

Report / Department of Public Health, Tasmania.

Contributors

Tasmania. Department of Public Health.

Publication/Creation

Hobart : Govt. Printer, [1937]

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TASMANIA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH

R E P O R T

OF THE

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
TASMANIA

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command



TASMANIA:

H. H. PIMBLETT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

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SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1937

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 9th March, 1938.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the Annual Report of the Department of Public Health for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

National Health and Medical Research Council:

The first session of the National Health and Medical Research Council, which was constituted in September, 1936, was held at Hobart from the 1st to 3rd February, 1937. Resolutions were passed at this session with respect to the following matters:—Research, tuberculosis, leprosy, public health education, legal control of medical practice, hygiene of childhood, rheumatic infections and heart disease, and prevention of blindness.

The second session of the Council was held at Canberra on the 1st June, 1937, to consider the various matters which were brought up for discussion. Resolutions under the following headings were passed at this session:—Research, leprosy, irregular development of bone in growing children, hygiene of childhood, rheumatic conditions, Australian Institute of Anatomy, travelling fellowships, Undulant fever, pasteurisation of milk, assistance for women approaching maternity, chiropractors, and library facilities and correlation of reference works.

The third session was held at Sydney on the 12th and 13th November, 1937, when the Council approved of various institutions for registration as approved research institutions, and of applications for grants in aid of research. Committees under various aspects of the research scheme were also appointed. Resolutions were also passed relating to maternal morbidity and mortality, subsidies for maintenance of new health activities, hygiene of childhood, tuberculosis in Australia, prevention of blindness, tropical physiology and hygiene, dental research, and poliomyelitis research.

I represented Tasmania at the first and second sessions of this Council, but was unable to attend the third session, owing to the outbreak of poliomyelitis in the State.

Legislation:

The Public Health Act was amended during the 1937 Session of Parliament. The amending statute provides, *inter alia*, that—

- (1) No person shall be appointed as an inspector under the Act unless he

holds a certificate of competency, or has previously held a position as inspector under the Act.

- (2) No local authority shall remove an inspector without the approval in writing of the Director.

- (3) Subject to certain terms and conditions, a local authority, after passing a special resolution for the purpose, may enter into an agreement with the Minister for the carrying out by the Department of Public Health of the whole or part of the functions and duties of such local authority under the Act.

Regulations.—An amendment of No. 17 of the regulations under the Public Health Act for checking or preventing the spread of any infectious disease places the onus upon the local authority to meet the cost of diphtheria antitoxin administered to persons suspected to be suffering from diphtheria.

The regulations under the Places of Public Entertainment Act, 1917, as amended and consolidated were gazetted on the 30th March, 1937.

State Medical Services:

In accordance with Government policy, preliminary arrangements have been made for the placement of doctors in districts remote from medical aid. Medical services rendered by these doctors will be free to all between specified hours at a doctor's place of location, and, on his visiting days, at various centres of population in the district.

Proposals are being submitted to the various local authorities in whose districts these medical officers are to be located for the carrying out by the Department of the functions and duties of such local authorities under the Public Health Act.

LACHLAN PARK HOSPITAL AND ST. JOHN'S PARK. (Branches of the Public Health Department.)

The annual reports of these institutions are contained in Appendices VII. and VIII.

Lachlan Park Hospital.—By a Governor in Council's proclamation, issued on the 20th May, 1937, the name "Lachlan Park Hospital" was assigned to the place formerly known as "The Mental Hospital" at New Norfolk.

St. John's Park.—On the 2nd March, 1937, Dr. J. A. Oliphant was appointed to the new office of Medical Superintendent, created in connection with the administration of this institution.

"Vaucluse" Infectious Diseases Hospital:

The administration of this hospital is to be vested in the Government, on and from the 1st January, 1938. Hitherto the Hobart City Council assumed this responsibility.

School Medical Inspection and Dental Services:

The Government has arrived at a decision that these services should be placed under the direct control of the Public Health Department.

Office Accommodation:

The decision of the Government to provide the Department with commodious office accommodation is viewed with much satisfaction. The lack of spacious and convenient offices has been a serious handicap in many respects, particularly latterly, owing to the increased ramifications of the Department demanding the appointment of additional officers.

LOCAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

Largely due to economic reasons, with the added handicap of inadequate organisation, local health administration in many municipal districts is far from satisfactory. A lay body, functioning under such unfavourable circumstances, invariably fails to appreciate what is necessary to promote health and what is involved in the prevention of disease. The Public Health Department, which contains all the elements essential to public health work and is familiar with the changing conditions and growing knowledge, initiates such steps as may be desirable to secure the preparation of measures conducive to the health of the people. The Public Health Act, however, is so framed that it is the local authority in whose hands rests the main business of the execution of a sound health policy. It is in the local area, in direct touch with the people, that an adequate health service should find its fulfilment. Until such time as a proper realisation of this obligation is fully appreciated by those local authorities entrusted with the administration of the law, there cannot be that progress in public health work which is essential for the welfare of the people.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Tables A and B, appended, contain statistical data under this heading.

Diphtheria.—It is gratifying to record the marked reduction in the incidence of this disease during the year. The cases notified, viz., 305, are the lowest recorded since 1909-10. There were 12 fatal cases, making a fatality rate of 3.93 per 1000 cases, and a mortality rate of .5 per 10,000 of the population.

Although from time to time much publicity has been given to the great value of immunisation for the prevention of the disease, the systematic adoption of the method has not been accomplished up to the present time. A reduction in the incidence of the disease, which can be brought about by immunisation, would lighten materially the burden falling on the local authorities who are called upon to meet the present heavy expenditure incurred in the existing system of removal, disinfection, isolation, and hospital treatment, and in the general preventive measures against the spread of infection in the homes, schools, and elsewhere.

Scarlet Fever.—Four hundred and twelve cases of this disease were notified; the corresponding figure for 1936 being 478. There were only two deaths.

Typhoid Fever.—The cases notified numbered 26, and of these nine occurred in the City of Hobart.

The unusual prevalence of the disease in a suburb of Hobart led to a close investigation as to the possible vehicle of infection. This resulted in the detection of a "carrier," who was engaged in the business of a milk vendor. Requirements designed to safeguard the public health were enforced by the local health authority, with satisfactory results.

Tuberculosis (All Forms).—The total number of new cases of tuberculosis notified was 177 (including 20 non-pulmonary). Deaths from the disease totalled 120, giving a death rate of 51 per 100,000 persons living. Of the 157 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 51 per cent. received institutional treatment. Admissions to the Tasmanian Sanatorium totalled 123 (69 males and 54 females). Statistical information with respect to these cases, and to those which were in residence at the beginning of the year, is set out hereunder:—

Bed Accommodation.

Bed accommodation for 81 patients (43 male and 38 female).

Patients Treated.

	Male.	Female.
Remaining in on 1.1.37	25	27
Admitted during year	69	54
	94	81
Discharged—		
	Male.	Female.
Much improved	2	1
Improved	45	35
Stationary	11	14
Worse	—	1
	58	51
Died	9	9
Remaining in on 31.12.37	27	21
	94	81

During the year a Chest Clinic was established at both the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Launceston Public Hospital, in the former case in April and at the latter institution in October. By

this means, an important link in the chain of prevention of the disease has been provided for. Particulars of the work performed at each of these clinics are detailed hereunder:—

	Chest Clinic, Hobart (1.4.37—31.12.37).					Chest Clinic, Launceston (1.10.37—31.12.37).				
	Over 14 Years.		Under 14 Years.		Total.	Over 14 Years.		Under 14 Years.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of New Cases Applying	101	72	6	11	190	9	14	2	...	25
New Cases taken on at Clinic for Observation and Treatment	108	95	43	45	291	10	24	14	7	55
Re-attendances	157	94	9	16	276	22	41	8	3	74
Re-examinations	116	64	10	11	201	1	5	...	...	6
Clinic Cases Transferred to Sanatorium.....	33	16	1	3	53	3	2	...	...	5
Sanatorium Cases Transferred to Clinic for Special Treatment ...	6	6	...	...	12	1	...	...	...	1
Patients Discharged after Treatment at the Clinic:—										
Markedly Improved.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Improved .....	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
<i>In statu quo</i>	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	2
Worse	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Patients Found Non-Tuberculous	24	19	...	6	49	1	6	5	...	12
Contacts:—										
Number of Infecting Cases ...	46	24	...	1	71	5	5	2	...	12
Number of Contacts Examined	25	37	59	55	176	1	10	12	7	30
Number of Contacts Re-Examined	5	15	39	28	87	...	1	...	...	1
Number of Contacts Found Tuberculous .....	...	1	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...
Number of Contacts Under Suspicion Tb.....	...	...	6	4	10	...	1	...	...	1
Number of Invalid Pensioners Seen.....	25	11	...	...	36	3	4	...	...	7
Home Visits:—										
Medical Officer .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nurse's First Visit .....	...	...	...	...	187	57	44	...	...	101
Nurse's Re-Visits.....	...	...	...	...	536	21	43	...	...	64
Special Visits in Connection with After-care	3	...	2	1	6	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumothorax Refills .....	...	7	...	...	7	1	2	...	...	3
X-Ray Examinations (Films) ...	58	63	4	11	136	6	14	9	...	29
X-Ray Examinations (Screen) ...	...	5	...	...	5	...	1	...	...	1
Sputum Examination .....	...	...	...	...	220	8	1	...	...	9
Total Attendances, Old and New Cases .....	...	...	...	...	1192	28	36	3	3	70

Puerperal Fever.—There were 32 notifications of this disease. Each case was investigated by an officer of the Department, and recognised measures taken to prevent the spread of infection.

Anthrax.—A case of this disease was notified on the 2nd January; the infected person being a wool worker, who, at the time, was an in-patient of a hospital. Special accommodation was provided at the "Vaucluse" Infectious Diseases Hospital for the treatment of the patient, who subsequently recovered.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—The year under review stands out prominently in the history of notifiable poliomyelitis in this State. The disease, in epidemic and severe forms, manifested itself early in November, and at the close of the year 299 cases had been reported, of which 28 proved fatal. Fortunately, the epidemic in Victoria earlier in the year led to preparedness for an outbreak in Tasmania, and in this regard valuable information and advice was readily forthcoming from the Public Health Department in the former State.

As a measure of protection against the introduction of Poliomyelitis from Victoria, every child under the age of 17 years leaving that State for Tasmania was required to possess a medical certificate stating that he or she neither was suffering from the disease nor had been in contact with a case for the 21 days preceding departure. Isolation for a period of 21 days from date of arrival was also enforced.

The disease was declared a dangerous infectious disease, in accordance with Section 14 of the Public Health Act, thus giving the Director power to enforce various measures of prevention within, or with respect to, a district or any part thereof, without recourse to the making of regulations for the purpose. By virtue of this authority, school closure was applied, in the first instance in those districts in which outbreaks of the disease occurred, and subsequently throughout the whole State. Children under the age of 17 years were also prohibited from attending indoor entertainments of any description, public swimming baths, and other forms of outdoor entertainment. By this means the aggregation of children was avoided. These and other precautionary measures were taken on the advice of medical committees (North and South) constituted for the purpose of advising the Government on matters associated with the control of the disease. Whilst it is difficult to define the efficacy of preventive measures, the prompt action taken in various directions to this end, the hospital isolation of patients, the home isolation of contacts, closing of schools (both those affected and those unaffected by the disease) must have served some useful purpose in preventing the spread of infection. There was a wide distribution of pamphlets and posters dealing with the disease, for the information and guidance of the people. At the inception of the epidemic, medical practitioners throughout the State were also apprised by circular memorandum of the symptoms and signs of the prevailing outbreak in Melbourne.

The term "infantile paralysis" by which Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis is also known, serves to emphasise the fact that this disease is essen-

tially one that attacks infants. The epidemic in Tasmania, however, reminded us that Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis is not exclusive to child life, but that elderly children and adults are also attacked, and sometimes with fatal results.

The first cases of the disease were reported from the Invermay district of the City of Launceston. One of these cases, a child aged six years, had been admitted to the Children's Hospital on the 5th November, being transferred two days later to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Another case, a child of the same age, was also admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Launceston, on the 7th November. A brother of the first mentioned case and a sister of the latter case both attended the Invermay State School, and, during the early stages of the epidemic many subsequent cases were explicable as due to contact infection in this school, although it was not possible, in every instance, to link up one case with another. Investigation, however, demonstrated that contact infection prevailed, thus emphasising the important part played by personal infection in the spread of the epidemic.

