

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION.

§ 1. Evolution of Educational Systems in Australia.

1. Educational Systems of the States.—(i) *Place of New South Wales in Australian Education.* The first settlement in Australia being in New South Wales, it is but natural that Australian Education should have had its beginning in that State. In the evolution of educational method and system in Australia, New South Wales also has played a leading part, and has had practically a dominating influence. The subject is dealt with in some detail in No. I. and No. II. issues of the Commonwealth Official Year Book, but it is not proposed to repeat it in the present volume. (See also 2 hereunder.)

(ii) *Educational Systems of other Commonwealth States.* A more or less detailed account of the origin and development of the educational systems of the other States also appears in No. I. and No. II. issues of the Year Book. Later details are given hereunder.

(iii) *Medical Inspection of State School Children.* See Chapter XII., Public Hygiene.

2. Recent Development in State Educational Systems.—Preceding issues of the Official Year Book contained an outline of recent developments of the educational systems of the various States (see No. 22, pp. 426–29), but it has been decided to omit this information from the present volume.

As pointed out in previous issues, the educational system of New South Wales may now be considered as a more or less homogeneous entity, the various stages succeeding one another by logical gradation from kindergarten to university. In the other States development is proceeding on somewhat similar lines, activity in this respect being greatly helped by interstate conferences of directors of education and of inspectors and teachers. The seventh biennial conference of Directors of Education was held at Adelaide in May, 1928, and was attended by representatives of all the Australian States.

§ 2. State Schools.

1. *General.*—The State Schools, or, as they are sometimes termed, the “public” schools, of Australia comprise all schools directly under State control, in contradistinction to the so-called “private” schools, the bulk of which, though privately managed, nevertheless cater for all classes of the community. Separate information regarding Technical Education is given in § 6, but the junior technical schools are included hereunder.

2. *Returns for Year 1928.*—(i) *General.* The following table shows the number of State Schools, together with the teachers employed and the enrolment and “average attendance” in each State during the year 1928:—

STATE SCHOOLS.—RETURNS, 1928.

State or Territory.	Schools.(a)	Teachers.(b)	Scholars Enrolled.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance on Enrolment.
New South Wales (c) ..	3,313	11,772	344,171	294,553	85·6
Victoria ..	2,734	9,079	255,763	203,740	79·6
Queensland ..	1,739	4,239	143,043	112,588	78·7
South Australia ..	1,027	3,356	87,785	75,434	85·9
Western Australia ..	852	2,026	56,994	50,938	89·4
Tasmania ..	499	1,353	31,977	27,000	84·4
Northern Territory ..	5	13	327	243	74·3
Australia ..	10,169	31,838	920,060	764,496	83·1

(a) Schools open during year. (b) Exclusive of sewing mistresses. (c) Including Federal Capital Territory.

(ii) *Schools in the Federal Capital Area.* During the year 1928 fifteen State Schools were in operation in the Federal Capital Territory (Yass-Canberra). The pupils enrolled numbered 1,349 and the average attendance 882. Cost of upkeep amounted to £13,249. By arrangement with the Federal Government these schools are conducted by the New South Wales Education Department on the same lines as the ordinary State Schools, the Department being recouped for expenditure. Ample provision has been made for both primary and secondary education, and this will be increased to meet requirements. The question of the establishment of a University at Canberra is under consideration, and in the meantime a University College has been established. By virtue of a regulation of the University of Melbourne, the College is empowered to provide approved lectures in all subjects of the Arts, Science, Commerce, and Law courses of that University. At present about 30 students are attending lectures.

3. *Growth of Enrolment and Attendance.*—The enrolment and average attendance at the State Schools in Australia are given below for the years 1891, 1901, 1911, and for each year of the period 1924 to 1928:—

STATE SCHOOLS.—ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE.—AUSTRALIA, 1891 TO 1928.

Year.	Total Population. (a)	Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Year.	Total Population. (a)	Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
1891 ..	3,421	561,153	350,773	1925 ..	5,992	872,473	720,976
1901 ..	3,825	638,478	450,246	1926 ..	6,111	883,925	730,571
1911 ..	4,573	638,850	463,799	1927 ..	6,235	901,326	748,712
1924 ..	5,874	861,256	705,990	1928 ..	6,337	920,060	764,496

(a) At 31st December, in thousands.

During the last five years the average attendance increased by 8 per cent., the figures ranging from about 10 per cent. and 9 in New South Wales and South Australia respectively to about 4 per cent. in Tasmania.

