

1923.

VICTORIA.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INSANE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1922.

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

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R E P O R T.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT,
 Inspector-General's Office,
 Old Treasury Buildings, Spring-street,
 Melbourne, 18th September, 1923.

To the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

SIR,

In accordance with section 19 of the Lunacy Act, No. 2687, I have the honour to submit herewith for presentation to Parliament the Annual Report of this Department for the year 1922.

The outstanding fact is that there are now in Victoria 6,101 registered insane persons, 160 more than in the previous year. In the State Hospitals there are 5,386 patients, an increase of 131 over the year 1921. This means that there are now approximately 500 patients over and above the statutory accommodation in our State Institutions, the principal increase being amongst the female patients. It must be remembered that the population of Victoria has increased by almost 40,000 during 1922, which fact is reflected to some extent in the Asylum population. However, the actual proportion of insane to population has not increased, it remaining as in last year, one in 261.

This year's increase is very largely due to a considerable decrease in the number of deaths, there being 64 less than in the previous year and 98 less than in 1920. This is probably due to the comparative immunity from serious epidemic disorders, such as influenza. Inasmuch as the number of admissions has remained rather high, and the discharges decreased slightly, we have the explanation of the increased numbers in the State Institutions. It is essential that better provision should be made to deal with this problem, and recommendations appear elsewhere in this Report as to how this may be done.

There are many questions demanding solution, such as improved sanitation in three of the State Hospitals in the country; the better housing of the female staff; the improvement of hours of duty and rates of pay for all of those employed in this Public Service. I have ventured again to bring up the important subject of the Mentally Defective, more particularly amongst the young and possibly educable class, for whom the present Institution known as the Children's Cottages, at Kew, is not appropriate. Other matters to which I would specially draw attention are the housing and treatment of the Military Mental cases, the transfer of patients from Yarra Bend to Mont Park, the appointment of qualified dentists and, finally, the necessity for increased grants for repairs to existing Institutions. These are all matters requiring urgent and sympathetic consideration, and I believe that they will receive it at your hands.

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, 1922.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Resident in the Hospital for the Insane at— | | | | | | |
| Yarra Bend | 315 | 388 | 703 | | | |
| Kew | 489 | 385 | 874 | | | |
| Kew Idiot Asylum | 187 | 171 | 358 | | | |
| Ararat | 364 | 266 | 630 | | | |
| Beechworth | 325 | 284 | 609 | | | |
| Sunbury | 478 | 519 | 997 | | | |
| Ballarat | 215 | 466 | 681 | | | |
| Royal Park | 44 | 53 | 97 | | | |
| Mont Park | 213 | 224 | 437 | | | |
| | | | | 2,630 | 2,756 | 5,386 |
| Out on trial leave from the Hospital for Insane at— | | | | | | |
| Yarra Bend | 29 | 45 | 74 | | | |
| Kew | 67 | 70 | 137 | | | |
| Kew Idiot Asylum | 12 | 8 | 20 | | | |
| Ararat | 4 | 3 | 7 | | | |
| Beechworth | 6 | 12 | 18 | | | |
| Sunbury | 24 | 28 | 52 | | | |
| Ballarat | 23 | 30 | 53 | | | |
| Royal Park | 18 | 45 | 63 | | | |
| Mont Park | 44 | 19 | 63 | | | |
| | | | | 227 | 260 | 487 |
| Boarded out from the Hospital for Insane at— | | | | | | |
| Yarra Bend | ... | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Kew | ... | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Kew Idiot Asylum | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Ararat | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Beechworth | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Sunbury | 4 ¹ | 3 ² | 7 ³ | | | |
| Ballarat | 11 | 35 | 4 ⁶ | | | |
| Royal Park | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Mont Park | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| | | | | 52 | 72 | 124 |
| Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Hospitals for the Insane | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2,909 | 3,088 | 5,997 |
| Resident in the Licensed House— | | | | | | |
| St. Helens | 15 | 10 | 25 | | | |
| Mount Ida | 3 | 13 | 16 | | | |
| Merton | ... | 19 | 19 | | | |
| Glen Holme | ... | 19 | 19 | | | |
| The Tofts | ... | 3 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | 18 | 64 | 82 |
| Out on trial leave from the Licensed House— | | | | | | |
| St. Helens | 5 | 3 | 8 | | | |
| Mount Ida | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| Merton | ... | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Glen Holme | ... | 5 | 5 | | | |
| The Tofts | ... | 3 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | 6 | 16 | 22 |
| Total number of registered lunatics in the State | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2,933 | 3,168 | 6,101 |

Excluding Voluntary Boarders (12 males and 38 females) and Soldiers (124).

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1922.

| | Males. | | | Females. | | | Total. | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| In the Hospitals, 1st January, 1922 | ... | ... | ... | 2,592 | 2,663 | 5,255 | | | |
| On trial | ... | ... | ... | 231 | 253 | 484 | | | |
| Boarded out | ... | ... | ... | 46 | 57 | 103 | | | |
| Total number on books, 1st January, 1922 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,869 | 2,973 | 5,842 |
| Cases admitted— | | | | | | | | | |
| First admissions | 388 | 330 | 718 | | | | | | |
| *Not first admissions | 46 | 74 | 120 | | | | | | |
| Escaped patients retaken | ... | ... | ... | 434 | 404 | 838 | | | |
| | | | | 39 | 2 | 41 | | | |
| Total cases admitted during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 473 | 406 | 879 |
| Total cases under care during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,342 | 3,379 | 6,721 |
| Cases discharged— | | | | | | | | | |
| Recovered | 87 | 94 | 181 | | | | | | |
| Relieved | 58 | 39 | 97 | | | | | | |
| †Not improved | 11 | 10 | 21 | | | | | | |
| Died | 231 | 145 | 376 | | | | | | |
| Escaped | ... | ... | ... | 387 | 288 | 675 | | | |
| | | | | 46 | 3 | 49 | | | |
| Total cases discharged and died during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 433 | 291 | 724 |
| Remaining in the Hospitals, 31st December, 1922 | ... | ... | ... | 2,630 | 2,756 | 5,386 | | | |
| Patients on leave | ... | ... | ... | 227 | 260 | 487 | | | |
| „ boarded out | ... | ... | ... | 52 | 72 | 124 | | | |
| Total number on books, 31st December, 1922 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,909 | 3,088 | 5,997 |
| Average number resident during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,620 | 2,727 | 5,347 |
| Persons under care during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,301 | 3,375 | 6,676 |
| Persons admitted | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 432 | 404 | 836 |
| Persons recovered | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 87 | 94 | 181 |
| Transferred from one Hospital for Insane to another | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 88 | 178 | 266 |

* Including transfers from licensed houses.
† Including transfers to licensed houses.

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1922

| Number of Previous Attacks. | Persons. | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Have had one attack | 57 | 71 | 128 |
| Have had two attacks | 14 | 26 | 40 |
| Have had three attacks | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Have had four attacks | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Have had five attacks or over | ... | 2 | 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 1922 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. | | | | | | Total of Registered insane. | Increase, + Decrease, - | Soldiers. | | Receiving Houses and Receiving Wards. | | | Hospitals for the Insane. | | | Private Licensed Houses. | | | Total. | Increase, + Decrease, - | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|----------|--------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|--------|---------------------------|----------|--------|--------------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------------------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Hospitals for the Insane. | | | Private Licensed Houses. | | | | | Number. | Increase, + Decrease, - | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | 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 | +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 | 2,859 | 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 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| §1915 | 2,882 | 2,885 | 5,767 | 15 | 80 | 5,862 | +35 | ... | 5 | 5 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1916 | 2,882 | 2,911 | 5,793 | 11 | 79 | 5,883 | +21 | ... | 16 | 31 | 47 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1917 | 2,901 | 2,932 | 5,833 | 12 | 74 | 5,919 | +36 | ... | 84 | 21 | 105 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1918 | 2,889 | 3,026 | 5,915 | 14 | 71 | 6,000 | +81 | ... | 110 | 30 | 140 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1919 | 2,855 | 2,991 | 5,846 | 16 | 75 | 5,937 | -63 | ... | 120 | 42 | 162 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1920 | 2,888 | 2,942 | 5,830 | 17 | 78 | 5,925 | -12 | ... | 100 | 34 | 134 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1921 | 2,866 | 2,973 | 5,842 | 17 | 82 | 5,941 | +16 | ... | 112 | 37 | 149 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1922 | 2,909 | 3,088 | 5,997 | 24 | 80 | 6,101 | +160 | ... | 124 | 43 | 167 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |

