

1918.

VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INSANE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

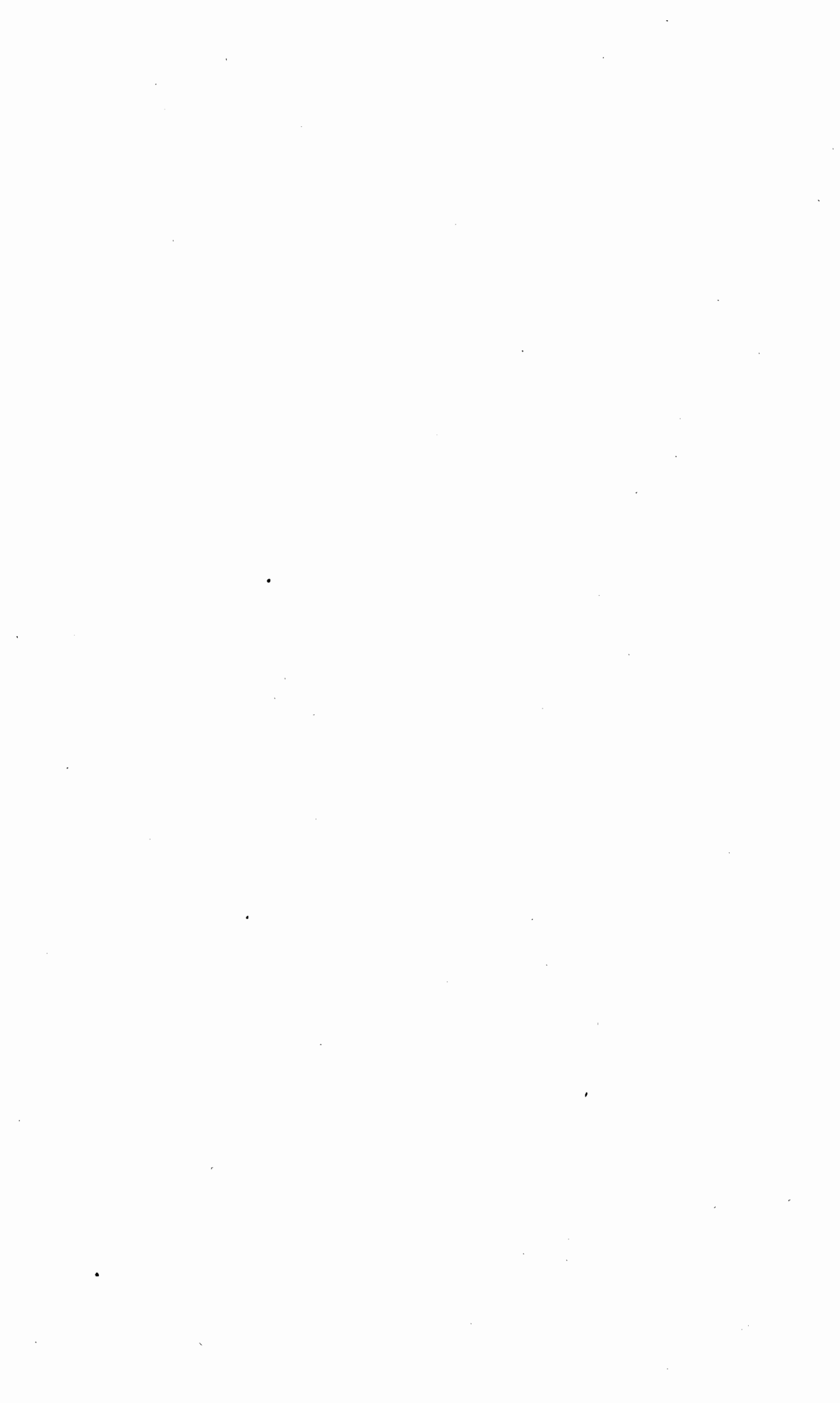
1917.

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REPORT.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT,
Office of the Inspector-General of the Insane,
Old Treasury Buildings,
Melbourne, 31st August, 1918.

To the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

SIR,

I have the honour to present you with the Annual Report on the work of this Department during the year 1917.

Although the numbers in the various institutions are steadily increasing, it is satisfactory to report, as in the last two years, that a comparatively low increment again appears, there being only 28 more patients in the Hospitals for the Insane at the end of the year than there were on the 1st January, 1917, whilst there were 4 less in the licensed houses, 5 less on trial leave, and 17 more boarded out; in all, an increase of 36 on the registers of the Department. Inasmuch as the last thirteen years have left us with an average annual increment of approximately 100 cases to provide for, it is some small matter for congratulation that these war years have burdened us lightly in this respect. But this state of affairs is probably accidental, and in the next few years we are likely to experience a return to the normal rate, which will prove embarrassing, since no steps have been taken to provide the necessary accommodation for our increasing numbers. In point of fact, we have at least 300 patients in excess of our normal accommodation, and I deem it necessary to request sympathetic attention to our requirements in this direction.

The admissions to State Hospitals numbered 762, *i.e.*, 10 less than last year, and the lowest total for 9 years. The admissions to the Receiving Houses fell to 735 from 828 in 1916, 816 in 1915, 832 in 1914—a very distinct decrement as compared with the results of other years. The death rate, which was less than in the two preceding years, and the discharge rate, which was approximately the same, alter the position but little. On the other hand, we have a small increase to record in the number of voluntary boarders admitted, and a very material rise in the numbers of returned soldiers mentally disordered—for whom special accommodation is provided by the loan of the Receiving House, Royal Park, as a Military Mental Hospital, and of a ward at Mont Park. At the end of the year, there were 62 soldiers in residence in these institutions, and 22 were out on trial leave. However, it is most essential that separate and special provision should be made for these men, and at as early a date as possible, as the civil requirements are being hampered by the loss of the Receiving House; indeed, at the time of the presentation of this Report, administration has become extremely difficult, and early transference from the Receiving Institutions is the source of considerable dissatisfaction.

In spite of the strictest economy, the cost of this Department is rising, and it is impossible to avoid such increase owing to the enhanced price of every vital commodity.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. ERNEST JONES,
Inspector-General of the Insane.

TABLE I.—Showing the Distribution of the Insane on 31st December, 1917.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Hospital for the Insane at—						
Yarra Bend	312	351	663			
Kew	496	411	907			
Kew Idiot Asylum	178	148	326			
Ararat	391	268	659			
Beechworth	355	265	620			
Sunbury	440	494	934			
Ballarat	226	385	611			
Royal Park	46	35	81			
Mont Park	167	165	332			
				2,611	2,522	5,133
Out on trial leave from—						
Yarra Bend	52	106	158			
Kew	62	71	133			
Kew Idiot Asylum	10	4	14			
Ararat	1	5	6			
Beechworth ... ..	...	9	9			
Sunbury	17	29	46			
Ballarat	10	13	23			
Royal Park	57	113	170			
Mont Park	8	4	12			
				217	354	571
Boarded out from—						
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	...	...
Kew ... ..	...	4	4			
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	...	...	...
Ararat	1	1	2			
Beechworth	2	...	2			
Sunbury	50	24	74			
Ballarat	20	27	47			
Royal Park ... ..	...	...	...
Mont Park ... ..	...	...	...
				73	56	129
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Hospitals	...	...	...	2,901	2,932	5,833
In the Licensed Houses—						
St. Helens	8	5	13			
Mount Ida	4	13	17			
Merton ... ..	...	15	15			
Glen Holme ... ..	...	16	16			
The Tofts ... ..	...	10	10			
				12	59	71
Out on trial from Licensed Houses—						
St. Helens ... ..	...	1	1			
Mount Ida ... ..	...	3	3			
Merton ... ..	...	6	6			
Glen Holme ... ..	...	4	4			
The Tofts ... ..	...	...	...
Cloverdale ... ..	...	1	1			
				...	15	15
Total number of registered lunatics in the State	...	...	...	2,913	3,006	5,919

Excluding Voluntary Boarders (17 males and 17 females) and Soldiers (84).

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1917.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Hospitals, 1st January, 1917	...	...	...	2,589	2,516	5,105			
On trial	...	...	...	234	342	576			
Boarded out	...	...	...	59	53	112			
Total number on books, 1st January, 1917	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,882	2,911	5,793
Cases admitted—									
First admissions	363	325	688						
*Not first admissions	39	35	74						
Escaped patients retaken	...	...	...	402	360	762			
	...	...	...	34	5	39			
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	436	365	801
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,318	3,272	6,594
Cases discharged—									
Recovered	80	103	183						
Relieved	55	50	105						
†Not improved	10	7	17						
Died	230	179	409						
Escaped	...	...	...	375	339	714			
	...	...	...	42	5	47			
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	417	344	761
Remaining in the Hospitals, 31st December, 1917	...	...	...	2,611	2,522	5,133			
Patients on leave	...	...	...	217	354	571			
„ boarded out	...	...	...	73	56	129			
Total number on books, 31st December, 1917	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,901	2,932	5,833
Average number resident during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,606	2,539	5,145
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,284	3,269	6,553
Persons admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	402	360	762
Persons recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	103	183
Transferred from one Hospital for Insane to another	...	...	...	...	...	...	82	94	176

* Including transfers from licensed houses.

† Including transfers to licensed houses.

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1917.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	45	45	90
Have had two attacks	12	10	22
Have had three attacks	2	2	4
Have had four attacks	2	2	4
Have had five attacks or more	1	...	1

TABLE IV.—Showing the Number of Registered Insane on the Books of the Public Hospitals for the Insane and the Private Licensed Houses at the end of each year from 1900 to 1917 inclusively, the Soldiers treated under the *Mental Treatment Act 1915*, the Number of Patients in the Receiving Houses and Wards, and also the Voluntary Boarders on the Books of the Public Hospitals for the Insane and Private Licensed Houses at the end of each Year.

Year.	Registered Insane.						Soldiers.		Receiving Houses and Receiving Wards.				Voluntary Boarders.									
	Hospitals for the Insane.			Private Licensed Houses.			Total of Registered Insane.	Increase.	Number.	Increase.	Males.		Females.		Total.		Males.		Females.		Total.	Increase.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.					Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.			Females.	Total.
1900	2,286	2,113	4,399	...	...	...	4,399	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1901	2,307	2,194	4,501	...	...	...	4,501	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1902	2,354	2,193	4,547	...	...	...	4,547	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1903	2,371	2,199	4,570	...	...	...	4,570	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1904	2,393	2,249	4,642	...	...	...	4,642	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*1905	2,436	2,332	4,768	...	...	...	4,771	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1906	2,484	2,389	4,873	...	...	...	4,937	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
†1907	2,548	2,413	4,961	...	...	...	5,052	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1908	2,557	2,457	5,014	...	...	...	5,111	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1909	2,612	2,485	5,097	...	...	...	5,200	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1910	2,655	2,586	5,241	...	...	...	5,349	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1911	2,681	2,659	5,340	...	...	...	5,449	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1912	2,758	2,712	5,470	...	...	...	5,579	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1913	2,839	2,792	5,631	...	...	...	5,736	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
†1914	2,886	2,843	5,729	...	...	...	5,827	...	...	...	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
‡1915	2,882	2,885	5,767	...	...	...	5,862	...	...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1916	2,882	2,911	5,793	...	...	...	5,883	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1917	2,901	2,932	5,833	...	...	...	5,919	...	...	...	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Private Licensed Houses recognised.

† Receiving House, Royal Park, opened September, 1907.

‡ Voluntary Boarder Act, in force October, 1914.

§ War Mental Treatment Act, in force August, 1915.

TABLE V.—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, 1891.

