

1896.
—
VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

R E P O R T

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1895.

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, 1st June, 1896.

SIR,

I do myself the honour to furnish for your information, in compliance with the provisions of the Lunacy Act, a Report on the Lunatic Asylums of Victoria for the year 1895.

The numbers and distribution of the insane on 31st December, 1895, are shown in the subjoined tabular statement. It will be observed that there were 4,151 registered insane persons under official observation on that date, an increase of 35 over the number on 31st December, 1894. The increase varies annually, and this is the lowest shown in any year since 1885, when the number recorded was only 2.

The daily average number of patients resident was 3,929, as compared with 3,912 for the preceding year, being an increase of 17.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on the 31st December, 1895.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Public Lunatic Asylums at—			
Yarra Bend	434	367	801
Kew	522	421	943
Kew Idiot Asylum	103	68	171
Ararat	380	275	655
Beechworth	373	254	627
Sunbury	227	322	549
Ballarat	114	98	212
Out on probation from—			
Yarra Bend	14	23	37
Kew	36	59	95
Kew Idiot Asylum	4	2	6
Ararat ... ..	...	3	3
Beechworth	3	10	13
Sunbury ... ..	...	...	...
Ballarat ... ..	...	5	5
Boarded out from—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	3	3
Kew	3	9	12
Kew Idiot Asylum	2	1	3
Ararat ... ..	...	4	4
Beechworth	4	2	6
Sunbury	2	1	3
Ballarat ... ..	...	...	...
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums	2,221	1,927	4,148
In the lunacy ward at—			
Castlemaine ... ..	...	...	...
Bendigo	2	1	3
Geelong ... ..	...	...	...
In licensed house			
...
Total number of registered lunatics in the colony	2,223	1,928	4,151

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths in Asylums during the Year ending 31st December, 1895.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylums, 1st January, 1895	...	...	...	2,205	1,911	4,116			
Cases admitted :—									
First admissions	387	292	679						
Not first admissions	53	53	106						
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	440	345	785			
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	2,645	2,256	4,901			
Cases discharged :—									
Recovered	115	106	221						
Relieved	25	41	66						
Not improved	73	68	141						
Died...	211	114	325						
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	424	329	753			
Remaining in the Asylums, 31st December, 1895 (including those absent on trial and boarded out)	...	...	...	2,221	1,927	4,148			
Average number resident during the year	...	...	...	2,125	1,804	3,929			
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	2,579	2,187	4,766			
Persons admitted	...	...	...	374	276	650			
Persons recovered	...	...	...	114	105	219			
Transferred from one Asylum to another	...	...	...	52	67	119			
Escaped	...	...	...	23	1	24			
Retaken	...	...	...	11	1	12			

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1895.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	48	50	98
Have had two attacks	7	9	16
Have had three attacks	2	3	5
Have had four attacks	1	1	2
Have had five attacks	...	1	1
Have had nine 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 the 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	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
1894	402	293	695	124	97	221	21	43	64	...	...	...	207	118	325	2,205	1,911	4,116	2,119	1,793	3,912	30.84	33.11	31.80	9.77	6.58	8.31
1895	377	277	654	115	106	221	25	41	66	...	...	...	211	114	325	2,221	1,927	4,148	2,125	1,804	3,929	30.50	38.26	33.79	9.93	6.32	8.27
Total	5,033	3,777	8,810	1,988	1,754	3,742	245	286	531	2,268	1,203	3,471	26,096	21,482	47,580	39.50	46.43	42.47	8.69	5.60	7.29

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

	Admissions.			Numbers.			Number per 100 of Admissions.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged:—									
Recovered ... ..	...	...	...	4,278	3,595	7,873	29·24	34·54	31·44
Relieved ... ..	...	...	...	563	632	1,195	3·85	6·07	4·77
Not improved ... ..	...	...	...	3,042	2,181	5,223	20·79	20·95	20·86
Died ... ..	...	...	...	4,527	2,075	6,602	30·94	19·93	26·36
Out on trial and boarded out on 31st December, 1895 ... ..	...	...	...	68	122	190	·46	1·17	·76
Remaining ... ..	...	...	...	2,153	1,805	3,958	14·72	17·34	15·81
Total	14,631	10,410	25,041	14,631	10,410	25,041	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 1895.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month	3	...	3	20	4	24
1 month and under 3 months	22	11	33	18	10	28
3 months " 6 "	25	26	51	15	5	20
6 " " 9 "	14	16	30	22	4	26
9 " " 12 "	15	18	33	10	8	18
1 year and under 2 years	18	17	35	27	15	42
2 years " 3 "	8	9	17	19	12	31
3 " " 5 "	7	5	12	21	18	39
5 " " 7 "	1	2	3	11	5	16
7 " " 10 " ... ..	...	...	...	16	6	22
10 " " 12 " ... ..	...	1	1	6	2	8
12 " " 15 "	1	1	2	5	4	9
15 " " 20 " ... ..	...	...	...	9	9	18
20 " " 25 " ... ..	...	...	...	4	4	8
25 " " 30 " ... ..	...	...	...	5	8	13
30 " " 35 "	1	...	1	2	...	2
35 " " 40 " ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1
40 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	115	106	221	211	114	325

