

1924.

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,

1923.

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PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO ACT 6 GEO. V.,  
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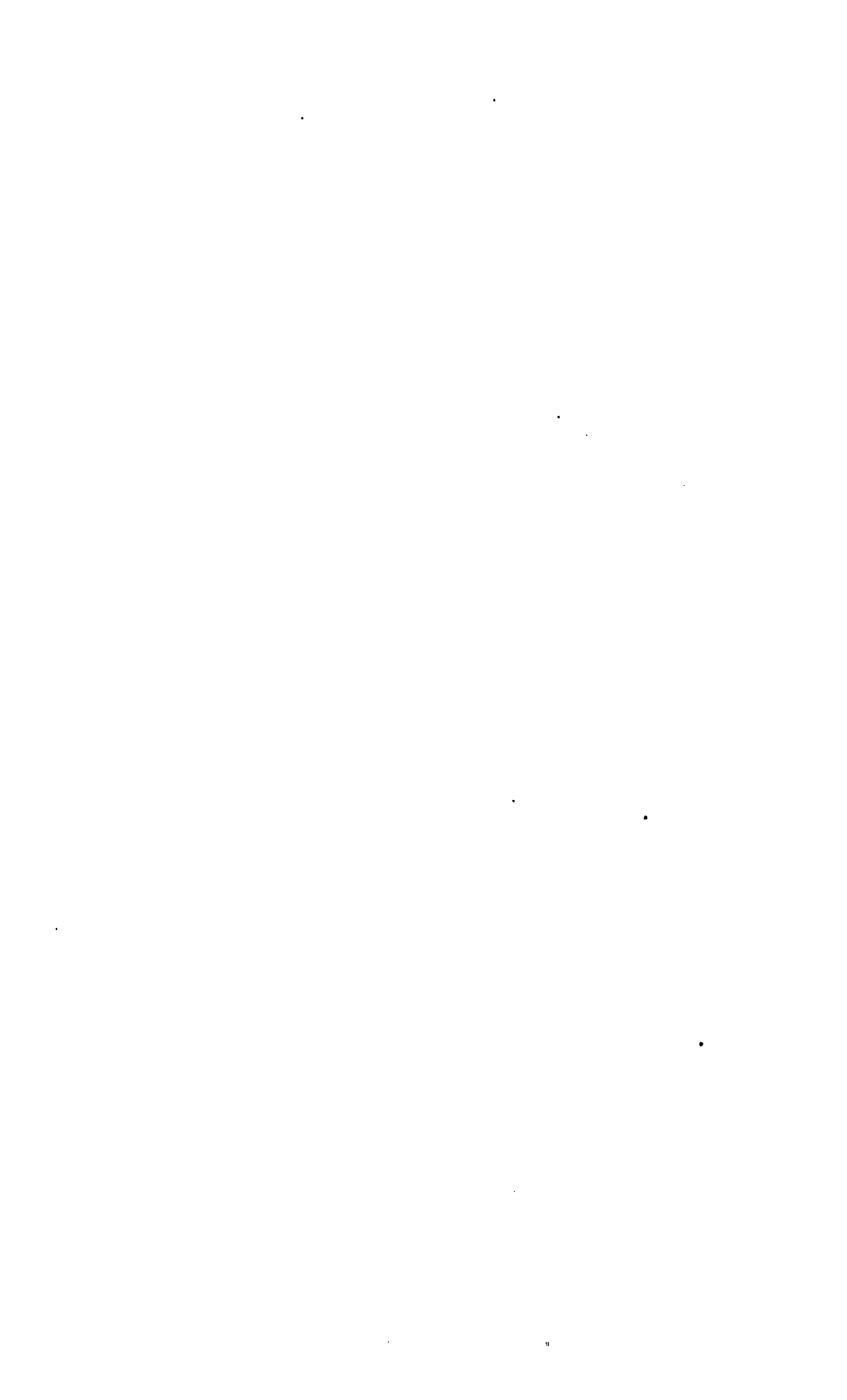
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# REPORT.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT,  
Inspector-General's Office,  
Old Treasury Buildings, Spring-street,  
Melbourne, 27th August, 1924.

*To the Honorable the Chief Secretary.*

SIR,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of this Department for the year 1923.

In contra-distinction to the previous year, there has been a very small addition to the numbers of registered insane in this State; indeed, there is actually a diminution in the numbers under care in the Hospitals for Insane, resulting in a satisfactory improvement in the ratio of the insane to the population of the State. This ratio is now one insane person to every 265 of the general population. At the end of 1911, the ratio was as high as one to 245·5.

There are now in the State Hospitals 5,341 persons, as against 5,386 last year, i.e., a decrease of 45, of whom 38 are male and 7 female. On the other hand, there are 551 patients out on trial leave, 134 are boarded out, 81 are in Private Licensed Houses, 16 being out on trial leave from the latter Institutions, so that the total number of the registered insane is now 6,123 - an increase of 22 on last year's return. It must also be remembered that there are voluntary boarder patients and Military Mental cases to be taken into consideration, but these are not included amongst the returns of the registered civilian insane. There were 53 voluntary boarder patients and 127 Military Mental cases under care, also 81 patients resident in the various Receiving Houses on 31st December, 1923.

The diminution in the number resident at the end of the year is attributable to the following causes:—Slightly lower admission rates to both Hospitals and Receiving Houses; an improved discharge rate; and an increased death rate. These factors will be referred to more fully elsewhere in this Report.

The past year is distinguished by certain events, important as far as this Department is concerned. It has been recognized that new buildings providing additional accommodation for patients are very necessary, and the principle has been accepted that such works should be paid for out of loan moneys. At Mont Park the first Nurses' Home has been established, giving quarters for the female nursing staff entirely separate from the wards. The ultimate retiring age for employees has been made uniform with that in other branches of the Public Service. An increase in the salaries and wages of practically all officers has been granted, as well as an increase in the leave scale. Authority was given for the appointment of a full-time qualified dentist to certain of the metropolitan hospitals. Further funds were provided for the full equipment of the new Institution at Mont Park, but a ratification of a tentative agreement between Federal and State Governments, whereby the immediate care of the Military Mental cases would pass into the hands of the Lunacy Department, had not been reached, thereby necessitating a further postponement of the evacuation of Yarra Bend.

It has further been accepted as a principle that a new State Hospital should be provided to serve the Gippsland area in the immediate future. Provision has also been made for an increased expenditure on the Repair Vote, and this will require to be renewed for some years to come.

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, 1923.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<b>Resident in the Hospital for the Insane at—</b>						
Yarra Bend ... ..	183	377	560			
Kew ... ..	496	392	888			
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	182	171	353			
Ararat ... ..	343	256	599			
Beechworth ... ..	368	272	640			
Sunbury ... ..	474	521	995			
Ballarat ... ..	219	471	690			
Royal Park ... ..	39	58	97			
Mont Park ... ..	288	231	519			
				2,592	2,749	5,341
<b>Out on trial leave from the Hospital for Insane at—</b>						
Yarra Bend ... ..	32	41	73			
Kew ... ..	57	66	123			
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	19	11	30			
Ararat ... ..	4	5	9			
Beechworth ... ..	7	17	24			
Sunbury ... ..	54	38	92			
Ballarat ... ..	22	30	52			
Royal Park ... ..	18	53	71			
Mont Park ... ..	59	18	77			
				272	279	551
<b>Boarded out from the Hospital for Insane at—</b>						
Yarra Bend ... ..	...	3	3			
Kew ... ..	1	2	3			
Kew Idiot Asylum ... ..	...	...	...			
Ararat ... ..	...	...	...			
Beechworth ... ..	...	1	1			
Sunbury ... ..	5 <sup>2</sup>	31	89			
Ballarat ... ..	9	29	38			
Royal Park ... ..	...	...	...			
Mont Park ... ..	...	...	...			
				68	66	134
Total number of registered lunatics on the books of the Public Hospitals for the Insane ... ..	...	...	..	2,932	3,094	6,026
<b>Resident in the Licensed House—</b>						
St. Helens ... ..	12	10	22			
Mount Ida ... ..	4	12	16			
Merton ... ..	...	20	20			
Glen Holme ... ..	...	19	19			
The Tofts ... ..	...	4	4			
				16	65	81
<b>Out on trial leave from the Licensed House—</b>						
St. Helens ... ..	2	...	2			
Mount Ida ... ..	1	3	4			
Merton ... ..	...	3	3			
Glen Holme ... ..	...	5	5			
The Tofts ... ..	...	2	2			
				3	13	16
Total number of registered lunatics in the State ... ..	...	...	...	2,951	3,172	6,123

Excluding Voluntary Boarders (19 males and 44 females) and Soldiers (127).

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1923.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Hospitals, 1st January, 1923	...	...	...	2,630	2,756	5,386			
On trial	...	...	...	227	260	487			
Boarded out	...	...	...	52	72	124			
Total number on books, 1st January, 1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,909	3,088	5,997
Cases admitted—									
First admissions	379	284	663						
*Not first admissions	91	73	164						
				470	357	827			
Escaped patients retaken	...	...	...	66	5	71			
Total cases admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	536	362	898
Total cases under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,445	3,450	6,895
Cases discharged—									
Recovered	106	98	204						
Relieved	42	44	86						
†Not improved	12	11	23						
Died	276	198	474						
				436	351	787			
Escaped	...	...	...	77	5	82			
Total cases discharged and died during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	513	356	869
Remaining in the Hospitals, 31st December, 1923	...	...	...	2,592	2,749	5,341			
Patients on leave	...	...	...	272	279	551			
„ boarded out	...	...	...	68	66	134			
Total number on books, 31st December, 1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,932	3,094	6,026
Average number resident during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,626	2,750	5,376
Persons under care during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,375	3,443	6,818
Persons admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	468	357	825
Persons recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	106	98	204
Transferred from one Hospital for Insane to another	...	...	...	...	...	...	303	87	390

\* Including transfers from licensed houses.

† Including transfers to licensed houses.

TABLE III.—Showing the Previous Attacks among Persons Admitted during the Year 1923

Number of Previous Attacks.	Persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Have had one attack	88	71	159
Have had two attacks	21	10	31
Have had three attacks	3	6	9
Have had four attacks	1	4	5
Have had five attacks or over	1	2	3

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 1923 inclusively, the Soldiers treated under the *Mental Treatment Act 1915*, the Number of Patients in the Receiving Houses and Wards, and also the Voluntary Boarders on the Books of the Public Hospitals for the Insane and Private Licensed Houses at the end of each Year.

