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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 of 1914-1918, 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, 1937.* Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs and accommodation for the year 1937, or nearest available year, are given in the appended table:—

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS : NUMBER, STAFF AND ACCOMMODATION, 1937.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Hospitals ..	207	71	117	54	92	19	560
Medical Staff—							
Honorary .. .. .	1,696	885	215	258	124	72	3,250
Salaried .. .. .	264	223	167	65	22	32	773
Total .. .. .	1,960	1,108	382	(b) 323	146	104	4,023
Nursing Staff .. .. .	4,933	2,558	2,655	989	1,045	429	12,609
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	13,792	7,435	6,054	2,453	3,179	1,628	34,541

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1938; South Australia—31st December, 1937; Victoria—30th June, 1937.

(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, 1937.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Indoor Relief—Inmates at beginning of year—							
Males .. .. .	4,799	2,566	2,117	736	1,028	399	11,645
Females .. .. .	5,124	2,866	1,938	775	891	455	12,049
Total .. .. .	9,923	5,432	4,055	1,511	1,919	854	23,694
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—							
Males .. .. .	106,468	38,852	53,038	16,080	21,412	8,822	244,672
Females .. .. .	118,036	49,338	50,613	18,627	19,997	10,365	266,976
Total .. .. .	224,504	88,190	103,651	34,707	41,409	19,187	511,648
Discharges—							
Males .. .. .	100,771	36,076	50,315	15,015	20,449	8,158	230,784
Females .. .. .	113,973	47,366	49,122	17,889	19,331	9,949	257,630
Total .. .. .	214,744	83,442	99,437	32,904	39,780	18,107	488,414
Deaths—							
Males .. .. .	5,429	2,821	2,550	1,015	1,111	469	13,395
Females .. .. .	3,691	2,021	1,437	713	584	321	8,767
Total .. .. .	9,120	4,842	3,987	1,728	1,695	790	22,162
Inmates at end of year—							
Males .. .. .	5,067	2,521	2,290	786	880	594	12,138
Females .. .. .	5,496	2,817	1,992	800	973	550	12,628
Total .. .. .	10,563	5,338	4,282	1,586	1,853	1,144	24,766
Average Daily Number Resident—							
Males .. .. .	(b)	(b)	(b)	802	(b)	482	(b)
Females .. .. .	(b)	(b)	(b)	852	(b)	496	(b)
Total .. .. .	10,306	5,284	4,232	(c) 1,654	1,867	978	24,321

(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 1937 were as follows:—

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1937.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<b>Revenue—</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid ..	1,244,220	440,263	496,602	224,983	265,616	70,199	2,741,883
Municipal Aid ..	..	76,570	206,822	42,603	2,236	1,867	330,098
Public Subscriptions, Legacies, etc. ..	(b)579,225	347,984	32,144	29,442	83,818	9,785	1,082,398
Fees ..	528,413	239,159	265,906	106,797	148,740	68,377	1,357,392
Other ..	73,791	208,265	199,203	7,830	36,643	10,792	536,524
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>2,425,649</b>	<b>1,312,241</b>	<b>1,200,677</b>	<b>411,655</b>	<b>537,053</b>	<b>161,020</b>	<b>6,048,295</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Salaries and Wages	1,073,019	449,285	448,091	180,394	221,504	131,537	2,503,830
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds ..	80,541	14,686	17,143	25,941	3,356	7,586	149,253
All Other Ordinary	889,947	471,165	519,906	177,495	186,560	23,414	2,268,487
Capital(c) ..	431,859	277,472	185,011	38,388	111,184	..	1,043,914
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>2,475,366</b>	<b>1,212,608</b>	<b>1,170,151</b>	<b>422,218</b>	<b>522,604</b>	<b>162,537</b>	<b>5,965,484</b>

(a) See note (a) to table on page 211.

(b) Includes systematic contributions, £332,214.