4. *Distribution of Educational Facilities.*—(i) *In Sparsely-settled Districts.* The methods adopted in the various States to carry the benefits of education into the remotest and most sparsely-settled areas are set out in some detail in previous issues of the *Official Year Book* (see No. 22, pp. 430-31), but this information cannot be repeated in the present volume.

(ii) *Centralization of Schools.* The question of centralization of schools adopted so successfully in America and Canada has received some attention in Australia, and particularly in New South Wales. It is recognized that a single adequately staffed and well-equipped central institution can give more efficient teaching than a congeries of small scattered schools in the hands of less highly trained teachers, and the small schools in some districts were therefore closed and the children conveyed to the central institution. The principle was first adopted in New South Wales in 1904, and in 1928 a sum of £56,884 was expended in boarding allowance and conveyance to central schools. Cost of conveyance to State Schools in Victoria during 1928 was returned as £10,350. In South Australia the sum of £8,549 was disbursed in connexion with travelling expenses of school children in 1928, while £12,130 was spent in Western Australia, and about £3,900 in Tasmania. (It may be pointed out, however, that the parents are often reluctant to part with the small schools which form, as it were, "heart centres" in their little community, while the kindly help of the teachers is a great asset in the social and intellectual life of the districts served by the schools.)

(iii) *Education of Retarded and Defective Children.*—This subject was alluded to at some length in preceding issues of the *Official Year Book* (see No. 22, pp. 431-2), but the information cannot be repeated in this issue.

(iv) *Evening Schools.* Evening Public Schools have been in existence for many years in some of the States, but their progress has been uncertain. In New South Wales the 54 Evening Continuation Schools had an effective enrolment in 1928 of 4,758, and

an average attendance of 3,639. The schools for boys are classed as commercial, commercial preparatory, junior technical, and junior technical preparatory, and for girls as domestic and domestic preparatory. Attendances at the schools for boys numbered 3,080, and at those for girls 559. The comparatively high proportion of attendance to enrolment shows that the institutions are attractive. In Victoria there were 11 evening continuation classes in operation during 1928, the average attendance being 52. Although the Education Act of 1910 gives authority for the establishment of evening continuation classes at which the attendance of boys up to the age of seventeen years and living within a radius of 2 miles may be made compulsory for six hours a week, considerations of expense have prevented the free exercise of this power. Evening Continuation Schools have been established under regulation in South Australia, and are intended principally to help the working boy to improve his general education. In Western Australia evening continuation classes were held at 22 centres in 1928, with an average enrolment of 2,603 pupils.

(v) *Higher State Schools.*—In all the States higher schools have been established which provide advanced courses of instruction for pupils who have completed the primary grades. Reference to the development of these schools will be found in preceding Official Year Books (see No. 22, pp. 433-4), but considerations of space preclude the repetition of this information herein.

(vi) *Agricultural Training in State Schools.*—Extended reference to the methods adopted in the teaching of agriculture in State Schools will be found in preceding Official Year Books (see No. 22, pp. 434-7), but considerations of space preclude the repetition of this matter herein.

5. *Teachers.*—The distribution of the teaching staff in the State Schools during the year 1928, including teachers of needlework, was as follows:—

STATE SCHOOLS.—TEACHING STAFF, 1928.

State.	Principal Teachers.		Assistants.		Pupil or Junior Teachers.		Sewing Mistresses.	Total.		
	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.		Males.	Fem.	Total.
New South Wales	2,472	1,079	2,522	5,699	..	..	230	4,994	7,008	12,002
Victoria ..	1,900	992	1,115	3,226	514	1,332	372	3,529	5,922	9,451
Queensland ..	1,064	641	706	1,515	137	176	..	1,907	2,332	4,239
South Australia ..	627	448	692	1,408	62	119	219	1,381	2,194	3,575
Western Australia ..	445	365	254	783	22	157	141	721	1,446	2,167
Tasmania ..	218	351	103	442	46	193	3	367	989	1,356
Northern Territory	3	3	2	4	..	1	..	5	8	13
Total ..	6,729	3,879	5,394	13,077	781	1,978	965	12,904	19,899	32,803

The figures for principal teachers include mistresses of departments, while students in training colleges have been grouped with assistants. Some of the teachers in sole charge of small schools have had very little training, but future permanent appointments will be confined as far as possible to those who have gone through a regular course of instruction.

It will be observed that there is a fairly large number of junior teachers, or pupil teachers, as they are called in some of the States. Although expert pedagogical opinion throughout the world is against the pupil-teacher system, motives of practical expediency compel its retention, or some modification thereof, in most countries. Allusion to the methods of training will be found in the next sub-section.

In New South Wales and in some of the other States attention has recently been drawn to the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of teachers, particularly male teachers for small schools in out-back districts. Difficulty is also experienced in some of the States in securing suitable living accommodation for teachers of these small schools.

