

1925  
—  
VICTORIA.

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HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

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REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INSANE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,

1924.

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

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# REPORT.

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LUNACY DEPARTMENT,  
Inspector-General's Office,  
Old Treasury Buildings, Spring-street,  
Melbourne, 13th October, 1925.

*To the Honorable the Chief Secretary.*

SIR,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Lunacy Department for the year 1924, with the usual statistical returns, financial statement, and the Medical Superintendents' reports for each of the State Institutions.

The total number of the certified insane at the end of 1924 was 6,191 persons; this includes 5,366 patients in the State Institutions, 600 cases out on trial leave therefrom, and 130 boarded out, chiefly in Benevolent Asylums, also 79 cases in Private Licensed Houses and 16 out on trial leave; but there are also 62 voluntary boarders and 133 military mental cases and 72 Reception House patients who are not included in the gross return of the certified insane. This represents an increase of 68 cases for the year—but of only 25 in the State Hospitals—a decrease of 29 male patients, and an increase of 54 females. This is well below the average annual increment; and it is again noteworthy that the increase comes from the female side of the population.

The ratio of insane to population in Victoria is now 1 to 268; thirteen years ago it was 1 to 245·5.

Progress has been made during the year with the depletion of the numbers at Yarra Bend and the extension of use of the new buildings at Mont Park. (On 1st September, 1925, all patients had been transferred from Yarra Bend, and only a few officials left on the Reserve to arrange for the removal of stores and the surrender of the area and buildings, and in the meantime providing a safeguard for the property.)

The Military mental cases have been removed to Bundoora and the special wards built for them at Mont Park, and an arrangement has been reached whereby this Department relieves the Repatriation Department of the chief part of its responsibility for the treatment and care of these patients. The latter Department retains the right of inspection and other functions calculated to protect its interests and obligations in those men whose mental disorder is attributable to war service.

The rate of pay to the majority of the members of the Department has been reviewed during the year, and the principle of 48 hours per week has been adopted. This has meant a considerable augmentation of the staff, with a corresponding rise in the annual expenditure.

The problem of additional accommodation has not yet been settled, but it now consists of female accommodation only; the diminishing number of male cases and the acquisition of the Chronic Block at Mont Park have practically settled this side, but for female patients the matter is still pressing.

There is also the necessity for an Institution which will receive patients from the Gippsland area and, at the same time, provide for the inevitable increase in mental cases resulting from greater population.

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, 1924.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total
Resident in the Hospital for the Insane at—						
Yarra Bend ... ..	48	307	355			
Kew ... ..	494	387	881			
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	182	181	363			
Ararat ... ..	364	260	624			
Beechworth ... ..	349	275	624			
Sunbury ... ..	452	547	999			
Ballarat ... ..	217	462	679			
Royal Park ... ..	46	68	114			
Mont Park ... ..	411	316	727			
				2,563	2,803	5,366
Out on trial leave from the Hospital for Insane at—						
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	31	31			
Kew ... ..	59	71	130			
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	26	7	33			
Ararat ... ..	4	3	7			
Beechworth ... ..	9	22	31			
Sunbury ... ..	67	47	114			
Ballarat ... ..	28	39	67			
Royal Park ... ..	16	54	70			
Mont Park ... ..	87	30	117			
				296	304	600
Boarded out from the Hospital for Insane at—						
Yarra Bend ... ..	1	2	3			
Kew ... ..	1	2	3			
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	...	...	...			
Ararat ... ..	...	...	...			
Beechworth ... ..	...	1	1			
Sunbury ... ..	55	29	84			
Ballarat ... ..	7	32	39			
Royal Park ... ..	...	...	...			
Mont Park ... ..	...	...	...			
				64	66	130
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Hospitals for the Insane ... ..						
	...	...	..	2,923	3,173	6,096
Resident in the Licensed House—						
St. Helens ... ..	17	13	30			
Mount Ida ... ..	2	12	14			
Merton ... ..	...	15	15			
Belmont ... ..	...	20	20			
				19	60	79
Out on trial leave from the Licensed House—						
St. Helens ... ..	3	2	5			
Mount Ida ... ..	...	1	1			
Merton ... ..	...	3	3			
Belmont ... ..	...	7	7			
				3	13	16
Total number of registered lunatics in the State ... ..						
	...	...	...	2,945	3,246	6,191

Excluding Voluntary Boarders (24 males and 38 females) and Soldiers (133).

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1924.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Hospitals, 1st January, 1924	...	...	...	2,592	2,749	5,341			
On trial leave ...	...	...	...	272	279	551			
Boarded out ...	...	...	...	68	66	134			
Total number on books, 1st January, 1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,932	3,094	6,026
Cases admitted—									
First admissions ...	349	314	663						
*Not first admissions ..	53	93	146						
Escaped patients retaken ...	...	...	...	402	407	809			
				60	9	69			
Total cases admitted during the year ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	462	416	878
Total cases under care during the year ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,394	3,510	6,904
Cases discharged—									
Recovered ...	84	95	179						
Relieved ..	53	48	101						
†Not improved ...	5	8	13						
Died ...	254	176	430						
Escaped ...	...	...	...	396	327	723			
				75	10	85			
Total cases discharged and died during the year ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	471	337	808
Remaining in the Hospitals, 31st December, 1924 ...	...	...	...	2,563	2,803	5,366			
Patients on trial leave ...	...	...	...	296	304	600			
„ boarded out ...	...	...	...	64	66	130			
Total number on books, 31st December, 1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,923	3,173	6,096
Average number resident during the year ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,605	2,792	5,397
Persons under care during the year ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,335	3,499	6,834
Persons admitted ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	401	407	808
Persons recovered ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83	95	178
Transferred from one Hospital for Insane to another ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	272	209	481

\* Including transfers from licensed houses.

† Including transfers to licensed houses.

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1924.

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack ..	60	94	154
Have had two attacks ...	15	14	29
Have had three attacks ...	2	5	7
Have had four attacks ...	2	5	7

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 1924 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.			Voluntary Boarders.				Total.	Increase, + Decrease, -
	Hospitals for the Insane.		Private Licensed Houses.		Number.			Increase, + Decrease, -	Males.	Females.	Total.	Hospitals for the Insane.		Private Licensed Houses.				
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.								Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		
1900	2,286	2,113	4,399	...	4,399	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1901	2,307	2,194	4,501	...	4,501	+102	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1902	2,354	2,193	4,547	...	4,547	+46	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1903	2,371	2,199	4,570	...	4,570	+23	...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1904	2,393	2,249	4,642	...	4,642	+72	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
*1905	2,436	2,332	4,768	...	4,771	+129	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1906	2,484	2,389	4,873	3	4,937	+166	...	5	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
†1907	2,548	2,413	4,961	13	5,052	+115	...	11	14	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1908	2,557	2,457	5,014	21	5,111	+59	...	12	13	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1909	2,612	2,485	5,097	22	5,200	+89	...	14	22	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1910	2,655	2,586	5,241	30	5,349	+149	...	22	25	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1911	2,681	2,659	5,340	30	5,449	+100	...	19	17	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1912	2,758	2,712	5,470	20	5,579	+130	...	25	28	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1913	2,839	2,792	5,631	12	5,736	+157	...	36	25	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1914	2,886	2,843	5,729	12	5,827	+91	...	27	23	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
‡1915	2,882	2,885	5,767	15	5,862	+35	...	29	29	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1916	2,882	2,911	5,793	11	5,883	+21	...	16	31	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1917	2,901	2,932	5,833	12	5,919	+36	...	84	31	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1918	2,889	3,026	5,915	14	6,000	+81	...	110	30	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1919	2,855	2,991	5,846	16	5,937	-61	...	120	42	84	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1920	2,888	2,942	5,830	17	5,925	-12	...	100	59	93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1921	2,869	2,973	5,842	17	5,941	+16	...	112	37	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1922	2,909	3,088	5,997	24	6,101	+160	...	124	44	87	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1923	2,912	3,094	6,026	19	6,123	+22	...	127	39	81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1924	2,923	3,173	6,096	22	6,191	+68	...	133	39	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

\* 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 VI.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries per cent. of the Admissions for the Year ended 31st December, 1924.

Hospital for the Insane.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Died.			Remaining on the Books 31st December, 1924.			Average Number Resident during the year 1924.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Relieved on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers Resident.				
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Recovered.			Relieved.			Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.					
				Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.																				
Yarra Bond	17	12	29	9	16	25	13	3	16	23	28	51	49	340	389	148	355	503	53.00	133.33	86.20	76.47	25.00	55.17	15.54	7.88	10.13		
Kew ...	5	72	167	7	15	22	14	11	25	76	32	108	554	460	1,014	497	394	891	7.36	20.83	13.17	14.74	18.28	14.97	15.29	8.12	12.12		
Kew Idiot Asylum	30	19	49	...	...	...	3	2	5	19	10	29	208	188	396	186	178	364	...	...	...	10.00	10.53	10.20	...	25.00	7.69	5.62	7.97
Ararut ...	18	8	26	10	3	13	...	2	2	17	13	30	368	263	631	358	261	619	55.55	37.50	50.00	...	...	...	...	4.75	4.84		
Beechworth	4	2	6	2	...	2	...	1	1	29	16	45	358	298	656	355	277	632	50.00	...	33.33	...	...	...	...	...	8.17	7.12	
Sunbury ...	101	51	152	25	13	38	10	7	17	60	26	86	574	623	1,197	489	522	1,011	24.75	25.49	25.00	9.90	13.73	11.18	12.27	4.98	8.51		
Ballarat ...	33	43	76	5	6	11	5	5	10	10	31	41	252	533	785	216	470	686	15.15	13.95	14.47	15.15	11.63	13.16	4.62	6.59	5.97		
Royal Park	77	155	232	19	35	54	7	16	23	2	6	8	62	122	184	44	73	117	24.67	22.58	23.27	9.09	10.32	9.91	4.54	8.21	6.83		
Mont Park ...	27	45	72	7	7	14	1	1	2	18	14	32	498	346	844	312	262	574	25.93	15.55	19.44	3.70	2.22	2.78	5.77	5.34	5.57		
Total ...	402	407	809	84	95	179	53	48	101	254	176	430	2,923	3,173	6,096	2,605	2,792	5,397	30.90	23.34	22.13	13.18	11.79	12.48	9.75	6.30	7.97		

TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died during the Year 1924, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1924.

