

POPULATION.

ON the 26th January, 1788, Captain Phillip arrived in Sydney Harbour, bringing with him an establishment of about 1,030 people all told. Settlement soon spread from the parent colony, first to Tasmania in 1803, and afterwards to other parts of the continent and to New Zealand. At the end of 1897 the population of Australasia had increased to 4,410,151 persons, thus distributed :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	709,360	614,100	1,323,460
Victoria	595,409	580,839	1,176,248
Queensland	271,372	213,328	484,700
South Australia	188,338	174,706	363,044
Western Australia.....	110,359	51,565	161,924
Tasmania	91,610	80,109	171,719
New Zealand	384,703	344,353	729,056
Australasia	2,351,151	2,059,000	4,410,151

If to these numbers, which principally comprise the people of European descent, there be added an estimated population of 200,000 Australian aborigines in an uncivilised state in Western Australia, South Australia, and Queensland, and of 39,854 Maoris in New Zealand, the total population of Australasia at the end of 1897 would be about 4,650,000.

The growth of the population of Australasia from the date of the first settlement is shown in the following table. An official enumeration of the people was made in most of the years quoted :—

Year.	Population of Australasia.	Annual Increase per cent.	Year.	Population of Australasia.	Annual Increase per cent.
1788	1,030	.....	1881*	2,742,550	3·60
1801	6,508	15·13	1891*	3,809,895	3·34
1811	11,525	11·94	1892	3,985,273	2·60
1821	35,610	5·88	1893	4,068,302	2·08
1831	79,306	8·34	1894	4,153,766	2·10
1841	211,095	10·28	1895	4,238,350	2·04
1851	430,596	7·36	1896	4,323,204	2·00
1861*	1,252,994	11·30	1897	4,410,151	2·01
1871*	1,924,770	4·39			

* Census population.

It is reasonable to expect that the rate of growth in the colonies would decline as the population increased, and such has been the case since 1851. The high rate of increase of 11·3 per cent. from 1851 to 1861 was, of course, due to the gold discovery, which proved a strong incentive to emigration to these colonies. The high annual increase between 1831 and 1841 was owing to the policy of State-aided immigration which was then in vogue. Prior to this period the high average arose from the small number of people on which the increase was calculated.

The following table shows the annual rate of increase of population in countries which are undergoing extensive settlement :—

Country.	Period.	Annual rate of Increase.
Argentine Republic	1869-95	2·33
Cape Colony (European or white races)...	1875-91	1·78
Brazil	1872-90	1·95
Canada	1881-91	1·12
Chili	1885-95	0·71

The population of Australasia, as shown by the census of 1891, had increased threefold since 1861, and nearly twofold since 1871, while the annual rate of increase for the whole thirty years was 3·78 per cent. Taking the colonies individually, the rate of increase for Queensland was the highest—a circumstance partly to be attributed to the large numbers introduced under the system of State-aided immigration which has prevailed in that colony for many years; but the largest numerical increase was that of New South Wales. The population of each colony (exclusive of aborigines, a few in New South Wales and Victoria excepted) at the last four census periods is shown below :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	Annual Increase per cent., 1861-1891.
New South Wales	350,860	503,981	751,468	1,132,234	3·98
Victoria	540,322	731,528	862,346	1,140,405	2·52
Queensland	30,059	120,104	213,525	393,718	8·95
South Australia...	126,830	185,626	279,865	320,431	3·12
West'm Australia	15,691	25,353	29,708	49,782	3·92
Tasmania	90,211	101,785	115,705	146,667	1·63
New Zealand.....	99,021	256,393	489,933	626,658	6·34
Australasia...	1,252,994	1,924,770	2,742,550	3,809,895	3·78

In order to show the great differences in the growth of the population of the individual colonies during the last ten years, the appended table has been prepared, giving the population at the end of each year since

1887. It is somewhat remarkable to notice that during the ten years Victoria has only added 143,255 to the number of its inhabitants, and that while at the end of 1890 its population was greater by 11,406 than that of New South Wales, at the close of the year 1897 the mother colony had the greater number of inhabitants by 147,212. During the first six months of 1898 there was a further decrease of 6,814 persons in Victoria, while New South Wales added 12,340 to its population in the same time :—

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
1887	1,020,330	1,032,993	356,982	308,215	42,488	135,988	601,929	3,498,925
1888	1,051,080	1,076,966	371,351	306,641	42,137	138,346	604,575	3,591,096
1889	1,081,820	1,103,727	383,960	311,112	43,698	142,177	616,559	3,683,053
1890	1,121,860	1,133,266	392,965	319,414	46,290	145,290	626,048	3,785,133
1891	1,165,300	1,167,678	410,330	325,766	53,285	152,619	634,058	3,899,036
1892	1,197,650	1,167,373	421,297	336,702	58,674	153,144	650,433	3,985,273
1893	1,223,370	1,174,006	432,299	346,874	65,064	154,424	672,265	4,068,302
1894	1,251,450	1,179,103	445,155	352,402	82,072	157,456	686,128	4,153,766
1895	1,277,870	1,181,751	460,550	357,405	101,235	160,833	698,706	4,238,350
1896	1,297,640	1,174,944	472,179	360,220	137,946	166,113	714,162	4,323,204
1897	1,323,460	1,176,248	484,700	363,044	161,924	171,719	729,056	4,410,151

The following table gives the total increase in each colony during the thirty-seven years, 1861–97, distinguishing the natural increase arising from the excess of births over deaths from the increase caused by the excess of arrivals over departures :—

Colony.	Excess of—		Total Increase.
	Births over Deaths.	Immigration over Emigration.	
New South Wales.....	618,643	356,271	974,914
Victoria	588,497	49,904	638,401
Queensland	184,883	271,761	456,644
South Australia	203,825	35,107	238,932
Western Australia.....	22,592	124,105	146,697
Tasmania.....	76,707	7,237	83,944
New Zealand	384,051	265,294	649,345
Australasia	2,079,198	1,109,679	3,188,877

The information conveyed by the above figures is important, as illustrating not only the movement of population but also the effect upon immigration of local influences, such as the attraction of liberal land laws, the fertility of the soil, the permanence of employment, and the policy of assisted immigration. But a bare statement of the gross increase to each colony from immigration is apt to be misleading, since the original density of population must be deemed a factor affecting

the current of immigration. The following figures show the density of population in each colony at various dates corresponding with those given in a preceding table:—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
New South Wales	1·13	1·62	2·42	3·65
Victoria	6·15	8·32	9·81	12·98
Queensland.....	0·04	0·18	0·32	0·59
South Australia.....	0·14	0·20	0·31	0·35
Western Australia	0·02	0·03	0·03	0·05
Tasmania	3·44	3·88	4·41	5·59
New Zealand	0·95	2·45	4·69	6·00
Australasia.....	0·41	0·63	0·89	1·24

At the close of the year 1897 the population of Australasia, including the native races, only reached a density of 1·51 persons per square mile—a rate which is far below that of any other civilised country; and excluding Australian aborigines and Maoris, the density was not more than 1·43 per square mile. But a comparison of the density of population in Australasia with that in older countries of the world is of little practical use, beyond affording some indication of the future of these colonies when their population shall have reached the proportions to be found in the old world. The latest authoritative statements give the density of the populations of the great divisions of the world as follows:—

Continent.	Area in square Miles.	Population.	Persons per square mile.
Europe.....	3,742,000	372,925,000	99·66
Asia	17,101,000	830,558,000	48·57
Africa	11,510,000	170,050,000	14·77
America	14,805,000	132,718,000	8·96
Australasia and Pacific Islands.	3,457,000	5,907,000	1·71
Polar Regions.....	1,732,000	82,000	0·05
The World	52,347,000	1,512,240,000	28·89

From the earliest years of settlement there was a steady if not a powerful stream of immigration into these colonies, but in 1851, memorable for the finding of gold, the current was swollen by thousands of men in the prime of life who were attracted to the shores of Australia by the hope of speedily acquiring wealth. By far the greater number of these new arrivals settled in the new colony of Victoria, which had just been separated from New South Wales, and for some years afterwards Victoria had an unprecedented addition to its population. The vast changes which took place will be evident when it is stated that in 1850, just prior to the gold rush, the population of the northern and southern portions of New South Wales was :—

Port Phillip (afterwards Victoria)	76,162
Remaining portion of the Colony	189,341

While five years afterwards the population of the two colonies was :—

Victoria	364,324
New South Wales	277,579

Victoria enjoyed the advantage in population and increased its lead yearly until 1871, when its inhabitants exceeded in number those of New South Wales by no less than 229,654. But from that time almost every year showed a nearer approach in the numbers of the inhabitants of the two colonies, until at the census of 1891 Victoria had only a lead of 8,171, while at the end of that year New South Wales had the greater population by about 7,600. By the end of 1897 the parent colony had, as pointed out on a previous page, increased its lead to over 147,000, while the following six months increased the gap to 166,300.

Queensland and New Zealand, and Western Australia also in recent years, likewise owe much of their remarkable progress to the discovery of gold. In New Zealand the gold fever broke out in 1861, when the population numbered only 99,021, and the period of its activity extended over many years. At the census taken in 1891 the population had reached 626,658 souls, exclusive of Maoris, or fully six times that of 1861. In Queensland the attractive force of the gold-fields was exerted at a later date, and it may still be considered a powerful factor in stimulating the growth of population in that colony; while the development of Western Australia during the last five years has been wholly due to the gold deposits discovered in that colony, the population increasing from the small number of 65,064 at the end of 1893 to 161,924 at the end of 1897.

