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SECTION XXIV.

PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory.

1. **General.**—Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings, viz.:—(a) State; (b) public; (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal lunatic asylums in the various States, the Government hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government asylums for infirm in New South Wales. The second class comprises public institutions of two kinds, viz.:—(i.) Institutions partially subsidised by the State or State endowed, but receiving also private aid, and (ii.) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the Melbourne and other large 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. Moreover, public response to special appeals, and summary relief in kind, cannot be statistically recorded. Hospitals, orphanages, homes, benevolent asylums, etc., naturally attract the largest share of charitable aid; but there are numerous minor charities dependent upon private beneficence. In institutions which receive Government aid, management and finance are usually relegated to executive bodies.

The scope which economic and industrial conditions in Australia afford for the exercise of natural ability, and the comparatively wide distribution of wealth throughout the Commonwealth, operate to prevent the development of a permanent pauper class, and at the same time lessen in a dual way the burden of charity. This result is brought about by the increase, on the one hand, of the number of people whose prosperity enables them to relieve the indigent and unfortunate, and by the reduction, on the other, of the number who need assistance. Enactments of State Legislatures have decreed short hours and a liberal holiday allowance for large numbers of persons engaged in industrial and other pursuits, and, even in occupations not covered by Act of Parliament, the general conditions of employment often provide a considerable amount of leisure. This, coupled with an equable climate, enables the community to spend much of its time in the open air, with resultant advantages to its physique and general health. No poor-rate is levied in Australia, and Government aid without return is required only for the aged and disabled. Moreover, although Old Age Pensions are paid by the Commonwealth, the payments are looked upon rather in the light of a citizen's right than as a charity. Reference to the Old Age Pensions will be found in § 4, *Miscellaneous*, chap. xxxiv.

To meet special and temporary conditions, various relief works have been started from time to time, in which the able-bodied who may be forced to seek official relief are required to make some return for the assistance afforded.

In each of the States there are Government asylums for the care of the insane, and the condition of these unfortunates has been steadily ameliorated by the general advance in psychiatry.

Young children deprived of parental training and control are cared for and educated in "orphanages" and "industrial schools," and those who have been guilty of some specific offence, or who are beyond effective parental control, are committed to "reformatories."

From time to time relief funds have been organised for famine-stricken territories (e.g., China, India, etc.), or for places where plague, flood, fire, or earthquake has shewn the need of urgent relief. Special funds are also raised for such as are disabled or bereaved through war. Statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duties of collectorship in charity appeals.

2. Charity Reforms.—The evident overlapping of charitable effort has on various occasions led to discussion regarding methods of collection and distribution. The great desideratum in charity organisation is that the available aid should be relegated solely to the relief of distress and suffering. The true interests of the sick poor would thus be conserved, and the real intention of the donors fulfilled. With greater public attention, improved administration has been brought about. Societies to prevent overlapping have been formed, resulting in improved economical collection and distribution of charitable aid, and a better system of using the available accommodation.

Other proposed reforms aim at ascertaining the causes of poverty and crime, and finding the necessary palliative. Increased provision of better houses and workrooms and improved sanitation are advocated, together with more stringent legislative measures to enforce cleanliness and healthy modes of life. Further, Factories Legislation, Health Acts, etc., have enacted provisions for safeguarding dangerous machinery, and permitting only competent persons to be employed thereon.

3. Tabulation of Charities Statistics.—Differences in the organisation of charities prevent uniform tabulation of statistics for all the States, but certain of the larger features of the statistics of benevolence have been combined for the whole Commonwealth, and are shewn for a period extending over five years. Where the combination has been for dissimilar periods the nearest years have been taken. Satisfactory tabulation for other charities is not yet possible.

§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia.

1. Hospitals.—Most of the State capitals have several large and well-equipped hospitals, and there is at least one in every important town. In large centres there are hospitals for consumptives, women, children, infectious diseases, incurables, etc. The

number of hospitals in Australia, with the admissions, patients treated, deaths, and expenditure, is shewn in the following table. Only general hospitals are tabulated, since the working of "special" institutions is not properly comparable with those which treat every class of case.

HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1909 to 1913.

