

1921.
VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INSANE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER,

1919.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO ACT. 6 GEO. V.
No. 2687, SECTION 19.

[Approximate Cost of Report :—Preparation—Not given. Printing (380 copies), £35.]

By Authority:
ALBERT J. MULLETT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE

No. 2.—[1s. 3d.]—8.

R E P O R T.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT,
 Inspector-General's Office,
 Old Treasury Buildings, Spring-street,
 Melbourne, 31st August, 1920.

To the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1919. For the first time in the history of the Department, I have to report that there has been an appreciable decrease in the total number of the registered insane, the numbers having fallen from 6,000 to 5,937. The admissions to the State Hospitals numbered 745 as against 762 in 1918, the discharges 359 as against 290, and the deaths 448 as against 390. The Receiving Houses and Wards admitted 777 cases as against 789 in 1918. There was also a slight drop in the admissions of certified patients to Private Licensed Houses, but the number of Voluntary Boarders increased. The increase in the death rate was due largely to the various outbreaks of Influenza, which are referred to elsewhere in this report. The figures given above do not include the cases of mental disorder arising amongst our soldiers and sailors, of whom there was an increase to the number of 10.

The ratio of the Insane to the population is now 1 in 252; it has been as high as 1 in 246.

The reasons for this decrease are various and complex, and it is more than possible that it is of a transitory nature only, and that the next few years may see a return to the average rate of increase. In the meantime, it is essential that opportunity should be taken to decrease the overcrowding which unquestionably exists in all our hospitals, as well as to make good the deterioration which has been going on apace during the war years; for building and repairing material has been cut down to a non-economical extent, and the same may be said with regard to patients' clothing, furniture for wards, and similar essentials.

The only opportunity to secure some reduction of the annual expenditure will occur with the opening of the Main Block at Mont Park, which has been until lately in the hands of the Defence Department for use as a Military Hospital (No. 16 A.G.H.). When this is fully equipped as a Hospital for the Insane, we shall be enabled to close Yarra Bend for all time and to hand the reserve over to the Government for other and more suitable purposes, whilst economy will be secured by doing away with the re-duplication of expenditure entailed by running two institutions.

The difficulties of administration have been greater than ever, and it has necessitated the strictest supervision to prevent an unwarranted rise in the annual expenditure. Food, clothing, and fuel have risen in cost alarmingly; indeed, it has been almost impossible to obtain suitable material irrespective of price, so that with the increasing and justifiable requests of the staff for better pay and housing conditions the annual cost must inevitably rise still further.

Anticipating that a reclassification of the Public Service is an assured fact, I would only refer to the necessity for the provision of Nurses' Homes and a housing scheme for the married attendants and other officials for whom it is desirable to provide accommodation on the grounds of the various institutions.

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, 1919.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Hospital for the Insane at—						
Yarra Bend	307	402	709			
Kew	492	375	867			
Kew Idiot Asylum	168	148	316			
Ararat	350	260	610			
Beechworth	348	286	634			
Sunbury	440	514	954			
Ballarat	208	395	603			
Royal Park	46	48	94			
Mont Park	214	135	349			
				2,573	2,563	5,136
Out on trial leave from—						
Yarra Bend	33	60	93			
Kew	57	79	136			
Kew Idiot Asylum	7	8	15			
Ararat	5	3	8			
Beechworth	9	7	16			
Sunbury	18	32	50			
Ballarat	12	22	34			
Royal Park	73	138	211			
Mont Park	5	11	16			
				219	360	579
Boarded out from—						
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	...	...
Kew ... ..	...	4	4			
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	...	...	...
Ararat ... ..	...	1	1			
Beechworth	2	...	2			
Sunbury	44	39	83			
Ballarat	17	24	41			
Royal Park ... ..	...	...	...
Mont Park ... ..	...	...	...
				63	68	131
Total number of registered lunatics on books of Public Hospitals ...						
	...	...	...	2,855	2,991	5,846
In the Licensed Houses at—						
St. Helens	14	8	22			
Mount Ida	2	9	11			
Merton ... ..	...	14	14			
Glen Holme ... ..	...	18	18			
The Tofts ... ..	...	8	8			
				16	57	73
Out on trial leave from Licensed Houses at—						
St. Helens ... ..	...	3	3			
Mount Ida ... ..	...	1	1			
Merton ... ..	...	5	5			
Glen Holme ... ..	...	8	8			
The Tofts ... ..	...	1	1			
				...	18	18
Total number of registered lunatics in the State ...						
	...	...	...	2,871	3,066	5,937

Excluding Voluntary Boarders (15 males and 28 females) and Soldiers (120).

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ending 31st December, 1919.

	1919			1918			1917		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Hospitals, 1st January, 1919	...	...	...	2,609	2,590	5,199			
On trial	...	...	...	215	378	593			
Boarded out	...	...	...	65	58	123			
Total number on books, 1st January, 1919	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,889	3,026	5,915
Cases admitted—									
First admissions	353	317	670						
*Not first admissions	31	44	75						
Escaped patients retaken	...	...	...	384	361	745			
	...	...	...	26	9	35			
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	410	370	780
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,299	3,396	6,695
Cases discharged—									
Recovered	83	109	192						
Relieved	67	89	156						
†Not improved	2	9	11						
Died	259	189	448						
Escaped	...	...	...	411	396	807			
	...	...	...	33	9	42			
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	444	405	849
Remaining in the Hospitals, 31st December, 1919	...	...	...	2,573	2,563	5,136			
Patients on leave	...	...	...	219	360	579			
„ boarded out	...	...	...	63	68	131			
Total number on books, 31st December, 1919	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,855	2,991	5,846
Average number resident during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,598	2,589	5,187
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,271	3,385	6,656
Persons admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	383	361	744
Persons recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	83	109	192
Transferred from one Hospital for Insane to another	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	118	147

* Including transfers from licensed houses.

† Including transfers to licensed houses.

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1919.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	38	54	92
Have had two attacks	7	12	19
Have had three attacks	4	5	9
Have had four attacks	2	1	3
Have had five attacks or over	2	0	2

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 1919 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.			Hospitals for the Insane.			Private Licensed Houses.			Total.	Increase, + Decrease, -		
	Hospitals for the Insane.			Private Licensed Houses.			Total of Registered Insane.	Increase, + Decrease, -	Number.	Increase.	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	+102	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1902	2,354	2,193	4,547	...	...	4,547	+46	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1903	2,371	2,199	4,570	...	...	4,570	+23	...	...	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1904	2,393	2,249	4,642	...	...	4,642	+72	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*1905	2,436	2,332	4,768	...	3	4,771	+129	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
†1906	2,484	2,389	4,873	13	51	4,937	+166	...	...	5	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
†1907	2,548	2,413	4,961	21	70	5,052	+115	...	...	11	14	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1908	2,557	2,457	5,014	22	75	5,111	+59	...	...	12	13	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1909	2,612	2,485	5,097	30	73	5,200	+89	...	...	19	22	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1910	2,655	2,586	5,241	30	78	5,349	+149	...	...	22	25	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1911	2,681	2,659	5,340	25	84	5,449	+100	...	...	19	17	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1912	2,758	2,712	5,470	20	89	5,579	+130	...	...	25	28	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1913	2,839	2,792	5,631	12	93	5,736	+157	...	...	36	25	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
†1914	2,886	2,843	5,729	12	86	5,827	+91	...	...	27	23	50	...	4	16	...	...	1	17	...
‡1915	2,882	2,885	5,767	15	80	5,827	+35	...	...	29	29	58	...	6	17	...	...	1	3	4
1916	2,882	2,911	5,793	11	79	5,833	+21	...	...	20	31	51	...	28	41	...	...	5	5	+25
1917	2,901	2,932	5,833	12	74	5,919	+36	...	...	21	31	52	...	16	29	...	...	1	4	-12
1918	2,889	3,026	5,915	14	71	6,000	+81	...	...	30	30	60	...	28	46	...	...	8	8	+20
1919	2,855	2,991	5,846	16	75	5,937	-63	...	...	42	42	84	...	13	26	...	...	2	15	+3