(c) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

(vi) *Summary for Five Years, 1933 to 1937.* 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.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Number of institutions ..	530	526	526	557	560
Number of beds ..	30,480	31,190	31,727	33,377	34,541
Admissions during year ..	405,190	422,896	451,761	481,727	511,648
Total indoor cases treated ..	424,877	443,061	472,804	504,521	535,342
Deaths ..	17,915	19,705	20,805	21,601	22,162
Expenditure ..	£ 3,809,570	4,222,174	4,608,878	5,134,247	5,965,484

In addition to those admitted to the institutions, there are large numbers of out-patients. So far as the returns show there were 595,600 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 255,482 in Victoria, 249,685 in Queensland, and 49,476 in South Australia.

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 1937 are given in the following table:—

**BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1937.(a)**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Revenue—</b>							
Government Aid ..	122,029	42,461	33,777	13,371	8,627	16,582	236,847
Municipal Aid ..	..	886	..	..	..	..	886
Public Subs., Legacies etc. .. ..	428	17,157	6,130	..	1,270	16	25,001
Fees .. ..	4,796	45,127	38,836	5,914	18,013	5,476	118,162
Other .. ..	38,816	13,426	21,627	1,848	106	1,252	77,075
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>166,069</b>	<b>119,057</b>	<b>100,370</b>	<b>21,133</b>	<b>28,016</b>	<b>23,326</b>	<b>457,971</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Salaries and Wages ..	86,494	34,462	32,323	7,288	13,020	17,577	191,164
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings .. ..	5,970	4,242	3,470	3,226	1,117	556	18,581
All Other (b) .. ..	75,039	70,852	66,923	10,619	14,108	5,193	242,734
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>167,503</b>	<b>109,556</b>	<b>102,716</b>	<b>21,133</b>	<b>28,245</b>	<b>23,326</b>	<b>452,479</b>

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales and South Australia—31st December, 1937; Victoria—30th June, 1937; and Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1938. (b) Including £13,954 in Victoria, £18,470 in Queensland and £94 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 1937 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 1937 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, 1937.(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) .. .. .	780	489	955	206	35	211	2,676
In licensed or approved institutions .. .. .	..	1,391	..	..	610	..	2,001
Boarded-out—							
With own mothers ..	9,681	7,939	5,330	} d7009 (c)	} { 2,670 269 }	} d3382	42,348
With licensed foster mothers, guardians, relatives and friends	3,392	2,131	545				
Total children maintained or subsidized by the State	13,853	11,950	6,830	7,215	3,584	3,593	47,025
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions .. .. .	1,162	..	..	..	..	..	1,162
Boarded-out .. .. .	320	..	..	1,258	440	..	2,018
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts) .. .. .	1,834	1,312	112	229	428	..	3,915
In service or apprenticed	211	378	431	201	136	..	1,357
Adopted or otherwise placed .. .. .	331	..	5	12	..	..	348
Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State .. .. .	3,858	1,690	548	1,700	1,004	..	8,800
Total children under State control or supervision ..	17,711	13,640	7,378	8,915	4,588	3,593	55,825
Gross cost of children's relief .. .. .	£ 425,078	£ 284,237	£ 197,785	£ 33,875	£ 26,034	£ 14,148	£ 981,157
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	20,511	9,790	9,511	1,807	9,210	780	51,609
Net cost to State ..	404,567	274,447	188,274	32,068	16,824	13,368	929,548

(a) The figures relate to the years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland—31st December, 1937; Other States—30th June, 1938. (b) Including inmates of hospitals. (c) Including 6,153 children in receipt of Ration Relief. (d) Mostly with own mothers. (e) In addition there were 271 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. **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); Western Australia (Derby); and the Northern Territory (Channel Island, near Darwin). At the end of 1938 there were 11 cases in residence at Little Bay, 74 at Peel Island, 114 at Derby, and 121 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.

