

1895.
VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

R E P O R T

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1894.

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, 8th May, 1895.

SIR,

I do myself the honour to furnish for your information, in compliance with the provisions of the Lunacy Act, the accompanying Report on the Lunatic Asylums of Victoria for the year 1894.

The numbers and distribution of the insane in Victoria on 31st December, 1894, are shown in the subjoined tabular statement.

It will be seen on reference to this statement that there were 4,116 registered insane persons under official cognizance on that date, being 74 in excess of the number on 31st December, 1893. This is the lowest annual increase of officially known lunatics for some years past. The increases for the past five years were as follows:—1890, 142; 1891, 121; 1892, 87; 1893, 84; 1894, 74.

The daily average number of patients resident was 3,912, as compared with 3,860 for the preceding year, an increase of 52.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on the 31st December, 1894.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Public Lunatic Asylums at—			
Yarra Bend	435	356	791
Kew	497	438	935
Kew Idiot Asylum	88	62	150
Ararat	389	279	668
Beechworth	366	258	624
Sunbury	231	309	540
Ballarat	118	87	205
Out on probation from—			
Yarra Bend	14	23	37
Kew	45	66	111
Kew Idiot Asylum	3	1	4
Ararat	2	3	5
Beechworth	3	7	10
Sunbury ... ..	...	2	2
Ballarat	1	4	5
Boarded out from—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	3	3
Kew	3	4	7
Kew Idiot Asylum	1	...	1
Ararat ... ..	...	5	5
Beechworth	5	1	6
Sunbury	4	3	7
Ballarat ... ..	...	...	...
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums			
	2,205	1,911	4,116
In the lunacy ward at—			
Bendigo ... ..	...	...	...
Castlemaine ... ..	...	...	...
Geelong ... ..	...	...	...
In licensed house			

Total number of registered lunatics in the colony			
	2,205	1,911	4,116

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1894, in the Public Lunatic Asylums.

				Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylums, 1st January, 1894	...	...	...	2,161	1,877	4,038
Cases admitted :—						
First admissions	435	330	765			
Not first admissions	56	45	101			
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	491	375	866
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	2,652	2,252	4,904
Cases discharged :—						
Recovered	124	97	221			
Relieved	21	43	64			
Not improved	95	83	178			
Died	207	118	325			
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	447	341	788
Remaining in the Asylums, 31st December, 1894 (including patients on leave and boarded out)	...	...	...	2,205	1,911	4,116
Average number resident during the year	...	...	...	2,119	1,793	3,912
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	2,561	2,169	4,730
Persons admitted	...	...	...	400	292	692
Persons recovered	...	...	...	123	97	220
Transferred from one asylum to another	...	...	...	69	80	149
Escaped	...	...	...	26	3	29
Retaken	...	...	...	20	2	22

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1894 to the Public Lunatic Asylums.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	43	55	98
Have had two attacks	16	9	25
Have had three attacks	3	8	11
Have had four attacks	3	2	5
Have had six attacks	1	...	1
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 since 1st January, 1882.

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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	2,161	1,877	4,038	2,112	1,748	3,860	39.84	34.46	37.50	8.38	5.37	7.02
1894	402	293	695	124	97	221	21	43	64	...	...	...	207	2,205	1,911	4,116	2,119	1,793	3,912	30.84	33.11	31.80	9.77	6.58	8.31
Totals and Averages	4,656	3,500	8,156	1,873	1,648	3,521	220	245	465	...	...	...	2,057	1,089	3,146	...	23,971	19,678	43,651	40.23	47.09	43.17	8.58	5.53	7.21

