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CHAPTER XI. PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory.

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

No poor-rate is levied in Australia, and Government aid without return is required only for the aged and disabled. Moreover, although *Old-age Pensions, Invalid Pensions, and Maternity Allowances* are paid by the Commonwealth, the payments are looked upon rather in the light of a citizen's right than as a charity. Reference to these matters will be found in § 6 and 7 of Chapter VIII. "Finance."

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

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

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

(ii) *Principal Hospitals in each State.* The particulars given herein refer to general hospitals at latest available date, and include all institutions affording general hospital relief.

(a) *New South Wales.* A Government hospital, with a staff of 32 medical officers and accommodation for about 720 patients, is established at Little Bay, near Sydney. Altogether, there are 4 hospitals for women, 1 for women and children, and 3 for children in the metropolis. The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, with a medical staff of 90 and with 584 beds, is the largest metropolitan subsidized institution. Amongst other large metropolitan hospitals may be mentioned the Sydney Hospital, with a medical staff of 69 and with 415 beds, St. Vincent's with 58 doctors and 220 beds, and Lewisham with 46 medical attendants and 292 beds. In extra-metropolitan areas the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives, which is a Government institution, provides accommodation for 419 patients. The Newcastle Hospital has 188 beds and a medical staff of 21. At the Carrington Convalescent Home at Camden there is provision for 110 patients. The hospital in the Broken Hill district can accommodate 186. Upwards of 300,000 out-patients received treatment at the various hospitals.

(b) *Victoria.* There are several large metropolitan hospitals in Victoria. In 1925–26 the largest of these, the Melbourne Hospital, had 358 beds, while attendances of out-patients in the twelve months were nearly 250,000 ; the Alfred Hospital had 340 beds, outpatients' attendances numbered 172,000 ; the Austin Hospital for Incurables had 294 beds, St. Vincent's 120, and the Homœopathic 73. Amongst the country institutions, Bendigo had 222 beds, Geelong 162, and Ballarat 202.

(c) *Queensland.* Of the metropolitan hospitals, the largest is the Brisbane General, which can accommodate 361 patients. The Children's Hospital has 260 beds, the

Diamantina 167, and the Mater Misericordiæ 127. The larger country hospitals are those at Ipswich, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Townsville, Bundaberg, Charters Towers, and Maryborough.

(d) *South Australia.* Including the Consumptive Home and Infectious Diseases Block, the Adelaide Hospital can accommodate a total of 580 patients. The most important of the country hospitals are at Port Augusta, Port Pirie, and Wallaroo. The Adelaide Children's Hospital has 98 beds.

(e) *Western Australia.* Information regarding the capacity of the Western Australian hospitals is not available, but some idea of their comparative importance may be gained from the figures relating to cases treated. In the metropolis, 5,388 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital in 1925, and 1,929 at the Perth Children's Hospital. Of the country hospitals, the more important are those at Kalgoorlie, Fremantle, Northam, and Wooroloo.

(f) *Tasmania.* There are well-equipped general hospitals in Hobart and Launceston. The former can accommodate 225 patients, with additional verandah accommodation if required, and the latter has 226 beds. Hospitals for women have been established in both centres, and there is a sanatorium for consumptives at New Town. Outside the metropolitan area there are institutions in the important country centres, the principal being the Devon Cottage, and the Lyell District Hospitals.

(g) *Northern Territory.* In addition to the hospitals at Darwin and Pine Creek, supplies of medicines and first aid are available to outlying stations.

(iii) *Number, Staff, and Accommodation, 1925.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs, and accommodation for the year 1925, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government	4	..	4	11	26	3	5	53
Other	155	53	103	34	38	12	2	397
Total	159	53	107	45	64	15	7	450
Medical Staff—								
Males	1,152	109	264 13	165 9	63	45	2	1,822
Females								
Total	1,152	109	277	174	63	45	2	1,822
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males	94	..	356	101	127	2	2	682
Females	2,977	(a) 879	1,977	860	722	228	12	(a) 7,655
Total	3,071	(a) 879	2,333	961	849	230	14	(a) 8,337
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, wards, etc. .. .	1,187	445	690	372	274	154	12	3,134
Capacity, in cubic feet .. .	9,126,294	5,117,813	4,537,909	2,248,894	3,050,529	1,044,455	135,000	25,260,894
Number of beds, etc. .. .	8,063	3,801	4,229	1,746	2,027	807	45	20,718
Cubic feet to each bed .. .	1,131	1,346	1,072	1,288	1,505	1,294	3,000	1,220