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died during the Year 1895, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1895.

Ages.	The Admissions.			Recovered.			The Deaths.			Patients Resident 31st December, 1895.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	7
5 years and under 10 years	4	7	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	14	22
10 " 15 "	7	3	10	...	1	1	...	...	...	30	23	53
15 " 20 "	10	17	27	2	2	4	...	2	2	88	69	157
20 " 25 "	34	39	73	13	11	24	4	7	11	140	102	242
25 " 30 "	58	40	98	22	9	31	7	5	12	203	149	352
30 " 35 "	66	51	117	15	27	42	20	6	26	228	176	404
35 " 40 "	43	38	81	13	13	26	18	5	23	192	178	370
40 " 45 "	26	19	45	9	6	15	17	8	25	168	147	315
45 " 50 "	29	28	57	7	12	19	17	4	21	179	191	370
50 " 55 "	26	19	45	6	8	14	20	8	28	232	227	459
55 " 60 "	18	15	33	7	6	13	13	12	25	196	179	375
60 " 65 "	19	19	38	6	2	8	21	15	36	153	125	278
65 " 70 "	13	9	22	3	1	4	13	12	25	98	92	190
70 " 75 "	14	6	20	1	...	1	19	10	29	40	36	76
75 " 80 "	13	7	20	...	1	1	13	6	19	30	30	60
80 " 85 "	5	3	8	...	...	...	7	8	15	16	13	29
85 " 90 "	1	1	2	...	...	...	3	...	3	6	3	9
Unkown	48	24	72	11	7	18	19	6	25	207	173	380
Total	440	345	785	115	106	221	211	114	325	2,221	1,927	4,148

TABLE VIII.—Return of Patients on Probation under Section 87.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Out on probation on 1st January, 1895	68	106	174
Allowed out during the year	156	185	341
Total	224	291	515
Recovered :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	29	28	57
Of those allowed out during the present year	34	45	79
Total	63	73	136
Died :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years ... ..	...	3	3
Of those allowed out during the present year	6	2	8
Total	6	5	11
Written off the books under section 89 of Act 1113 :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	15	32	47
Of those allowed out during the present year	8	9	17
Total	23	41	64
Returned to Asylum at expiration of probation :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	13	16	29
Of those allowed out during the present year	62	54	116
Total	75	70	145
Remaining under care out of the Asylums on 31st December, 1895 ...	57	102	159

TABLE IX.—Return of Patients Boarded out during 1895.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Boarded out on 1st January, 1895	13	16	29
Allowed out during the year	3	11	14
Total	16	27	43
Returned to the Asylum by their guardians—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	3	6	9
Of those allowed out during the present year	2	1	3
Total	5	7	12
Boarded out from the Asylums on 31st December, 1895	11	20	31

TABLE X.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1895.

		Yarra Bend.	Kew.	Kew Idiot Asylum.	Ararat.	Beechworth.	Sunbury.	Ballarat.	Total.
Lunatics sent to the Asylums by their friends	{ Male	18	68	10	3	4	...	5	108
	{ Female	51	60	6	6	6	...	6	135
" " the police ...	{ Male	100	73	4	26	25	...	4	232
	{ Female	63	37	4	14	8	...	1	127
" received from Benevolent Asylums ...	{ Male	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
	{ Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Hospitals	{ Male	...	7	...	...	1	...	...	8
	{ Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Gaols	{ Male	18	...	...	3	...	...	...	21
	{ Female	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
" " all other public institutions (including transfers)	{ Male	4	9	8	1	19	16	1	58
	{ Female	6	9	5	...	10	29	13	72
Total		270	265	37	53	73	45	30	773
Escaped patients retaken		4	1	1	3	2	...	1	12
Total admissions		274	266	38	56	75	45	31	785

TABLE XI.—Showing the Nationalities and Religious Persuasions of those admitted for the first time during the Year 1895.