AGES.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Escaped Patients not Retaken.			Died.		Remaining on 31st December, 1924.																		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Recovered.		Relieved.		Not Improved.		Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.															
				Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.										Male.	Female.	Total.												
Under 5 years	6	3	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	10	18															
5 years and under 10 years	7	4	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	31	22	53															
10 "	13	3	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	37	23	60															
15 "	17	14	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	81	53	134															
20 "	34	26	60	2	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	141	100	241															
25 "	40	34	74	9	5	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	190	151	341															
30 "	45	51	96	8	12	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	264	240	504															
35 "	37	37	74	12	7	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	316	322	638															
40 "	27	37	64	8	7	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	287	317	604															
45 "	40	52	92	14	12	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	322	400	722															
50 "	30	42	72	8	10	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	340	365	705															
55 "	36	29	65	8	5	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	318	400	718															
60 "	22	29	51	2	9	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	250	294	544															
65 "	24	16	40	3	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	141	194	335															
70 "	7	12	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	80	110	190															
75 "	5	10	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	37	45	68															
80 "	8	3	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	37	21	33															
85 "	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	21	13	25															
90 "	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	10	12	13															
over	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	8	8															
Unknown...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	61	73	134															
Total	402	407	809	84	95	179	53	48	101	5	8	13	18	1	19	254	176	430	2,923	3,173	6,096												
Hospitals for the Insane, Mean Age	38	37	48	41	79	42	31	42	82	45	20	43	95	39	60	49	25	45	54	37	21	56	77	59	91	58	07	47	18	49	70	48	50
Idiot Asylm, Mean Age	11	00	15	00	12	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	21	16	50	16	04	23	88	21	88	21	88	21	88	21	88	21	88



TABLE VIII.—Showing the Probable Causes of Insanity in the Patients Admitted during the Year 1924.

Causes of Insanity.	Number of Instances in which each Cause was Assigned.											
	Admissions			No. of Cases—								
				402 Males,			407 Females,			809 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.	
<b>MORAL.</b>												
Domestic Trouble (including loss of relatives and friends)	...	...	...	3	28	31	...	...	...	3	28	31
Adverse Circumstances (including business anxieties and pecuniary difficulties)...	...	...	...	12	7	19	...	...	...	12	7	19
Mental Anxiety and Worry (not included under the above two heads), and Over Work ...	...	...	...	11	21	32	...	...	...	11	21	32
Religious Excitement ...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	2
Love Affairs (including seduction) ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	2
Fright and Nervous Shock ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
<b>PHYSICAL.</b>												
Intemperance in Drink ...	2	...	2	16	15	31	17	1	18	35	16	51
Intemperance (sexual) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal Disease ...	9	2	11	30	4	34	...	...	...	39	6	45
Self-Abuse (sexual) ...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2
Over Exertion ...	...	...	...	2	4	6	...	...	...	2	4	6
Sunstroke ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Accident or Injury ...	1	...	1	4	1	5	...	...	...	5	1	6
Pregnancy ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Parturition and the Puerperal state ...	...	...	...	...	19	19	...	...	...	...	19	19
Lactation ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	2
Uterine and Ovarian Disorder ...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	4	4
Puberty ...	13	6	19	13	9	22	...	...	...	26	15	41
Change of Life ...	...	18	18	...	19	19	...	...	...	...	37	37
Fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Privation and Starvation ...	3	...	3	5	1	6	...	...	...	8	1	9
Old Age ..	48	24	72	6	22	28	...	...	...	54	46	100
Other Bodily Diseases or Disorders ...	...	1	1	17	30	47	10	2	12	27	33	60
Previous Attacks ...	39	48	87	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	48	87
Hereditary Influences ascertained (direct and collateral)	28	42	70	2	8	10	...	...	...	30	50	80
Congenital Defect ascertained	57	40	97	7	8	15	10	4	14	74	52	126
Other ascertained Causes ...	3	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Unknown ...	6	3	9	2	1	3	23	16	39	31	20	51
Epilepsy ...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2
War Strain ...	...	...	...	9	...	9	...	...	...	9	...	9
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	413	416	829
Deduct for combined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	9	20
Total Admissions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	402	407	809

TABLE IX.—Showing the Form of Mental Disorder on Admission in the Admissions, Recoveries, and Deaths for the Year 1924, and the Form of Mental Disorder of the Patients remaining on Books on 31st December, 1924.

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	13	26	...	...	...	9	10	19	107	117	224
(b) Without epilepsy ...	60	30	90	...	3	3	23	11	34	375	335	710
2. Moral ...	1	.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
II. Insanity occurring later in life—												
1. Insanity with Epilepsy ...	12	7	19	2	...	2	12	8	20	108	112	220
2. General Paralysis of the Insane ...	34	7	41	1	...	1	36	7	43	39	7	46
3. Insanity of the grosser brain lesions ...	5	6	11	...	...	...	7	1	8	7	13	20
4. Acute delirium (acute delirious mania)	4	2	6	2	3	5	...	3	3	...	...	...
5. Confusional Insanity ...	24	45	69	14	20	34	1	1	2	11	22	33
6. Stupor ...	1	7	8	1	4	5	...	1	1	3	5	8
7. Primary Dementia ...	57	44	101	8	9	17	15	11	26	383	308	781
8. Mania:												
(a) Recent ...	14	26	40	10	14	24	5	7	12	17	27	44
(b) Chronic ...	...	7	7	...	...	...	...	1	1	41	80	121
(c) Recurrent ...	9	6	15	6	5	11	1	3	4	30	52	82
9. Melancholia:												
(a) Recent ...	25	40	65	11	10	21	6	13	19	32	31	63
(b) Chronic ...	1	3	4	1	1	2	4	5	9	36	41	77
(c) Recurrent ...	3	11	14	5	5	10	3	2	5	9	29	38
10. Alternating Insanity ..	1	9	10	..	1	1	1	2	3	6	21	27
11. Delusional Insanity:												
(a) Systematized ...	12	5	17	...	...	...	2	2	4	66	45	111
(b) Non-systematized ..	44	50	94	18	17	35	12	13	25	177	255	432
12. Volitional Insanity:												
(a) Impulse ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
(b) Obsession ...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	3
(c) Doubt ...	3	...	3	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	2
13. Moral Insanity ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	6
14. Dementia:												
(a) Senile ...	56	46	102	...	1	1	60	43	103	183	264	447
(b) Secondary or Terminal ...	21	42	63	2	2	4	57	32	89	928	942	1,870
On Trial, Leave, or Boarded Out ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	360	370	730
Total ...	402	407	809	84	95	179	254	176	430	2,923	3,173	6,096

TABLE X.—Showing the condition as to Marriage in Patients Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died during the Year 1924, and of Patients Remaining on the books, 31st December, 1924.

Condition in Reference to Marriage.	Admitted.			Discharged.									Escaped Patients not Retaken.			Died.			Patients Remaining, 31st December, 1924.		
	M.	F.	Total.	Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.			M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Single ...	204	170	374	45	37	82	31	20	51	2	5	7	15	...	15	123	66	189	2,018	1,688	3,706
Married	131	155	286	33	44	77	18	20	38	2	2	4	1	1	2	80	70	150	566	1,001	1,567
Widowed	33	59	92	6	13	19	...	6	6	1	1	2	1	...	1	23	27	50	70	231	301
Divorced	...	3	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	3	14	17
Unknown	4	1	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	2	11	58	51	109
Total	372	388	760	84	95	179	50	46	96	5	8	13	18	1	19	235	166	401	2,715	2,985	5,700

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



## STATE INSTITUTIONS.

*Admissions.*—Into the State Hospitals 809 cases were admitted (663 for the first time); the male patients totalling 402, and females 407. Into the Receiving Houses, &c., there were 828 admissions (615 being first receptions), 452 male and 376 female. There were 523 sent on from Receiving Houses and Wards to the State Hospitals, so that this number must be deducted from the admission rate if one desires to arrive at the individual numbers originally admitted to the various State Institutions. The total number, therefore, amounts to 1,114 cases, which is rather less than in the years 1922 and 1923, but approximates to the returns of the five years preceding the war.

The mean age of admissions to State Hospitals is found to be 43.5 years, and of the 809 cases, 145 were over the age of 60 and 50 over the age of 70, so that it is fairly obvious that insanity is a disease of old age and decaying powers; at least 100 cases were definitely attributed to senile decay, 117 were cases of congenital defect either with or without epilepsy, and 41 were cases of general paralysis. It would appear that the latter disease is certainly not on the increase; fifteen years ago there were twice this number admitted yearly, and when one takes into consideration the increase of population since then as well as the fact that war of a most devastating character and calculated to produce many such cases has also occurred in that time, it is a subject of congratulation, as well as amazement, to find this very marked decrease, and one is justified in taking the optimistic view that there is a marked diminution of active syphilis in the community.

*Discharges.*—These numbered 179 recoveries and 101 relieved from the State Hospitals, and 197 and 68 respectively from the Receiving Institutions. This gives a discharge rate of nearly 50 per cent. of the total number of admissions into Hospitals and Receiving Houses, and when one takes into consideration the depleting influence on the recovery rate of the Voluntary Board system, the results can be regarded as satisfactory. Statistical returns of voluntary patients are kept quite distinct from those relating to certified patients.

*Deaths.*—In the State Hospitals there were 254 male and 176 female deaths, making a total of 430. This gives a percentage of 7.97 on the daily average number resident, the exact average death rate of the last 24 years. Post-mortem examinations were made in 333 cases.

One male patient at Kew made his escape from a harvesting party and his body was found later in the Yarra.

A female patient was found, at the post-mortem examination, to have a piece of soap in the throat, and this had probably caused suffocation.

At Sunbury a male patient escaped at night from the dormitory, and his body was subsequently found in an unused tank in the Asylum grounds.

Another male patient, boarded out at the Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum, precipitated himself from a balcony on the first floor.

The remaining accidental deaths and suicides occurred in the cases of patients out on trial leave from the State Hospitals.

Of deaths from what may be described as "preventable disorders," there were some that should be mentioned. At Yarra Bend one patient died from typhoid fever, also three at the Children's Cottages, and one at Beechworth. Sixteen deaths occurred from dysentery (colitis)—five of them at Kew and six at Sunbury.

There were 26 deaths attributed to pulmonary consumption; of these, eight occurred at Beechworth, and two at Sunbury. The heaviest mortality is ascribable to other pulmonary affections, such as pneumonia, bronchitis, and pleurisy; in the majority of such cases these conditions were sequential to influenza.

## BOARDED OUT ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.

Patients boarded out to—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Private Individuals .. .. .	7	5	12
Ballarat Benevolent Asylum .. .. .	5	32	37
Bendigo Benevolent Asylum .. .. .	9	16	25
Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum .. .. .	43	13	56
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>130</b>

## NURSING EXAMINATIONS, 1924.

	No. of Candidates,	Passed.	Failed;
First Year—Attendants ..	9 ..	8 ..	1
Nurses ..	48 ..	39 ..	9
Second Year—Attendants ..	9 ..	7 ..	2
Nurses ..	24 ..	22 ..	2
Third Year—Attendants ..	16 ..	12 ..	4
Nurses ..	31 ..	26 ..	5

## HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, YARRA BEND.

On 31st December, 1924, there were in residence at this Hospital 48 males and 307 females. During the year 204 patients were transferred to other Hospitals, 49 patients were admitted, and the deaths numbered 51—of whom five died whilst on probation.