Year.	Admitted.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining 31st December in each Year.			Average Numbers Resident.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers Resident.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Recovered.		Total.	Relieved.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
				Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.																
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	35.49	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
1903	432	334	766	165	159	324	27	24	51	217	145	362	2,371	2,199	4,570	2,275	2,073	4,348	38.19	47.60	42.29	9.53	6.99	8.32
1904	404	344	748	153	124	277	24	36	60	198	133	331	2,393	2,249	4,642	2,275	2,091	4,367	37.87	36.04	37.03	8.70	6.36	7.58
1905	400	338	738	149	101	250	22	17	39	184	136	320	2,436	2,332	4,768	2,304	2,151	4,455	37.25	29.88	33.87	7.98	6.32	7.18
1906	402	371	773	151	122	273	40	47	87	156	137	293	2,484	2,389	4,873	2,323	2,200	4,523	37.56	32.88	35.32	6.71	6.23	6.47
1907	417	311	728	112	107	219	35	33	68	191	137	328	2,548	2,413	4,961	2,346	2,225	4,571	26.85	34.40	30.08	8.14	6.15	7.17
1908	405	334	739	115	82	197	42	50	92	229	150	379	2,557	2,457	5,014	2,392	2,253	4,645	28.39	24.55	26.65	9.57	6.65	8.16
1909	455	310	765	138	100	238	26	31	57	224	147	371	2,612	2,485	5,097	2,379	2,274	4,653	30.33	32.26	31.11	9.41	6.4	7.97
1910	422	380	802	93	84	177	43	44	87	233	135	368	2,655	2,586	5,241	2,412	2,304	4,716	22.03	22.10	22.07	9.66	5.85	7.80
1911	428	389	817	120	94	214	24	45	69	244	158	402	2,681	2,659	5,340	2,452	2,364	4,816	28.04	24.16	26.19	9.96	6.68	8.35
1912	456	350	806	96	104	200	40	38	78	235	151	386	2,758	2,712	5,470	2,529	2,409	4,938	21.05	29.71	24.81	9.29	6.27	7.82
1913	494	354	848	117	81	198	50	41	91	238	155	393	2,839	2,792	5,631	2,535	2,448	4,983	23.68	22.25	23.08	9.39	6.33	7.89
1914	445	362	807	128	92	220	40	43	83	210	174	384	2,886	2,843	5,729	2,524	2,462	5,046	25.76	25.41	27.26	8.12	7.05	7.60
1915	434	390	824	108	110	218	56	37	93	262	199	401	2,882	2,885	5,767	2,622	2,509	5,131	24.88	28.21	26.46	9.99	7.93	8.98
1916	403	369	772	105	100	205	41	40	81	251	200	451	2,882	2,911	5,793	2,607	2,541	5,148	16.05	27.10	26.55	9.62	7.87	8.76
1917	402	360	762	80	103	183	55	50	105	230	179	409	2,901	2,932	5,833	2,606	2,539	5,145	19.90	28.61	24.02	8.83	7.05	7.95
Total	11,270	9,158	20,428	3,587	3,048	6,635	851	993	1,844	5,759	3,789	9,548	62,580	57,256	119,836	2,318	2,121	4,438	31.83	33.28	32.48	9.20	6.62	7.97

TABLE VI.—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, 1917.

Asylum.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Died.			Remaining on 31st December, 1917.			Average Number Resident during 1917.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Relieved on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers Resident.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Recovered.			Believed.			Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
				Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.																		
Yarra Bend	93	85	178	3	11	14	4	7	11	43	48	91	364	457	821	285	356	641	3.23	12.94	7.87	4.30	8.24	6.18	15.09	13.49	14.19
Kew ...	117	100	217	20	33	53	24	14	38	69	34	103	558	486	1,044	488	408	896	17.09	33.00	24.42	20.51	14.00	17.51	14.13	8.33	11.49
Kew Idiot Asylum	23	14	37	...	...	...	1	2	3	19	10	29	188	152	340	177	149	326	...	...	...	4.35	14.29	8.11	10.73	6.71	8.89
Ararat ...	17	8	25	8	5	13	3	2	5	13	12	25	393	274	667	391	276	667	47.05	62.50	32.00	17.65	25.00	29.00	3.32	4.34	3.74
Beechworth	15	5	20	5	2	7	2	...	2	24	17	41	357	274	631	363	270	633	33.33	40.00	35.00	13.33	...	10.00	6.61	6.30	6.48
Sunbury ...	62	33	95	22	21	43	2	6	8	38	27	65	507	547	1,054	442	494	936	35.48	63.60	45.26	3.23	18.18	8.42	8.60	5.50	6.90
Ballarat ...	24	27	51	10	6	16	4	3	7	16	24	40	256	425	681	221	389	610	41.60	22.20	31.37	16.67	11.11	13.73	7.23	6.16	6.55
Royal Park	47	82	129	11	24	35	15	16	31	5	2	7	103	148	251	46	34	80	23.40	29.27	27.13	31.92	19.51	24.03	10.87	5.89	8.75
Mont Park ...	4	6	10	1	1	2	...	...	...	3	5	8	175	169	344	193	163	356	25.00	16.66	20.00	...	...	...	1.55	3.07	2.25
Total ...	402	360	762	80	103	183	55	50	105	230	179	409	2,901	2,932	5,833	2,606	2,539	5,145	19.00	28.61	24.02	13.68	13.88	13.78	8.83	7.05	7.95

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died, during the Year 1917, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1917.

Ages.	Admitted.		Discharged.						Escaped patients not retaken.		Died.		Remaining on 31st December, 1917.	
	Male.	Female.	Recovered.		Relieved.		Not Improved.		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
			Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.						
Under 5 years	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	8	2
5 years and under 10 years	5	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	19	20
10 "	9	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	25	24
15 "	19	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95	53
20 "	29	24	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	112
25 "	38	32	11	13	9	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	226	180
30 "	39	29	11	17	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	263	240
35 "	38	42	11	15	9	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	309	298
40 "	34	36	10	16	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	282	326
45 "	48	56	11	14	8	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	343	401
50 "	36	38	5	11	4	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	366	383
55 "	23	29	2	6	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	265	269
60 "	29	18	2	5	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	176	183
65 "	16	13	2	6	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	124	124
70 "	11	6	2	3	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	73	95
75 "	11	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	83
80 "	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	31
85 "	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	13
90 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unknown...	4	2	3	1	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	102	93
Total	402	360	80	103	183	55	50	105	10	7	17	9	230	2,932
Mean Age, Hospitals for Insane	42.33	42.93	39.52	40.29	39.96	41.70	44.29	42.92	34.80	55.43	43.29	37.22	51.40	55.85
Mean Age, Idiot Asylum	9.70	9.35	...	...	...	22.00	8.00	12.66	12.00	...	12.00	...	20.52	16.10
													18.27	20.00
													45.21	48.74
													35.35	46.99
													19.00	19.04

TABLE VIII.—Showing the Probable Causes of Insanity in the Patients Admitted during the Year 1917.

Causes of Insanity.	Number of Instances in which each Cause was Assigned.											
	Admissions			No. of Cases—								
				402 Males, 360 Females, 762 Total.								
	As Predisposing Cause.			As Exciting Cause.			As Predisposing or Exciting (where these could not be distinguished).			TOTAL.		
Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
MORAL.												
Domestic Trouble (including loss of relatives and friends)	1	...	1	3	11	14	...	...	...	4	11	15
Adverse Circumstances (including business anxieties and pecuniary difficulties)...	...	...	...	7	8	15	...	...	...	7	8	15
Mental Anxiety and Worry (not included under the above two heads), and Over Work ...	...	...	...	15	30	45	1	...	1	16	30	46
Religious Excitement	...	...	...	3	5	8	...	...	...	3	5	8
Love Affairs (including seduction) ...	...	...	...	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	5	5
Fright and Nervous Shock ...	1	...	1	4	5	9	...	...	...	5	5	10
PHYSICAL.												
Intemperance in Drink ...	...	...	...	38	10	48	...	...	...	38	10	48
Intemperance (sexual) ...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	...	...	1	2	3
Venereal Disease ...	8	...	8	47	11	58	...	...	...	55	11	66
Self Abuse (sexual) ...	3	2	5	10	...	10	...	...	...	13	2	15
Over Exertion ...	...	...	...	1	3	4	...	...	...	1	3	4
Sunstroke ...	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	2	1	3
Accident or Injury ...	1	...	1	6	2	8	...	...	...	7	2	9
Pregnancy ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Parturition and the Puerperal state ...	...	...	...	...	9	9	...	...	...	...	9	9
Lactation ...	...	...	...	...	6	6	...	...	...	...	6	6
Uterine and Ovarian Disorders	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	3	3
Puberty ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Change of Life ...	...	8	8	...	21	21	...	...	...	...	29	29
Fevers ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Privation and Starvation ...	3	...	3	3	1	4	...	...	...	6	1	7
Old Age...	47	37	84	3	4	7	...	...	...	50	41	91
Other Bodily Diseases or Disorders ...	5	...	5	44	36	80	1	2	3	50	38	88
Previous Attacks ...	29	48	77	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	48	77
Hereditary Influences ascertained (direct and collateral)	52	59	111	...	1	1	...	...	...	52	60	112
Congenital Defect ascertained	18	14	32	47	29	76	...	...	...	65	43	108
Other ascertained Causes ...	15	1	16	4	2	6	...	...	...	19	3	22
Unknown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	30	69	39	30	69
Epilepsy ...	1	...	1	2	4	6	...	...	...	3	4	7
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	466	412	878
Deduct for combined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	52	116
Total Admissions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	402	360	762

TABLE IX.—Showing the Form of Mental Disorder on Admission in the Admissions, Recoveries, and Deaths for the Year 1917, and the Form of Mental Disorder of the Patients remaining on Books on 31st December, 1917.

Form of Mental Disorder.	Admissions.			Recoveries.			Deaths.			Remaining on Books.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
I. Congenital or infantile mental deficiency (idiocy or imbecility) occurring as early in life as it can be observed—												
1. Intellectual :												
(a) With epilepsy ...	17	6	23	...	...	...	16	14	30	75	80	155
(b) Without epilepsy ...	36	28	64	4	2	6	17	11	28	339	268	607
2. Moral ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
II. Insanity occurring later in life—												
1. Insanity with Epilepsy ...	24	14	38	1	2	3	6	5	11	116	126	242
2. General Paralysis of the Insane ...	51	5	56	...	...	...	51	9	60	74	14	88
3. Insanity of the grosser brain lesions ...	9	4	13	...	...	...	8	4	12	8	3	11
4. Acute delirium (acute delirious mania)	9	...	9	4	4	8	2	...	2	...	...	...
5. Confusional Insanity ...	5	17	22	2	8	10	1	1	2	9	22	31
6. Stupor ...	1	2	3	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Primary Dementia ...	41	30	71	8	8	16	14	10	24	254	258	512
8. Mania :												
(a) Recent ...	28	37	65	12	13	25	8	10	18	16	17	33
(b) Chronic ...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	4	6	89	143	232
(c) Recurrent ...	12	22	34	14	11	25	5	4	9	37	50	87
9. Melancholia :												
(a) Recent ...	29	51	80	10	22	32	9	5	14	26	28	54
(b) Chronic ...	3	4	7	2	3	5	3	4	7	37	52	89
(c) Recurrent ...	7	12	19	4	5	9	...	6	6	12	18	30
10. Alternating Insanity ...	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	3	16	19
11. Delusional Insanity :												
(a) Systematized ...	21	28	49	6	4	10	6	5	11	103	127	230
(b) Non-systematized ...	27	35	62	6	8	14	8	8	16	141	155	296
12. Volitional Insanity :												
(a) Impulse ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Obsession ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Doubt ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Moral Insanity ...	2	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2
14. Dementia :												
(a) Senile ...	52	44	96	...	2	2	33	37	70	195	199	394
(b) Secondary or Terminal ...	21	20	41	3	4	7	34	34	68	1,073	945	2,018
On trial leave, or boarded out ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	8	14	290	410	700
Polynuritic Paralysis ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convalescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Korrsakow's Syndrome ...	2	1	3	1	2	3	...	...	...	1	...	1
Alcoholic Hallucinosiis ...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hysteria ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	402	360	762	80	103	183	230	179	409	2,901	2,932	5,833

TABLE X.—Showing the condition as to Marriage in Patients Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died during the Year 1917, and of Patients Resident, 31st December, 1917.

Condition in Reference to Marriage.	Admitted.			Discharged.									Escaped Patients not Retaken.			Died.			Patients Remaining, 31st December, 1917.		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.											
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.			
Single ...	224	144	368	54	43	97	38	19	57	6	3	9	8	...	8	109	58	167	1,976	1,541	3,517
Married	129	149	278	21	50	71	14	25	39	1	1	2	1	...	1	77	68	145	563	940	1,503
Widowed	20	50	70	3	9	12	2	3	5	1	3	4	...	...	...	15	34	49	79	230	309
Unknown	6	3	9	2	1	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9	19	95	69	164
Total	379	346	725	80	103	183	54	48	102	8	7	15	9	...	9	211	169	380	2,713	2,780	5,493

NOTE.—Excluding patients at the Idiot Asylum, none of whom are married.

TABLE XIV.—Showing the Causes of Deaths during the Year 1917.