During the period of the explosive character of the outbreak at Invermay, an area in the district was isolated as a preventive measure against the spread of infection. The isolation so imposed applied to all children of pre-school age, to children attending school, and to children under the age of 17 years who were not in employment, neither could any child under the age of 17 years enter or be in the isolated area, except with the written consent of the Medical Officer of Health, unless a resident in the area. Officers of the Public Health Department and of the Local Authority of Launceston, with the assistance of members of the police force, enforced compliance with this requirement of the law.

The disease subsequently spread with rapidity to other districts of Launceston, and, at the end of the year, some seven weeks after the occurrence of the first case, a total of 163 cases had been notified. Cases were also reported from 21 other municipal districts, chiefly Hobart (28 cases), Kentish (29 cases), Queenstown (13 cases), and Longford (10 cases). Various measures of isolation were also imposed in these districts.

Facilities were provided for the accommodation of acute cases of the disease at the Infectious Diseases Hospitals, Hobart and Launceston, and at the Lyell District Hospital, Queenstown; mechanical respirators being installed by the Government at each of these institutions for the treatment of the many cases suffering from paralysis of the respiratory centres.

Various medical officers engaged in the treatment of patients were afforded facilities for studying the clinical features of the disease at the Fairfield Hospital, Melbourne.

A special nursing staff was engaged at each hospital, and it is gratifying to record that in no instance did a nurse become infected with the disease in the performance of her duties.

Mainly due to the publicity given to the severity of the epidemic in Victoria, public attention was focussed on the outbreak in this State. Whilst

appreciating the anxiety displayed by parents for the welfare of their children, I wish to record the high standard of treatment provided for those persons who were unfortunate enough to contract the disease. Doctors, nurses, and other officials

spared no effort on their part in rendering a service which, to my own knowledge, calls for the most favourable comment.

Information showing the age incidence of cases notified, and the mortality from the disease, is set out hereunder:—

Age Groups.	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-20	21-25	26-30	31-40	Over 40	Total
Cases Notified	86	123	54	15	9	2	8	2	299
Deaths	4	13	2	3	2	1	3	...	28

TABLE A.

Return showing Number of Cases of each Notifiable Infectious Disease Reported to the Department of Public Health during the Year 1937, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of all such Diseases for the Years 1936 and 1937.

Municipality.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis (All Forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	Bacillary Dysentery.	Anthrax.	Total, 1937.	Total, 1936.
1 Beaconsfield	6	...	3	5	...	4	...	...	18	19
2 Bothwell .....	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	3
3 Brighton	2	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	9	11
4 Bruny .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Burnie	12	...	4	6	...	...	...	...	22	63
6 Campbell Town	10	3	1	...	1	8	...	...	23	5
7 Circular Head .....	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	5	20
8 Clarence	4	...	5	2	1	3	...	...	15	17
9 Deloraine	7	...	5	4	...	5	...	...	21	22
10 Devonport	1	...	4	5	...	1	...	...	11	40
11 Esperance	5	4	13	6	...	...	...	...	28	13
12 Evandale	2	...	3	...	...	7	...	...	12	...
13 Fingal	17	1	1	2	...	4	...	...	25	4
14 Flinders .....	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4	1
15 George Town	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	4	7
16 Glamorgan .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
17 Glenorchy	10	2	23	15	1	...	...	1	52	91
18 Gormanston	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
19 Green Ponds	3	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	10	8
20 Hamilton	5	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	13	10
21 Hobart	51	9	117	59	11	28	1	...	276	452
22 Huon .....	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	5	24
23 Kentish	2	...	6	...	...	29	...	...	37	18
24 Kingborough .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	17
25 King Island .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
26 Latrobe	3	...	4	1	1	2	...	...	11	11
27 Launceston	96	2	114	27	12	163	1	...	415	112
28 Leven	3	1	3	5	...	...	...	...	12	25
29 Lilydale	1	1	6	3	...	4	...	...	15	5
30 Longford .....	...	...	3	...	...	10	...	...	13	9
31 New Norfolk	10	2	11	2	2	1	...	...	28	38
32 Oatlands	3	...	8	1	...	...	...	...	12	19
33 Penguin .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	5
34 Port Cygnet .....	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	5	7
35 Portland .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	8
36 Queenstown	3	...	31	7	...	13	...	...	54	9
37 Richmond	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	5	8
38 Ringarooma	30	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	34	4
39 Ross	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
40 Scottsdale	5	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	8	9
41 Sorell	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	13
42 Spring Bay .....	...	...	4	3	1	...	...	...	8	2
43 St. Leonards	3	...	2	...	...	3	...	...	8	11
44 Strahan .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
45 Table Cape	2	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	6	68
46 Tasman .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
47 Waratah .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
48 Westbury	1	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	6	12
49 Zeehan .....	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	7	5
50 Overseas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
TOTAL CASES.....	305	26	412	177	32	299	2	1	1254	1260

TABLE B.

RETURN showing Notification of Each Type of Infectious Disease Received by the Department of Public Health for Each Month of the Year 1937, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of all such Diseases for the Years 1936 and 1937.

Month.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis (All Forms)	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Anterior Polomye- litis.	Anthrax.	Bacillary Dysentery.	Total, 1937.	Total, 1936.
January	28	5	30	20	5	...	1	..	97	69
February	19	3	24	8	2	...	...	1	57	82
March	21	4	19	13	5	...	...	...	62	164
April	12	...	51	16	2	...	...	...	81	132
May	34	7	46	9	1	...	...	...	97	93
June	35	3	64	22	2	...	...	...	125	98
July	36	2	53	16	5	...	...	1	112	140
August	30	...	48	15	1	...	...	...	94	102
September	31	...	16	25	1	...	...	...	73	109
October	15	1	14	10	2	...	...	...	41	98
November	18	1	25	16	3	85	...	...	148	90
December	26	...	13	11	3	214	...	...	267	83
Total	305	26	412	181	32	299	1	2	1254	1260

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There was a marked increase in the number of cases reported, viz., 485, as compared with the previous year, when 370 cases were notified. This increased incidence would seem to be due to more complete notification of cases on the part of medical practitioners, rather than to increased infection in the community.

Importance is attached to the necessity of infected persons securing regular treatment until cured, thus rendering them non-infective as rapidly as possible, in order to be no longer a menace to the health of the community. It was necessary to serve 21 orders requiring the continuance of treatment of this number of persons who

were suffering from the disease. In view of reports furnished to the Department that, in some cases, persons suffering from venereal disease were being treated and/or supplied with drugs by various chemists for the purpose of curing, alleviating, or treating such disease, it was deemed essential to invite the attention of all chemists to the requirements of the law on the subject. It was also intimated that it was the intention of the Department to institute legal proceedings against any person acting in contravention thereof.

Statistical information with respect to the notifications received during the year is appended.

TABLE C.
RETURN showing Sex and Age Distribution and Location (Metropolitan or Extra Metropolitan) of Cases of Venereal Diseases Reported to the Public Health Department for the Year 1937.

	Under 1 year.		1-5.		5-10.		10-15.		15-20.		20-25.		25-30.		30-35.		35-40.		40-45.		45-50.		50-55.		55-60.		60-65.		65-70 and over.		Age not stated.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Gonorrhoea—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gleet—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Primary—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Secondary—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Congenital—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chancere—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea & Syphilis—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis & Chancere—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea & Ophthalmia—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	2	3	...	2	...	4	3	2	38	19	116	34	69	17	37	7	23	8	25	6	13	5	13	...	5	...	6	...	12	1	10	5	372	113	485

Details Showing Source of Notification of Venereal Disease for the Year 1937.

	Males.		Females.		Total.
Notified by Hospital Clinics	168		63		231
Notified by Private Doctors	204		50		254
Total	372		113		485

TABLE D.

RETURN showing Marital Status of Cases of Venereal Diseases reported to the Department of Public Health for the Year 1937.

	Male.		Female.		Total.		Grand Total.
	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	
Gonorrhoea	98	217	31	46	129	263	392
Syphilis	32	19	19	11	51	30	81
Ophthalmia .....	...	1	...	4	...	5	5
Gleet	3	2	...	3	...	2	5
Gonorrhoea and Syphilis .....	...	...	...	2	...	2	2
Total	133	239	50	63	183	302	485

TABLE E.
RETURN showing Number of Cases of Venereal Disease reported to Department of Public Health during Each Year since the Inception of the Act in 1918.

Year.	No. of Cases	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
		366	488	419	473	357	384	516	460	413	376	390	386	324	242	229	274	358	336	370	485

HOSPITALS ACT.

Funds provided by Parliament during the past few years have enabled an excellent commencement to be made towards a complete and satisfactory hospital service for the people. The whole question of proper hospital accommodation has received careful and deliberate consideration, and in this connection, importance has been attached to the necessity of co-ordinating and bringing together in co-operative action the many services essential to meet the needs of the population.

At the end of the year, the erection of the new Royal Hobart Hospital was nearing completion. Funds have been appropriated to meet the cost of the new Public Hospital at Wynyard, and for structural alterations and additions at various other public hospitals.

Private Hospitals.—Sixty-two private hospital licences, providing for the accommodation of a total of 433 cases, were issued during the year. In the main, the standard of these hospitals is quite satisfactory; the premises being quite suitable for the purpose for which they are used, and the equipment and nursing service being all that could be desired. In isolated cases, particularly in rural areas remote from a public hospital, improvements in the premises utilised, as well as in the nursing service, would be welcomed. The existing facilities, however, are essential to meet the needs of the people.

Particulars regarding licences issued under this heading are appended.

TABLE F.

RETURN of Private Hospital Licences Issued during the Year 1937.

	No. of Licences Issued.	Medical, Surgical, & Lying-in.	Medical & Surgical Only.	Lying-in Only.
Hobart	9	2	2	5
Launceston	10	1	3	6
Country	43	12	1	30
	62	15	6	41

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Maternal and Child Welfare.—Work for maternal and child welfare has been well maintained during 1937. It is true that there has been less rapid development than those most intimately concerned with this branch of preventive medicine would wish to see, but this has been due to financial exigencies, and not to lack of public interest.

Various voluntary organisations throughout the State, supported by financial assistance from the Government, continue to function in this field of service, and those workers comprising these bodies are to be commended in maintaining the standard of efficiency already reached, and for the energy and enterprise directed towards the establishment of centres to serve districts hitherto unsupplied.

During the year, the Department instituted inquiries into all maternal and infant deaths. Statistical information bearing upon this matter is in course of compilation, and will receive close consideration in association with the attention being directed to the whole problem of motherhood.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 202 deaths of children under one year during the period under review, giving an infantile mortality rate (deaths per 1000 births) of 41.7, compared with 227 deaths, and a rate of 49.6 for the previous year. Despite this substantial decline in infantile mor-

tality, Tasmania had the highest rate in the Commonwealth, although, as mentioned in a previous report, influences bearing upon infant life are no less favourable here than in the other States.

Tables G-J, containing statistical data in regard to infantile mortality, are appended.

TABLE G.
INFANTILE Mortality.

Number of Deaths under One Year in Tasmania for the last 20 Calendar Years.

	Year.																			
	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Deaths.....	321	343	374	451	324	326	296	287	232	256	300	255	242	219	185	187	189	231	227	202

Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 Births.)

Year.	Tasmania.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queens-land.	South Australia.	West Australia.	New Zealand.	North. T'ory.	Federal Cap. Ter.	Co'mon-wealth.
1925.....	55.0	55.0	57.0	45.2	46.1	56.6	40.0	...	...	53.4
1926.....	46.5	57.6	55.7	50.7	44.3	49.3	39.8	...	...	54.0
1927.....	53.0	54.9	56.1	54.5	53.4	45.9	38.7	...	...	54.5
1928.....	63.9	54.9	55.6	45.5	47.5	48.1	36.2	60.2	116.7	53.0
1929.....	53.1	56.6	47.2	46.1	40.9	56.2	34.1	18.9	19.6	51.1
1930.....	50.6	49.8	46.5	40.2	48.3	46.7	34.5	70.4	24.4	47.2
1931.....	46.0	43.5	44.5	36.6	36.5	41.5	32.2	83.3	37.3	42.1
1932.....	41.2	41.1	43.0	40.3	36.6	44.6	31.2	75.9	26.5	41.3
1933.....	41.1	39.3	40.4	42.6	31.9	36.8	31.6	94.6	53.4	39.5
1934.....	42.3	46.4	44.6	40.6	35.6	40.9	32.1	68.18	7.46	43.6
1935.....	51.8	39.4	41.2	37.8	34.9	40.2	32.3	83.3	47.3	39.8
1936.....	49.6	43.5	42.3	36.3	31.1	42.2	31.0	26.6	25.3	41.1
1937.....	41.7	40.7	36.7	35.6	33.1	37.5	31.2	30.3	14.5	38.1

TABLE H.

