foundation of the hospital in 1846, and a reference to its rebuilding in 1910. During the year 1934 Their Majesties the King and Queen bestowed their patronage on this Hospital.

This institution has always been the most important of the general hospitals of Victoria, and the chief medical training school for University students. The wards now contain normally 378 beds. In the year 1939-40 the number of in-patients treated was 8,689, the daily average number being 428, which was 50 above the number the hospital is designed to accommodate. During the year, 52,099 persons were treated in the out-patients' and casualty departments. The aggregate number of attendances of out-patients was 253,171.

In 1939-40 the receipts of the Maintenance Account amounted to £141,514, the principal items of receipts being:—Government grant for maintenance, £62,563; municipal grants, £2,006; annual subscriptions, £5,815; donations, £988; bequests, £16,052; proceeds of entertainments, £2,268; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,738; Lord Mayor's Fund allocation, £1,732; visitors' fees, £5,051; payments and contributions by in-door patients, £15,915; out-patients' fees, £14,261; interest, £10,827; and £2,298 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure from Maintenance Account was £145,611.

The hospital, which is a training school for nurses, has a nursing staff of 265. Attached to the hospital is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, endowed by the Trustees of the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust. The Institute has, by the result of its research work, provided valuable assistance to medical science.

The *Royal Melbourne Hospital Act* 1935, provides for the granting to a corporation known as the Royal Melbourne Hospital of a piece of land consisting of nearly 11 acres situated in the city of Melbourne, and authorizes the corporation to erect on the land granted a general hospital and other buildings, and to install such equipment as is required. Power is given to the corporation to sell the land (about 5 acres) upon which the existing hospital is built, also the buildings thereon, and to apply the proceeds of such sale for or towards the cost of erecting and equipping the new hospital.

To assist the corporation further in financing the new building, which is estimated to cost £800,000, the *Royal Melbourne Hospital Act* 1938 enables the Government of the State of Victoria to guarantee the repayment of the principal and interest of a loan not exceeding £500,000 to be raised by the corporation. Proceeds from the sale of the present site are to be used towards the reduction of this loan.

The construction of the New Hospital commenced in 1939.

To relieve the pressure on the general hospitals in the City of Melbourne, the Convalescent Hospital at Caulfield was established in 1925. The management is undertaken by the committee of the Royal Melbourne Hospital. In eight wards there are 200 beds. During the year 1939-40 the number of patients treated was 3,264, the daily average number being 178. The total expenditure for the year was £23,751.

Alfred Hospital. This hospital, which was opened in May, 1871, is situated in the municipality of Melbourne. The area of land reserved for the purposes of the hospital is 14 acres. In 1921 an extensive scheme of building expansion was approved, subject to funds becoming available. Since then remarkable progress has taken place. On the 22nd May, 1933, Hamilton Russell House was opened with a capacity of 40 beds for the reception of private and intermediate patients. This branch is a new feature of general hospital work in this State. As the majority of the buildings of the Hospital were some seventy years old, the Board of Management in 1936, decided on a rebuilding scheme, the first section of which was completed early in 1940.

The building, which is of basement, ground floor and eight stories, comprises X-ray, Deep-Therapy, Pathology and Physio-Therapy Departments, Students' Quarters, Operating Theatres, Neuro-Surgical Unit, consisting of theatre and wards, and Gynaecological Unit, which also has its own wards. The hospital is recognized by the Melbourne University as a clinical school for medical students, and is also a training school for nurses. The following particulars relate to the public section only:—On 30th June, 1940, there were 372 beds and cots in the Institution. The total number of in-patients during the year 1939–40 was 6,745, and in the out-patients and casualty departments 36,840 persons were treated. The number of attendances of patients in these departments was 190,852. The ordinary income of the Maintenance Account during the year 1939–40 amounted to £107,878. The principal items of receipts were:—Government grants, £53,366; municipal grants, £2,181; private contributions, £3,396; special donations and bequests, £7,412; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,408; Lord Mayor's Fund, £1,417; in-door patients' fees, £11,725; out-door patients' fees, £8,865; general clinic fees, £2,126; visitors' contributions, £3,730; proceeds of entertainments, £889; transfer from Hamilton Russell House, £1,350; sales refunds, &c., £3,794; interest from investments, £1,720; Auxiliary Efforts, £3,616; and miscellaneous receipts, £883. The total expenditure on maintenance was £108,567.

St. Vincent's Hospital. The history of the foundation and later development of this institution appears in the *Year-Book*, 1937–38, page 256.

The foundation stone of the new building was laid in October, 1928. On the 8th December, 1934, the New Wing of the hospital was opened. This addition, which created a heavy financial burden, increased the normal accommodation from 120 to 245 beds and provided 60 beds for Intermediate patients.

In September, 1937, two stories were added to the Nurses' Home at a cost of £22,600. Loan money for this was provided by the Government, interest being at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

In June, 1938, the new Pathological building was opened, the cost being £29,308.

Buildings purchased in June, 1940, for the future development of the Casualty Ward, at a cost of £7,091 have already been demolished, and rebuilding operations will be commenced at an early date.

During the year 1939-40, the number of in-patients treated was 4,875, and of out-patients and casualties 35,616. In 1939-40, the receipts of the Maintenance Account amounted to £72,649 and the total expenditure on maintenance to £77,949. The total overdraft on all accounts at 30th June, 1940, amounted to £121,547.

The genesis of this institution was a meeting convened **Prince Henry's Hospital.** on 13th October, 1869. At this meeting it was decided to establish a dispensary for the treatment of sick and afflicted persons. The dispensary was subsequently opened in Collins-street. In 1876 it was decided to close the dispensary, remove to more commodious premises in Spring-street, which were previously used as a hospital for sick children, and open a hospital for the treatment of both In and Out-Patients.

In course of time the accommodation proved insufficient and it was decided to build an up-to-date hospital. The site chosen was that on which the hospital now stands. The North Wing and Administrative Quarters were first built, the foundation stone being laid by the Governor of Victoria, the Marquis of Normanby, on the 29th July, 1882.

The Operating Theatre and Casualty Room were added in 1904. The Children's Wards and the Nurses' Home were built and opened for occupation in 1910. The next additions were the erection of the Edward Wilson Casualty Ward, new Out-Patients' and Casualty Departments and the extension of No. 1 Male Medical Ward. These buildings were opened in 1925.

