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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 XXVII. "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, 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, 1936.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs and accommodation for the year 1936, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table:—

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS AND ACCOMMODATION, 1936.(a)**

| Particulars.              | N.S.W. | Vic.  | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas.  | Total. |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|---------|----------|----------|-------|--------|
| Number of Hospitals .. .. | 205    | 70    | 116     | 54       | 93       | 19    | 557    |
| Medical Staff—            |        |       |         |          |          |       |        |
| Honorary .. ..            | 1,622  | 842   | 218     | 248      | 131      | 71    | 3,132  |
| Salaried .. ..            | 231    | 214   | 153     | 56       | 29       | 32    | 715    |
| Total .. ..               | 1,853  | 1,056 | 371     | (b) 304  | 160      | 103   | 3,847  |
| Nursing Staff .. ..       | 4,571  | 2,506 | 2,316   | 871      | 1,023    | 377   | 11,664 |
| Accommodation—            |        |       |         |          |          |       |        |
| Number of beds and cots   | 13,500 | 7,045 | 5,631   | 2,432    | 3,314    | 1,455 | 33,377 |

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1937; South Australia—31st December, 1936; Victoria—30th June, 1936. (b) Exclusive of particulars of Lying-in Homes, Sanatoria and Convalescent Homes.

The figures for accommodation shown in the above table 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, 1936.(a)**

| Particulars.                                | N.S.W.  | Vic.   | Q'land. | S. Aust.  | W. Aust. | Tas.   | Total.  |
|---|---------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|
| Indoor Relief—Inmates at beginning of year— |         |        |         |           |          |        |         |
| Males .. ..                                 | 4,612   | 2,509  | 2,201   | 707       | 899      | 398    | 11,326  |
| Females .. ..                               | 4,899   | 2,688  | 1,825   | 796       | 875      | 385    | 11,468  |
| Total .. ..                                 | 9,511   | 5,197  | 4,026   | 1,503     | 1,774    | 783    | 22,794  |
| Admissions and Re-admissions during year—   |         |        |         |           |          |        |         |
| Males .. ..                                 | 97,149  | 39,001 | 50,240  | 15,356    | 20,766   | 8,436  | 230,948 |
| Females .. ..                               | 108,453 | 48,980 | 46,843  | 18,001    | 18,787   | 9,715  | 250,779 |
| Total .. ..                                 | 205,602 | 87,981 | 97,083  | 33,357    | 39,553   | 18,151 | 481,727 |
| Discharges—                                 |         |        |         |           |          |        |         |
| Males .. ..                                 | 92,029  | 36,091 | 47,961  | 14,281    | 19,461   | 7,965  | 217,788 |
| Females .. ..                               | 104,749 | 46,856 | 45,338  | 17,315    | 18,142   | 9,320  | 241,720 |
| Total .. ..                                 | 196,778 | 82,947 | 93,299  | 31,596    | 37,603   | 17,285 | 459,508 |
| Deaths—                                     |         |        |         |           |          |        |         |
| Males .. ..                                 | 5,019   | 2,882  | 2,365   | 1,046     | 1,176    | 470    | 12,958  |
| Females .. ..                               | 3,573   | 2,018  | 1,391   | 707       | 629      | 325    | 8,643   |
| Total .. ..                                 | 8,592   | 4,900  | 3,756   | 1,753     | 1,805    | 795    | 21,601  |
| Inmates at end of year—                     |         |        |         |           |          |        |         |
| Males .. ..                                 | 4,713   | 2,537  | 2,115   | 736       | 1,028    | 399    | 11,528  |
| Females .. ..                               | 5,030   | 2,794  | 1,939   | 775       | 891      | 755    | 12,184  |
| Total .. ..                                 | 9,743   | 5,331  | 4,054   | 1,511     | 1,919    | 1,154  | 23,712  |
| Average Daily Number Resident—              |         |        |         |           |          |        |         |
| Males .. ..                                 | (b)     | (b)    | (b)     | 808       | (b)      | 372    | (b)     |
| Females .. ..                               | (b)     | (b)    | (b)     | 845       | (b)      | 437    | (b)     |
| Total .. ..                                 | 9,669   | 5,360  | 4,009   | (c) 1,653 | 1,827    | 809    | 23,327  |

