

Report / Department of Public Health, Tasmania.

Contributors

Tasmania. Department of Public Health.

Publication/Creation

Hobart : Govt. Printer, [1939]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zs2whb36>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



(No. 17.)

1939

TASMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH

The Royal Sanitary Institute

Library
REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
TASMANIA

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1939

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



TASMANIA:

H. H. PIMBLETT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

1940.

1939

TASMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC

HEALTH

REPORT

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TASMANIA

WELLCOME INSTITUTE LIBRARY	
Coll.	wellMomec
Call	
No.	+ Ann Rep WA28 .KAG T19

1939



22501400392

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Introduction—Vital Statistics	5
Public Health Act—New Legislation and Administration	5
Notifiable Infectious Diseases	5-8
Venereal Diseases	8-10
Hospitals Act	10
Maternity and Child Welfare and Infantile Mortality	10-12
Food and Drugs Act	12
Bush Nursing	12-13
Government Medical Service	13
School Medical Service	14

TABLES.

A—C. Notifiable Infectious Diseases	7-8
D—E. Venereal Diseases	9-10
F. Private Hospitals	10
G—J. Infantile Mortality	11-12
K. Bush Nursing	13
L. Government Medical Service	13

APPENDICES.

I. Report of Government Pathologist	15
II. Report of Government Analyst	15-16
III. Report of Chief Health Inspector	16-18
IV. Child Welfare Reports	18
V. Report of Senior Dental Inspector	18-19
VI. Report of Nurses' Registration Board	19
VII. Vital Statistics	20-22
VIII. Report of Medical Superintendent, Lachlan Park Hospital	23-31
IX. Report of St. John's Park	32
X. Report of Home for Invalids, Launceston	32

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1-5	Introduction—Vital Statistics
6-8	Public Health Act—New Legislation and Administration
9-10	Notifiable Infectious Diseases
11-12	Venereal Diseases
13-14	Hospital Act
15-16	Mortality and Child Welfare and Infantile Mortality
17-18	Food and Drugs Act
19-20	House Rentering
21-22	Government Medical Service
23-24	School Medical Service

TABLES

25-26	A—C. Notifiable Infectious Diseases
27-28	D—E. Venereal Diseases
29-30	F. Private Hospitals
31-32	G—J. Infantile Mortality
33-34	K. House Rentering
35-36	L. Government Medical Service

APPENDICES

37-38	I. Report of Government Pathologist
39-40	II. Report of Government Analyst
41-42	III. Report of Child Health Inspector
43-44	IV. Child Welfare Reports
45-46	V. Report of Sanitary District Inspector
47-48	VI. Report of Nurses' Registration Board
49-50	VII. Vital Statistics
51-52	VIII. Report of Medical Superintendent, Eastern Town Hospital
53-54	IX. Report of St. John's Park
55-56	X. Report of House for Invalids, Langensleben



SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1939.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 14th June, 1940.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the Annual Report of the Department of Public Health for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The population of Tasmania, estimated on the 31st December, 1939, was 241,576, whilst the mean population for the year was 238,002. The mean population, 1938 (for the whole year), was 235,678, so that the population of the State, as shown by the figures, reveals an increase of 2324.

Births.—The number of births registered was 5004, as against 4907 in 1938, a rise of 97 and representing a birth rate of 21.03. This is slightly above the rate of 1938, which was 20.82, but is a substantial fall as compared with a year, viz., 1922, in the previous decade with a rate of 27.08. Apart from the Northern Territory, our birth rate for the year was the highest of the Commonwealth States.

Deaths.—The deaths in 1939 were 2426, as compared with 2288 in 1938, an increase of 138.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 203. This yields an infant mortality rate of 40.6 per 1000 births.

Of the 203 deaths of the one year of age, 112 occurred under one week, 144 under one month, and 168 under three months.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT—NEW LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

Legislation.—The Public Health Act, as amended during last year, enables the Department to make regulations prescribing, *inter alia*, the period a body may be retained, after death, on any premises. This amendment was sought principally for the purpose of regulating the use of funeral parlours for the reception of bodies awaiting burial.

The regulations in force for checking or preventing the spread of any infectious disease are about to be amended, to provide for the cleansing and disinfection by a local authority of any dwelling-house vacated by a tenant, and before occupation by another tenant, unless an inspector certifies in writing that it is unnecessary so to do.

Administration.—The administration of the Public Health Act and kindred laws is now carried out by the Department, on behalf of local

authorities, in the thirteen municipal districts where Government Medical Officers are located. This number represents an increase of four districts over the preceding year. The services rendered by these officers in so many rural municipalities, supplemented by regular and systematic inspections carried out from head office, have been responsible for much improvement in standards of sanitation and hygiene. Apart from routine work, the following matters have received particular attention during the year:—

- (1) The prevention and control of infectious disease:
- (2) Immunization against diphtheria:
- (3) School medical inspection:
- (4) The sanitation of dwelling-houses, road construction camps, and dairying premises:
- (5) Housing, &c., provided for persons employed at hop fields and small fruit orchards.

In the course of visitations to the remaining municipal districts, for the performance of sanitary surveys, departmental officers report a commendable degree of activity on the part of many local authorities. In this regard it is appropriate to make special reference to the active measures taken by an increasing number of councils to provide for immunization against diphtheria.

Reference to the work performed by departmental inspectors during the course of the year is contained in the report of the Chief Health Inspector and Chief Inspector of Food and Drugs (Appendix III).

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Tables A to C contain statistical information under this heading.

Diphtheria.—In 1939, 365 cases of diphtheria were notified, as compared with 343 in 1938 and 305 in 1937. There were fourteen deaths, giving a fatality rate of 38.41 per 1000 cases notified as compared with 29.2 in 1938.

Facilities for artificial immunization against diphtheria are now available in many municipal districts, the immunizing agent being provided by the Government free of charge. Immunization has been recognised almost universally for some years past, and if it were accepted and practised in this State on a large scale diphtheria could be reduced to a disease of little consequence to public health.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 162 notifications of scarlet fever with no deaths. The incidence of the disease was a little higher than that for the previous year, when 123 cases were reported.

Typhoid Fever.—Eight cases and one death were recorded. The absence of any infection in 45 of the 49 municipal districts is worthy of record.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—Table C shows the condition as at 31.12.38 of the 1006 cases notified during the 1937-38 epidemic, and the progress made during 1939 by those who have been under treatment as a result of the disease.

Tuberculosis.—During the year 1939, 196 new cases of tuberculosis were reported, whilst the deaths totalled 126. Neither the incidence of the

disease nor the mortality therefrom shows any decline. Of the 173 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 41 per cent received institutional treatment at the Tasmanian Sanatorium.

The chest clinics established at the Hobart and Launceston Public Hospitals continue to play an important part in the prevention of the spread of infection. Greater use is being made of the services provided for suspected cases and contacts, which must eventually lead to a steady decline in the incidence of the disease. Particulars of the work performed by 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	73	58	6	6	143	20	23	1	...	44
New Cases taken on at Clinic for Observation and Treatment	89	98	31	25	243	34	49	19	22	124
Re-attendances	292	310	25	40	676	70	356	47	55	534
Re-examinations	240	262	3	22	527	33	98	14	7	152
Clinic Cases Transferred to Sanatorium.....	37	26	...	...	63	3	5	...	...	8
Sanatorium Cases Transferred to Clinic for Special Treatment ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Patients Discharged after Treatment at the Clinic:—										
Markedly Improved.....	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Improved .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
In statu quo .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Worse	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Patients Found Non-Tuberculous	18	23	...	2	43	3	14	4	1	22
Contacts:—										
Number of Infecting Cases...	43	21	...	...	64	32	39	...	...	71
Number of Contacts Examined	16	40	26	19	101	15	27	18	22	82
Number of Contacts Re-Examined	28	73	69	61	231	3	22	47	29	101
Number of Contacts Found Tuberculous .....	...	1	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	3
Number of Contacts Under Suspicion Tb.....	...	1	1	...	2	...	1	3	3	7
Number of Invalid Pensioners Seen.....	5	1	...	...	6	18	66	...	...	84
Home Visits:—										
Medical Officer .....	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Nurse's First Visit .....	...	...	...	...	71	15	8	...	...	23
Nurse's Re-Visits.....	...	...	...	...	688	237	577	13	6	833
Special Visits in Connection with After-care .....	...	1	...	2	3	...	25	...	...	25
Pneumothorax Refills .....	...	...	...	...	...	16	44	...	...	60
X-Ray Examinations (Films)	76	118	16	18	228	23	56	24	24	127
X-Ray Examinations (Screen) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	...	...	21
Sputum Examinations .....	...	...	...	...	261	26	15	...	...	41
Total Attendances, Old and New Cases .....	...	...	...	...	2080	127	479	75	84	765

TABLE A.

RETURN showing Number of Cases of each Notifiable Infectious Disease reported to the Department of Public Health during the Year 1939, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of such Diseases for the Years 1938 and 1939.

Municipality.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis (All Forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Lethargic Encephalitis.	Total, 1939.	Total, 1938.
1 Beaconsfield ...	13	...	3	5	...	...	...	...	21	19
2 Bothwell .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	5
3 Brighton	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	12
4 Bruny	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
5 Burnie	12	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	16	70
6 Campbell Town	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
7 Circular Head .	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	3	18
8 Clarence	8	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	13	24
9 Deloraine	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	5	45
10 Devonport	7	...	...	7	...	...	...	1	15	16
11 Esperance	9	...	8	...	...	...	1	...	18	35
12 Evandale	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	4	8
13 Fingal	4	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	14	33
14 Flinders .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	5
15 George Town ...	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	5	12
16 Glamorgan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 Glenorchy	16	...	8	16	1	...	...	...	41	55
18 Gormanston .	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
19 Green Ponds ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
20 Hamilton	6	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	9	13
21 Hobart	58	3	64	56	6	...	...	...	187	900
22 Huon	7	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	14	30
23 Kentish	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	5	19
24 Kingborough ...	1	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	8	30
25 King Island ...	...	...	11	...	1	...	...	...	12	9
26 Latrobe	4	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	7	10
27 Launceston	116	3	24	34	6	...	...	...	183	241
28 Leven	2	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	7	20
29 Lilydale	3	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	7	7
30 Longford	2	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	7	13
31 New Norfolk ...	...	1	...	9	...	...	...	...	10	54
32 Oatlands	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	12
33 Penguin	3	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	6	20
34 Port Cygnet ...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	6	20
35 Portland	5	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	9	18
36 Queenstown ...	14	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	19	27
37 Richmond	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	11
38 Ringarooma ...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	35
39 Ross	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
40 Scottsdale	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	5	11
41 Sorell	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	4	14
42 Spring Bay .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
43 St. Leonards ...	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	5	16
44 Strahan	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
45 Table Cape	17	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	19	19
46 Tasman .....	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	4	4
47 Waratah	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	15
48 Westbury .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	11
49 Zeehan	9	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	13	19
TOTALS	365	8	162	196	15	1	2	1	750	1380

TABLE B.

