

1902.

VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

R E P O R T

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1901.

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

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REPORT.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE,

SIR,

Inspector's Office, Melbourne, 11th June, 1902.

I have the honour to submit herewith my Report on the condition of the Lunatic Asylums in Victoria for the year ended 31st December, 1901.

It will be seen, on reference to the accompanying statistical tables, that there was an increase in the number of the admissions, as compared with the previous year, and a diminished discharge and death rate, resulting in 102 additional names being placed on the asylums' registers at the end of the year, viz., 21 males and 81 females.

There was a considerable increase in the number of patients allowed to be absent from the asylums on probation, the figures having risen from 97 to 157 during the year, and there were 2 more patients boarded out. These changes left only 40 additional patients resident in the asylums on the 31st December, and this condition, speaking generally, may be regarded as satisfactory.

The admissions numbered 757 persons, against 687 for the preceding year, but fewer than for the year 1899, when they reached 785.

The daily average number of patients resident in the asylums was 4,292, an excess of 31 over the previous year.

In the statistical tables subjoined the term "lunatic" includes idiots, imbeciles, and criminal lunatics, as well as other persons of unsound mind who have come under official cognisance.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on 31st December, 1901.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Public Lunatic Asylums at—			
Yarra Bend	430	361	791
Kew	450	408	858
Kew Idiot Asylum	149	118	267
Ararat	385	320	705
Beechworth	394	280	674
Sunbury	278	377	655
Ballarat	145	211	356
Out on probation—			
Yarra Bend	11	16	27
Kew	26	58	84
Kew Idiot Asylum	8	7	15
Ararat	5	6	11
Beechworth	8	1	9
Sunbury	2	4	6
Ballarat	3	2	5
Boarded out from—			
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	3	3
Kew	3	4	7
Kew Idiot Asylum	2	1	3
Ararat	3	10	13
Beechworth	4	3	7
Sunbury	1	2	3
Ballarat ... ..	...	2	2
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums	2,307	2,194	4,501
In the lunacy ward at—			
Castlemaine ... ..	...	...	...
Bendigo	2	...	2
Geelong ... ..	...	1	1
In licensed house ... ..	...	...	...
Total number of registered lunatics in the State	2,309	2,195	4,504

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths in the Public Asylums during the Year ending 31st December, 1901.

—	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Asylums, 1st January, 1901	...	...	...	2,286	2,113	4,399			
Cases admitted :—									
First admissions	376	303	679						
Not first admissions	61	51	112						
Transferred from one Asylum to another	90	164	254						
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	527	518	1,045			
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	2,813	2,631	5,444			
Cases discharged :—									
Recovered	174	125	299						
Relieved	11	16	27						
Not improved (including transfers)	119	168	287						
Died	202	128	330						
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	506	437	943			
Remaining in the Asylums, 31st December, 1901	...	...	...	2,307	2,194	4,501			
Average number resident during the year	...	...	...	2,242	2,050	4,292			
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	2,699	2,457	5,156			
Persons admitted	...	...	...	413	344	757			
Persons recovered	...	...	...	171	125	296			
Transferred from one Asylum to another	...	...	...	90	164	254			
Escaped	...	...	...	29	4	33			
Retaken	...	...	...	19	3	22			