Cause of Death.	Yarra Bend.		Kew.		Idiot Asylum.		Ararat.		Beechworth.		Sunbury.		Ballarat.		Royal Park.		Mount Park.		Total.										
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.									
	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.	Total.									
<i>Diseases of the Nervous System—</i>																													
Meningitis, Inflammation of Brain, Cerebro-Spinal	1	4	13	26	4	30	1	1	2	2	8	1	1	4	3	3	1	1	1	2	2								
General Paralysis of the Insane	9	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Cerebral Softening	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Epilepsy and Convulsions	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Hemiplegia, Apoplexy, Cerebral Hemorrhage, Cerebral Embolism	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Other Organic Diseases of Brain, including Tumours	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	6	2	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Exhaustion from Mania or Melancholia, not caused by Nervous Disease otherwise designated	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Paraplegia and Diseases of Cord, Locomotor Ataxia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Neuritis and General Sclerosis of Nervous System	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
<i>Diseases of Blood Vessels—</i>																													
Aneurism, Arterio-Sclerosis, and other diseases not included in Diseases of Nervous System	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
<i>Diseases of Respiratory System and Thorax—</i>																													
Pulmonary Phthisis	1	3	4	4	1	5	1	3	4	1	3	3	6	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1								
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Pleurisy	11	9	20	20	8	28	7	4	11	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Other forms of Pulmonary disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
<i>Diseases of Heart—</i>																													
Valvular Disease, Fatty Degeneration, Cardiac Syncope, &c.	8	4	12	7	7	7	1	2	3	3	6	4	10	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2								
<i>Diseases of Digestive System—</i>																													
Diseases of Mouth, Pharynx, Stomach (non-malignant)	1	2	3	2	2	4	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Intestines, Liver, and Peritoneum (non-tubercular)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
<i>Diseases of Genito-Urinary System—</i>																													
Diseases of Kidney, Bladder, Prostate, &c.	2	6	8	6	3	9	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1								
<i>General Diseases—</i>																													
Dysentery (Colitis), Epidemic Diarrhoea, Infective Enteritis	2	8	10	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Diarrhoea not otherwise designated	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Abscess, Pyæmia, Septicæmia, and Cellulitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Typhoid, Influenza, and other Fevers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Cancer, Carcinoma, Sarcoma, Malignant Disease, excluding Malignant Tumour of Brain	4	4	4	4	3	7	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Syphilis and other Venereal Disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
General Tuberculosis and Tubercle of Organs other than Lungs	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2								
Diseases of Thyroid, Lymphatic, and other glands	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Atrophy, Debility, and Old Age	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2								
Exhaustion from Acute Chorea	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Accidents	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Suicides	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
Total	43	48	91	69	34	103	19	10	29	13	12	25	41	27	14	41	38	27	65	16	24	40	5	2	7	8	1230	179	1409

Ascertained by post-mortem examinations—males, 187; females, 129. Total, 316.

STATE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INSANE.

Admissions into the Hospitals during 1917 numbered 762, and into the Receiving Houses 735, which are both very favorable returns contrasted with the preceding eight years and five years respectively ; but these numbers do not include admissions of either the voluntary boarders, which numbered 126, or the military cases, amounting to 98.

Omitting the two latter classes, it is satisfactory to note the fall in the number of admissions, which is surprising when one takes into consideration the question of the Great War and the strain and anxiety which it imposes on each and every nation involved in it.

From the statistical tables, we find that heredity plays a prominent part in the causation of 14.6 per cent. of the admissions, old age in 11.9 per cent., venereal disease in 8.7 per cent., alcohol in 6.3 per cent., and congenital defect 14.2 per cent., whilst moral causes, such as domestic trouble, overwork, and anxiety, grouped together, account for 13 per cent. In 9 per cent. of the admissions, the precise causation is unknown. The important influence that syphilis plays in the production of mental disorders and defects is not revealed by these statistics ; post-mortem examination—a more reliable indication—shows an infinitely higher incidence.

General paralysis is the mental condition of 56 admissions, epilepsy occurs in 38, senile dementia in 96, primary dementia in 71, recent mania in 65, and recent melancholia in 80 cases ; delusional insanity (paranoia) in 49 admissions and non-systematized delusional states in 62.

The re-admission rates are low, being approximately 10 per cent. of the total admissions.

Discharges.—The discharges are as under :—

	Hospitals for the Insane.			..	Receiving Houses and Wards.		
	M.	F.	T.		M.	F.	T.
Recovered ..	80	103	183	..	110	104	214
Relieved ..	55	50	105	..	10	10	20
Not improved..	10	7	17	..	4	1	5
			305				239

making a total of 544 as against 571 during 1917, a number which preserves the same proportion to the numbers received, as in former years.

Deaths.—In the hospitals the deaths numbered 230 males, 179 females—total, 409—as against 457 in 1917, the percentage being 7.95 calculated on the average daily number resident—this being approximately the average death rate of the last 27 years.

In the Receiving Institutions, 6 male and 5 female deaths occurred.

General paralysis caused the death of 62 patients, 53 being male and 9 female. Epilepsy was responsible in 20 cases. In 45 cases senile conditions caused death, whilst 31 cases were attributed to phthisis and 74 to other pulmonary conditions.

Although the average age at death is high, viz., 53.35, and the proportion of deaths to pulmonary conditions, i.e., pneumonia and bronchitis, is higher than has been the case for some years, on the other hand the deaths from phthisis have fallen from 43 in 1916 to 31 in 1917, which is lower than has been the case for six years. Colitis was the cause of 18 deaths, chiefly at Yarra Bend ; other cases have occurred at Kew and Sunbury, but it has disappeared from Ararat, where at one time it was troublesome. It is apparently associated with over-crowding and defective sanitary accommodation.

In 316 cases, post-mortem examinations were made, i.e., in 77 per cent. of the total number of deaths, and by far the greater number of these examinations were made in the metropolitan district. In the country institutions, the Coroners do not appear to appreciate to the same extent the necessity for such examinations.

Three suicides occurred, but two of them were patients who had been allowed out on probation to the care of their relatives. One, a male patient at Kew, who had for some years worked with the engineer, and was not regarded as suicidal, suddenly precipitated himself below the crank of the engine driving the laundry machinery ; and no blame could be attached to the official in charge of him at the time.

BOARDED OUT ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

Patients boarded out to—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Private Individuals	8	7	15
Ballarat Benevolent Asylum	20	27	47
Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum	31	9	40
Bendigo Benevolent Asylum	14	13	27
Total	73	56	129

There has been an increase of 17 patients boarded out in the Benevolent Asylums generally, and this method of dealing with the quiet demented cases appears to be quite satisfactory. They were almost all more or less senile, although a few are comparatively young, and belong to the imbecile or mentally defective class. The deaths in the Benevolent Asylums during 1917 totalled 6, and these numbers are credited to the Hospital for the Insane, from which they have been sent to the Benevolent Asylum.

NURSING EXAMINATIONS—1917.

	No. of Candidates.	Passed.	Failed.
<i>Old Regulations—</i>			
Senior—Attendants	7	4	3
Nurses	33	24	9
Special—Attendants	4	2	2
Nurses	4	2	2
<i>New Regulations—</i>			
First—Attendants	5	3	2
Nurses	41	31	10
Second—Attendants	35	34	1
Nurses	28	24	4

The new Regulations have come into operation, but examinations had to be conducted for those attendants and nurses who came under the operation of the old scheme. This has meant additional work for the lecturers and examiners. I have to acknowledge the great assistance which I received from Dr. Gamble in the conduct of these examinations, the results of which bear testimony to the careful teaching given by the Medical Officers generally to the officials attending their classes of instruction.

TABLE XII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Lunacy Department during the Year 1917-18.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for Maintenance of Patients at—		General Expenses, Salaries at Head Office, Fees to Official Visitors, Travelling Expenses, Postage and Telegrams, &c.	5,054 18 6
Yarra Bend	} 27,450 6 1	Maintenance at—	
Kew		Yarra Bend	29,418 5 2
Ararat		Kew	50,769 16 0
Beechworth		Ararat	28,477 6 9
Sunbury		Beechworth	27,337 8 7
Ballarat and Receiving House		Sunbury	38,348 9 5
Royal Park and Receiving House			Ballarat and Receiving House... .. .	30,969 7 9
Mont Park		Royal Park and Receiving House	15,412 5 4
Receiving Ward, Bendigo		Mont Park	17,857 18 7
Sales	4,368 10 7	Receiving Ward—Bendigo	292 15 0
Fines	7 10 0	Expenses in connexion with the Committal and Transport of Lunatics	1,090 7 7
Miscellaneous	660 3 5	Expenses in connexion with Boarded-out Patients	2,555 15 6
Total	£32,486 10 1	Total	£247,584 14 2

TABLE XIII.—Showing the Total Cost of Maintenance against each Hospital, the Sums expended against each Vote, and the Amount of General Expenses for the Year 1917-1918.

—	Average Number Resident.	Total Cost of Maintenance.			Salaries.		Fees to Official Visitors.		Allowance to Chaplains.		Provisions and Extra Articles.					
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.				
Yarra Bend ...	667	29,418	5	2	14,341	7	6	...	86	0	0	10,383	17	11		
Kew ...	1,221	50,769	16	0	24,320	16	2	...	96	0	0	16,494	14	7		
" I.A. ...																
Ararat ...	661	28,477	6	9	14,295	18	7	...	147	0	0	9,723	11	2		
Beechworth ...	634	27,337	8	7	12,747	1	11	...	77	0	0	10,165	16	6		
Sunbury ...	952	38,348	9	5	17,328	16	11	...	88	0	0	15,503	6	2		
Ballarat and Receiving House ...	608	30,969	7	9	14,360	6	6	...	92	0	0	9,874	1	7		
Royal Park and Receiving House ...	180	15,412	5	4	9,582	2	5	...	34	0	0	3,655	13	6		
Mont Park ...	357	17,857	18	7	8,748	5	5	...	60	0	0	5,880	16	2		
General expenses ...	...	5,054	18	6	3,787	0	0	465	10	0	...	...	...	...
Total ...	5,280	243,645	16	1	119,511	15	5	465	10	0	680	0	0	81,681	17	7

—	Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture.		Stores—Purchase of Stock, Books, Amusements, &c.		Fuel, Light, and Water.		Medicines, Medical Comforts, Surgical Instruments, &c.		Stimulants—Wine, Spirits, and Beer.		Forage.		Incidentals, Postage & Telegrams, Travelling Expenses.									
	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.								
Yarra Bend ...	1,754	17	0	774	12	1	1,485	16	6	268	3	2	73	15	8	46	7	11	203	7	5	
Kew ...	3,416	18	10	1,463	1	10	4,112	2	1	528	15	9	113	19	1	52	7	9	170	19	11	
" I.A. ...																						
Ararat ...	1,850	14	10	398	10	10	1,849	15	4	120	14	10	21	1	9	...	...	69	19	5	
Beechworth ...	1,869	15	11	524	1	6	1,621	18	9	149	5	7	56	13	7	16	3	4	109	11	6	
Sunbury ...	1,688	6	4	645	11	11	2,599	6	3	243	5	2	53	4	6	39	1	3	159	10	11	
Ballarat and Receiving House ...	1,859	2	7	664	0	10	3,572	2	6	291	13	7	55	1	10	53	18	10	146	19	6	
Royal Park and Receiving House ...	421	18	1	314	9	3	974	9	7	195	5	10	16	11	8	40	15	11	176	19	1	
Mont Park ...	1,062	13	8	640	0	6	969	9	5	69	17	9	47	10	10	29	17	5	349	7	5	
General expenses	31	12	6	770	16	0
Total ...	13,924	7	3	5,456	1	3	17,185	0	5	1,867	1	8	437	18	11	278	12	5	2,157	11	2	

TABLE XIV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients during the Year 1917-1918.