(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 1936 were as follows:—

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1936.(a)**

| Particulars.   | N.S.W.           | Vic.           | Q'land.          | S. Aust.       | W. Aust.       | Tas.           | Total.           |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
|  | £                | £              | £                | £              | £              | £              | £                |
| Revenue—   |                  |                |                  |                |                |                |                  |
| Government Aid ..                                      | 1,070,890        | 325,756        | 447,873          | 197,453        | 265,385        | 67,453         | 2,374,819        |
| Municipal Aid ..                                       | ..               | 81,857         | 178,215          | 37,768         | 3,524          | 5,400          | 306,764          |
| Public Subscriptions,<br>Legacies,<br>etc. .. ..       | (b)535,353       | 263,697        | 34,141           | 36,097         | 34,927         | 16,283         | 920,498          |
| Fees .. ..   | 432,598          | 196,033        | 229,764          | 102,515        | 131,819        | 59,038         | 1,151,767        |
| Other .. ..  | 71,573           | 116,194        | 98,339           | 7,017          | 40,976         | 8,521          | 342,620          |
| <b>Total ..</b>  | <b>2,110,423</b> | <b>983,537</b> | <b>988,332</b>   | <b>380,850</b> | <b>476,631</b> | <b>156,695</b> | <b>5,096,468</b> |
| Expenditure—   |                  |                |                  |                |                |                |                  |
| Salaries and Wages                                     | 926,973          | 411,248        | 401,657          | 163,977        | 203,106        | 75,600         | 2,182,561        |
| Upkeep and Repair<br>of Buildings and<br>Grounds .. .. | 78,371           | 16,952         | 13,819           | 19,849         | 6,512          | 5,105          | 140,608          |
| All Other Ordinary<br>Capital(c) ..                    | 785,921          | 431,331        | 452,704          | 166,771        | 173,702        | 70,302         | 2,080,731        |
|  | 301,612          | 138,016        | 156,051          | 47,277         | 87,391         | ..             | 730,347          |
| <b>Total ..</b>  | <b>2,092,877</b> | <b>997,547</b> | <b>1,024,231</b> | <b>397,874</b> | <b>470,711</b> | <b>151,007</b> | <b>5,134,247</b> |

(a) See note (a) to table on page 238. (b) Includes systematic contributions, £302,823.  
 (c) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1932 to 1936.* 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.—SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.**

| Particulars.                  | 1932.       | 1933.     | 1934.     | 1935.     | 1936.     |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of institutions ..     | 531         | 530       | 526       | 526       | 557       |
| Number of beds .. ..          | 29,066      | 30,480    | 31,190    | 31,727    | 33,377    |
| Admissions during year ..     | 378,777     | 405,190   | 422,896   | 451,761   | 481,727   |
| Total indoor cases treated .. | 397,795     | 424,877   | 443,061   | 472,804   | 504,521   |
| Deaths .. ..                  | 17,455      | 17,915    | 19,705    | 20,805    | 21,601    |
| Expenditure .. ..             | £ 3,518,087 | 3,809,570 | 4,222,174 | 4,608,878 | 5,134,247 |

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. So far as the returns show there were 522,610 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 245,305 in Victoria, 231,618 in Queensland, 50,405 in South Australia, and 132,640 in Tasmania.

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 1936 are given in the following table :—

**BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1936.(a)**

| Particulars.                            | N.S.W.         | Vic.           | Q'land.       | S. Aust.      | W. Aust.      | Tas.          | Total.         |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|   | £              | £              | £             | £             | £             | £             | £              |
| <b>Revenue—</b>                         |                |                |               |               |               |               |                |
| Government Aid ..                       | 105,703        | 39,823         | 30,662        | 10,212        | 9,305         | 14,406        | 210,111        |
| Municipal Aid ..                        | ..             | 875            | ..            | ..            | 12            | ..            | 887            |
| Public Subs., Legacies<br>etc. .. ..    | 309            | 12,328         | 2,154         | ..            | 1,387         | 132           | 16,310         |
| Fees .. ..                              | 922            | 43,350         | 38,957        | 6,080         | 16,497        | 5,483         | 111,289        |
| Other .. ..                             | 43,836         | 12,320         | 10,690        | 1,175         | 282           | 255           | 68,558         |
| <b>Total .. ..</b>                      | <b>150,770</b> | <b>108,696</b> | <b>82,463</b> | <b>17,467</b> | <b>27,483</b> | <b>20,276</b> | <b>407,155</b> |
| <b>Expenditure—</b>                     |                |                |               |               |               |               |                |
| Salaries and Wages ..                   | 74,890         | 31,823         | 25,401        | 6,683         | 12,570        | 10,602        | 161,969        |
| Upkeep and Repair of<br>Buildings .. .. | 3,505          | 4,619          | 1,585         | 756           | 1,040         | 511           | 12,016         |
| All Other (b) .. ..                     | 71,238         | 69,044         | 56,139        | 10,028        | 13,873        | 9,163         | 229,485        |
| <b>Total .. ..</b>                      | <b>149,633</b> | <b>105,486</b> | <b>83,125</b> | <b>17,467</b> | <b>27,483</b> | <b>20,276</b> | <b>403,470</b> |

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows :—New South Wales and South Australia—31st December, 1936; Victoria—30th June, 1936; and Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1937. (b) Including £14,440 in Victoria, £2,516 in Queensland and £707 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 1936 was approximately £400,000.

(ii) *Principal Institutions.* Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier Year Books (See No. 22, p. 486).

(iii) *Transactions of State Departments.* The following table summarizes the transactions during 1936 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, 1936.(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) .. .. | 850            | 451            | 890            | 210             | 30             | 210           | 2,641          |
| In licensed or approved institutions .. ..                           | ..             | 1,431          | ..             | ..              | 581            | ..            | 2,012          |
| Boarded-out—   |                |                |                |                 |                |               |                |
| With own mothers ..  | 10,032         | 7,870          | 5,377          | } 47,079<br>(c) | } 2,614<br>302 | } 43,409      | 43,010         |
| With licensed foster mothers, guardians, relatives and friends       | 3,534          | 2,218          | 575            |                 |                |               |                |
| <b>Total children maintained or subsidized by the State</b>          | <b>14,416</b>  | <b>11,970</b>  | <b>6,842</b>   | <b>7,289</b>    | <b>3,527</b>   | <b>3,619</b>  | <b>47,663</b>  |
| <i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>        |                |                |                |                 |                |               |                |
| In licensed or approved institutions .. ..                           | 1,187          | ..             | ..             | ..              | 2              | ..            | 1,189          |
| Boarded-out .. ..  | 295            | ..             | ..             | 1,298           | 489            | ..            | 2,082          |
| On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts) .. ..          | 3,554          | 1,121          | 108            | 202             | 461            | ..            | 5,446          |
| In service or apprenticed  | 265            | 386            | 437            | 199             | 153            | ..            | 1,440          |
| Adopted or otherwise placed .. ..                                    | 258            | ..             | 15             | 13              | ..             | ..            | 286            |
| <b>Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State</b>      | <b>5,559</b>   | <b>1,507</b>   | <b>560</b>     | <b>1,712</b>    | <b>1,105</b>   | <b>..</b>     | <b>10,443</b>  |
| <b>Total children under State control or supervision</b>             | <b>19,975</b>  | <b>13,477</b>  | <b>7,402</b>   | <b>9,001</b>    | <b>44,632</b>  | <b>3,619</b>  | <b>58,106</b>  |
| Gross cost of children's relief .. ..                                | £ 432,035      | £ 273,954      | £ 196,778      | £ 44,678        | £ 26,640       | £ 14,284      | £ 988,369      |
| Receipts from parent's contributions, etc. ..                        | 20,651         | 8,767          | 9,011          | 4,426           | 8,769          | 868           | 52,492         |
| <b>Net cost to State</b> .. ..                                       | <b>411,384</b> | <b>265,187</b> | <b>187,767</b> | <b>40,252</b>   | <b>17,871</b>  | <b>13,416</b> | <b>935,877</b> |

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland—31st December, 1936; Other States—30th June, 1937. (b) Including inmates of hospitals. (c) Including 6,239 children in receipt of Ration Relief. (d) Mostly with own mothers. (e) In addition there were 219 children at Fairbridge Farm 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. **Leprosy Hospitals.**—Isolation hospitals for the care and treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane); Western Australia (Derby); and the Northern Territory (Channel Island, near Darwin). At the end of 1937 there were 13 cases in residence at Little Bay, 71 at Peel Island, 77 at Derby, and 119 at Channel Island. There were also 6 cases isolated in the south of Western Australia and 1 case in Victoria, which were European cases infected elsewhere.

