

VICTORIA.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE.

REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HYGIENE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,
1948.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO ACT 19 GEO. V.
No. 3721, SECTION 19.

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REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE,
Director's Office,
Old Treasury Buildings, Spring-street,
Melbourne, C.1,

26th August, 1949.

To the Honorable the Minister of Health.

SIR,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Department of Mental Hygiene for the year 1948.

On the 31st December, 1948, the number of registered insane persons was 7,151, an increase of 61 over the previous year's figures ; 278 soldiers were on the registers of Bundoora ; 116 patients were in receiving houses, whilst 172 voluntary boarders in mental hospitals and 101 in private mental homes were under care. Taking into account the children in the special schools of the Department, a total of 8,018 persons was under the control of the Department at the end of the year. Of 766 persons who took advantage of the voluntary boarder clauses of the Act, in only 85 cases was it necessary to proceed to certification of insanity. Ratio of certified insane to the general population is 1 in 295.

Returned soldiers under care now number 278, but there are several cases in the mental hospitals whose condition has recently been accepted as being probably due to war conditions. These patients cannot be transferred to the Repatriation Hospital at Bundoora because shortage of staff at that institution does not permit of a new unoccupied ward being opened.

Total expenditure for the financial year was £1,031,237. The average weekly gross cost of maintaining a patient in the mental hospitals was £2/18/5d., and, after deducting amounts paid to revenue, the net cost to the State per capita was £2/8/8d. per week. As from 1st July, 1949, maintenance charges for patients will be abrogated. The average amount per head collected for maintenance by the Public Trustee will in future be replaced by a like contribution from the Federal Treasurer, and relatives of patients will no longer be asked to contribute to their maintenance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. CATARINICH,

Director of Mental Hygiene.

TABLE I.—Showing the Number of Cases Under the Control of the Department on 31st December, 1948.

Name of Institution.	Patients on Trial Leave, &c.			Insane Patients Resident.			Receiving House Patients.			Voluntary Boarders.			Repatriation Cases.			Special School Cases.			Total on Books.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mental Hospital, Kew	58	49	107	486	420	906	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	544	469	1,013	..	..	..
Mental Hospital, Kew Children's Cottages	41	17	58	260	163	423	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	301	180	481	..	..	..
Mental Hospital, Ararat	9	5	14	479	266	745	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	488	271	759	..	..	..
Mental Hospital, Beechworth	12	5	17	341	420	761	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	359	425	784	..	..	..
Mental Hospital, Sunbury	138	150	288	428	604	1,032	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	568	756	1,324	..	..	..
Mental Hospital, Ballarat	28	87	115	261	511	772	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	294	605	899	..	..	..
Mental Hospital, Royal Park	64	111	175	23	43	66	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87	154	241	..	..	..
Mental Hospital, Mont Park	72	80	152	602	804	1,406	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	714	933	1,647	..	..	..
Mental Hospital, Janefield .. .. .	..	15	15	5	63	68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	85	113	..	..	..
Repatriation Mental Hospital, Bundoora	422	519	941	2,885	3,294	6,179	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,383	3,878	7,261	..	..	..
Receiving Ward, Bendigo	81	..	81	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	278	..	278	..	..	..
Receiving House, Ballarat	503	519	1,022	2,885	3,294	6,179	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,661	3,878	7,539	..	..	..
Receiving House, Royal Park .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Travancore Development Centre .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stawell Special School .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Janefield Colony .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Number on Books of State Institutions	503	519	1,022	2,885	3,294	6,179	42	74	116	97	172	197	..	..	..	3,724	3,962	7,686	14	39	53
Total Number Resident in State Institutions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Private Mental Home "Pleasant View" .. .. .	..	3	3	4	9	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Private Mental Home "Merton" .. .. .	..	2	2	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Private Mental Home "Hillcrest"	1	..	1	5	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Number under Control of Department	504	524	1,028	2,894	3,310	6,204	42	74	116	120	273	197	..	..	..	3,830	4,188	8,018	73	127	200

TABLE II.—Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths of Patients at Mental Hospitals during the Year ended 31st December, 1948.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the Hospitals, 1st January, 1948	2,920	3,305	6,225			
On trial leave	226	336	562			
Boarded out	123	142	265			
Total number on books, 1st January, 1948	..	..	..	3,269	3,783	7,052
Cases admitted—						
First admissions	416	490	906			
Not first admissions	21	25	46			
Escaped patients retaken	134	55	189			
Total cases admitted during the year ..	..	..	..	571	570	1,141
Total cases under care during the year ..	..	..	..	3,840	4,353	8,193
Cases discharged—						
Recovered	93	141	234			
Relieved	52	80	132			
Not improved	8	15	23			
Escaped	143	57	200			
Died	237	247	484			
Total cases discharged and died during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	533	540	1,073
Remaining in the Hospitals, 31st December, 1948 ..	2,885	3,294	6,179			
Patients on trial leave	309	382	691			
Patients boarded out	113	137	250			
Total number on books, 31st December, 1948	..	..	..	3,307	3,813	7,120
Average number resident during the year ..	..	..	..	2,914	3,323	6,237
Persons under care during the year .. ..	..	..	..	3,702	4,295	7,997
Persons admitted .. .. .	..	..	..	434	514	948
Persons recovered .. .. .	..	..	..	93	141	234

TABLE III.—Showing the Number of Registered Insane on the Books of the Mental Hospitals and the Private Mental Homes at the end of each year from 1930 to 1948 inclusively, the Soldiers treated under Sections 234 to 238 (Mental Treatment) of the *Mental Hygiene Act 1928*, the Number of Patients in the Receiving Houses and Wards, and also the Voluntary Boarders on the Books of the Mental Hospitals and Private Mental Homes at the end of each Year.

Year.	Registered Insane.										Soldiers.		Voluntary Boarders.								
	Mental Hospitals.			Private Mental Homes.			Total of Registered Insane.	Increase. + Decrease. —	Number.	Increase. + Decrease. —	Receiving Houses and Receiving Wards.			Mental Hospitals.		Private Mental Homes.		Total.	Increase. + Decrease. —		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.					Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.			Females.	Total.
							Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.								Females.	Total.		
1930 ..	3,234	3,435	6,669	15	75	90	6,759	+ 139	201	+ 8	37	54	91	32	20	52	5	35	40	92	+ 8
1931 ..	3,235	3,469	6,704	24	70	94	6,798	+ 39	205	+ 4	36	41	77	59	30	89	7	27	34	123	+31
1932 ..	3,274	3,468	6,742	28	73	101	6,843	+ 45	201	- 4	49	52	101	59	32	91	9	28	37	128	+ 5
1933 ..	3,297	3,515	6,812	19	68	87	6,899	+ 56	215	+14	57	65	122	55	30	85	9	29	38	123	- 5
1934 ..	3,343	3,584	6,927	16	62	78	7,005	+ 106	219	+ 4	47	64	111	64	42	106	7	39	46	152	+29
1935 ..	3,353	3,626	6,979	13	67	80	7,059	+ 54	225	+ 6	47	70	117	58	32	90	10	47	57	147	- 5
1936 ..	3,420	3,724	7,144	13	53	66	7,210	+ 151	230	+ 5	51	64	115	66	48	114	12	30	42	156	+ 9
1937 ..	3,436	3,796	7,232	16	54	70	7,302	+ 92	233	+ 3	55	69	124	76	55	131	12	38	50	181	+25
1938 ..	3,459	3,806	7,265	12	49	61	7,326	+ 24	237	+ 4	62	58	120	89	79	168	11	42	53	221	+40
1939 ..	3,450	3,776	7,226	13	46	59	7,285	- 41	239	+ 2	53	65	118	85	73	158	7	39	46	204	-17
1940 ..	3,483	3,801	7,284	15	47	62	7,346	+ 61	230	- 9	31	50	81	106	75	181	16	34	50	231	+27
1941 ..	3,468	3,872	7,340	16	43	59	7,399	+ 53	223	- 7	51	61	112	83	67	150	9	48	57	207	-24
1942 ..	3,438	3,818	7,256	25	34	59	7,315	- 84	227	+ 4	46	67	113	83	68	151	13	53	66	217	+10
1943 ..	3,412	3,840	7,252	18	38	56	7,308	- 7	229	+ 2	45	58	103	99	75	174	19	52	71	245	+28
1944 ..	3,425	3,817	7,242	15	32	47	7,289	- 19	234	+ 5	47	64	111	112	98	210	18	44	62	272	+27
1945 ..	3,478	3,784	7,262	14	32	46	7,308	+ 19	245	+11	48	66	114	134	108	242	23	67	90	332	+60
1946 ..	3,290	3,747	7,037	12	30	42	7,079	- 229	269	+24	47	89	136	115	90	205	25	60	85	290	-42
1947 ..	3,269	3,783	7,052	11	27	38	7,090	+ 11	277	+ 8	46	78	124	114	102	216	31	70	101	317	+27
1948 ..	3,307	3,813	7,120	10	21	31	7,151	+ 61	278	+ 1	42	74	116	97	75	172	23	78	101	273	-44

TABLE IV.—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, 1930.

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.	Total.	Recovered.			Relieved.			Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.																
1930	425	456	881	90	103	193	74	91	165	181	185	366	3,234	3,435	6,669	2,804	3,023	5,827	21.74	22.59	21.91	6.45	6.11	6.28	
1931	424	411	835	66	88	154	84	77	161	260	205	465	3,235	3,469	6,704	2,801	3,058	5,859	15.57	21.41	18.44	9.28	6.70	7.94	
1932	432	350	782	72	94	166	74	74	148	218	176	394	3,274	3,468	6,742	2,784	3,061	5,845	16.66	26.85	21.22	7.83	5.75	6.74	
1933	405	443	848	75	104	179	69	72	141	230	206	436	3,297	3,515	6,812	2,819	3,069	5,888	18.54	23.47	21.10	8.15	6.71	7.40	
1934	397	465	862	66	87	153	79	99	178	196	204	400	3,343	3,584	6,927	2,826	3,122	5,948	16.62	18.71	17.75	6.93	6.53	6.72	
1935	422	473	895	75	120	195	72	84	156	245	218	463	3,353	3,626	6,979	2,844	3,154	5,998	17.77	25.37	21.89	8.61	6.91	7.72	
1936	420	456	876	84	110	194	52	63	115	213	177	390	3,420	3,724	7,144	2,868	3,219	6,087	20.00	24.12	22.14	7.42	5.49	6.41	
1937	399	436	835	106	127	233	53	63	116	210	167	377	3,436	3,796	7,232	2,878	3,283	6,161	26.57	29.13	27.90	7.30	5.09	6.12	
1938	431	452	883	115	149	264	67	83	150	209	200	409	3,459	3,806	7,265	2,848	3,274	6,122	26.68	32.96	29.89	7.34	6.11	6.68	
1939	486	520	1,006	100	160	260	82	97	179	256	246	502	3,450	3,776	7,226	2,882	3,275	6,157	20.58	30.76	25.84	8.88	7.51	8.15	
1940	446	452	898	91	122	213	117	117	234	191	182	373	3,483	3,801	7,284	2,934	3,304	6,238	20.40	26.99	23.72	6.51	5.51	5.98	
1941	387	504	891	88	128	216	83	83	166	216	218	434	3,468	3,872	7,340	2,968	3,401	6,369	22.74	25.00	24.01	7.28	6.41	6.81	
1942	425	417	842	79	113	192	88	92	180	263	262	525	3,438	3,818	7,256	2,957	3,432	6,389	18.59	27.10	22.80	8.86	7.70	8.21	
1943	399	469	868	79	95	174	65	59	124	266	288	554	3,412	3,840	7,252	2,965	3,354	6,319	19.80	20.26	20.05	8.97	8.59	8.77	
1944	408	471	879	86	128	214	66	70	136	234	293	527	3,425	3,817	7,242	2,953	3,337	6,290	21.08	27.18	24.35	7.92	8.77	8.38	
1945	448	470	918	109	121	230	60	75	135	222	304	526	3,478	3,781	7,262	2,976	3,304	6,280	24.33	25.75	25.05	7.46	9.20	8.38	
1946	417	434	851	109	114	223	62	83	145	233	267	500	3,290	3,747	7,037	2,996	3,293	6,289	26.13	26.26	26.20	7.77	8.13	7.95	
1947	383	473	856	88	125	213	72	69	141	214	235	449	3,269	3,783	7,052	2,926	3,328	6,254	22.68	26.42	24.88	7.31	7.06	7.17	
1948	437	515	952	93	141	234	52	80	132	237	247	484	3,307	3,813	7,120	2,914	3,323	6,237	21.28	27.38	24.58	8.13	7.43	7.76	
	7,991	8,667	16,658	1,671	2,229	3,900	1,371	1,531	2,902	4,294	4,280	8,574	..	..	..	54,943	61,614	116,557	20.91	25.72	23.41	7.82	6.95	7.36
													2,892	3,243	6,135							

TABLE V.—Showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died during the Year 1948, and of those Remaining on 31st December, 1948.

