

## SOCIAL CONDITION.

THE high rates of wages which have generally prevailed in Australasia and the cheapness of food have permitted the enjoyment of a great degree of comfort, if not of luxury, by a class which elsewhere knows little of the one and nothing of the other; and even in times of trade depression and reduced wages it may safely be said that the position of the wage-earner in Australia is equal to that occupied by his compeers in any other part of the world. Although a high standard of living is not conducive to thrift, saving has gone on with marked rapidity, notwithstanding the industrial disturbances resulting from the great strikes and the bank crisis of 1893. Some idea of the rate and extent of this accumulation of wealth may be obtained from the tables showing the growth of deposits with banks. The banking returns, however, afford in themselves but an incomplete view of the picture; it should also be regarded from the standpoint of the expenditure of the people. Both of these subjects are dealt with in their proper places in this volume, and these evidences of the social condition of the people need not, therefore, be further considered here.

### NEWSPAPERS AND LETTERS.

Few things show more plainly the social superiority of a civilized people than a heavy correspondence and a large distribution of newspapers. In these respects all the provinces of Australasia have for many years been remarkable. In proportion to population it is doubtful whether any country in the world can boast of a larger number or a better class of newspapers than they publish. Great advances were made in this respect between 1871 and 1891, but the rate of progress, both in number and in excellence of production, has been even more rapid since the year last named. There are no means of correctly estimating the number of newspapers actually printed and distributed in the states, because the Post-office carries but a small proportion of the circulation. For purposes of comparison with other countries, however, it may be stated that during the year 1903 no less than 116,136,000 newspapers passed through the Post-offices of the various states, giving the large proportion of 25 per head of population. In the same year the number of letters and post-cards carried was 313,329,000, being over 66 for every person in Australasia. An examination of the statistics of other countries shows that these states stand third among the countries of the world in the transmission of

correspondence, being only exceeded by the United Kingdom and the United States of America per head of population. The following table shows the increase which has taken place in the quantity of postal matter carried, together with the proportion of letters and newspapers carried per head of population at the last six census periods and in 1903 :—

Year.	Letters and Post Cards.	Newspapers.	Letters per head.	Newspapers per head.
1851.....	2,165,000	2,150,000	4·7	4·7
1861.....	14,061,000	10,941,400	11·3	8·8
1871.....	30,435,300	17,252,700	15·7	8·9
1881.....	80,791,700	43,802,000	29·1	15·8
1891.....	183,694,900	95,879,760	47·9	25·0
1901.....	273,582,000	121,000,000	59·7	26·4
1903.....	313,329,000	116,136,000	66·1	24·5

There are 1,187 newspapers published in Australasia ; 315 in New South Wales, of which 107 are published in Sydney and suburbs ; 405 in Victoria, of which 181 are published in Melbourne and suburbs ; 132 in Queensland ; 61 in South Australia ; 49 in Western Australia ; 27 in Tasmania ; and 198 in New Zealand.

#### PARKS, MUSEUMS, AND ART GALLERIES.

All the Australasian capitals are liberally supplied with parks and recreation-grounds. In Sydney and suburbs there are parks, squares, and public gardens comprising an area of 4,598 acres, including 745 acres which form the Centennial Park. Then there is the picturesque National Park, of 36,810 acres, situated about 16 miles from the centre of the metropolis ; and, in addition to this, an area of 35,300 acres, in the valley of the Hawkesbury, and distant about 12 miles from the railway terminus on the northern shore of Sydney Harbour, has been reserved for public recreation under the name of Ku-ring-gai Chase. Thus Sydney has two extensive and picturesque domains for the enjoyment of the people at almost equal distances north and south from the city, and both accessible by railway. An area of 248 acres has also been set apart as a public park at Kurnell, Captain Cook's landing place on the south shore of Botany Bay. Melbourne has about 5,400 acres of recreation-grounds, of which about 1,750 acres are within the city boundaries, 2,850 acres in the suburban municipalities, and 800 acres outside those municipalities. Adelaide is surrounded by a broad belt of park lands, and also contains a number of squares within the city boundaries, covering altogether an area of 2,300 acres. Brisbane, Hobart, Perth, and the chief cities of New Zealand are also well provided for in this respect, and in all the provincial towns large areas have been dedicated as public parks. There are fine Botanic Gardens in

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, and Hobart, which are included in the areas above referred to. Each of these gardens has a special attraction of its own. They are all well kept, and reflect great credit upon the communities to which they belong.

The various capitals of the states, and also some of the prominent inland towns, are provided with museums for the purposes of instruction as well as recreation; and in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, and Hobart there are art galleries containing excellent collections of paintings and statuary. All these institutions are open to the public free of charge.

#### PUBLIC CHARITIES.

One of the most satisfactory features of the social condition of the Australian communities is the wide distribution of wealth, and the consequently small proportion of people who are brought within the reach of want. In the United Kingdom, the richest country of Europe, only nine out of every hundred of the population possess property of the value of £100, while in Australasia the number is about fifteen, and the violent contrast between the rich and the poor which blots the civilisation of the old world is not observable in these young states. It is, unfortunately, only too plain that a certain amount of poverty does exist; but there is a complete absence of an hereditary pauper class, and no one is born into the hopeless conditions which characterise the lives of so many millions in Europe, and from which there is absolutely no possibility of escape. No poor-rate is levied in Australasia, the assistance granted by the state to able-bodied men who find themselves out of employment in times of depression, taking the form of payment, in money or in rations, for work done by them.

The chief efforts of the authorities, as regards charity, are directed towards the rescue of the young from criminal companionship and temptation to crime, the support of the aged and infirm, the care of the imbecile or insane, and the subsidising of private institutions for the cure of the sick and injured and the amelioration of want. Even where the state grants aid for philanthropic purposes, the management of the institutions supervising the expenditure is in private hands, and in addition to state-aided institutions there are numerous charities wholly maintained by private subscriptions, whose efforts for the relief of those whom penury, sickness, or misfortune has afflicted are beyond all praise.

The rescue of the young from crime is attempted in two ways—first, by means of Orphanages and Industrial Schools, where children who have been abandoned by their natural guardians, or who are likely, from the poverty or incapacity of their parents, to be so neglected as to render them liable to lapse into crime, are taken care of, educated, and afterwards apprenticed to some useful calling; and second, by sequestering in Reformatories children who have already committed

crime, or whose parents or guardians find themselves unable to control them ; but the accommodation in the latter class is very limited, and might well be extended.