6. *Training Colleges.*—The development of the training systems of the various States has been alluded to at some length in earlier issues of the Year Book (see No. 22, pp. 437-9), but considerations of space will not permit of its retention herein.

7. Expenditure.—(i) *Maintenance—All Schools.* The net expenditure on maintenance in all grades of schools, excepting technical schools, and the cost per head of average attendance for the five years ended 1928 are shown below. The figures do not include expenditure on buildings, which is given separately in a subsequent table.

STATE SCHOOLS.—EXPENDITURE ON MAINTENANCE, 1924 TO 1928.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Nor. Ter.	Total.
TOTAL.								
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1924	3,296,669	1,859,809	1,264,005	538,744	543,395	240,787	4,015	7,747,424
1925	3,520,903	1,963,214	1,364,844	597,960	548,426	246,429	4,326	8,246,102
1926	3,626,447	2,132,519	1,406,853	710,499	556,748	251,307	4,443	8,688,816
1927	3,697,618	2,340,581	1,438,969	743,274	605,704	257,653	4,406	9,088,205
1928	3,937,082	2,464,714	1,471,322	778,715	624,271	266,281	5,153	9,547,538

PER HEAD OF AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1924	12 5 6	9 16 10	11 16 7	7 16 8	11 5 0	8 19 0	19 6 1	10 19 6
1925	12 18 3	10 1 3	12 9 0	8 12 4	11 3 5	8 19 0	20 10 0	11 8 9
1926	13 3 3	10 16 6	12 12 10	9 17 10	11 4 6	9 0 3	18 19 9	11 17 10
1927	12 17 8	11 14 6	12 14 6	10 3 2	12 1 5	9 4 11	18 10 2	12 2 0
1928	13 7 4	12 1 11	12 13 7	10 6 6	12 5 1	9 17 3	21 4 1	12 9 9

The combined growth in cost of maintenance during the last five years has been brought about by the higher salaries and allowances paid to teachers, and the increased expenditure in connexion with the supply of materials and equipment. Practically the whole of the increase in Western Australia for the year 1927 was due to the reclassification and new salary scales for teachers.

(ii) *Maintenance—Secondary Schools.* The figures given in the preceding table refer to expenditure on maintenance of all State primary and secondary schools, exclusive of technical colleges. It has been thought desirable by the State Education Departments to give separate information in regard to the cost of secondary education. Any satisfactory estimate of this nature is, however, rendered difficult by the circumstance that there is no exactly comparable definition of the term "secondary" as applied in the various States, while difficulties arise in connexion with the correct apportionment amongst the various branches of expenses of administration, inspection, and the training of teachers. A further complication is caused by the fact that both elementary and higher education are in some instances given in the same school and by the same teacher. The figures quoted in regard to cost hereunder have been extracted from the Reports of the State Education Departments, and are subject to the qualifications above enumerated.

STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.—EXPENDITURE ON MAINTENANCE, 1928.

State.	Cost.	Cost Per Head of Population.
	£	s. d.
New South Wales	493,124	4 1
Victoria	300,859	3 5
Queensland	130,622	2 11
South Australia	93,761	3 3
Western Australia	121,130	6 1
Tasmania	19,419	1 10

The figures in all cases are exclusive of cost of buildings. For Queensland, the figure quoted does not include the cost of the Agricultural High School and College, which amounted in 1928 to £28,517.

(iii) *Buildings.* Expenditure on school buildings in each of the years quoted was as follows:—

STATE SCHOOLS.—EXPENDITURE ON BUILDINGS, 1924 TO 1928.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Nor. Ter.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1924	766,019	531,571	157,683	107,466	71,634	20,643	184	1,655,200
1925	621,109	459,303	126,392	138,132	63,373	43,248	823	1,452,380
1926	638,387	508,121	138,784	231,207	57,337	34,716	132	1,608,684
1927	668,413	578,691	98,905	156,520	53,506	21,751	..	1,577,786
1928	1,004,241	398,939	143,995	102,477	68,957	44,150	..	1,762,759

The large increases in expenditure shown in most instances during the last four years were due to the efforts made to overtake arrears in necessary buildings and repairs.

(iv) *Total.* The net total cost during the year 1928 was as follows:—

STATE SCHOOLS.—NET TOTAL COST,* 1928.

Item.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Nor. Ter.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net cost of education, including buildings	4,941,323	2,863,653	1,615,317	881,192	693,228	310,431	5,153	11,310,297

The figures in this and the preceding tables refer to all grades of State schools (with the exception of technical schools), and include evening schools. Including buildings, the net cost per scholar in average attendance for the whole of the State schools in Australia amounted in 1928 to £14 15s. 11d., as compared with £4 9s. 3d. in 1901.