Much of the increase of population, especially in the colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand, was due to the State policy of assisted immigration. The following table shows the number of all

immigrants introduced into the colonies either wholly or partly at the expense of the State, to the end of 1897 :—

Colony.	Prior to 1881.	1881 to 1897.	. Total.
New South Wales	177,234	34,724	211,958
Victoria	140,102	.....	140,102
Queensland	52,399	111,278	163,677
South Australia	88,050	7,298	95,348
Western Australia	889	5,848	6,737
Tasmania	18,965	2,734	21,699
New Zealand	*100,920	14,658	*115,578
Australasia	578,559	176,540	755,099

* Exclusive of number prior to 1870, of which no record can be found.

The following table shows the increase of population by excess of immigration over emigration for the four decennial periods ended 1890, and for the period of seven years 1891 to 1897 :—

Colony.	1851-60.	1861-70.	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-97.
New South Wales	123,097	45,539	109,341	164,205	37,188
Victoria	398,753	38,935	*12,672	112,093	*88,452
Queensland	†	68,191	73,849	101,530	28,191
South Australia	33,024	17,949	34,569	*17,000	*411
Western Australia	6,870	5,319	*339	10,170	108,682
Tasmania	6,767	*3,228	*1,427	5,572	6,320
New Zealand	44,742	118,637	132,976	9,451	20,801
Australasia	613,253	291,342	336,297	386,021	112,319

* Denotes excess of emigrants. † Included in New South Wales figures.

Taking the last seventeen years, it will be seen from the next table that no colony exhibits uniformity in the immigration returns, some of the provinces even showing an excess of departures during several years; but, with the exception of South Australia, all the colonies show substantial increases from immigration over the whole period. If, however, the last seven years be made the basis of comparison, it will be found that great changes have taken place in the movement of population, Victoria having actually lost 88,452 persons by an excess of departures, while Western Australia gained 108,682 during

the same period. The only other colony which experienced a net loss was South Australia, the decrease since 1891 amounting to 411 persons :—

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
1881	16,673	4,976	4,009*	12,055	401	1,166	1,970	33,232
1882	16,034	6,563	17,043	3,679*	94	587	2,375	39,017
1883	27,278	6,597	34,371	4,266	436	689	8,657	82,294
1884	23,944	8,525	18,620	275	871	816	7,724	60,775
1885	24,829	9,027	7,056	9,280*	1,628	388*	2,757	35,629
1886	18,073	15,436	7,695	8,819*	3,738	302*	199*	35,622
1887	7,202	15,445	11,527	3,008*	2,049	1,797	211	35,223
1888	6,633	25,757	5,651	8,325*	1,196*	383*	10,548*	17,589
1889	8,241	9,794	4,340	2,346*	578	1,172	701*	21,078
1890	15,298	9,973	764*	1,861	1,571	418	2,795*	25,562
1891	20,268	4,538	7,820	168*	6,078	4,592	3,745*	39,383
1892	6,720	12,285*	1,330	4,107	4,472	2,371*	4,958	6,931
1893	1,400	13,411*	2,303	4,025	5,223	1,865*	10,412	8,087
1894	4,300	13,731*	4,177	930*	15,966	118	2,253	12,153
1895	2,560	15,422*	5,673	1,601*	18,394	398	895	10,897
1896	897*	23,271*	3,257	3,150*	35,949	2,578	3,276	17,742
1897	2,837	14,870*	3,631	2,694*	22,600	2,870	2,752	17,126

* Denotes excess of departures.

AGES OF THE PEOPLE.

At the census of 1891 the average age of the population of Australasia was 24·4 years; the average age of the males was 25·5 years, and that of the females 23·3 years. Taking the colonies separately, it will be seen from the following table that the oldest population was that of Victoria, with an average of 25·6 years; and the youngest that of Queensland, with an average of 23·7 years. The male population of Western Australia had the highest age average, namely, 27·6 years, owing to the large influx of adult males some few years before, attracted thither by the discoveries of gold at Kimberley and elsewhere. The youngest male populations were in New South Wales and South Australia, averaging 25·1 and 24·7 years respectively. The youngest female population was found in Queensland, where the average was 21·5 years; while the oldest was in Victoria, averaging 24·6 years :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
New South Wales	25·1	22·5	23·9
Victoria	26·5	24·6	25·6
Queensland	25·2	21·5	23·7
South Australia	24·7	23·8	24·3
Western Australia.....	27·6	22·0	25·3
Tasmania	25·6	23·7	24·7
New Zealand	25·2	23·4	24·1
Australasia	25·5	23·3	24·4

In considering these figures it must be remembered that the same average may be due to opposite causes ; for instance, a large middle-age population with a small proportion of children and old people, as in Queensland, gives much the same result as a large population at the dependent ages and a small proportion of those at the supporting ages, as in Tasmania. The following table shows the number of males at the dependent ages from infancy to 15 years ; at the supporting ages from 15 to 65 ; and in the old age group, from 65 years upwards :—

Colony.	Dependent Ages up to 15 years.		Supporting Ages, 15 and under 65.		Old Ages, 65 and over.	
	Number.	Percentage of Male Population.	Number.	Percentage of Male Population.	Number.	Percentage of Male Population.
New South Wales...	217,991	35·85	373,346	61·41	16,666	2·74
Victoria.....	199,599	33·37	374,871	62·68	23,619	3·95
Queensland	74,180	33·15	145,960	65·22	3,639	1·63
South Australia ...	64,004	38·37	97,293	58·33	5,504	3·30
Western Australia..	8,565	28·73	20,148	67·60	1,094	3·67
Tasmania	29,003	37·39	44,256	57·06	4,301	5·55
New Zealand... ..	126,531	38·01	197,979	59·48	8,367	2·51
Australasia ...	719,873	35·34	1,253,853	61·56	63,190	3·10

It will have been noticed in the table on the preceding page that during certain years, notably 1885 to 1891, there was an exodus of population from New Zealand, South Australia, and Tasmania, the persons who left being mainly able-bodied men in search of employment. It is only reasonable, therefore, that the number of males of the supporting ages in those colonies should be below the average. The reverse is the case in Western Australia, where the proportion of dependent males is smaller than in any other colony, while the proportion of men of the supporting ages is greater. These facts are to be accounted for by the immigration into Western Australia of large numbers of adult males, many of whom probably came from one of the three colonies first mentioned. The high birth-rate of New South Wales accounts for the larger proportion of persons of dependent ages as compared with Victoria, but at the supporting ages there is very little difference between the two colonies. With regard to the old age group, the proportion in Queensland, 1·63 per cent., is undoubtedly low. Tasmania, with 5·55 per cent., has the largest proportion of aged inhabitants ; Victoria comes next with 3·95 per

cent. ; while the proportion of inhabitants of 65 years and over in New South Wales is only 2·74 per cent., or one-half of the proportion shown by Tasmania.

The following table shows, in quinquennial periods, the ages of the people in each of the Australasian colonies :—

Ages.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
MALES.							
Under 5 years	83,640	75,185	30,458	23,015	3,428	10,840	42,266
5 to 10 ..	72,511	65,418	23,820	21,827	2,756	9,879	43,502
10 to 15 ..	61,840	58,996	19,902	19,162	2,381	8,284	40,763
15 to 20 ..	53,931	57,264	18,203	15,363	2,221	7,073	32,586
20 to 25 ..	57,666	63,413	24,094	15,330	3,371	7,155	28,445
25 to 30 ..	59,752	63,080	25,723	14,400	3,864	7,461	23,707
30 to 35 ..	51,933	47,864	21,356	13,426	2,909	6,052	22,106
35 to 40 ..	40,238	31,824	15,593	10,758	1,965	4,487	20,594
40 to 45 ..	31,227	24,034	12,217	8,115	1,426	3,319	17,824
45 to 50 ..	26,805	22,111	10,538	6,827	1,237	2,577	17,094
50 to 55 ..	22,586	22,804	9,192	5,401	1,220	2,298	16,836
55 to 60 ..	16,644	22,264	5,448	4,094	1,051	1,933	10,981
60 to 65 ..	12,504	20,213	3,596	3,529	884	1,901	7,716
65 to 70 ..	6,945	11,144	1,793	2,378	524	1,493	3,939
70 to 75 ..	4,997	7,240	1,079	1,723	373	1,406	2,515
75 to 80 ..	2,837	3,210	505	850	131	791	1,105
80 and upwards	1,887	2,025	202	553	66	611	718
Total Males	608,003	598,089	223,779	160,301	29,807	77,560	332,877
FEMALES.							
Under 5 years	81,354	73,471	29,874	22,266	3,381	10,628	40,955
5 to 10 ..	70,977	63,966	23,275	21,267	2,597	9,521	42,596
10 to 15 ..	60,867	57,878	19,258	18,641	2,376	8,178	40,388
15 to 20 ..	54,160	57,859	17,131	15,617	2,071	6,818	32,665
20 to 25 ..	53,133	61,655	18,718	14,923	2,181	6,582	29,855
25 to 30 ..	46,673	55,220	15,964	12,937	1,892	6,066	22,416
30 to 35 ..	36,424	39,840	12,161	10,690	1,416	4,936	17,923
35 to 40 ..	27,110	26,508	8,548	8,290	979	3,443	15,133
40 to 45 ..	22,003	21,430	6,869	6,339	774	2,753	13,459
45 to 50 ..	18,491	19,747	6,108	5,517	645	2,338	11,854
50 to 55 ..	14,662	19,290	4,690	4,931	559	2,143	9,940
55 to 60 ..	10,721	16,220	2,983	3,837	444	1,784	6,161
60 to 65 ..	7,677	12,915	1,991	3,261	281	1,488	4,475
65 to 70 ..	4,865	7,181	1,145	2,169	161	969	2,568
70 to 75 ..	3,658	4,803	727	1,534	126	766	1,878
75 to 80 ..	1,903	2,267	301	830	52	401	936
80 and upwards	1,273	1,501	196	591	40	293	629
Total Females	515,951	541,751	169,939	153,030	19,975	69,107	293,731

The period from 20 to 40 years is considered the "soldier's age," as men of such ages would be the first to be called upon for the defence of the country in case of war. At the census of 1891 Australasia had a force of nearly 700,000 men to draw upon for this purpose, of whom New South Wales would have contributed 209,589, Victoria 206,181, Queensland 86,766, South Australia 53,964, Western Australia 12,109, Tasmania 25,155, and New Zealand, 94,942.