(a) Victorian figures are exclusive of 787 nursing staff and 17 dispensing staff, sexes not available.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated. In addition to the facilities provided in the ordinary wards, a considerable amount of accommodation for certain classes of cases is furnished in out-door or verandah sleeping places, and this can be augmented; full particulars in connexion with these are not available. So far as the returns show, there were 1,166 out-door beds in New South Wales, 176 in South Australia, 11 in Western Australia, 78 in Tasmania, and 42 in the Northern Territory. These figures are not included in the totals given in the table below:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Indoor Relief: Persons Treated—								
Males	57,688	21,002	36,873	11,338	11,504	5,960	269	144,634
Females	55,490	16,182	22,920	10,224	8,545	6,193	123	119,677
Total	113,178	37,184	59,793	21,562	20,049	12,153	392	264,311
Inmates at beginning of year—								
Males	2,885	1,296	1,806	624	718	229	23	7,581
Females	2,431	918	1,022	431	380	242	5	5,429
Total	5,316	2,214	2,828	1,055	1,098	471	28	13,010
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—								
Males	54,803	19,706	35,067	10,721	10,786	5,731	246	137,060
Females	53,059	15,264	21,898	9,864	8,165	5,951	118	114,319
Total	107,862	34,970	56,965	20,585	18,951	11,682	364	251,379
Discharges—Recovered:								
Males	30,724	a 17,191	a 32,112	6,594	5,781	a 5,003	219	106,624
Females	42,153	a 13,833	a 20,164	6,915	5,613	a 5,360	101	94,139
Total	81,877	a 31,024	a 52,276	13,509	11,394	a 10,363	320	200,763
Relieved:								
Males	9,855	b	b	2,833	3,829	b	..	c
Females	7,175	b	b	1,968	1,960	b	..	c
Total	17,030	b	b	4,801	5,789	b	..	c
Unrelieved or Incurable:								
Males	1,757	239	664	532	321	370	..	3,883
Females	1,379	173	436	406	165	324	..	2,883
Total	3,136	412	1,100	938	486	694	..	6,766
Not stated or Indefinite:								
Males .. ..	..	174	..	36	..	34	..	244
Females .. ..	..	116	..	54	..	19	..	189
Total .. ..	..	290	..	90	..	53	..	433
Deaths—								
Males	3,612	2,003	2,022	754	902	302	19	9,614
Females	2,311	1,084	981	516	381	232	6	5,511
Total	5,923	3,087	3,003	1,270	1,283	534	25	15,125
Inmates at end of year—								
Males	2,740	1,395	1,763	596	671	251	31	7,447
Females	2,472	978	1,142	436	426	253	16	5,726
Total	5,212	2,371	2,905	1,032	1,097	509	47	13,173
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males	c	2,360	3,049	628	714	253	29	c
Females				539	457	265	17	
Total	c	2,360	3,049	1,167	1,171	518	46	c

(a) Including relieved.

(b) Included in recovered.

(c) Not available.

(v) *Summary for Five Years, 1921 to 1925.* Returns for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, are given in the following table. Figures for general hospitals only are tabulated, since the working of "special" institutions is not properly comparable with those which treat every class of case.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1925.

Particulars.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Number of institutions ..	404	424	426	435	450
Number of beds ..	18,342	18,969	19,590	19,986	20,718
Admissions during year ..	205,072	209,018	227,168	237,846	251,379
Indoor patients treated ..	215,278	218,209	237,339	249,786	264,311
Deaths ..	13,969	13,485	14,637	14,784	15,125
Expenditure ..	£ 2,332,116	2,441,075	2,632,360	2,800,5. 8	3,090,546

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. The exact number of these cannot be given, but a rough estimate of distinct cases places the total at about 500,000.