Ages.	Admitted.			Discharged.						Escaped Patients not Retaken.			Died.			Remaining on 31st December, 1948.				
	Recovered.		Total.	Believed.		Not Improved.		Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.			
	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.											Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 5 years ..	26	19	45	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	12	27	32	22	54
5 years and under 10 years ..	10	8	18	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	56	43	99
10 years and under 15 years ..	8	9	17	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	78	58	136
15 years and under 20 years ..	17	23	40	7	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	122	97	219
20 years and under 25 years ..	27	27	54	15	10	3	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6	155	115	270
25 years and under 30 years ..	26	34	60	9	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	9	175	169	344
30 years and under 35 years ..	21	41	62	4	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	6	248	228	476
35 years and under 40 years ..	32	45	77	12	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	10	308	270	578
40 years and under 45 years ..	34	38	72	10	9	1	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	6	4	10	305	308	613
45 years and under 50 years ..	27	32	59	6	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	12	20	404	371	775
50 years and under 55 years ..	33	34	67	9	18	1	2	2	1	1	1	..	..	14	15	29	329	404	733
55 years and under 60 years ..	22	39	61	5	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	16	31	313	420	733
60 years and under 65 years ..	27	42	69	11	12	1	3	2	1	1	2	..	..	26	18	44	263	399	662
65 years and under 70 years ..	29	24	53	6	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	23	50	207	328	535
70 years and under 75 years ..	28	39	67	2	9	1	3	6	3	3	..	..	..	26	27	53	124	250	374
75 years and under 80 years ..	39	26	65	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	46	92	91	177	268
80 years and under 85 years ..	15	18	33	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	28	53	41	90	131
85 years and under 90 years ..	10	11	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	19	30	21	18	39
90 years and over	1	1	2	2	4	10	12	22
Unknown ..	6	5	11	2	1	2	2	4	25	34	59
Total ..	437	515	952	93	141	234	52	80	132	23	8	15	23	237	247	484	3,307	3,813	7,120	
Mean Age ..	50.56	49.70	50.09	44.87	44.14	44.43	41.57	46.96	44.97	43.81	39.26	46.07	43.81	66.25	65.79	66.01	48.22	52.84	50.72	
Mean age, Children's Cottages and Janefteld ..	5.91	6.45	6.16	..	21.00	21.00	12.75	9.75	11.75	25.00	21.00	29.00	25.00	4.73	9.28	6.78	16.24	19.78	17.86	

TABLE VI.—Showing the Probable Causes of Insanity in the Patients Admitted during the Year 1948.

Causes of Insanity.	Number of Instances in which each Cause was Assigned.											
	Admissions { Number of Cases— Males, 437. Females, 515. Total, 952.											
	As Predisposing Cause.			As Exciting Cause.			As Predisposing or Exciting (where these could not be distinguished).			Total.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
MORAL.												
Domestic trouble (including loss of relatives and friends) .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Adverse circumstances (including business anxieties and pecuniary difficulties)	2	..	2	8	9	17	..	..	..	10	9	19
Mental anxiety and worry (not included under the above two heads), and overwork	2	1	3	1	1	2	..	..	..	3	2	5
Religious excitement .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Love affairs (including seduction) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fright and nervous shock .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
PHYSICAL.												
Intemperance in drink	12	4	16	34	11	45	..	..	..	46	15	61
Intemperance (sexual) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases .. ..	..	..	..	16	4	20	..	..	..	16	4	20
Self abuse (sexual) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Over exertion	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Sunstroke .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accident or injury	1	1	2	3	2	5	..	..	..	4	3	7
Pregnancy .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Parturition and the puerperal state .. ..	..	..	..	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	7	7
Lactation .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	2
Uterine and ovarian disorders .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puberty	15	7	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	7	22
Change of life .. ..	..	1	1	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	5	5
Fevers .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	2
Privation and starvation .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old age	65	1	66	52	93	145	9	12	21	126	106	232
Other bodily diseases or disorders	14	3	17	9	21	30	7	3	10	30	27	57
Previous attacks	40	88	128	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	88	128
Hereditary influences ascertained (direct and collateral)	27	46	73	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	46	73
Congenital defect ascertained	42	37	79	39	28	67	..	..	..	81	65	146
Other ascertained causes .. ..	..	1	1	4	..	4	1	..	1	5	1	6
Unknown	44	63	107	11	13	24	37	115	152	92	191	283
Totals	265	254	519	178	199	377	54	130	184	497	583	1080
Deduct for combined causes										60	68	128
										437	515	952

TABLE VII.—Showing the Form of Mental Disorder on admission in the Admissions, Recoveries, and Deaths for the Year 1948, and the Form of Mental Disorder of the Patients remaining on the Books on 31st December, 1948.

Form of Mental Disorder.	Admissions.			Recoveries.			Deaths.			Remaining on Books.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
I. Congenital or Infantile mental deficiency (idiocy or imbecility) occurring as early in life as it can be observed—												
1. Intellectual—												
(a) With epilepsy ..	18	11	29	..	2	2	15	5	20	150	125	275
(b) Without epilepsy ..	65	60	125	1	7	8	26	28	54	651	504	1,155
2. Moral .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	30	114
II. Insanity occurring later in life—												
1. Insanity with epilepsy ..	10	8	18	2	1	3	5	6	11	97	109	206
2. General paralysis of the insane	14	4	18	1	1	2	8	2	10	81	35	116
3. Insanity of the grosser brain lesions	4	5	9	..	..	..	3	6	9	19	5	24
4. Acute delitium (acute delirium mania) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Confusional insanity ..	20	21	41	11	13	24	5	4	9	16	23	39
6. Stupor .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Primary dementia	67	90	157	34	33	67	14	14	28	515	560	1,075
8. Mania—												
(a) Recent	17	28	45	9	11	20	3	2	5	12	21	33
(b) Chronic	1	4	5	..	..	..	2	2	4	34	64	98
(c) Recurrent	3	10	13	..	4	4	..	4	4	27	39	66
9. Melancholia—												
(a) Recent	12	41	53	9	22	31	5	12	17	5	18	23
(b) Chronic	3	2	5	..	1	1	9	2	11	32	40	72
(c) Recurrent	3	3	6	1	3	4	..	3	3	10	17	27
10. Alternating insanity ..	6	14	20	3	13	16	3	8	11	17	56	73
11. Delusional insanity—												
(a) Systematized	6	1	7	..	..	..	3	2	5	13	16	29
(b) Non-systematized ..	28	82	110	12	22	34	14	25	39	277	495	772
12. Volitional insanity—												
(a) Impulse	2	3	5	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
(b) Obsession	1	2	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
(c) Doubt	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
13. Moral insanity .. ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
14. Dementia—												
(a) Senile	120	94	214	7	2	9	85	84	169	214	221	435
(b) Secondary or terminal	36	31	67	2	5	7	37	38	75	629	914	1,543
On trial leave, or boarded-out ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	422	519	941
Total	437	515	952	93	141	234	237	247	484	3,307	3,813	7,120

TABLE VIII.—Showing the condition as to Marriage in Patients Admitted, Recovered, Relieved, Not Improved, Escaped not Retaken, and Died during the Year 1948, and of Patients Remaining on the Books on 31st December, 1948.

Condition in Reference to Marriage.	Admitted.			Discharged.									Escaped Patients not Retaken.			Died.			Patients Remaining 31st December, 1948.		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.											
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.			
Single ..	194	169	363	43	48	91	25	25	50	3	3	6	8	1	9	116	88	204	2,247	2,033	4,280
Married ..	141	187	328	36	71	107	18	43	61	4	6	10	..	1	1	68	74	142	610	1,188	1,798
Widowed	45	110	155	10	17	27	1	6	7	..	5	5	..	..	..	25	66	91	71	283	354
Divorced	3	9	12	3	4	7	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	18	25	43
Unknown	10	2	12	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	4	..	4	55	26	81
Total ..	393	477	870	93	140	233	44	76	120	7	14	21	9	2	11	215	229	444	3,001	3,555	6,556

Excluding patients at the Kew Children's Cottages and Janefield Colony, none of whom is married.

TABLE IX.—Showing the Causes of Deaths during the Year 1948.

Cause of Death.	Totals all Mental Hospitals.		
	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Diseases of the Nervous System—			
Meningitis, inflammation of the brain, cerebro-spinal meningitis ..	1	1	2
General paralysis of the insane	8	2	10
Cerebral softening .. .. .	..	2	2
Epilepsy and convulsions	10	6	16
Hemiplegia, apoplexy, cerebral haemorrhage, cerebral embolism ..	7	21	28
Other organic diseases of brain, including tumours	3	7	10
Exhaustion from mania or melancholia, not caused by nervous diseases otherwise designated .. .. .	..	..	..
Paraplegia and diseases of cord, locomotor ataxia .. .. .	..	..	..
Neuritis and general sclerosis of nervous system .. .. .	..	..	..
Diseases of Blood Vessels—			
Aneurism, arterio-sclerosis, and other diseases not included in diseases of nervous system	32	45	77
Diseases of Respiratory System and Thorax—			
Pulmonary phthisis	5	3	8
Pneumonia, bronchitis, pleurisy	47	50	97
Other forms of pulmonary disease	9	3	12
Diseases of Heart—			
Valvular disease, fatty degeneration, cardiac syncope, &c.	61	69	130
Diseases of the Digestive System—			
Diseases of mouth, pharynx, stomach (non-malignant), intestines, liver, and peritoneum (non-tubercular)	7	5	12
Diseases of Genito-urinary System—			
Diseases of kidney, bladder, prostate, &c.	4	6	10
General Diseases—			
Dysentery (colitis), epidemic diarrhoea, infective enteritis	6	4	10
Typhoid	1	3	4
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..
Abscess, pyaemia, septicaemia, and cellulitis .. .. .	..	1	1
Influenza and other fevers .. .. .	..	..	..
Cancer, carcinoma, sarcoma, malignant disease, excluding malignant tumour of brain	8	5	13
Syphilis and other venereal disease .. .. .	..	..	..
General tuberculosis and tubercle of organs other than lungs .. ..	..	1	1
Diseases of thyroid, lymphatic, and other glands .. .. .	..	1	1
Atrophy, debility, pernicious anaemia, and old age	26	11	37
Unknown .. .. .	..	1	1
Accidents	1	..	1
Suicides	1	..	1
Total	237	247	484

Ascertained by post-mortem examinations—101 males, 101 females; total, 202.

TABLE X.—SHOWING PATIENTS BOARDED-OUT ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1948.

Patients boarded out to—	Males.	Females.	Total.
After Care Hostel .. .. .	..	4	4
Private Individuals .. .. .	..	2	2
Ballarat Benevolent Asylum	14	58	72
Bendigo Benevolent Asylum	1	3	4
Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum	98	70	168
Total	113	137	250

TABLE XI.—RECEIVING HOUSES AND WARDS.

Showing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1948.

—	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the Institutions, 1st January, 1948 .. .. .	..	..	..	46	78	124
Cases Admitted :—						
First Admissions	504	613	1,117			
Not First Admissions	85	123	208			
Transferred to the Institution .. .. .	..	..	..
Escaped Patients Retaken	33	22	55			
Total cases Admitted during the Year .. .. .	..	..	..	622	758	1,380
Total cases under care during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	668	836	1,504
Cases discharged :—						
Recovered	154	205	359			
Relieved	24	18	42			
Not Improved	7	11	18			
Transferred from the Institutions.. .. .	331	406	737			
Escaped	35	23	58			
Died	75	99	174			
Total cases discharged and died during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	626	762	1,388
Remaining in the Institutions, 31st December, 1948 .. .. .	..	..	..	42	74	116
Average number resident during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	44	82	126
Persons under care during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	614	775	1,389
Persons admitted .. .. .	..	..	..	571	704	1,275
Persons recovered .. .. .	..	..	..	151	204	355

TABLE XII.—VOLUNTARY BOARDERS—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 Department of Mental Hygiene during the year ending 31st December, 1948.

						Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining in the Institutions on the 1st January, 1948—											
In Mental Hospitals and Receiving Houses						114	102	216			
In Private Mental Homes						31	70	101			
Admissions—											
In Mental Hospitals and Receiving Houses						354	164	518			
In Private Mental Homes						105	143	248			
Total cases under care during the year .. .. .						..	..	..	604	479	1,083
Discharged—											
In Mental Hospitals and Receiving Houses						319	145	464			
In Private Mental Homes						103	114	217			
Certified as Insane or Apparently Insane—											
In Mental Hospitals and Receiving Houses						39	35	74			
In Private Mental Homes						6	5	11			
Died—											
In Mental Hospitals and Receiving Houses						13	11	24			
In Private Mental Homes						4	16	20			
Total discharged, &c. .. .. .						..	..	..	484	326	810
Remaining in Institutions on 31st December, 1948—											
In Mental Hospitals and Receiving Houses						97	75	172			
In Private Mental Homes						23	78	101			
Total remaining .. .. .						..	..	..	120	153	273

TABLE XIII.—STATISTICAL RETURN OF VOLUNTARY BOARDERS SINCE 1930.