Particulars.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Number of institutions	337	338	355	368	381
Number of beds	12,630	13,342	13,732	14,574	15,235
Admissions during year	112,102	119,091	125,822	139,378	145,908
Indoor patients treated	118,928	126,234	133,652	144,692	152,077
Deaths	8,814	8,946	9,642	11,235	11,362
Expenditure	£ 805,787	802,212	916,984	1,102,134	1,264,605

In addition to those admitted to the institutions there are large numbers of out-patients. The exact number of these cannot be given, but a rough estimate of distinct cases for 1913 places the total at about 300,000.

Fuller details of hospital statistics are given for 1913 in the table below, the States of the Commonwealth being shewn separately :—

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—NUMBER, STAFFS, AND ACCOMMODATION OF HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'wlth
Number of Hospitals—								
Government	3	50	2	8	21	2	2	88
Other	148	5	83	15	30	12	...	293
Total	151	55	85	23	51	14	2	381
Medical Staff—								
Males	748	84	187 8	91 4	57 ...	39 ...	2 ...	1,320
Females								
Total	748	84	195	95	57	39	2	1,320
Nursing Staff and Attendants—								
Males	80	29	238	65	83	2	2	499
Females	1,535	684	797	394	440	137	4	3,991
Total	1,615	*1,263	1,035	459	523	139	6	*5,040
Accommodation—								
Number of dormitories, etc.	997	465	526	151	172	122	7	2,440
Capacity in cubic ft.	6,744,757	4,776,708	3,259,329	1,391,000	1,955,050	733,887	42,236	18,902,967
Number of beds	15,006	3,739	2,944	972	1,391	549	134	15,235
Cubic ft. to each bed	1,203	1,278	1,107	1,431	1,405	1,337	1,242	1,241

* Inclusive, in Victoria, of 550 paid staff: sexes not stated. † Exclusive of beds on verandahs.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	C'with.
Indoor Relief: Distinct Persons								
Treated—								
Males	35,205	17,455	20,287	5,407	7,026	3,419	248	89,047
Females	29,955	12,258	10,643	4,020	3,452	2,625	47	63,030
Total	65,190	29,713	30,930	9,427	10,478	6,044	295	152,077
Inmates at beginning of Year—								
Males	2,046	1,418	1,163	353	482	174	21	5,657
Females	1,564	997	624	225	228	158	5	3,801
Total	3,610	2,415	1,787	578	710	332	26	9,458
Admissions and Re-admissions during Year—								
Males	34,159	17,142	19,124	5,536	6,544	3,245	212	84,962
Females	28,421	12,636	10,019	4,122	3,224	2,467	57	60,946
Total	61,580	29,778	29,143	9,658	9,768	5,712	269	145,908
Discharges—Recovered:								
Males	22,980	14,623	17,228	3,497	2,887	1,895	129	63,239
Females	21,997	11,113	9,090	2,749	1,475	1,561	27	48,012
Total	44,977	*25,736	*26,318	6,246	4,362	*3,456	156	111,251
Relieved:								
Males	6,454	†	†	1,164	2,783	†	32	110,433
Females	3,971	†	†	817	1,352	†	10	16,150
Total	10,425	†	†	1,981	4,135	†	42	116,583
Unrelieved:								
Males	337	247	418	307	241	23	2	2,075
Females	669	221	243	223	103	10	...	1,469
Total	1,506	468	661	530	344	33	2	3,544
Not stated:								
Males ... ..	...	503	132	8	22	54	38	1,805
Females ... ..	...	316	42	11	22	36	22	1,178
Total ... ..	...	819	174	19	44	90	60	2,983
Deaths—								
Males	2,827	1,830	1,386	542	583	230	13	7,411
Females	1,631	987	607	294	286	143	3	3,951
Total	4,458	2,817	1,993	836	869	373	16	11,362
Inmates at End of Year—								
Males	2,107	1,357	1,123	371	510	169	19	5,656
Females	1,717	996	661	253	214	146	...	3,987
Total	3,824	2,353	1,784	624	724	315	19	9,643
Average Daily Number Resident—								
Males	2,205	§	§	384	461	195	20	§
Females	1,758	§	§	293	249	160	7	§
Total	3,973	2,491	§	677	710	355	27	§

* Including relieved. † Included in recovered. ‡ Cases relieved are included in those recovered, in Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania. § Information not available.

