

1901.  
VICTORIA.

---

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

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R E P O R T

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER,

1900.

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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, 10th April, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report of the state and condition of the several Lunatic Asylums of Victoria, which were regularly visited and inspected by me, during the year ended 31st December, 1900.

I am glad to be in a position to again submit statistics which show that there is no cause for alarm as regards the increase of lunacy in Victoria. It will be seen, on reference to the accompanying tables, that the total number of registered lunatics on the 31st December, 1899, was 4,398. During the year 1900, 687 persons were admitted to the Public Asylums, being 98 fewer than during the previous year. After deducting the number of the discharges and deaths, 4,399 names remained on the books at the end of the year, the increase for the twelve months being, therefore, only one patient. The male patients decreased 28 in number, while the females increased by 29 for the year.

For the purpose of comparison with the Victorian statistics, I have obtained the following particulars regarding the New South Wales asylums. During the year 1900 the admissions numbered 859, and the increase in the number of registered lunatics at the end of the year was 108 males and 71 females, total 179. This increase is the largest on record there. For the year 1899 the number was 144.

The Victorian records, however, are not favorable in one respect, as they show a steady diminution in the number of patients on probation with their friends, and, as a result, a large increase in the number under care in the asylums, an unsatisfactory state of affairs that was fully alluded to in last year's Report, and that requires Legislative action to remedy. The number of patients on probation at the end of 1898 was 226; at the end of 1899, 118; and at the end of 1900 the number had fallen to 97. The daily average number of patients under care was 4,261, an increase of 55 over the previous year, for whom accommodation and maintenance had to be provided at the expense of the State.

The inmates of the Idiot Cottages at Kew, and the imbeciles in the asylums, are included in the Victorian returns.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on 31st December, 1900.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Public Lunatic Asylums at—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	416	384	800
Kew ... ..	481	455	936
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	132	111	243
Ararat ... ..	399	316	715
Beechworth ... ..	375	271	646
Sunbury ... ..	291	380	671
Ballarat ... ..	142	113	255
Out on probation—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	6	18	24
Kew ... ..	15	25	40
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	6	2	8
Ararat ... ..	5	5	10
Beechworth ... ..	2	7	9
Sunbury ... ..	...	...	...
Ballarat ... ..	3	3	6
Boarded out from—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	3	3
Kew ... ..	3	5	8
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	2	1	3
Ararat ... ..	3	10	13
Beechworth ... ..	4	1	5
Sunbury ... ..	1	1	2
Ballarat ... ..	...	2	2
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums ... ..	2,286	2,113	4,399
In the lunacy ward at—			
Castlemaine ... ..	...	...	...
Bendigo ... ..	...	1	1
Geelong ... ..	...	...	...
In licensed house ... ..	...	...	...
Total number of registered lunatics in the colony ... ..	2,286	2,114	4,400

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths in the Public Asylums during the Year ending 31st December, 1900.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylums, 1st January, 1900	...	...	...	2,314	2,084	4,398			
Cases admitted :—									
First admissions	394	344	738						
Not first admissions	70	51	121						
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	464	395	859			
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	2,778	2,479	5,257			
Cases discharged :—									
Recovered	162	119	281						
Relieved	21	39	60						
Not improved	104	60	164						
Died...	205	148	353						
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	492	366	858			
Remaining in the Asylums, 31st December, 1900	...	...	...	2,286	2,113	4,399			
Average number resident during the year	...	...	...	2,259	2,002	4,261			
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	2,672	2,413	5,085			
Persons admitted	...	...	...	358	329	687			
Persons recovered	...	...	...	161	119	280			
Transferred from one Asylum to another	...	...	...	77	59	136			
Escaped	...	...	...	25	1	26			
Retaken	...	...	...	21	1	22			

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1900.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	46	45	91
Have had two attacks	12	16	28
Have had three attacks	6	3	9
Have had four attacks	1	...	1
Have had five attacks	...	1	1
Have had six attacks	1	...	1
Have had seven attacks	1	...	1

