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CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory.

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

No poor-rate is levied in Australia. Reference to old-age pensions, invalid pensions, and maternity allowances, which are provided by the Commonwealth, will be found on pages 307 to 309 of Chapter VIII. "Public Finance."

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

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

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

The particulars given herein refer to public hospitals at the latest available date, and include all, other than private, institutions affording hospital relief, whether general or special, with the exception of the hospitals for the insane. It is considered that the extension of the scope of these statistics to embrace both general and special institutions will afford a better comparison as between the various States than the statistics previously issued relating to general hospitals only.

(ii) *Principal Hospitals in each State.* In earlier issues of the Official Year Book (See No. 22, pp. 481-2) particulars respecting staff, accommodation, etc., of each of the principal hospitals were given.

(iii) *Number, Staff, and Accommodation, 1930.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs, and accommodation for the year 1930, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table :—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION, 1930 (a).

Particulars..	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Hospitals—							
Government	4	68	11	11	19	3	508
Other	162		117	39	68	16	
Total	166	68	118	50	87	19	508
Medical Staff—							
Honorary	1,201	792	242	134	52	43	3,110
Salaried	277	175	138	41			
Total	1,478	967	380	175	52	58	3,110
Nursing Staff—							
Males	1131	1,992	80	676	3	3	9,141
Females	3,532							1,725	704	313
Total	3,645	1,992	1,805	676	707	316	9,141
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories, wards, etc. ..	1,310	701	1,062	455	494	219	4,151
Capacity in cubic feet ..	10,273,953	7,322,912	5,724,784	2,448,467	2,331,566	1,214,238	29,315,920
Number of beds, etc. ..	8,988	6,062	4,809	1,960	2,228	1,134	25,181
Cubic feet to each bed..	1,143	1,208	1,190	1,249	1,046	1,071	1,164

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows :—New South Wales—31st December, 1929 (latest available); South Australia and Tasmania—31st December, 1930; Victoria—30th June, 1930; Queensland and Western Australia—30th June, 1931.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated. In addition to the facilities provided in the ordinary wards, a considerable amount of accommodation for certain classes of cases is furnished in out-door or verandah sleeping places, and this can be augmented; full particulars in connexion with these are not available. So far as the returns show, there were 1,453 out-door beds in New South Wales, 771 in Queensland, 210 in South Australia, 272 in Western Australia, and 154 in Tasmania. These figures are not included in the totals given in the table above.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1930 (a).

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Indoor Relief—Total Cases Treated—							
Males	76,753	34,310	38,257	12,396	15,474	7,578	184,768
Females	75,402	40,211	34,022	13,718	13,534	9,088	185,975
Total	152,155	74,521	72,279	26,114	29,008	16,666	370,743
Inmates at beginning of year—							
Males	3,512	2,174	1,810	634	811	366	9,307
Females	3,195	2,129	1,392	552	583	395	8,246
Total	6,707	4,303	3,202	1,186	1,394	761	17,553
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—							
Males	73,241	32,136	36,447	11,762	14,663	7,212	175,461
Females	72,207	38,082	32,630	13,166	12,951	8,693	177,729
Total	145,448	70,218	69,077	24,928	27,614	15,905	353,190
Discharges—							
Recovered or Relieved :							
Males	66,237	28,881	33,483	9,890	13,316	6,636	158,443
Females	66,933	35,690	30,533	11,543	12,271	8,194	165,164
Total	133,170	64,571	64,016	21,433	25,587	14,830	323,607
Unrelieved or Incurable :							
Males	2,208	340	780	612	412	232	(e)
Females	2,145	386	579	688	244	257	(e)
Total	4,353	(b) 726	(f) 1,359	1,300	656	489	(e)
Not stated or Indefinite :							
Males .. ..	..	235	301	409	..	12	(e)
Females .. ..	..	107	224	313	..	11	(e)
Total .. ..	..	(c) 342	(d) 525	722	..	23	(e)
Deaths—							
Males	4,727	2,615	1,758	864	944	349	11,257
Females	3,046	1,755	1,042	575	420	266	7,104
Total	7,773	4,370	2,800	1,439	1,364	615	18,361
Inmates at end of year—							
Males	3,581	2,239	1,935	621	802	349	9,527
Females	3,278	2,273	1,644	599	599	360	8,753
Total	6,859	4,512	3,579	1,220	1,401	709	18,280
Average Daily Number Resident—							
Males	(e)	(e)	(e)	663	(e)	291	(e)
Females	(e)	(e)	(e)	639	(e)	386	(e)
Total	7,501	4,589	3,311	1,302	1,358	677	18,738

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Incurable only. (c) Includes unrelieved.
 (d) Removed to other institutions. (e) Not available. (f) Or at own request.