Year.	Admissions.									Discharges.			Certified as Insane or Apparently Insane.			Died.		
	State Institutions.			Private Institutions.			Total Admissions.			Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.									
1930	86	55	141	12	49	61	98	104	202	89	78	167	4	16	20	5	2	7
1931	129	74	203	12	29	41	141	103	244	95	85	180	12	14	26	5	2	7
1932	124	67	191	36	31	67	160	98	258	138	76	214	15	13	28	5	6	11
1933	178	91	269	18	36	54	196	127	323	174	100	274	16	24	40	10	4	14
1934	181	130	311	7	63	70	188	193	381	147	135	282	26	29	55	8	7	15
1935	166	105	271	17	82	99	183	187	370	146	139	285	32	39	71	8	11	19
1936	217	106	323	38	66	104	255	172	427	201	135	336	29	31	60	15	7	22
1937	264	132	396	22	75	97	286	207	493	241	155	396	25	28	53	10	9	19
1938	293	193	486	30	78	108	323	271	594	279	197	476	19	32	51	13	14	27
1939	287	208	495	26	109	135	313	317	630	276	274	550	33	37	70	12	15	27
1940	298	227	525	54	104	158	352	331	683	276	259	535	35	56	91	11	19	30
1941	305	261	566	52	114	166	357	375	732	322	275	597	43	88	131	14	6	20
1942	279	264	543	51	138	189	330	402	732	261	319	580	48	64	112	17	13	30
1943	303	227	530	57	71	128	360	298	658	287	232	519	33	41	74	18	19	37
1944	310	287	597	57	105	162	367	392	759	302	305	607	22	32	54	31	32	63
1945	399	268	667	55	143	198	454	411	865	366	319	685	39	32	71	22	27	49
1946	341	185	526	92	140	232	433	325	758	396	312	708	34	19	53	20	19	39
1947	308	229	537	115	174	289	423	403	826	367	333	700	29	30	59	22	18	40
1948	354	164	518	105	143	248	459	307	766	422	259	681	45	40	85	17	27	44
Totals ..	4,822	3,273	8,095	856	1,750	2,606	5,678	5,023	10,701	4,785	3,987	8,772	539	665	1,204	263	257	520
Percentage of discharges and those certified as insane or apparently insane to admissions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84.27	79.37	81.97	9.49	13.24	11.25	..	..	..

TABLE XIV.—PRIVATE MENTAL HOMES (PLEASANT VIEW, MERTON, AND HILLCREST).
Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during 1948, and the number remaining on 31st December, 1948.

—	1948			31st December, 1948		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Resident in Private Mental Homes, 1st January, 1948	10	22	32			
On trial leave from Private Mental Homes ..	1	5	6			
Total number on books of Private Mental Homes, 1st January, 1948 .. ..	..	..	..	11	27	38
Received, first admissions, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Transferred from Mental Homes, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	2	4	6
Total cases under care during 1948 ..	..	..	..	13	33	46
Discharged recovered	3	9	12			
Discharged relieved .. .. .	..	..	..
Discharged not improved .. .. .	..	..	..
Died .. .. .	..	2	2			
Escaped .. .. .	..	..	..
Transferred, &c. .. .. .	..	1	1			
Total discharged, died, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	3	12	15
Total resident in Private Mental Homes, 31st December, 1948	9	16	25			
On trial leave from Private Mental Homes ..	1	5	6			
Total number of patients on books, 31st December, 1948 .. .. .	..	..	..	10	21	31

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

—	On Books, 1.1.48.			Remaining, 31.12.48.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pleasant View	18	28	46	15	26	41
Merton .. .. .	..	42	42	..	52	52
Hillcrest	13	..	13	8	..	8
Total	31	70	101	23	78	101

STATE MENTAL HOSPITALS.

MENTAL HOSPITAL, KEW.

I have the honor to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948. The following table represents statistically the conditions recorded on the last day of December 1947 and 1948 respectively.

	1947.			1948.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Receptions	58	25	83	73	54	126
Transfers to Kew	20	26	46	38	21	59
Transfers from Kew	10	22	32	3	3	6
Relieved	11	9	20	16	14	30
Recovered	13	2	15	8	3	11
Died	50	27	77	47	29	76
On Trial Leave 31st December	40	38	78	58	48	106
Boarded-out 31st December .. .. .	..	2	2	..	1	1
Total on books 31st December	509	446	955	544	469	1,013
Resident 31st December	469	406	875	486	420	906

<i>Approximate Percentages—</i>	%		%
Senile Dementia	55	Melancholia	5
Primary Dementia	9	Delusional	8
Congenital	12	Mania	8
<i>Causes of Insanity—</i>			
<i>Predisposing—</i>		<i>Exciting—</i>	
Old age	60	Bodily diseases	6
Congenital defect	20	Anxiety	nil
Heredity	4	Alcohol	10
Relieved and recovered to new receptions .. .. .	..	..	33
Trial leave to number resident .. .. .	..	..	11

Accidents.—Six old patients sustained intracapsular fracture of the femur through simple falls. One female epileptic twice fractured her humerus through falling in a seizure.

Auxiliaries.—The ladies of these organizations provide the patients with entertainments, extra comforts and help in many ways and their kindly interest is greatly appreciated.

The new kiosk is completed and in use. It is a great convenience to the patients, their friends, and members of the staff.

Amusements.—Talking pictures and concerts are regularly provided and are enjoyed by many.

On account of shortage of staff the annual picnic on the sports ground could not be held. The usual amount of refreshments was purchased and a treat in the wards provided.

Staff.—There is still a shortage of staff especially on the female division. This necessitates a considerable amount of over-time being worked. The position has been alleviated by the employment of a number of male and female displaced persons from Europe. They are performing their duties satisfactorily. When the staff is at full strength more accommodation will be necessary—the 40 hours week will mean a considerable increase in the number employed.

Farm and Garden.—A good supply of milk, eggs and vegetables comes from these activities, which in addition, provide useful and beneficial occupation for a number of male patients.

Public Works.—The following works have been completed, viz.—Shelter Shed “I” ward. Improvements to Airing Courts at Children’s Cottages. Installation of baths, improved hot water service, and other amenities at Nurses’ Quarters, Cool room at kitchen, refrigerators in Store and elsewhere, addition of store room to Female Tents. The property known as “The Gables” has been taken over for conversion to Nurses’ Quarters. The building of a Nurses’ Quarters in the grounds has been commenced. The electric supply is still inadequate. Many other improvements are urgently necessary including our automatic telephone system, fire escapes, considerable painting, a proper heating system for wards, new boilers, additional bath and sanitary conveniences and the connection of all baths and sinks to sewer.

CHILDREN'S COTTAGES, 1948.

	1947.			1948.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Receptions	47	34	81	43	31	74
Transferred to cottages .. .. .	..	11	11	1	8	9
Transferred from cottages	7	6	13	4	3	7
Recovered .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relieved	14	5	19	8	4	12
Died	27	22	49	22	18	40
Resident 31st December	272	152	424	260	163	423
On trial 31st December	20	15	35	41	17	58
Total on books 31st December	292	167	459	301	180	481

A condition of overcrowding persists in some of the wards. There are two vacant wards which could be reconditioned and reoccupied but the shortage of staff precludes this at present.

There were only minor accidents during the year.

H. ROGERSON,
Medical Superintendent.

MENTAL HOSPITAL ARARAT.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

The number of direct admissions, 13, was much the same as last year, but the transfers from other hospitals, 19, was much lower. Four patients were discharged recovered.

Physical health.—On the whole the general health was remarkably good considering the high average age of the Patients in this hospital.

Following the case of typhoid fever late in 1947, a search for carriers was made amongst all possible contacts and 3 carriers were found. One case became negative, but the other two are still active carriers and their isolation throws considerable strain on the Nursing Staff besides being a potential source of danger.

There were 34 deaths during the year and of these, 20 were due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels. There were no deaths from tuberculosis and only two patients died from respiratory infections.

Treatment.—The electro-convulsive machine was received during the year and Dr. Baumatz carried out insulin coma treatment. There are few patients at this hospital who would be regarded as favourable cases for treatment, but a few good results were obtained. In addition, treatment was used to ameliorate symptoms and in this respect proved of benefit to patients and to staff.

Dental treatment was again carried out regularly and artificial dentures were made for a few selected patients.

Staff.—Early in the year the 40-hour week was granted to the members of the Staff. The Attendant Staff has been maintained at almost full strength all the year. The Female Nursing Staff remained below full strength and toward the end of the year the shortage became more acute than it had been for two years.

Very few Nurses were eligible for the Nursing Exams, but one passed the second year and two the first year exams.

In spite of the difficulties all Nurses had a fairly high proportion of their Annual Leave.

The inexperience of the majority of Nurses continues to place a heavy burden on the few senior Nurses who continue to carry out their arduous duties very loyally.

Maintenance.—Little improvement has taken place in respect to repairs and improvements to buildings and equipment. While some supplies are coming forward a little more freely, others are harder to obtain than ever, and it appears to be just as difficult to obtain labour to carry out the work.

A Public Works working party is at present carrying out many repairs which have required attention for a very long time, and I hope this party will be here long enough to complete all the more urgent works.

It is hoped that worn flooring will be replaced in the new year and that sufficient linoleum will be made available to cover it.

The exterior of the building besides looking delapidated requires replacements of spouting &c., and it is hoped that this work will be done in the near future.

No step seems to have been taken towards the remodelling of the milking sheds, and the Gardener is carrying on under great difficulties because the four year old requisition for the rebuilding of the vegetable sheds has not yet started.

Several sections of the hospital are dangerously short of water because of the defective reticulation, and efforts to have this rectified have not yet born fruit, after about four years striving.

Heat storage cookers were installed in the main kitchen and are proving very successful.

An exhaust system to remove steam from the kitchen was at last completed and it was then possible for our painters to paint the kitchen. The result is very pleasing indeed.

Quite a few important units of the telephone system have been out of order for more than six months. Apart from causing great inconvenience to male and female Nursing Staff, delays in summoning medical attention to patients taken suddenly ill have occurred as a result.

Dietary.—Permission was given during the year to increase the dietary and advantage was taken of this to make many improvements, especially in the evening meal. The patients expressed their appreciation of the improvements and the enthusiastic co-operation of the Cooks allowed considerable variety to be introduced. There is still room for much improvement in the serving of meals.

Experiments have been carried out with various types of table top or covers, but none which is entirely satisfactory has yet been found.

Plastic dishes were tried for those patients unable to use crockery, but although this material proved satisfactory in many respects, no firm seems to make plates of suitable size.

Artisans.—Owing to the 40-hour week an increase in staff on the Kitchen and Engineering staffs has been necessary. Difficulty is being experienced in obtaining applicants with the necessary qualifications for the Engineer's staff.

Amusements.—The equipment for talking pictures is still awaited and the patients of this hospital have few regular amusements.

The fortnightly dance is still popular and visits by the Ararat Town Band are appreciated.

Sporting bodies kindly invite male patients to football matches and race meetings, and this gesture is greatly appreciated.

The number of citizens of Ararat who take an interest in the patients of this hospital is slowly increasing. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Norman-Bail, who gives up every second Tuesday night to show educational pictures to the patients.

Farm and Garden.—There was a slight drop in the yearly production of milk, but an increase in the number of eggs received. The farm staff continues to give efficient service.

Although there was a slight reduction as compared with last year, the quantities of vegetables available for the patients have been quite satisfactory. This fact is a tribute to the technical knowledge and working efficiency of the Garden staff, because their difficulties have increased greatly this year due to loss of working patients. There is only one patient whose services are of much value, and the prospects of finding patients suitable to work in the garden are very remote. The introduction of the 40-hour week has made the problem more acute, and although the Senior Gardener spends considerably more than the 40 hours a week in the garden, for which of course he is not allowed overtime payment, he is finding it most difficult to maintain the high standard of his past production. The tumble-down sheds and the failure to install the water reticulation for the higher ground, increase the difficulties.

"J" Ward.—The Criminal and Refractory Ward has again had a quiet year, partly due to the fact that there have been no outstandingly difficult patients and to the constant vigilance and efficient handling of the patients by the staff.

The general health of the patients has been good and no serious accidents occurred.

Administration.—I would like to express my appreciation of the work of the Secretary, Mr. A. H. Riley, and his staff. The atmosphere of harmony in this hospital is due to the excellent co-operation between all sections of the staff.

H. J. C. EDMONDS,
Medical Superintendent.

MENTAL HOSPITAL, BEECHWORTH.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the Mental Hospital, Beechworth, for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

There were 341 male patients and 420 female patients in residence at the end of the year.

Admissions and Discharges.—Twenty male patients and 33 female patients were admitted during the year, but of these only 8 male and 6 female patients were direct admissions. Four male and no female patients were discharged during the year. These figures again indicate the very chronic nature of this Institution, and the very small number of recent or curable cases encountered. The available experience for the staff in these latter type of cases is therefore very limited.

Deaths.—Nineteen male and 20 female patients died in residence during the year. The commonest cause of death was disease of the cardio vascular system associated with the process of senility.

Health.—The general health of the patients remained good throughout the year and no appreciable trouble was caused through diseases of an infectious nature. Bowel infections were very uncommon, and disease of the respiratory tract did not occur in any serious proportion. Dental treatment was carried out satisfactorily by the local dentist under the same conditions that prevailed in the past years. Just prior to the beginning of the year an electro-convulsive therapy machine which had been on order for some time was received. Treatment was given to suitable patients with some satisfactory responses.

Staff.—The position as regards female staff was again very difficult and the greatest of appreciation is extended towards our stalwarts who carried on with their usual keenness and devotion to duty. The position was somewhat alleviated by the addition to the staff during the year of several displaced persons. These proved a great help but the advantage was somewhat offset by the language difficulties. The continuation of employment of six male attendants on the female division again helped the position.

The male staff worked very well and industriously and the position as regards numbers was satisfactory. Dr. H. H. Henshall was transferred to Mental Hospital, Ballarat, in October, and had not been replaced at the end of the year.

Recreation.—The annual picnic was again an unqualified success with the good fortune of a perfect day. All patients who attended appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves, and the staff worked with unstinted enthusiasm and zeal to make such a day possible. There were many visitors from the town, but unfortunately the representatives from the Wangaratta Branch of the Mental Hospital Auxiliary were unable to attend. Sincere thanks are extended to all who helped in the many various ways to make the function such a happy one. Picture shows were held fortnightly but dances were not able to be held owing to the shortage of staff.

