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VICTORIA.

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# REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF INEBRIATE INSTITUTIONS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1927.

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PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

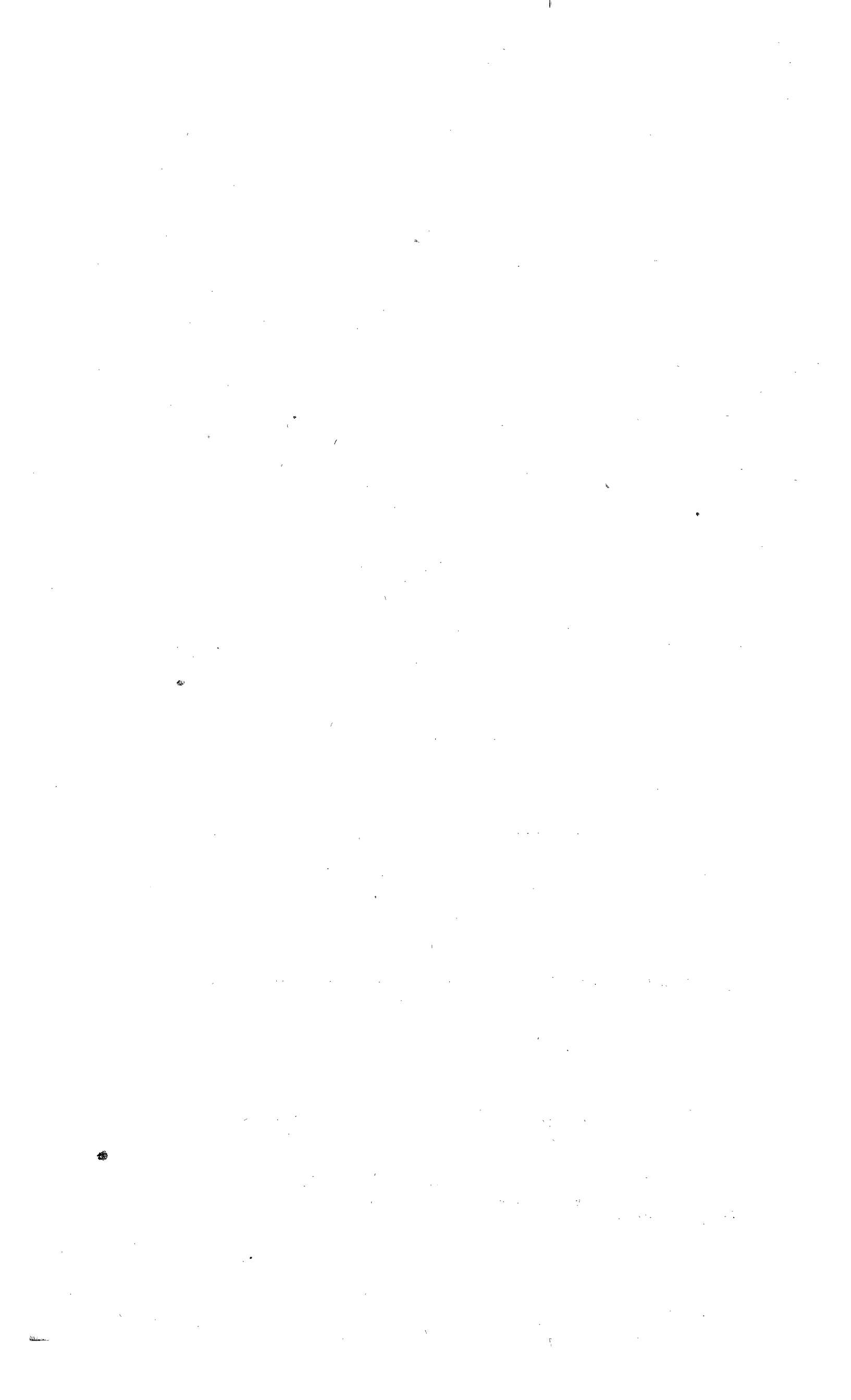
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*[Approximate Cost of Report.—Preparation, not given. Printing (325 copies), £15.]*

By Authority:

H. J. GREEN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 27.—[9d.].—11225.



## REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF INEBRIATE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 1927.

