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1943

TASMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH

REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC
HEALTH, TASMANIA

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1943

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



TASMANIA:

H. H. PIMBLETT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

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TASMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, TASMANIA

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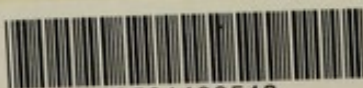
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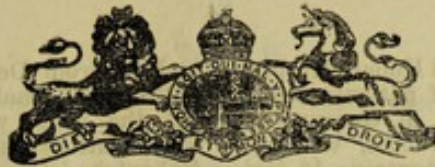


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ANNUAL REPORT, 1943.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 30th June, 1944.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the Annual Report of the Department of Public Health for the year ended the 31st December, 1943. In doing so, I desire to express appreciation of the valued contribution made by the Senior Government Medical Officer (Dr. C. L. Park).

As a measure of war-time economy, this report, apart from the usual statistical data, is presented in very brief form.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The total number of births notified in 1943 was 5597, being 2920 males and 2677 females. Taking the estimated population of Tasmania as 244,624, this represents a rate of 23.17, the highest since 1926.

Death Rate.—The death rate was 10.48 per thousand persons living.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of infants dying under one year was 226, being an infantile mortality rate of 40.4 per thousand live births.

Maternal Mortality.—The deaths attributed to childbirth numbered 17, being a maternal mortality rate of 3.04 per thousand live births.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

New Legislation and Administration.

New Legislation.—During the course of the year, the Public Health Act was amended—

(1) By making "puerperal pyrexia" an infectious disease within the meaning of the Act, and providing the following definition therefor:—

"'Puerperal pyrexia' means any febrile condition occurring in a woman within twenty-one days after childbirth or miscarriage in which a temperature of 100.4° F. or more has been sustained during a period of twenty-four hours or has recurred during that period."

(2) By providing that soot discharged from any chimney in such quantity as to be offensive to the public constitutes a nuisance: and

(3) By empowering the making of regulations covering—

- (a) Conditions regulating the repair of garments which are dirty; and
- (b) The measures which are to be taken for the prevention of pollution of any water used for bathing purposes and for the purification of such water where required.

A regulation was prescribed under the Act requiring that, whenever a woman dies as the result of pregnancy or childbirth, or as the result of any complications arising from or following

within three months upon pregnancy or childbirth, such death be notified to the Director by the medical practitioner in attendance.

The Regulations relating to Offensive Trades were amended to provide for the better control of flock making and rag dealing.

The Model Public Health By-laws were amended by inserting a by-law dealing with bedding and upholstery, and the sale of second-hand bedding, upholstery, and clothing.

By an amendment of the Venereal Diseases Regulations, the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Launceston Public Hospital were prescribed as places at which persons may be detained for treatment, when suffering from venereal diseases.

Administration.—The administration of the Public Health Act and kindred laws has been vigorous, and well directed by those authorities charged with this important function. Apart from what has been achieved by the Public Health Department, the various local health authorities continue to show a commendable degree of activity in the field of preventive medicine due, in no small measure, to the initiative and enterprise of the many qualified inspectors who are now operating in various districts throughout the State. Under present conditions, the efficiency or otherwise of the details of local sanitary administration depends to a considerable extent upon these officials, who work in close co-operation with the Department.

HOSPITALS ACT.

Legislation.—The Hospitals Act was amended to provide for the appointment of two women members on the Board of the Hobart Public Hospitals District.

Public Hospitals.—The amount appropriated by Parliament for the financial year 1943-44, towards the cost of the management and maintenance of public hospitals, totalled £119,550, an increase of approximately £13,000 compared with the immediately preceding year. As pointed out in previous reports, this increase is due to several reasons, including—

- (a) The extension of the hospital service, and the provision of added specialised and other facilities;
- (b) The present day cost of hospital commodities, such as food supplies, drugs, equipment, &c.;
- (c) The payment of higher salaries to medical officers, nurses, and other officials;
- (d) The employment of increased personnel, due to specialised services and shorter working hours; and
- (e) The progressive increase in the number of patients who avail themselves of the facilities provided.

A maternity block at the Royal Hobart Hospital was opened for the admission of patients during the year, and a public hospital at Queenstown, providing for 66 beds and 16 cots, was also opened. The latter institution contains 16 beds for maternity cases.

