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SECTION XXIV.

PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory.

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

No poor-rate is levied in Australia, and Government aid without return is required only for the aged and disabled. Moreover, although Old-age Pensions, Invalid Pensions, and Maternity Allowances are paid by the Commonwealth, the payments are looked upon rather in the light of a citizen's right than as a charity. Reference to these matters will be found in Section xxxiv., *Miscellaneous*, § 4 and 5.

From time to time relief funds have been organised for famine-stricken territories (e.g., China, India, etc.), or for places where plague, flood, fire, or earthquake has shewn the need of urgent relief. Special funds are also raised for such as are disabled or bereaved through war. Complete statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duty of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds which have been instituted in consequence of the war, the total for Australia, up to 31st December, 1918, has been estimated to exceed £12,300,000 sterling.

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

1. **Hospitals.**—All of the State capitals have several large and well-equipped hospitals, and there is at least one in every important town. In large centres there are hospitals for consumptives, women, children, infectious diseases, incurables, etc. The number of hospitals in Australia, with the admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, is shewn in the following table. Only general hospitals are tabulated, since the working of "special" institutions is not properly comparable with those which treat every class of case.

HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1914 TO 1918.

Particulars.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Number of institutions ..	389	398	391	399	393
Number of beds ..	15,345	16,374	15,811	16,763	17,000
Admissions during year ..	155,531	169,892	166,588	164,889	174,379
Indoor patients treated ..	164,349	179,829	176,279	174,387	184,176
Deaths ..	11,468	12,809	13,128	11,885	12,494
Expenditure ..	£ 1,255,658	1,280,461	1,351,160	1,396,361	1,543,162

In addition to those admitted to the institutions there are large numbers of out-patients. The exact number of these cannot be given, but a rough estimate of distinct cases for 1918 places the total at about 300,000.

Fuller details of hospital statistics are given for 1918 in the tables below, the States and Northern Territory of the Commonwealth being shewn separately:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION OF HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1918.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	C'wealth.
Number of Hospitals—								
Government	4	..	3	10	22	2	5	46
Other	153	52	85	19	27	11	..	347
Total	157	52	88	29	49	13	5	393
Medical Staff—								
Males	796	76	170	98	43	22	1	1,223
Females			10	6	1	..	..
Total	796	76	180	104	44	22	1	1,223
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males	84	13	272	77	103	2	3	554
Females	2,116	753	1,047	506	519	174	7	5,122
Total	2,200	766	1,319	583	622	176	10	5,676
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, etc.	1,026	434	545	213	210	121	11	2,560
Capacity in cubic feet	7,753,143	4,804,725	3,926,909	1,603,626	2,424,751	824,389	60,912	21,403,455
Number of beds	6,526	3,562	3,432	1,218	1,668	572	22	17,000
Cubic feet to each bed	1,189	1,349	1,144	1,317	1,454	1,441	2,769	1,259

In addition to the accommodation provided in the ordinary wards, a considerable amount of accommodation for certain classes of cases is furnished in out-door or verandah sleeping places. Full particulars are not available.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1918.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	C'wealth.
Indoor Relief: Distinct Persons Treated—								
Males	39,291	16,446	25,360	7,515	7,924	3,887	361	100,784
Females	37,962	13,683	15,333	6,578	5,596	4,070	170	83,392
Total	77,253	30,129	40,693	14,093	13,520	7,957	531	184,176
Inmates at beginning of Year—								
Males	2,014	1,114	1,172	405	489	210	15	5,419
Females	1,974	939	637	304	270	203	1	4,378
Total	3,988	2,053	1,809	709	759	413	16	9,797
Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—								
Males	37,277	15,332	24,188	7,110	7,435	3,677	346	95,365
Females	35,988	12,744	14,646	6,274	5,326	3,867	169	79,014
Total	73,265	23,076	38,834	13,384	12,761	7,544	515	174,379

