

1894.
—
VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

R E P O R T

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1 8 9 3.

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

By Authority:

ROBT. S. BRAIN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 51.—[1s.]—5002.

REPORT.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE,

Inspector's Office,

Melbourne, 31st May, 1894.

Sir,

I have the honour, in accordance with the requirements of the Lunacy Act, to report on the Lunatic Asylums of Victoria, as follows:—

In Table I. will be found the number and distribution of the insane throughout the Asylums on 31st December, 1893.

During the year an increase of 84 has been recorded in the number of registered lunatics, the figures being 4,042 at the end of 1893, as compared with 3,958 at the close of the preceding year.

The increase corresponds closely with the increase of the previous year, when the names of 87 patients were added to the registers.

The daily average number of patients resident was 3,860, as compared with 3,726 in 1892, or an increase of 134.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on 31st December, 1893.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Public Lunatic Asylums at—			
Yarra Bend	403	367	770
Kew	475	445	920
Kew Idiot Asylum	89	55	144
Ararat	399	280	679
Beechworth	390	265	655
Sunbury	239	267	506
Ballarat	95	81	176
Out on probation from—			
Yarra Bend	16	19	35
Kew	34	65	99
Kew Idiot Asylum	1	1	2
Ararat	3	9	12
Beechworth	6	6	12
Sunbury	1	1	2
Ballarat	...	...	...
Boarded out from—			
Yarra Bend	...	3	3
Kew	3	4	7
Kew Idiot Asylum	...	...	...
Ararat	1	6	7
Beechworth	3	1	4
Sunbury	3	2	5
Ballarat	...	...	...
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums			
	2,161	1,877	4,038
In the lunacy ward at—			
Bendigo	...	2	2
Geelong	...	1	1
In licensed house			
	...	1	1
Total number of registered lunatics in the colony			
	2,161	1,881	4,042

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1893, in the Public Lunatic Asylums.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
In the Asylums, 1st January, 1893	2,136	1,818	3,954			
Cases admitted :—									
First admissions	481	369	850			
Not first admissions	62	44	106			
Total cases admitted during the year	543	413	956			
Total cases under care during the year	2,679	2,231	4,910			
Cases discharged :—									
Recovered	153	102	255			
Relieved	25	40	65			
Not improved	163	118	281			
Died	177	94	271			
Total cases discharged and died during the year	518	354	872			
Remaining in the Asylums, 31st December, 1893 (including patients on leave and boarded out)	2,161	1,877	4,038			
Average number resident during the year	2,112	1,748	3,860			
Persons under care during the year	2,518	2,110	4,628			
Persons admitted	382	292	674			
Persons recovered	151	102	253			
Transferred from one asylum to another	141	111	252			
Escaped	22	7	29			
Retaken	18	6	24			

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1893 to the Public Lunatic Asylums.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	46	33	79
Have had two attacks	7	8	15
Have had three attacks	4	7	11
Have had five attacks	1	1	2
Have had six attacks	1	1	2

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 since 1st January, 1882.

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.			Believed.			Not Improved.			Males.	Females.	Total.	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
1893	384	296	680	153	102	255	25	40	65	...	...	...	177	94	271	2,161	1,877	4,038	2,112	1,748	3,860	39.84	34.46	37.50	8.38	5.37	7.02
Totals and Averages	4,254	3,207	7,461	1,749	1,551	3,300	199	202	401	...	...	...	1,850	971	2,821	...	...	...	21,852	17,885	39,739	41.11	48.36	44.23	8.46	5.43	7.09