Auxiliary.—The hard work and enthusiasm of the Wangaratta Branch of the Mental Hospital Auxiliary was deeply appreciated. Considerable financial and other assistance was again given to the Annual Picnic and Christmas Treat. Mr. S. J. Emery's Concert Party attended the Hospital in November and gave a very enjoyable entertainment. It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Mrs. C. Vincent, the late branch secretary of the Auxiliary. This very esteemed lady will be sadly missed and her work as regards the Auxiliary very hard to emulate.

Farm and Vegetable Garden.—Returns from the farm and vegetable garden were satisfactory.

107,000 quarts of milk and 2,191 dozen eggs were produced. In view of recent recommendations by the Dietitian, steps are to be taken to considerably increase the output of eggs and milk. The vegetable garden produced 84 tons of vegetables. Fifty-four tons of oaten hay and 120 tons of meadow hay were harvested, and 60 pigs were sold for £418 during the year.

Artisans.—The artisans carried out their work very satisfactorily during the year.

Grounds.—The grounds were kept in a reasonably satisfactory condition, but the amount of work required is very great and it is very hard to keep pace with it. The main roads in the Institution were sealed, and are greatly improved. The tram lines were completed and the transport trolleys are in use.

Telephones.—The installation of the Automatic Telephone system for the whole of the Institution was completed during the year and it is working very satisfactorily. The appreciation of this is accentuated by the sudden transition from the antiquated system which was previously in use.

Special thanks are recorded Mr. H. Collins of Stanley for his many donations of apples to the patients.

H. C. STONE,
Medical Superintendent.

MENTAL HOSPITAL, SUNBURY.

I have the honour to present my Report for year ended 31st December, 1948.

Statistics.—Admissions: Male, 88; female, 119; total, 207. Discharged: Male, 25; female, 36; total, 61.

Resident at end of year.—Male, 430; female, 606; total, 1,036, including 2 male and 2 female voluntary boarders.

Deaths.—Forty-six male, 48 female. The deceased were in the majority of cases advanced in years; generally the health of the patients was good.

Accidents.—Nine patients sustained fractured bones, including three Colles', three of the femur, and a fracture—dislocation of the humerus in the case of a farm worker.

Treatment.—Convulsive therapy has been extensively applied on both divisions with variable results, very gratifying with more recent cases, particularly those in which the predominant factor is depression; very useful with more long-standing cases in aborting their 'difficult' phases. Occasionally, however, the patient has been found to be even less tractable after the treatment.

Improvements.—Flooring which had become dangerous through disrepair and had been difficult to replace was attended to where most urgently required, concreting of the Hill Airing Courts progressed and renovation of the Tailors' Sewing block by Public Works Department was begun. The main road and some of the internal roads were resealed and the environs of the Nurses' Hostel concreted. The staff Recreation Room was painted, the floor renovated and furniture provided.

Dietary.—The departmental dietitian visited twice during the year and submitted a report in connexion with diet revision. The dinner as a result has been made more attractive and variety provided by additional culinary articles.

Requirements.—Improvements to main kitchen are very desirable, including an increase of refrigerating space.

Farm and Garden.—1,471 dozen eggs and 49,723 gallons milk were produced; 317 pigs sold for £1,769/13/2. Crops were lighter this year, partly owing to the poor season, and partly owing to the ground being overworked. A new area, 60 acres of virgin soil, is being prepared. 109 tons of vegetables, and 9½ tons of fruit were produced.

Staff.—The position was relieved in June when the first of the "Balts" were appointed and by the end of the year there were 32 nurses and 15 attendants from this source. The acute shortage of grade nurses is an insurmountable, and therefore the most disquieting, difficulty.

Recreation.—The Auxiliary again provided most of the entertainment during the year in arranging visits at regular intervals by city concert parties, and a picnic about Christmas. Other entertainment was provided about this time by local church bodies and I would like to gratefully acknowledge their practical assistance.

T. G. C. RETALLICK,
Medical Superintendent.

MENTAL HOSPITAL, BALLARAT.

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

The paralysing shortage of nurses was relieved by the arrival of 30 displaced persons—the first batch of 10 reaching the hospital on 19th August.

These women deserve praise for the way they have adapted themselves to their strange surroundings; and almost all of them have proved satisfactory and willing workers.

The very success of the new nurses has tended to distract attention from the disturbing fact that there will not be enough first-grade nurses to replace the old charge-nurses when they retire.

There is a crying need for a Sister Tutor to systematically instruct new nurses in the art and science of nursing.

Thanks to the increased amount of money made available by the Government, the patients' teas were made much more varied and attractive.

In this connexion, our practice of sending pigs raised on the farm to a local bacon factory to be converted into bacon and ham instead of selling them in the market has greatly benefited the patients; for bacon and eggs is no longer an unknown dish in the wards.

Thanks to the advent of the new panel van the problem of delivering food while still hot to the outlying wards was solved.

Thanks to the organizing ability of the President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, and the kindness of the artists themselves, the patients were provided with excellent concerts and other entertainments once a month—in addition to the usual fortnightly "pictures."

The opening of new M4 ward and the final closing of the old male building on 16th February, 1948, was an epoch in the history of the hospital.

The institution of ward Recreation Rooms was a new departure made possible by adapting the brick shelter sheds built for M3 and M4 wards. One of these rooms was equipped with a fine billiard table which has been in constant use.

The extra single rooms for F3, F5 and F7 wards, the building of which started in December, 1945, were completed towards the end of the year.

We are often criticised for not classifying our patients properly by people who apparently think that all the troublesome, violent and degraded patients should be concentrated in one ward; but they do not realize the prohibitive difficulties of staffing and running such a ward.

We might do better, if, in future, wards were made smaller; and a large number of wardmaids were appointed to do the routine work.

With regard to classification, we are worried most of all by the difficulty of placing satisfactorily our old women patients, many of whom have to be accommodated in wards that we know to be unsuitable for them.

The number of old women is increasing, and, inevitably, will keep on increasing, and it is recommended that a new ward should be built for them—not just an ordinary ward, but a ward specially designed and equipped for the accommodation and care of demented old women.

A small convalescent ward for women (say one with 20 beds) is also needed.

The length and coldness of Ballarat winter makes the absence of internal heating in the female wards a great defect. Without internal heating, it is very difficult to keep warm destructive patients who tear up their clothes and bedding, and restless, demented old women who cannot be kept in bed.

In my opinion, the medical staff at this hospital (a medical superintendent and two medical officers) is too small, and an additional medical officer is asked for.

As the medical officers have to relieve each other, whenever one of them is away on annual leave or sick leave, there are only two left on duty.

For at least 15 weeks in each year, therefore, there are only two medical officers to attend to an average number of 760 patients in the main hospital, the constantly changing population of an active Receiving House, to which 166 patients were admitted during 1948, and the general administration of the two institutions.

It is obvious that, in these circumstances, no insulin treatment can be given; little individual attention can be paid to the hundreds of chronic patients; no research work can be undertaken; and the Medical Superintendent is often over-burdened.

I should like to express my appreciation of the unobtrusive, but indispensable, work performed by the hospital chaplains.

They not only have to hold regular Church Services, but also are liable to be dragged from their homes at any time to attend dangerously ill or dying patients.

It is thought that their stipends a year are totally inadequate.

The work of improving the grounds was continued. Old pine trees were removed; new lawns were laid down; and many ornamental trees and shrubs were planted. If all the latter are cared for, we believe that, in a few years, no institution in the State will have more attractive grounds than those of the Mental Hospital, Ballarat—but maintenance is the rub.

It is feared that without maintenance by skilled gardeners the grounds will become unkempt and neglected—like those of a deserted homestead, or, at best, like those of a mental hospital.

Application has been made for the appointment of three professional gardeners—a minimal number.

Free early morning bus services ran throughout the year, but were not used by the staff as much as we had anticipated, and did not bring us the extra nurses that we had hoped for.

New Visitors' Rooms for wards F3, F5 and F7, and new wood-sheds for wards M3, M4 and M5 were erected by our own carpenters.

The new panel van proved to be one of the most useful acquisitions we have ever made.

The new Ferguson Tractor was a great help on the farm.

Large new heat storage cookers were installed in the staff mess-room kitchen, and in the main kitchen.

Electric refrigerators were installed in the Nurses' Home, and in ten wards.

An electrically-driven teasing machine was installed in the upholsterer's shop.

A motor lawn mower was obtained to deal with our extensive lawns.

A new billiard table was purchased for M3 ward.

Steel clothes-lockers were installed in M3 and M4 wards.

A new wireless set was given to M6 ward by the Ladies' Auxiliary.

A gas hot water service was installed in the dispensary.

While much remains to be done, a great deal of progress was made during 1948. Some of it was due to our own exertions; but we received an immense amount of help from many people which it is a duty and a pleasure to acknowledge.

We thank: Successive Ministers of Health for approving of so many of our requisitions; the Director of Mental Hygiene and the Chief Clerk for their unfailing encouragement and support; the Herald Newspaper for giving publicity to the needs of the Department as a whole; the Committee of Enquiry for valuable criticism and suggestions; the officers of the Public Works Department for their good will, and for doing so much for us in very difficult circumstances; the Official Visitors for their keen interest in the welfare of the hospital and its patients; the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary for their almost embarrassing energy and enterprise in devising new ways of helping the patients; the Salvation Army, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and many individuals for help of various kinds.

In conclusion, all the Staff worked well, and took as much interest in the improvement of the hospital as I did myself, and I thank them for their active co-operation.

C. FARRAN-RIDGE,
Medical Superintendent.

RECEIVING HOUSE, BALLARAT.

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

During 1946, 125 patients were admitted to the Receiving House; during 1947, 142; and during 1948, 166. From these figures, it will be evident that the number of patients admitted yearly is increasing rapidly.

Of the patients admitted during 1948, 42 were suffering from Senile Dementia.

The total number of patients discharged *recovered* was 40. If the senile demented are left out of account, the percentage of recoveries was 32.

During the year, the whole Receiving House building was fly-proofed, to the very great gain of both patients and staff.

A number of new chairs, more comfortable than the old ones, were purchased for the sitting room on the female side.

The high quality of the nursing, which, for years, has been a feature of the Receiving House, Ballarat, was fully maintained.

C. FARRAN-RIDGE,
Medical Superintendent.

MENTAL HOSPITAL AND RECEIVING HOUSE, ROYAL PARK.

I have the honour to present my report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

STATISTICS.

Cases.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>Receiving House.</i>			
Admitted	491	659	1,150
Discharged	148	209	357
Removed to Mental Hospitals	243	341	584
Died	73	98	171
<i>Voluntary Boarders.</i>			
Admitted	253	53	306
Discharged	228	49	277
Certified	16	6	22
Died	8	2	10
<i>Mental Hospital.</i>			
Admitted	87	185	272
Discharged	42	95	137
Died	3	6	9
Allowed on trial leave	93	175	268

Patients.—The number of patients is gradually increasing, 100 more patients being received into the Receiving House, and the number of Voluntary Boarders remaining the same as last year. The Melbourne and Alfred Hospitals have been operating on cases with most satisfactory results and electro-convulsive therapy and insulin treatment have been continued. The electro-encephalograph machine is working satisfactorily but a lot of experience is required in interpreting the results. Owing to the increase in female patients we have for short periods, been obliged to limit the number of Voluntary Boarder admissions to that division.

Staff.—The staff position has improved and a number of the foreigners newly arrived in Australia are now working at this Institution. The majority of these immigrants are very satisfactory but are necessarily handicapped by their lack of knowledge of English, and it is impossible for the staff of any Hospital to carry more than a limited number as it is obvious a ward cannot be staffed by a majority of nurses or attendants who do not know the language. I again wish to draw attention to the necessity for vacancies on the male staff to be filled as soon as they occur.

Buildings and Improvements.—The kitchen has been much improved and the alterations are now practically completed. New equipment has been installed and the Hospital will benefit greatly therefrom. The laundry has also received new machinery and can now adequately deal with the dirty clothing. The paths and roads have been re-made, the cricket ground has been re-graded, and motor mowing machines are now in use on the cricket ground and the ornamental grounds.

Farm and Garden.—We are still very short of manpower in the vegetable garden and farm; also the new dairy, which was erected 2 years ago, is not yet in use.

Requirements.—New buildings are required to accommodate the extra nursing staff due to the establishment of a 40-hour week. A treatment block is urgently required so that insulin treatment and electro-convulsive therapy can now be given in suitable surroundings, and as part of this new treatment block a Pathological Laboratory and Psychological Laboratory and operating theatre are required. We also require a new residence for an additional medical officer.

Auxiliary.—I again wish to record my grateful thanks to the Mental Hospital Auxiliaries for their valuable work in increasing comforts and providing entertainments for the patients.

JOHN K. ADEY,
Medical Superintendent.

MENTAL HOSPITAL, MONT PARK.

The following is my Annual Report on the Mental Hospital, Mont Park, for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

STATISTICS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
<i>Certified Patients.</i>			
Resident in hospital, 1st January, 1948	596	820	1,416
Admitted, including transfers	125	138	263
Recovered	23	38	61
Died	57	75	132
Resident in hospital on 31st December, 1948	602	804	1,406
Average number resident during year	603	811	1,414
<i>Voluntary Boarders.</i>			
Resident in hospital on 1st January, 1948	56	68	124
Admitted	70	78	148
Discharged	63	66	129
Certified	19	22	41
Died	4	9	13
Resident in hospital on 31st December, 1948	40	49	89
Average number resident during year	51	63	114

The year 1948 showed no appreciable alleviation of the difficulties of administration of such a large Hospital as Mont Park. These difficulties have now existed for so many years that the problem of development of this Hospital to a standard of satisfaction to all interested must cause considerable concern in the magnitude of the task which lies ahead.