(v) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1930 were as follow :—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1930. (a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Fees of patients, etc.	287,813	162,101	132,275	70,076	95,509	49,638	797,412
Government grants	903,078	265,543	326,766	225,412	120,103	59,875	1,900,777
Other	700,969	446,404	236,494	72,634	43,712	20,404	1,520,617
Total ..	1,891,860	874,048	695,535	368,122	259,324	129,917	4,218,806
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Maintenance ..	1 288,578	746,460	603,722	270,192	238,439	94,835	3,242,226
Buildings	409,623	186,823	107,180	98,131	7,462	10,341	1,075,986
Other	151,456	51,649		8,315	15,957	29 049	
Total ..	1,849,657	984,932	710,902	376,638	261,858	134,225	4,318,212

(a) See note (a) to table on page 402.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1926 to 1930.* 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. The figures for the years 1926 to 1929 relate mainly to general hospitals, while those for 1930 relate to both general and special hospitals. It should be noted that the statistics for the States cannot be brought to a common year and consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Number of institutions ..	458	470	472	480	508
Number of beds ..	20,784	21,657	21,638	22,029	25,181
Admissions during year ..	274,577	287,662	311,103	319,754	353,190
Total indoor cases treated ..	288,036	302,296	326,049	335,530	370,743
Deaths	15,912	16,287	17,265	18,004	18,361
Expenditure	£ 3,404,622	3,656,890	3,862,048	4,064,654	4,318,212

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 between 800,000 and 900,000.

2. *Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.*—(i) *General.* There has been a great increase in recent years in the amount of aid provided for the aged, due partly to the fact that the general age of the community has advanced and partly to 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. These institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, charity performances, bequests, etc.; and in many cases relatives of indigent and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

The impossibility of an entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially marked in the case of benevolent institutions, since the conditions under which they have been established in the different centres in Australia have resulted in differences in the classes of cases treated by them. For example, in Western Australia, the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which the statistics are not separately kept. Since the chief function of the institution is aid to the destitute, it has been included amongst benevolent asylums. In Victoria, although several of the hospitals were also benevolent asylums, a separation was effected and asylum patients were transferred to appropriate institutions. In South Australia, the Destitute Asylum includes lying-in and children's departments.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars respecting the accommodation and the numbers of inmates of the principal institutions were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (See No. 22, p. 485).

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1930 are given in the following table:—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1930.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government aid ..	144,626	28,446	35,016	9,816	5,133	11,784	234,821
Municipal aid ..	..	1,369	..	..	..	..	1,369
Public subs., legacies, etc.	2,336	18,871	107	1,872	..	..	23,186
Fees ..	34,125	33,044	1,325	17,718	20,164	4,856	111,232
Other ..	8,880	16,630	11,990	747	..	883	39,130
Total ..	189,967	98,360	48,438	30,153	25,297	17,523	409,738
Expenditure—							
Buildings ..	4,907	7,045	229	1,134	..	77	13,392
Maintenance ..	182,142	72,160	47,689	29,116	25,297	13,547	369,951
Other ..	4,464	12,511	825	47	..	3,899	21,746
Total ..	191,513	91,716	48,743	30,297	25,297	17,523	405,089

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales and South Australia—31st December, 1930; Victoria—30th June, 1930; and Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1931.

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 1930 was approximately £220,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier Year Books (See No. 22, p. 486).

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions in 1930 of State Departments for the relief of neglected children :—

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—SUMMARY, 1930.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of children in institutions, boarded out, or on probation—							
Males	2,990	3,972	1,338	580	490	356	9,726
Females	2,526	3,200	930	515	391	257	7,819
Total	5,516	7,172	2,268	1,095	881	613	17,545
Number of children boarded out with their own mothers and female relatives—not included in above figures—							
Males	11,117	10,919	2,972	113	27	..	28,114
Females			2,850	81	35	..	
Total	11,117	10,919	5,822	194	62	..	28,114
Total children under State control	16,633	18,091	8,090	1,289	943	613	45,659
Gross cost to State of children's relief	£ 537,834	£ 427,239	£ 203,077	£ 51,477	£ 27,746	£ 16,507	£ 1,263,880
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc.	27,790	12,496	12,225	4,458	3,771	1,154	61,894
Net cost	510,044	414,743	190,852	47,019	23,975	15,353	1,201,986

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows :—New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland—31st December, 1930; other States—30th June, 1931.