Year.	Registered Insane.						Soldiers.		Receiving Houses and Receiving Wards.			Hospitals for the Insane.			Private Licensed Houses.			Total.	Increase + Decrease.		
	Hospitals for the Insane.			Private Licensed Houses.			Total of Registered Insane.	Increase + Decrease.	Number.	Increase + Decrease.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.			Females.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.															
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.			Total.	
1900	2,286	2,113	4,399	...	...	4,399	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1901	2,307	2,194	4,501	...	...	4,501	+102	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1902	2,354	2,193	4,547	...	...	4,547	+46	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1903	2,371	2,199	4,570	...	...	4,570	+23	...	...	6	6	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1904	2,393	2,249	4,642	...	...	4,642	+72	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1905	2,436	2,332	4,768	...	...	4,771	+129	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1906	2,484	2,389	4,873	...	...	4,937	+166	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1907	2,548	2,413	4,961	...	...	5,052	+115	...	...	11	14	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1908	2,557	2,457	5,014	...	...	5,111	+97	...	...	12	13	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1909	2,612	2,485	5,097	...	...	5,200	+103	...	...	19	22	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1910	2,655	2,586	5,241	...	...	5,349	+108	...	...	22	25	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1911	2,681	2,659	5,340	...	...	5,449	+109	...	...	19	17	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1912	2,758	2,712	5,470	...	...	5,579	+109	...	...	25	28	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1913	2,839	2,792	5,631	...	...	5,736	+105	...	...	36	25	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1914	2,886	2,843	5,729	...	...	5,827	+98	...	...	27	23	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1915	2,882	2,885	5,767	...	...	5,862	+95	...	...	29	29	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1916	2,882	2,911	5,793	...	...	5,883	+90	...	...	20	31	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1917	2,901	2,932	5,833	...	...	5,919	+86	...	...	21	31	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1918	2,889	3,026	5,915	...	...	6,000	+85	...	...	30	30	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1919	2,855	2,991	5,846	...	...	5,937	+91	...	...	42	42	84	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1920	2,888	2,942	5,830	...	...	5,925	+95	...	...	34	59	93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1921	2,869	2,973	5,842	...	...	5,941	+99	...	...	37	46	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1922	2,909	3,088	5,997	...	...	6,101	+104	...	...	44	43	87	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
1923	2,932	3,094	6,026	...	...	6,123	+97	...	...	39	42	81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		

\* Private Licensed Houses recognised.

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

‡ Voluntary Boarder Act, in force October, 1914.

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

**TABLE V.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries per cent. of the Admissions, for each Year since the 1st January, 1901.**

Year	Admitted.		Discharged.				Died.		Remaining 31st December in each Year.			Average Numbers Resident.		Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.		Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers Resident.								
	Males.	Females.	Recovered.		Relieved.		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.						
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.													Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		
1901	418	351	174	125	299	11	16	27	202	128	330	2,307	2,194	4,501	2,242	2,050	4,292	11.62	35.61	38.88	9.01	6.24	7.68	
1902	455	341	176	182	358	28	27	55	203	129	332	2,354	2,193	4,547	2,262	2,086	4,348	38.68	53.37	44.97	8.97	6.18	7.63	
1903	442	334	165	159	324	27	24	51	217	145	362	2,371	2,199	4,570	2,275	2,073	4,348	38.19	47.60	42.29	9.53	6.99	8.32	
1904	404	344	148	124	272	24	36	60	198	133	331	2,393	2,249	4,642	2,275	2,091	4,367	37.48	36.04	37.03	8.70	6.36	7.58	
1905	400	338	149	101	250	22	17	39	184	136	320	2,436	2,332	4,768	2,304	2,151	4,455	37.25	29.88	33.87	7.98	6.32	7.18	
1906	402	371	151	122	273	40	47	87	156	137	293	2,484	2,389	4,873	2,323	2,200	4,523	37.56	32.88	35.32	6.71	5.23	6.47	
1907	417	311	128	107	219	35	33	68	191	137	328	2,548	2,413	4,961	2,346	2,225	4,571	26.85	34.40	35.08	8.14	6.15	7.17	
1908	405	334	135	82	197	42	50	92	229	150	379	2,557	2,455	5,014	2,392	2,253	4,644	28.39	24.55	26.65	9.57	6.65	8.16	
1909	455	310	138	100	238	26	31	57	224	147	371	2,912	2,457	5,097	2,379	2,274	4,653	30.33	32.26	31.11	9.41	6.4	7.97	
1910	422	380	93	84	177	43	44	87	233	155	388	2,955	2,586	5,241	2,412	2,304	4,716	22.03	22.10	22.07	9.66	5.85	7.80	
1911	428	389	120	94	214	24	45	69	244	158	402	2,681	2,659	5,340	2,452	2,364	4,816	28.04	24.16	26.19	9.96	6.68	8.35	
1912	456	350	96	104	200	40	38	78	235	151	386	2,758	2,712	5,470	2,529	2,409	4,938	21.05	29.71	24.81	9.29	6.27	7.82	
1913	494	324	117	81	198	50	41	91	238	155	393	2,849	2,792	5,631	2,535	2,448	4,983	23.68	22.25	23.08	9.39	6.33	7.89	
1914	415	362	128	92	220	40	43	83	210	174	384	2,866	2,843	5,729	2,584	2,462	5,046	28.76	25.41	27.26	8.12	7.06	7.60	
1915	434	390	108	110	218	56	37	93	262	199	461	2,882	2,885	5,767	2,622	2,559	5,181	24.88	28.21	26.46	9.99	7.93	8.98	
1916	403	369	105	100	205	41	40	81	251	200	451	2,882	2,911	5,793	2,607	2,541	5,148	26.05	27.10	26.55	9.63	7.87	8.76	
1917	402	360	762	153	183	55	50	105	230	179	409	2,901	2,932	5,833	2,606	2,539	5,145	19.90	28.61	24.02	8.83	7.05	7.95	
1918	346	416	762	75	155	62	65	127	218	172	390	2,889	3,026	5,915	2,612	2,577	5,189	21.68	19.03	20.34	8.35	6.67	7.52	
1919	384	361	745	83	192	67	89	156	259	189	448	2,855	2,991	5,846	2,598	2,589	5,187	21.61	30.19	25.77	9.97	7.30	8.64	
1920	465	399	864	77	227	72	90	162	274	200	474	2,888	2,942	5,830	2,621	2,589	5,210	16.56	37.59	26.27	10.45	7.72	9.10	
1921	383	419	802	113	194	60	68	128	242	198	440	2,869	2,973	5,842	2,613	2,616	5,229	21.15	26.97	24.19	9.26	7.48	8.37	
1922	434	404	838	94	181	58	39	97	231	145	376	2,909	3,088	5,997	2,620	2,727	5,347	15.05	23.27	21.60	8.82	5.32	7.03	
1923	470	357	827	106	204	42	44	86	276	198	474	2,932	3,094	6,026	2,626	2,750	5,376	22.55	27.45	24.67	10.51	7.20	8.82	
Total	9,754	8,354	18,108	2,514	5,203	965	1,014	1,979	5,207	3,695	8,902	...	...	...	56,835	54,857	111,692	...	...	...	9.34	6.74	7.97	
																			27,563	30,609	28.73			
																			4,856					

TABLE VI.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, with the Mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries and of Relieved per cent. of the Admissions for the Year ended 31st December, 1923.

Hospital for the Insane.	Admitted.			Discharged.			Died.			Remaining on the Books 31st December, 1923.			Average Number Resident during the year 1923.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers on the Average Numbers Resident.								
	Recovered			Relieved.									Average Number Resident during the year 1923.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on the Average Numbers on the Average Numbers Resident.								
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.						
Yarra Bend	90	31	121	14	19	33	6	6	12	30	21	51	215	421	636	245	384	629	15.56	61.30	27.27	6.67	19.35	9.92	12.24	5.47	8.11
Kew	101	79	180	21	14	35	18	10	28	67	54	121	534	460	1,014	495	386	881	20.79	17.72	19.44	17.82	12.66	15.56	13.53	13.98	13.73
Kew Idiot Asylum	30	19	49	...	...	...	3	2	5	26	11	37	201	182	383	188	171	359	...	...	...	10.00	10.53	10.20	13.82	6.43	10.30
Ararat	10	6	16	7	2	9	...	1	1	32	16	48	347	261	608	350	264	614	70.00	33.33	56.25	...	16.67	6.25	9.14	6.06	7.82
Beechworth	9	5	14	2	1	3	...	...	...	27	10	37	375	290	665	351	278	629	22.22	20.00	21.42	...	...	...	7.69	3.59	5.88
Sunbury	95	44	139	20	13	33	5	4	9	55	33	88	586	590	1,176	482	518	1,000	21.05	29.54	23.74	5.26	9.09	6.47	11.41	6.37	8.80
Ballarat	37	44	81	14	10	24	7	5	12	23	38	61	250	530	780	217	463	680	37.83	22.72	29.62	18.92	11.36	14.81	10.59	8.20	8.97
Royal Park	86	120	206	21	35	56	1	13	14	3	5	8	57	111	168	44	57	101	24.42	29.17	27.18	1.16	10.81	6.80	6.82	8.77	7.92
Mont Park	12	9	21	7	4	11	2	3	5	13	10	23	347	249	596	254	229	483	58.33	44.44	52.38	16.67	33.33	23.80	5.12	4.37	4.76
Total	470	357	827	106	98	204	42	44	86	276	198	474	2,932	3,094	6,026	2,750	5,376	22.55	27.45	24.67	8.94	12.32	10.40	10.51	7.20	8.82	



TABLE VII.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Not Retaken, Escaped not Retaken, and Died, during the Year 1923, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1923.

Ages.	Admitted.			Recovered.			Discharged.			Escaped Patients not Retaken.			Died.		Remaining on 31st December, 1923.					
	Male.		Female.	Male.		Female.	Male.		Female.	Male.		Female.	Male.		Female.	Total.				
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Total.			
Under 5 years	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	12			
5 years and under 10 years	...	10	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	26	46			
10 "	...	8	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	8	32	25			
15 "	...	20	12	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	75	53			
20 "	...	38	22	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	15	145	97			
25 "	...	48	27	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	18	191	145			
30 "	...	52	29	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	12	260	235			
35 "	...	36	40	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	18	328	323			
40 "	...	39	30	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	23	289	305			
45 "	...	47	41	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	39	322	360			
50 "	...	40	29	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	35	350	382			
55 "	...	37	34	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	57	312	395			
60 "	...	28	25	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	49	231	288			
65 "	...	14	18	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	41	147	174			
70 "	...	17	11	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	35	82	107			
75 "	...	16	14	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	49	31	54			
80 "	...	10	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	24	28	32			
85 "	...	3	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	15	15	13			
90 "	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	12	...	7			
over	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	63	72			
Unknown...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135			
Total	...	470	357	827	106	98	204	42	44	86	12	11	23	11	275	474	2,932	3,094	6,026	
Hospitals for the Insane, Mean Age	...	44.94	45.11	44.89	43.08	43.65	43.38	42.21	42.77	39.08	49.09	43.43	39.27	...	39.27	59.84	58.36	46.65	47.75	47.22
Idiot Asylum, Mean Age	...	10.40	9.26	9.96	...	...	...	14.67	15.50	15.00	...	...	...	...	18.00	16.91	17.68	20.08	23.23	21.61

TABLE VIII.—Showing the Probable Causes of Insanity in the Patients Admitted during the Year 1923.