Much planning has been made and is continuing, to restore this Hospital to a satisfactory state of repair, to effect much needed improvements in the many aspects of the Hospital's activities, to improve conditions of patients and staff and to provide adequate facilities for the modern treatment of the mentally ill. A little has been done but there is much to do and we all look forward to the time when our plans, our dreams and our visions will become a reality.

The problem and difficulties associated with the best care of the patients are accentuated by overcrowding and this is further complicated by the poor facilities for the proper differentiation and segregation of patients particularly on the male division. This greatly increases the difficulty of the staff in the supervision and care of the patients. It is a great factor in bringing about the dissatisfaction which exists among many of the relatives and friends of our patients, and the interested public.

The shortage of nursing and attendant staff continues and adds to the difficulties. The shortage is most serious on the female nursing staff not only in numbers but in experience. Many displaced persons have been attached to our staff and their help has been of considerable value.

Treatment and Health of Patients.—In spite of all difficulties the staff generally performed their duties faithfully and well and adapted themselves to the conditions which prevailed, and with the exception of Insulin Shock treatment, all forms of modern and necessary treatment were carried out in the Hospital.

I must express my appreciation and that of my medical staff, for the efficient and helpful service rendered by the Pharmacy department of this Hospital under Mr. Boyd, in the care and treatment of all patients. The work of this department has increased considerably with the modern advances in pharmacology and treatment measures and is now far from that of the old dispensary, and takes its place as a very definite part of modern

treatment and technique. The pharmacy has also rendered good service other than in medical treatment. Large supplies of DDT preparations have been supplied to the garden and orchard with good results and also to the farm (milking sheds, piggery, &c.) and artisans shops, with surprising results, rendering the work in these departments much more congenial. The use of DDT preparations is made extensively throughout the wards and if regularly and faithfully used should eliminate all vermin.

The Dental Clinic, under Mr. Coppin, materially added to the health and comfort of the patients and the satisfaction of their relatives.

The Social Worker, Miss Noall, was of considerable value and assistance in the investigation of patients during treatment and in the rehabilitation of patients and their guidance after leaving Hospital.

During the year, a Chiropodist was added to our staff. Mr. Coloretti was appointed in an acting capacity and his efforts have been appreciated by the patients and staff alike in the care and remedy of the many foot ailments that exist. I now consider his appointment is justified.

Food Service.—The Dietitian, Miss Rankin, carried out her duties in a very capable and efficient manner and is untiring in her efforts to bring about a satisfactory standard of service and dietary for the patients and staff. Much has been planned to effect improvements but many difficulties still exist in having them implemented. A very welcome appointment to the staff was made this year, that of a Catering Supervisor. Much is still to be desired in the improvement of the food service to the patients and this appointment is one step in effecting this improvement. A catering supervisor of himself cannot effect all the improvement desired and much is to be done yet to produce a food service not open to criticism. The catering supervisor was hampered for a long time by adverse conditions, the chief of which were rationing of supplies, particularly meat, poor vegetable supply from the Hospital garden, and staff shortage. Rationing of meat has thankfully gone, but other difficulties still prevail. Although the degree of improvement effected in 1948 was not considerable, although appreciable, the new year promises a decided advance. In face of many difficulties, Major Hewland who was appointed catering supervisor justified his appointment and definitely established the position a necessity in the proper management of a large Hospital.

Occupational Therapy.—The Occupational Therapy classes continued to function most satisfactorily and to play their important part in the treatment and welfare of many patients. Miss Symes, Miss Marchant and Miss Bunton, our team of therapists are to be congratulated on the splendid work, its quality and variety, that is being performed in the classes by the patients both male and female.

Amusements and Amenities.—Regular amusements for the patients were held throughout the year—pictures weekly, dances fortnightly, concerts and motor drives, special teas and the usual Christmas treats were provided by the Auxiliaries and other interested bodies to whom we extend the thanks of the very appreciative patients.

A Fancy Dress Ball, organized and sponsored by the Mental Hospital Auxiliaries was a feature in the year's pleasures of the patients, over 300 attended a very successful night and the patients thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated this effort of the Auxiliaries.

A lady hairdresser, Miss Sheahan, was appointed to the staff. Her well equipped salon is a boon of pleasure and satisfaction to many patients and a great help to a depleted staff in the general care of patients' hair.

The establishment of a hairdressing saloon and the appointment of a permanent hairdresser for the male patients should be made as soon as possible. This would be greatly appreciated by the many patients as is the voluntary service given by Mr. J. H. Baines of the Melbourne City Mission, who attends regularly every Monday for the purpose of haircutting many of our liberty patients. His unselfish, voluntary and efficient efforts are greatly appreciated by the patients and on their behalf I express sincere thanks to Mr. Baines for his sacrifice and efforts to give service and satisfaction to our patients.

Mental Hospital Auxiliaries.—The contribution of these Auxiliaries to the welfare of our patients, in providing enjoyment, extra comforts &c. is considerable. Their efforts on behalf of our patients are appreciated by them and on their behalf I extend our grateful thanks. The thanks of the Administration of this Hospital are also extended to the Auxiliaries for their ready and willing assistance at all times.

Staff.—Throughout the year the shortage of staff continued to exist throughout all sections of the Hospital's activities and this has caused serious difficulty in sectional management and administration generally. There has been no relief and this does not appear to be in view. A great strain has been imposed on the senior members of the staff in all sections and I must again express my thanks to all for their continued loyalty and co-operation during another difficult year.

Engineers and Artisans Workshops and Laundry.—The adverse conditions pertaining to these sections, as reported in 1947, still prevail and make the problem of maintenance and management difficult.

Farm.—The year's results of this section of the Hospital's activities were reasonably satisfactory, a steady supply of milk maintained, good crops harvested and good prices obtained from the sales of pigs. The state of the dairy is very bad. It should be replaced.

The farm manager has experienced great difficulty in obtaining fencing with the result that many fences are down and others in a bad state, requiring renewal.

Vegetable Garden and Orchard.—The vegetable garden is unsatisfactory, in that, it is incapable, because of labour difficulties, limited available area and soil conditions, of producing sufficient vegetables of required variety all the year round. Variety is limited because of soil conditions for the growing of certain crops and at its best the vegetable garden is unable to provide more than 50 per cent. of vegetable requirements for the Hospital.

The orchard in its present state appears unsatisfactory. Its crops are light and small, and it is doubtful whether it is worth retaining. Its trees are old and have passed their best productive years and the variety is unsuitable. If an orchard is to be retained in preference to purchasing fruit it would be necessary to replant another area.

Hospital Grounds.—Many favourable comments are heard in reference to the grounds of this Hospital. The wide open spaces and trees lend to these but the difficulty of maintenance is great, airing courts are not given the attention they require. Grass becomes a menace in summer and much is left undone which would considerably brighten conditions for the patients and staff. The curator, Mr. McSwan, and his small staff, are to be congratulated on the results achieved.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the Secretary, Mr. Stanes, for his co-operation and help in the management of this Hospital during the final year of his long service in the Department of Mental Hygiene. His active association with this Hospital and the Department terminated near the end of the year when he commenced final leave prior to his retirement early in the New Year. We all wish him many years of happy and contented retirement.

To the Administrative staff under his direction and to all senior and responsible officers of the staff in general I also extend my thanks for their loyal co-operation and efficient service throughout the year.

GRANTLEY A. WRIGHT,
Medical Superintendent.

REPATRIATION MENTAL HOSPITAL, BUNDOORA.

The following is my report on the Repatriation Mental Hospital, Bundoora for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

STATISTICS.

Patients in Hospital on 31st December, 1947	..	..	..	..	197
Patients on trial leave	..	..	..	..	80
Patients escaped (not retaken)	..	..	..	..	1
Patients admitted to Bundoora during 1948	..	..	..	..	31
Patients discharged during 1948	..	..	..	..	18
Patients transferred from Bundoora during 1948	..	..	..	..	..
Patients died	..	..	..	..	12
Patients in hospital on 31st December, 1948	..	..	..	..	197
Patients on trial leave on 31st December, 1948	..	..	..	..	81
Patients escaped (not retaken)	..	..	..	..	1

Second War Admissions &c.—To date admissions from the second world war total 83. Of these 14 have been discharged, 1 transferred, 22 were on trial leave, 3 died, 1 escaped, leaving 42 in residence on 31st December, 1948.

Patients and Treatment.—The general health of the patients has been excellent. The Repatriation Commission has undertaken a six-monthly chest X-ray survey of patients and staff, so that early or unsuspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis may be quickly detected and appropriate treatment given.

A new Therapeutic measure investigated by Dr. John Cade during the year was the use of lithium salts in the treatment of psychotic excitement. They appear to have considerable value, especially in cases of chronic mania.

Buildings.—Fair progress was made during the year with the approved building program. The large occupational therapy block was completed and good progress was made with the bulk store and the engineering shop. Work on the Secretary's residence was intermittent and very little progress was made with the Medical Officer's residence.

The extension and alterations to "A," "B," and "C" wards proceeded slowly and concern is felt at the possibility of the day room extensions in "B" and "C" wards being uncompleted by the time winter arrives. All roads need attention and an adequate water supply is essential by next summer.

Garden.—The ornamental garden showed a marked improvement and good progress was made with locally grown vegetables. A team of 12–15 patients enjoyed working with the gardener and this number will be considerably increased as soon as piping is available to supply water to the new perimeter garden adjoining the airing courts at "B" and "C" wards.

Occupational Therapy.—The new occupational therapy centre is now ready for operation and early in the new year it should be functioning. Good results have been obtained from the carpenter's shop, which serves in particular "B" and "C" wards. When the occupational therapy block has been established as a going concern the possibility of running a Therapeutic Social Club in conjunction with it is to be explored. These clubs have proved their value in England in the last ten years.

Dietary.—A more liberal dietary came into operation with the removal of coupons on meat, and the Head Office approval to spend money on extras &c. Electrically heated food trolleys took place of insulated food containers with great improvement towards the serving of hot food.

Entertainments and Comforts.—This year has proved to be a record one for both outings and concerts. In all the patients averaged over one per week for the year, there being 51 concerts and 19 outings.

Money was freely given us by the various Ex-Service Welfare organizations and "The 3XY Good Companions Club" donated a new Beale Piano at a cost of £150 for use in the concert hall.

The dietary was greatly helped by gifts of food stuffs and we owe much to such organizations as The Australian Red Cross Society, the R.S.S. and A.I.L.A. and the many smaller organizations which have so splendidly befriended the hospital during the year.

The Anzac Day March was enjoyed by 50 patients who were taken in buses supplied by the R.S.S. and A.I.L.A. and it is expected that permission will be granted each year by the Anzac Day Committee for our patients to attend.

Staff, &c.—The staff shortage is if anything, worse. For this reason, it has been quite impossible to open "E" ward and new patients are admitted in most cases directly to "C," a chronic, non-liberty ward. This is bad, but inevitable under the circumstances.

Fortunately the present nursing and attendant staff is an excellent team, and in spite of the shortage, and hours of overtime worked there has been no deterioration of nursing efficiency.

Once again I express my thanks and appreciation to Dr. J. Cade, senior medical officer, and to Mr. N. Wilkinson, secretary, for their efficient and valuable work in the medical and administrative activities of the Hospital.

GRANTLEY A. WRIGHT,
Medical Superintendent.

REPORT OF PATHOLOGIST FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1948.

During the year 430 post mortem examinations, an all time record number, were performed in the Metropolitan Mental Hospitals and at the City Morgue in the following distribution:—

City Morgue	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Kew	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Royal Park	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	180
Mont Park	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	128
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	430

Senile decay, pneumonia and cardio vascular disease accounted for a large number of deaths.

Much material was investigated thus enabling accurate correlation of clinical and pathological findings to be made. A notable feature was the quantity of gross pathological material encountered.

Obstructive lesions of the brain arising from cerebral haemorrhage or thrombosis occurred in twenty cases.

There were eleven cases of subdural haemorrhage from natural causes or attributed to trifling injuries in the aged.

One cerebral tumor only a meningioma was encountered.

Four patients died in "status epilepticus."

There was one death from insulin coma, and one patient died in a state of acute schizophrenia, there being no apparent cause apart from the clinical history of exhaustion and resistance to treatment and feeding brought about by that psychosis.

Dysentery, although occurring less than formerly, accounted for six deaths. There is a noticeable decline in this infection at the Children's Cottages.

Eight cases of active tuberculosis were detected, and malignant disease accounted for thirteen deaths.

There were five cases of coronary infraction.

Two patients died from typhoid fever.

The typhoid carrier problem at Kew and Mont Park is still a matter for concern, but fortunately the Public Health Laboratory is rendering an invaluable service on this respect.

Laboratory attendant, F. Shirer, died at the end of the year after a long illness. I would like to express my appreciation of the service rendered by him over many years in the laboratory at Kew and Royal Park.

Despite the shortage in the pathology staff a considerable volume of work was performed, and as increasing requests for diagnostic tests and investigations are made an increase in the staff is necessary.

Hereunder is a summarized list of tests performed in the laboratories during the year under review.

Complete blood examination	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Blood urea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Blood alcohol	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Blood sugar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Blood bromide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Coagulation time &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Wasserman tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,300
Cerebro Spinal Fluid tests—Cells; Pandy; Protein; &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Colloidal gold tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129
Urine analysis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,123
Rothera tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Faeces examinations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Sputum examinations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Swabs and smears..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Miscellaneous bacteriological tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	158
Vaccine T.A.B.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 litres
Autogenous Vaccine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

—Preparation and standardization of solutions used in laboratories and hospital wards.

