

Report / Department of Public Health, Tasmania.

Contributors

Tasmania. Department of Public Health.

Publication/Creation

Hobart : Govt. Printer, [1938]

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1938

TASMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH

R E P O R T

OF THE

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
TASMANIA

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938

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



TASMANIA:

H. H. PIMBLETT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

1939

1938

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC

HEALTH

REPORT

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TASMANIA

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1937

Printed by the Government Printer, Hobart, Tasmania

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SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1938

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 10th July, 1939.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the Annual Report of the Department of Public Health for the year ended the 31st December, 1938.

National Health and Medical Research Council.—The fourth and fifth sessions of this Council were held at Brisbane on the 25th and 26th May, and at Canberra on the 15th and 16th November respectively. I was in attendance at each of these sessions as the representative of Tasmania. In addition to other important business transacted, resolutions under the following headings were passed at these meetings:—Maternal Morbidity and Mortality; Hygiene of Childhood, Prevention of Blindness; Nutrition; Establishment of Institute of Food Research; Demineralisation of Flour; Public Health Education; Travelling Fellowships; Undulant Fever; Hydatid Disease; Physical Fitness; Leprosy; Australian Tuberculosis Association.

School Medical Inspection and Dental Services.—During the course of the year, a decision was arrived at by the Government that the administration of these services should be vested in the Department on and from the 1st January, 1939.

Office Accommodation.—During the month of May, the Department transferred to commodious office accommodation provided in the new Public Buildings. Needless to say, officers greatly appreciated these facilities after occupying offices which lacked space, comfort, and convenience.

Lachlan Park Hospital, New Norfolk; St. John's Park, New Town; and Home for Invalids, Launceston.—Reports in respect of these branches of the Department are contained in Appendices.

LOCAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

So far as local health administration is concerned, the position to-day is very little different from what it has been in past years, and it will ever be so whilst local authorities fail, on account

of economic and/or other reasons, to appreciate what is necessary to promote health and what is involved in the prevention of disease. Under such circumstances, I am a strong advocate for centralised control in the interests of the social and physical welfare of the people. Under such a scheme, the State could be divided into health districts, comprising adjacent local authorities, arranged chiefly by consideration of facilities for communication. A district generally should not be so large that the district medical officer of health could not visit any part of it and return to his centre in one day. Each health district should be under the control of the Department of Public Health; a whole-time district medical officer being provided, with a whole-time and efficient inspector, and, if necessary, a clerical officer. Expert supervision would thus be available at any time to act quickly and effectively, at the same time providing for the application of human knowledge to the prevention of disease through close contact between the health officer and the people. The appointment of Government medical officers to various municipal districts, and the fact that school medical and dental services are to be controlled by the Department of Public Health, pave the way for the establishment of centralised and co-ordinated services, which will eventually become important units of health administration.

I would point out that in nine municipal districts in which Government medical officers already function, an agreement made between the Government and individual councils provides that the Minister will relieve the council of all its functions and duties under the Public Health Act in consideration of a specified health rate being levied and collected by the council and paid to the Treasurer.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Tables A and B (appended) contain statistical information under this heading.

Diphtheria.—Of the 343 cases notified, 136 were reported from the City of Launceston, and 82 from the City of Hobart. There were 10 deaths, making a fatality rate of 29.2 per 1000 cases, with a mortality rate of .4 per 10,000 of the population.

It is worthy of record that there was a total absence of the disease in no less than 13 municipal districts.

The value of immunisation for the prevention of the disease is gradually becoming recognised in practice in various centres throughout the State. The most important result, however, is on the individual child who has been rendered immune. A knowledge of its security will have a marked effect on the child's parents, giving them a feeling of freedom in the presence of an epidemic which they would not otherwise have. The child itself will be able to continue its school career with little interruption because of an outbreak of diphtheria, and, most important of all, the risk of being affected by this grave disease will be eliminated.

It is because I think parents would request immunisation for their children even more readily than they do at present, if they realised the real dangers of diphtheria and the advantages of immunisation, that I appeal to all those who come into contact with parents officially in connection with their children to use their influence with the parents by putting the case frankly before them. There is no need to make exaggerated claims. What the parent needs is a brief but accurate statement of the dangers of diphtheria, some slight knowledge of what the process of immunisation involves, and an indication of the benefits which may be expected if it is carried out.

Scarlet Fever.—It is gratifying to record the marked reduction in the incidence of this disease during the year. The cases notified, viz., 123, are the lowest recorded since 1927. There was no mortality associated with the disease.

Typhoid Fever.—Of the cases notified, viz., 15, five were reported from the New Norfolk district, and four from the City of Launceston.

Tuberculosis (All Forms).—The total number of new cases of tuberculosis notified was 173 (including 15 non-pulmonary). Deaths from the disease totalled 123, giving a death rate of 52 per 100,000 persons living. Of the 158 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 51 per cent received institutional treatment. At the Tasmanian Sanatorium, bed accommodation is available for 81 patients (43 males and 38 females). Admissions numbered 112 (59 males and 53 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:—

	Male.	Female.
Remaining in on 1.1.38	27	21
Admitted during year	59	53
	<hr/> 86	<hr/> 74
Discharged—	Male.	Female.
Much improved	1	—
Improved	33	24
Stationary	11	10
Worse	3	2
	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 36
Died	16	14
Remaining in on 31.12.38	22	24
	<hr/> 86	<hr/> 74

Chest Clinics.—The chest clinics established at the Royal Hobart and Launceston Public Hospitals during the preceding year continued to function in a most satisfactory manner. Particulars of the work performed at each of these clinics are detailed hereunder:—

	Chest Clinic, Hobart.					Chest Clinic, Launceston.				
	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	76	64	6	2	148	26	34	3	3	66
New Cases taken on at Clinic for Observation and Treatment	102	126	54	49	331	40	63	20	29	152
Re-attendances	355	356	83	77	871	126	369	67	76	638
Re-examinations	254	244	33	15	546	32	52	13	9	106
Clinic Cases Transferred to Sanatorium.....	27	27	...	2	56	5	5	1	...	11
Sanatorium Cases Transferred to Clinic for Special Treatment ...	5	2	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...
Patients Discharged after Treatment at the Clinic:—										
Markedly Improved.....	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Improved .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<i>In statu quo</i> .....	...	2	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	3
Worse .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Patients Found Non-Tuberculous	25	25	7	3	60	...	...	...	...	...
Contacts:—										
Number of Infecting Cases...	65	22	...	...	87	29	27	2	...	58
Number of Contacts Examined	28	62	47	47	184	14	29	17	26	86
Number of Contacts Re-Examined	15	51	60	71	197	2	10	23	12	47
Number of Contacts Found Tuberculous .....	...	4	...	3	7	1	3	1	...	5
Number of Contacts Under Suspicion Tb.....	...	3	...	1	4	...	2	2	4	8
Number of Invalid Pensioners Seen.....	12	8	...	...	20	12	15	...	...	27
Home Visits:—										
Medical Officer	1	3	...	1	5	1	...	...	...	1
Nurse's First Visit .....	...	...	...	...	115	47	75	...	...	122
Nurse's Re-Visits.....	...	...	...	...	642	364	540	5	4	913
Special Visits in Connection with After-care .....	...	6	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumothorax Refills	3	4	...	...	7	42	18	...	...	60
X-Ray Examinations (Films)	80	100	40	40	260	28	52	25	28	133
X-Ray Examinations (Screen) ...	2	4	2	...	8	5	3	...	...	8
Sputum Examination .....	...	...	...	...	229	12	25	5	...	42
Total Attendances, Old and New Cases .....	...	...	...	...	2012	182	579	92	110	963

Mantoux Test and X-Ray of Nurses.—In accordance with a recommendation received from the Tuberculosis Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council, each public hospital was requested to make arrangements for its nursing staff to be tested by the Mantoux Test and X-Rayed before commencing nursing duties and annually thereafter.

Investigation of Tuberculosis in Young Women.—The Department took steps to provide for the collection of necessary data, in accordance with an enquiry form circulated by the National Health and Medical Research Council, in connection with the investigation of Tuberculosis among young women.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—This disease, which manifested itself in epidemic form early in November, 1937, continued with severity until the end of May, 1938. During the course of the epidemic, a total of 1006 cases were notified, whilst the deaths from the disease numbered 81. The preventive measures instituted by the Department were detailed in the Annual Report for 1937.

The after-care treatment of cases was provided for at the Royal Hobart Hospital, St. John's Park, and "Vaucluse" Hospital in the southern portion of the State; and at the Launceston Public Hospital and a home purchased by the Crippled Children's Society, in the north. During the year, there was a daily average of 202 in-patients and approximately 135 out-patients for all institutional treatment, which has been carried out by a large staff of masseuses, with special experience in infantile paralysis work. The society established for the care of crippled children has played, and still is playing, an important part in providing essential services at the various treatment centres.

For the year 1937-38, the total expenditure incurred (State departments and public hospitals) was £33,481.

In-so-far as public hospitals are concerned, it is anticipated that there will be a considerable increase in expenditure for next year at least, as a result of the recent outbreak.

Tables C-G (appended), contain statistical data with respect to the disease.

TABLE A.
Return showing Number of Cases of each Notifiable Infectious Disease Reported to the Department of Public Health during the Year 1938, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of all such Diseases for the Years 1937 and 1938.

Municipality.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis (All Forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	Bacillary Dysentery.	Amoebic Dysentery.	Total, 1938.	Total, 1937.
1 Beaconsfield	1	...	...	4	...	14	...	...	...	19	18
2 Bothwell .....	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	3
3 Brighton	4	...	1	3	...	4	...	...	...	12	9
4 Bruny .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5 Burnie	14	...	...	3	1	52	...	...	...	70	22
6 Campbell Town .....	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	5	23
7 Circular Head	2	...	1	...	1	14	...	...	...	18	5
8 Clarence	5	...	6	1	...	12	...	...	...	24	15
9 Deloraine	5	...	5	5	1	29	...	...	...	45	21
10 Devonport	1	...	...	5	...	9	1	...	...	16	11
11 Esperance	4	2	2	...	...	27	...	...	...	35	28
12 Evandale	3	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	8	12
13 Fingal	6	...	2	1	...	24	...	...	...	33	25
14 Flinders .....	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	5	4
15 George Town	3	...	...	2	...	7	...	...	...	12	4
16 Glamorgan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
17 Glenorchy	7	...	6	5	1	36	...	...	...	55	52
18 Gormanston	1	...	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	8	2
19 Green Ponds .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	10
20 Hamilton	5	...	3	2	...	3	...	...	...	13	13
21 Hobart	82	2	25	54	1	134	2	...	...	300	276
22 Huon	2	...	...	1	1	26	...	...	...	30	5
23 Kentish	4	...	3	2	...	10	...	...	...	19	37
24 Kingborough	6	...	1	3	...	20	...	...	...	30	1
25 King Island .....	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	9	...
26 Latrobe	1	...	2	3	...	4	...	...	...	10	11
27 Launceston	136	4	29	29	4	37	...	1	1	241	415
28 Leven	2	...	1	6	...	11	...	...	...	20	12
29 Lilydale	3	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	7	15
30 Longford	2	...	...	2	1	8	...	...	...	13	13
31 New Norfolk	2	5	1	8	...	38	...	...	...	54	28
32 Oatlands	1	...	7	2	...	2	...	...	...	12	12
33 Penguin	1	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	20	1
34 Port Cygnet .....	...	...	2	2	...	16	...	...	...	20	5
35 Portland	1	...	1	...	...	16	...	...	...	18	1
36 Queenstown	6	...	1	8	...	12	...	...	...	27	54
37 Richmond	1	...	1	2	...	7	...	...	...	11	5
38 Ringarooma	11	...	1	3	...	20	...	...	...	35	34
39 Ross .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
40 Scottsdale	3	1	...	1	...	6	...	...	...	11	8
41 Sorell	2	...	...	1	...	11	...	...	...	14	3
42 Spring Bay	3	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	5	8
43 St. Leonards	5	...	3	1	...	7	...	...	...	16	8
44 Strahan .....	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	2
45 Table Cape	7	...	1	3	...	8	...	...	...	19	6
46 Tasman .....	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	4	1
47 Waratah .....	...	...	3	...	...	12	...	...	...	15	...
48 Westbury	1	...	...	2	...	8	...	...	...	11	6
49 Zeehan .....	...	...	3	1	2	13	...	...	...	19	7
TOTALS	343	15	123	173	14	707	3	1	1	1380	1254

TABLE B.