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 ... ..	...	...	...	4,039	3,392	7,431	29'48	35'00	31'77
Relieved... ..	...	...	...	517	548	1,065	3'77	5'66	4'55
Not improved ... ..	...	...	...	2,874	2,030	4,904	20'98	20'95	20'97
Died ... ..	...	...	...	4,109	1,843	5,952	29'99	19'02	25'45
On probation and boarded out 31st December, 1893 ... ..	...	...	...	71	117	188	'52	1'21	'80
Remaining in the lunatic asylums on 31st December, 1893 ... ..	...	...	...	2,090	1,760	3,850	15'26	18'16	16'46
Total	13,700	9,690	23,390	13,700	9,690	23,390	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 1893.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month	10	7	17	16	7	23
1 month and under 3 months	32	17	49	21	8	29
3 months " 6 "	37	17	54	19	7	26
6 " " 9 "	22	20	42	16	7	23
9 " " 12 "	18	14	32	12	6	18
1 year and under 2 years	24	17	41	25	8	33
2 years " 3 "	5	2	7	13	9	22
3 " " 5 "	3	5	8	7	8	15
5 " " 7 "	1	1	2	9	5	14
7 " " 10 " ... ..	...	2	2	4	6	10
10 " " 12 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	1	3
12 " " 15 " ... ..	...	...	...	4	10	14
15 " " 20 " ... ..	...	...	...	10	5	15
20 " " 25 "	1	...	1	9	3	12
25 " " 30 " ... ..	...	...	...	7	2	9
30 " " 35 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	2	4
35 " " 40 " ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total	153	102	255	177	94	271

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died during the Year 1893, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1893.

Ages.	The Admissions.			Recovered.			The Deaths.			Patients Resident 31st December, 1893.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1
5 years and under 10 years	4	1	5	...	...	...	1	1	2	13	13	26
10 " 15 "	4	9	13	1	...	1	1	1	2	23	22	45
15 " 20 "	13	13	26	5	10	15	2	2	4	69	57	126
20 " 25 "	60	44	104	18	15	33	6	3	9	128	86	214
25 " 30 "	65	47	112	24	17	41	6	5	11	192	170	362
30 " 35 "	74	55	129	19	11	30	17	3	20	231	184	415
35 " 40 "	44	35	79	16	9	25	13	6	19	171	175	346
40 " 45 "	48	24	72	12	5	17	8	8	16	191	161	352
45 " 50 "	28	19	47	9	10	19	11	4	15	184	183	367
50 " 55 "	37	38	75	10	7	17	13	9	22	215	214	429
55 " 60 "	34	34	68	6	3	9	18	2	20	221	162	383
60 " 65 "	46	25	71	14	4	18	26	13	39	155	123	278
65 " 70 "	18	12	30	4	...	4	15	12	27	75	69	144
70 " 75 "	18	17	35	4	2	6	13	8	21	33	41	74
75 " 80 "	14	2	16	1	...	1	13	4	17	30	22	52
80 " 85 "	4	4	8	...	...	...	1	5	6	12	12	24
85 " 90 "	3	...	3	1	...	1	2	...	2	10	4	14
90 " 100 "	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Unkown	28	33	61	9	9	18	10	7	17	208	178	386
Total	543	413	956	153	102	255	177	94	271	2,161	1,877	4,038

TABLE VIII.—Return of Patients on Probation during 1893.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Out on probation on 1st January, 1893	68	106	174
Allowed out during the year	158	183	341
Total	226	289	515
Recovered :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	22	27	49
Of those allowed out during the present year	45	37	82
Total	67	64	131
Died :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	1	1	2
Of those allowed out during the present year	11	3	14
Total	12	4	16
Written off the books under section 87 of Act 1113 :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	16	31	47
Of those allowed out during the present year	7	10	17
Total	23	41	64
Returned to the Asylum at expiration of probation :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	16	16	32
Of those allowed out during the present year	47	63	110
Total	63	79	142
Remaining under care out of the Asylum on 31st December, 1893	61	101	162

TABLE IX.—Return of Patients Boarded out during 1893.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Boarded out 1st January, 1893	6	14	20
Allowed out during the year	7	8	15
Total	13	22	35
Returned to the Asylum :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	1	3	4
Of those allowed out during the present year	2	3	5
Total	3	6	9
Boarded out on 31st December, 1893	10	16	26

TABLE X.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1893.