8. *School Savings Banks.*—In New South Wales the control of these institutions was taken over in 1924 by the Government Savings Bank, which allows interest on the children's deposits. At the 30th June, 1929, there were 1,367 school banks, with 114,533 depositors having at credit £169,380. In Victoria banks were in operation at 2,227 schools at the 30th June, 1929. On the same date the number of depositors amounted to 153,178 and balances at credit to £262,941. In South Australia, there were 56,426 depositors, with £85,446 to their credit; and in Western Australia, there were 700 school banks, with 52,226 depositors and £91,101 to their credit.

§ 3. Private Schools.*

1. *Returns for 1928.*—The following table shows the number of private schools, together with the teachers engaged therein, and the enrolment and average attendance in 1928:—

PRIVATE SCHOOLS, 1928.

State.	Schools.	Teachers.	Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
New South Wales	721	4,582	104,227	73,109
Victoria	500	2,325	65,245	(a) 55,500
Queensland	197	1,209	32,202	26,403
South Australia	177	891	17,298	13,635
Western Australia	118	521	12,051	10,802
Tasmania	65	259	6,566	4,920
Northern Territory	1	5	124	95
Total	1,779	9,792	237,713	184,464

(a) Estimated.

The totals for New South Wales include returns from the Sydney Grammar School, which receives a yearly State subsidy of £1,500, and which, in 1928, had an enrolment of 642, and an average attendance of 566.

* Private schools include all schools not wholly under State control. The term "private," though popularly applied, is, of course, a misnomer.

The figures for Queensland include the returns from Grammar Schools, of which there are ten—six for boys and four for girls, with an enrolment of 1,446 boys and 870 girls. These schools are governed by boards of trustees, partly nominated by Government, and partly by the subscribers to the funds. The trustees make regulations regarding the fees of scholars, the salaries of teachers, and generally for the management of the schools. The total Government aid received in 1928 amounted to £18,000. In addition, a sum of £16,205 was received for Government scholarships and bursars' fees. The Grammar Schools are inspected annually by officers of the Department of Public Instruction.

2. **Growth of Private Schools.**—The enrolment and average attendance at private schools during 1891, 1901, 1911, and in each year of the period 1924 to 1928 are as follows:—

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.—ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1891 TO 1928.

Year.	Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Year.	Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
1891	124,485	99,588	1925	228,564	175,283
1901	148,659	120,742	1926	233,566	178,985
1911	160,794	132,588	1927	235,074	181,396
1924	229,543	175,614	1928	237,713	184,464

The increase in average attendance during the last five years amounted to about 5 per cent.

3. **Registration of Private Schools.**—Conditions in regard to the registration of private schools were alluded to in previous Year Books (*vide* No. 18, p. 451), but consideration of space precludes the repetition of this information in the present issue.

§ 4. Free Kindergartens.

The following information regarding Free Kindergartens has been compiled from particulars supplied by the principals of the chief institutions or the organizing secretary in each State, except in the case of Western Australia, the details for which were furnished by the Education Department.

FREE KINDERGARTENS, 1928.

State.	No. of Schools.	Average Attendance.	Permanent Instructors.	Student Teachers.	Voluntary Assistants.
New South Wales (Sydney)	16	860	32	40	70
Victoria (Melbourne) ..	28	1,534	63	36	300
(Ballarat)	1	37	2	..	13
Queensland (Brisbane) ..	6	(a) 350	8	17	10
South Australia (Adelaide)	8	360	8	18	6
Western Australia (Perth)	7	242	12	15	..
Tasmania (Hobart)	4	123	6	3	2
(Launceston)	2	95	4	..	8
Total	72	3,601	135	129	409

(a) Estimate.

In New South Wales there were 85 students at the Kindergarten Training College. At the Melbourne College, 36 students were in training. The Brisbane Training College had 17 students in training, the Training College at Adelaide 27, and at Perth 15. Four students were in training at Hobart.

The information given above refers to institutions under private kindergarten unions or associations, and is exclusive of the kindergarten branches in the Government schools of the various States.

§ 5. Universities.

1. **Origin and Development.**—A brief account of the origin and development of the Universities in the various States is given in preceding issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, pp. 442-3), but this information cannot be repeated herein.

2. **Teachers and Students.**—The following table shows the number of professors and lecturers, and the students in attendance at each of the State Universities during the year 1928:—

UNIVERSITIES.—TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, 1928.