* 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.	Recovered.		Relieved.		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.													Total.		
1891	427	318	170	137	307	41	201	92	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	142	144	286	22	181	102	2,136	1,818	3,954	2,045	1,681	3,726	35.59	46.90	40.51	8.85	6.07	7.59	
1893	384	296	153	102	255	40	177	94	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	124	97	221	21	207	118	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	115	106	221	25	211	114	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	114	96	210	19	231	129	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	117	100	217	39	209	115	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	127	108	235	25	233	133	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	183	169	352	27	197	151	2,314	2,084	4,398	2,230	1,976	4,206	12.76	46.43	44.44	8.83	7.64	8.27	
1900	366	335	162	119	281	21	205	148	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	174	125	299	11	202	128	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	176	182	358	28	203	129	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	165	159	324	27	217	145	2,371	2,199	4,570	2,275	2,091	4,367	38.19	47.60	42.29	9.53	6.99	8.32	
1904	404	344	153	124	277	24	198	133	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	149	101	250	22	184	136	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	151	122	273	40	156	137	2,484	2,359	4,873	2,323	2,200	4,523	37.56	32.88	35.32	6.71	6.23	6.47	
1907	417	311	112	107	219	35	191	137	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	115	82	197	42	229	150	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	138	100	238	26	224	147	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	93	84	177	43	233	135	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	120	94	214	45	244	158	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	95	104	200	40	235	151	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	117	81	198	50	238	155	2,849	2,792	5,631	2,535	2,448	4,983	23.68	22.25	23.08	9.39	6.33	7.89	
1914	445	302	128	92	220	40	210	174	2,886	2,843	5,729	2,584	2,462	5,046	28.76	25.41	27.26	8.12	7.05	7.60	
1915	434	390	108	110	218	56	262	199	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	309	105	100	205	41	251	200	2,882	2,911	5,793	2,607	2,541	5,148	26.05	27.10	26.55	9.62	7.87	8.76	
1917	402	360	80	103	183	55	230	179	2,901	2,932	5,833	2,606	2,539	5,145	19.90	28.61	24.02	8.83	7.05	7.95	
1918	346	416	75	80	155	62	218	172	2,889	3,026	5,915	2,612	2,577	5,189	21.68	19.3	20.34	8.35	6.67	7.52	
1919	384	361	83	109	192	67	259	189	2,855	2,991	5,846	2,598	2,589	5,187	21.61	30.19	25.77	9.97	7.30	8.64	
Total	12,000	9,935	3,745	3,237	6,982	980	6,236	4,150	103,866	...	...	67,790	62,422	130,212	31.21	32.58	31.83	9.20	6.65	7.97
										2,358	2,152	4,490							

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, 1919.

Hospital for the Insane.	Admitted.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining on 31st December, 1919.			Average Number Resident during 1919.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Relieved on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers Resident.							
				Recovered.			Relieved.																						
	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 Bond	89	65	154	15	23	38	30	51	81	60	42	102	340	462	802	317	415	732	16.85	35.38	24.67	33.71	78.46	52.60	18.92	10.12	13.93		
Kew ...	92	66	158	14	16	30	16	10	26	59	24	83	549	458	1,007	490	378	868	15.21	24.24	18.98	17.39	15.15	16.46	12.04	6.34	9.56		
Kew Idiot Asylum	19	17	36	3	2	5	13	16	29	175	156	331	161	146	307	15.79	11.76	13.89	10.95	9.44
Ararat ...	9	1	10	6	1	7	...	...	...	27	16	43	355	264	619	362	264	626	66.66	100.00	70.00	...	...	...	7.45	6.06	6.86
Beechworth	7	5	12	3	4	7	...	...	...	13	17	30	359	293	652	356	278	634	42.85	80.00	58.33	...	...	...	3.65	6.11	4.73
Sunbury ...	49	63	112	15	21	36	3	4	7	53	46	99	502	585	1,087	450	511	961	30.61	33.33	32.14	6.12	6.34	6.25	11.77	9.00	10.30		
Ballarat ...	42	26	68	9	7	16	2	5	7	26	21	47	237	441	678	208	395	603	21.42	26.92	23.53	4.76	19.23	10.29	12.50	5.31	7.79		
Royal Park	71	117	188	20	34	54	11	16	27	6	4	10	119	186	305	43	46	89	28.17	29.06	28.72	15.49	13.68	14.36	13.95	8.69	11.24		
Mont Park ...	6	1	7	1	3	4	2	1	3	2	3	5	219	146	365	211	156	367	16.66	300.00	57.14	33.33	100.00	42.86	1.93	1.36	
Total ...	384	361	745	83	109	192	67	89	156	259	189	448	2,855	2,991	5,846	2,598	2,589	5,187	21.61	30.19	25.77	17.45	24.65	20.94	9.97	7.30	8.64		

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died, during the Year 1919, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1919.

Ages.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Escaped Patients not Retaken.			Died.			Remaining on 31st December, 1919.				
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.		
				Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.							Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 5 years	5	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	8	6	14
5 years and under 10 years	3	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	6	15	13	28
10 "	10	6	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6	45	23	68
15 "	22	17	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6	73	47	120
20 "	35	31	66	3	3	6	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	11	125	117	242
25 "	28	39	67	8	9	17	8	7	15	...	...	...	...	...	11	6	17	158	168	326
30 "	30	42	72	5	12	17	1	8	9	...	...	...	...	...	18	6	24	267	239	506
35 "	27	37	64	3	18	21	9	13	22	...	...	...	...	...	17	12	29	298	254	552
40 "	31	33	64	10	12	22	10	14	24	...	...	...	...	...	21	19	40	277	332	609
45 "	42	31	73	8	11	19	2	17	19	...	...	...	...	...	24	22	46	332	359	691
50 "	32	32	64	10	10	20	10	8	18	...	...	...	...	...	21	17	38	327	405	732
55 "	38	29	67	8	13	21	5	8	13	...	...	...	...	...	33	20	53	340	324	664
60 "	23	22	45	11	7	18	3	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	30	18	48	181	222	403
65 "	17	11	28	1	1	2	5	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	18	16	34	146	156	302
70 "	16	6	22	4	2	6	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	19	11	30	84	87	171
75 "	10	5	15	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	15	5	20	49	93	142
80 "	7	6	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	14	17	30	32	62
85 "	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	5	13	18	19	37
90 "	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	6
Unknown...	6	3	9	3	1	4	2	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6	81	90	171
Total	384	361	745	83	109	192	67	89	156	2	9	11	8	...	259	189	448	2,855	2,991	5,846
Mean Age, Hospitals for Insane	45.01	42.65	43.86	44.97	41.83	43.17	45.15	43.67	44.29	37.00	46.44	44.73	47.13	...	54.37	56.16	55.12	46.82	49.69	48.29
Mean Age, Idiot Asylum	11.26	14.88	12.97	...	...	...	25.67	14.00	21.00	...	...	...	...	...	20.46	14.50	17.17	21.62	22.41	21.99

TABLE VIII.—Showing the Probable Causes of Insanity in the Patients Admitted during the Year 1919.

Causes of Insanity.	Number of Instances in which each Cause was Assigned.											
	Admissions			No. of Cases—								
				384 Males, 361 Females, 745 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	8	9	17	..	15	15	8	25	33
Adverse Circumstances (including business anxieties and pecuniary difficulties)...	...	...	...	4	4	8	...	...	...	4	4	8
Mental Anxiety and Worry (not included under the above two heads), and Over Work ...	...	...	...	8	15	23	4	...	4	12	15	27
Religious Excitement ...	...	...	...	1	1	2	..	...	...	1	1	2
Love Affairs (including seduction) ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	4	4	...	5	5
Fright and Nervous Shock ...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	2
PHYSICAL.												
Intemperance in Drink ...	...	...	...	42	8	50	...	...	...	42	8	50
Intemperance (sexual) ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Venereal Disease ...	1	...	1	39	8	47	...	...	...	40	8	48
Self Abuse (sexual) ...	1	...	1	4	...	4	...	1	1	5	1	6
Over Exertion ...	...	...	...	13	...	13	...	...	...	13	...	13
Sunstroke ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Accident or Injury ...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Pregnancy ...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	3	3
Parturition and the Puerperal state ...	...	...	...	...	17	17	...	...	...	...	17	17
Lactation ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Uterine and Ovarian Disorders	...	...	...	9	2	11	...	...	...	9	2	11
Puberty ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	8	8	...	8
Change of Life ...	...	4	4	...	9	9	...	...	...	...	13	13
Fevers ...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	4	4
Privation and Starvation ...	1	...	1	3	...	3	...	...	...	4	...	4
Old Age...	28	17	45	14	11	25	3	6	9	45	34	79
Other Bodily Diseases or Disorders ...	8	2	10	42	55	97	...	...	...	50	57	107
Previous Attacks ...	20	34	54	1	...	1	...	...	...	21	34	55
Hereditary Influences ascertained (direct and collateral)	25	41	66	19	17	36	29	15	44	73	73	146
Congenital Defect ascertained	32	23	55	4	...	4	...	...	...	36	23	59
Other ascertained Causes ...	6	4	10	1	...	1	...	5	5	7	9	16
Unknown ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	27	35	62	28	35	63
Epilepsy ...	2	...	2	2	5	7	...	...	..	4	5	9
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	415	379	794
Deduct for combined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	18	49
Total Admissions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	384	361	745

TABLE IX.—Showing the Form of Mental Disorder on Admission in the Admissions, Recoveries, and Deaths for the Year 1919, and the Form of Mental Disorder of the Patients remaining on Books on 31st December, 1919.