Although more than a century has elapsed since settlement commenced in Australasia, its resources are by no means developed, and very many men are at work far away from the home comforts of everyday life, and from home attendance in case of sickness or injury. Owing to the peculiar nature of the occupations in which a great part of the adult male population is employed, accidents are very common, the annual death-rate being about 7 per 10,000 living, and the majority of the cases treated, especially in the districts outside the metropolitan area are injuries arising out of accidents to men following hazardous pursuits. Hospitals are therefore absolutely essential under the conditions of life in the rural districts of the states, and they are accordingly found in every important country town. Below will be found the number of hospitals in each state, with the number of indoor patients treated during the year mentioned, and the total expenditure for the same year. Unfortunately, the South Australian returns are defective, as will be seen by the note appended to the table :—

State.	Year.	Hospitals.	Indoor patients treated.	Expenditure.
		No.	No.	£
New South Wales ...	1903	128	45,346	211,115
Victoria .....	1902-3	53	27,104	166,543
Queensland.....	1903	73	19,519	122,451
South Australia ....	1902	8	3,375*	19,065*
Western Australia...	1902-3	28	6,408	54,938
Tasmania .....	1902	14	3,966	25,645
Commonwealth	.....	304	105,718	599,757
New Zealand .....	1902-3	45	14,659	138,027
Australasia ...	.....	349	120,377	737,784

\* Adelaide Hospital only.

All the states possess institutions for the care of the insane, which are under Government control. The treatment meted out to the inmates is that dictated by the greatest humanity, and the hospitals are fitted with all the conveniences and appliances which modern science points out as most calculated to mitigate or remove the affliction from which these unfortunate people suffer. The following table shows the number of insane patients under treatment, the total expenditure on hospitals for the insane during the year, and the average expenditure per inmate under treatment. The figures refer to the year 1903, for all the states,

with the exception of Tasmania, for which the information is for the year 1902. The question of insanity is treated farther on in this chapter:—

State.	Insane Patients under treatment.	Total Expenditure.	Average Expenditure per Inmate under treatment.
	No.	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales .....	5,958	151,310	25 7 11
Victoria .....	5,299	133,708	25 4 8
Queensland .....	2,254	46,438	20 12 0
South Australia .....	1,199	26,967	22 9 10
Western Australia.....	520	16,376	31 9 10
Tasmania .....	505	15,557	30 14 11
Commonwealth .....	15,736	390,356	24 16 1
New Zealand .....	3,317	64,688	19 10 0
Australasia .....	19,053	455,044	23 17 8

The amounts expended on Destitute Asylums and Benevolent Societies cannot be separated from other items of expenditure in some of the states. As far as they can be ascertained they are given in the following table, together with the number of adult inmates of the various asylums for the year 1902:—

State.	Inmates.	Expenditure.
	No.	£
New South Wales .....	4,530	125,736
Victoria .....	3,114	105,263
Queensland .....	2,666	42,274
South Australia .....	686	20,450
Western Australia .....	487	11,432
Tasmania .....	932	6,176
Commonwealth.....	12,415	311,331
New Zealand.....	2,162	49,737
Australasia.....	14,577	361,068

In addition to the above, a liberal amount of out-door relief is given in all the Australasian provinces, and destitute children are taken care of, either by being supported in the Government institutions or by being boarded out to persons deemed able to take care of them properly.

The expenditure by the Governments of the six states of the Commonwealth on hospitals, benevolent asylums, orphanages, and poor relief generally, amounted in 1903 to £1,382,790, the total for New Zealand for the same year being £233,179. This sum does not include payments to old-age pensioners, but as want of means is a necessary qualification for a pension, it is very doubtful whether this service does not come under the general description of poor relief. Including payments for old-age pensions, the total expenditure of the various states reaches £2,131,702, and of New Zealand £442,335, the distribution among the states being as follows. The figures refer to expenditure

from revenue only, the outlay from loans being separately shown in a subsequent table :—

State.	Hospitals, Asylums, and Poor Relief.	Old-Age Pensions.	Total.
	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	503,900	532,940	1,036,840
Victoria .....	330,484	215,972	546,456
Queensland .....	231,657	.....	231,657
South Australia .....	121,302	.....	121,302
Western Australia.....	147,188	.....	147,188
Tasmania.....	48,259	.....	48,259
Commonwealth .....	1,382,790	748,912	2,131,702
New Zealand .....	233,179	209,156	442,335
Australasia.....	1,615,969	958,068	2,574,037

Comparing these amounts with the population of the various states the following results are obtained :—

State.	Expenditure per head in 1903.		
	Hospitals, Asylums, and Poor Relief.	Old-Age Pensions.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	0 7 0	0 7 6	0 14 6
Victoria .....	0 5 5	0 3 7	0 9 0
Queensland .....	0 9 0	.....	0 9 0
South Australia.....	0 6 8	.....	0 6 8
Western Australia .....	0 13 4	.....	0 13 4
Tasmania.....	0 5 5	.....	0 5 5
Commonwealth .....	0 7 1	0 3 10	0 10 11
New Zealand .....	0 5 8	0 5 1	0 10 9
Australasia .....	0 6 10	0 4 1	0 10 11

It will be seen that the expenditure was proportionately highest in New South Wales, with 14s. 6d. per inhabitant, followed by Western Australia, with 13s. 4d., and Victoria and Queensland with 9s., whilst Tasmania showed the lowest average, with 5s. 5d. per inhabitant. For the Commonwealth and for Australasia the average was 10s. 10d. per head.

In addition to the amounts shown in the preceding table there is a fairly considerable expenditure from loans in some of the states on

hospitals and charitable institutions. The total loan expenditure under this heading is given below :—

State.	Expenditure from Loans on Hospitals and Charities. £
New South Wales .....	74,407
Victoria .....	66,838
Queensland .....	13,239
Tasmania .....	4,609
Commonwealth .....	159,093
New Zealand .....	11,051
Australasia .....	170,144

Including expenditure from revenue and from loans the total outlay by the Commonwealth for the year 1903, on all forms of charitable relief, amounted to £2,291,000, or at the rate of 11s. 8d. per head of population, and for Australasia, £2,744,000, equal to 11s. 7d. per inhabitant.

It was anticipated by the introducers of the old age pension system that there would be a reduction in the expenditure on poor relief, especially on asylums. The expectation was without reasonable foundation, as the classes of people affected by the two systems of relief are essentially distinct, and little or no reduction in the expenditure on poor relief can be traced to the establishment of the pension system. The following is a statement of the expenditure in 1896; the total for 1903 has been given on a previous page. It will be seen that on the whole there has been a large increase in expenditure during the period, the rate per inhabitant—excluding old-age pensions—being 6s. 10d. in 1903, as compared with 6s. per head in 1896.