RETURN showing Notification of Each Type of Infectious Disease Received by the Department of Public Health for Each Month of the Year 1938, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of all such Diseases for the Years 1937 and 1938.

Month.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis (All Forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Bacillary Dysentery.	Amoebic Dysentery.	Total, 1938.	Total, 1937.
January	19	...	15	13	2	242	...	...	...	291	97
February	17	2	7	7	1	171	1	...	...	206	57
March	10	2	8	13	1	146	...	...	...	180	62
April	41	4	6	17	1	80	...	...	1	159	81
May	62	2	4	13	...	42	...	...	...	123	97
June	36	...	4	18	1	12	...	...	...	71	125
July	38	1	12	15	4	7	...	...	...	77	112
August	30	1	15	22	1	5	1	...	...	75	94
September	24	...	20	13	1	2	...	...	...	60	73
October	19	1	14	15	2	...	...	...	...	51	41
November	30	1	10	20	...	...	...	1	...	62	148
December	17	1	8	7	...	...	1	...	...	34	267
Totals	343	15	123	173	14	707	3	1	1	1380	1254

TABLE C.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

RETURN showing Cases Notified each Month, during the 1937-38 Epidemic.

	1937		1938									Totals.
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	
Cases.	85	214	242	171	146	80	42	12	7	5	2	1006

TABLE D.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

RETURN showing Cases and Deaths by Age-Groups, during the Months of November and December, 1937.

	Cases.			Deaths.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years	53	33	86	2	2	4
5 to 9 "	69	54	123	8	5	13
10 to 14 "	34	20	54	1	1	2
15 to 20 "	7	8	15	2	1	3
21 to 25 "	4	5	9	2	...	2
26 to 30 "	2	...	2	1	...	1
31 to 40 "	2	6	8	1	2	3
Over 40 "	1	1	2	...	...	...
TOTALS	172	127	299	17	11	28

TABLE E.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

RETURN showing Cases and Deaths by Age-Groups, during the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1938.

	Cases.			Deaths.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years	111	69	180	2	2	4
5 to 9 "	143	112	255	6	5	11
10 to 14 "	76	59	135	6	5	11
15 to 20 "	25	30	55	3	8	11
21 to 25 "	24	10	34	4	1	5
26 to 30 "	18	8	26	3	2	5
31 to 40 "	9	5	14	4	1	5
Over 40 "	2	6	8	1	...	1
TOTALS	408	299	707	29	24	53

TABLE F.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

RETURN showing Cases and Deaths by Age-Groups, during the 1937-38 Epidemic.

	Cases.			Deaths.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years	164	102	266	4	4	8
5 to 9 "	212	166	378	14	10	24
10 to 14 "	110	79	189	7	6	13
15 to 20 "	32	38	70	5	9	14
21 to 25 "	28	15	43	6	1	7
26 to 30 "	20	8	28	4	2	6
31 to 40 "	11	11	22	5	3	8
Over 40 "	3	7	10	1	...	1
TOTALS	580	426	1006	46	35	81

TABLE G.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Condition of Cases as at 31.12.38.

Cured.	Cured with Time.	Moderate Permanent Cripples.	Severe Permanent Cripples.	Died.	Total.
443	266	137	79	81	1006
(Paralytic ... 164) (Pre-paralytic 279)				(Paralytic ... 79) (Pre-paralytic 2)	(Paralytic ... 725) (Pre-paralytic 281)

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Whilst the cases notified, viz., 415, are much lower than those reported (485) during the previous year, the view is held that notification cannot be regarded as reliable evidence of the annual incidence of these diseases, as it is known that many sufferers evade medical treatment and, consequently, notification.

No less than 31 orders were served upon persons who failed to continue treatment in accord-

ance with the law. The premature discontinuance of attendance by patients is an important obstacle in the way of combating these diseases. Needless to say, the Department spares no effort to enforce compliance as soon as it is in possession of the requisite advice from medical practitioners.

Statistical information with respect to the notifications received during the year is appended (Tables H and I).

TABLE H.
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 1938.

	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.	M.	F.	
Gonorrhoea—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Gleet—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Primary—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Secondary—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Congenital—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chancres—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea & Syphilis—																																			
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum—																																			
Metropolitan	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	2	8	1	4	1	4	3	3	33	19	78	28	46	17	27	10	23	7	21	8	9	4	11	7	6	1	8	1	15	4	4	2	288	127	415

Details Showing Source of Notification of Venereal Disease for the Year 1938.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Notified by Hospital Clinics.....	156	90	246
Notified by Private Doctors	132	37	169
Total	288	127	415

TABLE I.
RETURN showing Marital Status of Cases of Venereal Diseases reported to the Department of Public Health for the Year 1938.

	Male.		Female.		Total.		Grand Total
	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	
Gonorrhoea	77	136	21	34	98	170	268
Syphilis	39	21	37	29	76	50	126
Gleet	1	6	...	...	1	6	7
Gonorrhoea and Syphilis	3	2	...	1	3	3	6
Ophthalmia & Neonatorum .....	...	2	...	5	...	7	7
Chancre .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Total	120	168	58	69	178	237	415

HOSPITALS ACT.

Public Hospitals.

Management and Maintenance of Public Hospitals.—During recent years, there has been a progressive increase in the cost of management and maintenance of these institutions, a corresponding liability devolving upon the Government as a consequence. This is due to several reasons, among which the following may be mentioned:—

- (1) The provision of specialised and other additional services.
- (2) The added cost of hospital commodities, such as equipment, drugs, dressings, and foodstuffs.
- (3) The payment of higher salaries to doctors, nurses, and domestic staff.
- (4) The employment of increased personnel, due to specialised services and shorter working hours.
- (5) The progressive increase in the number of patients who avail themselves of the facilities provided.

Each year the problem associated with the financing of public hospitals becomes more complex. At these institutions, particularly those which serve metropolitan areas, procedures in connection with treatment are innumerable and constantly changing. This generally involves increased expenditure, making costing, in the commercial sense of the word, an item of major importance. As every change, extension, or development in treatment re-acts in some way upon administration, the importance of adjusting machinery to meet these altered circumstances must be realised to obviate the necessity for still greater support to meet annual expenditure.

Conference of Hospital Executives—In order to discuss hospital administration in general, and particularly uniformity in regard to accounts, records, and central buying, a conference of the executive officers of the major public hospitals in the State was held on the 5th and 6th May. Resolutions were passed under the following headings:—

- (1) Standardisation of accounts, with special reference to dissection of expenditure.
- (2) Central purchasing and standardisation of equipment.
- (3) System of medical records.
- (4) Interchange of trainee nurses between metropolitan and extra-metropolitan hospitals.

Apart from any other result which the conference achieved, the beneficial and instructive interchange of information on hospital matters was helpful to all those who participated.

New Hospitals.—The erection of the new Royal Hobart Hospital was sufficiently advanced towards the end of the year to admit of the accommodation of patients in various sections thereof.

The construction of a new public hospital and nurses' home at Wynyard, at a cost of £27,990, was also proceeded with.

Private Hospitals.

Routine inspections revealed that the general standard of these establishments is quite satisfactory. Particulars regarding licences issued under this heading during the year are appended.

TABLE J.
RETURN of Private Hospital Licences Issued during the Year 1938.

	No. of Licences Issued.	Medical, Surgical, & Lying-in.	Medical & Surgical Only.	Lying-in Only.
Hobart	9	2	2	5
Launceston	8	...	3	5
Country	42	13	2	27
	59	15	7	37

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Maternal and Child Welfare.

The appointment of Government medical officers in various country centres has been responsible for an extension of maternal and child welfare services. Maternity cases are attended by these doctors, free of charge, during regular consulting hours, if ante-natal treatment be availed of by the fifth month of pregnancy, and at monthly intervals thereafter, and patients arrange for their accommodation during the lying-in period at an approved hospital located within ten miles of their place of residence.

The provision of a bush nursing hospital in most of the districts in which Government medical officers are functioning also provides the means for an organised and co-ordinated service of definite value to the welfare of mothers and young children.

Various voluntary organisations throughout the State continue to take a keen and practical interest in all measures providing for the welfare of motherhood and infant life.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 195 deaths of infants under one year, giving an infantile mortality rate for the year of 39.7, the lowest recorded for the State. The outstanding causes of death were those usually noted.

The gradual reduction in the infantile mortality rate during recent years is mainly due to the steady and cumulative effect of the various methods employed to save infant life and, in particular, to the education and enlightenment first of the mother, and, secondly, of the general public in matters relating to infant care and management.

Tables K-N, containing statistical data in regard to infantile mortality, are appended.

TABLE K.
INFANTILE Mortality.

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

	Year.																			
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Deaths.....	343	374	451	324	326	296	287	232	256	300	255	242	219	185	187	189	231	227	202	195

Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 Births.)

Year.	Tasmania.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	New Zealand.	North. T'tory.	Aust. Cap. Ter.	Aust.
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
1938.....	39.7	41.8	34.2	41.3	30.5	33.8	35.6	58.8	35.0	38.3

TABLE L.

TABLE showing the Principal Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 Year of Age in Tasmania in each Year from 1929 to 1938.

Causes of Deaths.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
7. Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
8. Scarlet Fever, &c .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Whooping Cough	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	2
22. Tetanus .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
24. Tubercular Meningitis	1	1	2	1	...	2	1	...	...	...
34. Syphilis	2	1	1	1	...	1	...	2	2	3
86. Convulsions	1	2	3	3	2	5	5	5	1	5
106. Bronchitis	1	3	1	2	...	1	2	2	...	1
107. Broncho-pneumonia	12	4	13	20	18	17	22	22	17	24
108, 109. Pneumonia	27	12	8	4	3	3	8	6	4	4
Other Diseases of the Stomach	2	1	1	1	...	1	1	3	...	4
119. Gastro-Enteritis, Diarrhoea, and Enteritis	21	23	12	8	9	19	10	4	...	...
157. Congenital Defects	31	28	23	14	24	11	24	28	11	22
159, 160. Premature Birth and Injury at Birth	72	100	86	69	73	64	90	89	93	70
158. Debility, Marasmus	31	25	16	20	13	21	16	15	22	17
161. Other Diseases of Early Infancy	17	20	14	20	20	11	20	23	29	27
Other Causes	25	18	30	18	19	15	27	15	17	15
Total	256	242	219	185	187	189	231	227	202	195
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 Births)	53.4	50.6	46.0	41.2	41.1	42.3	51.8	49.6	41.7	39.7
Total Births	4797	4785	4762	4491	4553	4470	4456	4581	4841	4907

TABLE M.

(Showing Ages and Causes of Death under
One Year—1938.)

Causes of Death and Classification Number.	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.	Total under 1 year.
10. Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
11b. Influenza without specified Respiratory Complications .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
16. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	1	...	...	...	1
23. Tuberculosis of the Res- piratory System .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
34. Syphilis .....	...	1	1	1	...	3
44b. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
70. Haemorrhagic Disease	1	...	...	...	...	1
79a. Simple Meningitis .....	...	...	1	...	1	2
85. Epilepsy	1	...	...	...	...	1
86. Convulsions	2	1	1	...	1	5
90. Pericarditis .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
106a. Bronchitis, Acute .....	...	...	1	...	...	1
107a. Broncho-Pneumonia .....	...	4	5	5	9	23
107b. Capillary Bronchitis .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
108. Lobar Pneumonia .....	...	1	1	...	2	4
110. Pleurisy .....	...	...	1	...	...	1
116a. Diseases of the Buccal Cavity and Annexa .....	...	1	...	...	...	1
119. Diarrhoea and Enteritis .....	...	...	...	2	2	4
122a. Hernia .....	...	1	...	...	...	1
130. Acute Nephritis .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
152. Cellulitis (Acute Abscess) .....	...	...	1	...	...	1
153. Other Diseases of the Skin and Annexa and Cellular Tissues .....	...	1	...	...	...	1
157. Congenital Malformations	10	4	4	2	2	22
158. Congenital Debility	13	1	2	1	...	17
159. Premature Birth	45	8	...	...	...	53
160. Injury at Birth	17	...	...	...	...	17
161a. Atelectasis	9	1	...	...	...	10
161b. Icterus Neonatorum	3	1	...	...	...	4
161d. Sclerema and others	12	1	...	...	...	13
182. Accidental Mechanical Suffo- cation .....	...	1	...	1	...	2
Total	113	28	18	12	24	195

TABLE N.