Causes of Insanity.	Number of Instances in which each Cause was Assigned.											
	Admissions						No. of Cases—					
							170 Males, 357 Females, 827 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)	...	...	...	4	20	24	...	...	...	4	20	24
Adverse Circumstances (including business anxieties and pecuniary difficulties)...	...	...	...	4	10	14	...	...	...	4	10	14
Mental Anxiety and Worry (not included under the above two heads), and Over Work ...	1	2	3	21	7	28	...	...	...	22	9	31
Religious Excitement ...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2
Love Affairs (including seduction) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fright and Nervous Shock ...	...	...	...	14	2	16	...	...	...	14	2	16
<b>PHYSICAL.</b>												
Intemperance in Drink ...	1	2	3	44	15	59	16	...	16	61	17	78
Intemperance (sexual) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Veneral Disease ...	8	...	8	44	1	45	...	...	...	52	1	53
Self-Abuse (sexual) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over Exertion ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Sunstroke ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Accident or Injury ...	1	...	1	8	...	8	...	...	...	9	...	9
Pregnancy ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	2
Parturition and the Puerperal state ...	...	...	...	...	21	21	...	...	...	...	21	21
Lactation ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	2
Uterine and Ovarian Disorder ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Puberty ...	7	1	8	13	10	23	...	...	...	20	11	31
Change of Life ...	...	8	8	...	26	26	...	...	...	...	34	34
Fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Privation and Starvation ...	...	1	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	1	3
Old Age ..	61	40	101	7	13	20	...	...	...	68	53	121
Other Bodily Diseases or Disorders ...	7	2	9	18	29	47	4	...	4	29	31	60
Previous Attacks ...	27	41	68	1	...	1	11	4	15	39	45	84
Hereditary Influences ascertained (direct and collateral)	48	38	86	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	38	86
Congenital Defect ascertained	66	36	102	8	8	16	...	...	...	74	44	118
Other ascertained Causes ...	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	2
Unknown ...	19	4	23	...	1	1	21	21	42	40	26	66
War Strain ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Drug Habit ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epilepsy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	492	368	860
Deduct for combined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	11	33
Total Admissions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	470	357	827

TABLE IX.—Showing the Form of Mental Disorder on Admission in the Admissions, Recoveries, and Deaths for the Year 1923, and the Form of Mental Disorder of the Patients remaining on Books on 31st December, 1923

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 (idiotcy or imbecility) occurring as early in life as it can be observed—												
1. Intellectual :												
(a) With epilepsy ...	15	15	30	...	...	...	9	7	16	112	99	211
(b) Without epilepsy ...	59	27	86	1	1	2	27	22	49	365	327	692
2. Moral ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
II. Insanity occurring later in life—												
1. Insanity with Epilepsy ...	15	7	22	...	1	1	10	4	14	100	119	228
2. General Paralysis of the Insane ...	35	1	36	3	...	3	43	6	49	38	5	43
3. Insanity of the grosser brain lesions ...	7	2	9	1	...	1	6	3	9	16	12	28
4. Acute delirium (acute delirious mania)	5	1	6	2	...	2	1	1	2	...	...	...
5. Confusional Insanity ...	27	43	70	25	16	41	4	7	11	8	21	29
6. Stupor ...	2	1	3	...	2	2	1	...	1	3	4	7
7. Primary Dementia ...	80	34	114	9	5	14	16	11	27	404	390	794
8. Mania :												
(a) Recent ...	18	21	39	16	15	31	8	4	12	18	17	35
(b) Chronic ...	...	2	2	...	1	1	1	3	4	32	105	137
(c) Recurrent ...	19	11	30	7	3	10	5	8	13	42	59	101
9. Melancholia :												
(a) Recent ...	23	44	67	12	23	35	8	14	22	25	42	67
(b) Chronic ...	4	6	10	...	...	...	...	1	1	29	43	72
(c) Recurrent ...	...	9	9	2	4	6	...	3	3	7	17	24
10. Alternating Insanity ...	4	4	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	17	25
11. Delusional Insanity :												
(a) Systematized ...	12	5	17	2	2	4	6	4	10	76	64	140
(b) Non-systematized ...	48	59	107	21	23	44	19	24	43	195	272	467
12. Volitional Insanity :												
(a) Impulse ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Obsession ...	4	1	5	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	2
(c) Doubt ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
13. Moral Insanity ...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
14. Dementia :												
(a) Senile ...	60	45	105	1	1	2	76	52	128	174	260	433
(b) Secondary or Terminal ...	30	19	49	1	1	2	36	24	60	925	866	1,791
15. Not Certified ...	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
On Trial, Leave, or Boarded Out ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	340	345	685
Total ...	470	357	827	106	98	204	276	198	474	2,932	3,094	6,026

TABLE X.—Showing the condition as to Marriage in Patients Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died during the Year 1923, and of Patients Remaining on the books, 31st December, 1923.

Condition in Reference to Marriage.	Admitted.			Discharged.									Escaped Patients not Retaken.			Died.			Patients Remaining 31st December, 1923.			
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.												
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	
Single ...	242	122	364	61	36	97	18	19	37	8	6	14	7	...	7	132	67	199	2,018	1,653	3,671	
Married	156	157	313	41	46	87	20	20	40	2	4	6	2	...	2	82	71	153	577	974	1,551	
Widowed	30	57	87	3	16	19	1	3	4	1	1	2	2	...	2	20	43	63	69	221	290	
Divorced	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	17	21	
Unknown	11	1	12	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	16	6	22	63	47	110	
Total	440	338	778	106	98	204	39	42	80	12	11	23	11	...	11	250	187	437	2,731	2,912	5,643	

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

TABLE XI.—Showing the Causes of Deaths during the Year 1923.

Cause of Death.	Yarrá Bend.		Kew.		Kew Idiot Asylum.		Austral.		Beechworth.		Sunbury.		Ballarat.		Royal Park.		Mont Park.		Total.				
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.			
<b>Diseases of the Nervous System—</b>																							
Meningitis, Inflammation of Brain, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	8	1	19	2	21	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
General Paralysis of the Insane	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Cerebral Softening	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Epilepsy and Convulsions	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Hemiplegia, Apoplexy, Cerebral Haemorrhage, Cerebral Embolism	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			
Other Organic Diseases of Brain, including Tumours	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Exhaustion from Mania or Melancholia, not caused by Nervous Disease otherwise designated	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Paraplegia and Diseases of Cord, Locomotor Ataxia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Neuritis and General Sclerosis of Nervous System	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
<b>Diseases of Blood Vessels—</b>																							
Aneurysm, Arterio-Sclerosis, and other diseases not included in Diseases of Nervous System	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
<b>Diseases of Respiratory System and Thorax—</b>																							
Pulmonary Phthisis	1	2	3	5	7	2	1	3	3	3	6	7	3	2	2	4	11	20	31	31			
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Pleurisy	9	4	13	10	23	13	17	12	12	12	30	30	24	24	24	24	69	37	106	106			
Other forms of Pulmonary disease	1	1	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	6	6	6	6	6	6	10	2	12	12			
<b>Diseases of Heart—</b>																							
Valvular Disease, Fatty Degeneration, Cardiac Syncope, &c.	3	5	8	16	24	16	24	9	9	9	11	11	5	1	1	1	37	35	72	72			
<b>Diseases of Digestive System—</b>																							
Diseases of Mouth, Pharynx, Stomach (non-malignant)	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Intestines, Liver, and Peritoneum (non-tubercular)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
<b>Diseases of Genito-Urinary System—</b>																							
Diseases of Kidney, Bladder, Prostate, &c.	4	4	3	1	4	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	8	22	22			
<b>General Diseases—</b>																							
Dysentery (Colitis), Epidemic Diarrhea, Infective Enteritis	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	9	13			
Diarrhea not otherwise designated	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Abscess, Pyæmia, Septicæmia, and Cellulitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Typhoid, Influenza, and other Fevers	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Cancer, Carcinoma, Sarcoma, Malignant Disease, <i>et cetera</i> .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Syphilis and other Venereal Disease	1	1	1	3	4	3	4	1	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	7	10	17	17			
General Tuberculosis and Tubercle of Organs other than Lungs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Tetanus	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Atrophy, Debility, and Old Age	1	1	8	6	14	6	14	3	9	7	2	3	7	8	15	2	4	20	28	57			
<b>Cardiac Asthema</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
<b>Accidents</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
<b>Struck</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
<b>Total</b>	30	21	51	54	121	26	37	32	16	48	27	10	37	38	61	5	8	13	10	23	276	198	474

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

## BOARDED OUT ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

Patients boarded out to—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Private Individuals .. .. .	9	6	15
Ballarat Benevolent Asylum .. .. .	7	29	36
Bendigo Benevolent Asylum .. .. .	13	21	34
Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum .. .. .	39	10	49
Total .. .. .	68	66	134

There has been an increase of ten patients boarded out; these are principally quite demented cases, or senile patients who are more suitable for a Benevolent Asylum than a Hospital for the Insane. Were more accommodation available in the Benevolent Institutions, many more quite suitable patients could be sent there, particularly if additional nursing help was supplied.

It is an anomaly that there are many patients similar to ours in Benevolent Institutions for whom the old age pension has been made available. When, however, they reach these Asylums by way of the Lunacy Department, the old age pension is not obtainable. Frequently too, one comes across imbecile, or other congenitally weak-minded cases who are in receipt of the invalid pension, but if for any special reason they are admitted to a State Hospital, their pensions disappear.

It would be an economic proposition to increase and improve the accommodation for suitable demented and elderly patients in the Benevolent Institutions, particularly if the Commonwealth could be induced to realize its obligations to this class.

## NURSING EXAMINATIONS, 1923.

	No. of Candidates.	Passed.	Failed.
First Year—Attendants .. .. .	18	8	10
Nurses .. .. .	50	27	23
Second Year—Attendants .. .. .	15	10	5
Nurses .. .. .	32	26	6
Third Year—Attendants .. .. .	25	6	19
Nurses .. .. .	29	20	9

The proportion of passes in the first year is not good, the reason being that many Nurses take up the work without any intention of going on with it. In subsequent years they become more keen to pass the necessary examinations and qualify for promotion to second grade. There is always a difficulty in filling the higher grades on the female side, owing to the frequent changes on the probationer staff.

Preference to returned soldiers for appointment is not producing the very best results in attracting the right type of applicant.

I have to acknowledge the valuable help given me by Drs. Philpott and Hollow in the conduct of the nursing examinations.

## HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, YARRA BEND.

Starting the year with 315 males and 388 females in residence, the numbers had dropped on 31st December, 1923, to 183 males and 377 females. The decrease of the male population was due to the transferring of a number of patients to Mont Park and other Institutions. There is every prospect of a steady depletion of our numbers in the near future, and, with the completion of the preparations and additions at Mont Park, it is hoped that the ensuing twelve months will see that long desired consummation—the evacuation of Yarra Bend—completed.

The condition of the institution generally reflects credit on the nurses and attendants. Working under most depressing conditions, and under every conceivable disadvantage, they have succeeded in at least keeping the place scrupulously clean. The general decay and dilapidation have been the result of the cessation of expenditure for many years on necessary repairs. The conditions here now are such that any

patient who recovers does so, not because of his surroundings, but despite them. Everyone who has any regard for the comfort and well-being of the insane must heartily hope that there will be no further delay in their removal from Yarra Bend.

Restraint beyond the use of soft gloves is now non-existent, and seclusion has been used for one patient only, mainly at meal times owing to her dangerous proclivities.

The deaths numbered 51, including nine of patients who were on probation. This number is considerably below our average. Four female patients and one nurse developed typhoid during the year. Sporadic cases of typhoid seem to occur here year by year. Otherwise the general health of the patients has been satisfactory.

Farm and garden results have been good. Many difficulties have arisen in these spheres owing to defective fencing.

(Sgd.)

J. CATARINICH,  
Medical Superintendent.

#### HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, KEW.

The following table statistically represents the changes shown on the last day of 1922 and 1923 respectively :—

	1922.			1923.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Receptions .. .. .	124	84	208	101	79	180
Transferred to Kew .. .. .	27	28	55	32	24	56
Transferred from Kew .. .. .	20	38	58	23	21	44
Relieved .. .. .	19	6	25	18	10	28
Recovered .. .. .	22	27	49	21	14	35
Died .. .. .	75	33	108	67	54	121
Resident 31st December .. .. .	489	385	874	496	392	888
On trial .. .. .	67	70	137	57	66	123
Boarded out .. .. .	..	3	3	1	2	3
Total on Books .. .. .	556	458	1,014	554	460	1,014

Receptions—Of 180 new receptions the principal mental states were :—

Senile dementia .. .. .	20 per cent.
Congenital mental enfeeblement .. .. .	13 "
Primary dementia .. .. .	10 "
Mania .. .. .	9 "
General paralysis of insane .. .. .	8 "
Melancholia .. .. .	8 "
Dementia (secondary) .. .. .	8 "
Confusional insanity .. .. .	7 "

The following are the principal assigned causes of the mental conditions :—

Predisposing—

Old-age .. .. .	22 per cent.
Hereditary influences .. .. .	18 "

Exciting—

Bodily disease .. .. .	15 "
Congenital defect .. .. .	9 "
Venereal disease .. .. .	9 "
Alcoholic excess .. .. .	6 "
Mental anxiety .. .. .	6 "

In considering the causes statistically tabulated, it is felt that the incidence of venereal disease is of much too low a percentage in the causes assigned above.