* 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. | | | | | | |
|-------|------------|----------|--------|-------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|---------------------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------------------|----------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|------|------|--|
| | Recovered. | | Total. | Relieved. | | Total. | Died. | | Total. | Remaining 31st December in each Year. | | Total. | Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions. | | Total. | Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers Resident. | | | | | | | | | |
| | Males. | Females. | | Males. | Females. | | Males. | Females. | | Males. | Females. | | Males. | Females. | | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | | | |
| 1891 | 427 | 318 | 745 | 170 | 137 | 307 | 25 | 16 | 41 | 201 | 92 | 293 | 2,090 | 1,778 | 3,868 | 1,993 | 1,630 | 3,623 | 39.81 | 43.08 | 41.21 | 10.08 | 5.64 | 8.09 | |
| 1892 | 399 | 307 | 706 | 142 | 144 | 286 | 20 | 22 | 42 | 181 | 102 | 283 | 2,136 | 1,818 | 3,954 | 2,045 | 1,681 | 3,726 | 35.59 | 46.90 | 40.51 | 8.85 | 6.07 | 7.59 | |
| 1893 | 384 | 296 | 680 | 153 | 102 | 255 | 25 | 40 | 65 | 177 | 94 | 271 | 2,161 | 1,877 | 4,038 | 2,112 | 1,748 | 3,860 | 39.84 | 34.46 | 37.50 | 8.38 | 5.37 | 7.02 | |
| 1894 | 402 | 293 | 695 | 124 | 97 | 221 | 21 | 43 | 64 | 207 | 118 | 325 | 2,205 | 1,911 | 4,116 | 2,119 | 1,793 | 3,912 | 30.84 | 33.11 | 31.80 | 9.77 | 6.58 | 8.31 | |
| 1895 | 377 | 277 | 654 | 115 | 106 | 221 | 25 | 41 | 66 | 211 | 114 | 325 | 2,221 | 1,927 | 4,148 | 2,125 | 1,804 | 3,929 | 30.50 | 38.26 | 33.79 | 9.93 | 6.32 | 8.27 | |
| 1896 | 384 | 305 | 689 | 114 | 96 | 210 | 19 | 37 | 56 | 231 | 129 | 360 | 2,234 | 1,970 | 4,204 | 2,147 | 1,823 | 3,970 | 29.69 | 31.47 | 30.48 | 10.76 | 7.08 | 9.07 | |
| 1897 | 435 | 341 | 776 | 117 | 100 | 217 | 39 | 47 | 86 | 209 | 115 | 324 | 2,292 | 2,019 | 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 | 12.76 | 16.43 | 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 | 11.62 | 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 | 858 | 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 | 2,584 | 2,462 | 5,046 | 28.76 | 25.41 | 27.26 | 8.12 | 7.06 | 7.60 | |
| 1915 | 434 | 390 | 824 | 108 | 110 | 218 | 56 | 37 | 93 | 262 | 199 | 461 | 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 | 26.05 | 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 | |
| 1918 | 346 | 416 | 762 | 75 | 80 | 155 | 62 | 65 | 127 | 218 | 172 | 390 | 2,889 | 3,026 | 5,915 | 2,612 | 2,577 | 5,189 | 21.68 | 19.03 | 20.34 | 8.35 | 6.67 | 7.52 | |
| 1919 | 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 | 9.97 | 7.30 | 8.64 | |
| 1920 | 465 | 399 | 864 | 77 | 150 | 227 | 72 | 90 | 162 | 274 | 200 | 474 | 2,888 | 2,942 | 5,830 | 2,621 | 2,589 | 5,210 | 16.56 | 37.59 | 26.27 | 10.45 | 7.72 | 9.10 | |
| 1921 | 383 | 419 | 802 | 81 | 113 | 194 | 60 | 68 | 128 | 242 | 198 | 448 | 2,869 | 2,973 | 5,842 | 2,613 | 2,616 | 5,259 | 21.15 | 26.97 | 24.19 | 9.26 | 7.48 | 8.37 | |
| 1922 | 434 | 404 | 838 | 87 | 94 | 181 | 58 | 39 | 97 | 231 | 145 | 376 | 2,909 | 3,088 | 5,997 | 2,620 | 2,727 | 5,347 | 20.05 | 23.27 | 21.60 | 8.82 | 5.32 | 7.03 | |
| Total | 13,282 | 11,157 | 24,439 | 3,990 | 3,594 | 7,584 | 1,170 | 1,344 | 2,514 | 6,983 | 4,693 | 11,676 | ... | ... | ... | 75,644 | 70,384 | 146,028 | 30.04 | 32.21 | 31.03 | 9.23 | 6.67 | 8.00 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 2,364 | 2,199 | 4,563 | | | | | | | |

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 the Year ended 31st December, 1922.

| Hospital for the Insane. | Admitted. | | | Discharged. | | | Died. | | | Remaining on the Books 31st December, 1922. | | | Average Number Resident during the year 1922. | | | 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 Bend | 92 | 53 | 145 | 14 | 20 | 34 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 40 | 23 | 63 | 344 | 435 | 779 | 304 | 401 | 705 | 15.21 | 37.73 | 23.44 | 13.04 | 16.98 | 14.48 | 13.15 | 5.73 | 8.93 |
| Kew | 124 | 84 | 208 | 22 | 27 | 49 | 19 | 6 | 25 | 75 | 33 | 108 | 556 | 458 | 1,014 | 487 | 385 | 872 | 17.74 | 32.14 | 23.55 | 15.32 | 7.14 | 12.02 | 15.40 | 8.57 | 12.38 |
| Kew Idiot Asylum | 24 | 22 | 46 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | 6 | 17 | 5 | 22 | 199 | 179 | 378 | 183 | 162 | 345 | ... | ... | ... | 16.67 | 9.09 | 13.04 | 9.28 | 3.08 | 6.37 |
| Ararat | 14 | 5 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 3 | ... | 3 | 16 | 10 | 26 | 368 | 269 | 637 | 365 | 261 | 626 | 42.85 | 60.00 | 47.36 | 21.43 | ... | 15.79 | 4.38 | 3.83 | 4.15 |
| Beechworth | 6 | 4 | 10 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 2 | 31 | 12 | 43 | 331 | 296 | 627 | 339 | 279 | 618 | 16.66 | ... | 10.00 | 33.33 | ... | 20.00 | 9.14 | 4.30 | 6.95 |
| Sunbury | 59 | 33 | 92 | 13 | 13 | 26 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 24 | 27 | 51 | 543 | 579 | 1,122 | 470 | 522 | 992 | 22.03 | 39.39 | 28.26 | 11.86 | 24.24 | 16.30 | 5.11 | 5.17 | 5.14 |
| Ballarat | 41 | 60 | 101 | 15 | 7 | 22 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 18 | 22 | 40 | 249 | 531 | 780 | 221 | 431 | 652 | 36.58 | 11.66 | 21.77 | 9.76 | 3.33 | 5.94 | 8.14 | 5.10 | 6.13 |
| Royal Park | 64 | 126 | 190 | 15 | 18 | 33 | 7 | 9 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 62 | 98 | 160 | 42 | 57 | 99 | 23.43 | 14.28 | 17.36 | 10.94 | 7.14 | 8.42 | 9.52 | 3.50 | 6.06 |
| Mont Park | 10 | 17 | 27 | 1 | 6 | 7 | ... | 3 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 257 | 243 | 500 | 209 | 229 | 438 | 10.00 | 35.29 | 25.93 | ... | 17.65 | 11.11 | 2.87 | 4.80 | 3.88 |
| Total | 434 | 404 | 838 | 87 | 94 | 181 | 58 | 39 | 97 | 231 | 145 | 376 | 2,909 | 3,088 | 5,997 | 2,620 | 2,727 | 5,347 | 20.05 | 23.27 | 21.60 | 13.36 | 9.65 | 11.58 | 8.82 | 5.32 | 7.03 |

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died, during the Year 1922, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1922.

| Ages. | Admitted. | | | Discharged. | | | | | | Escaped Patients not Retaken. | | | Died. | | Remaining on 31st December, 1922. | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Male. | Female. | Total. | Recovered. | | | Relieved. | | | Not Improved. | | | Male. | Female. | Total. | Male. | Female. | Total. | | | |
| | | | | Male. | Female. | Total. | Male. | Female. | Total. | Male. | Female. | Total. | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 5 years | 2 | 4 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 6 | 4 | 10 | | | |
| 5 years and under 10 years | 7 | 7 | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 4 | 25 | 23 | 48 | | | |
| 10 " | 7 | 5 | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | 35 | 25 | 61 | | | |
| 15 " | 13 | 14 | 27 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 5 | 66 | 51 | 117 | | | |
| 20 " | 45 | 28 | 73 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 148 | 105 | 253 | | | |
| 25 " | 44 | 37 | 81 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 2 | 3 | ... | 10 | ... | 10 | 198 | 164 | 362 | | | |
| 30 " | 39 | 39 | 78 | 18 | 13 | 31 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 241 | 232 | 473 | | | |
| 35 " | 41 | 43 | 84 | 9 | 10 | 19 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 1 | ... | ... | 13 | ... | 13 | 318 | 304 | 622 | | | |
| 40 " | 42 | 43 | 85 | 10 | 14 | 24 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 275 | 317 | 592 | | | |
| 45 " | 33 | 45 | 78 | 11 | 7 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 314 | 364 | 678 | | | |
| 50 " | 47 | 46 | 93 | 6 | 16 | 22 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 3 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 27 | 358 | 392 | 750 | | | |
| 55 " | 29 | 16 | 45 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 30 | 325 | 391 | 716 | | | |
| 60 " | 25 | 27 | 52 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 7 | ... | 7 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 16 | 211 | 250 | 461 | | | |
| 65 " | 21 | 20 | 41 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 22 | ... | 22 | 154 | 171 | 325 | | | |
| 70 " | 15 | 9 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 11 | ... | 11 | 83 | 92 | 175 | | | |
| 75 " | 12 | 9 | 21 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 17 | ... | 17 | 37 | 65 | 102 | | | |
| 80 " | 7 | 4 | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | ... | 11 | 20 | 23 | 60 | | | |
| 85 " | 4 | 2 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... | 6 | 15 | 19 | 34 | | | |
| 90 " | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 7 | 11 | | | |
| Unknown... | ... | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 73 | 74 | 147 | | | |
| Total | 434 | 404 | 838 | 87 | 94 | 181 | 58 | 39 | 97 | 11 | 10 | 21 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 231 | 2,909 | 3,088 | 5,997 | | |
| Hospitals for the Insane, Mean Age | 44.96 | 44.76 | 44.86 | 42.19 | 41.94 | 42.06 | 43.28 | 42.89 | 43.12 | 49.00 | 50.80 | 49.90 | 45.63 | 40.00 | 45.00 | 57.59 | 58.68 | 58.02 | 47.60 | 49.67 | 48.67 |
| Idiot Asylum, Mean Age | 14.33 | 11.18 | 12.82 | ... | ... | ... | 12.00 | 22.00 | 15.33 | 20.00 | ... | 20.00 | ... | ... | ... | 19.12 | 22.49 | 19.86 | 14.02 | 20.06 | 17.84 |

TABLE VIII.—Showing the Probable Causes of Insanity in the Patients Admitted during the Year 1922.

| Causes of Insanity. | Number of Instances in which each Cause was Assigned. | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|------------------------------------|--------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-----|
| | Admissions | | | No. of Cases— | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 434 Males, 404 Females, 838 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) | ... | ... | 5 | 21 | 26 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 21 | 26 | |
| Adverse Circumstances (including business anxieties and pecuniary difficulties)... | ... | ... | 4 | 6 | 10 | 1 | ... | 1 | 5 | 6 | 11 | |
| Mental Anxiety and Worry (not included under the above two heads), and Over Work ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 17 | 15 | 32 | ... | 5 | 5 | 18 | 20 | 38 |
| Religious Excitement ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| Love Affairs (including seduction) ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | |
| Fright and Nervous Shock ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 5 | |
| PHYSICAL. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Intemperance in Drink ... | 6 | 1 | 7 | 48 | 13 | 61 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 62 | 18 | 80 |
| Intemperance (sexual) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Veneral Disease ... | 16 | 1 | 17 | 24 | 1 | 25 | ... | 1 | 1 | 41 | 3 | 44 |
| Self Abuse (sexual) ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Over Exertion ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Sunstroke ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Accident or Injury ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 9 | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | 10 |
| Pregnancy ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 6 | 6 |
| Parturition and the Puerperal state ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 11 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 12 | 12 |
| Lactation ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Uterine and Ovarian Disorder ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Puberty ... | 3 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 15 | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 9 | 20 |
| Change of Life ... | ... | 19 | 19 | ... | 15 | 15 | ... | 5 | 5 | ... | 39 | 39 |
| Fevers ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Privation and Starvation ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Old Age... .. | 57 | 34 | 91 | 4 | 18 | 22 | ... | 11 | 11 | 61 | 63 | 124 |
| Other Bodily Diseases or Disorders ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 26 | 34 | 60 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 33 | 36 | 69 |
| Previous Attacks ... | 26 | 30 | 56 | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 13 | 21 | 34 | 43 | 77 |
| Hereditary Influences ascertained (direct and collateral) | 43 | 59 | 102 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 | 59 | 102 |
| Congenital Defect ascertained | 54 | 49 | 103 | 13 | 4 | 17 | ... | 9 | 9 | 68 | 62 | 130 |
| Other ascertained Causes ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Unknown ... | 24 | 7 | 31 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 26 | 13 | 39 | 53 | 25 | 78 |
| War Strain ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Drug Habit ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 |
| Epilepsy ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Total ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 463 | 433 | 896 |
| Deduct for combined Causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 | 29 | 58 |
| Total Admissions ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 434 | 404 | 838 |

