

1903.

VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

R E P O R T

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1 9 0 2.

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, 7th May, 1903.

I have the honour to submit my Report on the condition of the Lunatic Asylums in Victoria for the year ended 31st December, 1902.

By reference to the accompanying statistical tables, it will be seen that there were 4,547 patients on the registers of the asylums on 31st December, as against 4,501 at the beginning of the year—an increase of 46. Of the patients registered, 4,359 were under care in the asylums, 154 were on trial with their friends, and 34 were boarded out. The numbers on trial and boarded out at the beginning of the year were 157 and 38 respectively.

The persons admitted numbered 784, as compared with 757 for 1901 and 687 for 1900.

The daily average number of patients resident in the asylums shows an increase of 56—the numbers being 4,348 for 1902 and 4,292 for the preceding year.

The statistical tables attached show the various changes that have taken place among the patients during the twelve months, and I also submit the usual returns showing the expenditure of the Department.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on 31st December, 1902.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| In the Public Lunatic Asylums— | | | |
| Yarra Bend | 423 | 327 | 750 |
| Kew | 473 | 381 | 854 |
| Kew Idiot Asylum | 159 | 117 | 276 |
| Ararat | 377 | 317 | 694 |
| Beechworth | 395 | 264 | 659 |
| Sunbury | 303 | 377 | 680 |
| Ballarat | 151 | 295 | 446 |
| | 2,281 | 2,078 | 4,359 |
| Out on probation— | | | |
| Yarra Bend | 18 | 24 | 42 |
| Kew | 25 | 39 | 64 |
| Kew Idiot Asylum | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Ararat | 7 | 15 | 22 |
| Beechworth | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Sunbury | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Ballarat | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| | 60 | 94 | 154 |
| Boarded out from— | | | |
| Yarra Bend | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Kew | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Kew Idiot Asylum | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Ararat | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Beechworth | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Sunbury | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ballarat | ... | 2 | 2 |
| | 13 | 21 | 34 |
| Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Asylums | | | |
| | 2,354 | 2,193 | 4,547 |
| In the lunacy ward — | | | |
| Castlemaine | ... | ... | ... |
| Bendigo | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Geelong | ... | ... | ... |
| Total number of lunatics in the State | | | |
| | 2,356 | 2,194 | 4,550 |

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths in the Public Asylums during the Year ending 31st December, 1902.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| On the Asylum Books, 1st January, 1902, including 157 on trial and 38 boarded out | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,307 | 2,194 | 4,501 |
| Cases admitted:— | | | | | | | | | |
| First admissions | 398 | 293 | 691 | | | | | | |
| Not first admissions | 57 | 48 | 105 | | | | | | |
| Retaken | ... | ... | ... | 455 | 341 | 796 | | | |
| Total cases admitted during the year, (including retaken) | ... | ... | ... | 31 | ... | 31 | 486 | 341 | 827 |
| Total cases under care during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,793 | 2,535 | 5,328 |
| Cases discharged:— | | | | | | | | | |
| Recovered | 176 | 182 | 358 | | | | | | |
| Relieved | 28 | 27 | 55 | | | | | | |
| Not improved | ... | 3 | 3 | | | | | | |
| Died | 203 | 129 | 332 | | | | | | |
| Escaped | ... | ... | ... | 407 | 341 | 748 | | | |
| Total cases discharged and died during the year, including escapes | ... | ... | ... | 32 | 1 | 33 | 439 | 342 | 781 |
| Remaining on the Asylum Books, 31st December, 1902, including 154 on trial and 34 boarded out | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,354 | 2,193 | 4,547 |
| Average number resident during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,262 | 2,086 | 4,348 |
| Persons under care during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,753 | 2,532 | 5,285 |
| Persons admitted | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 446 | 338 | 784 |
| Persons recovered | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 172 | 182 | 354 |
| Transferred from one Asylum to another | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61 | 172 | 233 |

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1902.

| Number of Previous Attacks. | Persons. | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Have had one attack | 75 | 53 | 128 |
| Have had two attacks | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| Have had three attacks | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Have had four attacks | 5 | 2 | 7 |