Birthplaces.	Religious Persuasions.										Total.
	Protestant.					Roman Catholic.	Pagan.	Hebrew.	Mahome-tan.	Unascertained.	
	Church of England.	Presby-terian.	Wesleyan.	Lutheran.	Other Protestant Denomi-nations.						
Victoria	95	38	23	1	15	86	...	1	...	8	267
Other Colonies and British Possessions	9	1	1	...	3	13	...	1	1	...	29
England	95	5	13	...	16	11	...	2	...	1	143
Scotland	2	34	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	41
Ireland	13	5	1	...	2	54	...	...	...	...	75
France ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Germany ... ..	...	...	...	6	...	1	...	...	...	...	7
China ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	8
Other Countries ...	1	1	1	2	2	8	...	...	...	1	16
Not known	22	5	1	2	6	18	...	...	...	14	68
Total	237	89	42	11	46	192	8	4	1	24	654

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

Particulars.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Workshops (Male)—			
Blacksmiths	10	...	10
Carpenters	18	...	18
Mattress-makers ...	1	35	36
Shoemakers	26	...	26
Tailors	25	3	28
Painters	12	...	12
Basket-makers	4	...	4
Mat-makers	13	...	13
Engineers	2	...	2
Frenchpolisher ...	1	...	1
In the Workshops (Female)—			
Sewing (making-up and repairing clothing)	...	281	281
Fancy work ... ..	...	39	39
Miscellaneous occupations—			
Working on the farm	175	...	175
" in the garden	106	...	106
" in the kitchen	42	...	42
" in the store	8	...	8
" in the laundry	...	265	265
" in the wards and airing courts	490	451	941
" as servants at private quarters	24	22	46
" on roads and ornamental grounds	66	...	66
" in mess-rooms	9	4	13
Other work about the establishment	108	17	125
Amusements—			
Balls and concerts ...	561	495	1,056
Billiards and reading room	390	65	455
Cards, chess, dominoes, &c.	240	117	357
Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis	381	150	531
Walking and driving	439	325	764
School	80	59	139
Attending divine service ...	630	619	1,249

TABLE XIII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Department of Hospitals for Insane during the Year 1895.

Receipts.						Amount.		
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at—						£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	2,128	17	2
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	5,439	6	8
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,183	3	11
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	776	19	7
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	726	2	5
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	301	0	11
Lunacy Wards	...	...	...	...	...	6	9	1
Amount of fines	...	...	...	...	...	27	17	6
„ sales	...	...	...	...	...	779	18	0
Miscellaneous collections	...	...	...	...	...	92	9	8
Total	...	...	...	...	...	11,462	4	11

Expenditure.						Amount.		
General expenses						£	s.	d.
...	...	...	...	...	...	1,944	17	7
Maintenance at—								
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	19,251	15	5
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	24,509	13	7
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	16,743	7	7
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	15,633	11	8
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	11,837	12	9
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	5,337	15	1
Lunacy Ward, Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	141	15	0
„ „ Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	9	3	0
„ „ Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	38	5	0
Expenses in connexion with committal and transport of lunatics	...	...	...	...	...	1,343	13	0
„ „ boarded-out patients	...	...	...	...	...	542	16	5
Total	...	...	...	...	...	97,334	6	1

TABLE XIV.—Showing the Total Cost of Maintenance against each Asylum, the Sums expended against each Vote, and the Amount of the General Expenses for the Year 1895.

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	778	19,251	15 5	10,919	0 4	...	...	1,223	3 9	70	0 0
Kew	1,101	24,509	13 7	12,768	3 0	...	...	2,139	7 5	70	0 0
Ararat	658	16,743	7 7	8,579	2 9	...	...	1,514	14 9	131	10 0
Beechworth	633	15,633	11 8	8,156	16 3	...	...	1,100	11 1	60	10 0
Sunbury	550	11,837	12 9	6,294	13 2	...	...	975	1 11	72	0 0
Ballarat	209	5,337	15 1	2,662	13 3	...	...	460	15 8	60	0 0
General expenses	...	1,944	17 7	1,590	10 6	111	5 0	...	...	...	...
Total	3,929	95,258	13 8	50,970	19 3	111	5 0	7,413	14 7	464	0 0

