

1899.

VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

R E P O R T

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1898.

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

By Authority:

ROBT. S. BRAIN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 29.—[1s.]—5439.

APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT.

										£	s.	d.
Preparation--Not given.												
Printing (880 copies)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	15	0	0

REPORT.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE,
Inspector's Office,

Melbourne, 15th June, 1899.

SIR,

In compliance with the provisions of the *Lunacy Act* 1890, I have the honour to submit herewith a Report on the condition of the Lunatic Asylums of Victoria for the year ended 31st December, 1898. The customary statistical tables are also appended.

The total number of patients on the books of the Asylums at the end of the year, and their distribution, is shown in Table I. It will be seen that during twelve months the number of registered insane has increased from 4,346 to 4,397, of whom 4,136 were under care in the Asylums, 226 were with friends on probation, 32 were boarded out with paid guardians, and 3 were in lunacy wards at country hospitals.

The daily average number of patients resident in all the Asylums was 4,138, against 4,087 for the previous year, being an increase of 51.

During the year 5,052 persons were actually under care for varying periods. At the end of the year the names of 51 patients were added to the numbers of the registered insane.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on 31st December, 1898.

							Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Public Lunatic Asylums—									
Yarra Bend	...	...	...	...	...	412	360	772
Kew	...	...	...	...	...	517	442	959
Kew Idiot Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	110	93	203
Ararat	...	...	...	...	...	382	285	667
Beechworth	...	...	...	...	...	369	275	644
Sunbury	...	...	...	...	...	266	381	647
Ballarat	...	...	...	...	...	141	103	244
Out on probation—									
Yarra Bend	...	...	...	...	...	26	35	61
Kew	...	...	...	...	...	44	75	119
Kew Idiot Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	11
Ararat	...	...	...	...	...	7	8	15
Beechworth	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
Sunbury	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Ballarat	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
Boarded out from—									
Yarra Bend	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
Kew	...	...	...	...	...	3	11	14
Kew Idiot Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Ararat	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Beechworth	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Sunbury	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Ballarat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums							2,300	2,094	4,394
In the lunacy ward at—									
Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
In licensed house						
Total number of registered lunatics in the colony							2,302	2,095	4,397

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths in Asylums during the Year ended 31st December, 1898.

				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylums, 1st January, 1898				...	...	...	2,292	2,049	4,341
Cases admitted :—									
	First admissions	...	...	450	360	810			
	Not first admissions	...	...	51	55	106			
Total cases admitted during the year				...	...	...	501	415	916
Total cases under care during the year				...	...	...	2,793	2,464	5,257
Cases discharged :—									
	Recovered	...	...	127	108	235			
	Relieved	...	...	25	38	63			
	Not improved	...	...	108	91	199			
	Died	...	...	233	133	366			
Total cases discharged and died during the year				...	...	...	493	370	863
Remaining in the Asylums, 31st December, 1898				...	...	...	2,300	2,094	4,394
Average number resident during the year				...	...	...	2,202	1,936	4,138
Persons under care during the year				...	...	...	2,687	2,365	5,052
Persons admitted				...	...	...	395	316	711
Persons recovered				...	...	...	126	107	233
Transferred from one Asylum to another				...	...	...	89	87	176
Escaped				...	...	...	19	4	23
Retaken				...	...	...	16	4	20

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1898.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	41	56	97
Have had two attacks	5	12	17
Have had three attacks	2	2	4
Have had four attacks	4	1	5
Have had five attacks	2	1	3
Have had eleven 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
1898	396	324	720	127	108	235	25	38	63	...	...	233	133	366	2,300	2,094	4,394	2,202	1,936	4,138	32.07	33.33	32.63	10.58	6.87	8.84
Total	6,248	4,747	10,995	2,346	2,058	4,404	328	408	736	...	...	2,941	1,580	4,521	...	...	...	32,648	27,125	59,773	37.55	43.35	40.05	9.01	5.82	7.56
																			1,920	1,596	3,516						

TABLE IVA.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries per Cent. of the Admissions for each Asylum, for the Year ended 31st December, 1898.