—	Daily Average Number Resident.	Total Cost of Maintenance.			Collections for Maintenance, Sales, Fines, Fees, &c.			Salaries.			Allowance to Chaplains.			Provisions and Extra Articles.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend ...	667	29,418	5	2	...	...	0	8	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	6	0
Kew ...	1,221	50,769	16	0	...	...	0	7	8	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	5	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ararat ...	661	28,477	6	9	...	...	0	8	4	0	0	1	0	5	8
Beechworth ...	634	27,337	8	7	...	...	0	7	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	6	2
Sunbury ...	952	38,348	9	5	...	...	0	7	0	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	6	3
Ballarat and Receiving House } Royal Park and Receiving House } Mont Park ...	608 180 357	30,969 15,412 17,857	7 5 18	9 4 7	...	...	0 1 0	9 0 9	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5	0 0 0	0 1 1	0 0 1	0 7 6	6 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ 4	3 3 4
Total ...	5,280	238,590	17	7	32,486	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	5,054	18	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

—	Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture.			Stores—Purchase of Stock, Books, Amusements, &c.			Fuel, Light, and Water.			Medicines and, Medical Comforts, Surgical Instruments, &c.			Stimulants—Wines, Spirits, and Beer.			Forage.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend ...	0	1	0	0	0	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	2	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kew ...	0	1	1	0	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	2	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...
Ararat ...	0	1	1	0	0	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	1	1	0	0	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	0	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	1	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...
Sunbury ...	0	0	8	0	0	3	0	1	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	1	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...
Ballarat and Receiving House } Royal Park and Receiving House } Mont Park ...	0 0 0	1 0 1	2 11 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 0	0 0 0	5 8 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 0 0	2 2 1	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 0	0 0 0	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 1	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

—	Incidentals, Postage and Telegrams and Travelling Expenses.			Total Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Patient.			Average Collections per Patient 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.
Yarra Bend ...	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	16	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kew ...	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	15	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ararat ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	16	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	0	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	16	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sunbury ...	0	0	1	0	15	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ballarat and Receiving House } Royal Park and Receiving House } Mont Park ...	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 0	19 12 19	7 11 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	0	17	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	2	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	15	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
General expenses	...	...	...	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	0	0	4 $\frac{1}{4}$

TABLE XV.—Return showing the Quantity and Value of Produce supplied by the Farms and Gardens at the various Hospitals for the Insane during the Year ended 31st December, 1917.

Hospital for Insane.	Eggs.		Meat, Poultry, &c.		Milk.		Fruit.		Green Food.		Hay.	
	doz.		lbs.		qts.		lbs.		tons.		tons.	
Yarra Bend	933		1,864		69,447		...		157		15	
Kew	1,049		1,801		146,800		4,418		200		80	
Ararat	271		62		74,703		2,524		10		55	
Beechworth	516		534		57,695		41,433		86		160	
Sunbury	344		...		139,596		12,395		10		180	
Ballarat	349		1,140		69,613		1,436		330		80	
Royal Park	976		147		31,359		1,207		12		26	
Mont Park	56		52,044		57,998		162		160		176	
Total Value	£ 255	s. 1	£ 1,425	s. 14	£ 8,982	s. 5	£ 402	s. 4	£ 957	s. 3	£ 2,494	s. 13

—	Root Crops.		Ensilage.		Peas.		Vegetables.		Firewood.		Oats.		Straw.		Wheat.	
	tons.		tons.		bush.		lbs.		tons.		bush.		tons.		bush.	
Yarra Bend	33		...		30		170,589		20		...		...		...
Kew	60		...		40		500,643		60		...		...		...
Ararat ... ..	...		40		...		159,986		...		...		...		...
Beechworth ... ..	...		...		74		171,813		...		...		...		...
Sunbury ... ..	...		80		...		261,099		...		...		...		...
Ballarat ... ..	...		156		...		226,602		50		417		...		...
Royal Park	10		20		...		42,882		...		...		...		...
Mont Park ... ..	...		...		80		98,569		60		1,570		77		150	
Total Value	£ 163		£ 326	s. 0	£ 60	s. 9	£ 7,129	s. 1	£ 89	s. 10	£ 286	s. 15	£ 173	s. 5	£ 30	s. 0

Total value, £22,775 2s. 10d.

COST OF MAINTENANCE.

The total expenditure of the Department for the financial year ended 30th June, 1918, was £247,584 14s. 2d., which includes the amounts paid for—

	£	s.	d.
Committal and transport of patients	1,090	7	7
Boarding-out patients	2,555	15	6
Receiving House, Bendigo	295	15	0
Salaries of Head Office, postage and telegrams, inspection and travelling expenses	5,054	18	6

It will be noticed that the expenditure is given for the financial year instead of the calendar year as formerly. A fairer statement of the expenditure is thus shown. Compared with the expenditure for the year 1916, there is an increase of £11,348 2s. 7d.

The receipts from all sources, including the amount paid to the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients, £27,450 6s. 1d., was £32,486 10s. 1d., an increase of £810 9s. 2d. as compared with the year 1916. The receipts would have been much higher but for the delay in the acceptance of certain moneys owing by the Defence Department for the maintenance of military mental patients at Royal Park and Mont Park. These amounts will be shown in next year's statement.

The average number of patients was 5,280, as against 5,209 during 1916. These figures include voluntary patients and patients received under the Military Mental Treatment Act.

The amount expended on the actual maintenance of patients was £238,590 17s. 7d. The various items showing how this amount is made up will be seen by reference to Table XIII.

The expenditure is much higher than for the year 1916, and one of the principal causes for the increase was the granting of a bonus of £10 each to the lower-paid married men on the staff, the total amount paid being £4,070. Again a large increase was expended in clothing and bedding, supplies having come to hand which had previously been delayed. The item fuel, light, &c., was increased owing to the extra price for coal charged by the Railway Department.

The results from the farms and gardens have again proved satisfactory. At Mont Park, in addition to the ordinary requirements having been grown, straw and wheat and oat seed was produced for the other institutions, and this resulted in a considerable saving of expenditure.

The average cost per patient per week was 17s. 4½d., and after deducting amounts collected for maintenance, a net weekly cost of 15s. 0¼d. is arrived at. This compares with the year 1916 rate, 14s. 5½d.

The expenditure of the Department is admittedly high as compared with a few years back, and statements have been made from time to time that while other Departments are keeping expenditure down the Lunacy Department is constantly increasing. I must say here that if it were not for the excellent and careful management at the institutions the cost would be much higher. It should with all fairness be recognised that this Department is practically the only one which has to clothe and maintain a large number of people—about 5,300 patients—and nearly 900 staff. Every person in whatever sphere of life he may be knows that the cost of living has increased enormously.

In connexion with these matters, a reference to the following statement should be interesting :—

Expenditure on Provisions, &c.

				£
	1913-14	..	..	52,232
	1914-15	..	..	62,473
	1915-16	..	..	88,268
	1916-17	..	..	84,238
	1917-18	..	..	81,681
Estimate	1918-19	..	..	82,400

Contract Prices—Melbourne District.

Meat	..	1913-14	..	19s. 6d. cental
		1914-15	..	25s. 10d. cental
		1918-19	..	49s. 9d. cental
Butter	..	1913-14	..	104s. 9d. cwt.
		1914-15	..	112s. cwt.
		1918-19	..	162s. cwt.
Bread	..	1913-14	..	7s. 11d. cental
		1914-15	..	8s. 8d. cental
		1918-19	..	11s. 2d. cental
Tea	..	1913-14	..	8¼d. lb.
		1914-15	..	8¼d. lb.
		1918-19	..	1s. 2¾d. lb.
Oatmeal	..	1913-14	..	15s. cwt.
		1914-15	..	14s. cwt.
		1918-19	..	22s. cwt.

Kew Hospital for Insane Accounts.

		July, 1913.			July, 1914.			July, 1918.
		£			£			£
Meat	..	307	..	422	..	708*		
Butter	..	143	..	161	..	189*		
Bread	..	177	..	199	..	245		
Tea	..	25	..	26	..	46		
Oatmeal..	..	18	..	17	..	23		

* The scale of meat and butter was reduced in 1915.

Contract Prices for Material, &c.—Only a few are given.

		1913-14-15.			1917-18.			1918-19.
		per yard.			per yard.			per yard.
Calico, 36-in.	..	7d.	..	1s. 0¾d.	..	1s. 3d.,	1s. 6d.	
Calico, 54-in.	..	10½d.	..	1s. 7½d.	..	2s. 6d.,	2s. 9d.	
Galatea	..	8¾d.	..	1s. 0½d.	..	1s. 9d.		
Flannel	..	1s. 1d.	..	1s. 6d.	..	1s. 8d.		
Serge, white	..	2s.	..	..	..	3s. 3d.	
Serge, blue	..	1s. 9d.	..	..	..	3s.	

Drugs are now 50 per cent. higher than 1917-18.

Besides the above, the price of every other item has risen—some so high that, though necessary, the items have been dispensed with for the time—damask for dining tables, for instance. Owing to the fact that the Defence Department were able to let the institutions have some surplus material at a low price to take the place of material usually used for shirts, some hundreds of pounds were saved. By judicious laying in of stocks of other materials heavy expenditure in other directions has been saved.

Every endeavour is being made in keeping down expenditure. The statements submitted at the end of each year showing the items of clothing, stores, &c., condemned as being no further worth, repairing is good evidence that there is no waste.

I might add that the members of the Commission of Inquiry into the working of the Service last year visited some of the institutions, and in their final report expressed themselves as altogether satisfied with business methods of the Department and the efforts made towards economy.

H. SEATON LYNCH,
Chief Clerk and Accountant.

Hospital for the Insane,
Yarra Bend,
1st March, 1918.

The Inspector-General.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1917. There were resident in the institution on that date 312 males and 315 females—total 663. On probation, 52 males and 106 females—total 158. Boarded-out, none. Total number on the books, 364 males, 457 females—total 821. There were 92 males and 81 females—total 173 first admissions; 1 male and 4 females—total 5, not first admissions; 10 males and 9 females—total 19 transferred from other institutions; making a grand total of 103 males and 94 females admitted during the year. Discharged recovered, 3 males and 11 females—total 14. Relieved, 5 males and 7 females—total 12. Not improved, 1 female—total 1. Transferred to other institutions, 10 males and 9 females—total 19. Died, 40 males and 44 females—total 84. Died on trial leave, 3 males and 4 females—total 7. Making a grand total of 68 males and 77 females—total 145 discharged from the institution during the year.

The average daily number under treatment was 285 males and 356 females—total 641.

Of the new admissions, 36 males and 84 females were considered recoverable cases.

Total number of cases under treatment during the year, 431 males and 534 females—total 965.

As in previous years, a large number of the cases admitted were either senile, epileptic, or in feeble bodily health, taxing to their utmost the hospitals and infirmary wards, and especially was this the case in the male division, where the possibility of supplementing our ever decreasing number of outdoor workers was practically nil.

There were also a number of dangerous and refractory cases sent in. An additional attendant was appointed to enable the observation yard to be opened for some of the best recent cases.

Six major accidents occurred; two aged females had intra-capsular fractures of the neck of the left femur and one had a colles fracture right arm. One male patient dislocated his right ankle, one female dislocated her left elbow, and another her left humerus, also a few other casualties of a trivial character. One male patient was admitted with broken ribs, three female patients were admitted with bed sores, and six others with large ulcers on legs, most of them specific requiring special nursing care and treatment.

One of the patients on the female division had typhoid fever, otherwise there was no infectious diseases among the patients.

All patients suspected of being syphilitic were tested by the Wassermann test at the Receiving House, Royal Park, except two females, both of whom were found to be positive.

The general health of the staff was good, and there were no infectious diseases.

The second infirmary cottage on female division was opened and filled with infirmary cases.

Results Nursing Examinations.

	Attendants.	Nurses.
Special .. ..	.. ..	1
Senior, old.. ..	1	3
Senior, new	2	4
Junior .. ..	.. ..	3

Restraint, nil. Seclusion, nil.

Escapes, technical, 7 males, 1 female. Recaptures, 6 males, 1 female.

Work on the farm was satisfactory so far as it went, and the garden supplied a quantity of good vegetables.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. STEELL,

Medical Superintendent.

Hospital for the Insane,

Kew,

12th June, 1918.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

The following changes have taken place during the year among the patients on the books of the institution :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Received (including transfers and retaken escapees)	139	119	258
First admissions	109	89	198
Total under care during year	691	604	1,295
Discharged recovered	20	33	53
Discharged relieved	24	14	38
Discharged not improved	4	3	7
Transferred from this Institution	6	33	39
Died (including those on trial leave and boarded out)	69	34	103
Total discharged and died	133	118	251
On trial leave (31st December, 1917)	62	71	133
Average number resident during year	488	408	896
Total number on books on 31st December, 1917	558	486	1,044

During the years 1916 and 1917 there was a difference of 47 in the number of cases under care during the year, viz., 1,342 in 1916, and 1,295 in 1917. There were 7 more admissions during the year 1917 than in 1916.