Lunatic Asylums.	Provisions and Extra Articles.		Stores, Purchase of Stock, Books, Amusements, &c.		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	4,866	5 2	497	10 8	1,008	8 11	194	19 11	161	1 1	31	15 0	279	10 7
Kew	6,258	9 4	875	5 11	1,506	6 11	260	16 0	258	1 4	37	15 10	335	7 10
Ararat	4,470	14 11	462	13 1	1,235	3 10	108	6 7	33	12 1	39	9 2	168	0 5
Beechworth	4,294	14 0	330	12 8	1,212	16 10	80	13 1	206	0 10	25	7 2	165	9 9
Sunbury	3,207	18 1	394	10 1	626	15 8	97	16 3	22	8 4	1	18 4	144	10 11
Ballarat	1,328	0 4	156	19 11	411	18 0	34	9 1	38	17 4	48	18 4	135	3 2
General expenses	...	...	31	11 0	1	11 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	210	0 1
Total	24,426	1 10	2,749	3 4	6,003	1 2	777	0 11	720	1 0	185	3 10	1,438	2 9

TABLE XV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients for the Year 1895.

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 ...	778	19,251	15	5	2,243	0	5	0	5	4 ³ / ₄	0	0	0 ¹ / ₂
Kew ...	1,101	24,509	13	7	5,754	13	11	0	4	5 ¹ / ₂	0	0	0 ¹ / ₄
Ararat ...	658	16,743	7	7	1,331	15	4	0	5	0 ¹ / ₄	0	0	0
Beechworth ...	633	15,633	11	8	918	7	6	0	4	11 ¹ / ₂	0	0	0 ¹ / ₂
Sunbury ...	550	11,837	12	9	851	3	0	0	4	4 ³ / ₄	0	0	0 ¹ / ₂
Ballarat ...	209	5,337	15	1	345	8	8	0	4	10 ³ / ₄	0	0	1 ¹ / ₄
Total ...	3,929	93,313	16	1	11,444	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses ...	...	1,944	17	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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, Beer, &c.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend ...	0	2	4 ³ / ₄	0	0	7 ¹ / ₄	0	0	3	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	1
Kew ...	0	2	2 ¹ / ₄	0	0	9	0	0	3 ³ / ₄	0	0	6 ¹ / ₄	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ararat ...	0	2	7 ¹ / ₄	0	0	10 ¹ / ₂	0	0	3 ¹ / ₄	0	0	8 ¹ / ₂	0	0	0 ³ / ₄	0	0	0 ¹ / ₂
Beechworth ...	0	2	7 ¹ / ₄	0	0	8	0	0	2 ¹ / ₄	0	0	8 ³ / ₄	0	0	0 ¹ / ₂	0	0	1 ¹ / ₂
Sunbury ...	0	2	2 ³ / ₄	0	0	8 ¹ / ₄	0	0	3 ¹ / ₄	0	0	5 ¹ / ₄	0	0	0 ³ / ₄	0	0	0 ¹ / ₂
Ballarat ...	0	2	5 ¹ / ₄	0	0	10 ¹ / ₄	0	0	3 ¹ / ₂	0	0	9	0	0	0 ³ / ₄	0	0	1
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 ¹ / ₂	0	0	1 ¹ / ₂	0	9	6	0	1	1 ¹ / ₄	0	8	4 ³ / ₄
Kew ...	0	0	0 ¹ / ₄	0	0	1 ¹ / ₄	0	8	6 ¹ / ₂	0	2	0	0	6	6 ¹ / ₂
Ararat ...	0	0	0 ¹ / ₄	0	0	1 ¹ / ₄	0	9	9 ¹ / ₄	0	0	9 ¹ / ₄	0	9	0
Beechworth ...	0	0	0 ¹ / ₄	0	0	1 ¹ / ₄	0	9	5 ³ / ₄	0	0	6 ¹ / ₂	0	8	11 ¹ / ₄
Sunbury ...	0	0	0 ¹ / ₄	0	0	1 ¹ / ₄	0	8	3 ¹ / ₄	0	0	7	0	7	8 ¹ / ₄
Ballarat ...	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	9	9 ³ / ₄	0	0	7 ¹ / ₂	0	9	2 ¹ / ₄
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	9	1 ¹ / ₂	0	1	1 ¹ / ₄	0	8	0 ¹ / ₄
General expenses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	2 ¹ / ₄

TABLE XVI.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1895, in the Lunacy Wards at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the wards 1st January, 1895 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cases admitted :—						
First admissions ...	56	26	82			
Total cases admitted during the year ...	...	...	...	56	26	82
Total cases under care during the year ...	...	...	...	56	26	82
Cases discharged :—						
Recovered ...	20	5	25			
Relieved ...	...	1	1			
Not improved ...	34	17	51			
Died ...	...	2	2			
Total cases discharged and died during the year ...	...	...	...	54	25	79
Remaining in the wards 31st December, 1895 ...	...	...	...	2	1	3

TABLE XVII.—Showing the Number of Patients Visited and the Number of Miles Travelled by the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums during the Year 1895.