Old Treasury Buildings,  
Melbourne, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1928.

To the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

SIR,

I have the honour to present the Twenty-first Annual Report of the Inspector of Inebriate Institutions, which deals with the work conducted in the Institutions of Lara and "Brightside."

In order to draw attention to the extent of inebriety in this State, I submit the usual tables setting forth the admissions to these Institutions alongside the number of convictions for drunkenness:—

Year.	Number of Admissions to Lara (Males).	Number of Admissions to "Brightside" (Females).	Number of Convictions for Drunkenness.
1910 .. ..	126	26	7,272
1911 .. ..	121	40	7,557
1912 .. ..	127	29	7,446
1913 .. ..	120	47	7,676
1914 .. ..	158	45	7,387
1915 .. ..	101	33	7,049
1916 .. ..	112	52	6,025
1917 .. ..	101	41	4,051
1918 .. ..	127	33	3,012
1919 .. ..	105	47	3,000
1920 .. ..	146	61	3,834
1921 .. ..	152	49	4,334 (Males, 3,815; Females, 519)
1922 .. ..	149	48	5,204 (Males, 4,526; Females, 678)
1923 .. ..	144	45	6,210 (Males, 5,495; Females, 715)
1924 .. ..	195	47	6,210 (Males, 5,520; Females, 690)
1925 .. ..	171	53	5,686 (Males, 5,153; Females, 533)
1926 .. ..	155	46	6,378 (Males, 5,647; Females, 731)
1927 .. ..	174	48	7,048 (Males, 6,272; Females, 776)

It will be noticed that there is a steady rise in the convictions, so that the numbers approximate those of the pre-war years. Also, that the admissions to Lara are the second highest since the establishment of that Institution, whilst the admissions to "Brightside" are about the same as in the preceding six years.

At Lara, re-admissions numbered 95, as against 79 first admissions, which fact gives point to the observations made on former occasions that the class of patient being received therein largely consists of those who have no genuine desire for the cure, but merely desire to be relieved from the unpleasant effects of an acute alcoholic outburst. It is also certain that a small proportion belong to the "Exploiter" class, who desire to avail themselves of the comfortable conditions provided at Lara, and in their case gratis. Every endeavour is made to get rid of these undesirables at the earliest moment, but their reception even for a few days has a most undesirable effect on the minds of the remainder of the genuine patients.

The number of those who are able to pay the total costs of their care and treatment appears to be growing less and less each year.

The admissions of Returned Soldiers numbered 58, but of them only 9 were re-admissions. In previous years the proportion of the Returned Soldier receptions was considerably higher, but such cases are now rarely sent from the Department of Repatriation.

Of the 48 admissions to "Brightside," 11 were re-admissions, and this is worthy of note, because remissions are regarded as more frequent with female inebriates. However, the period of treatment is much longer in "Brightside" than it is in the case of Lara, and this extended course of treatment undoubtedly has a beneficial effect.

Six males and four females were drug addicts, morphine being the usual narcotic used, but five female patients were reported as being drinkers of methylated spirits.

The medical attendant to "Brightside" (Dr. H. L. Murray) again draws attention to the cumbersome and expensive legal procedure deemed necessary when an inebriate has to be compulsorily committed, and he makes the practical suggestion that a compulsory admission might, with advantage, be brought about by a procedure similar to the process of certification under the Lunacy Act.