University.	Professors.	Lecturers and Demonstrators.	Students attending Lectures.		
			Matriculated.	Non-matriculated.	Total.
Sydney	49	154	..	..	2,382
Melbourne	28	146	..	..	(a) 2,534
Queensland (Brisbane)	30	48	480	108	588
Adelaide	19	110	892	870	(b) 1,762
Western Australia (Perth)	13	32	446	71	517
Tasmania (Hobart)	10	19	159	46	205

(a) Exclusive of 252 music students. (b) Exclusive of 536 music students and 886 not studying for a degree.

Students at the Conservatorium of Music have been excluded in the case of Melbourne and Adelaide. The Conservatorium in Sydney, while attached to the Education Department, is not under the control of the University.

3. **University Revenue.**—The income of the Universities from all sources during the year 1928 was as shown in the table below. The figures in the column "private foundations" refer to income from investments, the cash value of benefactions received during the year being shown separately in the appended notes.

UNIVERSITIES.—REVENUE, 1928.

University.	Government Grants.		Fees.	Private Foundations.	Other.	Total.
	Ordinary.	Special.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	32,000	(a)55,170	44,335	(b)347,399	32,330	511,234
Melbourne	65,599	893	81,531	(d)58,304	17,078	223,405
Queensland (Brisbane)	26,607	..	11,670	(e)27,514	2,762	68,553
Adelaide	24,000	(c)32,551	28,500	(d)19,390	6,106	110,547
Western Australia (Perth)	32,750	1,879	2,375	(f)34,787	8,171	79,962
Tasmania (Hobart)	14,341	..	2,844	1,579	286	19,050
Total	195,297	90,493	171,255	488,973	66,733	1,012,751

(a) Includes £52,670 yearly appropriation and special grant of £2,500 from Commonwealth and States Governments. (b) Includes new foundations, £271,747. (c) Includes £700 Commonwealth vote for research. (d) Includes new foundations, £32,044. (e) Includes £9,323, new endowments. (f) Includes £1,384, new foundations.

In preceding issues of the Official Year Book information was given in some detail in regard to the extent to which the Universities have benefited from private munificence. Space will permit of reference to the most important benefactions only herein. Thus the Challis bequest to the Sydney University amounted to £277,000 (now valued at £316,000): Mr. G. H. Bosch contributed £221,000: Sir P. N. Russell £100,000: Mr. W. O. Watt £78,000: Mr. Thos. Fisher £30,000. Mr. Sidney Myer's gifts to the

Melbourne University amounted to £55,000, while Sir Samuel Gillott, Mr. Edward Wilson (Argus Trust), and Sir Samuel Wilson contributed £41,000, £32,000, and £30,000 respectively. The Hon. Francis Ormond contributed £20,000 to the University as well as benefactions to Ormond College amounting to considerably over £100,000. The chief benefactors to Adelaide University were Sir Thomas Elder, £99,000; Sir Langdon Bonython, £60,000; Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, £32,000; and Mrs. Jane Marks, £30,000. Several very valuable properties were also bequeathed to this University by Mr. Peter Waite. Under the will of Sir Winthrop Hackett the University of Western Australia received £425,000, while the late Robert Gladden bequeathed an estate valued at £60,000.

4. *University Expenditure.*—For the year 1928 the expenditure by the Universities under various headings was as follows:—

UNIVERSITIES.—EXPENDITURE, 1928.

University.	Salaries and Administration.	Scholarships, Bursaries, etc.	General Maintenance.	Buildings and Grounds.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	152,222	6,859	35,440	7,138	212	201,871
Melbourne	115,794	7,310	8,315	12,497	(d)55,799	199,715
Queensland (Brisbane) ..	35,004	640	3,247	494	(a)14,224	53,609
Adelaide	60,825	1,201	4,475	4,634	(b)37,028	108,163
Western Australia (Perth)	28,366	7,260	5,450	10,708	(c) 19,737	71,521
Tasmania (Hobart) ..	13,358	1,457	2,018	809	1,531	19,173
Total	405,569	24,727	58,945	36,280	128,531	654,052

(a) Includes laboratory and research, £8,182. (b) Includes laboratory and research, £23,768
(c) Laboratory and research, £5,450. (d) Includes laboratory and research, £11,817.

5. *University Extension.*—Some account of the initiation and progress of university extension is given in preceding Official Year Books (see No. 22, p. 446), but considerations of space preclude the insertion of this matter in the present issue.

