

1898.

VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

R E P O R T

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1897.

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, 27th June, 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith a Report of the state and condition of the Lunatic Asylums of Victoria for the year 1897.

The number of the insane on the 31st December, 1897, and their distribution, is shown in Table No. I., subjoined. It will be seen from this statement that the registered insane persons on that date numbered 4,346, showing an increase of 134 for the preceding twelve months.

The average daily population of the Asylums was considerably higher than during the previous year, being 4,087, against 3,970 for 1896, an increase of 117.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on 31st December, 1897.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Public Lunatic Asylums at—			
Yarra Bend	406	388	794
Kew	570	451	1,021
Kew Idiot Asylum	113	90	203
Ararat	388	288	676
Beechworth	347	277	624
Sunbury	232	323	555
Ballarat	149	99	248
Out on probation—			
Yarra Bend	22	31	53
Kew	40	60	100
Kew Idiot Asylum	6	1	7
Ararat	3	5	8
Beechworth	1	5	6
Sunbury ... ..	...	...	...
Ballarat ... ..	...	9	9
Boarded out from—			
Yarra Bend	2	2	4
Kew	4	12	16
Kew Idiot Asylum	2	2	4
Ararat ... ..	...	3	3
Beechworth	4	2	6
Sunbury	3	1	4
Ballarat ... ..	...	...	...
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums	2,292	2,049	4,341
In the lunacy ward at—			
Castlemaine ... ..	...	...	...
Bendigo	2	...	2
Geelong	2	1	3
In licensed house ... ..	...	...	...
Total number of registered lunatics in the colony	2,296	2,050	4,346

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths in the Lunatic Asylums during the Year ended 31st December, 1897.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylums, 1st January, 1897	2,234	1,970	4,204
Cases admitted :—									
First admissions	469	376	845			
Not first admissions	71	39	110			
Total cases admitted during the year	540	415	955
Total cases under care during the year	2,774	2,385	5,159
Cases discharged :—									
Recovered	117	100	217			
Relieved	39	47	86			
Not improved	117	74	191			
Died...	209	115	324			
Total cases discharged and died during the year	482	336	818
Remaining in the Asylums, 31st December, 1897 (including those out on trial and boarded out)	2,292	2,049	4,341
Average number resident during the year	2,203	1,884	4,087
Persons under care during the year	2,664	2,311	4,975
Persons admitted	430	341	771
Persons recovered	114	100	214
Transferred from one Asylum to another	93	69	162
Escaped	22	5	27
Retaken	12	5	17

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1897.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	56	51	107
Have had two attacks	13	7	20
Have had three attacks	8	2	10
Have had ten 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
1896	384	305	689	114	96	210	19	37	56	...	...	...	231	129	360	2,234	1,970	4,204	2,147	1,823	3,970	29.69	31.47	30.48	10.76	7.08	9.07
1897	435	341	776	117	100	217	39	47	86	...	...	...	209	115	324	2,292	2,049	4,341	2,203	1,884	4,087	26.89	29.33	27.96	9.49	6.10	7.93
Total	5,852	4,423	10,275	2,219	1,950	4,169	303	370	673	...	...	...	2,708	1,447	4,155	...	...	...	30,446	25,189	55,637	37.92	44.09	40.57	8.89	5.74	7.47
																				1,903	1,574	3,477						

TABLE IVa.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries and Relieved Cases per Cent. of the Admissions for each Asylum for the Year ending 31st December, 1897.