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	14	31	...	...	...	13	12	25	98	83	181
(b) Without epilepsy ...	36	24	60	1	1	2	18	11	29	362	279	641
2. Moral ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
II. Insanity occurring later in life—												
1. Insanity with Epilepsy ...	18	14	32	1	1	2	13	10	23	121	125	246
2. General Paralysis of the Insane ...	41	5	46	...	...	...	44	9	53	46	10	56
3. Insanity of the grosser brain lesions ...	12	4	16	...	...	...	4	1	5	20	17	37
4. Acute delirium (acute delirious mania)	1	4	5	2	4	6	...	2	2	...	...	...
5. Confusional Insanity ...	25	31	56	10	10	20	5	4	9	1	2	3
6. Stupor ...	...	2	2	2	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	4
7. Primary Dementia ...	46	34	80	8	11	19	15	16	31	332	308	640
8. Mania :												
(a) Recent ...	15	29	44	10	9	19	6	13	19	9	16	25
(b) Chronic ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5	67	146	213
(c) Recurrent ...	23	31	54	7	19	26	4	10	14	30	54	84
9. Melancholia :												
(a) Recent ...	23	55	78	10	22	32	8	20	28	15	30	45
(b) Chronic ...	4	4	8	...	3	3	5	...	5	26	46	72
(c) Recurrent ...	3	7	10	3	4	7	2	4	6	13	9	22
10. Alternating Insanity ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	4
11. Delusional Insanity :												
(a) Systematized ...	18	16	34	4	6	10	14	2	16	96	131	227
(b) Non-systematized ...	24	32	56	17	17	34	19	14	33	105	136	241
12. Volitional Insanity :												
(a) Impulse ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Obsession ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Doubt ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Moral Insanity ...	1	1	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	2
14. Dementia :												
(a) Senile ...	59	39	98	6	1	7	44	21	65	131	170	301
(b) Secondary or Terminal ...	17	13	30	1	...	1	42	36	78	1,595	997	2,592
On trial leave, or boarded out ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	282	428	710
Polymenitic Psychosis ...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	384	361	745	83	109	192	259	189	448	2,855	2,991	5,846

TABLE X.—Showing the condition as to Marriage in Patients Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died during the Year 1919, and of Patients Resident, 31st December, 1919.

Condition in Reference to Marriage.	Admitted.			Discharged.									Escaped Patients not Retaken.			Died.			Patients Remaining, 31st December, 1919.		
	M.	F.	Total.	Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
				M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.									
Single ...	207	149	356	46	52	98	41	30	71	2	2	4	4	...	4	130	68	198	1,975	1,591	3,566
Married	124	156	280	31	52	83	21	52	73	2	7	9	1	...	1	83	66	149	550	965	1,515
Widowed	21	38	59	5	5	10	1	4	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	18	36	54	67	215	282
Unknown	13	1	14	1	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	15	3	18	88	64	152
Total	365	344	709	83	109	192	64	87	151	2	9	11	8	...	8	246	173	419	2,680	2,835	5,515

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

TABLE XI.—Showing the Causes of Deaths during the Year 1919.

Cause of Death.	Yarra Bend.		Kew.		Kew Idiot Asylum.		Arauc.		Beechworth.		Sunbury.		Ballarat.		Royal Park.		Mont Park.		Total.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Diseases of the Nervous System—																					
Meningitis, Inflammation of Brain, Cerebro-Spinal	11	3	18	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	3	1	1	1	44	7	1	51	
General Paralysis of the Insane	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	6	1	1	1	10	4	3	17	
Cerebral Softening	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	1	1	10	9	19	19	
Epilepsy and Convulsions	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	1	1	10	9	19	19	
Hemiplegia, Apoplexy, Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Cerebral Embolism	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	1	1	10	9	19	19	
Thrombosis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
Other Organic Diseases of Brain, including Tumours	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	
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	4	
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	4	
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	4	
Diseases of Blood Vessels—																					
Aneurism, Arterio-Sclerosis, and other diseases not included in Diseases of Nervous System	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	6	
Diseases of Respiratory System and Thorax—																					
Pulmonary Phthisis	19	10	11	7	18	10	8	18	4	2	6	14	22	3	2	5	1	1	1	58	
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Pleurisy	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	4	4	4	103	
Other forms of Pulmonary disease	2	8	10	4	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	7	11	3	3	6	26	29	55	55	
Diseases of Heart—																					
Valvular Disease, Fatty Degeneration, Cardiac Syncope, &c.	2	8	10	4	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	7	11	3	3	6	26	29	55	55	
Diseases of Digestive System—																					
Diseases of Mouth, Pharynx, Stomach (non-malignant)	2	1	3	1	4	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	4	4	
Intestines, Liver, and Peritoneum (non-tubercular)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	8	8	
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System—																					
Diseases of Kidney, Bladder, Prostate, &c.	3	9	12	6	5	11	1	1	1	1	1	3	5	8	1	1	12	23	35	35	
General Diseases—																					
Dysentery (Colitis), Epidemic Diarrhoea, Infective Enteritis	7	3	10	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	5	19	19	
Diarrhoea not otherwise designated	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	
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	
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	
Cancer, Carcinoma, Sarcoma, Malignant Disease, <i>ætiol.</i>	3	1	2	1	3	3	3	1	4	2	4	4	7	1	1	1	9	5	14	14	
Syphilis and other Venereal Disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
General Tuberculosis and Tubercle of Organs other than Lungs	1	3	4	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	6	12	
Diseases of Thyroid, Lymphatic, and other glands	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	
Atrophy, Debility, and Old Age	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Accidents	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Suicides	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Total	60	42	102	59	24	83	13	16	29	13	17	30	53	46	99	26	21	47	6	10	189
																					448

* Whilst on trial leave. Ascertained by post-mortem examinations—males, 197; females, 144. Total, 341.

STATE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INSANE.

Admissions to State Hospitals totalled 745—the lowest rate for eleven years, and as there is a decreased admission rate in the Receiving Houses and in the voluntary boarders, it is permissible to claim that there is no necessity for apprehension that there is an increase in mental instability in this State, so far as the civilian population is concerned. The statistics of the military cases are dealt with elsewhere in the Report, and even there will be found no adequate ground for pessimism.

Causation.—Senility is given as the diagnosis in 12·5 per cent. of the admissions—an unusually high proportion. Alcoholism is alleged to be the principal determining factor in less than 7 per cent., which indicates a definite diminution in the drinking habits of the community, the percentage in 1911 being 11·5. Congenital cases (C.M.D.) numbered 91, *i.e.*, approximately 12 per cent.; one-third were under the age of 15 years, and 10 were babies almost uniformly the victims of congenital syphilis. The direct influence of heredity was ascertained in nearly 20 per cent. of the admissions, and previous attacks in 7·4 per cent. Moral causes, such as worry, overwork, fright, shock, &c., were given as the chief factor in 77 cases, *i.e.*, 10·2 per cent. Our principal interest to-day is the extent to which syphilis plays a rôle as the determining factor of insanity, and general paralysis of the insane may be taken as indicative of the amount of syphilis in the community. The last few years have shown some diminution in this respect, as the subjoined table shows:—

General Paralysis of the Insane.

STATE HOSPITALS.

Year.	Admissions.			Deaths.			Total Admissions.	Daily average number resident.
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M. and F.	M. and F.
1905 .. ..	..	..	16	15	1	16	738	4,455
1906 .. ..	..	..	24	22	2	24	773	4,523
1907 .. ..	..	..	42	19	3	22	728	4,571
1908	48	5	53	43	3	46	739	4,645
1909	42	2	44	50	4	54	765	4,653
1910	57	11	68	48	4	52	802	4,716
1911	67	2	69	49	8	57	817	4,816
1912	65	11	76	47	9	56	806	4,938
1913	75	13	88	53	6	59	858	4,983
1914	66	17	83	50	9	59	807	5,046
1915	60	8	68	68	8	76	824	5,131
1916	55	2	57	57	12	69	772	5,148
1917	51	5	56	53	9	62	762	5,145
1918	36	8	44	40	10	50	762	5,189
1919	41	5	46	44	9	53	745	5,187

N.B.—There has been a steady rise of admissions suffering from general paralysis of the insane from 1905 to 1914—since then a very definite fall. Inasmuch as the conditions have been apparently ideal for the production of such cases, it is reasonable to assume that some favouring preventive influence has been at work. This may be the early treatment of syphilis by salvarsan and similar drugs, and this possibility is a very strong argument for the establishment of venereal clinics and the notification and compulsory treatment of all such infective cases. Such an advance is imperatively necessary when one accepts the view, very largely held, that many cases of epilepsy, one-half of the cases of congenital mental deficiency, and an appreciable proportion of primary dementias (*dementia præcox*) are also amongst the results of inherited syphilis.

Discharges.

