

1893.  
—  
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,

1892.

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

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# REPORT.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE,  
Inspector's Office,

Melbourne, 21st June, 1893.

SIR,

I have the honour, in accordance with the provisions of the Lunacy Act, to submit for your information the following Report on the Hospitals for the Insane for the year 1892.

On the 1st January there were 3,871 and on the 31st December 3,958 insane persons registered in the colony. An increase of 87 in the number of lunatics under official cognisance had thus occurred during the year. In view of the grave monetary disturbances, with their attendant sufferings, mental and physical, which have marked the period under notice, a larger production of mental disease was to have been looked for. Nevertheless, relatively fewer patients were admitted into the Asylums than during previous years, when apparently the conditions favouring the maintenance of mental health prevailed.

The average daily numbers resident showed an increase of 103 as compared with the preceding year, having been 3,726 as against 3,623. Somewhat fewer patients recovered and died in 1892 than in 1891, facts which may serve to explain the discrepancy between the average numbers resident and the actual increase at the end of the year.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on the 31st December, 1892.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Public Lunatic Asylums at—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	427	360	787
Kew ... ..	528	458	986
Kew idiot ward ... ..	77	49	126
Ararat ... ..	402	285	688
Beechworth ... ..	393	270	663
Sunbury ... ..	235	275	510
Out on probation from—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	14	17	31
Kew ... ..	39	75	114
Kew idiot ward ... ..	7	3	10
Ararat ... ..	2	8	10
Beechworth ... ..	6	1	7
Sunbury ... ..	...	2	2
Boarded out from—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	3	3
Kew ... ..	3	2	5
Ararat ... ..	1	7	8
Beechworth ... ..	...	...	...
Sunbury ... ..	2	2	4
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums ... ..			
	2,136	1,818	3,954
In the lunacy ward at—			
Bendigo ... ..	1	1	2
Geelong ... ..	...	1	1
In licensed house ... ..			
	...	1	1
Total number of registered lunatics in the colony ... ..			
	2,137	1,821	3,958

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1892, in the Public Lunatic Asylums.

				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylums, 1st January, 1892				...	...	...	2,090	1,778	3,868
Cases admitted :—									
First admissions				419	377	796			
Not first admissions				69	45	114			
Total cases admitted during the year				...	...	...	488	422	910
Total cases under care during the year				...	...	...	2,578	2,200	4,778
Cases discharged :—									
Recovered				142	144	286			
Relieved				20	22	42			
Not improved				99	114	213			
Died				174	99	273			
„ whilst on probation				7	3	10			
Total cases discharged and died during the year				...	...	...	442	382	824
Remaining in the Asylums, 31st December, 1892 (including those absent on leave and boarded out)				...	...	...	2,136	1,818	3,954
Average number resident during the year				...	...	...	2,045	1,681	3,726
Persons under care during the year				...	...	...	2,464	2,078	4,542
Persons admitted				...	...	...	374	300	674
Persons recovered				...	...	...	141	144	285
Transferred from one asylum to another				...	...	...	73	114	187
Escaped				...	...	...	26	1	27
Retaken				...	...	...	16	1	17

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1892 to the Public Lunatic Asylums.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	43	41	84
Have had two attacks	11	11	22
Have had three attacks	7	4	11
Have had four attacks	1	1	2
Have had six attacks	2	...	2
Have had eight 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 1892 in Public Lunatic Asylums.

Year.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Died.			Remaining 31st 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	3,868	1,993	1,630	3,623	39.81	43.08	41.21	10.08	5.64	8.09
1892	399	307	706	142	144	286	20	22	42	...	...	...	181	102	283	2,136	1,818	3,954	2,045	1,681	3,726	35.59	46.90	40.51	8.85	6.07	7.59
Totals and Averages	3,870	2,911	6,781	1,596	1,449	3,045	174	162	336	...	...	...	1,673	877	2,550	...	...	...	19,740	16,137	35,879	41.24	49.77	44.91	8.47	5.43	7.11