6. *Workers' Educational Association.*—In 1913 Workers' Educational Associations were formed in all the States of Australia, and later in New Zealand. The movement has for its object the bringing of the University into closer relationship with the masses of the people, and thereby providing for the higher education of the workers in civic and cultural subjects. There are now direct grants from all State Governments except Western Australia, and an additional University grant in New Zealand. The particulars of grants for classes are as follow:—New South Wales, £5,970, 68 classes and 3 study circles; Victoria, £4,250, 33 tutorial classes and extension work; Tasmania, £2,105, 23 full classes and 2 study circles; South Australia, £2,800, 23 classes including 7 study circles; Queensland, £3,000, 12 classes and 575 correspondence students. In addition, the New South Wales Association receives a Government grant for general organizing purposes of £500, paid on the basis of £1 for £1 on subscriptions and donations up to this amount. The Carnegie Corporation has recently shown its interest in the work by allotting grants of \$10,000 to New South Wales and to Victoria and \$5,000 to each of the other States. The principal subjects chosen in all States are Industrial History, Economics, Political Science, and Sociology, but there is an increasing number of classes in other subjects such as History, Psychology, Philosophy, Literature, Music, Physiology, and Biology. Each University co-operates with the W.E.A. in the formation of a joint committee which appoints tutors and generally

supervises the work with the assistance of a University officer with the title of Director of Tutorial Classes. In addition to the longer and more serious courses, a great many preparatory classes, study circles, and summer schools are organized by the Association, numerous courses of public lectures are delivered, educational conferences promoted, and an extensive book service is spreading educational literature throughout Australia.

§ 6. Technical Education.

1. **General.**—Although provision has been made in all of the States in respect to many necessary forms of technical education, the total provision made would imply that this branch of education has not been regarded as of outstanding importance. As will be seen later on, the expenditure on technical education for the whole of Australia is comparatively small. In preceding issues of the Official Year Book an outline was given of the origin and development of technical education in each State (see No. 22, pp. 447–51), but considerations of space preclude its repetition in the present volume.

2. **Returns for Year 1928.**—Returns for the year 1928 in regard to enrolments and attendances, etc., in each State are given in the table hereunder.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—ENROLMENTS, ETC., 1928.

State.	Number of Classes.	Teachers.	Enrolments.	Average Attendance.	Fees Received.
					£
New South Wales ..	751	604	32,960	(a) 15,326	23,359
Victoria ..	142	625	25,578	19,122	39,886
Queensland ..	(b)	486	15,452	12,500	14,772
South Australia ..	613	215	13,536	10,220	9,132
Western Australia ..	438	140	7,741	6,528	3,167
Tasmania ..	(b)	110	1,653	1,309	1,684
Total ..	1,944	2,180	96,920	65,005	92,000

(a) Individual Students.

(b) Not available.

Figures for earlier years will be found in preceding volumes. With regard to the figure quoted for number of classes in Victoria, it is stated that each grade only of a subject is counted as a class.

3. **Expenditure on Technical Education.**—The expenditure on technical education in each State for the year 1928 is shown below :—

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—EXPENDITURE, 1928.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1928 { (a)	196,907	318,094	101,419	72,639	23,100	23,498	735,657
{ (b)	48,122	30,713	3,123	3,398	3,168	637	89,161

(a) Maintenance.

(b) Buildings.

The expenditure on maintenance for technical education in 1928 amounted to 2s. 4d. per head of the population of Australia, as compared with 30s. 2d. per head expended on maintenance for primary and secondary education.

§ 7. Business Colleges and Shorthand Schools.

There has been considerable development in recent years both in the number and scope of privately conducted institutions which aim at giving instruction in business methods, shorthand, typewriting, the use of calculating machines, etc. Particulars for all States excepting Queensland are given in the following table:—

BUSINESS COLLEGES, SHORTHAND SCHOOLS, ETC., 1928.

State.	Schools.	Teachers.	Students Enrolled.		Average Attendance.		Fees Received.
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
New South Wales..	20	186	1,756	6,122	714	3,010	£ 66,788
Victoria ..	16	141	3,172	3,333	2,115	2,296	(b)
Queensland (a) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Australia ..	7	48	798	1,212	526	977	17,575
Western Australia..	11	59	1,556	1,592	(b)	(b)	26,493
Tasmania ..	3	15	97	379	58	216	6,200

(a) Included in private schools. (b) Not available.

The figures for New South Wales are exclusive of students instructed at home through the medium of correspondence classes.

§ 8. Diffusion of Education.

1. **General Education.**—A rough indication of the state of education of the people is obtained at each Census under the three headings, “read and write,” “read only,” and “cannot read.” Particulars for each State and Territory were included in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 19, p. 439). Detailed tables dealing with various aspects of education were published in connexion with the Census of 1921. Here it must suffice to mention that during the period 1871 to 1921 the proportion per 10,000 of the population of Australia able to read and write advanced from a little over 6,000 to nearly 8,500, while that of those able to read only fell from about 1,100 to under 30.