		Yarra Bend.	Kew.	Idiot Asylum. Kew.	Ararat.	Bechworth.	Sunbury.	Ballarat.	Total.
Lunatics sent to the Asylums by their friends	{ Male	26	49	3	6	1	...	...	85
	{ Female	32	81	7	8	2	...	...	130
" " by the police	{ Male	66	121	8	50	13	...	...	258
	{ Female	34	73	2	31	7	...	...	147
" received from Benevolent Asylums	{ Male	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
	{ Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Hospitals	{ Male	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
	{ Female	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " Gaols	{ Male	20	...	...	11	4	...	...	35
	{ Female	15	1	...	1	...	...	...	17
" " all other public institutions (including transfers)	{ Male	4	4	4	...	21	12	98	143
	{ Female	6	5	3	...	10	6	82	112
Total		206	336	27	107	58	18	180	932
Escaped patients retaken		7	5	...	4	4	3	1	24
Total admissions		213	341	27	111	62	21	181	956

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

Birthplaces.	Religious Persuasions.										Total.
	Protestant.					Roman Catholic.	Pagan.	Hebrew.	Mohammedan.	Unascertained.	
	Church of England.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan.	Lutheran.	Other Protestant Denominations.						
Victoria	74	37	37	1	20	73	...	...	...	4	246
Other Colonies and British Possessions	14	5	5	...	3	9	...	...	2	1	39
England	88	4	11	...	14	10	...	2	...	2	131
Scotland	2	39	1	...	4	2	...	...	...	2	50
Ireland	17	5	...	...	2	89	...	...	...	2	115
France	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
Germany	1	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	8
China ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	8
Other Countries ...	5	1	...	2	...	7	...	1	...	2	18
Not known	16	14	6	2	5	8	...	...	...	11	62
Total	219	105	60	11	49	199	8	3	2	24	680

TABLE XII.—Showing the Average Number during the Year of Patients employed, of Patients attending Amusements, and of Patients attending Divine Service.

Particulars.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Workshops (Male)—			
Blacksmiths	7	...	7
Carpenters	14	...	14
Mattress-makers ...	9	53	62
Shoemakers	27	...	27
Tailors	18	4	22
Painters	16	...	16
Basket-makers	4	...	4
Mat-makers	13	...	13
Engineers	2	...	2
In the Workshops (Female)—			
Sewing (making up and repairing clothing)	...	295	295
Fancy work ... ..	...	65	65
Mattress making ...	...	15	15
Miscellaneous occupations—			
Working on the farm	162	...	162
" in the garden	101	...	101
" in the kitchen	45	...	45
" in the store	8	...	8
" in the laundry	...	246	246
" in the wards and airing courts	434	383	817
" as servants at private quarters	28	21	49
" on roads and ornamental grounds	62	...	62
" in the mess-rooms	10	4	14
Other work about the establishment	106	79	185
Amusements—			
Balls and concerts ...	574	455	1,029
Billiards and reading rooms	...	...	...
Cards, chess, dominoes, &c.	928	195	1,123
Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis	...	...	...
Walking and driving	538	440	978
Attending divine service ...	617	486	1,103
" school	77	30	107

TABLE XIII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Department of Hospitals for Insane during the Year 1893.

Receipts.						Amount.		
						£	s.	d.
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at—								
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	2,788	19	6
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	5,660	10	10
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,334	18	4
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,165	0	1
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	828	13	1
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	100	13	11
Amount of fines	...	...	...	...	...	51	2	6
„ sales	...	...	...	...	...	1,005	5	11
Miscellaneous collections	...	...	...	...	...	28	9	5
Total	...	...	...	...	...	12,963	13	7

Expenditure.						Amount.		
						£	s.	d.
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	2,572	7	1
Maintenance at—								
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	22,754	4	4
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	28,609	15	6
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	20,076	14	10
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	18,165	11	11
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	13,149	9	10
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	3,132	13	8
Lunacy Ward, Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	214	5	0
„ „ Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	12	12	0
„ „ Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	62	0	0
Expenses in connexion with committal and transport of lunatics	...	...	...	...	...	1,616	3	8
„ „ boarded-out patients	...	...	...	...	...	397	3	0
Total	...	...	...	...	...	110,763	0	10

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 1893.