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 ... ..	...	...	...	3,886	3,290	7,176	29·54	35·47	31·99
Relieved... ..	...	...	...	492	508	1,000	3·74	5·48	4·46
Not improved ... ..	...	...	...	2,711	1,912	4,623	20·60	20·61	20·61
Died ... ..	...	...	...	3,932	1,749	5,681	29·89	18·85	25·32
Out on trial and boarded out on the 31st December, 1892 ... ..	...	...	...	74	120	194	·56	1·29	·86
Remaining ... ..	...	...	...	2,062	1,698	3,760	15·57	18·30	16·76
Total ... ..	13,157	9,277	22,434	13,157	9,277	22,434	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 1892.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month ... ..	14	5	19	15	2	17
1 month and under 3 months ... ..	18	15	33	24	12	36
3 months " 6 " ... ..	22	16	38	15	5	20
6 " " 9 " ... ..	17	21	38	8	4	12
9 " " 12 " ... ..	20	22	42	16	6	22
1 year and under 2 years ... ..	31	43	74	32	16	48
2 years " 3 " ... ..	11	13	24	17	8	25
3 " " 5 " ... ..	2	3	5	16	12	28
5 " " 7 " ... ..	3	2	5	3	4	7
7 " " 10 " ... ..	1	...	1	7	7	14
10 " " 12 " ... ..	1	...	1	6	4	10
12 " " 15 " ... ..	...	1	1	7	6	13
15 " " 20 " ... ..	...	2	2	5	5	10
20 " " 25 " ... ..	...	1	1	6	10	16
25 " " 30 " ... ..	1	...	1	1	...	1
30 " " 35 " ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	2
35 " " 40 " ... ..	1	...	1	2	...	2
40 " " ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	142	144	286	181	102	283

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died during the Year 1892, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1892.

Ages.	The Admissions.			Recovered.			The Deaths.			Patients Resident 31st December, 1892.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years ... ..	3	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	2
5 years and under 10 years ... ..	5	8	13	...	...	...	...	2	2	13	14	27
10 " " 15 " ... ..	4	5	9	1	...	1	...	...	...	27	16	43
15 " " 20 " ... ..	17	17	34	4	13	17	2	1	3	70	56	126
20 " " 25 " ... ..	66	51	117	17	22	39	6	6	12	109	89	198
25 " " 30 " ... ..	63	53	116	13	23	36	6	6	12	178	143	321
30 " " 35 " ... ..	57	45	102	27	27	54	14	8	22	217	151	368
35 " " 40 " ... ..	38	33	71	9	15	24	20	5	25	170	151	321
40 " " 45 " ... ..	42	37	79	11	9	20	10	5	15	191	166	357
45 " " 50 " ... ..	30	29	59	12	15	27	12	10	22	187	200	387
50 " " 55 " ... ..	30	31	61	10	12	22	18	4	22	215	215	430
55 " " 60 " ... ..	28	19	47	10	1	11	16	13	29	202	170	372
60 " " 65 " ... ..	22	25	47	5	2	7	13	7	20	175	131	306
65 " " 70 " ... ..	16	7	23	3	2	5	18	6	24	98	61	159
70 " " 75 " ... ..	16	17	33	9	...	9	10	13	23	33	42	75
75 " " 80 " ... ..	8	7	15	2	...	2	10	5	15	25	20	45
80 " " 85 " ... ..	1	4	5	...	...	...	2	2	4	4	9	13
85 " " 90 " ... ..	3	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	2	9	7	16
90 and over ... ..	1	2	3	...	...	...	3	1	4	...	1	1
Unknown ... ..	38	32	70	9	3	12	18	8	26	211	176	387
Total ... ..	488	422	910	142	144	286	181	102	283	2,136	1,818	3,954

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

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Out on probation on 1st January, 1892	...	...	...	...	...	69	111	180
Allowed out during the year	...	...	...	...	...	145	209	354
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	214	320	534
Recovered and relieved :—								
Of those allowed out during previous years	...	...	...	...	...	21	37	58
Of those allowed out during the present year	...	...	...	...	...	36	58	94
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	57	95	152
Died :—								
Of those allowed out during previous years	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Of those allowed out during the present year	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
Taken off the books under section 87 of Act 1113 :—								
Of those allowed out during previous years	...	...	...	...	...	15	12	27
Of those allowed out during the present year	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	10
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	17	20	37
Returned to the Asylum at expiration of probation :—								
Of those allowed out during previous years	...	...	...	...	...	20	35	55
Of those allowed out during the present year	...	...	...	...	...	45	61	106
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	65	96	161
Remaining under care out of the Asylum on 31st December, 1892	...	...	...	...	...	68	106	174