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

GENERAL HOSPITALS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	C'wth.
Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of patients, etc.	61,613	27,114	23,124	10,386	13,743	7,286	208	143,474
Government grants	230,369	71,447	123,147	54,191	72,393	20,675	5,602	577,524
Other ...	179,739	164,916	84,470	13,443	33,649	7,756	...	483,973
Total ...	471,721	263,477	230,741	78,020	119,785	35,717	5,810	1,205,371
Expenditure—								
Buildings ...	126,607	102,931	29,186	6,830	...	1,101	2,028	268,683
Salaries ...	163,259	194,667	82,838*	27,964	47,576	27,901	2,059	995,922
Maintenance	174,076	...	104,699	39,929	72,086†	6,679	1,553	
Other ...	33,140	3,265	5,915	3,146			170	
Total ...	502,082	300,863	222,638	77,869	119,662	35,681	5,810	1,264,605

* Including rent.

† Including buildings.

2. **Hospitals for General and Special Cases.**—The tables here given refer to general hospitals. In addition there are hospitals for "specials" (such as women's, children's, and infectious diseases hospitals), and institutions nearly allied to hospitals (such as consumptive sanatoria). In the earliest numbers of the Commonwealth Year Book, these were tabulated with general hospitals. Where the institutions carry on general hospital relief, they are still included with those establishments.

(i.) *New South Wales.* A Government hospital is established at Little Bay. There are four women's and one children's hospitals in the metropolis. Other leading institutions are the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, Dental Hospital, Home for Incurables, Hospital for Infants and Asylum for Women and Children, Infants' Home, etc. A feature of late years has been the establishment of general hospitals in many country towns of growing importance.

(ii.) *Victoria.* Special hospitals, not included in the above tabulation, comprise the Women's Hospital, with infirmary and midwifery departments, the Children's Hospital, the Hospital for Women and Children, a Government Consumptive Sanatorium, Inebriates' Institute, Convalescent homes, etc.

(iii.) *Queensland.* There are six lying-in and two children's hospitals in Queensland, and a sanatorium.

(iv.) *South Australia.* In connection with the leading general hospital in the metropolis, there is a consumptive home and infectious diseases block; there are also a children's hospital, two lying-in homes, sanatorium, convalescent home, home for incurables, etc.

(v.) *Western Australia.* The leading general hospitals are Government establishments. There is a lying-in establishment in connection with the metropolitan women's home. There are also homes for the dying and incurable, homes and rests for sailors, strangers, etc.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* In Tasmania there are several institutions, which pay particular regard to "special cases"; these include two hospitals for contagious diseases; two

hospitals for women; a consumptive sanatorium; and a convalescent home. Other important institutions of a general nature are the New Town Charitable Establishment, and the Home for Invalids.

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

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

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Revenue—							
Government aid	£ 74,706	£ 22,814	£ 27,427	£ 18,817	£ 29,823	£ ...	£ 173,587
Municipal aid ... ..	...	934	...	...	...	...	934
Public subs., legacies, etc....	3,324	7,859	1,079	...	...	...	12,262
Fees	11,423	8,675	...	316	...	...	20,414
Other	504	2,759	1,069	203	...	...	4,535
Total... ..	89,957	43,041	29,575	19,336	29,823	...	211,732
Expenditure—							
Buildings	4,044	3,428	42	290	...	...	7,804
Maintenance	75,598	39,274	29,250	19,046	29,823	...	192,991
Other	11,861	267	129	...	...	...	12,257
Total... ..	91,503	42,969	29,421	19,336	29,823	...	213,052

(i.) *Government Asylums for the Infirm, New South Wales.* There are six of these institutions in New South Wales, with something over 4000 beds, usually in continuous use. Inmates at the end of 1913 numbered 2908; deaths numbered 870; and the expenditure amounted to £69,436 for the twelve months ended 30th December, 1913.

(ii.) *Benevolent Asylums, Victoria.* Besides the asylums attached to hospitals, there are eight institutions in Victoria. The daily average number indoors was 2081 for 1912-13, with 1019 distinct cases of outdoor relief. Deaths numbered 481. The total expenditure was £42,969 (of which £3428 was spent on buildings), and receipts £43,041—£22,814 from Government and £20,227 from other sources.