Asylum.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Died.			Remaining 31st December, 1898.			Average Numbers Resident during the Year 1898.			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.	Males.	Females.	Total.																											
Yarra Bend ...	126	99	225	43	44	87	4	7	11	59	29	88	439	399	838	408	369	777	34	13	44	44	38	66	3	17	7	7	14	46	7	86	11	32		
Kew ...	136	144	280	44	29	73	18	26	44	53	48	101	564	528	1,092	521	454	975	32	35	20	13	26	07	13	23	18	06	15	71	10	17	10	57	10	35
Idiot Asylum, Kew	22	15	37	1	1	2	3	...	3	21	10	31	119	98	217	117	91	208	4	54	6	66	5	40	13	64	...	...	8	11	17	94	10	98	14	90
Ararat ...	48	27	75	15	20	35	...	2	2	35	14	49	389	296	685	386	288	674	31	25	74	07	46	66	...	...	7	41	2	67	9	07	4	86	7	27
Beechworth ...	30	9	39	11	2	13	...	3	3	28	13	41	375	281	656	373	277	650	36	66	22	22	33	33	...	...	33	33	7	69	7	50	4	69	6	30
Sunbury ...	24	17	41	4	2	6	...	...	...	21	16	37	271	384	655	253	354	607	16	66	11	76	14	63	...	...	...	...	...	8	30	4	51	6	09	
Ballarat ...	10	13	23	9	10	19	...	...	...	16	3	19	143	108	251	144	103	247	90	00	76	92	82	61	...	...	...	...	...	11	11	2	91	7	69	
Total ...	396	324	720	127	108	235	25	38	63	233	133	366	2,300	2,094	4,394	2,202	1,936	4,138	32	07	33	33	32	63	6	31	11	73	8	75	10	58	6	87	8	84

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 ... ..	...	...	...	4,636	3,899	8,535	28·76	33·55	30·77
Relieved ... ..	...	...	...	646	754	1,400	4·01	6·49	5·05
Not improved ... ..	...	...	...	3,336	2,423	5,759	20·70	20·85	20·76
Died ... ..	...	...	...	5,200	2,452	7,652	32·26	21·10	27·58
Out on trial and boarded out on 31st December, 1898 ... ..	...	...	...	103	155	258	·64	1·33	·93
Remaining ... ..	...	...	...	2,197	1,939	4,136	13·63	16·68	14·91
Total	16,118	11,622	27,740	16,118	11,622	27,740	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 1898.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month	8	3	11	13	3	16
1 month and under 3 months	25	9	34	19	9	28
3 months " 6 "	21	25	46	25	17	42
6 " " 9 "	14	13	27	13	8	21
9 " " 12 "	13	10	23	15	7	22
1 year and under 2 years	15	20	35	26	16	42
2 years " 3 "	14	11	25	11	12	23
3 " " 5 "	3	7	10	27	11	38
5 " " 7 "	6	2	8	19	16	35
7 " " 10 "	3	6	9	17	11	28
10 " " 12 "	3	2	5	9	8	17
12 " " 15 "	1	...	1	11	4	15
15 " " 20 "	1	...	1	12	7	19
20 " " 25 " ... ..	...	...	...	8	...	8
25 " " 30 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	1	3
30 " " 35 " ... ..	...	...	...	5	...	5
35 " " 40 " ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2
40 " " 45 " ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	2
Total	127	108	235	233	133	366

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died during the Year 1898, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1898.