#### LARA.

This Institution was visited on the 23rd February, 1927, by the Acting Chief Secretary, the Honorable James McDonald, and on the 5th November, 1927, by the present Chief Secretary, the Honorable G. M. Prendergast. On each of these occasions, as well as on all my visits of inspection, I found satisfactory conditions existing; the house in good order, and the patients well cared for. All of those who were not actually sick or incapacitated are occupied in some useful way about the gardens, farm, or other offices. Indeed, a good deal of work in connexion with the upkeep, and even the repairs in the Institution, are undertaken by them. Nevertheless, quite a considerable portion of the day is spent by them in healthy recreation, and many of them take part in tennis, cricket, golf, and billiards.

The new source of supply of electric light and power has proved to be both satisfactory and economical. The first benefit accruing therefrom is that it has become possible to erect and equip a new laundry complete with electrically-driven labour-saving devices.

Patients who receive payment for their services are employed in the kitchen as well as in the laundry, and one who has been in Lara for some time has done particularly useful work in keeping up the painting of considerable portion of the house.

Other works have been undertaken by the Public Works Department, as, for example, the supply of new water tanks, new windmill, repairs to range, &c., at a total cost of £425.

During the financial year 1926-27 receipts amounted to £987, whilst the expenditure rose to £4,387, one-half of which goes on salaries and wages. The disproportion between receipts and expenditure is due to the fact that by far the greater number of the men who seek admission have, as a result of their dissipated habits, ruined themselves and their families as well. Rarely are they willing to seek treatment until all their money is gone, and they are wholly unable to pay for the same. The following table will show what a large proportion are received from whom payment cannot be expected:—

#### RATES OF MAINTENANCE FIXED.—PATIENTS ADMITTED DURING YEAR 1927.

				£	s.	d.
1	..	at	..	5	0	0
2	..	"	..	4	4	0
10	..	"	..	3	3	0
8	..	"	..	2	10	0
19	..	"	..	2	2	0
1	..	"	..	1	15	0
12	..	"	..	1	10	0
3	..	"	..	1	5	0
3	..	"	..	1	1	0
12	..	"	..	1	0	0
1	..	"	..	0	15	0
6	..	"	..	0	10	0
1	..	"	..	0	8	2
95	..	"	..			Nil

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Even under this unsatisfactory state of things, the cost to the Government is only approximately £20 for each patient admitted, and the loss to the Government cannot well be reduced except by limiting the reception of non-paying patients or the provision of further methods of treatment which will attract a greater number of patients who can afford to pay readily for their care. If this is to be undertaken, a former suggestion that a special treatment room be erected, should be considered. Such a

room would be equipped with radiant heat and electrical baths, gymnastic appliances, &c., and should be under the management of a trained masseur. Such a development would have the effect of converting Lara into a thoroughly efficient Sanatorium. It has already all the other attributes of an Institution of this kind.

There have been no changes in the permanent staff, the conduct of which has been entirely satisfactory.

#### “ BRIGHTSIDE.”

This Institution is conducted by the Salvation Army under licence granted by the Chief Secretary. It has been in existence since 1910, and since that time there have been 795 admissions. Deducting re-admissions, it will be seen that 571 persons have been received, and it is known that 55 per cent. of these are either recovered or regarded as improved. This satisfactory result takes no account of those who have died or become insane, or, for the purposes of this Report, have disappeared.

The great organization of the Salvation Army is particularly well adapted to provide for the after-care of those who have come to “ Brightside ” for treatment. Its officers are all enthusiasts, and its management capable of efficiency with economy.

The agreement existing with the Chief Secretary’s Department as to the payment for cases sent there who are unable to pay wholly or who are only able to pay in part, has worked well since the inception of “ Brightside.” During 1927, 19 patients were admitted as Government charges, 14 were wholly and 5 partially paid for. The total amount paid by the Chief Secretary’s Department amounted to £546. This is equivalent to a payment of £28 for each Government case, and when one realizes that the majority of “ Brightside ” cases remain for over six months, it may be claimed that the arrangement is a satisfactory one financially.

Plans have been submitted and approved for certain alterations and additions to “ Brightside.” Work was commenced before the end of the year. The principal additions consist of a wing for 16 more patients, with a view to providing better classification than exists at present. Most of this will be in the shape of single rooms, but additional dining and recreation rooms are also contemplated, and the sanitary arrangements, baths, &c., will be of a high standard.