TABLE IX.—Showing the Form of Mental Disorder on Admission in the Admissions, Recoveries, and Deaths for the Year 1922, and the Form of Mental Disorder of the Patients remaining on Books on 31st December, 1922.

| 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 | 13 | 17 | 30 | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 9 | 23 | 111 | 88 | 199 |
| (b) Without epilepsy | 50 | 38 | 88 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 13 | 28 | 342 | 338 | 680 |
| 2. Moral | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| II. Insanity occurring later in life— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Insanity with Epilepsy | 9 | 10 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 115 | 114 | 229 |
| 2. General Paralysis of the Insane | 37 | 3 | 40 | ... | ... | ... | 39 | 4 | 43 | 44 | 14 | 58 |
| 3. Insanity of the grosser brain lesions | 8 | 4 | 12 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| 4. Acute delirium (acute delirious mania) | 12 | 4 | 16 | 11 | 1 | 12 | 3 | ... | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 5. Confusional Insanity | 18 | 29 | 47 | 13 | 5 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 21 |
| 6. Stupor | 2 | 2 | 4 | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 7. Primary Dementia | 63 | 50 | 113 | 7 | 10 | 17 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 386 | 370 | 756 |
| 8. Mania : | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Recent | 22 | 26 | 48 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 8 | 20 | 28 |
| (b) Chronic | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 53 | 168 | 221 |
| (c) Recurrent | 13 | 17 | 30 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 52 | 50 | 102 |
| 9. Melancholia : | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Recent | 39 | 58 | 97 | 13 | 16 | 29 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 30 | 32 | 62 |
| (b) Chronic | 3 | 8 | 11 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 30 | 53 | 83 |
| (c) Recurrent | 2 | 11 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 20 | 31 |
| 10. Alternating Insanity | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | 2 | 8 | 12 | 20 |
| 11. Delusional Insanity: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Systematized | 11 | 12 | 23 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 40 | 63 | 103 |
| (b) Non-systematized | 45 | 39 | 84 | 13 | 18 | 31 | 25 | 9 | 32 | 213 | 276 | 489 |
| 12. Volitional Insanity : | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Impulse | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (b) Obsession | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| (c) Doubt | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 13. Moral Insanity | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 14. Dementia : | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Senile | 63 | 47 | 110 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 46 | 33 | 79 | 203 | 213 | 416 |
| (b) Secondary or Terminal | 23 | 22 | 45 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 41 | 23 | 64 | 954 | 896 | 1,850 |
| On Trial, Leave, or Boarded Out | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 8 | 10 | 279 | 332 | 611 |
| Total | 434 | 404 | 838 | 87 | 94 | 181 | 231 | 145 | 376 | 2,909 | 3,088 | 5,997 |

TABLE X.—Showing the condition as to Marriage in Patients Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died during the Year 1922, and of Patients Remaining on the books, 31st December, 1922.

| Condition in Reference to Marriage. | Admitted. | | | Discharged. | | | | | | | | | Escaped Patients not Retaken. | | | Died. | | | Patients Remaining, 31st December, 1922. | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 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 ... | 237 | 161 | 398 | 49 | 38 | 87 | 31 | 17 | 48 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 4 | ... | 4 | 96 | 68 | 164 | 1,997 | 1,652 | 3,649 |
| Married | 138 | 156 | 294 | 35 | 49 | 84 | 17 | 19 | 36 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 85 | 41 | 126 | 571 | 963 | 1,534 |
| Widowed | 26 | 57 | 83 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | ... | 1 | 26 | 28 | 54 | 63 | 227 | 290 |
| Divorced | 4 | 3 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 14 |
| Unknown | 5 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 5 | 75 | 57 | 132 |
| Total | 410 | 382 | 792 | 87 | 94 | 181 | 54 | 37 | 91 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 214 | 140 | 354 | 2,710 | 2,909 | 5,619 |

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

TABLE XI.—Showing the Causes of Deaths during the Year 1922.

| Cause of Death. | Yarra Bend. | | Kew. | | Kew Idiot Asylum. | | Ararat. | | 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 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Menigitis | 13 | 22 | 22 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| General Paralysis of the Insane | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Cerebral Softening | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Epilepsy and Convulsions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Hemiplegia, Apoplexy, Cerebral Hemorrhage, Cerebral Embolism | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Other Organic Diseases of Brain, <i>including</i> Tumours | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Exhaustion from Mania or Melancholia, not caused by Nervous Disease otherwise designated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Paraplegia and Diseases of Cord, Locomotor Ataxia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Neuritis and General Sclerosis of Nervous System | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Diseases of Blood Vessels— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aneurism, Arterio-Sclerosis, and other diseases not included in Diseases of Nervous System | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Diseases of Respiratory System and Thorax— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pulmonary Phthisis | 10 | 7 | 23 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Pleurisy | ... | ... | ... | 30 | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | | | |
| Other forms of Pulmonary disease | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Diseases of Heart— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Valvular Disease, Fatty Degeneration, Cardiac Syncope, &c. | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 35 | | | |
| Diseases of Digestive System— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diseases of Mouth, Pharynx, Stomach (non-malignant) | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Intestines, Liver, and Peritoneum (non-tubercular) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Diseases of Genito-Urinary System— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diseases of Kidney, Bladder, Prostate, &c. | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| General Diseases— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dysentery (Colitis), Epidemic Diarrhoea, Infective Enteritis | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Diarrhoea not otherwise designated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Abscess, Pyæmia, Septicæmia, and Cellulitis | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Typhoid, Influenza, and other Fevers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Cancer, Carcinoma, Sarcoma, Malignant Disease, <i>excluding</i> Malignant Tumour of Brain | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | 6 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Syphilis and other Venereal Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| General Tuberculosis and Tubercle of Organs other than Lungs | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Diseases of Thyroid, Lymphatic, and other glands | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Atrophy, Debility, and Old Age | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 19 | | | |
| Accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Suicides | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | |
| Total | 40 | 23 | 63 | 75 | 33 | 108 | 17 | 5 | 22 | 43 | 24 | 27 | 51 | 18 | 40 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 231 | 145 | 376 |

Ascertained by post-mortem examinations—males, 186; females, 100. Total, 286.

BOARDED OUT ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1922.

| Patients boarded out to— | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Private Individuals | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Ballarat Benevolent Asylum | 9 | 35 | 44 |
| Bendigo Benevolent Asylum | 7 | 19 | 26 |
| Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum | 28 | 13 | 41 |
| Total | 52 | 72 | 124 |

These Institutions were visited regularly, at least once every quarter by the Medical Officers attached to the Department, and the conditions generally of these patients has been quite satisfactory.

NURSING EXAMINATIONS, 1922.

| | No. of Candidates. | Passed. | Failed. |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| First Year—Attendants .. | 34 | 10 | 24 |
| Nurses .. | 63 | 29 | 34 |
| Second Year—Attendants .. | 29 | 19 | 10 |
| Nurses .. | 33 | 21 | 12 |
| Third Year—Attendants .. | 12 | 4 | 8 |
| Nurses .. | 16 | 7 | 9 |

For the purposes of these examinations, the Inspector-General had the assistance of Drs. A. J. Philpott and J. T. Hollow, Medical Superintendents of Royal Park and Kew respectively.

The proportion of passes has not been so satisfactory during the last two years.

STATE INSTITUTIONS.

Admissions.—Of the 838 patients admitted into the State Hospitals, 718 were first admissions and 120 were re-admissions; but of these numbers 569 persons had previously been in a receiving house or ward. Into the latter institutions there were 875 admissions during the year, as well as 113 voluntary admissions. The total number of these admissions have reached the very considerable number of 1,257 persons. As far as the State is concerned, the important fact is that there were 838 admissions into our already overcrowded institutions, and that a very considerable proportion of them were unfavorable, so far as their chances of recovery were concerned; 14 per cent. were congenital mental deficient, a similar percentage were cases of primary dementia (*dementia precox*), and the same percentages were attributable to delusional insanity in its various forms, and senility. In no less than 110 patients senile decay was attributed as the cause of insanity; 63 were over the age of 70 years, and quite a large number of these cases were sent in the first instance to receiving houses, pointing to some lack of discrimination on the part of the certifying Medical Practitioners. Alcoholism, whether as an exciting or a predisposing factor, is assumed to be the cause of 9·6 per cent. of the admissions; moral or psychic influences account for 9 per cent., whilst hereditary influences are attributed to 12·2 per cent. It is satisfactory to note, however, that the number of patients admitted suffering from general paralysis of the insane is diminishing year by year; the admissions total less than half that of ten years ago. This is explicable on the supposition that the modern treatment of syphilis is effective in preventing the occurrence of the later manifestations of that disease.

Discharges.—

TABLE.

| | Hospitals for the Insane. | | | Receiving Houses and Ward. | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------|--------|----------------------------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Recovered | 87 | 94 | 181 | 112 | 76 | 188 |
| Relieved | 58 | 39 | 97 | 14 | 32 | 46 |
| Not improved | 11 | 10 | 21 | 18 | 10 | 28 |
| | 156 | 143 | 299 | 144 | 118 | 262 |

The total discharge rate over the whole of the admissions into these institutions amounts to 49 per cent., of sound recoveries approximately only 32 per cent.; but this is hardly to be wondered at, seeing the large number of congenital, senile, and other chronic cases which have been admitted. Another factor in producing the low-recovery rate is unquestionably the success of the voluntary boarder system, under which are admitted to the various institutions early and recoverable cases in quite appreciable numbers.

Deaths.—The deaths number 231 males and 145 females, total 376, in the State Hospitals. There were also four male deaths in receiving houses. This is the lowest death rate recorded for twelve years, and indicates a greater freedom from epidemics than has been the case in previous years. The number of deaths to the average number resident is the low one of 7 per cent. Forty of the deaths were due to general paralysis of the insane, 34 to phthisis, and 80 to other pulmonary conditions; 56 were attributed to heart disease, 28 to diseases of the urinary system, and 39 to senile decay.