Towards the end of the year the transfer of patients to Mont Park began to proceed at a fairly rapid rate. The male division of this Hospital was evacuated except for some 48 male patients, who were kept here for the purpose of carrying on such essential work as farming, gardening, &c. There is ample accommodation at Mont Park for the remaining male patients. A start was made to transfer the female patients, and the receiving ward was closed. Preparations are well in hand to transfer all the female patients, but it is expected there will be some delay over the final 100 patients owing to the difficulty of housing the staff at Mont Park.

As Yarra Bend caters for many of the requirements of Mont Park, there has been no diminution of activity as far as the artisan work is concerned. Such farm stock as is required at Mont Park is being sent to that Institution, and any surplus over our requirements sold. Much material of a useful character has been sent to Mont Park for use there.

It is pleasing to record the eulogistic reports of the official visitors concerning the cleanliness of the wards and treatment of the patients. Considering the conditions under which the staff have had to work in this Institution they certainly did well to obtain the results they did.

Heavy work on the part of the clerical staff was demanded owing to the numerous changes which are now following rapidly one on another. Mr. Simmons and his staff are to be congratulated on the efficiency of their work. I desire to record the fact that Dr. W. B. Ryan has practically carried on the Institution with the assistance of Dr. R. E. Harris; such help as I have given being mainly in an advisory capacity.

(Sgd.) J. CATARINICH,  
Medical Superintendent.

## HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, KEW.

The following table statistically represents the changes shown on the last day of 1923 and 1924 respectively:—

	1923.			1924.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Receptions .. .. .	101	79	180	95	72	167
Transferred to Kew .. .. .	32	24	56	16	28	44
Transferred from Kew .. .. .	23	21	44	4	39	43
Relieved .. .. .	18	10	28	12	8	20
Recovered .. .. .	21	14	35	7	15	22
Died .. .. .	67	54	121	76	32	108
Resident 31st December .. .. .	496	392	888	494	387	881
On trial .. .. .	57	66	123	59	71	130
Boarded out .. .. .	1	2	3	1	2	3
<b>Total on Books .. .. .</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1,014</b>

Receptions—Of 167 new receptions, the mental states on reception and the approximate percentages are as follow:—

Senile dementia	..	..	..	..	18½	per cent.
General paralysis	..	..	..	..	13	„
Delusional insanity	..	..	..	..	11	„
Congenital defect	..	..	..	..	9½	„
Confusional insanity	..	..	..	..	8	„
Dementia (secondary)	..	..	..	..	8	„
Mania	..	..	..	..	7	„
Primary dementia	..	..	..	..	7	„
Melancholia	..	..	..	..	6½	„

The following are the principal assigned causes of the mental condition of new receptions:—

Predisposing—						
Old-age	..	..	..	..	19	per cent.
Hereditary influences	..	..	..	..	18	„
Exciting—						
Bodily disease	..	..	..	..	15½	„
Venereal disease	..	..	..	..	13	„
Congenital defect	..	..	..	..	9	„
Alcoholic excess	..	..	..	..	6	„
Mental anxiety	..	..	..	..	3½	„

Recoveries—						
Recoveries to admissions	..	..	..	..	13	per cent.
Recoveries and relieved to admissions	..	..	..	..	25	„

Trial Leave—						
Trial leave to number resident	..	..	..	..	14½	„

Deaths—Of 108 deaths, the approximate percentages of the principal causes were—

General paralysis of the insane	..	..	..	..	26	per cent.
Lung disease other than phthisis	..	..	..	..	23	„
Disease of the nervous system other than general paralysis of the insane	..	..	..	..	14	„
Disease of heart	..	..	..	..	9	„
Disease of kidneys	..	..	..	..	4½	„
Colitis	..	..	..	..	4½	„
Disease of the digestive organs	..	..	..	..	4	„
Old age	..	..	..	..	3	„
Phthisis	..	..	..	..	3	„

It should be noted that there has been an increase in the number of general paralytics received and dying when compared with 1923. The following are the figures:—

	1923.	1924.
Total new admissions	180	167
Percentage of general paralytics	8	13
Total deaths	121	108
Percentage of general paralytics	17	26

The significance of these figures can, however, be appraised only when they are read in conjunction with similar figures of the other Hospitals for Insane in the State.

Major casualties—						
Fractures of arm	..	..	..	..	3	
Fracture of hand	..	..	..	..	1	
Fractures of ribs	..	..	..	..	2	
Spinal injury	..	..	..	..	1	

A.H.S. was thrown from a horse on the farm and developed signs of spinal injury. He subsequently died from cystitis.

N.C.R. escaped from a working party on the farm and his body was subsequently found in the Yarra in the vicinity.

All injuries in the Institution were due to accidental causes.

## Farm and Garden—

Value of farm produce .. .. .	£4,194
Value of garden produce .. .. .	2,549
Total .. .. .	<u>£6,743</u>

Institutional routine has proceeded smoothly and satisfactorily. The quality of the food and clothing supplied has been good. Electricity for lighting and power is being installed and, when completed, should prove a notable improvement in efficient service and economy.

Something has been done in the way of general repairs to the buildings, airing courts, and approaches, but a generous and continuous policy of improvement should be kept up to make good the retrogression of past leaner years. The most urgent requirements are—

- Increased hospital accommodation for patients.
- Better accommodation for nurses.
- New workshops.
- Re-making roads.

The hospital wards on the male and female sides are always uncomfortably and unhygienically overcrowded. A large proportion of the new receptions at Kew are rendered mentally and physically helpless by old age. The Homes for Aged and Infirm and others appear to pass on to the Kew Mental Hospital all those cases which advanced senile changes render technically insane. If all these patients are to come to this one Institution it will become imperative to increase the hospital accommodation. It seems a shame that circumstances render it necessary to invoke the aid of the Lunacy Act to provide care and maintenance for those rendered mentally helpless by senile changes. The main roads of the Institution are worn out. They need re-making by expert road-makers. Patching by patient labour is a temporary, useless, and uneconomical expedient.

## COLONY FOR MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

	1923.			1924.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Receptions .. .. .	30	19	49	30	19	49
Transfers to .. .. .	1	1	2	2	..	2
Transfers from .. .. .	..	4	4	3	1	4
Relieved .. .. .	3	2	5	3	2	5
Recovered .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Died .. .. .	26	11	37	19	10	29
Resident 31st December .. .. .	182	171	353	182	181	363
On trial .. .. .	19	11	30	26	7	33
Boarded out .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total on Books .. .. .	201	182	383	208	188	396

Several mild epidemics of children's complaints have been suitably dealt with. The infectious isolation tent is now in good order.

The sewerage has been completed.

Extra accommodation for patients and improved conditions for the staff have been planned. By renovations and extra buildings, bathing and lavatory facilities for patients have been much improved.

Electricity for lighting and power is being installed.

Great improvement in the general cleanliness and tidiness and also in the general discipline of the staff has been recorded by the official visitors and has been noted by others. Much repairs and renovations have been completed. The energy and zeal of Dr. Ellery have been responsible for these desirable changes.

The Inspector-General of the Insane inquired into certain charges brought by a section of the staff against the Medical Officer, Dr. Ellery. The Inspector-General exonerated the Medical Officer.

Subsequently, in November, a Royal Commission was appointed to further investigate the charges. The Royal Commission was brought into being by the Ministry of the time, and the Commissioner, Mr. A. A. Kelley, P.M., exercised his judicial function. The finding of the Commission was submitted to the Honorable the Chief Secretary. The matters relating to the Commission have been dealt with by the highest competent authorities and are not within the sphere of official comment.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH HOLLOW,  
Medical Superintendent.

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#### HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, ARARAT.

During the year 18 males and 8 females were received, total 26; 10 males and 3 females were discharged, total 13. There were 30 deaths (17 males and 13 females), all due to natural causes, and the majority were over the age of 60 years.

The general health of the patients was good, and no epidemic occurred during the year, nor were there any accidents of importance.

Restraint was necessary in the case of three males and one female.

The nursing examinations showed a creditable result. The difficulty of obtaining nurses still remains.

Divine service was held regularly by the clergymen of the various denominations, and sick calls were promptly attended to.

Amusements.—The usual fortnightly dances for the patients were held, and visitors assisted in entertaining the patients with songs and recitations. A picnic was given by the townspeople, and organized by Mr. W. S. Dunne and Mr. G. Hansford, and was greatly appreciated by a large number of patients.

General.—The Institution is urgently in need of repairs in various directions, and a sewerage system is very desirable. Much good work has been done by the artisan and other staffs of the Institution, with the result that it is at all times found in good order. Good work is also being done in the Criminal and Refractory Ward, which contains 50 or more or less dangerous patients; and it is of great importance that single-room accommodation be increased and the obsolete cubicles replaced by the same. The Head Attendant, Mr. E. Shevlin, a valued servant of the Department, died during the year, and his place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. J. J. Moran:

Farm and Garden.—Operations on the farm were carried out during the year with satisfactory results. The hay produced was more than for many years past, and should more than meet all requirements during the year. Returns from sales of pigs reached a record, and show that this branch is now on a satisfactory basis. Milk and vegetables of good quality were produced in abundance. An additional carter for the farm was appointed during the year.

(Sgd.) D. A. CAMPBELL,  
Medical Superintendent.

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#### HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, BEECHWORTH.

At the termination of the year 1924 there were in residence at the Institution 624 patients—349 males and 275 females. During the year there were 6 new admissions and 33 transfers.

The general health of the patients was good. There were three cases of typhoid, two males and one female. Typhoid might be completely eliminated if the place were seweraged; beside this, there would be no colitis, which is now more or less always present amongst the patients. The reason for there being so few cases of typhoid is that all the patients less than 50 years of age are annually inoculated with anti-typhoid vaccine.

There is great necessity for a new female hospital ward as the one in use is always overcrowded, having also to be used as a receiving ward and infirmary and, being an old building and badly ventilated, it becomes very foul towards morning.

The conduct of the staff, on the whole, has been good, there being no serious charges. The nursing examinations were very successful, as twelve passed out of fourteen who presented themselves. There is a great need of proper accommodation for nurses, and some of the rooms should be better furnished.



The front gardens are looking well; there was, however, a lack of green vegetables during the year owing to the presence of pests during the early part of the season. The fruit supply has been good, and from this a large quantity of jam has been made for the patients.

The Head Attendant's house has been finished and is now occupied.