State.	Expenditure in 1896 on Hospitals, Asylums, and Poor Relief.	
	Total.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales .....	410,800	0 6 6
Victoria .....	266,300	0 4 6
Queensland .....	158,900	0 7 2
South Australia .....	94,600	0 5 4
Western Australia .....	110,100	0 18 5
Tasmania .....	42,100	0 5 4
Commonwealth .....	1,082,800	0 6 2
New Zealand .....	179,400	0 5 1
Australasia .....	1,262,200	0 6 0

As far as can be judged from the imperfect returns, adding together the amount received from the Government and the amount of private

subscriptions, the expenditure in the whole of the Australasian states in connection with all forms of relief and in aid of hospitals and other charitable institutions excluding old age pensions is certainly not less than £1,823,000 per annum. This sum, though not excessive in proportion to the population, may yet appear large in view of the general wealth of the states, which should preclude the necessity of so many seeking assistance; and there is the risk that the charitable institutions may encourage the growth of the pauper element, for while free quarters and free food are so accessible, those who are disinclined to work are tempted to live at the public expense. It should be stated, however, that of the total number of persons who seek hospital relief, less than one-half are natives of the states, the remainder being mostly natives of the United Kingdom, with a few who were born in a European country or in China. This, however, cannot be taken as evidence of the superiority of the Australian born. The inmates of the institutions referred to are in almost all cases aged persons, and probably not more than half the number of aged persons are Australian born.

#### OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

The question of granting pensions to aged persons has been of late years much discussed throughout Australia and New Zealand, and at the present time the old age pension system is in operation in New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand. The last-named province was the first to legislate in regard to the matter, and pensions were payable from 1st April, 1898.

Every person in New Zealand, of the full age of sixty-five years, or upwards, is eligible for a pension, provided he has resided continuously in the colony for twenty-five years, certain concessions in regard to residence being made in favour of seamen and others. To be entitled to a pension, a person must not possess an income in excess of £52 a year, nor property exceeding £270 in value. There are also other qualifications, principally affecting good citizenship. The full pension is £18 a year, payable in monthly instalments. For each £1 of income above £34 a year, and for each £15 of property above £50, £1 per annum is deducted from the amount of the pension. In March, 1903, there were 32,800 persons in New Zealand whose ages exceeded sixty-five years, and of these 12,481 had already been granted pensions. The average pension paid was £16 19s., and the sum payable in respect of all pensions, excluding management, was £211,594. On the 31st March, 1904, the number of pensions was 11,926 (729 Maoris), and the amount payable thereon £200,915. The proportion of the population who claim old-age pensions varies according to the locality. This variation is due partly to the differences in the proportion of the persons above the pension age, and partly to the fact that in districts where mining is the chief industry, few persons are able to earn their living after they reach sixty-five years. The proportion of pensioners to the population over sixty-five years of age is about 35 per cent., and the proportion of

pensioners to those qualified, both by age and residence, is about 45 per cent.

The old-age pension scheme sanctioned by the Parliament of New South Wales specifies a pension of £26 a year, diminished by £1 for every £1 of income above £26 a year, and by £1 for every £15 of property that the pensioner possesses. Where a husband and wife are each entitled to a pension, the amount is fixed at £19 10s. a year each, unless they are living apart under a decree of the Court or a deed of separation, when the full sum of £26 will be allowed. Persons under 65 years of age but over 60 years are entitled to pensions if they are incapacitated by sickness or injury from earning their livelihood, but debility due merely to age is not considered as an incapacitating sickness.

The pension system came into force on the 1st August, 1901, at which date 13,957 pensions were granted, involving a monthly payment of £28,037. The pension list gradually increased as persons entitled to claim made good their rights, and on the 1st July the number of pensioners was 22,252, the monthly pension bill being £44,362. This was the highest point attained, and from that date onward there has been a gradual decline, both in the number of pensioners and the amount payable. On the 1st August, 1902, at the close of the first twelve months of the system the number of pensioners was 22,182, the monthly pension bill being £44,318. In August, 1903, the number of pensioners was 20,905, the monthly payments being £41,695. In August, 1904, the number was 20,438, and the monthly payments, £40,617. This is the lowest point reached since the pension system has been in full operation. On the 1st December following the number of pensioners was approximately 20,900, and the monthly payments £41,460. The average annual pension is now about £23 16s., and it has varied very little since the pension system came into force. From the highest point, July, 1902, to the 1st of December, 1904, there was a decline of 1,352 pensions, and a further decline is expected to take place. This is due to the direct control which the Central Board of Old Age Pensions is now able to exercise over the District Boards, as very few persons not entitled to a pension either by age, residence, or character remain long on the pension list.

The figures just given represent the actual pensions paid by the bank; the number of persons who hold rights during any month is always in excess of the numbers just given. As will be seen below, the pensions that become payable in any month are reduced by deaths, withdrawals, and cancellations, and by those pensioners who fail to draw their pensions within the time allowed by law. These, taken together, amount to a considerable number. Thus, at the 1st of December, 1904, there were 21,910 pension certificates issued and still current, while the number paid by the bank during the same period, as already stated, was 20,900, a difference of 1,010 pensions. About 220 of these would be represented by deaths and cancellations during the month, and about 700 by persons having entered public institutions

whose pensions would be temporarily suspended ; the remaining number to make up the total would be persons entitled to draw their pensions but who failed to present themselves at the bank within the time allowed by law.

During the three years and four months the pension system has been in operation—*i.e.*, to 1st December, 1904—5,724 pensioners died, 1,174 pensions were cancelled, and 1,443 were rejected. The last-mentioned represent cases in which the boards refused to renew pensions for the second or subsequent year on account of the ineligibility of claimants or their misconduct. The death-rate represents 84.4 per 1,000 pensioners, which is only slightly in excess of the general average for persons of 65 years of age and upwards. The number of persons becoming 65 years of age in any year is about 5,000, and of these about 2,150 claim pensions, but as there is an annual death-roll of 1,840 pensioners, and about 820 pensions are cancelled or withdrawn from persons who previously enjoyed them, the pension list is yearly recruited by 2,150 persons and reduced by 2,660, showing a net reduction of 510, thus accounting for the lower pension list of 1904 compared with 1902.

