

1892.  
—  
VICTORIA.

---

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

---

R E P O R T

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER,

1 8 9 1.

---

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO ACT 54 VICT. No. 1113, SECTION 79.

---

By Authority:

ROBT. S. BRAIN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 115.—[1s.]—6853.



# REPORT.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE,  
Inspector's Office,

Melbourne, 29th July, 1892.

SIR,

I do myself the honour to submit the following Report, conveying in condensed form, chiefly tabular, all available information on the subject of lunacy in Victoria as presented to Asylum notice during the year 1891.

Table I. shows the numbers and distribution of insane persons for the year under consideration. During this period there has been an increase of 98 in the ascertained number of lunatics in the colony, a result which bears favorable comparison with analogous figures for previous years.

The admission of 99 new patients, a reduction of 14 in the number absent on probation and of 8 in the number boarded out, these patients having returned, gave an additional Asylum population of 121 at the end of the year.

The total number of lunatics coming under official cognizance on 31st December, 1891, was 3,871. The daily average number of patients resident in all Lunatic Asylums was, for the year, 3,623, being an increase of 81 as compared with the year before.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on the 31st December, 1891.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Public Lunatic Asylums at—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	428	385	813
Kew ... ..	509	448	957
Kew idiot ward ... ..	69	38	107
Ararat ... ..	388	256	644
Beechworth ... ..	385	259	644
Sunbury ... ..	235	267	502
Out on probation from—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	20	31	51
Kew ... ..	34	71	105
Kew idiot ward ... ..	6	1	7
Ararat ... ..	3	4	7
Beechworth ... ..	6	3	9
Sunbury ... ..	...	1	1
Boarded out from—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	3	3
Kew ... ..	1	2	3
Ararat ... ..	3	7	10
Beechworth ... ..	...	1	1
Sunbury ... ..	3	1	4
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums ... ..			
	2,090	1,778	3,868
In the lunacy ward at—			
Castlemaine ... ..	...	1	1
Bendigo ... ..	1	...	1
In licensed house ... ..			
	...	1	1
Total number of registered lunatics in the colony ... ..			
	2,091	1,780	3,871

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1891, in the Public Lunatic Asylums.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylums, 1st January, 1891	...	...	...	2,066	1,703	3,769			
Cases admitted:—									
First admissions	542	355	897						
Not first admissions	77	61	138						
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	619	416	1,035			
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	2,685	2,119	4,804			
Cases discharged:—									
Recovered	170	137	307						
Relieved	25	16	41						
Not improved	199	96	295						
Died	201	92	293						
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	595	341	936			
Remaining in the Asylums, 31st December, 1891 (including those absent on trial and boarded out)	...	...	...	2,090	1,778	3,868			
Average number resident during the year	...	...	...	1,993	1,630	3,623			
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	2,485	2,014	4,499			
Persons admitted	...	...	...	419	311	730			
Persons recovered	...	...	...	170	136	306			
Transferred from one asylum to another	...	...	...	170	93	263			
Escaped	...	...	...	29	5	34			
Retaken	...	...	...	22	5	27			

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1891 to the Public Lunatic Asylums.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	66	55	121
Have had two attacks	16	15	31
Have had three attacks	...	6	6
Have had four attacks	3	3	6
Have had five attacks	3	1	4
Have had seven attacks	1	...	1

TABLE IV.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries per Cent. of the Admissions, for each Year from 1882 to 1891 in Public Lunatic Asylums.

Year.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Died.			Remaining 1st December in each Year.			Average Number Resident.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on the Average Number Resident.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.															
1882	246	219	465	117	135	252	13	8	21	...	...	...	138	60	198	1,732	1,415	3,147	1,636	1,263	2,899	47.56	61.64	54.19	8.43	4.75	6.82
1883	282	198	480	107	117	224	11	3	14	...	...	...	140	49	189	1,750	1,443	3,193	1,640	1,296	2,936	37.94	59.09	46.66	8.53	3.78	6.43
1884	298	249	547	145	145	290	8	4	12	...	...	...	142	67	209	1,749	1,479	3,228	1,660	1,338	2,998	48.65	58.23	53.01	8.55	5.00	6.97
1885	293	226	519	141	131	272	7	5	12	...	...	...	147	76	223	1,743	1,487	3,230	1,658	1,370	3,030	48.12	57.96	52.40	8.86	5.54	7.36
1886	333	262	595	128	115	243	7	3	10	...	...	...	125	74	199	1,818	1,560	3,378	1,694	1,421	3,115	38.43	43.89	40.84	7.37	5.27	6.38
1887	372	290	662	138	137	275	6	2	8	...	...	...	158	80	238	1,884	1,632	3,516	1,767	1,494	3,261	37.09	47.24	41.54	8.94	5.40	7.30
1888	381	267	648	171	136	307	4	4	8	...	...	...	127	90	217	1,966	1,666	3,632	1,811	1,513	3,324	44.88	50.93	47.37	7.01	5.94	6.71
1889	401	264	665	169	126	295	56	71	127	...	...	...	153	84	237	1,980	1,647	3,627	1,882	1,543	3,425	42.14	47.73	44.36	8.13	5.44	6.92
1890	438	311	749	168	126	294	17	24	41	...	...	...	161	103	264	2,066	1,703	3,769	1,954	1,588	3,542	38.35	40.51	39.25	8.24	6.48	7.45
1891	427	318	745	170	137	307	25	16	41	...	...	...	201	92	293	2,090	1,778	3,865	1,993	1,630	3,623	39.81	43.08	41.21	10.08	5.64	8.09
Totals and Averages	3,471	2,604	6,075	1,454	1,305	2,759	154	140	294	...	...	...	1,492	775	2,267	...	...	...	17,695	14,456	32,063	41.88	50.11	45.41	8.43	5.36	7.07