There were no serious accidents during the year; those that did occur were purely accidental and not due to neglect.

One case of restraint was necessary a patient had to wear a camisole occasionally, being actively suicidal.

The floors of some of the wards need covering, and several comfortable chairs are required, and some of the shops for artisans should be rebuilt.

(Sgd.) R. G. NAYLOR,  
Medical Superintendent.

#### HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, SUNBURY.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1924.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
<b>Statistics—</b>			
Resident in hospital on 1st January, 1924 .. .. .	474	521	995
Average number resident .. .. .	489	522	1,011
Patients admitted .. .. .	101	51	152
Patients recovered .. .. .	25	13	38
Deaths .. .. .	60	26	86
Resident in hospital on 31st December, 1924 .. .. .	452	547	999
<b>Voluntary Boarders—</b>			
Resident on 1st January, 1924 .. .. .	..	..	..
Received .. .. .	5	1	6
Total under care .. .. .	5	1	6
Certified .. .. .	..	1	1
Discharged cured .. .. .	5	..	5
Total discharged .. .. .	5	1	6
Remaining on 31st December, 1924 .. .. .	..	..	..

#### Casualties—

P.W., fracture of left arm	..	} These injuries were caused by accidental falls.
E.V., fracture of right hip	..	
M.M., fracture of left hip	..	
R.B., fracture of right arm	..	
J.C., fracture of right leg	..	
J.E., fracture of right ankle	..	} Caused by being attacked by another patient.
M.H., fracture of left hip	..	

All these injuries were inquired into and no blame was found attachable to the nurses or attendants concerned.

Restraint or Seclusion.—Nil.

Boarded-out Cases.—There are now 84 cases boarded-out at Castlemaine and Bendigo Benevolent Asylums. These cases are visited four times a year. They are kept clean and are well looked after, and appear to be quite happy and contented.

Divine Service.—Has been held regularly for all denominations.

Amusements.—The usual amusements have been held regularly, and the patients' picnic has now become an annual function.

Farm and Garden.—The farm has been yielding satisfactory returns, and the gardens are gradually being improved.

Improvements.—Various improvements have been made in the hospital in the shape of an electric mincer, electric saw, and a mechanical tractor for the use of the farm. These labour-saving devices are well worth their initial cost and upkeep. For

many years this hospital has suffered from a lack of water in the summer months. This has now been remedied by the addition of a new 4-in. pipe from the Sunbury water supply relieving well to the Asylum reservoir, ensuring an adequate supply of water at all seasons.

Staff.—The conduct of the staff has been most satisfactory. The hours of duty have been reduced to 48 per week. There was a little confusion during the first week, but now the work is carried out without any detriment to the patients. There is great difficulty in obtaining and retaining sufficient nurses, and this will continue until suitable sleeping accommodation has been built for them. At present the nurses' bedrooms are too near the wards to permit of comfort, and many of the rooms are too small and altogether unsuitable.

Patients.—In my opinion, the more liberty allowed to the patients the more likely are cures to be effected. Cases who are completely demented are unable to realize their surroundings, but before this stage has been reached it is advisable that a patient should be allowed as much freedom as possible. This principle certainly facilitates escapes from the Institution, but by careful grading of the patients in various wards, and allowing only some of the wards to have unlocked doors and windows, these escapes can be reduced to a minimum. One of the male wards has been given to the female division, thus altering the capacity of the hospital to 464 beds for males and 550 beds for females.

Changes in Staff.—Dr. H. Bourne was transferred to Kew at the beginning of the year, his place being taken by Dr. E. North.

(Sgd.) JOHN K. ADEY,  
Medical Superintendent.

#### HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, BALLARAT.

The Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1925, is now submitted. The following changes have taken place during the year:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cases Admitted—						
First admissions .. .. .	27	34	61	..	..	..
Not first admissions .. .. .	6	9	15	..	..	..
Transferred here .. .. .	5	4	9	..	..	..
Escaped patients re-taken .. .. .	..	1	1	..	..	..
Total cases admitted during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	38	48	86
Total cases under care during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	288	578	866
Cases Discharged—						
Recovered .. .. .	5	6	11	..	..	..
Relieved .. .. .	5	5	10	..	..	..
Not improved .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	..
Transferred from the Institution .. .. .	13	2	15	..	..	..
Escaped .. .. .	2	1	3	..	..	..
Died .. .. .	10	31	41	..	..	..
Total cases discharged and died during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	36	45	81
Remaining in the Hospital, 31st December, 1924	217	462	679	..	..	..
Patients on Leave .. .. .	28	39	67	..	..	..
Patients boarded-out .. .. .	7	32	39	..	..	..
Total number on books, 31st December, 1924	..	..	..	252	533	785
Average number resident during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	216	470	686

There were only 41 deaths at the hospital during the year, as compared with 61 during 1923. Of this number 8 were under the heading of "Atrophy, Debility, and Old-age": and of the others, 8 deaths occurred in patients over the age of 65 years. With this exception no single cause stands out prominently as a cause of death. It may here be remarked that there were only two cases of death due to

pulmonary tuberculosis ; both these were females between the ages of 50 and 55 years. In September and October there was a slight epidemic of influenza among the female patients.

Two male patients and one female patient escaped during the year. E.W., a harmless patient, who was given much liberty, wandered away when returning from the dance on 29th September, 1924. He was not recaptured, and was discharged under Section 94 on 24th December, 1924. J.B., a chronic patient, working on the farm, wandered away on 21st December, 1924, and returned on 4th January, 1925. E.M.H., a chronic female patient, escaped on the evening of 25th October, 1924, and was brought back on the following day.

There were only two casualties of sufficient severity to require recording. A female patient, A.J.H., slipped and fell while working in the laundry and got a fracture of the left fibula, from which she recovered quite satisfactorily. The accident was unavoidable, and no blame was attachable to those in charge. A male patient, W.L., received an injury to the right eye, which resulted in blindness of the eye. Inquiry into this case showed that the injury to the eye was inflicted by Attendant A., who was charged with misconduct. The charge was sustained, and the Attendant dismissed from the service.

There was no restraint or seclusion on the male side during the year. On the female side M.P. was restrained in a camisole for 240 hours to prevent the removal of surgical dressings. A.P. was restrained in a camisole for several short periods, amounting in all to 19 hours, on account of outbursts of homicidal violence. There was no seclusion on the female side during the year.

The results of the Nursing Examinations were as follows :—

	Present			Passed				
	Attendants.			Nurses.	Attendants,			Nurses.
First Year	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	8
Second Year	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	4
Third Year	..	2	..	3	..	2	..	3

In the Third Year Examination Nurse Emma O'Dwyer passed with merit.

In view of the wet, wintry weather that prevails in Ballarat, the provision of a covered way from the general kitchen to the different female wards is very desirable. A requisition was made for this work on 10th May, 1920. The repairing of the road from the Gillies-street entrance to the farm is an urgent requirement, for which requisitions were made on 12th July, 1920, and 13th September, 1923. Numerous repairs are required to the asphaltting around the different wards. A requisition was made for this on 7th November, 1922. The painting of the exterior of the concert hall, the external woodwork of various wards, and the interior of the main kitchen are urgent requirements, for which a requisition was made on 12th September, 1923. Improved facilities for ablution of the patients are required in certain of the male and female wards. A requisition was made for this on 6th May, 1924. None of these requisitions have been carried out. A new store is urgently required. The demolition of the old store would make room for the construction of a number of single rooms, much needed on the male side, and would also allow of the completion of the new airing court. A new house for the Secretary is now in course of erection. When this is completed the old house should be sold for removal. To adapt it for any other purpose would eventually prove uneconomical and unsatisfactory. The accommodation for the female staff is still very inadequate, and it is extremely urgent that this condition be remedied. The conditions pertaining at present tend to produce discontent. Part of the boundary fence on the female division is in a ruinous condition and requires replacing. Provision has not yet been made for heating certain wards at night. This should be done as soon as possible. The remodelling of the main male block has been recommended and approved by the Inspector-General, but has not yet been carried out. Provision should be made for the building of a strong-room here. It is urgently required for the safe keeping of various books, records, &c. Some years ago Mr. Coakley, the Engineer-in-Chief, recommended the construction of surface drains. These have not yet been made, and the Public Works Department will be required to undertake their construction. The services of a plasterer are also required for numerous repairs to the walls.

There is a large and constantly recurring expenditure in connexion with the cartage of coal and other material to this place. This matter has been reported on in full in Reports of recent years, and it need only be added now that the desirability of having a railway siding to this hospital should be considered.

There are certain extensions of the lighting system required, and it would be an advantage to have these extensions carried out with the electric light rather than with gas. There is no doubt that the substitution of the electric light for the gas lighting system would be a great advantage.

The installation of a steam sterilizer large enough to deal with material as bulky as blankets and mattresses would be very advantageous. After the initial outlay in installing it, there would be little expense in its use, and there would be a saving in the use of disinfectants, accompanied by a more efficacious and handier system of dealing with infected material.

It would be of advantage to the place to have built a properly-equipped sewing-room.

A circular saw has not yet been supplied here. It is obvious that its installation would be of great advantage.

During the year the usual fortnightly dances for the patients have been maintained and, by the kindness of some of the people of Ballarat, a few concerts were given which were much appreciated by the patients. The annual picnic to the side of Lake Wendouree took place as usual, and was very successful. When more money is available for that purpose, greater provision for the entertainment of the patients could be made with advantage.

The church services of the different Chaplains were maintained as usual during the year.

The cricket ground has been steadily and progressively improved during the year, but more soil, similar to that obtained from Yarra Bend, is required to maintain the improvement.

Much progress has been made in the formation of lawns, the laying out of new flower beds, and the planting of trees and shrubs, and the work of former years is now making itself felt.

The work of the farm and garden has been very well carried out, and shows good results.

One Attendant and the Senior Cook were dismissed during the year for misconduct, and this resulted in great advantage to the working of the place. With this exception, the conduct of the staff generally has been good, and the wards have been kept in a clean and tidy condition, and the patients properly looked after and cared for.

The ready assistance and cordial co-operation of the Medical Officer and the clerical staff throughout the year is recorded with much pleasure.

(Sgd.) PATRICK SHAW,  
Medical Superintendent.