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 ... ..	...	...	...	4,163	3,489	7,652	29'34	34'67	31'55
Relieved... ..	...	...	...	538	591	1,129	3'79	5'87	4'65
Not improved ... ..	...	...	...	2,969	2,113	5,082	20'92	20'99	20'95
Died ... ..	...	...	...	4,316	1,961	6,277	30'41	19'48	25'88
On probation and boarded out 31st December, 1894 ... ..	...	...	...	81	122	203	'57	1'21	'84
Remaining in the lunatic asylums on 31st December, 1894 ... ..	...	...	...	2,124	1,789	3,913	14'97	17'78	16'13
Total	14,191	10,065	24,256	14,191	10,065	24,256	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 1894.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month	11	2	13	17	7	24
1 month and under 3 months	20	17	37	17	10	27
3 months " 6 "	29	17	46	22	8	30
6 " " 9 "	21	14	35	17	7	24
9 " " 12 "	16	18	34	21	8	29
1 year and under 2 years	13	25	38	24	19	43
2 years " 3 "	6	2	8	12	10	22
3 " " 5 "	5	1	6	16	10	26
5 " " 7 "	2	...	2	13	6	19
7 " " 10 "	1	...	1	10	8	18
10 " " 12 " ... ..	...	1	1	5	4	9
12 " " 15 " ... ..	...	...	...	13	11	24
15 " " 20 " ... ..	...	...	...	3	3	6
20 " " 25 " ... ..	...	...	...	4	...	4
25 " " 30 " ... ..	...	...	...	9	6	15
30 " " 35 " ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1
35 " " 40 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	2
45 " " 50 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	2
Total	124	97	221	207	118	325

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died during the Year 1894, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1894.

Ages.	The Admissions.			Recovered.			The Deaths.			Patients Resident 31st December, 1894.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years	2	1	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	2
5 years and under 10 years	6	7	13	1	...	1	3	3	6	9	13	22
10 " 15 "	7	3	10	...	...	...	3	1	4	24	21	45
15 " 20 "	19	22	41	3	5	8	4	4	8	76	66	142
20 " 25 "	36	42	78	10	17	27	6	3	9	141	102	243
25 " 30 "	76	58	134	16	17	33	11	5	16	206	157	363
30 " 35 "	61	55	116	13	23	36	13	11	24	242	167	409
35 " 40 "	43	44	87	15	10	25	16	13	29	152	165	317
40 " 45 "	49	31	80	14	8	22	15	8	23	207	168	375
45 " 50 "	22	29	51	11	4	15	7	6	13	194	177	371
50 " 55 "	34	20	54	10	4	14	16	8	24	233	233	466
55 " 60 "	34	18	52	10	2	12	21	10	31	185	166	351
60 " 65 "	31	14	45	5	...	5	19	10	29	160	128	288
65 " 70 "	15	8	23	1	...	1	24	10	34	82	85	167
70 " 75 "	18	7	25	2	...	2	18	12	30	42	41	83
75 " 80 "	4	4	8	...	...	...	9	4	13	26	23	49
80 " 85 "	2	...	2	...	...	...	6	1	7	15	16	31
85 " 90 "	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	1	4
90 " 100 "	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1
Unknown	30	12	42	13	7	20	14	8	22	206	181	387
Total	491	375	866	124	97	221	207	118	325	2,205	1,911	4,116

TABLE VIII.—Return of Patients on Probation during 1894.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Out on probation on 1st January, 1894	61	101	162
Allowed out during the year	149	176	325
Total	210	277	487
Recovered and relieved :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	10	25	35
Of those allowed out during the present year	37	33	70
Total	47	58	105
Died :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	3	1	4
Of those allowed out during the present year	6	3	9
Total	9	4	13
Written off the books under section 89 of Act 1113 :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	18	32	50
Of those allowed out during the present year	3	10	13
Total	21	42	63
Returned to Asylum at expiration of probation :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	14	23	37
Of those allowed out during the present year	51	44	95
Total	65	67	132
Remaining under care out of the Asylum on 31st December, 1894 ...	68	106	174

TABLE IX.—Return of Patients Boarded out during 1894.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Boarded out on 1st January, 1894	10	16	26
Allowed out during the year	10	4	14
Total	20	20	40
Escaped whilst boarded out	3	...	3
Returned to the Asylum by their guardians	4	4	8
Boarded out on 31st December, 1894	13	16	29

TABLE X.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1894.