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1918—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	C'wealth.
Discharges—Recovered :								
Males	25,378	12,514	22,050	4,685	3,647	3,325	257	71,856
Females	28,249	10,971	13,513	4,547	3,364	3,603	89	64,336
Total	53,627	a23,485	a35,563	9,232	7,011	a6,928	346	136,192
Relieved :								
Males	7,311	..	..	1,359	2,593	..	30	<i>b</i>
Females	4,989	..	..	1,017	1,329	..	3	<i>b</i>
Total	12,300	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	2,376	3,922	<i>b</i>	33	<i>b</i>
Unrelieved :								
Males	1,277	205	348	368	379	119	1	2,697
Females	1,011	143	294	312	217	90	..	2,067
Total	2,288	348	642	680	596	209	1	4,764
Not stated :								
Males .. ..	..	740	..	83	..	8	22	853
Females .. ..	..	533	..	5	..	8	52	598
Total .. ..	..	1,273	..	88	..	16	74	1,451
Deaths—								
Males	3,013	1,776	1,706	609	685	225	15	8,029
Females	1,805	1,023	761	373	331	169	3	4,465
Total	4,818	2,799	2,467	982	1,016	394	18	12,494
Inmates at end of Year—								
Males	2,312	1,211	1,256	411	620	210	36	6,056
Females	1,908	1,013	765	324	355	200	23	4,588
Total	4,220	2,224	2,021	735	975	410	59	10,644
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males	2,412	2,153	2,477	431 { 385	615 { 381	232 { 226	27 { 12	11,723
Females	2,372							
Total	4,784	2,153	2,477	816	996	458	39	11,723

a Including relieved. *b* Included in recovered.

The revenue and expenditure of the institutions were as follows:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1918.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria. <i>a</i>	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	N. Ter.	C'wealth.
Revenue—								
Fees of patients, etc.	£ 97,481	£ 42,648	£ 37,393	£ 16,228	£ 28,245	£ 13,301	£ 579	£ 235,875
Government grants	318,291	62,664	169,135	70,390	87,936	32,459	4,156	745,031
Other	296,420	149,395	107,256	13,956	25,133	8,103	..	600,263
Total	712,192	254,707	313,784	100,574	141,314	53,863	4,735	1,581,169
Expenditure—								
Buildings	97,930	18,445	28,311	7,496	145,855	(3,260 19,990 18,479 12,334	279 1,427 3,028 ..	1,543,162
Salaries	242,668	211,153	{ 112,128 <i>b</i> 167,192	37,573 50,175				
Maintenance	254,278								10,903	4,010
Other	61,785							
Total	636,661	234,061	318,534	99,254	145,855	54,063	4,734	1,543,162

a Year ended 30th June, 1918. *b* Including rents.

2. **Principal Hospitals in each State.**—The tables here given refer to general hospitals. In addition there are hospitals for "specials" (such as women's, children's, and infectious diseases hospitals), and institutions nearly allied to hospitals (such as consumptive sanatoria). Where the institutions carry on general hospital relief, they are included with those establishments.

(i) *New South Wales.* A Government hospital, with a staff of 21 medical officers and accommodation for 595 patients, is established at Little Bay, near Sydney. Altogether, there are four hospitals for women, one for women and children, and three for children in the metropolis. The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, with a medical staff of 73, and with 518 beds, is the largest metropolitan endowed institution. Amongst other large metropolitan hospitals may be mentioned the Sydney Hospital, with a medical staff of 58 and with 334 beds, St. Vincent's with 48 doctors and 190 beds, and Lewisham with 24 medical attendants and 169 beds. In extra-metropolitan areas the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives, which is a Government institution, provides accommodation for 388 patients. The Newcastle Hospital has 170 beds and a medical staff of 16. At the Carrington Convalescent Home at Camden, 110 patients may be admitted. The hospital in the Broken Hill district can accommodate 154.

(ii) *Victoria.* There are several large metropolitan hospitals in Victoria. The largest of these, the Melbourne Hospital, has 329 beds; the Austin Hospital for Incurables has 290, the Alfred Hospital 168, St. Vincent's 138, and the Homœopathic 98. Amongst the country institutions, Bendigo has 222 beds, Geelong 205, and Ballarat 150.

(iii) *Queensland.* Of the metropolitan hospitals, the largest is the Brisbane General, which can accommodate 361 patients. The Children's Hospital has 218 beds, the Diamantina 174, and the Mater Misericordiæ 112. Ipswich Hospital, with 146 beds, is the largest of the country institutions, followed by Toowoomba with 130, Rockhampton with 108, Townsville with 105, Charters Towers 92, Bundaberg 83, Mackay 80, and Mt. Morgan 71.