2. **Education as shown by Marriage Registers.**—Another common method of testing the spread of education is to compare the number of mark signatures in the marriage registers with the total number of persons married during each year of a series. The percentage signing with a mark to the total persons married in the Census year 1921 was only 0.17, as compared with 24.60 in 1861.

§ 9. Miscellaneous.

1. **Scientific Societies.**—(i) *Royal Societies.* In previous issues of the Official Year Book an outline was given of the origin and progress of the Royal Society in each State (see No. 22, pp. 454-5), but considerations of space preclude the retention of this matter in the present volume. The accompanying table, however, contains the latest available statistical information regarding these institutions, which in every case have their headquarters in the capital cities of the States.

ROYAL SOCIETIES—PARTICULARS, 1929.

Heading.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Year of origin	1,821	1,854	1,884	1,853	1,897	1,843
Number of members ..	341	206	175	160	215	2
Vols. of transactions issued..	63	74	41	61	19	65
Number of books in library..	30,000	17,000	8,000	8,000	2,800	16,050
Societies on exchange list ..	385	320	200	230	116	257
Income £	3,217	717	356	717	288	344
Expenditure £	3,364	671	327	595	335	343

In connexion with the year of origin it may be pointed out that the title Royal Society was in most cases assumed at a later date than that shown in the tables as the Societies originated under different names.

(ii) *The Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science.* This Association was founded in 1887, with head-quarters at the Royal Society's House in Sydney. Its meetings are usually held biennially within the various States and in the Dominion of New Zealand. The next meeting will be held in Sydney in 1932. The library of the Association contains 4,000 volumes.

(iii) *Other Scientific Societies.* The Linnean Society of New South Wales, with head-quarters in Sydney, was founded in 1874. The soundness of its present position is due to the benefactions of Sir William Macleay, who during his lifetime and by his will endowed the Society to the amount of £67,000, which has been increased by judicious investment to over £80,000. The Society maintains a research bacteriologist and offers annually 4 research fellowships in various branches of natural history. Two fellowships were awarded in 1929. The library comprises some 14,000 volumes, valued at about £7,000. Fifty-four volumes of proceedings have been issued, and the Society exchanges with some 219 kindred institutions. The ordinary membership at the end of 1929 was 169.

The British Astronomical Society has a branch in Sydney, and in some of the States the British Medical Association has branches.

In addition to the societies enumerated above, there are various others in each State devoted to branches of scientific investigation.

2. **Public Libraries.**—(i) *States.* In each of the capital cities there is a well-equipped Public Library, the institutions in Melbourne and Sydney especially comparing very favourably with similar institutions elsewhere. The following statement gives the number of volumes in the Public Library of each capital city:—

METROPOLITAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 1928.

City.	Number of Volumes in—			Total.
	Reference Branch.	Ordinary Lending Branch.	Country Lending Branch.	
Sydney	(a) 362,137	(b) ..	64,050	426,187
Melbourne	351,483	54,107	..	405,590
Brisbane	54,190	..	..	54,190
Adelaide	147,932	66,114	..	214,046
Perth	131,071	..	19,577	150,648
Hobart	30,000	..	..	30,000

(a) Including 120,548 volumes in the Mitchell Library.

(b) The maintenance and control of the ordinary lending branch of the Public Library at Sydney were transferred in 1908 to the Municipal Council. At the end of December, 1928, the books numbered 48,385.

In connexion with the Country Lending Branch of the Sydney Public Library, it may be noted that books are forwarded on loan to State schools, to approved associations, and to Schools of Art. During the year 1928-9, over 88,000 volumes were thus circulated, while over 34,000 books were lent to 22,000 individual students.

A special research staff attached to the Public Library gives valuable assistance in making readily available to inquirers the store of information contained in books, etc., which, owing to limitations of space, are not in open access.

The Mitchell Library in Sydney consisted of over 60,000 volumes and pamphlets, and 300 paintings, principally relating to Australasia, valued at £100,000, and bequeathed in 1907 by Mr. D. S. Mitchell, together with an endowment of £70,000. The testators stipulated that the regulations of the British Museum were to be adopted as far as practicable, hence the library is the resort of specialists. There are now over 122,000 volumes in the library in addition to valuable collections of Australian postage and fiscal stamps.

Amongst other important libraries in New South Wales may be mentioned the "Fisher" Library at Sydney University, with 182,000 volumes; the library at the Australian Museum, 26,000; the Teachers' College library, 33,000; Sydney Technical College library, 14,700; and the library at the Botanic Gardens, 9,900. The libraries attached to State schools contain about 481,000 volumes.