TABLE IV.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries per Cent. of the Admissions, for each Year since 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	245	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	
1899	428	364	792	183	169	352	27	51	78	...	...	...	197	151	348	2,314	2,084	4,398	2,230	1,976	4,206	42.76	46.43	44.44	8.83	7.64	8.27	
1900	366	335	701	162	119	281	21	39	60	...	...	...	205	148	353	2,286	2,113	4,399	2,259	2,002	4,261	44.26	35.52	40.09	9.07	7.39	8.28	
Total	7,042	5,446	12,488	2,691	2,346	5,037	376	498	874	...	...	...	3,343	1,879	5,222	...	...	...	37,137	31,103	68,240	38.21	43.08	40.33	9.00	6.04	7.65	
																				1,954	1,637	3,591						

TABLE V.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries and of Relieved, per Cent. of the Admissions, for each Asylum, for the Year ended 31st December, 1900.

Asylum.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Died.			Remaining 31st December, 1900.			Average Numbers Resident during the Year 1900.			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	118	110	228	45	26	71	6	9	15	87	25	62	422	405	827	424	358	782	38.14	23.64	31.14	5.08	8.18	6.58	14.62	6.99	11.12
Kew	138	135	273	54	54	108	12	19	31	98	48	50	499	485	984	490	460	950	39.13	40.00	39.56	8.70	14.07	11.36	10.20	10.43	10.31
Idiot Asylum	13	16	29	...	...	...	1	1	2	22	13	9	140	114	254	131	108	239	...	...	...	7.69	6.25	6.90	6.87	12.04	9.20
Ararat	41	40	81	17	15	32	2	3	5	36	20	16	407	331	738	396	309	705	41.46	37.50	39.50	4.88	7.50	6.17	4.04	6.47	5.11
Beechworth	25	15	40	14	1	15	...	3	3	47	17	30	381	279	660	383	266	649	56.00	6.66	37.50	...	20.00	7.50	7.83	6.39	7.24
Sunbury	30	18	48	17	20	37	...	3	3	47	22	25	292	381	673	291	390	681	56.66	111.11	77.08	...	16.66	6.25	8.57	5.64	6.90
Ballarat	1	1	2	15	3	18	...	1	1	16	3	13	145	118	263	144	111	255	1,500.00	300.00	900.00	...	100.00	50.00	9.02	2.70	6.27
Total	366	335	701	162	119	281	21	39	60	353	148	205	2,286	2,113	4,399	2,259	2,002	4,261	44.26	35.52	40.09	5.74	11.64	8.56	9.07	7.39	8.28

TABLE VI.—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 ... ..	...	...	...	4,981	4,187	9,168	29·09	33·59	30·99
Relieved... ..	...	...	...	694	844	1,538	4·05	6·77	5·20
Not improved ... ..	...	...	...	3,561	2,569	6,130	20·80	20·61	20·72
Died ... ..	...	...	...	5,602	2,751	8,353	32·71	22·07	28·23
Out on trial and boarded out on 31st									
December, 1900 ... ..	...	...	...	50	83	133	·29	·67	·45
Remaining ... ..	...	...	...	2,236	2,030	4,266	13·06	16·29	14·41
Total ... ..	17,124	12,464	29,588	17,124	12,464	29,588	100·00	100·00	100·00

TABLE VII.—Showing the Length of Residence in those Discharged Recovered, and in those who have Died, during the Year 1900.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month ... ..	10	...	10	11	1	12
1 month and under 3 months ... ..	32	14	46	14	9	23
3 months " 6 " ... ..	19	15	34	16	12	28
6 " " 9 " ... ..	23	22	45	24	7	31
9 " " 12 " ... ..	23	19	42	22	9	31
1 year and under 2 years ... ..	26	34	60	33	21	54
2 years " 3 " ... ..	8	5	13	19	15	34
3 " " 5 " ... ..	4	7	11	9	18	27
5 " " 7 " ... ..	9	2	11	11	11	22
7 " " 10 " ... ..	6	1	7	10	11	21
10 " " 12 " ... ..	...	...	...	3	6	9
12 " " 15 " ... ..	1	...	1	10	5	15
15 " " 20 " ... ..	1	...	1	5	8	13
20 " " 25 " ... ..	...	...	...	7	9	16
25 " " 30 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	3	5
30 " " 35 " ... ..	...	...	...	5	2	7
35 " " 40 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	1	3
40 " " 45 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	2
Total ... ..	162	119	281	205	148	353

TABLE VIII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died during the Year 1900, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1900.