TABLE V.—Showing the History of the Annual Admissions since the opening of the first Asylum in 1848.

	Admissions.			Number.			Number per 100 of Admissions.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged:—									
Recovered ... ..	...	...	...	3,744	3,146	6,890	29'55	35'53	32'01
Relieved... ..	...	...	...	472	486	958	3'72	5'49	4'45
Not improved ... ..	...	...	...	2,612	1,798	4,410	20'62	20'30	20'49
Died ... ..	...	...	...	3,751	1,647	5,398	29'61	18'60	25'08
Out on trial and boarded out on the 31st December, 1891 ... ..	...	...	...	76	125	201	'60	1'41	'93
Remaining ... ..	...	...	...	2,014	1,653	3,667	15'90	18'67	17'04
Total ... ..	12,669	8,855	21,524	12,669	8,855	21,524	100'00	100'00	100'00

TABLE VI.—Showing the Length of Residence in those Discharged Recovered, and in those who have Died, during the Year 1891.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month ... ..	19	1	20	35	11	46
1 month and under 3 months ... ..	38	14	52	16	4	20
3 months " 6 " ... ..	31	33	64	24	9	33
6 " " 9 " ... ..	34	30	64	21	5	26
9 " " 12 " ... ..	18	17	35	9	2	11
1 year and under 2 years ... ..	16	27	43	31	12	43
2 years " 3 " ... ..	8	6	14	12	5	17
3 " " 5 " ... ..	5	6	11	12	4	16
5 " " 7 " ... ..	...	1	1	5	8	13
7 " " 10 " ... ..	...	2	2	9	11	20
10 " " 12 " ... ..	...	...	...	5	6	11
12 " " 15 " ... ..	...	...	...	...	4	4
15 " " 20 " ... ..	1	...	1	8	5	13
20 " " 25 " ... ..	...	...	...	8	6	14
25 " " 30 " ... ..	...	...	...	5	...	5
30 " " 35 " ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 " " 40 " ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1
40 " " ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	170	137	307	201	92	293

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died during the Year 1891, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1891.

Ages.	The Admissions.			Recovered.			The Deaths.			Patients Resident 31st December, 1891.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
5 years and under 10 years ... ..	7	6	13	...	...	...	...	1	1	13	12	25
10 " 15 " ... ..	4	3	7	...	...	...	4	1	5	22	12	34
15 " 20 " ... ..	20	21	41	1	8	9	2	2	4	78	51	129
20 " 25 " ... ..	55	49	104	25	18	43	9	1	10	104	96	200
25 " 30 " ... ..	75	47	122	29	25	54	9	5	14	172	144	316
30 " 35 " ... ..	81	59	140	26	16	42	16	11	27	200	146	346
35 " 40 " ... ..	64	41	105	15	19	34	19	2	21	172	157	329
40 " 45 " ... ..	53	44	97	16	15	31	16	8	24	188	165	353
45 " 50 " ... ..	49	40	89	5	13	18	24	7	31	188	208	396
50 " 55 " ... ..	37	24	61	11	5	16	15	7	22	227	204	431
55 " 60 " ... ..	34	6	40	8	2	10	22	3	25	216	164	380
60 " 65 " ... ..	34	18	52	6	4	10	18	16	34	157	125	282
65 " 70 " ... ..	29	11	40	3	...	3	12	5	17	88	56	144
70 " 75 " ... ..	17	7	24	2	1	3	16	1	17	37	38	75
75 " 80 " ... ..	9	8	17	2	...	2	8	3	11	22	21	43
80 " 85 " ... ..	1	2	3	...	...	...	2	2	4	3	8	11
85 " 90 " ... ..	2	3	5	...	...	...	4	4	8	4	4	8
90 and upwards ... ..	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2
Unknown ... ..	46	26	72	21	11	32	5	12	17	197	166	363
Total ... ..	619	416	1,035	170	137	307	201	92	293	2,090	1,778	3,868