During the year 1937, 12 cases of leprosy were notified in Australia of which 3 were in New South Wales, 6 in Queensland and 3 in the Northern Territory. There were 14 deaths from leprosy registered during 1937 and 3 in 1936.

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., 1936.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1936:—

**HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1936.(a)**

| Particulars.                  | N.S.W. | Victoria. | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|------|--------|
| Number of Institutions ..     | 13     | (b) 11    | 3       | 2        | 4        | 1    | 34     |
| Medical Staff—                |        |           |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. ..                   | 33     | 30        | 6       | 6        | 4        | 2    | 81     |
| Females .. ..                 | 5      | 1         |         |          |          | 1    | 7      |
| Total .. ..                   | 38     | 30        | 7       | 6        | 4        | 3    | 88     |
| Nursing Staff and Attendants— |        |           |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. ..                   | 1,031  | 729       | 296     | 157      | 122      | 77   | 2,412  |
| Females .. ..                 | 1,052  | 713       | 226     | 92       | 90       | 79   | 2,252  |
| Total .. ..                   | 2,083  | 1,442     | 522     | 249      | 212      | 156  | 4,664  |
| Accommodation—                |        |           |         |          |          |      |        |
| Number of beds and cots       | 11,345 | 6,317     | 3,434   | 1,735    | 1,501    | 685  | 25,017 |

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1937; other States—31st December, 1936. (b) Includes three licensed private houses, in which cases at the end of the year numbered 66; other particulars are not available.

(iii) *Patients, 1936.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1936 is given in the table hereunder:—

**HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1936.(a)**

| Particulars.  | N.S.W. | Vic. (b) | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|---------|----------|----------|------|--------|
| Number of distinct persons treated during year (c)— |        |          |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. ..   | 6,601  | 3,796    | 2,288   | 993      | 1,030    | 375  | 15,083 |
| Females .. ..                                       | 5,880  | 4,166    | 1,565   | 851      | 618      | 387  | 13,467 |
| Total .. ..   | 12,481 | 7,962    | 3,853   | 1,844    | 1,648    | 762  | 28,550 |

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Including 21 males and 84 females in licensed private houses. (c) Exclusive of transfers to other institutions.

## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1936 (a)—continued.