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 |
| 1901 | 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 | 9'01 | 6'24 | 7'68 |
| 1902 | 455 | 341 | 796 | 176 | 182 | 358 | 28 | 27 | 55 | ... | ... | ... | 203 | 129 | 332 | 2,354 | 2,193 | 4,547 | 2,262 | 2,086 | 4,348 | 38'68 | 53'37 | 44'97 | 8'97 | 6'18 | 7'63 |
| Total | 7,915 | 6,138 | 14,053 | 3,041 | 2,653 | 5,694 | 415 | 541 | 956 | ... | ... | ... | 3,748 | 2,136 | 5,884 | ... | ... | ... | 41,641 | 35,239 | 76,882 | 38'42 | 43'22 | 40'51 | 9'00 | 6'06 | 7'65 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1,983 | 1,678 | 3,661 | | | | | | |

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, 1902.

| Asylum. | Admitted. | | | Discharged. | | | | | | Died. | | | Remaining 31st December, 1902. | | | Average Numbers Resident during the Year 1902. | | | Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions. | | | Percentage of Relieved on Admissions. | | | Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers Resident. | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------|--------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------------------------------|----------|--------|--|----------|--------|---|----------|--------|---------------------------------------|----------|--------|---|----------|--------|
| | | | | 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. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Yarra Bend | 156 | 111 | 267 | 45 | 47 | 92 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 62 | 27 | 89 | 442 | 356 | 798 | 438 | 335 | 773 | 28.84 | 42.34 | 34.45 | 3.84 | 4.50 | 4.12 | 14.15 | 8.06 | 11.51 |
| Kew | 137 | 127 | 264 | 52 | 83 | 135 | 9 | 11 | 20 | 49 | 32 | 81 | 500 | 423 | 923 | 458 | 396 | 854 | 37.95 | 65.35 | 51.13 | 6.57 | 8.66 | 7.57 | 10.59 | 8.08 | 9.48 |
| Idiot Asylum | 25 | 10 | 35 | ... | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 10 | 25 | 167 | 122 | 289 | 154 | 121 | 275 | ... | 10.00 | 2.85 | 16.00 | 20.00 | 17.14 | 9.74 | 8.26 | 9.09 |
| Ararat | 68 | 47 | 115 | 40 | 25 | 65 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 30 | 15 | 45 | 388 | 339 | 727 | 384 | 323 | 707 | 58.82 | 53.19 | 56.52 | 7.35 | 6.38 | 6.95 | 7.81 | 4.64 | 6.36 |
| Beechworth | 23 | 16 | 39 | 14 | 8 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 27 | 16 | 43 | 400 | 271 | 671 | 385 | 272 | 657 | 60.87 | 50.00 | 56.41 | 8.69 | 18.75 | 12.82 | 7.01 | 5.88 | 6.54 |
| Sunbury | 46 | 29 | 75 | 22 | 16 | 38 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 19 | 15 | 34 | 305 | 380 | 685 | 293 | 381 | 674 | 47.82 | 55.17 | 50.66 | 4.34 | 6.89 | 5.33 | 6.48 | 3.93 | 5.04 |
| Ballarat | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 15 | 152 | 302 | 454 | 150 | 258 | 408 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .66 | 5.42 | 3.67 |
| Total | 455 | 341 | 796 | 176 | 182 | 358 | 28 | 27 | 55 | 203 | 129 | 332 | 2,354 | 2,193 | 4,547 | 2,262 | 2,086 | 4,348 | 38.68 | 53.37 | 44.97 | 6.15 | 7.91 | 6.90 | 8.97 | 6.18 | 7.63 |

TABLE VI.—History of 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 | ... | ... | ... | 5,331 | 4,494 | 9,825 | 29'30 | 33'30 | 31'00 |
| Relieved... .. | ... | ... | ... | 733 | 887 | 1,620 | 4'03 | 6'57 | 5'11 |
| Not improved (including transfers) | ... | ... | ... | 3,773 | 2,913 | 6,686 | 20'73 | 21'59 | 21'10 |
| Died | ... | ... | ... | 6,007 | 3,008 | 9,015 | 33'01 | 22'29 | 28'45 |
| Out on trial and boarded out on 31st December, 1902 | ... | ... | ... | 73 | 115 | 188 | 40 | 85 | 59 |
| Remaining | ... | ... | ... | 2,281 | 2,578 | 4,359 | 12'53 | 15'40 | 13'75 |
| Total | 18,198 | 13,495 | 31,693 | 18,198 | 13,495 | 31,693 | 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 1902.