Admissions.—Of the 207 new cases received during the year, 37 had been previously certified insane once or oftener. The mean age of those admitted was 46, an incidence exactly the same as for the previous year. In 1915 the mean age of those admitted was 43. Forty-seven of the cases admitted were under the age of 30 when received; 87 were between the ages of 30 and 50 when admitted; 46 were between the ages of 60 and 80 on admission; while 9 were over 80 years of age on reception.

The types of mental disorders affecting the patients received during 1917 followed more or less closely those found in the previous few years; thus among the 217 admissions there were found 59 cases of either terminal or senile dementia, 27 cases of general paralysis of the insane, which, strictly speaking, should be designated syphilitic brain diseases, 26 cases of primary dementia, otherwise called delayed imbecility. Seventeen cases of paranoia were diagnosed amongst the admissions (3 males and 14 females).

Causation of Insanity.—As regards the *exciting* causes of insanity in patients received in 1917, it was found, as in previous years, that acquired syphilis was the most potent, and it induced insanity in a hopelessly incurable form in 35 patients (26 males and 9 females), *i.e.*, in 18 per cent. of the first admissions.

Intemperance in drink was assigned as the causes of the mental disturbance in only 4 cases.

Hereditary influences and inherited defect either as predisposing or exciting causes accounted for the occurrence of 79 cases of insanity during the year (37 males and 42 females). Arterio-sclerosis caused mental disorder in 18 cases; and to toxæmia were due 19 cases.

The influence of physical causes of various kinds is shown by my observations in this institution to be infinitely stronger in the etiology of insanity than that of the moral causes, as amongst the 217 admissions during the year only 5 cases (all females) were moral causes accorded any influence. The mean age of all patients who died during the year was 59. While the mean age of all patients remaining at the end of the year was 58, the total number of patients being 1,044.

The percentage of recoveries on admission for this Asylum during the past year was 24.42 as compared with 21.43 for the year 1916. Ninety-eight patients were discharged in 1917, and 96 in the previous year.

Deaths.—During the year under review 103 patients (69 males and 34 females) died. The average number of patients resident during the year was 896, and the death rate was 11.49 per cent. on the average number resident.

The chief causes of death, as ascertained by post-mortem examination, were:—

	Cases.
General Paralysis of the Insane or Syphilitic Disease of the brain	30
Pneumonia, Pleurisy, and Bronchitis	28
Diseases of Kidney and Heart	16
Cancer and other malignant disease	7
Pulmonary Phthisis.. .. .	5

Escapes.—Ten male and one female patient escaped technically or otherwise during the year, and, with the exception of three male patients, all were retaken without untoward happenings.

Accidents.—There were, during the year, six serious and recordable casualties among the patients—a fracture of left side of jaw in a male patient sustained by an accidental fall against an iron bedstead; a female patient, being knocked down by another, sustained a fracture of lower end of the right humerus; another female patient accidentally knocked herself against a bedstead, causing a fracture of a rib; an epileptic male patient sustained a fracture of a rib owing to a fall during a fit; another epileptic patient, male, sustained in a fall an impacted fracture of right humerus. A male patient, who for months had been working regularly with the Engineer, committed suicide by placing his head under the crank-shaft of an engine. The circumstances attending each of these cases were fully investigated, and in no instance was blame found to be attachable to any member of the staff.

Seclusion and Restraint.—Since October, 1911, it has not been found necessary to resort to either of these methods of control in this Institution. The conduct of the staff on the whole has been satisfactory throughout the year, though two attendants were suspended from duty, as their alleged offences were considered serious enough to be investigated by you, Sir. Nursing lectures were given as usual by the Medical Staff, and the results obtained at the examinations held by the Department were, generally speaking, satisfactory. Nurse M. E. Kelly obtained the Inspector-General's gold medal for the year, indicating that she passed the best examination amongst the seniors throughout the Department.

The general health of the Asylum population has been good during the year, and happily there was no occurrence of any form of Zymotic disease. That there were only five deaths from consumption during the year is a notable fact when the overcrowded condition of this Institution is taken into account. Regularly during the year patients were sent to the Dental Hospital for attention.

The farming operations continue to show highly satisfactory results at the hands of the Farm Bailiff, Mr. Nimon, who each year makes an appreciable addition to the consolidated revenue of the State.

Colony for Mental Defectives.

The following changes have taken place during the year among the patients in the above Colony, which is a branch of this Hospital :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Received (including transfers and retaken escapees)	28	15	43
First admissions	22	14	36
Total under care during year	213	169	382
Discharged relieved	1	2	3
Discharged not improved	2	...	2
Transferred from colony	2	5	7
Escaped	1	...	1
Died	19	10	29
On trial leave 31st December, 1917	10	4	14
Total on books 31st December, 1917	188	152	340

The percentage of deaths on the average number resident for the year was 7·35, and the chief causes of death were as follows :—

Pneumonia, Pleurisy, or Bronchitis	11 cases
Pulmonary Phthisis.. ..	7 cases
Epilepsy	3 cases
Organic Brain Disease	2 cases

The mean age of all those who died was 19 years (a somewhat stationary figure for some years past), and the mean age of those remaining at the end of the year was also 19. The mean age of those admitted during 1917 is 9.

The post-mortem results show conclusively that inherited syphilis is the main etiological factor in idiocy and imbecility. Nearly 80 per cent. of epileptic idiots and imbeciles are definitely congenital syphilitics. It is most gratifying to be able to record that since Dr. Lind, Pathologist to the Department, immunized the patients in the Colony against typhoid fever at the end of 1915, no case of typhoid fever has occurred among the patients, and this without any alteration being made meantime in the sanitation of the Colony. Previous to the end of 1918 typhoid fever was endemic in the institution.

During the year, under review an outbreak of measles occurred among the children in the nursery ward ; the precautions taken prevented its spread to the other wards.

A new and modern kitchen and a new dining hall were built during the year ; both have made for increased efficiency and comfort.

In conclusion, I wish to place on record that since the beginning of the great European War 23 members of the staff enlisted for duty abroad with the Australian Imperial Forces, and of that number 4 have been killed in action, namely, Messrs. W. Beirne, G. S. Lattimer, H. Kelly, and H. W. Lansdall. " They died that we might live."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. GAMBLE,

Medical Superintendent.

Hospital for Insane,
Ararat,
1st April, 1918.

SIR,

I beg to present report for the year 1917 :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number in hospital on 1st January, 1917	393	279	672
On trial leave	4	7	11
Boarded out	1	1	2
Total number on books on 1st January, 1917	398	287	685
Admitted during year :—			
Direct	17	8	25
From other hospitals	4	...	4
Discharged during year :—			
Recovered	8	5	13
Relieved	3	2	5
To other hospitals	1	2	3
Died	13	12	25
Remaining in hospital on 31st December, 1917	391	268	659
On trial leave	1	5	6
Boarded out	1	1	2
Total on books on 31st December, 1917	393	274	667
Average number resident daily	391	276	667
Number under care	419	295	714
Percentage of recoveries on number admitted	...	...	5.2
Percentage of deaths on average number resident	...	...	3.74

The death rate, both as to the actual number (25), and the percentage on the average number resident (3.74), is the lowest since 1890. As usual, most of them belonged to the senile class.

There has been no epidemic nor serious accident, and bed sores were absent; seclusion was not required, but restraint by camisole was necessary in five cases, viz., two females, one for two hours for persistent destructiveness; the other for three hours for violence to nurses; three males, one for one and a half hours for surgical purposes, another for seven and three and three-quarter hours, and the other for five and four hours, the last two for dangerous propensities; the males were "J" ward cases.

The conduct of the staff was satisfactory. At the nursing examinations, 2 out of 3 passed the Special, 8 out of 9 the Senior, and 8 out of 12 the Junior. A War Savings Group of 42 was formed and still operates.

Several of the more intelligent patients continue to interest themselves in the Red Cross by making up socks, &c., from the material supplied by the local branch of the Society.

The garden and the farm both showed a working profit; the milk and vegetable supply was well maintained; the fodder crops here, as elsewhere in this district, were very disappointing owing to the necessarily late sowing and the continuous rains at an unsuitable time, and will be insufficient for our herd. The present vegetable garden is now due for a spell, and another piece of ground has been prepared, but until we can furnish a sufficient water supply any attempt to produce vegetables would be foredoomed to failure; the existing dam could be utilized if an electric motor and the necessary piping were provided; perhaps there might be sufficient secondhand piping available at one or the other of the institutions.

The Criminal Ward has been over-full during the year, and the transfer of dangerous patients from the Penal Establishments and other Asylums simply means that cases have to be sent to the main building, where the accommodation is not more suitable than that whence they came. I hope the time is not far distant when the finances will permit the erection of accommodation offering at least a fair measure of facility for the modern treatment of this special branch of our work.

A shelter shed on the female refractory airing court is a very urgent requirement to obviate the crowding on the verandah so undesirable in dealing with patients of this class.

It is intended to plant the areas denuded by the removal of the pines, and also that part which being overrun with onion weed is useless for cultivation. As this flat was the home of the eucalyptus rostrata in years gone by, I would suggest that this most valuable timber be planted rather than the common pine, the value of which, even at the present inflated price, is incomparably less than that of the gum at any time.

The front grounds have been laid out in lawns and ornamental flower beds according to the plan approved by you, and its present appearance does great credit to Attendant McSwan, who carried out the work.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

A. J. W. PHILPOTT,

Medical Superintendent.

Hospital for Insane,
Beechworth.

SIR,

I have the honour to report that at the end of the year there were resident 355 males and 265 females—total, 620—the smallest number during the past 25 years. During the year there were admitted 22 men and 22 women, of whom 7 and 18 respectively were transfers from other institutions. Five males and 2 females were discharged recovered, and two males discharged relieved. Forty-one patients died during the year under review, of whom 24 were males and 17 females. The death rate was a normal one.

The general health of the patients has been good. Early in the year we were threatened with an epidemic of typhoid. Five patients, a nurse, and the medical officer were attacked by the disease, and two patients succumbed. In one case, however, the main cause of death was fatty degeneration of the heart. Otherwise, the Institution has been free of infectious disease. Two accidents requiring note occurred during the year—patient F. McG. fracturing his arm by an accidental fall from a tree whilst plucking fruit; and patient A. B. sustaining a fractured rib through being attacked by another patient, who has since been removed to Ararat. Neither restraint nor seclusion was found necessary during the past twelve months. Three patients escaped, but were quickly retaken.

Steady progress has been made with the ornamentation of the grounds and the plans of Mr. H. Linaker, Landscape Gardener to the Department, are beginning to mature. Both inside and outside the building the gardens are the subject of favorable comment. As far as possible, fences have been done away with, and the liberty of the patients increased. Gradually, it is hoped, the institutional appearance of the place will be changed into more home-like conditions. In addition to supervision being rendered more unobtrusive, the beautiful surroundings undoubtedly help the recovery of the more acute cases. I might here add that most of this work has been carried out under the direction of Mr. A. Blackie, Head Attendant, who has recently been transferred to Ballarat, where it is to be hoped his services will prove equally advantageous.

In my last report I drew attention to the need of a second drying chamber and the additions to the mess-room. These works have since been taken in hand and completed by the Hospital staff with the assistance of an outside carpenter. The advantages anticipated from these works have been fully realized, and credit must be given the Engineer (Mr. Oates) and his staff for the efficiency of their work and the saving of a large sum of money—the cost of the works being much below contract prices. The drying room particularly was severely tried during an exceptionally wet winter, and proved a great success.

The garden returns continue to be very satisfactory. The gardener's accounts show a profit of £283 after allowing £174 for patients' labour. There was a fine fruit crop. Each year the gardener supplies sufficient fruit to make our yearly requirements of jam. The general appearance of the garden is deserving of commendation.

The rainfall for the year (72 inches) was the highest on record, but falling seasonably insured a satisfactory yield of hay, &c. The dairy herd was strengthened by the addition of six cows obtained from Sunbury. The benefit of this accession will be more fully realized in future accounts than in the one under review. Nevertheless, there was a partial recovery of the milk yield, and this, together with heavier stock sales than usual, was of material assistance in once again causing the farm revenue to exceed the outlay. Patients' labour was valued at £282, and after meeting this charge a profit of £38 is shown.

We require a small isolation block for patients of filthy habits. Apart from hygienic reasons, I find it frequently necessary to have certain parts of the wards repainted—a far from economical procedure under present conditions. The threatened typhoid epidemic already referred to emphasized the need of sanitary spurs to replace the present archaic and undesirable arrangements. A shelter shed is badly wanted on the front male airing court as a protection against the biting cold of winter. Other required works might be mentioned, but under the present financial conditions these must be held over for future reference.