(vi) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1925 were as follow :—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—								
Fees of patients, etc.	184,961	75,647	95,186	79,260	61,489	29,607	700	526,850
Government grants	614,459	108,852	267,711	191,657	102,376	43,713	5,693	1,334,461
Other ..	604,999	305,907	191,168	49,729	52,987	10,024	..	1,214,814
Total ..	1,404,419	490,406	554,065	320,646	216,852	83,344	6,393	3,076,125
Expenditure—								
Salaries and Main- tenance ..	976,722	365,282	555,644	215,697	196,387	60,558	4,733	2,375,023
Buildings ..	255,669	101,030	33,229	93,223	2,314	5,739	960	492,164
Other ..	134,701	12,695	24,461	15,529	13,105	22,968	..	223,359
Total ..	1,367,092	479,007	613,334	324,449	211,706	89,265	5,693	3,090,546

2. *Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.*—(i) *General.* There has been a great increase in recent years in the amount of aid provided for the aged. Two elements, each of them independent of the growth of population, have influenced this increase. One is, that the general age of the community has advanced—the large flow of immigration of sixty and seventy years ago having been mostly of persons in the prime of life; the other is the increased regard paid in all British communities to the well-being of the helpless. In Australia numerous establishments have been founded for the housing and protection of persons no longer able to care for themselves. The institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, charity performances, bequests, etc.; and in many cases relatives of indigent and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

The impossibility of an entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially marked in the case of benevolent institutions, since the conditions under which they have been established in the different centres in Australia have resulted in differences in the classes of cases treated by them. For example, in Western Australia, the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which the statistics are not separately kept. Since the chief function of the

institution is aid to the destitute, it has been included amongst benevolent asylums. In Victoria, although nine of the hospitals are also benevolent asylums, they have been classed under hospitals. In South Australia, the Destitute Asylum includes lying-in and children's departments.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* The principal institutions of this nature in each State are as follows :—

(a) *Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales.* There are five asylums for the infirm maintained by the Government—four for men and one for women. Rookwood, the largest of these, had in 1924 an average number resident of 1,485, Newington 707, Liverpool 631, and the Parramatta Homes 459. The State Labour Depot and Refuge at Randwick had 61 inmates.

(b) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Exclusive of the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. The daily average of indoor patients approaches 2,000, with about 300 distinct cases of outdoor relief.

(c) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 1,259 beds. The most important of these is at Dunwich (Stradbroke Island), and there are small institutions at Nundah, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba. The inmates of the four institutions number about 1,200.

(d) *Homes for Aged, South Australia.* At the Old Folks' Home, Magill, there were 450 inmates at the end of 1925, and 67 in the Aged Men's Home, Beaumont.

(e) *Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia.* There are two homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. The Old Men's Home at Claremont had 603 inmates at the end of 1925, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 85 adult inmates.

(f) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. The New Town Infirmary and Consumptive Home, with 230 beds, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, with 31 beds, were fully tenanted during 1925.

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1925 are given in the following table :—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government aid ..	132,410	24,683	46,871	8,865	11,518	9,987	234,334
Municipal aid ..	..	874	..	..	..	..	874
Public subs., legacies, etc.	1,546	28,212	2,647	..	..	..	32,405
Fees ..	13,462	22,846	..	3,757	12,765	4,574	57,404
Other ..	6,130	11,295	476	6,567	..	1,566	26,034
Total ..	153,548	87,910	49,994	19,189	24,283	16,127	351,051
Expenditure—							
Buildings ..	3,284	12,590	113	171	..	199	16,357
Maintenance ..	143,958	62,978	49,362	13,877	24,283	11,137	305,595
Other ..	6,984	4,828	497	5,158	..	4,791	22,258
Total ..	154,226	80,396	49,972	19,206	24,283	16,127	344,210

3. **Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.**—(i) *General*. The organization of charitable effort varies greatly in regard to orphans and waifs. In many institutions, shelter and some form of industrial training are offered to destitute children of all classes whether orphans or not, while some of those styled orphanages do not confine their relief strictly to orphans. The expenditure on orphanages in 1925 was approximately £200,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions*. The principal institutions in each State are as follows :—

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

There are also orphanages, farm homes, country homes for children, etc., with upwards of 2,000 children under care.

There are several reformatories and industrial schools maintained by the State. At the Parramatta Industrial School for Girls, to which a Training Home is attached, there were on 31st December, 1924, 152 inmates. At the Farm Home for Boys, Gosford, there were 248 inmates.

(b) *Victoria*. There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1,726 beds. The daily average of the inmates was 1,671 in 1924–25. The expenditure in the same year was £69,437.

At the end of 1925 there were two industrial and four reformatory schools in the State. Of these, one in each class is wholly controlled by the Government, being used merely as a receiving and distributing depot. The children are sent thence to situations, foster homes, or other institutions dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management, receiving an allowance for State wards. Many of the reformatory children are placed with friends, or licensed out.