(N.B.—The annexe was opened by Her Excellency Lady Stonehaven on 24th March, 1928, in the presence of a representative gathering of persons interested in this work.)

It is quite certain that this proposition will give to “ Brightside ” the publicity which the character of the Institution and its work deserves.

I can testify to the good order of the house and its inmates on each of my visits of inspection, and I feel it incumbent on me to comment on the efficiency of the Matron and staff.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours obedient servant,

W. ERNEST JONES,

Inspector of Inebriate Institutions.

## LARA INEBRIATES INSTITUTION.—STATISTICS, 1927.

TABLE 1.

Showing changes in number of Patients during year 1927—			
Remaining in institution, 31st December, 1926	...	...	25
Remaining on probation, 31st December, 1926	...	...	19
Admitted	...	...	79
Re-admitted	...	...	95
			— 174
			218
Discharges—			
Efflux of time	...	...	42
At own request	...	...	107
Absconded	...	...	3
By order of Medical Officer	...	...	3
Orders rescinded	..	...	1
In institution, 31st December, 1927	...	...	41
On probation, 31st December, 1927	...	...	21
			218
Daily average number resident	...	...	40

TABLE 2.

Showing operation of Probationary Regulations during year 1927—			
Remaining on probation, 31st December, 1926	...	...	19
Allowed on probation	...	...	68
			87
Returned from probation, nominally	...	...	45
Returned from probation, voluntarily	...	...	20
Returned from probation, compulsorily	...	...	1
Remaining on probation, 31st December, 1927	...	...	21
			87

TABLE 3.

Terms of Residence.—Patients admitted during year 1927—			
One week	...	...	19
Two weeks	...	...	15
Three weeks	...	...	8
Four weeks	...	...	8
Five weeks	...	...	7
One month and a half	...	...	19
Two months	...	...	19
Two months and a half	...	...	14
Three months	...	...	11
Three months and a half	...	...	5
Four months	...	...	7
Five months	...	...	1
Six months	...	...	6
Seven months	...	...	1
Eight months	...	...	1
In Institution 31.12.1927	...	...	33
			174

Average period of treatment of patients from 1st July, 1907, to 31st December, 1927—2½ months

TABLE 4.

Age.	Patients Admitted during Year 1927.	From 1st July, 1907, to 31st December, 1927.
Between 18 and 21	...	5
Between 21 and 31	14	265
Between 31 and 41	56	930
Between 41 and 51	55	922
Between 51 and 61	38	444
Between 61 and 71	10	115
Between 71 and 81	1	18
	174	2,699

TABLE 5.

Occupation.	Patients admitted during Year 1927.	Patients admitted from 1st July, 1907, to 31st December, 1927.
Clerical	31	442
Artisans and Mechanics	23	311
Labourers	35	340
Professional—		
(a) Medical	4	64
(b) Legal	4	38
(c) General	3	155
Agricultural Pursuits, including Farmers and Pastoralists	12	226
Merchants and Commercial	3	83
Wine, Spirit, and Liquor Trades	4	52
Publicans	3	72
Commercial Travellers and Salesmen	12	164
Chemists and Dentists	6	65
Storekeepers and Tradesmen	13	255
Journalists and Compositors	2	70
Agents	6	108
Soldiers	...	28
No occupation	4	62
Other occupations— not classified	9	160
	174	2,699

TABLE 6.