Comparative Figures of Principal Causes of
Deaths under One Year during 1934-1938.

Causes of Death.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Whooping Cough	7	...	7	4	...
Convulsions	5	5	5	1	5
Bronchitis	1	2	2	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	17	22	22	17	24
Pneumonia	3	8	6	4	4
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	19	10	4	...	4
Congenital Debility	16	16	15	22	17
Syphilis	1	...	2	2	3
Malformations	11	24	28	11	22
Prematurity and injury at Birth	69	90	89	93	70
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	21	20	23	29	27

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Amendment of Regulations.—An amending regulation prescribing a standard for diabetic or sugar-free chocolate came into force on the 7th September, 1938.

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.

Chemical Laboratory.—The erection of a new chemical laboratory, which has been sanctioned by the Government, will provide for the amalgamation of the prevailing disjointed services, which have proved a serious handicap to general efficiency.

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

Taking into consideration the duties demanded of departmental inspectors during the epidemic of infantile paralysis in the early months of the year, very effective work in food sampling has been accomplished. Milk received special consideration, in an endeavour to maintain its purity; the total number of such samples examined being 104 more than those for the previous year.

Offences.—Five prosecutions were instituted against traders for selling adulterated foods. The fines and costs amounted to £16 5s. 8d.

General.—Regular supervision has been exercised over food products in wholesale and retail stores, bulk stores, auction rooms, and elsewhere; appropriate action being taken to deal with any product found to be unfit for food.

BUSH NURSING.

The appointment of Government medical officers in the municipal districts of Tasman, Bruny, Esperance, Hamilton, Glamorgan, and Flinders, has increased the efficiency and stability of the bush nursing centres in these areas. During the course of the year, the financial liability for bush nursing devolving upon the local authorities of Tasman and Flinders was taken over by the Government. The local committees in charge of the centres at Southport and Bruny were also relieved of a similar liability. The Government has undertaken to establish a centre at Triabunna, in the Spring Bay District, and to erect bush nursing quarters and a hospital. Similar accommodation will be provided at Flinders Island.

During the course of the year, the living conditions of many of the nurses have been improved, and further improvements are contemplated. This may be the means of inducing bush nurses to remain in the service for a longer period than hitherto.

By maintaining a close relationship with the activities of individual nurses, and affording information and advice as required, the Department has done its utmost to promote the Bush Nursing Scheme. The Bush Nursing Associations, by their co-operation and support, have also played an important part in this field of service.

Table O gives detailed information of the work performed in each centre during the year.

TABLE O.

*SUMMARY of Work Performed in Bush Nursing Centres during the Year ended
31st December, 1938.*

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	305	341	8	...	6	3	...	200	...	2
Avoca	221	363	92	5	31	63	28	2735	52 17 0	...
Bruny Island....	64	121	146	8	33	45	6	2081	113 12 8	2
Burnie.....	11	457	19	28	81	2117	12	6481	92 0 6	...
Cygnat	259	723	5	14	88	423	5	6578	128 8 0	...
Flinders Island	115	146	40	4	38	61	8	1929	29 1 2	...
Lilydale	235	411	16	6	95	554	30	3453	120 0 0	...
Marrawah	274	235	48	3	31	53	4	1540	77 16 0	2
Ouse	141	81	152	13	55	134	...	919	84 4 5	1
Ringarooma ...	710	866	5	8	75	166	...	1677	148 3 5	...
Rosebery	4207	965	89	21	165	473	...	774	...	2
Rossarden	447	917	23	3	90	203	4	1115	...	...
Southport	127	54	198	8	6	29	8	992	88 18 3	2
Swansea	263	239	132	15	54	269	2	793	152 4 5	2
Tasman	98	126	380	23	29	6	...	4337	202 10 9	4
Tullah	2187	1533	28	...	76	233	3	647	...	2
Ulverstone	42	581	40	13	126	2107	24	11,828	71 7 0	...
Waratah	1701	507	125	13	73	259	...	913	...	1
Total.....	11,407	8666	1546	185	1152	7198	134	48,992	1361 3 7	20

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SCHEME.

The hardship suffered by the people living in remote country districts, owing to the difficulty of obtaining medical aid, has been a marked feature of our country life for many years, and one that imposes not only suffering, but also danger arising out of delay in obtaining adequate medical attention. In addition to this disability, the question of expense has always been a serious factor in securing the services of a doctor, and it has been well established that many people became worse physically because they could not pay to be made better. This unsatisfactory state of affairs played an important part in the establishment, early in the year 1938, of the Government Medical Scheme, which provides for the free access of all persons to medical advice, and affords the best opportunity for the detection and treatment of physical defects.

At the 31st December, 1938, the Government Medical Service was in operation in eleven municipal districts, and other local authorities are now negotiating with the Government for a similar provision in their municipalities.

The following details with regard to the scheme were made available for the information and guidance of the people resident in those districts served by the doctors appointed to function in this field of service:—

With the inauguration of the scheme, it is desired to intimate to the people that the free access of all persons to medical advice provides the best opportunity for the early detection and notification of those conditions which, by their infectious nature, are a direct menace to the public health. The Government medical service rightly, therefore, takes its place as one of the most effective branches of the public health service.

It is also pointed out to the people that, in order to provide for the maintenance of a high standard of practical work by the medical practitioners appointed under the scheme, the Government is making facilities available to enable each of these officers to undertake a refresher course of train-

ing for a certain period each year, so that he may apply his mind anew to a study of the most modern methods of treatment given under the best conditions.

Directions for Guidance of the People in Connection with Free Medical Services.

It has already been mentioned that the doctor is to render medical service free of charge, to the people. This free service, however, must be availed of in accordance with the following directions:—

(1) At the doctor's surgery at his place of residence between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on the week-days (Monday to Friday), and between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon on Saturday, statutory holidays excepted.

(2) At the home of a sick person living at the place of residence of the doctor between the hours and on the days mentioned under item (1). (Either a message left at the doctor's surgery or a telephone call will ensure his visitation to the home of the patient.)

(3) At each centre of population in his district away from his place of residence on a certain day or days each week. The doctor may be seen at his consulting room at each of these centres in accordance with a notice displayed locally for the information of the public. Arrangements will also be made at each centre for the receipt of messages requiring a visitation to the home of a sick person resident at any such centre. A telephone message requiring a visitation to the home of any such sick person will also be received at the doctor's residence for attention.

(4) Maternity cases will be attended by the doctor, free of charge, during his regular consulting hours, if ante-natal treatment be availed of by the fifth month of pregnancy and at monthly intervals thereafter, and patients arrange for their accommodation during the lying-in period at an approved hospital located within ten miles of their place of residence.

Note.—It should be noted in connection with Directions (1) and (2) that, on the day or days when the doctor is absent from his place of residence on circuit in other parts of the district, a notice giving detailed information in this regard will be posted at his surgery, so that persons in need of his services may become familiar with the hours of the doctor's absence on any day, thus enabling them to make arrangements to see him either before his departure or on his return.

Directions for the Guidance of the People in those Cases where the Doctor is Entitled to Make a Charge for Medical Services.

(5) As a means of enabling the doctor to function in the best interests of the people, it is essential that the demands upon his services should be restricted, as far as possible, to his regular consulting hours, either at his place of residence, or whilst on circuit in the district. In the event, therefore, of his services being required outside these hours, or at any time on a statutory holiday, the doctor is entitled to charge a fee of 10s. 6d. if consulted at his surgery, and a fee of £1 1s. and motor mileage (both ways) at the rate of 6d. per mile for medical attendance elsewhere. The fee of £1 1s. will also be charged if a call for the doctor's services is lodged within his consulting hours, but not in time to admit of his reaching the patient's residence within such consulting hours. Should the doctor be required to render a service within his consulting hours at a centre of population away from his place of residence on a day that he does not visit such centre on circuit, motor mileage (both ways) at the rate of 6d. per mile will be charged.

(6) The doctor is entitled to charge a fee of £3 3s. in respect of his attendance upon a maternity case at the home of any patient who resides within ten miles of an approved lying-in hospital. Motor mileage is also chargeable in accordance with the immediately preceding direction—No. (5).

In the absence of any such hospital, this fee will not be demanded if ante-natal treatment has been availed of by the fifth month of pregnancy, and at monthly intervals thereafter, and the patient be attended in her own home during the doctor's consulting hours at either his place of residence or when on circuit. Outside his consulting hours, the doctor is entitled to charge as for ordinary medical attendance, viz., a fee of £1 1s. and 6d. per mile motor mileage. If the service be rendered in his consulting hours at a location away from his place of residence, on a day when the doctor does not visit on circuit, motor mileage (both ways) at the rate of 6d. per mile will be charged.

Workers' Compensation Act.

(7) Fees, as hereunder, will be charged for attendance upon any case coming under the Workers' Compensation Act, whether the service be rendered within or outside consulting hours:—

A fee of 10s. 6d., if patient consults the doctor at his surgery; and a fee of £1 1s., plus 6d. mileage, if the service be rendered elsewhere.

Drugs, &c., Supplied to Patients.

The doctor is entitled to make the following charges under this heading:—

(a) For each bottle of medicine, 2s., plus any freight:

(b) For each bottle or box of tablets, bottle of lotion, and for proprietary medicines and dressings, actual cost, plus any freight.

Miscellaneous.

The doctor is entitled to charge a fee of 10s. 6d. for the examination of a person for admission to a friendly society's lodge.

Although the scheme has been in operation for some few months only, the facilities provided thereunder have been availed of by the people in large numbers, and the results achieved have been most satisfactory. In addition to the performance of routine medical work, Government medical officers are carrying out the following services:—

- (1) Regular and systematic inspection of all school children for physical diseases and dental defects.
- (2) Maternity hygiene, including the supervision of pre-natal and post-natal clinics.
- (3) Child welfare work.
- (4) Control of infectious diseases by early diagnosis, with the aid of laboratory methods, active immunisation of contacts, and detection of carriers in certain diseases.
- (5) Prevention and control of tuberculosis, by encouraging the use of facilities available at chest clinics and sanatoria.
- (6) Supervision of private hospitals.
- (7) Educating the public in the principles of public health and personal hygiene.

A summarised statement of the work performed by each Government medical officer is set out hereunder:—

TABLE P.

Government Medical Services.

SUMMARY of Services from Inception thereof to 31st December, 1938.

District.	Date of Commencement of Service.	Total No. of Attendances upon Patients.	Mileage Covered.
Esperance	11.3.38	2,055	6,121
Flinders Island	1.5.38	1,010	4,462
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	18.5.38	851	6,706
Hamilton	1.5.38	1,684	4,196
Kingborough-Bruny	1.3.38	1,347	5,960
King Island	1.9.38	721	2,032
Penguin	13.7.38	1,911	3,386
Sorell	1.12.38	109	739
Tasman	21.4.38	952	4,744
Totals		10,640	38,346

CONCLUSION.

I desire to express my thanks to the members of the staff for the loyal and efficient service that they have given during the past year. I acknowledge also the courteous assistance and co-operation rendered to me on many occasions by officers of other departments.

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, January, 1939.