Amongst the deaths were certain calling for special comment. At Mont Park a voluntary boarder, who was at the same time out on trial leave from Royal Park, hanged himself in a shed in the garden. He had succeeded in making his escape through a lavatory window in one of the farm worker's cottages. He had not previously been regarded as suicidal.

An idiot boy, aged 21, at the Children's Cottages died accidentally from food suffocation, and one child, who was out on trial leave to her own home, was accidentally burnt to death. At Royal Park a female patient working in the laundry, who was not regarded as suicidal, impulsively threw herself on to a copper containing boiling water. She subsequently died from exhaustion from the severe scalds which she sustained. At Sunbury a male patient choked himself at dinner as a result of gulping a large quantity of meat and vegetables. All these accidental deaths were carefully inquired into, and no blame was attributable to any particular official.

Post-mortem examinations were made in 286 cases ; that is to say, in all those dying in the Metropolitan Institutions, Sunbury, and the Private Licensed Houses. In certain of the country hospitals *post-mortem* examinations are only undertaken at the express request of the Medical Officers themselves. It is desirable that *post-mortem* examinations should be held on all the cases, but the time of the Pathologist to the Department is being unduly taken up by the making of routine *post-mortems* when it would be better spent in research work.

Deaths in Licensed Houses.—There were two suicides by voluntary boarders in Private Licensed Houses. In one case a male patient at “St. Helen’s” succeeded in cutting his throat under circumstances which did not point to neglect on the part of any member of the staff, although he was regarded as depressed. In the other case a female patient, a voluntary boarder at “Merton,” who was known to be suicidal, and was specially under the observation of two night nurses, managed to make her escape from the room in which she had been put to bed and, passing by these two night nurses, succeeded in making her escape, subsequently drowning herself in the Bay. These two nurses were guilty of the gravest negligence.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, YARRA BEND.

At the beginning of the year there were 699 patients in residence. There were 145 admissions and 34 transfers from other institutions ; discharges totalled 57, transfers from the institution 59, and the deaths numbered 62, leaving at the end of the year a total of 703 patients.

The only subject for comment was the fact that there were 6 cases of typhoid fever—2 nurses, 2 male, and 2 female patients. Although all made satisfactory recoveries, one of the nurses had a very severe attack and suffered a prolonged convalescence.

Accidental injuries were few and restraint and seclusion reduced to the use of soft gloves for patients of destructive habits.

In accordance with past Ministerial directions, nothing has been done to restore the dilapidations which have been steadily progressing for years.

After many years’ service in the Department, Dr. John Steele retired, and was succeeded by Dr. John Catarinich, who has been appointed as Medical Superintendent of both Yarra Bend and Mont Park definitely with the intention of arranging the work of transferring the patients from the former to the latter institution.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, KEW.

There were 849 patients resident in Kew at the beginning of the year, and these increased to 874 at the end of 1922. There were 208 receptions and 55 transfers to Kew. Recoveries totalled 49 and deaths 108. At the end of the year 137 patients remained on trial leave, whilst 3 were boarded out.

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. T. Hollow, who has succeeded Dr. Morris Gamble as charge of this institution, reports on the large number of chronic and incurable cases which were received. Senile conditions appeared to be the cause in at least 20 per cent.

The deaths called for no especial comment, beyond the fact that 4·5 per cent. were due to consumption and 28 per cent. were due to lung diseases other than phthisis ; 22 per cent. were due to general paralysis of the insane.

There were four major casualties and two attempts at suicide ; none, however, were fatal. It was not found necessary to use either restraint or seclusion.

The Superintendent comments on the necessity for a greater expenditure on general repairs and maintenance of the buildings. He urges that new quarters should be built for the nurses and that the floor coverings should be renewed throughout the institution, and he particularly instances the desideratum that electric lighting should be installed. There can be no doubt that it would prove a considerable economy, and there is no question as to its desirability from the point of view of efficiency and safety.

In his report Dr. Hollow also draws particular attention to the necessity for the appointment of a dentist ; and with regard to the nursing staff he regrets that the class of applicant now coming forward for this work does not stand comparison with those who entered the Service before the war.

CHILDREN'S COTTAGES, KEW.

There were 46 receptions and 4 transfers admitted during the year; 5 were transferred away and 6 allowed to go to their friends. There were 20 deaths—one of which has been elsewhere referred to.

The Children's Cottages as an institution require a great deal of attention and expenditure to make it even reasonably efficient. The main sewers have been laid and connexions have been made with certain of the sanitary blocks; but this work is still unfinished, and the double-pan system is operative in some portions of the institution. This fact, added to the fly plague which summer brings annually to this institution, accounts for the prevalence of epidemic disorders; the principal one—typhoid fever—has, however, been kept in check by protective inoculation. Nevertheless, epidemic disorders are always rife in this institution, and a proper isolation block should be provided, as well as a steam-disinfecting apparatus.

Additional accommodation is required—especially for the boys—and the various blocks should be linked together by properly-constructed covered ways.

A special messroom and kitchen are necessary for the nursing staff, and finally the appointments of trained instructors should be made for this institution, in order that the less imbecile may be given such education as will enable them to be made more useful inhabitants, and as a prelude to industrial pursuits suitable to the capacity of the inmates.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, ARARAT.

The numbers during the year decreased from 643 to 637; there were 19 admissions, 17 transfers from other hospitals, 12 discharges, and 26 deaths. At the end of the year there were 7 patients on trial leave.

The Medical Superintendent reports that the general health of the patients has been good, and no epidemic disorders occurred. The deaths were all due to natural causes; the ages of 12 of the patients so dying were 65 years or over.

Restraint was necessary in the case of two female patients who were very violent, one having attempted strangulation.

The two outstanding requirements in this institution are, first, the provision of a nursing home to accommodate the chief nurse and some 40 or more female nurses. This will have the effect of setting free additional accommodation for female patients. The second great need is the installation of a water-borne sewage scheme. The present double-pan system, although carefully carried out, is an anachronism in an institution of this description. It is estimated that the institution could be properly sewered for a sum of £8,200.

At the Criminal Ward an external airing court should be provided, so that the patients could see something beyond the rough bluestone walls. The old wooden lockup single rooms should be abolished and a properly-constructed spur consisting of 18 or 20 single rooms should replace them. The Gaol Ward should also be sewered. It must be remembered that this ward is frankly a gaol and nothing else. It is separated from the main institution by nearly 2 miles, and cannot therefore be under the complete supervision, as it should be, at the hands of the medical officers. The alterations suggested are necessary if this institution is to be retained, otherwise it will be necessary to build another ward for these extremely difficult and troublesome patients. The Ararat institutions have suffered considerably during the year as a result of the retirement of some of the senior officers.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, BEECHWORTH.

At the end of the year there were 627 patients in residence, two more than there were at the commencement.

This institution generally is in good order. The class of patient maintained therein is not difficult to deal with. They are mostly of the quiet and chronic class, and the institution is kept supplied, so far as numbers are concerned, principally by transferences from the metropolitan institutions. The number of admissions from the North-Eastern District is always very small.

Dr. Naylor has succeeded Dr. Catarinich in the Superintendship of the institution, and he reports that this institution would be greatly improved by the following additions:—A water-borne sewage scheme, the plans for which have been prepared

and which is estimated to cost £8,000; a female hospital ward, to contain from 30 to 40 beds; electric lighting to replace the very inferior illumination by gas; and the erection of a cottage for the Head Attendant.

If this institution is to be increased in size, additional land will be required for farming purposes.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, SUNBURY.

On 1st January, 1922, there were resident in the hospital 976 patients, and at the end of the year the numbers had increased to 997. There were 92 admissions, 26 recoveries, and 41 deaths. Five voluntary boarders were received, all of whom were discharged during the year. There was one fatality, elsewhere referred to. The remaining injuries were comparatively slight and call for no comment. Restraint was necessary in the cases of two patients for violence and self-mutilation.

Generally speaking, the health of the patients was satisfactory, quite a large proportion of the deaths being due to senile decay. A large number of patients are boarded out from this institution to the Bendigo and Castlemaine Benevolent Asylums. They are periodically visited by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Adey, who has succeeded Dr. Lethbridge, recently retired, after holding the appointment for 21 years.

Sunbury has almost reached its maximum accommodation, principally owing to the fact that there is difficulty in properly constructing wards on the land at present unoccupied, and also because of the inefficient water service. An additional 6-in. main is necessary to supply the total amount required and to give adequate pressure for fire-fighting purposes.

A nurses' home, to accommodate from 50 to 60 nurses, is also greatly to be desired, as well as a modern recreation-room for entertainments, dances, and divine service. The existing iron drill-room is quite inadequate for such purposes.

When a proper water supply has been assured, it is desirable that this institution should be sewerred, and a further requirement is a good cool store for the reception of perishable foodstuffs.

HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, BALLARAT.

There were 147 admissions during the year, 29 discharges, and 40 deaths. The numbers remaining at the end of the year were 681. There were, however, 53 patients on trial leave and 46 patients boarded out in the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum.

Of the 40 deaths 13 were due to old age, and of the remainder there was no special cause standing out prominently. The institution was free from epidemics, and the accidents were comparatively trivial. One patient had to be repeatedly secluded for homicidal violence, and three female patients had to be restrained principally for surgical reasons or to prevent self-mutilation.

The remodelled female hospital ward was put into commission, and will provide very excellent accommodation for the sick and the very helpless female patients.

The Medical Superintendent in his reports comments on the various requirements of this institution, which are as follows:—Accommodation for the nurses and a new house for the Secretary; a new general store and a steam sterilizer; a properly-equipped sewing-room and a block of single rooms on the male side.

Other requirements are: A ward for refractory female patients, the extension of the electric lighting system, and covered ways on the female side. The male block requires very considerable renovation, additions of fire escapes and sanitary spurs are necessary. A considerable amount of repairs to asphalt is necessary.

A good deal of work has been done in improving the grounds of this institution, and effective repairs have been provided for the sewerage system and the pumping plant connected therewith.

Ballarat Hospital for the Insane contains an abnormally large number of epileptic patients. There are quite a large number of this class in other institutions, and it is desirable that fresh accommodation should be provided for them. It would probably be wiser to provide additional epileptic accommodation in the metropolitan institutions, as there is always considerable objection made by the relatives to epileptic patients being sent to one institution where they are not always able to visit them.

ROYAL PARK (MENTAL HOSPITAL).

This institution, which is worked in connexion with the Receiving House, has become the principal institution for the treatment of early cases of mental disorder.

Admissions numbered 193, discharges 49, whilst 106 were sent on to other institutions. Four males and 2 females died, but of these 3 of the former and 1 of the latter died whilst on leave with their friends; 63 cases were sent out on trial leave.

At the beginning of the year there were 14 voluntary boarders in residence and 89 were subsequently received. Of these 70 made good recoveries and 24 were certified to the Receiving House.

Dr. Philpott comments on the comparatively large number of alcoholic cases who have been in the institution on more than one occasion.