To commemorate the visit to Melbourne for the Centenary Celebrations in 1934 of His Royal Highness, Prince Henry, the name of the Institute was changed from the Homoeopathic to Prince Henry's Hospital.

The new central block of the hospital was completed in 1939 and a Government grant of £130,000 will enable the Board of Management to proceed immediately with the building of the Nurses' Home and the South Wing.

In the first year of its existence the hospital treated 55 In-Patients and 1,193 Out-Patients. During 1939-40, 2,155 In-Patients were treated and 62,515 Out-Patients' visits recorded. The number of persons recorded as having received the benefits of the Institution since its first opening is 1,100,857.

The total receipts during 1939-40 on account of Maintenance Fund amounted to £33,059 and the expenditure to £36,389.

SPECIAL HOSPITALS.

The principal special hospitals in the State are the Austin Hospital for Cancer and Chronic Diseases, the Children's Hospital, the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, and the Women's Hospital. Details of the activities of each of these hospitals are set out hereunder.

**Austin Hospital
for Cancer and
Chronic
Diseases.**

The history of the foundation of this hospital in 1881 and of its later development appears in the *Year-Book* 1937-38, page 257.

From a small institution containing 66 beds it has expanded into a modern hospital and now accommodates 506 patients. Attached to the cancer division is the deep X-ray and radium departments for the treatment of the 130 patients in this section of the hospital.

The Hospital was a part-time training school for nurses for many years, but it has recently been advanced to the status of a full-time training school.

Opened on the 1st May, 1939, "Heidelberg House" provides an intermediate hospital service for patients able to pay moderate fees. Approached by a separate entrance, it is situated in the grounds of the Austin Hospital and is entirely detached from the public hospital. Containing four floors the building accommodates sixty-nine patients and is the first hospital building in Victoria to be air-conditioned throughout. Both general medical and surgical cases and cases of the chronic type are accepted for treatment.

During the year ended 30th June, 1940, 1,297 patients were treated in the public section and 770 in the intermediate.

Of the total expenditure for the year 1939-40 (£84,939), £15,526 was for buildings and £69,413 for maintenance. The revenue (including Government loan, £5,728) for the same period was £88,470.

**Children's
Hospital.** The history of the foundation of this hospital in 1870 and of its later development appears in the *Year-Book* 1937-38, page 258. It now ranks amongst the largest Children's Hospitals in the British Empire, with accommodation of 448 beds.

In addition to its in-patient activities, the hospital treated 17,181 separate children as out-patients during the year 1939-40, involving 73,292 attendances.

For children's diseases the hospital is an important teaching and research centre where medical students from Melbourne University are required to devote one term.

During the year ended 30th June, 1940, the number of patients admitted to the hospital was 4,577, which, with 415 patients in the hospital at 1st July, 1939, made a total of 4,992 patients.

The cost of maintenance during the same period was £89,929 which, with £1,792 expended on building, gave a total expenditure of £91,721. The total revenue during the year was £101,195.

**Queen's
Memorial
Infectious
Diseases
Hospital.**

This institution dates from 1904 when the first patient was admitted. Its early history and later development is recorded in the *Year-Book* 1937-38, page 259.

In 1930-31, diphtheria and scarlet fever both became more prevalent and the accommodation was not equal to the demand. The Board obtained approval for the provision of extra wards containing 150 beds, additions to the nurses' home and other services, bringing the nominal number of beds to 720.

Transport of patients to the hospital is provided by motor ambulances, the area served extending as far as Werribee, Fern-tree Gully, Whittlesea and Mornington.

The greatest number of patients in Hospital on any one day was 745, during the epidemic of diphtheria in 1936.

The patients treated, during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1940, numbered 6,975 and the maximum number of occupied beds in any one day 527.

For the same period receipts amounted to £89,975 and expenditure to £90,036.

**Women's
Hospital.**

The history and later development of this hospital, which was founded in 1856, is recorded in the *Year-Book* 1937-38, page 260.

A Service block costing £110,000 was officially opened by Her Excellency Lady Gowrie in November, 1937. A Pathological block, the tender price of which was £42,000, was opened by Lord Huntingfield in 1939.

During the year ended 30th June, 1940, the daily average number of in-patients was 280, whilst out-patients numbered 9,156 with 29,357 attendances.

Since its foundation, there have been 119,125 births in the hospital, and out-patients attendances have numbered 656,736.

In 1939-40 the total receipts and expenditure amounted to £119,684 and £86,377 respectively.

**Other
Hospitals, &c.**

Statements showing the nature of the work performed by other hospitals, societies, &c., are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 568 to 582, and 586.

TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIA AND BUREAUX.

With the definite object of obtaining improved results in the prevention and cure of tuberculosis, a State Director of Tuberculosis was appointed in 1927. Since this appointment, a new feature in the control and cure of the disease has been the establishment of tuberculosis bureaux in the metropolis and in the provincial centres of the State. With the co-operation of the Bureaux, a larger proportion of cases in the early stages of the disease has been admitted to the Sanatoria. This has resulted in a reduction in the period of stay therein, and in the consequent utilization of the available number of beds to a greater extent for the benefit of the tuberculous members of the population.

In 1933 a new Sanatorium (Gresswell) at Mont Park was opened and accommodation provided for 144 male patients. With the opening of this Sanatorium the Janefield and Amherst Sanatoria were closed. During the year 1935-36 the State Sanatoria Board carried out many building and other improvements at Gresswell Sanatorium. An X-ray plant, purchased out of moneys provided by a bequest, was installed at the Greenvale Sanatorium. A branch bureau, under the clinical charge of the District Health Officer, was opened in Ballarat in December, 1934. In 1939 a Chalet containing 10 beds was opened in the grounds of the Ballarat Base Hospital. The Gresswell and Heatherton Sanatoria are registered as part-time and special training schools for nurses.

Construction of a new Sanatorium for women at Greenvale has been commenced. It is proposed to build a new administration block of 4 wards each containing 24 beds.

A Government grant of £5,000 was made for a new building at Royal Park Benevolent Home for the reception of 20 indigent male patients. This building is named the Dunstan Chalet and has been in use during 1939-40.

The following table shows the accommodation of, the number of admissions to, discharges from, and deaths of males and females in sanatoria during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1940:—

VICTORIA—SANATORIA—ACCOMMODATION, ETC., 1939-40.