(iv) *South Australia.* Including the Consumptive Home and Infectious Diseases Block, the Adelaide Hospital can accommodate a total of 440 patients. The most important of the country hospitals are at Port Augusta, Port Pirie, and Wallaroo, with 65, 56, and 48 beds respectively.

(v) *Western Australia.* Information regarding the capacity of the Western Australian hospitals is not available, but some idea of their comparative importance may be gained from the figures relating to cases treated. In the metropolis, 4,071 cases were treated at the Perth Hospital in 1918, and 1,608 at the Perth Children's. Of the country hospitals, Kalgoorlie returned 1,288 cases, Fremantle 942, and Wooroloo 549.

(vi) *Tasmania.* There are well-equipped general hospitals in Hobart and Launceston. The former has a medical staff of 4 and can accommodate 185 patients, and the latter has 190 beds and a medical staff of 2. Hospitals for women have been established in both centres, and there is a sanatorium for consumptives at Newtown. Outside the metropolitan area, the Devon Cottage Hospital has a medical staff of 2, and beds for 70 patients; the Lyell District Hospital can accommodate 35 patients, and there are 9 other institutions in important country centres.

(vii) *Northern Territory.* In addition to the hospitals at Darwin and Pine Creek, arrangements have been made for the supply of medicines and first aid to outlying stations.

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

The impossibility of an entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially marked in the case of benevolent institutions, since the conditions under which they have been established in the different centres in the Commonwealth have caused divergence in their development and in the classes of cases treated by them. For example, in Western Australia the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which the statistics are not separately kept. Since the predominating function of the institution is aid to the destitute, it has been included among benevolent asylums. In Victoria, nine of the hospitals are also benevolent asylums, and they are included wholly under the former. In South Australia, the Destitute Asylum includes lying-in and children's departments.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1918.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—							
Government aid	102,101	21,028	37,249	33,148	19,090	8,494	221,110
Municipal aid		844					844
Public subs., legacies, etc. ..	3,215	10,820	1,143	22			15,200
Fees	11,045	11,259		6,383		2,445	31,132
Other	9,005	6,295	1,079	261		218	16,858
Total	125,366	50,246	39,471	39,814	19,090	11,157	285,144
Expenditure—							
Buildings	3,516	1,457	1,420	1,362		334	8,089
Maintenance	116,869	46,431	37,726	38,209	19,090	7,290	265,615
Other	4,524	269	322			3,533	8,648
Total	124,909	48,157	39,468	39,571	19,090	11,157	282,352

(i) *Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales.* There are five asylums for the infirm maintained by the Government—four for men and one for women. Rookwood, the largest of these, had in 1918 an average number resident of 1,311, Newington 709, and Liverpool 557. At the Cottage Homes, situated at two separate localities in Parramatta, the average number resident was about 320. The State Labour Depot and Refuge at Randwick had 125 inmates during 1918.

(ii) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. The average daily number of indoor patients was 1,878, and there were 507 distinct cases of outdoor relief.

(iii) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 352 beds. The most important of these is at Dunwich (Stradbroke Island) with 734 beds, while there are small institutions at Nundah, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba. At the end of 1918 the inmates of the four institutions numbered 1,042.

(iv) *Destitute Asylum, Adelaide.* Outside of hospitals and lunatic asylums the destitute of South Australia are dealt with and relieved at the Destitute Asylum, Adelaide, and at the Aged Men's Home, Beaumont. The former institution includes lying-in and children's departments. In the asylum the number of inmates at the end of 1918 was 307; in the Beaumont Home it was 66.

(v) *Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia.* There are two of these homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. The Old Men's Home at Claremont had 585 inmates at the end of 1918, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, which receives children also, had 73 adult inmates. The children admitted during the year numbered 24.

(vi) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. The New Town Infirmary and Consumptive Home, with 220 beds, had 186 inmates at the end of June, 1919, and the Home for Invalids, Launceston, with 21 beds, had 21 inmates on the same date.

4. **Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.**—The organisation of charitable effort varies greatly in regard to orphans and waifs. In many institutions shelter and some form of industrial training are offered to destitute children of all classes, whether orphans or not, while some of those styled orphanages do not confine their relief to orphans strictly so called. The figures in the next table are those for institutions where, it is believed, the principal effort is on behalf of those who are really orphans :—

ORPHANAGES IN COMMONWEALTH, 1914 TO 1918.