SIR,

THE staff consists of—

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

During the year, the laboratory continued to perform pathological work for the Government Departments, the Royal Hobart and other hospitals, and private practitioners—all infectious disease work being done free of charge for the latter. Research work on tissue culture was concluded, and then work was begun to determine the type of bacillus causing extra-pulmonary tuberculosis in Tasmania.

Statistical data, under the appropriate headings, regarding the work performed during the year is appended hereto.

No. 1.—Examination of Material for Infectious and Contagious Diseases.

	No. of Specimens.	Positives.
Diphtheria—		
Culture of swabs	4,869	336
Virulence test	1	1
Gonorrhœa—		
Smears	749	216
Urine	2	—
Gonococcal fixation test	92	33
Syphilis—		
Dark-ground illumination	2	—
Kline test	1,028	150
Wassermann reaction (blood)	190	59
Wassermann reaction (C.S.F.)	44	6
Tuberculosis—		
Sputum	1,326	319
Pleural fluid	8	—
Urine	37	—
Cerebro-spinal fluid	6	1
Fæces	2	—
Miscellaneous	12	1
Cultures	10	6
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers—		
Blood agglutinations	39	5
Fæces for culture	13	—
Urine for culture	12	—
Milk for culture	1	—
Miscellaneous for culture	1	—
Dysentery—Fæces for culture	46	11
Vincent's angina—Smears	30	10
Undulant fever—Blood agglutinations	5	—
Trichomonas vaginalis—Smears	40	8
Sputum for hydatid material	5	1
Smears for other bacteria	52	—
Typing of pneumococci	1	—
Other cultures—		
Routine swabs for streptococci	538	10
Urine	34	25
Blood cultures	27	7
Pus	31	24
Cerebro-spinal fluid	14	5
Pleural fluid	25	5
Eyes	56	26
Other body fluids	22	8
Total	9,370	—

No. 2.—Pathological Examinations.

	No. of Specimens.
Blood—	
Red cell count	185
White cell count	188
Hæmoglobin estimation	222
Film	140
Differential count	13

No. of Specimens.

Sedimentation rate	47
Fragility of red cells	3
Reticulocyte count	9
Typing and grouping	74
Coagulation and bleeding time	9
Sulph hæmoglobin	1
Urea	172
Sugar	60
Calcium	2
Fouchet	3
Van den Beryh	7

Cerebro-spinal fluid—

Cell count	218
Chemical content	95
Urea estimation	5
Sugar estimation	2
Tryptophane test	2

Urine—

Microscopical examination	737
Chemical examination	12
Urea estimation	56
Diastase	3

Pleural fluid—examination

Microscopic sections	328
Frozen sections	5

Fæces—

Microscopic examination	11
Occult blood	263

Test meals

Vaccines	144
----------	-----

Total 3058

No. 3.—Food, Water, &c.

Water—Bacterial content	73
Milk—Bacterial content	101
Carbolic coefficient	3

No. 4.—Autopsies and Court Attendances.

Autopsies for—

Hospitals	15
Coroner	49

Attendances at—

Coroners' Court	11
Criminal Court	1

I have, &c.,

C. DUNCAN, M.B.,
Government Pathologist.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX II.

Government Analyst's Laboratory,
Hobart, 21st March, 1939.

SIR,

I enclose reports by Mr. Johnstone and myself on the work of the Chemical Laboratories for the year 1938.

It is gratifying to know that the new laboratory is about to be built, and it is hoped that the end of this year will see us installed therein and the amalgamation with Mr. Johnstone completed.

This should give an opportunity for the provision of several facilities which are not now available, and should lead to a consequent increase in the general efficiency of the Branch.

With regard to equipment, much is still required to bring this up to modern requirements, for instance, a new microscope is badly needed, as the present one is approaching 50 years of age and is practically worn out. This will cost with full equipment £80 to £100, and it does not seem possible to spare this sum out of the present annual provision, which is barely sufficient for our ordinary routine needs.

The amount debited the Federal Government during the year for work done for the Customs Department was £334 18s. 8d.

Fees from municipalities and private firms and persons amounted to £128 12s. 6d.

Samples Examined in the Government Analyst's Laboratory during the Year 1938.

	No. of Samples.
Baking powder and self-raising flour	5
Beer and cordials	5
Bitumen	4
Butter	252
Cereals	4
Confectionery, honey, and sugar	9
Cream and condensed milk	16
Drugs and chemicals	31
Essences	6
Fertilisers and sprays	33
Fish and meat products	62
Fruit and jam	8
Hydrometers	9
Kerosene and turpentine	37
Milk, cows'	463
Milk, human	17
Minerals and metals	5
Motor spirit	132
Oils and fats, edible	8
Oils, mineral	229
Paints	6
Poisons and other tests for Police Department	46
Sauces and condiments	3
Spirits and wines	21
Tea, coffee, and cocoa	14
Textiles and paper	6
Thermometers	11
Vinegar	11
Water and effluents	60
Miscellaneous	40
Total	1,553

Return showing the Sources of Samples Examined in the Government Analyst's Laboratory during 1938.

	No. of Samples.
Customs Department (Commonwealth)	639
Public Health Department	203
Railway Department	73
Police Department	18
Other Government Departments	151
Hobart Local Authority	218
Other municipalities	78
Hospitals and clinics	89
Private firms and persons	84
Total	1,553

Air.

Several samples of air were taken in the Railway Workshops, Launceston, where several open fires were burning. The presence of carbon monoxide was suspected but none could be detected.

Butter.

Thirty-three samples for export contained over 16 per cent of water, and two contained boric acid. One for home consumption contained 18.5 per cent of water.

Chocolate.

The regulation under the Food and Drugs Act was altered to permit the manufacture of a special chocolate for diabetics, containing d. sorbitol.

Coffee and Chicory.

Two samples contained a slight excess of chicory.

Coins.

Three "silver" coins were found to be counterfeit, in each case a different method had been used.

Cream.

One cream contained only 29 per cent of milk-fat and another 30.4 per cent. A third sample contained a small excess of boric acid.

Fish, Tinned.

Seven samples of sild contained over two grains per pound of tin.

One tin of shrimps had deteriorated and also contained excess tin.

Milk.

Forty-six samples, almost 10 per cent of the total received, were deficient or adulterated. This increased number is due largely to tests of one dairy herd, which was found to include 17 cows which were giving milk below the minimum standard. The owner, after receiving advice from the dairy officer, reduced this number to four in a fortnight.

Of the remaining samples, only six were found to contain added water, seven were deficient in solids (not fat), and 13 were deficient in fat.

The total number examined was 104 more than for the previous year.

Mud.

In connection with a sewerage investigation, 12 samples of mud from the River Derwent were examined. A large amount of work was involved and the total number of determinations made being over 150.

Poisons.

Arsenic (from spraying) in excess of the limit of one-hundredth grain per pound was found on some pears.

Ground glass was found in chaff which had been given to an animal.

Caffeine was found in the stomach of a dog, and strychnine in another.

Water.

Eleven samples were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Laboratory at the Model School.

The following samples were examined at the Model School Laboratory. Most of these were forwarded by officers of the Department of Agriculture for examination and report to assist them in the technical side of their field work. The other samples were from farmers, and from dairymen, and from merchants dealing in agricultural supplies:—

Soils	92
Waters	30
Milk and cream	41
Inspections of milk	5
Insecticides	35
Inspections of insecticides	25
Veterinary	22
Limes	26
Stock foods	18
Fertilisers	10
Miscellaneous	10
Total	314

Twenty-five samples were taken by inspectors under the Pest Destroyers Act and showed that the trade is supplying very good quality insecticides to the orchardists and farmers.

The veterinary samples show less poisoning of stock by plant toxins and probably, more care is being taken to check the growth of the poisonous plants.

I have, &c.,

E. WARD, Government Analyst.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX III.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 13th June, 1939.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following report of work performed by the inspectorial staff of the Department during the year 1938.

Staff.

Stationed at Hobart—Chief Inspector J. Riley, F.R.S.I.; Inspector H. H. Parker, M.R.S.I.; Inspector H. T. D'Alton, A.R.S.I.

Stationed at Launceston—Inspector D. S. Clark, Cert. R.S.I.; Inspector T. Orr, Cert. R.S.I.

Infantile Paralysis.

During the months of January, February, and March the whole of the staff were engaged in various duties, i.e., enforcing isolation of home-contacts, closing of schools, policing of places of public entertainment, distribution of pamphlets, and other measures designed to prevent the spread of infantile paralysis. The officers of the City Health Department, Hobart, following on the lines adopted by the City Council of Launceston, co-operated with the Central Department in every possible way. Inspectors of every local authority in the State also assisted in a practical manner to enforce all measures recommended by the Director of Public Health.

Routine Sanitary Surveys and General Inspections.

Owing to the staff being almost continuously employed for three months in connection with the epidemic of infantile paralysis, the work in connection with routine sanitary surveys and general inspections was limited.

During this period, visits were made to the majority of municipalities throughout the State. In the course of these visits, work of an educative and practical character was carried out. This included reports on water supplies, drainage work, offensive trades, public buildings, sanitary and garbage services, dairies, boarding-houses, licensed premises, &c. Working on these lines, the sanitation of each municipal district or local authority is noted and recorded for future reference, and action taken as the circumstances required.

The State inspectors have invariably been welcomed by the local health authorities, who generally expressed the desire to work in harmony with officers of the Department. Instruction and information given by State officers on various problems connected with drainage, sanitation, and hygiene, have been productive of much improvement.

Special inspections, at the request of local authorities, have also been undertaken throughout the year.

Details of inspections, made in the course of sanitary surveys, &c., are set out hereunder:—

	No. of Inspections.	Improvements Required.
Bacteriolytic tanks, sites, and plans	264	48
Butchers' shops and other food premises	317	31
Plans of public entertainment and public buildings, including plans of new buildings and alterations to existing buildings	159	41
Hotels and licensed premises	162	26
Factories Act	177	45
Slaughter-houses (private)	149	41
Dairying premises	121	23
Schools (public and private)	216	28
Bakeries	168	34
Water-supplies and pollution of same	18	1
Drainage work	93	26
Race-courses, showgrounds, &c.	76	21
Offensive trades	130	35
Garbage depots and services	51	10
Sanitary depots and services	46	10
Hospitals (public and private)	77	4
Cemeteries and burial-grounds	2	—
Inspections disease outbreaks (excluding infantile paralysis)	18	—
Municipal abattoirs	8	—
Cattle sale-yards	21	4
Sewage disposal in rivers and streams (also outfalls)	10	2
Water samples	13	1
Wharves, jetties, and river frontages (not under control of local authority)	10	1
Boarding-houses	36	10
Insanitary buildings and condemned dwellings	13	6
Hop-pickers and small fruit orchards	1260 huts	60%
Miscellaneous	125	30

Royal Sanitary Institute Examinations.

During the month of August examinations were held by the Royal Sanitary Institute Examination Board to enable candidates to qualify for the Meat and Food Certificate and the Sanitary Inspectors Certificate. The following persons were recommended for diplomas:—

Meat and other Foods Certificate.—

Sydney Burton, City Council, Hobart.
John W. Davies, City Council, Hobart.
Keith M. Hickman, Beaconsfield.
Henry H. Parker, Public Health Department, Hobart.

Sanitary Inspectors Certificate.—

V. J. W. Austin, Launceston.
W. J. Bradford, Launceston.
G. F. Brown, City Council, Hobart.
J. J. Mahony, Glenorchy.
Miss F. G. McDonald, Child Welfare Association, Hobart.
Robert R. Rex, Sorell.
H. O. Stephens, Launceston.
H. A. M. Stuart, City Council, Hobart.
S. R. Taylor, Hobart.
W. C. White, Glenorchy.

Inspection of Hop-Fields and Small-Fruit Orchards.

Prior to the opening of the hop and small-fruit seasons, a complete survey of the huts occupied by hop and small-fruit pickers within the State was made by an officer of the Department to ascertain if the accommodation provided complied with the by-laws regarding condition of huts, general cleanliness, sanitary accommodation, water-supplies, and protection of food supplies were being observed.