Sanatorium.	Accommodation.		Admissions.		Discharges.		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Greenvale ..	..	100	3	195	1	163	..	38
Austin ..	80	40	140	57	64	30	68	23
Heatherton ..	..	122	..	193	..	170	..	25
Royal Park ..	19	..	19	..	8	..	10	..
Gresswell ..	142	..	264	..	235	..	39	..
Bendigo Chalet ..	10	10	22	25	21	13	3	8
Ballarat Chalet ..	5	5	3	5	..	1	1	..
Total ..	256	277	451	475	329	377	121	94

Close co-operation with the Army Authorities has resulted in the prevention of known cases of lung Tuberculosis being admitted to the services. The splendid pioneer work of the Army Authorities in submitting recruits to Miniature Radiography has resulted in about 1 in 200 being rejected for Tuberculosis. A number of these cases naturally required treatment and has thus thrown a great strain on the existing accommodation for males.

It is proposed to erect a new ward of 24 beds at Gresswell Sanatorium to partially meet these new demands.

If Miniature Radiography is applied to the Civil Population on an extensive scale it will involve considerable increase in existing Sanatoria accommodation.

The following table shows the number of beds available in the various institutions at 1st July, 1940.

Institution.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Austin Hospital	80	40	120
Gresswell Sanatorium	142	..	142
Greenvale Sanatorium .. ..	..	100	100
Heatherton Sanatorium .. ..	..	122	122
Dunstan Chalet	19	..	19
Ballarat Chalet	5	5	10
Bendigo Chalet	12	12	24
Total	258	279	537

The Branch Bureaux at Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, and Prahran have done useful work. Work at the Central Tuberculosis Bureau has further increased during the year. Attendances at this Bureau were 13,765 in 1936-37, 13,565 in 1937-38, 15,581 in 1938-39, and 17,203 in 1939-40. The work of the Bureaux is much appreciated by general practitioners, from whom many encouraging messages have been received. In recent years doctors in private practice have sent to the Bureaux an increasing number of patients for examination and report. During the year ended 30th June, 1940, 11,261 domiciliary visits to tuberculous patients were made by the 10 nurses attached to the various Bureaux.

Work of
Bureaux.

The following table illustrates some of the work at the Central and Branch Tuberculosis Bureaux during the year ended 30th June, 1940 :—

VICTORIA—TUBERCULOSIS BUREAUX ACTIVITIES, 1939-40.

	Metropolitan—				Country—	
	Central.		Prahran.		Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong..	
	M	F	M.	F.	M.	F.
New cases applying	1,606	1,815	57	84	287	220
Re-attendance	5,232	8,550	238	358	1,229	1,411
Cases passed for entry to Sanatoria and other Institutions ..	439	440	21	30	46	41
Contacts—						
New—Examined	710	902	37	63	133	151
Old—Re-examined	1,080	1,250	19	37	287	334
Found Tuberculous	20	71	1	..	5	9
Infecting Cases	601		77		195	
Visits to Patients' Homes—						
By Medical Officers .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
By Nurses	3,682	4,506	321	352	1,255	1,146
X-Ray Screen Examinations ..	970	1,419	18	11	8	26
X-Ray Film Examinations ..	1,854	2,476	47	76	389	390
Pneumothorax Refills	486	1,020	16	7	93	95

The number of attendances of patients at the Central and Branch Bureaux during the period of twelve months ended on 30th June in each of the fourteen years 1927 to 1940 was as follows :—

VICTORIA—ATTENDANCES OF PATIENTS AT
TUBERCULOSIS BUREAUX, 1927 TO 1940.

Year.	Bureau.					Total.
	Central.	Prahran.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Ballarat.	
1927 ..	596	..	..	..	..	596
1928 ..	1,115	..	..	..	..	1,115
1929 ..	3,309	..	..	..	..	3,309
1930 ..	6,088	177	..	..	..	6,265
1931 ..	8,212	316	512	..	..	9,040
1932 ..	9,235	285	543	164	..	10,227
1933 ..	9,527	370	838	944	..	11,679
1934 ..	10,370	365	939	1,028	..	12,702
1935 ..	10,836	474	1,204	926	439	13,879
1936 ..	12,319	431	1,184	731	654	15,319
1937 ..	13,765	501	1,064	959	735	17,024
1938 ..	13,565	571	1,147	1,312	714	17,309
1939 ..	15,581	748	904	1,576	759	19,568
1940 ..	17,203	737	1,029	1,415	693	21,077

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE.

The subjoined table sets forth the numbers under the care of the Department for the years 1938 and 1939.

VICTORIA—PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE, 31st DECEMBER, 1938 AND 1939.

	On 31st December—		Increase (+). Decrease (-).	
	1938.	1939.		
In State Hospitals	6,104	6,108	+	4
On Trial Leave from State Hospitals	915	886	-	29
Boarded Out	246	232	-	14
In Licensed Houses	42	41	-	1
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses	19	18	-	1
Total Number of Certified Insane	7,326	7,285	-	41
In Receiving Institutions	120	118	-	2
Total	7,446	7,403	-	43
Voluntary Boarders	221	204	-	17
Cases of Mental Disorder in Returned Soldiers (not included in other statistics)	237	239	+	2

There was a decrease in the year 1939, compared with 1938, in the number of certified patients in State Mental Hospitals. The number of certified insane in the State at the end of 1939, proportionately to the population, was 1 in 259. At 31st December, 1939, there were 239 military mental cases known to the Department and 204 voluntary boarders in various institutions. The boarding out of patients is being extended to certain benevolent homes in country districts.

The number of admissions to Mental Hospitals for each of the years 1935 to 1939 was as follows:—

VICTORIA—MENTAL HOSPITALS—ADMISSIONS, 1935 TO 1939.

Year.	First Admissions.			Re-admissions.			Total Admissions.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1935	380	417	797	42	56	98	895
1936	379	403	782	41	53	94	876
1937	374	406	780	25	30	55	835
1938	379	389	768	52	63	115	883
1939	407	431	838	79	89	168	1,006

The number of discharges from, and the deaths in, Mental Hospitals of the Department for each of the years 1935 to 1939 are given below :—

VICTORIA—MENTAL HOSPITALS—DISCHARGES AND DEATHS, 1935 TO 1939.

