

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 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*. Provision was also made in this Act for an additional annual grant of £8,500 for special purposes for a period of ten years commencing on 1st July, 1923. This additional grant was not renewed during 1933-34, but, under the provisions of the *University (Grant) Act 1933*, a grant of £6,000 was made payable annually as from 1st July, 1934. Other annual grants are £6,500 for a School of Agriculture, £3,500 for a Veterinary School, and £2,500 for a Chair of Obstetrics. Under the provisions of financial emergency legislation, these grants were reduced by 20 per cent. in each year of the quinquennium 1931-32 to 1935-36. That rate of reduction was continued in 1936-37, except that the annual endowment was reduced by 10 per cent. in that year and the grant for a Veterinary School was renewed for a further period of five years at a fixed sum of £3,300. From 1st July, 1937, all grants were restored in full at a cost of £7,500, and a supplementary grant of £2,500 was added to the General Fund. 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 of three members. 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 the rate of 4 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 £652,714. In addition, gifts, which have been spent on buildings and equipment, amount to £104,648.

Examinations. The appended table gives the results of the public examinations conducted by the University during December, 1937, and February, 1938 :—

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, DECEMBER, 1937, AND FEBRUARY, 1938.

Examination.	Number who attempted to Pass fully.	Number who Passed fully.	
		Total	Percentage.
Intermediate	3,637	1,968	54.11
Leaving	2,072	1,265	61.05
Candidates entered for Certificates by Headmasters of Approved Schools—			
Intermediate	2,496	1,781	71.35
Leaving	877	541	61.68
Total—			
Intermediate	6,133	3,749	61.11
Leaving	2,949	1,806	61.24

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 1933-1937 was as follows :—1933, 697 ; 1934, 672 ; 1935, 686 ; 1936, 670 ; and 1937, 728. The number of degrees taken in 1937 was 553, all of which were direct, as against an average of 514 per annum for the preceding five years. During those five years all the degrees obtained were direct and none *ad eundem*. Of the total of 16,055 degrees granted since the establishment of the University, 2,762 have been conferred on women.

Students attending lectures. Of the 3,559 students who attended lectures in 1937, 931 were students in Arts, Education, and Journalism ; 288 in Laws ; 133 in Engineering ; 702 in Medicine ; 395 in Science ; 234 in Music ; 99 in Dental Science ; 536 in Commerce ; 53 in Agriculture ; 49 in Architecture ; 9 in Veterinary Science ; 29 in Public Administration ; 13 in Medical Post-graduate Diplomas ; 60 in Science Research Work ; and 28 in Physical Education.

University
finance.

A statement of receipts and expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1937, is given below :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1937.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Government Grants—		Salaries	153,145
General Account ..	44,000	Examiners' Fees	8,303
Other	20,200	Examination Expenses ..	5,291
Bequests and Donations ..	*68,568	Fellowships, Scholarships, &c.	7,875
Fees—		Apparatus	12,991
Lecture	65,583	Books and Periodicals ..	4,074
Examination, &c. ..	40,014	Printing and Stationery ..	3,812
Interest and Dividends ..	30,722	Buildings and Grounds ..	67,556
Other Receipts	64,703	All other	40,682
Total	333,790	Total	303,729

* Almost the whole of this item was for capital expenditure.

AFFILIATED COLLEGES.

The Trinity, Ormond, Queen's, and Newman Colleges are affiliated with the University. These colleges were established by the Church of England, and by the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches respectively in Victoria. A non-denominational University Women's College was also affiliated during 1937.

Information relating to the foundation and progress of the four denominational 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 Surgery.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

University
Extension.

Tutorial Classes organized by the Workers' Educational Association of Victoria are conducted in the city, suburbs, and country by the University Extension Board. In addition to these classes, the Board has inaugurated a system of advice by correspondence on social and cultural subjects for the benefit of country students. This advice is not intended for those seeking to qualify for degrees. Its purpose is rather to cultivate knowledge of such subjects as will elevate the mind and fit the student the better to discharge the social functions of his daily life and citizenship.

College 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.

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 Act of 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 December, 1910, an Act of Parliament of a most comprehensive and far-reaching character was passed. It marked a distinctive epoch in the history of education in Victoria, and laid the foundation of a complete national system from the infants' school to the highest educational institutions in the State.

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, physical training, and 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,**

Parents and custodians of children not less than six nor more than fourteen years of age are required to cause such children (unless there is a "reasonable excuse") to attend school on every school half-day in each week. If they fail to make a child attend as provided they may be summoned and fined not less than 2s., nor more than 10s., for each such offence, or in default may be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three days. Attendance officers are appointed for the purpose of ensuring compliance with these compulsory provisions.

Conveyance allowance.

In districts where schools are closed through low average attendance, or where the number of children would not warrant the Department in establishing a school, allowances are made by the Department for the conveyance of children to the nearest school. Allowances are also granted in necessitous cases where children are conveyed more than four miles to school.

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 Centre for correction. All the subjects of the course of study are thus taught, and with most successful results. Many children have reached the standard of the Intermediate Certificate without having had any teaching except that given by post. 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, 1938, was 2,533 (Primary 925, Secondary 1,608).

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. The movement resulting in the formation of Mothers' Clubs has assumed great importance. The school committees and clubs have been responsible for raising many thousands of pounds for school improvement. Advisory Councils take the place of School Committees in Girls' Schools and High 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, six schools for the feeble-minded (four residential), a school for child inmates of the Austin Hospital for Cancer and Chronic Diseases, a school at Stonnington Hospital for Paralysis After-Care treatment, a school for the inmates of the Convalescent Home of the Children's Hospital, and the Children's Welfare Department Schools. 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. In addition to the special school at Stonnington Hospital, full-time classes at 16 and part-time classes at 5 centres have been established for the tuition of children receiving Paralysis After-Care treatment.

**Woodwork
and Cookery
Centres and
other activities.**

On 30th June, 1938, there were in operation 86 woodwork centres, having an attendance of 9,201 boys ; and 62 cookery centres (apart from those at Girls' Schools) with an attendance of 3,697 girls ; at the same date in 1937, 8,920 boys were attending 84 woodwork centres and 3,713 girls were attending 57 cookery centres. Physical training 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, Junior Red Cross, Junior Safety Councils, &c.

**School Savings
Banks.**

At 30th June, 1938, there were 198,349 depositors in School Savings Banks with £288,866 to their credit.

**Patriotic
Fund.**

During the Great War a sum of £440,000 was raised for the Education Department War Relief Fund. Particulars are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 333 and 334. The fund was closed in 1920. At the end of 1922, the balance of the fund, £84,910, was transferred to a body of seven trustees, who were empowered to expend the money for the benefit of seriously disabled soldiers and their dependants. To the 30th June, 1938, the following disbursements had been made :—£68,264 to alleviate distress, £19,540 under the housing scheme, and £14,755 on loan. On 30th June, 1938, there was a sum of £16,000 invested, and £38 to the credit of the general account.

**Free
Kindergarten
Union.**

At 30th June, 1938, there were 32 kindergartens and nursery schools affiliated with the Union in which, 1,919 children below school age were enrolled. There were also two holiday homes. The movement receives from the Education Department an annual subsidy which in 1937-38 amounted to £2,500.

**School
forestry and
horticulture.**

A scheme for the establishment of school tree plantations was inaugurated in 1923. Areas in the vicinity of State schools have been reserved for the purpose. At 30th June, 1938, there were established 349 of these school plantations, with an area of 3,120 acres, of which approximately 1,506 acres were planted. During the past planting season 48,779 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, 1938, there were 262 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 two district health officers, who in conjunction with the duties performed by them as members of the staff of the Public Health Department examine some of the children in their districts.

The work continues to be carried out on the same principle as in previous years. In the State elementary, high, and technical schools visited, each child is examined once in every three years. In each case the child is undressed to the waist, and is given a thorough medical examination, including the testing of vision and hearing. During this overhaul special attention is given in any direction where the child seems to be below standard, in order to discover whether the defect is due to medical, psychological, educational, or home conditions, and thereupon to prescribe remedial treatment.

In spite of a comparatively small staff, the above programme has been well maintained. During the year 1937-38, however, the work has been disorganized by an epidemic of Poliomyelitis. Nearly all State schools in the country and some in the densely populated inner metropolitan area are visited once in three years. There is still, however, a large group of schools in the outer suburban better-class residential districts which have never been visited by a school medical officer.

The interest and co-operation of school committees in the work of the medical officers and the transport generously provided by such committees to schools beyond railway communication has enabled the most distant schools to share in the benefits of medical inspection. In 1937-38, 26,736 children and 1,301 teachers were examined by School Medical Officers.

**Work of the
School Nurse.**

Two 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 1937-38, 2,207 homes were so visited.

**Dental
Treatment.**

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—

provided that they are not more than seven years of age—by the dentist putting the child's mouth in good order. When required, treatment is repeated at least once a year until the child is twelve years of age. At this age all the temporary teeth have gone, and all the permanent teeth are erupted except the "wisdom" teeth. Thus each treated child leaves school "dentally fit," and, it is hoped, educated and trained to the value of a good set of teeth and to the necessity of continued dental treatment.

In Melbourne the School Dentist works in a fully equipped dental centre, at which children from the various metropolitan schools are treated. In provincial districts the most convenient school is used as a temporary centre at which children from the schools in the district attend.

Since 1925 work in rural districts has been made much easier for the dentist by the use of dental motor vans. With their use much time is saved in travelling from school to school. At present there are three dental motor vans in constant use in country work. These vans are fully equipped as dental surgeries, and give every facility for work without disturbing the school or classroom.

In 1937-38, 26,534 children received treatment by the school dentists.

**Cost of Medical
Dental and
Nursing
Services.**

The total cost of the Medical, Dental, and Nursing Services in 1937-38 was £14,997.

**Teachers'
College.**

At present Student Teachers are trained at the Melbourne Teachers' College. Those who have passed the School Leaving Examination and the Intermediate Examination in Arithmetic 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.

**Teachers'
remuneration
and
classification.**

Under the provisions of the Public Service Acts teachers in elementary schools are divided into five classes. The annual salaries of males, excluding student teachers, range from £156 to £600, and those of females, excluding student teachers and sewing mistresses, from £120 to £480.

Teachers in schools other than elementary are included in a Classified Roll for the Secondary Schools Division. This roll contains five classes for men and five for women. The number in each class is determined by the Public Service Commissioner, after report from the Committee of Classifiers for the Secondary Schools Division. Excluding rates for student teachers, which are the same as those for elementary schools, salaries for teachers on the Secondary Roll range from £192 to £650 per annum for men and from £168 to £528 per annum for women.

State Schools, teachers and scholars 1872 to 1937.

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

VICTORIA—STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1937.

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

* Exclusive of teachers temporarily employed, the number of whom was 83 on 31st December, 1936, and 62 on 31st December, 1937.

VICTORIA—STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1936, AND 1937.

Class of School.	Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct Children (Estimated).
Central Schools* and Classes ..	1936	29	4,797	4,102	4,634
	1937	29	5,302	4,372	5,156
Higher Elementary Schools ..	1936	45	4,012	3,135	3,938
	1937	48	4,352	3,394	4,231
Girls' Schools	1936	12	3,920	2,872	3,877
	1937	12	3,834	2,658	3,780
Junior Technical Schools† ..	1936	26	8,528	6,932	8,429
	1937	27	8,954	7,016	8,859
High Schools	1936	37	12,879	11,074	12,704
	1937	37	13,949	11,697	13,773
Total	1936	149	34,136	28,115	33,582
	1937	153	36,391	29,137	35,799

* Central Schools are not independent establishments. They are worked in conjunction with Elementary 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, 1936, and 1937:—

VICTORIA—AGES OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS, 1936 AND 1937.

Class of School.	Year.	Under 6 Years.	From 6 to 14 Years.	Over 14 Years.	Total.
Elementary Schools ..	1936	16,337	191,933	11,375	219,645
	1937	13,246	184,872	10,925	209,043
Central Schools ..	1936	..	3,666	968	4,634
	1937	..	4,126	1,030	5,156
Higher Elementary Schools ..	1936	..	2,217	1,721	3,938
	1937	..	2,368	1,863	4,231
Girls' Schools ..	1936	..	2,072	1,805	3,877
	1937	..	2,107	1,673	3,780
Junior Technical Schools ..	1936	..	3,638	4,791	8,429
	1937	..	3,791	5,068	8,859
High Schools ..	1936	..	5,184	7,520	12,704
	1937	..	5,366	8,407	13,773
Total ..	1936	16,337	208,710	28,180	253,227
	1937	13,246	202,630	28,966	244,842
Estimated number after making allowance for duplicate enrolments between the various types of schools ..	1936	16,234	206,140	27,777	250,151
	1937	13,177	200,265	28,496	241,938

REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

Council of Public Education. The chief functions of the Council of Public Education in relation to registered schools and teachers are to ensure that only qualified persons are employed and that the schools are adequately staffed. In accordance with the provisions of the *Education Act 1928*, all schools and teachers (other than State schools and State school teachers) are required to be registered by the Council.

Registered schools, teachers and pupils, 1936 and 1937. Information relating to registered schools as at 31st December shows the number of such schools as 520 in 1936 and 520 in 1937, whilst the number of instructors was 2,556 and 2,492 respectively. The number of individual scholars was 73,084 in 1936 and 73,099 in 1937. 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, 1936, AND 1937.

Age Groups.	Gross Enrolment.		Number of Individual Pupils (Estimated).	
	1936.	1937.	1936.	1937.
Under 6 years	6,208	5,929	5,709	5,515
From 6 to 14 years	57,685	56,137	52,115	51,372
Above 14 years	15,900	16,837	15,260	16,212
Total	79,793	78,903	73,084	73,099

Percentage of scholars attending registered schools. Of the total number of scholars attending schools in 1937, approximately 23 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 year was as follows :—

VICTORIA—NUMBER (ESTIMATED) OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN UNDER INSTRUCTION AT SCHOOL DURING THE YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1936, AND 1937.

Age Groups.	1936.	1937.
Under 6 years	21,829	18,581
From 6 to 14 years	257,212	250,610
Above 14 years	42,732	44,384
Total	321,773	313,575

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The purpose of the district high school and the higher elementary school is to provide the essentials of a good general education for pupils who have completed the work of the sixth grade in elementary schools

and 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, 1936, there was an average attendance at these schools of 3,135 pupils, of whom 1,554 were boys and 1,581 were girls. During the corresponding term in 1937, the attendance was 3,394, of whom 1,721 were boys and 1,673 were girls. In the higher elementary schools a four-years' course up to 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 4,102 pupils in 1936 and by 4,372 in 1937. Pupils from these schools have priority of admission to high schools.