Asylum.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Died.			Remaining 31st December, 1897.			Average Numbers Resident during the Year 1897.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Relieved on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers Resident.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Recovered.			Relieved.			Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.																		
Yarra Bend ...	155	133	288	56	28	84	13	8	21	78	51	27	421	430	851	422	375	797	36.13	21.05	29.17	8.38	6.01	7.29	12.09	7.20	9.79
Kew ...	191	159	330	35	47	82	21	31	52	114	74	40	523	614	1,137	555	447	1,002	18.32	33.81	24.84	10.99	22.30	15.76	13.33	8.94	11.37
Ilidiot Asylum, Kew	16	18	34	...	2	2	2	2	4	13	11	2	93	121	214	116	84	200	...	11.11	5.88	12.50	11.11	11.76	9.48	2.38	6.50
Ararat ...	39	24	63	12	13	25	1	...	1	35	23	12	296	391	687	390	282	672	30.77	54.17	39.68	2.56	...	1.58	5.90	4.25	5.21
Beechworth ...	22	8	30	9	2	11	1	3	4	45	32	13	284	352	636	357	274	631	40.90	25.00	36.66	4.54	37.50	13.33	8.96	4.74	7.13
Sunbury ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	24	9	15	324	235	559	227	319	546	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.98	4.70	4.39
Ballarat ...	12	19	31	5	7	12	1	3	4	15	9	6	108	149	257	136	103	239	41.66	36.84	38.71	8.33	15.79	12.90	6.61	5.55	5.84
Total ...	435	341	776	117	100	217	39	47	86	324	209	115	2,049	2,292	4,341	2,203	1,884	4,087	26.89	29.33	27.96	8.97	13.78	11.08	9.49	6.10	7.93

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

	Admissions.			Numbers.			Number per cent. of Admissions.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Discharged:—									
Recovered	...	...	...	4,509	3,791	8,300	28·87	33·83	30·94
Relieved...	...	...	...	621	716	1,337	3·98	6·39	4·99
Not improved	...	...	...	3,228	2,332	5,560	20·67	20·81	20·73
Died	...	...	...	4,967	2,319	7,286	31·80	20·69	27·16
Out on trial and boarded out on 31st									
December, 1897	...	...	...	87	133	220	·56	1·19	·82
Remaining	...	...	...	2,205	1,916	4,121	14·12	17·09	15·36
Total	15,617	11,207	26,824	15,617	11,207	26,824	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 1897.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month	5	1	6	14	6	20
1 month and under 3 months	30	9	39	26	11	37
3 months	24	18	42	20	11	31
6 " " 9 "	14	17	31	18	3	21
9 " " 12 "	10	21	31	20	8	28
1 year and under 2 years	17	11	28	26	16	42
2 years	4	7	11	9	9	18
3 " " 5 "	4	7	11	19	10	29
5 " " 7 "	3	4	7	16	12	28
7 " " 10 "	1	3	4	11	8	19
10 " " 12 "	3	...	3	4	3	7
12 " " 15 "	1	1	2	11	7	18
15 " " 20 "	1	1	2	6	6	12
20 " " 25 "	...	...	...	1	3	4
25 " " 30 "	...	...	...	5	1	6
30 " " 35 "	...	...	...	1	1	2
35 " " 40 "	...	...	...	1	...	1
40 " " 45 "	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total	117	100	217	209	115	324

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died during the Year 1897, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1897.

Ages.	The Admissions.			Recovered.			The Deaths.			Patients Resident 31st December, 1897.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years	3	1	4	...	...	...	2	...	2	5	1	6
5 years and under 10 years	2	7	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	21	36
10 " 15 "	6	6	12	...	1	1	1	...	1	30	21	51
15 " 20 "	26	17	43	6	7	13	7	3	10	83	82	165
20 " 25 "	41	41	82	10	13	23	6	6	12	153	113	266
25 " 30 "	65	57	122	19	12	31	14	15	29	219	168	387
30 " 35 "	74	60	134	16	16	32	15	5	20	224	180	404
35 " 40 "	53	41	94	12	11	23	20	9	29	209	186	395
40 " 45 "	48	39	87	9	11	20	12	7	19	201	160	361
45 " 50 "	41	35	76	7	6	13	12	7	19	185	195	380
50 " 55 "	28	21	49	7	3	10	15	5	20	232	224	456
55 " 60 "	32	15	47	7	8	15	16	6	22	178	179	357
60 " 65 "	24	20	44	6	5	11	17	9	26	150	134	284
65 " 70 "	26	11	37	3	1	4	18	11	29	114	98	212
70 " 75 "	16	12	28	5	...	5	15	10	25	43	40	83
75 " 80 "	13	7	20	3	...	3	12	5	17	29	31	60
80 " 85 "	3	2	5	1	...	1	9	5	14	17	15	32
85 " 90 "	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
90 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Unknown	39	22	61	6	6	12	18	12	30	199	198	397
Total	540	415	955	117	100	217	209	115	324	2,292	2,049	4,341