Year.	Discharges.			Deaths.			Total of Discharges and Deaths.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1935	152	214	366	245	218	463	829
1936	138	180	318	213	177	390	708
1937	162	196	358	210	167	377	735
1938	190	241	431	209	200	409	840
1939	232	302	534	256	246	502	1,036

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

There were at the end of 1939 two industrial and five reformatory schools in the State. Two of these (one industrial and one reformatory school) are wholly maintained and managed by the Government, and are used merely as receiving and distributing depots, the children being sent as soon as possible after admission thereto to foster homes or situations, or to other institutions for dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management and receive a capitation allowance from the State for those inmates who are wards of the Children's Welfare Department. Many of the inmates of the reformatories are either placed with friends or boarded out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1939, numbered 5,609—5,452 wards of Children's Welfare Department and 157 reformatory children. The following table shows the number of neglected and reformatory children under control at the end of each of the five years 1935 to 1939 :—

VICTORIA—WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN, 1935 TO 1939.

Year.	NUMBER OF WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Wards.
	Boarded Out.	Placed with friends on Probation.	Maintaining themselves at Service or Apprenticed.	In Institutions (including Hospitals).	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1935 ...	2,409	1,038	361	1,680	...	5,488
1936 ...	2,218	1,048	359	1,784	...	5,409
1937 ...	2,131	1,273	351	1,781	...	5,536
1938 ...	1,916	1,404	342	1,901	...	5,563
1939 ...	1,848	1,208	351	2,045	...	5,452

VICTORIA—WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND
REFORMATORY CHILDREN, 1935 TO 1939—*continued.*

Year.	NUMBER OF REFORMATORY CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Reformatory Children.
	In Reformatory Schools.	Placed with Relatives.	Maintaining themselves at Service.	In Institutions (including Hospitals).	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1935 ...	87	86	23	...	...	196
1936 ...	98	73	27	...	...	198
1937 ...	99	39	27	...	...	165
1938 ...	109	74	14	1	...	198
1939 ...	69	73	15	...	...	157

The welfare of the children boarded out is cared for by departmental inspectors and honorary committees, which furnish reports to the Department as to their general condition. The rate paid by the State to persons accepting charge of these children is 12s. 6d. per week for each child under the age of 18 months, and 7s. per week for each child over that age. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service.

MAINTENANCE ACT 1928—PART III.

Part III. of this Act enables a mother whose child is without sufficient means of support, and who is unable to provide or to obtain by any available legal proceedings sufficient means of support for such child, to apply in the prescribed form to the Secretary of the Children's Welfare Department for assistance for or toward the maintenance thereof. The Secretary on receipt of such application causes inquiries to be made as to the circumstances and character of the applicant, her ability to maintain her child without assistance, and as to the truth of the statements in her application. He then remits the application together with the result of his investigations to a Special Magistrate, or to a Police Magistrate for the district, who arranges for the hearing of the application in private and who, having examined the applicant on oath, furnishes the Secretary with a recommendation as to whether, in his opinion, assistance should or should not be granted.

Special Magistrates who are officers of the Children's Welfare Department hear all applications made by mothers who reside within a radius of 20 miles from the General Post Office.

The Secretary, having made any comments he thinks fit as to the need for assistance, submits the case to the Minister, who grants or refuses the application. If the Minister grants the application, payment is allowed, from the date of the receipt of the application by the Secretary, at not less than 6s. or more than 12s. per week unless, in the opinion of the Minister, exceptional circumstances such as the existence in the child of some affliction of body or mind warrant the payment of a larger sum.

For the twelve months ended 31st December, 1939, assistance was granted under the Maintenance Act in respect of 2,171 children. At the end of the year there were 7,905 children boarded out to their mothers, a decrease of 213 as compared with the number at the end of the previous year, viz., 8,118.

The following statement shows the number of wards of the State and of children boarded out for the years 1935 to 1939 inclusive:—

VICTORIA—WARDS OF STATE AND CHILDREN BOARDED OUT, 1935 TO 1939.

Year.	Children Boarded Out at End of Year.				Other Wards of State.	Total Wards of State and Children Boarded Out.
	To Foster Mothers.	With Mothers.	Total.	Cost of Maintenance During Year.		
				£		
1935 ..	2,409	7,330	9,739	212,192	3,275	13,014
1936 ..	2,218	7,870	10,088	221,746	3,191	13,279
1937 ..	2,131	7,939	10,070	230,911	3,405	13,475
1938 ..	1,916	8,118	10,034	268,491	3,647	13,681
1939 ..	1,848	7,905	9,753	266,491	3,604	13,357

Cost of maintenance of neglected and reformatory children.

The expenditure by the State for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1939 to £266,491, allowances to widowed mothers £21,381, and for reformatory school children to £4,111; the expenses of administration amounted to £20,327, making a total gross expenditure of £320,665. A sum of £10,298 was received from parents for maintenance, and of £319 from other sources, making the net expenditure £310,048. The number of children under supervision on 31st December, 1939, was 5,452; of this total, 1,848 were maintained in foster homes, 275 were in Government receiving depots, 1,739 were in other institutions, 351 were at service earning their own living, 31 were in hospitals, and 1,208 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The number of reformatory wards under supervision on 31st December, 1939, was 157. Of this number, 69 were maintained in private

schools, 15 were in service earning their own living, and 73 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children during the ten years, 1930 to 1939, is shown in the table which follows :—

VICTORIA—NET COST TO THE STATE OF WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1930 TO 1939.

Year.			Net Expenditure.	Year.			Net Expenditure.
			£				£
1930	..	..	413,439	1935	..	..	251,614
1931	..	..	382,968	1936	..	..	262,792
1932	..	..	332,886	1937	.	.	272,788
1933	..	..	286,254	1938	..	..	297,011
1934	..	..	251,587	1939	..	..	310,048

Neglected children maintained by societies or private persons.

Part I., Division 8, of the *Children's Welfare Act* 1928 deals with the committal of neglected children to the care of private persons or institutions approved by the Governor in Council. A statement showing the names of the approved institutions appears in the *Year-Book*, 1937-38, page 269. The number of children under supervision of these societies on 31st December, 1938, was 1,482. The admissions during the year 1939 under various headings were as follows :—Court Committals, 75 ; Transfer of Guardianship, 107 ; Voluntary Admissions, 968. The number of children under supervision of the societies on 31st December, 1939, was 1,150.

Children in Registered Homes.

On 31st December, 1939, there were 160 children under supervision in registered homes under the provisions of the *Children's Welfare Act*. There were 4 deaths of such children during the year. The work of inspection of registered homes is performed by female inspectors. During the year 311 children, in respect of whom the weekly payments for maintenance by the responsible persons had fallen into arrears, became wards of the *Children's Welfare Department* by the operation of section 103 of the Act.