TABLE VIII.—Return of Patients on Probation under Section 87 of the *Lunacy Act* 1890.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Out on probation on 1st January, 1891 ... ..	80	114	194
Allowed out during the year ... ..	140	217	357
Total ... ..	220	331	551
Recovered and relieved :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years ... ..	24	49	73
Of those allowed out during the present year ... ..	48	59	107
Total ... ..	72	108	180
Died :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years ... ..	3	2	5
Of those allowed out during the present year ... ..	3	2	5
Total ... ..	6	4	10
Written off the books under section 89 of Act 1113 :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years ... ..	11	10	21
Of those allowed out during the present year ... ..	8	4	12
Total ... ..	19	14	33
Returned to the Asylum at expiration of probation :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years ... ..	16	35	51
Of those allowed out during the present year ... ..	38	59	97
Total ... ..	54	94	148
Remaining under care out of the Asylum on 31st December, 1891 ... ..	69	111	180

TABLE VIIIA.—Return of Patients Boarded out during 1891.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Boarded out 1st January, 1891 ... ..	8	21	29
Allowed out during the year ... ..	7	7	14
Total ... ..	15	28	43
Recovered :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years ... ..	1	...	1
Of those allowed out during the present year ... ..	...	1	1
Total ... ..	1	1	2
Returned to the Asylum :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years ... ..	4	9	13
Of those allowed out during the present year ... ..	3	4	7
Total ... ..	7	13	20
Remaining under care out of the Asylum on 31st December, 1891 ... ..	7	14	21

TABLE IX.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1891.

	Yarra Bend.	Kew.	Idiot Ward, Kew.	Arundel	Beechworth.	Sunbury.	Total.
Lunatics sent to the Asylums by their friends	{ Male 38	47	8	6	3	...	102
	{ Female 64	81	6	4	4	...	159
"    "    by the police ...	{ Male 83	124	3	47	23	...	280
	{ Female 25	68	...	22	12	...	127
"    received from the Benevolent Asylums	{ Male 1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	{ Female 2	3	...	...	...	...	5
"    "    Hospitals ...	{ Male 2	6	3	...	...	...	11
	{ Female 5	6	2	...	...	...	13
"    "    Gaols ... ..	{ Male 22	...	5	2	1	...	30
	{ Female 8	...	...	...	...	...	8
"    "    all other public institutions (including transfers)	{ Male 13	16	...	13	94	37	173
	{ Female 14	3	1	...	60	21	99
Total ... ..	277	354	28	94	197	58	1,008
Escaped patients retaken ... ..	4	8	...	8	4	3	27
Total admissions ... ..	281	362	28	102	201	61	1,035

TABLE X.—Showing the Nationalities and Religious Persuasions of those admitted for the first time during the Year 1891, excluding transfers and escaped patients retaken.

Birthplaces.	Religious Persuasions.										Total.
	Protestant.					Roman Catholic.	Pagan.	Hebrew.	Mahome-tan.	Unascertained.	
	Church of England.	Presby-terian.	Wesleyan.	Lutheran.	Other Protestant Denominations.						
Victoria ... ..	72	32	31	...	17	57	...	3	...	2	214
Other Colonies and British Possessions	24	5	4	...	3	16	...	...	1	1	54
England ... ..	110	5	15	...	24	8	...	2	...	5	169
Scotland ... ..	4	36	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	47
Ireland ... ..	19	3	...	...	2	79	...	...	...	1	104
France ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Germany ... ..	1	...	...	7	2	4	...	...	...	1	15
China ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Other Countries	3	1	...	5	1	9	...	...	...	2	21
Not known	30	10	8	...	10	26	...	1	...	26	111
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>263</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>741</b>

TABLE XI.—Showing the Average Number of Patients employed attending Amusements and Divine Service.

Particulars.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<b>In the Workshops (Male)—</b>			
Blacksmiths ... ..	6	...	6
Carpenters ... ..	13	...	13
Mattress-makers ... ..	12	...	12
Shoemakers ... ..	16	...	16
Tailors ... ..	12	...	12
Painters ... ..	11	...	11
Engineer ... ..	1	...	1
Plasterer ... ..	1	...	1
Basket-making ... ..	4	...	4
Mat-making ... ..	12	...	12
<b>In the Workshops (Female)—</b>			
Sewing (making-up and repairing clothing)	...	399	399
Fancy work ... ..	...	40	40
Tailoresses ... ..	...	6	6
Mattress-making ... ..	...	70	70
<b>Miscellaneous occupations—</b>			
Working on the farm	180	...	180
" in the garden	95	...	95
" in the kitchen	40	...	40
" in the store	8	...	8
" in the laundry	9	214	223
" in the wards and airing courts	451	444	895
" as servants at private quarters	25	15	40
" on roads and ornamental grounds	88	...	88
" in mess-rooms	2	2	4
Other work about the establishment	88	10	98
<b>Amusements—</b>			
Balls and concerts ... ..	620	513	1,133
Billiards and reading rooms	360	260	620
Cards, chess, dominoes, &c.	345	139	484
Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis	156	80	236
Walking and driving	517	409	926
<b>Attending divine service</b> ... ..	<b>688</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>1,246</b>
" school	63	18	81



TABLE XII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Department of Hospitals for the Insane during the Year 1891.