(iii.) *Benevolent Asylums, Queensland.* There are four institutions in Queensland, with 941 beds. The total number in the asylums during 1913 was 1688, with a daily average of 1041. Deaths numbered 144. Expenditure amounted to £29,421, and receipts to £29,575, of which £27,427 was Government aid.

(iv.) *Destitute Asylum, Adelaide.* Outside of hospitals and lunatic asylums the destitute of South Australia are dealt with and relieved at the Destitute Asylum, Adelaide. The institution includes lying-in and children's departments. In the asylum the average number of inmates in 1912-13 was 289. There were sixty-four deaths during the year. Expenditure totalled £7224. In addition, £12,386 was dispensed through the institution for outdoor relief of the destitute in both metropolitan and rural districts.

(v.) *Homes for the Destitute, Western Australia.* There are three of these homes in Western Australia supported by public funds. Attached to the Perth Women's Home is a lying-in department. Outdoor relief to the poor and aged is given, the amount expended being included in expenditure in the previous table. More than sixteen hundred indoor cases were dealt with during 1913. There were 85 deaths.

(vi.) *Charitable Establishments, Tasmania.* There are two principal Government charitable establishments in Tasmania. Beds numbered 251 in 1913-14. The total number of persons treated was 354, of whom 48 died. The daily average number resident was 188. Total expenditure was £5673, receipts amounting to the same sum, of which £4507 was contributed by the State.

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

ORPHANAGES IN COMMONWEALTH, 1909 to 1913.

Particulars.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Number of institutions	42	42	41	41	42
Admissions	1,613	1,626	1,760	1,563	1,514
Total number of inmates during year ...	5,150	5,331	5,465	5,057	4,720
Deaths	14	22	12	18	18
Expenditure*	£ 61,088	72,882	74,415	63,362	72,091

* Incomplete. Expenditure is not available for some orphanages.

(i.) *New South Wales.* The care of destitute and neglected children is entrusted to the State Children's Relief Board, whose officers are charged with a strict supervision regarding the welfare of the children and the treatment of them by those to whom they are boarded out. Useful trades and profitable occupations are taught, and many of the children become useful members of society. The number of children under the board's supervision in 1913-14 was 4695. The board's expenditure in that year was £126,012, or £26 17s. per child.

There are also thirteen orphanages, with about 770 persons under care. Deaths are but one or two annually, and the yearly expenditure fluctuates between £7000 and £14,000.

There are several reformatories and industrial schools maintained by the State. At the Parramatta Industrial School for girls, to which a Training Home has lately been annexed, there was, during 1913, a gross enrolment of 157, with a daily average attendance of 97. At the Farm Home for boys, Gosford, the gross enrolment during 1913 was 151, the average attendance being 113.

(ii.) *Victoria.* There are ten orphanages in Victoria, with 1551 beds. The total number under care in 1912-13 was about 2000. Average annual admissions are about 500. Deaths numbered six in 1912-13. The average annual expenditure has been about £23,000. In 1911-12 it was £27,463, and in 1912-13, £25,243.

At the end of 1913 there were three industrial and nine reformatory schools in the State. Of these, one industrial and one reformatory school are wholly controlled by the Government, being used merely as receiving and distributing depots. The children are sent thence to situations, foster homes, or other institutions dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management, receiving an allowance for State wards. Many of the reformatory children are placed with friends, or licensed out. On 31st December, 1913, the wards of the State numbered 8553—classed mostly as neglected children. There were also some children free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The total expenditure for 1913 was £119,564, of which £114,264 was borne by the Government.

(iii.) *Queensland.* There are seven orphanages in Queensland, with over 1000 beds. The number under care is about 900, deaths averaging nine per annum. The expenditure in 1913 was £19,024.

There are also six industrial and reformatory schools. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1913 was 4665. The gross cost was £63,440, of which £58,887 was borne by the Government.

(iv.) *South Australia.* The State Children's Department exercises a supervision over the probationary and industrial schools, the reformatories, and the Methodist Home. The total number of admissions into these institutions in 1912-13 was 225. The number of inmates on the 30th June, 1913, was 206, in addition to which 1369 were placed out, or had been adopted or apprenticed. There were no deaths of children in industrial schools, but of those placed out and in other institutions twelve died. The number of children under State control on 30th June, 1913, was 1575. The expenditure for 1912-13 was £27,970 in gross, of which the Government aid was £24,771.