Ages.	The Admissions.			Recovered.			The Deaths.			Patients Resident 31st December, 1898.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years	4	4	8	1	...	1	2	2	4	3	2	5
5 years and under 10 years	5	8	13	...	1	1	7	3	10	15	22	37
10 " 15 "	9	2	11	...	...	...	4	1	5	28	26	54
15 " 20 "	27	16	43	6	5	11	5	3	8	85	76	161
20 " 25 "	39	33	72	10	15	25	11	11	22	158	106	264
25 " 30 "	54	53	107	20	19	39	15	12	27	213	155	368
30 " 35 "	72	76	148	18	16	34	16	9	25	227	207	434
35 " 40 "	69	41	110	10	13	23	22	9	31	241	197	438
40 " 45 "	45	35	80	10	10	20	14	10	24	207	171	378
45 " 50 "	27	31	58	10	4	14	13	7	20	180	193	373
50 " 55 "	22	23	45	8	3	11	18	8	26	209	217	426
55 " 60 "	19	24	43	4	8	12	18	4	22	169	188	357
60 " 65 "	26	18	44	4	3	7	13	9	22	148	138	286
65 " 70 "	21	12	33	2	3	5	19	10	29	120	96	216
70 " 75 "	18	11	29	8	1	9	16	11	27	47	57	104
75 " 80 "	8	5	13	2	1	3	15	3	18	29	28	57
80 " 85 "	2	...	2	...	...	...	6	3	9	11	17	28
85 " 90 "	1	2	3	...	...	...	4	2	6	1	4	5
90 and upwards	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	...	3
Unknown	32	21	53	14	6	20	14	16	30	206	194	400
Total	501	415	916	127	108	235	233	133	366	2,300	2,094	4,394

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

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Out on probation on 1st January, 1898	72	111	183
Allowed out during the year	170	220	390
Total ...	242	331	573
Recovered :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	20	32	52
Of those allowed out during the present year	39	43	82
Total ...	59	75	134
Died :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	...	3	3
Of those allowed out during the present year	4	2	6
Total ...	4	5	9
Written off books under section 89, Act 1113 :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	22	30	52
Of those allowed out during the present year	3	8	11
Total ...	25	38	63
Returned to the Asylums at expiration of probation :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	16	20	36
Of those allowed out during the present year	46	59	105
Total ...	62	79	141
Remaining under care out of the Asylums on 31st December, 1898	92	134	226

TABLE IX.—Return of Patients Boarded out during the Year 1898.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Boarded out on 1st January, 1898	15	22	37
Allowed out during the year	3	7	10
Total	18	29	47
Returned to the Asylums by their guardians—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	5	4	9
Of those allowed out during the present year	2	4	6
Total ...	7	8	15
Boarded out on 31st December, 1898	11	21	32

TABLE X.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1898.

	Yarra Bend.	Kew.	Idiot Asylum.	Ararat.	Beec hworth.	Sunbury.	Dallarat.	Total.
Lunatics sent to the Asylums by their friends	34	77	9	9	1	1	5	136
{ Female	46	78	5	4	3	1	9	146
" " the police ...	77	57	8	39	27	22	5	235
{ Female	45	66	5	23	6	16	4	165
" received from Benevolent Asylums ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
{ Female	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
" " Hospitals ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
{ Female	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
" " Gaols ...	11	1	...	...	2	1	...	15
{ Male	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
" " all other public institutions (including transfers)	1	4	5	1	36	37	9	93
{ Female	1	3	6	12	6	62	1	91
Total ...	227	287	40	88	81	140	33	896
Escaped patients retaken	2	3	2	4	2	1	2	16
{ Female	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	4
Total admissions	229	291	42	93	83	143	35	916

TABLE XI.—Showing the Nationalities and Religious Persuasions of those admitted for the first time during the Year 1898.

Birthplaces.	Religious Persuasions.										Total.
	Protestant.					Roman Catholic.	Pagan.	Hebrew.	Mahome-tan.	Unascertained.	
	Church of England.	Presby-terian.	Wesleyan.	Lutheran.	Other Protestant Denominations.						
Victoria	105	48	33	3	20	102	...	2	...	1	314
Other Colonies and British Possessions	11	2	8	1	5	24	...	1	1	1	54
England	98	1	18	...	8	4	...	...	...	1	130
Scotland	1	30	1	...	2	3	...	...	...	1	38
Ireland	8	7	...	...	1	59	...	...	...	1	76
France	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3
Germany	3	...	...	5	1	1	...	...	...	1	11
China ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	7
Other Countries	1	...	1	4	...	17	...	...	...	2	25
Not known	15	4	10	...	7	18	...	...	...	8	62
Total	243	92	71	13	44	230	7	3	1	16	720