Particulars.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Number of Institutions	50	50	48	47	48
Admissions	2,340	2,376	2,118	1,400	2,679
Total number of inmates during year ..	4,344	4,503	5,061	5,754	7,451
Deaths	46	48	35	20	53
Expenditure (a) £	86,390	93,758	79,526	81,141	114,420

(a) Incomplete. Expenditure is not available for some orphanages.

(i) *New South Wales.* The care of destitute and neglected children is entrusted to the State Children's Relief Board, whose officers are charged with a strict supervision regarding the welfare of the children and the treatment of them by those to whom they are boarded out. Provision is made for instruction in various trades and callings. The number of children under the Board's supervision in 1918-19 was 12,838. The board's expenditure in that year was £211,507, or £16 9s. 6d. per child.

There are also orphanages, farm homes, country homes for children, etc., with upwards of 1,300 children under care.

There are several reformatories and industrial schools maintained by the State. At the Parramatta Industrial School for Girls, to which a Training Home was attached in 1912, there were on 31st December, 1918, 136 inmates. At the Farm Home for boys, Gosford, there were 64 boys at the end of 1918.

(ii) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1,756 beds. The daily average of the inmates was 1,675 in 1917-18. The expenditure in the same year was £35,464.

At the end of 1918 there were three industrial and six reformatory schools in the State. Of these, one in each class is wholly controlled by the Government, being used merely as a receiving and distributing depot. The children are sent thence to situations, foster homes, or other institutions dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management, receiving an allowance for State wards. Many of the reformatory children are placed with friends, or licensed out. On 31st December, 1918, the wards of the State numbered 11,347—classed mostly as neglected children. There were also 42 children free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The total expenditure for 1918 was £181,014, of which £171,474 was borne by the Government.

(iii) *Queensland.* There are eleven orphanages in Queensland. The number under care on 31st December, 1918, was 1,120, and the expenditure for the year £21,517.

There are also seven industrial and reformatory schools, with 121 boys and 59 girls under detention at the end of 1918. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1918 was 7,037. The gross cost was £143,008, of which £134,040 was borne by the Government.

(iv) *South Australia.* The State Children's Department exercises a supervision over the probationary and industrial schools and the reformatories. The total number of admissions into these institutions in 1918-19 was 231. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1919, was 226, in addition to which 1,614 were placed out, or had been adopted

or apprenticed. There were no deaths amongst children in industrial schools and reformatories, and of those placed out and in other institutions three died. The number of children under State control on 30th June, 1919, was 3,870. The expenditure for 1918-19 was £39,684.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1918 was 365, of whom 261 were inmates on 31st December, 1918. There were no deaths during the year, and the expenditure amounted to £2,900.

(v) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, at the end of 1918, four orphanages, three orphanages and industrial schools, and two industrial schools, containing 440 boys and 381 girls. There were also 10 boys and 10 girls at the Government Receiving Depot. The total number of children in charge of the State Children's Department at the end of 1918 was 1,666, and the net cost £46,920.

(vi) *Tasmania.* There are three industrial schools and one orphanage under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1918-19 numbered 22, and total inmates during the year 160. No deaths occurred. The expenditure was £3,329.

The New Town Training School for boys had 42 inmates at the end of June, 1919.

Under the boarding-out system upwards of 400 children are placed out. The total number of children under State control at the end of June, 1919, was 407, the net cost to the State of children's relief being £6,148.

(vii) *Neglected Children.* The following table summarises the number of neglected children under State Departments. Included in the figures are children boarded out with their own mothers, the numbers being, New South Wales 8,257, Victoria 5,324 Queensland 4,244, South Australia 315, Western Australia 276, Tasmania 5; the total for the Commonwealth being 18,421.

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—TRANSACTIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS, 1918.

Particulars.	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Number of Children under State control at end of year—							
Males	(c)	5,947	3,697	2,130	873	203	(d)12,850
Females	(c)	5,400	3,340	1,740	793	204	(d)11,477
Total	12,838	11,347	7,037	3,870	1,666	407	37,165
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost to State of children's relief	211,507	181,014	143,008	39,684	50,317	7,216	632,746
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc.	7,670	9,540	8,968	4,954	3,397	1,068	35,597
Net cost	203,837	171,474	134,040	34,730	46,920	6,148	597,149

(a) For year ended 5th April following. (b) For the year ended 30th June, 1919.
(c) Details not available. (d) Exclusive of New South Wales.