During the year 1938, 12 cases of leprosy were notified in Australia of which 5 were in Queensland and 7 in the Northern Territory. There were 10 deaths from leprosy registered during 1938 and 14 in 1937.

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., 1937.* Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the appended table for the year 1937:—

#### HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1937.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions ..	13	(b) 12	4	2	4	1	36
Medical Staff—							
Males .. ..	33	29	6	6	5	2	81
Females .. ..	5	..	1	..	..	1	7
Total .. ..	38	29	7	6	5	3	88
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males .. ..	1,043	701	302	138	133	79	2,396
Females .. ..	1,063	665	241	133	102	76	2,280
Total .. ..	2,106	1,366	543	271	235	155	4,676
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	11,347	6,321	3,538	1,888	1,500	693	25,287

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania—30th June, 1938; other States—31st December, 1937. (b) Includes three licensed private houses, in which cases at the end of the year numbered 70; other particulars are not available.

(iii) *Patients, 1937.* Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for the year 1937 is given in the table hereunder:—

#### HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1937.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of distinct persons treated during year (c)—							
Males .. ..	6,677	3,842	2,329	1,011	1,044	378	15,281
Females .. ..	6,095	4,230	1,735	886	628	390	13,964
Total .. ..	12,772	8,072	4,064	1,897	1,672	768	29,245

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table. (b) Including 23 males and 70 females in licensed private houses. (c) Exclusive of transfers to other Institutions.

## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE : PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1937(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 .. .. .	5,860	3,432	1,978	863	925	318	13,385
Females .. .. .	5,276	3,777	1,473	764	563	329	12,182
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>11,145</b>	<b>7,209</b>	<b>3,451</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>25,567</b>
<b>Admissions and re-admissions exclusive of absconders retaken and transfers from other Institutions—</b>							
Males .. .. .	808	410	351	148	119	60	1,896
Females .. .. .	819	453	262	122	65	61	1,782
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>3,678</b>
<b>Discharges (including absconders not retaken)—</b>							
Males .. .. .	370	177	113	51	54	43	808
Females .. .. .	337	209	120	30	30	39	765
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1,573</b>
<b>Deaths—</b>							
Males .. .. .	333	213	154	55	48	25	828
Females .. .. .	259	171	133	52	19	26	660
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1,488</b>
<b>Number of patients on books at end 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>Average daily number resident—</b>							
Males .. .. .	5,526	(b)2,878	1,093	881	911	310	12,499
Females .. .. .	4,970	(b)3,283	1,414	783	542	324	11,316
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>10,496</b>	<b>(b)6,161</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>23,815</b>
<b>Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—</b>							
Males .. .. .	4.35	3.76	3.93	3.06	3.90	2.60	3.94
Females .. .. .	4.08	4.09	3.10	2.72	2.68	2.82	3.70
Persons .. .. .	4.22	3.93	3.53	2.89	3.33	2.71	3.82
<b>Average number of patients resident in hospitals for insane per 1,000 of mean population—</b>							
Males .. .. .	4.04	3.14	3.83	2.99	3.80	2.60	3.62
Females .. .. .	3.71	3.50	2.98	2.66	2.53	2.80	3.36
Persons .. .. .	3.87	3.32	3.42	2.82	3.20	2.70	3.49

(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, 1937.* 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, 1937.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue (Exclusive of Government Grants)—							
Fees of Patients .. .. .	106,304	53,606	29,076	29,347	17,035	7,940	243,308
Other .. .. .	9,000	5,697	1,258	13	3,234	257	19,459
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>115,304</b>	<b>59,303</b>	<b>30,334</b>	<b>29,360</b>	<b>20,269</b>	<b>8,197</b>	<b>262,767</b>
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages .. .. .	494,029	286,248	157,331	60,371	61,981	41,685	1,101,645
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds .. .. .	7,477	39,939	4,137	6,772	1,943	993	61,261
All Other (b) .. .. .	339,101	164,351	81,130	55,374	41,888	22,420	704,264
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>840,607</b>	<b>490,538</b>	<b>242,598</b>	<b>122,517</b>	<b>105,812</b>	<b>65,098</b>	<b>1,867,170</b>
Expenditure per Average Daily Resident .. .. .	£80/1/9	£79/12/5	£71/4/1	£73/12/7	£72/16/6	£102/13/7	£78/8/1