Special provision is made for the education of girls in girls' schools, of which ten are situated in the metropolitan area, one in Ballarat and one in Bendigo. In these schools 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 high schools, a six-years' course is provided. At the end of the fifth year pupils may obtain the Leaving Certificate which, under certain conditions, qualifies for Matriculation; at the end of the sixth year pupils may sit for Leaving Certificate Honours. During the term ended 31st December, 1936, there were in attendance at these schools 11,074 pupils, of whom 6,106 were boys and 4,968 were girls. During the corresponding term in 1937, the attendance was 11,697, comprising 6,346 boys and 5,351 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 made available the following scholarships at the beginning of 1939 :—

- 200 Junior Scholarships.
- 44 Senior Scholarships.
- 50 Junior Technical Scholarships.
- 125 Senior Technical Scholarships.

Particulars of the age requirement of candidates, the periods of tenure, and the annual values of the scholarships are given on pages 369 and 370 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29.

The Minister also made available 75 free places in prescribed courses at the Melbourne University, of which 65 were open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools, 5 to student teachers, and 5 to officers (other than teachers) in the employment of the Government of Victoria. Each year also there is a number of free places available for specially selected certificated teachers. The total number of such teachers must not exceed 60 in any one year.

In addition to the scholarships mentioned, 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 capacity and promise, and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances, to attend district high schools, higher elementary schools, schools of domestic arts, central schools, central classes and technical schools. Free tuition in district high schools or in technical schools is also provided for children of deceased or totally and permanently incapacitated sailors and soldiers.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

The technical schools in the State, prior to 1910, were under the control of local school councils. Legislation passed in that year provided for all schools established after 1910 to be under the control of the Minister of Public Instruction. The number of technical schools receiving aid from the State on 30th June, 1938, was 29, of which 14 have been established since the passing of the 1910 Act. The gross enrolment for the year 1936 was 8,528 junior and 22,345 senior students and, for the year 1937, 8,954 junior and 24,130 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, and institutional management. Full-time and part-time day and evening trade courses are also provided in trades connected with the 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, 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 an entrance examination is held, which is open to pupils from all schools, both State and private.

The larger 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 and Bendigo Schools 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, Glenferrie (Swinburne Technical College), Maryborough, Prahran, Sale, Sunshine, Warrnambool, and Wonthaggi technical schools.

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

The following is a statement of the Government expenditure on each technical school during each of the five years ended 1937-38 :—

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1933-34 TO 1937-38.

Locality.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
	£	£	£	£	£
Bairnsdale	2,658	2,324	2,778	2,980	3,375
Ballarat	13,723	14,075	14,997	16,209	16,877
Bendigo	10,312	10,318	10,804	11,694	12,121
Box Hill	4,303	4,515	11,624	6,205	5,851
Brighton	10,991	11,141	12,487	13,586	14,358
Brunswick	7,836	8,478	10,200	12,596	13,212
Castlemaine	4,662	4,448	4,936	5,440	6,057
Caulfield	9,228	11,059	12,762	14,100	15,029
Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy	5,011	6,508	6,459	6,699	7,998
Collingwood	15,946	17,313	19,692	21,643	25,749
Daylesford	2,436	2,480	2,507	2,738	3,036
Echuca	3,371	3,598	3,947	6,759	5,454
Essendon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	467
Footscray	11,999	13,716	16,001	19,325	39,626
Geelong (Gordon Tech. Col.) ..	11,056	11,160	12,080	15,878	16,125
Glenferrie (Swinburne Tech. Col.)	19,444	20,799	22,908	26,699	28,696
Maryborough	5,992	6,235	7,106	7,997	8,957
Melbourne (Technical College) ..	42,957	45,437	50,693	55,800	110,758
Prahran	8,478	9,102	10,221	13,927	13,021
Preston .. .. .	..	..	1,470	23,173	10,548
Richmond	8,524	9,010	10,893	14,812	13,348
Sale	3,510	3,706	4,033	4,763	5,566
South Melbourne	8,706	9,688	10,572	12,190	12,599
Stawell	2,789	2,832	3,147	3,704	4,218
Sunshine	4,247	4,855	5,439	6,325	6,391
Wangaratta	3,755	3,893	4,128	4,321	4,930
Warrnambool	4,574	5,089	5,707	5,753	7,138
West Melbourne* .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Wonthaggi	4,628	5,038	5,358	6,361	6,480
Yallourn	1,707	2,346	12,726	6,471	4,907
Other votes for technical schools	4,267	4,151	4,797	7,021	7,933
Miscellaneous	2,490	2,801	2,903	3,095	2,957
Total	239,600	256,115	303,378	358,264	433,782

* Amalgamated with Melbourne Technical College from 1st January, 1933.

THE MELBOURNE TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

(Incorporated as The Working Men's 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. The minimum age for admission to the Junior Day School is 12

years and for admission to the Day Course for Diploma 15 years. Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant. There are both day and evening courses.

Several scholarships are awarded each year to eligible students of the Junior Day School and, in addition, 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.

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

All fees are payable in advance. The year is divided into three terms. The following statement shows the day courses and the scale of fees per term for the year 1939 :—

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 ..	4 0 0
Mechanical Engineering		Five Half-days	3 0 0
Electrical Engineering		Wool-sorting—Full Courses	8 0 0
Civil Engineering		Special Course	1 15 0
Municipal Engineering		Photography—Full Day ..	6 0 0
Communication Engineering	Motor Mechanics—Trade Course	5 0 0	
Automotive Engineering			

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. Correspondence tuition is also conducted by the College.

The following table gives details relating to the College during the years 1933 to 1937 :—

MELBOURNE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, 1933 TO 1937.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Individual students enrolled ..	5,181	6,125	7,102	8,304	8,807
Males	4,498	5,466	6,263	7,634	8,103
Females	683	659	839	670	704
Number of classes	341	369	380	382	388
Number of Instructors	212	245	284	291	306
Salaries paid to instructors ..£	36,415	37,672	43,461	49,134†	55,228†
Government grant .. .. .	..£ 31,180	33,000	33,367	37,082	42,456
Fees received during the year* ..£	16,210	19,741	24,890	27,547	31,376
Average fee per student per year	62s. 7d.	64s. 6d.	70s. 0d.	66s. 4d.	71s. 3d.

* Not including fees for correspondence courses, which amounted to £854 in 1933, £1,028 in 1934, £1,300 in 1935, £1,462 in 1936, and £1,513 in 1937. 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.

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

Public
Library of
Victoria.

The Library consists of three distinct sections, viz. :— the Reference Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. In regard to the Reference Library, the librarian reports that 6,356 volumes were purchased, 4,099 volumes presented, 486 volumes obtained under the "Libraries Act," and 49,760 newspapers added to the Library during the year 1937. At the end of that year the Reference Library contained 441,104 volumes and 81,357 pamphlets. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 209,308 volumes during 1937, a decrease of 2,472 compared with 1936, the number of persons to whom the books were lent being 10,553, which was 303 less than the number in 1936. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of 1937 was 79,589, of which 6,064 were added during the year.

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.

The National Gallery at the end of 1937 contained 27,410 works of art, viz., 909 oil paintings, 6,539 objects of art, statuary, &c., and 19,962 water colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. During 1937 the Trustees of the Felton Bequest provided the sum of £18,500 for the purchase of works of art, the total of such purchases to the end of the year amounting to £503,396. The school of painting in connexion with the institution

National
Gallery.

was attended during the year by 42 students and the school of drawing by 137 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, 1937, were collected from 70 of the more important of these libraries, 26 of which are situated in the metropolitan area and 44 in the cities and chief towns in other parts of the State. The total receipts of these 70 libraries were £61,854, towards which the Government contributed £32,783 and municipal councils £11,409. The total expenditure was £61,648, of which £14,157 represented the cost of the purchase of books, magazines, &c. There were 1,015,249 volumes in these libraries on the 31st December, 1937; of that number 536,894 were in the Public Library of Victoria, Melbourne.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

The Melbourne Botanic Garden, which was established in 1846, 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 Domain, 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. Specimens of most of the large animals of the world are exhibited there, as well as many native animals.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

This society was founded in the year 1849 by John Pascoe Fawkner, and has been in continuous activity to the present date. A brief statement of its history and of the work carried on by it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 528 and 529.

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.

Preliminary investigation into housing conditions in the State of Victoria was commenced in July, 1936, when a Committee for the purpose was appointed by the Government. This Committee was constituted a Board by order in Council on 9th September, 1936, and consisted of six members, Messrs. H. Pye, M.L.C. (Chairman), F. O. Barnett, W. O. Burt, M. R. Barlow, H. Crosbie, and T. Forristal. The investigations of this Board covered a period of thirteen months and embraced all suburbs within five miles radius of the City of Melbourne. A street by street examination of every suburb was followed by a complete survey and census of 7,330 dwellings selected as being of sub-standard types. The survey noted all aspects of the condition of the dwellings, and the census contained complete information as to the circumstances of the occupiers.

The Board's illustrated report with conclusions founded on its inquiries and upon the results of the survey and census was issued in October, 1937, and disclosed deplorable housing conditions in some areas.

The *Housing Act 1937* was introduced in Parliament in November, 1937, as the outcome of the report of this Board. This Act provided for the appointment of a Housing Commission of four members to be the central housing authority of the State. The legislation, which was of a skeleton nature, was passed in the closing hours of the 1937 session of Parliament.

On 1st March, 1938, the Housing Commission was appointed. Its first duties as prescribed by the *Housing Act 1937* were:—

- (a) to formulate and submit to the Governor in Council detailed schemes (with estimates of the cost thereof) for meeting the most urgent requirements in respect of the provision of suitable and adequate housing for persons of limited means and the reclamation and re-building of insanitary areas; and
- (b) to submit detailed proposals to the Minister with respect to legislation which it recommends should be enacted in order that the objects for which the Commission is constituted may be carried into full effect and to this

end to confer with Government departments, municipal councils, and public statutory corporations and other corporations and associations and officers or representatives thereof.

The Commission consists of four members, Messrs. J. N. O'Connor (Chairman), F. O. Barnett, and W. O. Burt (who were members of the Investigating Board), and Miss Frances Penington.

Following its appointment, the Commission devoted its attention to the recommendation of proposals for further legislation to enable it to carry out the work for which it was appointed, namely, slum clearance and re-housing. This further legislation is contained in the *Slum Reclamation and Housing Act 1938*, which came into operation by proclamation on 12th October, 1938.

The Act is divided into six parts. Part I. makes minor amendments to the *Housing Act 1937*. Part II. relates to improvement in housing conditions and to houses declared unfit for human habitation. Towards this end the Act employs the powers found in Section 179 of the *Health Act 1928*, which Section, as from a date to be fixed for that purpose by proclamation of the Governor in Council in the *Government Gazette*, shall be repealed. Part III. deals with Slum Reclamation. Part IV. makes provision for houses for persons of limited means and also for the vesting in and the maintenance, repair, control and management of the houses erected at Port Melbourne in 1936 under the authority of the *Public Works Loan Application Act 1935*. Part V. relates to the "Zoning" of any municipal district to provide for future ordered development in respect of open spaces and areas for the purposes of residence, trade, industries, or public amusements. Part VI. contains the general provisions (one of the most important of which is that "the Commission shall not be deemed to represent the Crown for any purpose whatsoever") and includes the power to make regulations and prescribes the scope thereof.

Further information in regard to housing and building in Victoria appears in Part IV. (Local Government) of the *Year-Book*, pages 168 to 176, and in Part V. (Accumulation) in so far as the operations of the Credit Foncier Department of the State Savings Bank of Victoria and of building societies are concerned.

VICTORIA—RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

The following statement shows 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:—

Religion.	Census of—		Increase 1921-1933.
	4th April, 1921.	30th June, 1933.	
	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.
Christian—			
Baptist	32,305	31,427	— 878
Catholic, Roman	315,718	315,516	— 202
Catholic, undefined	6,847	26,619	19,772
Church of Christ	22,250	26,274	4,024
Church of England	601,809	626,172	24,363
Congregational	15,893	12,458	— 3,435
Lutheran	8,684	8,759	75
Methodist	183,829	193,096	9,267
Presbyterian	257,072	276,699	19,627
Protestant, undefined	18,636	25,231	6,595
Salvation Army	9,183	8,711	— 472
Other Christian (including Christian undefined)	14,782	16,381	1,599
Total Christian	1,487,008	1,567,343	80,335
Non-Christian—			
Jews	7,677	9,500	1,823
Other Non-Christian	1,988	565	— 1,423
Total Non-Christian	9,665	10,065	400
Indefinite*	6,515	3,752	— 2,763
No Religion	5,810	3,535	— 2,275
No Reply	22,282	235,566	213,284
Total	1,531,280	1,820,261	288,981

* Includes Agnostic, Freethinker, No Denomination, Rationalist, Spiritualist, and other indefinite.

The large increase from 1.5 to 12.9 per cent. in the number of "No Reply" in 1933 compared with 1921 is apparently due to the variation in the Census return of 1933 from that of 1921 in the form of the question relating to religion. In the Census return of 1933 it was stated that with regard to the question of religion "There is no legal obligation to answer this Question," whilst in the 1921 Census a person who objected to supply this detail was instructed to reply "object." A comparison on a percentage basis of the particulars obtained at the Census of 1933 with those of 1921 is therefore not advisable.

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). Under the provisions of this legislation the total amount which a member could claim from a registered friendly society was limited to 60s. per week and consequently societies which had contracted to pay a sickness benefit of that amount were unable to afford members an opportunity of making provision for the cost of hospital treatment. This restriction was removed by the *Friendly Societies Act 1934*, the main provisions of which are given in the *Year-Book* for 1934-35, page 213.

The legislative supervision exercised over friendly societies has had a very beneficial effect. The latest valuation reports show that there were seven societies in Victoria with a ratio of assets to liabilities of less than 20s. in the £, and that, in the female section of another society, the ratio of assets to liabilities was 18s. 6d. in the £. One of the seven, a society of very small membership consisting of females only, with a ratio of assets to liabilities of 14s. 7d. in the £, has since been amalgamated with a society of male members in which the ratio was 42s. In five of the remaining six societies the ratio was 19s. 10d., 19s. 9d., 18s. 10d., 18s. 2d., and 16s. respectively, and in the sixth society—one comprising a male section and a female section—the ratio in the former was 18s. 8d. and in the latter section 19s. 4d.

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.

**Progress of
Friendly
Societies.**

The total membership of Victorian friendly societies increased during the period of ten years 1927-28 to 1936-37, inclusive, by 20,051 members—from 160,411 to 180,462. The number of female members at the end of June, 1937, was 18,956, of whom 3,597 were associated with male branches of societies which did not have a separate section for female members. Since 1932-33 the total membership increased by nearly 14 per cent. The total funds, other than those of dispensaries, increased during the same period from £4,513,972 to £5,979,548, there being an addition of £1,465,576. They are well invested; the average rate of interest earned on the capital of the sick and funeral funds during the year 1936-37 was 4.48 per cent. At the end of 1936-37 the total assets of dispensaries amounted to £184,749.