The female population of Australasia may be conveniently grouped into three divisions, namely, dependent ages, from infancy to 15 years ;

reproductive ages, from 15 to 45 ; and those over 45 years of age. The numbers of each class in the several provinces are shown below:—

Colony.	Dependent ages, up to 15 years.		Reproductive ages, 15 and under 45.		Ages of 45 years and over.	
	Number.	Percentage of Female Population.	Number.	Percentage of Female Population.	Number.	Percentage of Female Population.
New South Wales.....	213,198	41·32	239,503	46·42	63,250	12·26
Victoria.....	195,315	36·05	262,512	48·46	83,924	15·49
Queensland ..	72,407	42·61	79,391	46·72	18,141	10·67
South Australia	62,174	40·47	68,796	44·78	22,660	14·75
Western Australia.....	8,354	41·82	9,313	46·62	2,308	11·56
Tasmania	28,327	40·99	30,598	44·28	10,182	14·73
New Zealand.....	123,889	42·17	131,451	44·74	38,441	13·09
Australasia.....	703,664	39·89	821,564	46·57	238,906	13·54

The female population, it will be seen, is distributed among the various colonies in much more even proportions than the male population. Victoria has the smallest ratio of dependent females, the greatest proportion of those of reproductive ages, and the highest relative number of females over the reproductive age. The rates for the other provinces are remarkably even, New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia having almost an identical proportion of reproductive females, while South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand are nearly equal at a slightly lower rate.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births in each colony and the rate per thousand of the population during the year 1897 are shown in the following table:—

Colony.	Births.			Birth-rate.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
New South Wales.....	18,989	18,258	37,247	28·42
Victoria	16,005	15,297	31,302	26·62
Queensland	7,277	7,036	14,313	29·92
South Australia.....	4,897	4,665	9,562	26·44
Western Australia	2,036	1,985	4,021	26·82
Tasmania	2,483	2,200	4,683	27·72
New Zealand.....	9,600	9,137	18,737	25·96
Australasia.....	61,287	58,578	119,865	27·45

The number of births in each colony and in the whole of Australasia, in quinquennial periods from 1861 to 1895, and in the two years 1896-97, was as follows:—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-97.
New South Wales ..	79,958	92,643	106,543	127,572	158,965	188,300	197,566	73,753
Victoria.....	123,353	131,052	136,363	132,347	140,258	172,307	180,852	63,480
Queensland	11,761	22,622	29,279	37,535	48,979	70,150	72,863	23,330
South Australia	30,472	35,067	36,398	46,310	56,618	53,200	53,093	19,610
Western Australia ..	3,352	3,724	4,033	4,611	5,446	7,696	10,242	6,803
Tasmania	15,454	14,679	15,313	17,165	21,425	23,710	24,794	9,286
New Zealand	26,611	46,770	59,891	88,205	96,482	94,071	91,410	37,349
Australasia	290,961	346,557	387,820	453,745	523,173	609,434	630,820	238,611

The average birth-rates of each colony for the same periods were as follow:—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-97.
New South Wales ..	42·71	40·70	39·05	38·53	37·65	36·36	32·72	28·38
Victoria.....	43·30	39·27	35·69	31·43	30·76	32·72	31·00	26·97
Queensland	43·07	43·91	40·81	36·72	36·37	33·81	34·11	29·93
South Australia	44·14	40·60	37·24	38·28	38·52	34·48	31·22	27·22
Western Australia ..	39·07	33·56	31·30	32·97	34·57	30·88	30·76	25·24
Tasmania	33·80	29·65	29·72	31·54	35·02	34·59	32·17	27·94
New Zealand	38·22	42·28	40·02	41·32	36·50	31·22	27·66	26·15
Australasia	41·92	39·84	37·34	36·38	35·21	34·43	31·35	27·59

Particulars relating to illegitimate births will be found in the chapter headed "Social Condition."

DEATHS.

The following table shows the total number of deaths and the rate per thousand of the population during the year 1897:—

Colony.	Deaths.			Death-rate.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
New South Wales.....	8,314	5,950	14,264	10·88
Victoria	8,533	6,595	15,128	12·87
Queensland	3,483	1,940	5,423	11·33
South Australia.....	2,256	1,788	4,044	11·18
Western Australia	1,825	818	2,643	17·63
Tasmania	1,116	831	1,947	11·53
New Zealand	3,787	2,808	6,595	9·14
Australasia	29,314	20,730	50,044	11·46

The number of deaths in each colony and in the whole of Australasia, in quinquennial periods from 1861 to 1895, and in the two years 1896-97, is shown in the following table :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-97.
New South Wales ..	31,561	30,406	40,909	53,256	66,103	71,457	76,802	30,103
Victoria.....	49,452	55,136	50,759	62,811	66,811	84,648	82,056	30,842
Queensland	5,751	9,312	12,869	17,234	25,731	23,040	26,581	11,068
South Australia	10,840	12,963	15,475	18,026	21,616	19,361	20,535	8,127
Western Australia..	1,399	1,711	2,068	2,003	2,709	3,332	5,430	4,663
Tasmania	6,953	6,962	8,060	8,904	9,790	10,389	10,123	3,848
New Zealand	10,001	13,328	19,354	25,254	29,074	29,746	33,525	13,027
Australasia	115,957	135,878	158,494	187,628	221,834	246,973	255,052	101,678

The average death-rates of each colony for the periods shown in the above table are given below ; but the statement does not afford a just comparison between the colonies, as no account is taken of the ages of the people :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-97.
New South Wales ..	16·86	16·05	14·99	16·09	15·66	13·80	12·72	11·58
Victoria.....	17·36	16·52	15·64	14·92	14·65	16·07	14·06	13·10
Queensland	21·06	18·07	17·94	16·90	19·10	15·52	12·44	11·71
South Australia	15·70	15·01	15·83	14·90	14·71	12·55	12·08	11·28
Western Australia ..	16·31	15·55	16·03	14·32	17·19	15·97	16·31	17·30
Tasmania	15·20	14·06	15·64	16·52	16·00	15·16	13·13	11·58
New Zealand	14·36	12·05	12·93	11·83	11·00	9·87	10·14	9·12
Australasia	16·75	15·62	15·26	15·04	14·79	13·95	12·68	11·76

Compared with European countries the Australasian colonies occupy a very favourable position in respect to both birth and death rates. The Australasian birth-rate is high, and in European countries where it is higher it will be seen, on reference to the subjoined table, that the death-rate is so considerably in excess that the difference between the two, representing the gain to each country by natural increase, is largely in favour of Australasia. In the case of Sweden the figures

given cover the period of nine years from 1887 to 1895 ; for all other countries they refer to the ten years 1887-96 :—

Country.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Excess of Births per 1,000 inhabitants.
New South Wales	33·03	12·79	20·24
Victoria.....	31·15	14·71	16·44
Queensland	34·01	12·88	21·13
South Australia	31·63	11·95	19·68
Western Australia.....	28·61	14·83	13·78
Tasmania.....	32·18	13·57	18·61
New Zealand.....	28·41	9·77	18·64
Australasia	31·68	12·88	18·80
England and Wales	30·67	18·57	12·11
Scotland	30·87	18·78	12·09
Ireland.....	22·92	18·07	4·85
United Kingdom.....	29·74	18·53	11·21
France ..	22·60	21·97	0·63
Germany	36·32	23·30	13·02
Belgium	29·03	19·80	9·23
Netherlands	33·10	19·57	13·53
Austria	37·66	28·10	9·56
Hungary	42·02	31·56	10·46
Switzerland	27·97	20·05	7·92
Italy	36·67	25·97	10·70
Denmark	30·74	18·38	12·36
Norway	30·36	16·76	13·60
Sweden	27·92	16·48	11·44

No better testimony to the salubrity of the climate of Australasia could be obtained than is afforded by these figures. There are, of course, various circumstances other than climatic which would tend to make the mortality lighter in these than in older-settled countries, but when all possible allowances are made for such circumstances a comparison between these colonies and the countries of Europe is still significantly favourable to Australasia.

INDEXES OF MORTALITY.