Receipts.							Amount.		
							£	s.	d.
Collections made by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at—									
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	3,850	7	7	
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	5,845	15	9	
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,422	2	6	
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,091	3	9	
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	999	9	9	
Amount of fines	...	...	...	...	...	53	11	8	
„ sales	...	...	...	...	...	1,136	1	5	
Miscellaneous collections	...	...	...	...	...	26	18	1	
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	...	...	<b>14,425</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	

  

Expenditure.							Amount.		
							£	s.	d.
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	3,336	6	8	
Maintenance at—									
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	26,213	19	10	
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	31,849	12	7	
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	19,729	4	11	
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	17,020	9	3	
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	13,407	5	0	
Lunacy Ward, Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	207	0	0	
„ „ Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	17	14	0	
„ „ Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	91	10	0	
Expenses in connexion with committal of lunatics	...	...	...	...	...	1,509	8	9	
„ „ boarding out patients	...	...	...	...	...	489	4	4	
Annual examination of patients	...	...	...	...	...	1,160	9	6	
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	...	...	<b>115,032</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	

TABLE XIII.—Showing the Total Cost of Maintenance against each Asylum, the Sums expended against each Vote, and the Amount of General Expenses for the Year 1891.

Lunatic Asylums.	Daily Average Number Resident.	Total Cost of Maintenance.		Salaries.		Fees to Official Visitors.		Allowance to Chaplains.		Provisions and Extra Articles.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Yarra Bend	809	26,213	19 10	12,670	8 11	...	...	70	0 0	7,162	4 2
Kew	1,088	31,849	12 7	14,724	13 6	...	...	80	10 0	9,233	4 9
Ararat	647	19,729	4 11	8,856	13 5	...	...	131	10 0	5,908	17 9
Beechworth	572	17,020	9 3	8,307	16 6	...	...	67	12 6	4,823	11 10
Sunbury	507	13,407	5 0	6,483	3 4	...	...	72	0 0	3,972	0 0
General expenses	...	3,336	6 8	2,180	15 1	695	6 0	...	...	...	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,623</b>	<b>111,556</b>	<b>18 3</b>	<b>53,223</b>	<b>10 9</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>6 0</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>12 6</b>	<b>31,099</b>	<b>18 6</b>

Lunatic Asylums.	Stores, Purchase of Stock, Books, Amusements.		Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture.		Fuel, Light, and Water.		Medicines and Medical Comforts, Surgical Instruments, &c.		Stimulants, Wine, Spirits, and Beer.		Forage.		Incidentals.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Yarra Bend	689	6 5	2,153	0 10	1,678	3 7	303	17 3	655	13 2	62	0 2	769	5 4
Kew	897	8 8	2,327	12 1	2,254	12 11	364	15 8	1,063	19 9	89	12 11	813	2 4
Ararat	693	2 2	1,997	3 5	1,452	8 8	164	18 2	235	3 7	52	11 11	236	15 10
Beechworth	446	10 2	1,353	3 0	1,335	6 11	52	5 10	467	3 9	...	...	166	18 9
Sunbury	511	14 1	1,040	11 5	1,036	7 4	83	5 0	14	11 9	3	7 5	190	4 8
General expenses	31	2 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	429	2 11
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,269</b>	<b>4 2</b>	<b>8,871</b>	<b>10 9</b>	<b>7,756</b>	<b>19 5</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>1 11</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>12 0</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>12 5</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>9 10</b>

TABLE XIV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients for the Year 1891.

Lunatic Asylums.		Daily Average Number Resident.	Total Cost of Maintenance.			Collections for Maintenance, Sales, Fees, Fines, &c.			Salaries.			Allowance to Chaplains.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend	...	809	26,213	19	10	4,019	6	8	0	6	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kew	...	1,088	31,849	12	7	6,415	13	4	0	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ararat	...	647	19,729	4	11	1,621	8	8	0	5	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1
Beechworth	...	572	17,020	9	3	1,227	8	7	0	5	7	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sunbury	...	507	13,407	5	0	1,141	13	3	0	4	11	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	...	3,623	108,220	11	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	...	3,336	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

  

Lunatic Asylums.		Provisions and Extra Articles.			Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture.			Stores, Purchase of Stock, Books, Amusements, &c.			Fuel, Light, and Water.			Medicines and Medical Comforts.			Stimulants, Wines, Spirits, and Beer.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend	...	0	3	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	1	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	4	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kew	...	0	3	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ararat	...	0	3	6	0	1	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	5	0	0	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Beechworth	...	0	3	3	0	0	11	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sunbury	...	0	3	0	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

  

Lunatic Asylums.		Forage.			Incidentals.			Total Weekly Cost for Maintenance per Patient.			Average Collections per Week for Maintenance, Sales, Fees, Fines, &c.			Weekly Cost per Patient, Deducting Collections for Maintenance, Sales, Fees, Fines, &c.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend	...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	12	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	10	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Kew	...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	11	3	0	2	3	0	9	0
Ararat	...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	11	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	10	9
Beechworth	...	...	...	...	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	11	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	10	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sunbury	...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	10	2	0	0	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	9	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	11	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	1	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	9	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{4}$

TABLE XV.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1891, in the Lunacy Wards at Castlemaine, Bendigo, and Geelong.

					Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the wards 1st January, 1891	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Cases admitted:—										
First admissions	...	...	...	...	77	43	120			
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77	43	120
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	43	123
Cases discharged:—										
Recovered	...	...	...	...	40	14	54			
Relieved	...	...	...	...	...	1	1			
Not improved*	...	...	...	...	38	25	63			
Died	...	...	...	...	1	2	3			
Total cases discharged and died during the year...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79	42	121
Remaining in the wards 31st December, 1891	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2

\* Transferred to public asylums.

TABLE XVI.—Showing the Number of Patients Visited and the Number of Miles Travelled by the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums during the Year 1891.

Place and Date of Visit.	Number of Patients on Day of Visit.		Number of Miles Travelled.		Place and Date of Visit.	Number of Patients on Day of Visit.		Number of Miles Travelled.	
	Number.	Total.	Number.	Total.		Number.	Total.	Number.	Total.
Yarra Bend—					Ararat—				
3rd March ...	812	...	7		12th February	635	...	320	
5th March ...	810	...	7		10th April ...	645	...	320	
10th March ...	792	...	7		7th May ...	650	...	320	
19th May ...	816	...	7		21st August ...	650	...	320	
21st May ...	815	...	7		3rd December	646	...	320	
30th September	789	...	7				3,226		1,600
15th December	804	...	7		Beechworth—				
17th December	805	...	7		23rd January ...	505	...	345	
18th December	809	...	7		22nd May ...	566	...	345	
		7,252		63	3rd September	555	...	345	
Kew—					2nd October ...	623	...	345	
6th January ...	1,102	...	9		10th December	648	...	345	
9th January ...	1,108	...	9				2,897		1,725
15th January ...	1,108	...	9		Sunbury—				
23rd March ...	1,085	...	9		25th March ...	505	...	49½	
28th April ...	1,073	...	9		29th May ...	515	...	49½	
30th June ...	1,089	...	9		8th September	511	...	49½	
3rd July ...	1,088	...	9		13th November	511	...	49½	
29th July ...	1,089	...	9				2,042		198
18th August ...	1,088	...	9		Total ...	...	28,503	...	3,694
17th September	1,104	...	9						
25th November	1,075	...	9						
21st December	1,077	...	9						
		13,086		108					

## BEACONSFIELD INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

TABLE XVII.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, and Discharges during the Year ending 31st December, 1891.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1891 ...	...	...	...	10	7	17
Cases admitted:—						
First admissions ...	37	5	42			
Not first admissions ...	19	...	19			
Total cases admitted during the year ...	...	...	...	56	5	61
Total cases under care during the year ...	...	...	...	66	12	78
Cases discharged ...	56	12	68			
Escaped ...	1	...	1			
Total cases discharged and died during the year...	...	...	...	57	12	69
Remaining in the Asylum 31st December, 1891 ...	...	...	...	9	...	9
Average number resident during the year ...	8	3	11			



## CHANGES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INSANE.

Changes in the distribution of the insane were as follows:—

In Yarra Bend	an increase	of	6
Kew	a decrease	„	53
Cottages for Idiots,	an increase	„	18
Ararat	„	„	4
Beechworth	„	„	145
Sunbury	„	„	1

These changes were mostly effected through the transference of patients from overcrowded institutions to others where enlarged accommodation had been made available. At Beechworth, cottages had been built to house 148 patients, and two cottages for 40 patients were added to the already existing institution for children at Kew. These additions made it practicable to relieve Kew to the extent of 53 patients, and left surplus room for children, whilst over the remaining Asylums the new accommodation has been fully occupied.

*Admissions.*—There were 730 persons admitted into the Asylums during the year, of whom 561 purported to be under treatment for the first time, 121 having previously been in an Asylum once, 31 twice, 6 three times, 6 four times, 4 five times, and 1 seven times.

The population of Victoria at the end of 1891 was estimated at 1,157,804. On this basis the above figures show that, for every 1,586 of the general population, 1 person became a patient in the Lunatic Asylums. A corresponding comparison for last year gives 1 patient to 1,574 of the population. A reduction in the number of occurring cases of insanity is thus indicated, and is explained by an estimated increase of 10,000 in the general population, the persons admitted to the Asylums having only increased by 1 as compared with the preceding year.

For the year 1890, in New South Wales 1 person in 1,914 and in South Australia 1 person in 1,403 found their way into the Asylums. In England the proportion was 1 in 1,815.

On the 31st December, 1891, the registered insane, *i.e.*, all persons who had been certified as insane and then in lunatic asylums, lunacy wards, or licensed houses, who were boarded out, or on probation with friends, were in the proportion of 1 to 299 of the population. Last year the proportion of insane to sane was 1 to 304. Although the admissions for the year 1891 exceeded those of 1890 by only 1, the above figures give a total relative increase of insanity, the addition to the insane being in greater ratio than to the sane population. In New South Wales, in 1890, the proportion was 1 in 377, in South Australia 1 in 410, and in England 1 in 343.