4. **Leper Hospitals.**—Isolation hospitals for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane), Western Australia (near Cossack); and the Northern Territory (near Darwin). At the end of 1931 there were 20 cases in residence at Little Bay, 56 at Peel Island, none in Western Australia and 49 in the Northern Territory. During the year 1931 a total of 20 cases of leprosy was reported in Australia, of which 2 were recorded in New South Wales, 14 in Queensland, 2 in Western Australia and 2 in the Northern Territory. In 1930 there were 16 deaths from this disease, and in 1931 the number of deaths recorded was 6, 1 in New South Wales, 4 in Queensland and 1 in the Northern Territory.

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., 1930.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, medical and nursing staff, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1930 :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1930.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions—							
Government	11	8	3	2	5	1	30
Private	2	(c) 4	..	..	1	..	7
Total	13	12	3	2	6	1	37
Medical Staff—							
Males	30	28	6	6	5	2	77
Females	4	..	1	..	..	..	5
Total	34	28	7	6	5	2	82
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	876	667	258	112	132	64	2,109
Females	826	620	190	84	101	71	1,892
Total	1,702	1,287	448	196	233	135	4,001
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories ..	(b)	1,371	638	517	66	419	(b)
Capacity, in cubic feet ..	(b)	4,033,927	2,075,355	1,000,072	783,474	896,680	(b)
Number of beds	9,531	6,065	2,665	1,486	(d)1,284	748	21,779
Cubic feet to each bed ..	(b)	665	779	673	1,154	1,199	(b)

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows :—New South Wales and Queensland—30th June, 1931; other States—31st December, 1930. (b) Not available. (c) Cases at the end of the year numbered 90; other particulars not available. (d) Includes 605 beds on verandahs or out of doors.

(iii) *Patients, 1930.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1930 is given in the table hereunder :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1930.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Admissions and re-admissions during year—							
Males	848	425	257	142	115	53	1,840
Females	720	456	190	118	73	46	1,603
Total	1,568	881	447	260	188	99	3,443
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	227	90	120	45	22	16	520
Females	231	103	82	23	6	20	465
Total	458	193	202	68	28	36	985
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	150	79	6	28	28	6	297
Females	130	96	7	26	7	10	276
Total	280	175	13	54	35	16	573

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

(b) Exclusive of four licensed private houses.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1930(a)—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Absconders not retaken—							
Males	11	9	..	4	1	..	25
Females	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	12	9	..	4	1	..	26
Deaths—							
Males	312	181	96	51	57	19	716
Females	213	185	70	53	45	15	581
Total	525	366	166	104	102	34	1,297
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	5,325	3,234	1,906	775	854	326	12,420
Females	4,345	3,435	1,202	629	420	309	10,340
Total	9,670	6,669	3,108	1,404	1,274	635	22,760
Average daily number resident—							
Males	5,000	2,804	1,902	775	824	320	11,625
Females	3,976	3,023	1,161	618	402	311	9,491
Total	8,976	5,827	3,063	1,393	1,226	631	21,116
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	4.19	3.65	3.79	2.58	3.77	2.98	3.76
Females	3.53	3.80	2.70	2.23	2.17	2.78	3.26
Persons	3.87	3.72	3.28	2.41	3.03	2.88	3.51
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	3.95	3.17	3.82	2.58	3.64	2.98	3.53
Females	3.25	3.36	2.63	2.20	2.09	2.85	3.01
Persons	3.61	3.26	3.26	2.40	2.93	2.91	3.28

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

(b) Exclusive of four licensed private 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.

(iv) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1930.* The revenue of Government asylums is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 85 per cent.

HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE.—FINANCES, 1930.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients	107,141	39,828	27,507	17,543	15,649	9,209	216,877
Other	2,127	5,815	455	1,606	3,641	405	14,049
Total	109,268	45,643	27,962	19,149	19,290	9,614	230,926
Expenditure—							
Salaries	426,081	277,657	123,710	53,514	64,058	34,352	979,372
Maintenance	199,849	142,387	69,102	42,545	35,916	20,351	510,150
Buildings .. .. .	..	12,595	7,628	5,754	587	..	26,564
Other	16,238	5,757	..	423	..	499	22,917
Total	642,168	438,396	200,440	102,236	100,561	55,202	1,539,003
Expenditure per Average Daily Resident	£71/10/10	£75/4/8	£65/8/9	£73/7/10	£82/0/6	£87/9/8	£72/17/8