So far consideration has only been given to the actual death-rates as they are obtained by taking the proportion which the number of deaths bears to the number of inhabitants. It is well known, however, that the death-rate of a country is affected by more than the salubrity of its climate, the degree of perfection to which the sanitary condition of its cities and towns and villages has been brought, and the nature of the

industrial pursuits of its people. Actuarial science has demonstrated the fact that when a male child is born in the colony of New South Wales it may expect to live until it is 49·60 years old; if it survives until it is 2 years of age, it may expect to live 56·37 years; while as it grows older the expectation of life gradually diminishes until at 90 years of age the man may count upon but 2·54 years of life. It is plain, therefore, that a country which has a large proportion of young people will, other things being equal, have a lower death-rate than another which has a comparatively large proportion of old persons. It is this fact that statistical science now seeks to take into account in establishing the rates of mortality of the various countries of the world. It is not practicable to base a rate on any table showing the expectation of life at successive ages; but it is practicable to select a country, divide its population into certain age-groups, and ascertain the mortality of all countries on the assumption that the ages of the population of each hold the same proportions to the total inhabitants as do those of the selected country. This is the course which has been suggested by the International Statistical Institute, in its 1895 session, held at Berne. It has adopted the population of Sweden, as ascertained at the census of 1890, as the standard, and divided it into the five age-groups of under 1 year, 1 year and under 20 years, 20 years and under 40 years, 40 years and under 60, and 60 years and upwards, obtaining the percentages of 2·55, 39·80, 26·96, 19·23, and 11·46 respectively. Applying these age proportions to the population of each of the Australasian colonies as ascertained at the census of 1891, the "index of mortality," as distinguished from the actual "death-rate," is found as given below for each of the last seven years. How greatly the ages of the people of a country affect its mortality will be evident from the fact that whereas in 1896 the death-rates of the colonies ranged from 9·10 in New Zealand to 16·53 in Western Australia, or 7·43 per thousand, the range of the indexes of mortality was only 4·47 per thousand, namely, from 13·01 in New Zealand to 17·48 in Western Australia. In comparing the indexes of various years it must not be forgotten that the composition of the population of some of the colonies, notably of Western Australia, has changed since the last census was taken:—

Colony.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
New South Wales.....	16·51	18·68	15·65	16·71	16·32	15·69	16·45
Victoria	18·71	19·48	16·24	16·73	15·96	16·39	16·48.
Queensland.	17·29	15·52	15·82	16·66	16·29	15·21	16·73
South Australia.....	15·33	16·75	14·07	16·10	14·61	14·36	14·44
Western Australia	15·11	21·54	18·94	18·08	16·65	18·86	17·48
Tasmania	17·25	18·01	15·64	15·43	14·74	13·40	13·89
New Zealand	12·87	13·95	13·59	13·56	14·44	13·98	13·01
Australasia	16·68	17·83	15·47	16·16	15·68	15·49	15·71

AGES AT DEATH.

A detailed statement of the ages at death of the males who died during the year 1896 in the six colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia proper, Tasmania, and New Zealand, is given below. The returns for Western Australia do not distinguish the sex of the persons who died, and no vital statistics are published for the Northern Territory :—

Ages at Death.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queens-land.	*South Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Total.
Under 1 year	2,424	1,950	793	557	223	817	6,764
1 and under 2 years...	468	365	158	63	30	100	1,193
2 " 3 " ..	141	127	64	24	10	34	400
3 " 4 " ..	77	71	56	18	11	35	263
4 " 5 " ..	65	65	34	18	6	31	219
5 " 10 " ..	225	196	84	44	26	100	675
10 " 15 " ..	160	138	68	51	23	78	518
15 " 20 " ..	247	198	110	61	29	122	767
20 " 25 " ..	268	230	185	85	32	168	968
25 " 30 " ..	309	350	228	64	30	149	1,139
30 " 35 " ..	377	305	199	91	29	119	1,120
35 " 40 " ..	410	344	219	83	47	146	1,249
40 " 45 " ..	415	265	204	90	31	141	1,146
45 " 50 " ..	427	255	158	74	28	191	1,133
50 " 55 " ..	460	337	216	85	30	201	1,320
55 " 60 " ..	469	488	198	130	38	267	1,500
60 " 65 " ..	562	710	194	120	61	279	1,926
65 " 70 " ..	505	829	150	112	70	254	1,920
70 " 75 " ..	409	627	110	112	90	204	1,552
75 years and upwards...	833	1,044	124	283	252	331	2,822
Unspecified	5	8	22	1	3	.....	39
Total	9,256	8,902	3,574	2,121	1,108	3,776	28,737

* Exclusive of Northern Territory.

Similar information respecting the deaths of females in 1896 is given in the following table :—

Ages at Death.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queens-land.	*South Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Total.
Under 1 year	2,011	1,590	673	458	187	622	5,541
1 and under 2 years...	421	329	135	88	30	106	1,109
2 " 3 " ..	159	115	44	25	10	25	378
3 " 4 " ..	89	76	38	23	6	41	273
4 " 5 " ..	70	47	35	19	11	33	215
5 " 10 " ..	194	185	67	46	17	85	594
10 " 15 " ..	114	110	40	41	11	52	363
15 " 20 " ..	207	225	56	78	25	135	726
20 " 25 " ..	267	274	76	76	40	145	878
25 " 30 " ..	290	304	84	93	49	130	950
30 " 35 " ..	241	335	99	100	31	111	967
35 " 40 " ..	298	300	97	92	41	103	931
40 " 45 " ..	226	244	70	63	21	107	731
45 " 50 " ..	215	208	82	62	25	98	690
50 " 55 " ..	236	249	80	66	20	106	757
55 " 60 " ..	255	301	84	67	34	159	900
60 " 65 " ..	276	412	83	107	46	126	1,050
65 " 70 " ..	234	410	67	84	44	135	983
70 " 75 " ..	250	355	55	81	41	104	886
75 and upwards	530	679	105	248	104	233	1,899
Unspecified .....	.....	5	1	.....	.....	.....	6
Total	6,583	6,812	2,071	1,917	793	2,656	20,832

* Exclusive of Northern Territory.

The ages of the 2,020 persons who died in Western Australia during 1896 are given without distinguishing sex. It has been possible, therefore, to include them in the following table of the total deaths of persons of both sexes; but to admit of their inclusion it has been necessary to alter the age-groups. The total for Australasia is, however, exclusive of the Northern Territory :—

Ages at Death.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	*South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	*Australasia.
Under 1 year	4,435	3,540	1,406	1,015	513	410	1,439	12,818
1 and under 5 years ..	1,490	1,195	564	278	105	114	414	4,160
5 " 10 " ..	419	381	151	90	21	43	185	1,290
10 " 15 " ..	274	248	108	92	19	34	130	905
15 " 20 " ..	454	423	166	139	68	54	257	1,561
20 " 30 " ..	1,134	1,158	573	318	448	160	592	4,383
30 " 40 " ..	1,326	1,334	614	366	303	148	479	4,570
40 " 60 " ..	2,703	2,347	1,092	637	317	227	1,270	8,593
60 " 65 " ..	838	1,122	277	227	71	107	405	3,047
65 " 70 " ..	739	1,248	217	196	53	114	389	2,956
70 and upwards	2,022	2,705	394	679	102	487	872	7,261
Unspecified	5	13	23	1	....	3	....	45
Total	15,839	15,714	5,645	4,038	2,020	1,901	6,432	51,589

* Exclusive of Northern Territory.

It will be seen that about one-fourth of the deaths which occurred during 1896 were those of children under 1 year. The total number of births during the year was 119,865; the deaths of children under 1 year were, therefore, at the rate of 107 for every 1,000 births. Deaths of all children under 5 years numbered 16,978; of persons 5 years of age and under 65 years, 24,349; and of old people of 65 years and upwards, 10,217.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The system of classifying the causes of death adopted in the Australasian colonies is that arranged by Dr. William Ogle on the basis of the older system of Dr. William Farr, his predecessor as Registrar-General of England. Under this classification deaths are divided into seven classes, namely, deaths from zymotic diseases, from parasitic diseases, from dietetic diseases, from constitutional diseases, from developmental diseases, from local diseases, from violence, and from ill-defined or unspecified causes. As the returns for Western Australia do not distinguish the sex of the persons whose deaths were recorded, it is necessary to omit that colony from the tables showing separately the causes of deaths of males and females. Statistics for the Northern Territory are not available. The following were the assigned causes of death of the 28,737 males who died in New South Wales, Victoria,

Queensland, South Australia proper, Tasmania, and New Zealand in the course of the year 1896 :—

Classification.	New South Wales.	Vic-toria.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.*	Tas-mania.	New Zea-land.	Total.
Specific febrile or zymotic diseases—							
Miasmatic diseases	580	411	178	100	62	154	1,485
Diarrhoeal diseases	526	304	232	134	27	176	1,399
Malarial diseases	8	3	34	1	....	2	48
Zoogenous diseases	1	....	....	....	....	....	1
Venereal diseases	40	28	30	3	4	20	125
Septic diseases	40	25	22	23	5	22	137
Total	1,195	771	496	261	93	374	3,195
Parasitic diseases	35	36	18	9	3	6	107
Dietetic diseases	147	98	95	15	4	46	405
Constitutional diseases	1,244	1,584	597	353	118	635	4,531
Developmental diseases	879	761	207	228	218	287	2,580
Local diseases—							
Diseases of nervous system	963	804	348	223	127	427	2,892
Diseases of organs of special sense	7	7	2	5	....	4	25
Diseases of circulatory system	657	873	297	166	128	391	2,512
Diseases of respiratory system	1,153	1,229	432	233	128	427	3,602
Diseases of digestive system	991	1,059	379	191	66	343	3,029
Diseases of lymphatic system and ductless glands	12	16	11	5	1	7	52
Diseases of urinary system	382	412	117	84	41	163	1,204
Diseases of organs of generation	7	....	2	2	....	1	12
Diseases of organs of locomotion	22	44	10	8	6	15	105
Diseases of integumentary system	29	32	11	4	3	14	93
Total	4,223	4,476	1,609	921	500	1,797	13,526
Violence—							
Accident or negligence	873	601	423	100	96	407	2,560
Homicide	28	23	10	6	....	2	69
Suicide	155	90	62	24	11	58	400
Execution	1	1	....	....	....	....	2
Violent deaths not classified	6	....	....	....	....	....	6
Total	1,063	715	495	190	107	467	3,037
Ill-defined and not specified causes	470	461	57	144	60	164	1,356
Grand Total	9,256	8,902	3,574	2,121	1,108	3,776	28,737

* Exclusive of Northern Territory.