Recoveries—

The percentage of recoveries to admissions .. .. .	19 per cent.
The percentage of recoveries and relieved to admissions .. .. .	36 "

Trial Leave—

Percentage of trial leave to number resident .. .. .	14 "
--	------

Deaths—Of the 121 deaths the principal causes were—

Disease of heart .. .. .	24
Lung disease other than phthisis .. .. .	23
General paralysis of the insane .. .. .	21
Old-age .. .. .	14
Phthisis .. .. .	7
Kidney disease .. .. .	4
Colitis .. .. .	2
Major Casualties—	
Fracture of femur .. .. .	2
Fracture of clavicle .. .. .	2
Fracture of leg .. .. .	2
Strangulation (suicide) .. .. .	1

Restraint and Seclusion—Nil.

Farm and Garden—

Value of farm produce .. .. .	£3,700
Value of vegetables and fruit .. .. .	2,506

The institutional routine has proceeded smoothly. The conduct and work of the staff has been satisfactory.

The quality of the food and clothing supplied under contract has been good.

There is still need for many general repairs to buildings and for better accommodation for nurses and better workshops for the artisans. These improvements have been asked for previously, and the requirements are well known to the Inspector-General of the Insane.

There is urgent need for increased accommodation for patients. On the female side especially there is always a number of patients sleeping on floor beds. The Receiving House and Acute Mental Hospital are always calling urgently for accommodation at Kew, and frequently we are unable to take cases from those institutions.

Comment must be made on the class of patients being received. A very large percentage of the cases are mentally and bodily helpless. The old workers are gradually passing away, and there are not sufficient able-bodied patients to take their places.

#### COLONY FOR MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

	1922.			1923.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Receptions .. .. .	24	22	46	30	19	49
Transfers to Kew .. .. .	4	..	4	1	1	2
Transfers from Kew .. .. .	5	..	5	..	4	4
Relieved .. .. .	4	2	6	3	2	5
Recovered .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Died .. .. .	15	5	20	26	11	37
Resident 31st December .. .. .	187	171	358	182	171	353
On trial .. .. .	12	8	20	19	11	30
Boarded out .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total on Books .. .. .	199	179	378	201	182	383

There have been several epidemics of infectious diseases which have been suitably coped with by the means at our disposal. The need of a properly equipped isolation centre is acutely felt.

Improvements to the institution in the way of sewerage are projected and within sight.

There is still urgent need to improve the housing conditions of the female nursing staff.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH HOLLOW.  
Medical Superintendent.

## HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, ARARAT.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients admitted (1923) .. ..	10	6	16
Patients transferred to this Institution ..	10	7	17
Total .. ..	20	13	33
Deaths .. ..	32	16	48

These comprised 32, whose ages ranged from 60 to 89 years, and were in all cases due to natural causes.

The general health of the patients was good, and no epidemics occurred.

Seclusion—Nil.

Restraint was deemed necessary in the case of one male for epileptic excitement—30 minutes; one female, homicidal and suicidal—2 hours 45 minutes.

Accidents—Nil

Escapes—Only one escape occurred during the year. A male patient escaped, but was retaken; there was no blame attached.

Repairs, &c.—The buildings generally require repairing and painting, and the erection of the nurses' quarters is, it is hoped, within reasonable distance of being carried out.

Criminal and Refractory Ward—The erection of shower baths has proved a boon to the patients, and the proposed new airing court and the substitution of single cells for the unsightly cubicles will in some way tend to relieve the monotony in this department of the institution. Much good work has been done here, such as laying drains, painting, &c. It is hoped that in the near future a system of water borne sewage will be introduced here and in the main building. The establishment of this system would not be expensive, and would be money well spent.

Accommodation, &c.—The wards are as usual overtaxed, and although in the male cottages, vacancies occur, still it is difficult to get suitable patients for occupation, as the facilities for escape are easy. The class of patients now being received is very poor as regards worker, and as the old workers either die or become too infirm for work, the outlook for workers in the farm, garden, laundry, &c., is not at all reassuring.

Staff—The conduct of the staff was good. In the female Division the scarcity of nurses is becoming serious. Many changes occurred during the year through resignations.

In General—The supply of vegetables was well up to requirements and of the usual high standard.

Good results were obtained, but the quantity of hay and milk fell somewhat short of expectations owing to a long period of drought conditions in the early part of the year and continued rain and cold weather for the remainder.

The horse teams have been brought up to an efficient standard by the purchase of suitable animals, and the policy of breeding for future requirements has been continued. Excellent results have attended the introduction of Yorkshire pigs, which should be a source of considerable revenue as time goes on.

The pine and shrub plantations are responding well to the attention bestowed upon them.

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

## HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, BEECHWORTH.

At the end of 1923 there were in residence, 640 patients—368 males and 272 females. During the year there were 14 admissions and 70 transfers.

The general health of the patients on the whole was good, except that for a short period there was an outbreak of influenza, when there was a large number of male and female patients in bed with it, and also a large proportion of the Staff. This year there were two cases of typhoid—one male and one female, but, owing to the vaccination of all patients under 60, there were no more, although there were



several cases of colitis and summer diarrhoea. If a sewerage system were provided, there would be no need to use the anti-typhoid vaccine, and the disease would be a thing of the past.

Thirty-seven deaths occurred during the year, 27 males and 10 females, which were mostly due to senile decay. The necessity for a female hospital ward still exists.

The conduct of the Staff was good. The nursing examinations were fairly satisfactory—8 nurses and 2 attendants being successful.

The lighting of the Institution is slightly better than it was last year, but the installation of electric light would be appreciated. The rooms used by some of the nurses are not suitable, and separate quarters should be built for them. The wards need better furnishings, especially in the form of easy chairs and floor covering.

Some improvement has been made in the front garden and a croquet lawn has been provided on the female side. The kitchen has been painted and cleaned thoroughly. The dance hall needs painting and renovating.

There was only one case of restraint during the year—a female patient having to wear a camisole to prevent injury to herself, she being actively suicidal. There were four minor casualties, which were due purely to accidents, and not to any neglect on the part of the nursing staff.

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

#### HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, SUNBURY.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Resident in hospital on 1st January, 1923 .. .. .	478	519	997
Average number resident .. .. .	482	518	1,000
Number of patients under care during 1923 .. .. .	687	647	1,334
Patients admitted .. .. .	95	44	139
Patients recovered .. .. .	20	13	33
Deaths .. .. .	55	33	88
Resident in hospital on 31st December, 1923 .. .. .	474	521	995
Voluntary Boarders—			
Resident on 1st January, 1923 .. .. .	..	..	..
Received .. .. .	3	3	6
Under care .. .. .	3	3	6
Certified .. .. .	1	2	3
Discharged .. .. .	2	1	3
Remaining on 31st December, 1923 .. .. .	..	..	..

#### Casualties—

S.L., Dislocation of right shoulder .. .. .	} Caused by accidental falls.
J.C., Fracture of left arm .. .. .	
F.B., Fracture of left thigh .. .. .	
T.H., Fracture of left forearm .. .. .	} Caused by violence of other patients.
H.G., Injury to right hand .. .. .	
M.M., Fracture of right hip .. .. .	

These injuries were unavoidable, and no blame was attachable to the attendants.

Restraint and Seclusion.—One patient was secluded for 1½ hours on account of violence, and one was wearing locked gloves for 66 hours on account of self-mutilation.

Health.—The general health of the patients has been good, the deaths numbering 88. There was a mild epidemic of influenza in July.

Boarded-out Cases.—A few more cases have been boarded-out at the Castlemaine and Bendigo Benevolent Asylums. There are still many cases in the hospital fit for boarding-out.

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

Farm and Garden.—These have given most satisfactory returns. There has been a considerable improvement in the ornamental grounds. Most of the airing courts have been planted with trees and grass in place of flower beds, which were unsatisfactory. The front of the building has been improved by lawns and shrubs.

Patients.—The patients have been taken outside the wards every afternoon, and those who were unable to go for walks were allowed to remain in the grounds near the buildings.

Two observation dormitories have been established for epileptic patients, but it is unsatisfactory keeping epileptic patients in wards with non-epileptics.

Improvements.—Many windows have been made to open, thus improving the ventilation throughout the buildings. More might be done in this direction. Two of the male wards have been thrown open and handles fixed to the doors and gates, so that liberty patients can have free access to the wards. This has been most satisfactory, and no patients have escaped from these wards.

A refrigerating chamber has been attached to the kitchen and a new shed built for the protection of the patients in one of the female wards.

Improvements are still needed in the nurses' quarters.

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

#### HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, BALLARAT.

The following changes have taken place during the year :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cases Admitted—						
First admissions .. .. .	28	41	69			
Not first admissions .. .. .	9	3	12	..	..	..
Transferred to the Institution .. .. .	12	8	20	..	..	..
Escaped patients retaken .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	..
Total cases admitted during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	50	52	102
Total cases under care during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	299	583	882
Cases Discharged—						
Recovered .. .. .	14	10	24	..	..	..
Relieved .. .. .	7	5	12	..	..	..
Not improved .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	..
Transferred from the Institution .. .. .	2	..	2	..	..	..
Escaped .. .. .	2	..	2	..	..	..
Died .. .. .	23	38	61	..	..	..
Total cases discharged and died during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	49	53	102
Remaining in the Hospital, 31st December, 1923	219	471	690	..	..	..
Patients on Leave .. .. .	22	30	52	..	..	..
Patients boarded-out .. .. .	9	29	38	..	..	..
Total number on books, 31st December, 1923	..	..	..	250	530	780
Average number resident during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	217	463	680

There were 61 deaths at the hospital during the year and of this number 15 were under the heading of "Atrophy, Debility, and Old-age," and of the others 10 deaths occurred in patients over the age of 65 years. With this exception no single cause stands out prominently as a cause of death. In June, July, and August there was an epidemic of influenza among the male and female patients. There were a large number of cases, but, few of any severity. There were no other epidemics throughout the year.

Two male patients escaped during the year. G.S., a case of Recurrent Mania, was in a convalescent condition and would have been discharged in a few weeks. He was engaged in sweeping outside the wards, and made his escape. He was not recaptured, and was written off the books under Section 94. P.J.M., a harmless imbecile, escaped while working with a number of other patients in the grounds. He made his way to the home of some of his relatives, and was returned to this place after an absence of seventeen days.

There was only one casualty of sufficient severity to require recording. M.M., a female patient, a very demented imbecile, was pushed off a chair by another patient and fell on the floor, getting a fracture of the surgical neck of the right humerus. She made a good recovery from this injury.

Two male patients were subjected to mechanical restraint by means of the camisole for different periods during the year. In both cases the restraint was necessary to prevent them from removing surgical dressings. T.B. was thus restrained for seven days, and A.M. for seventeen days. There was no seclusion during the year.

The results of the Nursing Examinations during the year were as follows :—

<i>First Year.</i>			
Present at Examination.		Passed Examination.	
Attendants.	Nurses.	Attendants.	Nurses.
—	.. 4	—	.. 4
<i>Second Year.</i>			
2	.. 7	2	.. 6
<i>Third Year.</i>			
—	.. 5	—	.. 4

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 in the year 1921.