| Length of Residence. | Recovered. | | | Died. | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Under 1 month | 15 | 3 | 18 | 20 | 10 | 30 |
| 1 month and under 3 months | 44 | 32 | 76 | 12 | 7 | 19 |
| 3 months " 6 " | 49 | 45 | 94 | 24 | 9 | 33 |
| 6 " " 9 " | 23 | 22 | 45 | 16 | 9 | 25 |
| 9 " " 12 " | 18 | 29 | 47 | 18 | 10 | 28 |
| 1 year and under 2 years | 14 | 32 | 46 | 25 | 15 | 40 |
| 2 years " 3 " | 4 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 24 |
| 3 " " 5 " | 4 | 7 | 11 | 20 | 15 | 35 |
| 5 " " 7 " | 4 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 18 |
| 7 " " 10 " | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| 10 " " 12 " | ... | 2 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| 12 " " 15 " | ... | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 15 " " 20 " | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| 20 " " 25 " | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| 25 " " 30 " | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 30 " " 35 " | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| 35 " " 40 " | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| 40 " " | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 176 | 182 | 358 | 203 | 129 | 332 |

TABLE VIII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, and Died, during the Year 1902, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1902.

| Ages. | The Admissions. | | | Recovered. | | | The Deaths. | | | Patients Resident 31st December, 1902. | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------|------------|----------|--------|-------------|----------|--------|--|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Under 5 years | 5 | 2 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 years and under 10 years | 6 | 1 | 7 | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 22 | 14 | 36 |
| 10 " 15 " | 2 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 5 | 31 | 27 | 58 |
| 15 " 20 " | 21 | 15 | 36 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 46 | 52 | 98 |
| 20 " 25 " | 31 | 28 | 59 | 16 | 11 | 27 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 95 | 74 | 169 |
| 25 " 30 " | 44 | 35 | 79 | 18 | 21 | 39 | 12 | 7 | 19 | 176 | 142 | 318 |
| 30 " 35 " | 54 | 55 | 109 | 23 | 33 | 56 | 11 | 11 | 22 | 273 | 227 | 500 |
| 35 " 40 " | 50 | 49 | 99 | 18 | 29 | 47 | 16 | 12 | 28 | 287 | 237 | 524 |
| 40 " 45 " | 54 | 43 | 97 | 27 | 24 | 51 | 22 | 9 | 31 | 252 | 215 | 467 |
| 45 " 50 " | 31 | 20 | 51 | 12 | 12 | 24 | 16 | 8 | 24 | 213 | 187 | 400 |
| 50 " 55 " | 32 | 20 | 52 | 12 | 10 | 22 | 8 | 10 | 18 | 172 | 184 | 356 |
| 55 " 60 " | 15 | 13 | 28 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 18 | 8 | 26 | 172 | 195 | 367 |
| 60 " 65 " | 21 | 13 | 34 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 18 | 11 | 29 | 175 | 169 | 344 |
| 65 " 70 " | 15 | 10 | 25 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 16 | 29 | 151 | 144 | 295 |
| 70 " 75 " | 12 | 11 | 23 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 11 | 30 | 91 | 84 | 175 |
| 75 " 80 " | 9 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 45 | 38 | 83 |
| 80 " 85 " | 7 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 16 | 29 |
| 85 " 90 " | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 90 " 100 " | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Unknown | 45 | 19 | 64 | 16 | 13 | 29 | 11 | 7 | 18 | 131 | 178 | 309 |
| Total | 455 | 341 | 796 | 176 | 182 | 358 | 203 | 129 | 332 | 2,354 | 2,193 | 4,547 |

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

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| Out on probation on 1st January, 1902 | 63 | 94 | 157 |
| Allowed out during the year | 155 | 219 | 374 |
| Total | 218 | 313 | 531 |
| Recovered :— | | | |
| Of those allowed out during previous years | 20 | 45 | 65 |
| Of those allowed out during the present year | 38 | 50 | 88 |
| Total | 58 | 95 | 153 |
| Died :— | | | |
| Of those allowed out during previous years | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Of those allowed out during the present year | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Total | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| Written off the books under section 89, Act 1113 :— | | | |
| Of those allowed out during previous years | 16 | 18 | 34 |
| Of those allowed out during the present year | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| Total | 26 | 24 | 50 |
| Returned to the Asylums at expiration of probation :— | | | |
| Of those allowed out during previous years | 24 | 32 | 56 |
| Of those allowed out during the present year | 48 | 60 | 108 |
| Total | 72 | 92 | 164 |
| Remaining under care out of the Asylums on 31st December, 1902 | 60 | 94 | 154 |