During the year the health of the inmates has been good and the conduct of the staff quite satisfactory.

Considerable renovation, internal painting, and decoration has been undertaken; but, in order to bring the institution up to its former standard, the Superintendent asks that new floor coverings and repairs to furniture should be undertaken.

The water supply has not always been satisfactory, and a great deal of inconvenience has been experienced owing to the extremely bad condition in which all of the roads about these Government institutions are kept.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, MONT PARK.

The numbers have risen from 425 to 437 during the year. There were 27 direct admissions and 42 transfers, 11 discharges and 17 deaths.

The general health of the inmates has been good, except for a few sporadic cases of colitis amongst the elderly female patients. One voluntary boarder committed suicide by strangulation, otherwise there were no accidents to report. No necessity arose for the use of restraint or seclusion.

Dr. Catarinich has taken over the charge of Mont Park *vice* Dr. J. T. Hollow, transferred to Kew. Dr. Cade was appointed Senior Medical Officer and has charge of the military mental cases.

A great deal of work has been undertaken in laying out the grounds of this new institution, but progress has been slow, owing to the comparatively small numbers of patients in residence and the consequent weakness of the staff.

Quarters to accommodate the Chief Nurse and 62 nurses were completed, but are not yet furnished. Work is proceeding in connexion with the laundry extension, and airing court railings are being erected in front of the chronic block.

Until the military mental cases are removed from Wards 11 and 12 of the chronic block, very little progress can be made in making the chronic block ready for the reception of the patients from Yarra Bend.

MILITARY MENTAL HOSPITAL, MONT PARK.

At the beginning of the year there were 100 patients in residence, and this number had increased to 107 at the end of the year, whilst there were 17 on leave.

The admissions totalled 29 and the discharges 13. There were 4 deaths—1 from pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 from general paralysis, and 1 patient died at home whilst on trial leave.

The principal causes of insanity amongst the patients in residence during the year were as follows:—

| | | |
|----|----------|----------------------|
| 8 | cases of | general paralysis. |
| 62 | „ | dementia praecox. |
| 20 | „ | delusional insanity. |
| 12 | „ | terminal dementia. |

The large number of cases of dementia praecox renders a good recovery rate unlikely. The patients at present in the hospital are largely of the troublesome and unfavorable class.

As this institution belongs to the Department of Repatriation, it is desirable that the Medical Officer's report on requirements, &c., should be set forth *in extenso*. Dr. Cade reports as follows:—

(1) The wards throughout are kept in a clean and sanitary condition. The ceilings generally require recalcimining, and there is ample evidence of the necessity of repainting interiors in the whole of that portion of the building occupied by the Repatriation mental patients.

(2) *Dormitories*.—The dormitories from a hygienic point of view are quite satisfactory, the design of the buildings providing, by means of a modern up-to-date system of ventilation, for a plentiful supply of fresh air. The floors are kept clean and the atmosphere of the rooms is free from unpleasant odours.

Unfortunately, the limited space available does not permit of a satisfactory scheme of classification of patients.

There is no special ward for the sick, who have to remain in their beds in the general dormitories. There are no means of isolating those who may become affected with infections or contagious diseases.

A large number of single rooms would be an advantage, both for the better type of patients who sometimes appreciate the privacy of a room to themselves and for those special patients (*e.g.*, the dangerous, destructive, and degraded type, &c.) who require isolation. Many of the single rooms, as regards their walls and ceilings, are very dirty and dingy-looking. This is mainly due to the insane and degraded habits of some of those who are, perforce, put into them.

Bedding.—A new supply of mattresses, sheets, and pillow-slips is urgently required. Permission has been obtained to procure some canvas rugs and bedding, which are an absolute necessity—one patient alone being responsible for the destruction of from three to four blankets a night on frequent occasions, in addition to tearing up the linoleum on the floor of his single room and committing other acts of destruction.

(3) *Dining-room.*—Here again the subject of classification of patients crops up. They all mess in one room. Those of nicer habits are separated, as much as possible, from those who take their food in a repulsive manner; but a second mess-room for the better class of patients would be a decided advantage.

The enamel ware, both plates and cups, is in a very unsatisfactory state, and the whole of it, with few exceptions, should be condemned and replaced by new ware.

The food appears to be well cooked and the dietary affords plenty of variety. It errs, indeed, on the side of being much too liberal. Meat more than once a day for those patients who are sedentary and unemployable (and there is a big percentage of this type) is harmful. It is quite different in the case of patients who are willing to do a fair amount of daily work.

(4) *Airing Court.*—Lack of means of classification here again is the trouble. There being but one airing court, the well-behaved, the noisy, the refractory, special cases, and the hopelessly demented are all congregated together.

A refractory yard is badly needed.

(5) *Latrine Accommodation.*—The condition of the latrines gives rise to anxiety from time to time. Sewerage connexions are apt to be blocked by the patients. An improvement has been effected lately by the alteration of the shape of the airing court and the inclusion of another latrine. The wooden-hinged seat of the W.C. receptacle and the porcelain basin itself are easily damaged by destructive patients.

(6) *Repairs.*—The premises are being continually damaged by destructive and impulsive patients. There are many broken windows in the wards, as well as other matters urgently calling for attention.

(7) *Clothing, &c., of Patients.*—The adequate supply of shirts, boots, socks, hats, and towels is always a burning question. There should always be on hand a reserve of all the above articles. Patients have been complaining lately of the shortage of towels, many of them having been compelled to use the same one.

The system of condemning in vogue at the hospital, which takes place at irregular intervals, is unsatisfactory and amateurish. Such work can only be done satisfactorily by those who are specially trained for it.

(8) *Amusements.*—As regards amusements, there is little to complain of. Concerts and other entertainments occur at frequent intervals, for which the hospital is deeply indebted to such bodies as the Red Cross Society, the Fathers' Association, and Returned Soldiers' Association, and other societies and private individuals.

(9) *Work.*—More work might be done by patients with advantage to themselves physically and mentally. A certain number have been induced to employ themselves in gardening and cleaning up about the grounds. If a vegetable garden could be established, many more of these patients might be persuaded to engage in a profitable and healthful occupation.

(10) *Staff.*—The work of the staff has been satisfactory; the Charge Attendant is particularly efficient. During my term of office charges have been laid twice against members of the staff. On the first occasion officials of the Repatriation Department conducted the inquiry; on the second the Inspector-General of the Insane, who associated with himself officials from the Repatriation Department. In both cases, I am glad to say, the attendants concerned were able to establish their innocence.

In conclusion, I would respectfully state that the difficulties with which the Medical Officer working in this hospital has to contend are due to—

- (a) The system of dual control by two public departments.
- (b) The absence of means of classification of patients and of isolating the physically sick. This could be overcome, if the patients were moved to the block which has been built for them.
- (c) The lack of a properly-organized system of condemning and replacement of clothing, bedding, boots, and worn-out and destroyed articles generally.
- (d) The difficulty in getting urgent repairs to buildings attended to.
- (e) The absence of any organized effort to do the mending and repairs to clothing, boots, &c. A few philanthropic ladies and a patient or two are the only people who attend to this important matter.
- (f) The absence of a refractory yard.
- (g) Finally, the vague and ill-defined status of the Medical Officer in charge, particularly as regards his administrative and disciplinary powers. As a Medical Officer of the Lunacy Department his duties and responsibilities are clearly defined; but as an officer of the Repatriation Department he appears to be expected to administer an institution without being legally vested with any powers at all by that Department.

RECEIVING HOUSES AND WARDS.

TABLE showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year ended 31st December, 1922.

| | | | | | Male. | Female. | Total. | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|----------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|-------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------|
| In the Institutions, 1st January, 1922 | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 37 | 46 | 83 |
| Cases admitted— | | | | | | | | | | |
| First admissions | | | | | 376 | 299 | 675 | ... | ... | ... |
| Not first admissions | | | | | 92 | 108 | 200 | ... | ... | ... |
| Escaped patients retaken | | | | | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total cases admitted during the year | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 471 | 407 | 878 |
| Total cases under care during the year | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 508 | 453 | 961 |
| Cases discharged— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recovered | | | | | 112 | 76 | 188 | ... | ... | ... |
| Relieved | | | | | 14 | 32 | 46 | ... | ... | ... |
| Not improved | | | | | 18 | 10 | 28 | ... | ... | ... |
| Transferred from the Institutions | | | | | 291 | 278 | 569 | ... | ... | ... |
| Escaped | | | | | 4 | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... |
| Died | | | | | 25 | 14 | 39 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total cases discharged and died during the year | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 464 | 410 | 874 |
| Remaining in the Institutions, 31st December, 1922 | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 44 | 43 | 87 |
| Average number resident during the year | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 38 | 45 | 83 |
| Persons under care during the year | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 496 | 432 | 928 |
| Persons admitted | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 459 | 389 | 848 |
| Persons recovered | | | | | ... | ... | ... | 109 | 74 | 183 |

RECEIVING HOUSE, ROYAL PARK.

The receptions numbered 712—males, 403; females, 309—an increase of 31 males and a decrease of 83 females on last year's figures. The reduced number of female admissions was largely due to the overcrowding and the difficulty of obtaining accommodation in the other hospitals where the available beds were scarce. As a consequence, the number of police cases had to be limited by notice to the Chief Commissioner of Police.

Recoveries numbered 153, and the Medical Superintendent comments on the unfavorable class of cases sent to this institution. He states that no attempt is made to discriminate between the curable and the incurable, and as a consequence 269 cases of those admitted to the Receiving House as only apparently insane were one of these: Epilepsy, primary dementia, general paralysis, systematized delusions, senile dementia or terminal dementia.

A total of 486 patients were transferred to other hospitals; 22 male and 12 female patients died.

Restraint by camisole was necessary in 6 cases—for violence in 4 cases, self-mutilation in 1 case, and surgical reasons in another.

RECEIVING HOUSE, BALLARAT.

There were 111 cases admitted during the year—89 were first admissions and 22 were cases which had previously been admitted.

There were 25 recoveries and 14 other discharges, and 67 patients were transferred to the principal institution at Wendouree.

There were 3 deaths; 2 male patients died of pneumonia, both being in a serious condition on admission, and 1 female patient who died was 80 years of age at the time of her admission.

Dr. Shaw comments on the large proportion of cases admitted that did not come within the category of Receiving House cases.

COST OF MAINTENANCE.