The problem associated with the ever-increasing demand, under present day conditions, for accommodating the chronic sick aged will be solved to some extent by proposals to enlarge St. John's Park, New Town, and to erect a new Home for Invalids at Launceston.

Private Hospitals.—During recent years, there has been a progressive decrease in the number of private hospitals licensed under the law, due in the main to staff difficulties.

The licence issued to a lying-in hospital was revoked.

Particulars of licences issued under this heading are appended (Table A).

TABLE A.

Return of Private Hospital Licences Issued During the Year 1943.

	No. of Licences Issued.	Medical, Surgical, & Lying-in.	Medical & Surgical Only.	Lying-in Only.
Hobart	7	1	1	5
Launceston	4	...	1	3
Country	26	10	...	16
	37	11	2	24

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified was 672, as compared with 639 in 1942. Three diseases figure prominently in this total, viz., Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Tuberculosis. The two first-mentioned are more prevalent in children, and particularly in those of the pre-school age groups, while Tuberculosis levies its toll more heavily among adults in 20-45 year age groups.

Diphtheria.—The year's figures show how definitely this disease is an urban one. Out of 370 cases notified for the State, 241 were from Hobart and suburbs and 44 from Launceston, i.e., 77 per cent of the total. The original case, which resulted in a small family outbreak of 14 cases at Cygnet, was also a Hobart infection. It has been stated that "every community now has the power to determine its own Diphtheria rate." What is being done in Tasmania? Throughout the State, many local authorities have carried out their annual campaign of active immunisation; returns submitted to the Department showing that 5396 children were immunised in a total of 27 districts. In Hobart, a special effort is being made to reach pre-school children through the infant welfare centres, and older children through the schools. In view of the rise in incidence which takes place at the end of February and throughout March, it is especially important to continue immunisation through the second half of the year.

Typhoid Fever.—Cases of Typhoid Fever in the Fingal area were responsible for three of the total number of eight notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease has also been more prevalent than in 1942, and again the increase is found in the urban areas, viz., in Hobart and Devonport. The year's total was 92 cases, of which 27 were notified from Hobart

and 14 from Devonport. The number of cases notified was small from month to month throughout the year, with a tendency to short-lived exacerbations in July, August, and September. Hobart had two short periods of increased incidence, one in June and the other in September.

Tuberculosis.—The number of cases of Tuberculosis of all forms notified was 145, a decrease as compared with 1942, when 173 cases occurred.

Pulmonary cases numbered 134, of whom 76, or 56.7 per cent, received institutional treatment.

The record of the Chest Clinics at Hobart and Launceston (Table C) shows how large a part they play in observing, treating, and following up cases. The examination of contacts constitutes an important measure of prevention.

At the request of the Commonwealth Government, a scheme for the control of Tuberculosis in the State was prepared, and submitted for consideration to the National Health and Medical Research Council, in December, 1943. This scheme provided for a modern sanatorium with 150 beds in the southern portion of the State, a sanatorium for the north containing 30 beds, and the provision of a 12-bed ward at the Devon Public Hospital. Case finding, by means of tuberculin testing of children, and by mass radiography of adults, was included in the scheme, as well as an extension of the work of the chest clinics. The scheme was recommended by the Council to Commonwealth and State Governments, for adoption. The extent to which the Commonwealth Government is prepared to assist financially has not yet been disclosed. In the meantime the State Government has ordered apparatus for taking X-ray pictures on miniature films, and this will be used on arrival for examination of selected groups of the population at first, and later for examination of the general public. It is anticipated that case finding will result in an increased demand on institutional beds, and the probable extent of this is provided for in the prepared scheme.

Puerperal Fever.—The determination of what constitutes Puerperal Fever has been a contentious matter in Tasmania, as in other parts of the world. To overcome this, puerperal pyrexia (as defined) has now been included among the list of diseases to be notified by medical practitioners to the Local Authority and the Director of Public Health. Following any such notification, an enquiry is made, the results of which determine whether "puerperal fever" is the cause of the pyrexia. Appropriate action is taken when required, and the medical practitioner is relieved of the necessity of himself deciding what cases should be labelled "puerperal fever."

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.—There have been 44 cases notified from the State. The distribution of these has been widespread, but nowhere has there been any epidemic prevalence. The remarkable curative effect of the sulphonilamide preparations in the treatment of the disease has fortunately reduced the fatality rate to small proportions, and so robbed the disease of much of its terror.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—One case only was notified during the year, from the Clarence Municipality.