TABLE X.—Return of Patients Boarded out during the Year 1902.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| Boarded out on 1st January, 1902 | 13 | 25 | 38 |
| Allowed out during the year | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Total | 20 | 29 | 49 |
| Returned to the Asylums by their guardians :— | | | |
| Of those allowed out during previous years | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| Of those allowed out during the present year | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Total | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Remaining under care out of the Asylums on 31st December, 1902 | 13 | 21 | 34 |

TABLE XI.—Showing the Manner in which Patients were Admitted during the Year 1902.

| | Yarrs Bend. | Kew. | Kew Idiot Asylum. | Ararat. | Beechworth. | Sanbury. | Ballarat. | Total. |
|--|-------------|------|-------------------|---------|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|
| Lunatics sent to the Asylums by their friends ... | 30 | 69 | 13 | 15 | 4 | 4 | ... | 135 |
| { Female | 49 | 93 | 8 | 21 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 187 |
| " " the police ... | 109 | 65 | 8 | 46 | 18 | 42 | ... | 288 |
| { Female | 55 | 30 | 1 | 26 | 10 | 20 | ... | 142 |
| " received from Benevolent Asylums ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| { Female | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| " " Hospitals ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| { Female | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| " " Gaols ... | 15 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | 19 |
| { Female | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| " " all other institutions (including transfers) | 2 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 15 | 21 | 11 | 63 |
| { Female | 7 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 21 | 21 | 104 | 173 |
| Total | 276 | 275 | 39 | 131 | 75 | 117 | 116 | 1029 |
| Escaped patients retaken | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 31 |
| { Male | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| { Female | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total admissions | 280 | 283 | 40 | 134 | 79 | 124 | 120 | 1060 |

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

| Birthplaces. | Religious Persuasions. | | | | | | | | | | Total. |
|--|------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| | Protestant. | | | | | Roman Catholic. | Pagan. | Hebrew. | Mahome-tan. | Unascertained. | |
| | Church of England. | Presby-terian. | Wesleyan. | Lutheran. | Other Protestant Denomi-nations. | | | | | | |
| Victoria | 117 | 52 | 38 | 3 | 33 | 108 | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 357 |
| Other Colonies and British Possessions | 16 | 4 | 5 | ... | 9 | 16 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 55 |
| England | 61 | 5 | 13 | 1 | 9 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 96 |
| Scotland | 1 | 23 | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Ireland | 8 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 66 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 83 |
| France | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Germany | 2 | ... | ... | 12 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 16 |
| China | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | 2 | 10 |
| Other Countries ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 6 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 20 |
| Not known | 39 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 35 | ... | ... | ... | 21 | 127 |
| Total | 246 | 102 | 69 | 24 | 64 | 242 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 37 | 796 |

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

| Particulars. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|
| In the Workshops (Male)— | | | |
| Blacksmiths | 13 | ... | 13 |
| Carpenters | 22 | ... | 22 |
| Mattress-makers and repairers... | 19 | 8 | 27 |
| Shoemakers | 22 | ... | 22 |
| Tailors | 27 | 37 | 64 |
| Painters | 19 | ... | 19 |
| Basket-maker | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Mat-makers | 19 | ... | 19 |
| In the Workshops (Female)— | | | |
| Sewing (making-up and repairing clothing) | ... | 314 | 314 |
| Fancy work | ... | 76 | 76 |
| Miscellaneous occupations— | | | |
| Working on the farm | 213 | ... | 213 |
| " in the garden | 132 | 15 | 147 |
| " in the kitchen | 54 | 20 | 74 |
| " in the store | 8 | ... | 8 |
| " in the laundry | ... | 272 | 272 |
| " in the wards and airing courts | 478 | 603 | 1,081 |
| " as servants at private quarters | 35 | 26 | 61 |
| " on roads and ornamental grounds | 146 | ... | 146 |
| Other work about the establishment | 140 | 29 | 169 |
| Amusements— | | | |
| Balls and concerts | 677 | 704 | 1,381 |
| Billiards and reading room | 323 | 294 | 617 |
| Cards, chess, dominoes, &c. | 315 | 202 | 517 |
| Bowls, cricket, croquet, football, and tennis | 295 | 160 | 455 |
| Walking and driving | 468 | 457 | 925 |
| Attending divine service ... | 827 | 770 | 1,597 |
| " school | 162 | 104 | 266 |