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1901.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	58	73	131
Have had two attacks	13	11	24
Have had three attacks	4	2	6
Have had four attacks	1	...	1
Have had five 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	1,732	1,415	3,147	1,636	1,263	2,899	47.56	61.64	54.19	8.43	4.75	6.82
1883	282	198	480	107	117	224	11	3	14	...	...	...	140	1,750	1,443	3,193	1,640	1,296	2,936	37.94	59.09	46.66	8.53	3.78	6.43
1884	298	249	547	145	145	290	8	4	12	...	...	...	142	1,749	1,479	3,228	1,660	1,338	2,998	48.65	58.23	53.01	8.55	5.00	6.97
1885	293	226	519	141	131	272	7	5	12	...	...	...	147	1,743	1,487	3,230	1,658	1,370	3,030	48.12	57.96	52.40	8.86	5.54	7.36
1886	333	262	595	128	115	243	7	3	10	...	...	...	125	1,818	1,560	3,378	1,694	1,421	3,115	38.43	43.89	40.84	7.37	5.27	6.38
1887	372	290	662	138	137	275	6	2	8	...	...	...	158	1,884	1,632	3,516	1,767	1,494	3,261	37.09	47.24	41.54	8.94	5.40	7.30
1888	381	267	648	171	136	307	4	4	8	...	...	...	127	1,966	1,666	3,632	1,811	1,513	3,324	44.88	50.93	47.37	7.01	5.94	6.71
1889	401	264	665	169	126	295	56	71	127	...	...	...	153	1,980	1,647	3,627	1,882	1,543	3,425	42.14	47.73	44.36	8.13	5.44	6.92
1890	438	311	749	168	126	294	17	24	41	...	...	...	161	2,066	1,703	3,769	1,954	1,588	3,542	38.35	40.51	39.25	8.24	6.48	7.45
1891	427	318	745	170	137	307	25	16	41	...	...	...	201	2,090	1,778	3,868	1,993	1,630	3,623	39.81	43.08	41.21	10.08	5.64	8.09
1892	399	307	706	142	144	286	20	22	42	...	...	...	181	2,136	1,818	3,954	2,045	1,681	3,726	35.59	46.90	40.51	8.85	6.07	7.59
1893	384	296	680	153	102	255	25	40	65	...	...	...	177	2,161	1,877	4,038	2,112	1,748	3,860	39.84	34.46	37.50	8.38	5.37	7.02
1894	402	293	695	124	97	221	21	43	64	...	...	...	207	2,205	1,911	4,116	2,119	1,793	3,912	30.84	33.11	31.80	9.77	6.38	8.31
1895	377	277	654	115	106	221	25	41	66	...	...	...	211	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	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	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	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	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	2,286	2,113	4,399	2,259	2,002	4,261	44.26	35.52	40.09	9.07	7.39	8.28
1901	418	351	769	174	125	299	11	16	27	...	...	...	202	2,307	2,194	4,501	2,242	2,050	4,292	41.62	35.61	38.88	9.01	6.24	7.68
Total	7,460	5,797	13,257	2,865	2,471	5,336	387	514	901	...	...	...	3,545	2,007	5,552	39,379	33,153	72,534	38.40	42.52	40.25	9.00	6.05	7.65	
																	1,969	1,657	3,626						

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 the Year ended 31st December, 1901.

Asylum.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Died.			Remaining 31st December, 1901.			Average Numbers Resident during the Year 1901.			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	156	119	275	36	36	72	5	7	12	50	26	76	441	380	821	422	358	780	23.07	30.25	26.18	3.20	5.88	4.36	11.84	7.26	9.74
Kew	136	131	267	78	56	134	2	2	4	55	27	82	479	470	949	469	422	891	57.35	42.74	50.19	1.47	1.52	1.49	11.72	6.39	9.20
Idiot Asylum	29	23	52	...	...	...	1	3	4	12	10	22	159	126	285	144	118	262	...	...	...	3.44	13.04	7.69	8.33	8.47	8.39
Ararat	41	44	85	23	15	38	2	2	4	29	17	46	393	336	729	395	317	712	56.09	34.09	44.70	4.87	4.54	4.70	7.34	5.36	6.46
Becehworth	24	14	38	11	4	15	1	2	3	23	15	38	406	284	690	381	269	650	45.83	28.57	39.47	4.16	14.28	7.89	6.03	5.57	5.84
Sunbury	32	20	52	21	5	26	...	...	...	20	23	43	281	383	664	286	382	668	65.62	25.00	50.00	...	...	...	6.99	6.02	6.43
Ballarat	...	...	...	5	9	14	...	...	...	13	10	23	148	215	363	145	184	329	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.96	5.43	6.99
Total	418	351	769	174	125	299	11	16	27	202	128	330	2,307	2,194	4,501	2,242	2,050	4,292	41.62	35.61	38.88	2.63	4.55	3.51	9.01	6.24	7.68