Lunatic Asylums.	Daily Average Number Resident.	Total Cost of Maintenance.		Salaries.		Fees to Official Visitors.		Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture.		Allowance to Chaplains.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Yarra Bend	780	22,754	4 4	12,402	5 10	...	...	1,254	17 0	70	0 0
Kew	1,096	28,609	15 6	13,931	17 3	...	...	2,151	18 2	70	0 0
Ararat	691	20,076	14 10	9,092	11 8	...	...	1,334	19 2	131	10 0
Beechworth	665	18,165	11 11	8,694	17 1	...	...	1,104	15 6	60	10 0
Sunbury	514	13,149	9 10	*6,319	10 10	...	...	1,320	7 4	72	0 0
Ballarat	114	3,132	13 8	1,102	7 0	...	...	729	11 6	...	...
General expenses	...	2,572	7 1	†2,147	7 2	111	17 6	...	...	...	...
Total	3,860	108,460	17 2	53,690	16 10	111	17 6	7,896	8 8	404	0 0

Lunatic Asylums.	Provisions and Extra Articles.		Stores, Purchase of Stock, Books, Amusements.		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	6,699	3 6	419	9 5	1,141	1 0	179	8 10	326	15 5	41	1 4	220	2 0
Kew	8,701	14 10	895	18 6	1,596	18 6	272	18 6	632	17 4	42	11 5	313	1 0
Ararat	7,125	15 10	510	0 8	1,431	1 0	104	8 1	137	16 0	42	5 2	166	7 3
Beechworth	6,094	10 3	507	7 4	1,136	2 4	80	6 3	334	10 8	13	17 4	138	15 2
Sunbury	3,857	19 0	408	15 4	925	7 0	71	4 7	38	19 9	1	8 9	133	17 3
Ballarat	451	3 9	468	10 6	197	19 11	97	17 2	9	19 7	6	14 2	68	10 1
General expenses	...	...	10	19 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	302	3 0
Total	32,930	7 2	3,221	1 2	6,428	9 9	806	3 5	1,480	18 9	147	18 2	1,342	15 9

* Includes £191 10s. paid to 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 1893.

Lunatic Asylums.	Daily Average Numbers 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 ...	780	22,754	4	4	2,940	19	8	0	6	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kew ...	1,096	28,609	15	6	6,089	9	10	0	4	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ararat ...	691	20,076	14	10	1,553	16	8	0	5	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Beechworth ...	665	18,165	11	11	1,296	15	4	0	5	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sunbury ...	514	13,149	9	10	973	3	1	0	4	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ballarat ...	114	3,132	13	8	109	9	0	0	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$			
Total ...	3,860	105,888	10	1	...			...	
General expenses ...	...	2,572	7	1	...			...	

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 Comferts.			Stimulants, Wines, Spirits, and Beer.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend ...	0	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	1	0	0	2
Kew ...	0	3	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	9	0	0	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	1	0	0	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ararat ...	0	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	9	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1
Beechworth ...	0	3	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sunbury ...	0	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ballarat ...	0	2	3	0	3	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	2	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
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 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	11	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	9	9
Kew ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	10	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	2	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	7	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ararat ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1	0	11	2	0	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	10	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beechworth ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1	0	10	6	0	0	9	0	9	9
Sunbury ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	9	10	0	0	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	9	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ballarat ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	4	0	15	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	15	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	9	3
General expenses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	3

TABLE XVI.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1893; in the Lunacy Wards at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong.

				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the wards 1st January, 1893	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Cases admitted:—									
First admissions	..	...	...	61	28	89			
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	28	89
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	30	92
Cases discharged:—									
Recovered	...	...	...	28	10	38			
Relieved	...	...	...	1	...	1			
Not improved	...	...	...	33	17	50			
Total cases discharged during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	27	89
Remaining in the wards 31st December, 1893	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Transferred to the Lunatic Asylums	...	...	..	...	...	...	33	17	50

TABLE XVII.—Showing the Number of Patients Visited and the Number of Miles Travelled by the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums during the Year 1893.