Malaria.—Twenty-one cases were notified during the year. In all cases the disease was contracted outside the State.

Typhus.—One case of Typhus, contracted overseas, was notified.

TABLE B.

RETURN showing Number of Cases of each Notifiable Infectious Disease notified to the Department of Public Health during the Year 1943, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of such Diseases for the Years 1942 and 1943.

Municipality.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tubercu- losis (All Forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro- Spinal Meningitis.	Acute An- terior Pol- iomyelitis	Lethargic Encephalitis	Bacillary Dysentery	Total, 1943.	Total, 1942.
1 Beaconsfield ...	2	...	...	6	...	...	2	...	...	...	10	5
2 Bothwell	2	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
3 Brighton	4	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	8	25
4 Bruny .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
5 Burnie	2	...	2	6	...	...	1	...	1	...	12	15
6 Campbell Town ...	...	1	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	7	...
7 Circular Head ...	3	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	8	17
8 Clarence	2	...	9	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	17	16
9 Deloraine	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
10 Devonport	3	...	14	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	23	6
11 Esperance .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 Evandale .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
13 Fingal .....	...	3	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	7
14 Flinders	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
15 George Town ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3
16 Glamorgan	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
17 Glenorchy	32	...	6	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	46	39
18 Gormanston ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	5
19 Green Ponds ...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
20 Hamilton	6	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	10	2
21 Hobart	209	1	27	44	6	1	7	...	...	...	295	194
22 Huon	2	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	6	5
23 Kentish	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	8
24 Kingborough ...	2	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	25
25 King Island ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
26 Latrobe	2	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	9
27 Launceston	44	2	5	19	2	...	7	...	...	...	79	90
28 Leven .....	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	10
29 Lilydale	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7
30 Longford .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
31 New Norfolk ...	13	1	8	7	...	...	3	...	...	...	32	43
32 Oatlands .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
33 Penguin .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
34 Port Cygnet ...	14	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	16	7
35 Portland .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
36 Queenstown ...	3	...	...	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	10	5
37 Richmond .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
38 Ringarooma ...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
39 Ross .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
40 Scottsdale	2	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	4
41 Sorell	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7
42 Spring Bay	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	11
43 St. Leonards ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	13
44 Strahan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 Table Cape	1	...	5	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	8	5
46 Tasman .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
47 Waratah	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
48 Westbury	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
49 Zeehan .....	...	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	5
TOTALS	370	8	92	145	9	1	44	1	1	1	672	639

TABLE C.

Chest Clinics—Particulars of Work Performed During the Year 1943.

	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	85	67	8	10	170	22	19	1	...	42
New Cases taken on at Clinic for Observation and Treatment	129	152	49	44	374	43	50	29	27	149
Re-attendances	1046	1048	104	108	2306	317	299	90	53	759
Re-examinations	433	357	5	3	798	199	186	51	27	463
Clinic Cases Transferred to Sana- torium.....	30	29	...	1	60	4	7	...	...	11
Sanatorium Cases Transferred to Clinic for Special Treatment ...	9	6	...	...	15	4	3	...	...	7
Patients Found Non-Tuberculous	39	40	8	10	97	...	...	...	...	...
Contacts :—										
Number of Infecting Cases ...	60	54	...	2	116	60	48	...	...	108
Number of Contacts Ex- amined	44	85	41	34	204	13	26	27	27	93
Number of Contacts Re-Ex- amined	75	216	118	95	504	18	34	49	37	138
Number of Contacts Found Tuberculous	4	6	2	1	13	...	2	...	...	2
Number of Contacts Under Suspicion Tb.....	2	...	1	2	5	...	2	3	...	5
Number of Invalid Pensioners Seen.....	4	1	...	...	5	75	56	...	...	131
Home Visits :—										
Medical Officer	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Nurse's First Visit .....	...	...	...	...	62	18	13	...	...	31
Nurse's Re-Visits.....	...	...	...	...	701	305	282	20	26	633
Special Visits in Connection with After-care .....	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	2
Pneumothorax Refills	405	352	...	...	757	93	61	...	...	154
X-Ray Examinations (Films) ...	217	288	37	23	565	102	92	46	38	278
X-Ray Examinations (Screen) ...	216	139	...	...	355	19	10	...	...	29
Sputum Examinations .....	...	...	...	...	318	53	20	...	...	73
Blood Sedimentation Tests.....	98	118	1	...	217	...	...	...	...	...
Gastric Lavage .....	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Total Attendances, Old and New Cases ..	...	...	...	...	3166	426	576	146	101	1249

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of notifications during the year, which can be attributed in part at least to the movement of population which occurs in war-time.