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 ... ..	...	...	...	5,155	4,312	9,467	29'20	33'22	30'90
Relieved ... ..	...	...	...	705	860	1,565	4'00	6'62	5'11
Not improved ... ..	...	...	...	3,680	2,737	6,417	20'85	21'08	20'95
Died ... ..	...	...	...	5,804	2,879	8,683	32'88	22'18	28'34
Out on trial and boarded out on 31st December, 1901 ... ..	...	...	...	76	119	195	4'3	9'2	6'4
Remaining ... ..	...	...	...	2,231	2,075	4,306	12'64	15'98	14'06
Total	17,651	12,982	30,633	17,651	12,982	30,633	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 1901.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month	9	2	11	13	6	19
1 month and under 3 months	32	10	42	15	14	29
3 months " 6 "	25	17	42	17	14	31
6 " " 9 "	22	16	38	13	8	21
9 " " 12 "	33	25	58	13	9	22
1 year and under 2 years	28	38	66	44	19	63
2 years " 3 "	8	11	19	20	10	30
3 " " 5 "	8	4	12	18	13	31
5 " " 7 "	5	1	6	7	6	13
7 " " 10 "	2	1	3	20	9	29
10 " " 12 " ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	3
12 " " 15 "	2	...	2	5	5	10
15 " " 20 " ... ..	...	...	...	4	1	5
20 " " 25 " ... ..	...	...	...	9	8	17
25 " " 30 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	2	4
30 " " 35 " ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	2
35 " " 40 " ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
40 " " 45 " ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total	174	125	299	202	128	330

TABLE VIII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died, during the Year 1901, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1901.

Ages.	The Admissions.			Recovered.			The Deaths.			Patients Resident 31st December, 1901.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years	3	2	5	...	...	...	2	1	3	4	2	6
5 years and under 10 years	7	9	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	16	40
10 " 15 "	11	10	21	...	...	...	3	2	5	33	28	61
15 " 20 "	23	18	41	4	1	5	4	5	9	74	73	147
20 " 25 "	36	40	76	15	11	26	8	4	12	128	90	218
25 " 30 "	45	84	129	14	14	28	5	9	14	172	172	344
30 " 35 "	63	56	119	17	19	36	23	5	28	259	206	465
35 " 40 "	70	51	121	37	22	59	20	7	27	288	225	513
40 " 45 "	57	55	112	18	19	37	18	8	26	230	191	421
45 " 50 "	31	34	65	10	11	21	14	9	23	181	201	382
50 " 55 "	34	39	73	18	8	26	11	12	23	198	196	394
55 " 60 "	36	16	52	6	3	9	13	11	24	159	200	359
60 " 65 "	26	22	48	5	4	9	17	14	31	153	149	302
65 " 70 "	19	23	42	6	3	9	17	11	28	120	127	247
70 " 75 "	9	10	19	2	1	3	14	6	20	71	76	147
75 " 80 "	12	9	21	2	1	3	10	9	19	39	41	80
80 " 85 "	3	4	7	1	...	1	4	5	9	13	19	32
85 " 90 " ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	4	3	7
90 " 100 " ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	1
Unknown	42	36	78	19	8	27	14	10	24	157	178	335
Total	527	518	1,045	174	125	299	202	128	330	2,307	2,194	4,501

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

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Out on probation on 1st January, 1901	37	60	97
Allowed out during the year	168	194	362
Total	205	254	459
Recovered :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	11	18	29
Of those allowed out during the present year	45	47	92
Total	56	65	121
Died :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years ... ..	...	1	1
Of those allowed out during the present year	5	3	8
Total	5	4	9
Written off the books under section 89, Act 1113 :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	7	13	20
Of those allowed out during the present year	2	3	5
Total	9	16	25
Returned to the Asylums at expiration of probation :—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	16	27	43
Of those allowed out during the present year	56	48	104
Total	72	75	147
Remaining under care out of the Asylums on 31st December, 1901 ...	63	94	157

TABLE X.—Return of Patients Boarded out during the Year 1901.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Boarded out on 1st January, 1901... ..	13	23	36
Allowed out during the year	4	14	18
Total	17	37	54
Recovered and relieved—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	1	...	1
Of those allowed out during the present year	1	...	1
Total	2	...	2
Returned to the Asylums by their guardians—			
Of those allowed out during previous years	1	7	8
Of those allowed out during the present year	1	5	6
Total	2	12	14
Remaining under care out of the Asylum on 31st December, 1901 ...	13	25	38

TABLE XI.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1901.