In recent years nearly one quarter of the societies have established special funds to provide for payments to hospitals for treatment received by members and their dependants.

The statement which follows contains information (exclusive of that relating to dispensaries) in regard to the societies for the five years, 1932-33 to 1936-37:—

VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1932-33 TO 1936-37.

NOTE.—The figures given below for "Other Funds" include all monetary transactions of societies other than ordinary friendly societies, and, for the years 1935-36 and 1936-37, they include also transactions similar to some which, in earlier years, were included in Medical and Management Funds.

—	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
Number of societies	50	49	55	59	67
Number of branches	1,443	1,449	1,444	1,449	1,459
Number of members at end of year	158,516	160,816	166,180	172,290	180,462
Number of members sick	34,045	37,117	41,057	41,777	40,451
Weeks for which sick pay was allowed	428,203	446,617	460,787	468,648	471,676
Deaths of members	1,641	1,699	1,833	1,777	1,929
Deaths of wives entitled to funeral benefits	579	670	633	626	646
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	425,560	434,116	441,648	465,365	469,383
Medical and Management Funds	493,395	454,440	428,771	404,720	414,964
Other Funds	41,290	46,247	39,299	97,761	144,035
<i>Less inter-fund transfers</i>	- 134,062	- 92,689	- 28,688	- 43,748	- 79,697
Total Receipts	826,183	842,114	881,030	924,098	948,685
Expenditure—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	463,458	400,713	349,200	330,105	329,986
Medical and Management Funds	383,060	387,320	411,572	389,521	410,281
Other Funds	38,831	43,051	34,655	104,044	156,803
<i>Less inter-fund transfers</i>	- 134,062	- 92,689	- 28,688	- 43,748	- 79,697
Total Expenditure	751,287	738,395	766,739	779,922	817,373
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	74,896	103,719	114,291	144,176	131,312
Amount of Funds—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	4,448,991	4,482,394	4,574,842	4,710,102	4,849,499
Medical and Management Funds	912,435	979,555	996,754	209,595	214,278
Other Funds	124,624	127,820	132,464	928,539	915,771
Total Funds	5,486,050	5,589,769	5,704,060	5,848,236	5,979,548
Disposal of Funds—					
Amounts invested—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	4,434,568	4,469,210	4,560,403	4,692,657	4,834,827
Medical and Management Funds	902,383	969,034	988,360	200,110	205,461
Other Funds	122,027	124,797	129,299	925,652	910,941
Amounts uninvested—					
All Funds	27,072	26,728	25,998	29,817	28,319

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.

During the twelve months ended June, 1937, the societies lost by secession 8,585 members; this was equal to about 5·0 per cent. of the membership at the beginning of that period. The corresponding rates of secession in 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, and 1935-36 were 6·4, 6·1, 5·1, and 5·0 respectively. As a rule, most of the secessions are those of new members who allow their membership to lapse before they have had time to appreciate its value. The cost of management per member in the year 1936-37, was 14s. 9d., which was 1d. less than the cost in the year 1935-36.

The following statement shows, in regard to members of male branches of friendly 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 in 1927-28 and 1928-29—the years immediately preceding the financial depression—and in subsequent years; also the number of weeks' sickness per effective member, the number of deaths of members, and the number per 1,000 effective members:—

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 ..	129,593	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

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

After 1928-29 the rate of sickness per average effective male member rose steadily 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.

Sickness and mortality experience (Female Branches).

The following statement shows, in regard to female members of friendly 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 from 1927-28 to 1936-37; also the number of weeks' sickness per effective member; the number of deaths of members, and the number per 1,000 effective members:—

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

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

It will be observed that the trend of sickness per average effective female member followed closely that of male members during the corresponding period.

Friendly Societies' Dispensaries.

At the end of 1936-37 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 1936-37 was 135,468. 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 1936-37 amounted to £184,749 and £26,321 respectively. The assets consisted of freehold property, £119,837; stock, fittings, and sundry debtors, £47,695; cash, £15,699; and securities, £1,518. The liabilities consisted of sundry creditors, £11,372; bank overdrafts, £8,549; and mortgages, £6,400.

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 same 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 four or more persons are engaged in any handicraft or in preparing articles for trade or sale. (In the case of Chinese one or more persons constitutes a factory.)

Since that year further legislative provisions have been made for the regulation of conditions of labour, and the community has gradually recognised the necessity of securing the health, the comfort and safety of the workers.

A description of the legislation relating to conditions of labour in factories and shops appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 on page 392.

Wages Boards. The Wages Board method of fixing wages and of settling the conditions of employment had its origin in Victoria. It 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. Prior to the year 1934, 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. 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.

In recent years the Principal Act has been amended to enable the determinations of Wages Boards to be brought into harmony with the awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The above-mentioned 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 provisions relating to the powers and functions of Wages Boards described in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, were repealed by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1936. This Act 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 should 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 between 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 *Factories and Shops Act* 1936 further provides that the Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister of Labour, appoint, for any specified trades in respect of which no Wages Board determination is operative, a Wages Board to be known as the "General Board." This is a new provision in factory legislation in this State and has for its object the protection of persons engaged in industry who are not subject to any Wages Board.

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. In the same issue, on page 396, a description is given of the constitution of the Court of Industrial Appeals, and of the procedure in respect of appeals against a determination.

During 1937 the Court dealt with appeals against the determinations of the Excavation of Roadwork, Electroplaters, Commercial Clerks, Nickelware, and Painters Boards, the determination being amended by the Court in each case.

In addition, applications came before the Court for a revision of the Court's determinations relating to Commercial Clerks, Plumbers, and Painters. The Commercial Clerks' and Plumbers' determinations were revised as a result. In the Painters' case, however, the application was refused but, by consent, slight alterations were made in the determination.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARDS.

During 1937, six new Wages Boards were appointed:—the Caretakers' Board, the Commercial Travellers' Board, the Iron and Steel Rolling Board, the Photographic Goods Board, the Watch Cases Board, and the General Board. The latter Board was appointed in pursuance of the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act* 1936 and applied to miscellaneous trades and branches of trades certified by the Minister as not being subject to the determination of any other Board.

The first-mentioned five Boards had powers conferred upon them as follow:—

Caretakers.—To determine the lowest prices or rates which may be paid to any person employed as a caretaker of a building—

- (a) in which any process, trade, business or occupation is carried on for profit;
- (b) which is temporarily untenanted but in which, ordinarily, any process, trade, business or occupation is carried on for profit.

Commercial Travellers.—To determine the lowest prices or rates which may be paid to any person or persons or classes of persons engaged by one or more than one wholesale merchant in the process, trade, business or occupation of a commercial traveller soliciting orders.

Iron and Steel Rolling.—To determine the lowest prices or rates which may be paid to any person or persons or classes of persons employed in the process, trade, or business of iron or steel rolling.

Photographic Goods.—To determine the lowest prices or rates which may be paid to any person or persons or classes of persons employed in the process, trade, or business of manufacturing or preparing photographic goods or material.

Watch Cases.—To determine the lowest prices or rates which may be paid to any person or persons or classes of persons employed in the trade of manufacturing or preparing watch cases.

Alterations in the powers of Boards were made as follow:—

Builders' Labourers Board.—The powers of this Board were extended to include labourers cleaning bricks on a site on which a building is being demolished, repaired, or constructed.

Carpenters Board.—The power to fix wages and conditions of all carpenters and joiners (other than those subject to the Agricultural Implements', the Country Agricultural Implements', and the Wharfs and Jetties' Boards) was given to the Carpenters' Board. This involved the removal of such work from the scope of the Woodworkers' Board.

Cycle Trade Board.—The Cycle Trade Board was given the additional power to deal with work done by repairers of bicycles, tricycles, or motor cycles or parts thereof, where such work is not subject to any Board previously appointed.

Engineers and Brassworkers (Skilled) and Engineers and Brassworkers (Unskilled) Boards.—The powers of both these Boards were varied so that they may deal with persons employed in the making or repairing of typewriters, bookkeeping machines, adding machines, calculating machines or duplicating machines.

Fibrous Plasterers Board.—This Board now provides for the preparation of material for, or the making or fixing of, acoustic tiles moulded into slab form and having an earth base. The classes of work mentioned have been removed from the jurisdiction of the Pottery and Tilelayers' Boards.

Flock Board.—Cleaning wool by beating, blowing, or similar machines where such work is not subject to the determination of any Wages Board previously appointed has now been made subject to the Flock Board, as also has been Storemen, Packers, and Sorters work in connexion with the process referred to.

Millet Broom Board.—The making of brooms from grass or other similar material has been added to the powers of this Board which previously applied only to the making of millet brooms, mops, and feather dusters.

Printers, Country Printers', and Provincial Printers' Boards.—The powers of these Boards were extended to cover the preparing of lithographic work by drawing or lettering on a lithographic plate or on any other material.

Shops Board No. 9 (Drapers and Men's Clothing).—The Order setting out the powers of this Board has been varied so that articles of men's or boys' clothing made-to-order are now clearly included.

Shops Board No. 21 (Booksellers' and Newsagents').—The powers of this Board were varied to include the following additional employees :—

- (a) persons employed in the trade of a wholesale bookseller or newsagent ;
- (b) persons employed in a lending library conducted for profit.

WEEKLY HOURS FIXED BY WAGES BOARDS.

Wages Boards, in addition to fixing weekly wages, determine the maximum number of hours for which such weekly wages shall be payable and overtime rates for time worked in excess of the number of hours fixed.

During the year 1937, the determinations of 176 Boards were in force, in 140 of which a uniform set of hours for all employees was prescribed. In 36 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 statement :—

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.
2	Less than 44	1	44 and 35
83	44	3	44 „ 42
5	46	1	46 „ 43
1	46½	4	46 „ 44
3	47	13	48 „ 44
45	48	4	48 „ 46
1	More than 48	3	48 „ 47
		3	48 and over 48
		1	44, 45 and 48
		1	44, 46 and 48
		1	44, 47 and 48
		1	46, 48 and 50

On 31st December, 1937, there were 189 Wages Boards existent or authorized, affecting about 239,000 employees.

The definition of a factory under the *Factories and Factories Act 1928* has been amended by the *Factories and Shops Act 1934*, which provides that a place where electric power not exceeding one-half horse power is used and which does not otherwise come within the meaning of a factory is exempt from the provisions of the Act. Previously a minimum with regard to electric-power was not prescribed.

Any place in which a person is employed in any manufacturing process involving the use of a compound of lead is now defined as a factory.

In order to strengthen the legislation relating to the supervision of the making of bread, the definition of a bread factory is now "any place where bread is baked for trade as well as for sale."

In 1937 there were registered 12,434 factories in which 179,650 persons were employed.

Factory legislation. A summary of factory legislation existing at the date of the Consolidating Act of 1928 appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 399-401.

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 on any day before 7.30 a.m. or after 6 p.m., on a Saturday 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 of bread in the Metropolitan District 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, etc., 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 under which work may be issued from factories for the manufacture of wearing apparel or of boots to licensed outside workers have been amended. No persons other than outside workers shall be employed on such manufacture except members of each outside worker's own family who are under fourteen years of age or have been granted permission by the Secretary of Labour to be so employed. 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.

The most important provision 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 seven other trades, namely:—Boot, Butchers, Carters and Drivers, Electrical and Radio Goods, Fibrous Plasterers, Musicians and Quarry.

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, pursuant to such provisions or determinations, 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. The provisions of earlier Acts which restricted the powers of Wages Boards have been repealed, and the 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 new legislation has as its object uniformity in the manner of dealing with offenders and in the imposition of penalties.

The hours for closing of shops in both metropolitan and country districts, as defined by the *Shops and Factories Act 1928*, are stated in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 401-403.

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.

Registered shops are divided into 26 classes. There was, during the year 1937, an increase compared with 1936 of 230 shops and of 2,590 employees. Particulars of the shops registered and number of employees are given below:—

VICTORIA—SHOPS REGISTERED AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, 1937.

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	4,273	1,294	2,448	757	6,721	2,051
Booksellers, Newsagents	960	702	465	329	1,425	1,031
Boot Dealers	317	903	297	344	614	1,247
Boot Repairers	841	37	569	63	1,410	100
Butchers	1,231	2,415	1,078	1,566	2,309	3,981
Chemists	546	799	336	382	882	1,181
Crockery	55	130	17	14	72	144
Cycle and Motor, and Motor Requisites	1,048	1,689	1,241	1,081	2,289	2,770
Dairy Produce and Cooked Meat	810	576	150	147	960	723
Drapery and Men's Clothing	2,001	9,854	1,408	2,749	3,409	12,603
Electrical and Radio	333	505	233	229	566	734
Fancy Goods Dealers	248	1,340	212	338	460	1,678
Fish	418	163	116	45	534	208
Florists	325	246	92	46	417	292
Fruit and Vegetable	1,704	398	997	363	2,701	761
Fuel and Fodder	1,118	488	310	256	1,428	744
Furniture	402	1,233	171	317	573	1,550
Grocers	2,727	2,569	1,427	1,646	4,154	4,215
Hairdressers	1,513	1,258	1,019	455	2,532	1,713
Hardware	484	1,398	506	695	990	2,093
Jewellery	241	298	195	101	436	399
Leather Goods	114	144	236	55	350	199
Musical Instruments	36	209	42	35	78	244
Tobacconists	1,306	139	266	47	1,572	186
Mixed	347	96	1,446	2,981	1,793	3,077
Shops not classified	1,261	1,340	863	428	2,124	1,768
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
Total 1934	24,464	27,356	15,824	13,864	40,288	41,220
Total 1933	24,112	25,438	15,869	13,187	39,981	38,625

THE BASIC WAGE.

**Basic Wage—
Melbourne.** The first basic wage, as such, was declared in 1907 by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration at 7s. per day or £2 2s. per week in Melbourne. On account of its having been determined in connexion with H. V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works this declaration is popularly known as the "Harvester Judgment".

The basic wage was varied from time to time by the Court in accordance with the variation in the "All Houses" Index Numbers ("A" Series—food, groceries, and rent of all houses) prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician.

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.

In accordance with the judgment of the Court of 22nd January, 1931, the rates became subject to a reduction of 10 per cent.

On 5th May, 1933, the Court made an award which ordered that the variations in the "All Items" Index Numbers ("C" Series—Food, Groceries, Housing—4 and 5 rooms only—Clothing and Miscellaneous Expenditure) of the Commonwealth Statistician be applied in a certain manner to the "All Houses" Index Numbers ("A" Series) for the adjustment of all wages under the award. The resultant Index Numbers became known as the "D" Series.

The Basic Wage Inquiry of 1934 made a vital change in the method of calculating the basic wage as a result of which the "Harvester" standard was superseded. The judgment of the Arbitration Court, delivered on 17th April, 1934, provided that the "All Items" Index Numbers be used as the measure for assessment and adjustment of the basic wage. Appropriate tables for use in the process of adjustment are included in the schedule to the judgment. The Court also considered that the addition of the "Powers' three shillings" was no longer justifiable.