TABLE VIII.—Return of Patients on Probation during the Year 1897.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Out on probation on 1st January, 1897	85	113	198
Allowed out during the year	137	187	324
Total ...	222	300	522
Recovered and relieved :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	18	33	51
Of those allowed out during the present year	31	46	77
Total ...	49	79	128
Died :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	4	2	6
Of those allowed out during the present year	3	...	3
Total ...	7	2	9
Written off the books under section 89 of Act 1113 :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	28	31	59
Of those allowed out during the present year	10	13	23
Total ...	38	44	82
Returned to the Asylum at expiration of probation :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	21	21	42
Of those allowed out during the present year	35	43	78
Total ...	56	64	120
Remaining under care out of the Asylums on 31st December, 1897	72	111	183

TABLE IX.—Return of Patients Boarded out during the Year 1897.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Boarded out on 1st January, 1897	13	23	36
Allowed out during the year	6	11	17
Total	19	34	53
Returned to the Asylums by their guardians—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	2	3	5
Of those allowed out during the present year	2	9	11
Total ...	4	12	16
Boarded out on 31st December, 1897	15	22	37

TABLE X.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1897.

		Yarra Bend.	Kew.	Kew Idiot Asylum.	Arauc.	Beechworth.	Sunbury.	Ballarat.	Total.
Lunatics sent to the Asylums by their friends	{ Male	27	79	11	2	2	...	6	127
	{ Female	47	88	8	2	6	...	16	167
" " the police	{ Male	101	107	4	37	18	...	5	272
	{ Female	71	45	7	22	2	...	3	150
" received from Benevolent Asylums	{ Male	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
	{ Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Hospitals	{ Male	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4
	{ Female	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	7
" " Gaols	{ Male	22	...	...	...	2	...	1	25
	{ Female	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
" " all other public institutions (including transfers)	{ Male	13	8	1	2	8	35	31	98
	{ Female	7	3	4	10	25	25	...	74
Total	...	301	341	36	75	63	60	62	938
Escaped patients retaken	...	4	4	2	3	2	...	2	17
Total admissions	...	305	345	38	78	65	60	64	955

TABLE XI.—Showing the Nationalities and Religious Persuasions of those admitted for the first time during the Year 1897.

Birthplaces.	Religious Persuasions.										
	Protestant.					Roman Catholic.	Pagan.	Hebrew.	Mahome-tan.	Unascertained.	Total.
	Church of England.	Presby-terian.	Wesleyan.	Lutheran.	Other Protestant Denomi-nations.						
Victoria	113	34	45	1	40	91	...	3	...	3	330
Other Colonies and British Possessions	21	5	5	1	7	14	...	1	...	...	54
England	78	2	21	...	20	11	...	2	...	3	137
Scotland	9	28	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	42
Ireland	14	12	1	...	2	83	...	...	...	1	113
France ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Germany	1	...	...	8	1	3	...	...	...	...	13
China ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	5
Other Countries	1	1	...	3	...	11	...	...	...	...	16
Not known	20	7	4	2	6	13	1	...	...	10	63
Total	257	91	78	15	78	230	4	6	...	17	776

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	19	...	19
Mattress-makers	1	40	41
Shoemakers	22	...	22
Tailors	33	5	38
Painters	13	...	13
Basket-maker	1	...	1
Mat-makers	18	...	18
Engineers	2	...	2
Frenchpolisher	1	...	1
In the Workshops (Female)—			
Sewing (making-up and repairing clothing)	...	384	384
Fancy work ... ..	...	48	48
Miscellaneous occupations—			
Working on the farms	174	...	174
" in the gardens	104	...	104
" in the kitchens	49	...	49
" in the stores	8	...	8
" in the laundries ... ..	...	271	271
" in the wards and airing courts	482	523	1,005
" as servants at private quarters	25	21	46
" on roads and ornamental grounds	65	...	65
" in mess-rooms	10	4	14
Other work about the establishments	131	5	136
Amusements—			
Balls and concerts	602	585	1,187
Billiards and reading room	386	295	681
Cards, chess, dominoes, &c.	340	194	534
Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis	190	75	265
Walking and driving	595	401	996
Attending divine service	746	703	1,449
" school	107	75	182

TABLE XIII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Department of Hospitals for the Insane during the Year 1897.