During the year, a Committee was brought into being to co-ordinate the work of the Department with that of the Services. This Committee meets at intervals, and keeps in touch with developments in regard to the disease.

At the request of the Commonwealth Department of Health, a scheme was prepared for the State control of the disease. This provided for a full-time medical officer to supervise control measures throughout the State, for improved facilities for treatment at the Royal Hobart and Launceston General Hospitals, for staff, for prophylactic centres at these institutions, and for payment to medical officers in country districts for treating cases. The necessary drugs are supplied by the Department. This scheme was approved, and it was anticipated that the Commonwealth Government would subsidise the efforts of the State.

The Royal Hobart Hospital Clinic is now in operation daily, except between the hours of 12 midnight and 8 a.m. It is under the supervision of a part-time medical officer, who is also responsible for putting control throughout the State on an improved basis.

Returns show that the number of cases notified was 452, comprising—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Gonorrhoea	271	87	358
Syphilis—			
Primary	30	33	63
Secondary	1	.....	1
Tertiary	6	1	7
Congenital	6	6	12
Chancre	2	.....	2
Gonorrhoea and Syphilis	3	6	9
	<u>319</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>452</u>

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

An important development in Child Welfare during the year was the appointment of a nurse, who gives all her time to ante-natal work and conducts special ante-natal sessions for expectant mothers at the Child Welfare Centres in and around Hobart, and also at the Royal Hobart

Hospital. Ten months have now elapsed since this innovation commenced, during which time the attendances of expectant mothers at the various Centres numbered 450, while visits to homes totalled 508. It is most encouraging that the attendances have continued throughout the year to show an upward tendency, as this indicates that expectant mothers really welcome the opportunity to place themselves under trained supervision during the ante-natal period. The movement is already beyond the capacity of one nurse, and a second one is necessary in Hobart alone. In addition, an extension to the North of the facilities made available in Hobart is most desirable.

The value of this work will show itself over a period of time in the reduction of infantile mortality under one month. During 1943 the number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 226. This corresponds to an infantile mortality rate of 40.4 per 1000 live births. Approximately two-thirds of these deaths actually occur in the first month of life. In other words, they are due to causes operating before birth, and this number can only be reduced by better ante-natal and natal supervision.

The work of the child welfare nurses can be gleaned from the summary which appears on this page (Table D). Shortage of trained staff has hampered the work throughout the year but, despite this, a truly heartening record appears. The key to the work is the training of the nurses in Mothercraft, which is carried out at the Mothercraft Home at New Town. Not only are nurses given a special course of training, but untrained women study mothercraft and are subsequently available at the Centres or for private help to mothers.

The object of all Child Welfare work is to keep babies well and, with this end in view, contact is made with mothers and their newly born babies immediately the births are notified. Subsequently, mothers are encouraged to attend the centres regularly, where the baby's progress is noted and any departure from normal made the subject of investigation and correction. The work has been carried out in close co-operation with the Child Welfare Association, and is a joint official and voluntary effort.

Courses in "Mothercraft and Infant Hygiene" continue to be given by child welfare nurses and bush nurses in a number of centres throughout the State and, during the year, 444 certificates were issued to schoolgirls who completed the course satisfactorily.

TABLE D.

SUMMARY of Work Performed by Child Welfare Nurses during the Year ended 31st December, 1943.

No. of Centres.	Visits to Individual New-born Babies.	Subsequent Visits to Mothers.	Visits to Expectant Mothers.	Individual Babies Attending Clinics.	Total Attendances at Clinics by Babies.	Total Attendances at Clinics by Expectant Mothers.
39	4150	19,304	1277	12,158	69,900	1494

TABLE E. INFANTILE Mortality.

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

Table with 20 columns for years 1924-1943 and one row for 'Deaths' with values ranging from 224 to 300.

Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 Births).

Table with 11 columns for regions (Tasmania, N.S.W., Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, New Zealand, North T'tory, Aust. Cap. Ter., Aust.) and 20 rows for years 1927-1943.

(a) Not available. * Excludes New Zealand.

TABLE F. TABLE showing the Principal Causes of Death of Children under 1 Year of Age in Tasmania in each Year from 1934 to 1943.