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

Particulars.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Workshops (Male)—			
Blacksmiths	12	...	12
Carpenters	20	...	20
Mattress-makers	1	30	31
Shoemakers	20	...	20
Tailors	26	5	31
Painters	13	...	13
Basket-maker	1	...	1
Mat-makers	17	...	17
Engineer	1	...	1
French polisher	1	...	1
In the Workshops (Female)—			
Sewing (making-up and repairing clothing)	...	394	394
Fancy work ... ..	...	42	42
Miscellaneous occupations—			
Working on the farm	179	...	179
" in the garden	112	...	112
" in the kitchen	49	8	57
" in the store	8	...	8
" in the laundry	...	276	276
" in the wards and airing courts	477	583	1,060
" as servants at private quarters	28	24	52
" on roads and ornamental grounds	71	...	71
" in mess-room	10	4	14
Other work about the establishment	137	6	143
Amusements—			
Balls and concerts	632	581	1,213
Billiards and reading room	406	292	698
Cards, chess, dominoes, &c.	332	190	522
Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis	350	140	490
Walking and driving	468	335	803
Attending divine service			
... ..	767	693	1,460
" school	110	87	197

TABLE XIIA.—Return showing the Quantity of Produce supplied by the farms and gardens at the various Lunatic Asylums during the year ended 31st December, 1898.

Asylums.	Butter.	Eggs.	Meat, Poultry, &c.	Milk.	Vegetables.	Fruit.	Bacon.	Lard.
	lbs.	doz.	lbs.	qts.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Yarra Bend ...	313	836	2,692	66,146	187,277	2,821	...	...
Kew ...	...	3,274	4,855	102,041	526,546	15,217	3,770	50
Ararat ...	155	649	...	52,803	128,207	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	190	223	1,787	42,278	80,643	13,552	...	5
Sunbury ...	198	240	1,261	55,981	102,171	9,161	...	...
Ballarat ...	382	59	512	25,526	47,451	786	...	...

Asylums.	Green Food.	Hay.	Peas.	Root Crops.	Straw.	Wheat.	Oats.	Ensilage.
	bundles.	tons.	bushels.	tons.	lbs.	bushels.	lbs.	tons.
Yarra Bend ...	9,000	120	...	50	...	...	...	...
Kew ...	220	85	180	490	36,000	...	...	...
Ararat ...	140	95	...	5	...	...	...	25
Beechworth ...	44	45	...	10	72,800	80	11,200	...
Sunbury ...	50	25	...	14	24,000	...	1,000	50
Ballarat ...	8	60	...	...	4,480	18	...	...

TABLE XIII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Department of Hospitals for the Insane for the Year 1898.

Receipts.							Amount.		
							£	s.	d.
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at—									
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	2,742	0	0
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	7,039	0	0
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,466	0	0
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,218	0	0
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	721	0	0
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	400	0	0
Lunacy Wards	...	...	...	...	...	0	7	7
Amount of sales	...	...	...	...	...	948	0	10
„ fines	...	...	...	...	...	35	2	6
Miscellaneous collections	...	...	...	...	...	29	13	0
Total	...	...	...	...	...	14,599	3	11

Expenditure.							Amount.		
							£	s.	d.
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	2,154	9	8
Maintenance at—									
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	21,823	17	10
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	29,077	0	10
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	19,309	2	6
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	16,913	11	2
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	15,516	9	4
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	6,748	13	7
Lunacy Ward, Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	185	5	0
„ „ Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	2	17	0
„ „ Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	67	0	0
Expenses in connexion with committal and transport of lunatics	...	...	...	...	...	1,553	10	10
„ „ boarded-out patients	...	...	...	...	...	545	12	9
Total	...	...	...	...	...	113,897	10	6

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 1898.