	Yarra Bend.	Kew.	Kew Idiot Asylum.	Ararat.	Beckworth.	Sunbury.	Dallat.	Total.
Lunatics sent to the Asylums by their friends ...	31	69	15	9	7	...	...	131
{ Male	31	69	15	9	7	...	...	131
{ Female	38	96	17	18	6	4	...	179
" " the police ...	94	62	8	32	16	32	...	244
{ Male	94	62	8	32	16	32	...	244
{ Female	60	33	2	26	8	16	...	145
" received from Benevolent Asylums ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
{ Male	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
{ Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " Hospitals ...	2	4	1	...	...	...	...	7
{ Male	2	4	1	...	...	...	...	7
{ Female	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	6
" " Gaols ...	24	1	...	...	1	...	...	26
{ Male	24	1	...	...	1	...	...	26
{ Female	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
" " all other public institutions (including transfers)	4	8	8	4	39	5	26	94
{ Male	4	8	8	4	39	5	26	94
{ Female	9	2	7	12	13	10	121	174
Total	283	277	58	101	90	67	147	1023
Escaped patients retaken ...	...	3	1	7	4	1	3	19
{ Male	...	3	1	7	4	1	3	19
{ Female	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	3
Total admissions	283	280	60	108	94	68	152	1045

TABLE XII.—Showing the Nationalities and Religious Persuasions of those admitted for the first time during the Year 1901.

Birthplaces.	Religious Persuasions.										Total.
	Protestant.					Roman Catholic.	Pagan.	Hebrew.	Mahome-tan.	Unascertained.	
	Church of England.	Presby-terian.	Wesleyan.	Lutheran.	Other Protestant Denomi-nations.						
Victoria	89	58	39	2	22	111	...	4	...	4	329
Other Colonies and British Possessions	21	2	3	...	4	13	1	1	2	1	48
England	70	2	18	1	12	10	...	...	...	4	117
Scotland	2	25	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	32
Ireland	13	5	...	...	1	66	...	...	...	1	86
France ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Germany ... ..	...	...	...	6	1	1	...	...	...	1	9
China ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
Other Countries ...	3	...	1	6	...	6	...	2	...	...	18
Not known	37	12	14	1	11	33	...	...	...	17	125
Total	235	104	76	16	53	243	3	7	2	30	769

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

Particulars.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Workshops (Male)—			
Blacksmiths	12	...	12
Carpenters	22	...	22
Mattress-makers ...	7	8	15
Shoemakers	23	...	23
Tailors	27	17	44
Painters	15	...	15
Basket-maker	1	...	1
Mat-makers	18	...	18
In the Workshops (Female)—			
Sewing (making-up and repairing clothing)	...	321	321
Fancy work ... ..	...	76	76
Miscellaneous occupations—			
Working on the farm	198	...	198
" in the garden and amongst flowers	123	15	138
" in the kitchen ...	56	16	72
" in the store	7	...	7
" in the laundry ... ..	...	292	292
" in the wards and airing courts	496	562	1,058
" as servants at private quarters	31	27	58
" on roads and ornamental grounds	118	...	118
Other work about the establishment	150	18	168
Amusements—			
Balls and concerts ...	684	695	1,379
Billiards and reading room	274	285	559
Cards, chess, dominoes, &c.	396	185	581
Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis	360	163	523
Walking and driving ...	464	399	863
Attending divine service ...	849	742	1,591
" school	144	118	262

TABLE XIV.—Return showing the Quantity of Produce supplied by the Farms and Gardens at the various Lunatic Asylums for the year ended 31st December, 1901.