Ages.	The Admissions.			Recovered.			The Deaths.			Patients Resident 31st December, 1900.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years ... ..	3	7	10	...	...	...	3	3	6	3	1	4
5 years and under 10 years ... ..	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	14	36
10 " " 15 " ... ..	7	5	12	...	3	3	1	4	5	27	26	53
15 " " 20 " ... ..	14	20	34	1	6	7	5	3	8	60	62	122
20 " " 25 " ... ..	36	25	61	12	14	26	6	6	12	115	85	200
25 " " 30 " ... ..	54	43	97	22	14	36	2	5	7	165	130	295
30 " " 35 " ... ..	53	53	106	10	18	28	24	13	37	257	198	455
35 " " 40 " ... ..	58	55	113	29	21	50	18	16	34	250	203	453
40 " " 45 " ... ..	51	31	82	19	10	29	24	10	34	222	186	408
45 " " 50 " ... ..	37	39	76	16	6	22	16	13	29	166	170	336
50 " " 55 " ... ..	28	26	54	12	5	17	15	7	22	169	192	361
55 " " 60 " ... ..	16	10	26	5	7	12	18	7	25	148	234	382
60 " " 65 " ... ..	22	17	39	10	4	14	14	8	22	174	143	317
65 " " 70 " ... ..	14	15	29	2	5	7	12	15	27	161	149	310
70 " " 75 " ... ..	17	11	28	11	1	12	14	7	21	78	71	149
75 " " 80 " ... ..	13	11	24	2	...	2	9	7	18	35	35	70
80 " " 85 " ... ..	3	4	7	...	...	...	7	7	14	12	18	30
85 " " 90 " ... ..	2	...	2	1	...	1	1	3	4	4	3	7
90 " " 100 " ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	22	25
Unknown ... ..	34	21	55	10	5	15	15	12	27	215	171	386
Total ... ..	464	395	859	162	119	281	205	148	353	2,286	2,113	4,399

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

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Out on probation on 1st January, 1900	49	69	118
Allowed out during the year	120	172	292
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>410</b>
Recovered :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	14	18	32
Of those allowed out during the present year	44	49	93
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>125</b>
Died :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	1	4	5
Of those allowed out during the present year	3	1	4
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
Written off the books under section 89, Act 1113 :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	17	25	42
Of those allowed out during the present year	3	13	16
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>58</b>
Returned to the Asylums at expiration of probation :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	16	23	39
Of those allowed out during the present year	34	48	82
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>121</b>
Remaining under care out of the Asylums on 31st December, 1900	37	60	97

TABLE X.—Return of Patients Boarded out during the Year 1900.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Boarded out on 1st January, 1900...	10	20	30
Allowed out during the year	4	8	12
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>42</b>
Died :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	...	1	1
Of those allowed out during the present year	...	...	...
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Returned to the Asylums by their guardians—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	1	3	4
Of those allowed out during the present year	...	1	1
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Boarded out on 31st December, 1900	13	23	36

TABLE XI.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1900.

	Yarra Bend.	Kew.	Kew Idiot Asylum.	Ararat.	Beechworth.	Sunbury.	Ballarat.	Total.
Lunatics sent to the Asylums by their friends ...	18	65	8	7	2	...	1	101
{ Female	39	86	8	18	10	3	1	165
" " the police ...	83	73	1	34	20	30	...	241
{ Female	61	48	4	22	5	15	...	155
" received from Benevolent Asylums ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
{ Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Hospitals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Female	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
" " Gaols ...	16	...	...	...	2	...	...	18
{ Male	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
{ Female	3	4	9	7	17	15	27	82
" " all other public institutions (including transfers)	4	2	7	13	11	11	17	65
{ Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>837</b>
Escaped patients retaken	4	4	...	6	2	1	4	21
{ Male	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
{ Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Total admissions</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>859</b>



TABLE XII.—Showing the Nationalities and Religious Persuasions of those admitted for the first time during the Year 1900.