Receipts.						Amount.		
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at—						£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	2,820	15	0
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	5,331	3	7
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,297	11	9
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,271	13	6
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	703	13	2
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	286	3	8
Lunacy Wards	...	...	...	...	...	3	12	2
Amount of fines	...	...	...	...	...	60	16	10
„ sales	...	...	...	...	...	917	10	1
Miscellaneous collections	...	...	...	...	...	67	7	3
Total	...	...	...	...	...	12,760	7	0

Expenditure.						Amount.		
General expenses						£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,934	4	4
Maintenance at—								
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	21,134	12	10
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	27,365	17	5
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	18,667	15	7
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	16,207	15	11
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	13,719	0	7
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	6,200	4	6
Lunacy Ward, Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	160	5	0
„ „ Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	7	7	0
„ „ Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	81	10	0
Expenses in connexion with committal and transport of lunatics	...	...	...	...	...	1,553	10	8
„ „ boarded-out patients	...	...	...	...	...	602	4	0
Total	...	...	...	...	...	107,634	7	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 1897.

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	797	21,134	12 10	11,003	14 4	...	...	1,457	7 2	70	0 0
Kew	1,202	27,365	17 5	13,008	12 9	...	...	2,415	18 5	70	0 0
Ararat	672	18,667	15 7	8,445	16 11	...	...	1,398	13 9	131	10 0
Beechworth	631	16,207	15 11	7,600	18 4	...	...	1,106	3 4	60	10 0
Sunbury	546	13,719	0 7	5,973	13 0	...	...	1,993	15 8	72	0 0
Ballarat	239	6,200	4 6	2,698	4 8	...	...	464	6 6	60	0 0
General expenses	...	1,934	4 4	1,588	4 4	66 13 9	...	...	...	...	...
Total	4,087	105,229	11 2	50,319	4 4	66 13 9	...	8,836	4 10	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	6,279	13 3	452	3 4	1,080	5 1	271	11 0	211	6 7	55	9 2	253	2 11
Kew	8,709	16 9	479	17 2	1,664	11 7	316	7 5	290	6 6	82	16 9	327	10 1
Ararat	6,408	15 1	531	7 8	1,363	12 3	88	3 11	34	15 6	59	2 10	205	17 8
Beechworth	5,618	1 3	382	16 7	1,038	18 7	84	5 5	112	14 10	14	0 0	189	7 7
Sunbury	3,838	7 8	501	7 1	1,078	11 0	103	4 8	7	1 8	3	3 4	147	16 6
Ballarat	1,999	5 5	182	5 0	466	9 2	77	3 8	45	15 3	56	12 11	150	1 11
General expenses	...	...	18	9 0	2	9 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	258	8 1
Total	32,853	19 5	2,548	5 10	6,694	16 10	940	16 1	702	0 4	271	5 0	1,532	4 9

TABLE XV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients for the Year 1897.

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	797	21,134	12	10	2,998	0	4	0	5	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kew	1,202	27,365	17	5	5,626	6	2	0	4	2	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ararat	672	18,667	15	7	1,439	7	10	0	4	10	0	0	1
Beechworth	631	16,207	15	11	1,438	13	0	0	4	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sunbury	546	13,719	0	7	883	6	9	0	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ballarat	239	6,200	4	6	371	0	9	0	4	4	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total	4,087	103,295	6	10	12,756	14	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	1,934	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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	3	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kew	0	2	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1
Ararat	0	3	8	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Beechworth	0	3	5	0	0	8	0	0	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sunbury	0	2	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	1	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	9	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ballarat	0	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	9	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	9	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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

TABLE XVI.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1897, in Lunacy Wards at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the wards, 1st January, 1897	...	...	...	6	2	8	...	...	...
Cases admitted:—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
First admissions	76	39	115	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	76	39	115	...	...	...
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	82	41	123	...	...	...
Cases discharged:—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Recovered	29	13	42	...	...	...	...	...	...
Not improved	47	26	73	...	...	...	...	...	...
Died	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	78	40	118	...	...	...
Remaining in the wards, 31st December, 1897	...	...	...	4	1	5	...	...	...