| Particulars.  | N.S.W. | Vic.     | Q'land. | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|---------|----------|----------|------|--------|
| Number of patients on books at beginning of year—   |        |          |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. .. .   | 5,842  | 3,366    | 1,937   | 846      | 911      | 318  | 13,220 |
| Females .. .. .   | 5,167  | 3,693    | 1,384   | 726      | 530      | 318  | 11,818 |
| Total .. .. .   | 11,009 | 7,059    | 3,321   | 1,572    | 1,441    | 636  | 25,038 |
| Admissions and re-admissions exclusive of absconders retaken and transfers from other Institutions— |        |          |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. .. .   | 759    | 430      | 334     | 147      | 119      | 57   | 1,846  |
| Females .. .. .   | 713    | 473      | 251     | 125      | 88       | 69   | 1,719  |
| Total .. .. .   | 1,472  | 903      | 585     | 272      | 207      | 126  | 3,565  |
| Discharges (including absconders not retaken)—  |        |          |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. .. .   | 384    | 148      | 164     | 61       | 34       | 29   | 820    |
| Females .. .. .   | 319    | 205      | 108     | 45       | 28       | 41   | 746    |
| Total .. .. .   | 703    | 353      | 272     | 106      | 62       | 70   | 1,566  |
| Deaths—   |        |          |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. .. .   | 348    | 216      | 164     | 69       | 71       | 28   | 896    |
| Females .. .. .   | 285    | 184      | 102     | 42       | 27       | 17   | 657    |
| Total .. .. .   | 633    | 400      | 266     | 111      | 98       | 45   | 1,553  |
| Number of patients on books at end of year—   |        |          |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. .. .   | 5,869  | 3,432    | 1,943   | 863      | 925      | 318  | 13,350 |
| Females .. .. .   | 5,276  | 3,777    | 1,425   | 764      | 563      | 329  | 12,134 |
| Total .. .. .   | 11,145 | 7,209    | 3,368   | 1,627    | 1,488    | 647  | 25,484 |
| Average daily number resident—  |        |          |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. .. .   | 5,483  | (b)2,870 | 1,959   | 863      | 890      | 314  | 12,379 |
| Females .. .. .   | 4,818  | (b)3,220 | 1,369   | 754      | 516      | 317  | 10,994 |
| Total .. .. .   | 10,301 | (b)6,090 | 3,328   | 1,617    | 1,406    | 631  | 23,373 |
| Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—                                 |        |          |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. .. .   | 4.32   | 3.75     | 3.74    | 2.93     | 3.88     | 2.69 | 3.87   |
| Females .. .. .   | 3.96   | 4.03     | 3.02    | 2.59     | 2.65     | 2.87 | 3.61   |
| Persons .. .. .   | 4.14   | 3.89     | 3.39    | 2.76     | 3.30     | 2.78 | 3.74   |
| Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—           |        |          |         |          |          |      |        |
| Males .. .. .   | 4.05   | 3.14     | 3.80    | 2.93     | 3.74     | 2.67 | 3.61   |
| Females .. .. .   | 3.63   | 3.45     | 2.92    | 2.57     | 2.44     | 2.77 | 3.29   |
| Persons .. .. .   | 3.84   | 3.30     | 3.38    | 2.75     | 3.12     | 2.72 | 3.45   |

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

(b) Exclusive of three 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, 1936.* 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, 1936.(a)

| Particulars.                                       | N.S.W.   | Vic.    | Q'land.  | S. Aust. | W. Aust. | Tas.      | Total.    |
|--|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—          | £        | £       | £        | £        | £        | £         | £         |
| Fees of Patients .. .. .                           | 105,931  | 44,845  | 27,412   | 25,643   | 16,880   | 8,560     | 229,271   |
| Other .. .. .                                      | 7,521    | 4,876   | 1,438    | ..       | 2,043    | 69        | 15,947    |
| Total .. .. .                                      | 113,452  | 49,721  | 28,850   | 25,643   | 18,923   | 8,629     | 245,218   |
| Expenditure—                                       |          |         |          |          |          |           |           |
| Salaries and Wages .. .. .                         | 446,327  | 280,892 | 147,046  | 53,713   | 59,785   | 41,470    | 1,029,233 |
| Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds .. .. . | ..       | 40,787  | ..       | 3,773    | 942      | 1,136     | 46,638    |
| All Other (b) .. .. .                              | 331,540  | 161,557 | 82,121   | 57,140   | 39,210   | 23,967    | 695,535   |
| Total .. .. .                                      | 777,867  | 483,236 | 229,167  | 114,626  | 99,937   | 66,573    | 1,771,406 |
| Expenditure per Average Daily Resident .. .. .     | £75/10/3 | £79/7/0 | £68/17/2 | £70/17/9 | £71/1/7  | £105/10/1 | £75/15/9  |

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—South Australia—31st December, 1936; other States—30th June, 1937. (b) Includes the following amounts for capital expenditure on Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings: New South Wales, £71,565; Queensland, £15,092; South Australia, £5,177; Western Australia, £3,546.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1932 to 1936.* The table hereunder gives a summary of hospitals for the insane in Australia during each of the five years 1932 to 1936. 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.                            | 1932. | 1933.     | 1934.     | 1935.     | 1936.     |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of institutions .. .. .          | ..    | 36        | 37        | 36        | 34        |
| „ „ beds .. .. .                        | ..    | 23,440    | 24,427    | 24,217    | 24,880    |
| Admissions .. .. .                      | ..    | 3,318     | 3,471     | 3,651     | 3,819     |
| Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc. | ..    | 1,523     | 1,566     | 1,598     | 1,715     |
| Deaths .. .. .                          | ..    | 1,422     | 1,498     | 1,467     | 1,577     |
| Expenditure—Total .. .. .               | £     | 1,355,515 | 1,374,111 | 1,527,021 | 1,659,523 |
| „ —Per Average Daily Resident .. .. .   | £     | 62/8/7    | 62/14/5   | 68/5/8    | 72/6/4    |
|   |       |           |           |           | £75/15/9  |

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1932 to 1936.* 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 and may possibly be a reflection of the financial stress of the period.