Birthplaces.	Religious Persuasions.										Total.
	Protestant.					Roman Catholic.	Pagan.	Hebrew.	Mahome-tan.	Unascertained.	
	Church of England.	Presby-terian.	Wesleyan.	Lutheran.	Other Protestant Denomi-nations.						
Victoria ... ..	103	49	26	2	18	92	...	4	1	4	299
Other Colonies and British Possessions	18	7	3	...	2	17	...	2	...	2	51
England ... ..	64	2	15	...	14	2	...	3	...	...	100
Scotland ... ..	2	27	1	...	5	1	...	...	...	1	37
Ireland ... ..	13	3	1	...	2	61	...	...	...	...	80
France ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Germany ... ..	4	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	9
China ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Other Countries	3	...	...	1	1	8	...	...	...	...	15
Not known	28	9	9	4	12	24	...	1	...	14	104
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>235</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>701</b>

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

Particulars.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<b>In the Workshops (Male)—</b>			
Blacksmiths ... ..	12	...	12
Carpenters ... ..	24	...	24
Mattress-making and repairing	13	28	41
Shoemakers ... ..	21	...	21
Tailors ... ..	26	...	26
Painters ... ..	12	...	12
Basket-makers ... ..	...	...	...
Mat-makers ... ..	20	...	20
Engineers ... ..	2	...	2
<b>In the Workshops (Female)—</b>			
Sewing (making-up and repairing clothing)	...	381	381
Fancy work ... ..	...	57	57
<b>Miscellaneous occupations—</b>			
Working on the farm	183	...	183
" in the garden	116	...	116
" in the kitchen	45	20	65
" in the store	9	...	9
" in the laundry	...	286	286
" in the wards and airing courts	603	654	1,257
" as servants at private quarters	28	39	67
" on roads and ornamental grounds	67	...	67
" in mess-room	6	3	9
Other work about the establishment	151	10	161
<b>Amusements—</b>			
Balls and concerts ... ..	663	630	1,293
Billiards and reading room	399	275	674
Cards, chess, dominoes, &c.	336	185	521
Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis	360	115	475
Walking and driving	509	307	816
<b>Attending divine service</b> ... ..	<b>821</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>1,543</b>
" school ... ..	<b>133</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>238</b>

TABLE XIV.—Return showing the Quantity of Produce supplied by the Farms and Gardens at the various Lunatic Asylums during the year ended 31st December, 1900.

Asylums.	Butter.	Eggs.	Meat, Poultry, &c	Milk.	Vegetables.	Fruit.	Bacon.	Lard.
	lbs.	doz.	lbs.	qts.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Yarra Bend ...	383	843	3,423	71,964	223,784	3,257	...	...
Kew ...	...	2,927	3,774	113,435	527,787	19,772	4,620	60
„ Idiot Asylum ...	...	...	...	...	348	...	...	...
Ararat ...	862	553	268	61,938	137,031	1,000	...	...
Beechworth ...	...	190	2,114	40,199	124,548	10,205	...	...
Sunbury ...	2,103	819	156	62,448	167,509	7,720	...	...
Ballarat ...	582	117	924	30,167	46,006	631	...	...

  

Asylums.	Green Food.	Hay.	Peas.	Root Crops.	Straw.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	En- silage.
	bundles. tons.	tons.	bushels.	tons.	tons.	bushels.	bushels.	tcns.	tons.
Yarra Bend ...	2,800	80	...	25	...	...	...	...	...
Kew ...	254	150	300	470	21½	...	...	...	...
„ Idiot Asylum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ararat ...	64	70	...	75	...	...	...	57	...
Beechworth ...	54	35	18	12	29	60	160	...	...
Sunbury ...	100	100	...	100	35	...	...	...	100
Ballarat ...	...	60	...	12	1¼	...	12	...	...