TABLE XVII.—Showing the Number of Patients Visited and the Number of Miles Travelled by the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums during the Year 1897.

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—				
2nd March ...	794	...	2		4th March ...	630	...	345	
20th March ...	799	...	2		4th June ...	635	...	345	
29th March ...	805	...	2		16th September	633	...	345	
23rd June ...	809	...	2		26th November	626	...	345	
30th June ...	799	...	2				2,524		1,380
25th September	811	...	2		Sunbury—				
27th September	807	...	2		26th February	524	...	49½	
28th September	807	...	2		30th March ...	523	...	49½	
4th December	804	...	2		31st May ...	522	...	49½	
11th December	797	...	2		29th June ...	521	...	49½	
		8,032		20	10th August ...	526	...	49½	
Kew*					19th September	522	...	49½	
					23rd December	555	...	49½	
							3,693		346
Ararat—					Ballarat—				
24th March ...	666	...	114		23rd March ...	238	...	206	
10th June ...	673	...	114		9th June ...	231	...	206	
23rd September	672	...	320		30th September	242	...	206	
15th December	675	...	320		22nd October	240	...	206	
		2,686		868			951		824
					Total ...		17,886		3,438

* Inspected by Board of Official Visitors.

The following changes have taken place in the distribution of the insane during the year:—

In Yarra Bend, an increase of	...	...	14
Kew, an increase of	...	...	64
Cottages for Idiots, an increase of	...	...	11
Ararat, an increase of	...	...	5
Beechworth, an increase of	...	...	7
Sunbury, an increase of	...	...	27
Ballarat, an increase of	...	...	23

Admissions.—The persons admitted during the past year numbered 771, the highest admission rate recorded since the opening of the asylums, and an increase of 88 as compared with the previous year. The number of patients transferred from one asylum to another is not included in these figures. Some of the patients admitted had previously been under treatment in one or other of the asylums in Victoria, 138 having been so reported.

The ratio of admissions to the general population was 1 in 1,526. In 1896 the proportion was 1 in 1,720.

The proportion of the insane to the sane population was 1 to every 271. In 1896, it was 1 to every 279 of the estimated general population. As some explanation of these figures, it may be mentioned that the estimated general population of Victoria only shows an increase of 1,350, on 31st December, 1897, for the preceding twelve months.

Discharges.—The number of patients discharged during the year was 818. Of this number, 217 had recovered, 86 were discharged relieved, 324 had died, and 191 were returned as not improved, this class including the patients who had escaped, and those transferred from one asylum to another.

Recoveries.—The recoveries were 217, against 210 so discharged during the preceding year. The percentage of recoveries on admissions was 27·96, and of relieved 11·08. I have again to report that the admissions for the year included a considerable number of cases of idiocy, senile dementia, and general paralysis, all of these cases being of an incurable nature, and adversely influencing the discharge rate.

In considering the recovery rate, which by itself appears low, the number of patients who have been discharged as “relieved” has to be taken into account. These

patients were removed from the asylums on probation by their friends, and their names subsequently written off the books under the provisions of the Lunacy Act, as they had shown that they were fit for liberation, and in many cases were known to have been earning sufficient to support themselves. The removal of these patients from the asylums merely completed their convalescence, and if they were included in the recovery rate, the latter would be increased to 39 per cent. This would, however, still be below the average for the previous fifteen years.

On the 1st January, 1897, 198 patients were on probation with their friends, and during the year 324 in addition were allowed out of the asylums. Of these 183 were still on probation at the end of the year. The system of allowing patients out on trial has been growing more and more into favour in the Victorian asylums, where it is used to a much greater extent than in any other part of the world. Patients thus leaving the asylums have the advantage of homes being provided for them, and they can be speedily returned to the asylum, without fresh certificates, if this step should be thought advisable. The Master-in-Lunacy is also enabled to protect property until the sanity of the patient has been established, a good test of which is to allow the patient to mix in the world for a reasonable time, away from asylum restraint.