	Yarra Bend.	Kew.	Idiot Asylum, Kew.	Ararat.	Beechworth.	Sunbury.	Ballarat.	Total.
Lunatics sent to the Asylums by their friends	{ Male 29	70	5	3	3	...	3	113
	{ Female 36	85	9	8	1	...	5	144
" " by the police	{ Male 104	98	3	33	9	...	...	247
	{ Female 42	55	1	16	9	...	...	123
" received from Benevolent Asylums	{ Male 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	{ Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Hospitals	{ Male 1	5	...	...	...	...	...	6
	{ Female 1	5	1	...	...	...	...	7
" " Gaols	{ Male 21	1	...	4	1	...	...	27
	{ Female 12	...	...	1	...	...	...	13
" " all other public institutions (including transfers)	{ Male 6	5	9	4	...	12	40	76
	{ Female 4	3	7	1	...	63	8	86
Total	258	327	35	70	23	75	56	844
Escaped patients retaken	3	4	1	6	4	2	2	22
Total admissions	261	331	36	76	27	77	58	866

TABLE XI.—Showing the Nationalities and Religious Persuasions of those admitted for the first time during the Year 1894.

Birthplaces.	Religious Persuasions.										Total.
	Protestant.					Roman Catholic.	Pagan.	Hebrew.	Greek.	Unascertained.	
	Church of England.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan.	Lutheran.	Other Protestant Denominations.						
Victoria	91	38	30	...	16	66	...	3	...	3	247
Other Colonies and British Possessions	16	1	6	...	4	8	...	...	...	4	39
England	97	6	17	1	19	12	...	2	...	4	158
Scotland	3	26	1	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	35
Ireland	7	3	...	...	2	73	...	...	...	...	85
France ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Germany	2	...	...	5	1	2	...	...	...	...	10
China ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	12	...	...	1	14
Other Countries	5	...	...	6	3	4	...	...	1	4	23
Not known	22	6	4	1	6	28	...	...	...	17	84
Total	243	80	59	13	54	195	12	5	1	33	695

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

Particulars.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Workshops (Male)—			
Blacksmiths	10	...	10
Carpenters	18	...	18
Mattress-makers	1	20	21
Shoemakers	25	...	25
Tailors	22	...	22
Engineers	2	...	2
Painters	11	...	11
Basket-makers	4	...	4
Mat-makers	17	...	17
Frenchpolisher	1	...	1
In the Workshops (Female)			
Sewing (making up and repairing clothing)	...	77	77
Fancy work ... ..	...	44	44
Miscellaneous occupations—			
Working on the farm	174	...	174
" in the garden	97	...	97
" in the kitchen	45	...	45
" in the store	9	...	9
" in the laundry	9	247	256
" in the wards and airing courts	490	490	980
" as servants at private quarters	25	19	44
" on roads and ornamental grounds	60	...	60
" in mess-rooms	9	4	13
Other work about the establishment	129	5	134
Amusements—			
Balls and concerts	622	477	1,099
Billiards and reading room	364	65	429
Cards, chess, dominoes, &c.	333	125	458
Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis	301	92	393
Walking and driving	534	357	891
School	81	55	136
Attending divine service	675	626	1,301

TABLE XIII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Department of Hospitals for Insane during the Year 1894.

Receipts.						Amount.		
						£	s.	d.
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at—								
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	2,505	19	10
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	5,660	14	8
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,246	14	7
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,348	9	9
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	675	13	0
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	385	19	8
Lunacy Wards, Bendigo and Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	5	17	2
Amount of fines	...	...	...	...	...	44	18	0
„ sales	...	...	...	...	...	958	8	6
Miscellaneous collections	...	...	...	...	...	11	0	5
Total	...	...	...	...	...	12,843	15	7

Expenditure.						Amount.		
						£	s.	d.
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	2,131	18	1
Maintenance at—								
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	19,826	8	8
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	25,761	15	1
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	17,727	11	1
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	16,230	19	11
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	12,154	8	1
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	5,409	5	5
Lunacy Ward, Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	187	10	0
„ „ Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	17	11	0
„ „ Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	50	5	0
Expenses in connexion with committal and transport of lunatics	...	...	...	...	...	1,543	15	8
„ „ boarded-out patients	...	...	...	...	...	476	17	4
Total	...	...	...	...	...	101,518	5	4

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 1894.