TABLE IX.—Return of Patients Boarded out during 1892.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Boarded out 1st January, 1892	...	...	...	...	...	7	14	21
Allowed out during the year	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Total	...	...	...	...	...	10	19	29
Escaped :—								
Of those allowed out during previous years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Of those allowed out during the present year	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Returned to the Asylum :—								
Of those allowed out during previous years	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Of those allowed out during the present year	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Total	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Remaining under care out of the Asylum on 31st December, 1892	...	...	...	...	...	6	14	20

TABLE X.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1892.

		Yarra Bend.	Kew.	Idiot Ward, Kew.	Ararat.	Beechworth.	Sunbury.	Total.
Lunatics sent to the Asylums by the police	Male	61	118	4	46	22	...	251
	Female	28	80	5	35	6	...	154
" " by their friends	Male	46	52	8	5	3	...	114
	Female	41	80	1	7	2	...	131
" received from the Benevolent Asylums	Male	1	3	...	...	...	...	4
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Hospitals	Male	4	6	...	...	...	...	10
	Female	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
" " Gaols	Male	14	1	...	4	...	...	19
	Female	12	...	...	...	...	...	12
" " all other public institutions (including transfers)	Male	2	12	3	22	15	20	74
	Female	8	6	11	33	30	32	120
Total	...	217	362	32	152	78	52	893
Escaped patients retaken	...	1	2	...	7	5	2	17
Total admissions	...	218	364	32	159	83	54	910

TABLE XI.—Showing the Nationalities and Religious Persuasions of those admitted for the first time during the Year 1892.

Birthplaces.	Religious Persuasions.										Total.
	Protestant.					Roman Catholic.	Pagan.	Hebrew.	Mahome-tan.	Unascertained.	
	Church of England.	Presby-terian.	Wesleyan.	Lutheran.	Other Protestant Denomi-nations.						
Victoria ... ..	90	39	16	...	15	69	...	1	...	3	233
Other Colonies and British Possessions	16	1	3	...	3	7	...	1	...	...	31
England ... ..	96	3	22	...	13	9	...	1	...	2	146
Scotland ... ..	5	38	1	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	49
Ireland ... ..	18	6	...	...	2	74	...	...	...	2	102
France ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Germany ... ..	1	...	...	4	...	1	...	1	...	...	7
China ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
Other Countries ...	3	...	2	1	...	11	...	2	...	...	19
Not known ... ..	32	10	11	3	14	23	1	...	...	19	113
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>261</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>703</b>

TABLE XII.—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 ... ..	16	...	16
Mattress-makers ...	11	75	86
Shoemakers ... ..	26	...	26
Tailors ... ..	16	...	16
Painters ... ..	18	...	18
Mat-makers ... ..	12	...	12
Basket-makers ... ..	4	...	4
Engineer ... ..	1	...	1
French-polisher ...	1	...	1
<b>In the Workshops (Female)—</b>			
Sewing (making up and repairing clothing)	...	282	282
Fancy work ... ..	...	42	42
<b>Miscellaneous occupations—</b>			
Working on the farm	182	...	182
" in the garden	95	...	95
" in the kitchen	40	...	40
" in the store	7	...	7
" in the laundry	8	223	231
" in the wards and airing courts	495	450	945
" as servants at private quarters	25	15	40
" on roads and ornamental grounds	83	...	83
" in mess-rooms	9	2	11
Other work about the establishment	82	21	103
<b>Amusements—</b>			
Balls and concerts ...	660	371	1,031
Billiards and reading rooms	213	...	213
Cards, chess, dominoes, &c.	285	223	508
Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis	245	55	300
Walking and driving	411	205	616
<b>Attending divine service ...</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>1,205</b>
" school ... ..	74	43	117



TABLE XIII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Department of Hospitals for the Insane during the Year 1892.