Family History.	Patients admitted during Year 1927.	From 1st July, 1907, to 31st December, 1927.
	Instances.	Instances.
(1) Inebriety—		
Direct { Parents	37	571
{ Grandparents	5	107
Collateral { Brothers and Sisters	10	645
{ Uncles and Aunts	9	219
(2) Insanity—		
Direct—Parents	1	35
Collateral { Brothers and Sisters	...	69
{ Uncles and Aunts	..	59

## LARA STATISTICS—continued.

TABLE 7.			TABLE 8.		
Inebriety Habits.	Patients admitted during Year 1927.	From 1st July, 1907, to 31st December, 1927.	After History.	Patients admitted during Year 1927.	From 1st July, 1907, to 31st December, 1927.
(1) Alcoholism—					
(a) Regular ...	108	1,740			
(b) Periodical ...	68	867			
(2) Narcotism, without alcoholism—					
(a) Morphinism	3	44	Doing well ...	52	622
(b) Cocainism ...	...	9	Not improved ...	44	417
(c) Morphinism	...	...	Improved ...	12	91
and Cocainism ...	...	15	Still in institution ...	35	41
(d) Opium Smoking or Eating ...	...	8	Dead ...	1	255
(e) Heroin ...	...	3	Insane ...	...	28
(f) Chlorodyne ...	2	4	Orders rescinded ...	1	12
(g) Chloral and Paraldehyde	...	1	Not heard from ...	5	190
(h) Veronal ...	1	4	Discharged too recently to judge ...	8	8
(i) Morphine and Veronal ...	...	1			
(j) Paraldehyde	...	1			
(3) Not ascertainable	...	2			
	174	2,699	Re-admissions during Year 1927 ...	158	1,664
				16	
				174	

## LARA INEBRIATES INSTITUTION.—REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER, 1927,

Lara Inebriates Institution,  
1st January, 1928.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my Twenty-first Annual Report, with statistics, for the year ending 31st December, 1927.

The admissions for the year totalled 174, being 19 more than last year, of whom no less than 95 had previously received treatment at Lara—sometimes frequently—on former occasions.

The voluntary applications totalled 45, compulsory orders numbered 6, and the remainder (123) applied for admission as voluntary boarders.

Since 1907, i.e., 20½ years, we have treated in this institution 2,699 patients, representing 1,664 persons.

Discharges to the number of 151 took place during the year; of these 42 were allowed to leave on probation before the expiration of their terms.

Three patients absconded from the place and three were discharged as undesirables, and one order was rescinded.

On the 1st January, 1927, there were in the institution 25 patients and on the last day of the year 41, while 21 were on trial leave.

The daily average number resident was 40.

The ratio of two-thirds of the patients being between 30 and 50 years of age was maintained last year, as has always been the case.

The greatest and least number of patients resident on any one day were respectively 49 and 26.

One septuagenarian is included in the current admissions. People addicted to the use of drugs to the number of 6 were received for treatment, and the number of such cases has now reached 92.

A great many diseases (other than inebriety) and ailments were medically handled by the staff.

Regarding the conclusions to be drawn from the result of treatment here—vide Table 8—it will be seen that, up to the time of writing this Report, we have treated during the past 20½ years 1,664 men. Certain of these have to be eliminated from consideration for obvious reasons in estimating results with comparative accuracy; these are as follows:—41 still at Lara, 255 dead, 28 insane, 190 who cannot be traced, 12 orders rescinded, and 8 discharged too recently to judge. Deducting all the eliminated patients referred to, there remain 1,130, showing the following returns:—

Doing well	..	..	..	..	..	622
Improved	..	..	..	..	..	91
Not improved	..	..	..	..	..	417
						<hr/>
						1,130
						<hr/>

This gives the full medical result of the work of the institution up to date:—

Recoveries	..	..	..	..	..	622, or 55 per cent.
Benefited	..	..	..	..	..	713, or 63 per cent.
Failures	..	..	..	..	..	417, or 37 per cent.

The percentages remain practically the same for many years past, and may be regarded as the index of the work of an efficient institution.

## GENERAL.

I would strongly urge that amendments be made in the existing Inebriates Act with regard to Section 15. It has become the practice of certain sensational newspapers to surreptitiously obtain particulars of patients in this institution and to publish their names and details of their circumstances, more or less garbled, to the serious injury of these patients. If this section were amended to include the suppression of publication of such matters it would enhance our prospects of rendering the benefit of treatment at least more lasting.