G. C. JAGO,
Pathologist.

DENTAL CLINIC, ROYAL PARK.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of Dental Treatment for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

Total number of patients treated	1,191
Number of patients at Royal Park and Travancore	661
Number of patients at Kew	271
Number of patients at Sunbury	259
Total number of cases	1,645
Number of teeth extracted	1,575
Number of fillings	71
Number of dressings	86
Number of scalings and cleanings	80
Number of patients operated on under a general anaesthetic	6
Number of artificial dentures made	118
Number of repairs to dentures	327

L. J. P. GOVETT, B.D.Sc., L.D.S.
Dentist.

MENTAL HOSPITAL, MONT PARK.

DENTAL REPORT—1948.

Work proceeded smoothly through the year. The following treatments were completed :—

Patients attended for treatment	1,124
Extractions	1,377
Fillings (amalgam)	97
Fillings (porcelain)	48
Scaling and cleaning	58
Dressings	90
Full upper dentures	138
Full lower dentures	99
Partial dentures	36
Repairs to dentures	168

A. COPPIN,
Dentist.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES' AND PREVENTION BRANCH.

TRAVANCORE CLINIC.

The work of the Clinic continued under the usual pressure for its diagnostic services, which results in a long waiting list for appointments several months ahead. The value of the work done is still largely wasted, owing to the absence of training facilities for mentally retarded and defective children.

At the same time the Clinic is carrying out treatment on an increasing number of cases of children with behaviour disorders, maladjustments, neuroses and even psychoses, and the value of the work done in these cases is far greater to the community than the diagnostic work in the mental deficiency can be under present conditions.

During the year, Dr. Rose Housey was appointed as Medical Officer to Travancore, and also acts as Medical Assistant to the Psychiatrist in the Clinic. The result was immediately apparent in the reduction of pressure on the Psychiatrist, increased volume of work completed and above all greater celerity in getting out reports on cases—always the most burdensome task of the Clinic.

For the first time, the services of a Speech Therapist were made available on a part-time basis. The Guidance Play-Group functions effectively throughout the year, and has demonstrated the value of this form of group therapy with children beyond all doubt. The monthly group for mothers of mentally defective children, who cannot be placed, is much appreciated by mothers. It combines straight-out instructions by the Kindergartner with discussion amongst the mothers, and it is worthwhile noting that a genuine and useful group-therapy situation has sprung up and is being used effectively.

Students from the Departments of Social Studies and of Psychology continue to attend regularly, and teaching takes up a good deal of the time of every member of the staff, so that pressure to accept more students has to be resisted. Students from other sources often spend some time at the Clinic and numerous parties of nurses, social workers, kindergartners, teachers, &c. come on visits of observation during the year. They undoubtedly take up a good deal of clinic time, which usually has to be made up by the after-hours work, but the teaching function of the clinic is felt to be very important and is willingly accepted.

During the last five years there has always been at least one member of the clinic team taking post-graduate courses (usually in psychology) at the University, and 1948 was no exception. So far all candidates have been successful in their examinations. Two members of the Clinic are University lecturers.

No move has so far been made to provide the clinic with the building extensions repeatedly asked for. It should be stressed that the present building is not merely too small and overcrowded, but largely unsuitable for its purpose, and the over-crowding makes work more difficult, reduces efficiency, and prevents necessary additions to the staff—especially the addition of another Social Worker.

It is a pleasure to report that the co-operation and co-ordination with the Home, Hostel and School was never closer. The teachers have been participating in the weekly Case Conferences held every Wednesday afternoon at the Clinic, and the advantages of discussion on children's problems at a "round table" have been appreciated by all of us.

During the year 247 new cases were recorded and 37 children were re-examined.

Cases were referred as follows:—

State Departments:—							
Mental Hygiene	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Education	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Children's Welfare	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
							—77
Private	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Medical Practitioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Hospitals	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Children's Homes	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Various Institutions	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
							—
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	247
							—

(NOTE.—Various institutions—e.g., Free Kindergarten Union, Children's Aid Society, Catholic Social Service Bureau.)

The age range was from one child of one year to 13 cases over 21 years of age.

TRAVANCORE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTRE.

The general health of the children is very good. They are well nourished and fairly resistant to casual illnesses. There was nevertheless a mild epidemic of German Measles with about six cases, two cases of infective hepatitis, one case of mumps, some tonsillitis and several children had ringworm. One child suffered a lacerated scalp after being struck by the trunk of a tree which was broken off during a wind storm. All children benefit by the regular services of the Royal Park Dentist, and the state of the teeth is excellent. Three children attend the Spastic Centre of the Children's Hospital, and are taken once a week by the Red Cross transport service. There is now a Speech Therapist attending two half-days per week, and several children are already showing improvement. Miss Norma Winter, the Speech Therapist, is on the staff of the Child Psychiatric Clinic.

Dr. Hilda Bull, Assistant City Health Officer, came to Travancore and inoculated those children who had not been immunized against diphtheria during the previous year.

Entertainments and Outings.—Fifteen senior girls accompanied by a nurse joined the girls from Moorakynce Hostel at the National Fitness Camp for two weeks in November, 1947. During the school holidays, outings to beaches, gardens, cinema matinees and the Zoo were arranged every two to three days. Special outings were provided by various organizations whose kindnesses are greatly appreciated. Also very welcome were the gifts of slippers, bathing costumes, spending money and the outfitting of one senior girl who was transferred to Moorakynce Hostel. For these we are indebted to the Travancore Auxiliary and the Combined Auxiliaries. The Mothers' Club generously donated 38 blue bed spreads and 19 bedside cabinets for the Junior dormitories. Thanks are also due for 14 pairs of mittens, which were worn by children who had chilblains during the winter.

The Coburg Church of England Boys' Society have very kindly given monthly concerts and cinema shows throughout the year, and a Christmas tree party at Christmas time.

MOORAKYNE HOSTEL.

Number of girls on 1st January, 1949	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
New admissions	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Left to go to relatives	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Returned to Kew Mental Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Returned to Children's Welfare Depot	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Miss Matheson still gives her valuable time once a week, to train the girls in physical exercises and folk dancing, and a play is being prepared with Miss Edgley's help. Parties were held throughout the year, but no large function was given. We are grateful to Miss Matheson for the great help she has been towards the success of the Hostel.

The behavior of the girls is good, considering that girls of all ages are sleeping in one dormitory, and all using the one bathroom. I feel certain that not only would the girls be much happier, but that they would be easier to handle in a home with separate bedrooms.

A review of the activities of the Hostel is being prepared, with the help of Miss Holmes, the Clinic Social Worker, showing the number of girls who have passed through the Hostel and the high percentage of successes being attained, proving the necessity for extending this very valuable work.

A. R. PHILLIPS,
Psychiatrist.

JANEFIELD COLONY.

The following is my Annual Report on the Janefield Colony for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

STATISTICS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
<i>Certified Patients.</i>			
Resident in hospital on 1st January, 1948	7	80	87
On trial leave .. .. .	..	2	2
Admitted—including transfers	1	8	9
Escaped Patients (retaken)	1	..	1
Discharged .. .. .	..	1	1
Died .. .. .	..	..	..
Allowed on trial leave .. .. .	..	13	13
Escaped	1	..	1
Transferred elsewhere	3	11	14
Resident in hospital on 31st December, 1948	5	63	68
<i>Special Cases and Voluntary Boarders.</i>			
Resident in hospital on 1st January, 1948	24	67	91
Admitted	7	12	19
Discharged	8	8	16
Resident in hospital on 31st December, 1948	23	71	94

Health.—The general health of all patients has been very good throughout the year. No epidemics of serious illnesses have occurred.

Educational Development.—The school was again well attended and the teaching staff under the direction of Miss Bellew are to be congratulated on their efficient and painstaking efforts to bring forward and develop the children. The children appear very keen, co-operative and happy in their school environment.

At the invitation of the Education Department about 40 of the school children thoroughly enjoyed a two weeks holiday in the Department's Health Recreation Camp at Queenscliff in January. Our thanks go to the Education Department for the kind and generous gesture and to the school teachers and nurses who went with the children and did everything to make the holiday the success it was. I understand that land at Dromana has been obtained by the Janefield Auxiliary for the purpose of building a suitable holiday home. This will be a very generous and welcome facility for the recreation of the children, and in the interests of their health and welfare.

Our thanks go to the members of the Janefield Auxiliary for all they do for the children of the Colony. Their contribution to the welfare of the children is considerable and appreciated.

Occupational Therapy.—Occupational therapy was again carried on actively during the year. Miss Pratt was appointed to the position of therapist in June. A display was given at the end of the year and although prepared in a short time was very successful and well attended. This display followed a very interesting and successful concert given by the girls with the help of Miss Pratt, Miss Lees and Miss Cusack in assisting the girls to make costumes and properties and to Miss Sloane and the Head Teacher in leading the school band.

Entertainment and Recreation.—A weekly picture show was provided throughout the year. Our Department now defrays the cost of the films. A very good type of picture was shown and appreciated by the patients.

Very enjoyable concerts and parties have been made available to the children by many interested bodies and people.

Buildings.—The two new wards are not yet completed. Part of the old nursery is used as a therapy class.

Roads and Paths.—These generally around the Colony are in very bad condition.

Farm and Garden.—A very good season was experienced. The usual quantity of hay was made available to Royal Park, and in addition, 10 ton was supplied to Kew.

Acknowledgments.—Our thanks are due to the following for donations and help:—

	£	s.	d.
Council of the Auxiliary for Mentally Retarded Children	10	10	0
Preston Mayoress Fund	10	0	0
Preston Younger Set	6	18	3
Footscray Community Singers	5	10	0
Lyceum Club	4	14	0
Mrs. Baker	2	2	0
Mrs Usher	2	0	0
Mr. Henderson	1	0	0
Northcote Methodist Junior Christian Endeavour Society	10	0	0

Mr. Watson	—cases of apples
Mrs. Henderson	—jumpers and socks
Miss Masters	—socks
Miss Leckie	—jumpers
Mrs. E. Campbell	—socks
Mrs. Harris	—woollies
Herald Fund	—soft toys
Miss Rose	—soft toys
Mothers Club, Kew Kindergarten	—soft toys
Miss Cameron	—dolls
East Ivanhoe Methodist Kindergarten	—toys
Footscray Community Singers	—jumpers and fruit

Concerts and Parties.—

Mr. King, for his work in brightening the concert hall stage and for arranging a concert party nearly every month.

Mrs. Stewart, Preston Guides and Guidons.

1st West Preston Boy Scout Group.

Mrs. Deverson

Footscray Community Singers

Melbourne Rotary Club

Mr. Cain of South Melbourne.

Finally our very grateful thanks are extended to the Janefield Auxiliary which has supplied regularly at least 5 cases of fruit each week and arranged a wonderful supply of good things for the Christmas festivities.

Staff.—The staff generally carried out their duties in a very satisfactory manner and worked sincerely and well in efforts to make the lives of their charges as bright and as happy as possible. Miss Pratt was appointed Therapist and is excellent in the position. Miss Lees was appointed to the sewing room and the fine work performed by Miss Kennedy is being fully maintained. My thanks and appreciation are extended to Dr. Troup and Mr. Mason for their valuable work in the administration of the Colony.

GRANTLEY A. WRIGHT,
Medical Superintendent.

PLEASANT CREEK SPECIAL SCHOOL, STAWELL.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

STATISTICS.

—	Cases—								
	Private.			C.W.D.			Total.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
On books 1st January, 1948	17	5	22	44	19	63	61	24	85
Admitted during year	11	2	13	5	2	7	16	4	20
Total Cases	28	7	35	49	21	70	77	28	105
Removals during year	7	1	8	11	3	14	18	4	22
Remaining on books 31st December, 1948 ..	21	6	27	38	18	56	59	24	83

The past year has been marked by a greater number of changes in the children resident than is usual. Vacancies were available at the beginning of the year and these were filled by suitable children. During the year some children were placed in employment and some private cases were returned to their homes, having received the maximum benefit possible at this school. These children therefore have been given the opportunity of fitting into the community as useful citizens. On the other hand a few boys were presenting persistent behaviour problems which could not be dealt with at the school and which were having harmful effects on the younger children. Some were returned to the Children's Welfare Department and it was necessary for one to be certified to a Mental Hospital. During the year the Psychiatrist and Clinic Psychologist of Travancore visited and tested numerous children who had not been previously tested. It is to be hoped that this visit will be repeated each year. Re-testing of the children would be of great assistance.

The general health of the children has been good. There have been no cases of infectious diseases. One boy dislocated his shoulder but there were no other serious accidents.

Buildings.—The Recreation Hall is nearly finished but has been in that state for about six months. It is nearly 4 years since this building was commenced.

Minor repairs have been carried out but major works still remain to be done.

Staff.—The numbers of the Nursing Staff have fluctuated during the year but the main difficulty is still the number of youthful and inexperienced girls it is necessary to appoint. The Chief Nurse and her Senior Staff still continue to carry most of the responsibilities with unfailing loyalty.

Unfortunately we were unable to acquire the block of Crown Land as a site for a Nurses' Hostel and a site on the existing property has been chosen. The Nurses' Quarters are most unsatisfactory and are a factor in the shortage of Nursing Staff.

I would suggest that some plan for the future development of the School should be drawn up so that new buildings could be placed to the best advantage in view of future expansion.

Auxiliary.—The Stawell Ladies' Auxiliary has again worked indefatigably to provide entertainment for the children and that link with the community which is so important to the children. Picnics to Hall's Gap and Cato Park were thoroughly enjoyed, and the quarterly birthday parties provided more individual attention to the Children.