There are three orphan asylums. The number under care during 1913 was 251. There was one death in the year, and expenditure amounted to £2685.

(v.) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia there were, in 1913, eight orphanages (including industrial orphanage schools). The inmates in these institutions during the year were 844, and the number in institutions on 31st December was 783. There were five deaths during the year. The State expenditure was about £10,000.

In the Government Industrial School there were, at the end of 1913, 356 inmates, 322 having been admitted during the year. Five deaths occurred. At the end of 1913 1174 children were under State control. The net cost to the State was £20,430, parents' contributions amounting to £794.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* There were ten admissions to the orphanage in 1913-14, and fifty-one inmates during the year. No deaths occurred. Expenditure amounted to £813.

There are three industrial schools under benevolent institutions in the State. Admissions in 1912-13 numbered nineteen, and total inmates during the year 118. No deaths occurred. The expenditure was £2810.

Under the boarding-out system upwards of 200 children are placed out at an expenditure of between £2000 and £2600. The total number of children under State control at the end of 1913 was 213, the gross cost to the State of children's relief being £4830, of which £366 represents parents' contributions.

(vii.) *Neglected Children.* The following table summarises the number of neglected children under State Departments. In New South Wales a number of children are boarded out with their own mothers, and the inclusion of these would make the total number of State-aided children in that State 10,665. Similar provisions are in force in some of the other States, the figures, however, not being available.

STATE RELIEF OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN.—TRANSACTIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.*	Vict.	Qld.	S.A.†	W.A.‡	Tas.	Cwltth.
Number of Children under State control at end of year—							
Males	2,726	4,479	2,383	736	678	130	11,132
Females	1,969	4,074	2,282	839	496	83	9,743
Total	4,695	8,553	4,665	1,575	1,174	213	20,875
Gross cost to State of children's relief	£132,383	£119,564	£63,440	£27,970	£21,224	£4,830	£369,411
Receipts, from parents' contributions, etc.	6,371	5,300	4,553	3,199	794	366	20,583
Net cost	126,012	114,264	58,887	24,771	20,430	4,464	348,828

* For year ended 5th April following.

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

CASES OF LEPROSY RECORDED IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1855 to 1911.

State.	1855 to 1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	Total.
New South Wales	140	4	2	2	5	3	156
Victoria	*27	—	—	—	—	—	*27
Queensland	†186	21	23	8	6	6	†250
South Australia	37	1	—	—	—	—	38
Western Australia	4	—	3	4	3	2	16
Tasmania	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	*†395	26	28	14	14	11	*†488

* In addition, some Chinese.

† In addition, many Kanakas.

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

HOSPITALS FOR INSANE,* COMMONWEALTH, 1909 to 1913.

Particulars.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Number of institutions	31	31	33	35	35
Number of beds	14,546	14,978	15,825	15,911	†
Admissions	2,740	2,936	3,079	3,017	3,153
Discharged as recovered, relieved, &c. ...	1,245	1,632	1,404	1,365	1,415
Deaths	1,046	1,177	1,246	1,311	1,292
Expenditure	£514,581	561,677	616,302	698,772	772,984

* Exclusive of receiving wards at two general hospitals and including six licensed houses for insane in Victoria. † Information not available.

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

The number of insane persons in institutions in Australia at the end of each of the years 1909-1913 was as follows:—

INSANE PERSONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, 1909 to 1913.

State.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
New South Wales	5,902	6,148	6,351	6,470	6,639
Victoria	5,097	5,241	5,340	5,470	5,631
Queensland	2,227	2,260	2,283	2,322	2,370
South Australia	1,051	1,055	1,084	1,082	1,082
Western Australia	782	793	842	876	933
Tasmania	506	505	521	534	526
Commonwealth	15,565	16,002	16,421	16,754	17,181

For the period embraced in the tables Victoria shows the highest rate of insanity, roughly one in 250 persons. It is stated that this is chiefly owing to the proportionately greater number of old persons in that State. On the other hand, in Western Australia, where the population is much younger, a considerably lower insanity rate has prevailed, averaging about one in 350.

PROPORTION OF INSANE, COMMONWEALTH, 1909 to 1913.