5. *Lepers.*—Lazarets for the treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane, and Dayman Island, Torres Strait); and the Northern Territory (Mud Island). Quarantine and isolation stations have also been used for the segregation of patients. A great deal of information concerning the beginning and progress of leprosy in Australia was collected and published by the late Dr. J. Ashburton Thompson, while Chief Government Medical Officer and President of the Board of Health, New South Wales, from whose reports the following table has

been compiled, up to and including the year 1915, later figures not being available in similar form :—

CASES OF LEPROSY RECORDED IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1855 TO 1915.

State.	1855 to 1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
New South Wales ..	140	4	2	2	5	3	4	2	4	3
Victoria ..	(a) 27	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1
Queensland ..	(b) 186	21	23	8	6	7	4	12	8	10
South Australia ..	37	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western Australia ..	4	..	3	4	3	2	..	..	..	5
Tasmania ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northern Territory (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Total ..	(a) (b) 395	26	28	14	14	12	9	15	13	19

(a) In addition, some Chinese. (b) In addition, many Kanakas. (c) As from the year 1911.

6. Hospitals for the Insane.—The method of compiling insanity statistics has been fairly uniform throughout the States, but the various methods of observing the early stages of the development of insanity introduce an element of uncertainty which considerably reduces the value of comparison. In the summary given below, licensed houses (except as regards expenditure) are included in the total for New South Wales and Victoria, but in the latter State the figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards :—

HOSPITALS FOR INSANE,(a) COMMONWEALTH, 1914 TO 1918.

Particulars.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Number of institutions	35	34	35	34	34
Number of beds	16,432	16,417	16,673	16,808	17,176
Admissions	3,339	3,118	3,268	3,054	3,192
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc. . .	1,574	1,491	1,451	1,456	1,406
Deaths	1,270	1,341	1,459	1,306	1,383
Expenditure	£ 755,697	815,200	861,258	875,963	951,439

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

The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, has changed very little during recent years. In the next table the number of insane under official care in Australia is given, and in the table following, the proportion of insane to population.

The number of insane persons in institutions in Australia at the end of each of the years 1914–1918 was as follows :—

INSANE PERSONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1914 TO 1918.

State.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
New South Wales ..	6,906	7,063	7,240	7,340	7,581
Victoria ..	5,729	5,767	5,793	5,833	5,915
Queensland ..	2,448	2,441	2,517	2,590	2,623
South Australia ..	1,080	1,137	1,158	1,176	1,153
Western Australia ..	981	1,009	1,045	1,066	1,123
Tasmania ..	537	522	545	570	575
Commonwealth ..	17,681	17,939	18,298	18,575	18,970

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria shows the highest rate of insanity, roughly 1 in 250 persons. It is stated that this is chiefly owing to the proportionately greater number of old persons in that State. On the other hand, in South Australia a considerably lower insanity rate has prevailed, averaging about 1 in 380, Tasmania following closely with an average of about 1 in 370.

PROPORTION OF INSANE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION, 1914 TO 1918.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

State.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
New South Wales ..	3.71	3.78	3.92	3.88	3.92
Victoria ..	4.00	4.04	4.15	4.13	4.13
Queensland ..	3.62	3.55	3.70	3.83	3.78
South Australia ..	2.42	2.58	2.67	2.70	2.59
Western Australia ..	3.04	3.13	3.38	3.44	3.58
Tasmania ..	2.67	2.62	2.72	2.80	2.75
Commonwealth ..	3.58	3.62	3.75	3.76	3.78

Consequent upon the development of a more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases, a greater willingness is being shewn to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an earlier stage than formerly. Hence an increase in the number of recorded cases does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity. It is important to bear this in mind, because the small progressive increase in the numbers in the first of the immediately preceding tables is probably to be attributed largely, if not solely, to this circumstance.

The leading features in regard to institutions for the care of the insane are given below for 1918 :—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1918.