## INSANE PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS.

| State.                    | 1932.         | 1933.         | 1934.         | 1935.         | 1936.         |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| NUMBER.                   |               |               |               |               |               |
| New South Wales .. .. .   | 10,122        | 10,367        | 10,681        | 11,009        | 11,145        |
| Victoria .. .. .          | 6,742         | 6,812         | 6,927         | 7,059         | 7,209         |
| Queensland .. .. .        | 3,194         | 3,214         | 3,319         | 3,321         | 3,368         |
| South Australia .. .. .   | 1,410         | 1,465         | 1,519         | 1,572         | 1,627         |
| Western Australia .. .. . | 1,320         | 1,331         | 1,355         | 1,441         | 1,488         |
| Tasmania .. .. .          | 661           | 667           | 631           | 636           | 647           |
| <b>Australia .. .. .</b>  | <b>23,449</b> | <b>23,856</b> | <b>24,432</b> | <b>25,038</b> | <b>25,484</b> |

## PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

|                           |             |             |             |             |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| New South Wales .. .. .   | 3.89        | 3.95        | 4.04        | 4.13        | 4.14        |
| Victoria .. .. .          | 3.72        | 3.73        | 3.77        | 3.83        | 3.89        |
| Queensland .. .. .        | 3.37        | 3.35        | 3.43        | 3.39        | 3.39        |
| South Australia .. .. .   | 2.43        | 2.51        | 2.60        | 2.68        | 2.76        |
| Western Australia .. .. . | 3.02        | 3.02        | 3.06        | 3.22        | 3.30        |
| Tasmania .. .. .          | 2.90        | 2.93        | 2.76        | 2.77        | 2.78        |
| <b>Australia .. .. .</b>  | <b>3.55</b> | <b>3.58</b> | <b>3.64</b> | <b>3.71</b> | <b>3.74</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.

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.

(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, 1936.* (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 7 years 248 days for males, and 6 years 147 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 134 days for males, and 361 days for females.

(c) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 8 years 10 months 17 days for males, and 5 years 7 months 8 days for females; of those discharged, 9 months 25 days for males, and 10 months 15 days for females.

(d) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 12 years 24 days for males, and 5 years 7 months 1 day for females; of those discharged, 1 year 8 months 20 days for males, and 1 year 7 months and 6 days for females.

(e) *Tasmania*. The average residence of those who died during the year was 11 years 7 months and 17 days for males, and 9 years 2 months and 1 day for females; of those discharged, 11 months and 27 days for males and 1 year 1 month 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 and 478.

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 1936–37 was: New South Wales, £45,039; Victoria, £7,492; Queensland, £57,337; South Australia, £30,071; Western Australia, £30,224; Northern Territory, £11,924; total for Australia, £182,087. According to the latest census taken by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the numbers of full-blood and half-caste aborigines living in supervised camps in each State at 30th June, 1937, were as follows:—

ABORIGINES.(a)—AUSTRALIA—30th JUNE, 1937.

| Particulars. | New South Wales. | Victoria. | Queensland. | South Australia. | Western Australia. | Northern Territory. | Total.     |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
|              | No.              | No.       | No.         | No.              | No.                | No.                 | No.        |
| Full-bloods  | 461              | 45        | 8,225       | 97               | 2,646              | 6,314               | 17,788     |
| Half-castes  | 3,878            | 255       | 2,972       | 819              | 1,479              | 658                 | (b) 10,159 |

(a) Living in supervised camps. See letterpress above table.

(b) Including 98 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 head-quarters 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 1937 being:—New South Wales, 7,501; Victoria, 1,964; Queensland, 834; South Australia, 631; Western Australia, 1,374; Tasmania, 89; and Fiji, which comes under the control of the Australian Federal Council, 108.

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. Upwards of 300 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.

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.