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	768	19,826	8 8	11,086	9 9	...	...	1,253	11 2	70	0 0
Kew	1,104	25,761	15 1	13,196	2 6	...	...	2,229	18 8	70	0 0
Ararat	673	17,727	11 1	8,600	9 1	...	...	1,592	19 1	131	10 0
Beechworth	644	16,230	19 11	8,119	17 0	...	...	1,156	4 8	60	10 0
Sunbury	531	12,154	8 1	*6,172	3 5	...	...	1,176	2 7	72	0 0
Ballarat	192	5,409	5 5	2,310	16 7	...	...	679	18 2	60	0 0
General expenses	...	2,131	18 1	†1,834	8 9	111	5 0	...	...	...	...
Total	3,912	99,242	6 4	51,320	7 1	111	5 0	8,088	14 4	464	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	5,240	0 2	403	11 11	998	8 1	194	2 8	271	19 5	58	2 4	250	3 2
Kew	7,124	8 9	772	18 2	1,409	12 5	244	4 1	403	11 1	48	11 4	262	8 1
Ararat	5,323	7 11	455	11 10	1,288	0 9	98	16 10	47	5 0	41	7 0	148	3 7
Beechworth	4,798	16 11	290	1 2	1,313	18 0	78	17 1	235	0 5	14	10 11	163	3 9
Sunbury	3,118	15 1	438	8 0	901	10 8	88	3 11	7	10 0	2	9 2	177	5 3
Ballarat	1,358	5 2	257	10 0	438	13 9	48	15 6	29	12 6	55	0 8	170	13 1
General expenses	...	...	8	2 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	178	1 11
Total	26,963	14 0	2,626	3 6	6,350	3 8	753	0 1	994	18 5	220	1 5	1,349	18 10

* Includes £109 13s. 4d. paid to Relieving Medical Officer, Sunbury.

† Includes £65 paid to Dr. Dick in lieu of quarters, &c.

TABLE XV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients for the Year 1894.

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	768	19,826	8	8	2,653	14	0	0	5	6½	0	0	0½
Kew	1,104	25,761	15	1	6,040	10	4	0	4	7¼	0	0	0¼
Ararat	673	17,727	11	1	1,378	7	7	0	4	11	0	0	1
Beechworth	644	16,230	19	11	1,440	12	10	0	4	10¼	0	0	0½
Sunbury	531	12,154	8	1	881	9	7	0	4	5½	0	0	0½
Ballarat	192	5,409	5	5	443	4	1	0	4	7½	0	0	1½
Total	3,912	97,110	8	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	2,131	18	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 Comforts.			Stimulants, Wines, Spirits, and Beer.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend	0	2	7½	0	0	7½	0	0	2½	0	0	6	0	0	1¼	0	0	1½
Kew	0	2	5¾	0	0	9¼	0	0	3¼	0	0	5¾	0	0	1	0	0	1¾
Ararat	0	3	0½	0	0	11	0	0	3	0	0	8¾	0	0	0¾	0	0	0¾
Beechworth	0	2	10¼	0	0	8¼	0	0	2	0	0	9¼	0	0	0¾	0	0	1¾
Sunbury	0	2	3	0	0	10¼	0	0	3¾	0	0	7¾	0	0	0¾	0	0	0¾
Ballarat	0	2	8¾	0	1	4¼	0	0	6¼	0	0	10½	0	0	1¼	0	0	0¾
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	0¼	0	0	1½	0	9	11	0	1	3¾	0	8	7¼
Kew	0	0	0¼	0	0	1	0	8	11½	0	2	1¼	0	6	10¼
Ararat	0	0	0¼	0	0	1	0	10	1½	0	0	9¼	0	9	4¼
Beechworth	0	0	0¼	0	0	1¼	0	9	8¼	0	0	10¼	0	8	10
Sunbury	0	0	0¼	0	0	1½	0	8	9½	0	0	7½	0	8	2
Ballarat	0	0	1¼	0	0	4	0	10	10	0	0	10½	0	9	11½
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	9	6½	0	1	3	0	8	3½
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	2½

TABLE XVI.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1894, in Lunacy Wards at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong.