RETURN showing Notification of Each Type of Infectious Disease Received by the Department of Public Health for Each Month of the Year 1939, together with Comparative Figures for the Years 1938 and 1939.

Month.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis (All Forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Lethargic Encephalitis.	Total, 1939.	Total, 1938.
January	26	...	6	14	2	1	...	...	49	291
February	13	3	14	23	...	...	...	...	53	206
March	20	2	18	13	1	...	1	...	55	180
April	33	...	15	8	1	...	...	...	57	150
May	52	1	8	16	3	...	1	...	81	123
June	35	...	8	6	...	...	...	...	49	71
July	33	...	9	14	...	...	...	1	57	77
August	28	1	13	25	...	...	...	...	67	75
September	26	1	21	18	2	...	...	...	68	60
October ...	53	...	25	25	3	...	...	...	106	51
November	33	...	13	19	3	...	...	...	68	62
December	13	...	12	15	...	...	...	...	40	34
Totals	365	8	162	196	15	1	2	1	750	1380

TABLE C.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Condition of Cases Notified during 1937-38 Epidemic.

No. of Cases Notified.	Condition as at 31.12.1938.				
	Cured.	Cured with Time.	Moderate Permanent Cripples.	Severe Permanent Cripples.	Died.
1006	443	266	137	79	81
No. of Cases Living at 1.1.39.	Condition as at 31.12.1939.				
	Cured.	Cured with Time.	Moderate Permanent Cripples.	Severe Permanent Cripples.	Died.
925	554	187	111	65	8

VENEREAL DISEASES

The cases notified, viz., 310, are much lower than those reported (415) during the previous year. This represents a fall of over 25 per cent.

Although, to some extent, notification may be incomplete, it affords some evidence of the incidence of the disease. The fall recorded for 1939 must, therefore, be considered very satisfactory.

The facilities for treatment provided at the clinics established at the Royal Hobart Hospital

and the Launceston Public Hospital were availed of in nearly 50 per cent of the cases notified. The Department assists to maintain these clinics by providing various preparations for treatment purposes.

Orders requiring persons suffering from these diseases to continue treatment were served in twelve individual cases.

Statistical information with respect to the notifications received during the year is shown in Tables D and E.

TABLE D.
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 1939.

	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.		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 .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	8	3	25	4	29	2	7	1	6	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	7	12	25	16	24	7	18	5	9	2	4	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gleet—																																					
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Primary—																																					
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Secondary—																																					
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Congenital—																																					
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea & Syphilis—																																					
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum—																																					
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chancre—																																					
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis & Chancre—																																					
Metropolitan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Extra-Metropolitan ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	...	20	21	56	26	55	13	27	11	17	2	10	1	7	2	6	3	5	3	5	1	3	...	6	1	...	221	89	310	

Details Showing Source of Notification of Venereal Disease for the Year 1939.

	Males.		Females.		Total.
Notified by Hospital Clinics.....	95		53		148
Notified by Private Doctors	126		36		162
	221		89		310

TABLE E.

RETURN showing Marital Status of Cases of Venereal Diseases Reported to the Department of Public Health for the Year 1939.

	Male.		Female.		Total.		Grand Total
	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	
Gonorrhoea	55	119	18	37	73	156	229
Syphilis	23	17	20	10	43	27	70
Gleet	3	2	...	...	3	2	5
Syphilis & Chancre .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Gonorrhoea and Syphilis .....	...	...	1	2	1	2	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Chancre .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Total	81	140	39	50	120	190	310

HOSPITALS ACT.

Public Hospitals.—During the course of the year substantial progress has been made towards the provision of a complete and satisfactory hospital service for the people. The new Royal Hobart Hospital was officially opened on the 18th January, 1939, whilst a new nurses' home, which provides accommodation for 130 nurses, has also been erected at a cost of £46,000. At the Launceston Public Hospital a further contract has been let for the completion of a ward block, containing wards (including children's wards), operating theatres, kitchens, doctors' quarters, &c., at a cost of £137,249. The sum of £38,000 has been provided for a new public hospital and nurses' home at Queenstown. The erection of a new public hospital and nurses' home at Wynyard is nearing completion. A pathological block is in course of construction at the Royal Hobart Hospital. With the completion of the structures outlined herein there should be very little, if any, demand upon the Government for capital expenditure upon hospital construction for many years to come.

The amount appropriated in favour of medical institutions for 1939-40 totalled £90,338 10s., compared with £96,027 in the previous year. In the main this reduction was due to the payment of decreased special grants to the Royal Hobart and Launceston Public Hospitals for the maintenance and treatment of cases of infantile paralysis consequent upon the diminishing number of patients in need of accommodation at these institutions.

It is fitting that a tribute be paid to the members of the Board of each public hospital for the voluntary service rendered in connection with the administration and management of these institutions. In nearly every instance the work involved is of an arduous nature, and demands much personal sacrifice.

Private Hospitals.—At the close of the year there were fifty-two licensed private hospitals in the State, detailed information in respect of which is set out in Table F. Regular and systematic inspections are made of these premises as a means

of enforcing compliance with Departmental requirements. Whilst, to some extent, private hospitals are in competition with the hospital service of the State, it must be admitted that they serve a most useful purpose and make much needed provision, which it would be difficult to secure in any other way.

TABLE F.

RETURN of Private Hospital Licences Issued during the Year 1939.

	No. of Licences Issued.	Medical, Surgical, & Lying-in.	Medical & Surgical Only.	Lying-in Only.
Hobart	9	2	1	6
Launceston	8	...	3	5
Country	35	8	2	25
	52	10	6	36

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Through the years, voluntary workers, supported by financial aid from the Government, have continued their efforts to safeguard the health of mothers and infants and, by a gradual process, have increased welfare centres and nursing personnel. Apart from the work undertaken at the centres, the importance of home visitation is being increasingly recognised. A brief summary of the work of the nurses is contained in Appendix IV.

In accordance with the policy of the Government, arrangements have been made for the Department to take over the administration of the various child welfare services in the State on and from the 1st January, 1940. The work involved will be carried out in close co-operation with the Tasmanian Council of Child Welfare and Baby Health Associations and various Committees affiliated with this Council. It is anticipated that this official relationship with child welfare services will make it possible to provide supervisory and co-ordinated services throughout the State, with due regard to the financial obligations of the Government.

The Government medical service also provides a means for individual medical officers to play an important part in the furtherance of maternity and child welfare work.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 203, or eight more than in 1938. This yields an infant mortality rate of 40.6 per thousand births. The outstanding causes of death were—prematurity (61), congenital malformations (31), bronchial pneumonia (20), and injury at birth (19).

Tables G to J contain statistical data in regard to infantile mortality.

TABLE G.
INFANTILE Mortality.

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

	Year.																			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Deaths..	374	451	324	326	296	287	232	256	300	255	242	219	185	187	189	231	227	202	195	203

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.
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
1939.....	40.6	41.0	35.6	34.7	34.8	40.7	31.1	65.2	23.0	38.1

TABLE H.

TABLE showing the Principal Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 Year of Age in Tasmania in each Year from 1930 to 1939.

Causes of Deaths.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
7. Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
8. Scarlet Fever, &c .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Whooping Cough	3	8	3	4	7	...	7	4	...	...
10. Diphtheria and Croup	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Other Epidemic Diseases .....	...	1	1	1	...	4	4	1	2	2
22. Tetanus .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
24. Tubercular Meningitis	1	2	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	2
34. Syphilis	1	1	1	...	1	...	2	2	3	1
86. Convulsions	2	3	3	2	5	5	5	1	5	3
106. Bronchitis	3	1	2	...	1	2	2	...	1	1
107. Broncho-pneumonia	4	13	20	18	17	22	22	17	24	20
108, 109. Pneumonia	12	8	4	3	3	8	6	4	4	4
Other Diseases of the Stomach	1	1	1	...	1	1	3	...	...	3
119. Gastro-Enteritis, Diarrhoea, and Enteritis	23	12	8	9	19	10	4	...	4	2
157. Congenital Defects	28	23	14	24	11	24	28	11	22	31
159, 160. Premature Birth and Injury at Birth	100	86	69	73	64	90	89	93	70	80
158. Debility, Marasmus	25	16	20	13	21	16	15	22	17	13
161. Other Diseases of Early Infancy	20	14	20	20	21	20	23	29	27	21
Other Causes	18	30	18	19	15	27	15	17	15	18
Total	242	219	185	187	189	231	227	202	195	203
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 Births)	50.6	46.0	41.2	41.1	42.3	51.8	49.6	41.7	39.7	40.6
Total Births	4785	4762	4491	4553	4470	4456	4581	4841	4907	5004

TABLE I.

(Showing Ages and Causes of Death under
One Year—1939.)

Causes of Death and Classification Number.	Under 1 year.				
	Under 1 week.	1 week and under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 1 year.
10. Diphtheria .....	...	1	1	...	2
11a. Influenza with specified Respiratory Complications .....	...	...	...	1	1
15. Erysipelas .....	...	...	1	...	1
24. Tuberculosis of the Men- inges and Central Nervous System .....	...	...	...	2	2
34. Syphilis .....	...	...	1	...	1
36. Purulent Infection and Septi- cæmia .....	...	...	...	1	1
67. Diseases of the Thymus Gland	1	...	2	...	3
71b. Simple Anæmia	1	...	1	...	2
86. Convulsions of Infants	2	...	1	...	3
87e. Idocy, Imbecility	1	...	...	...	1
90. Pericarditis .....	...	...	1	...	1
101. Diseases of Lymphatic System .....	...	...	1	...	1
105. Diseases of the Larynx	1	...	...	...	1
106a. Acute Bronchitis .....	...	...	1	...	1
107a. Broncho-Pneumonia	2	3	2	7	20
108. Lobar Pneumonia .....	...	1	1	2	4
118. Other Diseases of the Stomach (Cancer excepted) .....	...	1	2	...	3
119. Diarrhoea and Enteritis .....	...	1	1	...	2
122b. Intestinal Obstruction .....	...	...	1	...	1
157. Congenital Malformations	14	6	5	5	31
158. Congenital Debility	7	2	3	...	13
159. Premature Birth	53	7	1	...	61
160. Injury at Birth	13	6	...	...	19
161a. Atelectasis	9	...	...	...	9
161b. Icterus Neonatorum	3	3	...	...	6
161c. Diseases of Umbilicus	1	...	...	...	1
161d. Sclerema and others	3	2	...	...	5
172. Infanticide	1	...	...	...	1
182. Accidental Mechanical Suffo- cation .....	...	...	3	2	6
Total	112	32	24	20	15
					203

TABLE J.