Altogether there were 334 orchards visited, and 1260 huts inspected. Orders were issued for alterations, additions, and improvements in 60 per cent of the huts.

Food and Drugs.

Two hundred and ten (210) samples of food and drugs were purchased in various parts of the State and forwarded to the Government Analyst for examination. Sixteen (16) or approximately 8 per cent were found to be adulterated. Prosecutions were undertaken in 5 cases; fines and costs amounting to £16 5s. 8d. Warnings were issued in nine cases following the usual procedure in regard to first offenders, or where some reasonable doubt existed.

A complete list of the samples taken is shown hereunder:—

Salmon and lobster paste	1
Milk	41
Butter	22
Tonic food	1
Sild	19
Pepper	1
Hydrogen peroxide	1
Vinegar	11
Coffee and chicory	5
Tea	1
Cream	11
Bloater paste	2
Ground rice	1
Maizena corn flour	1
Sausage	18
Margarine	3
Beefine	1
Tincture of iodine	2
Paraffin oil	1
Cream of tartar	3
Essence of lemon	1
A.P.C. tablets	3
Imitation cordial extract	1
Sausage and vegetable	1
Soup cubes	1
Curry powder	1
Cocoa	2
Bisto	1
Mace	1
Veal and ham paste	1
Cocoa essence	2
Coffee	3
Pilchards	1
Breakfast food	1
Potted meat	1
Throat pastilles	1
Soap	2
Aspro	1
Reduced cream	1
Honey	4
Vegetable	1

Salmon	5
Macaroni and cheese	1
Condensed milk	2
Self raising flour	1
Baking powder	1
Saveloys	2
Fish paste	1
Meat paste	1
Arrowroot	1
Milk (Reductase Test)	10
Olive oil	2
Beans	1
Fresh herrings	1
Pixi shrimps	1
Mixed fruits	1
Custard powder	1

Total No. of samples 210

Varieties of samples 57

Municipal Abattoirs, Devonport.

It is pleasing to report that the Devonport Council are alive to their responsibilities in regard to protection of food supplies by their action in erecting a modern municipal abattoir. The building is in every respect hygienic, and the facilities provided are second to no other building of its kind in the State.

Conclusion.

In concluding this report, I desire to thank council clerks and local inspectors for their co-operation and assistance. The inspectorial staff passed through a strenuous year, mainly due to the epidemic of infantile paralysis.

I have, &c.

J. RILEY, Chief Health Inspector.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX IV.

Child Welfare Association,
Hobart, 13th June, 1939.

SIR,

The following report gives a brief account of the work of the nurses for the year 1938:—

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	515	4676	85	1047	8142	144
North Hobart	364	1239	48	540	4719	173
Moonah	180	1292	82	453	3350	80
Glenorchy	43	391	4	86	609	1
Bellerive	36	237	14	76	922	14
New Norfolk	112	289	—	156	1116	4
Geeveston	3	7	—	86	385	5
Huonville	7	20	2	75	316	—
Sandy Bay, 28.6.38 to 31.12.38	—	—	—	67	471	—
Total	1260	8151	235	2586	20,090	421

Correspondence.

One hundred and forty-three letters were received from country mothers. Printed leaflets on "Advice to Mothers" were posted to those living beyond the visiting area.

Broadcasting.

A weekly talk on "Details of the Feeding and Care of Baby" has been given from Radio Station 7 HT.

Classes.

Eight classes of girls from the State schools have attended the clinics for a course of lessons in Mothercraft and Infant Hygiene.

Students from the Mothercraft Home have attended the centres to gain experience in district work during their course of training.

Milk has been given to 60 mothers with young babies.

I have, &c.

C. BONNILEY, Sister-in-Charge.

The Director of Public Health.

Baby Health Association,
Launceston, 15th March, 1939.

SIR,

The following is a report of our work for the twelve months ended 31st August, 1938:—

Number of attendances at the Launceston Clinic	10,129
Number of attendances at the Invermay Clinic	1,074
Number of attendances at the Newstead Clinic	1,669
Number of attendances at the Sandhill Clinic	422
Number of attendances at the Westbury Clinic	69
Total attendances at clinics	13,363

Number of new babies at the Launceston Clinic	440
Number of new babies at the Invermay Clinic	66
Number of new babies at the Newstead Clinic	57
Number of new babies at the Sandhill Clinic	21
Number of new babies at the Westbury Clinic	28

Total new babies at clinics 612

Number of visits paid to homes by the sisters	3,568
Number of new babies visited in their homes	884
Number of expectant mothers at the clinics	208
Number of expectant mothers visited at their homes	80

Letters and Literature.

Two hundred and thirty-seven letters have been written to country mothers who have sought out advice about the feeding and care of their babies, and suitable literature has been forwarded therewith. An article dealing with child welfare has been published weekly in the "Examiner" and quarterly in the "Tasmanian Journal of Agriculture." Literature has been distributed where necessary.

Mothercraft Lectures.

With the fact in view that mothercraft should form an essential part of a girl's education, the senior girls of the various State schools are instructed in this art. The

arrangement made through the Director of Education for the holding of weekly classes at the clinic is an outstanding feature of our work. Students from the various colleges have also been included in this important section, besides groups of girl guides. The headmasters of the various schools have shown increased co-operation in this feature, and are anxious to extend the opportunity to the country schools. Ninety-four certificates have been issued during the twelve months.

General.

Milk from a dairy approved by the health authorities has been supplied continuously to necessitous cases, averaging 15 mothers daily, and kariol and karilac 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.

The year has been a difficult one in many respects. The epidemic of infantile paralysis, entailing the closing of the suburban clinics, and the curtailing of the work in

the central clinic, has affected our number of attendances, and increased the outdoor work. In spite of these setbacks, a study of the figures given above will show proof of steady progress.

The suburban clinics have all been very busy since their reopening, and other districts are urgently asking for clinics of their own. Had we a larger staff our work would extend rapidly in this direction. We are proud of our new Sandhill clinic erected during the year, and the work is gradually progressing there.

There is great need, too, for extension to that scattered area beyond the suburbs. It is impossible for the sisters to reach these mothers and babies, and in some instances, it is equally difficult for the latter to attend any of the clinics. Extension of our work is certainly needed, and is being constantly asked for.

I have, &c..

OLIVE M. GREEN, Sister-in-Charge.

The Director of Public Health.

Devonport Child Welfare Association—Report for Year 1938.

	No. of Days on which Clinic was open.	Total Attendances.	Daily Average.	Individual Babies.	First Visits.	Ante-Natal Visits.	Referred to Doctor.		Advice by Letter.	Advice by Telephone.	Visits by Nurse to Homes.				
							Babies.	Mothers.			Effective.	Ineffective.	Pre-Natal.	Newly-born Babies.	Total Visits.
January ...	23	90	3.9	42	13	2	..	2	1	3	40	3	1	3	43
February ...	24	114	4.7	42	7	1	2	3	..	9	39	3	..	6	42
March	27	124	4.6	44	7	1	5	..	1	5	50	4	1	7	54
April	22	133	6.0	60	13	2	2	2	1	2	30	4	1	2	34
May	26	137	5.2	52	5	3	2	2	2	6	39	2	..	3	41
June	25	144	5.7	59	9	4	3	3	3	5	33	5	..	8	38
July	26	144	5.5	67	7	1	4	3	3	9	34	4	1	6	38
August ...	27	149	5.5	64	10	3	4	1	2	3	35	6	4	7	41
September	26	124	4.7	61	11	1	4	..	1	2	40	1	..	6	41
October ...	25	133	5.3	61	13	2	2	..	..	1	56	6	..	12	62
November	23	175	7.6	79	17	2	2	2	..	2	48	1	..	10	49
December	23	170	7.3	75	11	2	2	..	..	1	39	5	..	8	44
Totals for Year...	297	1637	5.5	706	123	24	32	18	14	48	483	44	8	78	527

THELMA R. CONNORS, Sister-in-Charge.

APPENDIX V.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 1st July, 1939.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

SIR,

We have the honour to submit the annual report of the Nurses' Registration Board for the year 1938.

Personnel of Board.

Chairman: Dr. B. M. Carruthers, Director of Public Health.
Dr. D. W. L. Parker, Surgeon-Superintendent of the Royal Hobart Hospital.
Dr. J. C. Fulton, Medical Superintendent of the Launceston Public Hospital.
Dr. T. C. Butler (appointed as from 6th February, 1938).
Miss M. McGrath, Matron of the Royal Hobart Hospital (to 12th September, 1938).
Miss R. A. Cockayne, Matron of the Royal Hobart Hospital (in succession to Miss M. McGrath).
Miss C. I. Skirving, Matron of the Launceston Public Hospital.
Miss I. E. Macfarlan, Matron of the Devon Public Hospital.

Board Meetings.

The Board held one special and three ordinary meetings.

Training Schools.

Training schools registered.—General, 14; midwifery, 4; mental, 1.

Applications for Training.

Approved.—General, 130; mental, 30, midwifery, 32. Refused.—General, 14.

Trainees.

General, 342; mental, 93; midwifery, 42. Resigned, &c.—General, 49; mental, 23; midwifery, 2. Completed training.—General, 41; mental, 1; midwifery, 30.

Examinations.

Educational Test for Intending Trainees.—

Applications	43
Passed examination	16
Failed	23
Applications withdrawn	4

Examinations for the Registration of Nurses.—

Candidates:

General	44
Mental	1
Midwifery	30

Results:

	Passed	Failed
General nurses	42	2
Mental	1	—
Midwifery	28	2

Registration of Nurses.

General, 99; mental, 1; midwifery, 56. Renewed registration.—General nurses, 379; mental, 5; midwifery, 261.

An agreement with the Nurses and Masseurs' Board of Queensland for the reciprocal registration of mental nurses has now been concluded, and it is hoped that the Board will be able to come to a similar arrangement with other States of the Commonwealth.

At the Board's suggestion, Section 34 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1895, has been amended to provide for compulsory certification of infantile deaths by a medical practitioner.

As a result of representation by the Board, Cabinet has decided to insert an amendment to the Public Health Act, which will enforce notification to the Department of Public Health of maternal deaths. The amendment will also provide for a board of enquiry where investigation is deemed necessary.

Negotiation for legislation which will provide a wider measure of protection for general nurses is still proceeding.

We have, &c.,

B. M. CARRUTHERS, Chairman.

E. J. TUDOR, Secretary.

The Hon. the Minister of Health.

APPENDIX VI.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical and General.

Population:

Estimated on the 31st December, 1938—

Males	122,098
Females	119,309
Total	241,407

Mean population, 1938 (for whole year)—

Males	119,604
Females	116,074
Total	235,678

Mean population, 1937 for the whole year)	233,951
Increase for the year	1,727

The population of the State, as shown by the figures, reveals an increase of 1727

Australian Birth-rate for the Year 1938 per 1000 Persons Living.

(As compared with previous year and a year in the previous decade.)

	1922.	1937.	1938.
New South Wales	25.67	17.63	17.39
Victoria	23.10	16.01	16.25
Queensland	25.59	19.36	18.98
South Australia	23.71	15.25	15.88
Western Australia	23.94	18.95	19.87
Tasmania	27.08	20.69	20.82
Northern Territory	19.16	18.30	17.81
Australian Capital Territory	11.37	20.30	17.98
Australia	24.69	17.43	17.46

Death Rates for 1938 Per 1000 Persons Living.

(As compared with the previous year and a year in the previous decade.)

	1922.	1937.	1938.
New South Wales	8.92	9.36	9.59
Victoria	9.65	10.03	10.15
Queensland	9.16	9.10	9.19
South Australia	9.11	8.91	9.35
Western Australia	9.32	9.51	9.20
Tasmania	9.30	8.85	9.71
Northern Territory	16.42	11.64	12.05
Australian Capital Territory	2.13	4.12	5.39
Australia	9.22	9.44	9.64

Deaths in Relation to Disease.

The following return, from data supplied by the Deputy-Commonwealth Statistician, shows the number and causes of deaths during the year 1938, also the death-rate per 10,000 persons living (mean population 235,678), as contrasted with the previous year, 1937 (mean population estimated at 233,951).