Widows' Pensions. As a result of a report by the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, appointed by Parliament to inquire into and report on the establishment in Victoria of a scheme to provide for the payment of Widows' Pensions, the *Maintenance (Widowed Mothers) Act* 1937 came into operation on the 4th March, 1938.

This Act, which is administered by the Children's Welfare Department under the direction of the Minister, provides for the granting of a pension to any widow mother who is receiving or is eligible to receive assistance from the Children's Welfare Department in respect of her child.

Application is made to the Secretary on the prescribed form, and the Minister, after due investigation has been made similar to that in the case of an application for assistance in respect of a child, either grants or refuses the application.

The Act fixes the rate of pension at not less than 6s. per week and not more than 10s. per week.

The number of applications approved during the year ended 31st December, 1939, was 238 and the expenditure £21,381. The number receiving payment at that date was 965.

INFANT WELFARE AND BUSH NURSING.

Infant Welfare. With the object of reducing the wastage of child life due to preventable causes, infant welfare centres have been established throughout Victoria since 1917. They are maintained by various municipalities, which are aided by a Government subsidy on a £1 for £1 basis up to £112 10s. per annum, providing the minimum salary paid to the nurse is £208 per annum for full-time and proportionately for each nurse employed part-time. If the salary is lower than this rate only half the nurse's salary is subsidized. On 30th June, 1940, there were 124 municipalities maintaining 221 centres. Of these municipalities, 29 in the metropolitan area were supporting 77 centres, and 95 in the country were supporting 144 centres. During the year ended 30th June, 1940, the number of individual infants who were given attention at centres was 56,809, compared with 51,316 in 1939. Their attendances numbered 560,321 in 1940 and 520,819 in 1939 and the nurses made 75,271 and 73,490 visits in 1940 and 1939 respectively. The number of nurses actually employed in infant welfare centre work was 118, but, including infant welfare nurses in the Public Health Department and those attached to voluntary organizations and training schools, there were 147.

The following statement gives particulars of infant welfare centres for the year 1917-18 (the first year in operation) and for the five years 1935-36 to 1939-40 :—

VICTORIA—INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

—	1917-18.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
Nurses in centres ..	1	100	104	106	114	118
Home visits ..	1,407	69,047	70,943	89,821	73,490	75,271
Total individual children	913	42,403	47,115	43,736	51,316	56,809.
Total attendances ..	4,116	452,612	491,047	*361,187	520,819	560,321

* Owing to outbreak of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) activities of centres were curtailed.

There are eight infant welfare and mothercraft training schools for nurses. Of these schools three train infant welfare and mothercraft nurses, one trains infant welfare nurses only, and four train mothercraft nurses only. These schools are supported by voluntary organizations and church bodies and are as follow :—

Foundling Hospital, East Melbourne	}	Training Infant Welfare and Mothercraft Nurses
Presbyterian Babies' Home ..		
Victorian Baby Health Centres Association Training School	}	Training Infant Welfare Nurses
Tweddle Baby Hospital		
Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows	}	Training Mothercraft Nurses
Methodist Babies' Home		
Bethany Babies' Home		
St. Gabriel's Church of England Babies' Home		

There were 678 infant welfare nurses registered with the Nurses' Board in Victoria at 30th June, 1940, and 659 mothercraft nurses eligible to obtain the Public Health Department certificate of competency.

There are eleven crèches or day nurseries supported by voluntary effort and money derived from Trust funds. The children are admitted as a rule from the age of six weeks to six years. The usual charge is 3d. to 4d. per child per day, varying with different crèches. The daily payment includes provision for three meals and a bath. The total attendances for the year ended 30th June, 1940, were 79,963.

There are bush nursing centres distributed throughout the State in the rural areas. At 30th June, 1940, the centres numbered 73, inclusive of 55 bush nursing hospitals. The bush nurses numbered 150 on permanent staff and 8 on relieving staff, the majority of whom held infant welfare as well as general and midwifery certificates.

Bush Nursing.

Details of receipts and expenditure of the bush nursing centres for the year ended 30th June, 1939, are shown below :—

VICTORIA—BUSH NURSING CENTRES, 1938–39.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Grants—		Salaries—	
Government	370	Nurses, paid to Central Council	18,488
Municipalities	566	Other	9,483
Central Council	506	Provisions, Fuel and Lighting	13,215
Donations	7,311	Surgery and Medicine ..	1,685
Proceeds from Entertainments	4,947	Repairs and Maintenance ..	1,341
Nursing Fees	32,843	Printing, Stationery ..	1,236
Members' Fees	11,658	Insurance, Rent, and Bank Charges	3,117
Interest and Rent	267	Other Maintenance Costs ..	1,041
Proceeds from Sale of Medicine	647	Loans and Interest Repayments	2,137
Loans—		Land and New Buildings ..	18,516
From Central Council ..	7,503	New Equipment	3,616
From other Sources ..	1,986		
Miscellaneous	1,245	Total Expenditure ..	73,875
Total Receipts ..	69,849		
Cash in hand or in Bank at 1st July, 1938 ..	11,726	Bank Overdraft at 1st July, 1938	10,844
Bank Overdraft at 30th June, 1939	14,220	Cash in hand or in Bank, 30th June, 1939 ..	11,076
	95,795		95,795

Loans outstanding at 30th June, 1939, amounted to £46,794.

NOTE.—The above statement excludes Central Council receipts (£10,117) and expenditure (£3,343).

MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

The Lord Mayor's Fund was inaugurated on 4th April, 1923, for the purpose of assisting in the maintenance of the Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities, and was incorporated by Act of Parliament on 24th December, 1930. The Hospital Saturday and Sunday Fund was formed in 1873 and remained in operation until the year 1923, when the Hospital Saturday section was merged with the Lord Mayor's Fund, the Hospital Sunday section remaining a separate fund, but being carried on in close co-operation with the Lord Mayor's Fund. Since the date of the inauguration of the latter fund subscriptions and donations amounting to £1,185,918 have been received, and the collections for the Hospital Sunday Fund have amounted to £181,745.

Lord Mayor's
Fund and
Hospital
Sunday Fund.