Receipts.						Amount.		
						£	s.	d.
Collections made by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at—								
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	3,596	9	4
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	4,717	9	0
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,221	19	9
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,249	2	7
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	854	18	1
Amount of fines	...	...	...	...	...	41	7	6
„ sales	...	...	...	...	...	914	3	8
Miscellaneous collections	...	...	...	...	...	46	14	2
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	...	...	<b>12,642</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

  

Expenditure.						Amount.		
						£	s.	d.
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	2,912	2	11
Maintenance at—								
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	24,614	19	10
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	29,019	17	4
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	19,551	5	8
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	18,913	3	1
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	12,695	5	1
Lunacy Ward, Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	135	0	0
„ „ Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	8	5	0
„ „ Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	69	5	0
Expenses in connexion with committal of lunatics	...	...	...	...	...	1,351	16	10
„ „ boarded-out patients	...	...	...	...	...	382	17	11
Annual examination of patients	...	...	...	...	...	421	7	0
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	...	...	<b>110,075</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

TABLE XIV.—Showing the Total Cost of Maintenance against each Asylum, the Sums expended against each Vote, and the Amount of General Expenses for the Year 1892.

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	800	24,614	19 10	13,064	10 2	...	70	0 0	6,646	9 4	
Kew	1,091	29,019	17 4	14,650	10 10	...	70	0 0	8,521	14 11	
Ararat	668	19,551	5 8	9,184	7 11	...	131	10 0	6,215	18 10	
Beechworth	656	18,913	3 1	9,055	3 10	...	72	7 7	5,713	13 0	
Sunbury	511	12,695	5 1	*6,429	1 9	...	72	0 0	3,747	14 1	
General expenses	...	2,912	2 11	†2,200	18 0	399 13 0	...	...	...	...	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>107,706</b>	<b>13 11</b>	<b>54,584</b>	<b>12 6</b>	<b>399 13 0</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>17 7</b>	<b>30,845</b>	<b>10 2</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, Beer, &c.		Forage.		Incidentals.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Yarra Bend	624	7 5	1,503	18 10	1,365	2 3	169	1 1	630	15 9	47	0 8	493	14 4
Kew	830	5 0	1,582	2 2	1,602	10 1	334	5 3	988	4 3	78	4 4	362	0 6
Ararat	614	11 5	1,255	10 10	1,525	13 5	176	9 1	221	1 6	42	18 8	183	4 0
Beechworth	563	7 8	1,378	0 0	1,380	12 0	64	6 7	513	17 1	5	5 6	166	9 10
Sunbury	462	17 4	789	0 3	939	6 11	72	17 11	9	3 2	4	15 1	168	8 7
General expenses	10	12 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	19 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,106</b>	<b>1 8</b>	<b>6,508</b>	<b>12 1</b>	<b>6,813</b>	<b>4 8</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>19 11</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>1 9</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>4 3</b>	<b>1,674</b>	<b>16 4</b>

\* Includes £197 10s. paid to Relieving Medical Practitioner, Sunbury.

† Includes £130 paid to Inspector of Lunatic Asylums in lieu of quarters, &c.

TABLE XV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients for the Year 1892.

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 ...	800	24,614 19 10	3,801 6 4	0 6 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kew ...	1,091	29,019 17 4	5,103 12 5	0 5 2	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ararat ...	668	19,551 5 8	1,374 5 11	0 5 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Beechworth ...	656	18,913 3 1	1,363 7 9	0 5 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sunbury ...	511	12,695 5 1	999 11 8	0 4 10	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total ...	3,726	104,794 11 0	12,642 4 1	...	...
General expenses ...	...	2,912 2 11	...	...	...

  

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 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 8	0 0 1	0 0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Kew ...	0 3 0	0 0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ararat ...	0 3 7	0 0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beechworth ...	0 3 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 4	0 0 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sunbury ...	0 2 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 7	0 0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...