The reading room at the Melbourne Public Library ranks among the finest in the world. It was opened in 1913, and has a diameter of 114 feet, with a similar height, and is capable of seating 320 readers at a time, all of whom are under efficient supervision from the centre of the room. During the year 1928, 4,981 volumes were lent to Mechanics' Institutes and Free Libraries, and 11,549 books were sent by post to borrowers in the country.

The library at Brisbane (South) contained about 14,400 volumes at the end of June, 1928.

For some years past efforts have been made in South Australia to collect original documents likely to be of service in compiling a history of the State. So far back as 1914, Professor Henderson, of Adelaide University, under commission from the South Australian Government, visited and reported on the system of keeping archives in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Ceylon, and obtained valuable information also from the United States and Canada. A department of historical documents has been created under the care of an archivist, and valuable work has been done in connexion with examination, classification, and permanent preservation of the available papers. A suitable building for housing the documents and the staff was provided in 1921. At the 30th June, 1929, the collection numbered 276,187 documents, 11,514 views, and 1,095 maps.

During 1922 the Tasmanian Public Library adopted the plan of lending books to individual country borrowers and to families or committees of residents in country districts. The Public Library at Launceston contains 34,000 volumes.

Statistics in regard to libraries generally are not available for all States, while the information supplied is not in all cases complete. Returns for Victoria in 1928 showed a total of 419 libraries in receipt of State or municipal aid, containing 1,391,000 books; Queensland returned 254 libraries, with 532,000 books; South Australia, 294 libraries and 800,000 books; Tasmania, 23 libraries and 127,000 books; while there were 3 libraries, with 6,000 books, in the Northern Territory.

(ii) *Commonwealth—(a) Parliamentary and National Library.* When the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library was created in 1902, it was recognized that at such time as the Federal Capital was established it would be necessary to have available there, for the use of members and the public servants, a library whose scope was wider than that usually associated with a purely Parliamentary one. To this end, therefore, this library was developed on lines similar to those of a State Public Library, and particular attention was given to the acquisition of works relating to or published in Australia. In pursuance of this policy it acquired in 1909 a valuable collection of *Australiana*, comprising about 10,000 volumes, which had been formed by Mr. E. A. Petherick. In 1912, also, a provision was included in the Commonwealth Copyright Act requiring the publisher of any book, pamphlet, etc., printed in the Commonwealth to supply a free

copy to this library. In the same year it undertook the publication of the Historical Records of Australia. The rapid development of the Australian and National Sections of the library led the Library Committee in 1923 to decide that the title "Commonwealth National Library" should be given to these, and that at Canberra the library should be divided into two sections—a Parliamentary and a National Section—the former to be housed in Parliament House, the latter in a separate building, to which the public would be given free access. Though now, therefore, in two sections, it is essentially one library, with one administration.

The total number of volumes at the beginning of 1928 was 79,000 books and 6,500 pamphlets, its chief features being its unique collection of Captain Cook's manuscripts and early works relating to Australia, also its extensive series of official publications of Great Britain and all the Dominions.

(b) *Patents Office Library.* The free library attached to the Commonwealth Patents Office in Melbourne contains over 46,000 volumes, and includes literature dealing with patents in the principal countries of the world.

3. **Public Museums and Art Galleries.**—Previous issues of the Official Year Book contained a brief description of the public museums and art galleries in each State (see No. 22, pp. 457-9), but considerations of space preclude the incorporation of this matter in the present volume.

4. **State Expenditure on all Forms of Educational Effort.**—The expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue in each State and Territory on all forms of educational and scientific activity during the year 1928-29 was as follows:—

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND ART, 1928-29.

State or Territory.	1928-29.	State or Territory.	1928-29.
New South Wales	{ Total £ 4,624,033 Per head 37/8	Western Australia	{ Total £ 733,184 Per head 36/1
Victoria	{ Total £ 2,865,370 Per head 32/6	Tasmania	{ Total £ 328,650 Per head 30/4
Queensland	{ Total £ 1,747,824 Per head 38/2	Northern Territory	{ Total £ 7,545 Per head 37/11
South Australia	{ Total £ 1,034,259 Per head 35/8	Australia	{ Total £ 11,340,865 Per head 35/10

During the quinquennium ending in 1928-29, the total expenditure has risen by nearly £1,898,000, while the expenditure per head of population showed a rise of 3s. 8d. This comparatively heavy increase has been largely due to the expanding provision for State-aided education, to greater cost of building, equipment, and maintenance, and to increments in teachers' salaries and allowances.