The total annual receipts of the two funds during the period 1923-24 to 1939-40 were as follows:—

Year.	Lord Mayor's Fund.	Hospital Sunday Fund.	Total.
	£	£	£
1923-24 to 1928-29	289,057	76,799	365,856
1929-30	65,458	11,596	77,054
1930-31	95,416	12,064	107,480
1931-32	70,606	9,500	80,106
1932-33	80,716	10,170	90,886
1933-34	93,554	8,275	101,829
1934-35	78,717	8,633	87,350
1935-36	93,045	8,551	101,596
1936-37	105,714	8,843	114,557
1937-38	78,886	9,123	88,009
1938-39	72,509	8,986	81,495
1939-40	62,240	9,205	71,445

St. John Ambulance Association. The work carried on by this Association is described in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 582. Its objects are to instruct all classes of people in the preliminary treatment of the sick and of the injured. During the past year 14,497 students have been instructed in first aid and home nursing, of whom 8,882 received certificates. Since the formation of the Victorian Centre of the Association in 1883, 78,033 persons have been awarded certificates. The Association medallion has been awarded to 5,711 students.

Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. This service attended to 42,298 calls, of which 4,839 were connected with accidents, during the year ended 30th June, 1940; the mileage travelled was 227,121. In 27,660 cases no fee was paid. The large increase in the work of the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service in the year under review is accounted for by the Infantile Paralysis Epidemic. In order that the patients could receive proper medical attention "After Care Medical Treatment Clinics" were established, and to these centres the patients were transported without charge. During the year ended 30th June, 1940, 22,634 transportations were made. The decentralization of the service has commenced by the inauguration of Ambulance Stations at Prahran, Canterbury, and Footscray, with the intention of extending same to all suburban areas.

In addition, 23 Country Ambulance Stations have been successfully opened and operated since March, 1923, under the Country Division of the Service, and 68 stretchers and first-aid outfits have been supplied to police stations in smaller centres.

The locations of the Country Ambulance Stations are as follow :—

Ballarat (2 cars)	Horsham	Mornington	Wangaratta
Beechworth	Kerang	Rushworth	Warragul
Benalla	Korumburra	Sale	Warrnambool
Bendigo	Kyabram	Shepparton	Yarram
Castlemaine	Maffra	Stawell	
Echuca	Mildura	Swan Hill	

Charity Organization Society. A statement of the objects of this society appears in the *Year-Book* 1916-17, Page 583.

The income for the year ended 30th June, 1940, was 5,173 ; private subscriptions amounted to £795, and all other receipts to £4,378. The total expenditure during the year was £4,972, of which £2,582 was expended on relief, and £2,390 on administration and on buildings. At the end of the year the amount of capital invested was £9,845 and of cash on hand £1,752.

Royal Humane Society. The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victoria Humane Society." Its objects are as follows:—(1) To bestow awards on all who promptly risk their lives to save those of their fellow-creatures ; (2) to provide assistance, as far as it is in the power of the society, in all cases of apparent death occurring in any part of Australasia ; (3) to restore the apparently drowned or apparently dead, and to distinguish by awards all who, through skill and perseverance, are successful in so doing ; (4) to collect and circulate information regarding the most approved methods and the best apparatus to be used for such purposes.

During the year ended 30th June, 1939, 126 applications for awards were investigated, with the result that 52 certificates of merit, 36 bronze medals and 10 silver medals were granted. During 1938-39 income of the Society amounted to £474 and expenditure to £502.

Royal Life Saving Society. With the object of minimizing the great loss of life from drowning, a branch of the Royal Life Saving Society was established in Melbourne in 1904. A statement of the aims of the society appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30 on page 237.

During the year 1939-40 the number of awards granted by the Victorian Head Centre was 5,328, which included 101 Awards of Merit. The total income of the Centre for 1939-40 was £1,177, and the expenditure £1,110.

**Society for
the Protection
of Animals.**

The objects of this society are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 589. During the year ended 30th June, 1940, 3,358 cases were dealt with, of which 964 were connected with cruelty to horses, and 1,504 to dogs. There were 27 prosecutions in cases of deliberate cruelty, in 24 of which the law was vindicated by the punishment of the offenders. The receipts for the year amounted to £4,913, and the expenditure to £3,018.

**National
Safety
Council of
Australia.**

The National Safety Council of Australia was founded in Melbourne in 1927 for the purpose of developing, mainly by means of education, safety on the road, at work, in the home, and in the air. Its activities have developed in other directions, wherever the need for reducing the toll of accidents has been shown. The Council is governed by an Executive assisted by traffic, factories and workshops, air safety, and home committees.

Junior Safety Councils have been formed in the schools for developing a safety conscience among children. The children themselves are officers of these Junior Safety Councils, and patrol the roads in the neighbourhood of the School to conduct the scholars across in safety.

**Victorian
Coal Miners'
Accidents
Relief Fund.**

A statement on the establishment of this Fund appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 438.

Including the moneys received by the Accidents Committee of each mine, the total revenue of the Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1939, was £4,086. The details of the revenue are as follow:—Interest, £1,181; contributions by employees, £1,237; by the mine-owners, £583; by the Government, £583; and miscellaneous receipts, £502. The total expenditure in connexion with the Fund during 1939 was £4,137. The items of expenditure were—allowances to beneficiaries £3,794, and cost of administration £343. The investments of the Fund at 31st December, 1939, amounted to £31,000.

During the year 1939, there were 642 accidents at the mines, none of which were fatal. From the date of the establishment of the Fund on 2nd April, 1910, to 31st December, 1939, the number of accidents recorded was 12,019—79 fatal and 11,940 non-fatal.

**Lord Mayor's
1937 Coal
Mining
Accident
Relief Fund.**

On 15th February, 1937, an explosion of gas in the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, caused the deaths of thirteen men. A public appeal resulted in the subscription of £27,863 towards a Relief Fund which was supplemented by an amount of £1,259 received from the Wonthaggi Local Fund, making a total of £29,122 available for distribution among the thirteen widows and eighteen dependent children of the deceased.

From the Fund the sum of £100 was paid to each family and arrangements were made for the payment of £2 per week to each widow, until her death or re-marriage, together with 15s. per week in respect of each child until it attains the age of eighteen years. The balance remaining in the Fund will enable assistance to be given in special cases, such as medical attention to widows and children and educational assistance to children.

During the year ended 30th June, 1940, payments to widows and children amounted to £1,953, and medical and funeral benefits to £1. The balance to the credit of the Fund at that date was £26,232.