The receipts and expenditure for the financial year 1922-1923 are detailed in the tables herewith, numbered XII., XIII., and XIV. In the latter table the particulars have been set out to show the weekly cost per patient at each of the various Hospitals for Insane in this State, and in the following statement they are contrasted with those for the years 1914 and the last two financial years :—

| Details of the average weekly cost. | 1914. | 1920-21. | 1921-22. | 1922-23. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| Salaries | 7 10½ | 13 0½ | 13 0 | 13 0½ |
| Provisions and Extra Articles | 4 4 | 9 3¾ | 7 0¼ | 5 10¼ |
| Clothing, Bedding and Material for Manufacture | 0 11¾ | 2 5¼ | 1 11¼ | 1 10¾ |
| Stores | 0 4½ | 0 7 | 0 7¾ | 0 7 |
| Fuel, Light and Water | 1 1¾ | 1 7½ | 1 10½ | 1 9½ |
| Medicines and Stimulants | 0 1¾ | 0 2¾ | 0 2½ | 0 2½ |
| Incidentals (Postage, Travelling Expenses, Chaplains Fees, &c.) | 0 2 | 0 2½ | 0 2 | 0 2½ |
| Average weekly cost per patient | 15 0¼ | 27 5¼ | 24 10 | 23 7 |
| <i>Daily Average Number Resident</i> | 5,102 | 5,339 | 5,410 | 5,481 |

The receipts for maintenance of patients for the year 1921-22, collected by the Master-in-Lunacy, were £39,070, but during the year 1922-23 they fell to £34,163.

The total expenditure for the year was £347,287, which is a decrease of £13,591 on the previous year. Approximately one-half of that amount was the result of reductions in the price of provisions.

The following statement is a comparison of the total receipts and expenditure of the Lunacy Department during the financial years 1918-19 to 1922-23 :—

| Year. | Receipts. | Expenditure. |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 1918-19 | 35,775 | 265,175 |
| 1919-20 | 33,621 | 309,531 |
| 1920-21 | 38,474 | 391,216 |
| 1921-22 | 42,980 | 360,878 |
| 1922-23 | 38,716 | 347,287 |

NOTE.—Receipts comprised collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for maintenance of patients, sales of live stock and sundries, fines, and miscellaneous.

The *gross* average weekly cost of maintenance, which in 1920-21 was £1 7s. 5¼d. and in 1921-22 was £1 4s. 10d., has been reduced during the past year to £1 3s. 7d., and the *net* cost (*i.e.*, after deducting collections for maintenance, &c.) was £1 0s. 10¼d.

At the Hospital for the Insane, Royal Park, the gross cost was £2 8s. 2¾d., but at that institution there is a Receiving House where so many newly-received patients are under treatment.

The produce from the farms and gardens of the various Hospitals for the Insane is shown in Table XV. The computed value of this produce was £31,461.

Liberal supplies of milk and vegetables were regularly maintained, and the farm and garden accounts disclose satisfactory results. The surplus of oats, &c., raised at Mont Park was transferred to other Hospitals for the Insane.

DEANE SMITH,
Chief Clerk and Accountant.

TABLE XII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Lunacy Department during the Year ended 30th June, 1923.

| Receipts. | | | Expenditure. | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| | £ | s. d. | | £ | s. d. |
| Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for Maintenance of Patients at the Hospitals for the Insane— | | | General Expenses, Salaries at Head Office, Fees to Official Visitors, Travelling Expenses, Postage and Telegrams, &c. ... | 6,166 | 7 1 |
| Yarra Bend ... | } 34,163 | 18 10 | Maintenance at the Hospitals for the Insane at— | | |
| Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum | | | Yarra Bend ... | 40,696 | 8 5 |
| Ararat ... | | | Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum ... | 68,886 | 17 3 |
| Beechworth ... | | | Ararat ... | 39,766 | 4 9 |
| Sunbury ... | | | Beechworth ... | 36,297 | 4 2 |
| Ballarat and Receiving House ... | | | Sunbury ... | 53,875 | 6 0 |
| Royal Park and Receiving House ... | | | Ballarat and Receiving House... | 43,268 | 5 10 |
| Mont Park ... | Royal Park and Receiving House | 23,575 | 18 5 | | |
| Receiving Ward, Bendigo | Mont Park ... | 30,046 | 7 1 | | |
| Sales ... | Receiving Ward, Bendigo ... | 880 | 7 11 | | |
| Fines ... | | | Expenses in connexion with the Committal and Transport of Lunatics ... | 1,268 | 16 10 |
| Collections ... | 2,694 | 17 11 | Expenses in connexion with Boarded-out Patients ... | 2,559 | 5 9 |
| | 13 | 17 6 | | | |
| | 1,843 | 5 2 | | | |
| Total ... | £38,715 | 19 5 | Total ... | £347,287 | 9 6 |

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 ended 30th June, 1923.

| Hospital for the Insane. | Daily Average Number Resident. | Total Cost of Maintenance. | | Salaries. | | Fees to Official Visitors. | | Allowances to Chaplains. | | Provisions and Extra Articles. | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
| Yarra Bend ... | 695 | 40,696 | 8 5 | 22,545 | 19 6 | ... | 86 | 0 0 | 10,194 | 19 4 | |
| Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum | 1,233 | 68,886 | 17 3 | 39,020 | 14 11 | ... | 96 | 0 0 | 14,834 | 13 11 | |
| Ararat ... | 625 | 39,766 | 4 9 | 21,193 | 18 5 | ... | 147 | 0 0 | 11,185 | 18 6 | |
| Beechworth ... | 617 | 36,297 | 4 2 | 19,424 | 17 7 | ... | 77 | 0 0 | 10,388 | 3 6 | |
| Sunbury ... | 997 | 53,875 | 6 0 | 27,718 | 8 8 | ... | 88 | 0 0 | 15,170 | 17 4 | |
| Ballarat and Receiving House | 676 | 43,268 | 5 10 | 22,259 | 4 7 | ... | 92 | 0 0 | 11,195 | 11 5 | |
| Royal Park and Receiving House | 188 | 23,575 | 18 5 | 16,211 | 18 11 | ... | 34 | 0 0 | 3,769 | 15 9 | |
| Mont Park ... | 450 | 30,046 | 7 1 | 17,594 | 9 11 | ... | 65 | 0 0 | 6,722 | 5 0 | |
| General expenses | ... | 6,166 | 7 1 | 4,425 | 16 9 | 469 10 0 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Total ... | 5,481 | 342,578 | 19 0 | 190,395 | 9 3 | 469 10 0 | 685 | 0 0 | 83,462 | 4 9 | |

| Hospital for the Insane. | 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. | | | |
| Yarra Bend ... | 3,650 | 19 0 | 915 | 19 11 | 2,613 | 4 7 | 279 | 6 5 | 139 | 1 6 | 40 | 2 8 | 230 | 15 6 |
| Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum | 5,916 | 11 6 | 1,809 | 12 8 | 5,991 | 6 0 | 499 | 12 6 | 240 | 15 7 | 206 | 2 3 | 271 | 7 11 |
| Ararat ... | 2,769 | 5 10 | 912 | 6 1 | 3,209 | 5 4 | 184 | 1 11 | 38 | 16 1 | 45 | 16 5 | 79 | 16 2 |
| Beechworth ... | 2,537 | 4 10 | 779 | 7 3 | 2,738 | 15 11 | 123 | 10 4 | 74 | 16 8 | 35 | 19 9 | 117 | 8 4 |
| Sunbury ... | 4,399 | 1 0 | 1,594 | 16 0 | 4,155 | 17 6 | 373 | 3 0 | 58 | 10 0 | 62 | 1 9 | 254 | 10 9 |
| Ballarat and Receiving House | 3,461 | 11 4 | 897 | 1 3 | 4,505 | 11 0 | 435 | 9 4 | 117 | 11 1 | 109 | 16 7 | 194 | 9 3 |
| Royal Park and Receiving House | 1,235 | 16 8 | 632 | 18 7 | 1,237 | 5 11 | 226 | 2 2 | ... | 57 | 15 9 | 170 | 4 8 | |
| Mont Park ... | 2,899 | 12 1 | 885 | 5 7 | 1,122 | 19 11 | 191 | 7 4 | 90 | 17 4 | 44 | 4 10 | 430 | 5 1 |
| General expenses | ... | ... | 91 | 12 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,179 | 7 5 |
| Total ... | 26,870 | 2 3 | 8,519 | 0 3 | 25,574 | 6 2 | 2,312 | 13 0 | 760 | 8 3 | 602 | 0 0 | 2,928 | 5 1 |

TABLE XIV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients during the Year ended 30th June, 1923.

| 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 ... | 695 | 40,696 | 8 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 12 | 5 ³ / ₄ | 0 | 0 | 0 ¹ / ₂ | 0 | 5 | 7 ³ / ₄ |
| Kew and Kew I. A. | 1,233 | 68,886 | 17 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 ¹ / ₄ | 0 | 4 | 7 ³ / ₄ |
| Ararat ... | 625 | 39,766 | 4 | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 13 | 0 ¹ / ₂ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 10 ³ / ₄ |
| Beechworth ... | 617 | 36,297 | 4 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 12 | 1 ¹ / ₄ | 0 | 0 | 0 ¹ / ₂ | 0 | 6 | 5 ³ / ₄ |
| Sunbury ... | 997 | 53,875 | 6 | 0 | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 10 | 8 ¹ / ₂ | 0 | 0 | 0 ¹ / ₄ | 0 | 5 | 10 ¹ / ₄ |
| Ballarat and Receiving House | 676 | 43,668 | 5 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 12 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 ¹ / ₂ | 0 | 6 | 4 ¹ / ₂ |
| Royal Park and Receiving House | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mont Park ... | 450 | 30,046 | 7 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 15 | 0 ¹ / ₂ | 0 | 0 | 0 ¹ / ₂ | 0 | 5 | 9 |
| Total ... | 5,481 | 336,412 | 11 | 11 | 38,715 | 19 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| General expenses | ... | 6,166 | 7 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