#### RECEIVING HOUSE AND MENTAL HOSPITAL, ROYAL PARK.

The following epitome of Table I. shows the principal changes during 1924 :-

	Receiving House.			Mental Hospital.			Voluntary Boarders.		
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males	Females.	Total.
Under treatment on 1st January, 1924..	36	36	72	39	58	97	5	10	15
On Trial Leave .. .. .	..	..	..	18	53	71	..	..	..
Cases Admitted in 1924 .. .. .	369	302	671	77	155	232	64	20	84
Cases Discharged Recovered .. .. .	108	45	153	19	35	54	..	..	..
Cases Discharged Relieved .. .. .	30	21	51	7	16	23	..	..	..
Transferred to other Hospitals .. .. .	141	203	344	43	83	126	..	..	..
Committed by Court to other Hospitals	82	13	95	..	..	..	..	..	..
Died .. .. .	12	15	27	2	6	8	..	..	..
Remaining on 31st December, 1924 .. .	27	36	63	46	68	114	10	5	15
On Trial Leave .. .. .	..	..	..	16	54	70	..	..	..
Increase .. .. .	..	..	..	5	11	16	..	..	..
Decrease in Number on Books on 31st December, 1924 .. .. .	9	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Number under Care during 1924..	405	339	744	138	266	404*	..	..	..

\* Out of the total of 1,148 cases, 52 males and 132 females are included in the admissions of both Receiving House and Mental Hospital, having by expiry of statutory time had to be transferred to the latter.

*Receiving House.*

Forms of Mental Disorder predominating in the receptions (Table XI.) were—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mental Deficiency (congenital or acquired early in life) .. ..	34	23	57
Acquired Epilepsy (later in life) .. .. .	7	6	13
General Paralysis .. .. .	15	2	17
Confusional States .. .. .	68	50	118
Primary Dementia and Stupor .. .. .	15	37	82
Recent Mania .. .. .	19	26	45
Recent Melancholia .. .. .	24	38	62
Delusional (non-systematized) .. .. .	90	50	140
Senile Dementia and Terminal Dementia .. .. .	58	56	114
The chief causes of breakdown were			
Domestic and Business Worry .. .. .	52	48	100
Mental Anxiety and Overwork .. .. .	20	18	38
Venereal Disease .. .. .	26	2	28
Alcoholic Excess .. .. .	70	11	81
Puerperal States and Lactation .. .. .	..	14	14
Puberty .. .. .	26	15	41
Menopause .. .. .	..	29	29
Senility .. .. .	41	48	89
Bodily Disorders .. .. .	16	15	31
Hereditary and Congenital Causes .. .. .	55	45	100
The majority of those who recovered were cases of—			
Confusional Insanity .. .. .	49	27	76
Recent Mania .. .. .	6	10	16
Recent Melancholia .. .. .	8	9	17
Non-systematised Delusional Insanity .. .. .	32	14	46

This year repeats the experience of former years in the class of cases received. Over 400 had to be certified and sent to hospitals for the definitely insane; the majority of these should have been so sent in the first place. On the female division, the words "Receiving House" has been given a purely literal interpretation. It is useless to expect medical men to alter a custom which reflects no blame on themselves in the minds of the friends. There is only one solution, viz., to provide ample room in the other institutions so that unsuitable cases can be committed without delay. Effective treatment and classification are impossible under the conditions of overcrowding which has become chronic.

The deaths were—males 12, females 15; total 27. Practically all of these were received in a very low bodily state, and most did not survive three weeks after reception. Sixteen died from heart or lung affection.

## MENTAL HOSPITAL.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cases Received .. .. .	77	155	232
Committed from the Receiving House .. .. .	52	132	184
Transferred to other Mental Hospitals .. .. .	43	83	126

Only 35 (males 15, females 20) were at first certified as insane, although a large percentage of those sent to the Receiving House should have been so dealt with, the clinical picture being quite obvious to practitioners with even a limited knowledge of this branch of medicine.

The recoveries totalled 54 (males 19, females 35), and 23 (males 7, females 16) were also allowed out to their friends, and failing to report within the statutory period, had to be dealt with as relieved although really recovered.

The deaths were 8 (males 2, females 6), including 1 male and 2 females who died while on trial leave with their friends.

## VOLUNTARY BOARDERS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under care on 1st January, 1924 .. .. .	5	10	15
Received .. .. .	64	21	85
Recovered .. .. .	54	20	74
Certified to Receiving House .. .. .	3	6	9
Certified to Hospital for Insane .. .. .	1	..	1
Died .. .. .	1	..	1
Remaining on 31st December, 1924 .. .. .	10	5	15

The percentage of recoveries on cases received was, therefore, 87.

The forms of disorder were—

States of Depression .. .. .	16	9	25
Delusional .. .. .	6	1	7
Alcoholic States .. .. .	28	..	28
Confusional State .. .. .	5	3	8
Neurasthenia .. .. .	3	1	4
States of Excitement .. .. .	2	3	5

The recurring predominance of alcohol as a cause each year amongst males bears out the experience of the United States of America institutions that the voluntary clause is abused and is chiefly resorted to by inebriates; where treatment is made so cheap and easy to obtain, attempt to regain self-control is not made, and an amendment of the Act would seem to be indicated. The only other cause of note was worry—chiefly of a business nature.

## GENERAL.

Restraint was needed as follows :—

One male—camisole, two periods for total of 29 hours .. .. .	} For violence for self-injury and removal of surgical dressings for self-injury.
One female—camisole, fourteen periods for total of 251½ hours .. .. .	
One female—camisole, 21 periods for total of 239½ hours .. .. .	

There was no seclusion.

Eleven candidates passed the Nursing Examinations, including the recipient of the Gold Medal for highest marks.

But for the nature of the summer so far, the water shortage would have been felt; the laying of a new main from another selected point is undoubtedly the only effective solution.

I understand that the sum of £300 has been granted for repairs to roads to this hospital. This amount will hardly permit the necessary repairs to be effected; the roads—Oak-street, from Park-street to the entrance gate past the Children's Dépôt, and the front entrance to Manningham-street—are in a deplorable state and hardly usable in the wet weather. Serious scouring has already begun in Oak-street.

The thanks of the Department is due to the Commercial Travellers' Association Cricket Club for donating a valuable cricket trophy for competition among the various hospitals; it has already created a healthy interest amongst patients and staffs, which is mutually advantageous in many ways.

(Sgd.) A. J. W. PHILPOTT,  
Medical Superintendent.

## HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, MONT PARK.

I have the honour to present the following Report for the year 1924 :—

During that period our numbers increased by 248, mainly as a result of closure of wards at Yarra Bend. Most of these transfers occurred towards the end of the year. Before that time delay had occurred owing to the fact that the airing courts had not been prepared for occupation, and until asphalted paths were provided the courts were unusable in the winter months. Once the facilities asked for at Mont Park were provided, the transfer of patients from Yarra Bend was undertaken, and up to the

time of this Report has gone on smoothly and steadily. Four new male wards and two female wards, housing in all 280 patients, had been put into use by the end of the year.

On 31st December ultimo we had in residence 411 males and 316 females, and on trial leave 34 males and 30 females, making a total of 791 patients on our registers, exclusive of soldiers at the Military Mental Hospital and escaped patients not retaken.<sup>1</sup>

The general health of the patients was good. Among civilian patients there were 29 deaths during the year from causes not calling for any comment.

The wards in occupation by the military mental patients were vacated in December, and the whole of the main block is now available for the use of civilian patients. The extra accommodation thus provided, as soon as the necessary renovations are finished, will afford a welcome relief to the pressure on the male accommodation, not only here, but in other institutions. On the female side, however, difficulty will be experienced in housing the Yarra Bend patients; and it is not likely that the pressure will be lessened until further buildings are provided, either here or elsewhere.

The occupation of the main chronic block has immediately drawn attention to the necessity of providing proper receiving wards for acute cases. The present wards serve their purpose admirably for the particular type of patients for which they were designed, but as this hospital is gradually extending its sphere of activity, the necessity of having receiving wards becomes more apparent. As it is, we have to refuse to take all classes of patients, and until we can do so the Receiving House at Royal Park must continue to be overtaxed, and cases left on their hands of which this hospital should take its full share.

A start has been made to erect the hospital wards proper. It is encouraging to find that those in authority are beginning to recognize what is required and must be provided in the important institution this hospital is rapidly becoming. We are using wards not designed as such as hospital wards, and temporary expedients have had to be provided to meet unusual conditions. With the erection of a hospital a number of our difficulties will disappear, and the nursing of the sick will be carried on more efficiently. A natural corollary to the erection of the hospital is the provision of a pathological block. It is hoped there will be no delay in giving us this most important addition. At present the system of coronial inquiries is a most cumbersome one with us, and demands much time of the medical officers. In addition, every encouragement should be given to the medical staff to embark on a series of inquiries and researches, which may do much in a preventive way to lessen the incidence of insanity. Such a block should contain a properly-equipped lecture-room for use in preparing the staff for their nursing examinations.

A church hall is an urgent requirement. At present church services are held in dining or day rooms in different parts of the institution. A central hall, capable of holding a large congregation, would also be used for recreation by the patients. Apart from a few simple indoor pastimes, little has hitherto been provided for the amusement of the patients. They miss, in particular, the dances, picture shows, and concerts, which could readily be provided if such a hall were in existence. The value of these entertainments plays a considerable part in treatment, apart from varying the monotony of the patients' existence, and is a powerful incentive to their proper conduct and employment. I feel very strongly on this matter, so much so that I consider the need of this hall to be more pressing than any other matter, except that of accommodation.

The introduction of the eight hour day's work, with a consequent increase in the numbers of the staff, has overtaxed the accommodation provided for the nurses, and has thus further added to our difficulties in making provision for the Yarra Bend inmates and their accompanying staff. The nurses' quarters, which were put in occupation during 1923, were a boon to the staff, which has been greatly appreciated by them. The question of further accommodation for them is one which must be faced.

The matters above-mentioned are most urgent, but by no means exhaust the many requirements still necessary to make this a properly-equipped and efficient hospital. The condition of our roads is steadily going from bad to worse, and a large sum will be required to put them in proper order. Temporary structures are being

used for workshops, and must necessarily be kept in use until the more urgent requirements are met. It might, however, be pointed out that one always feels uneasy whilst wooden structures are in use in these institutions.

The various changes which are in course have entailed a great deal of extra work practically on the whole staff. It would ill become me if I did not place on record my appreciation of the assistance willingly afforded me by all. The office staff in particular, and the Senior Medical Officer (Dr. Cade), above all, have had a most strenuous year. It would seem to me that their reward is neither in money nor appreciation, but in the consciousness of work well done.

(Sgd.) J. CATARINICH,  
Medical Superintendent.

#### MILITARY MENTAL HOSPITAL, MONT PARK.

Dr. Cade, at my request, submits the following Report :—

At the beginning of the year 1924 there were 103 patients in residence and 24 on trial leave. On 31st December, 1924, there were 109 in residence, 17 on trial leave, and 1 escaped patient not retaken.

Admissions during the year .. .. .	17
Discharged during the year .. .. .	9
Deaths during the year .. .. .	8

Of the 17 new admissions, at the date of their reception, 12 were suffering from primary dementia, 2 from delusional insanity, 1 from terminal dementia, 1 from G.P.I., and 1 from moral insanity.