	Hospitals for the Insane.				Receiving Houses and Receiving Wards.		
	M.	F.	T.		M.	F.	T.
Recovered ..	83	109	192	..	81	73	154
Relieved ..	67	89	156	..	8	8	16
Not improved	2	9	11	..	7	3	10
	152	207	359		96	84	180

There has been a decided increase in the discharge rate from the Hospitals, but a decrease from the Receiving Houses, which is partly due to the fact that the Receiving House at Royal Park—formerly used as a Military Mental Hospital—had not taken up its proper function fully at the beginning of the year. Again, it is desirable to point out that the success of the voluntary boarder system has operated against the attainment of a high recovery rate, which after all is not a uniform method of gauging the efficiency of a Department. The personal factor as to what constitutes “recovery” as against “relieved” is alone a very good reason for discounting the value of a high recovery rate. Treatment prior to certification should be the ideal to be attained by a Lunacy Department, and, on the ground that prevention is better than cure, there is every reason to urge the establishment of psychiatric clinics, which will provide for the early investigation and treatment on General Hospital lines of those border-line cases who, lacking skilled attention in their more curable stages, slowly drift on until they are obviously certifiable and most probably incurable.

Deaths.—There were 448 deaths during the year, which gives a percentage of 8.64 on the daily average number resident. This percentage is above that of the two preceding years, but below that of 1915 and 1916. The increased death rate is accounted for by the number of deaths (68) directly or indirectly due to influenza. These are shown under the heading of Diseases of the Respiratory System on Table XI., and other reference is made to them elsewhere in this Report.

Of the accidental deaths figuring on statistical return Table XI., one was a partial dislocation of the skull, and the first cervical vertebra owing to the patient being pushed down violently by another patient and striking the back of her head; the Coronial verdict was that death was due to dislocation of the spine, and no blame was attached to any official. The other fatal accident was due to an imbecile child, aged 8 years, swallowing a piece of bone in her mince meat dinner. The bone lodged in the oesophagus and caused septic poisoning. The four suicides all occurred whilst the patients were out on trial leave with their friends.

BOARDED OUT ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

Patients boarded out to—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Private Individuals	7	5	12
Ballarat Benevolent Asylum	15	24	39
Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum	29	13	42
Bendigo Benevolent Asylum	12	26	38
Total	63	68	131

NURSING EXAMINATIONS—1919.

	No. of Candidates.	Passed.	Failed.
First Year—Attendants	14	4	10
Nurses	40	29	11
Second Year—Attendants	5	3	2
Nurses	29	22	7
Third Year—Attendants	13	3	10
Nurses	20	6	14

TABLE XII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Lunacy Department during the Year ended 30th June, 1920.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for Maintenance of Patients at—			General Expenditure, Salaries at Head Office, Fees to Official Visitors, Travelling Expenses, Postage and Telegrams, &c. ...	5,804	13 5
Yarra Bend	27,783	11 0	Maintenance at—		
Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum			Yarra Bend	39,469	16 11
Ararat			Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum ...	63,714	16 11
Beechworth			Ararat	34,765	16 3
Sunbury			Beechworth	32,092	18 1
Ballarat and Receiving House			Sunbury	49,230	3 2
Royal Park and Receiving House			Ballarat and Receiving House ...	37,381	9 2
Mont Park	Royal Park and Receiving House	19,887	6 1		
Receiving Ward, Bendigo	Mont Park	22,724	15 7		
Sales	Receiving Ward, Bendigo ...	858	17 11		
Fines	3,971	4 3	Expenses in connexion with the Committal and Transport of Lunatics	922	1 6
Collections	6	17 6	Expenses in connexion with Boarded-out Patients	2,679	4 4
	1,859	8 0			
Total	£33,621	0 9	Total	£309,531	19 4

TABLE XIII.—Showing the Total Cost of Maintenance against each Hospital, Sums expended against each Vote, and the Amount of the General Expenses for the Year ended 30th June, 1920.

	Daily Average Number Resident.	Total Cost of Maintenance.		Salaries.		Fees to Official Visitors.		Allowance to Chaplains.		Provisions and Extra Articles.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Yarra Bend ...	731	39,469	16 11	18,566	5 7	...	86	0 0	13,699	15 8	
Kew ...	1,190	63,714	16 11	30,602	15 11	...	96	0 0	19,148	4 9	
„ I.A. ...		Ararat ...	614	34,765	16 3	16,951	1 10	...	147	0 0	11,786	18 1
Beechworth ...	630	32,092	18 1	15,503	6 7	...	77	0 0	11,816	11 0	
Sunbury ...	956	49,230	3 2	22,072	10 4	...	88	0 0	18,243	8 5	
Ballarat and Receiving House ...	619	37,381	9 2	17,013	9 5	...	92	0 0	12,372	4 8	
Royal Park and Receiving House ...		181	19,887	6 1	12,494	2 4	...	34	0 0	4,606	5 0
Mont Park ...	356	22,724	15 7	11,846	12 9	...	60	0 0	7,115	16 4	
General expenses ...	...	5,804	13 5	4,329	0 0	462	0 0	...	...	...
Total ...	5,277	305,071	15 7	149,379	4 9	462	0 0	680	0 0	98,789	3 11

	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. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Yarra Bend ...	3,299	14 7	1,274	5 9	1,648	18 1	369	17 5	93	16 4	283	12 4	147	11 2
Kew ...	6,767	15 1	1,547	11 3	4,483	4 8	538	9 10	126	15 10	184	0 2	219	19 5
„ I.A. ...														
Ararat ...	2,401	13 7	659	6 11	2,347	3 10	236	4 0	15	5 0	144	19 9	76	3 3
Beechworth ...	1,782	19 7	649	13 11	1,951	13 4	109	1 7	68	11 3	43	11 0	90	9 10
Sunbury ...	3,589	10 4	975	19 1	3,483	16 6	409	4 10	72	0 7	105	4 3	190	8 10
Ballarat and Receiving House ...	2,587	3 5	769	4 6	4,041	17 7	227	1 0	53	17 8	65	18 11	158	12 0
Royal Park and Receiving House ...														
Mont Park ...	841	19 0	309	16 0	972	13 4	359	5 11	4	10 0	87	5 11	177	8 7
General expenses ...	990	13 2	1,121	15 7	914	11 0	101	19 6	64	9 7	197	5 3	311	12 5
Total ...	22,261	8 9	7,391	13 5	19,843	18 4	2,351	4 1	499	6 3	1,111	17 7	2,301	18 6

TABLE XIV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients during the Year ended 30th June, 1920.

Hospital for the Insane.	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 ...	731	39,469 16 11	...	0 9 9½	0 0 0½	0 7 2½
Kew and Kew I. A.	1,190	63,714 16 11	...	0 9 10¾	0 0 0¼	0 6 2½
Ararat ...	614	34,765 16 3	...	0 10 7¼	0 0 1	0 7 4¾
Beechworth ...	630	32,092 18 1	...	0 9 5½	0 0 0½	0 7 2½
Sunbury ...	956	49,230 3 2	...	0 8 10½	0 0 0¼	0 7 4
Ballarat and Receiving House	619	37,381 9 2	...	0 10 7	0 0 0¾	0 7 8½
Royal Park and Receiving House	181	19,887 6 1	...	1 6 6½	0 0 0¼	0 9 9½
Mont Park ...	356	22,724 15 7	...	0 12 9½	0 0 0½	0 7 8½
Total ...	5,277	299,267 2 2	33,621 0 9	...	...	...
General expenses	...	5,804 13 5	...	...	...	...

	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 9	0 0 8	0 0 10½	0 0 2½	0 0 0¾	0 0 2
Kew and Kew I. A.	0 2 2½	0 0 6	0 1 5¼	0 0 2	0 0 0½	0 0 0¾
Ararat ...	0 1 6	0 0 5	0 1 5¾	0 0 2	...	0 0 1
Beechworth ...	0 1 1	0 0 5	0 1 2½	0 0 1	0 0 0½	0 0 0¼
Sunbury ...	0 1 5½	0 0 4¾	0 1 5	0 0 2	0 0 0¼	0 0 0½
Ballarat and Receiving House	0 1 7¼	0 0 5¾	0 2 6	0 0 1¾	0 0 0¼	0 0 0½
Royal Park and Receiving House	0 1 9½	0 0 7¾	0 2 0¾	0 0 9	...	0 0 2
Mont Park ...	0 1 1	0 1 2½	0 1 0	0 0 1½	0 0 1	0 0 2½
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	1 0 9	...	...
Kew and Kew I. A.	0 0 1	1 0 7	...	...
Ararat ...	0 0 0½	1 1 9¼	...	...
Beechworth ...	0 0 0½	0 19 7	...	...
Sunbury ...	0 0 1	0 19 9½	...	...
Ballarat and Receiving House	0 0 1	1 3 2½	...	...
Royal Park and Receiving House	0 0 4½	2 2 2	...	...
Mont Park ...	0 0 4	1 4 6½	...	...
Total ...	...	1 1 9¾	0 2 5½	0 19 4¼
General expenses	...	0 0 5	...	0 0 5

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 the 31st December, 1919.