Asylum.	Butter.	Eggs.	Meat, Poultry, &c.	Milk.	Vegetables.	Fruit.	Bacon.	Lard.
	lbs.	doz.	lbs.	qts.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Yarra Bend ...	378	884	4,244	76,164	254,607	3,666	...	...
Kew ...	...	2,785	2,682	115,574	481,078	11,576	4,711	67
„ Idiot Asylum ...	...	...	...	...	578	...	...	...
Ararat ...	470	413	954	65,521	163,800	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	98	281	2,260	47,746	128,661	31,799	...	...
Sunbury ...	1,289	1,102	...	60,409	168,281	14,815	...	...
Ballarat ...	513	229	779	28,964	32,957	727	...	...

Asylum.	Green Food.	Hay.	Peas.	Root Crops.	Straw.	Rye.	Barley.	Oats.	Chaff.	En- silage.
	bundles. tons.	tons.	bushels.	tons.	centals.	tons.	tons.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
Yarra Bend ...	8,000	120	60	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kew ...	271	143	265	421	412	...	...	...	10	...
„ Idiot Asylum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ararat ...	86	104	...	75	...	4	67	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	15	50	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sunbury ...	90	150	200	20	784	...	...	160	36	120
Ballarat ...	...	54	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE XV.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Department of Hospitals for the Insane during the Year 1901.

Receipts.							Amount.		
							£	s.	d.
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at—									
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	3,862	5	10
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	7,254	10	5
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	2,265	2	0
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,833	4	9
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	1,531	9	5
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	365	14	0
Lunacy Wards	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	11
Amount of sales	...	...	...	...	...	1,116	11	5
„ fines	...	...	...	...	...	37	0	0
Miscellaneous collections	...	...	...	...	...	21	1	5
Total	...	...	...	...	...	18,289	8	2

Expenditure.							Amount.		
							£	s.	d.
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	2,706	14	9
Maintenance at—									
Yarra Bend Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	23,882	5	0
Kew Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	33,315	18	2
Ararat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	20,139	8	3
Beechworth Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	18,344	18	1
Sunbury Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	17,138	19	0
Ballarat Asylum	...	...	...	...	...	9,790	8	11
Lunacy Ward, Bendigo	...	...	...	...	...	127	15	0
„ „ Geelong	...	...	...	...	...	70	5	0
„ „ Castlemaine	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	0
Expenses in connexion with the committal and transport of lunatics	...	...	...	...	...	1,612	0	7
„ „ boarded-out patients	...	...	...	...	...	624	8	6
Total	...	...	...	...	...	127,763	11	3

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

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

TABLE XVIII.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1901, in the Lunacy Wards at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong.

						Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the wards, 1st January, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cases admitted:—											
Admissions	...	...	...	...	...	61	27	88			
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	27	88
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	28	89
Cases discharged:—											
Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	36	17	53			
Not improved—Transferred to Public Lunatic Asylums	...	...	...	...	...	23	10	33			
Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	27	86
Remaining in the wards, 31st December, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3

TABLE XIX.—Showing the Number of Patients Visited and the Number of Miles Travelled by the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums during the Year 1901.

	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—				
23rd March ...	784	...	2	...	21st February	641	...	345	...
26th March ...	784	...	2	...	18th June ...	650	...	345	...
7th May ...	758	...	2	...	27th August ...	639	...	345	...
22nd June ...	774	...	2	...	13th December	677	...	345	...
27th June ...	777	...	2	...			2,607		1,380
21st September	783	...	2	...	Sunbury—				
26th September	782	...	2	...	6th March ...	671	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
24th December	792	...	2	...	8th May ...	660	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
29th December	791	...	2	...	11th July ...	669	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
		7,025		18	31st July ...	666	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
					25th November	660	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Kew*					19th December	657	...	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
							3,983		297
					Ballarat—				
Ararat—					13th March ...	280	...	206	...
20th March ...	716	...	320	...	2nd May ...	356	...	206	...
6th June ...	702	...	320	...	23rd September	346	...	206	...
24th September	715	...	320	...	5th December	360	...	206	...
26th November	708	...	320	...			1,342		824
		2,841		1,280	Total ...	...	17,798	...	3,799

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

Changes in Distribution of Patients.—The following changes have taken place in the distribution of the patients during the year:—