There would be no medical difficulty in increasing the present recovery rate by the earlier discharge of many persons now sent on trial if such a step were considered to be to the advantage of the patients; but I think the continuance of the probationary system preferable to that course.

Mortality.—The number of patients who died during the year was 324, which is 36 fewer than during the preceding twelve months.

The percentage of deaths on the daily average numbers resident was 7·93, and this may be considered a satisfactory rate in view of the many aged and mentally and physically bad cases admitted during the year. The average death rate for the previous fifteen years was 7·43.

The general health of the patients was good, and, with the exception of a few cases of scarlet fever at the Idiot Asylum, the institutions were free from contagious disease.

Casualties.—During the year four patients committed suicide. Notice was given to the District Coroner in each case, and inquests were held. In three of the cases no blame was attached to any of the officials. In the other, death occurred through an attendant leaving a medicine press open for a few minutes, and so enabling a patient to obtain and drink some carbolic acid. There were extenuating circumstances, however, for this apparent negligence, and no serious blame was attached to the attendant. The other fatalities were as follows:—A male patient at the Yarra Bend Asylum, who assisted in cleaning the lamps, injected some kerosene into his body, which caused inflammation, and his death occurred a few days afterwards. A male patient in the Ararat Asylum was knocked down by another, and died from the effects of the injury. Inquests were also held in these cases, and no blame was attached to those in charge of the patients. Other accidents occurred of a less severe character, and were duly recorded and investigated at the time, and do not call for comment here.

Probation.—The number of patients allowed on probation from the different asylums during the year was as follows:—

Yarra Bend	...	...	...	...	120
Kew	...	...	...	...	144
Idiot Cottages	...	...	...	...	16
Ararat	...	...	...	...	14
Beechworth	...	...	...	...	10
Sunbury	...	...	...	...	—
Ballarat	...	...	...	...	20
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>324</u>

These numbers, added to 198, the number out at the beginning of the year, give a total of 522 as on trial at various times throughout the twelve months. Of these, 128 were discharged as either recovered or relieved, 9 died, 82 were written off the books as having exceeded their term of leave, and 120 were returned to the asylums, leaving 183 still under the care of their friends on 31st December, 1897. As nearly all the patients who are removed on probation benefit more or less by the change, I hope to see the system even more largely taken advantage of in the future.

Boarding Out.—The boarding-out system has not expanded in any way during the past twelve months. On the 1st January, 1897, 36 patients were under the care of paid guardians, 16 were returned to the asylums, and 17 others were taken out during the year. There seems little prospect of the asylums being relieved by this system of the care of the incurable and harmless patients to any considerable extent for many years to come.

Lunacy Wards.—The lunacy wards attached to the Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong hospitals continue to receive a number of patients. At the beginning of the year 8 patients were in the wards, and subsequently 115 were admitted, making a total of 123 under care during the year. Of these, 42 were discharged recovered, 73 were transferred to the lunatic asylums, and 3 died, leaving 5 under treatment in the wards on 31st December, 1897.

Works and Buildings.—The new wards at Sunbury have been taken over by this Department, and have been partly occupied. Dormitories for patients and rooms for attendants have been erected at the Idiot Asylum, and a new boiler and an extra cooking range have also been supplied. The laundry at Yarra Bend has been completed, and is now in use, and a number of urgent repairs have been carried out at that institution. A spray bath has been tried in one of the bath-rooms at Kew, and found to work so well that it is proposed to have similar baths at the other asylums. Glass observation panels have been placed in the doors of some of the single rooms used for violent patients at Kew. This plan enables the night attendant to watch without disturbing the patient, and so far it has proved so satisfactory that it is intended to increase the number of observation rooms. No funds were made available for enlarging the Ballarat Asylum, as a means of relieving the overcrowding of the metropolitan asylums, and providing separate accommodation for epileptics. Neither has the water supply at this institution been improved. All the asylums are in urgent need of attention at the hands of the workman, and it is hoped that a reasonable sum will be voted this year to enable the necessary repairs and alterations being effected. An improved water supply at Ararat, a new laundry at Sunbury, and the lighting of the Yarra Bend Asylum by gas or electricity, are amongst the works that should not longer be delayed.