The conduct generally of the staff has been very good, and the work of the Institution generally has been carried on smoothly and efficiently owing to the ready co-operation and willing assistance of the various officials.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

J. CATARINICH,

Acting Medical Superintendent.

Hospital for the Insane,
Sunbury,
7th August, 1918.

The books of this Hospital show that on the 31st December, 1917, 507 males and 547 females, or a total of 1,054 patients, were under treatment, the average number resident during the year being 442 and 494 respectively, or a total of 936; while the numbers under care during the year were 573 and 608, or a total of 1,181.

The receptions numbered 62 males and 33 females, total 95, and transfers 21 males and 28 females, total 49; and the discharges 24 males and 28 females, total 52, being over 54 per cent. of the receptions.

Five voluntary boarders were treated, viz., two males and three females.

There were few casualties during the year, viz., D.L., male, dislocation of right shoulder joint; C.L., female, fracture of seventh and eighth ribs on right side, from fall on chair; W.E.W., male, fracture of seventh and eighth ribs on right side, from fall down a bank while attempting to escape. Inquiries were held in all these cases, and no blame was attached to the nursing staff.

Restraint had to be applied in four cases—Z.C., female, camisole for 11 hours 30 minutes, to prevent injury to herself and others; S.G., male, camisole 229 hours 15 minutes, as he was actively suicidal and homicidal; R.H., female, camisole 5 hours 25 minutes, to prevent self injury during violent outburst; E.A., female, camisole 4 hours 15 minutes, to prevent violence to self and others. There was no seclusion.

There were 65 deaths, 38 males and 27 females, due principally to senility, disease of heart, general paralysis of insane, and chronic brain disease.

The general health was fairly good, although accommodation for the very large number of infirmary cases is inadequate.

The conduct of the staff was satisfactory.

The farm and garden produce was maintained satisfactorily during the year.

R. W. LETHBRIDGE,
Medical Superintendent.

Hospital for the Insane,
Ballarat,

31st December, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report for the year 1917.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total number on books 1st January, 1917	248	425	673
Total number on books 31st December, 1917	256	425	681
Admitted	24	27	51
Transferred to the Institution	15	9	24
Discharged	14	9	23
Transferred from the Institution	2	3	5
Escaped... ..	6	...	6
Retaken (one from 1916)	7	...	7
Died	16	24	40
Boarded Out	20	27	47
On Trial Leave	10	13	23

Of the admissions, the large majority were young, and under 45 years of age, and first attacks—the mental types preponderating being those incidental to the developmental and critical periods, *i.e.*, adolescence, youth and the climacteric. Recoveries, consequently, have been notably almost limited to the younger cases; and I would here emphasize the advantage derived from the preliminary treatment of just these same juvenile cases at the local Receiving House, so frequently resulting in speedy convalescence when transferred to this institution, certain wards of which have, in effect, become an acute mental hospital.

The mental breakdown in most cases was attributable to some physical illness or disability occurring during one of these critical periods, which latter might well be accepted as the distinctly predisposing cause.

The so-called moral causes were in the minority, but also usually coincident with these vital crises. Senile and Benevolent Asylum types have been less numerous, although several admitted were of very advanced age.

The general health of the community has been excellent, and there has been entire freedom from epidemic disease amongst the patients.

Deaths, too, have been less numerous as compared with last year, the large majority being due to epilepsy and organic brain disease, old-age being next in number. All were due to natural causes. During the twelve months but one *post-mortem* examination was permitted, which, however, needs no further comment following former reports.

Casualties have been somewhat more frequent, but only such as may be considered normally incidental to the insane, mostly among epileptics, and in no case could blame be attached to those in charge.

20.4.17—(1) A.W., epileptic, simple fracture of clavicle—in a fit.

28.4.17—(2) A.W., obscure injury to shoulder—in a fit.

24.5.17—I.S., senile, dislocated humerus—pushed down by another inmate.

19.5.17—M.D., fractured forearm—accidental fall.

1.8.17—A.I., imbecile and farm worker, kicked by a cow—necessitating subsequent operation.

12.9.17—I.M., self mutilation by destroying right eye.

2.10.17—T. Crossley, crushed end phalanx of finger in door of day-room—necessitating removal.

All these cases made good recovery.

Escapes.—In every instance the six so-called escapes were merely working patients, and others given certain concessions and freedom walking away from their employment; and all were returned to the Institution within a few hours—in some cases returning voluntarily.

Restraint and Seclusion.—Except for surgical purposes mechanical restraint has been reduced almost to a minimum throughout the year—and that, with one exception, in the form of gloves on occasion. A camisole tunic was necessary with one patient only—for destructiveness.

Seclusion for half an hour was employed in one paroxysm of acute delirious mania.

Benevolent Asylum.—The 46 boarded-out patients in this Institution have been regularly inspected and duly certified under Section 88, and have been found invariably well cared for and happy.

Staff.—The general conduct and work have been exceedingly satisfactory. The Nursing examinations resulted as follows :—

First examination	Passed 3
Second examination	Passed 14

Mr. R. Hill, Head Attendant, retired after 43 years' service on 31st December, a most efficient and valued officer whom it will be difficult to adequately replace. Miss G. Boswell took up duty as Matron upon 1st July *vice* Wilson retired.

Farm and Garden.—Both have been satisfactory in their returns, and the latter so productive as to enable considerable donations of garden stuff to be sent to various local Red Cross movements during the year.

Public Works Completed.—The new Administrative Block has been completed, and proved a great convenience, which will be further enhanced by the completion of the original plan in the erection of the new store which is greatly needed.

Additional cooking apparatus has been installed in the new kitchen with equivalent benefit.

Electric lighting in the Medical Superintendent's Quarters, hot-water service from the main boiler house to the Female Mess Rooms and Wards 1 and 9.

Radiators in the Nurses' Cottages.

Required.—The removal of the disused Matron's cottage to the selected site on the Division is essential to the plan of landscape gardening already in progress. Fortunately the old quarters vacated by the last Medical Officers have been available for the Matron's occupation during the interim, but this arrangement is inconvenient, and must be considered as only temporary, and the briefer the better.

Repairs to the back road, which carries all the traffic, as also the new road planned, and which forms the main approach to the whole of the Administrative Buildings, is becoming a very pressing necessity in view of the imminence of the wet season.

New fence on the north and south boundaries of our police grazing paddock is urgently required.

General.—The past year has been uneventful except for the accidental destruction by fire of the Male Hospital Ward on 19th December, providentially in the day time, and without harm or injury to any person.

That disaster and greater loss were averted was due in my opinion to the conspicuous discipline and co-operation of the officers and staff—both of attendants and nurses; nor must the invaluable assistance rendered by the artisans be ignored. But where all concerned were so commendable, it would be invidious and superfluous to individualize.

Necessarily considerable inconvenience and congestion is inseparable from so reduced accommodation, but we may reasonably hope for compensation in the near future by the evolution of a more commodious and modern Hospital from the ashes of the one destroyed.

The evacuated old kitchen and laundry block are likely also to be restored in the form of a new and up-to-date male maniacal and refractory ward, which, with its due proportion of single rooms, will fill a long-felt want in this Hospital.

With the future growth and extension of this Institution upon modern lines, and in keeping with later buildings, I would again direct attention to the antiquated and ruinous habitations yet occupied by certain officers, notably the Secretary and Head Attendant. Repairs to render them even habitable would be money thrown away. Their removal and their substitution by something more sightly would be only in accordance with the improvements going on throughout, and with the elaborate plan for landscape gardening and laying out the estate, which is rapidly becoming a beauty spot in the district.

Happily our community has been maintained during the year in its customary comfort and good health, little disturbed hitherto by war conditions, although necessarily the pinch in many directions is felt by the Administrative Officers.

Endeavours have been made as usual for the amusement of the patients by the regular dances and entertainments, and the annual picnic at the gardens, which was no less a success than formerly.

Several euchre parties in aid of the Red Cross funds and other good purposes have been organized by the staff, and with substantial results.

Attendants Murray and Cooper enlisted, whilst I have reason to believe that every possible eligible recruit from the Hospital staff, as also from the families resident on the estate, have responded to the call.

I cannot conclude without once again recording my sense of the assistance and consideration I have invariably received from officers and staff throughout a somewhat trying and onerous twelve months.

I would also acknowledge the ready and invaluable help in emergency rendered by Dr. W. Davies, of Ballarat, who has proved himself on many occasions a most courteous and reliable colleague.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER H. BARKER,

Medical Superintendent.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, ROYAL PARK.

(Mental Diseases Hospital.)

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the Hospital, 1st January, 1917	47	37	84			
On trial	62	106	168			
Total Number on books 1st January, 1917 ..	..	..	..	109	143	252
Cases admitted	47	82	129			
Cases transferred to this Hospital .. .. .	..	2	2			
Total cases admitted .. .. .	..	..	..	47	84	131
Total cases under care during year .. .. .	..	..	..	156	227	383
Cases discharged, &c.—						
Recovered	11	24	35			
Relieved	15	16	31			
Not improved	4	2	6			
Transferred to other Institutions	17	35	52			
Escaped	5	1	6			
Died	5	2	7			
Total cases discharged, &c. .. .. .	..	..	..	57	80	137
Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1917 ..	46	35	81			
On trial leave, 31st December, 1917	57	113	170			
Total number on books, 31st December, 1917	..	..	..	103	148	251

Receptions.

During the year 131 cases, certified as insane, were admitted, viz., 47 males and 84 females. Of these, 117 had been Receiving House cases prior to admission. As all the Receiving House admissions, amounting to 623, were also received into this Hospital, and 97 voluntary boarders also, the total number of new cases admitted for care and treatment at this Institution from all sources was 734. In addition, 10 cases attended as out patients. The form of mental disorder, and the causation, are dealt with in the report on the Receiving House.

Discharges.—Thirty-five patients were discharged recovered, and 31 improved, but not recovered; which gives a total of 50 per cent benefited, 26 per cent. cured. These figures are of little value, however, as they mostly represent the continuation of treatment of Receiving House cases.

Moreover, 170 patients out of 251 on the books were away on probation leave.

Deaths.—Seven patients, 5 males and 2 females, died while away with relatives, 3 of general paralysis, 1 of heart disease, and 1 of lung trouble ; while 2 committed suicide whilst absent on trial with relatives. There were no casualties, bed sores, restraint or seclusion. Six patients escaped, of whom 5 were recaptured.

Voluntary Boarders.—As in recent years, a large number of people availed themselves of the opportunity to submit themselves for Hospital treatment, as sufferers from ordinary ailments do in the case of General Hospitals, and the total this year is 97. Also, 28 voluntary boarders remained on from last year. Of these, 125 cases, 84 were discharged recovered, 18 had to be certified as insane, and in most cases sent away to other institutions. On the last day of this year 23 remained in Hospital under treatment. A small proportion of these voluntary boarders were cases previously under Receiving House certificates, who elected to stay on for further treatment as uncertified cases.

The alcoholic psychoses amounted to 16 cases, 24 cases were of depressive insanity, and the remainder embraced all forms of mental disorder, chiefly transient or mild in degree.

General.

Health.—The general health of the patients and staff has been uniformly good, and calls for no special reference. The danger from cerebro-spinal meningitis, which at one time appeared to be possible, was guarded against by proper precautions.

Nursing Examinations.—The lectures and instruction in mental and general nursing were conducted by the Medical Officers as usual. I regret the results were, for some reason, less satisfactory than usual.

Miscellaneous.—The need of providing accommodation for better classification of patients has been mentioned in previous reports. At present, all must be grouped as either convalescent or acute ; but a number of cases midway between these conditions would do better if provided for separately. Also the advisability of quartering the female staff away from the wards where they can secure rest and relief from the present continuous association with patients is a matter needing urgent consideration. The administrative and clinical work has been very heavy this year, and a number of noisy, violent, and restless cases retained for active treatment has been greater than usual, entailing a great strain on all concerned, and I must express my satisfaction with the manner in which the nursing staff have met these burdens and with their intelligent and zealous work. I also wish to record my appreciation of the work done by all the members of the medical, clerical, and artisan staffs.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CLARENCE G. GODFREY,
Medical Superintendent.