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, 1902.

| Asylum. | Butter. | Eggs. | Meat, Poultry, &c. | Milk. | Vegetables. | Fruit. | Bacon. | Lard. |
|--------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------------|--------|--------|-------|
| | lbs. | doz. | lbs. | qts. | lbs. | lbs. | lbs. | lbs. |
| Yarra Bend ... | 111 | 1,019 ¹¹ | 3,227 | 73,247 | 264,507 | 2,940 | ... | ... |
| Kew ... | ... | 3,325 | 1,270 | 110,450 | 369,594 | 20,009 | 4,194 | 60 |
| „ Idiot Asylum ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,666 | ... | ... | ... |
| Ararat ... | 449 | 515 ⁶ | 36 | 69,243 | 148,109 | ... | ... | ... |
| Beechworth ... | 155 | 346 | 1,997 | 52,967 | 145,313 | 18,229 | ... | ... |
| Sunbury ... | 27 | 985 ¹¹ | 30 | 61,613 | 158,746 | 11,037 | ... | ... |
| Ballarat ... | 266 | 216 ⁵ | 946 | 37,504 | 99,865 | ... | ... | ... |

| Asylum. | Green Food. | Hay. | Peas. | Root Crops. | Straw. | Man- golds. | Chaff. | Oats. | En- silage. | Barley. | Rye. |
|--------------------|-------------|-------|----------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|--|----------|----------------|---------|-------|
| | bundles. | tons. | bushels. | tons. | centals. | tons. | tons. | centals. | tons. | tcns. | tons. |
| Yarra Bend ... | 10,000 | 110 | 40 | 130 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Kew ... | 230 | 120 | 195 | 250 | 358 ¹⁰ | ... | 29 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| „ Idiot Asylum ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ararat ... | 50 | 70 | ... | 38 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65 | 2 |
| Beechworth ... | 115 | 85 | 50 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sunbury ... | 100 | 125 | ... | ... | 770 | 30 | 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ² ₀ | 55 | 50 | ... | ... |
| Ballarat ... | 5 | 53 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

TABLE XV.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of Hospitals for the Insane during the Year 1902.

| Receipts. | | | | | | | Amount. | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------|----------|----|
| Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients at— | | | | | | | £ | s. | d. |
| Yarra Bend ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,527 | 2 | 0 | |
| Kew ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,253 | 13 | 8 | |
| Ararat ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,334 | 18 | 6 | |
| Beechworth ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,404 | 2 | 11 | |
| Sunbury ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,155 | 8 | 1 | |
| Ballarat ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 665 | 19 | 7 | |
| Lunacy Wards ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 4 | 8 | |
| Amount of sales ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,424 | 19 | 8 | |
| „ fines ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 | 6 | 0 | |
| Miscellaneous collections ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 | 16 | 0 | |
| Total ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16,813 | 11 | 1 | |

| Expenditure. | | | | | | | Amount. | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|----------|----------|----|
| General expenses ... | | | | | | | £ | s. | d. |
| Yarra Bend ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,447 | 11 | 6 | |
| Maintenance at— | | | | | | | | | |
| Yarra Bend ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25,017 | 12 | 10 | |
| Kew ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35,016 | 13 | 5 | |
| Ararat ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21,760 | 6 | 2 | |
| Beechworth ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19,909 | 13 | 7 | |
| Sunbury ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19,172 | 9 | 8 | |
| Ballarat ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12,831 | 8 | 4 | |
| Lunacy Ward, Bendigo ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 165 | 15 | 0 | |
| „ „ Castlemaine ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 19 | 0 | |
| „ „ Geelong ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73 | 15 | 0 | |
| Expenses in connexion with the committal and transport of lunatics ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,675 | 17 | 2 | |
| „ „ boarded-out patients ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 619 | 1 | 9 | |
| Total ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 138,692 | 3 | 5 | |