TABLE showing the Principal Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 Year of Age in Tasmania in each Year from 1928 to 1937.

Causes of Deaths.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
7. Measles	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
8. Scarlet Fever, &c .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Whooping Cough	19	11	3	8	3	4	7	...	7	4
10. Diphtheria and Croup	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other Epidemic Diseases .....	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	4	4	1
22. Tetanus .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
24. Tubercular Meningitis	2	1	1	2	1	...	2	1	...	...
34. Syphilis	3	2	1	1	1	...	1	...	2	2
86. Convulsions	4	1	2	3	3	2	5	5	5	1
106. Bronchitis	5	1	3	1	2	...	1	2	2	...
107. Broncho-pneumonia	15	12	4	13	20	18	17	22	22	17
108, 109. Pneumonia	24	27	12	8	4	3	3	8	6	4
Other Diseases of the Stomach	1	2	1	1	1	...	1	1	3	...
119. Gastro-Enteritis, Diarrhoea, and Enteritis	37	21	23	12	8	9	19	10	4	...
157. Congenital Defects	17	31	28	23	14	24	11	24	28	11
159, 160. Premature Birth and Injury at Birth	101	72	100	86	69	73	64	90	89	93
158. Debility, Marasmus	34	31	25	16	20	13	21	16	15	22
161. Other Diseases of Early Infancy	14	17	20	14	20	20	11	20	23	29
Other Causes	20	25	18	30	18	19	15	27	15	17
Total	300	256	242	219	185	187	189	231	227	202
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 Births)	64.0	53.4	50.6	46.0	41.2	41.1	42.3	51.8	49.6	41.7
Total Births	4691	4797	4785	4762	4491	4553	4470	4456	4581	4841

TABLE I.

(Showing Ages and Causes of Death under One Year—1937).

Causes of Death and Classification Number.	Under 1 year.				
	Under 1 week.	1 week and under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 1 year.
7. Measles .....	...	...	...	1	1
9. Whooping Cough .....	...	...	...	2	2
16. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...	...	1	1
34. Syphilis .....	...	...	1	1	2
44b. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases .....	...	...	1	...	1
67. Diseases of the Thymus Gland	1	...	...	...	1
79a. Simple Meningitis .....	...	...	...	1	1
86. Convulsions of Infants	1	...	...	...	1
89. Disease of Ear and Mastoid Process .....	...	...	1	...	1
105. Disease of Larynx	1	...	...	...	1
107a. Broncho-Pneumonia	1	2	1	6	7
108. Lobar Pneumonia .....	...	...	1	1	2
122b. Intestinal Obstruction .....	...	...	2	...	2
129. Peritonitis (cause unspecified) .....	...	1	...	...	1
131. Chronic Nephritis .....	...	...	...	1	1
133. Other Diseases of Kidneys, Renal Pelvis and Ureters .....	...	...	...	1	1
138. Disease of Male Genital Organs (not Venereal)	1	...	...	...	1
152. Cellulitis (Acute Abscess) .....	...	...	1	...	1
153. Other Diseases of the Skin and Annexa and Cellular Tissues .....	...	...	1	...	1
157. Congenital Malformations	9	...	...	2	11
158. Congenital Debility	11	3	2	1	5
159. Premature Birth	64	9	1	1	75
160. Injury at Birth	15	2	1	...	18
161a. Atelectasis	14	...	1	...	15
161b. Icterus Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	1
161c. Disease of Umbilicus	1	...	...	...	1
161d. Sclerema and others	11	1	...	...	12
182. Accidental Mechanical Suffocation .....	...	...	1	1	2
186. Accidental Fall	1	...	...	1	2
Total	130	19	10	19	24
					202

TABLE J.

Comparative Figures of Principal Causes of Deaths under One Year during 1933-1937.

Causes of Death.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Whooping Cough	4	7	...	7	4
Convulsions	3	5	5	5	1
Bronchitis .....	...	1	2	2	...
Broncho-Pneumonia	18	17	22	22	17
Pneumonia	3	3	8	6	4
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	9	19	10	4	...
Congenital Debility	13	16	16	15	22
Syphilis .....	...	1	...	2	2
Malformations	24	11	24	28	11
Prematurity and injury at Birth	73	69	90	89	93
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	20	21	20	23	29

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Amendment of Regulations.—The regulations in force under this law were amended in the following directions on the 22nd April, 1937:—

I. By expunging Clause 4, of Regulation 36, and substituting the following new Clause 4:

"Soluble Cocoa or Cocoa Essence.

4. Soluble cocoa, or cocoa essence, is the product obtained by treating cocoa paste, deprived or not of a portion of its fat. The water-free and fat-free content shall contain not more than ten and five-tenths parts per centum of total alkalinity, estimated as potassium carbonate, and its water-and-fat-and-alkali-free residue shall conform to the general standard contained in Clause 2 above."

II. By inserting after Clause 7, of Regulation 36, the following new Clause 7A:

"Milk Chocolate.

7A. Milk chocolate is cocoa paste or soluble cocoa mixed with sugar, full-cream milk solids, cocoa fat, and with or without spices or harmless flavourings. It shall contain not less than fifteen parts per centum of full-cream milk solids and not less than three parts per centum of fat-free and water-free cocoa, and the water-free, fat-free, and alkali-free cocoa content shall conform to the general standard contained in Clause 2 above."

III. By deleting from Clause (1), of Regulation 81, as inserted on the twenty-second day of November, 1932, the words and figures "Orange Shade: 150 Orange 1," and substituting the words and figures—

"Orange Shades:

150 Orange I.

151 Orange II."

and by inserting at the end of that clause the words and figures—

"Brown Shade:

331 Bismarck Brown."

Food Standards Committee.—The Committee met on one occasion during the year, for the purpose of considering various matters calling for decisions by this body.

Mr. N. P. Booth was re-appointed a member of the Committee for a further period of two years from the 25th October, 1937.

Eggs.—Close attention has been directed to the requirements of the regulations governing the sale of this food product.

Scallops.—At the instigation of an officer appointed an inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, for the specific purpose of devoting attention to premises utilised for the preparation and sale of fish, a large supply of scallops was seized and destroyed, in view of unfitness for human consumption.

Bread.—Vehicles engaged in the delivery of bread in the City of Hobart were required to be provided with permanent fly and dust proof enclosures; the use of canvas coverings not being allowed.

Spirituuous Liquors.—Liquors sold at hotels and other licensed premises have been tested for their alcoholic strength.

Lemon Squash.—Lemon-juice cordial, a drink sold as "Lemon squash," was required to be labelled to comply with the appropriate standard.

Mutton Bird Industry.—The close attention directed to this matter over a period of years has been instrumental in placing the industry on a most satisfactory footing, with beneficial results both to those persons responsible for placing the birds on the market, and to the consumer.

Offences.—Legal proceedings were successfully instituted in nine cases for the sale of adulterated foodstuffs, the fines and costs amounting to £32 1s. 6d.

General.—During the course of visitations made by officers of the Department to various municipal districts throughout the State, due attention was paid to premises utilised for the preparation, sale, and storage of food.

Food Sampling.—References to the work performed under this heading are contained in Appendices II. and III.

BUSH NURSING.

The value of this service to the people of the districts in which bush nurses function may be estimated by reference to the summary of the work performed during the year. In many districts the nurse acts as an advanced aid-post for the relief of the sick and suffering, and thus tends to alleviate many of the hardships resulting from comparative isolation. With the facilities offering under the Bush Nursing Scheme, there is no need for any district to lack nursing help and assistance, and in this regard it is pleasing to record that, during the year, many initial inquiries have been forthcoming for the establishment of additional centres.

The difficulty associated with securing nurses for Bush Nursing positions still prevails, although added inducement by way of increased remuneration has been provided for. It is practically obligatory on our part to accept the services of any person, so long as she possesses the necessary qualifications.

TABLE K.

SUMMARY of Work Performed in Bush Nursing Centres during the Year ended 31st December, 1937.

Centre.	Visits to Nurse.	Visits to Patients.	Nursing Days.	Maternity Cases.	Ante-natal Visits.	Child Welfare Visits.	School Visits.	Mileage.	Fees Earned.	Ward Beds.
									£ s. d.	
Adamsfield	206	436	...	...	5	13	...	268	...	2
Avoca	168	334	30	3	14	132	19	578	38 17 6	...
Brany Island.	176	86	132	6	21	21	2	915	102 11 11	2
Burnie .....	...	547	38	26	90	1989	2	5592	107 0 0	...
Cygnat	208	586	8	8	41	424	18	3742	161 0 6	...
Flinders Island	125	98	53	5	43	65	3	932	49 2 3	...
Lilydale	221	518	1	9	66	551	32	3592	122 12 11	...
Marawah	365	224	124	3	21	101	...	1739	79 5 3	2
Ouse	253	80	163	8	36	137	2	858	67 13 10	1
Ringarooma	236	858	30	11	53	156	1	2050	137 18 6	...
Rosebery	3046	889	162	19	58	95	2	687	...	2
Rossarden	719	911	68	2	15	31	6	2142	...	...
Southport	109	126	20	2	11	66	14	1653	51 11 2	2
Swansea	156	391	93	14	44	356	2	738	108 16 2	...
Tasman	166	374	249	15	57	44	1	5904	215 12 4	4
Tullah	1278	1296	67	2	74	88	5	838	...	2
Ulverstone	27	609	44	19	162	2138	28	5404	67 15 6	...
Waratah	801	682	88	14	95	90	...	996	...	1
Total.....	8241	9045	1370	166	906	6497	137	38,988	1309 17 10	18

The Department, chiefly through its Supervisory Nurse, has kept in close touch with the activities of each Bush Nursing Centre, for the purpose of tendering both the local committee and nurse any information or advice that has been desired.

The Bush Nursing Associations (North and South) continue to play an important part in this field of service. Both these bodies are ever willing and ready to render practical assistance towards the development of Bush Nursing. Needless to say, the co-operation and support of these associations is much appreciated.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this report, I desire to place on record my appreciation of the support and co-operation received from officers of the Department during the year.

My thanks are also due to officers of other Departments for the courteous assistance rendered to me on many occasions.

I have, &c.

B. M. CARRUTHERS,

Director of Public Health.

The Hon. the Minister for Health.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

REPORT OF GOVERNMENT PATHOLOGIST.

Pathological Laboratory,
Royal Hobart Hospital,
Hobart, 1st June, 1938.

SIR,

THE staff consists of—

C. Duncan, M.B., Pathologist.
G. Hadow, Bacteriologist.
R. Prouse, Assistant.

During the year the laboratory continued to perform routine pathological work for Government Departments, the Royal Hobart Hospital, and private practitioners—all infectious work being done free for the last mentioned.

No. 1.—Bacteriology and Serology.

	No. of Specimens.	Positives.
Diphtheria—		
Cultures	5,338	517
Direct smears	1	—
Gonorrhoea—		
Smears	959	221
G.C.F.T.	28	11
Syphilis—		
Dark-ground illumination	1	—
Wassermann reaction	48	24
Kline test (blood)	307	58
Kline test (C.S.F.)	35	2
Tuberculosis—		
Sputum	1,289	353
Pleural fluid	11	—
Urine	35	—
C.S.F.	5	2
Fæces	1	1
Miscellaneous sources	10	1
Guinea-pig inoculation	3	1
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers—		
Blood agglutinations	54	10
Fæces for culture	39	2
Urine for culture	30	—
Milk for culture	3	—
Dysentery—Fæces for culture	35	4
Vincent's angina smears	20	6
Scarlet fever—Culture	16	—
Undulant fever—Blood agglutination	8	—
Trichomonas vaginalis—Smears	62	22
Hydatid elements—Sputum	5	1
Actino mycosis	1	—
Other cultures—		
Routine swabs for hæmolytic streptococci	765	15
Urine	58	17
Blood cultures	40	8
Pus	42	36
Cerebro-spinal fluid	27	1
Pleural fluid	29	7
Eyes	61	37
Knee-joint fluid, &c.	10	6
Total	9,376	—

No. 2.—Pathological Examinations.