As a result of the Basic Wage Inquiry of 1937, the Arbitration Court issued a retail price index series of its own. This series 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.

Basic weekly rates of wage and the date on which they became payable are shown hereunder for the ten years 1929-1938 :—

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

* 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—
Outside
Metropolitan
Area.**

Prior to 1934, the basic wage for Victoria differed only slightly from that for Melbourne. In its judgment in that year, the Court made special reference to the basic 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." 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", 1914-1938.

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

Retail Price
Index-
Numbers—
"A" Series.

The "A" series (all houses) of retail price index-numbers for Melbourne prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician are shown hereunder. Prior to the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration delivered on 17th April, 1934, this series was used for all periodical adjustments of wages controlled by that Court—the series now, however, applies to comparatively few awards. In the calculation of these numbers the prices of food, groceries, and the rent of all houses are taken into

account. The weighted average for the six Capital Cities in 1911, expressed as 1,000, is the basis of comparison in the following table:—

MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS,
“ A ” SERIES, 1911-1930.

Year.			Retail Price Index-Numbers (Food, Groceries, and Housing—All Houses) for Melbourne.	Year.			Retail Price Index-Numbers (Food, Groceries, and Housing—All Houses) for Melbourne.
1911	..	..	950	1931	..	..	1448
1914	..	..	1105	1932	..	..	1378
1917	..	..	1294	1933	..	..	1319
1920	..	..	1788	1934	..	..	1367
1923	..	..	1749	1935	..	..	1420
1926	..	..	1801	1936	..	..	1472
1929	..	..	1812	1937	..	..	1515
1930	..	..	1672	1937-38 (12 months)			1545*

* The tabulation and publication of this series of Index Numbers was discontinued by the Commonwealth Statistician as from 30th June, 1938.

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 following statement shows the proclaimed apprenticeship trades, and the number of probationers and apprentices employed under the Act on 30th June in each of the years 1934 to 1938:—

VICTORIA—PROCLAIMED APPRENTICESHIP TRADES
1934 TO 1938.

Trade.	Number of Probationers and Apprentices Employed under Act on 30th June—				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Plumbing and Gasfitting	119	120	150	224	303
Carpentry and Joinery	93	100	175	230	287
Painting, Decorating, and Sign-writing	32	32	42	66	81
Plastering	11	12	13	21	26
Printing	344	463	532	568	649
Electrical	163	183	279	357	475
Motor Mechanics	76	112	151	229	293
Bootmaking	399	511	606	638	584
Moulding	15	22	116	185	250
Engineering .. .. .	..	..	49	417	815
Fibrous Plastering* .. .. .	..	..	..	..	45
Boiler-making and/or Steel Construction* .. .. .	..	..	..	..	31
Sheet Metal* .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5
Total	1,252	1,555	2,113	2,935	3,844

* Proclaimed as apprenticeship trades on 17th February, 1937, 1st December, 1937 and 25th May, 1938 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, 1938, there were advanced 4,839 rail tickets, valued at £3,546, of which £3,194 has been repaid. During the same period, £194 was repaid in respect of advances made in previous years.

The total number of rail tickets issued in the 37 years ended 30th June, 1938, was 159,957, valued at £130,386, of which £104,387 has been repaid.

The operations of the Exchange for the year 1937 in respect of registrations and applicants sent to employment are summarized in the following tables:—

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.—PERSONS REGISTERED AND EMPLOYMENT OBTAINED, 1937.

Year and Month.	Applications for Employment in the Metropolis.		Number of Men for whom Employment was Obtained.	
	Number Registered during each Month.	Number remaining on Register at end of each Month.	In the Metropolis.	In the Country.
1937—January	3,135	12,672	480	506
February	2,597	12,270	755	662
March	2,032	11,957	310	450
April	2,865	11,584	950	1,690
May	2,665	10,002	2,036	2,006
June	2,354	9,639	698	906
July	3,960	10,639	715	1,162
August	3,372	10,857	1,156	1,383
September	2,845	10,667	635	1,015
October	1,961	10,322	381	594
November	2,213	10,211	443	559
December	2,077	10,310	418	342
Total	32,076	..	8,977	11,275

VICTORIA—PERSONS REGISTERED AND EMPLOYMENT OBTAINED, 1933-1937.

Year.	Registrations Effected.		Engagements Effected.
	In the City.	In the Country.	
1933	83,023	17,084	19,834
1934	58,686	14,269	17,590
1935	49,909	35,936	29,031
1936	42,487	27,591	29,890
1937	32,076	23,781	20,252

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 following statement shows the number of male persons registered as unemployed at the Government Labour Exchange and its Branches in the last week of each month of the period of twelve months ended on the 30th June, in each of the five years 1933-34 to 1937-38 :—

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE—MONTHLY REGISTRATIONS, 1933-34 TO 1937-38.

Last Week of Month of—	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
July	36,551	34,679	30,002	20,431	17,377
August	37,808	32,273	28,608	19,369	17,679
September	36,840	30,756	27,179	19,084	17,262
October	34,841	29,478	24,399	18,761	16,339
November	32,111	29,035	20,837	17,560	15,593
December	32,577	28,349	20,198	18,189	15,801
January	33,275	27,751	18,990	18,136	16,206
February	32,507	27,243	18,828	16,906	15,137
March	32,983	27,409	16,962	16,842	14,801
April	35,335	30,685	17,839	16,735	15,633
May	35,881	32,141	17,937	14,785	15,709
June	35,679	32,078	18,552	14,895	16,669

During the period under review the highest number of registrations was recorded in the month of August, 1933. The improved condition in respect of employment is shown by the marked decrease in the number of registrations since that date.

Relief of Unemployment. The rapid increase in unemployment in the year 1930 necessitated Government action to relieve the resultant distress. Additional taxation was superimposed upon the existing income tax and wages were taxed by the method of stamp duties.

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, 1938, amounted to £13,922,975, of which £192,505 was refunded to taxpayers, the net revenue being £13,730,470. The yearly net collections of tax were as follow:—1930-31, £1,234,463; 1931-32, £1,622,400; 1932-33, £1,730,867; 1933-34, £1,615,371; 1934-35, £1,685,298; 1935-36, £1,970,334; 1936-37, £1,944,382; and 1937-38, £1,927,354.

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 six years 1932-33 to 1937-38 was £9,475,741. The total cost of relief during the nine years, 1929-30 to 1937-38, was £24,869,684, of which £13,588,297 was raised by taxation, and £9,475,741 by loans; Commonwealth loan contributions and grants amounted to £1,718,599 and £87,047 was provided by interest on advances, &c. At 30th June, 1938, the balance to the credit of the Unemployment Relief Fund was £142,173. The following is a detailed statement of the disbursements from the Unemployment Relief Fund, Loan, and other Funds from 1st July, 1929, to 30th June, 1938:—

VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE ON UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF, 1929-30 TO 1937-38.

Allocation of Expenditure.	Expended during 1929-30 to 1936-37 from—			Expended during 1937-38 from—			Total Expended to 30th June, 1938, 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	8,401,460	140,150	8,541,610	1,171,485	750	1,172,235	9,572,945	140,900	9,713,845
Municipalities	599,976	317,158	917,134	37,257	..	37,257	637,233	317,158	954,391
Departmental, &c.—									
Public Works and Mines ..	460,645	940,337	1,400,982	92,969	341,520	434,489	553,614	1,281,857	1,835,471
Railways	12,250	1,808,915	1,821,165	..	254,128	254,128	12,250	2,063,043	2,075,293
Lands	135,973	123,571	259,544	10,140	68,054	78,194	146,113	191,625	337,738
Treasurer	273,603	957,277	1,230,880	18,173	64,915	83,088	291,776	1,022,192	1,313,968
Country Roads Board ..	216,028	1,267,012	1,483,040	2,679	136,102	138,781	218,707	1,403,114	1,621,821
Forests and Foresters' Quarters	195,738	1,102,917	1,298,655	1,258	253,782	255,040	196,996	1,356,699	1,553,695
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	199,214	1,702,588	1,901,802	60,509	352,643	413,152	259,723	2,055,231	2,314,954
Closer Settlement Commission ..	..	75,658	75,658	..	15,819	15,819	..	91,477	91,477
State Electricity Commission ..	..	138,500	138,500	..	..	..	..	138,500	138,500
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works .. .. .	..	441,500	441,500	..	85,500	85,500	..	527,000	527,000
Sewerage Authorities .. .. .	..	234,882	234,882	..	4,578	4,578	..	239,460	239,460
Waterworks Trusts .. .. .	..	54,961	54,961	..	22,855	22,855	..	77,816	77,816
Miscellaneous*	88,857	133,566	222,423	149,427	154,702	304,129	238,284	288,268	526,552
Expenditure on Relief ..	10,583,744	9,438,992	20,022,736	1,543,897	1,755,348	3,299,245	12,127,641	11,194,340	23,321,981
Administration	471,288	..	471,288	84,756	..	84,756	556,044	..	556,044
Interest and Sinking Fund on Loans	658,215	..	658,215	333,444	..	333,444	991,659	..	991,659
Refund of Taxes	185,418	..	185,418	7,086	..	7,086	192,504	..	192,504
Total Expenditure	11,898,665	9,438,992	21,337,657	1,969,183	1,755,348	3,724,531	13,867,848	11,194,340	25,062,188

* 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, 1937 AND 1938.

Month of—	1937.		1938.	
	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 ..	15,497	12,404	13,786	11,269
February ..	14,862	12,256	13,086	10,580
March ..	14,038	11,554	12,577	10,942
April ..	14,158	11,717	12,928	11,188
May ..	12,529	10,418	13,118	11,298
June ..	12,008	10,341	13,187	11,443
July ..	13,287	11,644	14,538	12,589
August ..	14,610	12,680	15,694	13,362
September ..	14,324	12,123	15,404	13,130
October ..	13,777	11,614	14,789	12,572
November ..	13,255	11,214	14,419	12,338
December ..	14,034	11,590	15,775	13,498

* 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 £3 14s. in any one week.

VICTORIA—RATES OF SUSTENANCE TO UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.

Family Unit. (1)	Maximum Weekly Permissible Income. (2)	Maximum Weekly Sustenance that may be Granted to—		
		Unemployable 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)
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Itinerant unemployed male	10 0	..	11 0	17 6
Approved prospector	12 0	..	11 0	17 6
Individual residing with strangers or relatives other than parents ..	12 0	6 6	11 0	17 6
Single unemployed employable male 21 years of age or over as member of family unit the head of which is in receipt of sustenance ..	In accordance with family unit of which he is a member	..	5 0	10 0
Two ..	20 0	9 9	18 6	30 6
Three ..	25 0	And for each unemployed dependant ir-	And for each male unemployed dependant under	And for each un-
Four ..	27 6	respective of	21 years of age,	employed depend-
Five ..	30 0	age, 4s. per	and for each un-	ant residing with
Six ..	32 6	week :	employed female	the applicant—
Seven ..	35 0	Provided in	dependant ir-	(a) 4s. per week
Eight ..	37 6	any instance	respective of age,	for each de-
Nine ..	40 0	the total	4s. per week :	pendant under
Ten ..	42 6	value of sus-	Provided in any	16 years of
		tenance does	instance the total	age,
		not exceed	value of susten-	(b) 5s. per week
		41s. 9d. per	ance does not	for each male
		week.	exceed 50s. 6d.	16 years and
			per week.	under 21 years
				of age,
				(c) 5s. per week
				for each female
				16 years of age
				or over :
				Provided in any
				instance the total
				value of sustenance
				does not exceed
				62s. 6d. per week.

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

There were 744 charitable and reformatory organizations throughout the State in 1937. The total receipts of these organizations during the year ended 30th June, 1937, amounted to £3,040,582, of which £1,413,999 was contributed by the Government and £1,626,583 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure was £2,871,078. These particulars do not include payments, which amounted to £3,750,068 during 1936-37, made by the Commonwealth Government to old-age and invalid pensioners of this State. The daily average number under care indoors was 21,467, and there were 397,737 cases of out-door

relief during the year. These numbers, in respect of indoor and out-door patients, refer to the number of "cases" treated and not to distinct 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, 1936-37.

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.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
HOSPITALS.							
Special—							
Austin Hospital ..	1	361	..	18,352	48,444	66,796	49,817
Children's Hospital ..	1	372	19,094	20,605	69,138	89,743	80,160
Melbourne Dental Hospital ..	1	..	21,428	2,918	9,507	12,425	12,141
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	123	11,693	11,522	32,522	44,044	37,553
Talbot Colony for Epileptics ..	1	120	..	1,055	5,266	6,321	6,814
Eye and Ear Hospital ..	1	103	30,018	7,063	18,112	25,175	22,609
Women's Hospital ..	1	238	8,868	17,314	75,252	92,566	95,267
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	348	..	36,614	41,430	78,044	85,902
General Hospitals ..	54	2,886	159,929	279,543	534,326	813,869	736,486
Auxiliary Hospitals ..	2	275	4,452	18,482	19,543	38,025	39,153
Foundling Hospitals and Infants' Homes ..	5	405	166	8,082	18,501	26,583	25,990
Convalescent Homes ..	2	49	..	800	2,414	3,214	3,875
Sanatoria ..	3	318	..	23,764	12,224	35,988	36,767
Mental Hospitals and Receiving Houses ..	12	6,282	..	433,515	49,721	483,236	483,236
Total	86	11,910	255,648	879,629	936,400	1,816,029	1,715,770
ASYLUMS AND ORPHANAGES.							
Benevolent Homes ..	10	2,138	1,287	42,461	76,596	119,057	109,556
Orphanages ..	27	3,159	..	52,591	151,429	204,020	180,230
Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institutions ..	3	253	463	3,300	43,987	47,287	46,832
Total	40	5,550	1,750	98,352	272,012	370,364	336,618
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Rescue Homes and Female Refuges ..	12	983	..	7,560	64,836	72,396	74,119
Inebriates' Institutions ..	2	61	..	2,231	3,800	6,031	6,064
Children's Welfare Department ..	6	1,850	11,709	274,447	9,790	284,237	284,237
Goals and Penal Establishments ..	12	1,113	..	120,896	..	120,896	120,896
Total	32	4,007	11,709	405,134	78,426	483,560	485,316
MISCELLANEOUS INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.							
Free Dispensaries ..	2	..	10,895	900	1,544	2,444	2,459
Benevolent Societies ..	*221	..	35,082	13,877	52,185	66,062	65,677
Other Societies ..	*363	..	82,653	16,107	286,016	302,123	265,238
Total	586	..	128,630	30,884	339,745	370,629	333,374
Grand Total ..	744	21,467	397,737	1,413,999	1,626,583	3,040,582	2,871,078

* 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 1936-37 are shown hereunder:—

VICTORIA—SOURCES OF INCOME OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1936-37.