Comparative Figures of Principal Causes of
Deaths under One Year during 1935-1939.

Causes of Death.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Whooping Cough .....	...	7	4	...	...
Convulsions	5	5	1	5	3
Bronchitis	2	2	...	1	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	22	22	17	24	20
Pneumonia	8	6	4	4	4
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	10	4	...	4	2
Congenital Debility	16	15	22	17	13
Syphilis .....	...	2	2	3	1
Malformations	24	28	11	22	31
Prematurity and injury at Birth	90	89	93	70	80
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	20	23	29	27	21

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Supervision.—Routine and special inspections have been made, with the object of securing effective work under the Food and Drugs Act. Advisory duties in connection with the legislation and food regulations are also an important function of the Department.

Chemical Laboratory.—The laboratory in course of erection in the grounds of the Royal Hobart Hospital will provide much needed accommodation for officers at present working under conditions which militate against general efficiency.

Food Sampling.—Detailed references to the work performed under this heading are contained in Appendices II. and III. It is important to note that returns furnished by Government Analysts show that, in general, milk as sold to the consumer is reasonably satisfactory as regards milk fat and other milk solids.

Offences.—Eight prosecutions were instituted, with successful results, against traders for selling adulterated food. The fines and costs amounted to £22 14s.

BUSH NURSING.

Satisfactory progress is reported from the districts in which bush nursing is in operation. During the course of the year a new hospital was established at Swansea, in the Glamorgan District, whilst a similar institution is in course of erection at Triabunna, in the Spring Bay Municipality. The Government assisted financially in the first-mentioned case, and in the latter assumed the full liability. Financial assistance has also been given towards the cost of the following works:—

- (1) The provision of extra accommodation to the hospital at Redpa.
- (2) The erection of a cottage for the nurse at Lilydale.
- (3) The erection of a clinic and residence for the nurse at Ulverstone.
- (4) The provision of a home for the bush nurse at Avoca.

Much difficulty has been experienced in securing nurses for bush nursing appointments, despite advertisements inserted in both local and mainland newspapers. Fortunately, the Department has been able to secure the services of local nurses who are willing to act in a temporary capacity until permanent appointments can be made, thus providing for continuity of service for the people already served by the Bush Nursing Scheme.

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

TABLE K.

SUMMARY of Work Performed in Bush Nursing Centres during the Year ended 31st December, 1939.

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	335	253	32	...	...	...	...	145	...	2
Avoca	258	980	71	4	70	128	28	2967	57 1 3	...
Bruny	42	109	194	11	25	66	11	3779	115 12 0	2
Burnie	7	358	6	18	83	2609	9	6551	69 17 0	...
Cygnat	269	882	18	18	67	583	6	5396	226 3 0	...
Flinders Island	144	125	30	3	34	41	9	1488	32 19 0	...
Lilydale	175	409	11	5	122	542	18	2881	102 4 0	...
Marrawah	241	236	170	14	43	125	1	1728	124 17 3	...
Ouse	88	95	168	12	59	111	...	346	100 6 4	1
Ringarooma ...	494	337	4	4	31	164	2	1677	154 7 0	...
Rosebery	6058	238	150	8	133	402	...	232	...	...
Rossarden	642	904	10	2	82	362	3	2662	...	...
Southport	125	40	155	13	26	70	...	625	103 5 6	2
Swansea	183	151	164	18	57	305	2	284	130 1 0	...
Tasman	52	34	868	25	31	13	...	1999	376 5 0	4
Tullah	2253	1492	15	1	54	277	...	759	...	2
Ulverstone	58	497	56	5	103	2292	12	6446	130 11 9	...
Waratah	1011	747	142	15	83	232	1	2392	...	1
Total.....	12,435	7887	2264	176	1103	8322	102	42,357	1723 10 1	14

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SERVICE.

At the 31st December, 1939, Government Medical Officers were functioning in thirteen municipal districts. A service was inaugurated in the Portland District on the 14th June, 1939, and in the Scottsdale District on the 14th August, 1939,

Two officers were placed in the latter municipality, so that, in addition to routine duties, they could provide essential medical services at the North-Eastern Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, Scottsdale.

Statistical information with respect to the services rendered during the year by Government medical officers is summarised in Table L.

TABLE L.

SUMMARY of Work Performed by Government Medical Officers during the Year ended 31st December, 1939.

District.	Population.	Medical Officer.	Date of Commencement of Service.	Number of Attendances upon Patients, showing Location of Attendance (excluding Workers' Compensation and Midwifery Cases which are shown separately).				Number of Attendances upon Workers' Compensation Cases.	Number of Attendances upon Midwifery Cases.	Total of all Attendances.	Mileage Covered.
				Residence.	Surgery.	Hospital.	Total.				
Esperance (Southern portion) ...	1271	Tremayne, J. H. R.	11.3.38	1168	1048	30	2246	77	13	2336	7636
Flinders	1003	Ick, T. J.	1.5.38	881	877	nil	1758	8	2	1768	7084
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	1694	Marshall, C. C.	18.5.38	711	597	nil	1308	nil	3	1311	10,528
Hamilton... ..	2293	Ashbarry, R. E.	1.5.38	1244	2328	nil	3572	14	12	3598	10,814
Kingborough-Bruny ...	4841	Ingram, B.	1.3.38	611	739	nil	1350	30	2	1382	9546
King Island ...	1216	Galbraith, T.	1.9.38	1000	1627	270	2797	60	36	2893	6706
Penguin	2832	Minton-Connell, R. H.	13.7.38	1615	1846	219	3680	53	18	3751	7746
Portland	1645	Mateson, M.	14.6.39	124	990	nil	1114	4	4	1122	4398
Scottsdale	2754	Beattie, G. R.; and Davies, G. J.	14.8.39	416	751	88	1255	8	1	1264	2697
Sorell... ..	2218	Klausen, F. C.	1.12.38	996	1069	nil	2065	2	13	2080	9828
Tasman	1339	Beattie, G. R. (to 7.8.39); Hanley, E. J. (from 8.8.39)	21.4.38	460	969	132	1561	14	10	1585	10,620
Totals	23,106	...	...	9226	12741	739	22,706	270	114	23,090	87,603

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

This service came under the administration of the Department on the 1st January, 1939. As such it now forms part of the public health service of the State. All Government medical officers, as well as four school nurses, are engaged in the work, with the result that many more children will now receive attention to their physical needs. The preliminary work involved in connection with the inauguration of the service was such that actual inspection was delayed until late in the year. For this reason, statistical information on the findings will be published in a future report. An important adjunct to medical inspection, viz., systematic surveys of the children by school nurses for defective conditions, &c., has been well maintained. As many as 17,140 individual examinations were made by the nurses, who report that, with very few exceptions, parents are mindful of the advice given for the correction of defects or physical impairment in their children.

Unfortunately, school medical inspection at the present time is restricted to those districts in which Government medical officers are functioning. As an important link in the chain of preventive medicine, and to ensure that every individual child has an equal chance to benefit, there is a demand for the systematic and routine medical inspection of all children in attendance at schools throughout the State.

An essential part of the school medical service is concerned with the condition of the children's teeth, with dental inspection and treatment. During the year a permanent dental clinic functioned in each of the cities of Hobart and Launceston, whilst four travelling clinics operated in the remaining districts throughout the State. Detailed information regarding the activities of these clinics (which is contained in the report of the Senior Dental Inspector, Appendix V.) shows there has been a full appreciation of the excellence of the service rendered by the various operators and their assistants.

CONCLUSION.

My thanks are due to individual officers of the Department for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I also desire to express my appreciation of the help and advice so readily given at all times by officers of other Government Departments.

I have, &c.,

B. M. CARRUTHERS,
Director of Public Health.

The Honourable the Minister for Health.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Pathological Laboratory,
Royal Hobart Hospital,
Hobart, 9th February, 1940.

SIR,

THE Staff consists of—

C. Duncan, M.B., B.S., B.Sc., Pathologist.
R. Prouse, Assistant.
G. Pratt, Assistant.

Mr. G. Haddow, who was a member of this staff for 20 years, passed away in March, 1939. His ability is greatly missed in the laboratory.

During the year, the laboratory continued to perform routine work for Government Departments, the Royal Hobart Hospital, other hospitals, private practitioners, and Government Medical Officers.

Owing to lack of animal housing facilities, and the smallness of the staff, little research work has been performed, but valuable information is still being collected concerning the cause of extra-pulmonary tuberculosis in Tasmania.

No. 1.—Examination of Materials for Infectious Diseases.

	No. of Specimens.	Positives.
Diphtheria—		
Cultures	5,323	451
Gonorrhoea—		
Smears	663	165
Urine	3	2
Syphilis—		
Dark-ground illumination	2	1
Kline tests	798	162
Tuberculosis—		
Sputum	1,225	233
Pleural fluid	5	1
Urine	23	1
Cerebro-spinal fluid	10	2
Faeces	1	—
Miscellaneous	12	6
Cultures for	45	15
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers—		
Blood agglutinations	15	5
Faeces for culture	10	—
Urine for culture	8	—
Dysentery—Faeces for culture	18	3
Vincent's angina—Smears	29	9
Trichomonas vaginalis—		
Smears	40	17
Urine	2	2
Sputum for hydatids, &c.	5	—
Smears for other organisms	58	—
Other cultures—		
Routine swabs for streptococci	131	37
Urine	29	21
Blood cultures	12	3
Pus	26	25
Cerebro-spinal fluid	18	7
Pleural fluid	30	16
Eyes	87	47
Other body fluids	28	23
Total	8,656	1,254

No. 2.—Pathological Examinations.

	No. of Specimens.	Positives.
Blood—		
Red cell count	242	—
White cell count	204	—
Hæmoglobin estimation	258	—
Examination of film	177	—
Differential white cell count	17	—
Sedimentation rate	33	—

	No. of Specimens.	Positives.
Platelet count	2	—
Reticulocyte count	3	—
Typing and grouping	50	—
Coagulation and bleeding times	15	—
Sulphæmoglobin	1	—
Urea estimation	169	—
Sugar estimation	60	—
Calcium estimation	7	—
Van den Bergh test	10	—
Cerebro-spinal fluid—		
Cell count	77	—
Chemical content	72	—
Urine—		
Microscopic examination	664	—
Chemical examination	44	—
Urea estimation	35	—
Diastase	3	—
Pleural fluid	39	—
Sections	321	—
Faeces for—		
Microscopic examination	3	—
Occult blood	179	119
Test meals	152	—
Vaccines	10	—
Other body fluids	8	—
Total	2,855	119

No. 3.—Foods, Waters, &c.