| | 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 2 0 ¹ / ₄ | 0 0 6 | 0 1 5 ¹ / ₄ | 0 0 2 | 0 0 1 | ... 0 ¹ / ₄ |
| Kew and Kew I. A. | 0 1 10 ¹ / ₄ | 0 0 6 ¹ / ₄ | 0 1 10 ¹ / ₂ | 0 0 2 | 0 0 1 | 0 0 0 ³ / ₄ |
| Ararat ... | 0 1 8 ¹ / ₂ | 0 0 6 ³ / ₄ | 0 1 11 ³ / ₄ | 0 0 1 ¹ / ₂ | 0 0 0 ¹ / ₄ | 0 0 0 ¹ / ₄ |
| Beechworth ... | 0 1 7 | 0 0 5 ³ / ₄ | 0 1 8 ¹ / ₂ | 0 0 1 | 0 0 0 ¹ / ₂ | 0 0 0 ¹ / ₄ |
| Sunbury ... | 0 1 8 ¹ / ₄ | 0 0 7 ¹ / ₄ | 0 1 7 ¹ / ₄ | 0 0 1 ³ / ₄ | 0 0 0 ¹ / ₄ | 0 0 0 ¹ / ₄ |
| Ballarat and Receiving House | 0 1 11 ³ / ₄ | 0 0 6 | 0 2 6 ³ / ₄ | 0 0 3 | 0 0 0 ³ / ₄ | 0 0 0 ³ / ₄ |
| Royal Park and Receiving House | | | | | | |
| Mont Park ... | 0 2 5 ³ / ₄ | 0 0 9 | 0 0 11 ¹ / ₂ | 0 0 2 | 0 0 1 | 0 0 0 ¹ / ₂ |
| 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, Fees, Fines, &c. | Weekly Cost per Patient, Deducting Collections for Maintenance, Sales, Fees, Fines, &c. |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Yarra Bend ... | 0 0 1 ¹ / ₂ | 1 2 6 ¹ / ₄ | ... | ... |
| Kew and Kew I. A. | 0 0 1 | 1 1 5 ³ / ₄ | ... | ... |
| Ararat ... | 0 0 0 ¹ / ₂ | 1 4 5 ¹ / ₂ | ... | ... |
| Beechworth ... | 0 0 1 | 1 2 7 ¹ / ₂ | ... | ... |
| Sunbury ... | 0 0 1 ¹ / ₄ | 1 0 9 ¹ / ₄ | ... | ... |
| Ballarat and Receiving House | 0 0 1 ¹ / ₄ | 1 4 7 ¹ / ₄ | ... | ... |
| Royal Park and Receiving House | | | | |
| Mont Park ... | 0 0 4 ¹ / ₄ | 1 5 8 | ... | ... |
| Total ... | ... | 1 3 7 | 0 2 8 ¹ / ₂ | 1 0 10 ¹ / ₂ |
| General expenses | ... | 0 0 5 | ... | 0 0 5 |

TABLE XV.—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, 1922.

| Hospital for Insane. | Eggs. | Meat. Poultry, &c. | Milk. | Green Food. | Hay. | Vegetables. | Fruit. |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | doz. | lbs. | qts. | tons. | tons. | lbs. | lbs. |
| Yarra Bend ... | 476 | 3,621 | 103,715 | 75 | 110 | 182,139 | ... |
| Kew ... | 1,899 | 2,974 | 155,082 | 200 | 80 | 583,216 | 12,300 |
| Ararat ... | 72 | 1,065 | 78,927 | 30 | 100 | 186,349 | 3,523 |
| Beechworth ... | 221 | 1,998 | 58,985 | 65 | 160 | 254,531 | 67,159 |
| Sunbury ... | 403 | 2,565 | 109,470 | 50 | 300 | 244,547 | 14,272 |
| Ballarat ... | 261 | 1,680 | 82,145 | 130 | 130 | 246,447 | 9,686 |
| Royal Park ... | 54† | 160 | 40,049 | 40 | 25 | 43,568 | 9,582 |
| Mont Park ... | ... | 3,138 | 75,270 | 110 | 144 | 96,857 | 8,206 |
| Total Value ... | £ s. d. 298 16 6 | £ s. d. 468 14 0 | £ s. d. 13,547 12 8 | £ s. d. 748 15 0 | £ s. d. 5,119 19 0 | £ s. d. 9,071 17 7 | £ s. d. 862 2 1 |

| | Barley. | Firewood. | Root Crops. | Ensilage. | Straw. | Potatoes. | Peas. | Mangels. | Lucerne. |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | tons. | tons. | tons. | tons. | tons. | lbs. | wt. | tons. | tons. |
| Yarra Bend ... | 30 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Kew ... | ... | 300 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ararat ... | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 | ... |
| Beechworth ... | 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 | ... | ... |
| Sunbury ... | ... | 20 | ... | ... | ... | 2,627 | 20 | ... | ... |
| Ballarat ... | 40 | ... | ... | 100 | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Royal Park ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mont Park ... | 2 | 50 | 136 | ... | 60 | ... | ... | ... | 100 |
| Total Value ... | £ s. d. 257 15 0 | £ s. d. 351 5 0 | £ s. d. 151 0 0 | £ s. d. 100 0 0 | £ s. d. 190 12 6 | £ s. d. 10 18 11 | £ s. d. 41 11 0 | £ s. d. 30 0 0 | £ s. d. 200 0 0 |
| Grand total value, £31,460 19s. 3d. | | | | | | | | | |

LICENSED HOUSES.

Table showing Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during 1922, and the numbers remaining on 31st December, 1922.

| Resident in Licensed Houses, 1st January, 1922. | | M. | F. | Total | Total cases under care during the year 1922 | | M. | F. | Total | Total | | M. | F. | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|----|-------|---------------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------|-------|----|----|-----|-------|
| St. Helen's .. | .. | 12 | 11 | 23 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Mt. Ida .. | .. | 3 | 10 | 13 | .. | .. | 2 | 10 | 12 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Merton .. | .. | .. | 16 | 16 | .. | .. | 1 | 4 | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Glen Holme .. | .. | .. | 17 | 17 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| The Tofts .. | .. | .. | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses. | | | | | 15 | 61 | 76 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| St. Helen's .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Mt. Ida .. | .. | 1 | 5 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Glen Holme .. | .. | .. | 8 | 8 | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| The Tofts .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Merton .. | .. | .. | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 4 | 8 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total number on Books of Licensed Houses, 1st January, 1922 | | | | | 2 | 21 | 23 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Received— | | | | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| First Admissions | M. F. T. | 10 | 31 | 41 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Not First Admissions | .. | 3 | 3 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Escapes Retakon | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Transferred from Hospitals for the Insane | .. | 7 | 7 | 14 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Transferred to Licensed Houses from other Licensed Houses | .. | 2 | 2 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 20 | 43 | 63 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| St. Helen's .. | .. | 12 | 12 | 24 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Mt. Ida .. | .. | 1 | 10 | 11 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Merton .. | .. | .. | 6 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Glen Holme .. | .. | .. | 6 | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| The Tofts .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Transferred from Hospitals for Insane Transferred to Licensed Houses from other Licensed Houses | | | | | 13 | 34 | 47 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Escapes retaken .. | .. | .. | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total .. | .. | 20 | 43 | 63 | .. | .. | 20 | 43 | 63 | .. | .. | 3 | 125 | 162 |
| Total cases under care during the year 1922 .. | | | | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

| Total Discharged, Died, Escaped, Transferred to Hospitals for Insane, and Transferred from Licensed Houses to other Licensed Houses | | M. | F. | Total |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| St. Helen's .. | .. | 15 | 10 | 25 |
| Mt. Ida .. | .. | 3 | 13 | 16 |
| Merton .. | .. | .. | 19 | 19 |
| Glen Holme .. | .. | .. | 19 | 19 |
| The Tofts .. | .. | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Total 64 82 | | | | |

| Total Remaining on the Books on 31st December, 1922. | | M. | F. | Total |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| St. Helen's .. | .. | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Mt. Ida .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Merton .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Glen Holme .. | .. | .. | 5 | 5 |
| The Tofts .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Total 16 22 | | | | |

| On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses. | | M. | F. | Total |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| St. Helen's .. | .. | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Mt. Ida .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Merton .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Glen Holme .. | .. | .. | 5 | 5 |
| The Tofts .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Total 9 22 | | | | |

| Total number of patients on the Books on 31st December, 1922 | | M. | F. | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| St. Helen's .. | .. | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Mt. Ida .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Merton .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Glen Holme .. | .. | .. | 5 | 5 |
| The Tofts .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Total 9 22 | | | | |

| Total number of patients on the Books on 31st December, 1922 | | M. | F. | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| St. Helen's .. | .. | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Mt. Ida .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Merton .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Glen Holme .. | .. | .. | 5 | 5 |
| The Tofts .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 |
| Total 9 22 | | | | |

| N.B.—This table does not include Voluntary Boarders, which are set out hereunder. | | On Books, 1.1.22. | | Remaining, 31.12.22. | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------|----|----------------------|----|----|-------|
| | | M. | F. | Total | M. | F. | Total |
| St. Helen's .. | .. | 5 | 7 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Mount Ida .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Merton .. | .. | .. | 8 | 8 | .. | 9 | 9 |
| Glen Holme .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | .. | 11 | 11 |
| The Tofts .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Total .. | .. | 5 | 21 | 26 | 4 | 28 | 32 |

VOLUNTARY BOARDERS.

TABLE 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, 1922.

| | Male. | Female. | Total. | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------|
| Remaining in the Institutions on the 1st January, 1922— | | | | | | |
| In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ... | 16 | 10 | 26 | ... | ... | ... |
| In Licensed Houses | 5 | 21 | 26 | ... | ... | ... |
| Admissions— | | | | | | |
| In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ... | 81 | 32 | 113 | ... | ... | ... |
| In Licensed Houses | 17 | 46 | 63 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total cases under care during the year | ... | ... | ... | 119 | 109 | 228 |
| Discharged— | | | | | | |
| Recovered— | | | | | | |
| In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ... | 67 | 23 | 90 | ... | ... | ... |
| In Licensed Houses | 15 | 28 | 43 | ... | ... | ... |
| Certified as Insane or Apparently Insane— | | | | | | |
| In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ... | 21 | 9 | 30 | ... | ... | ... |
| In Licensed Houses | 2 | 7 | 9 | ... | ... | ... |
| Died— | | | | | | |
| In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| In Licensed Houses | 1 | 4 | 5 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total discharged | ... | ... | ... | 107 | 71 | 178 |
| Remaining in Institutions on 31st December, 1922— | | | | | | |
| In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ... | 8 | 10 | 18 | ... | .. | ... |
| In Licensed Houses | 4 | 28 | 32 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total remaining | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 38 | 50 |

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY, ROYAL PARK.

1ST JANUARY, 1923.

SIR,

I beg to submit a report on the pathological work for the year 1922. During the year I made 189 *post-mortem* examinations at the following places:—Kew, 66 male 27 females; Royal Park, 19 males 9 females; Yarra Bend, 30 males 19 females; Mont Park, 5 males 8 females; private licensed houses, 3 males 3 females; total, 189.

Of these 189 cases 29 had been submitted for examination by the Wassermann test for syphilis, and 25 gave a positive reaction. It is a pity that more advantage is not taken of the Pathological Laboratory at Royal Park, as out of the 189 *post-mortems* 106 showed evidence of syphilis, and the Wassermann test would have made the clinical diagnosis an *ante-mortem* one instead of the disease being discovered *post-mortem*. That 160 out of 189 cases had not been submitted to the test shows that the value of the test is not appreciated. Of the general paralytics which were examined *post-mortem* only one of those tested by the Wassermann during life gave a negative result, and this one gave three negatives, probably due to some of the causes which bring about the anomalous results that crop up from time to time in this disease. The patient was typically syphilitic, and ran the rapid course of less than twelve months from the time of the first mental symptoms. The blood only in this case was submitted for examination. The C.S. fluid should be submitted in every case where G.P.I. is suspected.