Blood—		
Red cell count	211	—
White cell count	238	—
Hæmoglobin estimation	201	—
Film	160	—
Differential count	13	—
Sedimentation rate	38	—
Reticulo-cyte count	4	—
Grouping	16	—
Direct typing	28	—
Coagulation time	12	—
Bleeding time	4	—
Urea	142	—
Sugar	26	—
Calcium	3	—

Cerebro-spinal fluid—	No. of Specimens.	Positives.
Cell count	100	—
Chlorides, protein, &c.	89	—
Urea	7	—
Urine—		
Microscopical examination	720	—
Chemical examination	20	—
Urea	40	—
Fæces—		
Microscopical examination	27	—
Occult blood	144	98
Test meals	34	—
Vaccines	4	—
Sections—		
Biopsies	212	—
Post mortem, &c.	50	—
Frozen	5	—
Miscellaneous examinations	20	—
Total	2,568	—

No. 3.—Foods, Waters, &c.

Water—		
Quantitative analysis	16	—
Qualitative analysis	16	—
Milk—Bacterial count	3	—

No. 4.—Autopsies and Court Attendances.

Autopsies for hospitals	28
Autopsies for coroner	70
Attendances at Coroner's Court	48
Attendances at Criminal Court	2

I have, &c.,

C. DUNCAN,

Government Pathologist.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX II.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 2nd June, 1938.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following report of the work performed by the inspectorial staff of the Department during the year ended the 31st December, 1937.

Staff.

The staff consists of the following officers:—Chief Inspector J. Riley, M.R.S.I.; Inspector H. H. Parker, A.R.S.I.; and Inspector H. D'Alton, A.R.S.I.—stationed at Hobart; Inspector D. S. Clark, Cert. R.S.I.; and Inspector T. Orr, Cert. R.S.I.—stationed at Launceston.

Routine Sanitary Surveys and General Inspections.

The staff was employed carrying out routine sanitary surveys and general inspections during the months prior to the onset of the epidemic of infantile paralysis in October. During that period visits were made to the majority of municipalities throughout the State. With the object of ascertaining the action taken by certain local authorities to give effect to previous recommendations, follow-up inspections were also made.

A number of special inspections were carried out at the request of local authorities. These were chiefly in regard to technical matters, and it is pleasing to note that the services rendered in this regard were gratefully acknowledged by the parties concerned.

Details of inspections made during sanitary surveys, and in the course of general and special inspections under the various laws administered by the Department, are set out hereunder:—

	No. of Inspections.	Improvements Required.
Butchers' shops and other food premises	447	102
Places of public entertainment and public buildings, including plans of new buildings and alterations to existing buildings	241	82
Hotels and licensed premises	53	—
Factories Act	124	36
Slaughterhouses (private)	153	23
Dairying premises	178	54
Schools (public and private)	148	21
Bakeries	177	22
Bacteriolytic tanks and sites	234	35
Water supplies and pollution of same	50	10
Drainage work	103	27
Racecourses, showgrounds, &c.	72	14
Offensive trades	97	17
Garbage depots and services	67	4
Sanitary depots and services	48	2
Hospitals (public and private)	133	20
Cemeteries and burial grounds	4	1
Infectious diseases, outbreaks of (excluding infantile paralysis)	23	—
Municipal abattoirs	5	2
Cattle sale-yards	25	3
Sewage disposal in rivers and streams (also outfalls)	28	4
Water samples	7	—
Wharves, jetties, and river frontages (not under the control of a local authority)	10	2
Boarding-houses	46	9
Insanitary buildings and condemned dwellings	22	16
Miscellaneous	69	18
Hop-pickers and small fruit orchards	123	37

Infantile Paralysis.

The epidemic of infantile paralysis, which first manifested itself in a congested area of the City of Launceston, tested the whole resources of the Department. At the inception of the outbreak most of the officers of the inspectorial staff at Head Office were transferred to Launceston for the performance of various duties designed to prevent the spread of infection. By this means effective organisation was immediately achieved. Various officers of the Police and Education Departments also rendered much assistance.

At the outbreak of the epidemic in Hobart in December, the City Council of Hobart, following on the lines adopted by the City Council of Launceston, co-operated with the Central Department in every possible way.

Lectures and Practical Demonstrations at Technical Colleges, Hobart and Launceston.

At the instigation of this Department, the Education Department commenced courses of lectures and demonstrations at the technical colleges, Hobart and Launceston, to enable students to obtain knowledge of the subjects necessary to qualify for the certificates of meat inspection and practical sanitation, issued by the Royal Sanitary Institute, London.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

Several investigations, involving numerous inspections, were made in connection with the protection of rivers and streams from pollution due to sewage outfalls, and discharge of sawdust from sawmills into creeks, &c.

Hopfields and Small Fruit Orchards.

It is pleasing to record that, due to repeated inspections, considerable improvements have been made in regard to providing suitable housing accommodation for persons employed in hopfields and small fruit orchards. Special attention was first given to overcrowding, followed by enforcement of the by-laws for the provision of sufficient cubic space for the inmates of huts, efficient ventilation and lighting, the provision of water supplies, and separate sanitary accommodation for the sexes.

Food and Drugs.

The number of food and drug samples purchased for analysis from January to November was 169. The Government Analyst reported that seventeen of these samples were found to be adulterated. Prosecutions were recommended in fourteen cases (five of which were withdrawn); and fines amounting to £32 1s. 6d. inflicted. Warnings were issued in eight cases, following the usual procedure in regard to first offenders or where some reasonable doubt existed.

The chief food seizures included mutton birds, scallops, and tins of skimmed milk.

Sixty-nine hotels were visited for spirit testing, and 731 samples tested.

Under the Sale of Bread Act, 43 bakehouses were visited, and all bread, other than fancy bread, tested.

A complete list of the samples taken (52 different varieties) is shown hereunder:—

List of Food and Drug Samples Taken, 1937.

Butter (factory)	11
Butter (dairy)	9
Cream (bottled)	14
Sild	9
Canned oysters	1
Cream of tartar	1
Cocoa	4
Tomato sauce	4
Lemon squash	1
Aspro	2
A.P.C.	2
Tincture of iodine	2
Liquid paraffin	1
Rum	3
Mixed spice	1
Cereals	2
Lemon cordial (imitation)	1
Lemon juice cordials	2
Raspberry cordial	1
Cordial extract	1
Salad oil	1
Olive oil	2
Mutton-bird oil	1
Condensed milk	7
Milk	51
Water	2
Salmon	2
Lobster paste	1
Scallops (tinned)	1
Herrings	1
Coffee and chicory	6
Coffee	2
Vinegar	6
Sausages	14
Bicarbonate of soda	2
Preserved peaches	1
Margarine	5
Cheese	2
Baking powder	1
Honey	3
Camp pie	1
Pepper	1
Bloater paste	1
Game squabs	1
Ox tail soup	1
Green peas	1
Vitamite	2
Ground ginger	1
Ale ("Dinkum")	1
Jelly crystals	1
Mixed peel	1
Tooth paste	1

Total number of samples 169

Variety of samples 52

Conference of Instruction, Sydney, N.S.W.

Inspector H. D'Alton was afforded facilities to attend the Health Inspectors' Conference at Sydney in September, where he had the opportunity of hearing lectures and attending demonstrations given by scientists and other persons holding important positions in public health work.

Mutton Bird Industry, Flinders Island.

The annual inspection of the buildings and equipment in connection with the mutton bird industry at Flinders' Island and adjacent islands was carried out by Inspector Parker during the month of April. General improvements were noted on all islands visited.

The industry can now be said to be carried on under more hygienic conditions, and generally to be in conformity with the regulations under the Food and Drugs Act.

I have, &c.,

J. RILEY, Chief Health Inspector,
The Director of Public Health.

Return Showing Sources of Samples Examined in the Government Analyst's Laboratory During 1937.

	No. of Samples.
Customs Department (Commonwealth)	385
Public Health Department	201
Railway Department	76
Police Department	17
Other Government departments	21
Hobart local authority	172
Other municipalities	96
Hospitals and clinics	93
Private firms and persons	124
Total	1,185

Butter.

Sixteen samples intended for export contained over 16 per cent. of water, but the excess was small in all cases. One for the local market contained foreign fat, and one contained an excess of 38.7 per cent. of water above the maximum allowed.

Cream and Condensed Milk.

One cream was deficient in milk fat, and another slightly so. Two contained excess of boric acid.

One sweetened condensed milk was unfit for food as a result of faulty manufacture.

Milk.

Twenty-three samples, being 6.4 per cent. of the total received, were deficient or adulterated. This number is again an improvement on that for the previous year. Only six were proved to contain added water. Two showed all-round deficiency, six were deficient in milk fat up to 36 per cent. of the minimum requirement, and six were deficient in solids-not-fat. The remainder were only slightly deficient.

Mineral Lubricating Oils.

Sixty-six were examined for the Railway Department, 8 or 9 determinations being required on each sample, and they were found not to be in accordance with specifications in respect of 45 determinations.

Coffee and Chicory.

Only one sample contained a slight excess of chicory.

Poisons.

Methyl salicylate was found in one case of poisoning of a man. Lead arsenate was found, in excess of the small amount allowed, on five samples of imported tomatoes.

Sausages.

Excess of starch was found in seven samples to the extent of the following percentages of the maximum allowed:—20 per cent., 45 per cent., 48 per cent., 80 per cent., 83 per cent., 88 per cent., and 100 per cent.

Laboratory at the Model School.

The samples received at the above laboratory during the year 1937 are tabulated below:—

	Number of Samples.
Sprays	10
Dairy products	67
Veterinary specimens	104
Waters	34
Soils	70
Fertilisers	52
Limes, &c.	11
Miscellaneous	21

The sprays were from farmers and horticultural officers, principally in cases where results were not satisfactory. No samples were taken under the Insecticide Act, but I understand this will receive attention from inspectors during next year.

The dairy products were principally milk vendors' samples, as it has been found desirable for vendors who purchase milk for distribution to have samples analysed at frequent intervals to protect themselves and consumers.

APPENDIX III.

Government Analyst's Laboratory,
Hobart, 19th May, 1938.

SIR,

In submitting my report in connection with the work of the chemical laboratories for the year 1937, I have again to draw attention to the fact that another year has now passed without anything being done to remedy the very bad conditions under which Mr. Johnstone is obliged to work. It is hoped that something will be done before his health, or that of his assistant, becomes seriously affected.

We are still far behind the times so far as equipment is concerned, and it is earnestly hoped that an increased sum will be placed on the Estimates for the coming financial year in order that we may keep more in touch with modern developments.

The amount received from the Commonwealth Government during the year for work performed for the Customs Department was £217 5s. 4d.

Fees received from municipalities and from private firms and persons amounted to £169 10s. 6d.

Samples Examined in the Government Analyst's Laboratory During the Year 1937.

	No. of Samples.
Baking powder and self-raising flour	6
Beer and cordials	11
Butter	216
Cereals	7
Cheese	2
Confectionery, honey, and sugar	6
Cream and condensed milk	25
Drugs and chemicals	41
Essences	6
Fertilisers	29
Fish, fresh and canned	18
Fruit and vegetables, canned	3
Hydrometers	7
Kerosene and turpentine	18
Meat and meat products	21
Milk, cows'	357
Milk, human	39
Minerals and metals	10
Motor spirit	14
Oils and fats, edible	13
Oils, lubricating	176
Paint	7
Poisons and other tests for Police Department	34
Sauces and condiments	9
Spirits and wines	12
Tea, coffee, cocoa	12
Textiles and paper	2
Thermometers	4
Vinegar	6
Water and effluents	51
Miscellaneous	23
Total	1,185

Several butter samples were received from factories, and several for boric acid tests from dairy officers. In only a few cases was it found that farmers were adding boric acid to cream.

The veterinary samples were nearly all from veterinary officers of the Agricultural Department, and consisted of specimens of viscera and toxicological specimens. Arsenic was found in some of these specimens, and greater care should be taken by farmers and others in preventing access of stock to supplies of this substance. Strychnine was also found in a few cases, and special care should be taken to keep rabbit poison from stock.

Water samples were mostly from farms, with requests for a report as to suitability for stock use. Several samples were from orchardists who were experiencing difficulty in mixing and applying sprays.

Seventy soil samples were forwarded for examination, the majority of which were from officers of the Agricultural Department; analyses being required by these officers in connection with problems relating to their advisory and investigation work.

Four samples of fertilisers were received from merchants and farmers, and 48 were samples taken under the Fertiliser Act. These all complied with analyses stated on labels, and no prosecutions were necessary.