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths, 1937.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.	Number of Deaths, 1938.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.
General Diseases—				
Typhoid Fever	3	1	...	...
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...
Measles	3	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever	2	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	5	2	1	...
Diphtheria and Croup	12	5	10	5
Influenza	5	2	4	2
Dysentery	3	1	...	...
Syphilis	9	4	14	6
Tubercular Diseases	120	5.1	123	5.2
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism, and Gout	16	7	18	8
Cancer, all forms	288	12.4	255	10.8
Dietic Diseases and Industrial Poisoning	2	1	...	...
Other General Diseases	103	4.4	143	6.1
Total General	571	24.4	509	24.2
Local Diseases—				
Diseases of Nervous System...	150	6.4	180	7.6
Diseases of Circulatory System	616	26.3	638	27.1
Diseases of Respiratory Organs	224	9.6	227	9.6
Diseases of Digestive Organs	99	4.2	92	3.9
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	158	6.8	187	7.9
Diseases of Puerperal Origin..	19	8	18	8
Diseases of the Skin	11	5	6	3
Diseases of Bones and Malformations	18	8	39	1.7
Diseases of Early Infancy	144	6.2	114	4.8
Total Local Diseases	1439	61.6	1501	63.7
Deaths Produced by External Causes—				
Accident or Negligence	136	5.8	112	4.7
Homicide	4	2	2	1
Suicide	20	8	16	7
Total External Causes	160	6.8	130	5.5
Ill-defined—Not Specific Diseases—				
Old Age	53	2.3	80	3.4
Ill-defined Diseases	2	1	8	3
Total Ill-defined Diseases	55	2.4	88	3.7
Total Deaths, All Causes	2225	95.1	2288	97.1

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
1929...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	13
30...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	4
31...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	2
32...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	2
33...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	3
34...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	3
35...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	2
36...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	4
37...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	F. ...	3
38...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	M. ...	2
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33

DEATHS from Tuberculosis during the last Ten Years.

	Number.										Death Rate per 100,000 Persons Living.									
	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (No. 23)	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Other forms of Tuberculosis (Nos. 24-32)	96	111	98	106	112	93	105	112	86	107	44	50	43	47	49	41	46	48	37	45
Totals	30	18	24	26	15	19	25	23	34	16	14	8	11	11	7	8	11	10	14	7
	126	129	122	132	127	112	130	135	120	123	58	58	54	58	56	49	57	58	51	52

Typhoid Fever.

Year, 1938.

Number of cases notified

Number of deaths, year 1938 (calendar)—

Males

Females

Diphtheria.

Year, 1938.

15 Number of cases notified

Number of deaths, year 1938 (calendar)—

Males

Females

343

5

5

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	·05	1·18	3·8	0·3
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
1938	123	1	·05	·52	4·1	0·4

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
1938	343	10	·4	1·46	29·2	2·9

APPENDIX VII.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LACHLAN PARK HOSPITAL.

Lachlan Park Hospital,
New Norfolk, 6th July, 1939.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the Lachlan Park Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 1939, together with the statistical returns.

General Statistics.

On the 1st July, 1938, the number of patients on the register was 310 males and 325 females. During the year 82 males and 68 females were admitted, making the total under treatment 392 males and 393 females. The number discharged was 107, of these, nine left the institution as recovered, 85 as relieved, and 13 as unimproved. The number of deaths was 47. The number of patients remaining on the register on the 30th June, 1939, was 313 males and 318 females, a total of 631, which was four less than at the commencement of the year. The daily number of patients was 640.67 compared with 633.78 the previous year. The proportion of certified insane to the general population of the State on 31st December, 1938, was 1 : 363.83 as compared with 1 : 379.95 at the end of the same month last year.

Admissions.

The number of patients admitted was 150, as compared with 121 the previous year. Of these, 94 were new cases and 56 readmissions. The majority of patients admitted was again between the ages of 20 and 30 years, and 35 and 50 years, the average being 41 years. A greater number of males was again admitted between the ages of 20 and 30 years, viz., 23 males against 11 females. Between the ages of 35 and 50 years, 16 males and 25 females were admitted. The chief causes of insanity were heredity and senility.

Discharges.

The number of patients discharged as recovered was nine, calculated on the number of admissions the recovery rate was 6.00, which was higher than that recorded for last year, when it was 5.78. The number of patients discharged as improved was 85, calculated on the number of admissions the improved rate was 56.67 as against 55.37 last year. Thirteen patients were discharged as unimproved as against seven the previous year. Seven of these patients were transferred to the Royal Hobart Hospital for treatment and later readmitted, six being discharged to the care of their relatives.

Deaths.

The number of deaths was 47, being four less than the previous year. The death rate, calculated on the average number of daily residents was 7.34, this rate being slightly lower than last year, when it was 8.04. The average age at death was 63 years. The greater percentage of deaths were due to senility, broncho-pneumonia, and cardiovascular diseases.

General Health and Treatment.

The general health of the patients has been very satisfactory, in spite of the fact that so many of them are very old and enfeebled. There has been no outbreak of infectious diseases during the year. Attention is drawn to the fact that more patients have been discharged this year than in any year previously. This is largely due to the results of insulin, cardiazol, sonnifaine, and induced malarial therapy. The total number treated by one or other of these methods was 68, of whom 27 have already been discharged.

The detailed results are as follows:—

Type of Treatment.	Number Treated.	Improved and Discharged.	Improved but not Discharged.	Still under Treatment.	Not Improved.
Insulin	15	7	4	2	2
Cardiazol	35	14	10	4	7
Sonnifaine	14	5	5	2	2
Malaria	4	1	1	—	2

The X-ray plant referred to in last year's report has been purchased and installed in a portion of one of the old wards specially renovated and converted for the purpose. It is reported that 281 X-ray examinations have been made, including 48 patients and 193 staff routine chest examinations. It has proved a most useful adjunct to diagnosis, and in many instances has done away with the necessity of having patients transferred to other hospitals for X-ray examinations. Excellent progress has been made along the lines of occupational therapy. The male class has been responsible for many particularly fine pieces of pottery. This year the artisan staff constructed a coke kiln for the baking of pottery to replace the electric kiln kindly lent us last year by Miss Poynter of Hobart.

The female occupation therapy class has been under the direction of Miss McCulloch of the Education Department. It is pleasing to note that there is now a greater tendency to place more importance in the therapeutic value of the work, rather than in the quality and quantity of the end result, and to approach the problem with a clearer and better understanding of the individual patient. Another important advance has been the introduction of organised classes in several of the female wards, where the more troublesome and demented patients are being instructed in basket-making and wickerwork. At the present moment groups of patients are mending wicker chairs, which they themselves helped to destroy a few months ago.

As anticipated, the appointment of a female hairdresser and manicurist to the staff has proved to be of immense value in improving both the appearance and self-respect of the patients. One of the rooms adjoining the female occupational therapy room was specially converted into a hairdressing saloon, and was completely equipped by donations from the Launceston branch of the Lachlan Park Auxiliary.

Recently a special room in the men's main building has been renovated and equipped for use as a barber's shop.

Dental Work.

The dental work of the patients has been carried out by the visiting dentist, Mr. H. B. McChristie.

Religious Services.

The various religious bodies have again conducted their good work and have held regular services throughout the year. They are of great help to the staff, and their work is much appreciated by the patients and also their relatives.

Amusements and Recreations.

The patients entertainments have been for the most part in the nature of regular dances, concerts, and moving pictures. Early in the year a fund was opened in order to raise a sufficient sum of money for the purchase of a modern talking machine. The machine and apparatus will be installed at the completion of the new recreation hall.

The annual Christmas party for the patients was held on 20th December in the presence of many official visitors and patients' relatives.

The annual picnic, which was to have been held in February, had to be abandoned on account of unsuitable weather conditions.

The new sports oval was officially opened by the late Premier, the Hon. A. G. Ogilvie, on 6th November, 1938. The oval has been leased to local football clubs for Saturday afternoon football matches. This provides entertainment for the patients as well as a source of revenue for their entertainment fund. The artisan staff is now erecting a pavilion at the northern end of the sports ground.

Hospital Auxiliaries.

I must again express my deepest appreciation to the members of the Lachlan Park Hospital auxiliaries and the Country Womens' Association, who, during the past year, have rendered valuable service to the hospital by providing comforts for the patients.

Both the auxiliaries and Country Womens' Association have held dances and other forms of entertainment, and have donated the proceeds of such functions to the appeal made to the public for funds to purchase a talkie picture machine for the hospital.

I should also like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Tasmanian Public Service who subscribed £24 towards the appeal. The total amount collected at 30th June last was £211 14s. 8d., which is regarded as highly satisfactory.

Buildings and Grounds.

Since the completion of the new male buildings, there has been a rearrangement of wards. The female division has taken over what was formerly known as the boys' cottage. This ward is now being used as a female infirmary. The female division, consisting of six wards, is now, for administrative purposes, subdivided into three subsections of two wards each, each subsection being in the charge of a fully trained sister.

The male hospital and observation ward has been transferred to one of the new buildings, where the accommodation is of the most modern type. The advantages of these new wards have been much appreciated by patients and staff. The former male hospital is now being used as a cottage for the imbecile type of patient. Since this rearrangement, the present male division consists of seven wards. The new lodge and iron entrance gates were completed last November.

The laundry has been refloored and this, to a limited extent, is somewhat improved. However, until accommodation and certain new machinery is provided, the laundry cannot possibly function as an efficient unit.

It is pleasing to note that the buildings comprising the new administrative block, recreation hall, and staff dining-rooms, are well under construction, and should be ready for occupation early in 1940. It is then proposed to convert the present nurses' dining-hall into a number of bedrooms in order to increase the accommodation in the home, as under the existing conditions a number of junior nurses are compelled to occupy most unsuitable temporary quarters in close proximity to the patients' dormitories.

Finance.

The expenditure during the year for the Lachlan Park Hospital, exclusive of repairs and alterations, amounted to £65,018 6s. 11d., as against £64,104 11s. the previous year, being an increase of £913 15s. 11d. for the period under review.

The principal factors contributing to this increase were:—

- (1) Salaries.—The expenditure against this item increased by £871 7s. 11d. during the past financial year, the cause of the increase being partly due to automatic increases granted to the junior members of the staff, the appointment to the staff of a female hairdresser, and also due to the fact that, during the past year, the nursing staff was nearly always at full strength, whereas for a considerable time during the previous year vacancies existed.
- (2) Provisions (Drugs, Stores, &c.).—This item, when compared with the previous year, shows an increase of £381 11s. 7d., which is accounted for by additional expenditure in connection with the treatment of patients by somnifaine, cardiazol, insulin, and malarial therapy.

The revenue collected during the financial year was £8790 6s. 2d., as against £8196 19s. the previous year, being an increase of £593 7s. 2d. The nett daily cost of medical treatment and maintenance of patients was slightly lower than the previous year, the cost this year being 4s. 10-73d., as against 4s. 11-03d. the previous year.

Staff.

During the year 31 nurses resigned. This represents six more than last year when mention was made of the large numbers of resignations in the course of the year. There appear to be two main contributing factors:—

1. The unsuitability of the present accommodation for junior nurses.
2. The difficulty in getting to and from Hobart in their off-duty hours.

Nine members of the staff are at present on six months' long-service leave.

The results of the nursing examinations, 1939, were as follows:—

	No. of Candidates.	Passed.	Failed.
First Year Attendants	—	—	—
" " Nurses	13	6	7
Second Year Attendants	5	5	—
" " Nurses	6	6	—
Third Year Attendants	14	7	7
" " Nurses	8	7	1
Totals	46	31	15

Farm.

The hospital farm again produced an adequate supply of milk, eggs, poultry, and vegetables. The total value of these products was greater during this year than that of the previous 12 months, as is revealed from the following figures:—

	Value of Production.					
	1937-38.			1938-39.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Milk	1525	9	0	1661	13	4
Eggs and poultry	740	14	5	763	6	1
Vegetables	752	7	5	700	11	2
Totals	£3018	10	10	£3125	10	7

Milk and eggs were again supplied to St. John's Park, and vegetables donated to the Royal Hobart Hospital.