The pension system of Victoria differs very materially from that in operation in New South Wales and New Zealand. The average weekly income of a claimant in Victoria during the six months immediately preceding the grant of a pension must not have amounted to 8s. per week (in New South Wales the sum allowed is £1 per week) ; he must also have made reasonable efforts to provide for himself, and this is not necessary either in New South Wales or New Zealand, where the pension is granted in consideration of old age, and a citizen may enjoy his pension on attaining the age of 65, whether he is able to work or not ; indeed, the law allows him to supplement his income to the extent of 10s. per week, in the case of New South Wales, and 13s. in that of New Zealand ; the total income enjoyed by the pensioner may, therefore, in these two states, amount to 20s. per week. In Victoria, under the original Act of 1901, the amount of pension was determined by the Commissioners appointed to adjudicate on the matter, and 8s. was the maximum allowed ; but the Commissioners had power to determine what sum less than 8s. might be reasonable and sufficient to meet the wants of the claimant. Under the Amending Act of 1903, however, the control and management of "this charitable grant," as the Premier styled it, was taken out of the hands of the Commissioners and vested in the Treasurer, the object being to secure greater uniformity of administration. The rate of pension and date of commencement of the claim is fixed by the Treasurer and specified in the pensioner's pass-book. Moreover, when a claimant, although he has attained the statutory age of 65 years, appears to be physically capable of earning or partly earning his living, a pension may be refused or fixed at a lower sum than 8s. As noted before, the total income of a pensioner in New South Wales may reach 20s., that is 10s. over and above a full pension ;

but in Victoria, the limit of a pensioner's income from all sources is 8s., although, subject to certain conditions, he was allowed, under the original Act, to earn a sum which, with his pension, would amount to 10s. in all. The power to increase the pension was, however, taken away by the Amending Act. The statutory maximum of pension is diminished by 6d. per week for every £10 of savings accumulated by the claimant, or by the value of the board and lodging which he may receive; the value of such board and lodging, however, may be taken at any sum not exceeding 5s. per week. Proceedings to obtain an old-age pension are usually in open court, but the Commissioners dealing with the claim may dispense with the personal attendance of the claimant where the latter is physically unfit, or where the claim is one that obviously should be granted. The Commissioners may not now determine the rate of pension and the manner of payment, but must forward particulars of each case to the Registrar, and no pass-book may be issued to any claimant except by authority of the Treasurer. Relatives—if the father, mother, brother, sister, or child of the claimant—are required to assist in the maintenance of the pensioner, where their means are sufficient to allow them to do so, and they may be brought before the Commissioners' Court to prove their inability to contribute to the maintenance of the pensioner to whom they are said to be related.

The granting of pensions depends on whether any money is available to pay them, for by an Act passed on the 9th December, 1903, the total sum to be paid in pensions annually is limited to £150,000 a year. The average pension works out at £17 6s. 8d. a year, or 6s. 8d. per week compared with a maximum of 8s. The following is a statement of the number of pensioners at various dates since the Act came into operation:—

June 30, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,275
December 6, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,233
June 30, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,570
„ „ 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,417
„ „ 1904	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,609

The payments in respect of pensions were as follows; in each case the year ends on the 30th June:—

1901 (5 months)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£129,338
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	292,432
1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	215,972
1904	...	...	...	...	...	...	205,183

It will be seen that, whereas in New South Wales and New Zealand the old-age pension is a gift by the state to citizens who have contributed by taxation, and who, as the preamble to the New South Wales Act declares, have during the prime of life helped to bear the public burthens of the state by the payment of taxes, and by opening up its resources by their labour and skill, in Victoria the pension partakes more of the nature of a charitable dole. It is easy to understand, therefore, how it is that in New South Wales there are 20,900 persons who

are in receipt of pensions, and in New Zealand 11,926, while in Victoria the number is only 11,609, although the persons of 65 years and upwards in Victoria number 67,200, compared with 49,000 in New South Wales and 33,500 in New Zealand.

The estimated number of persons of 65 years and upwards in Australasia was, at the 30th June, 1904, 193,000, of whom 159,300 resided in the Commonwealth and 33,700 in New Zealand. These figures are deduced from the census returns and are probably in excess of the truth, as a large number of persons, in anticipation of the establishment of a general system of old-age pensions, described themselves as over 65 years of age, though in reality they had not reached that age. However, accepting the figures as they stand, the following are the numbers in the various states of the Commonwealth :—

New South Wales.....	51,600
Victoria .....	67,300
Queensland.....	13,400
South Australia.....	15,400
Western Australia .....	4,300
Tasmania ..	7,300
	159,300

Proposals have been made from time to time for the Commonwealth Government to institute a system of old-age pensions applicable to persons resident in any of the states, an objection to the present state system being that residence of twenty years in the case of Victoria and of twenty-five years in the case of New South Wales is a condition precedent to the granting of a pension. There are a large number of persons who have been twenty-five years in Australia but whose time has been spent in two or more states and who, therefore, would not under any state system likely to be put into operation be entitled to a state pension. These persons would be eligible under a federal system to receive pensions in virtue of their residence in Australia.

The proportion of the 159,300 persons of 65 years and upwards now in the Commonwealth, who were born or have resided for twenty-five years in Australia, is probably about 87 per cent., and the proportion qualified to receive a pension about 39 per cent., so that if a federal pension scheme had been in operation on 30th June, 1904, there would have been 62,000 pensioners over 65 years of age. The cost of this scheme, according to the New South Wales rates, would be £1,476,000 per annum, and according to the New Zealand rates, £1,045,000. The New South Wales system, as before stated, provides for pensions to persons between the ages of 60 and 65 years, incapacitated, by reason of physical infirmity from earning their livelihood. If provision were to be made by the Commonwealth for such persons according to the New South Wales scale, the cost of the pension system would be about £1,630,000.

It is elsewhere explained that a considerable number of persons claim and obtain pensions which are subsequently forfeited by reason,

chiefly, of misconduct. It is doubtful whether the supervision the Commonwealth could exercise would be as efficient as that of a state department working through the agencies of state officers controlled by the Treasury, desirous of keeping down to as low a point as possible the pension bill of the state; but assuming that the experience of the Commonwealth would be similar to that of New South Wales, the proportion eligible to receive a pension would be little greater than 35 per cent. of those of pension age, so that the pension bill of the Commonwealth, according to the New South Wales practice, would be £1,338,000 instead of £1,476,000 shown above, or, including those under 65 years of age, £1,517,000 instead of £1,630,000. In dealing with this question of pensions, the distinction between a pension current and pension payable should be kept in mind; and this point is dwelt upon at some length in regard to New South Wales on page 838.