The lime samples were from farmers who have deposits of limestone and marl on their properties. There appear

to be a number of deposits of good marl throughout the State, and more use could be made of them with profit to the farmers, as lime deficiency is noted in nearly all soils.

The miscellaneous samples received were grains, grasses, rocks, &c.

I have, &c.,

E. WARD, Government Analyst.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX IV.

Child Welfare Association,

Hobart, 15th March, 1938.

SIR,

The following report gives a brief account of the work of the nurses for the year 1937:—

Visits paid by nurses and attendances at the clinics are summarised hereunder:—

Summary of the Work of the Nurses.

Centre.	Visits to Individual New-born Babies.	Subsequent Visits to Mothers.	Visits to Expectant Mothers.	Individual Babies Attending.	Total Attendances by Babies.	Total Attendances by Expectant Mothers.
Hobart	451	4538	91	1093	8461	122
North Hobart	306	1337	73	475	4531	121
Moonah	158	1492	83	329	3484	112
Glenorchy	46	370	13	100	751	13
Bellerive	16	115	11	74	781	7
New Norfolk	85	215	3	118	1030	6
Georgetown	2	9	—	75	470	1
Huonville	1	23	—	85	422	4
Total	1065	8099	274	2349	19,930	386

Centres.

The New Norfolk is open on alternate Mondays as well as every Friday afternoon.

At North Hobart the Clinic is open every Thursday evening for pre-natal attendances, and at Moonah by appointment in the evening.

Correspondence.

Letters numbering 130 were received from mothers requiring advice in regard to the feeding and care of their babies, and 318 printed leaflets were posted to mothers living beyond our visiting area.

Broadcasting.

At the request of the management of 7HT, a weekly talk on "The Feeding and Care of Baby" has been broadcast.

Classes.

Nine classes of girls from the State schools have attended a course of lessons in mothercraft.

A class of girl guides also attended a course of instruction in order to obtain the Child Nurse Badge.

General.

Students from the Mothercraft Home have attended the centres during their course of training to gain experience in district work. Milk has been given to 53 mothers with young babies. Creches were held at the Hobart Regatta and the Royal Agricultural and Pastoral Show.

I have, &c.,

C. BONNILY, Sister-in-Charge.

The Director of Public Health.

Baby Health Association,

Launceston, 15th March, 1938.

SIR,

The following is a report of our work for the eight months ended 31st August, 1937:—

Number of attendances at the Launceston Clinic	7,945
Number of attendances at the Invermay Clinic	1,210
Number of attendances at the Newstead Clinic	1,600
Number of attendances at the Sandhill Clinic	403
Total attendances at clinics	11,158
Number of new babies at the Launceston Clinic	350
Number of new babies at the Invermay Clinic	58
Number of new babies at the Newstead Clinic	54
Number of new babies at the Sandhill Clinic	18
Total new babies at clinics	480
Number of visits paid to homes by the sisters	1,621
Number of new babies visited in their homes	479
Number of expectant mothers at the clinics	155
Number of expectant mothers visited in their homes	65

Letters and Literature.

One hundred and five letters have been written to country mothers, who have sought advice about the feeding and care of their babies. An article dealing with child

welfare has been published weekly in "The Examiner," and quarterly in the "Journal of Agriculture." Literature has been distributed where necessary.

Mothercraft Lectures.

The holding of weekly classes at the clinic, when the senior girls of the various State Schools are instructed in certain phases of mothercraft, is an outstanding feature of our work. Students from the colleges have also been included in this section. Lectures have also been given to Mothers' Unions, Young People's Associations, and elsewhere.

General.

Milk has been supplied continuously to necessitous cases, averaging 15 mothers weekly, and kariol and kariolac have been given gratis when an urgent need has arisen. Various organisations have again generously donated baby clothing, which has been distributed to mothers in poor circumstances.

Concerning our actual work among the babies, we feel that the time given to individual mothers and babies is insufficient, and we reiterate that there is a definite need for the appointment of another nurse.

I have, &c.,

O. M. GREEN, Sister-in-Charge.

The Director of Public Health.

Devonport Child Welfare Association—Report for Year 1937.

	No. of Days on which Clinic was open.	Total Attendances at Clinic.	Daily Average of Attendances.	Individual Babies.	First Visits.	Ante-Natal Visits.	Referred to Doctor.		Advice given by Letter.	Advice given by Telephone.	Visits by Nurse to Homes.				
							Babies.	Mothers.			Effective.	Ineffective.	Pre-Natal.	Newly-born Babies.	Total Visits.
January ...	24	72	3.0	33	6	2	1	3	1	...	23	5	...	11	28
February ...	23	76	3.3	32	4	3	2	...	...	...	25	9	2	5	34
March	24	78	3.2	36	6	1	2	2	1	...	30	2	3	4	32
April	26	83	3.1	36	7	1	1	3	3	...	41	5	3	5	46
May	25	90	3.6	35	8	1	3	2	1	...	31	4	2	7	85
June	24	118	4.9	45	7	3	4	2	2	...	31	4	...	6	35
July	27	107	3.9	46	12	1	2	2	4	...	43	...	1	3	43
August ...	26	139	5.3	52	11	3	3	6	3	...	38	1	3	5	39
September	26	138	5.3	57	7	3	1	3	1	...	46	5	4	8	51
October ...	25	130	5.2	55	8	5	...	1	1	...	32	4	7	2	36
November	25	112	4.4	43	6	5	4	2	4	2	36	6	2	9	42
December	25	85	3.4	37	10	2	4	2	3	3	41	5	...	7	46
Totals for Year...	300	1228	4.0	141	92	30	27	28	24	5	417	50	27	72	467

R. H. LADE, Sister-in-Charge.

APPENDIX V.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 20th April, 1938.

The Nurses' Registration Act, 1927.

SIR,

We have the honour to present the annual report of the Nurses' Registration Board for the year 1937.

Personnel of Board.

Director of Public Health (Dr. B. M. Carruthers),
Chairman.
Surgeon-Superintendent, Royal Hobart Hospital.
Medical Superintendent, Launceston Public Hospital.
Dr. T. C. Butler.
Matrons M. McGrath, C. I. Skirving, and I. E. Macfarlan.

Meetings of Board.

The Board held three general meetings for the transaction of its business.

Training Schools.

Twenty hospitals are recognised as training schools—15 for general, four for midwifery, and one for mental nurses.

Pupil Nurses.

Pupil nurses to the number of 432 (321 general, 41 midwifery, and 70 mental) were in training during the year. Applications for training received during that period totalled 161, 142 of which were approved.

Examinations.

The Board conducted three examinations for registration as general and midwifery nurses—two at Hobart and two at Launceston.

Thirty-three persons presented themselves for examination in general nursing. Of these, 31 passed the necessary examination and two failed. In the midwifery section, 40 persons presented themselves for examination. These all passed.

Educational examinations for intending trainees were arranged on four occasions. Fifty-one applications were received for these examinations, and of these candidates 20 passed and 31 failed.

Applications for Registration.

General Nurses—	
Number of applications	79
Number approved	77
Midwifery Nurses—	
Number of applications	49
Number approved	49
Mental Nurses—	
Number of applications	4
Number approved	4

Applications for Renewal of Registration.

General nurses	380
Midwifery nurses	280
Mental nurses	5

Inspections.

The supervisory nurse attached to the Department of Public Health carried out 364 inspections in connection with the practice of midwifery nurses.

The Hon. the Minister for Health.

	1922.	1936.	1957.
New South Wales	25-67	17-31	17-63
Victoria	23-10	15-63	16-01
Queensland	25-59	19-07	19-36
South Australia	23-71	15-17	15-25
West Australia	23-94	18-84	18-95
Tasmania	27-08	19-84	20-69
Northern Territory	19-16	21-50	18-30
Federal Capital Territory	11-37	16-18	20-30
Commonwealth	24-69	17-13	17-43

Total	233,951
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(As compared with the previous year and a year in the previous decade.)

	1922.	1936.	1937.
New South Wales	8-92	9-14	9-36
Victoria	9-65	10-16	10-03
Queensland	9-16	8-68	9-10
South Australia	9-11	9-30	8-91
West Australia	9-32	9-40	8-95
Tasmania	9-30	10-34	9-51
Northern Territory	16-42	11-42	11-64
Federal Capital Territory	2-13	4-51	4-12
Commonwealth	9-22	9-43	9-44

Deaths in Relation to Disease.

The following return, from data supplied by the Government Statistician, shows the number and causes of deaths during the year 1937, also the death-rate per 10,000 persons living (mean population 233,951), as contrasted with the previous year, 1936 (mean population estimated at 231,046).

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths, 1936.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.	Number of Deaths, 1937.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.
General Diseases—				
Typhoid Fever	1	...	3	·1
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...
Measles	7	·3	3	·1
Scarlet Fever	6	·3	2	·1
Whooping Cough	11	·5	5	·2
Diphtheria and Croup	20	·9	12	·5
Influenza	7	·3	5	·2
Dysentery .....	...	...	3	·1
Syphilis	10	·4	9	·4
Tubercular Diseases	135	5·8	120	5·1
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism, and Gout	11	·5	16	·7
Cancer, all forms	283	12·3	288	12·4
Dietic Diseases and Industrial Poisoning .....	...	...	2	·1
Other General Diseases	100	4·3	103	4·4
Total General	591	25·6	571	24·4
Local Diseases—				
Diseases of Nervous System...	173	7·5	150	6·4
Diseases of Circulatory System	720	31·2	616	26·3
Diseases of Respiratory Organs	259	11·2	224	9·6
Diseases of Digestive Organs	95	4·1	99	4·2
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	113	4·9	158	6·8
Diseases of Puerperal Origin...	35	1·5	19	·8
Diseases of the Skin	13	·6	11	·5
Diseases of Bones and Malformations	37	1·6	18	·8
Diseases of Early Infancy	127	5·5	144	6·2
Total Local Diseases	1572	68·1	1439	61·5
Deaths Produced by External Causes—				
Accident or Negligence	120	5·2	136	5·8
Homicide	6	·3	4	·2
Suicide	22	·9	20	·8
Total External Causes	148	6·4	160	6·8
Ill-defined—Not Specific Diseases—				
Old Age	65	2·8	53	2·3
Ill-defined Diseases	11	·5	2	·1
Total Ill-defined Diseases	76	3·3	55	2·4
Total Deaths, All Causes	2387	103·4	2225	95·1

RETURN Showing the Number of Deaths from Typhoid during the last Ten Years under Age Groups.

Year.	Under 5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-25.	25-30.	30-35.	35-40.	40-45.	45-50.	50-55.	55-60.	60-65.	65 and over.	Total all Ages.	Per-sons
1928...
29...
30...
31...
32...
33...
34...
35...
36...
37...
Totals

DEATHS from Tuberculosis during the last Ten Years.

	Number.										Death Rate per 100,000 Persons Living.									
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (No. 23)	107	96	111	98	106	112	93	105	112	86	49	44	50	43	47	49	41	46	48	37
Other forms of Tuberculosis (Nos. 24-32)	31	30	18	24	26	15	19	25	23	34	15	14	8	11	11	7	8	11	10	14
Totals	138	126	129	122	132	127	112	130	135	120	64	58	58	54	58	56	49	57	58	51

Typhoid Fever.

Year, 1937.

Number of cases notified	26
Number of deaths, year 1937 (calendar)—	
Males	1
Females	2

Diphtheria.

Year, 1937.

Number of cases notified	305
Number of deaths, year 1937 (calendar)—	
Males	9
Females	3

Scarlet Fever.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living.	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of cases.
1923	604	3	.1	2.79	5.0	0.5
1924	376	3	.1	1.74	8.0	0.8
1925	288	3	.1	1.34	10.4	1.0
1926	188	1	.05	.88	5.3	0.5
1927	91	2	.1	.43	22.0	2.2
1928	190	1	.05	.88	5.3	0.5
1929	314	2	.1	1.44	6.4	0.6
1930	485	8	.4	2.20	16.5	1.6
1931	265			1.18		
1932	417	5	.2	1.84	12.0	1.2
1933	370	4	.2	1.61	10.9	1.1
1934	362	4	.2	1.58	11.0	1.1
1935	302	1	.05	1.32	3.3	0.3
1936	478	6	.3	2.07	12.6	1.3
1937	412	2	.1	1.76	4.9	0.5

Diphtheria.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living.	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of cases.
1923	870	32	1.5	4.02	36.8	3.7
1924	597	20	.9	2.76	33.5	3.4
1925	473	13	.6	2.19	27.5	2.7
1926	347	6	.3	1.62	17.1	1.7
1927	507	10	.5	2.38	19.7	2.0
1928	908	18	.8	4.21	19.8	2.0
1929	488	18	.8	2.24	36.9	3.7
1930	573	20	.9	2.59	34.9	3.5
1931	589	19	.8	2.62	32.3	3.2
1932	455	17	.8	1.96	37.4	3.7
1933	706	16	.7	3.14	22.3	2.2
1934	491	22	.9	2.14	44.8	4.5
1935	537	24	1.0	2.34	44.7	4.5
1936	575	20	.9	2.49	34.8	3.5
1937	305	12	.5	1.30	39.3	3.9

APPENDIX VII.