Receipts.	Public Hospitals.	Foundling Hospitals and Infants' Homes.	Benevolent Homes.	Orphanages.	Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institutions.	Rescue Homes and Female Refugees.	Other Institutions.*	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid ..	413,468	8,082	42,461	52,591	3,300	7,560	765,641	1,293,103
Municipal Grants ..	72,115	183	886	555	881	102	32,751	107,473
Private Contributions ..	110,489	4,812	4,740	21,900	19,867	2,243	84,224	248,275
Proceeds of Entertainments	20,997	368	1,308	3,315	2,485	73	10	28,556
Legacies, Bequests and Donations ..	196,983	6,595	9,477	79,606	7,660	8,035	700	309,056
Hospital Sunday and Church Donations ..	18,195	422	1,632	1,778	175	302	127	22,631
Contributions of Indoor Patients ..	165,981	2,695	45,127	10,785	3,802	4,360	65,002	297,702
Out-patients' Fees ..	62,474	..	..	..	9	..	..	62,483
Proceeds of Inmates' Labour ..	298	..	892	14,374	2,102	47,026	..	64,692
Interest or Rent ..	31,473	2,648	11,131	12,894	3,527	328	45	62,046
Loans ..	131,553	..	..	..	..	..	..	131,553
Other Sources ..	43,032	778	1,403	6,222	3,479	2,367	234,835	292,116
Total ..	1,267,008	26,583	119,057	204,020	47,287	72,396	1,183,335	2,919,686

* 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 three years ended on 30th June, 1937, is given in the following table. For the year 1936-37, Government aid was equivalent to 44·29 per cent. of the total receipts; municipal grants and payments to 3·68 per cent.; payments of inmates and out-patients to 12·33 per cent.; private contributions to 8·50 per cent.; legacies, bequests, and donations

to 10·59 per cent.; receipts from Lord Mayor's Fund, &c., to 0·77 per cent.; interest and rent to 2·13 per cent.; loan receipts to 4·51 per cent.; and receipts from all other sources to 13·20 per cent.

VICTORIA—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1934-35 TO 1936-37.

Heading.	Year ended 30th June.		
	1935.	1936.	1937.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£	£
Government Aid	1,035,668	1,129,198	1,293,103
Municipal Grants and Contributions ..	112,409	112,093	107,473
Patients' and Inmates' Contributions	281,196	310,413	360,185
Private Contributions	211,164	191,835	248,275
Legacies, Bequests, and Donations ..	189,095	167,619	309,056
Lord Mayor's Fund, Hospital Sunday, and Church Donations	19,347	22,947	22,631
Interest or Rent	58,124	61,120	62,046
Loan Receipts	135,982	33,859	131,553
Other Sources	325,792	381,702	385,364
Total Receipts	2,368,777	2,410,786	2,919,686
<i>Expenditure.</i>			
Ordinary	2,033,932	2,181,202	2,335,156
Extraordinary	74,626	63,821	61,334
Building	219,299	180,340	353,692
Total Expenditure	2,327,857	2,425,372	2,750,182

Charitable Institutions—Accommodation and Inmates. The next statement shows the accommodation available and the number of inmates maintained in the following institutions during the year ended 30th June, 1937 :—

VICTORIA—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, ACCOMMODATION, AND INMATES, 1936-37.

Institution.	Number of Beds.	Number of Inmates.	
		Total during the Year.	Daily Average.
Austin Hospital	372	1,252	361
Children's Hospital	392	5,835	372
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	141	3,512	133
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	138	156	120
Eye and Ear Hospital	114	3,171	103
Women's Hospital	285	8,505	259
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	720	4,529	348
General Hospitals	4,449	58,577	2,886
Auxiliary Hospitals	295	5,957	275
Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows	260	419	236
Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	100	278	88
Tweddle Hospital for Babies	12	91	8
Bethany Home, Geelong	45	65	36
St. Gabriel's Babies' Home	36	83	36
Convalescent Homes	70	975	49
Greenvale Sanatorium	100	302	100
Heatherton Sanatorium	124	277	113
Gresswell Sanatorium	140	399	105
Mental Hospitals	6,321	8,446	6,282
Benevolent Homes	2,498	4,439	2,138
Orphanages	3,246	4,519	3,159
Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylums	280	323	253
Rescue Homes and Female Refuges	1,167	2,024	983
Inebriates' Institutions	95	175	61
Children's Welfare Department .. .. .	..	16,581*	13,559
Total	21,400	130,890	32,063

* Number under control.

In addition to the inmates shown in the above table, there were 52 mothers of infants in the Tweddle Hospital, 103 mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, 114 mothers of infants in St. Joseph's Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows, 5 mothers of infants in Bethany Home, Geelong, and 574 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. A summary of its provisions appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 418 and 419.

The *Hospitals and Charities Act* 1936 gives to the Charities Board power to make or cause to be made an inspection of any registered unsubsidized institution and to recommend conditions to be attached to the granting of Government subsidies. It gives authority to an incorporated institution to raise money by debentures on the income of such institution. In the matter of the recovery of fees for treatment of patients in institutions, the liability which formerly was limited to an assessment on the means of the patient himself, has been widened to enable recovery of fees from a responsible person such as the parent or guardian or husband or wife as the case may be. The patient or person responsible is required, under penalty, to complete a statement as to means and ability to pay for treatment.

No charitable institution or benevolent society may be established without the consent in writing of the Charities Board.

In 1923 a Fund called "The Hospitals and Charities Fund" was established in the Treasury. To this Fund Parliament has voted a sum each year towards the cost of maintenance and of building works of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies. The amount of the vote for the year 1937-38 was £200,000, plus the sum of £60,000 from State Unemployment Relief (Taxation) Fund. The total amount available for distribution from the Hospitals and Charities Fund for 1937-38, including Totalizator Receipts, was £449,185. The matters which are to be considered when making payments from the Fund are set forth on page 231 of the *Year-Book* for 1929-30. The *Totalizator Act* 1930, as amended by the *Totalizator Act* 1934, provides that any racing club using a totalizator shall deduct as commission 10 per cent. out of the moneys paid into the totalizator in respect of each race or division of a race and that 50 per cent. of the amount so deducted, where the races are held on courses within a radius of 20 miles of Melbourne, and 25 per cent. in respect of races held on courses situated elsewhere in Victoria, shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue and transferred therefrom each year to the Hospitals and Charities Fund. Since the date of the operation of the Act, the sum of £886,691 has been so transferred. The annual transfers were as follow:—1930-31, £8; 1931-32, £50,519; 1932-33, £110,184; 1933-34, £123,312; 1934-35, £124,251; 1935-36, £141,430; 1936-37, £147,802; and 1937-38, £189,185. Loans and grants amounting to £59,000 were made to institutions from the National Recovery Loan Fund during 1937-38 for building purposes.

When the Board commenced its operations in 1923 only one country hospital had a maternity ward. In 1936 maternity wards had been established in the public sections of 28 hospitals.

The Board has framed regulations in regard to Community Hospitals. A brief statement of these regulations appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 232.

The scheme for the admission of intermediate and private patients was initiated in the metropolis by the Committee of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children. At this institution a new wing, named the "Jessie McPherson Community Hospital", was opened for the reception of such patients on 1st December, 1931. The Alfred Hospital followed on 22nd May, 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 the purpose and patients admitted thereto on 1st February, 1934.

Outside the metropolitan area there are 49 general hospitals, of which 37, during the year 1937-38, admitted intermediate and private patients in accordance with the regulations.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

The principal general hospitals in the State are the Royal Melbourne, the Alfred, and St. Vincent's Hospitals. The social services rendered through 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.

The need for providing increased accommodation at this general hospital and for improvement in its equipment has been apparent for a number of years. With the object of increasing and improving the valuable social service rendered by this institution, legislative proposals were submitted in 1935 by the Government to Parliament. These proposals are embodied in the *Royal Melbourne Hospital Act 1935*. This Act 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 it 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 general 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 in the reduction of this loan.

The construction of the New Hospital will begin in 1939.

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 1937-38 the number of in-patients treated was 7,775, the daily average number being 399, which was 21 above the number the hospital is designed to accommodate. During the year, 50,619 persons were treated in the out-patients' and casualty departments. The aggregate number of attendances of out-patients was 250,313.

The usefulness of the hospital since its inauguration may be judged from the services provided. The in-patients treated to 30th June, 1938, numbered 408,083, and the out-patients, 2,004,863.

In 1937-38 the receipts of the Maintenance Account amounted to £120,170; of which the Government grant for maintenance was £42,059; the revenue derived from municipal grants was £2,044; annual subscriptions amounted to £6,209; donations to £3,925; bequests to £17,564; Hospital Sunday collections to £1,696; Lord Mayor's Fund allocation to £2,106; visitors' fees to £4,381; payments and contributions by in-door patients to £12,205; out-patients' fees to £14,251; interest yielded a revenue of £12,297; and £1,433 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure from Maintenance Account was £128,799.

The hospital is also a training school for nurses, and has a nursing staff of 242. Attached to the hospital is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, which is 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.

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 1937-38 the number of patients treated was 2,691, the daily average number being 174. The total expenditure for the year was £23,255.

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 13 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

**Alfred
Hospital.**

and intermediate patients. This branch is a new feature of general hospital work in this State. 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, 1938, there were 390 beds and cots in the Institution. The total number of in-patients during the year 1937-38 was 6,551, and in the out-patients and casualty departments 34,219 persons were treated. The number of attendances of patients in these departments was 170,066. The ordinary income of the Maintenance Account during the year 1937-38 amounted to £91,260. The principal items of receipts were:—Government grants, £38,253; municipal grants, £1,197; private contributions, £3,422; special donations and bequests, £13,051; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,374; Lord Mayor's Fund, £1,690; in-door patients' fees, £9,906; out-door patients' fees, £7,212; general clinic fees, £1,872; visitors' contributions, £3,703; proceeds of entertainments, £1,137; transfers from other accounts, £3,000; sales refunds, &c., £3,112; interest from investments, £1,825; and miscellaneous receipts, £506. The total expenditure on maintenance was £88,367.

St. Vincent's Hospital. This institution was founded by the Religious Congregation of the Sisters of Charity from St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, in November, 1893. The beginning was humble—fourteen beds in a small cottage. Within a few months a terrace of houses was secured which increased the accommodation for patients to 36 beds.

So much appreciated was the work of the medical and the nursing staffs that, in November, 1905, the rear section of the new hospital was opened with 120 beds. From this date, events moved rapidly.

In 1914 a new Out-patients' Department and Nurses' Home was erected. As this building was made possible mainly by the generous efforts of the United Ancient Order of Druids, it is known as the Druids' Wing.

In 1924, St. Vincent's was recognized by the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and the conjoint Board of Examiners, England, as a Hospital at which clinical work might be done by those entering for the degrees of F.R.C.S. and F.R.C.P. London and England. The hospital is one of the clinical schools for medical students of the University of Melbourne and a training school for nurses.

In October, 1928, the foundation stone of the new building was laid, and 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. During the year 1937-38 the number of in-patients treated was 4,722 and of out-patients and

casualties 31,448. The total amount received by the Maintenance Account during 1937-38 was £57,074. The Government Grant was £23,478; municipal grants amounted to £678; annual subscriptions to £923; allocation from Hospital Sunday and Lord Mayor's Fund was £1,767; donations and collections to £1,252; Auxiliaries' efforts to £2,167; proceeds of entertainments to £390; in-patients' contributions to £10,633; out-patients' contributions to £8,109; visitors' fees to £2,962; interest to £413; bequests to £890; profits from pay-beds £1,481; and other receipts to £1,931. The total expenditure on maintenance during 1937-38 was £60,124.

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. The history and activities of each of these hospitals are set out hereunder.

Austin Hospital for Cancer and Chronic Diseases. Prior to the foundation of the Hospital in 1881, persons afflicted with chronic and incurable disease were unable to obtain admission to the then existing institutions. The urgent need for a hospital of this special type was brought under the notice of the colonists by Mrs. Thomas Austin, of "Barwon Park," Winchelsea, who offered to provide £6,000 for the establishment of a hospital on condition that a like sum was obtained from either the Government or private citizens.

After considerable delay the Government made a grant of 17 acres of land in the then remote district of Heidelberg and the buildings were completed in May, 1882.

When incorporated the institution was known as the "Austin Hospital for Incurables". In recent years, because of the wider scope of its work and the success of curative treatment, it was realised that the word incurable was both inaccurate and misleading. For this reason the present title "Austin Hospital for Cancer and Chronic Diseases" was adopted in order to convey the institution's special mission of giving relief to those afflicted with chronic and long standing disease.

From a small institution containing 66 beds it has expanded into a modern hospital and now accomodates 420 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.

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

An Intermediate section is in course of erection and is planned to accommodate 69 patients. Especially designed for the treatment of patients suffering from cancer, the whole block, with the exception of the kitchen, is completely air-conditioned. When completed it will be the only fully air-conditioned hospital building in Australia.

During the year ended 30th June, 1938, the number of patients treated was 1,351.

Of the total expenditure during 1937-38 (£61,052), £7,222 was spent on buildings and £53,830 on maintenance. The revenue was £57,473 for the same period.

Children's Hospital. The Children's Hospital was founded in 1870, when a small cottage was rented in Stephen-street (now Collins-place), Melbourne. The original building proving inadequate, the hospital was moved to Spring-street in 1873. These premises were soon overcrowded and in 1877 the hospital was transferred to its present site.

In 1899 the original Out-patients' block was built, together with the present kitchen block which also housed the laundry. The "Princess May" pavilion containing the two present medical wards, was built in 1901, and the present Nurses' home in 1907. The Administrative block was opened in 1911 and the second unit of the Out-patients' block, together with the Babies' wards, in 1921.

The necessity for convalescent accommodation was early realized and, in 1884, a house in Beach-road, Hampton, was acquired. By additional building the Hampton institution is now able to accommodate 73 cases.

In order to deal with the special problems of crippled children, the Orthopaedic section of the Hospital was opened in 1930. This section occupies a beach frontage near Frankston and accommodates 114 patients.

In 1937 the Craft Hostel for occupational training of cripples was opened at Frankston and, in the same year, a new convalescent unit was opened at Sherbrooke.

The institution now ranks amongst the largest Children's Hospitals in the British Empire with accommodation of 468 beds.

In addition to its in-patient activities, the hospital treated 13,991 separate children as out-patients during the year 1937-38, involving 58,295 attendances.

Medical students from the Melbourne University must all devote one term to studying in this hospital which is an important teaching and research centre for children's diseases.

During the year ended 30th June, 1938, the number of patients admitted to the hospital was 3,870, which, with 362 patients in the hospital at 1st July, 1937, made a total of 4,232 patients.