It will be seen that local diseases accounted for nearly one-half of the total number of deaths, or for 13,526 out of 28,737. Next in order came constitutional diseases with 4,531 deaths; zymotic diseases, with 3,195 deaths; and violent deaths to the number of 3,037, of which 2,560 were due to accident. Developmental diseases were assigned as the cause of death in 2,580 cases, dietetic diseases in 405 cases, and parasitic diseases in 107 cases. Deaths from ill-defined or not specified causes amounted to nearly 5 per cent. of the total, numbering no less than 1,356.

A similar classification of the causes of death of the 20,832 females who died in the six colonies during 1896 gives the following results:—

Classification.	New South Wales.	Vic-toria.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.*	Tas-mania.	New Zea-land.	Total.
Specific febrile or zymotic diseases—							
Miasmatic diseases	462	358	150	95	36	163	1,264
Diarrhoeal diseases	404	234	179	120	21	158	1,206
Malarial diseases	4	.....	9	.....	.....	.....	13
Veneral diseases	19	27	6	2	3	6	63
Septic diseases	112	121	17	76	13	23	362
Total	1,091	740	361	293	73	350	2,908
Parasitic diseases	38	34	7	5	6	11	101
Dietetic diseases	65	60	33	11	1	15	185
Constitutional diseases	999	1,237	291	345	132	571	3,575
Developmental diseases	613	514	157	213	93	225	1,815
Local diseases—							
Diseases of nervous system	690	678	222	206	99	318	2,213
Diseases of organs of special sense	11	13	2	8	1	3	38
Diseases of circulatory system	377	646	140	160	84	261	1,677
Diseases of respiratory system	742	821	278	182	97	261	2,381
Diseases of digestive system	847	1,004	263	195	76	244	2,629
Diseases of lymphatic system and duct-less glands	7	11	7	3	2	7	37
Diseases of urinary system	192	225	58	47	16	51	589
Diseases of organs of generation	37	54	18	11	2	23	145
Diseases of parturition	168	121	55	30	17	77	468
Diseases of organs of locomotion	11	23	4	7	1	10	56
Diseases of integumentary system	18	24	14	2	2	9	69
Total	3,100	3,620	1,070	851	397	1,264	10,302
Violence—							
Accident or negligence	262	225	114	61	27	106	795
Homicide	15	18	4	2	1	3	43
Suicide	27	20	8	7	2	12	82
Total	304	269	126	70	30	121	92
Ill-defined and not specified causes	373	338	26	129	61	99	1,020
Grand Total	6,583	6,812	2,071	1,917	793	2,656	20,832

* Exclusive of Northern Territory.

As in the case of the deaths of males, local diseases were assigned as the cause of deaths in nearly one-half of the total deaths of females, namely, in 10,302 out of 20,832. Next came deaths from constitutional diseases, 3,575; from zymotic diseases, 2,908; and from developmental diseases, 1,815. Violent deaths were, of course, far less numerous than in the case of men, numbering 920. If accidents alone be considered, the deaths of women were only one-third of those of men, namely, 795, as compared with 2,560. Deaths from dietetic diseases numbered 185,

and from parasitic diseases, 101. Death from ill-defined and unspecified causes were recorded as 1,026.

In the following table, giving the causes of death of all persons in 1896, it has been possible to include Western Australia :—

Classification.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.*	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.*
Specific febrile or zymotic diseases—								
Miasmatic diseases	1,042	769	328	195	426	98	317	3,175
Diarrhoeal diseases	1,020	538	411	254	129	48	334	2,734
Malarial diseases	12	3	43	1	13	....	2	74
Zoogenous diseases	1	..	..	..	..	....	..	1
Veneral diseases	59	55	36	5	2	7	26	190
Septic diseases	152	146	39	99	16	18	45	515
Total	2,286	1,511	857	554	586	171	724	6,689
Parasitic diseases	73	70	25	14	..	9	17	208
Dietetic diseases	212	158	128	26	31	5	61	621
Constitutional diseases	2,243	2,821	888	698	145	250	1,206	8,251
Developmental diseases	1,492	1,275	364	441	125	311	512	4,520
Local Diseases—								
Diseases of nervous system	1,653	1,482	570	429	121	226	745	5,226
Diseases of organs of special sense	18	20	4	13	..	1	7	63
Diseases of circulatory system	1,034	1,519	446	326	146	212	652	4,335
Diseases of respiratory system	1,895	2,050	710	415	176	225	688	6,159
Diseases of digestive system	1,838	2,063	642	386	263	142	587	5,921
Diseases of lymphatic system and ductless glands	19	27	18	8	..	3	14	89
Diseases of urinary system	574	637	175	131	31	57	219	1,824
Diseases of organs of generation... ..	44	54	20	13	2	2	24	159
Diseases of parturition	168	121	55	30	6	17	77	474
Diseases of organs of locomotion... ..	33	67	14	15	3	7	25	164
Diseases of integumentary system... ..	47	56	25	6	2	5	23	164
Total	7,323	8,096	2,679	1,772	750	897	3,061	24,578
Violence—								
Accident or negligence	1,135	826	537	221	128	123	513	3,483
Homicide	43	41	14	8	1	1	5	113
Suicide	182	116	70	31	25	13	70	507
Execution	1	1	..	..	1	....	..	3
Violent deaths not classified	6	..	..	..	..	....	..	6
Total	1,367	984	621	260	155	137	588	4,112
Ill-defined and not specified causes	843	709	83	273	228	121	263	2,610
Grand Total	15,839	15,714	5,645	4,038	2,020	1,901	6,432	51,589

* Exclusive of Northern Territory.

A more detailed tabulation of the causes of death is beyond the scope of this work ; but two constitutional diseases merit special attention, namely, phthisis and cancer. The deaths from phthisis in 1896 numbered no less than 3,926, or at the rate of 91·82 per 100,000 of the population. Victoria had a very much higher rate than any of the other provinces, the deaths from phthisis in that colony representing 121·19 per 100,000 inhabitants, as compared with 95·21 in Queensland—

the colony with the next highest rate. The figures for each of the provinces in 1896 are given below :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	
			Total Deaths.	Per 100,000 of population
New South Wales.....	613	414	1,027	79·75
Victoria	824	604	1,428	121·19
Queensland	317	127	444	95·21
South Australia*	153	155	308	87·01
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	83	69·40
Tasmania	49	64	113	69·12
New Zealand	279	244	523	74·03
Australasia* .....	.....	.....	3,926	91·82

* Exclusive of Northern Territory.

Victoria, also, had the highest rate of deaths from cancer, namely, 66·96 per 100,000 of the population ; and Western Australia the lowest —25·09 for 100,000 inhabitants ; with Queensland next, with a rate of 39·24. The total number of deaths from cancer in each colony in 1896, with the rate per 100,000 inhabitants, is given below :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	
			Total Deaths.	Per 100,000 of population
New South Wales.....	327	294	621	48·22
Victoria	422	367	789	66·96
Queensland	107	76	183	39·24
South Australia*	98	88	186	52·55
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	30	25·09
Tasmania	49	46	95	58·11
New Zealand	205	184	389	55·07
Australasia* .....	.....	.....	2,293	53·63

* Exclusive of Northern Territory.

In comparison with the other colonies, Victoria, however, had a very small rate of mortality from diarrhoeal diseases, namely, 45·66 per 100,000 of population, as compared with 79·21 per 100,000 in New South Wales, 88·13 in Queensland, 71·76 in South Australia, and 107·87 in Western Australia. Tasmania had the very low rate of 29·36, and New Zealand was only slightly higher than Victoria, namely, 47·28 per 100,000 inhabitants. In fatal accidents, also, Victoria compared favourably with the other provinces, its number of deaths from this cause in 1896 representing 70·10 per 100,000 of the population, as

compared with 115·15 in Queensland, 107·03 in Western Australia, 88·14 in New South Wales, and 75·24 in Tasmania. In New Zealand the rate was 72·62; while in South Australia it was even less than in Victoria, namely, 62·43 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Particulars relative to suicide will be found in the chapter headed "Social Condition."

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages and the marriage-rate per thousand of the population for each colony during the year 1897 are shown below :—

Colony.	Marriages.	Marriage Rate.
New South Wales	8,813	6·72
Victoria	7,454	6·34
Queensland	2,894	6·05
South Australia	1,953	5·40
Western Australia	1,659	11·06
Tasmania	1,052	6·22
New Zealand	4,928	6·83
Australasia	28,753	6·58

The number of marriages in each colony and in the whole of Australasia, in quinquennial periods from 1861 to 1895, and in the two years 1896-97, was as follows :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-97.
New South Wales	16,920	18,271	21,210	25,904	35,737	38,071	39,924	17,208
Victoria	22,237	22,902	24,368	25,416	33,589	42,832	37,717	15,079
Queensland	3,689	4,648	6,276	7,466	11,632	15,271	13,526	5,717
South Australia	6,226	6,435	7,472	10,682	12,379	10,334	10,686	4,136
Western Australia	765	828	835	978	1,112	1,465	2,332	2,736
Tasmania	3,340	3,143	3,290	4,087	5,005	4,796	4,524	2,016
New Zealand	7,240	9,955	12,050	16,220	18,102	18,097	20,210	9,771
Australasia	60,417	66,182	75,501	90,753	117,556	131,496	128,919	56,663

The average marriage-rates for each colony during the same periods are given below. The table shows the ratio of marriages to population; to ascertain the ratio of persons married it is necessary to double the figures :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-97.
New South Wales	9·04	8·04	7·77	7·82	8·46	7·47	6·61	6·62
Victoria	7·81	6·86	6·38	6·02	7·37	8·13	6·46	6·40
Queensland	13·51	9·02	8·75	7·30	8·64	8·45	6·33	6·05
South Australia	9·02	7·45	7·64	8·83	8·42	6·70	6·28	5·74
Western Australia	8·92	7·53	6·48	6·99	7·06	7·16	7·00	10·15
Tasmania	7·30	6·35	6·39	7·51	8·18	7·00	5·87	6·06
New Zealand	10·39	9·00	8·05	7·60	6·85	6·00	6·11	6·84
Australasia	8·73	7·61	7·27	7·28	7·84	7·43	6·41	6·55

During the five years ended 1895 the marriage-rate fell considerably in Australasia. With the exception of New Zealand it was lower in every colony than during the preceding quinquennial period, and lower everywhere than during the five years 1881-85. This is another proof of the truth of the oft-repeated statement that commercial depression always exerts an adverse influence on the marriage-rate. An improvement took place during the two years 1896-97 in New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand ; while the rate fell still lower in Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia. The abnormal rise in the case of Western Australia is what might be expected from the large number of men whom the industrial activity in that colony has placed in a position to take upon their shoulders the responsibility of a household.