This Fund was instituted in 1887 by Lady Loch to **Queen's Fund.** commemorate the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria. It is for the relief of women in distress, and it is provided that only the interest on the capital shall be expended yearly. The number of women assisted during 1939-40 was 82, to whom £670 was allotted either by way of grant or loan; the cost of management was £125. The accumulated fund on 30th June, 1940, was £20,426. In addition to the ordinary receipts of the Fund (£896) for the year 1939-40, an amount of £68 was received from the trustees of the Walter and Elizabeth Hall Trust and distributed to governesses, nurses, and others in similar positions who from age, misfortune, or infirmity were unable to earn their living.

The devastating fires which swept over a wide area of the State during January, 1939, were the cause of much suffering and loss to thousands of people in Victoria.

**Lord Mayor's
1939 Bush
Fire Relief
Fund.**

An appeal was launched for a fund for the relief of the distressed and in response subscriptions amounting to £266,094 (including £2,121 interest on deposits) were received.

Disbursements from the Fund comprised £181,917 for claims; £25,483 for immediate relief, including interim payments to widows, &c., and housing accounts; £55,000 transferred to a trust fund; £1,566 transferred to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund. The balance remaining to the credit of the fund at 30th June, 1940, amounted to £2,128.

Claims numbering 3,197 involving an amount of £974,527 were lodged for losses sustained in the fires and grants of £181,917 were made in respect thereof. Of these claims, 469 totalling £38,065 were granted for building material and labour, and other assistance was rendered towards the rebuilding of public halls and the erection of dwellings and shelters.

The sum of £55,000 was transferred to a trust fund for the payment of annuities to 23 widows and 25 children of men who lost their lives in the fires, and fortnightly payments to 4 other persons incapacitated by injuries received therefrom. Each widow is to be paid £2 per week, or £1 per week if the recipient benefited under the Workers' Compensation Act, and this payment will continue until death or twelve months after remarriage. Provision is made, however, to discontinue this payment if the recipient is guilty of misconduct that might justify such action. Payment in respect of each child is to be 10s. per week, until he or she attains the age of 17 years.

EXPENDITURE BY THE STATE OF VICTORIA ON SOCIAL SERVICES.

Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue and Loan Funds of the State of Victoria on the undermentioned social services during the years 1935-36 to 1939-40 exclusive of interest on loans (other than for unemployment relief), raised for such purposes is shown in the following statement:—

Social Service.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
	£	£	£	£	£
Law, Order and Public Safety ..	1,122,352	1,230,925	1,290,171	1,315,866	1,385,282
Regulation of Trade and Industry ..	86,110	125,599	111,525	103,018	106,656
Education	2,758,781	3,068,436	3,229,925	3,278,618	3,370,147
Promotion of Public Health and Recreation	1,051,318	1,117,754	1,349,023	1,305,180	1,503,945
Social Amelioration (excluding Unemployment Relief)	300,780	342,601	834,697	541,331	661,848
Unemployment Relief	4,308,903	3,322,046	3,531,215	3,368,551	3,560,248
Total	9,628,244	9,207,361	10,346,556	9,912,564	10,588,126

Further information in regard to the above items appears in Part Finance of the *Year-Book*.

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE IN VICTORIA ON CERTAIN SOCIAL SERVICES AND REPATRIATION.

INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Federal Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act. These pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Government under an act passed in 1908 and amending acts. The commencing age for old-age pensioners is 65 years in the case of men (60 years where a man is permanently incapacitated for work) and 60 years in the case of women. The maximum rate of pension paid as from 9th September, 1937, was £52 per annum, or 20s. per week.

Pensioners, 1930-31 to 1939-40. The number of old-age and invalid pensioners in Victoria on 30th June, 1940, was as follows:—Old-age pensioners—men, 28,802; women, 47,279; total, 76,081
Invalid pensioners—men, 5,903; women, 6,836; total, 12,739.

The number of old-age and invalid pensioners at the end of each financial year and the amount expended each year during the ten years ended 30th June, 1940, are shown in the following statement:—

VICTORIA—OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONERS, 1930-31 TO 1939-40.

Financial Year.	Number of Pensioners at end of Period.			Actual Amount Paid in Pensions.*
	Old-Age.	Invalid.	Total.	
1930-31	49,999	19,925	69,924	£ 3,445,803
1931-32	52,795	20,785	73,580	3,255,709
1932-33	49,449	20,191	69,640	3,059,773
1933-34	57,253	15,193	72,446	3,053,247
1934-35	58,059	17,253	75,312	3,213,895
1935-36	60,548	17,741	78,289	3,463,701
1936-37	62,755	18,282	81,037	3,750,068
1937-38	65,203	18,817	84,020	4,218,918
1938-39	67,896	19,471	87,367	4,307,432
1939-40	76,081	12,739	88,820	4,413,702

* Includes payment of pensions to eligible inmates of Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals. On 30th June, 1940, there were respectively 1,607 and 492 such pensions in force. The weekly rate of pension paid was 4s. from 8th October, 1925; 5s. 6d. from 4th October, 1928; 5s. from 23rd July, 1931; 3s. 9d. from 13th October, 1932; 5s. from 26th October, 1933; 5s. 6d. from 24th September, 1936; and 6s. from 9th September, 1937.

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES.

An Act was passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1912, providing for the payment, on application, of £5 to the mother of each child born in the Commonwealth on and after 10th October, 1912.

The Commonwealth Financial Emergency Acts of 1931 and 1932 reduced the rate of payment and imposed income restrictions. Rates of payment and income restrictions were modified by the Commonwealth Financial Relief Act of 1934 and 1936, and by the *Maternity Allowance Act* (No. 44 of 1937). The latter Act increased—

- (a) the income limit to £247 per annum where there is no previous surviving issue under fourteen years of age, the additional allowance of £13 per annum in respect of each previous surviving child being retained up to a maximum of £338 per annum ;
- (b) the allowance to £7 10s. in cases where there are three or more previous surviving children under fourteen years of age.

The number of claims granted in Victoria to 30th June, 1940, was 833,944, and the total of the allowances paid in the State to that date was £4,089,555.

For the year ended 30th June, 1940, the number of claims granted was 19,660, and the amount paid in allowances was £105,310.

REPATRIATION.

On 8th April, 1918, Repatriation became an Australian national undertaking for the provision of benefits for Australian soldiers, sailors and nurses who served in the war of 1914-18. Its objects are to find employment for the fit, to re-establish the disabled, to provide for the dependants of those who have died and of those who are no longer able, in consequence of war disabilities, to support themselves, and to supply medical and surgical treatment, also artificial limbs and appliances, in respect of disabilities due to or aggravated by war service.