The cost of maintenance during the same period was £84,172 which, with £27,225 expended on building, gave a total expenditure of £111,397. The total revenue during the year was £84,101.

Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital. For many years the need for a hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases was realized by the Municipal Councils, but the difficulty was the lack of finance. In 1901, a public appeal was launched for the purpose of providing a memorial of the late Queen Victoria. This resulted in a collection of over £16,000 and, at a meeting of Municipal Authorities, it was decided to build a hospital on an area of about 22 acres of land, granted by the Government of Victoria, at Yarra Bend. The buildings comprised two wards, each of twenty-five beds, administration block, kitchen and nurses' home, and the necessary services. Owing to lack of funds for furnishing and equipment, the opening was delayed until November, 1904, when the first patient was admitted. From then until the passing of the *Infectious Diseases Hospital Act* 1914, various temporary additions were carried out, raising the accommodation to 160 beds.

With an assured revenue the new Board, constituted under the Act, immediately set about bringing the institution up to requirements and, early in 1915, arranged for the erection of an isolation block of 25 beds. A comprehensive scheme of extension was then prepared and in 1916-17 there were erected five two-story ward pavilions, kitchen, stores and staff dining block, administration block, nurses' home, and other services, the old administration block being converted into a power laundry. The nominal accommodation was then about 513 beds. In 1922 a ward block of 50 beds for the treatment of measles patients, and a bulk store, were completed and, in 1924, additions were made to the nurses' home.

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 Bacchus Marsh, Werribee, Ferntree Gully, Whittlesea and Mornington.

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

During the 34 years since the Hospital was opened over 113,000 patients have been treated.

The patients treated, during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1938, numbered 4,480.

For the same period receipts amounted to £91,518 and expenditure to £95,864.

**Women's
Hospital.**

The hospital was founded in 1856 under the title of the "Melbourne Lying-in Hospital and Infirmary for Diseases of Women and Children." The institution was first located in East Melbourne, but in the same year, a permanent site was granted by the Government in Madeline-street, Carlton, where the hospital was opened in 1858. Its title was altered in 1868 to the "Women's Hospital," the name it now bears.

In 1862 pupil nurses were admitted for training and in 1866 the Out-Patients' Department was opened. The original institution contained 20 beds. From the date of its inception continual additions and alterations have been made to meet the growing demands of an increasing population until the present accommodation of 285 beds and 110 baby cots has been reached. There is an Almoner Department with two almoners. Auxiliaries to the number of 75 materially assist the work.

The institution is also a special training school for medical men and for nurses in gynæcology and midwifery, and the excellent work thus carried out is fully recognized.

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, is in course of construction.

During the year ended 30th June, 1938, the daily average number of in-patients was 276, whilst out-patients numbered 8,970 with 29,327 attendances.

Since its foundation there have been 11,390 births in the hospital, and out-patients attendances have numbered 596,922.

In 1937-38 the total receipts and expenditure amounted to £135,925 and £135,226 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.

HEALTH ACT 1919.

The main features of this Act, now consolidated in the Act of 1928, are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 383 to 385.

Further provisions relating to public health are contained in the Health Acts of 1931, 1935, and 1937.

Under the provisions of the Act of 1931, every municipal council is forbidden to give its consent to the erection of any abattoir or slaughter-house until the plans and specifications have been approved by the medical officer of health and the municipal engineer. This Act repeals the provisions of the Principal Act as to compulsory vaccination and further provides that, when any food or drug in connexion with which there is a contravention of the Health Acts is sold in an unopened package, the manufacturer whose name appears on such package shall be the person liable on conviction to the prescribed penalty. If the name of the manufacturer does not so appear, then the person who sold the food or drug or the person who supplied the same to the vendor may be liable to prosecution.

The Act of 1935 provides for the appointment of a Plumbers and Gas-fitters Board, with power to appoint examiners for applicants for registration as plumbers in respect of plumbing work of any prescribed class or classes or as gas-fitters. Every unregistered person is forbidden to undertake plumbing work of any prescribed class or gas-fitting, including the installation and repairing of gas bath heaters, except any apprentice, improver, or assistant who is employed under the direct supervision or control of a registered plumber of the appropriate prescribed class or of a gas-fitter.

This Act also provides that the managing authority of any hospital receiving aid from the State, and the council of any municipality or combination of councils may, and, when required by the Commission of Public Health, shall enter into an agreement for the accommodation, treatment, and maintenance of persons suffering from infectious disease.

Every manufactory of margarine is required to be registered. Margarine includes any solid or semi-solid substance made from animal or vegetable fats or oils or any combination thereof which is used or capable of being used as a substitute for butter, but does not include butter, dripping, or lard. Margarine for sale otherwise than to any prescribed class of persons, i.e., biscuit manufacturers, &c., shall be of a prescribed colour. Uncoloured margarine shall not be packed or sold in packages or lumps of less than fourteen pounds in weight.

Every sewerage authority is forbidden to allow any cattle, which are grazing on or are upon any land used by such sewerage authority for the purposes of depositing or spreading night soil or sewage, to be removed from such land unless the cattle are forthwith destroyed and disposed of otherwise than for human consumption.

The owner or occupier (other than a sewerage authority) of any land used for the purposes of depositing or spreading night-soil or sewage who permits any cattle to graze on or be upon such land is guilty of an offence against the Principal Act.

The *Health (Housing) Act* 1937 is designed to strengthen the provisions of the Principal Act relating to the condemnation of houses deemed unfit for human habitation. It provides for the making of regulations by the Governor in Council generally to prescribe standards of sanitation and hygiene for dwelling houses and, where it is certified that any dwelling does not comply with such standards, empowers either the Commission of Public Health or the council of the municipality in which the dwelling is situate to declare such dwelling, or specified part thereof, unfit for human habitation.

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 the appointment of the Director a new feature in the control and cure of this 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 in Sanatoria, 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 and 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. The Gresswell and Heatherton Sanatoria are registered as part-time and special training schools for nurses.

Plans for a new Sanatorium for women at Greenvale are being drawn up and it is hoped to commence the construction of an administration block in the near future.

A grant of £5,000 has been given for a new building at Royal Park Benevolent Home for the reception of 20 indigent male patients. This has been completed and is named the Dunstan Chalet.

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 1938:—

VICTORIA—SANATORIA—ACCOMMODATION, ETC., 1937-38.

Sanatorium.	Accommodation.		Admissions.		Discharges.		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Greenvale .. ..	..	100	..	198	..	165	..	39
Austin	71	44	241	..	135	..	110	..
Heatherton .. ..	..	124	..	187	..	140	..	46
Royal Park	20	..	11	..	8	..	5	..
Gresswell	144	..	280	..	265	..	19	..
Bendigo Chalet ..	12	12	13	17	8	16	6	2
Total	247	280	947	..	737	..	227	..

The Branch Bureaux at Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, and Prahran have done useful work, and work at the Central Tuberculosis Bureau has further increased during the year. Attendances at this Bureau were 13,765 in 1936-37 and 13,565 in 1937-38. 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, 1938, 9,793 domiciliary visits to tuberculous patients were made by the seven nurses attached to the various Bureaux.

The following table illustrates some of the work at the Central and Branch Tuberculosis Bureaux during the year ended 30th June, 1938:—

VICTORIA—TUBERCULOSIS BUREAUX, 1937-38.

Work of Bureaux.	Metropolitan—				Country—	
	Central.		Prahran.		Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
New cases applying	1,032	1,107	43	71	243	195
Re-attendance	4,022	7,404	175	279	1,194	1,541
Cases passed for entry to Sanatoria and other Institutions ..	431	479	6	10	55	38
Contacts—						
New—Examined	327	381	45	54	108	102
Old—Re-examined	386	533	31	37	213	320
Found Tuberculous	12	46	..	..	1	1
Infecting Cases .. ..	..	282	21	64	105	..
Visits to Patients' Homes—						
By Medical Officers .. ..	..	..	5	..	2	..
By Nurses	3,018	3,466	375	406	256	1
X-Ray Screen Examinations ..	560	1,059	..	2	3	17
X-Ray Film Examinations ..	789	1,212	24	47	348	294
Pneumothorax Refills	317	792	..	5	103	136

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 twelve years 1927 to 1938 was as follows:—

VICTORIA—ATTENDANCES OF PATIENTS AT
TUBERCULOSIS BUREAUX, 1927 TO 1938.

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

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE.

The subjoined table sets forth the numbers under the care of the Department for the years 1936 and 1937.

VICTORIA—PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE, 31ST DECEMBER, 1936 AND 1937.

	On 31st December—		Increase (+). Decrease (-).
	1936.	1937.	
In State Hospitals	6,127	6,060	- 67
On Trial Leave from State Hospitals ..	814	920	+ 106
Boarded Out	203	252	+ 49
In Licensed Houses	47	46	- 1
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses ..	19	24	+ 5
Total Number of Certified Insane ..	7,210	7,302	+ 92
In Receiving Institutions	115	124	+ 9
Total	7,325	7,426	+ 101
Voluntary Boarders	156	181	+ 25
Cases of Mental Disorder in Returned Soldiers (not included in other statistics)	230	233	+ 3

There was an increase in the year 1937 compared with 1936, in the number of certified patients in State Mental Hospitals. The number of certified insane in the State at the end of 1937, proportionately to the population was 1 in 255. At 31st December, 1937, there were 233 military mental cases known to the Department, and 181 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 1933 to 1937 was as follows :—

VICTORIA—MENTAL HOSPITALS—ADMISSIONS, 1933 TO 1937.

Year.	First Admissions.			Re-admissions.			Total Admissions.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1933	368	411	779	37	32	69	848
1934	357	425	782	40	40	80	862
1935	380	417	797	42	56	98	895
1936	379	403	782	41	53	94	876
1937	374	406	780	25	30	55	835

The number of discharges from, and the deaths in, Mental Hospitals of the Department for each of the years 1933 to 1937 are given below :—

VICTORIA—MENTAL HOSPITALS—DISCHARGES AND DEATHS, 1933 TO 1937.

Year.	Discharges.			Deaths.			Total of Discharges and Deaths.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1933	148	185	333	230	206	436	769
1934	149	191	340	196	204	400	740
1935	152	214	366	245	218	463	829
1936	138	180	318	213	177	390	708
1937	162	196	358	210	167	377	735

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Neglected and reformatory children. There were at the end of 1937 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, 1937, numbered 5,701—5,536 neglected and 165 reformatory children—and there were 6 others, free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The following table shows the number of neglected and reformatory children under control at the end of each of the five years 1933 to 1937 :—

VICTORIA—WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN, 1933 TO 1937.

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.	
1933 ...	3,151	1,301	299	1,265	...	6,016
1934 ...	2,692	1,249	340	1,522	...	5,803
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

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.	
1933 ...	100	99	20	...	...	219
1934 ...	96	110	19	...	...	225
1935 ...	87	86	23	...	...	196
1936 ...	98	73	27	...	...	198
1937 ...	99	39	27	...	...	165

Children boarded out, &c.

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 of such child. 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 investigation 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, 1937, assistance was granted under the Maintenance Act in respect of 2,322 children. At the end of the year there were 7,939 children boarded out to their mothers, an increase of 69 as compared with the number at the end of the previous year, viz., 7,870.

The following statement shows the number of wards of the State and of children boarded out with their mothers for the years 1933 to 1937 inclusive :—

VICTORIA—WARDS OF STATE AND CHILDREN BOARDED OUT WITH MOTHERS, 1933 TO 1937.

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.		
				£		
1933 ..	3,151	8,337	11,488	249,738	3,084	14,572
1934 ..	2,692	7,300	9,992	218,016	3,336	13,328
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

Cost of maintenance of neglected and reformatory children. The expenditure by the State for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1937 to £260,315, and that for reformatory school children to £4,609; the expenses of administration amounted to £17,655, making a total gross expenditure of £282,579. A sum of £9,403 was received from parents for maintenance, and of £387 from other sources, making the net expenditure £272,788. The number of children under supervision on 31st December, 1937, was 5,536; of this total, 2,131 were maintained in foster homes, 218 were in Government receiving depots, 1,519 were in other institutions, 351 were at service earning their own living, 44 were in hospitals, and 1,273 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The number of reformatory wards under supervision on 31st December, 1937, was 165. Of this number, 99 were maintained in private schools, 27 were in service earning their own living, and 39 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children during the ten years, 1928 to 1937, is shown in the statement which follows:—

VICTORIA—NET COST TO THE STATE OF WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1928 TO 1937.

Year.			Net Expenditure.	Year.			Net Expenditure.
			£				£
1928	..	..	417,361	1933	..	..	286,254
1929	..	..	429,098	1934	..	..	251,587
1930	..	..	413,439	1935	..	..	251,614
1931	..	..	382,968	1936	..	..	262,792
1932	..	..	332,886	1937	..	..	272,788

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 below. The number of children under supervision of these societies on 31st December, 1936, was 1,636. The admissions during the year 1937 under various headings were as follows:—Court Committals, 52; Transfer of Guardianship, 122; Voluntary Admissions, 472. The number of children under supervision of the societies on 31st December, 1937, was 1,738.

INSTITUTIONS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL
UNDER DIVISION VIII. OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE
ACT 1928.

NAME OF INSTITUTION.

St. Martin's Home for Boys, Canterbury.
Kilmany Park Farm Home.
Presbyterian Girls' Home, Elsternwick.
St. Gabriel's Babies' Home, Balwyn.
St. Agnes' Home for Girls, Glenroy.
St. Nicholas' Home for Boys, Glenroy.
St. Paul's Training School for Boys and The Seaside Garden Home for
Boys, Newhaven, Phillip Island.
Minton Boys' Home, Frankston.
Methodist Babies' Home, South Yarra.
Presbyterian Babies' Home, Camberwell.
The Methodist Homes for Children, Cheltenham.
St. Luke's Toddlers' Home, White Hills, Bendigo.
Central Mission Training Farm, Tally-Ho.
Burwood Boys' Home, Burwood.
Salvation Army Girls' Home, East Kew.

The Diocesan Mission—

Home for Children, Middle Brighton.
Home for Babies, Darling.
House of Mercy, Cheltenham.

Sutherland Homes, Diamond Creek.
The Presbyterian and Scots Church Children's Aid Society, Burwood.
Salvation Army Girls' Home, East Camberwell.
Salvation Army Boys' Home, Box Hill.
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills.
The Central Mission Home for Girls, Moreland.
The Victorian Children's Aid Society, Parkville.
Gordon Institute, Bowen-street, Melbourne.
Melbourne Orphanage, Middle Brighton.

**Children in
Registered
Homes.**

On 31st December, 1937, there were 175 children under supervision in registered homes under the provisions of the Children's Welfare Act. There were 3 deaths of such children during the year. The work of inspection of registered homes is performed by 4 female inspectors. During the year 74 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.