#### SUICIDES.

The total number of persons who committed suicide in Australasia during 1903 was 618—522 males and 96 females—corresponding to a rate of 1·18 per 10,000 living. The table below shows the number of deaths and the rates in each state, in five-year periods since 1875. It is believed that the actual number of suicides is even larger than is shown in the tables, especially during recent years; for there is a growing disposition on the part of coroners' juries to attribute to accident what is really the result of an impulse of self-destruction.

#### TOTAL NUMBER of Deaths.

State.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-1900	1901-3.
New South Wales .....	297	368	578	713	874	453
Victoria .....	505	463	638	630	565	393
Queensland.....	141	179	292	349	400	234
South Australia .....	93	146	134	156	192	121
Western Australia .....	7	23	22	73	157	139
Tasmania .....	37	27	43	63	63	28
New Zealand .....	195	261	267	339	340	264
Australasia .....	1,275	1,467	1,974	2,323	2,591	1,682

#### DEATH RATE per 10,000 living.

New South Wales .....	·90	·87	1·12	1·19	1·33	1·08
Victoria .....	1·23	1·02	1·21	1·08	0·95	1·08
Queensland .....	1·38	1·33	1·62	1·69	1·71	1·85
South Australia .....	·77	·99	·87	·92	1·07	1·09
Western Australia .....	·50	1·46	1·05	2·25	1·99	2·26
Tasmania .....	·68	·44	·63	·85	0·79	0·51
New Zealand .....	·91	·99	·89	1·03	0·92	1·13
Australasia .....	1·02	·98	1·12	1·16	1·18	1·21

Speaking generally, the experience of Australasia agrees with that of other countries, namely, that the tendency to self-destruction is increasing. From the table above it is seen that the rate slowly but steadily advanced from 1886 up till the end of 1903. Tasmania has always had the lowest rate, while in New Zealand the rate is slightly above that in England, where it is 0·92 per 10,000 living. Up to 1893, the three first-named states in the table exhibited the highest rates, Queensland coming first; but since that year Western Australia has shown the largest proportional number of victims by suicide, due, no doubt, to the relatively large number of males in the state, since males are three or four times as prone to take their own lives as females.

The means of committing suicide most favoured in all the states, are poisoning, drowning, shooting, which is more common now than formerly, and hanging amongst males, and poisoning and drowning amongst females.

## ILLEGITIMACY.

Illegitimate births are rather numerous in these states, the total number in the whole of Australasia during 1903 being 6,912, equal to 5·75 per cent. of the total births. A comparison of the results for the last two years shows that in 1903 the rates decreased in South Australia and Tasmania, while the other states showed slight increases. The following table shows the number of illegitimate births in each state and New Zealand in quinquennial periods since 1875, and the proportion per cent. of total births :—

State.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
<b>TOTAL NUMBER of Illegitimate Births.</b>								
New South Wales..	5,401	6,949	9,304	11,875	12,622	2,712	2,497	2,413
Victoria .....	5,646	6,491	8,425	9,858	8,625	1,729	1,677	1,695
Queensland .....	1,447	1,990	3,117	3,516	4,213	848	859	857
South Australia ...	...	1,222	1,331	1,577	1,767	361	369	354
Western Australia..	...	...	...	†402	1,133	222	247	314
Tasmania .....	...	*762	911	1,136	1,322	193	311	285
New Zealand.....	2,027	2,831	3,011	3,443	4,196	937	921	994
Australasia .....	...	20,245	26,189	31,807	33,878	7,002	6,901	6,912
<b>PROPORTION per cent. of Total Births.</b>								
New South Wales..	4·22	4·36	4·90	6·01	6·88	7·16	6·59	6·71
Victoria .....	4·27	4·63	4·89	5·45	5·57	5·57	5·55	5·73
Queensland .....	3·85	4·06	4·44	4·83	5·92	5·93	6·04	6·79
South Australia ...	...	2·16	2·50	2·93	3·76	3·96	4·35	4·16
Western Australia..	...	...	...	†4·75	5·06	3·88	3·96	4·69
Tasmania .....	...	*4·35	3·84	4·58	5·65	3·91	6·11	5·61
New Zealand.....	2·30	2·93	3·20	3·77	4·43	4·57	4·46	4·55
Australasia .....	...	3·90	4·35	5·06	5·67	5·67	5·59	5·75

\* Four years—1882-85.

† Four years—1892-95.

It is seen that up to 1903, when it was displaced by Queensland, New South Wales has always been in the unenviable position of exhibiting the highest proportion of illegitimate births, although till 1890 it was closely followed by Victoria. Since 1890, however, the rate in New South Wales has increased very rapidly, as also in Queensland. Tasmania showed the third highest proportion in 1903 with 5·61 per cent., a considerable decrease on the figure for the previous year, which stood at 6·11. In all the states illegitimacy is on the increase; and whereas less than twenty years ago each province had a lower rate than prevailed in England, they all, with the exception of South Australia, have now a higher rate. Considered in conjunction with the declining birth-rate, these figures cast an unpleasant light on the morals of the country.

The increase, however, is more apparent than real, since the general decline in the birth-rate affects the proportion of illegitimates. A proper comparison would be obtained by relating the number of illegitimate births to the number of unmarried women of child-bearing ages during the period. If this were done it would be found that illegitimacy is not increasing in Australia.

The following table shows the proportion of illegitimate births in the United Kingdom, and in the chief countries of Europe, based on the experience of the latest five years available. In a majority of the European countries illegitimacy appears to be on the increase.

Country.	Illegitimate Births per cent.	Country.	Illegitimate Births per cent.
England and Wales...	4·04	Hungary .....	9·01
Scotland .....	6·33	France .....	8·26
Ireland .....	2·65	Belgium .....	8·51
Germany .....	9·21	Netherlands.....	2·71
Prussia .....	7·84	Sweden.....	10·80
Bavaria .....	14·00	Norway .....	7·35
Saxony .....	12·90	Italy .....	6·34
Austria .....	14·55		

#### DIVORCE.

The question of divorce is one of much interest to Australasia, as some of the states, especially New South Wales and Victoria, now

offer great facilities for the dissolution of the marriage bond. The general opinion was that such facilities were calculated to increase divorce to an extent that would prove hurtful to public morals; and so far as the experience of New South Wales was concerned, for the first few years after the passing of the Act multiplying the grounds on which divorce could be granted, the fear did not seem to be altogether groundless; for in 1893 the number of decrees *nisi* granted rose to 305, from 102 in 1892, and in 1901 was still as high as 252. When, however, it is remembered that advantage would be taken of the change in law to dissolve marriages the bonds of which would have been broken long before under other circumstances, it is evident that there was little ground for the fear that this somewhat alarming increase would continue, and it was, therefore, not surprising to find a decline to 245 in 1902. In Victoria, where a very similar law came into operation in 1890, the number of divorces increased considerably, immediately after the passing of the Act, although not to the alarming extent experienced in New South Wales.