The reforming and metalling of the road from the Gillies-street entrance to the Farm is an urgent matter for which a requisition was sent in, but this work has not yet been done.

Among other new buildings required the provision of a new store would be of great advantage. The old store is too small for its purpose, and it also requires the expenditure of money to keep it in repair. The demolition of the old store would also 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.

The house occupied by the secretary is now in a very decayed state and the provision of a new house for him is a matter of extreme urgency.

There still exists here very inadequate accommodation for the nurses. Despite the fact that some of the staff are allowed to sleep at home there is insufficient accommodation for the nurses sleeping in the hospital at night, and the day room accommodation is also very restricted.

The satisfactory condition of the sewerage system noted in the Annual Report for the year 1922 still continued last year, and there were only a few blockings of the drains, and consequently no extensive excavations so common in former years.

The more satisfactory conditions with regard to the gas lighting still continue. The Ballarat Gas Company has continued to maintain satisfactorily the lights installed by them according to the terms of their contract. However, the provision of other lights is required, notably in some of the single rooms and in certain parts of the grounds round the wards. There is no doubt that the electrification of the whole lighting system would be a great advantage.

Some years ago the Engineer-in-Chief recommended the construction of a number of surface drains. These have not yet been made, and the Public Works Department will be required to supervise their construction.

Much painting requires to be done to keep wood work from deteriorating, and in many places new wood work will have to be put in. Repairs and replacements are necessary in places to the spouts, and a large wooden fence forming part of the boundary on the female side is in a ruinous condition and is in danger of falling. These repairs will require the supervision of the Public Works Department.

The installation of a Steam Sterilizer large enough to deal with material as bulky as blankets and mattresses would be very advantageous here. After the initial outlay of 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.

Extensive repairs are needed to the asphaltting in different parts of the yards. It would be of advantage to the place to have built a properly equipped sewing room. An urgent requirement is the provision of a fireproof strong room for the preservation of books, papers, registers, and valuables, as in the other Hospitals for the Insane.

There is a great lack of suitable store room accommodation for the different wards on the male side.

The Public Works Department has under consideration a scheme for the extensive remodelling of the main block of buildings on the male side. It would be well to embody in this scheme a plan for the provision of the necessary store rooms.

The work of past years in filling in, levelling, trenching, and digging the ground, and in planting trees, shrubs, and grass, is now showing its effect. Much progress has been made in the formation of lawns and the laying out of new flower beds. As a result the ground in front of the office is already in good order and has a well-kept appearance. The usual amount of planting of trees and shrubs was done during the year. Certain hardy plants and shrubs were established along the front avenue, although there is difficulty of growing plants there as there is a lack of water supply in that area.

The farming and gardening work has been well carried out, and shows good results.

The conduct of the staff generally has been good, and the wards have been kept in a clean and tidy condition.

(Sgd.) PATRICK SHAW,  
Medical Superintendent.

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

The report for the year 1923 is as follows:—

##### RECEIVING HOUSE.

Seven hundred and fourteen cases were received, being an increase of 12 males and a decrease of 16 females, on the figures for the previous year. Owing to the chronic overcrowding on the female side, due to the fact that practically all cases of mental defect are sent here, and also to the inability of the other hospitals to accommodate those who ought to be sent, Police cases could not be received, and notice to this effect had to be sent to the Police authorities. The Medical Superintendent at Royal Park has been more than once informed that it is understood that all cases must be sent first to a Receiving House—an assumption only too acceptable to the certifying practitioner. The severe handicap to satisfactory and effective treatment of the curable cases, as well as the economic loss, from such unfavorable conditions is again stressed.

The chief forms of Mental Disorder in those received were:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Congenital Defect with Epilepsy .. .. .	13	..	13
Congenital Defect without Epilepsy .. .. .	30	9	39
Acquired Epilepsy .. .. .	6	16	22
General Paralysis .. .. .	21	1	22
Confusional Insanity .. .. .	52	79	131
Primary Dementia .. .. .	62	18	80
Recent Mania .. .. .	35	31	66
Recent Melancholia .. .. .	27	44	71
Unsystematised Delusional Insanity .. .. .	77	60	137
Senile Dementia .. .. .	46	27	73
Terminal Dementia .. .. .	33	7	40

The main causes in whole percentages were:—

	Males.	Females.
Moral—including domestic and business worry, mental anxiety, over-work .. .. .	18	24
Intemperance in Alcohol .. .. .	14	5
Venereal Disease .. .. .	10	3
Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation .. .. .	..	8
Puberty and Adolescence .. .. .	7	5
Menopause .. .. .	..	12
Senile Changes .. .. .	13	12
Bodily Diseases .. .. .	6	3
Previous Attack .. .. .	10	20
Heredity and Congenital Causes .. .. .	16	9

The last cause must certainly be regarded as much too low, but it must be remembered that more time is required to ascertain the extent of this factor, than can be given to it, as in many cases, there is a marked objection on the part of relatives to state, even nearly, the full facts; it is of sufficient importance to warrant any expense of an officer in collecting information. Such research, however, must not close our eyes to the, at least, equally important influence of environment. The knowledge of the former, apart from a eugenic use, is of chief value to the psychiatrist, in pointing out the stresses to be avoided by the individual to prevent the influence of innate harmful tendencies.

Recoveries.—Males 109, females 62, total 171, recovered; in addition 13 males and 19 females were relieved. The percentage of recoveries is of no value unless the classes of cases are considered. Four hundred and eighty-six (males 285, females 201) were transferred to other hospitals of the department.

Deaths—9 males and 11 females died—of these 9 were aged 60 years or over; no less than 7 died within 21 days of reception (4 of them within 5 days). The chief cause of the deaths was disease of the Cardiac or Respiratory Systems.

#### MENTAL HOSPITAL.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Hospital on 1st January, 1923 .. .. .	44	53	97
On Trial Leave .. .. .	18	45	63
Received—			
Direct from Friends or Police .. .. .	18	17	35
From Receiving House .. .. .	66	103	169
Discharged—			
Recovered .. .. .	21	35	56
Relieved .. .. .	1	13	14
Transferred to other Mental Hospitals .. .. .	62	50	112
Died .. .. .	3	5	8
Transferred to Licensed Houses .. .. .	4	4	8
In Hospital on 31st December, 1923 .. .. .	39	58	97
On Trial Leave on 31st December, 1923 .. .. .	18	53	71

Only one case was sent by the Police, while, to the Receiving House they sent 148 males and 32 females; many of these should have been committed in the first place to an Hospital for Insane.

Attention is again drawn to the anomaly of certifying a recovering patient as insane at the expiry of the arbitrary period fixed by Statute for detention in a Receiving House. If certification is necessary, then there should be a certain amount of elasticity in the interests of those afflicted. Again, the weekly remanding of patients obviously mentally affected seems to be a waste of time and effort.

Restraint. As compared with other years, it is regretted that this method of treatment had to be used more frequently owing to maniacal furor, persistent destructiveness, or surgical (including self-mutilation) necessity. Seventeen cases were so restrained by camisole for a total of 1,259 hours spread over 89 periods; in each case it was ordered by the Medical Officer. It is admitted that where restraint is needed, experience has justified the mechanical form in preference to the manual, or the chemical method. Of the two latter, the former is prone to result in some injury, while the latter is, if continued, apt to cause neuronie degeneration. The class received is the chief reason for such use of restraint.

#### VOLUNTARY BOARDERS.

	(Section 105.)		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
In Residence on 1st January, 1923 .. .. .	3	6	9
Received .. .. .	50	26	76
Recovered .. .. .	35	18	53
Certified to Receiving House .. .. .	10	4	14
Certified to Mental Hospital .. .. .	2	..	2
Died .. .. .	1	..	1
Remaining on 31st December, 1923 .. .. .	5	10	15

Nine males and 1 female had to be certified within 3 weeks of reception, and a few others were only technical Voluntary Boarders pending the receipt of the necessary papers under other Sections of the Act.

A male, T.J., while convalescent and employed in the workers' block, committed suicide by cut throat; the only reason that could be assigned was his desire to continue in the Institution and the idea that he was to be discharged; a Coroner's inquiry was held and found as stated.

There is a tendency for recurrent alcoholic cases to utilize this voluntary provision for the purpose of hastening the onset of the next break-down, as recovery is rapid and their request for discharge brings release.

#### GENERAL.

The shortage of working patients, so essential in these institutions, is being felt and seen owing to death and old age. The class of admissions and the fixed period of detention do not supply this factor in the administration of the farm, garden, and ornamental grounds.

Owing to the abnormally wet summer, the water question has not been so prominent as it would otherwise have been; but the contemplated scheme should be carried out before next summer.

The roads to this hospital have not been attended to; the Council and the Public Works seem to disown responsibility, but it is certainly somebody's business; if they were inspected shortly after ordinary rain the necessity of something being done would be obvious.

Extra single rooms were built on the female side, and were occupied before actual completion owing to the demand for accommodation; the class of patients were such as to show that this building was not intended for the worst cases; owing to the material in construction, damage was caused from the first night. Cement should be used for the walls instead of lime plaster which is useless against hard treatment, and I fear that the wood work will shrink rapidly.

(Sgd.)

J. W. PHILPOTT,

Medical Superintendent.

#### HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, MONT PARK.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Receptions .. .. .	12	9	21
Transferred .. .. .	129	17	146
Transferred from .. .. .	27	1	28
Discharged .. .. .	9	9	18
Died .. .. .	13	10	23
Resident, 31st December, 1922 .. .. .	213	224	437
Resident, 31st December, 1923 .. .. .	288	231	519

Of the 59 males on trial leave, 46 are inmates of the Military Mental Hospital, Mont Park.

Severe Accidents—A male patient (J.B.) sustained fatal injuries accidentally in helping to move a piano.

A female patient (J.K.) sustained a fracture of the femur in a scuffle with another patient.

No blame was attached to the staff in either case.

General Health—Was satisfactory.

Restraint and Seclusion—Nil.

Staff—General conduct was satisfactory.

Divine Service—Regular services have been conducted by the Chaplains of the several denominations, though, as reported on several previous occasions, a chapel is needed to give such services a proper and suitable setting.

Entertainments—For reasons advanced in previous Reports it has not been practicable to provide such.

Farm and Garden—The harvest proved to be exceptionally good, and large supplies of hay, oats, and straw will be available for use at our other hospitals.

During the year much needed breakwinds were erected in the garden. The results has been largely increased yields of vegetables.

The Orchard has been enclosed by a strong barbed wire fence.

The need for quarters for the gardener, and a store room, is becoming increasingly urgent.

Ornamental Grounds—The opening up of a ward in the Chronic block, and the transference of 100 male patients from Yarra Bend, has enabled marked progress to be made in planting fresh areas of trees, shrubs, and plants.

Particular attention has been paid to the entrance from the Wairo-road, and with happy results.

Consideration should be given to the appointment of an assistant or under gardener.

Roadways—As reported last year, these are in a bad condition. During the year an engineer from the Public Works Department inspected the roads on two occasions, and submitted a report. It is to be hoped that effect will be given to his recommendations at an early date.

Buildings—The quarters to accommodate the chief nurse and nurses were opened during the year. The chronic block is in course of renovation, and requisitions for furniture for same have been submitted.

Laundry—The enlarged Laundry and new yard were put into commission during the year.

General—If matters progress satisfactorily, it is hoped that by the end of the ensuing year, the Yarra Bend patients will be accommodated here. Steady progress in the preparation of the wards and airing courts has been made during the past year, and with the removal of the Military Mental Ward patients to the block built for them, the final obstacle to the transfer of the Yarra Bend patients will have been removed.