TABLE XV.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Department of Hospitals for the Insane during the Year 1900.

Receipts.							Amount.		
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at—							£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	3,231	4	5	
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	6,309	4	7	
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,253	9	4	
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,177	0	3	
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	644	18	8	
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	300	2	6	
Lunacy Wards	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	4	
Amount of sales	...	...	...	...	...	895	1	2	
„ fines	...	...	...	...	...	46	13	6	
Miscellaneous collections	...	...	...	...	...	24	18	10	
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	...	...	<b>13,885</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	

  

Expenditure.							Amount.		
General expenses							£	s.	d.
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	2,666	15	3	
Maintenance at—									
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	21,785	4	11	
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	29,986	0	6	
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	17,387	3	6	
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	15,970	3	9	
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	15,888	0	11	
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	7,346	17	4	
Lunacy Ward, Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	121	0	0	
„ „ Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	69	10	0	
„ „ Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	0	6	0	
Expenses in connexion with committal and transport of lunatics	...	...	...	...	...	1,653	2	4	
„ „ boarded-out patients	...	...	...	...	...	525	16	9	
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	...	...	<b>113,400</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	



TABLE XVII.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients—*continued*.

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	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	9	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kew ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	9	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	2	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ararat ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	9	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	8	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beechworth ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	8	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sunbury ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	8	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	8	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ballarat ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	11	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	10	7
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	9	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	1	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	8	6
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

TABLE XVIII.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1900, in Lunacy Wards at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong.

					Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the wards, 1st January, 1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Cases admitted:—										
Admissions	...	...	...	...	61	29	90			
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	29	90
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	29	91
Cases discharged:—										
Recovered	...	...	...	...	34	11	45			
Not improved—Transferred to Public Lunatic Asylums	...	...	...	...	26	15	41			
Died	...	...	...	...	2	2	4			
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	28	90
Remaining in the wards, 31st December, 1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1

TABLE XIX.—Showing the Number of Patients Visited and the Number of Miles Travelled by the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums during the Year 1900.

	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—				
4th March ...	786	...	2	...	14th March ...	651	...	345	...
24th March ...	791	...	2	...	14th June ...	656	...	345	...
29th March ...	792	...	2	...	14th August ...	643	...	345	...
20th April ...	795	...	2	...	21st November	646	...	345	...
23rd April ...	781	...	2	...			2,596		1,380
30th April ...	782	...	2	...	Sunbury—				
15th September	784	...	2	...	21st February	679	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
25th September	781	...	2	...	6th March ...	677	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
31st October ...	788	...	2	...	21st March ...	679	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
21st December	793	...	2	...	10th April ...	681	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
		7,873		20	27th June ...	679	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
					24th October ...	664	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
					27th November	661	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Kew*							4,720		346
					Ballarat—				
					1st February ...	255	...	206	...
Ararat—					23rd March ...	258	...	206	...
28th March ...	701	...	320	...	7th June ...	260	...	206	...
20th June ...	706	...	320	...	29th August ...	252	...	206	...
13th September	707	...	320	...	21st September	252	...	206	...
13th December	711	...	320	...	16th November	257	...	206	...
		2,825		1,280			1,534		1,236
					Total	...	19,548	...	4,262

\* Inspected by Official Visitors and Inspector who is resident.

The following variations have taken place in the Asylum numbers during the year:—

Yarra Bend, an increase of	...	...	26
Kew, a decrease of	...	...	18
Idiot Cottages, an increase of	...	...	12
Ararat, an increase of	...	...	15
Beechworth, a decrease of	...	...	7
Sunbury, a decrease of	...	...	11
Ballarat, a decrease of	...	...	1

These figures show an increase in the establishments of sixteen patients on 31st December, 1900; there were 21 fewer on trial, but six more were boarded out than on the corresponding date of 1899. The pressure on the already overcrowded space of the asylums can be best understood, however, by the fact that the daily average numbers in the asylums were 55 in excess of the preceding year.