	—			Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
						
In the wards 1st January, 1894	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Cases admitted :—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
First admissions	..	...	...	72	31	103	...	...	...
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	31	103
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	34	106
Cases discharged :—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Recovered	...	...	...	28	12	40	...	...	...
Not improved	...	...	...	44	21	65	...	...	...
Died	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	34	106
Remaining in the Asylum 31st December, 1894	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Transferred to the Lunatic Asylums	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	21	65

TABLE XVII.—Showing the Number of Patients Visited and the Number of Miles Travelled by the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums during the Year 1894.

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—					Beechworth—				
21st March ...	776	...	7		23rd February	656	...	345	
18th May ...	779	...	7		29th May ...	653	...	345	
18th August ...	730	...	2		23rd August ...	634	...	345	
19th September	747	...	2		6th December	627	...	345	
28th December	765	...	2				2,570		1,380
		3,797		20	Sunbury—				
Kew*—					19th March ...	496	...	49½	
9th January ...	1,066	...	9		15th May ...	494	...	49½	
8th February	1,083	...	9		5th June ...	493	...	49½	
16th February	1,087	...	9		13th September	547	...	49½	
21st February	1,092	...	9		25th September	546	...	49½	
2nd March ...	1,090	...	9		20th October ...	545	...	49½	
14th March ...	1,097	...	9		27th December	541	...	49½	
16th May ...	1,109	...	9				3,662		346
		7,624		63	Ballarat—				
Ararat—					4th April ...	184	...	206	
5th April ...	676	...	114		22nd May ...	203	...	206	
23rd May ...	675	...	114		13th December	207	...	206	
5th September	664	...	320				594		618
22nd November	672	...	320						
		2,687		868	Total ...	...	20,934	...	3,295

* Inspected by Board of Official Visitors after 1st June, 1894.

Changes in the Distribution of the Insane—

In Yarra Bend, an increase of	...	...	21
Kew, an increase of	...	...	15
Cottages for Idiots, an increase of	...	...	6
Ararat, a decrease of	...	...	11
Beechworth, a decrease of	...	...	31
Sunbury, an increase of	...	...	34
Ballarat, an increase of	...	...	29

Overcrowding at the Metropolitan Asylums, which receive nearly all the new patients, was minimized by transfers to the Country Asylums, the new ward for refractory female patients at Sunbury alone providing accommodation for 64, about 50 of whom were transferred from Yarra Bend and Kew.

Admissions.—The number of persons admitted during the year was 692, an increase of 18 on the admissions for 1893. Of these patients, 551 were reported as not having been at any previous time under Asylum treatment, while 141 were stated to have had previous attacks of insanity. Of this latter number, 98 had suffered once, 25 twice, 11 thrice, 5 four times, 1 six times, and 1 seven times.

The number of persons returned as having been admitted does not include those transferred from one Asylum to another during the year.

The estimated population of Victoria on 31st December, 1894, being 1,179,104, the number of persons entering the Asylums was equal to 1 to every 1,704 of the general population. A corresponding comparison for last year gives 1 patient to 1,742 of the population. In New South Wales, in 1894, the proportion was 1 in 1,719.

At the end of the year there was 1 registered insane person in Victoria for every 286 of the estimated population, as compared with 1 in every 290 for the previous year. The proportion in England was 1 to 326, and in New South Wales 1 in 348.

Discharges.—During the year the names of 788 patients were written off the books. Of these 221 had recovered, 64 were relieved, 325 had died, and 178 had "not improved," this last number including the patients transferred between the different Asylums and those patients who had escaped.