	No. of Specimens.
Water—Bacterial content	7
Milk—	
Bacterial content	4
Reductase test	192

No. 4.—Autopsies and Court Attendances.

	No. of Specimens.
Autopsies for—	
Hospitals	25
Coroners	59
Attendances at—	
Inquests	29
Criminal Court	2

I have, &c.,

C. DUNCAN,

Government Pathologist.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX II.

Government Analyst's Laboratory,
Hobart, 7th March, 1940.

SIR,

I respectfully submit reports by Mr. Johnstone and myself on the work of the Chemical Laboratories for the year 1939.

Much thought has been given to the design and equipment of the new laboratories now actually in course of construction, and the very ready and courteous co-operation of the architects has been much appreciated.

I regret that some of the proposed facilities have had to be curtailed, but the result should at any rate be a considerable improvement on the present quarters, particularly in the case of the Agricultural Laboratory.

The amount of fees earned during the year was £104 6s. 6d.

The amount received from the Customs Department by the Treasury for work done by this Branch was £256 2s.

*Samples Examined in the Government Analyst's
Laboratory during the Year 1939.*

	No. of Samples.
Baking chemicals	3
Beer and cordials	9
Butter	193
Cereals	5
Cheese	19
Confectionery, honey, and sugar	8
Cream and condensed milk	54
Drugs and chemicals	28
Essences	7
Fish and meat products	96
Fruit and Jam	16
Hydrometers	13
Kerosene and turpentine	16
Milk, cows'	376
Milk, human	14
Minerals and metals	15
Motor spirit	42
Oils and fats, edible	10
Oils, mineral	113
Paint	12
Poisons and other tests for Police Department	43
Sauces and condiments	15
Spirits and wines	16
Spraying materials and fertilisers	23
Tea, coffee, and cocoa	18
Textiles and paper	7
Thermometers	29
Vinegar	3
Water and effluents	33
Miscellaneous	8
Total	1,244

*Return showing the Sources of Samples Examined in the
Government Analyst's Laboratory during the Year
1939.*

	No. of Samples.
Customs Department (Commonwealth)	394
Public Health Department	337
Railway Department	33
Police Department	10
Other Government Departments	103
Hobart Local Authority	166
Other municipalities	47
Hospitals and clinics	60
Private firms and persons	94
Total	1,244

Butter.

Two hundred samples intended for export were examined. Thirty-nine contained more than 16 per cent of water, but in most cases the excess was very small.

Four samples for local consumption contained water in excess of the maximum allowed; in one case the excess was 58.7 per cent, and in another 25 per cent. Two other samples contained smaller excesses.

Cream.

Thirteen samples were deficient in milk-fat. One was 35.7 per cent deficient, and three others were over 10 per cent deficient.

Milk.

Of 354 samples, 22 (or 6.2 per cent) were deficient, 11 in fat and 11 in other solids. Only one contained added water; the amount being 10 per cent.

In addition, a herd of 22 cows was tested and five of the cows were shown to be giving milk below the minimum standard.

Oils.

Twenty-two mineral lubricating oils for the Railway Department, requiring eight or nine determinations each, were found to be outside the limits of specifications in respect to 42 determinations.

Poisons.

In three cases of attempted suicide, the stomach contents were found to contain arsenic, morphia, and phenol respectively. Strychnine was found in two cases of animal-poisoning.

Sausages.

Excess of starch was found in eight samples up to 86.6 per cent above the maximum allowed, and in several cases over 50 per cent above the maximum.

Water.

A sample from Cambridge contained a large amount of mineral salts, and was unfit for use.

Another sample sent by the Fisheries Commission, and said to have caused the death of fish, was reported as "exceedingly foul."

A sample sent from Campania, in connection with a proposed military camp, contained rather much mineral matter.

Laboratory at Model School.

The following samples and specimens of materials were analysed at the Model School Laboratory:—

Soils	116
Fertilizers	27
Waters	16
Dairy products	39
Veterinary	13
Limes	54
Pesticides	33
Stock foods	14
Miscellaneous	12
Total	324

The list shows an increase on the work done last year.

Fewer water samples were examined owing to the wet season providing farmers with good supplies.

The most marked increase is in the lime samples, and indicates a renewed interest in the use of lime, which is deficient in most of the farming soils of the State.

The fertilizer and pesticide samples show that the marketing of these necessary requisites to agriculture is in very good hands and in no case has an inferior brand been sold to farmers.

During the year, a large number of reports have been furnished to farmers and to officers of the Agricultural Department. The Laboratory has also co-operated with these officers in many problems connected with their work.

I have, &c.,

E. WARD, Government Analyst.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX III.

Hobart, 23rd February, 1940.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following report of the work performed by the inspectorial staff of the department during the year 1939.

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, Certificate R.S.I.; Inspector T. Orr, M.R.S.I.

In presenting this annual report of the services rendered by the inspectorial staff, the various laws claiming our attention are set out:—

Public Health Act, By-laws and Regulations.

Food and Drugs Act and Regulations.

Places of Public Entertainment Act and Regulations.

Hospitals Act and Regulations.

It is obvious that duties so varied and comprehensive as the above make many demands on the officers, and with the constantly changing evolution in public health, and the latest developments in the field of preventive medicine, many new problems are encountered. In carrying out these duties unique opportunities are provided for the officers to keep in touch with the people in their homes, at their work, and during recreation.

Compliance with health laws by legal process is generally made secondary to educational effort by the staff as it has been recognised that voluntary observance of health conditions is preferable to compulsion through the courts.

Air Raid Precautions Organisation.

Commencing at end of February members of the staff were engaged part of three days weekly for a period of

six months in connection with the organisation of air raid precautions, attending a class of instruction on anti-gas training, issuing equipment, also inspecting and preparing plans of first-aid posts, casualty clearing stations, &c. Although the organisation is nearing completion, a certain amount of detail work will, of necessity, be carried on for an indefinite period.

Routine Sanitary Surveys and General Inspections.

Despite the set-back due to time devoted to air raid organisation, officers were able to visit and carry out sanitary surveys and general inspections in the majority of municipalities throughout the State. Particular attention was focussed upon those districts where, by agreement with the Minister, the Department is responsible for the carrying out of the functions and duties of local authorities under the Public Health Act.

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

	No. of Inspections.	Improvements Required.
Bacteriolytic tanks, sites, and plans	409	43
Butchers' shops and other food premises	427	50
Plans of places of public entertainment and public buildings, including plans of new buildings and alterations to existing buildings	275	41
Hotels and licensed premises	136	24
Piggeries	38	7
Municipal abattoirs	12	2
Dairying premises	145	31
Schools, public and private	207	32
Bakeries	111	26
Water supplies and pollution of same, also samples	46	5
Drainage work	111	45
Offensive trades	132	19
Garbage depots and services	63	10
Sanitary depots and sewerage services	57	8
Hospitals, public and private	104	22
Cattle sale yards	28	7
Sewage disposal in rivers and streams	9	2
Wharves, jetties, and river frontages (not under control of local authority)	11	2
Boarding-houses	21	4
Insanitary buildings and condemned dwellings	29	15
Hop-picking and small fruit orchards	151	45
Miscellaneous	174	21
Construction camps	13	7
Fumigations	5	—
Infectious diseases (investigations)	20	—
Racecourses, showgrounds, &c.	87	13
Mutton-bird premises	59	21
Inspections—Organisation of air-raid precautions	149	—

Supervision of Sanitation and Health Requirements, Hydro-Electric Commission Buildings, Tarraleah.

During the year regular visits were made by an officer of the Department to the Hydro-Electric Commission's camp and other buildings at Tarraleah to supervise the sanitation and advise generally on public health problems as they arose. It is pleasing to report that the officers of the Commission appreciated the visits of officers, and co-operated with the Department in rendering material assistance at all times.

Inspection of Imported Eggs.

Owing to the arrival of large consignments of eggs from Victoria and South Australia, the staff has been called upon to inspect same in accordance with the amended regulations under the Food and Drugs Regulations. In the year under review 5190 dozen eggs were inspected.

Health Inspectors' Conference, Sydney.

Inspector Parker was deputed to attend the Health Inspectors' Conference, at Sydney, in September, 1939. A number of instructive lectures were given on subjects directly and indirectly connected with public health, including the following:—

- Health as a family affair;
- Bacteriolytic deterioration of milk and other dairy products;
- Air raids, Gas attacks, &c.;
- The health inspector and national defence.

Sale of Scallops.

During the season frequent inspections were made of wholesale depots where scallops are treated and prepared for sale. Owing to the immaturity of the shell fish and the abnormal weather conditions, a large number were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Inspection of Dairies.

It was found necessary to enforce the by-law regarding dairies in several country districts, and numerous orders were issued for new milking sheds and milk rooms. Many new buildings have been erected for dairying purposes along the north-west coast. The owners of such properties (where concrete floors and good drainage are provided) appreciate the facilities for keeping premises and equipment clean and satisfactory. With the extension of hydro-electric plant in many country centres, water supplies are now made available by pumping plants operated by electricity.

Districts Taken Over from Local Authorities.

The health inspectorial work of the following districts has been taken over by the Department:—Bruny, Flinders, Glamorgan, Kingborough, King Island, Penguin, Portland, Scottsdale, Sorell, Spring Bay, and Tasman.

The majority of local inspectors in these centres are now on the staff of the Department as part-time officers, and are carrying out duties with the co-operation and assistance of State health inspectors. It is pleasing to know that several of these part-time officers are attending classes of instruction to enable them to qualify for the certificate of competency issued by the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Food and Drugs.