  

Lunatic Asylums.	Forage.	Incidentals.	Total Weekly Cost of 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 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 11 10	0 1 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 10 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kew ...	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ararat ...	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11 3	0 0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Beechworth ...	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 1	0 11 1	0 0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sunbury ...	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 9	0 8 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total ...	...	...	0 10 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
General expenses ...	...	...	...	...	0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

TABLE XVI.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1892, in the Lunacy Wards at Castlemaine, Bendigo, and Geelong.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the wards 1st January, 1892 ...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Cases admitted :—						
First admissions ..	55	31	86			
Total cases admitted during the year ...	...	...	...	55	31	86
Total cases under care during the year ...	...	...	...	56	32	88
Cases discharged :—						
Recovered ...	26	11	37			
Relieved ...	...	...	...			
Not improved ...	29	19	48			
Died ...	...	...	...			
Total cases discharged and died during the year...	...	...	...	55	30	85
Remaining in the wards 31st December, 1892 ...	...	...	...	1	2	3



## NORTHCOTE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

TABLE XIX.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, and Discharges during the Year ending 31st December, 1892.

							Females.	Females.
In the Asylum, 1st January, 1892 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Cases admitted:—								
First admissions ...	...	...	...	...	...	16		
Not first admissions ...	...	...	...	...	...	2		
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	
Cases discharged ...	...	...	...	...	...	23		
Total cases discharged during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	
Remaining in Asylum on 30th September, 1892	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	

## INEBRIATE ASYLUMS.

TABLE XX.—Showing the Total Cost of Maintenance against Each Asylum, and the Sums Expended against Each Vote for the period ended 30th September, 1892.

Inebriate Asylum.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Salaries.	Provisions and Extra Articles.	Stores, Purchase of Stock, Books, and Amusements.	Bedding.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Medicines and Medical Comforts, Surgical Instruments, &c.	Incidentals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Beaconsfield	795 15 7	513 4 1	186 17 9	40 14 5	...	10 1 0	9 17 4	35 1 0
Northcote ...	477 5 11	343 3 4	71 16 5	8 3 10	0 10 6	12 11 11	2 17 0	38 2 11
Total ...	1,273 1 6	856 7 5	258 14 2	48 18 3	0 10 6	22 12 11	12 14 4	73 3 11

## RECEIPTS FOR MAINTENANCE, FINES, SALES, ETC.

Beaconsfield	...	...	...	...	...	£427 4 3
Northcote	...	...	...	...	...	258 10 7

*Admissions.*—There were admitted into the Asylums during the year 674 persons. Of those admitted 552 were reported as not having previously been under Asylum treatment, 84 as having been once, 22 twice, 11 thrice, 2 four times, 2 six, and 1 eight times before in an Asylum.

Taking the population of Victoria on the 31st December, 1892, according to the estimate of the Government Statist, as 1,167,329, 1 out of every 1,732 persons became an inmate of the Asylums. The year before gave 1 admission to every 1,586 of the community. As in the preceding year, we have again to note a reduction in the cases of "occurring insanity." Although the general population increased to the extent of nearly 10,000, the number of patients sent into the Asylums was 56 less than in the year 1891.

At the end of the year, 1 person in every 295 of the general population was registered as insane, still showing a slight relative increase of insanity; the proportion in 1891 having been 1 lunatic in 299 of the population. The proportion in England was 1 in 334.

*Discharges.*—In the course of the year, 286 patients who had recovered, 42 relieved, 213 not improved, including 187 transferred between the various Asylums, and 283 who died, or a total of 824, were written off the Asylum books. Of the patients admitted during the year 40.51 per cent. recovered—a slightly reduced rate as compared with the previous 10 years, which show a proportion of recoveries on admissions of 45.41 per cent. In England the recoveries for the year 1891, were 41.04 per cent. of admissions, and for the decennial period, including 1891, were 39.71 per cent.

About an equal number of patients were "relieved" as in the year 1891. Taken from the Asylums by friends and not returning, they may be regarded as having so far recovered as to render their further treatment in an Asylum unnecessary.

*Mortality.*—The mortality for the year, 7.59 per cent., corresponds closely with the rate recorded for the last 10 years. The death-rate in England for the year was 10.02 per cent. Only one death resulted from violence, a patient at Yarra Bend having committed suicide by hanging; otherwise the mortality was due to natural causes. In the casualty mentioned an inquiry by the coroner resulted in exonerating the Asylum officers from blame.