Table with 11 columns for years 1934-1943 and multiple rows for causes of death such as Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, etc., plus a Total row.

TABLE G.
(Showing Ages and Causes of Death under One Year—1943).

Causes of Death and Classification Number.	Age Group					Total 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.	
6. Cerebro-spinal Meningococcal Meningitis.....	...	...	...	...	1	1
9. Whooping Cough.....	...	...	2	...	...	2
24. Purulent Infection and Septicaemia.....	...	...	1	...	...	1
64. Diseases of the Thyroid Gland	1	...	...	1	1	3
72. Haemorrhagic Conditions.....	1	...	...	...	...	1
80b. Other Forms of Encephalitis (Non Epidemic).....	...	...	1	...	...	1
81a. Simple Meningitis.....	...	1	...	...	1	2
85. Epilepsy.....	...	...	1	...	...	1
86. Convulsions of Infants.....	1	...	...	...	1	2
104. Diseases of the Nasal Fossae and Annexa.....	...	...	...	1	...	1
105. Diseases of the Larynx.....	...	...	1	...	...	1
106a. Acute Bronchitis.....	...	...	1	...	...	1
107. Broncho-Pneumonia.....	1	3	5	8	5	22
108. Lobar Pneumonia.....	2	2	2	1	2	9
109. Pneumonia (Not specified).....	...	1	...	...	...	1
119. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).....	...	1	4	5	3	13
152. Cellulitis, Acute Abscess.....	...	1	1	...	...	2
157a. Congenital Hydrocephalus.....	2	...	...	1	...	3
157b. Spina Bifida & Meningocele.....	...	1	...	1	...	2
157c. Congenital Malformation of the Heart.....	6	3	...	...	1	10
157d. Monstrosities.....	1	...	...	...	...	1
157e. Congenital Pyloric Stenosis.....	...	...	1	...	...	1
157f. Other Congenital Malformations.....	1	...	...	1	1	3
158. Congenital Debility.....	8	2	2	2	...	14
159. Premature Birth.....	46	16	3	1	...	66
160. Injury at Birth.....	12	4	...	...	...	16
161a. Asphyxia, Atelectasis.....	16	1	...	...	...	17
161e. Haemorrhagic Condition of the Newborn.....	9	3	1	...	...	13
161f. Icterus Neonatorum.....	3	2	...	...	...	5

TABLE G—continued.

Causes of Death and Classification Number.	Age Group					Total 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.	
161g. Other Diseases peculiar to First Year of Life.....	3	2	1	...	...	6
165. Infanticide.....	1	...	...	...	...	1
182. Accidental Mechanical Suffocation.....	...	...	2	1	...	3
191. Excessive Heat.....	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total	114	43	23	28	18	226

TABLE H.

Comparative Figures of Principal Causes of Death under One Year during 1939-1943.

Causes of Death.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Whooping Cough.....	...	...	25	1	2
Convulsions.....	3	2	2	1	2
Bronchitis.....	1	...	3	1	1
Broncho-Pneumonia.....	20	21	23	32	22
Pneumonia.....	4	2	5	7	10
Diarrhoea and Enteritis.....	2	3	2	7	13
Congenital Debility.....	13	11	18	10	14
Syphilis.....	1	...	...	...	...
Malformations.....	31	21	18	17	20
Prematurity and injury at Birth.....	80	76	105	89	82
Other Diseases of Early Infancy.....	21	27	33	33	41

BUSH NURSING.

The value of this service to the people of the districts in which bush nurses function may be estimated by reference to the summary of the work performed during the year (Table I). At many locations, the nurse acts as an advanced aid-post for the relief of the sick and suffering, and thus tends to alleviate many of the hardships resulting from comparative isolation.

The acute shortage of nurses presented a problem in servicing many centres, and did not

admit of the opening of new ones at various locations throughout the State. Where it has been deemed expedient to do so, the living conditions of the nurses have been placed on a much better footing, whilst facilities have been provided for hospital treatment at various bush nursing hospitals.

Thanks are due to the Northern and Southern Divisions of the Bush Nursing Association for their support and co-operation throughout the year.

TABLE I.
SUMMARY of Work Performed in Bush Nursing Centres during the Year ended 31st December, 1943.