I would like to thank also the Central Council of Auxiliaries for Mentally Retarded Children which provided funds for sports equipment and for another picnic to Lake Lonsdale.

Christmas toys were provided by the Stawell Ladies' Auxiliary Central Council of Mental Hospital Auxiliaries, Sun Toy Fund and 3HA Cheer Box Club.

Vegetable Garden.—On the whole it was a good season. However, there was a partial failure of the carrot and pumpkin crops due to seasonal conditions. The fruit crop was excellent.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to the work of the Secretary. It is due to his ability and tactful handling of the staff that the administration of the School runs so smoothly.

H. J. C. EDMONDS,
Medical Superintendent.

PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC.

(This Clinic was taken over by the Department of Mental Hygiene on 1st July, 1948.)

Report on the activities of the Psychiatric Clinic for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

The outstanding event for the clinic in 1948 was its transfer from the Maternal and Child Hygiene Branch to the Mental Hygiene Branch on 1st July, 1948. From the clinic's standpoint the move has proved most acceptable and it is very appreciative of the sympathetic understanding of its problems shown by the Mental Hygiene Branch and also of the unfailing courtesy and co-operation of the Head Office staff.

By 31st December, 1948 the number of cases on the clinic books reached 1,303. As a result of this, the number of old cases revisiting the clinic for follow up and supportive therapy to maintain their improved adjustment and mental health has grown to such an extent that an ever increasing amount of the time of the clinic staff has to be devoted to this side of the work with a consequent progressive reduction of new case intake so long as the staff and facilities remain as limited as at present. Thus annual new case intake fell from 188 to 141 in 1948.

The nature and sources of reference of the new cases were much the same as in previous years, i.e., all types of maladjustment with the exception of mental deficiency of definite degree and delinquency before the courts. It is noteworthy as evidence of the clinic's growing reputation for sound service in the community that more and more cases are being referred by non-official individuals and groups in the community, who have in some way received help from the clinic.

The clinic follow-up records show a very satisfactory record of therapeutic and preventive success in all types of maladjustments and psycho-neurotic and psycho-somatic disorders.

Increasing demands were made on the clinic staff for service other than case work both by departmental and non-departmental organizations.

Accordingly a considerable amount of work was done by both psychiatrists and social workers in lecturing and demonstrating the principles of mental hygiene to parent groups and other organizations in the community.

At the request of the Tuberculosis division, a preliminary study was made of the psycho-somatic aspects of tuberculosis, a brief survey was made of the sanatoria to get some idea of the incidence of neurosis in the sanatorium population and certain individual cases were investigated and treated by the clinic.

Every effort has been made to give appropriate training to the social workers, the part time medical officers and the speech therapist (appointed during the year) in the aspects of psychiatry in which they need knowledge to become fully expert in clinic work.

I consider these and other functions of the clinic are just as important as the actual case work in pursuance of the preventive objectives of the clinic and the Department and I hope that there will soon be the increase of staff and facilities necessary to permit the more experienced members of the staff to widen their activities in these functions.

The appointment of the speech therapist during the year has been fully justified by the therapeutic success obtained by the integration of psychiatric and speech therapy techniques possible when the speech therapist works within the clinic team.

The accommodation problem has been a great handicap as will be realized from the fact that the clinic cannot employ a typist because of the shortage of room. The position, however, will be eased when the accommodation at the Observatory site is available to the clinic. When this occurs it is hoped that the clinic will be able to make substantial progress with the further development of the preventive functions of the department as illustrated in such proposals as:—

1. The expansion of its existing case work service;
2. The initiation of the adult out-patient clinic;
3. The provision of special psychiatric services requested by the Children's Welfare Department and the T.B. Division;
4. The development of clinic services to the rural areas;
5. Systematic training of staff and students in preventive and child psychiatry;

6. Establishment of an interdepartmental committee with Education Department for the detailed development of mental health measures by both departments;
 7. More systematic measures of public education;
 8. Some research into the vast amount of material resulting from the years of clinic investigations;
 - *9. Provision of a residential section of the clinic with a special school for maladjusted children analogous to the one for retarded children at Travancore;
 - *10. Provision of a holiday home for such children under guidance by the Department.
- * Both of these measures are considered essential in overseas programs (*vide* Blacker) and are very urgent here owing to the increasing frequency with which the clinic is faced with breakdown home situations.

V. P. JOHNSON,
Psychiatrist.

CHILDREN'S COURT CLINIC.

(This Clinic was taken over by the Department of Mental Hygiene on 1st July, 1948.)

Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

During the year, 187 new cases were examined at the Children's Court Clinic. The source of reference of these is set out in Table I. Follow-up work was done on many of these as well as on some cases examined in previous years, and fourteen sex cases received treatment.

Of the new cases, 40 were children who had never appeared before a Court, but who were manifesting definite delinquent tendencies such as absconding, stealing, sex misbehaviour &c. A subsequent follow-up of this group revealed that only three have so far become delinquents. Though it is as yet too early to draw definite conclusions, one feels that, as a result of timely remedial measures instituted here, delinquency has been prevented in most of these children. The successful readjustment of such cases is an important contribution towards the prevention of juvenile delinquency in particular and of crime in general.

A noticeable feature of the year's work was the large number of cases in which parental factors appeared to be the chief cause of the delinquency. Some of the parents in this group were definitely psychopathic. The details are set out in Table V. The children in this group were found to be either manifesting symptoms of a neurosis with feelings of anxiety and insecurity, or showing evidence of character defects arising from inadequate moral training and the bad example of their parents. Many of these cases are exceedingly difficult to treat as the abnormal parent is often non-co-operative, though requiring treatment just as much as the child. It is becoming increasingly apparent here that in the future, greater attention will have to be paid to the modification of unsatisfactory parental attitudes in these cases. In order to extend the treatment facilities of the Children's Court Clinic in this direction it is likely that the appointment of an additional psychiatric social worker will become necessary in the near future.

The close relationship between the housing shortage and juvenile delinquency is still evident. The Clinic Social Worker, (Miss L. Morrell) reported that of 162 houses visited, 44 were overcrowded and 27 lacked amenities.

In February, a visit was made to the Clinic by Mr. Basil Henriques, Chairman of the East London Juvenile Court. Mr. Henriques stated that he was very impressed by the efficient organization and work of the Clinic, to which he subsequently made a eulogistic reference in an article in the daily press.

Mr. A. W. Meadows, Clinic Psychologist, reports as follows regarding the psychological work at the Clinic:—

“Special efforts have been made to keep psychological examinations abreast of modern developments. Present procedures cover the testing of general intelligence, educational attainments and vocational aptitudes, with the object of detecting and preventing maladjustments at home and school and in employment.

Intelligence.—Of 170 new cases, examination revealed that 8 per cent. were mentally retarded and required Special School placement or employment with sympathetic employers; 12 per cent. were very dull and definitely needed either Opportunity Grade instruction or special job placement; while 22 per cent. were dull and in some cases required the special curriculum of the Opportunity Grade.

Education.—In the delinquent groups educational retardation is considerable and 108 cases were given educational counselling. Examinations in the specific subjects uncovered the sources of the weaknesses and suggestions for remedial treatment were discussed with the child and parents. In arithmetic, in 131 examinations 71 per cent. were backward. In reading, of 161 cases nearly 52 per cent. showed various degrees of backwardness. In spelling, 70 per cent. were below average standard.

Vocational Aptitudes.—Vocational guidance testing was required in 79 cases, i.e., 42 per cent. of the total. In 27 additional cases of boys about to leave school, advice about jobs and careers was given.

New Tests.—New types of projective techniques have been tried and also tests of motor efficiency, but it is too early to assess their value.

Research.—

1. School Grading and Truancy.—Research with 182 delinquents, of whom 86 were truants and 96 non-truants, showed that of non-truant delinquents, two-thirds were in the grade for their age (a few were accelerated) and one-third were one or two grades retarded; of the truant delinquents, only one-third were in the grade for their age and two-thirds were one or two grades retarded.

2. Sex Offenders.—A group of 13 male sex offenders who had been treated at the Clinic some two years or more ago, were re-investigated in order to ascertain the results of the treatment.

Of the group, 6 were below average intelligence. Only one case had relapsed and returned to the Court. In all other cases the results were satisfactory, and the parents expressed their appreciation of the work of the Clinic.

Teaching.—Six students of psycho-pathology were given instruction and supervision in clinical work, and in addition, four psychology students were assisted with research projects relating to delinquency.”

Ten student Social Workers, under the supervision of Miss L. Morrell, the Clinic Social Worker, were given help and supervision with field work.

H. K. B. BAILEY,
Clinic Psychiatrist.

TABLE I.—SOURCE OF REFERENCE OF CASES.

	<i>Totals.</i>
Children's Court	99
Chief Probation Officer	26
Children's Welfare Department	13
Education Department	26
Other Agencies	23
	187

TABLE II.—SEX CLASSIFICATION OF CASES.

No. of Children Examined.								Males.	Females.
187	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	159	28

TABLE III.—AGE GROUP CLASSIFICATION OF CASES.

Age.	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	16†	Total.
No.	4	4	8	10	12	22	21	27	29	23	21	6	187
Percentage	2	2	4	5	6	12	11	15	15	12	11	3	100

NOTE (1).—Age range of C. C. cases is 6—16† inclusive.

Percentage calculated to nearest 1%.

TABLE IV.—PSYCHIATRIC CLASSIFICATION OF CASES.

	<i>Totals.</i>
Character Defect	61
Intellectual Defect	59
Psycho-neurosis	48
Organic	1
Psychopathic Personality .. .. .	..
Psychosis .. .. .	..
Non-Psychiatric	18
	187

TABLE V.—PARENTAL FACTORS ELICITED.

	<i>Totals.</i>
Parent Alcoholic	33
Parent Neurotic	9
Parent Psychotic	7
Parent Criminal	6
Parent Intellectually Subnormal	11
Parent Unsatisfactory for Other Reasons (Includes marital irregularity and disharmony, physical illness, racial difference, child unwanted because of illegitimacy, unsatisfactory adoption, &c.)	25
	91

COST OF MAINTENANCE, ETC.

MENTAL HOSPITALS.

Details of the receipts and expenditure for the Financial Year 1948-49, are set out in Tables XV., XVI., and XVII.

The receipts and expenditure for each year for the past ten years are set forth in the following table:—

Year.	Daily Average Number Resident.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
		£	£
1938-39	6,493	81,162	477,898
1939-40	6,527	87,560	493,474
1940-41	6,650	89,404	513,019
1941-42	6,729	88,269	533,763
1942-43	6,684	126,096	578,355
1943-44	6,645	120,858	621,619
1944-45	6,662	137,584	625,967
1945-46	6,718	131,577	658,765
1946-47	6,670	154,521	730,815
1947-48	6,675	180,071	861,016
1948-49	6,656	212,647	1,031,237

EXPENDITURE.

Gross expenditure for the financial year 1948-49 was £1,031,237—an increase of £170,221 over that of the previous year.

During this period the daily average number of patients (voluntary boarder cases included) fell from 6,675 to 6,656, a decrease of 19 as compared with 1947-48.

The principal factors which contributed toward the rise in the total expenditure were:—

	£
(a) Increased staff salaries	94,886
(b) Increased staff overtime payments	16,452
(c) Increased expenditure on Provisions	38,431
	149,769

As regards (a), the rise is due to increased salary rates and cost of living adjustments fixed by the Public Service Board during the period. In addition, the Child Psychiatric and Children's Court Clinics were transferred to the control of the Director as from 1st July, 1948.

In respect to (b), the forty-hour week was in force for the full year as compared with six months during 1947-48; as overtime rates are on the basis of time and half, it necessarily follows that increases in salaries and cost of living allowances will be reflected in the overtime figures.

In regard to (c), the increased expenditure of £38,431 on provisions, whilst due in a small measure to the general rise in commodity prices, the main reason is, that Ministerial approval was obtained for an improved dietary for patients which was inaugurated as from 1st February, 1949. As a result, the evening meal for patients has been improved and a greater variety of foodstuffs is in general use.