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 ...	777	21,823	17	10	10,841	0	3	...	1,556	8	3	70	0	0		
Kew ...	1,183	29,077	0	10	12,947	6	5	...	2,538	13	3	70	0	0		
Ararat ...	674	19,309	2	6	8,235	6	6	...	1,338	3	9	131	10	0		
Beechworth ...	650	16,913	11	2	7,318	16	0	...	1,216	16	8	68	10	0		
Sunbury ...	607	15,516	9	4	6,353	12	11	...	1,265	10	1	72	0	0		
Ballarat ...	247	6,748	13	7	2,821	11	8	...	520	15	9	60	0	0		
General expenses ...	...	2,154	9	8	1,607	14	8	260 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	4,138	111,543	4	11	50,125	8	5	260 0 0	8,436	7	9	472	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 ...	7,087	4	10	531	17	3	1,026	12	0	230	0	2	234	17	7	37	14	10	208	2	8
Kew ...	9,821	15	3	749	6	4	1,948	18	1	304	2	0	346	9	2	68	11	8	281	18	8
Ararat ...	7,582	13	3	488	11	11	1,271	18	7	96	14	2	27	4	3	22	5	10	114	14	3
Beechworth ...	6,524	7	8	372	0	5	1,027	2	4	90	15	11	107	7	10	8	16	8	178	17	8
Sunbury ...	5,703	0	1	572	17	6	1,252	19	1	111	11	3	16	3	4	2	16	3	165	18	10
Ballarat ...	2,291	0	0	223	18	3	449	18	5	108	16	6	58	1	4	25	2	11	189	8	9
General expenses ...	...	...	...	16	16	3	1	10	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	268	8	9
Total ...	39,010	1	1	2,955	7	11	6,978	18	6	942	0	0	790	3	6	165	8	2	1,407	9	7

TABLE XV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients for the Year 1898.

Asylums.	Daily Average Number Resident.	Total Cost of Maintenance.			Collections for Maintenance, Sales, Fines, Fees, &c.			Salaries.			Allowance to Chaplains.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend ...	777	21,823	17	10	2,904	7	9	0	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kew ...	1,183	29,077	0	10	7,274	9	8	0	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ararat ...	674	19,309	2	6	1,710	13	5	0	4	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Beechworth ...	650	16,913	11	2	1,345	5	6	0	4	4	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sunbury ...	607	15,516	9	4	852	16	1	0	4	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ballarat ...	247	6,748	13	7	489	0	11	0	4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1
Total ...	4,138	109,388	15	3	14,576	13	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses ...	...	2,154	9	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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	6	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	6	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kew ...	0	3	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	10	0	0	3	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ararat ...	0	4	4	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{5}{8}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Beechworth ...	0	3	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sunbury ...	0	3	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ballarat ...	0	3	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	2	0	0	1
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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

TABLE XVI.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1898, in Lunacy Wards at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong.

				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the wards, 1st January, 1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Cases admitted:—									
First admissions	...	...	...	61	43	104			
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	43	104
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	44	109
Cases discharged:—									
Recovered	...	...	...	37	22	59			
Transferred to Asylums	...	...	...	22	20	42			
Not improved	...	...	...	...	...	...
Died	...	...	...	4	1	5			
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	63	43	106
Remaining in the wards, 31st December, 1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	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 1898.

	Number of Patients on Day of Visit.		Number of Miles Travelled.			Number of Patients on Day of Visit.		Number of Miles Travelled.	
	Number.	Total.	Number.	Total.		Number.	Total.	Number.	Total.
Yarra Bend—					Beechworth—				
22nd January	785	...	2		9th February	643	...	345	
26th February	784	...	2		9th June	657	...	345	
19th March	784	...	2		8th September	650	...	345	
31st March	785	...	2		24th November	648	...	345	
6th May	778	...	2				2,598		1,380
25th June	774	...	2		Sunbury—				
27th June	773	...	2		2nd February	560	...	49½	
17th September	765	...	2		21st February	558	...	49½	
24th September	772	...	2		26th April	563	...	49½	
17th December	770	...	2		20th June	601	...	49½	
22nd December	765	...	2		23rd August	613	...	49½	
		8,535		22	13th September	614	...	49½	
					20th December	648	...	49½	
Kew*							4,157		346
Ararat—					Ballarat—				
25th March	681	...	320		20th January	247	...	206	
22nd June	669	...	114		21st June	247	...	206	
20th September	684	...	320		24th September	244	...	206	
14th December	668	...	320		8th December	242	...	206	
		2,702		1,074			980		824
					Total	...	18,972	...	3,646

* Inspected by Board of Official Visitors.