Yarra Bend, a decrease of ...	...	...	9
Kew, a decrease of ...	...	...	78
Idiot Cottages, an increase of ...	...	...	24
Ararat, a decrease of ...	...	...	10
Beechworth, an increase of ...	...	...	28
Sunbury, a decrease of ...	...	...	16
Ballarat, an increase of ...	...	...	101

Altogether 254 patients were transferred from one Asylum to another, the great bulk of the transfers being arranged to fill vacancies in the country Asylums caused by the aggregate of the deaths and discharges being in excess of the admissions. In a few special cases patients have been transferred to benefit their health, or at the request of their friends, who wished to be able to conveniently visit them.

On the 31st December, 1901, there were 45 more females and 5 fewer males in the various Asylums than on the corresponding date of the preceding year. The resulting overcrowding in the female wards will be relieved by the opening of a second new ward at Ballarat to accommodate 100 patients, and now ready for occupation.

Admissions.—There was an increase of 70 in the number of the admissions during the year, 757 persons having been received, against 687 for the year 1900. The patients who were transferred from one Asylum to another are not included in these figures.

Accepting the general population of Victoria on 31st December, 1901, as 1,208,705, it will be found that the ratio of the insane admitted during the year to the general population was 1 in 1,596. For the previous year the ratio was 1 in 1,741.

Taking the same population figures for the calculation, it was found that in 1901 the lunatics under official cognisance represented 1 in every 268 of the general population. For the year 1900 the ratio was 1 in 272.

The general population of the State had only increased during the year by 12,831 persons, and, of course, this small increase has some influence on these statistics.

Discharges—Recovered.—Although the aggregate number of patients discharged as recovered was greater by 18 than for the previous year, yet a diminished percentage rate, calculated on the admissions, is shown, being 38·88, against 40·09 for the preceding year. At the same time, the “relieved” rate has fallen from 8·56 in 1900 to 3·51 in 1901. Combining the “recovery” and the “relieved” rates, as in former years, the total discharge rate is 42·39. This cannot be considered a low rate, and bears favorable comparison with other countries.

Mortality.—The total number of deaths was 330, or 23 fewer than for the previous year. The percentage on the daily average numbers resident was 7·68, which is about the average rate for the past twenty years.

Casualties.—J. M., a male patient, committed suicide at the Sunbury Asylum under circumstances that made it necessary to appoint a special board of inquiry. The board attached blame to several of the officials, and charges against these were submitted to the Public Service Board. Legal difficulties, however, only permitted action being taken in one case, that of the attendant in charge of the ward, who was fined £10. I must again record my opinion that the present system of permitting such matters being dealt with by gentlemen who have no knowledge of the working of Asylums, and no experience in appraising the value of the evidence of the insane, is unsatisfactory, and does not safeguard the interests of the patients. J.H., an epileptic patient at Kew, fell in a fit and fractured his lower jaw, and the injury was followed by fatal septic pneumonia. J.S., a patient in the same Asylum, ran against a form in the airing court and ruptured one of his intestines, which injury caused fatal peritonitis. Inquests were held in both these cases, and no blame was attached to any of the officials. These were the only fatal casualties. Other accidents were not numerous, and do not call for remark.

Restraint.—Efforts have been made to reduce the amount of restraint used in the treatment of the patients. Some of the Asylums, however, still continue to compare unfavorably with similar institutions in other countries.

Tubercular Disease in Asylums.—It has long been known that tubercle is more frequently found in persons detained in lunatic asylums than amongst the general population, and as this disease is now admitted to be contagious, the need of taking prompt measures for the prevention of its extension to healthy persons and for the treatment of those already infected has become an urgent duty. I propose to submit a scheme for removing such cases from the general asylums, and housing them in cheap temporary buildings at Sunbury. Measures have already been taken at the Idiot Asylum to safeguard the health of the children by giving additional air and light to the older buildings, and to segregate those suffering from acute tubercular disease; but as many of the children are suffering from this disease on admission, the difficulties of keeping it within reasonable limits are very great.