(Sgd.) J. CATARINICH,  
Medical Superintendent.

#### REPATRIATION MENTAL HOSPITAL, MONT PARK.

##### Patients on books, 1st January, 1923—

Resident	..	..	..	..	107	
On Leave	..	..	..	..	17	
					—	124
Admitted during year	..	..	..	..		22
						—
Total number of cases under care during year	..					146
						—
Cases discharged during year—						
Cured	..	..	..	..	6	
Improved	..	..	..	..	2	
Not improved	..	..	..	..	2	
Committed to Hospital for Insane	..	..	..	..	1	
Deaths	..	..	..	..	8	
					—	19
						—
Remaining at end of year—						
Resident	..	..	..	..	103	
On Leave	..	..	..	..	24	
					—	127
						—
Causes of Death—						
General Paralysis of Insane	..	..	..	..	5	
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	2	
Abcess of Liver	..	..	..	..	1	
					—	8
						—

During the year the health of the patients has been satisfactory, the comparatively heavy death rate having been due to the inevitably fatal termination of five cases of General Paralysis of the Insane.

The condition of this Hospital, during the year 1923, remains much the same as at the date of the submission of the last Annual Report, and, at the present moment, it is doubtful if any good purpose would be served by a recapitulation of the various matters which, at that time, it was considered were in urgent need of rectification.

(Sgd.) DAVID CADE,  
Medical Officer.

### RECEIVING HOUSES AND WARDS.

TABLE I.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year ended 31st December, 1923.

		Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the Institutions, 1st January, 1923	...	...	...	...	41	43	87
Cases admitted—							
First admissions	... ..	344	262	606	..	...	...
Not first admissions	.. ..	139	115	254	...	...	...
Escaped patients retaken	... ..	3	...	3	...	...	...
Total cases admitted during the year	... ..	...	...	...	486	377	863
Total cases under care during the year	... ..	...	...	...	530	420	950
Cases discharged—							
Recovered	... ..	134	93	227	...	...	...
Relieved	... ..	15	29	44	...	...	...
Not improved	... ..	9	4	13	...	...	...
Transferred from the Institution	... ..	320	240	560	...	...	...
Escaped	... ..	3	...	3	...	...	...
Died	... ..	10	12	22	...	...	...
Total cases discharged and died during the year	... ..	...	...	...	491	378	869
Remaining in the Institutions, 31st December, 1923	... ..	...	...	...	39	42	81
Average number resident during the year	... ..	...	...	...	39	41	80
Persons under care during the year	... ..	...	...	...	507	400	907
Persons admitted	... ..	...	...	...	468	359	827
Persons recovered	... ..	...	...	...	130	89	219



## RECEIVING HOUSE, BALLARAT.

The following changes have taken place during the year 1923 :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cases admitted—						
First admissions .. .. .	24	40	64	..	..	..
Not first admissions .. .. .	12	17	29	..	..	..
Total cases admitted during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	36	57	93
Total cases under care during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	40	62	102
Cases discharged—						
Recovered .. .. .	8	12	20	..	..	..
Relieved .. .. .	2	10	12	..	..	..
Not improved .. .. .	2	3	5	..	..	..
Transferred from the Institution .. .. .	25	33	58	..	..	..
Died .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	..
Total cases discharged and died during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	38	58	96
Remaining on 31st December, 1923, in Receiving House .. .. .	2	4	6	..	..	..
Total number on the books, 31st December, 1923 .. .. .	..	..	..	2	4	6
Average number resident during year .. .. .	..	..	..	2	5	7

As in former years, this Receiving House was required to admit a number of cases that could not in any way come under the category of "Receiving House cases." The records for the year show, among the forms of insanity on admission, a number of cases of imbecility, primary dementia, delusional insanity, senile dementia, and terminal dementia, and well marked cases of other forms of insanity, all of which were readily recognized as insane, and many of which were transferred to the Hospital for the Insane, Ballarat, with little delay.

The average number daily resident throughout the year continues with little variation, and, despite the admission of a number of unsuitable cases, a certain number of cases—chiefly on the female side—are admitted to whom the provision of a Receiving House is a distinct advantage. However, there is the distinct disadvantage of the lack of sufficient medical supervision owing to the comparative lack of accessibility of the Receiving House, and under present conditions, 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.

There were five voluntary boarders last year, all females.

There was one case of death, a male patient, who was admitted in a condition of acute confusion and in a state of bad bodily health. He gradually became worse, and died, having been a patient for fifteen days. A post mortem examination showed that the cause of death was acute meningitis.

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

The hot water supply system has not yet been put in order. This should be done without delay to obviate the necessity of putting the large furnace into action unnecessarily.

The conduct of the staff has been good.

(Sgd.) PATRICK SHAW,  
Medical Superintendent.

## COST OF MAINTENANCE.

The details of receipts and expenditure for the financial year 1923-1924 are shown in Tables XII., XIII., and XIV.

The collections made by the Master-in-Equity amounted to £2,584 more than on the previous year, and there was also an increase in Sales and Fines of £965, and in General Collections of £487. The expenditure for 1923-1924 exceeded that of 1922-1923 by an amount of £38,041, principally in the items "Salaries" and "Provisions." The increase in the former was the result of a reclassification of the officers in the General Division and the payment of bonuses, and in the latter, the higher prices under contract for some of the main articles of diet.

In the following statement, the average weekly cost per patient for the last three financial years is compared with that of the year 1914.

Details of the average weekly costs.	1914.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Salaries .. .. .	7 10½	13 0	13 0½	14 8½
Provisions and Extra Articles .. .. .	4 4	7 0¼	5 10¼	6 5½
Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture .. .. .	0 11¾	1 11¼	1 10¾	1 11
Stores .. .. .	0 4½	0 7¾	0 7	0 7¾
Fuel, Light and Water .. .. .	1 1¾	1 10½	1 9½	2 1
Medicines and Stimulants .. .. .	0 1¾	0 2½	0 2½	0 2½
Incidentals (Postage, Travelling Expenses, Chaplains' Fees, &c.) .. .. .	0 2	0 2	0 2½	0 2½
Average weekly cost per patient .. .. .	15 0¼	24 10	23 7	26 2¾
Daily Average Number Resident .. .. .	5,102	5,410	5,481	5,476

The gross weekly cost is shown at 26s. 2¾d. per patient, but when the Collections for Maintenance, &c., are deducted from this amount, the net cost is 23s. 4d., as compared with 20s. 10½d. for the year 1922-1923.

The total receipts and expenditure for the years 1919-1920 to 1923-24 are as follows:—

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1919-20 .. .. .	33,621	309,531
1920-21 .. .. .	38,474	391,216
1921-22 .. .. .	42,980	360,878
1922-23 .. .. .	38,716	347,287
1923-24 .. .. .	41,300	385,328

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

Table XV. shows the return of produce, &c., raised in the various farms and gardens of the Hospitals for the Insane, the total value of which amounted to £29,989. Although the amount is slightly less than last year, the results may be considered satisfactory. Suitable employment was provided in the farms and gardens for a large number of patients, and a regular supply of vegetables and fresh milk was maintained for institutional use.

The clerical work of this Department was materially increased during the year. The transfer of the Military Mental patients from the Department of Repatriation to the State Lunacy Department was attended with such questions as the equipment of Bundoora and of the new Hospital for these patients at Mont Park; the taking over, and valuing of the stock belonging to the Commonwealth, &c.

Materials for the manufacture of clothing and bedding are still being imported from England. These supplies are being consigned to Mont Park and are distributed therefrom to the Hospitals for the Insane and other Departments.

Additional clerical work was also imposed on the staff in connexion with the reclassification of the General Division, and by the increase of salaries under a bonus system.

DEANE SMITH,  
Chief Clerk and Accountant.

TABLE XII.—Showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure of the Lunacy Department during the Year ended 30th June, 1924.

Receipts.			Expenditure.			
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	
Collections by the Master-in-Lunacy for Maintenance of Patients at the Hospitals for the Insane—			General Expenses, Salaries at Head Office, Fees to Official Visitors, Travelling Expenses, Postage and Telegrams, &c. ...	6,975	3 8	
Yarra Bend ...	35,296	5 8	Maintenance at the Hospitals for the Insane at—			
Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum			Yarra Bend ...	39,017	4 9	
Ararat ...			Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum ...	79,098	7 7	
Beechworth ...			Ararat ...	43,515	7 6	
Sunbury ...			Beechworth ...	40,171	12 3	
Ballarat and Receiving House ...			Sunbury ...	57,204	11 4	
Royal Park and Receiving House ...			Ballarat and Receiving House ...	47,905	17 1	
Mont Park ...	Royal Park and Receiving House ...	25,822	10 1			
Receiving Ward, Bendigo ...	Mont Park ...	40,674	15 9			
Sales ...	Receiving Ward, Bendigo ...	1,071	5 11	Expenses in connexion with the Committal and Transport of Lunatics ...	1,102	8 7
Fines ...	3,650	14 10	Expenses in connexion with Boarded-out Patients ...	2,769	2 4	
Collections ...	22	14 6				
	2,330	1 3				
Total ...	£41,299	16 3	Total ...	£385,328	6 10	

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, 1924.

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 ...	559	39,017	4 0	23,009	16 3	...	86	0 0	8,864	6 0	
Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum	1,249	79,098	7 7	43,648	0 10	...	96	0 0	18,554	17 5	
Ararat ...	615	43,515	7 6	23,898	3 10	...	147	10 0	11,179	6 2	
Beechworth ...	641	40,171	12 3	21,552	8 5	...	77	0 0	12,115	7 3	
Sunbury ...	1,004	57,204	11 4	30,990	10 2	...	88	0 0	15,940	9 5	
Ballarat and Receiving House	694	47,905	17 1	24,885	11 0	...	92	0 0	11,577	8 2	
Royal Park and Receiving House	190	25,822	10 1	18,254	1 4	...	34	0 0	3,879	17 10	
Mont Park ...	524	40,674	15 9	22,761	6 11	...	60	0 0	9,844	5 0	
General expenses	...	6,975	3 8	4,386	15 8	475	0 0	...	...	...	
Total ...	5,476	380,385	10 0	213,886	14 5	475	0 0	680	10 0	91,955	17 3

Hospital for the Insane.	Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture.	Stores—Purchase of Stock, Books, Amusements, &c.	Fuel, Light, and Water.		Medicines, Medical Comforts, Surgical Instruments, &c.		Stimulants—Wine, Spirits, and Beer.		Forage		Incidentals, Postage & Telegrams, Travelling Expenses.			
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
Yarra Bend ...	2,382	14 11	992	10 1	3,080	11 6	265	17 11	137	11 1	...	197	17 0	
Kew and Kew Idiot Asylum	6,819	11 3	1,892	9 10	6,818	6 4	460	7 4	317	0 11	221	1 4	270	12 4
Ararat ...	3,377	6 9	804	1 3	3,648	0 9	86	14 11	52	3 9	219	16 0	102	4 1
Beechworth ...	2,428	5 4	764	10 4	2,807	9 1	159	12 9	77	13 1	45	3 6	144	2 6
Sunbury ...	3,838	19 1	1,259	14 10	4,426	6 4	278	18 4	67	5 0	66	19 6	247	8 8
Ballarat and Receiving House	4,052	2 0	948	8 1	5,557	19 10	342	17 10	121	8 11	99	14 1	228	7 2
Royal Park and Receiving House	1,057	13 2	575	3 9	1,356	16 1	346	15 1	6	7 6	131	16 11	179	18 5
Mont Park ...	3,355	3 11	1,867	0 6	1,986	0 3	193	1 4	89	7 1	...	...	518	11 7
General expenses	...	357	6 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,256	1 11
Total ...	27,311	15 7	9,461	4 9	29,681	10 2	2,134	5 6	868	17 4	784	11 1	43,145	3 8

TABLE XIV.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients during the Year ended 30th June, 1924.

