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## CHAPTER VIII.

## PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

## § 1. Introductory.

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

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

From time to time relief funds have been organized for famine-stricken countries in various parts of the world, or for places where plagues, flood, fire, or earthquake have shown the need of urgent relief. Special funds were also raised for persons disabled or bereaved through war. Complete statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duty of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds which were instituted in consequence of the war of 1914-1919, the total for Australia was estimated to exceed £12,500,000.

## § 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

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

The particulars given herein refer to public hospitals at the latest available date, and include all institutions affording hospital relief, whether general or special, with the exception of the hospitals for the insane and private hospitals conducted commercially. It is considered that the extension of the scope of these statistics to embrace both general and special institutions will afford a better comparison as between the various States than the statistics previously issued relating to general hospitals only. The particulars for New South Wales in the following tables relate to hospitals operating under the Public Hospitals Act, 1929-1937.

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

(iii) *Number, Staff and Accommodation, 1938.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs and accommodation for the year 1938, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table:—

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS : NUMBER, STAFF AND ACCOMMODATION, 1938.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Hospitals ..	208	71	118	54	92	20	563
Medical Staff—							
Honorary .. ..	1,684	880	203	253	142	94	3,256
Salaried .. ..	287	218	175	58	27	38	803
Total .. ..	1,971	1,098	378	(b) 311	169	132	4,059
Nursing Staff .. ..	5,346	2,849	2,803	(b) 1,075	1,167	342	13,582
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	14,246	7,626	6,337	(b) 2,510	3,339	1,653	35,711

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1939; South Australia—31st December, 1938; Victoria—30th June, 1938.

(b) Exclusive of particulars of Lying-in Homes, Sanatoria and Convalescent Homes.

The figures for accommodation shown in the table above include, where available, a considerable number of beds and cots for certain classes of cases in out-door or verandah sleeping places.

(iv) *Patients Treated.* The table hereunder furnishes particulars respecting patients treated.

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS : PATIENTS TREATED, 1938.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Indoor Relief—Inmates at beginning of year—							
Males .. ..	5,208	2,511	2,286	786	880	588	12,259
Females .. ..	5,585	2,817	1,987	800	973	575	12,737
Total .. ..	10,793	5,328	4,273	1,586	1,853	1,163	24,996
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—							
Males .. ..	109,691	37,091	53,944	17,040	23,480	8,411	249,657
Females .. ..	124,451	48,489	52,772	19,454	20,746	11,486	277,398
Total .. ..	234,142	85,580	106,716	36,494	44,226	19,897	527,055
Discharges—							
Males .. ..	103,509	34,075	51,303	15,885	22,244	8,028	235,044
Females .. ..	120,002	46,469	51,128	18,618	20,125	11,086	267,428
Total .. ..	223,511	80,544	102,431	34,503	42,369	19,114	502,472
Deaths—							
Males .. ..	5,899	2,869	2,533	1,059	1,170	476	14,036
Females .. ..	4,106	1,967	1,500	774	596	393	9,336
Total .. ..	10,005	4,836	4,033	1,863	1,766	869	23,372
Inmates at end of year—							
Males .. ..	5,491	2,658	2,394	850	946	495	12,834
Females .. ..	5,928	2,870	2,131	364	998	582	13,373
Total .. ..	11,419	5,528	4,525	1,214	1,944	1,077	26,207
Average Daily Number Resident .. ..	10,866	5,530	4,356	(c) 1,376	1,021	1,140	25,608

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Not available. (c) See footnote (b) to previous table.

(v) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure for the year 1938 were as follows :—

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid ..	61,307,625	(c) 494,467	641,849	257,167	331,200	95,627	3,127,935
Municipal Aid ..	..	80,296	258,307	50,405	948	..	389,956
Public Subscriptions, Legacies, etc. ..	(d) 620,760	293,391	33,801	26,606	74,153	9,545	1,058,256
Fees ..	578,343	256,788	317,596	113,274	146,352	72,439	1,481,792
Other ..	(e) 474,493	253,779	254,876	10,928	37,126	14,501	1,045,703
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>2,981,221</b>	<b>1,378,721</b>	<b>1,506,429</b>	<b>458,380</b>	<b>589,779</b>	<b>192,112</b>	<b>7,106,642</b>
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	1,196,490	506,157	524,516	201,960	252,939	99,669	2,781,731
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds	91,100	13,647	20,012	26,119	4,585	7,538	163,091
All Other Ordinary Capital(f) ..	995,074	523,119	590,434	206,217	194,396	80,832	2,590,072
	(g)	337,232	301,997	35,332	112,500	..	817,061
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>2,282,754</b>	<b>1,380,155</b>	<b>1,436,959</b>	<b>469,628</b>	<b>594,420</b>	<b>188,039</b>	<b>6,351,055</b>