State.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
PER 1000 OF THE POPULATION.					
New South Wales ...	3.66	3.74	3.79	3.46	3.62
Victoria ...	3.99	4.03	3.92	3.96	3.98
Queensland ...	3.85	3.77	3.67	2.65	3.60
South Australia ...	2.65	2.57	2.57	2.50	2.46
Western Australia ...	2.94	2.87	2.86	2.84	2.91
Tasmania ...	2.62	2.61	2.69	2.71	2.61
Commonwealth ...	3.60	3.62	3.59	3.47	3.53

Consequent upon the development of a more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases, a greater willingness is being shewn to submit necessary cases to treatment at an earlier stage than formerly. Hence an increase in the number of recorded cases does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity. It is important to bear this in mind, because the small progressive increase in the preceding table is probably to be attributed largely, if not solely, to this circumstance. The increase in expenditure is another evidence of the greater care bestowed on the insane.

The leading features in regard to institutions for the care of the insane are given below for 1913:—

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, COMMONWEALTH, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vict.*	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Number of Institutions—							
Government ...	9	9	3	1	2	1	25
Private ...	3	6†	...	...	1	...	10‡
Total ...	12	15	3	1	3	1	35
Medical Staff—							
Males ...	20	20	7	2	3	3	55
Females ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total ...	21	20	7	2	3	3	56
Nursing Staff & Attendants—							
Males ...	601	484	161	75	114	71	1,506
Females ...	477	468	102	53	49	50	1,189
Total ...	1,078	952	263	128	163	121	2,705
Accommodation—							
No. of dormitories ...	‡331	1,419	441	¶	34	334	¶
Capacity in cubic feet ...	‡3,413,012	3,705,055	1,353,918	¶	672,157	706,704	¶
No. of beds ...	‡5,971	5,011	2,383	1,170	1,026	¶	¶
Cubic feet to each bed ...	{ ‡600§ 11,000¶ }	739	568	¶	655	¶	¶

* Exclusive of Receiving House, Royal Park, and of the Receiving Wards at Bendigo and Geelong hospitals. † There are six private licensed houses in Victoria, in which there were 105 cases at end of 1913. Other figures for these private asylums are not available. ‡ Government hospitals only. § Ordinary dormitory. ¶ Hospital dormitory. ¶ Information not available.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.—PATIENTS TREATED, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.*	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth
Admissions & re-admissions during year—							
Males	768	494	282	164	155	40	1,903
Females	503	364	171	108	75	29	1,250
Total	1,271	858	453	272	230	69	3,153
Discharges—Recovered—							
Males	300	117	138	9	44	14	622
Females	211	81	81	...	32	10	415
Total	511	198	219	9	76	24	1,037
Relieved and unrelieved—							
Males	51	47	8	27	8	1	202
Females	41	48	5	66	6	10	176
Total	92	95	13	153	14	11	378
Absconders—							
Males	6	11	...	...	2	...	19
Females ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Total	6	11	...	...	2	...	19
Deaths—							
Males	340	238	118	68	65	27	856
Females	153	155	55	42	16	15	436
Total	493	393	173	110	81	42	1,292
Inmates at end of year—							
Males	3,918	2,839	1,472	615	669	267	9,780
Females	2,721	2,792	898	467	264	259	7,401
Total	6,639	5,631	2,370	1,082	933	526	17,181
Average daily number resident—							
Males	3,765	2,535	1,462	613	644	264	9,283
Females	2,512	2,448	880	465	252	263	6,820
Total	6,277	4,983	2,342	1,078	896	527	16,103

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

In some of the States it is the practice to allow persons well advanced towards recovery to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are nevertheless under supervision of the asylum authorities and are kept on the books. These patients are not shewn in the above table as inmates. In nearly every case absconders are retaken. They are shewn above as readmitted.

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 FOR THE INSANE (GOVERNMENT ONLY), REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1913.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
Revenue—							
Fees of patients ...	£ 41,626	£ 26,902	£ 10,040	£ 7,500	£ 4,584	£ 5,239	£ 95,691
Other ...	2,071	...	1,223	145	3,748	558	7,745
Total ...	43,697	26,902	11,263	7,645	8,332	5,797	103,636
Expenditure—							
Salaries ...	141,908	101,237	40,731	16,670	21,844	12,523	334,913
Maintenance ...	109,311	97,854	32,904	19,738	21,480	7,338	288,625
Buildings ...	...	52,263	37,876	2,348	8,306	13,332	114,125
Other ...	26,456	...	...	...	1,896	6,969	35,321
Total ...	277,675	251,354	111,511	38,756	53,526	40,162	772,964

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

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

(ii.) *Victoria.* The average residence in the hospitals of those who died was 7 years 5 months for males and 10 years 2 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 5 months for males and 1 year 8 months for females.