Hospital for Insane.	Eggs.	Meat, Poultry, &c.	Milk.	Fruit.	Green Food.	Hay.	Root Crops
	doz.	lbs.	qts.	lbs.	tons	tons.	tons.
Yarra Bend ...	901	797	85,259	...	145	25	20
Kew ...	1,487	463	166,714	6,320	300	80	20
Ararat ...	160	308	77,864	872	18	35	20
Beechworth ...	510	1,444	50,145	36,792	70	180	5
Sunbury ...	619	1,216	123,050	13,550	33	156	...
Ballarat ...	579	1,224	73,175	1,852	100	130	160
Royal Park ...	1,019	199	41,344	3,299	10	20	12
Mont Park ...	...	33,426	57,953	1,814	100	180	40
Total Value ...	£ s. d. 308 5 3	£ s. d. 1,054 15 2	£ s. d. 10,827 19 9	£ s. d. 416 10 2	£ s. d. 803 0 0	£ s. d. 5,275 0 0	£ 358

	Ensilage.	Peas.	Vegetables.	Firewood.	Oats.	Straw.	Maize.
	tons.	bush.	lbs.	tons.	bush.	tons.	tons.
Yarra Bend ...	...	...	162,834	36	...	...	...
Kew ...	...	...	509,845	200	...	...	...
Ararat ...	...	...	154,450	250	...	...	30
Beechworth ...	...	33	224,180	30	...	...	...
Sunbury ...	...	...	254,580	...	...	...	...
Ballarat ...	140	...	222,492	40	726	25	...
Royal Park ...	...	...	40,109	...	...	...	30
Mont Park ...	90	40	105,015	40	1,173	50	...
Total Value ...	£ s. d. 230 0 0	£ s. d. 34 3 0	£ s. d. 8,171 15	£ s. d. 2294 11 8	£ s. d. 511 1 0	£ s. d. 237 10 0	£ s. d. 120 0 0
Total value, £28,642 11s. 2d.							

COST OF MAINTENANCE.

Tables XII, XIII, and XIV give the usual particulars in connexion with the expenditure for the financial year 1919-20. The cost of maintenance of the various Hospitals for Insane was £305,071 15s. 7d.—a large increase on the cost of the previous year. On account of the continued high price of everything which is required at the various institutions it is impossible to keep the cost down. The Department is suffering severely from the high cost of living, as well as the general public. I quote a few articles of clothing and provisions, and compare them with the prices which were paid before the war.

Item.	Contract prices for 1914-15.	Prices in England, 1920.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Calico, 54 inches, Unbleached for Sheeting ..	0 0 10½ per yard	0 5 1½ per yard
Moleskin, printed	0 2 5 ”	0 9 4¾ ”
Dowlas	0 1 0¾ ”	0 7 10¾ ”
Men's Sox	0 10 9 per dozen	1 4 6 per dozen.
Women's Stockings	0 11 3 ”	1 12 3 ”
Beaver Cloth	0 2 2 per yard	0 8 7 per yard
Waterproof Sheeting	0 2 9 ”	0 6 8 ”
Galatea	0 0 8¾ ”	0 4 6 ”
Meat (Melbourne)	1 5 10 per cental	*2 15 0 per cental
Bread	0 8 8 ”	*0 18 4 ”
Butter	0 1 0 per lb.	*0 2 5½ per lb.
Rice	1 0 0 per cwt	*2 18 6 per cwt.
Oatmeal	0 14 0 ”	*1 15 0 ”
Potatoes	5 0 0 per ton	*13 0 0 per ton
Sugar	less than £30 ton	*49 10 0 ”

* Melbourne Contract Prices.

The lower paid members of the staff were paid increases to their salaries, and this meant a large increase to the Salary Votes, and further well deserved increases will be paid this financial year.

The other items of expenditure were clothing, provisions, and fuel, light, &c. There does not appear to be any sign of any fall in prices for some time—some items have shown a tendency to advance during the last few months.

Fortunately, large purchases of material were made some two years ago, and much of this was issued last financial year and is being issued this year, and a saving of several thousands of pounds has resulted, as the material was purchased at nearly 100 per cent. less than present prices.

The collections made by the Master-in-Lunacy for the maintenance of patients were larger than in previous years, as well as the amount received for the sale of Government property. The Defence Department having taken the whole charge of the returned soldiers in the special ward at Mont Park, the collections for the maintenance of these men has, as a consequence, largely fallen off.

The average cost of maintenance per patient was £1 1s. 9¾d, and deducting the amount received for maintenance, sales, and miscellaneous collections, an amount of 19s. 4¼d. is shown as against 15s. 11¼d. for the previous year.

The farms and gardens show a good result for the year's operations—the produce showing a total value of £28,642 11s. 2d.

H. SEATON LYNCH,
Chief Clerk and Accountant.

STATE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INSANE.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, YARRA BEND.

The daily average number resident was males 317, females 415, making a total of 732. There were 179 admissions, 119 discharges, and 97 deaths, but of the latter 5 died whilst on probation. Of the total number of deaths, 29 were due to influenza. There were three cases of typhoid fever of a mild type amongst the patients on the female side; to what cause this slight outbreak was due, it was impossible to say. The class of patients received at this institution is anything but satisfactory, consisting largely of violent and refractory patients or, on the other hand, senile and hospital cases. There were no serious accidents during the year.

No renovations or repairs have been effected in the fabric of this institution in anticipation of its being closed and the patients transferred to the new chronic block at Mont Park.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, KEW.

The daily average number of patients resident was 490 males, 378 females, total 868. The admissions numbered 185, of whom 141 were first admissions. The discharges totalled 56 and the deaths 83.

There was one major accident, but not a fatal one, and there was no resort to restraint or seclusion. Dr. Gamble reports on the very large number of cases of general paralysis received in this institution. Nearly one fourth of the deaths were due to this factor. He urges the necessity for further improvement in the housing of the female staff and for the Chief Nurse, the Housekeeper, and the Head Attendant. He suggests also the installation of electric lighting as more efficient, economical, and safer. The external walls of the institution require plastering and painting. From the outside the institution commences to look deplorably neglected, and replacements of furnishings are necessary for the interior of the wards.

CHILDREN'S COTTAGES, KEW.

The daily average number resident was 307, consisting of 161 males and 146 females. There were 40 receptions into this institution, and 29 deaths, 12 of which were due to the epidemic of influenza. These mental defectives are very prone to pulmonary complaints, and as a rule one half of the deaths are due to phthisis, congestion of the lungs, &c. One half of the total number of patients in the institution are epileptic. No cases of typhoid have arisen for some time, and this is largely due to the preventive vaccination employed.

There is pressing need for the extension of the sewerage system and for proper covered ways. The remodelling of some of the wards is necessary. Some of the dormitories are really wood and canvas sleeping tents, and are not particularly satisfactory for the class of patients maintained in this institution.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, ARARAT.

During the year the numbers fell from 642 at the beginning to 610 at the end. There were but 10 direct admissions and 14 transfers from other institutions. The daily average number resident was 626, consisting of 362 males and 264 females. The number in the criminal and refractory ward is always kept at 50 males—which is the limit of the accommodation of this special ward. During the year there were 43 deaths; 2 only were due to colitis, which infective condition is now comparatively rare in this institution. No serious accidents occurred.

Drought conditions rendered the working of the farm and garden difficult, but excellent work was done in replanting the grounds in those areas where it was found necessary to remove the old pine trees.

A Nurses' Home is urgently required. The rooms that these members of the nursing staff occupy are in the wards, and the provision of a proper nurses' home will make additional accommodation available for the patients. The installation of a hot water radiator system would eventually prove to be an economy as well as a comfort.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, BEECHWORTH.

There were 649 patients on the books at the beginning of the year and 652 at the end. There were 12 direct admissions, and 32 patients were transferred from other institutions. Into this institution influenza was prevented from gaining access owing to the thorough system of quarantining instituted by the Medical Superintendent. There was but one isolated case of typhoid—a mild one—the causation of which it was impossible to definitely trace. In this institution, however, there are one or two badly constructed drains which require alteration—particularly in the neighbourhood of the Head Attendant's cottage, which should be taken down and rebuilt elsewhere.

The farm and garden work in this institution has been excellent. The Asylum front and the airing court gardens are creditable in the highest degree.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, SUNBURY.

At the beginning of the year there were 975 patients in residence whilst at the end the numbers had fallen to 954. There were 112 direct admissions and 28 transfers to this Hospital. There were 44 discharges and 96 deaths; 15 of these latter were due to influenza, which attacked no less than 68 of the staff and 185 of the patients.

An unusual fatal accident occurred—a female patient was violently pushed down by another and sustained a dislocation of the vertebral column.

Some improvement in the water supply is necessary, especially for the summer months, the size of the main being inadequate. But the most pressing need is a proper nurses' home.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, BALLARAT.