*Admissions.*—The persons admitted during the year numbered 687, as compared with 785 for 1899, a satisfactory reduction of 98. The admissions to New South Wales Asylums during 1899 were 796, and during 1900 they rose to 859.

The patients who were merely transferred from one Asylum to another, or who escaped and were retaken, are not included in these figures:—

A census of the general population was taken throughout the State, on the 31st March, 1901, and the Government Statist informs me that the population was then 1,195,874. On this basis the ratio of the insane admitted during the year 1900, to the whole population would be 1 in 1,741. For the year 1899, the proportion was 1 in 1,504, when the population was estimated at 1,180,878.

In 1899 it was calculated that there was 1 lunatic in every 268 persons. On the population basis of the recent census, the ratio for the year 1900 is found to be 1 in 272.

*Discharges, Recoveries.*—The recovery rate is somewhat lower than for the preceding year, but it cannot, under all the circumstances, be considered as unsatisfactory. For 1899, the recovered and the relieved being added together gave the discharge rate as 54.29 per cent. on the admissions. For the year 1900, the computation being made in the same way, the rate is 48.65. It has been pointed out in former reports that owing to the free use of the probation system in the Victorian Asylums, the patients who were nominally returned as “Discharged—Recovered,” and “Relieved,” respectively, should be classed together in bare justice to the Asylums. The details for the year 1900, are:—281 patients “Recovered,” a percentage on the admissions of 40.09, and 60 patients “Relieved,” giving a rate of 8.56 per cent.

The “Recovery” rate for the New South Wales Asylums for the year 1900, is given as 38.88.

*Mortality.*—There were 353 deaths during the year, and the rate 8.28, is practically the same as for the previous year, when it was 8.27. Considering the class of patients admitted and confined in the Asylums, the mortality does not appear to be unduly high. In New South Wales, however, the rate was very favorable, being 6.61 per cent.

*Pay Patients.*—The Royal Commission on Victorian Lunatic Asylums recommended that private institutions for the detention of insane persons should not in future be permitted, and this recommendation was given effect to by being embodied in the *Lunacy Act 1890*, which at present governs lunacy matters. It was generally understood that special accommodation would be provided by the State for private patients, the necessity for this step arising not only from regard to the feelings of the friends, but also on the very important grounds of medical treatment. It is generally admitted that a person's prospects of mental recovery are much retarded if he is removed from a refined and comfortable home, and has to become an inmate of a general asylum, where privacy and the surroundings to which he has been accustomed cannot be provided. The financial condition of the State has hitherto prevented any special buildings being erected, but at the request of the Master in Lunacy two of the wards of the Kew Asylum were set apart for paying patients, and arrangements made for giving them such privacy and comforts as was found possible. Two cottages at the Yarra Bend Asylum also house a few patients of this class. The provision

thus made does not give the accommodation and provide the treatment necessary for such cases. To meet the difficulty it has been urged that a return to private asylums should be permitted, and that private hospitals should be licensed to receive insane persons. There would, in my opinion, be but little objection to a properly constructed and equipped private Asylum, with a trained staff, and a responsible resident Medical Superintendent, but to license private hospitals, which are structurally unsuitable, do not possess a staff of mentally trained nurses, and are not under the control of a resident Medical Superintendent, would call into existence a very undesirable class of private asylums, and leave opportunities for most serious abuses. Under present circumstances, it would, in my opinion, be best for the State to keep entire control of all lunatics, and erect such buildings as may be found necessary. This could be done either by building a separate State Pay Asylum, or by constructing special wards in connexion with the Kew Asylum. A separate Asylum would no doubt be the best plan, but would cost considerably more to build and work than the Kew wards. Either arrangement would be a marked improvement in the present state of affairs. The increased payments received from patients should, to a considerable extent, meet the cost of the special buildings.

*Inebriates.*—Nothing has yet been done to provide for the treatment of persons addicted to the excessive use of alcohol or narcotic drugs. Fresh legislation is necessary, and a proper system should be organized, before this urgent and important matter can be satisfactorily dealt with.