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

(iii.) *Queensland.* The average residence in the institutions of those who died was 5 years 11 months for males and 6 years 11 months for females; and of those who were discharged, 10 months for males and 1 year and 2 months for females.

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

(iv.) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died was 7 years and 10 months for males and 10 years 3 months for females; of those discharged, 11 months for males and 9 months for females.

(v.) *Western Australia.* The period of residence of those who died during the year averaged 5 years 1 month for males and 5 years 4 months for females; of those who were discharged, 10 months for males and 6 months for females.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* The period of residence of those who died was 7 years 1 month for males and 12 years 10 months for females; that of those discharged, 1 year 2 months for males and 9 months for females.

(vii.) *Causes of Insanity.* The proportion of causes of insanity to the total of ascertained causes in Australia in the five years 1909-1913 shows that hereditary influences have been the chief factor, more than one-fifth of the total ascertained causes

coming under this head. Domestic troubles, adverse circumstances, etc., have also been a fruitful source. About one case in six was due to intemperance in drink.

**PROPORTION OF ASCERTAINED CAUSES, etc., OF INSANITY, COMMONWEALTH,
1909 to 1913.**

Causes, Previous History, etc.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Domestic trouble, adverse circumstances, mental anxiety	11.5	12.0	10.6	11.8	7.6
Intemperance in drink	10.1	14.4	15.0	16.3	16.3
Hereditary influence, ascertained; congenital defect, ascertained	15.0	16.9	18.7	21.7	22.6
Pregnancy, lactation, parturition and puerperal state, uterine and ovarian disorders, puberty, change of life	6.4	5.4	5.9	6.6	6.0
Previous attacks	12.0	12.2	9.3	9.5	8.7
Accident, including sunstroke	3.0	2.1	3.0	2.3	2.6
Old age	9.7	10.8	9.9	9.2	10.2
Other causes ascertained	32.3	26.2	27.6	22.6	26.0
All ascertained causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

7. **Treatment of Inebriates.**—The treatment of inebriates is referred to in the section dealing with Public Justice hereinbefore. (See page 802.)

8. **Protection of Aborigines.**—For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where the blacks are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic in habit of life, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come under the notice of the boards. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The estimated average annual expenditure on maintenance, etc., for the last five years was—New South Wales, £20,000; Victoria, £4000; Queensland, £16,000; South Australia, including Northern Territory, £14,000; Western Australia, £24,000; total for Commonwealth, £78,000.

9. **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 ranges from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and infirm. The institutions not so particularised include asylums for the deaf, dumb, and blind, maternity institutions and infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, crèches, homes of hope, rescue homes, free kindergarten and ragged schools, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, ambulance and health societies, boys' brigades, humane and animals' protection societies, prisoners' aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bush fires and mining accident relief funds, etc.

10. **State Expenditure on Charities.**—The table below gives the amount expended by Government on charities in each of the last five years. In some of the States amounts have been included for minor items, which in other States are charged to other heads:—

STATE EXPENDITURE ON CHARITIES, 1909 to 1913.

State or Territory.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	519,327	528,289	518,484	576,886	683,102
Victoria ...	378,165	385,467	436,859	446,332	468,588
Queensland ...	200,141	205,577	237,224	262,171	261,237
South Australia ...	88,618	87,112	98,236	118,931	117,204
Western Australia ...	149,892	139,700	177,734	184,940	201,215
Tasmania ...	36,316	39,558	43,245	45,166	62,205
Northern Territory ...	...	...	...	5,328	5,602
Commonwealth ...	1,372,459	1,385,703	1,511,782	1,639,754	1,799,153

11. **Total Charitable Expenditure.**—The expenditure in the Commonwealth in money on hospitals, charities, and all forms of relief publicly given, comprising the amounts furnished by Government and those raised by public subscription, etc., but excluding old-age pensions, exceeds £3,000,000 annually.