Three hundred and sixteen (316) samples of food and drugs (an increase of 106 over previous years) were purchased in various parts of the State and forwarded to the Government Analyst for examination. Twenty-two (22), or approximately 7 per cent, were reported to be adulterated. Prosecutions were undertaken in eight cases; fines and costs amounting to £22 14s. being inflicted. Warnings were issued in 15 cases following the usual procedure in connection with first offenders, or where some reasonable doubt existed. A complete list of the samples taken is shown hereunder:—

Milk	91	Cheese	5
Cream	39	Essence of lemon	2
Sild	27	Vegemite	1
Salmon	9	Arrowroot	1
Sausage and saveloy	24	Lobster and sardine paste	2
Pilchards	2	Oil of roses	1
Coffee, coffee and chicory	9	Lemon snow powder	1
Ginger beer powder	1	Passion fruit	2
Cocoa	5	Iona cordial extract	1
Tomato soup and sauce	5	Liquid paraffin	2
Vinegar	3	Tinned scallops	1
Cheese paste	2	Pea soup	1
Tartaric acid	1	White pepper	1
Butter	20	Meat and ham pastes	2
Bay rum	1	Cordial extract	2
Ground nutmeg	1	Pork and beans	1
Marmalade	1	Condensed milk	3
Margarine	1	Gherkin spread	1
Chutney	1	Flan pack	1
Reduced cream	3	Brilliantine	1
Creamoata	1	Lime fruit cordial	1
Teas (bulk and pure)	2	Wheat flakes	1
Honey	3	Orange gin	1
Gin	1	Liver salt	1
Cream of tartar	2	Herring	1
Tonic stout	1	Beef extract	1
Imitation cordial extract	1	Sago	1
Kitchen herbs	1	Copha	1
Mixed spice	1	Luncheon beef	1
Green peas	1	Camp pie	4
Lard	1	Potted meat and ham	2
Bourn-vita	1	Spaghetti	1
Veal and bacon	1	Whitebait	1
Fruit saline	1	Jellies	1
Farne meat paste	1	Tablets found in flour	1

Total number of samples 316

Varieties of samples 74

Seizure of Foodstuffs.

Seizures of food include 35,500 scallops, 1 case eggs, 50 cases bananas, 20 boxes butter, 61 bottles cream, and smaller consignments of vermicelli, flour, currants, breakfast foods, almonds, sultanas, apple jelly, spaghetti, prunes, and raisins.

Conclusion.

In concluding this report I desire to thank council clerks and local inspectors for their co-operation and assistance.

As in the past the inspectorial staff has worked hard and conscientiously throughout the year.

I have, &c.,

J. RILEY,

Chief Health Inspector.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX IV.

SUMMARY of Work Performed by Child Welfare Nurses during the Year ended 31st December, 1939.

Association.	Centre.	Visits to Individual New-born Babies.	Subsequent Visits to Mothers.	Visits to Expectant Mothers.	Individual Babies Attending Clinic.	Total Attendances at Clinic by Babies.	Total Attendances at Clinic by Expectant Mothers.
Hobart Child Welfare Association	Hobart	399	3870	93	1268	8949	140
	North Hobart	317	1295	23	681	5039	120
	Sandy Bay	—	—	—	103	1005	6
	Moonah	164	1234	46	531	4014	58
	Glenorchy	49	338	5	109	841	2
	Bellerive	37	188	12	102	922	14
	New Norfolk	116	227	6	201	1426	13
	Geeveston	7	20	1	79	405	12
	Huonville	1	10	—	83	477	7
	Total	1090	7182	186	3157	23,078	372
Launceston Baby Health Association	Launceston	698	761	73	1393	11,818	190
	Invermay	146	366	6	204	1813	8
	Newstead	219	337	11	213	1853	25
	Sandhill				144	1277	17
	Trevallyn	—	—	—	52	323	3
	Scottsdale	25	72	2	37	97	3
	Longford	10	81	—	34	117	—
	Evandale	3	67	9	18	29	—
	Westbury	16	62	1	35	109	2
	Deloraine	24	78	3	25	113	4
	Total	1141	1824	105	2155	17,549	262
Devonport Child Welfare Association	Devonport	127	641	5	760	1527	—

APPENDIX V.

Dental Clinic,
Elizabeth Street Practising School,
Hobart, 3rd May, 1940.

SIR,

I wish to submit a report on the activities of the school dental service during the year 1939. Previously the service was attached to the Education Department, but during this year it came under the administration of the Public Health Department, and the work has proceeded with the same smoothness as was characteristic under the Education Department.

The operators and their assistants are keenly interested in their work, and have performed their duties loyally. They have received the co-operation of the teachers. Such co-operation is essential, as the lack of it can nullify, to a great extent, the result to be obtained by a visit from the dentist to a particular school.

Great assistance has been received, especially in the permanent clinics, from the nurses attached to the School Medical Service, who are continually drawing the parents' attention to the necessity for, and the benefits to be derived from, dental treatment of their children.

During the year two operators resigned, and their positions were filled by two young graduates, who have quickly adapted themselves to the conditions of our service. In addition, an extra clinic has been created, and this has enabled us to meet many requests for treatment which otherwise would have had to wait for the regular visit of the dentist. I hope that it will also have the effect of decreasing the length of time which elapses between the visits of a dentist to a particular school.

The operator in charge of the Southern Travelling Clinic has visited and afforded treatment to children attending schools in the following municipalities:—Bruny, Queenstown, Strahan, Hamilton, New Norfolk, Glamorgan, Green Ponds, Bothwell, Sorell, Tasman, Brighton, Spring Bay, and Clarence.

The North-Western Travelling Clinic has visited and completed treatment in the Leven, Devonport, Circular Head, Table Cape, Waratah, and Zeehan districts, and has commenced treatment at Burnie.

The North-Eastern Clinic has attended to children at the schools in the Deloraine, Flinders, Kentish, and Latrobe areas.

Children attending all schools in the Hobart and Launceston districts were attended at the permanent clinics situated in those cities.

During the year 11,396 children were treated. They have paid a total of 28,516 visits to the various operators, and the treatment afforded to them was as follows:—

Treatments (including examinations, temporary fillings, gum treatments, &c.)	21,038
Fillings	9,434
Extractions	35,080
Cleanings	4,167
Total	69,719

Individual totals are as follows:—

	New Visits.	Return Visits.	Total Visits	Treatments.	Fillings.	Extractions.	Cleanings.	Totals.
J. T. Brook	1266	3297	4563	3384	2251	3314	395	9344
D. Noonan	1730	3468	5198	3303	1800	6224	161	11,488
A. T. Ellis	1682	3044	4726	3768	1948	3918	640	10,274
J. C. Rosenbrock	1109	1512	2621	1447	564	3928	195	6135
H. S. Murphy	833	1711	2544	1281	569	2035	171	4056
J. Watson	3190	724	3914	4966	614	11,272	2124	18,976
G. Potter	174	249	423	320	91	405	23	839
H. J. Walker	1412	3125	4537	2569	1597	3984	457	8607
Totals	11,396	17,120	28,516	21,038	9434	35,080	4167	69,719

I have, &c.,

J. T. BROOK,
Senior Dental Inspector.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX VI.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 7th June, 1940.

THE NURSES REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

SIR,

We have the honour to submit the annual report of the Nurses' Registration Board for the year 1939.

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.

Miss A. R. Cockayne, Matron of the Royal Hobart Hospital.

Miss C. I. Skirving, Matron of the Launceston Public Hospital.

Miss I. E. Macfarlan, Matron of the Devon Public Hospital, Latrobe.

Board Meetings.

The Board held two special and three ordinary meetings.

Training Schools.

Training schools registered.—General, 15; mental, 1; midwifery, 4.

Applications for Training.

Approved.—General, 134; mental, 36; midwifery, 45.
Refused.—General, 10.

Trainees.

General, 378; mental, 77; midwifery, 43.

Resigned, &c.—General, 76; mental, 24; midwifery, 1.

Completed Training.—General, 302; mental, 53; midwifery, 42.

Examinations.

Educational tests for intending trainees—

Applications	42
Passed examination	25
Failed	17

Examinations for the registration of nurses—

Candidates:

General	43
Mental	60
Midwifery	40

Results:

	Passed.	Failed.
General	42	1
Mental	47	13
Midwifery	37	3

Registration of Nurses.

Registered.—General, 98; mental, 2; midwifery, 49.

Renewed registration.—General, 391; mental, 6; midwifery, 261.

Legislation.

The regulations in force under the Act, as consolidated and amended, were published in the "Tasmanian Government Gazette" on the 4th October, 1939.

We have, &c.,

B. M. CARRUTHERS, Chairman.
E. J. TUDOR, Secretary.

The Hon. the Minister for Health.

APPENDIX VII.
VITAL STATISTICS.
Statistical and General.

Population:

Estimated on the 31st December, 1939—

Males	121,965
Females	119,611
Total	241,576

Mean population, 1939 (for whole year)—

Males	120,799
Females	117,203
Total	238,002

Mean population, 1938 (for the whole year) 235,678
Increase for the year

The population of the State, as shown by the figures,
reveals an increase of 2324.

Australian Birth-rate for the Year 1939 per 1000
Persons Living.

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

	1922.	1938.	1939.
New South Wales	25.67	17.39	17.46
Victoria	23.10	16.25	16.20
Queensland	25.59	18.98	20.08
South Australia	23.71	15.88	16.13
Western Australia	23.94	19.87	19.43
Tasmania	27.08	20.82	21.03
Northern Territory	19.16	17.81	22.00
Australian Capital Territory	11.37	17.98	20.93
Australia	24.69	17.46	17.65

Death Rates for 1939 Per 1000 Persons Living.

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

	1922.	1938.	1939.
New South Wales	8.92	9.59	9.75
Victoria	9.65	10.15	10.72
Queensland	9.16	9.19	9.40
South Australia	9.11	9.35	9.63
Western Australia	9.32	9.20	9.32
Tasmania	9.30	9.71	10.19
Northern Territory	16.42	12.05	14.03
Australian Capital Territory	2.13	5.39	3.67
Australia	9.22	9.64	9.93

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 1939, also the death-rate per 10,000 persons living (mean population 238,002), as contrasted with the previous year, 1938 (mean population estimated at 235,678).

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths, 1939.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.	Number of Deaths, 1938.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.
General Diseases—				
Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...
Measles	4	2	1	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria and Croup	14	6	10	5
Influenza	33	1.4	4	2
Dysentery .....	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	13	5	14	6
Tubercular Diseases	126	5.3	123	5.2
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism, and Gout	15	6	18	8
Cancer, all forms	271	11.4	255	10.8
Dietic Diseases and Industrial Poisoning	2	1	...	...
Other General Diseases	96	4.0	143	6.1
Total General	575	24.1	569	24.2
Local Diseases—				
Diseases of Nervous System...	188	7.9	180	7.6
Diseases of Circulatory System	687	28.9	638	27.1
Diseases of Respiratory Organs	301	12.6	227	9.6
Diseases of Digestive Organs	129	5.4	92	3.9
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	140	5.9	187	7.9
Diseases of Puerperal Origin..	16	7	18	8
Diseases of the Skin	8	3	6	3
Diseases of Bones and Malformations	44	1.9	39	1.7
Diseases of Early Infancy	114	4.8	114	4.8
Total Local Diseases	1627	68.4	1501	63.7
Deaths Produced by External Causes—				
Accident or Negligence	109	4.6	112	4.7
Homicide	6	2	2	1
Suicide	19	8	16	7
Total External Causes	134	5.6	130	5.5
Ill-defined—Not Specific Diseases—				
Old Age	85	3.6	80	3.4
Ill-defined Diseases	5	2	8	3
Total Ill-defined Diseases	90	3.8	88	3.7
Total Deaths, All Causes	2426	101.9	2288	97.1

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

Year.	Per-sons										Total all Ages.
	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	
1930...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
31...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
32...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
33...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
34...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
38...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

DEATHS from Tuberculosis during the last Ten Years.