*Epileptics.*—A special ward has been erected for female epileptic patients at the Ballarat Asylum, and nearly all the female patients suffering from this disease have been removed from the Metropolitan Asylums. A second ward, of the same size, is in course of construction, and when finished will enable the segregation of those patients to be extended. The advantages of the new arrangement are numerous, and as the new ward will comfortably accommodate at least 80 patients, the relief now given to the Metropolitan Asylums is considerable, and much appreciated.

*Idiot Asylum.*—The new wards have been occupied, and the overcrowded state of the Institution has been relieved. The building of a drill room, the enlargement of the kitchen, and the addition of a new boiler, have given increased facilities for carrying on work. Victoria is the only country that offers accommodation and training for all idiot and imbecile children resident within its bounds, and in this respect at least is in advance of other places. The system of training the children is based on that of the best English institutions, and the results may, I think, be looked upon as satisfactory. The school classes, however, are becoming too large for the present staff, and it will be necessary to ask for additional teachers.

*Restraint.*—The records of restraint are not satisfactory reading, as this mode of treatment seems to be relied on in some of the Asylums to an extent that has long been discarded in English Asylums. I have again brought the matter specially under the notice of the various Superintendents.

*Casualties.*—At the Yarra Bend Asylum two male patients died from injury caused by other patients, in each case the skull being fractured. In the same Asylum a male patient suffering from general paralysis was being fed by his brother with some cake, a portion of which became impacted in the gullet, resulting in the patient being suffocated. Inquests were held in these cases, and no blame was attached to any member of the staff. Another inmate was severely injured in this Asylum by a fellow patient, and died a few days afterwards. The coroner's jury considered the death to be due to disease, and not to the injury. At the Kew Asylum a male patient committed suicide by hanging himself in his bedroom. In this case, also, the jury freed all the officials from blame. There were some minor accidents, but there was nothing in connexion with them calling for special remark.

*Lunacy Wards.*—The lunacy wards maintained in connexion with the Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong hospitals, and which serve the purposes of Receiving-houses in the respective districts, admitted during the year 61 male and 29 female patients, and there was one patient under treatment at the beginning of the year, making a total of 91 cases. All of those patients were detained until their mental state was definitely ascertained, with the result that 41 were transferred to Lunatic Asylums, and 45 were discharged as recovered. Of the remainder, 4 died in the wards, and 1 was left under care in the Bendigo ward at the end of the year.

*Receiving Houses.*—A Receiving House should act as a filter to separate sane from insane persons, and the shorter the detention of a patient in such an establishment the better will it serve its purpose. The present Lunacy Act requires that all patients should be sent to the Receiving House and detained there for at least three days, and after that period they can only be dealt with by a complicated system of examinations. When it is remembered the number of persons who would be confined within this small building, some of them noisy, excited, and furious, many using foul language, some dirty in habits, while others would be refined, delicate, and perhaps sane, we can realize the terrible state of affairs that would exist. I would strongly urge that the present Lunacy Act be amended as early as possible, so as to allow of persons who are undoubtedly insane being sent direct to an Asylum, and only doubtful cases committed to the Receiving House.

*Works and Buildings.*—In addition to the epileptic wards at Ballarat, and the new buildings at the Idiot Asylum, Kew, already referred to, new kitchen, laundry, and bath-room are in course of erection at Ballarat, and the water supply of that Asylum is being much improved. The laundry at Sunbury, very greatly needed, is approaching completion, and new out-buildings are being built for the female wards at Yarra Bend. Repairs and minor improvements have received as much attention as the funds available and limited Asylum labour would permit. Many of the Asylum buildings are old, and in urgent need of considerable expenditure, and the annual accumulation of patients should be provided for. Without considering the cost of the pay wards or the Receiving House, a greatly increased building vote is absolutely necessary to put the asylums in a satisfactory state.

*Medical Staff.*—The numerical efficiency of the Medical Staff has been called in question, and no doubt institutions for the care and treatment of the insane in some other lands are allowed a larger proportion of medical officers. As, however, we have a staff equal in number to that of the New South Wales Lunacy Department, it can scarcely be contended that the Victorian Asylums have been dangerously under-officered. In my opinion, the present staff of two medical men at Ararat, Beechworth, and Sunbury is sufficient. As Ballarat is being enlarged, a second resident medical officer will be required, and will be asked for on the next Estimates.