A comparison of the marriage-rate of Australasia with the rates of other countries, where the social conditions are essentially different, is not of much value, and therefore is not given here.

Particulars relative to divorce in the Australasian colonies will be found in the chapter headed "Social Condition."

NATIVE RACES.

At the census of 1891 only 38,879 aborigines were enumerated, of whom 8,280 were in New South Wales, 565 in Victoria, 23,789 in South Australia, and 6,245 in Western Australia. The figures relating to New South Wales and Victoria included all aborigines living in those provinces, but the returns from the other colonies were very imperfect. The aborigines of Tasmania are extinct, but the Tasmanian census of 1891 enumerated 139 half-castes, who were included in the general population. It has been asserted that there are some 70,000 aborigines in Queensland, but this is a very crude estimate, and may be far wide of the truth. In the case of South Australia, a large number of the aborigines in the Northern Territory are entirely outside the bounds of settlement, and it seems probable that they are as numerous in that colony as in Queensland. The census of Western Australia included only those aboriginals in the employment of the colonists, and as large portions of this, the greatest in area of all the Australasian colonies, are as yet unexplored, it may be presumed that the number of aborigines enumerated was very far short of the total in the colony. Altogether, the aboriginal population of the continent may be set down at something like 200,000.

The original inhabitants of New Zealand, or Maoris, as they are called, are quite a different race from the aborigines of Australia. They are gifted with a considerable amount of intelligence, are quick at imitation, and brave even to rashness. According to the census

of 1881 they numbered 44,097; but like the Australian aborigines they appear to be decreasing in number, for the census of 1886 enumerated only 41,432; that of 1891, 41,993; and that of 1896, 39,854, namely, 21,673 males and 18,181 females. In the 1896 figures are included 3,503 half-castes living as members of Maori tribes (1,944 males and 1,559 females), and 20 Morioris at Chatham Islands (11 males and 9 females). Half-castes to the number of 2,259 (1,123 males and 1,136 females), living with Europeans at the time of the census, were enumerated as Europeans. It is said that when the colonists first landed in New Zealand the number of Maoris was fully 120,000, but this, like all other estimates of aboriginal population, is founded on very imperfect information.

ALIEN RACES.

At the census of 1891 the Chinese and half-caste Chinese in the whole group of colonies numbered 42,521, distributed as follows:—

New South Wales	14,156
Victoria	9,377
Queensland	8,574
South Australia	3,997
Western Australia	917
Tasmania	1,056
New Zealand	4,444
<hr/> Australasia	<hr/> 42,521

Since 1880 it has been deemed expedient by the Governments of the colonies to enact prohibitive laws against the immigration of Chinese, and their migration from one colony to another. For several years a poll-tax of £10 was imposed, but now, in New South Wales, in accordance with the most recent legislation on the subject, masters of vessels are forbidden under a heavy penalty to bring more than one Chinese to every 300 tons, and a poll-tax of £100 is charged on landing. In Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia no poll-tax is imposed, but masters of vessels may only bring one Chinese to every 500 tons burden. The Western Australian Act was similar to that in the three last-named colonies until recently, but has now been superseded by the Coloured Immigrants Restriction Act. Tasmania allows one Chinese passenger to every 100 tons, and imposes a poll-tax of £10. In New Zealand an Act similar to the Tasmanian Act was in force until 1896, when the poll-tax was raised to £100, and the number of passengers restricted to one for every 200 tons burden. These stringent regulations have had the effect of greatly restricting the influx of this undesirable class of immigrants; but it is to be feared that the census of 1901 will disclose the fact that the Restriction Acts have not been so effectual in shutting out the Chinese from Australasia as the shipping returns of the colonies would lead one to suppose.

The only other alien race which the census of 1891 disclosed to be present in large numbers in Australasia were the Polynesians in Queensland, where they numbered 9,428. Since that time, however, there has been an influx of Hindoos and other eastern races sufficiently large to cause a feeling of uneasiness amongst the colonists, and in some of the colonies Parliament dealt with the evil by passing legislation which, in the main, meted out to these immigrants the treatment accorded to the Chinese. But a very large proportion of the Asiatics whose entrance into the colonies it was desired to stop were British subjects, and the Imperial Government refused to sanction any measure directly prohibiting in plain terms the movement of British subjects from one part of the empire to another. Eventually, the difficulty was overcome by the application of an educational test to the coloured races seeking admission to the colonies, whereby they are required to write out in some European language an application to the Colonial Secretary. This provision is taken from an Act in operation in Natal, which is said to have been effectual in that colony. An Act applying the educational test has been in force in Western Australia since the beginning of 1898; a similar Act has been passed in New South Wales, and will come into operation on the 1st December of the same year; while the Tasmanian Parliament is at present considering a measure of the same kind; and no doubt the other colonies will move in the same direction at an early date.

NATURALISATION.

The number of persons naturalised in Australasia during 1896 was 1,137; of these, nearly one-third took out papers of naturalisation in New Zealand, one-fourth in Queensland, and nearly one-sixth in each of the two colonies of New South Wales and Victoria. The figures for Western Australia and Tasmania are small. The following are the returns for each colony:—

Colony.	Germans and other German-speaking nations.	Scandinavians.	Chinese.	Others.	Total.
New South Wales ...	99	30	.....	55	184
Victoria	93	20	.....	61	174
Queensland	171	65	1	38	275
South Australia	90	14	.....	18	122
Western Australia ...	6	4	.....	12	22
Tasmania	5	1	1	1	8
New Zealand.....	119	150	17	66	352
Australasia ...	583	284	19	251	1,137

CITIES AND TOWNS.

The progress of the chief cities of Australasia has been no less remarkable than that of the colonies themselves, and has no parallel among the cities of the old world. Even in America the rise of the great cities has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the rural population, but in these colonies, perhaps for the first time in history, is presented the spectacle of magnificent cities growing with marvellous rapidity, and embracing within their limits one-third of the population of the colonies of which they are the seat of government. The abnormal aggregation of the population into their capital cities is a most unfortunate element in the progress of the colonies, and one which seems to become every year more marked.

The increase in the population of the chief cities of Australasia and the estimated numbers of their inhabitants at the various census periods are shown in the following table, which illustrates the remarkable progress referred to:—

City.	1841.	1851.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
Sydney	29,973	53,924	95,789	137,776	224,939	383,283
Melbourne	4,479	23,143	139,916	206,780	282,947	490,896
Brisbane	*829	2,543	6,051	15,029	31,109	93,657
Adelaide	†8,480	‡14,577	18,303	42,744	103,864	133,252
Perth .....	.....	.....	.....	5,244	5,822	8,447
Hobart .....	.....	.. ..	19,449	19,092	21,118	33,450
Wellington.....	.....	.....	.....	7,908	20,563	33,224

* In 1846. † In 1840. ‡ In 1850.

The aggregation of population is most marked in the case of Melbourne, but Adelaide and Sydney are also conspicuous. The proportion of population in each capital compared with that of the whole colony is shown below for the three years 1871, 1881 and 1891:—

City.	1871.	1881.	1891.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Sydney.....	27·34	29·93	33·86
Melbourne	23·27	32·81	43·05
Brisbane	12·51	14·57	23·79
Adelaide	23·03	37·11	41·59
Perth	20·68	19·60	16·97
Hobart	18·76	18·25	22·81
Wellington	3·08	4·20	5·30

The percentage of New Zealand population resident in Wellington is small, but though it is the capital of the colony that city is exceeded

in population by Auckland, as well as by Dunedin and Christchurch. Still, even in the largest of these cities—Auckland—the population is not more than 8·18 per cent. of that of the whole colony.