Regarding the Regulations under the Act, it is highly important to enlarge the powers of control and discipline of patients here by extending the influence of Regulation 28. At present there is nothing to prevent patients defying attendants, behaving objectionably, or even forcing their way outside with impunity.

Another provision which might be referred to is that of enabling the management here to secure payment of the expenses of taking to Melbourne patients summoned to attend the Master-in-Equity under the *Inebriates Act* 1923.

From my observation, the care of and attention and courtesy to patients by the staff, that have always been a feature of this institution, have been fully maintained, and I express my thanks to them for this important aid to treatment.

I have also to express my appreciation of the co-operation of Mr. Callaghan, the licensee of the Lara Hotel, in thwarting any attempts by recalcitrant patients to obtain liquor at the hotel.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. GODFREY,  
Medical Officer.

The Inspector of Inebriate Institutions,  
Melbourne.



## STATISTICS FROM "BRIGHTSIDE" FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1927.

Admissions—				Term of residence—			
Remaining in institution on 31st				Three days ... ..	...	...	1
December, 1926 ... ..	...	...	25	Four days ... ..	...	...	1
Admitted during 1927 ... ..	...	...	37	One week ... ..	...	...	3
Re-admitted during 1927 ... ..	...	...	11	Two weeks ... ..	...	...	1
			73	Three weeks ... ..	...	...	2
			—	One month ... ..	...	...	6
			73	One month and a half ... ..	...	...	4
			—	Two months ... ..	...	...	3
			73	Two months and a half ... ..	...	...	2
			—	Three months and a half ... ..	...	...	1
			73	Four months ... ..	...	...	1
			—	Five months ... ..	...	...	2
			73	Six months ... ..	...	...	6
			—	Seven months ... ..	...	...	1
			73	Seven months and a half ... ..	...	...	1
			—	Nine months ... ..	...	...	2
			73	Ten months ... ..	...	...	2
			—	Eleven months ... ..	...	...	1
			73	One year ... ..	...	...	2
			—	One year and five months ... ..	...	...	2
			73	One year and eight months ... ..	...	...	1
			—	Two years ... ..	...	...	1
			73	In institution on 31st. December,	...	...	27
			—	1927 ... ..	...	...	—
			73				73

## STATISTICS FROM "BRIGHTSIDE."

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1927.

Also showing total number of cases treated since the opening of the Institution, 21st February, 1910:—

Particulars.	Patients Admitted during Year 1927.	From 21st February, 1910, to 31st December, 1927.	Particulars.	Patients Admitted during Year 1927.	From 21st February, 1910, to 31st December, 1927.
<b>Admissions—</b>			<b>Marriage—</b>		
Admitted .. ..	37	565	Married .. ..	16	416
Re-admitted .. ..	11	230	Single .. ..	12	149
	48	795	Widows .. ..	15	150
			Divorced .. ..	..	26
			Separated from husbands .. ..	5	54
				48	795
<b>Age—</b>			<b>Religion—</b>		
Between 20 and 30 ..	4	79	Church of England ..	27	410
Between 30 and 40 ..	11	204	Roman Catholic .. ..	13	172
Between 40 and 50 ..	13	246	Presbyterian .. ..	5	101
Between 50 and 60 ..	8	164	Methodist .. ..	1	70
Between 60 and 70 ..	7	80	Baptist .. ..	2	13
Between 70 and 80 ..	4	17	Congregational .. ..	..	5
Between 80 and 90 ..	1	4	Church of Christ .. ..	..	3
Between 90 and 100 ..	..	1	Plymouth Brethren ..	..	3
	48	795	Salvation Army .. ..	..	3
			Protestant .. ..	..	8
			Hebrew .. ..	..	4
			Lutheran .. ..	..	3
				48	795
<b>Nationality—</b>			<b>Education—</b>		
Australian .. ..	44	566	College .. ..	13	126
New Zealand .. ..	..	12	Good .. ..	21	399
English .. ..	3	130	Elementary .. ..	14	270
Scottish .. ..	1	37		48	795
Irish .. ..	..	29			
Welsh .. ..	..	5			
French .. ..	..	1			
Dutch .. ..	..	2			
Italian .. ..	..	4			
Canadian .. ..	..	7			
German .. ..	..	2			
	48	795			