Visits to Nurse.	Visits to Patients.	Nursing Days.	Maternity Cases.	Ante-natal Visits.	Child Welfare Visits.	School Visits.	Mileage.	Fees Earned.	Ward Beds.
11,561	6656	2901	198	1294	7086	245	32,463	£1651 18 7	35

TABLE J.
SUMMARY of Work Performed by Government Medical Officers during the Year ended 31st December, 1943, together with Comparative Figures for the Year 1942.

District.	Population.	Date of Commencement of Service in each District.	Number of Attendances upon Patients, showing Location of Attendance (excluding Workers' Compensation and Midwifery Cases which are shown separately).				TOTAL.		Number of Attendances upon Workers' Compensation Cases.		TOTAL.		Number of Attendances upon Midwifery Cases.		TOTAL.		Total of all Attendances.		Mileage Covered.	
			Residence.	Surgery.	Hospital.	1943.	1942.	1943.	1942.	1943.	1942.	1943.	1942.	1943.	1942.	1943.	1942.	1943.		
Esperance ...	1,121	11.3.38	1,129	863	66	2,058	2,038	8	6	1	1	2,067	2,045	7,807	6,515					
Flinders ...	860	1.5.38	1,448	396	147	1,991	1,712	—	8	1	1	1,992	1,721	10,561	9,141					
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	1,735	18.5.38	644	570	80	1,294	1,300	11	3	13	16	1,318	1,319	10,566	10,101					
George Town...	910	5.1.40	306	673	149	1,128	965	—	—	—	—	1,128	965	9,249	9,013					
Hamilton...	3,305	1.5.38	1,943	3,040	42	5,025	4,568	26	26	33	52	5,084	4,646	12,854	13,663					
Kingborough-Bruny ...	5,406	1.3.38	2,181	3,022	2	5,205	5,186	83	69	2	1	5,290	5,256	13,155	13,137					
King Island ...	1,455	1.9.38	508	1,415	371	2,294	2,579	36	41	8	23	2,338	2,643	7,003	6,180					
Penguin ...	2,580	13.7.38	1,749	2,110	125	3,984	3,277	—	2	23	27	4,007	3,306	7,855	7,690					
Port Cygnet...	2,890	1.7.40	1,593	2,097	35	4,325	6,628	40	26	27	24	4,392	6,678	11,570	14,021					
Portland ...	1,555	14.6.39	2,145	1,064	—	3,209	2,943	6	20	—	1	3,215	2,964	8,917	9,603					
Ringroona ...	3,490	1.1.40	652	1,726	5	2,383	2,387	67	50	—	8	2,450	2,445	7,308	8,683					
Scottsdale...	2,435	5.8.39	792	4,123	1,116	6,031	5,582	26	20	18	17	6,075	5,619	7,328	7,408					
Sorell...	1,915	1.12.38	755	716	226	1,697	1,706	13	19	10	18	1,730	1,803	6,841	7,507					
Tasman ...	980	21.4.38	1,025	741	75	1,841	1,686	9	11	1	24	1,851	1,721	7,632	10,397					
Totals ...	31,036	...	16,870	23,156	2,439	42,465	42,617	325	301	137	213	42,927	43,131	128,726	132,959					

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SERVICE.

The summarised data set out in Table J, on page 10, affords ample evidence of what has been achieved in the way of medical services in districts in which Government Medical Officers are located. The service has been well maintained, despite difficulties which presented themselves in staffing some of the centres. The assistance so readily forthcoming from the Royal Hobart Hospital, in making available the services of resident medical officers to meet various emergency situations which arose, calls for favourable comment.

Requests received for the establishment of the service in additional areas could not be entertained, owing to the prevailing shortage of medical personnel.

Our medical officers continued to function in many branches of public health work, with beneficial results to the welfare of the people.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of examinations carried out during the year, as compared with the returns for previous years.

The examinations have been well-spread over the State by means of an arrangement with medical practitioners in the various districts, who in some instances have had the assistance of the school nurses.

In the north-west, a full-time medical officer is engaged, and this work forms one of the duties of Government Medical Officers in fourteen different areas of the State. In addition, part-time medical assistance is availed of in Hobart and surrounding districts.

Nearly 15,000 children, out of a daily average of approximately 26,000, have been medically examined throughout the year.

The defects found are in order of their frequency—dental defects, diseased tonsils and adenoids, ocular defects, defects of hearing, skin diseases.