The numbers rose during the year from 596 to 603. There were 68 admissions and 10 transfers, 24 discharges and 47 deaths. All of the latter were due to natural or ordinary causes. Such accidents as occurred were of a comparatively trivial nature.

Slow progress is being made with the reconstruction of the burnt down Hospital ward, and there is much to be done in the way of improving and extending this institution. A proper messroom and a good central store are needed. Electric lighting should be extended. Cottage accommodation is required for nurses, as well as single room accommodation for the more troublesome of the male patients. A new house is necessary for the Secretary; his present situation is too near the male airing courts to be pleasant for a married man with his family.

Dr. W. H. Barker resigned the position of Superintendent after a long period of excellent service in this Department.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, ROYAL PARK.

This Hospital, which is run in connexion with the Receiving House, received 195 admissions during the year. There were also 99 admissions of voluntary boarders. There were 54 discharges of certified patients and 10 deaths, but of the latter 6 deaths actually took place whilst the patients were away from the institution on trial leave. There were no casualties, but 5 patients escaped from the Hospital. The institution suffered severely from influenza during the year, and 3 patients succumbed to the pneumonic complication. The staff also was severely attacked, and 3 of the male attendants who were treated outside the institution died. During the year a tragic incident occurred, resulting in the death of Attendant W. Douglas in the hospital ward owing to the fact that a patient—a Spaniard—secreted a revolver in his bedclothes whilst he was being admitted, and subsequently fired it at those around him in the ward. This matter was the subject of a departmental inquiry elsewhere referred to.

Dr. Godfrey closed his connexion with this Department after fourteen years' service on his taking up the position of Government Medical Officer.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, MONT PARK.

There were resident at the end of the year 214 males and 135 females—total 349. The health of the patients was generally good, and the epidemic of influenza was a comparatively light one.

A new 9-inch concrete main was laid on to our service reservoir from a pipe-head at South Morang. The laundry workers' block was prepared for the reception of female patients, whilst the Defence Department was still in occupation of the large chronic block.

RECEIVING HOUSE, ROYAL PARK.

There were 306 males and 288 females admitted during the year; 104 were discharged recovered, 354 were transferred, and 93 were committed to other institutions. Early in the year the Receiving House resumed its function of accommodating civilian patients, the military patients being sent to Mont Park military mental ward.

RECEIVING HOUSE, BALLARAT.

There were 72 first admissions, 15 re-admissions, and 13 voluntary boarders received into the institution during the year. Patients numbering 26 were discharged as recovered and 16 as relieved. There were 2 deaths, 1 of each sex, from natural causes existing at the time of their admission.

MILITARY MENTAL WARD, NO. 16 A.G.H.

On the books at the beginning of the year there were 59 patients—50 resident and 9 on leave. During 1919, 108 patients were admitted. There were 67 discharged as recovered and 12 improved. Four patients died and one was committed to a Hospital for the Insane. The majority of the admissions were due to primary dementia (dementia præcox), the confusional or exhaustion psychoses. Four were diagnosed as acute hallucinosis and 2 as mania-a-potu. There were 3 cases of general paralysis of the insane. The deaths consisted of 2 cases of general paralysis of the insane, and 1 patient suffering from confusional insanity. A fourth death was due to consumption in a mentally enfeebled patient.

During the year, many semi-convalescent cases were received off the transports, and their cure was completed in No. 16 A.G.H. Amongst them were many mild cases of dementia præcox. A large percentage of cases received showed signs of exhaustion. In many cases the exhaustion is considerably increased by the need of proper sleep. The patient usually reports that he obtains several hours' sleep during the night, but that the sleep is broken by frequently awakening, or by dreams or vague fears. The question of the quality of the sleep has always to be considered. The severely toxic effects of alcohol on the nerve-shattered soldier has been frequently noted, and confirms the similar observations of others in this respect.

From observation extending over a fairly long period, the opinion is ventured that the mental soldier is much more aggressive than the ordinary civil patient. Fights and blows amongst the military cases are more frequent than obtain in the civil wards.

In most of the military cases one might rightly conclude that there is over-excitability and exhaustion of the nervous system, combined with instability of the organs of internal secretion. It has been found that one cannot restore the balance better than by simple measures of rest, diet, and regulation of the functions. The use of drugs, other than the most harmless, and the use of internal secretions savours too much of blundering in the dark.

The general health of the patients has been good.

Dr. Hollow records his appreciation of the efforts of the Red Cross to increase the comfort of the patients.

RECEIVING HOUSES AND WARDS.

TABLE showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year ended 31st December, 1919.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the Institutions, 1st January, 1919	...	...	...	30	30	60
Cases admitted—						
First admissions	368	343	711	...	...	...
Not first admissions	31	32	63	...	...	...
Escaped patients retaken	...	3	3	...	...	...
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	399	378	777
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	429	408	837
Cases discharged—						
Recovered	81	73	154	...	...	...
Relieved	8	8	16	...	...	...
Not improved	7	3	10	...	...	...
Transferred from the Institutions to Hospitals for the Insane	279	268	547	...	...	...
Escaped	1	3	4	...	...	...
Died	11	11	22	...	...	...
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	387	366	753
Total number on books, 31st December, 1919	...	...	...	42	42	84
Average number resident during the year	...	...	...	30	40	70
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	425	402	827
Persons admitted	...	...	...	395	372	767
Persons recovered	...	...	...	78	70	148

LICENSED HOUSES.

Table showing Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during 1919, and the numbers remaining on 31st December, 1919.

	Resident in Licensed Houses, 1st January, 1919.		Total			Total cases under care during the year 1919		Total			Total			Total			Total		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
St. Helen's ..	9	7	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	4	8	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	20	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	15	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	13	59	72																
<i>On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses.</i>																			
St. Helen's ..	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cloverdale ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1	12	13																
<i>Total number on Books of Licensed Houses, 1st January, 1919</i>																			
St. Helen's ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cloverdale ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	14	71	85																
<i>Received—</i>																			
First Admissions	M.	F.	T.																
Not First Admissions	7	29	36																
Escapes Retaken	..	4	4																
Transferred from Hospitals for the Insane	1	7	8																
Transferred to Licensed Houses from other	..	..	..													
Licensed Houses	1	2	3																
Total	9	42	51																
St. Helen's ..	..	6	4	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	1	14	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	7	33	40																
<i>Transferred from Hospitals for Insane Transferred to Licensed Houses from other Licensed Houses</i>																			
Escapes retaken ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1	2	3																
<i>Total cases under care during year 1919</i>																			
St. Helen's ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	9	42	51																
<i>Total cases under care during year 1919</i>																			
St. Helen's ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mt. Ida ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Holme ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
The Tofts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	23	113	136																

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

	On Books, 1.1.19.		Remaining, 31.12.19	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
St. Helen's
Mount Ida
Merton
Glen Holme
The Tofts
Total	7	15	2	17

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, 1919.

On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses.

Total number of patients on the Books on 31st December, 1919

PRIVATE LICENSED HOUSES.

There has been no increase in the number of Licensed Houses, but the licenseeship of " St. Helens " has passed from the hands of Miss Strachan to that of the Rev. J. G. Baillie, who has associated with him Dr. Mabel Baillie—formerly a Medical Officer in this Department. In this institution a useful addition has been made in the shape of a bungalow ward for 10 male patients, and the number for which " St. Helens " is licensed has been increased correspondingly. The license for " Glen Holme " has been transferred to Mrs. Stackhouse, formerly a charge nurse in the Hospital for the Insane at Ballarat and more recently associated with Mrs. Harcourt, in connexion with " Glen Holme " itself.

The voluntary boarder clauses are being made use of more freely and they are particularly useful in the Private Licensed Houses. Thirty-eight patients (8 males and 30 females) were thus received during the year; 19 were discharged recovered, seven were certified, and two died. In each of the latter cases, the patients were very ill physically on admission. At the end of the year there were 17 voluntary cases in residence.

As regards the certified cases, the numbers do not materially differ from former years—one more than in 1918, the discharges being rather less, and the deaths rather more. Of the latter, one patient escaped from " Merton " and made her way to the sea and was found drowned some hours later. She was known to be suicidally inclined and there was obviously some carelessness on the part of the night nurse who was in charge of her and a few other patients, all of whom required some nursing attention and observation during the night. A lady voluntary boarder at " St. Helens " succeeded in strangling herself at night, whilst only a few yards away outside her bedroom door was a night nurse. The patient was a comparatively recent admission and no definite evidence had been given the licensee of her suicidal propensities.

The class of patients admitted to the Licensed Houses under certification are not good so far as their prospects of recovery are concerned; their admission in the majority of cases has been undertaken as a last resort when other means appear to have failed. Too often this has been protracted treatment in a private nursing home but little adapted to the requirements of mental cases, and better support should be obtained from the general public and the medical profession if the Private Licensed Houses are to become reliable institutions for the care and treatment of early cases of insanity in the well-to-do.