(c) *Queensland*. There are twelve orphanages in Queensland. The number under care is about 1,000, and the annual expenditure for the year, £30,000.

There are also eight industrial and reformatory schools with about 180 boys and 60 girls under detention.

(d) *South Australia*. The State Children's Department exercises a supervision over the probationary and industrial schools and the reformatories. The total number of admissions into these institutions in 1925–26 was 271. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1926, was 310; in addition to which 1,391 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1925 was 326, and the number of inmates on 31st December, 1925, was 243. There were no deaths during the year, and the expenditure amounted to £4,236.

(e) *Western Australia*. In Western Australia there were, at 30th June, 1926, thirteen institutions classed as orphanages, industrial schools, etc., containing 408 boys and 288 girls. There were also 27 boys and 17 girls at the Government Receiving Depot.

(f) *Tasmania*. There are four industrial schools and one orphanage in the State. The average daily number of inmates is 175. Annual expenditure is about £10,000.

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions in 1925 of State Departments for the relief of neglected children :—

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—SUMMARY, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of children in institutions, boarded out, or on probation—							
Males ..	22,295	14,894	4,147 3,669	930 771	721 612	338 254	48,631
Females ..							
Total ..	22,295	14,894	7,816	1,701	1,333	592	48,631
Number of children boarded out with their own mothers and female relatives included in above figures—							
Males ..	16,718	8,154	2,744 2,566	166 137	55 63	.. ..	30,603
Females ..							
Total ..	16,718	8,154	5,310	303	118	..	30,603
Gross cost to State of children's relief ..	£ 587,626	£ 339,391	£ 194,229	£ 50,329	£ 26,158	£ 15,454	£ 1,213,187
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc. ..	16,427	16,681	12,769	5,292	5,756	1,362	58,287
Net cost ..	571,199	322,710	181,460	45,037	20,402	14,092	1,154,900

4. *Lepers.*—Lazarets for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane, and Dayman Island, Torres Strait); and the Northern Territory (Mud Island). Quarantine and isolation stations have also been used for the segregation of patients. Up to 1915, 545 cases of leprosy had been recorded in Australia. Later information is not available, but between the calendar years 1916 and 1926 there were 62 deaths from the disease. At the end of 1925 there were 17 lepers in the Little Bay lazaret.

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

(ii) *Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1925.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, medical and nursing staff, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1925 :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of institutions—							
Government	11	9	3	2	3	1	29
Private	2	(b) 4	..	..	1	..	7
Total	13	13	3	2	4	1	36
Medical Staff—							
Males	28	26	6	6	4	2	74
Females	1						
Total	29	26	7	6	4	2	74
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	760	646	242	99	131	54	1,932
Females	719	624	182	93	80	64	1,762
Total	1,479	(g) 1,270	424	192	211	118	3,694
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories	(f)	1,335	566	507	44	407	(f)
Capacity, in cubic feet	(f)	3,964,873	2,046,916	891,163	714,714	878,590	(f)
Number of beds	(c) 8,840	5,919	2,802	1,348	1,186	702	18,797
Cubic feet to each bed	{ (d)(c) 600 } { (e)(c) 1,000 }	670	731	661	605	1,252	(f)

(a) Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong Hospitals. (b) There are four private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 90 cases at the end of 1925. Complete figures for these private asylums are not available. (c) Government hospitals only. (d) Ordinary dormitory. (e) Hospital dormitory. (f) Information not available. (g) Also 29 on clerical staff (males).

(iii) *Patients, 1925.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1925 is given in the table hereunder:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Admissions and re-admissions during year—							
Males	839	399	302	220	104	46	1,910
Females	699	347	208	181	56	40	1,531
Total	1,538	746	510	401	160	86	3,441
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	256	82	132	80	16	22	588
Females	276	85	98	70	8	19	556
Total	532	167	230	150	24	41	1,144
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	100	65	11	48	15	8	247
Females	69	60	12	53	14	14	222
Total	169	125	23	101	29	22	469