In those that died, the causes of death were—

General paralysis of the insane .. .. .	3
Phthisis .. .. .	1
Malignant disease of bowel .. .. .	1
Septicaemia and terminal pneumonia .. .. .	1
Pernicious anaemia .. .. .	1
Suicide whilst on trial leave .. .. .	1

In addition, we have had in residence during 1924 a total of 10 voluntary boarders, of whom 6 remained at the end of the year.

The health of the patients throughout the year was very satisfactory, there having been an entire absence of any disease of an epidemic nature.

Since 1st April, 1924, the military mental patients at Mont Park have been under the administration of the State Lunacy Department, and under this régime numerous and important changes have been made in their care and treatment.

On 1st May, 1924, Bundoora was opened for the reception of quiet, convalescent, and manageable cases, and of this type about 40 were transferred there from the original military mental wards at Mont Park. In December of the same year the remaining patients, to the number of between 70 and 80, were moved to the military mental block which had been constructed for them some years ago. The changes enabled the authorities to bring into effect a proper system of classification, which for years had been the outstanding need as regards the mental soldiers.

The men are now divided into three classes—

- (1) The quiet cases at Bundoora, who are more or less parole patients.
- (2) The chronic cases who, though on the whole well behaved, need supervision.
- (3) The refractory, degraded, and dangerous cases.





## RECEIVING HOUSES AND WARDS.

TABLE.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year ended 31st December, 1924.

				Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the Institutions, 1st January, 1924				...	...	...	39	42	81
Cases admitted—									
First admissions				336	279	615	..	...	...
Not first admissions				116	97	213	...	...	...
Escaped patients retaken				...	1	1	...	...	...
Total cases admitted during the year				...	...	...	452	377	829
Total cases under care during the year				...	...	...	491	419	910
Cases discharged—									
Recovered				134	63	197	...	...	...
Relieved				38	30	68	...	...	...
Not improved				10	11	21	...	...	...
Transferred from the Institution				263	260	523	...	...	...
Escaped				...	1	1	...	...	...
Died				13	15	28	...	...	...
Total cases discharged and died during the year				...	...	...	458	380	838
Remaining in the Institutions, 31st December, 1924				...	...	...	33	39	72
Average number resident during the year				...	...	...	38	43	81
Persons under care during the year				...	...	...	472	402	874
Persons admitted				...	...	...	433	362	795
Persons recovered				...	...	...	129	60	189

## RECEIVING HOUSE, BALLARAT.

The Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1924, is now submitted.

The following changes have taken place :—

				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Resident 1.1.24				..	..	..	2	4	6
Cases admitted—									
First admissions				49	40	89	..	..	..
Not first admissions				6	11	17	..	..	..
Total cases admitted during the year				..	..	..	55	51	106
Total cases under care during the year				..	..	..	57	55	112
Cases discharged—									
Recovered				20	13	33	..	..	..
Relieved				3	6	9	..	..	..
Not improved				2	2	4	..	..	..
Transferred from the Institution				29	33	62	..	..	..
Total cases discharged and died during the year				..	..	..	54	54	108
Remaining on 31st December, 1924				..	..	..	3	1	4
Average number resident during year				..	..	..	4	5	9

The records of the year show, among the forms of insanity on admission, a number of cases of imbecility, primary dementia, terminal dementia, two cases of general paralysis of the insane, and well-marked cases of other forms of insanity. So that a number of cases were admitted that could not in any way come under the category of "Receiving House cases."

The average number daily resident throughout the year continues with little variation and, despite the admission of a number of unsuitable cases, there are certain patients admitted to whom the provision of a Receiving House is a distinct advantage. However, under present conditions, there is a lack of sufficient medical supervision owing to the comparative inaccessibility of the Receiving House, and it is necessary to transfer to the Hospital for the Insane for treatment patients who, under other conditions, might remain at the Receiving House. It has also been necessary to transfer patients who might become an annoyance to the neighbours owing to their noise. It is impossible to prevent the Receiving House from being an annoyance, at any rate to the nearest neighbours. Were it possible to sell the building to advantage and to establish new Receiving House Wards near the Hospital for the Insane a great improvement would result, and convenience and economy in the management of the place.

During the year two male and six female patients were treated as voluntary boarders.

The Institution has been free from epidemics, and free generally from serious illnesses, although most of the patients admitted have been in indifferent bodily health and condition.

The hot water system has been put into working order during the year.

The conduct of the staff has been good.

(Sgd.) PATRICK SHAW,  
Medical Superintendent.

#### COST OF MAINTENANCE.

Tables XII., XIII., and XIV. furnish details of the receipts and expenditure for the year 1924-25.

The amount collected by the Master-in-Equity as maintenance was £59,314—an increase of £24,018 over that of the previous year. This is accounted for in the main by the payments received from the Repatriation Department for a number of Military Mental patients. Under an agreement between the Commonwealth and the State, about 120 of these patients were transferred to the care of the Lunacy Department. Separate accommodation was provided for them at Bundoora and in a hospital specially erected at Mont Park, and the Commonwealth contracted under the agreement to pay to the State the sum of 6s. 6d. per diem for their care and treatment.

The amount of receipts for paying patients was 13·85 per cent. of the total cost of maintenance.

The total expenditure of the Department for the year was £433,295, and exceeded that of the previous year by £47,967. The daily average number of patients resident was 5,617—an increase of 141 over the year 1923-24.

The Salaries Vote was augmented by a reclassification of the Professional and General Divisions, and the appointment of additional staff to enable a system of 48 hours' duty per week to be instituted for the nursing and artisans' staffs. Additional staff was also appointed for the Repatriation Mental Hospitals at Bundoora and Mont Park and, further, to provide for granting certain public holidays to the nursing staff.

There was also an increase in the cost of provisions of £3,800.

The following statement shows the average weekly cost per patient for the last three financial years, and for the year 1914 :-

Details of the average weekly costs.	1914.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Salaries .. .. .	7 10½	13 0½	14 8½	17 0
Provisions and Extra Articles .. .. .	4 4	5 10¼	6 5½	6 6¾
Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture .. .. .	0 11¾	1 10¾	1 11	1 11½
Stores .. .. .	0 4½	0 7	0 7¾	0 8¼
Fuel, Light and Water .. .. .	1 1¾	1 9½	2 1	2 1
Medicines and Stimulants .. .. .	0 1¾	0 2½	0 2½	0 2¾
Incidentals (Postage, Travelling Expenses, Chaplains' Fees, &c.) .. .. .	0 2	0 2½	0 2½	0 3½
Average weekly cost per patient .. .. .	15 0¼	23 7	26 2¾	28 9¾
Daily Average Number Resident .. .. .	5,102	5,481	5,476	5,617

From the gross weekly cost (28s. 9¾d.) shown above, a deduction of 4s. 5¼d. per patient should be made for collections for maintenance, &c., which reduces the net cost to 24s. 4½d. for the year under review.

The total receipts and expenditure for the years 1920-21 to 1924-25 are as follows :—

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1920-21 .. .. .	33,474	391,216
1921-22 .. .. .	42,980	360,878
1922-23 .. .. .	33,716	347,287
1923-24 .. .. .	41,300	385,328
1924-25 .. .. .	64,781	433,295

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

The farm and garden results are shown in Table XV. The value of the produce is £34,103, and it is satisfactory to note that a liberal supply of vegetables and milk in particular has been maintained.

The provisions obtained under the contract system controlled by the Tender Board have been of good quality. From time to time the meat at various Hospitals for Insane have been examined by an Inspector of the Public Health Department, and the butter, prior to its transport to the Asylms, by an Officer of the Department of Agriculture. The reports of these officers have been satisfactory.

It is a pleasure to place on record the whole-hearted co-operation of the clerical officers in the progressive and general work of the Department, and the marked efficiency with which it has been so capably performed.

DEANE SMITH,  
Chief Clerk and Accountant.

TABLE XII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Lunacy Department during the Year ended 30th June, 1925.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Collections by the Master-in-Equity for Maintenance of Patients at the Hospitals for Insane—			General Expenses, Salaries at Head Office, Fees to Official Visitors, Travelling Expenses, Postage and Telegrams, &c. ...	7,207	1 8
Yarra Bend ...	59,313	14 9	Maintenance at the Hospitals for Insane at—		
Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum			Yarra Bend ...	29,665	18 2
Ararat ...			Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum ...	83,556	2 5
Beechworth ...			Ararat ...	45,530	19 9
Sunbury ...			Beechworth ...	41,837	11 2
Ballarat and Receiving House ...			Sunbury ...	64,744	5 0
Royal Park and Receiving House ...			Ballarat and Receiving House...	53,283	16 3
Mont Park and Military Mental Hospital ...			Royal Park and Receiving House	29,475	12 2
Receiving Ward, Bendigo			Mont Park and Military Mental Hospital...	72,948	9 11
Sales ...	3,944	16 8	Receiving Ward, Bendigo ...	899	8 0
Fines ...	17	19 0	Expenses in connexion with the Com-		
Collections, Fees, &c. ...	1,504	19 6	mittal and Transport of Lunatics	1,345	8 2
			Expenses in connexion with Boarding out Patients	2,800	19 4
Total ...	£64,781	9 11	Total ...	£433,295	12 0

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, 1925.

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 ...	328	29,665	18 2	17,706	2 4	...	...	82	10 0	6,439	12 6
Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum	1,265	83,556	2 5	50,639	11 9	...	...	96	0 0	17,823	12 6
Ararat ...	618	45,530	19 9	27,656	2 4	...	...	147	0 0	10,198	16 11
Beechworth ...	626	41,837	11 2	24,782	17 3	...	...	77	0 0	10,099	17 6
Sunbury ...	1,014	64,744	5 0	36,217	9 4	...	...	88	0 0	17,125	2 5
Ballarat and Receiving House	696	53,283	16 3	29,083	18 9	...	...	92	0 0	11,897	0 7
Royal Park and Receiving House	203	29,475	12 2	21,344	12 0	...	...	34	0 0	4,663	16 3
Mont Park and Military Mental Hospital ...	867	72,948	9 11	40,860	1 7	...	...	50	0 0	17,509	11 11
General expenses	...	7,207	1 8	5,470	17 8	475	10 0	...	...	...	...
Total ...	5,617	428,249	16 6	253,761	13 0	475	10 0	666	10 0	95,757	10 7

  

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, &c.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Yarra Bend ...	1,809	14 7	510	12 5	2,454	18 0	206	13 11	128	10 0	...	...	327	4 5
Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum	6,173	15 9	1,805	16 3	5,574	6 2	421	12 7	307	5 2	86	7 3	627	15 0
Ararat ...	3,426	6 0	677	7 1	3,062	17 6	126	11 10	49	16 11	...	...	186	1 2
Beechworth ...	2,634	16 2	933	13 7	2,700	19 11	226	11 10	97	3 9	36	16 8	247	14 6
Sunbury ...	4,129	16 3	1,441	18 4	4,623	2 8	543	19 4	59	10 0	35	19 7	479	7 1
Ballarat and Receiving House	3,727	16 7	1,084	8 5	6,513	15 1	328	5 4	132	7 5	111	8 9	312	15 4
Royal Park and Receiving House	910	2 10	686	7 11	1,346	16 4	168	0 7	10	12 6	122	19 9	188	4 0
Mont Park and Military Mental Hospital ...	5,676	10 3	2,972	15 0	4,338	3 0	507	2 1	86	15 2	110	1 7	837	9 4
General expenses	...	...	82	8 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,178	5 7
Total ...	28,488	18 5	10,195	7 5	33,614	18 8	2,528	17 6	872	0 11	503	13 7	4,384	16 5

TABLE XIV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients during the Year ended 30th June, 1925.