Early Treatment of Mental Diseases.—Mental diseases must be well advanced before persons can now be certified as insane and sent to an asylum. The most curable stage of the disease is often passed before action can be taken. The Receiving House, when built, will no doubt render it possible to deal with some cases earlier than at present, but at best this is only a very partial remedy. I would urge the need for special classes for nervous diseases being established in connexion with some of our leading hospitals, and where persons in the early stages of mental disease could be treated amongst other sufferers from nervous affections without any brand of insanity afterwards resting on them or their families. In this course we would be following the practice in other parts of the world.

Accommodation.—The need for improved accommodation for the treatment of curable patients has been the most urgent subject for consideration. I am of opinion that this can best be met by the transfer of 300 chronic cases from the main Asylum at Kew, and making such structural changes in that institution as may be found necessary to provide for modern treatment of the curable. The male epileptics should be sent to Ballarat, those suffering from tubercle to special wards at Sunbury, and chronic demented cases provided for in cheap buildings to be erected in connexion with one of our present Asylums. I would recommend that cheap and perhaps even temporary buildings should be provided to enable this change being made at an early date.

If the much-needed pay cottages are built without further delay the improved treatment of many hopeful cases would be made possible.

Works and Buildings.—A ward for the accommodation of 100 female epileptic patients was opened at the Ballarat Asylum, and the same institution was provided with a new kitchen, laundry, general bath-room, and an improved water supply. The new laundry was opened at Sunbury. The Yarra Bend Asylum has been lighted throughout with gas, a great improvement on the old system of oil lamps. A number of minor works were carried out at the various Asylums, but many of the buildings are old and require outside painting, and considerable alterations and repairs.

Staff.—A well-deserved increase of salary has been granted to the Superintendents, the Medical Staff, and many other officers. But it is doubtful if present inducements are sufficient to attract and retain leading officers with high training and ability. This applies especially to Matrons, and I fear under present conditions it will not be found possible to obtain the services of properly qualified ladies to fill these very important positions.

The Attendants and Nurses have been graded, and obtained material increases to their salaries. The minimum rates on entering the service are now £66 per annum for men, and £35 for women, with increments for length of service and good conduct, and the prospect of promotion to the higher grades. Married men are allowed £9 per annum in addition to their pay, in lieu of quarters. The leave has been extended from fourteen to twenty-one days annually, and from two days in every fourteen to three days, and the night leave has been increased.

To carry out these changes it was, of course, necessary to add considerably to the Staff. These concessions, taken in conjunction with alterations which have given them a very liberal and varied diet scale at considerable cost, should remove any cause of complaint which formerly existed amongst this portion of the Staff.

Cost of Maintenance.—In Table XV. will be found full details of the total expenditure of this Department for the year 1901, and which amounted to £127,763 11s. 3d., and in Table XVI. particulars are given regarding the cost of each Asylum.

After a deduction of the management and other expenses not directly connected with the maintenance of patients, *e.g.*, expenses of the Inspector's office, of the arrest and committal of lunatics, of boarded-out patients, of the maintenance of lunacy wards, and of official visitors, the expenditure was £122,611 17s. 5d., or an average weekly cost per patient of 10s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The actual expenditure of the State is, however, reduced by cash paid into the Treasury as revenue, and which is not credited to the Asylum votes, *viz.*:—Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy from the friends or estates of patients for maintenance, and amounts received from the Asylums as the proceeds of sales of surplus stock, fines, &c. Allowing for these sums, the net cost of each patient is reduced to 9s. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per week. The net weekly cost for the year 1900 was 8s. 6d. per patient.

It is inevitable that the expenditure of the Department will increase as the number of patients to be maintained is added to year by year, and improvements are made in their accommodation and attendance.

The year 1901, however, was an exceptionally expensive one, and this condition is due chiefly to the considerable concessions made to the staff on their re-classification and to greatly increased rates payable for nearly all articles supplied under contract; prices of provisions and fuel especially were very high. A comparison of the expenditure as given in Table XVII. with corresponding items in the previous year's Report will show that there has been a large increase under the following headings, *viz.*:—(i.) Salaries; (ii.) Provisions and extra articles; (iii.) Clothing and bedding; (iv.) Stores and purchase of stock; (v.) Fuel, light, and water.