*Discharges.*—During the year the names of 936 patients were written off the books. Of the patients thus dealt with, 307 had recovered, 41 had been relieved, 293 had died, and 295 had not improved, the last class including patients transferred between the different asylums, and those patients who had escaped.

*Recoveries.*—The return of recoveries shows an improved rate as compared with the preceding year, though under the average for the past 24 years. In 1891, patients recovered in the proportion of 41·21 per cent, as compared with an average of 42·98 for the past 24 years. The recovery rate for 1890 was respectively in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and England, 39·25, 42·06, 33·4, 38·59.

*Relieved.*—Forty-one patients were reported as relieved, the same number having been written off the books in the same way in 1890. As explained in previous reports, these were patients allowed to leave the Asylums on probation and subsequently failing to furnish medical certificates of their sanity. It is probable they would have been eventually discharged as recovered if they had been detained in the Asylum, and the recovery rate increased accordingly.

*Mortality.*—Out of all the patients resident 293 died, or 8·09 per cent., as compared with 7·45 per cent. for 1890 in Victoria, 6·52 for New South Wales, 7·9 for South Australia, and 10·33 for England. The percentage of deaths in Victoria for the past 24 years has been 7·23. Of the deaths during the year under review an unusually large proportion occurred amongst the male patients, the mortality amongst these having been at the rate of 10·08 per cent. against 5·64 on the female side.

Of those who died, 46 had been resident for less than 1 month, and 92 were persons between the ages of 60 and 90 years, figures which go to show that many patients were sent to the Asylums in an advanced stage of disease, and that an unusual number of aged persons also were admitted.

The epidemic of influenza, which in the course of the year proved so fatal amongst the general population, visited the Asylums, but few of the deaths amongst the patients were due to this cause.

The year is marked by the comparative absence of serious casualties, which nevertheless account for three fatalities—one at Yarra Bend and two at Kew.

In each instance an investigation by the Asylum authorities was followed by a coronial inquiry, with the result of acquitting the officers attached to these patients of any blame.

*Casualties.*—In a body of 3,871 insane persons, however carefully they may be watched, immunity from accident is not to be expected. Many are helpless, others are violent or quarrelsome, and altogether conditions of danger are a prevailing feature in an insane community. In the absence of vigilant supervision, a startling record of casualties could scarcely be avoided. To guard against carelessness or improper treatment on the part of the warders, they are required by regulation to make an early report of accidents to patients under their care. An investigation by the medical staff follows, and in the case of fatalities, happily very exceptional, an inquiry before a coroner's court. The statement subjoined shows the accidents of any gravity which were reported during the year. Minor injuries are of frequent occurrence, and these are also entered on the Asylum records for the guidance of the Superintendent and his staff. In few instances did the result of inquiries instituted into the circumstances attending casualties appear to warrant a reflection upon those in charge of the patients concerned.

W. E., a patient at Yarra Bend, pushed by a fellow patient, fell and fractured his skull, death ensuing in four days. An examination revealed signs of an apoplectic seizure. An open verdict as to the cause of the accident was returned by the jury.

E. A. M., resident at Kew, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor.

A. M., a girl under treatment at the Idiot Asylum, lost her life from the effect of burns caused by the accidental ignition of her clothes.

Fractures of the limbs or ribs were sustained in sixteen instances, and two patients sustained dislocation of the arm.

*Probation.*—The Lunacy Act provides for the removal of patients under approved guardianship. Relatives or friends are thus enabled to try the effect of change on patients who may not yet have so far recovered as to admit of their being fully discharged. During the year 551 patients were under the care of friends, who could at any time during the currency of the term of probation present their charges for re-admission. Of the patients on probation, 180 were discharged during the year, 148 returned to the Asylums, 10 died, and 33, who had not been reported within the prescribed time, were written off the books. The law assumes that the last-mentioned class have established their right to be free, and they are no longer eligible for re-admission to an Asylum until they shall have been re-certified as insane.

*Boarding Out.*—The power given under the Lunacy Act to board out patients with paid guardians has so far been of little effect. The example of England and Scotland encouraged the expectation that the system might be successfully introduced into Victoria. At the commencement of the year 8 male and 21 female patients had been placed with paid guardians; but at the end of 1891 there were only 7 males and 14 females boarded out. It would seem that there is little prospect of any large development of this system in the near future. The difference in the social condition of England and Australia offers a ready explanation of these results. Still, the authority taken to board out patients must be regarded as a step in advance, and whilst hitherto not altogether inoperative it has large possibilities in the future.