(a) Exclusive of inmates of the Receiving House, Royal Park, and of Receiving Wards attached to the hospitals at Bendigo and Geelong, and of four private licensed houses.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1925—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Absconders not retaken—							
Males	11	4	..	2	1	..	18
Females .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Total	11	6	..	2	1	..	20
Deaths—							
Males	395	198	136	55	58	16	858
Females	265	158	56	39	18	22	558
Total	660	356	192	94	76	38	1,416
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	4,612	2,977	1,863	722	728	303	11,205
Females	3,785	3,215	1,120	580	360	300	9,360
Total	8,397	6,192	2,983	1,302	1,088	603	20,565
Average daily number resident—							
Males	4,387	2,592	1,822	703	719	301	10,524
Females	3,475	2,802	1,077	572	348	307	8,584
Total	7,865	5,394	2,899	1,275	1,067	608	19,108
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	3.93	3.55	4.10	2.55	3.65	2.80	3.66
Females	3.36	3.80	2.75	2.16	2.08	2.75	3.20
Persons	3.65	3.67	3.46	2.36	2.92	2.78	3.43
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	3.74	3.09	4.00	2.48	3.60	2.79	3.44
Females	3.09	3.31	2.65	2.13	2.01	2.81	2.93
Persons	3.42	3.20	3.37	2.31	2.86	2.75	3.19

(a) Exclusive of inmates of the Receiving House, Royal Park, and of Receiving Wards attached to the hospitals at Bendigo and Geelong, and of four private licensed houses.

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

(iv) *Summary for Australia, 1921 to 1925.* The table hereunder gives a summary for hospitals for the insane in Australia for each of the five years 1921 to 1925. Licensed houses (except as regards expenditure) are included in the totals for New South Wales and Victoria, in the latter the figures are exclusive of reception houses, and observation wards in gaols:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1925.

Particulars.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Number of institutions (a)	35	36	35	35	36
Number of beds	17,224	18,047	18,303	18,387	18,797
Admissions	3,254	3,226	3,342	3,325	3,441
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,723	1,648	1,691	1,638	1,613
Deaths	1,473	1,267	1,433	1,413	1,416
Expenditure	£ 1,398,148	1,303,907	1,401,459	1,494,025	1,649,626

(a) Exclusive of receiving wards at general hospitals, and including licensed houses for insane in Victoria.

(v) *Number of Insane, 1921 to 1925.* The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, has changed very little during recent years. The next table gives the number of insane under official care in Australia and the proportion per 1,000 of population for the last five years.

INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS, 1921 TO 1925.

State.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	7,970	7,991	8,112	8,231	8,397
Victoria	5,842	5,997	6,026	6,096	6,192
Queensland	2,753	2,842	2,869	2,983	2,983
South Australia	1,190	1,224	1,248	1,248	1,302
Western Australia	1,104	1,079	1,036	1,047	1,088
Tasmania	584	599	608	618	603
Total	19,443	19,732	19,929	20,223	20,565
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales	3.75	3.93	3.67	3.65	3.65
Victoria	3.77	3.77	3.71	3.68	3.67
Queensland	3.58	3.61	3.54	3.57	3.46
South Australia	2.37	2.39	2.38	2.30	2.36
Western Australia	3.48	3.15	3.00	2.87	2.92
Tasmania	2.67	2.74	2.78	2.84	2.78
Australia	3.53	3.61	3.47	3.44	3.43

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria and New South Wales show the highest rate of insanity, roughly 1 in 270 persons. It is stated that this is chiefly owing to the proportionately greater number of the aged in those States. On the other hand, in South Australia a considerably lower insanity rate has prevailed, averaging about 1 in 420, Tasmania being next with an average of about 1 in 360.

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

(vi) *Causes of Insanity.* The proportion of causes of insanity to the total ascertained causes in Australia in the five years 1921 to 1925 shows that hereditary influence has been the chief factor, more than one-fifth of the total ascertained causes coming under this head. Domestic troubles, adverse circumstances, etc., have also been a fruitful source. Cases due to intemperance in drink range from one in 9 to one in 13.

INSANITY.—PERCENTAGE OF CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1925.

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety ..	10.6	12.6	11.4	13.1	15.0
Intemperance in drink	7.7	8.9	9.4	8.0	8.4
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained ..	21.2	21.8	22.9	24.6	22.8
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life	7.5	7.6	7.0	8.4	7.1
Previous attacks	11.5	12.4	13.6	12.9	11.4
Accident, including sunstroke ..	0.8	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2
Old age	9.2	11.7	11.1	10.8	10.1
Venereal disease	5.6	3.3	5.2	5.5	5.8
Other causes ascertained	25.9	20.4	17.9	15.4	18.2
All ascertained causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(vii) *Length of Residence in Hospital.* (a) *New South Wales.* Particulars are not available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals during the year of persons who died or were discharged. There are three State Reception Houses, where suspected persons are confined for observation, being subsequently either discharged or transferred to lunatic asylums. In one of the gaols, observation wards have been instituted with similar functions.