It is with regret that I have to report that a very disastrous fire took place at the farm on 14th May last, when the barn, chaff-house, and stables were totally destroyed. A horse was burned to death, harness, implements, and a large quantity of hay were also destroyed. The book value of the assets destroyed totalled £755 16s. 1d. Insurance amounting to £558 12s. 3d. being recovered; therefore a loss of £197 3s. 10d. had to be charged against the profit and loss account for the past year's operations.

A departmental inquiry was held as to the cause of the outbreak, but, unfortunately, it was not possible to arrive at any conclusion as to the origin of same.

During the past year one of the farm assistants met with an accident whilst on duty, which necessitated the engagement of a temporary hand for a period of approximately four months. Two other farm assistants were granted long-service leave, which also required the engagement of relieving men. This additional expenditure, together with the loss from the fire, was the means of a nett loss of £121 14s. 4d. being revealed in the accounts for the period under review. These were factors over which I had no control; had they not taken place, a substantial profit would have been earned.

I am very pleased with the work done on the farm during the past year, which should be the means of returning greater profits in the future. In addition to the farm being self-supporting, it gives healthy employment for several patients of the hospital, and would afford most congenial occupation for idiot patients now housed at St. John's Park.

Millbrook Psychopathic Home.

The admissions to the home totalled 94 as against 79 the previous year. Ninety-two patients were discharged, showing an increase of 17 over the number discharged the previous year.

One patient committed suicide. Of those admitted, 22 were convalescent patients transferred from Lachlan Park Hospital.

Although not to the same extent as in previous years, there is still a number of unsuitable patients gaining admission, as is evident by the fact that 10 were subsequently certified insane, and transferred to Lachlan Park. The general health of the patients has been satisfactory, 37 patients received specialised treatment in the form of either cardiazol, insulin, somnifaine, or induced malarial therapy, in the majority of cases, with most gratifying results. Undoubtedly the availability of these modern modes of therapy has been directly responsible for the large increase of admissions this year.

Since the inception of the home in 1934, there has been a rapid increase in the number of admissions, and, consequently, the number of discharges annually. The home has proved itself to be, beyond expectations, a most valuable asset to this State, and this fact must be most gratifying to its pioneers who were largely responsible for its conception.

It is now apparent that, in the very near future, further accommodation will be necessary. Two four-bed wards, an occupational therapy room, and a small operating theatre for minor surgery are urgently needed.

As in previous years, occupational and recreational therapy have played a most important role in bringing about necessary psychological readjustments. Dances, concerts, and community singing were arranged by various auxiliary members for the benefit of the patients.

Further improvements have been made to the ornamental gardens and golf-links. The whole of the buildings have been recently repainted throughout.

Finance.

The expenditure during the year of the Millbrook Psychopathic Home amounted to £3123 4s. 5d., as against £3153 13s. 4d. the previous year, being a decrease of £30 8s. 11d. The revenue collected amounted to £1231 5s. 7d., as against £679 12s. 9d. the previous year, being an increase of £551 12s. 10d. Due to the extra revenue collected, I am pleased to be able to state that the nett daily cost of medical treatment and maintenance of patients was considerably lower this year, being 5s. 9-05d., as against 7s. 6-46d. 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 third year of office, and I congratulate them on the efficient manner in which they have carried out their arduous duties.

Before closing my report I should like to make reference to the Lunacy Act at present in force in this State. For some years it has been recognised as being most inadequate, but it is now hoped that, in the near future, either a completely new Act will be drafted or that important alterations and additions be made to the existing Act. At present there is no legislation covering reception houses or licensed houses, no provision for voluntary boarders, nor is there any section authorising certified patients to be allowed out on parole without the authority of the official visitors.

Important alterations are also needed in certain sections dealing with certification.

I have, &c.,

C. R. D. BROTHERS, Medical Superintendent.

The Director of Public Health.

TABLE 1.

TABLE showing Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1938-39.

	Males.	Females.	Total	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Hospital on 30th June, 1938 .....	...	...	...	310	325	635
Admitted for the first time during 1938-39	54	40	94			
Re-admitted during the year 1938-39.....	28	28	56	82	68	150
Total under care during the year 1938-39.....	...	...	...	392	393	785
Discharged and died during year 1938-39—						
Recovered.....	5	4	9			
Improved.....	43	42	85			
Unimproved	8	5	13			
Died	23	24	47			
Total discharged and died during the year .....	...	...	...	79	75	154
Remaining in Hospital on 30th June, 1939 .....	...	...	...	313	318	631
Average daily number resident during 1938-39 .....	...	...	...	316.28	324.39	640.67

TABLE 2.

TABLE showing the manner in which Patients were admitted during the Year 1938-39.

Private Orders.			Justices' Orders.			Police Magistrates.			Governor's Warrant.			Total Admissions.		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
23	24	47	45	38	83	14	5	19	...	1	1	82	68	150

	Males.	Females.	Total.
First Admission	54	40	94
Second "	15	15	30
Third "	4	7	11
Fourth "	1	2	3
Fifth "	3	1	4
Sixth "	1	...	1
Seventh " .....	...	...	...
Eighth "	1	...	1
Ninth "	1	1	2
Tenth "	1	...	1
Eleventh "	1	...	1
Thirteenth " .....	...	1	1
Fourteenth " .....	...	1	1
Total	82	68	150

TABLE 3.

TABLE showing Probable Causes of Insanity in Patients admitted during 1938-39.

Causes of Insanity.	Predisposing.			Exciting.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Moral—									
Domestic Troubles and Bereavements	...	...	...	3	3	6	3	3	6
Business Worries	...	...	...	4	2	6	4	2	6
Anxiety and Overwork	...	...	...	5	4	9	5	4	9
Fright and Shock	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Love Affairs	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Physical—									
Alcohol	...	...	...	2	3	5	2	3	5
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	4	...	4	4	...	4
Accident and Injury	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	...	2
Puerperal	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	2
Lactational	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Other Bodily Diseases	4	3	7	1	...	1	5	3	8
Congenital Defect	...	...	...	14	12	26	14	12	26
Puberty	9	2	11	...	...	...	9	2	11
Climateric	1	10	11	...	...	...	1	10	11
Senility	12	4	16	...	...	...	12	4	16
Previous Attacks	9	15	24	...	...	...	9	15	24
Hereditary Influences	6	4	10	...	...	...	6	4	10
Epilepsy (acquired)	...	...	...	6	...	6	6	...	6

TABLE 4.

TABLE showing the Form of Mental Disorder on Admission for 1938-39, and the Form of Mental Disorder of the Patients remaining on the Books on June 30th, 1939.

Form of Mental Disorder.	Admissions.		Total.	Remaining on Books.		
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.	Total.
I. Congenital Mental Deficiency (Idiocy or Imbecility):						
1. Intellectual—						
(a) With Epilepsy	1	...	1	8	9	17
(b) Without Epilepsy	13	7	20	94	64	158
2. Moral	...	5	5	3	6	9
II. Insanity occurring late in Life:						
1. Insanity with Epilepsy	5	...	5	7	8	15
2. Dementia Paralytica	4	...	4	3	...	3
3. Gross Brain Lesions	1	...	1	3	1	4
4. Alcoholic Psychoses	...	2	2	1	1	2
5. Confusional or Exhaustive Psychoses	3	4	7	...	1	1
6. Mania—						
i. Recent	4	1	5	1	1	2
ii. Chronic	...	...	...	6	14	20
iii. Recurrent	2	7	9	2	1	3
7. Melancholia—						
i. Recent	2	5	7	...	2	2
ii. Chronic	...	...	...	4	11	15
iii. Recurrent	2	1	3	...	1	1
8. Alternating Insanity	6	1	7	5	11	16
9. Involutional Melancholia	1	7	8	1	4	5
10. Schizophrenia	19	12	31	32	30	62
11. Parephrenia	3	10	13	26	27	53
12. Paranoia	1	...	1	3	6	9
13. Dementia—						
(a) Senile	12	2	14	14	14	28
(b) Secondary or Terminal	3	4	7	100	106	206
	82	68	150	313	318	631

TABLE 7.

TABLE showing the Conjugal Conditions of Patients Admitted, Discharged, Died, and Remaining within the Hospital on 30th June, 1939.

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	56	34	90	4	..	4	28	19	47	7	3	10	13	9	22	243	194	437
Married	21	26	47	1	4	5	14	17	31	1	1	2	6	7	13	58	105	163
Widowed	5	8	13	..	..	..	1	6	7	..	1	1	4	8	12	..	19	19
Unknown .. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	12
Totals	82	68	150	5	4	9	43	42	85	8	5	13	23	24	47	313	318	631

TABLE 8.

TABLE showing the Length of Residence of those Discharged and those Died during the Year 1938-39.

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	1	...	1	5	2	7	3	...	3	9	2	11	6	...	6
1 month and under 3 months	3	3	6	16	11	27	...	1	1	19	15	34	3	...	3
3 months " 6 "	10	8	18	1	...	1	11	8	19	3	1	4
6 " " 9 "	2	6	8	...	...	...	2	6	8	...	2	2
9 " " 1 year	1	1	2	2	1	3	...	...	...	3	2	5	2	1	3
1 year and under 2 years.....	4	3	7	...	...	...	4	3	7	2	2	4
2 years " 3 "	5	5	...	...	...	5	5	...	1	1	2
3 " " 5 "	3	3	...	1	1	...	4	4	2	4	6
5 " " 7 "	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	2	...	1	1
7 " " 9 "	1	1	2	1	...	1	2	1	3	...	2	2
9 " " 12 "	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	4
12 " " 15 "	1	1	...	2	2	...	3	3	1	1	2
15 " " 20 "	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
20 " " 25 "	1	...	1
25 " " 30 "	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	1
30 " " 40 "	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	2	2	3	5
40 " " 50 "	1	1
50 " " 60 "
60 " " 70 "
	5	4	9	43	42	85	8	5	13	56	51	107	23	24	47

TABLE 9.

TABLE showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of those Admitted, Discharged, and Died during the Year 1938-39, and those Remaining within the Hospital on 30th June, 1939.

Ages.	Admitted			Discharges.									Deaths.			Patients on Register at 30th June, 1939.			
				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	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
5 years and under 10 years .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
10 " " 15 " .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	2	1	3	1	...	4	7
15 " " 20 "	5	2	7	...	...	...	1	13	3	16	3	3	17	3	20	1	...	13	20
20 " " 25 "	15	6	21	1	...	1	2	7	3	10	...	...	8	4	12	...	...	10	33
25 " " 30 "	8	5	13	1	1	2	7	5	12	1	1	2	8	8	16	1	2	3	41
30 " " 35 "	11	9	20	...	2	2	7	5	12	1	1	2	8	8	16	1	2	3	25
35 " " 40 "	8	6	14	1	...	1	6	1	7	...	...	...	7	1	8	2	...	2	31
40 " " 45 "	7	8	15	1	...	1	2	6	8	...	...	...	3	6	9	...	1	1	28
45 " " 50 "	1	11	12	...	...	...	12	12	...	2	2	...	14	14	...	1	1	39	36
50 " " 55 "	3	5	8	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	4	5	32	33
55 " " 60 "	2	6	8	1	...	1	...	4	...	1	1	1	5	6	1	1	2	21	38
60 " " 65 "	6	4	10	...	...	...	5	4	9	1	...	1	6	4	10	1	1	2	26
65 " " 70 "	2	1	3	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	3	17	35
70 " " 75 "	7	1	8	...	...	2	2	2	...	2	2	2	4	5	3	8	21	17	38
75 " " 80 "	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	1	2	6	4	10	13	9	22
80 " " 85 "	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	6	7	6	13
85 " " 90 " .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	3	4
90 " " 95 " .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Totals	82	68	150	5	4	9	43	42	85	8	5	13	56	51	107	23	24	47	631

TABLE 10.