STATISTICS FROM "BRIGHTSIDE"—*continued.*

Particulars.	Patients Admitted during Year 1927.	From 21st February, 1910, to 31st December, 1927.	Particulars.	Patients Admitted during Year 1927.	From 21st February, 1910, to 31st December, 1927.
<b>Occupation—</b>			<b>Inebriety habits—</b>		
Housewives ..	16	377	1. Alcoholism—		
Domestics ..	6	155	Regular ..	30	528
Nurses ..	6	67	Periodical ..	12	195
Teachers ..	2	14	2. Narcotism without alcoholism—		
Stenographers ..	2	8	Morphinism ..	6	42
Storekeepers ..	..	5	Morphinism and cocainism ..	..	25
Masseuse ..	..	3		48	795
Theatrical ..	..	6	<b>Ordinary habits—</b>		
Waitresses ..	..	3	Social ..	44	671
Journalists ..	..	4	Solitary ..	4	124
Seamstresses ..	..	4		48	795
Cashier ..	..	1	<b>Temperament—</b>		
Hotelkeepers ..	..	2	Sanguine ..	25	290
Stewardess ..	..	1	Neurotic ..	14	190
Florist ..	..	1	Passionate ..	7	242
Saleswomen ..	..	2	Phlegmatic ..	2	73
Artist ..	..	1		48	795
Barmaids ..	..	3	<b>Kind of inebriant used—</b>		
Cooks ..	1	2	Spirits of any kind ..	3	116
No occupation ..	15	136	Wine and spirits ..	8	92
	48	795	Whisky and brandy	4	41
			Whisky and gin ..	..	13
<b>Family history—</b>			Whisky ..	3	36
1. Inebriety—			Brandy and gin ..	1	2
Parents ..	10	234	Brandy ..	..	21
Grandparents ..	2	18	Gin ..	1	13
Brothers and sisters ..	1	83	Ale, stout, and wine ..	4	145
Uncles and aunts ..	..	14	Wine ..	3	6
2. Insanity—			Beer ..	1	8
Parents ..	1	24	Anything obtainable	2	174
Grandparents ..	..	5	Anything obtainable, including methylated spirits ..	5	13
Brothers and sisters ..	..	27	Morphine ..	5	23
Uncles and aunts ..	..	13	Morphine and cocaine	..	4
No reliable history ..	7	144	Morphine and veronal	..	6
Nil ..	27	233	Veronal ..	..	6
	48	795	Veronal and paraldehyde ..	..	1
			Chlorodyne ..	1	8
<b>Associate habits—</b>			Not ascertainable ..	7	67
Cigarettes ..	10	112		48	795
Cigarettes and morphine ..	2	7	<b>Delirium Tremens—</b>		
Cigarettes, morphine, and cocaine ..	..	5	One attack ..	6	85
Cigarettes, morphine, cocaine and veronal	..	4	Two attacks ..	1	45
Cigarettes and veronal	..	3	Three attacks or more	4	46
Cigarettes, veronal, and chlorodyne ..	..	1	Not ascertainable ..	2	105
Cigarettes and laudanum ..	..	1	Nil ..	35	514
Morphine ..	..	11		48	795
Morphine and veronal	..	5	<b>Exciting cause—</b>		
Morphine and cocaine	..	2	Heredity ..	7	237
Morphine and chlorodyne ..	..	2	Acquired habit ..	22	245
Chlorodyne ..	2	18	Ill-health ..	9	113
Veronal ..	..	9	Sociability ..	5	60
Aspirin ..	..	1	Trouble and worry ..	2	33
Various kinds of sleeping draughts	..	27	Hotel life ..	2	15
Nil ..	24	556			
	48	795			