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

| Lunatic Asylum. | Stimulants, Wines, Spirits, and Beer. | | | Forage. | | | Incidentals. | | | Total Cost Weekly 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. | £ | s. | d. |
| Yarra Bend ... | 0 | 0 | 2¼ | 0 | 0 | 0½ | 0 | 0 | 1¾ | 0 | 12 | 5¼ | 0 | 1 | 5¼ | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Kew ... | 0 | 0 | 1¼ | 0 | 0 | 0¼ | 0 | 0 | 1½ | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 11¼ | 0 | 8 | 11¾ |
| Ararat ... | 0 | 0 | 1¼ | 0 | 0 | 0¼ | 0 | 0 | 1¾ | 0 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10¼ | 0 | 10 | 11¾ |
| Beechworth ... | 0 | 0 | 1¼ | 0 | 0 | 0¼ | 0 | 0 | 1¼ | 0 | 11 | 7¾ | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 10 | 8¾ |
| Sunbury ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 11¼ | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 10 | 2¼ |
| Ballarat ... | 0 | 0 | 1¼ | 0 | 0 | 0½ | 0 | 0 | 1½ | 0 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9¼ | 0 | 11 | 3¼ |
| Total ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 5¾ | 0 | 10 | 4¼ |
| General expenses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 2½ |

TABLE XVIII.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1902, in the Lunacy Wards at Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Geelong.

| | Males. | | | Females. | | | Total. | | |
|--|--------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| In the wards, 1st January, 1902 ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Cases admitted:— | | | | | | | | | |
| Admissions ... | 52 | 38 | 90 | | | | | | |
| Total cases admitted during the year ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 | 38 | 90 | | | |
| Total cases under care during the year ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 | 39 | 93 | | | |
| Cases discharged:— | | | | | | | | | |
| Recovered ... | 28 | 18 | 46 | | | | | | |
| Not improved—Transferred to Public Lunatic Asylums | 20 | 19 | 39 | | | | | | |
| Died ... | 4 | 1 | 5 | | | | | | |
| Total cases discharged and died during the year | ... | ... | ... | 52 | 38 | 90 | | | |
| Remaining in the wards, 31st December, 1902 ... | ... | ... | ... | 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 1902.

| | 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— | | | | |
| 27th February | 800 | ... | 2 | ... | 12th March ... | 668 | ... | 345 | ... |
| 22nd March ... | 802 | ... | 2 | ... | 27th May ... | 659 | ... | 345 | ... |
| 27th March ... | 803 | ... | 2 | ... | 27th September | 646 | ... | 345 | ... |
| 28th April ... | 803 | ... | 2 | ... | 14th November | 658 | ... | 345 | ... |
| 24th May ... | 771 | ... | 2 | ... | | | 2,631 | | 1,380 |
| 27th June ... | 757 | ... | 2 | ... | Sunbury— | | | | |
| 18th September | 761 | ... | 2 | ... | 24th March ... | 668 | ... | 49½ | ... |
| 20th September | 758 | ... | 2 | ... | 17th June ... | 667 | ... | 49½ | ... |
| 23rd December | 763 | ... | 2 | ... | 30th September | 662 | ... | 49½ | ... |
| 24th December | 746 | ... | 2 | ... | 19th November | 669 | ... | 49½ | ... |
| 29th December | 747 | ... | 2 | ... | 12th December | 682 | ... | 49½ | ... |
| | | 8,511 | | 22 | | | 3,348 | | 247½ |
| Kew* | | | | | Ballarat— | | | | |
| Ararat— | | | | | 20th March ... | 358 | ... | 206 | ... |
| 19th March ... | 713 | ... | 320 | ... | 12th June ... | 452 | ... | 206 | ... |
| 11th June ... | 711 | ... | 320 | ... | 19th September | 447 | ... | 206 | ... |
| 11th December | 698 | ... | 320 | ... | 12th December | 449 | ... | 206 | ... |
| | | 2,122 | | 960 | Total ... | ... | 18,318 | ... | 824 |
| | | | | | | | | | 3,433½ |

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

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

Yarra Bend, a decrease of 41.
 Kew, a decrease of 4
 Idiot Asylum, an increase of 9.
 Ararat, a decrease of 11.
 Beechworth, a decrease of 15.
 Sunbury, an increase of 25.
 Ballarat, an increase of 90.