In dealing with the Metropolitan Asylums it would be wise, in my opinion, to follow the now approved practice of separating the curable from the incurable inmates. If the number of patients in Kew were reduced, and some structural alterations made, a portion of that institution could be made a hospital for curable cases, the incurables being drafted to the other portions of Kew and to the Yarra Bend. The present staff of three resident medical men would then be sufficient for the last-named Asylum, and a larger medical staff could be employed with advantage in the hospital for curables.

*Changes in Staff.*—The well-merited promotion of Dr. J. A. O'Brien, medical superintendent for many years of the Sunbury Asylum, to the position of Government Medical Officer has deprived this branch of a very capable and energetic officer.

Several of the older nurses and attendants retired on pension during the year.

*Cost of Maintenance.*—Notwithstanding the fact that there were more patients to be maintained than in 1899, the daily average increase was 55, and that extra expenditure was incurred in furnishing the new wards at Ballarat, and in granting important concessions to the staff, the increased expenditure was only £653 18s. 6d. for the past year, the total expenditure of the department being £113,400 1s. 3d., as against £112,746 2s. 9d. for the year 1899. The cost of buildings and repairs, and of furniture, is not included in these amounts, as the expenditure under these headings is defrayed from the votes which are under the control of the Public Works Department.

The collections made by the Master in Lunacy for the maintenance of patients amounted to £12,919 5s. 1d., or £2,944 13s. 3d. less than for the preceding year.

The gross weekly cost of each patient was 10s., but if we deduct expenses not directly incurred by the asylums, *e.g.*, expenses of the inspector's office, of arrest and committal of lunatics, of boarded-out patients, of lunacy wards, and official visitors, and take credit for the money paid into the general revenue from collections for maintenance by the Master in Lunacy, and for the amount received from the Asylums as the proceeds of sales, fines, &c., the actual cost of each patient in the Asylums will then amount to 8s. 6d. per week.

The tables give full details of the expenditure, and it will be found that the financial business of the Department is controlled in a very satisfactory manner.

*General Remarks.*—It is admitted that the Victorian Asylums have not advanced to as high a standard as has been attained in many other countries, but it is a mistake to think that no progress has taken place. For instance, employment is one of the most important means for treating the insane, and in this matter the Victorian Asylums are well abreast of any similar institutions. The food supply is excellent, and the clothing of the inmates is kept up to a fair standard. The spray baths that have been introduced are found to be a great advance on the old system of bathing, and the newer buildings will bear favorable comparison with those erected elsewhere.

The more purely medical treatment cannot be deemed satisfactory. To amend this a well-trained nursing staff is needed, and the enforcement of personal responsibility of all members of the staff of an Asylum, from the Medical Superintendent down to the most junior attendant. Efforts to train the attendants as nurses have been made for many years, but the system has to a great degree broken down, because the Public Service Board, in recommending promotions, refuses to accept training in nursing as a reason for advancement. The Board's position seems to be that members of the staff have certain legal rights that render it unnecessary for them to keep abreast with modern medical ideas, and therefore the interests of the staff have to be placed before those of the patients. It seems to me that any one taking this view fails to perceive that the Asylums were erected and are maintained for the purpose of treating and caring for insane persons, and that such treatment and care should reach a reasonable modern medical standard. No member of the staff has, in my opinion, any claim that can block the carrying out of the fundamental principles for which the asylums were built. The brain diseases which are the causes of insanity are most obscure and difficult lesions to understand and combat. Without doubt, as high a standard of nursing and medical treatment as obtains in the Melbourne Hospital should be insisted on if the patients are to obtain the benefit of modern medical care and treatment.

I may mention that the American Asylums were, up to comparatively recent times, in a very unsatisfactory state. The necessary reform was obtained by placing them under the control of trustees, and many of these institutions now rank amongst the best managed in the world.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. V. McCREERY,

Inspector of Lunatic Asylums.

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