Recoveries.—The proportion per cent. of recoveries to admissions fell to 31·80. This is the lowest rate recorded for many years, and 12·43 per cent. below the average for the previous twelve years, as shown in Table IV. The low recovery rate seems to be due chiefly to the large number of persons admitted suffering from general paralysis, senile insanity, and other incurable forms of mental disease. The 64 patients discharged “relieved” were written off the books when on probation, and many of those would no doubt have been certified as having recovered if they had been presented at the Asylum for examination, and the recovery rate would have been correspondingly increased.

Mortality.—The patients who died numbered 325, an increase of 54 on the numbers recorded last year. The proportion per cent. of deaths to the average daily number of patients resident was 8·31, an advance on the rate for last year, which was 7·02 per cent. The health of the patients has been generally satisfactory. The increase in mortality for 1894, like the decrease in the recovery rate, is in a great measure accounted for by the number of cases of general paralysis admitted in addition to other fatal forms of disease.

Casualties.—One patient received fatal injuries from another at the Beechworth Asylum. An inquest was held, and no blame was attached to the staff. The other accidents were not unusually numerous, and do not call for special mention.

Probation.—On the 1st January, 1894, 162 patients were absent from Asylums on probation, and 325 other patients were added to this number during the year. Of these 487 patients, 105 were finally discharged as recovered, 13 died, 63 having exceeded their leave were written off the books, 132 returned to the Asylums after varying periods of absence, and 174 were still on probation at the close of the year. Under this system the patients are virtually “boarded out” with their friends without any cost to the State, and if they prove unfit for discharge can be returned to the Asylums without expense, no fresh order or medical certificates being required.

Boarding Out.—At the commencement of the year 10 male and 16 female patients were under the care of paid guardians in private dwellings. On the 31st December, 1894, the numbers were 13 males and 16 females, an increase of 3 men. No considerable extension of this system can be looked for at present.

Fire Extinction.—Safeguards against the spread of fire have been introduced at all the Asylums, but in the present condition of the buildings there is always great danger should a fire once get a fair start, the water supply being totally inadequate. The defective water pressure should be remedied without delay.

Works and Buildings.—No new work of importance has been undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year, small repairs only having been executed.

Staff.—The general conduct of the staff has been satisfactory. It was thought advisable to follow the example of New South Wales and other countries in arranging for a systematic plan for training the attendants as nurses of the insane. The Hon. the Chief Secretary approved of the recommendation made by the Inspector on the subject, and the new system will be carried out in its entirety with as little delay as possible.

Dr. Dick, who had filled the position of Inspector of Lunatic Asylums for more than eleven years, retired from the public service in June on a pension. He carried with him the best wishes and kindly feeling of the Department. The Medical Superintendent of Kew was promoted to the vacant office in addition to his Superintendent's position.

Mr. D. C. O'Connor, Secretary to the Beechworth Asylum, also took advantage of the Public Officers' Retirement Act and resigned from the service, closing a long and faithful career of 36 years in the Department.

Dr. Player was appointed Resident Junior Medical Officer at Sunbury.

Cost of Maintenance.—The total expenditure of the Department for the year amounted to £101,518 5s. 4d., or £9,244 15s. 6d. less than the previous year, notwithstanding an increase of 52 patients in the daily average numbers resident.

Charges not directly incurred at the asylums have to be deducted from the above total, amounting to £4,407 17s. 1d., and the actual outlay then in maintaining the six Asylums amounts to £97,110 8s. 3d., which gives a weekly rate of 9s. 6½d. per patient, as against 10s. 6½d. in 1893. This reduction in the cost of maintenance of 1s. per week represents a saving of £10,171 4s. for the year. The maintenance rate, however, is further reduced to 8s. 3d. per patient weekly, by credit being taken for the payments which the Master-in-Lunacy states he has received from the estates of patients, £11,823 11s. 6d., and for revenue received from the Asylums as proceeds of sales, fines, &c., £1,014 6s. 11d.—totaling £12,837 18s. 5d. The weekly rate in New South Wales, last year, was 8s. 11d.