Hospital for Insane,

Mont Park,

14th September, 1918.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Réceptions	4	6	10
Transferred from Mont Park	41	1	42
Transferred to	6	10	16
Recovered	1	1	2
Died	3	5	8
Resident, December 31st	167	165	332
On Trial	8	4	12
Total on Books	175	169	344

There were no serious accidents. There were no attempts at suicide.

The general health of all the patients has been very good. There has been no tubercular disease or colitis.

No restraint or seclusion has been used.

Staff.—The conduct of the staff has been good.

Divine service has been held regularly.

The Farm.—This side of the establishment has been productive, and shows a profit of £1,863.

The Vegetable Garden.—This shows a profit of £98. The supply has been of very good quality.

The Grounds.—The work has been steadily pushed on, but much is for formations, and shows no immediate result. The nursery has continued to supply plants to the other institutions.

General.—During the year the big Chronic Block has been completed by the Public Works Department, under instruction from the Defence Department. This block will be used as a General Military Hospital for the period of the war and for some time afterwards. At the end of the year the laundry workers' block was in military occupation, and known as No. 14 A.G.H. With the filling of the larger block, No. 14 will be handed over to the Lunacy Department.

There is no financial provision for the entertainment of the patients, and the regular dances are much missed, and the lack of some form of regular entertainment is the cause of many complaints received from the patients.

During the year military mental cases were treated in Ward 5, at the male division. Early in 1918 these cases will be transferred to No. 16 A.G.H.

A regular sum of money should be spent each year to bring Mont Park nearer its completion. Any cessation in progress will in the end prove uneconomical, and will set back those humanitarian projects for which we strive.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HOLLOW,

Medical Superintendent.

RECEIVING HOUSES AND WARDS.

TABLE I.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year ended 31st December, 1917.

		Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the Institutions, 1st January, 1917	...	20	31	51	...	...	...
Total number on books, 1st January, 1917	...	...	...	...	20	31	51
Cases admitted—							
First admissions	...	335	340	675	...	...	...
Not first admissions	...	26	34	60	...	...	...
Escaped patients retaken	...	5	...	5	...	...	...
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	366	374	740
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	386	405	791
Cases discharged—							
Recovered	...	110	104	214	...	...	...
Relieved	...	10	10	20	...	...	...
Not improved	...	4	1	5	...	...	...
Transferred from the Institutions to Hospitals for the							
Insane	...	230	254	484	...	...	...
Escaped	...	5	...	5	...	...	...
Died	...	6	5	11	...	...	...
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	...	365	374	739
Remaining in the Institutions, 31st December, 1917	...	21	31	52	...	...	...
Total number on books, 31st December, 1917	...	...	...	...	21	31	52
Average number resident during the year		...	...	...	23	31	54
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	...	374	397	771
Persons admitted	...	...	...	...	354	368	722
Persons recovered	...	...	...	...	110	103	213

RECEIVING HOUSE, ROYAL PARK, 1917.

The following table shows the movements among the patients during the year :—

Admissions.				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cases admitted—									
First admissions	..	..	..	279	300	579			
Not first admissions	..	..	..	15	29	44			
Total admissions 1917				..	..	..	294	329	623
Total cases under care 1917				..	..	..	315	357	672
Cases discharged—									
Recovered	..	..	..	77	89	166			
Relieved	..	..	..	5	2	7			
Not improved	..	..	..	3	1	4			
Died	..	..	..	5	5	10			
Transferred to other Hospitals	..	..	..	134	201	335			
Committed by Court to other Hospitals	..	..	..	66	33	99			
Total .. .. .				..	..	..	294	331	625

Admissions.—On 1st January, 1917, there were on the books of the Receiving House 45 patients, viz., 17 males and 28 females. During the year 623 cases were admitted, of whom 294 were males and 329 females, making 668 cases under care.

The following table sets out the yearly record of cases admitted to the Receiving House from all sources (including voluntary boarders) since its establishment :—

In 1907 (three months)	..	..	86 cases admitted.
„ 1908	..	..	356 „
„ 1909	..	..	464 „
„ 1910	..	..	521 „
„ 1911	..	..	588 „
„ 1912	..	..	662 „
„ 1913	..	..	703 „
„ 1914	..	..	673 „
„ 1915	..	..	718 „
„ 1916	..	..	770 „
„ 1917	..	..	720 „

Of the 623 certified cases, 401 were sent for treatment by their friends, 151 by the Police, and 70 were sent from Public Hospitals.

Concerning the type of mental disorder on admission, we find manic-depressive psychoses totalling 221, and progressive and senile dementias 171. The specific forms of insanity have been chiefly as follows* :—

Melancholia	..	..	..	113 cases.
Mania	..	..	..	108 „
Delusional insanity	..	..	..	93 „
Involitional conditions	..	..	..	66 „
Primary dementia	..	..	..	63 „
Alcoholic psychoses	..	..	..	41 „
Confusional insanity	..	..	..	38 „
General paralysis	..	..	..	36 „
Epileptic insanity	..	..	..	36 „

* Not including voluntary boarders.

Recoveries.—These total 166, representing a recovery rate, within two months of admission, of 26·6 per cent. Treatment continued as Mental Hospital patients (*i.e.*, beyond two months) resulted in the recoveries reaching 32 per cent. These recovery rates remain almost precisely the same each year for several years past. Naturally the results are considerably clouded by the large proportion of cases admitted in very advance stages, or incurable forms of insanity, due to the mistaken impression on the part of the medical profession that all cases of mental disorder must necessarily go through the Receiving House as a preliminary.

Deaths.—Ten patients, 5 of each sex, died last year ; 4 from pulmonary diseases, 3 from disease of the brain, and 2 from cardiac disorders.

Causation.—As far as can be ascertained, the relative frequency of intemperance in drink, syphilis, and mental anxiety, in the histories of patients seem to indicate these as the chief exciting agents in the production of mental disorders. To these are added, as table shows, the inherited tendency to psychoses, congenital causes, lessened resistance from previous attacks, ill-health, senile decay, and bodily diseases.

GENERAL.

The only matter under this heading that need be mentioned is the advisability of extending the accommodation. As already stated, the tendency of doctors is to send all patients to the Receiving House. The great majority—probably three-fourths of these—are only suitable for other Institutions, and have to be transferred thither, at times without delay. This involves a lot of reduplication of clerical and statistical work that could be well economized. It is improbable that this custom will diminish, owing to a very natural desire on the part of medical men to avoid branding their patients as insane.

C. G. GODFREY,
Medical Superintendent.

RECEIVING HOUSE, BALLARAT.

31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Receptions	34	35	69
Police committals	16	7	23
Private request	13	23	36
Voluntary boarders	5	5	10
Discharged, recommended	6	8	14
Discharged, relieved	5	8	13
Discharged, not improved	1	..	1
Transferred from the Institution	17	14	31
Escaped	1	..	1
Retaken	1	..	1
Died	1	..	1
Total number on books 31st December, 1917 .. .. .	..	4	4
Average number resident throughout the year	1	3	4

There has this year been a further diminution in the annual admissions, the reason for which is not readily estimated, beyond the natural and usual fluctuation in institutional returns.

Nevertheless the results and the good work done by the Receiving House, amongst certain mental types, would appear to justify its existence, apart from the general recognition of its utility and convenience by the public and medical profession, which is beyond question ; though it is very probable that the provision of an Acute Mental Hospital, in conjunction with the Receiving House for this district, would lead to greatly increased results. Experience shows that the dread on the part of the relatives of ultimate transfer to the "Lunatic Asylum" militates frequently against admission to the Receiving House.

The forms of mental disorders on admission were largely those of adolescence and middle life ; the manic-depressive insanities predominating, delusional and confusional states being next numerous. Most of the curable cases were in their initial stages and first attacks.

As causes, bodily illness and the climacteric were most prolific ; hereditary influence and congenital defect were very noticeable, whilst alcoholic intemperance and old age were, as usual, largely in evidence.

The influence of war conditions appeared to chiefly affect those of enemy parentage, several of whom were admitted during the year, the only attributable cause for whose mental breakdown was undoubtedly worry about the war in one form and another.

The health of the inmates has been satisfactory and free from any serious illness, although, with few exceptions, patients admitted into an institution intended for acute and recent insanity are necessarily in very far from good physical health or condition.

The one death was due to epilepsy, the patient being moribund when admitted and over 60 years of age.

There were ten voluntary boarders, *i.e.*, five of either sex, most of whom were discharged within a few weeks relieved.

Restraint or seclusion have not been used.

The whole Institution has been kept in repairs and maintained in its customary efficiency and attractiveness, under the supervision of Nurse Quinn, who succeeded Matron Boswell as Chief Nurse upon her promotion. The conduct of the staff has been excellent.

No further complaints have been received from private residents in the vicinity, who seem now to have tacitly accepted us as not undesirable neighbours.

(Signed) WALTER H. BARKER,
Medical Superintendent.

MILITARY MENTAL HOSPITAL, ROYAL PARK.

The following changes have taken place among the patients (overseas soldiers) during the year :—

TABLE A.—Return showing admissions, discharges, deaths, &c., during the year ending 31st December, 1917.

	Under the New Mental Treatment Act.	Voluntary Boarders.	Total.
In hospital on 1st January, 1917	11	..	11
Absent on parole, 1st January, 1917	5	..	5
Total number on books 1st January, 1917	16	..	16
Cases admitted—			
First admissions	70	2	72
Not first admissions	2	13	15
Total cases admitted during the year	72	15	87
Total cases under care during the year	83	15	98
Cases discharged, &c.—			
Recovered	6	15	21
Unimproved	3	..	3
Died .. .. .	..	..	..
Transferred to Hospitals for Insane	17	..	17
Transferred to other States (places of enlistment)	6	..	6
Total cases discharged during the year	32	15	47
Remaining in this hospital, 31st December, 1917	34	..	34
Cases absent on parole on 31st December, 1917	22	..	22
Total number on books, 31st December, 1917	56	..	56
Average number resident during year	30	..	30

TABLE B.—Showing previous attacks of mental disorders (not necessarily treated in Hospitals for Insane).

*Number of Previous Attacks.	Under the New Mental Treatment Act.	Voluntary Boarders.	Total.
Have had one attack	5	2	7
Have had two attacks	3	6	9
Have had three or more attacks	1	5	6

* In addition, three soldiers showed evidence of chronic mental defect (congenital).

TABLE C.—Showing probable causes of mental disorder in the admissions for the year 1917.

Probable Cause.	Under the New Mental Treatment Act.	Voluntary Boarders.	Total.
Shell shock	3	1	4
Shock from wounds	2	..	2
Stress and strain of warfare	47	4	51
Alcoholic excesses	8	9	17
Syphilis	5	..	5
Bodily ill-health	2	..	2
Hereditary predisposition	6	1	7
Congenital defect	4	..	4
Weakened resistance from previous attacks	8	2	10
Unknown	1	1	2
Total	86	18	104

TABLE D.—Showing the form of mental disorder in the admissions, 1917.

Form of Mental Disorder.	Under the New Mental Treatment Act.	Voluntary Boarders.	Total.
Congenital mental deficiency	3	..	3
General paralysis of the insane	5	..	5
Confusional insanity	7	1	8
Exhaustion psychosis	4	..	4
Primary dementia	13	1	14
Mania, recent	2	..	2
Mania, chronic	3	..	3
Mania, recurrent	3	1	4
Melancholia, recent	4	..	4
Melancholia, chronic	2	..	2
Melancholia, recurrent .. .. .	..	2	2
Delusional insanity, systematized	7	..	7
Delusional insanity, non-systematized	13	..	13
Neurasthenia	1	1	2
Hysteria	1	..	1
Acute alcoholism	1	3	4
Alcoholic mania	1	..	1
Alcoholic hallucinosis	1	6	7
Korssakow's syndrome	1	..	1
Total	72	15	87

This year, the second since this building was employed solely as a Military Hospital, shows a large increase in admissions, 72 under the New Mental Treatment Act, and 15 voluntary boarders, or 87, compared with 42 last year. It may be stated that during the latter half of the year the Hospital was practically filled to its limit.

Twenty-two improved sufficiently to be away with friends for an indefinite period by the end of the year, and 21 recovered and were discharged. The remaining 43 were cases of a most unfavorable type as regards their future.

Twenty-two of the admissions were recurrent cases, but 13 of these were primarily alcoholics, of the frequently relapsing type.