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—				
24th February	793	...	7		11th January...	691	...	320	
3rd March ...	797	...	7		15th June ...	696	...	114	
5th June ...	774	...	7		29th September	680	...	114	
7th June ...	775	...	7		21st December	679	...	114	
18th August ...	785	...	7				2,746		662
6th September	774	...	7		Beechworth—				
15th September	773	...	7		24th March ...	672	...	345	
20th October ...	770	...	7		23rd June ...	673	...	345	
16th November	762	...	7		25th August ...	663	...	345	
13th December	767	...	7		24th November	663	...	345	
19th December	767	...	7				2,671		1,380
		8,537		77					
Kew—					Sunbury—				
19th January ...	1,113	...	9		30th March ...	518	...	49½	
9th February	1,118	...	9		30th June ...	511	...	49½	
28th February	1,122	...	9		22nd September	512	...	49½	
14th April ...	1,097	...	9		21st November	510	...	49½	
3rd May ...	1,114	...	9		11th December	509	...	49½	
16th May ...	1,123	...	9				2,560		247
9th June ...	1,135	...	9		Ballarat—				
27th July ...	1,067	...	9		13th June ...	34	...	206	
2nd August ...	1,067	...	9		27th September	121	...	206	
23rd August ...	1,066	...	9		22nd December	176	...	206	
5th September	1,067	...	9				331		618
15th September	1,072	...	9						
13th October	1,081	...	9						
17th October	1,087	...	9						
14th November	1,089	...	9						
28th November	1,067	...	9						
		17,485		144	Total ...	...	34,330	...	3,128

Changes in the Distribution of the Insane.—Changes in the distribution of the Insane took place in the manner and to the extent shown in the subjoined table:—

In Yarra Bend, a decrease of	...	...	17
Kew, a decrease of ...	...	...	66
Cottages for Idiots, an increase of	...	...	18
Ararat, a decrease of	...	...	9
Beechworth, a decrease of	...	...	8
Sunbury, a decrease of	...	...	4
Ballarat, admitted ...	...	...	176

It will be seen that the re-distribution of patients here recorded resulted in somewhat relieving the overcrowded condition of the Metropolitan Asylums; and this was rendered practicable by the conversion of the Reformatory at Ballarat into a Hospital for the Insane. Altogether 180 patients have been transferred to this establishment, the first admissions taking place on the 30th May, followed by others from time to time up to the number above stated.

Admissions.—The number of persons admitted during the year was 674, the same number as were received into the Asylums in 1892. Of those admitted 565 were stated to have not previously been under Asylum treatment; of the remaining 109 patients, 79 had been once before in an Asylum, 15 twice, 11 thrice, 2 five times, and 2 six times.

The population of Victoria at the end of 1893 was estimated at 1,174,022. On this basis one out of every 1,742 of the general population entered the Asylums, whilst last year the proportion was one to 1,732.

Discharges.—There were discharged as recovered during the year 255 patients, and 65 as relieved. In addition to these, the names of 271 patients who died, and of 281 not improved, were removed from the Asylum books, making a total of 872 names written off. Of the 281 described as not improved, 252 had been transferred between the various Asylums, and 29 had at different times effected their escape.

Recoveries.—The number of patients returned as recovered was 153 men and 102 women, giving a rate of 39·84 per cent. for men, and 34·46 for women, or an average of 37·5 per cent. for both sexes. The average of recoveries for both sexes for the last 11 years was 44·91 per cent., so that the present year compares unfavorably in this respect with former years. It is, however, to be noticed that, during the year now under review, a relatively large number of patients left the Asylums as relieved, 65 names written off in 1893, coming under this category as compared with 42 such cases in 1892. This fact would in some degree serve to explain the unfavorable aspect of the present year's return.

Mortality.—On the other hand the percentage of deaths in 1893 has been comparatively small, or at the rate of 7·02 per cent. as against 7·59 per cent. in 1892, and 7·11 per cent. for the past 11 years. The actual number of patients who died during the year was 271, whilst 283 deaths were recorded in 1892.