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows:—South Australia—31st December, 1937; other States—30th June, 1938. (b) Includes the following amounts for capital expenditure on Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings: New South Wales, £69,641; Queensland, £4,944; South Australia, £3,295; Western Australia, £5,158.

(v) *Summary for Australia, 1933 to 1937.* The table hereunder gives a summary of hospitals for the insane in Australia during each of the five years 1933 to 1937. 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.	1933.	1934.	1935.	*1936.	1937.
Number of institutions .. .. .	37	36	35	34	36
"  "  beds .. .. .	24,427	24,217	24,880	25,017	25,287
Admissions .. .. .	3,471	3,651	3,819	3,565	3,678
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc.	1,566	1,598	1,715	1,566	1,573
Deaths .. .. .	1,498	1,467	1,577	1,553	1,488
Expenditure—Total .. .. .	£1,374,111	1,527,021	1,659,523	1,771,406	1,867,170
"  —Per Average Daily Resident .. .. .	£62/14/5	£68/5/8	£72/6/4	£75/15/9	£78/8/1

(vi) *Number of Insane, 1933 to 1937.* 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.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales .. ..	10,367	10,681	11,009	11,145	11,473
Victoria .. ..	6,812	6,927	7,059	7,209	7,302
Queensland .. ..	3,214	3,319	3,321	3,368	3,544
South Australia .. ..	1,465	1,519	1,572	1,627	1,709
Western Australia .. ..	1,331	1,355	1,441	1,488	1,521
Tasmania .. ..	667	631	636	647	635
<b>Australia .. ..</b>	<b>23,856</b>	<b>24,432</b>	<b>25,038</b>	<b>25,484</b>	<b>26,184</b>
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales .. ..	3.95	4.04	4.13	4.14	4.22
Victoria .. ..	3.73	3.77	3.83	3.89	3.93
Queensland .. ..	3.35	3.43	3.39	3.39	3.53
South Australia .. ..	2.51	2.60	2.68	2.76	2.89
Western Australia .. ..	3.02	3.06	3.22	3.30	3.33
Tasmania .. ..	2.93	2.76	2.77	2.78	2.71
<b>Australia .. ..</b>	<b>3.58</b>	<b>3.64</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>3.74</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, 1937.* (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 234 days for males, and 8 years 50 days for females; of those discharged, 357 days for males, and 1 year 235 days for females.

(c) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 8 years 5 months 26 days for males, and 6 years 1 month 14 days for females; of those discharged, 11 months 15 days for males, and 9 months 22 days for females.

(d) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 15 years 3 months 22 days for males, and 6 years 3 months 28 days for females; of those discharged, 2 years 5 months 26 days for males, and 1 year 11 months and 12 days for females.

(e) *Tasmania.* The average residence of those who died during the year was 8 years 2 months and 28 days for males, and 12 years 7 months and 17 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 11 months and 25 days for males, and 4 years 7 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 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 1937–38 was: New South Wales, £53,773; Victoria, £7,568; Queensland £61,878; South Australia, £32,234; Western Australia, £35,526; Northern Territory £15,795; total for Australia, £206,774. 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, 1938, were as follows:—

**ABORIGINES IN SUPERVISED CAMPS, 30th JUNE, 1938.**

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Northern Territory.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Full-bloods	497	50	8,186	94	2,908	6,050	17,785
Half-castes	3,859	281	3,269	839	2,041	624	(a)10,999

(a) Including 86 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 1936–37 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.