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—				
23rd March ...	762	...	2		21st February	640	...	345	
30th March ...	765	...	2		23rd May ...	641	...	345	
24th June ...	758	...	2		15th August ...	633	...	345	
26th June ...	762	...	2		20th November	631	...	345	
24th September	781	...	2				2,545		1,380
28th September	785	...	2		Sunbury—				
30th September	788	...	2		28th February	552	...	49½	
17th December	805	...	2		9th May ...	551	...	49½	
21st December	809	...	2		5th June ...	556	...	49½	
28th December	802	...	2		26th August ...	556	...	49½	
		7,817		20	18th September	549	...	49½	
					18th November	553	...	49½	
Kew*					28th November	550	...	49½	
					19th December	550	...	49½	
					Ballarat—		4,417		396
Ararat—					7th March ...	205	...	206	
14th March ...	670	...	320		19th June ...	212	...	206	
20th June ...	667	...	114		7th October ...	213	...	206	
11th September	654	...	320		10th December	213	...	206	
11th December	653	...	114				843		824
		2,644		868	Total ...	...	18,266	...	3,488

* Inspected by Board of Official Visitors.

Changes in the Distribution of the Insane—

In Yarra Bend, an increase of	...	...	10
Kew, an increase of	...	...	8
Cottages for Idiots, an increase of	...	...	21
Ararat, a decrease of	...	...	13
Beechworth, an increase of	...	...	3
Sunbury, an increase of	...	...	9
Ballarat, an increase of	...	...	7

No new buildings were provided at any of the asylums during the year, and pressure on the dormitory accommodation at the metropolitan asylums, due to new admissions, was relieved by periodically transferring patients to vacancies in the country institutions. The cottages for idiots, however, are now somewhat overcrowded, and additional sleeping room is much required.

Admissions.—There were 650 persons admitted during the year, or 42 fewer than during the previous twelve months. The new cases, *i.e.*, those who had not been at any prior time under treatment in an asylum, numbered 527. The remainder, 123, had previously suffered from attacks of insanity, 98 once, 16 twice, 5 thrice, 2 four times, 1 five times, and 1 nine times.

The estimated population of Victoria on 31st December, 1895, being 1,181,769, the number of persons entering the asylums, 650, was equal to 1 to every 1,818 of the general population. A corresponding comparison for last year gives 1 patient to 1,704 of the population. The proportion in New South Wales was 1 in 1,774.

At the end of the year there was 1 registered insane person in Victoria to every 285 of the estimated population, as compared with 1 to every 286 of the previous year. In New South Wales the proportion was 1 in 343.

Since the asylums were first established, in 1848, 25,041 patients have been admitted. Of these, 7,873, or 31·44 per cent., have been discharged as recovered, 1,195, or 4·77 per cent., as relieved, and 5,223, or 20·86 per cent., without any apparent

improvement, this latter number, however, includes transfers from one asylum to another. The number of deaths, 6,602, was equal to 26·36 per cent. On 31st December, 1895, 190 patients were under care amongst friends, or boarded out, and 3,958 remained in the asylums, equal to 15·81 per cent. of all the admissions.

Discharges.—The discharges during the year numbered 753, these figures including 221 who had recovered, 66 relieved, 141 who were returned as not improved—119 of whom were transferred from one asylum to another—and 325 deaths.

Recoveries.—The recoveries, 221, were equal to 33·79 per cent. on the admissions. This is an improved ratio on that of last year, but not as high as the average for the previous 13 years, which was 43·17 per cent.

It must be remembered, however, that, during the past few years, the number of “relieved” cases has sensibly increased, due to the operation of the probationary system. During 1895, 66 patients were so discharged, equal to 10·09 per cent. on the admissions.

In the majority of the cases admitted during the year the forms of insanity were very unfavorable to recovery. In Kew Asylum, for instance, half the number of males received were suffering from general paralysis, and a large proportion of the remainder were afflicted with senile dementia, epilepsy, and idiocy.