ANNUAL REPORT OF LACHLAN PARK HOSPITAL.

Lachlan Park Hospital, New Norfolk,
7th July, 1938.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Lachlan Park Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 1938, together with the statistical returns.

General Statistics.

On the 1st July, 1937, the number of patients on the register was 317 males and 329 females. During the year 60 males and 61 females were admitted, making the total under treatment 377 males and 390 females. The number discharged was 81. Of these, 7 left the institution as recovered, 67 as relieved, and 7 unimproved. The number of deaths was 51. The number of patients remaining on the register on 30th June, 1938, was 310 males and 325 females, a total of 635, which was 11 less than at the commencement of the year. The daily number of patients was 633.78, compared with 631.56 the previous year. The proportion of certified insane to the general population of the State on 31st December, 1937, was 1 : 379.95, as compared with 1 : 374.29 at the end of the same month last year.

Admissions.

The number of patients admitted was 121, as compared with 126 the previous year. Of these, 78 were new cases and 43 re-admissions. The majority of patients admitted was between the ages of 20 and 30 years and 35 and 50 years, the average being 43 years, the same age as last year. A greater number of males was admitted between the ages of 20 years and 30 years, viz., 17 males against 8 females. Between the ages of 35 years and 50 years, 18 patients of each sex were admitted. The chief causes of insanity were heredity and senility.

Discharges.

The number of patients discharged as recovered was seven. Calculated on the number of admissions, the recovery rate was 5.78, which was higher than that recorded for last year, when it was 2.38. The number of patients discharged as improved was 67. Calculated on the number of admissions, the improved rate was 55.37 as against 43.64 last year. Seven patients were discharged as unimproved, as against 12 the previous year. Three of these patients were transferred to the Royal Hobart Hospital for treatment, and later re-admitted, four being discharged to the care of their relatives.

Deaths.

The number of deaths was 51, being six more than the previous year. The death rate, calculated on the average number of daily residents, was 8.04, this rate being slightly higher than last year, when it was 7.12. The average age at death was 56 years.

One death was due to a sporadic case of typhoid fever. The greater percentage of others being senility, bronchopneumonia, and cardio-vascular diseases.

Accidents.

Two female patients who sustained fractured fore-arms are now fully recovered. In each instance a full inquiry was made as to the cause of same, when it was found that both cases were through accidental falls.

General Health and Treatment.

The general health of the patients has been very satisfactory, and, with the exception of one isolated case of typhoid fever, there has been no serious outbreak of infectious diseases.

Since the old male refractory ward has been vacated and the patients transferred to the new buildings, there has been a noticeable decline in the incidence of pneumonia.

Therapeutically, the outstanding feature of the year has been the introduction of the insulin shock therapy and cardiazol treatment for cases of schizophrenia. The increase in the number of discharges, in spite of fewer admissions, is directly attributable to these very successful modes of therapy. Patients, who otherwise would have remained permanently in hospital as chronic demented, have had excellent remissions, and have subsequently been discharged. The cost of both these methods of treatment is very high, but this is undoubtedly offset by the excellent results that are being obtained.

During the year five patients underwent insulin shock therapy, and of these three have been discharged. Of the 12 treated by means of cardiazol, five have already been discharged. Malarial therapy introduced last year has been employed on five cases of neurosyphilis, of whom two have been discharged, one improved, but still in hospital, and two not improved.

With regard to occupational therapy, it is now claimed that practically every employable patient is engaged in some form of occupation. Recently one of the old disused wards has been converted into a room for male occupational therapy. A class for pottery-making has already been established, and, in the near future, it is expected that the activities will extend to cabinet work and basket-making. Several members of the Hobart Branch of the Lachlan Park Auxiliary visit the class each week and render valuable assistance in instructing patients. The female occupational therapy class is progressing most satisfactorily. An average of 16 patients attend daily, and the standard of their work is indeed very high.

It is expected that the creation of the new position of female hairdresser and manicurist will be of high therapeutic value to the female patients, when this officer takes up her duties this month.

Dental Work.

The visiting dentist (Mr. H. B. McChristie) has continued his high standard of efficiency in again attending to the dental needs of the patients.

Religious Services.

The various religious bodies have again conducted their good work throughout the year, and have been most attentive to the spiritual needs of the patients. It is pleasing to note that they devote just as much time to these people as to those living in happier circumstances. They are of great help to the staff, and their labour of love is much appreciated by the patients' relatives.

Amusement and Recreation.

During the year the usual dances, concerts, and picture entertainments were held. A talkie picture machine is badly needed at the hospital for the entertainment of the patients. Owing to the congestion of the present hall, only a limited number have been able to attend these functions. When the suggested new recreation hall is erected, it will be possible for a greater number to attend.

Again the hospital band rendered excellent service by playing in the airing courts on alternate Sunday afternoons, and at several dances. The usual Christmas tree festivities were again held and enjoyed by the patients. The annual picnic was held in February last. The patients attended the football matches, race meetings, and Anzac sports meeting. Now that the new sports oval is completed a long-felt want has been filled. The patients are now able to have better facilities for indulging generally in sport.

Hospital Auxiliaries.

It is pleasing to again report that the members of the Lachlan Park Hospital Auxiliaries, which are established at Hobart, Launceston, and many country centres, are providing numerous comforts for the patients, in the nature of bed socks, scarves, cardigans, dressing-gowns, fruit, cakes, easy-chairs, &c. The Hobart Branch, during the year, presented 12 very nice easy-chairs, upholstered in leather, which have been very much appreciated by the patients. During the year they arranged for patients to be taken for motor drives, and also for a number of patients to visit the Royal Hobart Centenary Regatta, where they were provided with lunch on the regatta ground. Material was supplied for the occupational therapy classes, and the Launceston Branch is assisting in providing the necessary material for the salon for the lady hairdresser.

The auxiliaries are also assisting the hospital to purchase a bedside X-ray plant on the £ for £ principal. Several members of the auxiliaries visited the hospital and talked to and endeavoured to brighten the lives of some of the lonely patients, both with kind words and gifts.

I cannot speak too highly of the excellent work done by these bodies, and must again express my deepest gratitude to them for the wonderful assistance they have rendered the hospital during the past year.

Farm.

During the past year an excellent supply of milk, eggs, and vegetables was produced on the hospital farm. Production was greater than the previous year, as will be seen from the undermentioned figures:—

		Value of Production.	
		1936-37.	1937-38.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Eggs and poultry	708 13 3	740 14 5	
Vegetables	639 5 6	752 7 5	
Milk	1,454 5 5	1,525 9 0	

The extra production of milk and eggs was sold to St. John's Park. The Royal Hobart Hospital was also supplied with a large quantity of fresh eggs. The increasing of the production at very little extra cost was the means of making a profit of over £300 during the year. This is the first year that the farm has earned a profit since 1934. If the farm was fully developed and an assured market found for the products, I am firmly of the opinion it would reveal a handsome profit annually.

It is again pointed out that a new dwelling should be erected for the farm overseer. The present residence is very old and damp and requires extensive repairs, which, owing to the antiquity of the building, would not be an economical proposition to carry out.

Buildings and Grounds.

The two new male wards which were completed last year were occupied during the year. The benefit of better surroundings and hygienic conditions which these buildings afford is already being felt. Recently two more wards have been completed. It is intended to occupy these in the near future. The female main building and the refractory ward require remodelling, as in their present state they are unsuitable for the treatment of mental patients.

It is again pointed out that the congestion at the laundry is very acute, and until additional accommodation is provided it is almost impossible to satisfactorily control the receipt and issue of the washing.

On vacating the old male refractory ward, a number of the rooms were converted into artisans' shops, thereby relieving the distressingly congested state of affairs under which the artisans had been previously working.

On account of the extensions made to the institution, the old lodge was found to be in an unsuitable position. At the present time the artisans are erecting a new lodge at the entrance to the avenue.

Great improvements have been, and are still being, made in the grounds of the institution. The patients, under the supervision of the groundsmen and attendants, have performed an immense amount of work in making an excellent sports oval and in constructing in the vicinity of the new building new roads, paths, lawns, and gardens, which were designed by the Supervisor (Mr. J. C. Ackers), to whom great credit is due.

Finance.

The expenditure during the year for the Lachlan Park Hospital, exclusive of repairs and alterations, amounted to £64,104 11s., as against £61,585 2s. 2d. the previous year, being an increase of £2,519 8s. 10d. for the period under review. The principal factors contributing to this increase were:—

- (1) Salaries. During the past year the expenditure in salaries increased by £2019 2s. 7d., a portion of which was due to salary restorations under the Official Salaries Restoration Act, the balance being due to automatic increases granted the junior members of the staff.
- (2) Increased cost of provisions. During the past year the contract price for several food commodities advanced. Meat cost the hospital £143 more than the previous year, butter £127, and tea, £144.

The revenue collected during the financial year was £8196 19s., as against £7393 16s. 4d. the previous year, being an increase of £803 2s. 8d. The net daily cost of medical treatment and maintenance of patients was slightly higher than the previous year, the cost this year being 4s. 11-03d., as against 4s. 9-45d. last year.

Staff.

The Senior Medical Officer (Dr. Cyril Paul O'Toole) resigned his position. Dr. Gavin Crabbe was appointed to fill the vacancy. The Junior Medical Officer (Dr. Clara Burgess) resigned, and Dr. Constance Isabel Williams was appointed to fill the vacant position.

On behalf of the Nurses' Registration Board, the annual examinations in mental nursing were conducted during December by Drs. Carruthers, Oliphant, and Brothers. The results were as follows:—

	Passed.
First year attendants	4
First year nurses	7
Second year attendants	11
Second year nurses	21
Third year attendants	2
Third year nurses	5
Total	50

During the year 25 nurses resigned. Unfortunately, the relatively large number of resignations which occur each year, and consequently the large number of very junior nurses appointed, seriously handicaps the efficiency and the general management of the female division.

Millbrook Psychopathic Home.

The admissions to the home totalled 79, as against 75 in the previous year. Seventy-five patients were discharged during the year, being the same number as were discharged the previous year. One patient died at the home.

It is of great benefit to Lachlan Park Hospital to have a home like Millbrook, where convalescent patients can be transferred prior to their discharge. During last year 13 patients were thus transferred.

As regards specialised treatment seven patients were treated by means of cardiazol. Of these, four have already been discharged in an excellent state of remission, the remaining three have not yet completed their course of treatment. One other patient was treated by means of induced malaria, and later discharged.

Occupational therapy classes were continued during the year, the introduction of pottery manufacture, under the instruction of Miss Poynter, being one of the features of the work performed. The patients availed themselves of the excellent facilities available for golf, tennis, and other out-door sports.

Dances, concerts, and picture entertainments were arranged by the auxiliary for the benefit of the patients.

In an effort to bring the outside medical practitioners into closer contact with the home, a British Medical Association clinical meeting was held on 12th April, 1938, when a number of demonstrations were given by the medical staff.

A golf competition for the medical practitioners of Tasmania was arranged. The competition took place on the Millbrook Rise Golf Course on 3rd October, 1937, for a cup donated by the Director of Public Health (Dr. B. M. Carruthers), and was won by Dr. A. Campbell Duncan.

Finance.

The expenditure during the year of the Millbrook Psychopathic Home amounted to £3153 13s. 4d., as against £3100 5s. 10d. the previous year, being an increase of £53 7s. 6d. This increase is attributable to the restoration of salaries under the Official Salaries Restoration Act.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to £679 12s. 9d., as against £1235 0s. 1d. the previous year, being a decrease of £555 7s. 4d. The falling off in revenue was principally due to the fact that there were only four guests in the home last year who paid full fees, and their length of residence was very short. There were 22 guests who were not able to contribute towards their upkeep. There were also several invalid pensioners, for whom the Commonwealth Government only paid 14s. per week. The Tasmanian Veterans' Trust did, for several years, contribute towards the fees of patients, but last year they made no contribution. I have been given to understand that their reason for not contributing is due to their resources being fully taxed owing to building activities at St. John's Park and elsewhere.