Altogether 233 patients were transferred from one asylum to another. Of these the larger number were transferred to the asylum at Ballarat, where a new ward to accommodate 100 patients was opened last May. The other transfers were made to fill vacancies that had occurred at the country asylums, or to meet the requests of friends of patients.

Admissions.—There were 784 persons admitted during the year, an increase in the number admitted during the preceding year of 27 ; the number in 1901 being 757.

The general population of the State on 31st December was 1,205,513, and the ratio of persons admitted during the year to the population was 1 in 1,537. For 1901 the ratio was 1 in 1,596. At the end of the year there was one person registered as insane in the State for every 265 of the general population, as compared with one in 268 for the previous year. It might be stated here that the asylum population has increased during the year, while there was a decrease of 3,192 in the general population of Victoria for the same period, and this decrease has a considerable adverse influence on the statistics.

Discharges, Recovered.—The recovery rate for the year, calculated on the admissions, was 43·48, and the relieved rate 6·90, or a total of recovered and relieved of 50·38. The rates for the preceding year were—recoveries, 38·88 ; relieved, 3·51 ; total, 42·39.

The number of discharges should not, in my opinion, be accepted as a test of the manner in which the work is carried on in an asylum. New admissions vary as to curability, and the term “ discharged, recovered ” only means that the Superintendent does not consider there are mental symptoms that necessitate further detention in an asylum. If the recovery rate is accepted as a test of management, I think that the detention of patients who are now early removed on probation, as they have improved, until they can be classed as recovered would be a result to be expected. The probation system has been found a most valuable one, and the detention of cases such as I have referred to would be most unwise.

Mortality.—The number of deaths recorded for the year was 332, or a percentage of 7·63 on the average numbers resident. The percentage last year was 7·68, and the average for the last 21 years 7·65.

Casualties.—E. A., a patient at the Beechworth Asylum, was thrown down by a another patient and died shortly afterwards, the cause of death being probably concussion of the brain. An inquest was held, and no blame attached to any member of the staff. Two patients attempted to commit suicide in the same asylum. One attendant and two nurses were considered to have been negligent in the discharge of their duties, and were fined. E. D., a patient at the Kew Asylum, overturned the chair she was seated on and fractured her left thigh bone, and she died a fortnight later from broncho-pneumonia. This disease existed prior to the accident, but death may have been accelerated by the injury. An inquest was held, and no blame was attached to any member of the staff. Ten other patients sustained fractures of various bones. Inquiries were made in all cases, and no blame attached to those in charge.

Restraint and Seclusion.—The excessive use of this means of treatment has been constantly brought before the Superintendents, with the gratifying result that in some asylums restraint and seclusion are but seldom used, and in all the institutions there is a substantial advance towards the non-restraint system.

Night Nursing.—The new wards for female patients at Ballarat and the Idiot Asylum are fairly provided with nurses for night duty. Some additions have been made to the night staffs at the other asylums, but the numbers for this duty are still too limited. Superintending officers over the night nurses and attendants would add much to the efficiency of this part of our work. When the state of the finances permits, I would advise that the whole question of night nursing receive careful attention.

Female Nurses in Male Wards.—Four trained nurses and seven untrained nurses have been appointed for duty in the male hospital wards during the last twelve months. In this we are following the lead of some of the best home asylums. I feel very hopeful as to the beneficial effects female influence will have in the treatment of suitable male patients.

Accommodation.—A second ward for the accommodation of female patients was opened at the Ballarat Asylum, and a third ward in connexion with the same institution is expected to be available for occupation at an early date. This will lessen in a measure the overcrowding at the metropolitan asylums, but to enable work to be carried on in these institutions in a proper manner provision should be made for the removal of 400 of the inmates now accommodated in them. This can be done at a very small cost by converting some of the stone and brick day-rooms at the Yarra Bend and Sunbury Asylums into dormitories and erecting wooden day-rooms. I must again urge the erection of separate buildings for pay patients. General repairs are needed at all the asylums. Some of the upper wards are insufficiently supplied with means of escape in the event of an outbreak of fire.