Mortality.—The deaths numbered 325, or 8·27 per cent., on the daily average numbers resident. This is about the same rate as last year's, but higher than the previous 13 year's average, 7·21. The increased death rate was due to the unfavorable nature of the admissions, and not to the outbreak of contagious or preventable diseases.

Casualties.—The casualties were not numerous or serious, and do not call for special remark.

Probation.—The system of allowing harmless patients to leave the asylums, under the care of their friends, continues to work satisfactorily. During the year, 515 patients were at different periods on probation. Of this number, 136 were discharged as recovered, 64 as relieved, 11 died, and 145 returned to the asylums, leaving 159 on trial with friends at the end of the year.

Boarding Out.—At the beginning of the year 29 patients were under the care of paid guardians, and 14 more were allowed out during the year. Twelve patients were returned to the asylums, and 31 remained out on 31st December.

Fire Extinction.—A wooden cottage having been burned down at the Idiot Asylum, the inadequate water supply to many of the buildings was again brought under notice, and an increased supply obtained for the Idiot Asylum and the Kew farm buildings, and new mains are being laid down at Yarra Bend Asylum. The improvements urgently necessary at the other institutions are under consideration, but the expense involved in carrying out the recommendations has, so far, prevented final action.

Works and Buildings.—The Yarra Bend and Sunbury Asylums are in urgent need of new laundries, the present ones being not only unsuitable for the work but a source of danger to the persons employed in them.

A special approval was obtained for carrying out some improvements in the drainage of the Beechworth Asylum, but many other important works have to stand over until a larger Public Works vote is made available.

Staff.—Lectures on nursing were given in all the asylums, and arrangements are now being made which it is hoped will in a few years provide the Department with a staff of well-trained attendants and nurses.

Cost of Maintenance.—The total expenditure of the Department during the year was £97,334 6s. 1d. Deducting from this amount the cost of maintaining lunacy wards, £189 3s.; of committal of lunatics by magistrates, £1,343 13s.; expenses of boarding out patients, £542 16s. 5d.; and of general expenses and official visitation, £1,944 17s. 7d., there remains £93,313 16s. 1d. as the actual cost of maintenance. For an average daily number of 3,929 patients this gives a weekly rate of 9s. 1½d. per patient, as compared with 9s. 6½d. for the preceding year. The Master-in-Lunacy made collections to the amount of £10,561 19s. 9d., and £900 5s. 2d. from

sales and fines was paid into the general revenue. If these collections are deducted from the Asylum expenditure the weekly maintenance rate would be reduced to 8s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. This is an exceptionally low rate, and is chiefly due to the great reduction in contract rates for supplies for the year. Next year, however, a considerable increase in the expenditure must be anticipated, as the contracts already let are at enhanced rates.

CLASSIFICATION OF PATIENTS.

About nine years ago the idiot children in the different asylums were removed from contact with the adult patients, and placed in an institution by themselves, thus enabling a special system of training to be carried out, and which has resulted in considerable improvement to many of the children.

The separation of the adult patients in such a manner as to allow of special treatment being adopted for different classes, as is now done in most other countries, would, no doubt, be found valuable in carrying on the work of the Department. The removal of the epileptics from the general wards of the asylums would have a beneficial effect on the other patients; and, in my opinion, it would be very advisable to place them in an institution by themselves, where it would be possible for them to receive more special care and attention than can be given under present conditions.

One of the Melbourne asylums might be better equipped for the medical treatment of acute cases, and as Kew could be best adapted for this work, it is suggested that all new cases be received at that institution, where the patients could have the benefit of the most modern medical treatment. Authority would be required for the speedy transfer of suitable cases to Yarra Bend, as the cottages there could be made available for quiet patients. The removal of the epileptics from both asylums would have to precede these reforms.

No asylum has yet been erected for paying patients, but special efforts have been made at Kew to meet the requirements of this class, and the fact that the payments at this one asylum came to £5,439 6s. 8d. would seem to indicate that the friends of patients are willing to pay for special attention. The Master-in-Lunacy received, altogether, the sum of £10,561 19s. 9d., as payment for maintenance of patients in the asylums during the year, and it is possible that this amount could be much increased if better accommodation were available. The removal of the epileptics, as already recommended, would enable further improvements being made at Kew for private patients, and in the Yarra Bend cottages those who were quiet and harmless could be comfortably accommodated.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. V. McCREERY,
Inspector of Lunatic Asylums.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.