## STATISTICS FROM "BRIGHTSIDE"—continued.

Particulars.	Patients Admitted during Year 1927.	From 21st February, 1910, to 31st December, 1927.	Particulars.	Patients Admitted during Year 1927.	From 21st February, 1910, to 31st December, 1927.
<b>Exciting cause—contd.</b>			<b>After history—</b>		
Disappointment ..	..	6	Doing well ..	21	240
Overwork ..	..	5	Improved ..	5	66
Bereavement ..	..	4	Not improved ..	8	47
Shock ..	1	5	Insane ..	3	34
Insomnia ..	..	3	Died ..	1	60
Not ascertainable ..	..	69	Discharged too recently to judge ..	5	5
	48	795	Not heard from since leaving the institution ..	3	92
<b>Predisposing cause—</b>			Remaining in institution, 31st December, 1927 ..	27	27
Craving ..	31	516	Re-admissions ..	..	224
Trouble and worry ..	2	62		73	795
Sociability ..	1	52			
Ill-health ..	11	91			
Loneliness and depression ..	3	38			
Overwork ..	..	10			
Bereavement ..	..	4			
Disappointment ..	..	2			
Not ascertainable ..	..	20			
	48	795			

## "BRIGHTSIDE."—REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER.

"Dydneyrne,"

Waverley-road, East Malvern,

To the Inspector-General of Inebriate Institutions,  
Old Treasury,  
Melbourne.

DEAR SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Medical Report for "Brightside" for the year 1927.

On 1st January, 1927, there were 25 patients in the Home. During the year 48 were admitted (11 being re-admissions), so that 73 were under treatment during the period.

Of this number 39 were discharged, 2 escaped, 1 was transferred to the Alfred Hospital, 4 were transferred to mental hospitals, and 27 remained in the institution on 31st December, 1927.

I append the usual statistics, from which you will gather the particulars regarding the patients in detail.

Of the 11 re-admissions 8 were old chronic cases (3 being morphia addicts), 2 were admitted twice during the year, and the remaining 3 only had a very short stay in the institution.

We again have noticed, in studying the results of our work, that the patients who do well are those who have remained in the Home a fairly long time; those who stay only a short time contain in almost every case the "Not improved."

We are struck by the absence of immigrants amongst the patients. In only 4 cases of our last year's admissions were they not Australian born, and no patient had been in the country less than seven years.

Again, of the 48 admissions 16 were married women and twice that number viz., 32, were single, widows, or separated from their husbands.

Methylated spirit drinking seems as if it were increasing, for we admitted 5 cases last year as against 8 for all the rest of the time the Home has been open.

Amongst occupations, nurses are again well up in the list.

I have previously referred to the difficulties surrounding and the heavy expense necessarily incurred in the admission of patients. The lawyers' fees alone amount to at least £8 8s. for the work necessary in the admission of a patient.

I would suggest that the Act be amended so that two medical men could sign the patients up, as is done under the Lunacy Act. These two certificates, together with the usual relatives' statement, should be a sufficient safeguard for all purposes. Many medical men charge £1 1s. for similar certificates, so that the charge to the patient would be only £2 2s. This, I am sure, would make a material difference in reaching a large number of alcohol and drug addicts, where the expense is at present a bar.

During the year a new entrance has been made on to Serrell-street, which is a great convenience. A very spacious entrance hall has also been added, which enables patients and friends to be interviewed by the Matron with much greater privacy than obtained before.

Extensive additions are also being built on the ground to the south of the present building which will provide accommodation for some 16 more patients.

The health of the patients has been remarkably good during the year. One suffering from chronic appendicitis was sent to the Alfred Hospital for operation, and returned much benefited and much more comfortable.

I have visited the Home regularly, and cannot speak in terms too high for the way the place is kept, the kindness and consideration the patients receive, and the wonderful unselfish work carried on by the Matron and her staff.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

HUGH L. MURRAY,  
F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.E.