In New South Wales, under the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1873, the chief grounds on which divorce was granted were adultery after marriage on the part of the wife, and adultery with cruelty on the part of the husband. Under the Act of 1892 and the Amending Act passed in 1893 petitions for divorce can be granted for the following causes, in addition to those already mentioned:—*Husband v. Wife*.—Desertion for not less than three years; habitual drunkenness and neglect of domestic duties for a similar period; refusing to obey an order for restitution of conjugal rights; being imprisoned under sentence for three years or upwards; attempt to murder or inflict grievous bodily harm, or repeated assault on the husband within a year preceding the date of the filing of the petition. *Wife v. Husband*.—Adultery, provided that at the time of the institution of the suit the husband is domiciled in the state; desertion for not less than three years; habitual drunkenness with cruelty or neglect to support for a similar period; refusing to obey an order for restitution of conjugal rights; being imprisoned for three years or upwards, or having within five years undergone various sentences amounting in all to not less than three years; attempt to murder or assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, or repeated assault within one year previously. Relief can only be sought on these grounds should the petitioner have been domiciled in the state for three years or upwards at the time of instituting the suit, and not have resorted to the state for the purpose of having the marriage dissolved. In Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, divorces are granted principally for adultery on the part of the wife, and adultery coupled with desertion for over two years on the part of the husband.

In the subjoined table will be found the actual number of divorces and judicial separations granted during each of the years 1896–1902. It will be seen that the rate varies considerably for the different years,

the lowest proportion being shown in 1898 and the highest in the year immediately preceding.

State.	1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.	
	Divorces.	Judicial Separations.												
New South Wales .....	234	8	246	13	247	17	232	17	219	14	252	20	245	21
Victoria .....	106	2	117	..	87	..	105	2	93	..	83	..	100	..
Queensland .....	3	2	10	1	7	..	10	1	12	1	14	..	6	..
South Australia .....	6	1	3	..	7	1	11	..	7	1	6	..	2	..
Western Australia .....	1	..	4	..	3	..	3	..	16	..	12	1	8	..
Tasmania .....	3	..	5	..	4	..	4	..	4	..	11	..	3	..
New Zealand .....	36	2	33	1	32	2	46	16	85	3	103	1	91	..
Australasia .....	389	15	418	15	387	20	411	36	436	19	481	22	464	21
Totals .....	404		433		407		447		455		503		485	
Divorces and separations per 10,000 marriages ..	144.2		150.6		137.7		142.3		138.0		148.6		141.3	

The following table shows the number of decrees of dissolution of marriage and judicial separation granted in each state, in quinquennial periods since 1871, so far as it is possible to procure the information. Divorce was legalised in New South Wales in 1873, and the figures of that state for 1871-75 only cover the two years 1874 and 1875.

State.	1871-75.		1876-80.		1881-85.		1886-90.		1891-95.		1896-1902.	
	Divorces.	Judicial Separations.	Divorces.	Judicial Separations.								
New South Wales .....	21	..	87	..	116	6	212	12	1087	55	1675	110
Victoria .....	33	6	41	2	74	8	124	9	441	10	700	4
Queensland .....	4	1	14	..	5	2	26	3	26	3	62	5
South Australia .....	22	3	35	2	31	10	23	2	30	2	42	3
Western Australia .....	..	..	1	1	5	..	8	..	9	..	47	1
Tasmania .....	9	..	9	..	9	..	15	2	21	2	34	..
New Zealand .....	*	*	*	*	*	*	110	5	101	14	426	25
Australasia .....	89	10	187	5	240	26	518	33	1715	86	2986	148

\* Information not available.

Taking the figures given in the foregoing table, and comparing them with the number of marriages celebrated during the same periods, the rates of divorce for the individual states, per 10,000 marriages, will be found below. It will be seen that the rate for New South Wales is

higher than that of any country of the world except the United States and Switzerland :—

State.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-1902.
New South Wales .....	†23·5	33·6	32·5	54·8	272·3	268·4
Victoria .....	16·0	16·9	24·4	31·1	119·6	125·4
Queensland .....	8·0	18·7	6·0	19·0	21·4	30·3
South Australia .....	33·5	34·6	33·1	24·3	29·9	28·9
Western Australia .....	...	20·5	44·8	53·5	35·6	41·0
Tasmania .....	27·4	22·0	18·0	35·4	50·8	41·2
New Zealand .....	*...	*...	*...	63·5	56·9	116·6

\* Information not available. † 1874 and 1875 only.

From the appended statement, which sets forth the latest divorce rates of the countries for which accurate statistics are obtainable, such rates being calculated on an experience of ten years wherever possible, it will be seen that there is a larger proportion of marriages dissolved in Australasia than in any other part of the British Empire, but that the rate for these provinces as a whole is largely exceeded by a number of foreign countries. Of countries where divorce laws are in force, no reliable statistics are available for Denmark, Hungary, Russia, and Spain. In Italy and Portugal divorce is not recognised by law :—

Country.	Divorces per 10,000 Marriages.	Country.	Divorces per 10,000 Marriages.
Canadian Dominion ...	4	Cape Colony .....	98
United Kingdom .....	11	Netherlands .....	103
Norway .....	16	Germany .....	165
Austria Proper .....	43	France .....	180
Greece .....	50	Roumania .....	204
Belgium .....	81	Switzerland .....	432
Sweden .....	87	United States .....	612

In the United States of America no general system of registration of births, deaths, and marriages is in force. For the purpose of comparison, the marriage-rate of that country has been assumed to be 6·50 per 1,000 of mean population, and on that basis the 20,660 divorces granted annually during ten years would give an average of not less than 612 per 10,000 marriages.

In the Dominion of Canada divorce was, under the Union Act, assigned to the Federal Parliament; but those provinces which had established divorce courts before the accomplishment of federation were permitted to retain the jurisdiction which they already exercised. In the remaining provinces no divorce courts have been established since

the constitution of the Dominion, and divorce can only be obtained by legislation, the matter being dealt with in each case as an ordinary private Act of Parliament, with this difference, however, that the Senate requires the production of such evidence in support of the application for relief as would be deemed sufficient in a court of law.

### INSANITY.

The number of insane persons in Australasia, under official cognizance in the various Government hospitals for the treatment of the insane, at the end of 1902 was 15,673, equal to 3·36 per 1,000 of the population, or corresponding to one insane person in about every 300. This rate is below that prevailing in England, where one person in every 293 is officially known to be insane.