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

In Yarra Bend, a decrease of	...	...	22
Kew, a decrease of	...	...	62
Ararat, a decrease of	...	...	9
Beechworth, an increase of	...	...	20
Sunbury, an increase of	...	...	92
Ballarat, a decrease of	...	...	4
Cottages for Idiots, no change.			

As already mentioned, a daily average increase of 51 patients had to be provided for throughout the year. The buildings erected at Sunbury some time ago were ready for occupation in June, and a number of patients were transferred there from the Metropolitan Asylums. These latter institutions, however, still remain in an overcrowded condition, as the admissions far exceeded the discharges and transfers.

Admissions.—The admissions for the twelve months under review show a considerable falling off on comparison with the preceding year, the numbers being 711 persons for 1898, against 771 for 1897. Some of the patients admitted had suffered from previous attacks of insanity, viz:—97 once, 17 twice, 4 thrice, and 9 more frequently.

The ratio of admissions to the general population was 1 in 1653, and this is a more favourable record than the figures for 1897, which were 1 in 1526.

The value of Asylum statistics, however, without full knowledge of the subject is very uncertain; *e.g.*, there was no abnormal increase of insanity during the year, yet the comparatively small addition of 51 persons to the Asylum population caused the proportion of insane to sane to increase from 1 in 271 in 1897 to 1 in 268 in 1898. This result, however, can be traced to a decline in the general population of the colony, the numbers on 31st December, 1898, showing an actual loss of 758 as compared with the previous year. A yearly increase in the numbers of the insane is inevitable, and Asylum statistics may be said to be adversely affected if there is no numerical progress in the general population.

Discharges.—Recoveries.—The number of patients discharged as recovered was 235, which is 18 above the figures for the preceding year. The percentage of recoveries is shown as 32·63, as against 27·96 for 1897. Fewer patients, however, were discharged relieved, the percentage being 8·75, against 11·08 for 1897. But the combined figures for 1898 show a very satisfactory discharge rate, viz.: 41·38.

Relieved.—The patients reported as relieved, numbering 63, had been removed from the Asylums on probation by their friends, who omitted to have them certified for discharge within the statutory period, and consequently the names were in due course written off the registers. The fact that these patients were allowed by their friends to continue free of Asylum control may be taken as strong evidence that they were fit for discharge.

Mortality.—A comparison of the death rate with the previous year's returns shows a material increase for the year 1898, when the deaths were 366 against 324 for the year 1897. The percentage of deaths on the average numbers resident was 8·84, while for the preceding year it was 7·93.

An outbreak of measles at the Idiot Cottages was responsible for the death of 18 of the inmates, and the rate there was increased from 6·50 per cent. in 1897 to 14·90 in 1898.

At the main Asylum Kew, and at Beechworth there was a decrease in the mortality, but the other Asylums showed a somewhat higher rate for the year.

With the exception of the outbreak of measles at the Idiot Cottages, the general health of the inmates and staff at all the Asylums has been good.

In Table IV A. is given the number admitted and discharged, the average number resident, and the results of treatment for each Asylum.

Casualties.—Various accidents occurred during the year to patients at the Asylums, all of which were made the subject of inquiry, and recorded in the books of the institutions. The casualties were not unduly numerous, considering the number—711—of new patients received during the year and the large number of patients resident, many of whom are violent, and with dangerous propensities. In three cases, at country Asylums, death resulted from the injuries sustained, and a magisterial inquiry was held in each instance, but no blame was attributed to any one.