According to the last Report to hand of the Commissioners in Lunacy, the average weekly cost of maintaining patients in England was as follows:—In county asylums, 8s. 3d.; in borough asylums, 9s. 6¾d.; in both taken together, 8s. 6¼d. These are stated to be the lowest rates ever shown in the Commissioners' Reports.

REMARKS.

Subjoined are reports on the condition of the several Asylums at the end of the year:—

Yarra Bend.—The female wards are clean, bright, and cheerful, and nothing but praise can be given for the way in which they are kept. The male division, however, contrasts unfavorably, and much is required in the way of brightening, and attention to small matters, such as decorations, which add so much to the comfort and usefulness of an hospital for the insane. Many of the newly-admitted male patients are now sent to the refractory ward and yard. This important question is under consideration, with the hope that some change can be effected without additional cost. The farm and garden have not been quite satisfactory, but since the appointment of the present farm bailiff the out-door work has been pushed on in a more active manner. New closets, sculleries, and bath-rooms are required, and a larger water main than the one now in use is one of the most necessary works asked for by the Department.

Kew.—The indoor closets and sculleries open directly into the wards, and should at an early date be replaced by more sanitary structures. Water has not yet been laid on to the new farm buildings.

Idiot Asylum.—This institution is much overcrowded, and, as it is feared the health of the children is endangered, the question of extension has become a very urgent one. The Asylum has been worked as a training school for feeble-minded children, and though there has been much difficulty in getting suitable attendants, the work has been carried on during the year with fairly good results.

Ararat.—The wards are in good order and well cared for. The painting and lime-washing deserve favorable mention. The supply of vegetables from the garden is good, and the farm seems to be worked in a careful manner. Wine is made for the use of the Asylum, and the Superintendent suggested the wine-making being carried out on a larger scale, so as to supply the whole Department. As this would cause additional expense, and there was some doubt of it being made to pay, it was thought best not to enlarge operations in this field of labour. Sanitary works have been carried out on a considerable scale, and the institution seems well protected against contagious disease. The water supply, however, is very far from being satisfactory.

Beechworth.—The avenue and grounds in front of the Asylum are well planted and kept in good order. Large quantities of fruit are grown in the gardens, but the supply of vegetables was not satisfactory. The Asylum farm should show considerably larger returns. The wards are not as bright and carefully looked after as would make them compare favorably with the other Asylums. It is to be regretted that only twelve Sunday religious services seem to have been held during the year. The advantage, from a medical stand-point, of such services is admitted by all experts, and the Superintendent has been urged to try and arrange for a service on each Sunday. The indoor closets and sculleries open directly on the wards, and are a source of danger to the patients and staff. The underground drains pass into the building without any air-break. These are now being altered by Asylum labour. The water supply is insufficient, and a serious fire could not be properly coped with.

Sunbury.—A new ward for female refractory patients has been opened, and has given considerable relief to the overcrowded town institutions. Four other blocks have been erected, but, in the absence of fences or boundary walls and furniture, cannot be occupied. Great attention has been given to rendering the old part of the Asylum bright and cheerful, and with gratifying results. The general way the farm and garden were worked seemed satisfactory, but by applying irrigation more freely larger returns might be obtained. The sanitary condition of the wards and airing yards is fairly good, but some general plan of dealing with all the drainage is much needed. The engagement of an outside medical man to help in the work of the Asylum was terminated, and a resident medical officer appointed. This change, which was effected without additional cost, adds much to the usefulness of the institution.

Ballarat.—The old Reformatory School buildings, which are here used as a Lunatic Asylum, are not very suitable for the care and treatment of insane persons, and present many difficulties in management. There is much to commend in the manner in which the work of the Asylum is being carried on. At one time the supply of vegetables was unsatisfactory, but a marked improvement has recently taken place. Additional water supply is very urgently required.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. V. McCREERY,
Inspector of Lunatic Asylums.

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