Twenty-one out of 23 patients under 30 years of age were found *post-mortem* to have definite syphilitic changes. As indications of the age to which the Wassermann test can detect the syphilitic element the following cases are quoted:—

Female, aet 61, organic dementia (arteriopathic), Wassermann positive.

Male, aet 64, G.P.I., Wassermann positive.

Male, 57, G.P.I., Wassermann positive.

Female, 59 confusional, Wassermann positive.

Male, 64 confusional, Wassermann positive.

This year, as usual, there were patients who developed typhoid at the Idiot Cottages, Kew, where the obsolete pan closets fulfil the requirements of a perfect distributing centre for the typhoid organism. Making vaccines and testing the blood

of suspects from this building are a waste of valuable energy and money, which could be avoided for all time by the installation of correct methods for the disposal of excreta.

Now that the Yarra about the Yarra Bend Hospital for the Insane has become a recognised bathing ground and a locality for aquatic sports, I feel I have to repeat the same objection that I made in 1912 to the mortuary of that institution. Briefly put, it is contrary to all the recognised laws of preventive medicine, and if the Yarra Bend is to remain in part or whole, I strongly recommend that a mortuary be built off the road leading past the office, to connect with the sewerage system which supplies the Acute Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Without wishing in the least to lay down the line of treatment for cases I have never seen during life, I would nevertheless like to stress the fact that with the exception of the cases of anergia and some of delusional insanity where other methods have proved ineffectual, the forced feeding by the tube appears to be contraindicated by the *post-mortem* appearances in those cases where refusal of food has been treated by tube feeding. In all these cases scybalous masses in the rectum and descending colon suggest the cause of the *fastidium cibi*, and indicate the want of enemata and purgation. In these cases I have found food in the stomach quite unaltered by the gastric juice hours after it had been introduced by the stomach tube. The presence of this unaltered food aggravates the *fastidium cibi*, and during a subsequent tubing increases the struggle which kills by exhausting the already intoxicated heart muscle.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. A. S. LIND, Pathologist,
Victorian Lunacy Department.

The Inspector-General,
Victorian Lunacy Department.

LEGISLATION AND THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

In the Annual Report for 1920 it was pointed out that there were certain defects, comparatively minor ones, in the existing Lunacy Act; not defects in principle, but more defects of detail, as for example, the use of the terms "Mental Hospital" in lieu of "Hospital for the Insane," and "a person of unsound mind" instead of "lunatic." Amendments were suggested for sections 66 and 88, as well as certain recommendations made with regard to the pathological work; but these amendments are comparatively of small importance compared with the necessity for legislations dealing with the congenital mental defective.

It is very desirable that a measure should be passed by Parliament providing for the proper segregation, training, and employment of those who may be described as high-grade defectives, morons, and morally imbecile. The obviously imbecile and idiot are already provided for under the provisions of the Lunacy Act, and more or less satisfactory in the fact that there is an institution, the Children's Cottages at Kew, already in existence. True it is that this institution requires considerable renovation, additions, and improvements to fit it for its proper work, and it is highly desirable that instructors should be appointed for the sake of those children who, to the number of about 50, are improvable and capable of advancement by simple education and industrial training. Still, the most vital need that this State has in connexion with the mental defective is the provision of an institution for the high-grade mental defective.

It is not so easy to recognise these children; they in many cases pass for normal, and it is often only when they have been found guilty of some misdemeanour or offence that their mental defect is realized. Practically one may say that the more nearly normal is the congenital mental defective, the more potentially dangerous is he, and the more difficult to detect. Some of them are sexually degenerate and dangerous on that account; some are dangerous as a result of bad environment, bad example, and lack of proper training. In these cases, it is necessary that their mental defect should be recognised as early as possible in their career. In addition to the obligations and duties owed such children by their parents and guardians, those responsible for their education should also be called to account, and made to understand their responsibility to the

individual and to the State. The Education Department is therefore vitally interested in this question, for it is in the schools that the signs of mental defectiveness are often detected in the first place. Such children may be backward, or betray precocity in some direction, as well as marked retardation in other ways ; but the Department of Education has no power to secure the segregation of the individual, such as is possessed by the Lunacy Department, so that it would seem appropriate that these two branches of the State Service should be engaged in some joint undertaking, whereby congenital deficient may be segregated, if necessary, for life, trained so far as is possible, and made useful to the fullest extent of their limited power.

It is recommended that an Act of Parliament should be sought on the lines of the Mental Deficiency Act of Great Britain, which will create a Board to administer the Act providing for the establishment of school clinics, training institutions, and industrial colleges.

Some estimate of the amount of deficiency existing in the State has already been obtained, and a beginning might be made in this direction by the provision of an institution for those defectives who are already wards of the State. There are approximately 50 children in the cottages at Kew who would be benefited by transference to an institution for high-grade defectives. There are in the Neglected Children's Department quite a large number definitely mentally defective ; the Medical Officer to that institution reports that out of a total of 76 boys over the age of six years, 17 are definitely mentally defective, and several of these are the subject of dangerous sexual perversions ; out of a total of 56 girls over six years of age, 20 are mentally defective, and many of these have abnormal sexual tendencies which are a danger to themselves and others. That is to say, in this population of 132, 28 per cent. are grossly defective mentally, morally, or both. Dr. Derham also says that of approximately 90 children under the age of six years, already at least ten can be recognised as "aments."

If notification of the existence of a mentally-defective person be entailed on parents, guardians, school teachers, members of the medical profession, and the police, there would be found such an amount of mental deficiency that a very considerable institution, or institutions, would have to be provided at once. If one accepted the estimate that about 5 per cent. of the population was mentally defective, it is obvious that a very large institution, or several institutions, would be necessary.

It is greatly to be desired that religious and other philanthropic bodies will come forward and assist the Government, otherwise the public expenditure will be extremely heavy and burdensome ; nevertheless, such expenditure is necessary if a healthy and vigorous race is to be maintained, for mental deficiency unrestrained means the propagation of all that is undesirable in the community, crime, prostitution, industrial inefficiency, and racial degeneracy, for the high-grade mentally defective is prolific above all others and breeds true to type.

IN GENERAL.

Accommodation.—It is unfortunately necessary to repeat that all our State hospitals are overcrowded almost to the extent of being a menace to the health of the inmates. The dormitories are holding from 10 to 20 per cent. more beds than they should ; some day rooms are being used as dormitories, and beds are being put up in the day galleries of the older type of institution such as Kew, Ararat, and Beechworth. Not infrequently beds have to be made up on the floor each night. This overcrowding is greater on the female side of these institutions, the female population of Victoria having outrun the male. In the past, institutions such as Kew, Ararat and Beechworth were constructed to hold more male patients than female. As the country becomes more populous and settled, the female numbers increase, and at the same time the ratio of insane to population also rises. This is exemplified very clearly in our Australian conditions. In Victoria we have approximately 200 males and 300 females in our State institutions more than we have appropriate accommodation for. How this excess is to be met, and how provision is to be made for future annual increments, is largely a question of policy and finance.

If it is considered wise to centralize administration it will shortly be necessary to build another hospital in the metropolitan area. It would appear, however, to be a better plan to provide a new institution in the central portion of Gippsland, from the various districts of which portion of the State there are already enough patients in the metropolitan institutions to start another hospital. Furthermore, 50 or 60 patients

annually are brought up to the metropolitan receiving institutions from these areas, so that there is definite reason why the necessities of Gippsland should be considered when additional hospital accommodation is being provided.

On the other hand, it would be more economical to add wards of various types and sizes to those institutions which already exist. This could be done by building special wards which are badly needed in some of the institutions, as, for example, a well-equipped hospital for male and female sick patients is necessary at Kew, and a female hospital ward is urgently required at Beechworth. Additions to both the male and female Receiving Cottages would be an advantage at Ararat, and refractory wards are wanted at Ballarat and Sunbury. There is also need for provision of additional epileptic wards, for both male and female patients, and these should be provided in the metropolitan area, inasmuch as there is considerable objection on the part of relatives of epileptic patients to having them sent to Ballarat, where our principal epileptic wards exist.

Comfortable and separate accommodation should be provided for the nurses in the shape of residential homes, and such provision will have the effect of setting free a certain amount of accommodation available for patients. Such nursing homes are urgently required at Sunbury and Ararat, and to a less extent nurses' accommodation is required at Kew and Ballarat.

If all the suggested additions were made, we should gain accommodation for 350 to 400 patients; but even if this were obtained, then in the next year or two it would still be necessary to look ahead and make provision for the needs of our increasing population.

If emigration is to be on a large scale into Victoria, and even although the most rigid precautions be adopted to prohibit the importation of the unfit, it will be found quite impossible to prevent mental breakdowns in a certain number of the new-comers. Even under normal conditions at present we may expect to find one permanently insane person in every 300 of the population, as well as one mentally-defective child or adult in every 200.

These are inevitable burdens which the State must prepare for, and it would be as well for the Government to make ample reservations of land for institutional purposes so that it will not be necessary to purchase back suitably placed areas when it is determined to erect further institutions. An ample water supply, fairly good agricultural land, and proximity to a good railway centre, are the three most important attributes for the selection of such a site, and these requirements are not readily obtainable as a rule.

Staff Conditions.—During the last four years 45 officers of the Department, whose length of service has varied from 20 to 45 years, have been superannuated, only six of this number going out with a pension; 16 who have served for 35 years or more have left with no pension whatever. This fact, coupled with the intention to retire all officials of the Department at the age of 62, is unfortunate. The senior officers carry practically all the responsibility for the care and well-being of the patients, and it is the more unfortunate inasmuch as the recent applicants for the Department do not appear to be of the same character as those of former years.

This difference between the treatment of public servants in other branches and those in the Lunacy Department is made possible by the difference which exists between the clauses in the Lunacy Act and those in the Public Service Act. There is no valid reason why this differentiation should be made, and the fact remains that several senior officers, capable of three or more years' efficient service, have been compulsorily retired, whereas it would have been much to the benefit of the Department to have retained them.

Requests have also been made that the hours of duty should be made to approximate with those in similar departments in other States, and an economical scheme has been put forward whereby this concession could be granted.

The rates of pay to the majority of the officers in the Lunacy Department compare unfavorably with other branches of the Victorian Public Service, and particularly when contrasted with the rates of pay to similar officers in other States, and seeing that there is no superannuation scheme, or system of deferred pay, it is not to be wondered at that the number of resignations is abnormally high. This is

particularly the case with female nurses ; the more recent joined do not feel that the Service is particularly attractive, or that anything is to be gained by remaining in a Department which offers so little inducements for long service.

I have to acknowledge the consideration which was shown me of extended sick leave during the winter, as well as to thank the Government Medical Officer, Dr. C. G. Godfrey, for acting as my deputy during the period that I was away.

W. ERNEST JONES.