It is probable that the high rates for provisions will be maintained for another year, and no reduction can safely be made in the Parliamentary Votes under the present outlook.

General Remarks.—As it is generally admitted that the Victorian Lunatic Asylums are in many ways below the modern standard of such institutions, it is unnecessary for me to dwell on the subject. I must, however, record my opinion as to the causes that have occasioned the present unsatisfactory condition of affairs. These are—Want of proper authority, division of what authority there is, and the absence of reasonable individual responsibility. Dealing with these causes in detail, I would point out that there is no authority for making a general efficient inquiry into the working of an Asylum. No doubt the Inspector and the official visitors have powers of inquiry under the provisions of the Lunacy Act, but as no provision is made to give administrative effect to their inquiries they are practically useless for purposes of administration, and it will probably be found that any general inquiry held by the Public Service Commissioner under section 11 of the Public Service Act cannot result in raising the standard of an Asylum. The result is that an Asylum may be working at a generally low standard, and continue to do so, as there seems to be no existing authority for forcing it to a higher grade.

Under the present system it seems possible for inefficient or incompetent persons to remain in any office, and the Public Service Commissioner is unable to give me any information for dealing with such officers. In considering the authority that does exist, it will be found to be divided between the Inspector, the Under-Secretary, and the Public Service Commissioner—the Ministerial powers of the Chief Secretary are not here referred to. The Inspector is an officer appointed under the Lunacy Act, and has statutory duties and is granted statutory powers under that Act. As being the only available expert, he discharges the duties of sub-permanent head of the Lunacy branch under a general understanding with the Under-Secretary, who is the permanent head. In dealing with matters under the Public Service Act the Inspector has really only power to recommend—any orders he issues are given on the understanding that his action will be approved of and supported by the permanent head. The Under-Secretary has a large number of branches, which are in reality departments, under his control, and it is quite impossible for him to have expert knowledge of the working of Lunatic Asylums. The Public Service Commissioner has the final authority—he nominates for appointments, grants increments, has a potential voice in rates of salary, and in promotions, and deals with all important changes in the staff.

[The standard he establishes by his decisions, be they good or bad, high or low, must be accepted by the Lunacy Department.] Considerable saving of time, and, possibly, of money, might be expected if all the work for the Asylums now done by the Under-Secretary's office, the Master-in-Lunacy, the Tender Board, and the Public Works Department, was placed under one controlling body. It may also be noted that the pathological interests of the Asylums are placed in the hands of the Crown Law Department, with the natural result that pathology remains undeveloped in our institutions. The state of matters in connexion with administration lends itself to the absence of personal responsibility on the part of Asylum officers.

The importance of having legal warrants for the admission and detention of patients will be generally admitted—so great is the care taken in England to safeguard the legal rights of persons deprived of their liberty on the ground of insanity that several of the Commissioners in Lunacy are legal gentlemen, and all papers have at once to be sent to and are carefully examined by the Commissioners. The Victorian system of dealing with such matters is very unsatisfactory, and the need for reform should be kept in mind.

Having thought it my duty, on many occasions, to draw attention to the existing faults in our Asylums, it is only fair to the officers and staff generally of these institutions to point out that good work has been done in many directions. Occupation is admitted to be one of the most important curative agencies in the treatment of insanity, and in all kinds of work our Asylums are well to the front. Much time and trouble have been devoted by the Medical Staff in giving instruction in nursing—it is no fault of theirs that the want of support from the late Public Service Board deprived those efforts of much of their value.

The food supply is very good, and is supplemented by the produce of the Asylums gardens and farms.

The female epileptics have been placed in specially constructed wards at Ballarat, and are receiving the necessary care that it was found impossible to bestow on them in the overcrowded wards of the general Asylums. The reports of the official visitors indicate that the idiot children are receiving proper care and training in their special institution.

It is expected that in the course of a year or two a receiving house, pay patients' cottages, wards for patients suffering from tubercle, and wards for male epileptics, will add much to the usefulness of the Department.

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.