*Casualties.*—Sixteen patients met with accidents resulting in fractured bones, and in five instances dislocations were recorded. In several cases the fractures and dislocations were combined in the same person. Only one casualty, a fracture of the ribs, was attended with circumstances which threw suspicion on the warders. The matter was thought so serious as to demand inquiry by the Public Service Board, with the result that the warders implicated were found to deserve severe punishment, and were accordingly reduced a grade in rank. A patient at Kew mutilated himself in an extraordinary manner. His attendants did not escape blame, and were punished by their Superintendent. The number of serious accidents has not been excessive, nor do they from their nature call for further special notice.

*Probation.*—The section of the Lunacy Act authorizing the removal of patients by friends was taken advantage of in 354 instances. As at the beginning of the year 180 patients were already out on probation, it is seen that altogether during the year 534 patients resided with their friends for varying periods in this way; of these 152 were discharged, 37 were written off the books as relieved, 10 died, and 161 returned to the Asylums, leaving at the end of the year 174 patients on probation.

*Escapes.*—Twenty-seven patients escaped from the various Asylums during the year—2 from Yarra Bend, 3 from Sunbury, 5 from Kew, 6 from Beechworth, and 11 from Ararat. Seventeen of these patients have been retaken. The remainder, it would seem fair to assume, have for the most part been able so to live as to avoid attracting attention, and to support themselves by their own exertions. Their enlargement, so far as known, has been unattended with inconvenience to the public. Patients can only be retaken within three months of the date of their escape; those who have succeeded in preserving their liberty for a longer period requiring to be again certified as insane before re-admission to an Asylum. Under a system which recognises the advantage of allowing to certain patients some measure of liberty, occasional instances of escape are scarcely avoidable. A more restrictive treatment would doubtless tend to obviate such occurrences, but the result would be gained at a great loss to the daily comfort and best interests of a large and important class of the Asylum inmates.

*Boarding Out.*—At the commencement of the year 21 patients—7 men and 14 women—were boarded out from the Asylums, and at the end of the year only 20 patients—6 men and 14 women—were absent in this manner. The influences at work in arresting the development of this plan of dealing with the insane have been referred to in previous reports, and are chiefly to be found in social conditions peculiar to the colonies. The patients who would be most willingly parted with are those requiring more or less continuous attention and assistance; but it is apparent that few persons would accept the responsibility of such a charge without substantial remuneration, and herein lies another serious difficulty in the way of extending the system.

Eight patients were boarded out during the year for the first time. Of these 5 were brought back to the Asylums, their guardians for various reasons declining to continue their liability, and 1 escaped, and has not since been found.

*Children's Cottages.*—About 126 children, imbecile or idiot, are accommodated at Kew in six cottages placed within the Asylum reserve. The buildings are most pleasantly situated, with gardens and play-grounds attached, afford good sanitary conditions, and offer all reasonable facilities to accomplish the object of the institution.

The mental training of the inmates is of necessity elementary in its character. In the school-room they are taught rudimentary reading and arithmetic, habits of attention, obedience and order are inculcated, and they are exercised in the simpler

forms of drill and gymnastic exercises. The girls find useful occupation in the laundry, where they do the washing for the cottages. A number of the more robust boys, under supervision, successfully cultivate a vegetable garden, whilst a contingent of the more intelligent lads have attained very considerable manual dexterity, and are able to manufacture articles of furniture, such as door-mats, chairs, flower-stands, and other articles of willow-ware.

*Criminal Lunatics.*—The Ararat Gaol, which has for the time been abandoned by the Penal Department, continues in use as an Asylum for Criminal Lunatics. The persons detained there, about 50 in number, are men, and mostly in a mental condition which renders them indifferent to their surroundings. The gaol, which would be unsuitable for other classes of patients, serves its present purpose fairly well. The inmates are healthy, and for the most part uncomplaining. The new building at Sunbury, designed originally to accommodate criminal lunatics, and nearly ready for occupation, will therefore be turned to another use, and will shortly be opened for the reception of a class of female patients who have for some time been accumulating in undue proportion in the Metropolitan Asylums. The patients in question are those subject to attacks of extreme excitement, uncontrollable, and dangerous to themselves and their neighbours.

The arrangement of the new building at Sunbury will greatly facilitate the control and general treatment of these patients, and their removal from the quarters they now occupy will be attended with much advantage.

*Works and Buildings.*—Only minor works and those already under way have engaged attention, work not regarded as being absolutely essential having been left over for a more convenient season.