An inspection of the table given below of the insane persons, both male and female, in each state and New Zealand at the end of 1902, and the rate per 1,000 inhabitants of each sex, will disclose the fact that the rate of insanity varies greatly in the different provinces, and that the rate for males is everywhere higher than that for females.

State.	Number of Insane.			Per 1,000 of Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total Persons.	Males.	Females.	Total Persons.
New South Wales .....	2,816	1,857	4,673	3·81	2·78	3·32
Victoria .....	2,354	2,193	4,547	3·91	3·63	3·77
Queensland .....	1,118	690	1,808	3·91	3·01	3·51
South Australia .....	566	425	991	3·05	2·36	2·71
Western Australia .....	263	102	365	2·12	1·28	1·79
Tasmania .....	243	198	441	2·64	2·33	2·49
Commonwealth.....	7,360	5,465	12,825	3·63	2·97	3·32
New Zealand.....	1,715	1,133	2,848	4·03	2·97	3·53
Australasia.....	9,075	6,598	15,673	3·71	2·97	3·36

Victoria has the highest general rate, with 3·77 per 1,000, New Zealand coming next with 3·53, closely followed by Queensland with 3·51. Next comes New South Wales with 3·32; South Australia with 2·71; Tasmania with 2·49; while Western Australia shows the lowest proportion with 1·79 per 1,000. New Zealand shows the highest rate for males with 4·03 per thousand, followed by Queensland and Victoria with 3·91; and Victoria with 3·63 per thousand has the largest proportion of females.

There is one remarkable difference between the Australasian states and Great Britain, namely, that in England the greater proportion of insanity is found amongst women, whereas in Australasia it is found amongst men.

In England the rate per 1,000 males in 1902 was 3·22, and per 1,000 females 3·59. In Australasia the greatest disproportion was in New Zealand, where the male and female rates were respectively 4·03 and 2·97 per 1,000. The smallest difference between the sexes is found in those states where the male population follow in greater proportion what may be termed the more settled pursuits. In Victoria the excess of the male over the female rate was only 0·28 and in Tasmania 0·31.

There seems to be little doubt that insanity is slowly but steadily increasing in the states, as it is in the United Kingdom and other countries. In England the rate has risen from 2·75 per 1,000 of population in 1879 to 3·41 in 1902, and in Scotland a similar rise has taken place from 2·75 per 1,000 in 1884 to 3·53 in 1902. In Ireland the rate has risen from 2·50 per 1,000 of the population in 1880 to 4·99 per 1,000 in 1902. The greater part of this increase is no doubt rightly attributed to an improvement in the administration of the Commissioners in Lunacy, by which a more accurate knowledge of the number of cases existent in the country has been gained; but the steady growth of the rate in recent years, when statistical information has been brought to a high pitch of perfection, plainly points to the fact that the advance of civilisation, with the increasing strain to which the struggle for existence is subjecting body and mind, has one of its results in the growth of insanity. In all the states of Australasia, with the sole exception of Tasmania, there is seen the same state of affairs as the insanity returns of Great Britain disclose, although the conditions of life press much more lightly on the individual here.

The experience of the various states is fairly represented in the following table, which shows the average number of insane in each state per 1,000 of population, arranged in three five-years periods:—

State.	1888-92.	1893-97.	1898-1902.
	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
New South Wales.....	2·75	2·94	3·19
Victoria .....	3·34	3·53	3·72
Queensland.....	2·77	3·17	3·43
South Australia.....	2·51	2·64	2·71
Western Australia .....	2·69	1·46	1·58
Tasmania.....	2·43	2·33	2·38
Commonwealth .....	2·92	3·07	3·23
New Zealand .. .....	2·88	3·12	3·45
Australasia .....	2·92	3·07	3·26

The above figures show that since 1897 the rate has increased throughout the Commonwealth and Australasia, while, with the exception of Western Australia and Tasmania, the rates for all the states show increases on those recorded for the quinquennial period ending in 1892. At present the smallest proportion of insane is shown by Western Australia, but the rate is increasing year by year, and will in all probability soon approximate that of the other states. The hospital accommodation in the state is limited, and many insane, especially males, doubtless escape notice.

It has been said that the trade depression experienced a few years ago throughout Australasia, was the cause of an increase in insanity; and at first sight it looks as if this were so, because since 1892 there has been a steady increase in the proportion of the population detained in asylums. But looking at the rates of admissions this view does not seem to be altogether borne out. Probably one effect of depressed times is to send to the asylums a number of harmless but demented persons who, under other circumstances, would be supported by their relatives. In England and Wales it is found that the increase in insanity has taken place amongst those who are termed the "pauper" class—that is, those whose relatives are not in a position to support them after they lose their reason. On the other hand, the admissions in prosperous times are kept up by insanity either directly or indirectly induced by the indulgence which commonly follows high wages and large gains.

The following table shows the average annual number of admissions and readmissions into the asylums in each state, and the rate per 1,000 of population, during each of the two quinquennial periods 1893-97 and 1898-1902:—

State.	1893-97.		1898-1902.	
	Average Number of Admissions per annum.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Average Number of Admissions per annum.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
New South Wales.....	709	0·57	836	0·62
Victoria .....	699	0·59	756	0·63
Queensland .....	252	0·58	336	0·68
South Australia.....	217	0·63	217	0·60
Western Australia .....	62	0·63	115	0·64
Tasmania .....	61	0·39	75	0·43
Commonwealth .....	2,000	0·58	2,335	0·62
New Zealand .....	495	0·72	573	0·75
Australasia .....	2,495	0·60	2,908	0·77

The table shows that the rate of admissions has advanced slightly during the decade in all the states, except South Australia, where there was a small decrease.

The next table shows the total number of patients who were discharged from the asylums during the ten years 1893-1902, either on account of recovery, permanent or temporary, or on account of death, and the proportion borne by each to the total number who were under treatment during the period.