Orphans in Victoria, Census, 1933. Particulars of orphanhood of children in Victoria under sixteen years of age were collected at the date of the last Census (30th June, 1933). The Census disclosed that there were in the State 503,025 children under that age, of whom 466,065 had both parents living, while in the case of 7,342 children the condition in respect of parentage was not stated. The particulars, as enumerated, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE—CENSUS, 30TH JUNE, 1933.

Sex of Children.	Orphans.				Both Parents Living.	Not Stated.	Total Children.
	Both Parents Dead.	Father Dead.	Mother Dead.	Total.			
Male ..	924	9,216	4,941	15,081	237,437	3,780	256,298
Female ..	778	8,796	4,963	14,537	228,628	3,562	246,727
Total ..	1,702	18,012	9,904	29,618	466,065	7,342	503,025

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.

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, 1938, there were 107 municipalities maintaining 175 centres. Of these municipalities, 29 in the metropolitan area were supporting 71 centres, and 78 in the country were supporting 104 centres. During the year ended 30th June, 1938, the number of individual infants who were given attention at centres was 43,736 compared with 47,115 in 1937. Their attendances numbered 361,187 in 1938 and 491,047 in 1937 and the nurses made 89,821 and 70,943 visits in 1938 and 1937 respectively. The number of nurses actually employed in infant welfare centre work was 106, but, including infant welfare nurses in the Public Health Department and those attached to voluntary organizations and training schools, there were 135 in all.

The following statement gives particulars of infant welfare centres for the year 1917-18 (the first year in operation) and for the five years 1933-34 to 1937-38 :—

VICTORIA—INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

—	1917-18.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
Nurses in centres ..	1	94	95	100	104	106
Home visits ..	1,407	68,117	66,749	69,047	70,943	89,821
Total individual children	913	37,999	39,147	42,403	47,115	43,736
Total attendances ..	4,116	414,007	421,390	452,612	491,047	361,187

There are eight infant welfare and mothercraft training schools for nurses. Of these schools two train infant welfare and mothercraft nurses, two train 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 621 infant welfare nurses registered with the Nurses' Board in Victoria at 30th June, 1938, and 477 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, 1938, were 64,126.

Bush Nursing. There are bush nursing centres distributed throughout the State in the rural areas. At 30th June, 1938, the centres numbered 71, inclusive of 51 bush nursing hospitals, and the bush nurses numbered 105 on permanent staff and 10 on relieving staff, the majority of whom held infant welfare as well as general and midwifery certificates.

Details of receipts and expenditure of the bush nursing centres for the year ended 30th June, 1937, are shown below:—

VICTORIA—BUSH NURSING CENTRES, 1936-37.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Grants—		Salaries—	
Government	220	Nurses, paid to Central Council	15,419
Municipalities	364	Other	7,226
Central Council	698	Provisions, Fuel and Lighting	10,302
Donations	3,314	Surgery and Medicine	1,568
Proceeds from Entertainments	4,338	Repairs and Maintenance	1,691
Nursing Fees	26,486	Printing, Stationery	944
Members' Fees	10,772	Insurance, Rent, and Bank Charges	1,657
Interest and Rent	278	Other Maintenance Costs	2,544
Proceeds from Sale of Medicine	673	Loans and Interest Repayments	1,360
Loans—		Land and New Buildings	6,759
From Central Council	1,900	New Equipment	1,872
From other Sources	2,635		
Miscellaneous	439		
		Total Expenditure	51,342
Total Receipts	52,117	Bank Overdraft at 1st July, 1936	7,697
Cash in hand or in Bank at 1st July, 1936	7,163	Cash in hand or in Bank, 30th June, 1937	8,459
Bank Overdraft at 30th June, 1937	8,218		
	67,498		67,498

Loans outstanding at 30th June, 1937, amounted to £33,812.

NOTE.—The above statement excludes Central Council receipts (£6,650) and expenditure (£2,479).

MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS AND SOCIAL ORGANATIONS.

Lord Mayor's Fund and Hospital Sunday Fund. The Lord Mayor's Fund, which was incorporated by Act of Parliament on 24th December, 1930, was inaugurated on 4th April, 1923, for the purpose of assisting in the maintenance of the Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities. 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 £1,051,169 have been received, and the collections for the Hospital Sunday Fund have amounted to £163,554.

The total annual receipts of the two funds during the period 1923-24 to 1937-38 were as follows:—

Year.	Lord Mayor's Fund.	Hospital Sunday Fund.	Total.
	£	£	£
1923-24 to 1926-27	159,334	51,483	210,817
1927-28	60,015	13,277	73,292
1928-29	69,708	12,039	81,747
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

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 the injured. During the past year 2,793 students have been instructed in first aid and home nursing, of whom 1,815 received certificates. Since the formation of the Victorian Centre of the Association in 1883, 66,276 persons have been awarded certificates. The Association medallion has been awarded to 5,132 students.

Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. This service attended to 30,875 calls, of which 4,201 were connected with accidents, during the year ended 30th June, 1938; the mileage travelled was 194,450. In 18,301 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. From 2nd February, 1938, to 30th June, 1938, 12,832 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.

**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, 1938, was £7,396; private subscriptions amounted to £2,216, and all other receipts to £5,180. The total expenditure during the year was £7,214, of which £4,257 was expended on relief, and £2,957 on administration and on buildings. At the end of the year the amount of capital invested was £8,676, and of cash on hand £1,809.

**Royal
Humane
Society.**

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victoria Humane Society." Its objects are given in the *Year-Book* for

1929-30, pages 236-237.

**Royal Life
Saving
Society.**

With a desire to minimize the great loss of life from drowning, a society was established in Melbourne in 1904 entitled the "Royal Life Saving Society." A statement of the objects of the society appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30 on page 237.

During the year 1937-38 the number of awards granted by the Victorian Head Centre was 1,773, which included 95 Awards of Merit. The total income of the Centre for 1937-38 was £1,074, and the expenditure £1,033.

**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, 1938, 3,956 cases were dealt with, of which 1,175 were connected with cruelty to horses, and 1,649 to dogs. There were 36 prosecutions in cases of deliberate cruelty, in 32 of which the law was vindicated by the punishment of the offenders. The receipts for the year mounted to £2,251, and the expenditure to £1,968.

**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 film 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
Mining
Accident
Relief Fund.**

In December, 1882, an inrush of water in a mine at Creswick caused the deaths of 22 miners. Public subscriptions to the amount of £21,602 were raised throughout Victoria for the relief of the widows and orphan children of those who lost their lives. At the end of 1937, there remained on the Fund one widow receiving an allowance of 15s. per week. In addition to this allowance, grants amounting to £906 were made during the year 1937 to persons permanently disabled as the result of mining accidents, and to relatives of persons who were killed or injured by any such accident. The investments of the Fund on 31st December, 1937, amounted to £24,684.

**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, 1937, was £4,208. The details of the revenue are as follow:—Interest, £1,220; contributions by employees, £1,102; by the mine-owners, £646; by the Government, £535; and miscellaneous receipts, £705. The total expenditure in connexion with the Fund during 1937 was £4,165. The items of expenditure were—allowances to beneficiaries £3,828, and cost of administration £337. The investments of the Fund at 31st December, 1937, amounted to £32,490.

During the year 1937, there were 435 accidents at the mines, 13 of which were fatal. From the date of the establishment of the Fund on 2nd April, 1910, to 31st December, 1937, the number of accidents recorded was 10,737—77 fatal and 10,660 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, 1938, payments to widows and children amounted to £2,031, and the balance to the credit of the Fund at that date was £28,341.

Queen's Fund. This Fund was instituted in 1887 by Lady Loch to 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 relieved during 1937-38 was 95, to whom 1755 was allotted either by way of grant or loan, and the cost of management was £144. The accumulated fund on 30th June, 1938, was £19,567. In addition to the ordinary receipts of the Fund (£884) for the year 1937-38 an amount of £88 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.

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, 1936-37, and 1937-38, exclusive of interest on loans (other than for unemployment relief) raised for such purposes, amounted to £9,628,244, £9,207,361, and £10,353,642 respectively. The amount so expended on each service is shown in the following statement:—

Social Service.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
	£	£	£
Law, Order and Public Safety ..	1,122,352	1,230,925	1,290,171
Regulation of Trade and Industry ..	86,110	125,599	111,525
Education	2,758,781	3,068,436	3,229,925
Promotion of Public Health and Recreation	1,051,318	1,117,754	1,349,023
Social Amelioration (excluding Unemployment Relief)	300,780	342,601	834,697
Unemployment Relief	4,308,903	3,322,046	3,538,301
Total	9,628,244	9,207,361	10,353,642

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 *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains, on pages 591 to 597, information relating to the persons entitled to receive them. The commencing age for old-age pensions 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, 1928-29 to 1937-38. The number of old-age and invalid pensioners in Victoria on 30th June, 1938, was as follows:—Old-age pensioners—men, 25,428; women, 39,775; total, 65,203. Invalid pensioners—men, 7,994; women, 10,823; total, 18,817.

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, 1938, are shown in the following statement:—

VICTORIA—OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONERS, 1928-29 TO 1937-38.

Financial Year.	Number of Pensioners at end of Period.			Actual Amount Paid in Pensions.*
	Old-Age.	Invalid.	Total.	
1928-29	42,795	17,557	60,352	£ 3,004,907
1929-30	45,495	18,641	64,136	3,182,375
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

* Includes payment of pensions to eligible inmates of Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals. On 30th June, 1938, there were respectively 1,531 and 409, 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. Under the *Commonwealth Financial Emergency Act* 1931, assented to on 17th July, 1931, the allowance was reduced to £4 and became payable only if the income of the claimant and her husband for the twelve months preceding the date of the birth did not exceed £260. The *Commonwealth Financial Emergency Act* 1932, to which assent was given on 3rd October, 1932, placed a further restriction on claims for allowances by reducing the income limitation from £260 to £208 per annum. By the *Commonwealth Financial Relief Act* 1934, assented to on 1st August, 1934, the Maternity Allowance Act was amended—

- (a) to increase the income limit of £208 per annum with a maximum of £299 per annum by £13 per annum (5s. per week) in respect of each child under the age of fourteen years living at the date of birth of the child in respect of whom the claim is made; and
- (b) to increase the rate of Maternity Allowance by 5s. in respect of each child under fourteen years of age living at the date of birth of the child in respect of whom the claim is made with a maximum amount of allowance of £5.

The *Commonwealth Financial Relief Act* (No. 2) 1936, assented to on 21st September, 1936, further amended the Maternity Allowance Act by:—

- (a) increasing the income limit of £208 to £221 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 income of £312 per annum instead of £299 per annum;
- (b) increasing the rate of allowance to £4 10s., in cases where there is no previous surviving issue of the claimant under fourteen years of age, and to £5 in every case in which there is any such previous surviving issue.

The *Maternity Allowance Act* (No. 44) 1937, assented to on 13th December, 1937, further amended the Maternity Allowance Act by—

- (a) increasing the income limit of £221 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 instead of £312 per annum;

(b) increasing 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, 1938, was 793,465, and the total of the allowances paid in the State to that date was £3,874,027.

For the year ended 30th June, 1938, the number of claims granted was 20,160, and the amount paid in allowances was £101,721.

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 Great War. 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.

Activities of Department.

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.

Legislation and Alteration of Pension Rates.

The following is a brief history of war pension legislation. The *War Pensions Act* 1914 (No. 34 of 1914) was the first Commonwealth provision for payment of war pensions and came into operation on the 21st December, 1914. The maximum amount of pension payable under that Act to a private was £52 per annum. Higher rates operated for higher ranks. The *War Pensions Act* 1914-1915 (No. 28 of 1915) was assented to on 2nd September, 1915; the scale of pensions was not increased, but certain other dependants became eligible for pensions. The *War Pensions Act* 1914-1916 (No. 25 of 1916) consolidated the two former Acts and increased the maximum pension to a private to £3 per fortnight (£78 per annum) with higher rates for higher ranks. Scale rates of pension were definitely laid down in a new Schedule to the Act for specific disabilities, such as cases of amputation of limbs, &c.

The *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act* 1920 (No. 6 of 1920) repealed the former Pensions Acts, and operating from 1st July, 1920, provided a flat rate of £4 4s. per fortnight for the 100 per cent. pension for all ranks up to and including that of lieutenant. The rates for ranks higher than that of lieutenant were not increased. The main additional increases were—

- (a) a pension up to £4 4s. per fortnight to widows with dependent children, or without dependent children if circumstances warrant the increased amount. The invariable practice is to grant the full £4 4s. per fortnight to widows with dependent children ;
- (b) a Special Rate pension of £8 per fortnight to blinded and to totally and permanently incapacitated soldiers ; and
- (c) a Special Rate pension, not exceeding £8 per fortnight to tubercular soldiers, subject to certain conditions.

An amending Act was assented to on 17th December, 1921, providing for the payment of pension to the full degree of a man's disability in cases where a pre-war disability has been aggravated "to any material degree" by war service. Under previous legislation a pension was payable only with respect to the degree of disability actually caused by war service.

The *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Amending Act*, (No. 23 of 1922), assented to on the 18th October, 1922, made provision for certain "amounts" and "allowances" to limbless soldiers (in addition to existing rates of war pensions) ranging from 7s. to 76s. per fortnight. In certain double amputation cases, an allowance for an attendant was provided at 40s. or 80s. per fortnight, according to the nature of the case. An attendant's allowance was also payable to "spinal cases" at £2 per fortnight. A Special Rate pension of £8 per fortnight was provided to those soldiers who, although not totally blind, had no useful vision.

During 1925, the Government decided that a permanent pension of not less than £2 2s. per week should be paid to all "Members" proved to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis on or subsequent to 1st July, 1925, as the result of war service, or as the result of a pre-existing condition having been materially aggravated by war service. On 30th September, 1925, a Regulation was gazetted, operative from 1st July, 1925, providing for the grant of an allowance (in addition to pension) not exceeding seven shillings and sixpence per week to a soldier who is in receipt of pension under the Fourth Schedule to the Act with respect to loss of vision in one eye. Both these provisions were made statutory by incorporation in the Amending Act of 1934.

The general reduction of expenditure provided by the *Financial Emergency Act 1931* applied also to War Pensions. No reductions, however, were made in the rate of pension payment to incapacitated soldiers. The widow and children of a soldier whose death was due to war service and the widowed mother (who became widows either prior to, or within three years after, the death of the sons) of any deceased unmarried member of the Forces, were also exempted from reductions, the necessary economies being effected in payments to other classes of war pensioners.

The maximum rate of pension payable on behalf of the child of an incapacitated soldier was reduced to 12s. per fortnight and a wife married or a child born to an incapacitated member of the Forces subsequent to 1st October, 1931, was excluded from pension benefits.

Considerable modifications of the reductions were included in the Financial Relief Acts of 1933, 1934, and 1936, and some classes of pensions were fully restored.