(a) See note (a) to table on page 213. (b) Includes State aid for buildings, £277,851.  
 (c) Includes loan receipts, £169,275. (d) Includes legacies and bequests for capital purposes, £93,103.  
 (e) Includes loans raised under Section 37 of the Public Hospitals Act, £304,070. (f) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings. (g) Not available.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1934 to 1938.* Returns for the last five years of the number of hospitals in Australia, beds, admissions, indoor patients treated, deaths and expenditure are given in the following table. The figures relate to both general and special hospitals. It should be noted that the statistics for the States cannot be brought to a common year, and consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years.

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS : AUSTRALIA.**

Particulars.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Number of institutions ..	526	526	557	560	563
Number of beds ..	31,190	31,727	33,377	34,541	35,711
Admissions during year ..	422,896	451,761	481,727	511,648	527,055
Total indoor cases treated ..	443,061	472,804	504,521	535,342	552,051
Deaths ..	19,705	20,805	21,601	22,162	23,372
Expenditure ..	£ 4,222,174	4,608,878	5,134,247	5,965,484	6,351,955

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. So far as the returns show there were 605,700 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 241,067 in Victoria, 258,450 in Queensland, 58,065 in South Australia, and 16,623 in Tasmania during the last year.

2. *Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.*—(i) *General.* The public provision for the care of indigent old people has been a feature of the social development of recent years in most countries. Numerous establishments exist in Australia for the housing and protection of persons no longer able to provide for themselves. These institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, bequests, etc.; while in many cases relatives of poor and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

An entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially difficult in the case of benevolent institutions, because the services provided by these institutions are not always identical. For example, in Western Australia, the Home for Destitute Women includes a maternity ward, for which statistics are not kept separately. Since the chief function of the institution is to help the destitute, it has been included amongst benevolent asylums. In Victoria, although several of the hospitals were formerly also benevolent asylums, a separation was effected and asylum patients were transferred to appropriate institutions.

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

(iii) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1938 are given in the following table:—

**BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Revenue—</b>							
Government Aid ..	101,554	44,789	37,182	16,993	9,927	18,281	228,726
Municipal Aid ..	..	781	..	..	5	..	786
Public Subs., Legacies	20,032	18,961	7,722	..	693	..	47,408
Fees ..	54,385	47,266	39,449	6,479	18,577	6,102	172,258
Other ..	5,922	13,825	27,564	1,936	435	1,288	50,970
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>181,893</b>	<b>125,622</b>	<b>111,917</b>	<b>25,408</b>	<b>29,637</b>	<b>25,671</b>	<b>500,148</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Salaries and Wages ..	83,935	39,485	27,005	7,743	14,879	12,345	185,392
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	887	3,195	2,273	1,398	592	738	9,083
All Other(b) ..	90,005	81,998	86,072	16,267	14,272	12,588	301,202
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>174,827</b>	<b>124,678</b>	<b>115,350</b>	<b>25,408</b>	<b>29,743</b>	<b>25,671</b>	<b>495,677</b>

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales and South Australia—31st December, 1938; Victoria—30th June, 1938; and Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1939. (b) Including £23,367 in Victoria, £31,433 in Queensland, £4,747 in South Australia, and £274 in Western Australia, covering such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

3. *Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.*—(i) *General.* The methods of caring for orphans and neglected children differ extensively, inasmuch as some of the children are more or less segregated in orphanages and industrial schools, while others are boarded-out with their mothers or female relatives or with approved foster mothers. The children in orphanages and similar institutions may receive, in addition to primary education, some craft training. In all cases employment is found for the children on their discharge from the institution, and they remain for some time under the supervision of the proper authorities. The conditions under which orphans, neglected children and children boarded-out live, are subject to frequent inspections. Apart from the amounts shown in (iii) below the gross expenditure on orphanages, etc., in 1938 was approximately £400,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, p. 486).

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions during 1938 of State Departments in connexion with children under their

control or supervision. In addition to neglected children, the figures include uncontrollable and convicted children who are wards of a Government authority, as well as poor children whose parents obtain assistance from the Government without giving up the legal right of custody.