	Number.										Death Rate per 100,000 Persons Living.									
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
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)	111	98	106	112	93	105	112	86	107	102	50	43	47	49	41	46	48	37	45	43
Totals	18	24	26	15	19	25	23	34	16	24	8	11	11	7	8	11	10	14	7	10
Totals	129	122	132	127	112	130	135	120	123	126	58	54	58	56	49	57	58	51	52	53

Typhoid Fever.
Year 1939.

Number of cases notified 8
Number of deaths, year 1939 (calendar)—
Males 1
Females —

Diphtheria.
Year 1939.

Number of cases notified 365
Number of deaths, year 1939 (calendar)—
Males 8
Females 6

Scarlet Fever.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 living persons.	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of Cases.
1923	604	3	.1	2.79	5.0	0.5
1924	376	3	.1	1.74	8.0	0.8
1925	288	3	.1	1.34	10.4	1.0
1926	188	1	.05	.88	5.3	0.5
1927	91	2	.1	.43	22.0	2.2
1928	190	1	.05	.88	5.3	0.5
1929	314	2	.1	1.44	6.4	0.6
1930	485	8	.4	2.20	16.5	1.6
1931	265	.....	.....	1.18	.....	.....
1932	417	5	.2	1.84	12.0	1.2
1933	370	4	.2	1.61	10.9	1.1
1934	362	4	.2	1.58	11.0	1.1
1935	302	1	.05	1.32	3.3	0.3
1936	478	6	.3	2.07	12.6	1.3
1937	412	2	.1	1.76	4.9	0.5
1938	123	.....	.....	.52	.....	.....
1939	162	.....	.....	.68	.....	.....

Diphtheria.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 living persons.	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
1939	365	14	.6	1.53	38.4	3.8

DEATHS FROM TYPHOID DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Deaths.	Rate per 100,000 population.
1929	1	.01
1930	1	.01
1931	1	.01
1932	1	.01
1933	1	.01
1934	1	.01
1935	1	.01
1936	1	.01
1937	1	.01
1938	1	.01
1939	1	.01

APPENDIX VIII.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LACHLAN PARK HOSPITAL.

Lachlan Park Hospital,
New Norfolk, 26th July, 1940.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Lachlan Park Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 1940, together with the statistical returns.

General Statistics.

On the 1st July, 1939, the number of patients on the register was 313 males and 318 females. During the year 90 males and 76 females were admitted, making the total under treatment 403 males and 394 females. The number discharged was 96, and of these 10 left the institution as recovered, 71 as relieved, and 15 as unimproved. The number of deaths was 61. The number of patients remaining on the register on the 30th June, 1940, was 317 males and 323 females, a total of 640, which was 9 more than at the commencement of the year. The daily number of patients was 631.41, compared with 640.67 for the previous year. The proportion of certified insane to the general population of the State on 31st December, 1939, was 1 to 387.12, as compared with 1 to 363.83 at the end of the same month last year.

Admissions.

The number of patients admitted was 166, as compared with 150 for the previous year. Of these 109 were new cases and 57 were readmissions. The majority of patients admitted were between the ages of 25 and 35 years, and 40 and 50 years, the average being 44 years. A greater number of males was admitted between the ages of 30 and 40 years, viz., 21 males as against 14 females. Between the ages of 30 and 50 years, 34 males and 32 females were admitted. The chief causes of insanity were congenital defects, heredity, and senility.

Type of Treatment.	Number Treated.	Improved and Discharged.	Improved but not Discharged.	Still under Treatment.	Not Improved
Insulin	12	7	2	1	2
Sub-shock Insulin	13	—	5	—	8
Cardiazol	24	14	6	—	4
Somnifaine	9	1	2	—	6
Malaria	1	1	—	—	—

The results obtained in insulin and cardiazol shock therapy can be regarded as satisfactory. Sub-shock insulin and somnifaine therapy has not proved as efficacious as was expected. Possibly this was due, in some measure, to the poor material available for treatment. Excellent progress has been maintained in occupational therapy. The value of this form of treatment is becoming more apparent each year.

The hospital dental work was executed by the visiting dentist, Mr. H. B. McChristie.

By far the most important advance made as regards treatment and care of the mentally afflicted has been the recent amendment of the Mental Hospitals Act. Provision has now been made for the reception of voluntary boarders. Since this section of the Act came into force six months ago, three patients have been admitted in this manner. No doubt, when it becomes more widely known, an increasing number of voluntary boarders will come for early treatment. Another important section makes it possible for patients to be allowed out on parole without the authority of the official visitors. Legislation dealing with receiving houses and licensed houses was also introduced. Several of the sections dealing with certification were amended and brought into line with those of other States.

Amusements and Recreation.

Since April of this year, the new recreation hall has been in regular use for the patients' entertainments. Talkie pictures or dances are held each week. It is noted that considerably more patients now attend the pictures than formerly when only silent films were in use. The Christmas party was held on December 21st, 1939, and the annual picnic on 2nd February, 1940.

Discharges.

The number of patients discharged as recovered was 10. Calculated on the number of admissions, the recovery rate was 6.03, which was slightly higher than that recorded for last year, when it was 6.00. The number of patients discharged as improved was 71. Calculated on the number of admissions, the improved rate was 42.77 as against 56.67 last year. Fifteen patients were discharged as unimproved, as against 13 the previous year. Eight of these patients were transferred to the Royal Hobart Hospital for treatment, and later readmitted, whilst seven were discharged to the care of their relatives.

Deaths.

The number of deaths was 61, being 14 more than for the previous year. The death rate, calculated on the average number of daily residents, was 9.66, this rate being higher than last year, when it was 7.34. The average age at death was 60 years. The greater percentage of deaths was due to senility, broncho-pneumonia and cardio-vascular diseases.

It is pointed out that the increased number of deaths was partly due to the fact that more patients of advanced years were admitted during the period under review than in the previous year.

General.

Last winter there was a higher incidence of pneumonia, particularly among the unusually large section of senile patients. Apart from a recent mild epidemic of measles there was no outbreak of infectious disease. For the year ended 30th June, 1940, eight cases of tuberculosis were notified. The majority of these were old standing cases, diagnosed recently by routine X-ray examination. It is reported that, during the year, 199 X-ray examinations (including 71 of the staff) were made.

The results of treatment carried out at the hospital for the year are as follows:—

Hospital Auxiliaries.

Deepest appreciation is expressed to the various branches of the Lachlan Park auxiliaries for their continued interest and valuable service to the hospital in providing comforts for the patients at the Christmas party and throughout the year.

Buildings.

The buildings comprising the new administrative block, recreation hall, staff dining rooms, and kitchen were occupied early this year. They were officially opened by the Honourable the Premier on 22nd April, 1940.

The former nurses' dining room is at present being converted into eight bedrooms by the hospital artisan staff. It is proposed to convert the existing lecture room in the nurses' home into a flat for the matron.

All new wards built during the past four years are now in occupation. One of these wards is being used as an "open" ward for convalescent patients, whereby during certain hours the patients are allowed free access to the hospital grounds.

It has recently been suggested that ward "A," which is now vacant, be legally separated from the Lachlan Park Hospital and be declared a ward for the reception of mental defectives under the Mental Deficiency Act. The necessary renovations for this purpose have already been carried out.

Attention is again drawn to the urgent need for a new laundry. It was pointed out last year that, until this is provided, the laundry cannot possibly function as an efficient unit.

Finance.

The expenditure for Lachlan Park Hospital during the year amounted to £67,976 4s. 2d., as against £66,016 17s. 9d. for the previous year, being an increase of £1,959 6s. 5d.

The revenue collected during the financial year was £8353 19s. 7d., as against £8790 6s. 2d. for the previous year, being a decrease of £436 6s. 7d. The nett daily cost of medical treatment and maintenance of patients increased by 3-19d., the cost being 5s. 1-92d. as against 4s. 10-73d. the previous year.

Staff.

Since 1936, when the hospital was registered as a training school for mental nurses, 13 attendants and 20 nurses have qualified for registration. Three of these nurses resigned in order to undergo their training in general nursing. It is strongly recommended that, in making future appointments to the senior nursing staff, those holding double certificates be given preference.

The results of the nursing examinations for 1940 were as follows:—

	No. of Candidates.	Passed.	Failed.
First Year Attendants	5	3	2
" " Nurses	5	2	3
Second Year Attendants	—	—	—
" " Nurses	2	2	—
Third Year Attendants	6	4	2
" " Nurses	5	5	—
Invalid "Cookery—Attendants	13	13	—
Invalid Cookery—Nurses	20	20	—
Totals	56	49	7

Farm.

The hospital farm again produced an adequate supply of milk and vegetables. The production of poultry and

eggs was considerably reduced owing to an outbreak of psitticosis. The farm overseer, with the assistance of the poultry officer of the Agricultural Department, was able to cope with the disease, but, unfortunately, no less than 141 fowls died. This restricted considerably the production of eggs. The total value of the farm products was lower than during the previous year, as is revealed by the following figures:—

	Value of Production.		
	1939-40.		
	£	s.	d.
Milk	1,661	13	4
Poultry and eggs	773	6	1
Vegetables	700	11	2
Total	£3,135	10	7
	£2,876	12	10

Although the farm was conducted at a loss during the past year, I am of the opinion that the loss is more than counterbalanced by the therapeutic value it gives to many of the patients who are employed thereon. By being able to occupy themselves during the day in pleasant and healthy surroundings they forget many of their worries and troubles, when, consequently, their mental condition improves and they are eventually discharged. Such a person then becomes a taxpayer instead of very often being a burden on the taxpayer.

The actual loss on the farm amounted to £695 19s. 6d., and was due principally to sickness amongst staff, furlough leave to two assistants, and the outbreak of disease amongst the poultry.

MILLBROOK PSYCHOPATHIC HOME.

The admissions to the home totalled 90, of whom 23 were convalescent patients transferred from Lachlan Park Hospital. Eighty-five patients were discharged as relieved, six were subsequently certified as insane and transferred to Lachlan Park, and one patient committed suicide. In view of the fact that no less than 72 per cent of those admitted were either early or mild psychotics the above results might be considered as very satisfactory.