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 ...	328	29,665	18	2	...	...	1	0	9	0	0	1	1	0	7	6	1
Kew and Kew I. A.	1,265	83,556	2	5	...	...	0	15	4	0	0	0	1	0	5	5	...
Ararat ...	618	45,530	19	9	...	...	0	17	2	0	0	0	1	0	6	4	1
Beechworth ...	626	41,837	11	2	...	...	0	15	2	0	0	0	1	0	6	2	1
Sunbury ...	1,014	64,744	5	0	...	...	0	13	8	0	0	0	1	0	6	6	...
Ballarat and Receiving House	656	53,283	16	3	...	...	0	16	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	6	1
Royal Park and Receiving House	203	29,475	12	2	...	...	2	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	8	10	...
Mont Park and Military Mental Hospital ...	867	72,948	9	11	...	...	0	18	1	0	0	0	1	0	7	6	1
Total ...	5,617	421,042	14	10	64,781	9	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	7,207	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

  

Hospital for the Insane.	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	1	0	0	7	0	2	10	0	0	3	0	0	1	...	...	...
Kew and Kew I. A.	0	1	10	0	0	6	0	1	8	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ararat ...	0	2	1	0	0	5	0	1	11	0	0	1	0	0	0	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	0	1	7	0	0	6	0	1	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sunbury ...	0	1	6	0	0	6	0	1	9	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ballarat and Receiving House	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	3	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Royal Park and Receiving House	0	1	8	0	1	3	0	2	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mont Park and Military Mental Hospital ...	0	2	6	0	1	3	0	1	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

  

Hospital for the Insane.	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	4	1	14	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kew and Kew I. A.	0	0	2	1	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ararat ...	0	0	1	1	8	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	0	0	1	1	5	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sunbury ...	0	0	2	1	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ballarat and Receiving House	0	0	2	1	9	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Royal Park and Receiving House	0	0	4	2	15	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mont Park and Military Mental Hospital ...	0	0	4	1	12	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	1	8	9	0	4	5	1	4	4
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 31st December, 1924.

Hospital for Insane.	Eggs.	Meat, Poultry, &c.	Milk.	Green Food.	Hay.	Vegetables.
	doz.	lbs	qts.	tons.	tons.	lbs
Yarra Bend ...	762	2,793	76,613	60	80	164,960
Kew ...	1,838	1,923	150,282	150	150	602,879
Ararat ...	166	...	92,595	3	166	206,132
Beechworth ...	586	613	60,420	50	120	252,703
Sunbury ...	346	1,385	115,330	50	350	232,211
Ballarat ...	239	1,275	88,135	120	160	259,578
Royal Park ...	475	45	57,274	100	30	53,659
Mont Park ...	688	3,505	108,381	130	198	178,138
Total Value ...	£ s. d. 373 15 5	£ s. d. 427 16 6	£ s. d. 14,114 16 5	£ s. d. 700 10 0	£ s. d. 5,810 8 10	£ s. d. 9,637 2 0

  

—	Fruit.	Barley.	Firewood.	Mangels.	Root Crops.	Ensilage.	Straw.
	lbs.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Yarra Bend ...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...
Kew ...	5,960	...	200	25	...	...	...
Ararat ...	587	24	...	...	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	52,141	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sunbury ...	17,777	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ballarat ...	6,791	...	...	...	150	100	5
Royal Park ...	7,238	...	...	...	30	...	...
Mont Park ...	17,425	...	80	...	103	...	17
Total Value ...	£ s. d. 720 12 0	£ s. d. 76 0 0	£ s. d. 377 10 0	£ s. d. 37 10 0	£ s. d. 395 10 0	£ s. d. 100 0 0	£ s. d. 66 18 0

  

—	Maize.	Chaff.	Peas.	Lucerne.	Seeds.	
					Oats.	Barley.
					tons.	bushels.
Yarra Bend ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kew ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ararat ...	30	...	...	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sunbury ...	...	...	50	...	...	...
Ballarat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Royal Park ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mont Park ...	150	85	...	100	910	17
Total Value ...	£ s. d. 180 0 0	£ s. d. 425 0 0	£ s. d. 375 0 0	£ s. d. 100 0 0	£ s. d. 182 0 0	£ s. d. 3 8 0

Grand total value, £34,103 17s. 2d.





## 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 ending 31st December, 1924.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Remaining in the Institutions on the 1st January, 1924—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	12	12	24	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	7	32	39	...	...	...
Admissions—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	76	35	111	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	21	70	91	...	...	...
Total cases under care during the year ... ..	...	...	...	116	149	265
Discharged—						
Recovered—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	61	29	90	..	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	18	59	77	...	...	...
Certified as Insane or Apparently Insane—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	6	10	16	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	3	11	14	...	...	...
Died—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	1	...	1	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	3	2	5	...	...	...
Total discharged ... ..	...	...	...	92	111	203
Remaining in Institutions on 31st December, 1924—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	20	8	28	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	4	30	34	...	...	...
Total remaining ... ..	...	...	...	24	38	62

## VOLUNTARY BOARDERS.

The numbers this year show an increase over the preceding year. There were 111 admitted to State Institutions, and 91 to Private Licensed Houses. Under care during the year were 265 patients. The recovery rate of these is a high one, as of the 202 admissions no less than 167 were discharged recovered; 30 only had to be certified.

One voluntary patient died at Royal Park, and five died in Private Licensed Houses. One of them, a male patient at "St. Helens," committed suicide by hanging.

A few of the cases, particularly in the Private Licensed Houses, are undoubtedly certifiable; but at the express wish of the relatives and friends these patients are permitted to remain as voluntary boarders, provided there is no contra-indication to such a procedure.

## PRIVATE LICENSED HOUSES.

There are now only four such Institutions, the licence granted for "The Tofts," at Frankston, having been withdrawn at the request of the licensee.

The numbers in these Institutions remain much about the same as in the previous years, and the same thing may be said with regard to the admissions and discharges.

These Institutions are regularly inspected by the official visitors of the metropolitan district and the Inspector-General of the Insane, and there is nothing in the conduct of any of them which warranted any special comment.

## PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY, ROYAL PARK.

I beg to submit a Report on the pathological work for the year 1924. During the year I made post-mortem examinations on patients who died in the following Institutions:—

Institution.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Royal Park .. .. .	11	21	32
Kew .. .. .	82	34	116
Yarra Bend .. .. .	19	19	38
Mont Park .. .. .	14	12	26
St. Helen's .. .. .	3	3	6
Mount Ida .. .. .	..	3	3
Merton .. .. .	..	1	1
Belmont .. .. .	..	1	1
Total .. .. .	129	94	223

During the year typhoid has occurred at Kew, Yarra Bend, Mont Park, and Beechworth, with fatal results at Kew, Yarra Bend, and Beechworth. As this disease comes under the classification of the filth diseases, its eradication should be a comparatively simple matter.

The routine examination of specimens submitted during the year has proceeded as usual.

Investigations concerning the causation and pathology of Mongolian idiocy and epiloia were made, and papers incorporating the results were published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*. The last-named disease is very rare, and very seldom seen outside an institution for segregating idiots. Its association with the skin disease known as adenoma sebaceum, and changes in the kidneys and brain, constitute a pathological puzzle. All the patients who were suffering from this condition at Kew are now dead, and their histories, course of the disease, and post-mortem results set forth in the paper on epiloia. A glance at the above list of post-mortem examinations will show that the Pathologist has to cover a lot of ground to make these post-mortem examinations, and in many of them the journey has to be repeated in order to give evidence at the coronial inquiry. It is very difficult under these conditions to carry out research and investigatory work on the many problems which require solution in connexion with mental diseases. To make the Lunacy Department self-contained in regard to its pathological investigations requires a larger staff than that which is at present. In order to arrange for annual leave and public holidays, one of the two laboratory attendants has to shut up his laboratory for those days and relieve the other. This means that for about nine weeks in the year the Pathologist has only one assistant to do the work. What is required is an extra assistant for research and constant work only, who will not leave his laboratory for post-mortem or photography. If such a position were created this attendant would constitute the central laboratory of the Department, and the laboratories at the other Institutions could be made much smaller, and brought forward to the administration block adjacent to the Medical Officers' room. At present the laboratories are too far away from the Medical Officers' room to enable them to visit them as frequently as they would like. The central laboratory attendant could be established at the Royal Park Laboratory, or at the laboratory at Kew. In the light of recent experience, I would strongly advise that future laboratories should be under the same roof as, and near to, the Medical Officers' room, and not, as I previously advocated, in a separate pathological block.

I much appreciate the frequent discussions that I have had during the year with some of the Resident Medical Officers. These discussions or exchange of ideas are far too infrequent in our Department. The Clinician and Pathologist must combine their observations in order to make progress. During the year there occurred another

case of ulceration of the ileum with perforation, where there was a history of injury (accidental in this case). This makes the fourth occasion in which this has occurred during the last thirteen years, and from a forensic point of view is of great interest. The other three cases were reported in the *Medical Journal of Australia* on 17th September, 1919.

(Sgd.) W. A. T. LIND,  
Pathologist.

#### IN GENERAL.

The principal endeavour of the year has been to secure the evacuation of Yarra Bend. Thanks, however, to the delays occasioned by the non-settlement of the question of the Military Mental cases, the large Chronic Block at Mont Park was not handed over to us until the autumn, and it was necessary to spend considerable time and money in putting the wards, which had been used as a Military Hospital, into a good state of repair and refurnishing them. The matter was further complicated by the necessity for the provision of further accommodation for the female nursing staff. In spite of these difficulties, the numbers at Yarra Bend were reduced to 48 male and 200 female patients. We ceased to admit cases at Yarra Bend, and commenced the removal of stock and such furnishings as were suitable for use at Mont Park.