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 ...	559	39,017	4	9	...	...	...	0	15	10	0	0	0	0	6	1	$\frac{1}{4}$
Kew and Kew I. A.	1,249	79,098	7	7	...	...	...	0	13	5	0	0	1	0	5	8	$\frac{1}{2}$
Ararat ...	615	43,515	7	6	...	...	...	0	14	11	0	0	1	0	7	0	0
Beechworth ...	641	40,171	12	3	...	...	...	0	12	11	0	0	0	0	7	3	$\frac{1}{4}$
Sunbury ...	1,064	57,204	11	4	...	...	...	0	11	10	0	0	0	0	6	1	$\frac{1}{4}$
Ballarat and Receiving House	694	47,905	17	1	...	...	...	0	13	9	0	0	0	0	6	5	0
Royal Park and Receiving House	190	25,822	10	1	...	...	...	1	16	11	0	0	0	0	7	10	$\frac{1}{4}$
Mont Park ...	524	40,674	15	9	...	...	...	0	16	8	0	0	0	0	7	2	$\frac{3}{4}$
Total ...	5,476	373,410	6	4	41,299	16	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	6,975	3	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture.			Stores—Purchase of Stock, Books, Amusements, &c.			Fuel, Light, and Water.			Medicines and Medical Comforts, Surgical Instruments, &c.			Stimulants—Wines, Spirits and Beer.			Forage.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend ...	0	1	7	0	0	8	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	...	...	...
Kew and Kew I. A.	0	2	1	0	0	7	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ararat ...	0	2	1	0	0	6	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Beechworth ...	0	1	5	0	0	5	0	1	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sunbury ...	0	1	5	0	0	5	0	1	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballarat and Receiving House	0	2	3	0	0	6	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Park and Receiving House	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	2	9	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	3
Mont Park ...	0	2	5	0	1	4	0	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	Incidentals, Postage and Telegrams and Travelling Expenses.			Total Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Patient.			Average Collections per Patient per Week for Maintenance, Sales, Fees, Fines, &c.			Weekly Cost per Patient, Deducting Collections for Maintenance, Sales, Fees, Fines, &c.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yarra Bend ...	0	0	1	1	6	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kew and Kew I. A.	0	0	1	1	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ararat ...	0	0	0	1	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	0	0	1	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sunbury ...	0	0	1	1	1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ballarat and Receiving House	0	0	1	1	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Royal Park and Receiving House	0	0	4	2	12	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mont Park ...	0	0	4	1	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	1	6	2	0	2	10	1	3	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 the 31st December, 1923.

Hospital for Insane.	Eggs.	Meat, Poultry, &c.	Milk	Green Food.	Hay.	Vegetables.	Fruit	Barley.
	doz.	lbs.	qts.	tons.	tons.	lbs.	lbs.	tons.
Yarra Bend ...	729	3,906	84,003	70	100	172,389	...	30
Kew ...	2,136	1,573	144,649	250	100	586,962	5,500	...
Ararat ...	138	609	75,390	30	100	177,671	4,197	15
Beechworth ...	188	1,979	55,540	70	90	259,575	4,8355	...
Sunbury ...	382	2,101	97,170	129	300	178,649	11,968	...
Ballarat ...	302	1,387	78,435	...	140	236,964	5,367	60
Royal Park ...	369	25	48,214	90	25	44,423	9,248	...
Mont Park ...	...	2,841	79,907	270	119	111,272	11,565	...
Total Value	£ s. d. 322 16 10	£ s. d. 305 2 7	£ s. d. 12,521 9	£ s. d. 2 978 10 0	£ s. d. 4,708 6 0	£ s. d. 8,723 15 1	£ s. d. 661 0 51	£ s. d. 232 10 0

Hospital for Insane.	Firewood.	Root Crops.	Ensilage.	Straw.	Peas.	Mangels.	Lucerne.	Seeds.		
								Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	bush.	tons.	tons.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Yarra Bend ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kew ...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ararat ...	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...
Beechworth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sunbury ...	...	...	...	...	390	...	...	...	...	...
Ballarat ...	...	160	100	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
Royal Park ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mont Park ...	60	80	...	21½	...	...	140	522	2,350	30
Total Value	£ s. d. 205 2 6	£ s. d. 320 0 0	£ s. d. 100 0 0	£ s. d. 115 0 0	£ s. d. 136 10 0	£ s. d. 37 10 0	£ s. d. 140 0 0	£ s. d. 104 8 0	£ s. d. 469 17 2	£ s. d. 7 10 0

Grand total value, £29,989 8s. od.

NOTE—Seeds grown at Mont Park, were distributed to various Hospitals for Insane.

LICENSED HOUSES.

Table showing Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during 1923, and the numbers remaining on 31st December, 1923.

Resident in Licensed Houses, 1st January, 1923.	M.		F.		Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.											M.
<i>Resident in Licensed Houses, 1st January, 1923.</i>	15	10	25	40	114	154									
St. Helen's ..	3	13	16												
Mount Ida ..	19	19	38												
Merton ..	19	19	38												
Glen Holme ..	3	3	6												
The Tofts ..	3	3	6												
<i>On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses.</i>	5	3	8	8	9	17									
St. Helen's ..	1	2	3												
Mount Ida ..	2	3	5												
Merton ..	3	3	6												
Glen Holme ..	5	5	10												
The Tofts ..	3	3	6												
<i>Total number on Books of Licensed Houses, 1st January, 1923</i>	40	24	64	24	80	104									
<i>Received—</i>															
First Admissions	9	18	27												
Not First Admissions	1	5	6												
Escapes Retaken	1	1	2												
Transferred from Hospitals for the Insane	5	6	11												
Transferred to Licensed Houses from other Licensed Houses	4	4	8												
Licensed Houses	4	4	8												
<i>Total</i>	16	34	50	3	5	8									
St. Helen's ..	9	5	14												
Mount Ida ..	1	3	4												
Merton ..	8	8	16												
Glen Holme and Belmont	7	7	14												
The Tofts ..	7	7	14												
<i>Transferred from Hospitals for Insane</i>															
Transferred to Licensed Houses from other Licensed Houses	10	23	33												
Escapes retaken ..	5	6	11												
<i>Total</i>	16	34	50	1	1	2									
St. Helen's ..	5	8	13												
Mount Ida ..	1	1	2												
Merton ..	8	8	16												
Glen Holme and Belmont	7	7	14												
The Tofts ..	7	7	14												
<i>Transferred from Hospitals for Insane</i>															
Transferred to Licensed Houses from other Licensed Houses	16	34	50												
Escapes retaken ..	5	6	11												
<i>Total</i>	16	34	50	16	34	50									
<i>Total cases under care during the year 1923</i>	40	24	64	40	24	64									
<i>Total cases under care during the year 1923</i>	40	24	64	40	24	64									
<i>Total cases under care during the year 1923</i>	40	24	64	40	24	64									
<i>Total cases under care during the year 1923</i>	40	24	64	40	24	64									

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

	On Books 1.1.23.		Remaining 31.12.23.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
St. Helen's ..	4	6	7	7
Mount Ida ..	1	1	1	3
Merton ..	9	9	10	10
Glen Holme ..	11	11	10	10
Belmont ..	1	1	2	2
The Tofts ..	1	1	1	1
<i>Total</i>	28	28	32	30

## 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, 1923.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Remaining in the Institutions on the 1st January, 1923—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	8	10	18	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	4	28	32	...	...	...
Admissions—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	56	35	91	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	18	64	82	...	...	...
Total cases under care during the year ... ..	...	...	...	86	137	223
Discharged—						
Recovered—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	38	25	63	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	12	48	60	...	...	...
Certified as Insane or Apparently Insane—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	13	8	21	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	3	7	10	...	...	...
Died—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	1	...	1	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	...	5	5	...	...	...
Total discharged ... ..	...	...	...	67	93	160
Remaining in Institutions on 31st December, 1923—						
In Hospitals for the Insane and Receiving Houses ...	12	12	24	...	...	...
In Licensed Houses ... ..	7	32	39	...	...	...
Total remaining ... ..	...	...	...	19	44	63

## PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY, KEW.

During the year 1923, the number of cases examined post-mortem was 218, distributed as follows :

Institution.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Kew .. .. .	72	50	122
Yarra Bend .. .. .	23	15	38
Royal Park .. .. .	12	13	25
Mont Park .. .. .	11	11	22
Private Licensed Houses .. .. .	3	8	11
Total .. .. .	..	..	218

Continued study of these cases affirms the theory that the symptoms known as *Insanity* are due to pathological changes in, or abnormal architecture of, the brain cells. Much confusion has been caused by the failure of students of psychiatry to distinguish between insanity and psychoneurosis. A psychoneurosis has the same relationship to insanity as physiological depression has to pathological or insane depression. In the psychoneurosis and the physiological depression cure is effected immediately the idea which is producing the condition is changed. On the other hand, cure in insanity is practically never sudden, because the patient is always physically ill, the said ill state of health affecting the nutrition of the brain cells which subserve the function of judgment and reasoning.

During the year an investigation was made of the type of congenital mental deficiency known as the Mongolian, Kalmuck, or Tartar idiocy. The following conclusions were arrived at, based upon the clinical and post-mortem evidence of twenty cases :—

- (1) The patients are either at the end of the family or are the first born.
- (2) Of the patients at the end of the family, seven out of twelve were the penultimate, and the other five the last.
- (3) Apart from the brain changes, the post-mortem findings are the fibrotic changes found in congenital syphilis. These fibrotic changes are almost constant in this condition, although only 16 per cent. give a positive Wassermann reaction. In congenital syphilis, however, the Wassermann test becomes unreliable after the age of puberty, which may account for the failure to obtain more positive results in this series of cases.
- (4) The stigmata of Mongolian idiocy closely resemble the stigmata accompanying other conditions due to disease of endocrines, such as cretinism and achondroplasia.
- (5) Only 3 per cent. of the congenital mental deficient segregated at Kew are Mongols, yet the factors ascribed to the causation of Mongolism are common to most of the patients segregated there.
- (6) Although instances of Mongolism appear in a heredity chart like "a bolt from the blue," the result of this investigation supports the heredity factor which was obtained in a big percentage of the cases and denied in none.
- (7) The use of the term "products of exhaustion of the reproductive function" as a cause of Mongolism is inadmissible unless it acknowledges ill health in the parent, as "exhaustion of the reproductive function" is "sterility," and, consequently, a state of affairs which results in no conceptions.

One of the post-mortem examinations made during the year was the last of the cases of epiloia diagnosed by the Pathologist of this Department and reported in the New Zealand Congress of 1914. This condition, which is a syndrome of tuberosclerosis of the brain, adenoma sebaceum, and growths in the kidneys, is associated with epileptic fits and progressive mental deficiency. There were eight of these cases in the Kew cottages during the last twelve years, and the course of the disease has



been examined. The report of the whole series of this rare disease, being too bulky for inclusion in this Report, will appear later on as a contribution to the Psychiatric Section of the Medical Association.

Although the Wassermann test is a help to the medical officers in the diagnosis of general paralysis of the insane and other syphilitic manifestations, in some rare cases the result of the test is persistently negative to the serum although the disease is progressive. During the past year one of these cases occurred. From the time of his certification with "acute excitement" up till "increasing dementia" was three months. In ten months, he was "wet and dirty," and he died "bedridden" fourteen months after his certification. Clinically and post-mortem he was typically general paralysis of the insane.