State.	Total under Treatment.	Discharged—recovered or relieved.		Died.	
		Number.	Per cent. of total under treatment.	Number.	Per cent. of total under treatment.
New South Wales.....	11,039	3,787	34·30	2,529	22·91
Victoria .....	11,228	3,243	28·88	3,334	29·69
Queensland.....	4,174	1,353	32·41	978	23·43
South Australia.....	2,990	1,159	38·76	779	26·05
Western Australia .....	984	413	41·97	169	17·17
Tasmania .....	1,035	291	28·10	278	26·85
Commonwealth .....	31,450	10,246	32·58	8,067	25·64
New Zealand .. .....	7,259	3,205	44·15	1,406	19·37
Australasia.....	38,709	13,451	34·75	9,473	24·47

It is seen that, of the total number under treatment, 34·75 per cent. were discharged either partially or wholly recovered, and that 24·47 per cent. died. New Zealand shows the highest proportion of recoveries, and Tasmania and Victoria the lowest, while Western Australia has the lowest death-rate, and Victoria the highest. The position of Victoria as regards results in treatment of the insane is therefore the worst in Australasia, and this unsatisfactory state of affairs has aroused anxious attention in the southern state. At present the asylums are overcrowded, while the system of classification leaves much to be desired. A serious drawback to efficient administration also lies in the fact that while the inspector and official visitors may make suggestions they have no power to give administrative effect to their recommendations. In Western Australia also the asylums are greatly overcrowded, but the congestion will be, to some extent, relieved by the new buildings opened in 1903. The passing of the Lunacy Act of 1903, which supersedes the former defective Act, will, it is believed, lead to an important change for the better in the treatment and cure of the insane in the western state. Speaking generally, it is estimated that of the persons who are discharged from the asylums in Australasia, some 28 per cent. suffer a relapse and are readmitted; and it may be said that out of every 1,000 persons who are admitted for the first time, 420 will recover, and the sufferings of the remaining 580 will only be terminated by death.

Very little information is available as to the exciting or predisposing causes of insanity in the different states, New South Wales being the

only one concerning which there is complete information. But that state may be taken as typical of the whole, as the customs and conditions of living do not vary greatly in any of them, and the statement below enables a comparison to be made with the principal assigned causes of insanity in England and Wales. The following figures represent the proportion of each assigned cause to the total known causes for a period of five years:—

Cause.	Males.		Females.	
	New South Wales.	England and Wales.	New South Wales.	England and Wales.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Domestic trouble, Adverse circumstances,				
Mental anxiety .....	9·4	13·1	12·0	14·5
Intemperance in drink .....	14·8	19·3	4·2	7·7
Hereditary influence, ascertained; Congenital defect, ascertained .....	18·5	20·5	21·2	22·8
Pregnancy, Lactation, Parturition, and Puerperal state, Uterine and Ovarian disorders, Puberty, Change of life .....			14·3	11·7
Previous attacks .....	15·2	13·5	18·5	18·5
Accident, including Sunstroke .....	5·4	4·8	0·9	0·6
Old Age .....	8·2	5·8	6·4	6·5
Other Causes ascertained.....	28·5	23·0	22·5	17·7

Intemperance in drink is popularly supposed to be the most fruitful cause of insanity in Australasia, but as will be seen from the above table hereditary influence is the chief factor both here and in England. The figures moreover prove that insanity arising from intemperance is not nearly so common in these states as in the old country. Amongst females, the chief causes of insanity in the states are hereditary influence and pregnancy, etc. It is believed that hereditary influence and congenital defect are responsible in New South Wales for a much larger percentage of cases than the number shown in the table, and that of the unknown causes the great majority should be ascribed to hereditary influences. The small proportion of cases set down to these two causes is simply due to the difficulty of obtaining knowledge of the family history of a large number of those who enter the asylums.

#### HABITATIONS.

The latest information available concerning the habitations of the people, is that obtained at the census of 1901, when inquiry was made on the householders' schedules respecting the dwellings of the population. The information sought was in respect to whether a building was occupied, unoccupied, or in course of construction; the material of

which it was built, and the number of rooms which it contained. The tabulation was not made with the same degree of completeness in all the states; but so far as comparative figures can be given they are shown below:—

Class of Dwelling.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
Inhabited .....	252,502	241,41	98,737	69,856	48,506	34,165	158,898
Uninhabited .....	14,831	11,629	1,070	5,640	2,263	2,187	10,830
Being built .....	1,438	617	*	358	201	118	865
Total .....	268,771	253,656	100,407	75,854	50,970	36,470	170,593

\* Information not ascertained.

The materials of which the dwellings in each state were constructed are shown in the following table, so far as the particulars are available. In New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and New Zealand the information is shown for all dwellings; in Victoria and Queensland for inhabited dwellings only. Dwellings made of canvas are most numerous in Western Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales. The large numbers of men living in tents engaged in mining in Western Australia, and in mining and on railway extensions in the two last mentioned states, will sufficiently account for the totals shown in this class.

Material.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.		
Stone .....	10,793	8,469	300	45,136	3,931	} 8,059	{ 7,517		
Brick .....	92,879	63,627	2,248	13,479	8,372			.....	.....
Concrete, Placé .....	1,525	1,525	33	2,664	1,164			.....	.....
Iron, metal .....	5,380	1,337	6,215	2,787	5,589	} 23,653	{ 153,945		
Wood .....	140,482	} 157,112	77,419	9,471	12,206			.....	.....
Lath and Plaster .....	4,952		.....	.....	.....			.....	.....
Mud, bark .....	.....	2,896	1,604	.....	495	1,304	1,688		
Canvas (including tents) .....	8,874	3,423	9,609	1,564	18,628	869	5,116		
Others and unspecified .....	3,886	3,021	1,309	763	495	2,585	2,327		
Total .....	268,771	241,410	98,787	75,854	50,970	36,470	170,593		

The number of rooms is given below for all houses, whether occupied or unoccupied, in the case of New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania

and Western Australia ; for the other states the figures refer to inhabited dwellings only :—

Dwellings, with—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
One room .....	7,915	6,841	3,606	2,902	14,485	717	8,147
Two rooms.....	16,275	11,470	5,782	5,776	7,308	3,529	10,462
Three and four rooms .....	79,366	80,076	25,108	31,180	17,278	13,028	45,499
Five and six rooms .....	98,641	84,914	31,924	24,061	7,319	8,193	52,585
Seven to ten rooms.....	43,844	42,242	16,158		2,836	4,158	
Eleven to fifteen rooms.....	6,928	5,615	2,104		647		
Sixteen to twenty rooms.....	1,612	1,157	548		226		
More than twenty rooms.....	1,205	909	529		209		
Number of rooms unspecified ....	5,889	3,763	423	849	612	2,632	547
Tents, etc.....	7,096	3,423	12,555	....	....	2,245	5,116
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>268,771</b>	<b>241,410</b>	<b>93,737</b>	<b>75,854</b>	<b>50,970</b>	<b>36,470</b>	<b>158,898</b>

In the case of those states where no information is given in the table respecting tents, etc., the returns are incorporated in the first two lines of the table. From the foregoing figures it will be seen that in Australasia there are over 5 persons to every occupied house.