*Occupation.*—Active employment, as one of the most useful agents in the treatment of the insane, holds a prominent position in the management of the Asylums. Large numbers of patients are daily engaged in useful work, though it would appear practicable, with much benefit to those concerned, to still increase the proportion of workers. The greater part of the male and female clothing is made by the inmates under the supervision of skilled attendants. Patients with special knowledge or intelligence have been able to acquire more or less acquaintance with various handicrafts, a staff of artisan warders—established within recent years—being available to teach and supervise. Amongst the patients are to be found carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, painters, and gardeners; but the number so qualified is small. The farms and gardens offer opportunity for engaging patients in out-door work—the form of occupation, perhaps, of all others the most restorative, both as regards mental and physical health. Others of the inmates assist in the laundry, kitchen, stores, or domestic duties in the wards.

*Idiot Children.*—The establishment at Kew for idiots has been enlarged by the addition of two cottages, giving ample accommodation. The course of training the children at first receive has undergone some development, and there are now amongst the inmates those who can make simple articles of furniture, who cultivate the land attached to the cottages, or who assist in the kitchen and laundry. The children appear to enter into these avocations with much greater zest than they display in the schoolroom, where there is probably a larger, and possibly excessive, demand on their mental capacity.

A number of the inmates have now reached an age when it becomes a question if they could not be advantageously transferred to the general Asylum.

*Criminal Lunatics.*—The class of patients treated as criminal lunatics are those who have before or after admission committed acts of a criminal nature. Their indiscriminate association with the remainder of the patients is objectionable on various grounds. They are frequently dangerous, as well as offensive in their habits and manners, and difficult of control; it is therefore desirable that they should, as far as practicable, be kept apart from the general Asylum population. To this end it has been repeatedly urged that separate wards for criminal patients should be provided. For some years past the male criminals have occupied the gaol at Ararat; the females, of whom there are about twenty, being distributed throughout the Asylums. A site for a Criminal Asylum has been prepared at Sunbury. The buildings will, however, take a considerable time to complete, and it is probable that they will not be finished until the middle of 1893.

*Works and Buildings.*—No new works have been undertaken, only those already in hand having been proceeded with. At Beechworth four new cottages for 88 men and three for 60 women have been completed and occupied. Almost all the patients transferred to these cottages from the metropolitan Asylums belonged to the incurable classes, and thus a valuable opportunity of securing change for convalescents was lost.

Two cottages were added to the Idiot Asylum, and six portable rooms to Ararat. Yarra Bend was provided with a cottage for purposes of isolation in the event of an outbreak of disease of a contagious or infectious nature.

Minor works in connexion with drainage, fire extinction, and closet arrangements have engaged attention. There is still, however, much work to be done to satisfy all the more urgent requirements of the Asylums.

*Accommodation.*—On the 31st December, 1891, there were 3,667 patients under care in the Asylums, as compared with 3,546 at the same period last year, an increase of 121 patients having thus taken place; and these figures added to 168, the number in excess of accommodation at the commencement of the year, gave a total surplus of 289 patients to be provided for. To meet this demand additions have been made as follows:—Cottages for 148 patients at Beechworth; cottages for 40 patients at Kew; and single rooms for 6 patients at Ararat, or new accommodation for 194 patients. The 168 patients over accommodation at the beginning of the year had

therefore fallen at the end of the year to 95. If, however, the number of those occupying as dormitories rooms originally intended for day use only were taken into account, the conclusions to be drawn would be less favorable. The conversion of day rooms into dormitories, though interfering with the comfort of the patients, cannot be said to have exercised any influence seriously detrimental in a sanitary point of view, and the necessities of the position for many years have left no alternative between the course adopted and exposing the patients to dangerous overcrowding in the dormitories proper.

A proposal has been laid before the Government by which the difficulty hitherto experienced in keeping pace, as regards accommodation, with the increase of the insane may be partly met, and a substantial reduction in the cost of maintenance effected. There is a large class of patients beyond hope of recovery, harmless and inoffensive, and yet with the possibility of prolonged life. Their wants are of the simplest, and it is thought would be amply met by the resources at the disposal of the Benevolent Asylums. The committees of these institutions have been approached to ascertain how far their interests are reconcilable with the scheme here indicated. Should success attend these negotiations, it is thought about 500 patients could be withdrawn from the Lunatic Asylums, the buildings vacated again becoming available for their legitimate purpose. The patients transferred would probably be maintained at about £20 per annum each, their present maintenance rate at the Asylums averaging £30 per annum. The necessity for building a new Asylum at a probable expenditure of not less than £120,000 would also be obviated.

*Cost of Maintenance.*—The total expenditure on Lunatic Asylums for 1891 was £115,032 4s. 10d., or £500 18s. less than in the previous year, notwithstanding an increase of 81 patients in the daily average numbers resident. Charges not directly incurred at the Asylums amounting to £6,811 13s. 3d. have to be deducted from the above total, leaving £108,220 11s. 7d. as the actual cost of the five Asylums. On this basis a weekly rate of 11s. 5½d. is shown, but moneys from collections and sales to the extent of £14,425 10s. 6d. and paid into the Treasury further reduce the weekly maintenance of patients to 9s. 11½d., as compared with 10s. 8d. in 1890, and 10s. 8¼d. in 1889. The collections from patients' friends by the Master-in-Lunacy have advanced from £10,564 18s. in 1890 and £11,870 2s. 3d. in 1889 to £13,208 19s. 4d. this year. The low maintenance rates for 1891 are due to these improved collections, to cheapness of provisions, and to a strict economy exercised by the officers charged with the control of Asylum expenditure. A further reduction of cost to any material extent is scarcely to be looked for under existing conditions, and could only be effected at such a loss to the patients as nothing short of necessity would justify.