A carefully considered plan to extend accommodation at Sunbury for the better class of patients has taken the form of separate cottages symmetrically disposed over a picturesque site, with the subjacent township in full view. This addition to the Asylums promises to be a valuable acquisition, as it will supply the means of dealing with patients in a manner not hitherto practicable. An observation ward and abundant single rooms of ample capacity are distinctive features in these cottages. When completed, the new part of the Asylum is designed to accommodate about 548 patients. An instalment of the new scheme will soon be finished.

The present Asylum is conducted under the supervision of one medical officer with occasional outside assistance, but in the altered conditions about to supervene a stronger medical staff will be indispensable.

Many of the structural alterations recommended by Mr. Stein to guard against danger from fire remain in abeyance. Other pressing works under requisition call for the earliest attention.

*Accommodation.*—For years past difficulty has been experienced in preserving a just relation between the number of patients and available ward accommodation. From this cause the satisfactory disposal of the inmates has been surrounded with obstacles, and Superintendents have frequently been at a loss to devise means by which the dangers and other drawbacks incidental to overcrowding should be averted.

Last year a project was mooted by which it was hoped to find an outlet for a certain class of the patients, and more or less abortive negotiations were opened with the authorities of the Benevolent Asylums. Recently the problem has been simplified by the unexpected withdrawal of occupants from the Ballarat Reformatory and the conveyance of this institution to the Department of Hospitals for the Insane. The Reformatory has accommodation for at least 250 patients, and in its possession the Asylums will find substantial relief from existing pressure. Beyond this addition to their resources room will shortly be available at Sunbury for 70 more patients, and later on for another 140 patients.

On the 31st December, 1892, there were 3,760 patients in the Asylums, which was an increase of 93 as compared with the number of inmates at the end of the preceding year. At the beginning of the year there were 95 patients over the number for whom suitable accommodation could be found, and this excess had increased to 188 by the end of the year. This disproportion will, however, shortly be adjusted by transferring patients to the buildings soon to be available, and there will remain a surplus of accommodation, which, according to past experience, should meet all requirements for some years to come.

*Lunacy Wards.*—During the year 88 patients have been under treatment in the lunacy wards attached to the general hospitals at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong. Of the persons so dealt with, 37 were discharged after a short detention, 48 were committed to the Lunatic Asylums, and 3 remained in the wards at the end of the year. These wards, in some measure, take the place of the receiving wards contemplated under the recommendation of the late Royal Commission on Hospitals for the Insane.

The moderate expenditure involved in their maintenance is warranted by the relief they afford to kindred places of detention, as well as by the benefit they confer on a numerous class of unfortunate persons, who, only bordering on insanity, would otherwise have either to be sent to gaol or despatched direct to the Lunatic Asylums.

*Cost of Maintenance.*—The total expenditure on Lunatic Asylums for the year 1892 was £110,075 5s. 8d.

In computing the cost per patient, charges not directly connected with maintenance, such as expenses of the inspector's office, expenses in connexion with the committal, boarding out, and annual examination of patients, and the maintenance of lunatics in wards attached to public hospitals, to the extent of £5,280 14s. 8d., have to be deducted. A total of £104,794 11s. then remains as the actual cost of maintenance for the year, giving a weekly rate of 10s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per patient.

By further deducting the collections made by the Master-in-Lunacy, amounting to £11,639 18s. 9d., and the amounts received at the different Asylums for the sale of stock, and other minor sources of revenue, amounting to £1,002 5s. 4d., the weekly cost is further reduced to 9s. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per patient, an exceptionally low rate, as shown by the subjoined rates for the previous three years:—

					<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1889	...	...	...	...	10	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
1890	...	...	...	...	10	8
1891	...	...	...	...	9	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

This result is explained by a reduction in contract prices, diminished clothing and bedding vote, a somewhat reduced clerical and warders' staff, and generally by the care exercised in the supervision of expenditure.