Classification.—This subject has received attention as far as the overcrowding and the amount of money available would permit. The male criminals, when the cases are suitable, are sent to the criminal ward at Ararat. All idiots and imbeciles are segregated in their special institution, and all female epileptics have been removed to Ballarat. Classification has also been extended in the asylums. At Kew Asylum the airing yards have been increased from four to ten. Cottages have been built in connexion with the asylums, and a special ward for refractory female patients has been in use at Sunbury for some time. Numerous minor improvements have also been effected. The most pressing question at present is how best to treat curable patients. Experts are not unanimous as to the desirability of the complete separation of the curable and the incurable insane, but there is a general agreement as to the advantages to be hoped for by the establishment of an hospital where suitable acute cases could obtain special medical and surgical treatment. To supply this need, I would again recommend that 300 chronic patients be removed from the Kew Asylum, certain structural changes made in that building, and an increased medical and nursing staff allowed.

Expenditure.—The usual returns are furnished, showing the total expenditure of the Department, and also of each of the lunatic asylums. The expenditure for the year was £138,692 3s. 5d., an increase of £10,928 12s. 2d. as compared with the year 1901. The increase was principally on the items "clothing and bedding" and "provisions." The stocks at the various asylums of articles of clothing and material for manufacture have been kept very low for some time, and it was found absolutely necessary in the interests and for the comfort of the patients to increase the requisitions to a large extent. The contract prices for provisions on account of the drought were very high, and increased rates had to be paid for the principal items of food, with a result that the total expenditure was much increased. With the prospect of better seasons, it is hoped that the expenditure under this heading will be very materially less. The amount actually expended on maintenance of the patients was £133,708 4s., which gives an average weekly cost of 11s. 10d. per patient. Deducting the collections made by the Master-in-Lunacy, £15,341 4s. 9d., and sales of pigs, surplus stock, &c., and fines, £1,463 14s. 2d., an average net weekly rate of 10s. 4½d. is arrived at. The net cost last year was 9s. 4¼d. per patient.

Endowment.—For supplying the wants of the insane, the epileptic, and the feeble-minded, I would suggest for the consideration of the Government that some part of the Crown lands might be set apart as an endowment. Questions in connexion with these classes are now pressing for solution, and may be expected to become more urgent in the future.

Treatment of Patients and General Remarks.—Employment is the most potent curative agent we possess in certain stages and forms of mental diseases, and the officers of our asylums have availed themselves of this means of treatment to a very satisfactory degree. The food supply is of good quality, and the Superintendents are permitted to supplement the regular scale whenever it seems necessary to do so. The asylum gardens produce abundance of vegetables, and pure milk is obtained from the farms. The prescription books will show that even the newer drugs have not been neglected. Surgical operations are carried out by members of the asylum medical staff or by outside practitioners where necessary. Six trained female nurses are now employed, where only a few years ago there was not one. All female epileptics have been

segregated in specially-constructed wards at Ballarat, and when money is available—a few hundred pounds will suffice—the male epileptics can be dealt with in a similar manner. In this last respect Victoria is before many of the English asylums, where the epileptics still mingle with the other patients in the general wards. All imbecile and idiot children have long been separated from the adults, and it is admitted that the institution they are in is worked on the most modern lines. It is not generally known that the provision made for these children in Victoria is in advance of that made for similar cases in any part of the world. The freedom from contagious diseases indicates that sanitary precautions have not been neglected.

Though I am glad to be able to draw attention to these hopeful facts, I think it is my duty to again refer to the improvements and reforms necessary to bring our asylums up to a proper modern standard. The great danger is at present that patients do not receive all the individual care and attention that their cases demand, or, in other words, the danger that the work of our asylums may be carried out in a system of routine that fails to give full consideration to the needs of each individual case. I am of opinion that the attendants and nurses are not sufficiently trained, and that some do not possess the tact and temper needed to give the best results in the treatment of insane persons. It is only fair to state that this deficiency is largely due to the want of proper teaching, and that many of the staff discharge their duties with much tact and kindness.

In my last report I pointed out what a serious drawback division of authority was to the proper working of the asylums. The events of the past year have tended to confirm me in this view, and I am satisfied, if our patients are to be protected from danger and given the best prospect of recovery, a radical reform is absolutely required. This administrative reform can be made without increased cost.

In connexion with this I must again draw attention to the dangers caused by political influence, and as long as the staff believe such influence can be used there can be little hope of their duties being discharged in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. V. McCREERY,
Inspector of Lunatic Asylums.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.