CHILDREN UNDER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY: SUMMARY, 1938.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b) .. ..	1,012	529	964	229	40	220	2,994
In licensed or approved institutions .. ..	..	1,482	..	..	594	..	2,076
Boarded-out—							
With own mothers ..	9,787	8,118	5,168	} 47,257 (c)	} 2,650 267	} 43,170	41,964
With licensed foster mothers, guardians, relatives and friends	3,120	1,916	511				
<b>Total children maintained or subsidized by the State</b>	<b>13,919</b>	<b>12,045</b>	<b>6,643</b>	<b>7,486</b>	<b>3,551</b>	<b>3,390</b>	<b>47,034</b>
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions .. ..	1,012	..	..	..	..	..	1,012
Boarded-out .. ..	195	..	..	1,221	464	..	1,880
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts) .. ..	1,728	1,478	108	210	410	..	3,934
In service or apprenticed	207	356	421	169	149	..	1,302
Adopted or otherwise placed .. ..	316	..	1	22	..	..	339
<b>Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>8,467</b>
<b>Total children under State control or supervision..</b>	<b>17,377</b>	<b>13,879</b>	<b>7,173</b>	<b>9,108</b>	<b>4,574</b>	<b>3,390</b>	<b>55,501</b>
Gross cost of children's relief .. ..	£ 478,471	£ 326,280	£ 194,724	£ 46,998	£ 26,828	£ 14,411	£ 1,087,712
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	20,838	10,633	8,770	4,038	8,506	828	54,213
<b>Net cost to State..</b>	<b>457,633</b>	<b>315,647</b>	<b>185,954</b>	<b>42,360</b>	<b>18,322</b>	<b>13,583</b>	<b>1,033,499</b>

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—Victoria and Queensland—31st December, 1938; Other States—30th June, 1939. (b) Including inmates of hospitals. (c) Including 6,335 children in receipt of Ration Relief. (d) Mostly with own mothers. (e) In addition there were 251 children at Fairbridge Farm School and 107 at Tardun Agricultural School.

The total expenditure on children's relief in the previous table shows considerable variation amongst the States owing to the different methods of treating assistance to mothers with dependent children. In South Australia, Western Australia and

Tasmania, large amounts have been excluded from the total expenditure on this account owing to the difficulty of obtaining separate amounts for allowances made in respect of the dependent children only.

4. **Leper Hospitals.**—Isolation hospitals for the care and treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane, and Fantome Island, North Queensland); Western Australia (Derby); and the Northern Territory (Channel Island, near Darwin). At the end of 1939 there were 9 cases in residence at Little Bay, 101 in Queensland, 168 at Derby, and 110 at Channel Island. There were also 5 cases isolated in the south of Western Australia and 1 case in Victoria, which were European cases infected elsewhere. Of these 394 cases, 343 were aboriginals, 3 Asiatics and 48 Europeans.

5. **Hospitals for the Insane.**—(i) *General.* The methods of compiling statistics of insanity are fairly uniform throughout the States, but comparisons are of doubtful validity, because of an element of uncertainty as to possible differences in diagnosis in the early stages of the disease.

(ii) *Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1938.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1938 :—

#### HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1938.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions ..	13	(b) 11	4	2	4	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males .. ..	29	34	7	7	4	2	83
Females .. ..	7	..	1	..	..	1	9
Total .. ..	36	34	8	7	4	3	92
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males .. ..	1,060	764	304	142	137	82	2,489
Females .. ..	1,067	793	250	134	105	79	2,433
Total .. ..	2,127	1,562	554	276	242	161	4,922
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	11,477	6,456	3,572	1,888	1,456	805	25,654

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows :—New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1939; other States—31st December, 1938. (b) Includes two licensed private houses, in which cases at the end of the year numbered 61; other particulars are not available.

(iii) *Patients, 1938.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1938 is given in the table hereunder :—

#### HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1938.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of distinct persons treated during year(c)—							
Males .. ..	6,841	3,891	2,408	1,036	1,031	392	15,599
Females .. ..	6,309	4,309	1,779	927	625	393	14,342
Total .. ..	13,150	8,200	4,187	1,963	1,656	785	29,941

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Including 24 males and 61 females in licensed private houses. (c) Exclusive of transfers to other institutions.

## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1938(a)—continued.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<b>Number of patients on books at beginning of year—</b>							
Males .. .. .	5,974	3,452	2,062	905	942	310	13,645
Females .. .. .	5,499	3,850	1,482	804	579	325	12,539
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>11,473</b>	<b>7,302</b>	<b>3,544</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>1,521</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>26,184</b>
<b>Admissions and re-admissions exclusive of absconders retaken and transfers from other Institutions—</b>							
Males .. .. .	867	439	346	131	89	82	1,954
Females .. .. .	810	459	297	123	46	68	1,803
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>3,757</b>
<b>Discharges (including absconders not retaken)—</b>							
Males .. .. .	400	208	151	48	45	56	908
Females .. .. .	372	250	128	51	40	51	892
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1,800</b>
<b>Deaths—</b>							
Males .. .. .	363	212	157	57	63	23	875
Females .. .. .	337	204	101	60	31	24	757
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,632</b>
<b>Number of patients on books at end of year—</b>							
Males .. .. .	6,078	3,471	2,100	931	923	313	13,816
Females .. .. .	5,600	3,855	1,550	816	554	318	12,693
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>11,678</b>	<b>7,326</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>1,747</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>26,509</b>
<b>Average daily number resident—</b>							
Males .. .. .	5,585	(b) 2,850	2,018	921	915	316	12,605
Females .. .. .	5,066	(b) 3,275	1,441	812	540	324	11,458
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>10,651</b>	<b>(b) 6,125</b>	<b>3,459</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>24,063</b>
<b>Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—</b>							
Males .. .. .	4.39	3.75	3.95	3.13	3.79	2.60	3.94
Females .. .. .	4.11	4.07	3.20	2.74	2.53	2.74	3.71
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>3.91</b>	<b>3.59</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>3.82</b>
<b>Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—</b>							
Males .. .. .	4.05	3.09	3.83	3.11	3.77	2.63	3.61
Females .. .. .	3.74	3.47	3.00	2.74	2.49	2.78	3.36
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>3.90</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>3.49</b>

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

(b) Exclusive of two licensed private houses.

In some States persons well advanced towards recovery are allowed to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are under supervision and their names are kept in the records.

(iv) *Revenue and Expenditure, 1938.* 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 86 per cent.

**HOSPITALS (GOVERNMENT) FOR THE INSANE : FINANCES, 1938.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients .. ..	108,918	49,580	29,082	29,114	16,326	8,637	241,957
Other .. ..	9,403	6,129	2,105	897	2,172	154	20,860
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>118,321</b>	<b>55,709</b>	<b>31,187</b>	<b>30,311</b>	<b>18,498</b>	<b>8,791</b>	<b>262,817</b>
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages ..	518,645	287,824	165,748	68,815	67,169	42,239	1,150,440
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds .. ..	4,797	41,472	4,216	9,536	1,985	999	63,005
All Other(b) .. ..	313,858	164,620	85,433	59,790	43,892	22,779	690,372
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>837,300</b>	<b>493,916</b>	<b>255,397</b>	<b>138,141</b>	<b>113,046</b>	<b>66,017</b>	<b>1,903,817</b>
Expenditure per Average Daily Resident ..	£78/12/3	£80/12/9	£73/16/9	£79/14/3	£77/13/11	£103/3/0	£79/2/4

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—South Australia—31st December, 1938; other States—30th June, 1939. (b) Includes the following amounts for capital expenditure on Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings: New South Wales, £21,873; Queensland, £14,082; South Australia, £3,044; Western Australia, £5,032.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1934 to 1938.* The table hereunder gives a summary of hospitals for the insane in Australia during each of the five years 1934 to 1938. The figures for the States cannot be brought to a common year; consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years. Licensed houses are included in all particulars save revenue and expenditure for New South Wales and Victoria. The figures are exclusive of reception houses and observation wards in gaols. In New South Wales the expenditure includes cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals:—

**HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.**

Particulars.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Number of institutions .. ..	36	35	34	36	35
"  "  beds .. ..	24,217	24,880	25,017	25,287	25,654
Admissions .. ..	3,651	3,819	3,565	3,678	3,757
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,598	1,715	1,566	1,573	1,800
Deaths .. ..	1,467	1,577	1,533	1,488	1,632
Expenditure—Total .. .. £	1,527,021	1,659,523	1,771,406	1,867,170	1,903,817
"  —Per Average Daily Resident ..	£68/5/8	£72/6/4	£75/15/9	£78/8/1	£79/2/4

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1934 to 1938.* The proportion of insane, as well as the total number returned as under treatment, shows a continuous increase during the period covered by the following table. A more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases has resulted in a greater willingness in recent years to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an earlier stage, and an increase in the number of recorded cases, therefore, does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity.

## INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS.

State.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales .. .. .	10,681	11,009	11,145	11,473	11,678
Victoria .. .. .	6,927	7,059	7,209	7,302	7,326
Queensland .. .. .	3,319	3,321	3,368	3,544	3,650
South Australia .. .. .	1,519	1,572	1,627	1,709	1,747
Western Australia .. .. .	1,355	1,441	1,488	1,521	1,477
Tasmania .. .. .	631	636	647	635	631
<b>Australia .. .. .</b>	<b>24,432</b>	<b>25,038</b>	<b>25,484</b>	<b>26,184</b>	<b>26,509</b>
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales .. .. .	4.04	4.13	4.14	4.22	4.25
Victoria .. .. .	3.77	3.83	3.89	3.93	3.91
Queensland .. .. .	3.43	3.39	3.39	3.53	3.59
South Australia .. .. .	2.60	2.68	2.76	2.89	2.94
Western Australia .. .. .	3.06	3.22	3.30	3.33	3.19
Tasmania .. .. .	2.76	2.77	2.78	2.71	2.67
<b>Australia .. .. .</b>	<b>3.64</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>3.82</b>

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

(vii) *Causes of Insanity.* The general information available respecting the causes of the insanity of persons admitted to institutions is too unsatisfactory to be given in detail.

(viii) *Length of Residence in Hospital, 1938.* (a) *New South Wales and Victoria.* Particulars are not available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals of persons who died or were discharged during the year.

(b) *Queensland.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 9 years 43 days for males, and 8 years 163 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 64 days for males, and 1 year 84 days for females.

(c) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 4 years 2 months 16 days for males, and 5 years 10 months 24 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 2 months 11 days for males, and 11 months 1 day for females.

(d) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 10 years 7 months 7 days for males, and 9 years 10 months 20 days for females; of those discharged, 3 years 15 days for males, and 2 year 9 months and 4 days for females.

(e) *Tasmania.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 5 years 7 months and 8 days for males, and 11 years and 7 months for females; of those discharged, 2 years 9 months and 7 days for males, and 1 year 10 months and 24 days for females.

6. Care of the Feeble-minded.—An account of the treatment of the feeble-minded, supplied by the Public Health Department of Tasmania, appeared in Official Year Book No. 19, pp. 477-8.

7. Protection of Aborigines.—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where these people are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come near the stations. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1938-39 was: New South Wales, £76,454, Victoria, £7,471; Queensland £70,931; South Australia, £33,912; Western Australia, £40,842; Northern Territory £14,622; total for Australia, £244,232. According to the latest census taken by this Bureau, the numbers of full-blood and half-caste aborigines living in supervised camps in each State at 30th June, 1939, were as follows:—

ABORIGINES IN SUPERVISED CAMPS, 30th JUNE, 1939.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Northern Territory.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Full-bloods ..	516	47	8,140	406	4,068	5,972	19,149
Half-castes ..	4,410	360	3,285	951	2,203	714	(a)12,202

(a) Including 204 in Tasmania and 75 in the Australian Capital Territory.

Particulars regarding total numbers of aborigines in each State will be found in the Chapter dealing with Population.

8. Royal Life Saving Society.—In each of the State capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established, and in some States sub-centres have also been established in the larger provincial districts. In 1934 an Australian Federal Council of this Society was formed with headquarters at Melbourne, and each State centre or branch as it is now called is controlled by the new organization. Saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves and other suitable places. Numerous certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination throughout Australia, the numbers for the individual States for 1938-39 being:—New South Wales, 10,142; Victoria, 2,917; Queensland, 1,130; South Australia, 745; Western Australia, 1,723; Tasmania, 349; and Fiji, which comes under the control of the Australian Federal Council, 354.

9. Royal Humane Society.—The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has for its objects (a) to grant awards for skill, promptness and perseverance in life-saving, where the rescuer has risked his or her life; (b) to provide assistance in cases of danger and apparent death; (c) to restore the apparently drowned; (d) to collect and circulate the latest information regarding approved methods and apparatus for life-saving. Awards of medals and certificates are made numbering about 100 annually. Swimming is encouraged amongst school children, and awards are made for proficiency.

10. Other Charitable Institutions.—Owing to variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments

ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and the infirm. The institutions not so particularized include asylums for the deaf, dumb and blind, infant homes, homes 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.

11. **Total Expenditure on Charities.**—Issues of the Official Year Book, prior to No. 24, embodied statistics of expenditure on charities. The returns available, however, included a portion only of direct expenditure by Governments, and, in general, there is lack of harmony in the information available for the different States. Pending the result of further inquiry it has been decided to omit this table from the present chapter.