On pages 407 and 408 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 appears a statement of the activities of the Department.

The *Year-Book* for 1920-21 contains, on pages 383 to 385, an epitome of the main work of the Department, also particulars of the sustenance rates granted to applicants awaiting fulfilment by the Department of certain specified obligations, and of the rates of pension payable to ex-members of the Forces and their dependants. The sustenance and some of the pension rates, however, have since been altered.

The history of war pension legislation from 1914 to 1938 is recorded in the *Year-Book*, 1937-38, page 279 *et seq.*

Appeal Tribunals. As from 1st June, 1929, tribunals were created to hear appeals in regard to war pensions. The War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunal is empowered to hear and decide any appeal against a decision of the Repatriation Commission, by or on behalf of ex-members of the forces or their dependants, that an incapacity or death of an ex-member arose out of war service.

Two Assessment Appeal Tribunals were created, to hear and decide any appeal against a current assessment of war pension made by the Repatriation Commission in respect of an ex-member of the forces whose incapacity had been accepted as arising out of war service.

Service Pensions. Eligibility for service pensions may be established on the following grounds—

- (a) Sixty years of age or more, provided the applicant served in a theatre of war, but eligibility on this ground limits payment of service pension to the ex-soldier; his wife or children are not eligible. A former nurse is eligible for consideration provided she embarked for service abroad and has reached the age of 55 years.
- (b) Permanently unemployable, provided the applicant served in a theatre of war. Under this class pensions may be paid to the ex-soldier, his wife and his children—up to four in number.
- (c) Pulmonary tuberculosis, whether the applicant served in a theatre of war or not. Under this class pensions are also payable to the wife and children—up to four in number.

Only those applicants who qualify under class (c) are entitled to receive both service pension and invalid pension at the same time.

The maximum rate of service pension for a single man is fixed at 40s. per fortnight, and for a man and his wife at 34s. per fortnight each, with an additional 5s. per fortnight for each child up to four in number under sixteen years of age. The actual rate payable in any case is determined after taking into consideration all other income and property received or owned by the pensioner in question, and no service pension can be paid in any case where such other income and property has an assessable value, in the case of a single man, of £84 10s. per annum, or in the case of a man and wife, £169 per annum between them. In addition, no service pension can be paid when the applicant is possessed of property to the value of over £400.

If the income from all other sources is less than the annual amounts above shown, then service pensions become payable at such rates as will, with that other income, bring the total income of the pensioner (including service pension) up to the allowed maximum, provided, of course, that such pensions cannot exceed the maximum rates of 40s. for a single man or 34s. each for man and wife, as hereinbefore mentioned.

**Current
Work of
Department.**

The following statistics for the year 1939-40 show in some degree the type and extent of current activity in the State of Victoria :—

War Pensions—Number in force at 30th June, 1940—

Members of the Forces	.. .. .	25,334
Dependants of deceased members of the Forces	.. .. .	8,058
Dependants of incapacitated members of the Forces	.. .. .	44,720
Expenditure for year (paid in pensions)	.. .. .	£2,317,417

Service Pensions—Number in force at 30th June, 1940—

Members of the Forces	.. .. .	2,080
Dependants of deceased member pensioners	.. .. .	305
Dependants of member pensioners	.. .. .	1,084
Expenditure for year (paid in service pensions)..	.. .. .	£118,577

Medical Treatment—

**Number of In-patients at 30th June, 1940, in
Repatriation Institutions—**

General Hospitals	.. .. .	455
Sanatoria	.. .. .	59
Anzac Hostels	.. .. .	15
Mental Hospitals	.. .. .	182

(Some few patients are being treated in own homes).

Attendances of Out-patients during 1939-40 (excluding treatments by Local Medical Officers, of whom there are 174 in rural areas)	.. .. .	55,730
Expenditure on treatment, &c.—		
Maintenance of Repatriation Institutions	..	£108,910
Maintenance of Patients in other than Repatriation Institutions (including Country Hospitals)	..	£16,304
Sustenance during medical treatment	.. ..	£13,221
Conducting Commonwealth Artificial Limb Factory		£11,803
Other expenditure, including fees to consultants, &c.	.. .. .	£56,235
Soldiers' Children Education Scheme—		
Number of children at school and in training	..	1,518
Expenditure for year 1939-40	.. .. .	£34,438

CREMATION.

Cremation in Victoria is governed by the *Cemeteries Act 1928* and the rules and regulations of cemetery trustees as approved by the Governor in Council.

The Cremation Society of Victoria was established in 1892, but it was not until 1905 that a Crematorium of very simple type was erected at the Springvale Necropolis. From its opening in 1905 to its closing in 1926 there were only 176 cremations.

When the New Melbourne General Cemetery at Fawkner was designed in 1906, provision was made on the drawings for the erection of a modern crematorium. However, owing to lack of funds, it was not until 1926 that the managers were in a position to consider the erection of a suitable building. Plans were then adopted for a building incorporating the most up-to-date requirements at a cost of £7,000. The building was designed on a most comprehensive scale to permit of future expansion. Additions to the original structure were found necessary within seven years of its opening. The crematorium now consists of two chapels with three reducing chambers and other auxiliary rooms. In 1934, as an everlasting memorial to the cremated, a Garden of Remembrance was constructed. The Garden is surrounded by a columbarium wall with niches for the preservation of caskets containing ashes.

On 9th March, 1936, a second crematorium was opened at the Necropolis at Springvale. This was constructed on a large scale and equipped with memorial niches.

The changing habits of the people in respect of the disposal of the dead are indicated by the increasing number of cremations. The figures in the following table have been supplied by the authorities of the two crematoria concerned :—

CREMATION IN VICTORIA.

Year.	Cremations at Fawkner.	Cremations at Springvale.	Total Cremations.	Total Deaths.	Percentage of Crema- tions to Deaths.
1927	32	..	32	16,773	·19
1928	84	..	84	17,708	·47
1929	151	..	151	16,717	·90
1930	162	..	162	15,959	1·02
1931	201	..	201	17,033	1·18
1932	199	..	199	16,805	1·18
1933	369	..	369	17,456	2·11
1934	499	..	499	18,648	2·68
1935	596	..	596	18,456	3·23
1936	358	400	758	18,778	4·04
1937	387	596	983	18,613	5·28
1938	415	752	1,167	18,955	6·16
1939	436	873	1,309	20,169	6·49
1940	571	1,053	1,624	20,293	8·00