(COMMONWEALTH.)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Number of Institutions—							
Government	9	9	3	1	2	1	25
Private	3	(b) 5	..	..	1	..	(b) 9
Total	12	14	3	1	3	1	34
Medical Staff—							
Males	20	20	7	2	3	2	54
Females	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Total	21	20	8	2	3	2	56
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males	612	557	233	91	127	86	1,706
Females	499	533	185	61	56	64	1,398
Total	1,111	1,090	418	152	183	150	3,104
Accommodation—							
Number of dormitories ..	(c) 353	1,427	584	(f)	41	369	(f)
Capacity in cubic feet ..	c3,582,976	3,727,818	1,883,342	(f)	699,664	897,447	(f)
Number of beds	(c) 6,238	5,136	2,641	1,222	1,161	668	17,176
Cubic feet to each bed ..	{ (d) 600 } { (e) 1,000 }	719	713	(f)	603	1,343	(f)

(a) Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong Hospitals. (b) There are five private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 90 cases at end of 1917. Other figures for these private asylums are not available. (c) Government hospitals only. (d) Ordinary dormitory. (e) Hospital dormitory. (f) Information not available.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1918.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth
Admissions and re-admissions during year—							
Males	820	346	263	145	123	38	1,735
Females	638	416	176	101	86	40	1,457
Total	1,458	762	439	246	209	78	3,192
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	296	75	101	40	14	12	538
Females	241	80	103	36	20	15	495
Total	537	155	204	76	34	27	1,033
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	74	65	19	38	10	7	213
Females	51	70	6	23	7	3	160
Total	125	135	25	61	17	10	373
Absconders not retaken—							
Males	4	..	..	1	7	..	12
Females .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	4	..	..	1	7	..	12
Deaths—							
Males	369	218	112	73	60	24	856
Females	182	172	65	58	38	12	527
Total	551	390	177	131	98	36	1,383
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males	4,394	2,889	1,676	640	788	277	10,664
Females	3,187	3,026	947	513	335	298	8,306
Total	7,581	5,915	2,623	1,153	1,123	575	18,970
Average daily number resident—							
Males	4,183	2,612	1,684	642	767	282	10,170
Females	2,877	2,577	953	520	323	287	7,537
Total	7,060	5,189	2,637	1,162	1,090	569	17,707
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males	4.58	4.22	4.75	3.11	4.88	2.63	4.31
Females	3.27	4.06	2.77	2.14	2.20	2.88	3.25
Persons	3.92	4.13	3.78	2.59	3.58	2.75	3.77
Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males	4.41	3.87	4.80	3.16	4.81	2.75	4.16
Females	2.98	3.47	2.82	2.19	2.13	2.83	2.97
Persons	3.69	3.66	3.83	2.64	3.50	2.79	3.56

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

In some of the States it is the practice to allow persons well advanced towards recovery to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are nevertheless under supervision of the asylum authorities and are kept on the books. The figures for admission, etc., include absconders captured and readmitted. Very few escapees succeed in avoiding capture.

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

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE (GOVERNMENT ONLY), REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1918.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
Revenue (exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of patients.. ..	50,409	26,663	10,935	10,137	5,790	5,367	109,301
Other	2,804	9,112	1,544	697	1,550	1,046	16,753
Total	53,213	35,775	12,479	10,834	7,340	6,413	126,054
Expenditure—							
Salaries	182,799	121,567	75,563	19,497	32,867	15,853	448,146
Maintenance	170,209	139,277	64,767	30,845	30,191	24,227	459,606
Buildings		12,633	..	824	3,114	1,848	18,419
Other	19,667	4,331	614	511	..	145	25,268
Total	372,765	277,808	140,944	51,677	66,172	42,073	951,439

(i) *New South Wales.* The latest return available shews that the average length of residence in the hospitals of persons who died was 4 years 8 months for males and 5 years 9 months for females; and that of persons who were discharged was 1 year 2 months for males and 1 year 7 months for females.

There are also two State reception houses, where suspected persons are confined for observation, being subsequently either discharged or transferred to lunatic asylums. In two of the gaols observation wards have been instituted, with similar functions.

(ii) *Victoria.* The average residence in the hospitals of those who died was 8 years 3 months for males and 12 years 11 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 3 months for males and 1 year 9 months for females.

There are lunacy wards in two of the general hospitals; also a State receiving house where persons are placed for observation, and subsequently discharged or transferred to asylums.