There were three suicides during the year, two at Yarra Bend and one at Kew. At Yarra Bend a Chinese patient hanged himself in his cell. He had been treated as a suicidal patient, but the Chinese interpreter had reported that he had abandoned his suicidal intentions, and was rapidly convalescing. On the female side a patient escaped from the lower wards one evening, her body being subsequently found in the Yarra. At Kew a female patient caused her death by hanging. Coronial inquiry was held in each case, but the evidence did not show that the staff were blameworthy.

Probation.—On the 31st December, 1897, 183 patients were absent from the Asylums under the care of relatives or friends, and 390 other patients were allowed leave during 1898, making a total of 573 absent at various times during the year under the provisions of section 87 of the Lunacy Act.

This mode of allowing patients, who have improved but not quite recovered from mental derangement, to leave the Asylums under care of unpaid guardians may be said to have been attended with most satisfactory results, and the number of patients so liberated has been larger in Victoria than in any other part of the world. The system is valuable in many ways; it relieves to some extent the overcrowding of the Asylums, aids the recovery of some patients who are depressed by Asylum associations, and affords a chance of freedom to many whom no superintendent would accept the responsibility of discharging. So long as the present plan is continued, there will be less difficulty for a harmless or improving patient obtaining his release from a Victorian Asylum than, perhaps, from any similar institution in the world.

Boarding out.—This system has not made any headway during the year, as guardians can only be found for patients whose labour can be made useful. The large number of patients who are permitted to leave on probation relieves pressure on the Asylum space, and lessens somewhat the need for boarding out.

Epileptics.—Persons suffering from this disease are frequently sent to the Asylums, and as there is no special institution for their care, and their death rate is not markedly high, a large accumulation of patients has taken place. Steps have now been taken to provide separate accommodation by the erection of new buildings at Ballarat; and when these are ready the Metropolitan Asylums will be relieved of a large number of patients, leaving more room at Yarra Bend and Kew for hopeful cases.

Idiot Cottages.—These cottages accommodated 110 male and 93 female patients on 31st December, 1898, and additional room will shortly be provided to avoid overcrowding. The work done during the year was of a satisfactory description, and the children have been greatly benefited by the course of training they have undergone. Several of the patients were in a congenitally weak and helpless condition on admission, and during the year eighteen patients of this class succumbed to an outbreak of measles. Apart from this, the general health of the inmates has been good.

Accommodation.—The new buildings at Sunbury were furnished and made ready for occupancy in June last, and during the succeeding six months 41 patients were admitted on magisterial orders, and there were a number of transfers from Yarra Bend and Kew. Further accommodation is required, however, at Sunbury to ensure proper classification of the patients.

The female wards are still overcrowded in the Metropolitan Asylums, and though transfers are made when possible to the country institutions, it will not be possible to sensibly improve the condition of affairs until the buildings at Ballarat are completed, when about 80 of the epileptic class will be transferred there.

The average increase of patients for the past ten years has been 76 annually. If, therefore, overcrowding is to be avoided in the future, a reasonable sum, say £10,000, should be provided every year for the erection of additional buildings.

Works and Buildings.—Many works and repairs have been carried out at the various Asylums during the year, and funds have been provided by the *Railway and Public Works Loan Application Act 1898* for further improvements, which are necessary for the health and safety of the patients.

Spray baths have been fitted up in both the main Asylum and the Idiot Cottages at Kew, and they are found to be a great improvement on the plunge baths formerly in use. Plans are in preparation for additional dormitory accommodation at Ballarat and the Idiot Cottages.

It is anticipated that the erection of the new laundry at Sunbury, which is so urgently required, will be taken in hand without further delay, as money has been made available for the work. Funds have also been provided for lighting the Yarra Bend Asylum with gas or electricity, and it is hoped that the new system will be inaugurated without further loss of time, authority for taking action having been in the hands of the Public Works Department for some time.

Fire Extinction.—There has been a decided improvement in the water supply at all the Asylums during the past year. The volume of water is now ample for domestic purposes, but the pressure at Ararat, Beechworth, Ballarat, and Sunbury is not sufficient to reach to the roofs of the two-story buildings in the event of a fire occurring in that direction. The Public Works Department should no longer delay making provision to meet an emergency of this kind.