During the year 36 patients received special treatment. The detailed results are as follows:—

Type of Treatment.	Treated.	Remissions.	Still under Treatment.	Showing no Improvement.
Insulin	9	5	4	...
Cardiazol	13	9	...	4
Somnifaine	3	1	...	2
Somnifaine followed by Cardiazol	8	6	...	2
Malaria	3	2	...	1

There were no accidents or serious complications as a result of treatment. In several instances those who did not respond to a particular form of therapy were treated by an alternative method. Short courses of cardiazol shock therapy proved particularly effective in cases of involutional melancholia. All five such cases treated by this means were discharged as cured. Fortunately, the importance of early treatment in cases of psychological disorder is becoming more widely recognised by the general public. The State is indeed fortunate in having such an institution as "Millbrook," where patients can be treated in the early and mild stages before they become certifiable. Throughout the year there were occasions when intending patients were compelled to wait several weeks before they could be admitted. Further extensions to the home have now become almost a necessity.

Finance.

The expenditure during the year for the Millbrook Psychopathic Home amounted to £3,191 14s. 2d., as against £3,123 4s. 5d. for the previous year, being an increase of £68 8s. 9d. The revenue collected during the year was £1,203 5s. 10d., as against £1,231 5s. 7d. the previous year, showing a decrease of £27 19s. 9d. Due to the average daily number of guests at the Millbrook Home being

greater than during the previous year, the net cost of medical treatment was slightly lower, viz., 5s. 7-62d. as against 5s. 9-05d.

Millbrook Home Board.

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

Conclusion.

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

I have, &c.,

CHARLES R. D. BROTHERS, M.D., M.R.A.C.P.,
Medical Superintendent.

The Director of Public Health.

TABLE 1.

TABLE showing Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year 1939-40.

	Males.	Females.	Total	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Hospital on 30th June, 1939 .....	...	...	...	313	318	631
Admitted for the first time during 1939-40	54	55	109			
Re-admitted during the year 1939-40.....	36	21	57			
				90	76	166
Total under care during the year 1939-40.....	...	...	...	403	394	797
Discharged and died during year 1939-40—						
Recovered.....	5	5	10			
Improved.....	41	30	71			
Unimproved	9	6	15			
Died	31	30	61			
Total discharged and died during the year .....	...	...	...	86	71	157
Remaining in Hospital on 30th June, 1940 .....	...	...	...	317	323	640
Average daily number resident during 1939-40 .....	...	...	...	313·61	317·80	631·41

TABLE 2.

TABLE showing the manner in which Patients were admitted during the Year 1939-40.

Private Orders.			Justices' Orders.			Police Magistrates.			Governor's Warrant.			Voluntary Boarders.			Total Admissions.		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
22	28	50	50	31	81	13	16	29	3	...	3	2	1	3	90	76	166

	Males.	Females.	Total.
First Admission	54	55	109
Second "	25	16	41
Third "	5	3	8
Fourth "	2	1	3
Ninth "	1	...	1
Tenth "	1	1	2
Twelfth "	1	...	1
Thirteenth "	1	...	1
Total	90	76	166

TABLE 3.

TABLE showing Probable Causes of Insanity in Patients admitted during 1939-40.

Causes of Insanity.	Predisposing.			Exciting.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Moral—									
Domestic Troubles and Bereavements	...	...	...	3	4	7	3	4	7
Business Worries	...	...	...	11	2	13	11	2	13
Anxiety and Overwork	...	...	...	1	7	8	1	7	8
Fright and Shock	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Love Affairs	...	...	...	3	1	4	3	1	4
Environmental Influences	1	1	2	1	...	1	2	1	3
Physical—									
Alcohol and Drug Addiction	...	...	...	6	...	6	6	...	6
Veneral Diseases	...	...	...	7	1	8	7	1	8
Accident and Injury	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1
Puerperal	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Lactational	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Bodily Diseases	3	...	3	8	5	13	11	5	16
Congenital Defect	2	4	6	12	7	19	14	11	25
Puberty	5	2	7	...	...	...	5	2	7
Climateric	...	7	7	...	...	...	...	7	7
Senility	15	7	22	...	...	...	15	7	22
Previous Attacks	14	13	27	...	...	...	14	13	27
Hereditary Influences	11	11	22	...	...	...	11	11	22
Epilepsy (acquired)	...	...	...	4	6	10	4	6	10
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6

TABLE 4.

TABLE showing the Form of Mental Disorder on Admission for 1939-40, and the Form of Mental Disorder of the Patients remaining on the Books on June 30th, 1940.

Form of Mental Disorder.	Admissions.			Remaining on Books.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
I. Congenital Mental Deficiency (Idiocy or Imbecility):						
1. Intellectual—						
(a) With Epilepsy	1	...	1	9	9	18
(b) Without Epilepsy	10	7	17	100	58	158
2. Moral	5	1	6	4	5	9
II. Insanity occurring late in Life:						
1. Insanity with Epilepsy	4	6	10	8	12	20
2. Dementia Paralytica	6	1	7	4	...	4
3. Gross Brain Lesions	2	...	2	3	1	4
4. Alcoholic Psychoses	2	...	2	1	2	3
5. Confusional or Exhaustive Psychoses	1	4	5	...	4	4
6. Mania—						
i. Recent	2	4	6	2	5	7
ii. Chronic	2	...	2	4	13	17
iii. Recurrent	5	3	8	5	2	7
7. Melancholia—						
i. Recent	2	6	8	...	4	4
ii. Chronic	1	2	3	1	12	13
iii. Recurrent	3	1	4	3	2	5
8. Alternating Insanity	3	7	10	5	12	17
9. Involutional Melancholia	2	7	9	1	7	8
10. Schizophrenia	17	12	29	31	33	64
11. Parephrenia	4	4	8	26	23	49
12. Paranoia	2	...	2	5	6	11
13. Dementia—						
(a) Senile	14	7	21	13	15	28
(b) Secondary or Terminal	2	4	6	92	98	190
	90	76	166	317	323	640

TABLE 5.

TABLE showing the Number of Admissions and Re-admissions, Discharges and Deaths, and the Number of Patients Remaining in the Hospital on 30th June each Year.

Year.	Admissions and Re-admissions.			Discharges.						Deaths.			Remaining within Hospital on 30th June each Year.		
				Recovered.		Improved.		Unimproved.		Total Discharges.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.				
1929-30	61	39	100	24	14	38	8	4	12	32	19	51	314	308	622
1930-31	53	46	99	16	20	36	6	10	16	22	30	52	326	309	635
1931-32	46	43	89	11	13	24	9	9	18	22	22	44	333	313	646
1932-33	53	42	95	20	14	34	8	6	14	29	22	51	340	321	661
1933-34	44	39	83	16	19	35	7	3	10	23	22	45	342	315	657
1934-35	37	41	78	16	20	36	7	9	16	23	29	52	328	303	631
1935-36	55	57	112	4	3	7	28	21	49	6	36	62	318	318	636
1936-37	57	69	126	1	2	3	25	31	56	30	41	71	317	329	646
1937-38	60	61	121	2	5	7	35	32	67	42	39	81	310	325	635
1938-39	82	68	150	5	4	9	43	42	85	56	51	107	313	318	631
1939-40	90	76	166	5	5	10	41	30	71	55	41	96	317	323	640

TABLE 6.

TABLE showing the Number of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths for 1939-40; the Number remaining within the Hospital on 30th June, 1940; the Proportion of Recoveries, Per Cent. on the Number of Admissions, and the Percentage of Deaths on the Average Number Resident, 1939-40.

Admissions.				Discharges.										Deaths.			Remaining in the Hospital on 30th June, 1940.			Average Daily Number Resident during the Year 1939-40.			Percentage of Recoveries on Number of Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Daily Number Resident.																								
First Admissions.		Treated Before.		Total Admissions.		Recovered.		Relieved.		Unimproved.		Total Discharges.		Deaths.		Remaining in the Hospital on 30th June, 1940.		Average Daily Number Resident during the Year 1939-40.			Percentage of Recoveries on Number of Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Daily Number Resident.																										
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.																								
54	55	109	33	21	57	90	76	166	5	5	10	41	30	71	9	6	15	55	41	96	31	30	61	317	323	640	313	61	317	80	631	41	5	56	6	57	6	03	45	55	39	47	42	77	9	88	9	44	9	66

TABLE 7.

TABLE showing the Conjugal Condition of Patients Admitted, Discharged, Died, and Remaining within the Hospital on 30th June, 1940.

Conjugal Condition.	Admissions.			Discharges.									Deaths.			Patients on Register on 30th June, 1940.		
				Recovered.			Relieved.			Unimproved.								
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Never married	47	34	81	3	3	6	17	10	27	5	3	8	21	15	36	244	197	441
Married	36	39	75	2	1	3	22	20	42	4	3	7	9	12	21	57	108	165
Widowed	7	3	10	..	1	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	1	3	4	4	18	22
Unknown .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	12
Totals	90	76	166	5	5	10	41	30	71	9	6	15	31	30	61	317	323	640

TABLE 8

TABLE showing the Length of Residence of Patients Discharged, and Deaths during the Year 1939-40.

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	2	8	5	13	2	...	2	11	6	17	4	4	8
1 month and under 3 months	3	...	3	12	12	24	...	...	...	15	12	27	5	1	6
3 months " 6 "	1	3	4	9	5	14	...	1	1	10	9	19	1	...	1
6 " " 9 "	4	1	5	2	...	2	6	1	7	4	...	4
9 " " 1 year	2	2	4	...	1	1	2	3	5	...	...	...
1 year and under 2 years	2	2	1	...	1	1	2	3	...	4	4
2 years " 3 "	1	1	...	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	5	1	1	2
3 " " 5 "	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	5
5 " " 7 "	1	...	1	...	1	1	2	...	2	...	3	3
7 " " 9 "	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	1
9 " " 12 "	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	2
12 " " 15 "	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	2
15 " " 20 "	1	1	...	1	1	...	2	2	2	3	5
20 " " 25 "	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
25 " " 30 "	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	5	6
30 " " 40 "	1	1	...	1	1	4	4	8
40 " " 50 "	1	2	3
50 " " 60 "	1	...	1
60 " " 70 "
	5	5	10	41	30	71	9	6	15	55	41	96	31	30	61

TABLE 9.

TABLE showing in Quinquennial Periods the Ages of Patients Admitted, Discharged, and Died during the Year 1939-40, and those Remaining within the Hospital on 30th June, 1940.