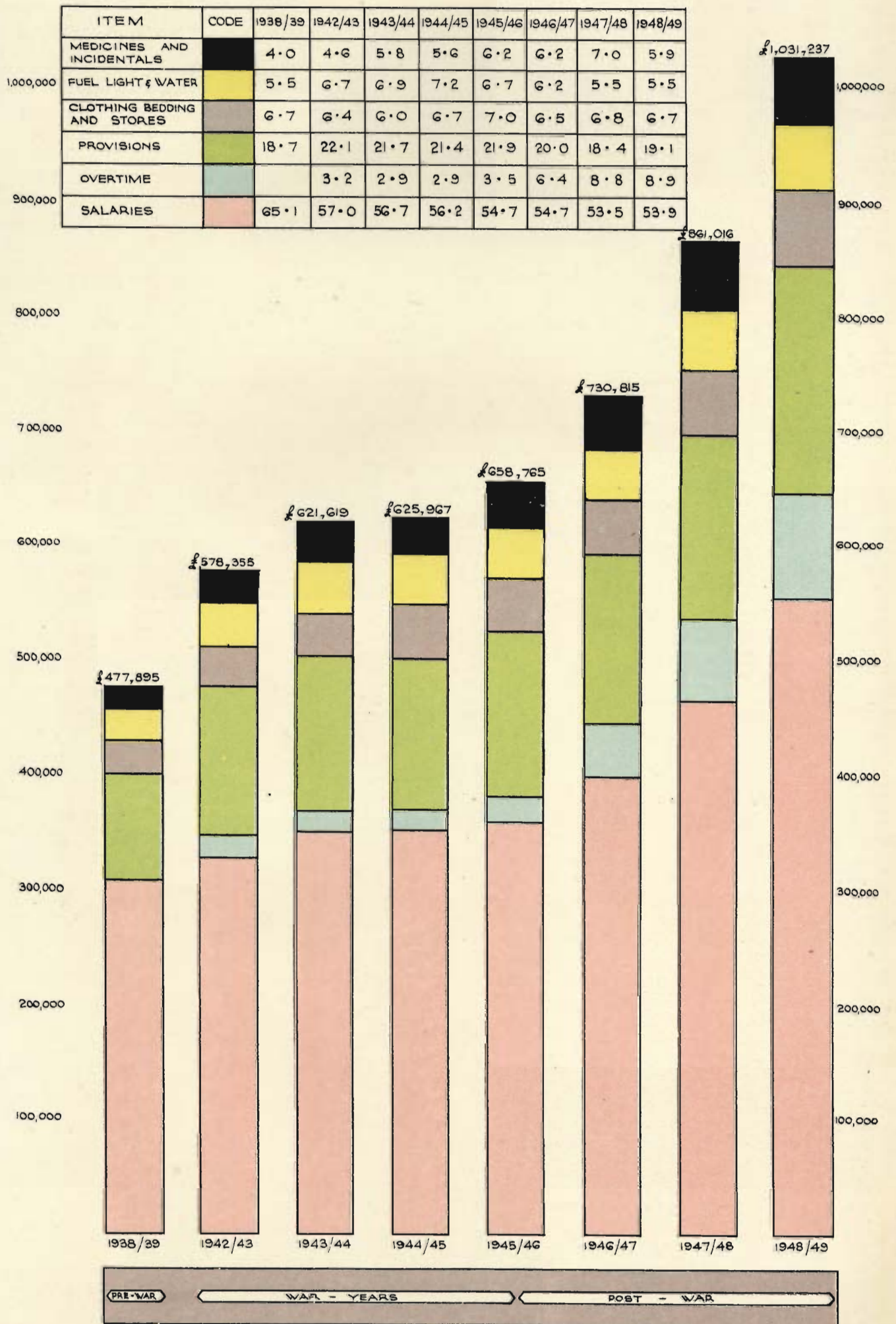
The remaining £20,000 increase is accounted for by the general rise in commodity prices and the necessity to purchase items of clothing and bedding in preparation for the opening of the Larundel Mental Hospital.

Included in this section of the report is a graph showing the relative increase in expenditure under various headings, during recent years, as compared with 1938-39, a pre-war year. It will be observed that since 1938-39 the total expenditure has risen by over 100 per cent., whilst the percentage costs for each item, as shown in the table above the graph, have remained fairly constant. For purposes of comparison the percentage figures for overtime and salaries, respectively, should be added.

RECEIPTS.

Receipts for the year amounted to £212,647, an increase of £32,576 as compared with the previous financial year, due mainly to the larger amount collected for maintenance of patients by the Public Trustee.

SECTIONAL PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE



The average weekly cost per patient under the various sub-divisions of the Contingencies Vote during the past five years is set forth in the following statement:—

Details of Average Weekly Cost.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Salaries	20 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	20 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	23 1	26 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	32 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Provisions and extra articles	7 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Clothing, bedding, and material for manufacture ..	1 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 10	1 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 5	2 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stores	0 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fuel, light, and water	2 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 3
Medicines and stimulants	0 5	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Incidentals (including postage, travelling expenses, Chaplains' fees, &c.)	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 5	3 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 8	7 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Average weekly cost per patient (Public Works expenditure not included)	35 2	36 9	41 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	48 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	58 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Daily average number resident	6,662	6,718	6,670	6,675	6,656

The average weekly gross cost per patient during the period was £2 18s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. as compared with £2 8s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for the previous year—a rise of 10s. 4d.

Apart from the expenditure mentioned above, which is chargeable against the votes of the Mental Hygiene Branch of the Health Department, expenditure by the Public Works Department on services, stores and maintenance of buildings, but excluding capital expenditure during 1948-49, was £44,251 or 2s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per capita per week.

When collections from the Public Trustee and other sources were brought to account, the net cost was £2 8s. 8d. per capita per week.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES' BRANCH.

Expenditure for the year 1948-49 was £61,772. Although the daily average number resident decreased by 10 from the previous year to 325, expenditure increased by £8,798, which was mainly due, as in the Mental Hospitals, to higher salaries to staff, shorter working hours for staff and higher costs of supplies.

The amount collected for maintenance, &c., at Travancore, Pleasant Creek and Janefield totalled £7,047—a decrease of £664 as compared with the amount collected during the previous year.

H. J. MARTIN,

Chief Clerk and Accountant.

TABLE XV.—Showing the Total Receipts and the Total Expenditure of Department of Mental Hygiene (excluding Mental Defectives' Branch and Expenditure by Public Works Department) for the year ended 30th June, 1949.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Collections by the Public Trustee for maintenance of patients in Mental Hospitals	199,895	1	1				Maintenance of Mental Hospitals	992,525	0	8
Sales	7,963	6	0				General Expenses, Salaries at Head Office, Travelling Expenses, Postage, Telegrams, &c.	10,136	18	4
Fines	17	10	0				General Expenses, Salaries, &c. at Children's Court and Child Psychiatric Clinic	7,854	11	0
Collections, Fees, &c.	4,770	19	4				Total Cost Maintenance of Mental Hospitals	1,010,516	10	0
Total Receipts	212,646	16	5				Maintenance— Receiving Ward, Bendigo	197	7	4
Deficiency—Financed by Victorian Government	818,589	18	7				Expenses— In connexion with Committal and Transport of Patients	2,293	15	0
							In connexion with Boarding-out of Patients	18,229	2	8
Total	1,031,236	15	0				Total Other Expenditure	20,720	5	0
							Total	1,031,236	15	0

TABLE XVI.—Showing the Total Cost of Maintenance against each Mental Hospital (excluding Mental Defectives' Branch) the Sums Expended against Each Vote, and the Amount of General Expenses for the Year ended 30th June, 1949.

Mental Hospital.	Daily Average Number Resident.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Salaries.	Allowance to Chaplains.	Provisions and Extra Articles.	Clothing, Bedding, and Material for Manufacture.	Stores, Forage, Purchase of Stock, Books, and Amusements.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Medicines, Medical Comforts, &c.	Stimulants—Wine, Spirits, and Beer.	Incidentals, Postage, Telegrams, and Travelling Expenses.
Kew and Kew Children's Cottages	1,339	£ 168,588	£ 89,159	£ 157	£ 30,038	£ 10,365	£ 3,211	£ 6,097	£ 1,266	£ 187	£ 28,108
Ararat	790	121,911	66,941	157	25,454	6,855	2,192	11,312	686	39	8,275
Beechworth	772	106,146	57,239	134	24,013	6,031	1,419	7,422	816	55	9,017
Sunbury	1,062	136,538	70,938	150	32,234	5,188	2,061	6,848	1,175	189	17,755
Ballarat and Receiving House	789	118,413	64,421	117	22,618	4,646	3,331	9,597	1,052	78	12,553
Royal Park and Receiving House	209	71,769	47,918	78	7,393	1,622	1,451	3,782	1,680	12	7,833
Mont Park and Repatriation Mental Hospital, Bundoora	1,735	269,159	144,506	182	55,136	13,573	6,090	11,260	3,601	157	34,654
General Expenses .. .. .	..	17,992	14,885	..	..	4	785	9	..	..	2,309
Totals	6,656	1,010,516	556,007	975	196,886	48,284	20,540	56,327	10,276	717	120,504

TABLE XVII.—Showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance of Patients in Mental Hospitals (excluding Mental Defectives' Branch) during the Year ended 30th June, 1949.

Mental Hospital.	Salaries.	Allowance to Chaplains.	Provisions and Extra Articles.	Clothing, Bedding and Material for Manufacture.	Stores, Forage, Purchase of Stock, Books, Amusements.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Medicines and Medical Comforts, Surgical Instruments, &c.	Stimulants—Wine, Spirits, and Beer, &c.	Incidentals, Postage and Telegrams, and Travelling Expenses.	Total Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Patient.	Average Collections per Week for Maintenance, Sales, Fees, Fines, &c.	Weekly Cost net per Patient, deducting Collections for Maintenance, Sales, Fees, Fines, &c.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Kew and Kew Children's Cottages	25 7½	0 0½	8 7½	2 11½	0 11	1 9	0 4½	0 0½	8 0½	2 8 4½	..	..
Ararat	34 4	0 1	13 0½	3 6½	1 1½	5 9½	0 4½	0 0½	4 3	3 2 6½	..	..
Beechworth	28 6½	0 0½	11 11½	3 0	0 8½	3 8½	0 5	0 0½	4 6	2 12 10½	..	..
Sunbury	25 8½	0 0½	11 8	1 10½	0 9	2 5½	0 5	0 0½	6 5½	2 9 5½	..	..
Ballarat and Receiving House	31 4½	0 0½	11 0½	2 3½	1 7½	4 8½	0 6	0 0½	6 1½	2 17 8½	..	..
Royal Park and Receiving House	88 2½	0 1½	13 7½	3 0	2 8	6 11½	3 1	0 0½	14 5	6 12 1	..	..
Mont Park and Repatriation Mental Hospital Bundoora	32 0½	0 0½	12 2½	3 0	1 4½	2 6	0 9½	0 0½	7 8	2 19 8	..	..
General Expenses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 1 0½	..	..
Total excluding Public Works Department Expenditure .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 18 4½	0 12 3½	2 6 1½
Expenditure by Public Works Department for Maintenance of Buildings, &c. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 2 6½	..	0 2 6½
Total including Public Works Department Expenditure .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 0 11½	0 12 3½	2 8 8

Depreciation and Interest on Capital Expenditure are not included in above Tables.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES' BRANCH.

TABLE XVIII.—Showing the Total Cost of Maintenance against each Institution, the Sums Expended against Each Vote, and the amount of General Expenses for the Year ended 30th June, 1949.

Institution.	Daily Average Number Resident.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Salaries.	Provision and Extra Articles.	Clothing, Bedding, and Materials for Manufacture.	Stores, Purchase of Books, &c.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Drugs and Medicines.	Incidentals, Postage, Telegrams, and Travelling Expenses.	Maintenance of Children in Non-Government Institutions.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Travancore Developmental Centre	70	12,777	8,615	1,926	304	361	833	2	736	..
Pleasant Creek Special School	82	12,869	7,885	2,390	693	247	1,233	47	374	..
Janefield Colony	173	31,417	17,792	4,339	1,527	1,147	2,648	304	3,660	..
General Expenses .. ..	..	4,709	3,981	..	5	120	..	..	103	500
Totals	325	61,772	38,273	8,655	2,529	1,875	4,714	353	4,873	500

IN GENERAL.

The wards at Larundel are still occupied by homeless families, but they are being gradually vacated (at the time of compiling this report the wards are empty and in process of being renovated). No new building has been undertaken during the year, so that the prospects of closing the Kew Mental Hospital have not brightened to any great extent.

Increasingly heavy demands are being made on the services of the clinics attached to this Department, and the Health, Education and Children's Welfare Departments are seeking further help from us. It is evident that a rapid extension of the numbers and services of the clinics is necessary. The Honorable the Minister of Health has obtained the necessary approval of Cabinet to a widespread extension of their activities, and it is hoped that in the near future the whole of the State will have ready access to the services which the clinics provide. The increase in the number of clinics is a major step in the field of prevention of mental disorder, and there is no doubt that the early care and direction of possible mental shipwrecks will result in many being saved from future disaster. This matter was stressed in my report for 1946, and at present one is pleased to record that very definite steps have been taken to put the accepted policy into operation. A Hut in the Observatory Grounds has been converted for use by the clinics, and it would also serve to constitute a training ground for each new clinic which comes into existence. The work done by the clinics generally emphasizes the need for close collaboration with other departments, particularly with those dealing with children.

Staff shortage, both male and female, is still the main obstacle to progress. At the Bundoora Repatriation Hospital a new ward has remained unoccupied for the last two years, although several soldier patients are awaiting admission. Failure to open this ward is due to lack of recruits for the nursing staff. In the mental hospitals generally the position has become more and more acute. There is a grave lack of nurses trained by this Department to undertake the treatment of acute mental conditions, and in one grade of this type of nurse there are only 20 of them on duty, there being nearly 200 vacant positions for which no qualified nurses are available. Were it not for the help given by the young women immigrants from Great Britain and the Continent, the position would have become chaotic, and one can only pay a heartfelt tribute to those self-sacrificing mentally trained nurses occupying the higher positions who, in spite of every difficulty, have stuck to their posts and carried on successfully.

The proposed transfer of the control of this Department to a Mental Hygiene Authority will accentuate the difficulty of providing sufficient space for Head Office staff, and the time has come to seek much more spacious accommodation. The widening of the departmental activities will add to the present difficulties, and it is stressed that this problem will become acutely urgent within the next few years. At present, the staff are gravely handicapped by lack of room, and even matters of a private nature are perforce discussed within earshot of various officers by relatives of the mentally deficient and other problem children in general. In addition, access to the Honorable the Minister of Health is not facilitated by the distance between the Health offices and those of this Department.

The opportunity is taken to thank the various auxiliaries and their governing body for the extraordinary amount of good work which they have accomplished over the past few years. The well-being of the patients has been their assiduous care, and their only reward is the gratitude, sometimes unexpressed, of those whom society finds necessary to deprive of liberty. Once again the services of the Victorian Optical Association are acknowledged with pleasure.

J. CATARINICH.