Recent literature on the function of the corpus striatum leads one to expect a certain train of symptoms in many of the patients who have been examined post-mortem during the last and preceding years. In many cases lesions of the putamen and globus pallidus are found post-mortem in patients who have had none of the symptoms ascribed to lesions of this part. The syndromes ascribed to lesions of these parts are so definitely described in these writings that failure to find them reported in the mental cases where there are gross lesions post-mortem requires some explanation. Do microscopical degenerations elsewhere counteract the effect of gross lesions in the corpus striatum? Although the corpus luteum of pregnancy is stated to persist till two months after delivery, none of the cases of puerperal insanity examined before the expiration of that time has shown a corpus luteum. As this class of patient comes to post-mortem but rarely, it is too soon to express any opinion as to whether there is any association between the puerperal insanity and the absence of the portion of the ovary which is credited with possessing a definite influence upon the female economy.

During the year the routine work of section cutting, urine examination, examination of sputum, blood, and swabs, Wassermann examination and vaccine preparation, have been carried on. The annual vaccination of the patients at the Idiot Cottages against typhoid will always be a necessity so long as that place remains unsewered, as typhoid is endemic in the building. Attempts to isolate a carrier have failed. By using the local strain of the organism, good results are obtained, but it means a lot of work to the Pathologist and the Medical officer of the Idiot Cottages. During the months of August, September, October, and November, there was a slight outbreak of scurvy at the Main Building, Kew, three cases appearing in the post-mortem room. A former outbreak at the Idiot Cottages which was investigated a few years ago, showed evidence of an infection besides a food deficiency. The peculiarity of the outbreak is that it picked out a few as its victims, although there are so many living under the same conditions and having the same diet.

A report on the pathological work would not be complete without reference to the subject of the association of venereal disease to insanity. It is recognized by gynaecologists that the gynaecological disease in a community is an index of the gonorrhoea therein. A sound authority states that there is decidedly greater frequency of gynaecological disease in the insane than in the sane, the proportion being as 74 per cent. to 47 per cent. Post-mortem examination discloses pelvic adhesions in many of the cases who die in the Metropolitan Hospitals for the Insane. These adhesions would prevent the proper functioning of bowel and pelvic organs and produce chronic ill health, which would produce a mental break-down in those with vulnerability of the neurone.

From time to time synopses are made of the post-mortem findings in the insane, and attempts to fix the number of syphilitics are made. In the idiots 60 per cent. showed changes similar to syphilis, and the heredity charts of these patients confirm those findings. The Wassermann is unreliable in these cases when over the age of puberty. Out of 189 cases of different insanities, 106 showed changes similar to syphilis. The number of insane per thousand of population in Victoria is between three and four. The number of syphilitics who become general paralytics is between 30 and 40 per thousand; therefore, calculating on general paralytics alone, the syphilitics as a body contribute ten times as many cases of insanity as the non-syphilitics.

(Sgd.) W. A. T. LIND,  
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## IN GENERAL.

I have thought it desirable to present extracts from the reports of each of the Medical Superintendents of the various Asylums. Whilst the Inspector-General's Report to Parliament must speak for the condition of the whole Department, it is reasonable to present the reports of those officials who are each, in their turn, responsible for the Institutions themselves. These reports testify to the amount of work done in the Hospitals, and almost always accentuate the difficulties arising from insufficient accommodation.

In order that the transfer of the patients from Yarra Bend to Mont Park may be facilitated, Dr. J. Catarinich has been appointed as Superintendent of both Institutions. Whilst it very materially increases his work and responsibilities, it is really the only satisfactory solution of the problem. It should, however, be pointed out that the complete opening of the Chronic Block at Mont Park will not provide the much-needed additional accommodation. It will give us sufficient room for the male patients, but for the female patients there will be barely sufficient.

At the present time the usefulness of the Receiving House at the Mental Hospital at Royal Park is being seriously discounted, owing to the extremely large number of wholly unsuitable cases which are being sent there. Primarily a Receiving House is for the reception of doubtful and early transient cases of mental disorder. As a matter of fact, the medical profession seems to think that every patient, no matter how obvious the mental disorder, or how incurable, must necessarily be committed or sent in the first place to the Receiving House. This mistake, which has been repeatedly pointed out, has the effect of involving the Department in a very large amount of unnecessary work. Besides, it means that 40 per cent. or 50 per cent. of the beds in the Receiving House and Mental Hospital at Royal Park are rendered practically useless for the proper purposes of those Institutions. The Mental Hospital accommodation should be reserved entirely for those early cases of mental disorder who are likely to recover in a comparatively short time—say, up to a year. As things are at present, barely half of these patients are able to be retained for a greater period than two months. There can be no reason why definite cases of congenital defect, general paralysis, chronic mania, epileptics with marked mental deterioration, and long standing cases of dementia praecox, should not be sent at once to the appropriate State Hospital.

The number of mental cases in Victoria are certainly not increasing out of undue proportion. On the other hand, the ratio of insane to population is definitely decreasing; and it is interesting in this direction to realize that fewer cases of general paralysis of the insane are being received each year. If this means anything at all, it means that the modern treatment of syphilis is proving efficient in preventing the occurrences of late manifestations of that disorder; and if this is true, it will probably mean a very considerable reduction in the numbers of congenital mental defectives born into the world.

*Admissions.*—Into State Hospitals, 470 males and 357 females were received, making a total of 827 as against 838 in 1922.

Into Receiving Houses and Wards, 486 males and 377 females were admitted, totalling 863 as against 878 in the previous year. Of these, 560 patients were sent on to State Institutions, and are included in the above numbers.

*Discharges.*—These numbered 311 from the State Hospitals as against 299 in 1922, and from the the Receiving Houses, 288 were discharged as against 222 previously.

The discharge of 30 per cent. of the Receiving House admissions necessarily reduces the number of discharges from the State Hospitals, but it means that a goodly number of patients suffering from early mental disorders have been successfully treated without the stigma of full certification.

*Deaths.*—The number of deaths in the Institutions is very materially higher this year than it was in the preceding year, but beyond the fact that there was a considerable increase in pulmonary infections, there does not appear to be any special reason for the increased death rate.

There was one unusual death at the Hospital at Kew: a male patient succeeded in strangling himself with the chain in a lavatory opening off the ward. No blame was attributed to the attendants in charge at the time.

At Beechworth there were two cases of typhoid, and at the old Institution at Yarra Bend, four female patients and one nurse developed typhoid during the year. In both these Institutions, it should be pointed out that there is no water-borne sewage scheme.

*Voluntary Boarders.*—The returns of voluntary admissions to State Institutions and Licensed Houses remain much the same as in the previous two years.

Into the State Institutions, 91 patients were received, and 63 were subsequently discharged recovered. Into Licensed Houses, there were 82 admissions, and subsequently 60 were discharged recovered, and 31 were certified as insane, whilst there were 6 deaths. This means that 173 patients were admitted voluntarily, and of that number, 123 were subsequently discharged as recovered. Such a high proportion as this necessarily militates against a high recovery rate from the certified cases, but it certainly has the advantage of bringing patients into appropriate Institutions for early treatment, and is sufficient justification for the continuation and extension of the voluntary boarder system.

At Royal Park, a male voluntary patient, whilst convalescent and employed in the Workers' Block, committed suicide by cutting his throat. It is believed he did this under the impression that he was very shortly to be discharged from the Institution.

*Licensed Houses.*—The position of these Institutions remains almost the same as in previous years.

The licence for "Glenholme," which has been held for some years by Mrs. Stackhouse, was surrendered, and a fresh licence was granted for a house named "Belmont," in Studley Park-road, Kew, to the same licensee—that is to say, there was practically a transfer of the licence.

There was nothing in the conduct of these Institutions specially calling for comment. There were eight deaths of certified patients, and five of voluntary boarders during the year, but none of them called for special investigation.

As has been previously mentioned under the heading "Voluntary Boarders," it will be seen that the Licensed Houses get many such admissions, and it would appear to be a procedure appreciated by the relatives of mental patients. Provided that there is adequate inspection of these Institutions, there can be no possible objection to this procedure.

The opening of the Nurses' Home at Mont Park accentuates the desirability which exists for the establishment of further similar Nurses' Homes. This is particularly the case at Sunbury and Ararat, and to a less extent also at Ballarat, Beechworth and Kew. The projected decrease in the working hours for the staff will inevitably mean additional accommodation for the nurses and other female officers. On the male side, where most of the staff are married, the necessity will not be anything like as great.

In their reports, the Medical Superintendents have usually outlined the principal desiderata for their Institutions, but it may be of value to recapitulate some of the principal works which it is hoped will be supplied in the near future. Amongst these are:—

- Electric lighting of Kew and Beechworth.
- Water-borne sewage schemes for Ararat, Beechworth, and Sunbury.
- Re-modelling of the male Division at Ballarat, with provision of additional single rooms for troublesome patients.
- Improvement of the Criminal Ward at Ararat by the erection of an outside airing court, and a wing of single rooms which will permit the wooden lock-ups to be dispensed with.
- By the erection of various wards in certain Institutions, additional accommodation will be given, and at the same time, the improvement of the classification and equipment of each of those Hospitals will be brought about—for example, at Beechworth the provision of a female hospital ward is something more than a desirability.
- At Ararat additional accommodation in the Receiving Ward is desirable.
- At Ballarat, there is considerable necessity for a female refractory ward.

To further develop the equipment of Mont Park as a general hospital for mental disorders, additional wards are wanted for the reception of male patients, and for the nursing of hospital cases, both male and female, by nurses of the latter sex.

Recreation halls, wherein divine services can also be given, are very seriously needed at Mont Park and Sunbury.

This list may appear to be a very long one, but it must be pointed out that very little has been done indeed during the last twelve years to provide for the increased numbers which an increasing population must inevitably bring to this Department.

It has recently been conceded that the most satisfactory way of increasing the accommodation for mental cases would be to provide, in a central portion of Gippsland, a new Institution to deal with the cases occurring in that district. It would mean relieving the Metropolitan Institutions of some 400 patients, and it would provide facilities for the ready admission of cases occurring in this increasingly populous area. Apart from the ill effects of a prolonged railway journey, which at present is necessary to bring the patient from Gippsland to the metropolis, it is a distinct hardship to the relatives that they also have to travel long journeys when they desire to see the afflicted member of their family.

It is in the highest degree desirable that a suitable area of land should be obtained close to one of the larger of the Gippsland towns and railway centres.

I should like to stress again the necessity which exists for the establishment of a special Institution for those high grade mental defectives, particularly for children of school age, who are capable of receiving some benefit from training in special schools, and for whom appropriate residential Institutions are necessary. Whilst this in some respects is essentially the work of the Education Department, it touches very closely the functions of this Department, which, however, should be entrusted more particularly with those imbeciles who are incapable of scholastic advancement. In this respect, I would urge that renovations and additions should be provided for the Children's Cottages at Kew, and the most desirable advance would be the appointment of at least two trained kindergarden teachers, who would be entrusted with the education of those who are capable of benefiting from such education. Of the 350 cases in this Institution, there are some 30 or 40 who would definitely benefit from such education. There are perhaps 50 or 60 more who would benefit in some less degree. The remainder are entirely uneducable, and can only be trained in habits of cleanliness and discipline.

The work of this Department is growing heavier and more complex each year, and it is only being carried through successfully by the enthusiasm and loyal support which I have received at the hands of the principal officers of the various Institutions, together with the co-operation of Mr. Deane Smith and those who are employed under him in the Head Office.

W. ERNEST JONES.