Accommodation.—The metropolitan asylums have been for some time overcrowded, and steps should immediately be taken to provide for present and future requirements. The asylum population has increased largely within the past few years, and its further growth, which is undoubted, has to be faced. The new wards at Sunbury will not afford any sensible relief to the Melbourne asylums, as the accommodation is for 148 patients only. About 70 patients will be transferred there, and the remainder of the room will be required for new patients committed from places on the Echuca railway line, which passes through Sunbury. Additional buildings will, therefore, be required, and I would recommend that the Ballarat Asylum should be enlarged, and that special provision be made there for the care of epileptic patients. The removal of those patients from the metropolitan asylums would facilitate a better system of classification being introduced, and more room would be available for the admission and treatment of recent and curable cases of insanity. As a fact, the number of patients now in Kew should be decreased by 200 or 300, to enable modern treatment to be afforded to the hopeful cases. I would strongly urge that sufficient money be voted to allow of new buildings being proceeded with at once.

Medical Staff.—It has been found impossible at the present rate of pay to get suitable men to fill vacancies in the medical staff. As the satisfactory working of the asylums must depend in a great measure on the medical staff, it is to be hoped that some arrangement will be quickly made that will secure and retain in the service competent and qualified officers. Two vacancies at present exist for junior medical officers, but no applications have been received for the positions.

Attendants and Nurses.—No improvement has been made in the pay of the staff. This question and other matters are still under the consideration of the Reclassification Board. There have been many resignations, especially amongst the nurses, and applications for transfer to other Departments. As it is not conducive to the welfare of the patients that there should be numerous changes amongst the attendants, or that dissatisfaction should exist on account of the inequality of pay as compared with the pay in other branches of the service, I trust that the new classification and pay of the staff will be shortly announced.

All new attendants are trained as nurses, and facilities are given to the older attendants to make themselves proficient in this part of their duties. The introduction of a simple uniform would add to the usefulness of the staff, as its use is found to improve discipline, and in attending sick cases the danger from contagion is lessened.

Considerable changes have been made in improving the dietary scale, and there should be no room now for complaints as regards the daily meals.

Food Supply.—Notwithstanding the high prices of many articles in the open market as compared with the contract rates, the contractors on the whole supplied provisions of a very satisfactory quality, and up to the recognised standard.

Cost of Maintenance.—The expenditure of the Department increased to £107,634 7s. 10d., being £6,752 13s. 2d. higher than for the previous year, the enhanced prices paid for provisions being responsible for about £6,000 of this sum. An alteration in the diet scale for the attendants, made on 1st July, 1897, will involve an increased annual expenditure of about £500.

To ascertain the net cost of maintenance of the asylums the payments not directly controlled by the Department have to be deducted. These items are:—Payments to lunacy wards at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong, £249 2s.; expenses in connexion with the committal and transport of lunatics, £1,553 10s. 8d.; expenses of boarding out patients, £602 4s.; general expenses and official visitation, £1,934 4s. 4d. The actual cost of maintenance of the asylums then remains at £103,295 6s. 10d.; and the weekly rate per patient is 9s. 8½d. The weekly maintenance rate for 1896 was 9s. 4½d. per patient. Taking credit for the sum of £12,756 14s. 10d. paid into the Treasury by the Master-in-Lunacy, and by the asylums as collections from sales, &c., for the year, the weekly rate is reduced to 8s. 6d. per patient, as compared with 8s. 3d. for the previous year.

During the year a considerable sum was spent in preparing the new wards at Sunbury for occupation; and, as already mentioned, many items in the contracts had considerably risen in price. The expenditure, however, has been carefully controlled, and at the same time the comfort of the patients has not been sacrificed.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The work on the farms, gardens, and in the workshops, has been carried on satisfactorily during the year, and provided suitable employment for a large number of inmates, as well as effecting considerable saving in expenditure.

At Kew, soap was manufactured, and delivered at all the Government Departments. Altogether 59 tons of soap were made, the asylums taking 39 tons of the supply.

I have again to report that in my opinion the present mode of administering the Public Service Act, in connexion with the asylums, does not afford the patients all the protection and advantages that it is possible to confer on them. This and other cognate questions are deserving of early attention.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. V. McCREERY,
Inspector of Lunatic Asylums.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.