Casualties.—The usual record of minor accidents is presented throughout the Asylums, but only one casualty calls here for particular notice. At Yarra Bend, on 26th October, a female patient escaped from the observation of her attendant, and, secreting herself in a bath-room, was there found, soon after being missed, hanging from an iron pipe, life extinct. The occurrence formed the subject of a coronial inquiry, the jury returning a verdict of "Committed suicide by hanging herself." No reflection was cast on the conduct of the warder in charge of the patient. The Medical Superintendent did not, however, entirely acquit the officer of blame; but, recognising the existence of mitigating circumstances, he decided that the imposition of a small fine would meet the case.

Probation.—At the beginning of the year 174 patients were absent from the Asylums with relatives or friends, under section 87 of the Lunacy Act. In the course of the year 341 patients were taken out under the same conditions, making a total of 515 patients so removed. Of these, 131 recovered, 16 died, 64 having exceeded their leave, were written off the books, and 142 returned to the Asylums, leaving 162 out on probation at the end of the year.

Boarding Out.—Power was given by legal enactment, in 1888, to hand over suitable patients to the care of strangers, who should receive payment on a fixed scale for the trouble and expense attached to the duty they undertook. The system has been pursued with most encouraging results in other countries, but, judging from past experience, it would appear that in Victoria social or other conditions are incompatible with the development to any large extent of the scheme. As a fact, very few applications are received from persons desirous of boarding out Asylum inmates, and at the end of the year only 26 patients were absent from the Asylums under the regulations.

Idiot Cottages.—This portion of the establishment at Kew is fully occupied, the inmates ranging in age from children to adults. The numbers now are 89 males and 55 females. Mental deficiency characterizes all these patients, the degree of intelligence varying from almost total mental vacuity up to a condition bordering on sanity. A course of training, directed to ascertain and develop their faculties, is persevered with, and a fair measure of success has rewarded these efforts to ameliorate their condition. Objectionable habits have been overcome, health improved, and some capacity for engaging in useful occupation has, in many instances, been acquired.

Staff.—With a view to meet the policy of retrenchment adopted by the Government, a considerable reduction has been made in the strength of the warders' staff. For some years past the proportion of warders to patients had been as 1 to 10,

and in those Asylums where cottages had been introduced additional warders were allowed to cope with the increased difficulty of supervision involved in the change. With a substantial curtailment of leave, it was found practicable to gradually reduce the staff by 33 male and 21 female warders. The staff now stands at a uniform strength of 1 warder to 10 patients, irrespective of the number of detached buildings at each Asylum, Sunbury forming an exception, however, inasmuch as here there is only 1 warder to every 12 patients. So far, no serious inconvenience has been experienced in conducting the Asylums under these altered conditions.

The services of a medical officer were dispensed with at Yarra Bend, and the Dispenser at Kew was called upon to officiate at Yarra Bend also.

A further economy has been effected in a reduction of the scale of pay for warders newly entering the service, and officers who had reached the regulation age of 60 were called upon to retire on superannuation allowances, and replaced by juniors at the lower rates of pay. The conduct of the staff has been generally satisfactory, though a grave scandal at Kew led to the trial before the Supreme Court of one male warder, who was sentenced to a term of imprisonment. A subsequent inquiry by the Public Service Board resulted in the dismissal of three others. In other instances, where negligence or other irregularities on the part of warders came under the observation of their superior officers, inquiries were held by the Superintendents, and such punishment inflicted as was thought to be called for.

Accommodation.—For many years the want of adequate accommodation has been a cause of uneasiness to the Asylum authorities. The acquirement of the Ballarat Reformatory has now overcome this difficulty; and, with the completion of the new buildings at Sunbury, will dispose of any danger of overcrowding for a number of years to come. The Ballarat establishment has already been the means of relieving the crowded condition of the Metropolitan Asylums to the extent of 180 patients, and there is still room there for 100 more. When these have been transferred, the Superintendent at Kew will at length be enabled to restore the day-rooms of that Asylum to their original purpose instead of being under the necessity of using them as dormitories.

The additions at Sunbury are planned to accommodate more than 200 patients, they are nearly finished, and will probably be opened during the ensuing year. As the prospect of having an Asylum for paying patients provided is remote, the question arises whether the buildings last mentioned might not be made available for this purpose, for which, in many respects, they are well adapted. The criminal lunatics are still at Ararat under the same arrangements as have prevailed for the past seven years.