The following is a list of the cities and towns of Australasia with a population exceeding 5,000 at the census of 1891; in all cases the suburbs are included :—

City or Town.	Population.	City or Town.	Population.
New South Wales—		Queensland— <i>continued</i> —	
Sydney	383,283	Gympie	8,449
Newcastle	50,705	Ipswich	7,625
Broken Hill	19,789	Toowoomba	7,007
Parramatta	11,677	South Australia—	
Goulburn	10,916	Adelaide	133,252
Maitland	10,214	Port Adelaide	20,644
Bathurst	9,162	Western Australia—	
Albury	5,447	Perth	8,447
Orange	5,064	Fremantle	5,607
Victoria—		Tasmania—	
Melbourne	490,896	Hobart	33,450
Ballarat	46,033	Launceston	17,208
Bendigo	37,238	New Zealand—	
Geelong	24,283	Auckland	51,287
Warrnambool	6,582	Christchurch	47,846
Castlemaine	5,982	Dunedin	45,869
Stawell	5,183	Wellington	33,224
Queensland—		Invercargill	7,962
Brisbane	93,657	Napier	8,341
Rockhampton	13,380	Nelson	6,626
Maryborough	9,700	Oamaru	5,621
Townsville	8,564	Wanganui	5,011

The estimated population of the capitals of the Australasian colonies on the 31st December, 1897, was as follows :—

Sydney	417,250
Melbourne	458,610
Brisbane	105,734
Adelaide	146,125
Perth	37,929
Hobart	39,172
Wellington	44,697

BIRTHPLACES.

One of the subjects of inquiry at the census of 1891, as at previous enumerations, was the birthplaces of the population. The result of the tabulation shows that while there are differences in the component parts of the population in the several colonies, these differences are slight, and

the great majority of the people—to the extent, indeed, of fully 95 per cent.—are of British origin. Probably the population of Australasia is more homogeneous than that of most European countries; for even in Queensland, where people of foreign descent are proportionately more numerous than in any of the other colonies, they do not amount to more than 10 per cent. of the total population. The subjoined table shows in a condensed form the results of the tabulation of the birthplaces of the population of each colony, the figures being exclusive of aborigines, and inclusive, in the case of European countries, of their colonies and possessions :—

Birthplaces.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
New South Wales	725,015	19,775	17,023	2,154	555	1,180	2,833	768,535
Victoria	40,768	713,074	7,462	6,609	1,036	4,205	8,941	782,095
Queensland	10,173	2,736	170,971	405	208	203	481	191,177
South Australia	17,716	25,309	1,449	217,730	1,161	674	983	265,022
Western Australia	464	753	63	588	27,825	69	76	29,838
Tasmania	5,851	16,397	1,004	722	108	107,901	2,629	134,612
New Zealand	9,015	12,026	1,117	567	182	963	366,716	390,586
Australasia	809,002	790,070	205,039	223,775	31,075	115,195	382,659	2,561,805
England and Wales	154,229	162,907	77,187	48,821	9,812	17,443	119,284	589,683
Scotland	36,821	50,667	22,400	8,874	1,211	3,845	51,916	175,734
Ireland	75,951	85,307	43,036	14,369	3,499	5,687	47,634	274,583
United Kingdom	266,101	298,831	142,623	72,064	14,522	26,975	218,834	1,040,000
British Possessions—								
In Europe	177	131	71	296	39	14	111	839
In Asia	2,105	1,853	1,129	602	459	389	1,168	7,705
In Africa	738	1,008	240	222	90	65	340	2,703
In America	1,611	1,860	614	334	169	180	1,685	6,503
In Polynesia	298	134	12	34	2	19	105	604
Other British Possessions	4,929	4,986	2,066	1,538	759	667	3,409	18,354
Austria-Hungary	588	586	247	185	29	20	564	2,219
Belgium	181	235	35	51	4	12	115	633
Denmark	1,488	1,399	3,072	276	41	137	2,053	8,466
France	2,270	1,307	411	400	72	77	711	5,248
Germany	9,565	10,775	14,924	8,553	290	918	4,663	49,688
Italy	1,477	1,717	439	186	36	36	397	4,288
Netherlands	284	366	67	82	19	12	143	973
Portugal	249	168	41	17	10	27	205	717
Russia	1,176	1,172	311	189	71	38	419	3,376
Spain	138	227	93	29	89	17	76	669
Sweden and Norway	3,397	3,214	1,956	1,157	204	194	2,702	12,824
Switzerland	594	1,317	469	142	15	18	362	2,917
United States of America	3,379	2,305	943	386	154	221	1,683	9,671
China	13,157	8,467	8,554	3,907	914	943	4,470	40,502
Specified foreign countries	37,943	33,855	31,562	15,050	1,948	2,670	18,563	142,191
At sea	1,960	1,973	832	601	114	170	1,295	6,945
All others and unspecified	4,019	10,075	11,546	1,803	1,364	990	1,898	31,695
Total	1,123,954	1,139,840	393,718	320,431	49,782	146,667	626,653	3,801,050

A glance at this table will show that natives of the Australasian colonies formed fully two-thirds of the population, and that the great

majority of the Australasian-born population were natives of the particular colony in which they were enumerated. The percentage of the people born in the colony in which they were resident at the time of the census, of those born in the other six Australasian colonies, and of the total Australasian-born population to the total population of each colony, are shown below :—

Colony.	Percentage to Total Population of—		
	Natives of Colony of Enumeration.	Natives of other Colonies.	Australasian-born Population.
New South Wales	64·51	7·47	71·98
Victoria	62·56	6·75	69·31
Queensland	44·95	7·14	52·09
South Australia	67·95	3·45	71·40
Western Australia	55·89	6·53	62·42
Tasmania	73·57	4·97	78·54
New Zealand	58·52	2·54	61·06
Australasia	61·44	5·96	67·40

These figures show that proportionately the largest Australasian-born population is to be found in Tasmania, where more than 73 out of every 100 of the inhabitants were born in the colony, and over 78 per cent. were Australasians. In Queensland, on the contrary, very nearly half the population were natives of countries outside Australasia, and only 45 per cent. were Queenslanders by birth. The low proportion of native-born in the colony in question is no doubt accounted for by the comparatively recent settlement of much of its territory, and the encouragement given to immigrants from the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe. It will be noticed that New South Wales has proved the most attractive of all the provinces to those born in other parts of Australasia, while New Zealand, from its isolated position and greater distance, has drawn to itself the smallest proportion of Australasian natives. The following figures set forth still more clearly the extent to which each colony is indebted for population to its neighbours :—

Colony.	Number of Natives of other six Colonies enumerated.	Number of Natives enumerated in other six Colonies.	Gain to Colony.	Loss to Colony.
New South Wales	83,987	43,520	40,467	.....
Victoria	76,996	69,021	7,975	.....
Queensland	28,118	14,206	13,912	.....
South Australia	11,045	47,292	.....	36,247
Western Australia	3,250	2,013	1,237	.....
Tasmania	7,294	26,711	.....	19,417
New Zealand	15,943	23,870	.....	7,927

In New South Wales, it will be seen, there were 83,987 natives of the other colonies, while only 43,520 natives of New South Wales had made their homes in other parts of Australasia, the result being a net gain of 40,467 persons—a very considerable proportion, seeing that several of the other provinces were originally colonised from New South Wales. On the other hand, South Australia showed a loss of 36,247 from intercolonial movements of population; Tasmania had lost 19,417; and New Zealand, 7,927. The natives of other parts of Australasia resident in Victoria very nearly balanced the number of Victorians resident in other provinces, the excess in favour of the colony in question being under 8,000. Queensland gained 13,912 from the other colonies; and Western Australia, 1,237 persons.

Next to the Australasian-born population, natives of the United Kingdom were by far the most numerous class in each colony. The following table shows the percentages of natives of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland to the total population of each colony:—

Colony.	Natives of—			
	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	United Kingdom.
New South Wales.....	13·71	3·28	6·68	23·67
Victoria	14·29	4·45	7·48	26·22
Queensland.....	19·60	5·69	10·93	36·22
South Australia.....	15·24	2·77	4·48	22·49
Western Australia ...	19·71	2·43	7·03	29·17
Tasmania	11·89	2·62	3·88	18·39
New Zealand	19·04	8·28	7·60	34·92
Australasia	15·51	4·62	7·23	27·36

It was to be expected that the percentage of natives of the United Kingdom would be highest in those colonies which have introduced a large number of assisted immigrants during the last twenty years, namely, in Queensland and New Zealand, in which colonies the percentage of the native-born population is comparatively low. If the composition of the population of the United Kingdom be taken into consideration, it will be seen that Scotch and Irish colonists are proportionately much more numerous than those of English birth. The distribution of natives of the three kingdoms is very unequal in the different colonies. While natives of England are proportionately more numerous than natives of Scotland and Ireland in South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania; Scotsmen are most numerous in New Zealand, and Irishmen in Queensland.

The number of natives of parts of the British Empire other than the United Kingdom and Australasia enumerated in these colonies was very small, amounting only to the following percentages of the total population:—In New South Wales, 0·44 per cent.; in Victoria, 0·44 per cent.; in Queensland, 0·53 per cent.; in South Australia, 0·48 per

cent. ; in Western Australia, 1·53 per cent. ; in Tasmania, 0·45 per cent. ; and in New Zealand, 0·54 per cent. ; average for Australasia, 0·48 per cent. Natives of Canada and of the West and East Indies make up the majority of this class, which numbered only 18,354 altogether. It is not possible to give a complete tabulation of natives of foreign countries, as in some of the colonies no countries are mentioned other than those shown in the table given, the rest of the foreign-born population being bracketed together as natives of "other foreign countries." Immigrants from Germany appear to be most numerous ; then follow natives of China, Sweden and Norway, the United States, Denmark, France, Italy, Russia, Switzerland, Austria-Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Belgium. Of countries not shown in the table, Greece and Asiatic Turkey would appear to have contributed most largely to the population of Australasia, though Polynesians are numerous in Queensland. The percentages to the total population of each colony of natives of Germany, of the Scandinavian Kingdoms (Sweden and Norway and Denmark), and of the total foreign-born population, are shown in the subjoined table :—

Colony.	Percentage of—		
	Germans.	Scandinavians.	Total Foreign-born Population.
New South Wales	0·85	0·43	3·38
Victoria	0·95	0·40	2·98
Queensland	3·79	1·28	8·02
South Australia	2·67	0·45	4·88
Western Australia	0·58	0·49	3·91
Tasmania	0·63	0·23	1·82
New Zealand	0·74	0·76	2·97
Australasia	1·31	0·56	3·74

It will be seen that both Germans and Scandinavians are proportionately most numerous in Queensland, where together they amount to more than 5 per cent. of the population. Germans are also very numerous in South Australia, and Scandinavians in New Zealand.