It may be noted that the causation in 57 instances is stated as "shell shock," "wound shock," and "stress and strain of warfare" (which latter includes cases breaking down in training abroad without actually being in the field). In several of these instances, however, the cause can only be conjectured. On the other hand, among soldiers whose mental disorder probably had no connexion with war conditions, were 5 cases of general paralysis, with syphilis as the factor, 3 cases of mental deficiency from birth, and most of the alcoholic cases.

Generally speaking, the forms of mental disorder of the receptions do not greatly differ as regards their incidence, from such as would be found amongst a similar number of civilian cases.

The comfort of the soldiers has been kept well in view at all times, and the domestic equipment and menu of this Hospital will bear comparison with that of any Military Hospital. Amusements, recreations, and entertainments have been provided generously by various visitors and organizations.

Every week as many as are able to go are taken for motor drives, with an outdoor entertainment added, by the hard-working Red Cross Motor Car Society, and these outings have considerably aided in the recovery of certain patients.

A very fine Recreation Hall has been built and well furnished by the Prahran Red Cross Society, and has proved the greatest boon to the patients.

I have to thank all these organizations, as well as many other committees of workers, visitors, and entertainers, too numerous to specify, for their valuable help, by these means, in making the misfortune of these soldiers more tolerable and in thus aiding in their mental restoration.

C. G. GODFREY, Major,
Medical Superintendent.

LICENSED HOUSES.

Table showing Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during 1917, and the number remaining on 31st December, 1917.

Resident in Licensed Houses, 1st January, 1917.	M. F.		Total	M. F.		Total	M. F.		Total	M. F.		Total	M. F.		Total	M. F.		Total	
	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
St. Helen's ..	8	5	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	3	12	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	16	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	23	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	11	64	75																
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses.																			
St. Helen's ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cloverdale ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	15	15																
Total number on Books of Licensed Houses, 1st January, 1917																			
Received—	M.	F.	T.																
First Admissions	1	21	22																
Not First Admissions	..	3	3																
Escapes Retaken	..	..	..													
Transferred from the Hospitals for the Insane	3	4	7																
Transferred to Licensed Houses from other Licensed Houses	1	2	3																
Total	5	30	35																
St. Helen's ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	11	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1	24	25																
Transferred from Hospitals for Insane Transferred to Licensed Houses from other Licensed Houses																			
St. Helen's ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1	30	35																
Total cases under care during year 1917																			
1917 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	16	109	125																
Total cases under care during the year 1917																			
Total Discharged, Died, Escaped, Transferred to Hospitals for Insane, and Transferred from Licensed Houses to other Licensed Houses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Remaining on the Books, 31st December, 1917.	8	5	13																
St. Helen's ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	15	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	16	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	10	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	12	59	71																
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses.																			
St. Helen's ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1	15	15																
Total number of patients on the Books on 31st December, 1917																			
St. Helen's ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	15	15																

N.B.—This table does not include Voluntary Boarders, which are set out hereunder.

	On Books, 1.1.17.		Remaining, 31.12.17.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
St. Helen's
Mt. Ida	1	..	1
Merton	1	..	1
Glen Holme
The Tofts	1	..	..
Total	..	5	1	4

VOLUNTARY BOARDERS.

RETURN showing the number of Cases admitted, discharged, and remaining at the end of the year as Voluntary Boarders in the institutions under the control of the Lunacy Department during the year ended 31st December, 1917.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Remaining in the Institutions on 31st December, 1917—						
In Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	28	13	41	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	...	5	5	...	...	...
Admissions—						
Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	70	56	126	...	...	...
Licensed Houses	5	9	14	...	...	...
Total under care during year ... ..	...	...	...	103	83	186
Discharges—						
Discharged—						
Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	71	44	115	...	...	...
Licensed Houses	4	7	11	...	...	...
Certified as Insane or Apparently Insane—						
Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	10	12	22	...	...	...
Licensed Houses ... ..	...	3	3	...	...	...
Died—						
Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Licensed Houses ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total discharged ... ..	...	...	...	86	66	152
Remaining in Institutions on 31st December, 1917—						
In Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	16	13	29	...	..	...
In Licensed Houses	1	4	5	...	...	...
Total remaining ... ..	...	...	...	17	17	34

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY, ROYAL PARK.

1ST JANUARY, 1918.

SIR,

I beg to submit a report on the pathological work for the year 1917. During this year 186 cases have been examined *post mortem*, and the findings studied in conjunction with the clinical histories. With progressive methods of studying and investigating the past histories and present physical ailments of persons becoming insane, the clearer becomes the *Ætiology* of Insanity, which at one time was limited to theorising and guess-work. Once again I would like to emphasize the statement that, unless there are good clinical notes and *ante-mortem* examinations in all possible directions made in connexion with the cases received into the Hospitals, then the chances of making fresh additions to the knowledge already obtained are poor. Although the number of deaths in the Hospitals for the Insane in the metropolitan area was more than usual, the number of cases investigated was less than in former years, owing to the exigencies of the war requiring the services of the pathologist for other work. In regard to the laboratories at Royal Park and Kew, the work has been very satisfactory. In the Royal Park laboratory, besides the work usually performed, there is now the regular testing of suspected blood and fluid by the Wassermann test for syphilis. As the results of the anti-typhoid vaccination of the idiot cottage patients at Kew have proved so satisfactory, we have commenced the vaccination of the children who have been received since the last occasion the patients were vaccinated. During the year a patient at Yarra Bend on the female division died during the convalescence from typhoid. The possibility of the case being typhoid had been recognised during life, but the length of time the patient had been in the institution, together with the absence of any other cases, suggested the improbability of it being typhoid until the *post-mortem* examination was made. During the year a paper on "The Morbid Anatomy of Insanity," based on the histories and

post-mortem changes in over a thousand cases examined at the metropolitan Hospitals for the Insane, was published in the *Australian Medical Journal* of 13th October, 1917. The paper was too bulky to reproduce in an annual report, but its existence is mentioned here, as it represents the conclusions arrived at after checking the work done at Royal Park and Kew since 1912.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Yours faithfully,

W. A. T. LIND.

The Inspector-General,
Victorian Lunacy Department,
Spring-street, Melbourne.

IN GENERAL.

One of the unexpected results of this world-wide war is shown by the attention which is being paid to the subject of mental disease, inasmuch as the conditions known variously as shell-shock, war-shock, or war-strain, either actually amount to insanity or creep into its border-land. The beginnings of insanity are found in those disorders which we know under the terms "hysteria" and "neurasthenia," or in those psychoses in which obsessions and hallucinatory ideas form the most prominent symptom. Such mental states amongst our soldiers returning with maladies are found grouped under the rather loose term "shell-shock."

These neuroses and psychoses are chiefly produced by the excessive "emotion" to which all people are subjected, but none more so than those who go into the firing line; no matter how admirable may be the temperament of the individual, his resistance is more or less complete only in relation to the severity of the strain or shock put upon him. Most of our soldiers reach the firing line in better health than they have ever previously experienced, but no one of them can be so immune as to be unaffected by the emotional disturbances of fear and anxiety, and it is not long before the hardships inseparable from warfare—and especially trench warfare—begin to lessen the resistance and control with which they started out. Loss of sleep, hunger, and anxiety will soon produce irritability and emotionalism which are with difficulty suppressed; indeed, often suppressed to the detriment of the individual. Ultimately a mental collapse occurs, or possibly a high explosive shell bursts bringing temporary unconsciousness to the soldier, or maniacal delirium supervenes often ushered in by some mad act. Any of these things may happen amongst both well-seasoned soldiers or sturdy country-bred volunteers alike, men in whom it would be impossible to suspect any form of mental degeneracy. Is there any need to wonder why we are receiving back so many men whose principal malady is of mental origin, for with the need for large numbers of men, it is almost impossible to discriminate so nicely as to eliminate those unsuited by temperament and mentality from the fighting line?

On the other side of the world, large institutions are being established to deal with cases showing such mental and nervous symptoms, and the effect which will be produced will be the recognition of the necessity for the treatment of mental disorders in their earliest stages. Shell-shock institutions, neurological hospitals, psychopathic clinics, call them what you will, are being organized in which, without the restricting influence of the law and certification, such cases are being cared for by the alienist, the neurologist, the clinical pathologist, or any other specialist whose association is desirable; wherein electrical treatment, special baths, exercises, and purely mental treatment, such as suggestion, hypnotism, occupation, can be obtained to the best advantage. Such an advance will leave its mark permanently on the treatment of insanity, and will serve to show us how necessary are such methods for each institution or department dealing with this variety of wreckage.

In various annual reports and memoranda on this question, the necessity of the establishment of Psychiatric Clinics and Wards in the General Metropolitan Hospitals has been pointed out, and the experience gained in the Military Hospitals confirms this opinion, and the outstanding fact remains that the successful study and treatment of mental disorders must not be divorced, as it has been for so many years, from the diseases of the body. Furthermore the institution of a Psychological Laboratory, where special consideration can be given to the question of the feeble-minded, and a study of degeneracy in all its manifestations may be attempted, is almost as great a necessity

as the Psychiatric Clinic. At the present time, our overtaxed and understaffed hospitals for the insane can only grapple with these subjects in a feeble, inefficient manner, inasmuch as long-standing prejudice has put them outside the social pale.

It is desirable that consultants in the various branches of medicine should be appointed to the Hospitals for the Insane, and that they should receive payment for their services; particularly is it necessary to appoint a dentist, whose services should be devoted wholly to work in the metropolitan institutions. There is unquestionably good reason to believe that the toxæmia resulting from diseased conditions of the mouth is quite sufficient to retard or even prevent recovery of a patient suffering from what would otherwise be a curable mental affection, whilst even amongst the permanent residents in the Hospitals no good purpose can be served by allowing their mouths to become gradually edentulous.

There is, however, nothing so vital to this Department as the recognition of the overcrowding that is gradually taking place in all our institutions, and steps should be taken to correct this defect which, if continued much further, will lead unquestionably to inefficiency. Our arrears should be dealt with, and a set plan adopted, whereby at least 100 beds are annually provided to give the necessary accommodation for our steadily-increasing population. However desirable at the present time is economy, there can be no true economy in inefficiency, and something very much akin will result if our receiving institutions are compelled to refuse admission, or if patients are to be sent from wards in which they are considered likely to recover to other wards greatly overcrowded with chronic and incurable patients.

A ward is being formed out of the old laundry at Ballarat, and this will give us beds for 30 males and enable us to improve the dining-rooms, which are used by the chronic and able-bodied patients in that institution. But hospital wards are seriously needed, and this is especially the case since the old male hospital ward was burnt down last Christmas, whereby we lost 30 available beds. This block should be reconstructed and extended on the lines of the hospital ward at Sunbury, thereby giving us 32 beds for each sex, that is, 64 beds in all.

The Laundry Workers' Block at Mont Park has been returned to us by the Defence Department, by whom it was formerly used as a Military Convalescent or Auxiliary Hospital. This will give admirable accommodation for 90 female patients.

Certain cottages at Yarra Bend can be re-opened, and if the alterations to the Nurses' quarters at Royal Park are permitted, a further fourteen beds for female patients will be available. In such an institution as Royal Park, these additional beds will be extremely valuable. The re-opening of the closed wards at Yarra Bend will not be unattended with expenditure, as they are extremely dilapidated, and additions to the kitchen will also be required if the numbers at Yarra Bend are to return to their former level. Still if "U" ward on the male side and two of the old wooden cottages on the female side are cleaned and repaired, fair accommodation will be acquired for some 40 male patients and 20 female patients of the chronic class.

If the works suggested herein be proceeded with, we shall obtain some 102 beds for male patients and 156 for female patients, which will do much to relieve our present necessities, but will not entirely obliterate the present overcrowding or make any further provision for the increment which we are likely to receive in the forthcoming financial year, 1918-19.

The large ward at Mont Park has been completed, and is in occupation by the Defence Department, under the term No. 16 Australian General Hospital. This will give accommodation for something like 1,000 military patients (medical), and the arrangements which have been come to between this and the Defence Department are likely to result in economical working for both of the Departments concerned.

I cannot close my report without expressing my deep obligation to the medical staff of this Department for the admirable way in which they have responded to the additional work which has been thrust upon them. Although they have been quite 40 per cent. below their normal strength, and several have been also employed on various military duties, the work has been got through uncomplainingly and well, in spite of the difficulties and restrictions put upon them by the necessity for great economy. It has been practically impossible to obtain temporary medical officers, except at a very considerable advance on the rates of pay provided for medical officers in this Department, and even then few applicants have come forward.

W. ERNEST JONES,
Inspector-General of Insane.