*Inebriate Asylums.*—These institutions were opened, one at Beaconsfield, on the 1st October, 1889, and a second at Northcote, on 1st July, 1890. It was thought that the establishment of Inebriate Asylums under Government control would meet with a cordial response on the part of those interested. The friends of inebriates requiring treatment had frequently approached the Department to urge the necessity for some such provision, which was also strongly advocated by the late Royal Commission on Lunatic Asylums. In view of these and other considerations, it was assumed that the retreats would be at least self-supporting. Due measures were taken to give them publicity.

At the end of the year 1891 it was found that the efforts of the Government to meet a public want had resulted in a substantial monetary loss. The rates charged were moderate, and yet the average number of inmates was only 13. Under the circumstances, it was decided that the results were not such as to warrant the continuance of the considerable annual outlay involved, and the retreats were closed. It is to be regretted that the undertaking was not attended with greater success, as any Asylum system must remain incomplete in the absence of satisfactory means of dealing with inebriates. Dr. Elmes, the Medical Superintendent, was zealous in the discharge of his duties, and that the cause of failure did not lie in the rates charged, or in the distance of the institution from Melbourne, is indicated by the fact that at Northcote, situated in the suburbs and offering gratuitous services, the results were no more satisfactory.

*General Remarks.*—The health of the patients has been good, little sickness of an epidemic or unusual character having appeared amongst them. It may therefore be inferred that the Asylums are free from any grave sanitary defects. The drawbacks of overcrowding are in great measure counteracted by the manner of life of the patients. There are few days in the year when they cannot go out-of-doors, and the greater part of their time is spent in the open air. Typhoid fever appeared at

Kew and Ararat during the year. In the former Asylum two patients were attacked with this disease, both recovering. At Ararat one female patient died of typhoid. A few patients suffered from erysipelas, and some cases of influenza are recorded at Yarra Bend. At Sunbury, Dr. O'Brien remarks on the prevalence of tubercular disease.

A number of alterations have been effected at Ararat, with a view to improving the sanitary condition of the Asylum. Many works are still desirable throughout the Asylums, but in the present financial situation, not being absolutely indispensable, it is presumed they must wait. Amongst these are gas to be laid on at Yarra Bend, a better water supply at Yarra Bend and Sunbury, &c.

The food supplies have been of fair quality, excepting the bread at Ararat and Kew, where the Superintendents had occasion to make repeated complaints in regard to these articles. Latterly there has been a marked improvement in the quality of this important item of food.

The staff generally discharged their duties in a meritorious manner; a few of the warders, however, subjected themselves to punishment. In two instances of cruelty towards a patient the warders were reduced in grade. Gentleness towards the patients is especially enforced in the warders' regulations, and any contravention of this rule, when it can be proved, is met with a fitting penalty. It is satisfactory to note that few offences of this character have been recorded.

The Head Warder and Matron at Kew, both old servants, were superannuated in the course of the year, and retired on the usual allowance.

In pursuance of the retrenchment policy of the Government, the clerical staff was reduced, and the warders' staff kept within the narrowest limits compatible with safety.

Separate accommodation for paying patients has not yet been provided. Independently of other considerations, a pecuniary loss is probably hereby entailed on the Department. As a matter of course, payments are reluctantly made when no corresponding advantage is offered. The establishment of a well-appointed Asylum of a private character, but under Government control, has been advocated in former reports. Patients in easy circumstances would here find the privacy and comfort which are unattainable in a general Asylum. A widely-felt want would be met, and there is good reason to believe that such an institution would be self-supporting, if it did not even prove a source of profit to the State. In the meantime, pending other arrangements, selected wards and cottages are set apart for paying patients, of whom, during the year, there were in the various Asylums 72 paying £1 and over per week. As far as possible a return for these contributions was given in the form of a somewhat improved diet and other minor advantages. About 720 patients paid under £1, but here the ordinary Asylum treatment was held to meet all equitable claims.

The means at the disposal of the Asylums for combating a possible outbreak of fire have not yet been perfected.

A considerable area of pasture land has been added to the Ararat reserve; and, at Beechworth, a farm of about 300 acres in extent has been rented, so there is now little danger of the milk supply failing at either of these establishments.

Visits of inspection to all the Asylums were duly made in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the Lunacy Act. On these occasions the patients were, for the most part, found in a satisfactory condition—well cared for, as contented as might be expected, and without any real grounds of complaint.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. T. DICK,

Inspector of Lunatic Asylums.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.