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, 1919.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Remaining in the Institutions on 1st January, 1919—						
In Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	28	18	46	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	...	7	7	...	...	...
Admissions—						
Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	73	56	129	...	...	...
Licensed Houses	8	30	38	...	...	...
Total cases under care during the year ... ..	...	...	...	109	111	220
Discharged—						
Discharges—						
Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	67	45	112	...	...	...
Licensed Houses	4	15	19	...	...	...
Certified as Insane or Apparently Insane—						
Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	19	15	34	...	...	...
Licensed Houses	2	5	7	...	...	...
Died—						
Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	2	1	3	...	...	...
Licensed Houses ... ..	...	2	2	...	...	...
Total discharged ... ..	...	...	...	94	83	177
Remaining in Institutions on 31st December, 1919—						
In Hospitals for Insane and Receiving Houses ...	13	13	26	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses	2	15	17	...	...	...
Total remaining ... ..	...	...	...	15	28	43

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY, ROYAL PARK.

1ST JANUARY, 1920.

SIR,

I beg to submit a Report on the pathological work for the year 1919. During this year 220 cases have been examined *post mortem*, and the findings studied in conjunction with the clinical histories. The work of the laboratories was hampered during the first few months of the year by the position of laboratory attendant being unfilled through want of suitable applicants. This matter has now been rectified by the appointment of Mr. Shirer, who occupied a position in a laboratory in England prior to his joining up with the A.I.F.

The influenza epidemic which swept through Victoria during this year was responsible for 27 deaths in the Metropolitan Hospitals for the Insane. Fortunately, the disease invaded the different Hospitals in turn and not at the same time, so that from a nursing point of view, as well as from a necroscopical point of view, although the period was a strenuous one, there was no breaking down in the arrangements for dealing with these matters; as might easily have been the case had all the institutions been attacked at the same time. The order in which the different institutions were attacked is rather interesting. First of all was the Royal Park Mental Hospital with two deaths in April. Then, on May 21st, there was one death on the female division of the main building at Kew, followed by seven deaths on the male, and three on the female side at the Idiot Cottages, Kew, between May 20th and June 11th. There were then three deaths on the male main division at Kew between the 19th July and 24th July. The deaths at Yarra Bend were all on the male division, where there were eleven between the 23rd July, and the 9th August. The *post mortem* appearance in all these cases was practically the same, the pharynx and soft tissue around the epiglottis being very engorged, the trachea acutely inflamed, and a lumpy discrete prune-colored consolidation, lacking the granular character of the lung in lobar consolidation, with more or less oedema of the intervening lung tissue which retained its ordinary *post mortem* colour. Unfortunately, the lack of a laboratory assistant at Kew prevented any bacteriological investigations being made, which was a great pity, as the conditions in their favour were unique. During the year the patients at the Idiot Cottages, Kew, who had been received since November, 1918, were vaccinated against typhoid which appears to be endemic there, as every year in which there is any unvaccinated patient at that institution a case of typhoid crops up. The only case which occurred in 1919 at the Idiot Cottages from this disease was a patient who had been admitted in May, 1919, and who developed typhoid early in the spring before she had been vaccinated. Vaccine was also made and sent to the Hospitals for the Insane, Beechworth, where Dr. Catarinich reports favorable results from previous wholesale anti-typhoid vaccination.

The routine examination of sputum, blood, urine, &c., proceeds satisfactorily at the laboratories at Royal Park and Kew. The technique of our Wassermann system has proved especially reliable.

A table of brain weights in congenital mental deficiency showing that weight of brain in this condition has no bearing on the degree of intelligence present was published in extended form in the *Medical Journal of Australia* on the 27th of December, 1919. These weights were taken from *post mortem* records of 142 cases of C.M.D. who died at the Idiot Cottages, Kew.

As the investigation of insanity requires the closest co-operation of the clinical and laboratory work I would like to appeal for more data and fuller histories of all the cases. We have unique opportunities in the Victorian Lunacy Department for combining the results of the clinical and pathological examinations, as the *post mortem* examination of patients is compulsory. As a result of thus combining the information obtained by the clinician and the pathologist we have been able to say with assurance, that in a great number of the insanities occurring in young people the constant fibrosis of the organs of the body, apart from brain changes, indicates syphilis. The reports on the pathology of insanity from other countries seem to be restricted to the central nervous system, without any investigation of other parts of the body, and I was particularly struck with the fact when in England that the brain and cord of some particular case would be forwarded to the laboratory for the investigation of the disease, when the solution of the problem possibly existed in the visceral organs, which received only a cursory examination. Whatever interpretation other investigators give to these

changes in the viscera, they certainly do not appear to mention them as having any association with the mental disease ; whereas in the patients examined here the association is so evident that we consider it cannot be disregarded. If the scientific study of insane states is to continue in the Victorian Lunacy Department it will be necessary to have a laboratory at the Mont Park Hospital for Insane when the patients from Yarra Bend are transferred to the former institution. At first view this suggests a big expense at a time when economy is the order of the day, but when one considers that the present system of taking every deceased patient to the City Morgue cannot continue when the deaths become proportionate to the increased number of patients at Mont Park, there remains only one thing to be done, and that is to have the *post mortem* examinations made at Mont Park and create the dual position of laboratory attendant and pathologist's assistant as at Royal Park and Kew. The present contract price for taking the bodies into the City morgue would pay the laboratory attendant's salary, to say nothing of the value of the witnesses' time.

An investigation into the factors involved in an outbreak of scorbutus at the Idiot Cottages, Kew, in the latter part of December, 1918, was made during the early part of this year, and the evidence points to scorbutus being an infective agent in the presence of food deficient in certain elements. A full account of the investigation is published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, of 9th August, 1919.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. A. T. LIND,
Pathologist.

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

NOTES ON THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC OF 1919 AS IT AFFECTED THE VARIOUS HOSPITALS FOR INSANE IN VICTORIA.

In reviewing the epidemic, consideration was mainly directed to the following points:—Dates of onset of the first cases in the Asylums, and dates of cessation of the outbreak ; also whether the male or female side of the staff were more seriously affected ; further, what was the incidence of the disease among those who had been inoculated ; the total number of cases (male and female) both among patients and staff ; the character of the cases under treatment whether mild or severe ; and the number of deaths.

The attached statistical return, compiled from reports submitted by the several Medical Superintendents gives the information required to elucidate the above points.

In two Metropolitan Asylums the epidemic first made its appearance early in April ; in Kew and Ballarat the early part of May provided the first cases among patients. In Yarra Bend, Sunbury, and Ararat the epidemic began in July ; while in Beechworth, where only six of the staff were affected and no patients, the cases did not occur until 4th August. The last reported case in the Asylums (at Ballarat) occurred about the middle of October, so that the epidemic continued in the Asylums for about six months.

In several institutions the epidemic came in two waves, approximately of three weeks each, with an intervening period of quiescence.

In December, 1918, a departmental order was issued by the Inspector-General advising the use of vaccines as a prophylactic measure, but this was not made compulsory. 74·8 per cent. of the male staff and 80 per cent. of female staff were inoculated with the "A" and "B" vaccines obtained from the Federal Bacteriological Laboratories. Only 163 of the 5,195 patients were inoculated against influenza.

Both among patients and staff the disease was more prevalent on the male side and there were nearly twice as many severe cases among the men as compared to females. The total number of male cases (patients and staff) was 596, while the total number of females (patients and staff) affected was 487. The total number of severe cases among the males was 158 and among the females 87.

Out of all those affected, 53 males and 18 females died, that is, 8·8 per cent. males and 3·4 per cent. females.

16 per cent. of the whole population, male and female, of the various Asylums (patients and staff) was affected.

14·6 per cent. of the whole number of male patients throughout the Asylums developed influenza, only 123 out of 2,889 had been inoculated; 11·6 per cent. of the whole number of female patients in the several institutions contracted the disease, only 40 out of 3,026 had been inoculated.

43·4 per cent. of the whole male staff throughout the Asylums suffered from influenza and 32 per cent. of the whole female staff was attacked; the percentages of the staff inoculated have just been mentioned. As to the incidence of influenza amongst those who had been inoculated, the table attached shows that 298 attendants and 339 nurses were inoculated and of these, 133 attendants and 101 nurses contracted influenza; that is, 44·6 per cent. of the inoculated attendants and 29·7 per cent. of the inoculated nurses proved vulnerable.