The net cost per day per patient for medical treatment and maintenance was 7s. 6-46d. as against 5s. 4-23d. the previous year.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the assistance rendered me by the members of the Millbrook Home Board, who during the past year have worked unceasingly for the advancement of the home, and a large measure of its success is due to these gentlemen.

The staff, both at Lachlan Park Hospital and Millbrook, have rendered me excellent service during my second year of office, and I congratulate them on the efficient manner in which they have carried out their arduous duties.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES R. D. BROTHERS,
Medical Superintendent.

The Director of Public Health.

TABLE 1.

TABLE showing Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1937-38.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Hospital on 30th June, 1937 .....	...	...	...	317	329	646
Admitted for the first time during 1937-38	36	42	78			
Readmitted during the year 1937-38	24	19	43			
				60	61	121
Total under care during the year 1937-38 .....	...	...	...	377	390	767
Discharged and died during year 1937-38 —						
Recovered	2	5	7			
Improved	35	32	67			
Unimproved	5	2	7			
Died	26	26	51			
Total discharged and died during the year .....	...	...	...	67	65	132
Remaining in Hospital on 30th June, 1938 .....	...	...	...	310	325	635
Average daily number resident during 1937-38 .....	...	...	...	309.86	323.92	633.78

TABLE 2.

TABLE showing the manner in which Patients were admitted during the Year 1937-38.

Private Orders.			Justices' Orders.			Governor's Warrants.			Total Admissions.		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
14	31	45	46	30	76	...	...	...	60	61	121

	Males.	Females.	Total.
First Admission	36	42	78
Second "	14	13	27
Third "	5	2	7
Fourth "	2	1	3
Fifth " .....	...	1	1
Sixth " .....	...	...	...
Seventh " .....	...	...	...
Eighth "	2	...	2
Ninth "	1	1	2
Eleventh " .....	...	1	1
Total	60	61	121

TABLE 3.

TABLE showing Probable Causes of Insanity in Patients admitted during 1937-38.

Causes of Insanity.	Predisposing.			Exciting.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Moral—									
Domestic Troubles and Bereavements	...	...	...	2	2	4	2	2	4
Business Worries	...	...	...	3	...	3	3	...	3
Anxiety and Overwork	...	...	...	2	2	4	2	2	4
Fright and Shock	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Love Affairs	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Physical—									
Alcohol	...	...	...	1	2	3	1	2	3
Veneral Diseases	...	...	...	2	4	6	2	4	6
Accident and Injury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lactational	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Other Bodily Diseases	1	4	5	3	4	7	4	8	12
Puberty	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Climateric	1	6	7	...	...	...	1	6	7
Senility	5	10	15	...	...	...	5	10	15
Previous Attacks	11	13	24	...	...	...	11	13	24
Hereditary Influences	9	6	15	...	...	...	9	6	15
Epilepsy (acquired)	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	2
Congenital—									
With Epilepsy	...	...	...	4	...	4	4	...	4
Without Epilepsy	...	...	...	14	5	19	14	5	19

TABLE 4.

TABLE showing Forms of Insanity of the Admissions for 1937-38.

Form of Mental Disorder.	Males.	Females.	Total.
I. Congenital Mental Deficiency (Idiocy or Imbecility):			
1. Intellectual—			
(a) With Epilepsy	4	...	4
(b) Without Epilepsy	14	3	17
2. Moral	2	2	4
II. Insanity occurring later in Life:			
1. Insanity with Epilepsy	2	1	3
2. Dementia Paralytica	2	3	5
3. Gross Brain Lesions	1	...	1
4. Alcoholic Psychoses	...	2	2
5. Confusional or Exhaustive Psychoses	2	3	5
6. Manic Depressive Insanity—			
(a) Mania—			
i. Acute	...	2	2
ii. Recurrent	3	5	8
(b) Melancholia—			
i. Acute	...	2	2
ii. Recurrent	5	2	7
7. Alternating Insanity	2	1	3
8. Involutional Melancholia	2	7	9
9. Schizophrenia	6	8	14
10. Paranoia	1	1	2
11. Paraphrenia	6	3	9
12. Dementia—			
(a) Senile	6	13	19
(b) Secondary or Terminal	2	3	5
	60	61	121

TABLE 7.

TABLE showing the Conjugal Condition of Patients Admitted, Discharged, Died, and Remaining within the Hospital on 30th June, 1938.

Conjugal Condition.	Admissions.			Discharges.									Deaths.			Patients on Register on 30th June, 1938.		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Unimproved.								
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Never married ..	39	22	61	1	3	4	23	16	39	5	2	7	17	10	27	239	191	430
Married ..	20	34	54	1	2	3	12	14	26	..	..	..	7	14	21	59	108	167
Widowed ..	1	5	6	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	2	3	..	26	26
Unknown ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	12
Totals ..	60	61	121	2	5	7	35	32	67	5	2	7	25	26	51	310	325	635

TABLE 8

TABLE showing the Length of Residence of those Discharged and those Died during the Year 1937-38.

Length of Residence.	Discharges												Deaths.		
	Recovered.			Relieved.			Unimproved.			Total Discharges.					
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Under 1 month	4	4	8	...	...	...	4	4	8	5	4	9
1 month and under 3 months	1	3	4	6	7	13	1	...	1	8	10	18	3	6	9
3 months " 6 "	9	7	16	...	...	...	9	7	16	1	...	1
6 " " 9 "	1	1	3	3	6	2	...	2	5	4	9	...	1	1
9 " " 1 year	1	1	5	2	7	...	...	...	5	3	8	...	1	1
1 year and under 2 years	1	...	1	4	1	5	1	...	1	6	1	7	1	...	1
2 years " 3 "	3	3	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	1	1
3 " " 5 "	1	1	2	...	1	1	1	2	3	...	3	3
5 " " 7 "	3	2	5
7 " " 9 "	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	1	2
9 " " 12 "	1	...	1	1	...	1	5	1	6
12 " " 15 "	1	1
15 " " 20 "	1	1	2
20 " " 25 "	1	1	2
25 " " 30 "	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
30 " " 40 "	3	3	...	1	1	...	4	4	1	2	3
40 " " 50 "	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1
50 " " 60 "	1	1	2
60 " " 70 "	1	...	1
	2	5	7	35	32	67	5	2	7	42	39	81	25	26	51

TABLE 9.

TABLE showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Discharged, and Died during the Year 1937-38, and those Remaining within the Hospital on 30th June, 1938.

Ages.	Admitted			Discharges									Deaths.			Patients on Register at 30th June, 1938.					
				Re-covered.			Re-lieved.			Unim-proved.									Total Discharged.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
Under 5 years	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
5 years and under 10 years	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
10 " " " 15 " " " .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
15 " " " 20 " " "	7	1	8	3	1	4	2	2	5	1	6	3	...	3	15	7	22		
20 " " " 25 " " "	9	2	11	1	2	3	5	2	7	...	6	4	10	2	...	2	21	10	31		
25 " " " 30 " " "	8	6	14	1	...	1	3	3	6	2	2	6	3	9	1	1	2	11	22		
30 " " " 35 " " "	1	4	5	...	1	1	3	2	5	...	3	3	6	1	...	1	25	20	45		
35 " " " 40 " " "	10	1	11	10	2	12	10	2	12	2	2	4	26	21	47		
40 " " " 45 " " "	5	8	13	...	1	1	4	5	1	5	6	2	2	4	27	30	57		
45 " " " 50 " " "	3	9	12	...	1	1	3	4	1	...	1	2	4	6	...	1	35	40	75		
50 " " " 55 " " "	2	6	8	2	4	6	2	4	6	1	5	6	28	35	63		
55 " " " 60 " " "	2	5	7	2	3	5	...	2	2	5	7	1	2	3	17	36	53		
60 " " " 65 " " "	5	4	9	...	...	4	4	8	...	4	4	8	3	2	5	31	27	58	
65 " " " 70 " " " .....	...	7	7	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	2	2	1	4	5	19	36	55
70 " " " 75 " " "	3	4	7	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	3	5	22	18	40
75 " " " 80 " " "	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	16	16	32		
80 " " " 85 " " " .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	6	9	15
85 " " " 90 " " "	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	2	4
90 " " " 95 " " " .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Totals	60	61	121	2	5	7	35	32	67	5	2	7	42	39	81	25	26	51	310	325	635

TABLE 10.

TABLE showing the Causes of Deaths during the Year 1937-38.

Causes of Deaths.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Diseases of the Nervous System--			
General Paralysis of the Insane	2	1	3
Epilepsy	2	1	3
Cerebral Softening .....	...	1	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage	1	1	2
Diseases of the Cardio-Vascular System --			
Arteriosclerosis	1	2	3
Auricular Fibrillation .....	...	1	1
Coronary Thrombosis .....	...	1	1
Chronic Myocardial Degeneration	4	6	10
Diseases of the Respiratory System--			
Lobar and Broncho Pneumonia	6	4	10
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	1	4
Other Forms of Pulmonary Disease	1	1	2
Diseases of the Digestive System --			
Perforation of bowel with peritonitis	1	...	1
Intestinal Obstruction	1	...	1
Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System--			
Chronic Nephritis .....	...	1	1
General Diseases --			
Dysentery .....	...	...	...
Typhoid .....	...	1	1
Malignancy (Cancer)	1	1	2
Septicæmia .....	...	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus .....	...	1	1
Debility and Senility .....	...	1	1
Pernicious Anæmia	1	...	1
Suicides	1	...	1
Totals	25	26	51

TABLE 11.

TABLE showing Expenditure and Receipts for the Year ended 30th June, 1938, together with Cost of Maintenance of Patients for the Same Period and the Previous Ten Years.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Lachlan Park Hospital—						
Salaries	40,081	11	7	...		
Dentist	52	0	0	...		
Travelling Expenses, including Official Visitors	73	16	4	...		
Provisions, Clothing, Fuel, Drugs, Stores, Incidental Expenses, &c....	22,294	4	4	...		
Repairs and Alterations	992	11	3	...		
Expenses Relieving Stokers on Leave.....	3	18	4	...		
Temporary Assistance.....	952	5	9	...		
Wages of Stokers	646	14	8	...		
Gross Expenditure	65,097	2	3	65,097	2	3
Millbrook Psychopathic Home—						
Salaries	1817	1	0	...		
Expenses of Board	122	8	9	...		
Provisions, Clothing, Fuel, Drugs, Stores, Incidental Expenses, &c....	947	11	1	...		
Repairs and Alterations	141	5	3	...		
Temporary Assistance.....	125	7	3	...		
	3153	13	4	3153	13	4
Total Gross Expenditure .....	...			68,250	15	7
Repairs and Alterations .....	...			1133	16	6
Total Ordinary Gross Expenditure .....	...			67,116	19	1
Fees for Medical Treatment and Maintenance—	£	s.	d.			
Lachlan Park Hospital	7939	18	11	8619	11	8
Millbrook Psychopathic Home.....	679	12	9	...		
Miscellaneous, Lachlan Park Hospital	257	0	1	8876	11	9
Total Nett Expenditure .....	...			58,240	7	4

	Lachlan Park Hospital.		Millbrook Psychopathic Home.	
	On Gross	On Nett	On Gross	On Nett
	Expenditure.	Expenditure.	Expenditure.	Expenditure.
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Cost per head per day for year 1927-28.....	4	9·35	4	0·47
" " " " 1928-29.....	5	1·22	4	4·80
" " " " 1929-30.....	5	2·00	4	3·93
" " " " 1930-31.....	4	9·04	3	11·02
" " " " 1931-32.....	3	11·85	3	1·16
" " " " 1932-33.....	3	11·00	3	2·27
" " " " 1933-34.....	3	11·21	3	3·22
" " " " 1934-35.....	4	7·46	3	10·31
" " " " 1935-36.....	4	8·86	4	1·14
" " " " 1936-37.....	5	5·15	4	9·45
" " " " 1937-38.....	5	7·53	4	11·03

TABLE 12.

TABLE showing the Rate of Certified Insane and Admissions, to the Population for the Year Ended 31st December, 1937.