The next step of importance was the opening of the Bundoora Homestead as a hospital for the sick and bedridden, quiet and tractable, amongst the Military Mental cases. This Institution was largely staffed with Military Mental nurses, supplemented by male attendants who had had some experience of this class of work.

Following this, the remaining Military Mental cases were removed from Wards "M" and "N" in the Chronic Block to the new block, which was especially built for their use some years ago. A Medical Officer, Dr. D. D. Cade, was detailed to take charge of the Military Mental cases, the male staff being under the immediate direction of Chief Attendant T. M. Connellan, who had been associated with this work from its commencement. This step enabled the Public Works Department to start the cleaning, preparing, and furnishing of the wards in the Chronic Block.

A new wing consisting of 10 single rooms for the more excited type of female patient was provided at Royal Park, but little else has been done to provide for the difficulties with which we are face to face in the matter of providing sufficient accommodation, particularly for the female patients.

A useful step has been made by the appointment of a whole-time visiting dentist. Mr. L. J. P. Govett, a returned soldier, was selected from a large number of candidates, and with his head-quarters at Royal Park, he visits in turn the Institutions at Kew, Sunbury, and Mont Park. He had at the commencement considerable leeway to make up, but he was able to attend to the wants of 792 patients during his first year of his appointment. His work chiefly consisted of extractions, but he was able to undertake fillings for 106 patients, and treatment for pyorrhea without removal of teeth in 108 cases. It is to be hoped that, when he will have overtaken the accumulations, time will be found for him to undertake a special research into the association of mental diseases with dental defects.

A commencement had been made to renovate the Children's Cottages at Kew—to provide additional accommodation, chiefly for the boys, and improve the accommodation for the staff—when accusations of improper treatment were laid against the Medical Officer by certain of the attendants. After three days' inquiry, the Inspector-General found that these accusations were the result of conspiracy on the part of certain of the attendants to get rid of the Medical Officer.

Since he had held this preliminary inquiry, it was thought undesirable that the Inspector-General should hear charges against these attendants; accordingly a Royal Commission was appointed to make inquiry into the facts of the charges, and into the conditions existing in the Institution itself. After a protracted hearing, the Royal Commissioner, A. A. Kelley, P.M., presented a report in which he confirmed the conclusions of the Inspector-General of the Insane. He further made recommendations as to the re-organization and reconstruction of the Children's Cottages. Three attendants were dismissed, the Medical Officer transferred to another institution, as

well as certain other of the staff implicated in the charges. The findings of the Commissioner revealed the fact that the various recommendations for the improvement and reconstruction of the Institution made by the Inspector-General had not been given effect to by previous Ministries, owing, no doubt, to the necessity for an extreme economy attributable to the strain entailed on the State's finance as a result of the war.

During the year two attendants were dismissed from the Service—one as a result of a conviction for a civil misdemeanour, and the other for striking a patient.

#### ACCOMMODATION.

With the complete opening of the Chronic Block at Mont Park, the problem of accommodation for male patients is settled, at any rate for the time being, but there is still overcrowding on the female side in some dormitories, and ward galleries are being used for sleeping purposes which were never intended or constructed for that purpose. There is, moreover, an accumulation of epileptic patients, both male and female, for whom special wards should be provided. To some extent the provision of additional homes for the nurses will set free rooms for patients, but this only gives us somewhat limited additional accommodation. It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to provide accommodation for more wards, some of which should be for epileptic patients.

Objection has also been taken to the male portion of the Institution at Wendouree (Ballarat), and rightly so, inasmuch as this building was never intended for mental cases. It has been proposed in the past to convert or adapt it, and if this is to be carried out, it will mean difficult reconstruction. A more recent proposition is that the whole of this building should be done away with and an entirely new wing erected in its place. Undoubtedly there is much to be said in favour of this proposition, but it will entail far greater expenditure.

It has been recognized that the Institutions at Ararat, Beechworth, and Sunbury should be equipped with water-borne sewage schemes. This step, unquestionably necessary from a hygienic standpoint, will cost at least £30,000, but it ought to be undertaken, as the double-pan system is certainly not suitable for such Institutions as State Hospitals for the Insane.

The necessity for recreation halls wherein divine services can be given is severely felt both at Mont Park and Sunbury. In the latter Institution the recreation hall and the place where divine services are held consists of an old and dilapidated drill hall. In summer it is extremely hot: in winter it is uncomfortably cold. At Mont Park we have no such recreation hall at all, and those patients who have been long resident in Yarra Bend necessarily feel the deprivation of their weekly dances.

The question of the provision of a State Hospital for the Gippsland district has previously been commented on, and the first step which appears to be necessary is to acquire a suitable site for such an Institution. It should be reasonably accessible to the railway and one of the larger towns. It should also possess the possibilities of a good water supply system, and, if certain portion of the land selected consists of good agricultural land, it will be of very considerable service in keeping down the cost of the upkeep.

#### PATHOLOGICAL WORK.

Dr. W. A. T. Lind, the Pathologist and Neurologist to the Department, is still an "exempt" Officer, and his time is more than fully occupied by the demands made on him at the hands of the Coroner. The fact that he has to make a post-mortem examination on every patient dying in the Metropolitan Institutions and the Private Licensed Houses, and moreover, to attend the coronial inquiry and give evidence on oath, is sufficiently good reason for his inability to put in all the time that he should in research work into the causation of mental diseases.

Attention has been called repeatedly to the fact that in the State of Victoria in the Metropolitan Hospitals for Insane alone it is necessary to have post-mortem examinations made and investigated in this way. In no other country or State does such a procedure exist. Moreover, in the Hospitals for Insane at Ararat, Beechworth, and Ballarat, examinations, when they are deemed necessary, are performed by the Medical Officers themselves. This is the custom which exists in all other countries.

Moreover, from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. of the post-mortem examinations which are made in the Metropolitan area are for all scientific purposes useless, as they are post-mortem examinations made on patients dying from advanced old age. The theory of this rigid investigation is that it may act as a check on the conduct towards their charges of the attendant staff, but that it is not altogether necessary is indicated by the fact that it is done in no other country. Moreover, it would tend to elevate the position of a Medical Officer in the eyes of the staff if the responsibility of these investigations were thrown on his shoulders. The coronial inquiries could still be made and the necessary evidence given by the Medical Officers themselves who would undertake these examinations on a scheme laid down and supervised by Dr. Lind. The result would be that Dr. Lind's time would be more usefully occupied, and it would be possible for him to undertake work at the University Medical School, which would be of much greater scientific utility than is the case at present.

In this connexion, additional appointments should be made to the Metropolitan Institutions, especially to Royal Park, of half-time paid clinical assistants. At Royal Park, in particular, the work is growing more and more onerous and responsible, and it is in that Institution that the best work can be done for the early treatment of insanity.

It is here, too, that appointments should be made to enable massage to be given to those patients requiring it, and every endeavour should be made to regard the Royal Park Institutions as Hospitals for the treatment of early and curable cases of insanity. Unfortunately, the medical profession has become firmly convinced that all cases should go to Royal Park; the result is that 40 per cent. of our beds at Royal Park are occupied by obvious and incurable mental cases. There is no reason why cases of senile dementia, cases of obvious imbecility, cases of well-marked general paralysis, and epileptic dements should be sent for observation to these Institutions. The fact is that the medical practitioner is loth to tell the relatives that a patient is wholly incurable; and it is becoming more apparent that it will be necessary to proclaim the existing Mental Hospital at Royal Park as a Receiving House, so that the whole of our accommodation at Royal Park, amounting to 220 beds, should be available only for observation and early cases. This will necessitate the provision of receiving wards, preferably at Mont Park and Sunbury. In all probability it will be better to regard the Hospital for Insane at Kew as an Institution for incurable and chronic cases of mental disorder, if it is not to share the same fate as Yarra Bend.

#### PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC.

From time to time in these Annual Reports reference has been made to the necessity for better provision for the treatment of early cases of mental disorder and the teaching of medical students and practitioners in the matter of mental defects and disorders generally.

Endeavour has been made to interest the General Hospitals in this subject, without success. Recently, however, a slight advance has been made in this direction by the appointment at the Melbourne and the Alfred Hospitals of experienced practitioners to the staff. Dr. Morris Gamble, for many years a Medical Superintendent in this Department, has been appointed as Consulting Alienist at both the previously-mentioned Hospitals, and he is associated at the Melbourne Hospital with Dr. H. F. Maudsley, who is the Neurologist to that Institution. Dr. Gamble has, at the Alfred Hospital, an out-patient clinic but, as yet, lacks in-patient accommodation.

In New South Wales a Chair has been created in psychological subjects and a Diploma in Psychiatry has been established. Inquiries in Victoria serve to show that there will be very little scope for the establishment of another Diploma of this character in Australia, as there will not be a sufficient number of candidates coming forward, at any rate at the present time; but something will be necessary in Victoria if we are to keep abreast of modern advances in psychological medicine.

In Great Britain a Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorders is considering this question, and it would appear that the one thing that is being placed in the foreground is the establishment of Psychiatric Clinics and Research Laboratories.

The expert committee, giving evidence before this Commission, makes the following recommendations :—

1. That clinics be established by local authorities for the treatment of nervous and mental diseases in their early stages ; and that, in the organization of clinics, special provision be made for children.
2. That voluntary patients should be received, and also that provision be made for the reception of non-volitional patients for a limited time without certification, in such a psychiatric clinic.
3. That such a clinic should be, where possible, an annexe to a general hospital, or housed in a special building.
4. That such a clinic should be adequately staffed, and the medical and nursing personnel should include special staff trained in psychiatric work.
5. That it should be the duty of local authorities to provide and maintain clinics, either themselves or by arrangement with voluntary organizations for the purpose.
6. That the supervisory committee, or committee of management, of such a clinic should be a special committee of the local statutory committee of mental health.
7. That the inspection and approval of the buildings used for such clinics should be the duty of the central Government Department.

In Victoria there is no necessity to amplify the recommendation concerning voluntary patients. Furthermore, the establishment of Receiving Houses, which has proved so successful in this country, is something which is really an advance on the existing conditions in Great Britain, but these Institutions do not fulfil the requirements which would be met by a Psychiatric Clinic. These provide facilities for treatment for members of the public for those conditions which it is customary to designate as "Nerves." Unquestionably, in the early stages of their disorder, these patients should be in the hands of specialists in mental diseases, who should have associated with them a physician, surgeon, and specialists in all other separate medical subjects. This co-ordination can only be suitably achieved in the environment of a general hospital.

If any new hospital is to be erected in Melbourne, the establishment of a psychiatric and neurological section should be made a *sine qua non*, particularly if that hospital is to be regarded as a principal teaching medical school of the University.

W. ERNEST JONES.