Cost of Maintenance.—The sum of £110,763 os. 10d. was expended in the maintenance of Lunatic Asylums for the year 1893. This amount excludes expenditure on new buildings, alterations, repairs, purchase of furniture, tools, &c., items which come under the control of the Public Works Department. Expenses of the Inspector's Office, of arrest and committal of lunatics, of boarded-out patients, and allowances to general hospitals for the temporary care of lunatics, make a total of £4,874 10s. 9d. By deducting this sum, as not directly connected with the maintenance charge, the total expenditure is reduced to £105,888 10s. 1d., and a weekly rate of 10s. 6½d. is shown.

The Master-in-Lunacy collected from estates and relatives, £11,878 15s. 9d., and fines, sales of surplus stock, and refunds yielded £1,084 17s. 10d. These amounts being paid into the Treasury further reduced the maintenance rate to 9s. 3d. a week per patient; and yet a better result would have been obtained but for the expenses incurred in opening the Ballarat Asylum and furnishing new wards at Sunbury. A claim for £3,334 3s. 5d., made by contractors and allowed, as reimbursement for losses due to the imposition of the stock tax after the acceptance of contracts, correspondingly increased the maintenance rate, which was, nevertheless, lower than usual. This result is, in great measure, due to the moderate rate at which contractors tendered, to savings in salaries, to the withdrawal of allowances to official visitors, to the restricted use of stimulants throughout the Asylums, and to economy in use of fuel and light.

General Remarks.—During the year a large number of patients have experienced the benefit of change by being transferred to different Asylums. The new institution, in particular, at Ballarat, was the field of a large movement of this kind. The Medical Officer in charge reports that many of the patients received, who reached the Asylum in a very weak state, soon improved in physical condition, and are now in robust health.

None of the Asylums are yet in a position to deal satisfactorily with a serious outbreak of fire. Generally the available force of water is inadequate, and in some instances the piping is too small and, through long use, is becoming corroded. Some years ago Mr. Stein, by direction, reported on the measures he considered necessary to place the Asylums in greater safety as regards danger from fire. His suggestions would have entailed a considerable outlay to fully carry out, and they were allowed, for the most part, to remain in abeyance. Provision is, however, to be made on the Estimates for carrying out these very necessary works.

At all the Asylums patients are allowed the opportunity of attending Divine Service, conducted by clergymen of various denominations.

The means of recreation for the inmates show little change; dances, concerts, amateur theatricals, libraries fairly furnished with books and periodicals, games for the house, and out-door amusements, form a list which does not invite or even admit of great extension. The general good health of the patients is the best testimony to the favorable nature of the sanitary conditions in which they live.

The practice of restraint by mechanical appliances has been limited to such patients as could not otherwise be dealt with, having a due regard to the interests of the patients themselves, or others associated with them.

The record of seclusion has been reduced to a minimum, in more than one Asylum not a single entry appearing in the seclusion book.

The old wooden buildings at Sunbury still continue an eye-sore and a menace to the safety of the establishment. They have been condemned as unfit for their present purpose years ago, and it is to be hoped they will be demolished as soon as the new wards are opened.

A new water reservoir to hold 50,000 gallons has been completed at Sunbury, and should insure an ample supply of water to the Asylum, though, to be serviceable for extinguishing fire, it would have to be supplemented by elevated tanks.

Useful occupation continues to be found for such patients as can be induced to work, with good results in a sanitary as well as an economical point of view. The number of persons so engaged, as well as the nature of their labours, are very considerable. (See Table XII.)

Contractors have on the whole fulfilled their undertakings in a satisfactory manner, though there have not been wanting complaints of inferior articles supplied, as well as delays in forwarding their goods, causing loss and inconvenience to the Asylums.

At Kew, a course of clinical instruction was given to a number of students from the Melbourne University.

I visited the Asylums regularly, and in the course of my observations found good reason to be satisfied with the care and intelligence brought to bear on their responsible duties by the leading staff, as well as the majority of the subordinate officers.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. T. DICK,
Inspector of Lunatic Asylums.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary,
&c., &c., &c.