During 1934 the Second Schedule to the Act was amended to include Attendant's allowances payable to blinded soldiers and for the eligibility of such allowances in consequence of injury or disease affecting the cerebro-spinal system or disease causing incapacity similar in effect thereto.

A further amendment provided that a wife married, or a child born, to a member of the Forces after 1st October, 1931, shall be deemed to be dependants and eligible for pension benefits if the member has died or dies from the results of war service. Certain anomalies concerning the continuance or regranting of pension were removed.

In December, 1935, the Principal Act was again amended. The main amendments were in relation to (a) reinstatement of pensions previously commuted; (b) grant of pensions to dependants of deceased members of the Forces (whatever the actual cause of death) in cases where, at the date of the member's death, he was in receipt of a pension under the Second Schedule to the Act or in receipt of pension as a double amputee; (c) removal of the time limit on lodgment of claims under section 23 (2) of the Act, and (d) provision of relief by way of Service Pensions to aged members of the Forces, for those members (and their families) who are unable, through mental or physical defects, to engage in remunerative employment, and for those members (and their families) who are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The Financial Emergency Act provision which precluded the grant of a war pension to any wife married or child born to a member of the Forces after 1st October, 1931, has been lifted. A wife married or a child born to any incapacitated member of the Forces since 1st October, 1931, may now be granted war pension provided such marriage or birth occurred before 30th June, 1938. This amendment operates as from 1st January, 1938.

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 1937-38 show in some degree the type and extent of current activity in the State of Victoria :—

War Pensions—Number in force at 30th June, 1938—

Members of the Forces	25,721
Dependants of deceased members of the Forces ..	8,655
Dependants of incapacitated members of the Forces	50,638
Expenditure for year (paid in pensions) ..	£2,334,448

Service Pensions—Number in force at 30th June, 1938—

Members of the Forces	1,542
Dependants of deceased member pensioners ..	148
Dependants of member pensioners	979
Expenditure for year (paid in service pensions)..	£84,365

Medical Treatment—

Number of In-patients at 30th June, 1938, in Repatriation Institutions—

General Hospitals	259
Sanatoria	53
Anzac Hostels	15
Mental Hospitals	188

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

Attendances of Out-patients during 1937-38 (excluding treatments by Local Medical Officers, of whom there are 174 in rural areas) 55,937

Expenditure on treatment, &c.—

Maintenance of Repatriation Institutions ..	£89,003
Maintenance of Patients in other than Repatriation Institutions (including Country Hospitals) ..	£18,167
Sustenance during medical treatment	£16,322
Conducting Commonwealth Artificial Limb Factory	£11,613
Other expenditure, including fees to consultants, &c.	£43,272

Soldiers' Children Education Scheme—

Number of children at school and in training ..	1,640
Expenditure for year 1937-38	£36,181

NATIONAL INSURANCE.

The National Health and Pensions Insurance Act 1938 (No. 25 of 1938), which, together with the consequential Acts (Nos. 26 and 27 of 1938) imposing liability on employers and employees respectively to make contributions in respect of National Health and Pensions Insurance, has been passed by the Commonwealth Parliament, was

assented to on 5th July, 1938. By proclamation dated 6th July, 1938, that day was fixed as the date upon which Part I. and Part II. of the Act should commence. The 16th December, 1938, was fixed by Proclamation of the 15th December, 1938, as the date on which Division 1 of Part VII. and section 192 should commence, and the 4th September, 1939 (by proclamation of 5th January, 1939) as the commencing date of the remaining several Parts, sections and Schedules. The 4th September, 1939, has also been fixed by proclamation of 5th January, 1939, as the commencing date of Acts 26 and 27 (contributions of employers and employees respectively).

The Act is based on the report of Sir Walter Kinnear, formerly Controller of Health Insurance in Great Britain. The National Insurance Commission has been appointed for its administration, the establishment of "Approved Societies" is proceeding, and a Royal Commission has been set up to advise on the remuneration of medical practitioners who will provide medical treatment for insured persons.

OBJECTS AND SCOPE OF NATIONAL INSURANCE.

The object of the Act is to establish for the great majority of the employed population of Australia a scheme of social insurance which shall provide guaranteed benefits, free of any tests as to means or nationality, in respect of periods of sickness or disablement, together with old-age pensions for insured persons and pensions and allowances for their widows and orphans.

The scheme is on a compulsory and contributory basis and applies to all persons over fourteen years of age employed under a contract of service in the Commonwealth, except—

- (a) persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration in excess of £365 per annum ;
- (b) certain other classes for whom the scheme is unnecessary or unsuitable.

Insured persons, other than married women, who have been in full compulsory insurance for at least two years and who later pass out of its range will be entitled, if they so desire, to continue in insurance as voluntary contributors, at the ordinary rate of contribution, but paying the whole contribution themselves. Provision is made for the voluntary insurance, for pensions only, of women who, after a period of compulsory insurance, cease after marriage to be insured persons.

It is estimated that, at the inception of the scheme, about 1,850,000 persons will be brought into compulsory insurance and that its benefits will affect not less than 3,600,000 men, women, and children throughout Australia—more than half the population.

BENEFITS.

The following benefits are provided :—

HEALTH BENEFITS.

(a) *Medical Treatment*.—Consisting of free medical attendance and treatment, including medicines and certain medical and surgical appliances.

(b) *Sickness Benefit*.—Man, 20s. a week ; woman, 15s. a week, and, in addition, an allowance of 3s. 6d. a week for each dependent child under fifteen years of age.

(c) *Disablement Benefit*.—Man, 15s. a week ; woman, 12s. 6d. a week, and, in addition, an allowance of 3s. 6d. a week for each dependent child under fifteen years of age.

Disablement benefit is, like sickness benefit, a payment during incapacity from sickness and comes into force when the right to sickness benefit has been exhausted.

The rates of sickness benefit and disablement benefit are reduced for unmarried minors.

Additional Benefits.

After the first valuation, about five years from the beginning of the scheme, societies with surplus funds will be able to provide for their members some additional benefits.

Sickness and Disablement Benefits.

Sickness and disablement benefits are to be payable up to the ages at which old-age pensions begin to be payable (age, 60 for women, and 65 for men).

PENSION BENEFITS.

Old-age Pension.

For life of insured person—Man, 20s. a week from age 65, woman, 15s. a week from age 60, with, in each case, an additional allowance of 3s. 6d. a week for each dependent child under fifteen years of age.

Old-age insurance pensioners will also be entitled to free medical attendance and treatment, including medicines, for the remainder of their lives.

Widow's Pension.

15s. a week for life (or until re-marriage) to the widow of an insured man and, in addition, an allowance of 3s. 6d. a week for each dependent child under fifteen years of age.

(The pension will be restricted to 12s. 6d. a week until 1944).

Orphan's Pension.

7s. 6d. a week for each orphan child under fifteen years of age of an insured person (including insured widows).

Wives who, having been previously insured, elect to become Special Voluntary Contributors, are to be entitled to draw the old-age pension in addition to any widow's pension, with children's allowances, to which they may be, or become, entitled.

Juvenile Contributors' Sickness Benefit. Juvenile contributors (i.e., persons in insurable employment under sixteen years of age) will be entitled to medical benefit only. Their weekly contribution will be 8d. (4d. to be paid by the employer and 4d. by the employee) and part of that contribution will be used to enable them to participate in sickness benefit, and in any additional benefits given by their approved society, at a date somewhat earlier than if they had entered insurance at the age of sixteen.

Supplementary Allowances. In all cases where the "insurance" benefit is less than the non-contributory invalid or old-age pension to which the insured person or pensioner would otherwise be entitled, the difference will be paid to that person by the Commonwealth.

War Pensioners. Section 98 of the Act deals with War Pensioners under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Acts, preserving the principle hitherto recognized that War Pensions should be regarded as benefits earned by war service. The section therefore, permits the payment of benefits under the Act in addition to War Pension, but also permits a war pensioner, who is already covered against the risks for which the Bill proposes to provide, to secure exemption from contribution to National Insurance. The service pensioner is treated on the same lines as the pensioner under the non-contributory scheme but, if an insured person, he will be entitled to cash benefits and medical benefit under the Act, and provision is made for preserving his insurance until he reaches age 65 and becomes entitled to an insurance pension, without means test.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS.

The weekly rates of contributions to be paid under the scheme by employed persons are initially 3s. for men, and 2s. for women, of which, in each case, the employee will pay half, as below:—

				<i>s. d.</i>	
<i>Men.</i>					
To be paid by employer	..	..	..	..	1 6
To be paid by employee	..	..	..	..	1 6
				<hr/>	
				<i>s. d.</i>	
Health Insurance ..	..	..	..	1 3	} 3 0
Pensions Insurance	..	..	..	1 9	
<i>Women.</i>					
To be paid by employer	..	..	..	..	1 0
To be paid by employee	..	..	..	..	1 0
				<hr/>	
				<i>s. d.</i>	
Health Insurance ..	..	..	..	1 2	} 2 0
Pensions Insurance	..	..	..	0 10	

Increase of Contributions.

To assist in meeting the gradually increasing cost of the Pensions Scheme, the men's and women's contributions will be increased by 6d. a week from 3rd January, 1944; from 3rd January, 1949, the men's contributions only will be increased by another 6d. a week. One-half of the contribution will continue to be paid by the employer.

Exempt Employees.

Certain "exempt employees," whose employment by a Government authority already secures to them certain of the benefits of the Act, will be admitted to partial insurance only and their weekly contributions will be reduced to correspond to the reduced cover provided.

Special Voluntary Contributors.

The weekly contribution of a married woman who, on ceasing insurable employment, becomes a Special Voluntary Contributor for pension, will be a fixed rate of 1s., of which the whole will be paid by the contributor.

Additional Contributions by Insured Women.

Any insured woman may at any time not later than—
(a) the expiration of one year from the date on which she first became employed, or (b) her attainment of the age of 21 years, whichever last happens, elect to pay, from the prescribed date, an additional contribution of sixpence a week. (Section 39). Such additional contribution carries with it an addition of five shillings per week to the old-age pension payable under the Act (Section 76).

Voluntary Contributors.

The weekly contribution payable by the ordinary voluntary contributor will be at the normal employed rate, (3s. for men and 2s. for women) *but the whole contribution will be paid by the contributor*. If such a voluntary contributor has an income of more than £365 a year, he will not be entitled to medical benefit and his weekly contribution will be reduced.

Affixing Stamps to Insurance Cards.

The contributions will be collected by means of a single stamp, for both health and pensions insurance, to be affixed weekly by the employer to the employee's insurance card in respect of each week in which there is employment. The employer is entitled to recover the employee's contribution by means of a deduction from his wages.

Citizen Forces Trainees.

It is provided that the total weekly contribution (employer and employee) shall be paid by the Commonwealth in respect of insured persons who are undergoing training in camps in the Citizen Forces of the Commonwealth.

COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS.

In order to prevent—

- (a) young persons from having to contribute towards the cost of the heavier liabilities of the older persons, and
- (b) the older persons from having to pay a contribution which would in many cases be prohibitive—

the total weekly contributions provided for in the Act are only the equivalent in value (as actuarially ascertained) of the benefits granted to persons entering into insurance at the age of sixteen.

The effect of this is that, taking into account, on the debit side, the additional liabilities accepted in respect of persons entering the scheme at ages over sixteen and, on the credit side, the contributions only (together with interest obtained by the investment of contributions before the liabilities have fully developed) the scheme starts with an initial deficit both on the health and on the pensions side. These deficits will be met by grants from the Commonwealth, but by different machinery.

On the health side, in order that the initial deficit, the capitalized value of which is £17,500,000, may not fall on the approved societies, by whom the cost of health benefits is provided, the Commonwealth contribution takes the form firstly of guaranteeing the additional liabilities, and secondly of an annual grant of approximately £900,000, which will gradually replace that guarantee by cash.

On the pensions side, the essential object is to build up a fund, before the full liabilities develop, the interest on which, together with annual grants from the Commonwealth, will meet the increasing charges on the pensions scheme which will arise, not only from the admission of persons over sixteen years of age, but from the increasing proportion of elderly persons in the population of the Commonwealth. The capitalized value of the initial deficit on the pensions scheme will be no less than £264,000,000. The Commonwealth grants will begin at £1,000,000 per annum and, after five years, will rise by stages to £10,000,000 per annum in 1961, when the grants should be stabilized.

ADMINISTRATION.

Approved Societies.

The Health Insurance Scheme, apart from medical benefit, will be administered through societies approved by the National Insurance Commission. These will be autonomous bodies, but their constitution and rules will be subject to the approval of the Commission.

Insured persons will be free to join the society of their choice.

The accounts of approved societies will be audited annually by auditors appointed by the Commission and, at intervals of five years, their assets and liabilities (of which the former will include the Commonwealth guarantee of their additional liabilities in respect of persons admitted at ages over sixteen) will be valued by an actuary appointed by the Commission. If any society shows a disposable surplus on this valuation, one-half of that surplus will be pooled with the similar surpluses from other societies in a like position, and the pool will be distributed among all societies in proportion to their membership. Those societies that, after sharing in this distribution of the pool, have a disposable surplus, will be required to provide for their members additional benefits selected from the list of Additional Benefits set out in the Fourth Schedule to the Act.

Medical Benefit. Medical benefit will be administered by the Commission, with the co-operation of the Medical Benefit Council and District Medical Benefit Committees.

Medical Practitioners and Chemists. All qualified medical practitioners and all registered pharmaceutical chemists in Australia will be at liberty to participate in the scheme, and insured persons will be free to select the medical practitioner and chemist of their choice.

Administration of Pensions. Pensions will be administered by the Commission, and the payments to pensioners will be made, at fortnightly intervals, at the post offices selected by them. The Act does not make any change in the existing rates of benefit under the Invalid and Old-age Pensions Acts or in the conditions attaching to payment of non-contributory pensions.

Proposed Alterations. The Commonwealth Government has announced its intention to introduce legislation which will make the scheme less costly for employees and contributors. It has been suggested that pensions (including widows' pensions) should be eliminated. Definite particulars of the proposed amendments had not been announced on the 16th March, 1939.

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.

Relevant sections of the Cemeteries Acts are 64 and 65 as follow :—

Section 64—"All cremations effected within any cemetery shall be registered in a register book in the prescribed form to be provided and kept by the Trustees of the cemetery and such register book shall be indexed so as to facilitate searches for entries therein."

Section 65—"The person who has the charge or conduct of a cremation shall forthwith cause to be transmitted either to the Government Statist or the Registrar of Births and Deaths of the district wherein such cremation took place a certificate signed

by him stating the name of the person whose body was cremated and the date and place of cremation..... Every person who omits to cause such a certificate to be transmitted..... shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a penalty of not more than £5."

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. It was not until 1926, however, that the managers, owing to lack of funds, were in a position to consider the erection of a suitable building. Designs 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.

With the rapid growth in Melbourne of the practice of cremation, 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 Cremations 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