Ages.	Admissions.			Discharges.									Deaths.			Patients on Register at 30th June, 1940.					
				Re-covered.			Re-lieved.			Unim-proved.									Total Discharges.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
Under 5 years	2	1	3	1	1	2	4	2	6
5 years and under 10 years	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	4	2	6
10 " " 15 " "	3	1	4	6	5	11
15 " " 20 " "	3	3	13	10	23
20 " " 25 " "	9	3	12	1	2	3	5	3	8	...	1	6	6	12	...	...	...	21	12	33
25 " " 30 " "	7	9	16	...	...	...	5	4	9	...	1	5	5	10	2	2	4	10	13	23
30 " " 35 " "	12	6	18	1	...	1	6	3	9	...	...	7	3	10	1	1	2	29	21	50
35 " " 40 " "	9	8	17	2	...	2	5	7	12	1	...	8	7	15	...	...	...	32	22	54
40 " " 45 " "	5	9	14	...	1	1	2	2	4	1	...	3	3	6	...	1	1	30	37	67	
45 " " 50 " "	8	9	17	1	...	1	4	4	8	1	2	3	6	12	...	2	2	41	37	78	
50 " " 55 " "	6	8	14	...	...	...	4	1	5	1	...	5	1	6	4	6	10	29	34	63
55 " " 60 " "	7	5	12	...	...	...	2	3	5	1	...	3	3	6	2	2	4	23	38	61
60 " " 65 " "	4	5	9	...	2	2	4	2	6	...	1	4	5	9	3	3	6	23	25	48	
65 " " 70 " "	3	5	8	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	2	1	3	1	3	4	17	36	53
70 " " 75 " "	9	3	12	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	3	4	1	5	8	4	12	18	15	33
75 " " 80 " "	6	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	7	2	9	11	7	18
80 " " 85 " " .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	5	5	10
85 " " 90 " " .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	3
90 " " 95 " " .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Totals	90	76	166	5	5	10	41	30	71	9	6	15	55	41	96	31	30	61	317	323	640

TABLE 10.

TABLE showing the Causes of Deaths during the Year 1939-40.

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 Hæmorrhage	1	2	3
Diseases of the Cardio-Vascular System—			
Arteriosclerosis	7	1	8
Auricular Fibrillation	1	—	1
Aneurism	1	—	1
Coronary Disease	1	—	1
Chronic Myocardial Degeneration	3	3	6
Valvular Disease of the Heart	—	—	—
Diseases of the Respiratory System—			
Lobar and Broncho Pneumonia	6	8	14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	4	5
Other forms of Pulmonary Disease	2	—	2
Diseases of the Digestive System—			
Intestinal Obstruction	1	—	1
Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System—			
Chronic Nephritis	1	3	4
Prostatic Enlargement	1	—	1
General Diseases—			
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malignancy	—	2	2
Senility	2	5	7
Hodgkins Disease	—	—	—
Accidental Death	—	1	1
Total	31	30	61

TABLE 11.

TABLE showing Expenditure and Receipts for the Year ended 30th June, 1940, together with Cost of Maintenance of Patients for the same Period and the previous Ten Years.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Lachlan Park Hospital—						
Salaries	41,840	8	0	...		
Dentist	52	0	0	...		
Travelling Expenses, including Official Visitors	63	7	11	...		
Provisions, Clothing, Fuel, Drugs, Stores, Incidental Expenses, &c....	22,870	3	0	...		
Repairs and Alterations	1130	10	11	...		
Expenses Relieving Stokers on Leave.....	4	12	0	...		
Temporary Assistance.....	1740	19	11	...		
Wages of Stokers	274	2	5	...		
Gross Expenditure	67,976	4	2	67,976	4	2
Millbrook Psychopathic Home—						
Salaries	1943	7	10	...		
Travelling and other Expenses of Millbrook Home Board and Medical Superintendent	149	14	6	...		
Provisions, Clothing, Fuel, Drugs, Stores, Incidental Expenses, &c....	952	16	0	...		
Repairs and Alterations	33	2	11	...		
Temporary Assistance.....	112	12	11	...		
	3191	14	2	3191	14	2
Less Repairs and Alterations.....	...			71,167	18	4
	...			1163	13	10
Total Expenditure .....	...			70,004	4	6
Less Fees for Medical Treatment and Maintenance—	£	s.	d.			
Lachlan Park Hospital	8274	19	5	9478	5	3
Millbrook Psychopathic Home.....	1203	5	10	...		
Miscellaneous, Lachlan Park Hospital	79	0	2	9557	5	5
Total Expenditure .....	...			60,446	19	1

Lachlan Park Hospital.				Millbrook Psychopathic Home.				
		On Gross	On Nett			On Gross	On Nett	
		Expenditure.	Expenditure.			Expenditure.	Expenditure.	
		s.	d.			s.	d.	
Cost per head per day for year	1929-30.....	5	2·00					
"	"	4	3·93	1935-36.....	7	2·34	3	9·49
"	"	3	11·02	1936-37.....	8	10·75	5	4·23
"	"	3	11·85	1937-38.....	9	7·31	7	6·46
"	"	3	11·00	1938-39.....	9	5·99	5	9·05
"	"	3	11·21	1939-40.....	9	0·55	5	7·62
"	"	4	7·46					
"	"	4	8·86					
"	"	5	5·15					
"	"	5	7·53					
"	"	5	7·75					
"	"	5	10·59					

TABLE 12.

TABLE showing the Rate of Certified Insane and Admissions to the Population for the Year ended 31st December, 1939.

State.	Population at 31st December, 1939.			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	121,965	119,611	241,576	2·54	2·62	2·58	6·96	5·60	6·29
Queensland	530,372	485,555	1,015,927	3·90	3·08	3·51	6·25	5·41	5·85
New South Wales	1,396,224	1,374,124	2,770,348	4·31	4·01	4·16	6·85	5·72	6·29
South Australia	298,217	298,828	597,045	3·18	2·85	3·01	4·69	4·82	4·75
Victoria	932,620	954,658	1,887,278	3·71	4·00	3·86	5·30	5·64	5·47
Western Australia	243,813	222,103	465,916	3·78	2·51	3·18	4·06	2·11	3·13

TABLE 13.

MILLBROOK PSYCHOPATHIC HOME.

STATEMENT showing Form of Mental Disorder on Admission for year ended 30th June, 1940.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Neurosis—			
(1) Anxiety Stasis	3	7	10
(2) Obsessional Neurosis	—	1	1
(3) Hysteria.....	1	6	7
(4) Neurasthenia	4	3	7
(5) Adolescent Instability	1	—	1
Early and Mild Psychosis—			
(1) Schizophrenia	9	7	16
(2) Manic depressive state.....	2	6	8
(3) Simple Melancholia	6	8	14
(4) Involutional and Senile Melancholia.....	7	5	12
(5) Toxic and Exhaustive Psychosis	—	2	2
(6) Cerebral Syphilis	2	1	3
(7) Mental Disorders associated with grosser brain lesions.....	4	1	5
(8) Drug and Alcoholic Addiction.....	4	—	4
	43	47	90

APPENDIX IX.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ST. JOHN'S PARK.

St. John's Park, New Town,
12th August, 1940.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the annual report governing the activities of St. John's Park during the year 1939-40.

Admissions.

Three hundred and forty-one persons (245 males and 96 females) were admitted into the institution during the year. These figures show an increase over those for the previous year, when 289 persons (219 males and 70 females) were admitted.

Discharges.

The number of persons discharged during the year was 243 (175 males and 68 females). These figures show an increase over those for 1938-39, when 186 males and 42 females were discharged.

Mortality.

Deaths totalled 66 (41 males and 25 females). The average age of the people who died in the institution was 72.01 years.

Daily Average.

The daily average number of ordinary inmates in the institution was 327.64 (214.79 males and 112.85 females), an increase of 15.29 over the preceding year when there were 312.35 (201.06 males and 111.29 females). The daily average number of resident after-care patients was 41.39, compared with 44.88 for 1938-39.

The daily average for the whole of the institution was 369.03, an increase of 11.80 over the previous year.

Revenue.

The revenue received from all sources amounted to £6412 1s. 7d., being an increase of £213 10s. compared with the previous year.

Expenditure.

The expenditure on the upkeep of the institution amounted to £24,210 14s. 10d.

Number of Diets.

There was an increase of 4577 diets over the previous year, the total figures being as follows:—Ordinary inmates, 119,918; after-care patients, 15,152; making a total of 135,070, as against 130,493 the previous year (114,110 ordinary and 16,383 after-care diets).

Gross and Net Cost of Maintenance.

There was a slight increase in the gross cost of maintenance, the figures being as follows:—Gross cost for the year 1939-40, 3s. 7.01d. per day, as against 3s. 6.42d. for the previous year. There was a slight reduction in the net cost for 1939-40, the comparative figures being 2s. 7.62d., as against 2s. 7.79d. for the previous year.

Repairs to Buildings and Wards.

During the past year the plan for the renovation and improvement of wards and buildings has been maintained. This has resulted in a better standard of comfort for the inmates.

Gellibrand House.

On the 22nd July, 1939, His Excellency the Governor officially opened Gellibrand House, which was built by the Veterans' Trust.

Wingfield House.

During the year Wingfield House, the new home for crippled children, was completed. The children, who formerly were housed in a section of the Women's Division at St. John's Park, were transferred to the new building on the 25th June last.

Roads and Paths.

General repairs to roads and paths at the institution were commenced during the year. If finances permit, it is hoped to complete the most urgent of these works before the end of June, 1941.

Grounds.

The work involved in converting the grounds of the institution into a park is being proceeded with. Specially selected trees and shrubs have been planted, under the supervision of Mr. Thornycroft, of the Botanical Gardens staff, whose advice and assistance have been most helpful.

Thanks for Donations.

On behalf of the inmates of St. John's Park, I desire to convey sincere thanks to the many persons who continue to provide gifts for the comfort of the inmates.

Devotional.

During the year the spiritual welfare of the inmates was given every attention by the various denominations.

Staff.

In May last Dr. James Tremayne was appointed to the position of Medical Superintendent, *vice* Dr. J. A. Oliphant resigned.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the staff for the manner in which they carried out their duties during the year.

I have, &c.,

L. WOODHOUSE, Secretary.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX X.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HOME FOR INVALIDS.

Home for Invalids,
Mulgrave-street, Launceston,
3rd February, 1940.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Home for Invalids for the year 1939.

Admissions.

The number of persons admitted was 39, of whom 23 were males and 16 females. During the previous year, 22 males and 14 females were admitted.

Discharges.

Thirty-one persons were discharged (14 males and 17 females). These figures show an increase, compared with the year 1938, when nine males and three females were discharged.

Mortality.

The number of deaths during the year was 14 (10 males and 4 females), compared with 20 (13 males and 7 females) for the previous year. The average age of the people who died was 76.6.

I have, &c.,

B. L. CAMPBELL, Matron.

The Director of Public Health.