*Inebriate Asylums.*—But few patients having applied for admission to the Asylum at Northcote during the first half of the year, and the division of the Beaconsfield establishment set apart for females having also been little used, it was decided about the middle of the year to close the latter and open Northcote for women only.

It was intimated by circular and advertisement in the daily papers that the Asylum was prepared to receive female inebriates, who might either be paying or non-paying according to their circumstances. As a result only 14 patients came under treatment at Northcote during the remaining part of the year. The expense involved in keeping the retreat open was, as a consequence, altogether incommensurate with the benefits conferred, amounting at the end of the year to £783 5s., from which sum, however, £92 paid by patients has to be deducted.

The retreat at Beaconsfield showed somewhat larger results, 66 male and 12 female patients having been treated there during the year, or a daily average of 11 patients. Maintenance cost £1,398 17s., and £964 16s. 3d. was received from patients.

It will be seen that these institutions have entailed a considerable loss, and, without some change in the present system of working them, little improvement in a financial sense is to be looked for.



One of the most obvious faults of the Act is the absence of any power to enforce payment where an agreement has been made, and through this cause a number of patients or their friends have evaded their just monetary responsibilities. The authority intrusted to certain officials to rescind orders of detention should be exercised under greater limitations. Were the staff also more easily moved, appointments and discharges being made according to requirements and without undue formalities, needless expenditure would often be avoided. The maintenance of two establishments, each with a distinct staff of leading officers, is also an evident cause of unnecessary outlay.

*General Remarks.*—A satisfactory health record has characterized the year under review. The Asylums did not, however, escape the epidemics of typhoid fever and influenza which prevailed amongst the general community. Typhoid fever attacked 15 persons, and had fatal consequences in two instances. Every precaution was taken to limit the disease, the patients being isolated, approved methods of disinfection adopted, and the sanitary condition of wards, drains, &c., attended to. The source of the disease was doubtful, and there were grounds for thinking it might have originated outside of the Asylums. A large number of the insane suffered from influenza, and for the most part recovered without any untoward consequences. Two members of the staff succumbed to a severe attack of the disease, one being the Secretary of Yarra Bend, and the other a warder at the same Asylum.

A sudden outbreak of fire in one or other of the Asylums must be regarded as a possible contingency, and the question of the best means of meeting such an event has received careful consideration. Mr. Stein's recommendations, referred to in last year's Report, have been reviewed by officers from the Public Works Department, and in a modified form will probably be adopted. Fire brigades have been established at each Asylum, and the responsibility of insuring their efficiency rests with the Superintendents. At none of the Asylums is the force of water available for fire extinguishing as strong as it should be, and requisitions have been submitted with a view to remedy this defect.

The lunacy wards attached to country hospitals are still open, the receiving-ward system not having yet been established.

Pay patients and paupers are still promiscuously associated for the want of a special establishment for the former. An institution of this kind would be a boon to many, and could probably be made self-supporting.

No serious objection has been taken to the quality of stores supplied, except in the case of bread sent to Kew, which has repeatedly been reported as inferior by the officers of the Asylum and the Official Visitors.

Owing to the extension of the Ararat and Beechworth Asylums, the area of land attached to these establishments has become unequal to their requirements. It is a great advantage to have a liberal supply of pure milk, such as can only be obtained with certainty from the Asylum herds. To admit of enlarging the herds in those Asylums where the patients have materially increased, measures are being taken to extend the area of pasture land.

Changes have as usual occurred in the constitution of the staff, principally through resignations and redistribution. Warders can now be engaged for short periods without preliminary reference to the Public Service Board, so that emergencies can be met without inconvenient delay.

The conduct of the staff has in general been satisfactory, few offences calling for extreme punishment having been recorded.

From time to time the warders have agitated to secure extended leave of absence from duty. The scale of leave now in use is the outcome of such a movement, and was adjusted on its present basis in 1887. As compared with the practice in neighbouring colonies, in most of our charitable institutions, and in the police force and penal establishments, the Asylum warders are liberally treated as regards their leave and pay, and in these respects they certainly have no just cause of complaint.

I frequently inspected the Asylums, and on these occasions careful attention was bestowed on the condition of the inmates in reference to their mental and bodily state, their clothing, and the measures taken to provide them with occupation and amusement. The state of the wards, buildings, stores, gardens, farms, &c., also came under review. The result of these investigations also afforded evidence that kindly relations existed between the patients and their guardians, and that the Medical Superintendents and their subordinates, as a whole, fulfilled their duties with a proper sense of their responsibilities, and with a single desire to promote the welfare of those intrusted to their care.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. T. DICK,

Inspector of Lunatic Asylums.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.