Taking attendants and nurses together, 36·7 per cent. of all those inoculated among the staff developed the disease, and there were three deaths (2 attendants and 1 nurse). Each of those who succumbed had been inoculated. In respect to the efficacy of inoculation as a prophylactic, the Superintendent of Royal Park said, "No deductions can be drawn from the incidence of influenza amongst the inoculated, as all except (one attendant) had been inoculated." The Superintendent of Ballarat wrote that "Inoculation was helpful to some extent, though its preventive influence is short." The Superintendent of Mont Park remarked that in his opinion "the inoculation did not affect the character or course of the disease," and that was the conclusion arrived at by the Superintendent of Kew. The total number of cases among the patients was 423 males and 352 females; while among the staff 173 attendants and 135 nurses were attacked. The combined numbers are—males 596, females 487. There is a consensus of opinion, judging from the various reports prepared, that the epidemic, so far as it affected the Hospitals for Insane of Victoria was, generally speaking, of a benign character, 838 cases being recorded mild, as against 245 of severe type. This view is borne out by the comparative fewness of the deaths due to epidemic influenza in 1919, namely 6·6 per cent. of the total number of cases under treatment, and if we disregard the return from Yarra Bend (where 27 male patients died) the death rate for the remaining institutions was only 4·4 per cent. The total number of deaths was—male patients 51, female patients 17; in addition two attendants and one nurse succumbed.

It may be pointed out that none of the patients in Beechworth Asylum was affected, though the epidemic was prevalent in a mild form in the adjacent town. This result was probably due in great measure to the rigid quarantining for 48 hours of all members of the staff returning to the Asylum from leave.

In the Metropolitan Asylums ordinary visiting of patients (except in cases of acute illness) was suspended during the epidemic, and this precaution doubtless helped to limit the number of cases occurring among the patients.

The Inspector-General of Insane begs to acknowledge the help afforded him by Dr. Gamble, of Kew Hospital for the Insane, in regard to this return on the influenza epidemic and he thinks it only right to mention the admirable work done by Nurse Watts in connexion with the nursing of these cases in certain of the institutions.

SUMMARY OF RETURNS OF THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC OF 1919 AS IT AFFECTED PATIENTS AND STAFFS IN THE VARIOUS HOSPITALS FOR INSANE, VICTORIA.

Hospital for Insane.	Average Numbers.		Date of first Case.	Date last Case occurred.	Numbers Affected.				Totals Affected.				Number Inoculated.				Number of those Inoculated who contracted Influenza.				Number of Mild Cases.				Number of Severe Cases.				Number of Deaths.			
	Patients.				Staff.		Patients.		Staff.		Patients.		Staff.		Patients.		Staff.		Patients.		Staff.		Patients.		Staff.		Patients.		Staff.			
	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Yarra Bend	M. 353	F. 54	M. 56	F. 56	20.7.19	4.9.19	65	13	19	8	84	21	53	55	..	..	19	8	40	17	44	4	27	2	..	..	..	..
Kew	M. 544	F. 67	M. 63	F. 63	4.5.19	29.7.19	96	82	36	33	132	115	47	38	..	..	23	15	126	113	6	2	4	1	..	..	1	..
Kew Idiot Asylum	M. 171	F. 17	M. 30	F. 30	11.5.19	3.6.19	81	78	7	9	88	87	12	22	..	..	5	6	53	60	35	28	8	4	..	..	..	..
Sunbury	M. 526	F. 60	M. 75	F. 75	10.7.19	1.9.19	74	111	32	31	106	142	37	64	104	37	15	16	65	103	41	39	7	8	..	..	..	..
Ararat	M. 378	F. 55	M. 42	F. 42	26.7.19	16.9.19	38	13	15	13	53	26	..	42	4	..	..	13	10	46	24	7	2	4	1	..	..	..	
Ballarat	M. 230	F. 44	M. 44	F. 44	2.10.19	10.10.19	29	34	21	21	50	55	3	59	15	3	..	19	18	50	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Royal Park	M. 98	F. 33	M. 34	F. 34	—, 8.19	15.5.19	32	17	24	17	56	34	..	33	..	..	24	17	35	22	21	12	1	1	2	..	..	..	
Mont Park	M. 222	F. 25	M. 25	F. 25	4.4.19	—, 7.19	8	4	14	2	22	6	..	25	..	..	14	?	20	6	2	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Beechworth	M. 367	F. 43	M. 37	F. 37	—, 7.19	24.8.19	*	*	5	1	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	M. 2,889	F. 398	M. 421	F. 421	..	..	423	362	173	135	596	487	40	298	123	40	15	133	101	438	400	158	87	51	17	2	1	1		

* No cases of Epidemic Influenza among patients in Asylum.

IN GENERAL.

It is doubtless somewhat premature to congratulate ourselves on the comparatively small aftermath of the War that Lunacy Departments have to make provision for, but it is nevertheless a very remarkable fact, and one entirely unexpected, that the various parts of the British Empire find themselves with a lessened number of the certified insane on their registers, or a diminished annual increment of those needing segregation. After six years, England and Wales have 24,000, Scotland 1,600, and Ireland 2,600 less patients than were recorded in 1914, whilst in the Australian States we find diminished ratios of the insane to the population and lessened admission rates.

These simple statements need to be carefully considered and weighed before any wide deductions can be made from them; still they seem to point to the fact that physical causes are more potent than the psychic in the production of serious mental disease—otherwise the anxiety, worry and stress of mind inseparable from our participation in the War would have seriously increased all lunacy statistics. On the other hand, employment has been ample; there has been a decrease in intemperance, and *pari passu*, venereal diseases have been brought under more careful supervision and probably more thorough treatment. Then, too, it must not be forgotten that military mental cases are rightly enough not enumerated in most lunacy returns, and it is worthy of note that amongst our soldiers the psychic factors have been pre-eminent.

Possibly the next few years will show a return to the normal and that we shall have to face a larger increase than ever, but it will indeed be a calamity if we shall have learnt nothing from the lessons which the war has taught us. Such problems will fall more properly to Public Health Departments rather than to Lunacy Departments. For the latter the establishment of psychiatric clinics and the segregation of the mentally defective will prove to be the most important issues.

It is, however, essential that such public departments should co-operate and there is one obvious way in which such co-operation will prove a lasting benefit to the nation at large, viz., in the estimation of the mentally defective factor in those individuals who present themselves for treatment in venereal clinics.

ACCOMMODATION.

Although there is every good reason for the statement that we have 400 more patients in residence than we have proper accommodation for, nothing in the way of new wards or institutions has been built, but some relief was obtained by re-opening at Yarra Bend certain of the cottages which had been closed in anticipation of the opening of the whole of the Mont Park Hospital for the Insane. Shortly we anticipate having the laundry-workers' block as Mont Park available—it is no longer being used as an auxiliary military hospital—and the restoration of the Female Hospital at Ballarat is on its way to completion. These wards will be of the greatest value to us to receive our overplus until the large chronic block at Mont Park, occupied by the Defence Department and known as No. 16 A.G.H., is handed over to us, as it may most probably be so returned early in 1920.

A new block for military mental cases (84 beds) is being erected at Mont Park by arrangement with the Defence Department and this accommodation should be available before the end of 1920. Its erection has been delayed by many building difficulties but it should afford excellent separate care and treatment for our soldier cases. The Red Cross Society have given a useful recreation room and billiard table for use in connexion with this block and it will prove to be of the very greatest value.

Before the large chronic block can be fully occupied and the old institution at Yarra Bend given up, it will be necessary to provide, amongst other things:—

1. A Nurses' Home.
2. Extension of Laundry.
3. Airing Court Railings, Shelters, and Outside Lavatories,
4. Quarters for Single Men.
5. Houses for Married Attendants.
6. A Recreation Room.
7. A considerable amount of Furniture, Fittings—Bedsteads, &c.

The Administration of the Department has not been any easier this year, for it has been more than ever difficult to obtain the necessary and suitable material for clothing, bedding, &c. The gross cost for 1919-20 will be found to be 33 per cent. above the cost in 1913, but that is a very small increase compared to the rise in the cost of living for the general public. It is inevitable that the cost of the Department will continue to rise, as there is no indication of a decrease in the price of any single necessity.

The Influenza epidemic caused considerable dislocation of our routine, as will be seen by the Report elsewhere for which I am obliged to Dr. M. Gamble, Medical Superintendent of the Kew Hospital for the Insane. To that gentleman, also, I am obliged for his assistance in the conduct of the Nursing Examinations.

Inspector-General inquiries have been held in a few cases during the year, the principal one being in connexion with the death of an attendant at Royal Park, who was shot by a recently-admitted patient—a Spaniard, suffering from delusions of persecution, who had a few hours previously been sent from the Melbourne Hospital. The result of the inquiry was that the fatality was the result of an accident which it was impossible to foresee.

An inquiry into the death of a patient showed that the injuries from which he (J.I.) died were received before his admission to Royal Park.

At an inquiry into another but non-fatal case, in which a general paralytic was found to be suffering from broken ribs, no evidence was adduced to show that there had been any resort to undue violence on the part of any one of the attendants under whose observation the patient had been.

During the hot month of February, on two occasions grass fires broke out at Mont Park; on the second occasion two large stacks of hay in the farm yard were burnt and the indications pointed to incendiarism.

In conclusion, it is only necessary to testify to the general feeling of satisfaction that this Branch of the Public Service is to benefit from the promised reclassification which has become so necessary on account of the high cost of living.

W. ERNEST JONES,
Inspector-General of Insane.