Farm and Garden Operations.—The past year was a favourable one for farm and garden work ; and it will be noticed, on reference to Table XIIA., that the results at the various Asylums have been satisfactory. Each Asylum owns a good herd of milch cows, and all milk required by the establishments has been supplied from the farms. There has also been a plentiful supply of vegetables and fruit for the inmates and staff.

The outdoor work provided has not only been of great value in the treatment of the patients, but has been also an important factor in the economical management of the Asylums.

Medical Staff.—During the past four years it has been the custom for the Superintendents and such members of the Medical Staff as could be spared from the Asylums to meet the Inspector in conference in Melbourne each year, for a period of two or three days. At those meetings any matter connected with the management of the Asylums may be discussed, interesting cases are brought under notice, and an opportunity is afforded the staff of exchanging views on current medical topics. These yearly meetings will doubtless become regularly established, and the exchange of experiences must have a beneficial result.

Monthly returns of seclusion and restraint at each Asylum are circulated amongst the Medical staff, so that this method of treatment may be compared, and the question kept prominently under notice.

Training of Nurses and Attendants.—Lectures on nursing were given in all the Asylums during the year, and in October examinations were held, the result of which were fairly satisfactory. Attendance at the lectures and the subsequent examination is not compulsory for members of the staff who were in the service before the system was introduced, but all probationers are required to qualify by examination before their appointments are confirmed. Many of the older attendants are reluctant to attend the nursing lectures, but a change of inclination in this respect may be expected when it becomes recognised that in any case the possession of the nursing diploma will be regarded as a valuable qualification, and may entitle the holder to preference when selections are being made for promotion, provided there is also a satisfactory record in other respects.

Proposed General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy.—When the federation of the Australian colonies has become an accomplished fact, very probably the institutions for the treatment and care of the insane will remain under the control of the provincial authorities. If this be so, the appointment of Commissioners in Lunacy by the central Government to visit, inspect, and report on all Asylums and Hospitals where insane persons are detained would result in great and obvious advantage to the well-being of the patients.

It would not be necessary, however, that the commissioners themselves should have any power to interfere in any way with the working of the Asylums. The reports of these independent experts would keep the authorities and public of each colony informed of any shortcoming that might exist, and as no colony would wish to be behind the others in these matters, a little time would no doubt develop a uniform and satisfactory system for the treatment and care of persons suffering from mental diseases.

Cost of Maintenance.—The financial statements for the year show a considerable increase in expenditure, the gross amount having increased from £107,634 7s. 10d. to £113,897 10s. 6d., being £6,263 2s. 8d. more than for the preceding twelve months, and the net average weekly cost per head was 8s. 9½d. as against 8s. 6d.

Tables giving details of the expenditure are attached.

An average of 51 additional patients had to be maintained throughout the year; but nearly the whole of the increased expenditure is accounted for by the material advance in the rates of the provision contracts. For the past three or four years prices for the principal articles of consumption have had an upward tendency. However, the effects of the bad seasons have apparently now passed away, as tenders at present under consideration for the ensuing financial year indicate that normal values will again rule for supplies, and in four of the principal items of consumption, viz. :—Bread, meat, butter, and potatoes, the decrease in prices will amount in the aggregate to no less a sum than £11,000 for the year.

Visitation of Asylums.—There are now six Asylums in the colony, viz., at Yarra Bend, Kew, Ararat, Beechworth, Sunbury, and Ballarat. There are no private Asylums, but licences have been issued to two approved applicants, under section 62 of the Lunacy Act, allowing charge of one lunatic to each.

Official visitors are appointed for each Asylum, and these gentlemen seem interested in their work, and forward reports periodically, direct to the Minister. The Asylums are also visited by chaplains appointed by the various denominations, and religious services are regularly conducted for the benefit of the patients. Every reasonable opportunity is given to the friends of patients and the public to visit the institutions, and this freedom of inspection must have a good effect on the management.

The number and dates of my visits to the Asylums are given in Table XVII.

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.