(iii) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died was 7 years 9 months for males and 8 years for females; and of those who were discharged, 19 months for both males and females.

There are also three reception houses for insane, which act as depots to which patients are sent with a view to determining whether their mental illness is of a merely temporary character, easily relieved, or is of such a nature as to need further treatment at the State asylums.

(iv) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 6 years and 8 months for males and 9 years 3 months for females; of those discharged, 9 months for males and 2 years for females.

(v) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 5 years 7 months for males and 3 years 5 months for females; of those who were discharged, 3 years for males and 1 year 3 months for females.

(vi) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 12 years 9 months for males and 4 years 3 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 5 months for males and 10 months for females.

(vii) *Causes of Insanity.* The proportion of causes of insanity to the total of ascertained causes in Australia in the five years 1914-18 shews that hereditary influences have been the chief factor, more than one-fifth of the total ascertained causes coming under this head. Domestic troubles, adverse circumstances, &c., have also been a fruitful source. Cases due to intemperance in drink range from one in eight to one in ten.

PROPORTION OF ASCERTAINED CAUSES, ETC., OF INSANITY, COMMONWEALTH, 1914 TO 1918.

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety ..	10.1	10.6	9.6	9.7	9.9
Intemperance in drink ..	12.9	11.6	10.3	10.5	10.2
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained ..	16.6	22.9	22.4	21.8	22.1
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life ..	4.9	7.1	5.1	6.0	4.9
Previous attacks ..	10.8	13.0	14.9	14.1	14.6
Accident, including sunstroke ..	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.5
Old age ..	8.4	8.2	10.0	9.8	9.4
Other causes ascertained ..	34.1	24.9	25.9	26.2	27.4
All ascertained causes ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

7. **Treatment of Inebriates.**—The treatment of inebriates is referred to in the section dealing with Public Justice hereinbefore. (See page 881.)

8. **Protection of Aborigines.**—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where the blacks are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic in habit of life, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come under the notice of the Boards. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The estimated average annual expenditure on maintenance, &c., for the last five years was—New South Wales, £23,000; Victoria, £4,000; Queensland, £21,000; South Australia, £20,000; Western Australia, £25,500; Northern Territory, £3,000; total for Commonwealth, £96,500. In New South Wales the average number receiving monthly aid in 1918 was 2,123, of whom 910 were adults; in Victoria there were 307 under the care of the Aborigines Protection Board on the 30th June, 1918; in Queensland, at the end of 1918, there were 2,863 aborigines at the mission stations; in South Australia, there were 739 inmates at mission stations, while in Western Australia the aborigines and half-castes in the native institutions numbered 450. At the mission stations in the Northern Territory about 300 were in residence, but casual assistance and medical attendance are given to large numbers of natives every year.

9. **Royal Life Saving Society.**—In each of the State capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established. Life preservation is the object of the Society, and its immediate objects are (a) educative and (b) remedial. By stimulating the acquirement of the art of swimming in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., it is desired to bring about a widespread and thorough knowledge of natation and life-saving; while life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances are provided on ocean beaches and at places where they are likely to be in demand. Upwards of 3,000 certificates of proficiency in various grades are annually issued after examination.

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

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

12. **State Expenditure on Charities.**—The table below gives the amount expended by Government on charities in each of the last five years, the figures for the various States being compiled, as far as possible, on the same basis :—

STATE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1913 TO 1918.

State or Territory.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	711,453	779,303	876,767	863,713	962,901
Victoria	485,018	541,668	525,682	543,225	541,817
Queensland	321,597	307,899	324,143	372,342	417,743
South Australia ..	129,281	167,272	162,849	191,748	166,250
Western Australia ..	222,417	228,064	247,589	178,477	249,361
Tasmania	70,387	78,092	79,494	88,445	95,867
Northern Territory ..	5,301	4,864	5,649	4,488	4,156
Commonwealth ..	1,945,454	2,107,162	2,222,173	2,242,438	2,438,095

13. **Total Charitable Expenditure.**—The expenditure in the Commonwealth in money on hospitals, charities, and all forms of relief publicly given, comprising the amounts furnished by Government and those raised by public subscription, etc., but excluding old-age pensions, exceeds £4,000,000 annually.