(b) *Victoria.* Particulars are not available as to the average length of residence in hospitals during the year of persons who died or were discharged. There are lunacy wards in two of the general hospitals; also a State receiving house where persons are placed for observation, and subsequently discharged or transferred to asylums.

(c) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died during the year was 7 years 79 days for males and 10 years 127 days for females; and of those who were discharged, 315 days for males and 1 year 52 days for females. There are three reception houses for observation of the insane.

(d) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 10 years 242 days for males and 5 years 32 days for females; of those discharged, 129 days for males and 1 year 28 days for females.

(e) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged about 8 years 300 days for males and 6 years 150 days for females; of those who were discharged, 2 years 120 days for males and 2 years 13 days for females.

(f) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 9 years 290 days for males and 10 years for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 204 days for males and 1 year 131 days for females.

(viii) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1925.* The revenue of Government asylums is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 87 per cent.

HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients	81,595	58,569	22,689	15,642	11,778	7,532	197,805
Other	2,667	6,466	1,167	716	5,517	438	16,971
Total	84,262	65,035	23,856	16,358	17,295	7,970	214,776
Expenditure—							
Salaries	356,715	259,261	124,089	44,549	56,873	29,465	870,952
Maintenance		181,325	67,319	45,145		21,988	
Buildings		109,731	17,031	20,967	42,594	714	
Other	39,194	6,053	1,161	507		391	
Total	620,463	556,370	209,600	111,168	99,467	52,558	1,649,626

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

7. *Protection of Aborigines.*—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where the blacks are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come under the notice of the Boards. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The approximate annual expenditure on maintenance, etc., is—New South Wales, £38,000; Victoria, £6,000; Queensland, £44,000; South Australia, £25,000; Western Australia, £30,000; Northern Territory, £10,000; total for Australia, £153,000. In 1924 in New South Wales

the number of full-bloods receiving aid was 1,855, in addition to which there were half-castes, quadroons, and octoroons; in Victoria there were 318 under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board; in Queensland in 1926 there were more than 5,000 full-bloods in supervised camps; in South Australia, in 1924, there were about 519 inmates at mission stations, while in Western Australia the adult aborigines and half-castes in the native institutions in the year 1925 numbered 663. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory about 1,500 were in residence, but casual assistance and medical attendance are given to large numbers of natives every year.

8. **Royal Life Saving Society.**—In each of the State capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established. Life preservation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves, and other suitable places. Upwards of 3,000 certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination.

9. **Royal Humane Society.**—The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has for its objects (a) to grant awards for skill, promptness, and perseverance in life saving; (b) to provide assistance in cases of danger and apparent death; (c) to restore the apparently drowned; (d) to collect and circulate the latest information regarding approved methods and apparatus for life saving. Awards of medals and certificates are made numbering about 100 annually. Upwards of 350 lifebuoys have been provided at various places on the coasts, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in the various States. Swimming is encouraged amongst school children, and awards are made for proficiency.

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

11. **Total Expenditure on Charities.**—The table below gives the total expenditure on charities in each of the last five years, the figures for the various States being compiled, as far as possible, on the same basis. For the reason given in § 1. 1. the cost of old-age and invalid pensions and of maternity allowances is not included:—

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1921 TO 1925.

State or Territory.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	2,540,606	2,532,039	2,754,759	2,941,515	3,230,625
Victoria ..	1,459,163	1,521,278	1,488,058	1,653,974	1,944,306
Queensland ..	1,017,817	975,028	991,753	991,753	1,145,535
South Australia ..	520,879	551,596	546,528	621,315	679,088
Western Australia ..	475,802	457,661	468,179	508,809	534,522
Tasmania ..	206,513	216,580	215,494	228,246	237,834
Northern Territory ..	6,265	5,585	6,625	5,330	3,162
Total ..	6,227,045	6,259,767	6,471,396	6,950,942	7,775,072

The figures include expenditure from Government and private sources of all institutions and societies affording relief, for which particulars are available.