TABLE showing the Causes of Deaths during the Year 1938-39.

Causes of Deaths.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Diseases of the Nervous System—			
General Paralysis of the Insane	2	1	3
Epilepsy	—	1	1
Cerebral Softening	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	1
Diseases of the Cardio-Vascular System —			
Arteriosclerosis	5	1	6
Auricular Fibrillation	—	1	1
Coronary Disease	1	—	1
Chronic Myocardial Degeneration	1	3	4
Valvular Disease of the Heart	—	1	1
Diseases of the Respiratory System—			
Lobar and Broncho Pneumonia	2	7	9
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Other forms of Pulmonary Disease	1	1	2
Diseases of the Digestive System —			
Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System	—	—	—
Chronic Nephritis	1	2	3
General Diseases—			
Dysentery	—	2	2
Malignancy	1	1	2
Senility	5	2	7
Hodgkins Disease	1	—	1
	23	24	47

TABLE showing Expenditure and Receipts for the Year ended 30th June, 1939, together with Cost of Maintenance of Patients for the same Period and the previous Ten Years.

				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Lachlan Park Hospital—									
Salaries				40,952	19	6			...
Dentist				52	0	0			...
Travelling Expenses, including Official Visitors				51	8	4			...
Provisions, Clothing, Fuel, Drugs, Stores, Incidental Expenses, &c....				22,675	15	11			...
Repairs and Alterations				998	10	10			...
Expenses Relieving Stokers on Leave.....				3	2	8			...
Temporary Assistance.....				1013	15	10			...
Wages of Stokers				269	4	8			...
Gross Expenditure				66,016	17	9	66,016	17	9
Millbrook Psychopathic Home—									
Salaries				1905	0	4			...
Expenses of Board				152	2	7			...
Provisions, Clothing, Fuel, Drugs, Stores, Incidental Expenses, &c....				893	0	1			...
Repairs and Alterations				112	16	11			...
Temporary Assistance.....				60	4	6			...
Total Gross Expenditure				3123	4	5	3123	4	5
Repairs and Alterations .....				...			69,140	2	2
Total Ordinary Gross Expenditure .....				...			1111	7	9
Total Ordinary Gross Expenditure .....				...			68,028	14	5
Fees for Medical Treatment and Maintenance—				£	s.	d.			
Lachlan Park Hospital				8636	10	2	{	9867 15 9	
Millbrook Psychopathic Home.....				1231	5	7		...	
Miscellaneous, Lachlan Park Hospital							{	10,021 11 9	
Total Nett Expenditure								58,007 2 8	

Lachlan Park Hospital.				Millbrook Psychopathic Home.						
		On Gross Expenditure.	On Nett Expenditure.			On Gross Expenditure.	On Nett Expenditure.			
		s.	d.			s.	d.			
Cost per head per day for year 1928-29.....		5	1·22	4	4·80	1935-36.....	7	2·34	3	9·49
" " " " 1929-30.....		5	2·00	4	3·93	1936-37.....	8	10·75	5	4·23
" " " " 1930-31.....		4	9·04	3	11·02	1937-38.....	9	7·31	7	6·46
" " " " 1931-32.....		3	11·85	3	1·16	1938-39.....	9	5·99	5	9·05
" " " " 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					
" " " " 1938-39.....		5	7·75	4	10·73					

TABLE showing the Rate of Certified Insane and Admissions to the Population for the Year ended 31st December, 1938.

State.	Population at 31st December, 1938.			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	119,046	115,261	234,307	2·67	2·83	2·75	5·96	4·95	5·46
Queensland	525,271	478,879	1,004,150	3·91	3·07	3·51	6·39	6·03	6·22
New South Wales	1,379,962	1,355,733	2,735,695	4·37	4·11	4·24	6·44	5·96	6·20
South Australia	297,549	297,660	595,109	3·13	2·75	2·94	4·27	4·13	4·20
Victoria	922,887	944,931	1,867,818	3·76	4·08	3·92	4·80	4·91	4·86
Western Australia	243,559	218,902	462,461	3·75	2·53	3·19	3·66	2·1	2·91

TABLE 13.

MILLBROOK PSYCHOPATHIC HOME.

STATEMENT showing Form of Mental Disorder on Admission for year ended 30th June, 1939

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Neurosis—			
(1) Anxiety Stasis.....	6	10	16
(2) Obsessional Neurosis	—	1	1
(3) Hysteria.....	—	3	3
(4) Neurasthenia	4	3	7
(5) Adolescent Instability	—	1	1
(6) Traumatic Neurosis	1	—	1
Early and Mild Psychosis—			
(1) Epilepsy.....	1	1	2
(2) Cerebral Syphilis (including General Paralysis of the Insane)	7	—	7
(3) Mental Disorders associated with grosser brain lesions.....	3	1	4
(4) Tonic and exhaustion state.....	2	1	3
(5) Schizophrenia	11	9	20
(6) Manic depressive state.....	4	2	6
(7) Simple Melancholia	4	6	10
(8) Involutional Melancholia	2	7	9
(9) Early Paranoid state	1	1	2
(10) Post Alcoholic Psychosis.....	2	—	2
	48	46	94

APPENDIX VIII.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ST. JOHN'S PARK.

St. John's Park, New Town,
29th August, 1939.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the annual report governing the activities of St. John's Park during the year 1938-39.

Admissions.

There were 289 persons admitted into the institution, of whom 219 were males and 70 females. These figures show a decrease over those for the previous year, when 251 males and 93 females were admitted.

Discharges.

The number of persons discharged was 228 (186 males and 42 females). These figures also show a decrease over those for 1937-38 when 190 males and 62 females were discharged.

Mortality.

Deaths totalled 70 (40 males and 30 females), as compared with 88 (58 males and 30 females) during the previous year. The average age of the people who died in the institution was 75.54 years.

Daily Average.

The daily average number of ordinary inmates in the institution was 312.35 (201.06 males and 111.29 females), a decrease of 2.27 over the preceding year, when the figures were 314.62 (201.53 males and 113.09 females). The daily average number of resident after-care patients was 44.8, compared with 39.4 for 1937-38.

The daily average for the whole of the institution was 357.23, an increase of 3.17 over the previous year.

Average Age.

Excluding the after-care patients the average age of persons residing in the institution was 50.32 years.

Revenue.

The revenue received from all sources totalled £6198 11s. 7d., being an increase of £623 15s. 1d. compared with the previous year.

Expenditure.

The expenditure on the upkeep of the institution amounted to £23,064 18s. 7d.

Number of Diets.

There was an increase of 10,049 diets over the previous year, the total figures being as follows:—Ordinary inmates, 114,110; after-care patients, 16,382; making a total of 130,493, as against 120,454 the previous year (114,814 ordinary and 5640 after-care diets).

Gross and Net Cost of Maintenance.

There was a slight increase in the gross and net cost of maintenance, the figures being as follows:—Gross cost for the year 1938-39, 3s. 6.42d. per day as against 3s. 5.8d. the previous year, whilst the net cost for 1938-39 was 2s. 7.79d., compared with 2s. 6.7d. in 1937-38.

General Observations.

During the year 1937-38 a plan for general improvements to the wards and buildings was inaugurated, and it is very gratifying to be able to record the fact that this work has been kept well up to schedule, several of the renovations and improvements being commented upon most favourably by the many visitors to the institution.

A modern electric bread and meat cutting machine was purchased during the year, and its installation has resulted in a considerable saving being effected, as it eliminates all waste.

Gellibrand House.

It is extremely gratifying to place on record the fact that the Tasmanian Veteran's Trust have, during the past year, erected a splendid building of 37 beds, two spacious lounge rooms, a dining-room and two luxuriously equipped bathrooms for the housing of War Veterans and others at St. John's Park, and it is very fitting that it has been named "Gellibrand House," in honour of Major-General Sir John Gellibrand, who has been very closely connected with the Tasmanian Veteran's Trust since its inception.

At the end of the year the furnishing of the building was well under way, and it will be ready for occupation early in the current financial year.

Library.

The institution library has been equipped with a sufficiently large number of modern books of fiction, &c., to meet the requirements of the large number of inmates who patronise its facilities. Although most of these volumes were purchased, our grateful thanks are extended to all those donors whose generous gifts of books and papers helped considerably in bringing the library up to its present satisfactory position.

As the library is furnished also with very comfortable lounges, easy chairs, and a billiard-table, the leisure hours of the inmates pass very happily indeed.

Grounds.

The grounds of the institution, formerly used as a vegetable garden, have been laid out in lawns. This constitutes the foundation of a plan which is under consideration for their ultimate conversion into park grounds for the greater comfort and pleasure of the inmates.

Thanks for Donations.

It is my pleasing duty, on behalf of the inmates of St. John's Park, to convey very grateful and sincere thanks to all those kind persons who once again so generously made various donations during the year.

Government Medical Officer.

During the absence of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. A. Oliphant, who took charge of the Zeehan District hospital at the beginning of January last, the sick folk in the institution received every attention from Drs. Chalmers, Shatin, and W. J. Freeman, and our thanks are extended to them for the kindly interest they displayed in their well-being.

Devotional.

The spiritual welfare of the inmates has received every attention by the various denominations, regular services being held in the institution.

Staff.

I regret to announce the resignation at the end of the year of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. A. Oliphant, who accepted the position of Medical Superintendent of the Zeehan District Hospital.

During the period Dr. Oliphant was in charge at St. John's Park, he performed extremely valuable and useful service, and many improvements to the institution and the welfare and comfort of the inmates were put into operation by him.

In conclusion, I desire to express sincere thanks to the members of the staff for their loyal co-operation, and the manner in which they carried out their duties during the year.

I have, &c.,

L. WOODHOUSE, Secretary.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX IX.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT.

Government Institution for Defectives at St. John's Park, New Town.

TABLE showing classes of Mental Defectives in the Institution on 30th June, 1939.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Idiots	1	—	1
Imbeciles	10	14	24
Feeble-minded	45	19	64
Moral defectives	1	1	2
	57	34	91

Note.—Seven persons are under 16 years of age.

Forty-six defectives (numbering 30 males and 16 females) originally placed in the Government Institution for Defectives at St. John's Park, New Town, are under guardianship or supervision in the community.

Twenty-seven mental defectives, originally placed in either the Government Institution for Defectives at St. John's Park, New Town, or in the Government Institution for Defectives at His Majesty's Gaol, Hobart, and transferred under Section 35 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1920, to the Lachlan Park Hospital, New Norfolk, are inmates of the Lachlan Park Hospital.

APPENDIX X.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HOME FOR INVALIDS.

Home for Invalids,
Mulgrave-street,
Launceston, June 5th, 1939.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the annual report concerning the Home for Invalids for the year 1938.

Admissions.

Admissions for the year were 36, of whom 22 were males and 14 females, in comparison with the preceding year, when there were six males admitted and two females.

Discharges.

The number of persons discharged was 12 (nine males and three females), being nine more than the previous year.

Mortality.

The number of deaths was 20 (13 males and seven females), whereas for the preceding year the number was two males.

Daily Average.

The daily average for the year was 34.8, the average age being 61.8.

Improvements.

It is gratifying to note that the wards have been painted, and therefore give a more cheerful aspect. The wooden

benches in the patients' sitting-rooms have been removed and replaced by leather chairs. Much pleasure has been afforded the patients by a radio set, which was bequeathed.

Entertainments of Inmates.

During the year frequent concert parties were given, which were much appreciated by the inmates. Outings to the country and seaside were arranged for those able to go.

The management of the Star and the Princess Theatres have generously made it possible for the patients to see several programmes.

Donations.

The Northern Tasmanian Trotting Club liberally donated 12 bed-tables, two armchairs, and four garden-seats. The Apex Club was responsible for the acquisition of new china.

Special thanks are due to the Exton and Ravenswood Branches of the Country Womens' Association for their tireless and unceasing work and interest during the year.

Devotional.

Regular church services have been held by the clergy and laity of the different denominations.

I have, &c.,

B. CAMPBELL, Matron.

The Director of Public Health.