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia—30th June, 1931; other States—31st December, 1930.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1926 to 1930.* The table hereunder gives a summary for hospitals for the insane in Australia for each of the five years 1926 to 1930. The figures for the States cannot be brought to a common year; consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years. Licensed houses are included in the number of institutions for Victoria, and in all particulars save expenditure for New South Wales. The figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols. In the case of New South Wales the expenditure figures include cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Number of institutions	34	34	36	38	37
Number of beds	18,885	19,474	19,467	20,951	21,779
Admissions	3,452	3,466	3,537	3,471	3,443
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,592	1,576	1,669	1,625	1,558
Deaths	1,459	1,433	1,429	1,451	1,297
Expenditure—Total	£1,629,242	1,666,061	1,706,259	1,721,602	1,539,003
„ —Per Average Daily Resident	£83/9/7	£84/2/3	£84/1/8	£83/11/10	£72/17/8

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1926 to 1930.* 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.

State.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales	8,570	8,898	9,104	9,377	9,670
Victoria	6,329	6,360	6,501	6,531	6,669
Queensland	3,000	3,017	3,032	3,042	3,108
South Australia	1,282	1,306	1,350	1,374	1,404
Western Australia	1,164	1,188	1,229	1,252	1,274
Tasmania	615	623	615	622	635
Australia	20,960	21,392	21,831	22,198	22,760

PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

New South Wales	3.64	3.71	3.72	3.78	3.87
Victoria	3.70	3.65	3.69	3.68	3.72
Queensland	3.40	3.36	3.31	3.27	3.28
South Australia	2.26	2.27	2.33	2.37	2.41
Western Australia	3.07	3.03	3.03	3.00	3.03
Tasmania	2.86	2.89	2.84	2.84	2.88
Australia	3.43	3.43	3.45	3.46	3.51

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

A more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases has resulted in a greater willingness in recent years to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an earlier stage, and an increase in the number of recorded cases, therefore, does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity.

(vii) *Causes of Insanity.* The general information available respecting the causes of the insanity of persons admitted to institutions is too unsatisfactory to be given in detail. The figures for previous attacks and ascertained hereditary influence and ascertained congenital defect, though not entirely satisfactory, may, however, be mentioned. Of the total admissions and re-admissions during the year 1930, 15 per cent. had been subject to previous attacks of insanity, while "ascertained hereditary influence and ascertained congenital defect" were responsible for 23 per cent. The figure for previous attacks is exclusive of South Australia, for which no particulars are available.

(viii) *Length of Residence in Hospital.* Information concerning the length of residence of persons who died or were discharged was given in earlier Year Books (See No. 22, p. 491).

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.

7. *Protection of Aborigines.*—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where the blacks are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come under the notice of the Boards. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1930–31 was, New South Wales, £37,145; Victoria, £8,216; Queensland, £46,857; South Australia, £24,269; Western Australia, £22,662; Northern Territory, £4,249; total for Australia, £143,398. In New South Wales the number of aboriginals living in supervised camps at the 30th June, 1931, was 3,267, of whom 416 were full-bloods. At the 30th June, 1930, there were 45 full-bloods and 281 three-quarter and half-castes under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board at stations in Victoria. In Queensland in 1930–31 there were 4,777 aborigines permanently resident at the various stations. At the 30th June, 1931, there were 878 inmates, of whom 107 were full-bloods, at mission stations in South Australia, and in Western Australia the aborigines and half-castes supported at similar institutions in the year 1930–31 numbered 702 (including 161 supported by the State), while an average of 1,950 natives was rationed each month by the Aborigines Department. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory 833 full-bloods and 40 half-castes were in residence, but casual assistance and medical attention are given to large numbers of natives every year.

8. *Royal Life Saving Society.*—In each of the State capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established, and in some States sub-centres have been established in the larger provincial districts. Saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves, and other suitable places. Upwards of 10,000 certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination throughout Australia, the numbers for the individual States for 1931 being New South Wales, 4,782; Victoria, 1,855; Queensland, 1,049; South Australia, 644; Western Australia, 2,253 (1930); and Tasmania, 150.

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

10. **Other Charitable Institutions.**—Owing to variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable. whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and the infirm. The institutions not so particularized include asylums for the deaf, dumb, and blind, infant homes, homes of 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.**—Issues of the Official Year Book, prior to No. 24, embodied statistics of expenditure on charities. The returns available, however, included a portion only of direct expenditure by Governments, and, in general, there is a want of harmony in the information available for the different States. Pending the result of further inquiry it has been decided to omit this table from the present chapter.