CONJUGAL CONDITION.

At the Hobart Census Conference it had been decided to tabulate the conjugal condition of the people under the heads of "Never married," "Married," "Widowed," and "Divorced"; but this decision was not adhered to by South Australia and New Zealand, where the divorced were probably included under the heading of unmarried. For the sake of comparison a similar classification has therefore been made in the tabulation of the other colonies. The people who returned themselves as "divorced" on the census schedules of New South Wales numbered 178 males and 126 females—total, 304 ; in Victoria, 110 males and 86 females—total, 196 ; in Queensland, 16 males and 7 females—total, 23.

in Western Australia, 3 males and 3 females—total, 6; and in Tasmania, 25 males and 6 females—total, 31. Considering that during the five years preceding the taking of the census 210 decrees for the dissolution of marriage had been granted in New South Wales, it is reasonable to assume that the figures quoted for that colony understate the truth, no doubt owing to the reluctance on the part of many people whose marriage bonds had been severed to return themselves as “divorced” in the census schedules, and the same remark applies to the other colonies.

The following table shows the number of unmarried, married, and widowed people in each colony, those whose conjugal condition was unspecified on the schedules having been proportionately distributed:—

Conjugal Condition.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
MALES—								
Unmarried	424,464	408,566	161,308	114,066	21,648	52,630	234,315	1,416,997
Married	166,634	170,954	57,963	48,932	7,266	22,488	90,754	564,991
Widowed	10,905	18,569	4,508	3,803	893	2,442	7,808	54,928
Total	608,003	598,089	223,779	166,801	29,807	77,560	332,877	2,036,916
FEMALES—								
Unmarried	324,504	335,098	105,632	96,891	12,706	43,755	190,758	1,109,344
Married	165,648	173,749	57,610	48,295	6,383	21,406	90,919	564,010
Widowed	25,799	32,904	6,697	8,444	886	3,946	12,104	90,780
Total	515,951	541,751	169,939	153,630	19,975	69,107	293,781	1,764,134
MALES AND FEMALES—								
Unmarried	748,968	743,664	266,940	210,957	34,354	96,385	425,073	2,526,341
Married	332,282	344,703	115,573	97,227	13,649	43,894	181,673	1,129,001
Widowed	42,704	51,473	11,205	12,247	1,779	6,388	19,912	145,708
Total	1,123,954	1,139,840	393,718	320,431	49,782	146,667	626,658	3,801,050

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that unmarried males are largely in excess of unmarried females in each colony. The number for each colony and the percentage of unmarried females to unmarried males are shown in the following table:—

Colony.	Excess of Unmarried Males over Unmarried Females.	Percentage of Unmarried Females to Unmarried Males.
New South Wales	99,960	76·45
Victoria	73,468	82·02
Queensland	55,676	65·48
South Australia	17,175	84·94
Western Australia	8,942	58·69
Tasmania	8,875	83·14
New Zealand	43,557	81·41
Australasia	307,653	78·29

The percentage is particularly low in those colonies which have attracted much population from the other provinces, as New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia; while it is near the average in Victoria and New Zealand, which have neither gained nor lost population to any great extent; and it is considerably above the average in South Australia and Tasmania, whence a great amount of emigration to the other colonies has taken place. This fact favours the supposition that the movement of population chiefly consisted of young unmarried males attracted to the other colonies by the hope of bettering their condition.

The numbers of married males and females are fairly equal in all the colonies, the males preponderating everywhere except in Victoria and New Zealand; there must, therefore, have been an emigration of married males from these two provinces.

Amongst the widowed, females largely outnumber males, as was to be expected from the higher death-rate and the proportionately larger number of males re-married. Western Australia, however, shows a slight excess of widowers over widows. The following table shows for each colony the proportion of unmarried, married, and widowed males to total males; of unmarried, married, and widowed females to total females; and of unmarried, married, and widowed persons to total population:—

Percentage of—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
MALES—								
Unmarried	60·81	68·31	72·08	68·38	72·63	67·86	70·39	69·57
Married	27·41	28·53	25·90	29·34	24·38	28·99	27·26	27·74
Widowed	2·78	3·11	2·02	2·28	2·09	3·15	2·35	2·69
FEMALES—								
Unmarried	62·89	61·86	62·16	63·07	63·61	63·31	64·93	62·83
Married	32·11	32·07	33·90	31·44	31·95	30·98	30·95	31·97
Widowed	5·00	6·07	3·94	5·49	4·44	5·71	4·12	5·15
PERSONS—								
Unmarried	66·64	65·24	67·80	65·84	69·01	65·72	67·53	66·46
Married	29·56	30·24	29·35	30·34	27·42	29·03	28·99	29·70
Widowed	3·80	4·52	2·85	3·82	3·57	4·35	3·18	3·84

SICKNESS AND INFIRMITY.

Inquiries were made in the census schedules respecting the number of persons suffering from sickness and infirmity, but there is reason to believe that, in some of the colonies at least, the way in which the column was filled in was unsatisfactory. The figures for New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia may be compared throughout, as the classification adopted was practically the same, and to a certain extent this also holds good of the Western Australian and Tasmanian figures. The returns for Queensland are made in a somewhat indefinite way; and in

New Zealand half the number of persons returned as sick and infirm includes all ages, while the other half only includes the population of 15 years and over. The following table shows the results of the tabulation for each of the colonies :—

Sickness and Infirmity.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand
Sickness—							
Paralysis	851	1,097	*	300	*	*	468
Epilepsy	339	420	o	138	18	37	232
Leprosy	15	3	*	3	*	*	*
Other and undefined	10,117	13,127	*	3,620	487	2,579	†4,404
Total	11,322	14,647	2,969	4,061	505	2,616	5,104
Accidents	1,459	1,668	777	432	62	152	‡679
Deaf and dumb	383	364	154	234	11	54	166
Dumb only	9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Deaf only	1,348	627	*	101	o	*	268
Blindness	741	995	199	247	54	165	274
Lunacy	3,129	3,770	1,104	852	129	383	1,798
Idiocy	286	355	*	84	7	46	128
Crippled	1,775	346	*	186	*	*	979
Lost a limb	635	754	*	251	35	*	*
Lost sight of an eye	1,164	1,157	*	339	79	*	*
Total	22,251	24,683	5,203	6,787	882	3,416	9,396

* Included under more general heading. † Of this number, 4,130 persons refer to the population over 15 years only, while 274 persons refer to the whole population. ‡ Population over 15 years only.

HABITATIONS.

At the census of 1891 inquiry was made on the householders' schedules respecting the dwellings of the population. The information sought was in respect to whether a building was occupied, unoccupied, or in course of construction; the material of which it was built, and the number of rooms which it contained. The tabulation was not made with the same degree of completeness in all the colonies; but as far as comparative figures can be given they are shown below :—

Class of Dwelling.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
Occupied	197,408	217,895	78,429	59,834	10,221	26,585	119,766
Unoccupied	16,166	15,846	2,224	3,818	236	1,588	9,558
Being built	1,255	1,693	44	235	73	189	425
Stores, offices, and public buildings ..	8,368	264	*	*	*	244	*
Inhabited huts and dwellings with canvas roofs	18,794	5,862	*	*	*	1,195	4,085
Total	241,901	241,560	80,697	63,887	10,530	29,801	133,834

* Included under more general heading.

The materials of which the dwellings in each colony were constructed are shown in the following table, as far as the particulars are available:—

Material.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand
Brick or stone	90,456	69,545	....	50,723	6,087	8,452	5,697
Wood, iron, or lath and plaster	130,363	154,843	....	11,519	2,388	19,231	116,801
Slabs, bark, mud, &c.....	*	4,841	....	*	306	595	4,286
Canvas, linen, calico, &c.....	18,794	5,858	....	889	1,552	1,214	4,085
Other materials .....	....	....	....	*	3	....	1,551
Unspecified materials	2,378	6,473	....	756	194	309	1,414
Total	241,901	241,560	80,697	63,887	10,530	29,801	133,834

* Included in previous line.

The number of rooms is given below for all houses, whether occupied or unoccupied, except in the case of New South Wales and New Zealand, where the figures given refer only to occupied dwellings:—

Dwellings, with—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand
One room	24,876	} 28,497	....	1,948	2,075	2,469	11,528
Two rooms.....	16,137		....	7,397	1,612	4,092	11,030
Three and four rooms	65,920	} 156,976	....	28,256	2,855	11,627	41,034
Five and six rooms	64,342		....	15,911	1,440	5,880	32,808
Seven to ten rooms.....	32,275	36,944	....	} 9,614	1,856	} 5,413	24,968
Eleven to fifteen rooms.....	7,371	7,061	....		318		
Sixteen to twenty rooms.....	1,912	1,673	....		92		
More than twenty rooms.....	1,100	1,226	....		47		
Number of rooms unspecified	1,947	9,183	....	761	235	320	1,523
Total	215,940	241,560	80,697	63,887	10,530	29,801	123,851

In Queensland the habitations were enumerated under the Quinquennial Census Act, which does not provide for a statement either of the materials of which houses are constructed or of the number of rooms which they contain. From the foregoing figures it will be seen that in Australasia there are nearly $5\frac{1}{2}$ persons to every occupied house.