State.	Population on 31st December, 1937.			Proportion of Insane per 1000 of Population.			Proportion of Admissions per 10,000 of Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tasmania	120,869	118,121	238,990	2·53	2·73	2·63	5·12	6·26	5·69
Queensland	519,689	473,772	993,461	3·84	3·03	3·45	6·85	5·12	6·02
New South Wales	1,368,505	1,342,233	2,710,738	4·37	4·03	4·20	6·06	5·63	5·84
South Australia	295,611	295,590	591,201	3·06	2·72	2·89	5·01	4·09	4·55
Victoria	918,665	940,822	1,859,487	3·75	4·09	3·92	4·45	4·86	4·68
West Australia	241,297	215,814	457,111	3·90	2·68	3·32	4·93	3·01	4·02

TABLE 13.

MILLBROOK PSYCHOPATHIC HOME.

STATEMENT shewing Form of Mental Disorder on Admission for year ended 30th June, 1938

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Neurosis—			
(1) Anxiety Neurosis	8	9	17
(2) Obsessional Neurosis	1	1	2
(3) Hysteria	—	2	2
(4) Neurasthenia	4	4	8
(5) Adolescent Instability	—	2	2
Early Psychosis—			
(1) Epilepsy	6	2	8
(2) Cerebral Syphilis	1	1	2
(3) Mental Disorders associated with grosser brain lesions	—	2	2
(4) Tonic and exhaustion state	1	—	1
(5) Schizophrenia	6	8	14
(6) Mild manic depressive state	—	3	3
(7) Mild Melancholia	4	5	9
(8) Early Involutional Melancholia	4	3	7
(9) Mild Paranoid Conditions	2	—	2
	37	42	79

TABLE 14.

TABLE showing the Rate of Certified Inmate and Admissions, to the Institution for the Year Ended 31st December, 1937.

State.	Population on 31st December, 1937.		Proportion of Inmate per 1000 of Population.		Proportion of Admissions per 10,000 of Population.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tasmania	120,000	115,121	235,121	1.55	2.15	1.85
Queensland	610,000	477,777	1,087,777	1.54	2.03	1.78
New South Wales	1,300,000	1,010,000	2,310,000	1.57	1.50	1.53
South Australia	200,000	197,000	397,000	0.80	2.75	1.78
Victoria	610,000	540,000	1,150,000	0.75	1.00	0.87
West Australia	211,000	112,000	323,000	0.80	2.00	1.40

APPENDIX VIII.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ST JOHN'S PARK.

St. John's Park, New Town,
8th August, 1938.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit for your information the Annual Report governing the activities of St. John's Park during the year 1937-38.

Admissions.

There were 344 persons admitted to the institution during the year, of whom 251 were males and 93 were females. These figures show a substantial increase over those for the previous twelve months, when 203 males and 79 females were admitted.

Discharges.

The number of persons discharged during the year was 252 (190 males and 62 females). These figures also show an increase over those for 1936-37, when there were 132 males and 68 females discharged.

Mortality.

The number of deaths during the year was 88 (58 males and 30 females), as compared with 71 (52 males and 19 females) during the previous year. The average age of the people who died in the institution was found to be 73.86 years.

During the past twelve months there has been a substantial increase in the number of deaths in the institution—a fact which at first sight may cause some concern.

However, since my appointment as Medical Superintendent, there has been a steady increase in the number of incurable cases sent to the institution from the various hospitals throughout the State. Moreover, there has been a substantial increase in the daily average number resident in the institution.

Daily Average.

The daily average number of persons in the institution during the year under review was 314.62 (201.53 males and 113.09 females), an increase of 17.75 over the preceding year, when the figures were 296.87 (191.52 males and 105.35 females).

Since 8.2.1938 the ground-floor of the hospital ward at the Female Division has been utilised as a ward for the care and general attention of patients suffering from infantile paralysis. The feeding and a large proportion of the general maintenance was undertaken by the institution, and during this time there was a daily average of 39.4 patients in this ward.

Hence from 8.2.1938 until 30.6.1938 the daily average in the institution was 354.06.

Average Age.

Excluding the after-care patients, the average age of persons residing in the institution was 51.13, the average age of the males being 51.23 years and the average age of the females 50.91 years.

Expenditure.

The total amount expended on the upkeep of the institution during the year amounted to £21,001 8s., which is summarised as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and allowances	10,632	0	10
Provisions and medical comforts	4,846	12	11
Erection and repairs to buildings	424	9	6
Stationery, stores, &c.	1,498	15	0
Fuel and light	1,148	11	5
Bedding, clothing, uniforms, &c.	1,194	3	2
Funeral expenses	68	17	6
Expenses working laundry	299	6	5
Printing, postage, miscellaneous expenses	184	3	4
Equipment boys' carpentering class	170	0	2
Travelling	84	16	11
Furniture and equipment, Nurses' Home	449	10	10
	£21,001	8	0

The above total shows an increase of £2773 1s. 9d. over that of the previous year, the reasons for which are as follows:—

1. From 8.2.1938 to 30.6.1938 the institution was called upon to undertake the feeding of a number of

patients suffering from infantile paralysis, the daily average number of whom was 39.4.

2. The furnishing and equipment of the new Nurses' Home in the institution was carried out during the year under review at a cost of £449 10s. 10d.

3. The daily average number of inmates increased from 296.87 in 1936-37 to 314.62 in 1937-38.

4. A class for the training of the mentally defective inmates in carpentering was instituted and equipped at a cost of £170 0s. 2d.

5. There were two positions created during the year, viz., assistant-cook and painter.

Revenue Received.

The revenue received from all sources during the year was £5,574 16s. 6d., which is an increase of £838 11s. 7d. over the previous year. The net cost of maintaining the institution was, therefore, £15,426 11s. 6d., an increase of £1935 11s. 2d., which has already been explained in the item Expenditure in the previous paragraph.

Number of Diets.

The number of diets for the year under review was 114,814 diets for the ordinary inmates, and 5640 for the cases in the after-care ward. This represents an increase of 12,092 over the previous year.

Gross and Net Cost of Maintenance.

The gross cost of 120,454 diets, made up of 114,814 ordinary institutional diets and 5640 diets for after-care patients, was 3s. 5.8d. per diem, whilst the net cost was 2s. 6.7d. per day.

As the dietary scale of the after-care cases is of necessity more liberal than that of the other inmates, these figures compare very favourably with those for the previous year, which were 3s. 4.36d. and 2s. 5.88d. respectively.

General Observations.

It is pleasing to record that during the year considerable improvements were effected to various buildings and wards in the institution, viz., the dining and sitting rooms in the Women's Section were completely renovated by having new floors and ceilings put in, the old brick walls plastered and painted, and a hardwood dado erected.

The front brick work of the women's section was given a treatment of non-porite, the wood and iron work were repainted, and this has considerably enhanced the appearance of the building.

In the male division, several wards have been repainted and renovated generally, and new beds have been purchased for the inmates to replace the old iron telescopic beds. There are still many of this type of bed in use at present, and it is earnestly hoped that it will be possible to replace these by modern beds in the near future.

The main entrance to the administrative block has been paved with green concrete, whilst the pillars and wall have been cement rendered in a pleasant sandstone colour, similar to that used in the new Public Buildings in Davey-street. Other portions of the institution are in course of being similarly treated.

Male Hospital Ward.

Reference was made in our last annual report to the necessity for providing a new male hospital ward, and it is very gratifying to be able to state that the old building has been demolished, and that the construction of a new and modern one is well in hand. This will tend to greater efficiency in the treatment and comfort of the sick and infirm inmates.

Central Kitchen.

The question of providing a modern central kitchen, together with stores and other facilities, was investigated by the Public Works Committee, and an announcement has been made that the erection of this necessary unit of the institution's activities has been approved, and it is hoped that this work will be put in hand in the immediate future.

Nurses' Home.

During the year under review the new nurses' home was completed and furnished, but owing to the outbreak of infantile paralysis and the establishment of the after-care block at St. John's Park, it had to be occupied by nurses from the Royal Hobart Hospital instead of by our own staff, for whom it was originally intended.

It is hoped that, in the event of the establishment of a permanent home for crippled children at St. John's Park, consideration will be given to the question of providing similar facilities for our own nursing staff.

After-care Block.

Early in the month of January, 1938, it was found necessary, owing to the severity of the outbreak of poliomyelitis, to erect a sanitary and massage block in conjunction with the ground floor of the female hospital ward for the accommodation of these cases. This building was occupied from 8th February, 1938, and has relieved the congestion of other institutions dealing with these cases to a considerable extent.

The massage block has been equipped with a miniature swimming-bath and other bathing facilities, which have proved to be very effective in the treatment of severely paralysed cases, and have been to a large extent responsible for the early recovery of many cases, and the considerable improvement of others. In this connection it is very pleasing to place on record the excellent work performed by all the members, both of the nursing staff under Sister McNamara and the masseuses under Miss McLean, in dealing with these cases and their unceasing efforts to speed the recovery of the afflicted.

Crippled Children's School.

During the latter part of the year it was decided to establish a day-school to provide educational facilities for after-care patients who had been discharged from the various institutions and who were still attending as out-patients.

For this purpose the old weatherboard building, formerly used as a sitting-room for the female inmates, was completely renovated and decorated to provide accommodation for approximately 40 children.

This building, which was officially opened by the Hon. the Minister for Education is now in use, and under the able tutelage of teachers from the Education Department is proving a great success.

Woodworking Class.

Early in 1938 a woodworking class was established at the male section of the Government Institution for Defectives at St. John's Park under the guidance of Mr. Williams of the Education Department, with the object of providing occupational therapy for these inmates and with a view to their ultimately learning a trade. Excellent progress has already been made, many of the patients showing ready aptitude in performing their various tasks, and in this connection provision is also being made for the inauguration of a sheetmetal working class during the present financial year.

Home for War Veterans, St. John's Park.

Towards the close of the financial year work was commenced on a new building, to be erected in the institution grounds, for the housing and recreation of destitute veterans of the Great War. The administration of this building will be carried out by the staff of St. John's Park, and we feel sure that this fine edifice will, when completed, materially assist in making St. John's Park an institution of which the people of Tasmania may justly be proud.

In recent years it has been the aim of the administrators of this institution to beautify all the existing buildings and to convert the grounds, which were formerly

used as vegetable gardens, into parklands to be used entirely for the purposes of recreation. With this in view we have consulted with the Government Architect, and a plan is at present being prepared showing a complete lay-out of the institution, and including such items as a tennis-court, bowling-greens, and large, spacious lawns. It will be readily understood, therefore, that it is the earnest desire of the staff to do everything in their power to make the few remaining years of the inmates both comfortable and enjoyable.

Entertainment of Inmates.

Throughout the year many forms of entertainment were provided for the inmates. Several concert parties visited the institution and gave most enjoyable programmes to a very appreciative audience. It was unfortunate that our annual picnic had to be abandoned on account of the recent epidemic of infantile paralysis, but instead of this function a Christmas tree celebration was held in the grounds on Christmas afternoon. Many official visitors were invited on this day and, after the distribution of presents to the inmates, they were conducted over the institution buildings. It is gratifying to note that they were unanimously impressed with the living conditions and general comfort of the inmates.

Sports meetings and cricket matches were held during the year for the entertainment of the younger inmates, and numerous sporting bodies very kindly allowed these youths free access to their cricket and football matches.

Thanks for Donations.

On behalf of the inmates of the institution, I wish to convey grateful and sincere thanks to all those kind persons who so generously made donations of various kinds during the year.

Many of the leading business firms in Hobart helped materially to make our Christmas tree a success by sending along gifts, and the Cascade, Carlton, and Sydney breweries added greatly to the enjoyment of the festive season by their liberal donations of beer and cordials.

Special thanks are also extended to the management of the Moonah Theatre for again allowing the inmates free entry to the pictures every week.

Government Medical Officer.

During my absence in other parts of the State as Medical Officer to the Tasmanian Government Railways, Dr. W. J. Freeman attended to the sick in this institution, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for his kindly interest in their well-being.

Devotional.

The spiritual welfare of the inmates was well cared for by the various denominations during the year under review, and regular services were held in the institution by those concerned. The attendance on these occasions was always good, and thanks are due to all those who assisted in this direction.

Staff.

The lectures to the staff have continued during the year, and examinations held in the various subjects. The staff showed a high degree of knowledge in these subjects, and it is very gratifying to note the interest they take in improving their knowledge.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to the members of the staff for the manner in which they have carried out their duties.

I have, &c.,

J. A. OLIPHANT, Medical Superintendent.

The Director of Public Health.