Treatment is obtained in a number of cases, but there is no power to enforce this, even in contagious skin diseases. The follow-up by the school nurses is the most important single factor in having treatment obtained but, until the

Department is in a position to install and staff minor treatment centres, the situation will not be satisfactory. An urgent need is a travelling eye clinic, and with this might be considered the provision of a mobile treatment clinic for nose and throat conditions.

The work of the school nurses has continued to play a large part in making the service a valuable one. During the year, the nurses assisted with the scheme of active immunisation organised by the Hobart City Council.

The activities of the dental clinics have been maintained under difficulties, owing to the impossibility of obtaining dentists to function in this field of service.

Table K gives particulars of the work of the Service.

TABLE K.

Summary of Work Performed under the School Medical Service by Government Medical Officers and Private Practitioners, School Nurses, and School Dental Inspectors during the Year ended 31st December, 1943.

Number of children examined by Government Medical Officers and private practitioners, either alone or with the assistance of a school nurse	14,874
Number of such children notified with defects	8,674
Number of children examined by school nurses	20,164
Number of interviews with parents by school nurses	2,687
Number of treatments given to children at school dental clinics	49,913

STAFF.

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

I have, &c.,

E. J. TUDOR,

Secretary for Public Health.

The Hon. the Minister for Health.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Government Analyst's Laboratory,
Hobart, 15th March, 1944.

SIR,

I submit the following report on the work of the analytical laboratories for the year 1943.

Samples Received during the Year.

	No. of Samples.
Apples, evaporated	153
Butter	45
Cereals and bread	42
Confectionery and honey	36
Cream and condensed milk	29
Drugs and chemicals	14
Fertilisers, sprays, and insecticides	27
Fish and meat products	25
Fruit, jam, canned vegetables	26
Hydrometers	13
Kerosene and mineral turps	18
Milk, cow's	529
Milk, human	22
Minerals and metals	29
Motor spirits	59
Oils, mineral	61
Paints	32
Poisons and police tests	66
Sauces and condiments	54
Soils	73
Spirits and wines	25
Tea, coffee, cocoa	16
Thermometers	88
Vinegar	10
Water	138
Miscellaneous	63
Total	1693

Butter.

Small excesses of water were found in only ten samples of butter intended for export (last year 25). One sample for local consumption contained 28 per cent excess of water.

Ice Cream.

One sample was deficient in milk fat to the extent of 45 per cent, and another to the extent of 76 per cent.

Milk.

Twenty-seven samples were deficient among those taken by inspectors, whilst of those sent by farmers or vendors, thirty-eight were deficient. This seems to show an increased interest by producers in checking their own supplies.

Sausages.

Large excesses of starch, amounting to 50, 61, 71, and 185 per cent respectively, were found in four samples of sausages.

Spirits.

Deficiencies in proof spirit content were found in eleven cases, amounting in six of these to between 9 and 18 per cent.

I have, &c.,

E. WARD, Government Analyst.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX II.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 14th April, 1944.

SIR,

I submit the following report of work performed by the inspectorial staff of the Department during the year 1943.

Staff.

Chief Inspector H. H. Parker, M.R.S.I.
Inspector D. S. Clark (stationed at Launceston).
Inspector W. J. Davies, M.R.S.I.
Inspector T. Orr, M.R.S.I. (stationed at Launceston).

During the year, Mr. Clark entered on his long service leave prior to retirement, and Mr. Orr was appointed to fill his position.

Routine Sanitary Surveys and Special Inspections.

Details of sanitary surveys, various investigations, and special inspections which received attention throughout the State, as distinct from inspections made by Departmental Local Health Inspectors, are set out hereunder:—

Nature of Inspection.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Cases in which Action was Called For.
Bacteriolytic tanks, including sites and plans	401	74
Bakeries	68	28
Butchers' premises	102	50
Buildings, including sites and plans	248	104
Boarding and guest houses	13	5
Camps	2	
Condemnation of dwellings	4	4
Dairying premises	127	68
Disinfection and fumigation	13	
Domestic inspections	46	22
Drainage	83	39
Food stores	268	29
Garbage depots and services	23	4
Hospitals	35	6
Huts, fruit and hop pickers	981	511
Infectious diseases	3	
Licensed premises	116	34
Meat inspections	5	
Offensive trades	188	93
Reserves, beaches, and camping grounds	46	21
Places of public entertainment	43	10
Pollution of streams and foreshores	2	
Sports and show grounds	17	3
Sanitary depots and services	35	8
Sale-yards	20	2
Scallop depots	13	2
Schools	134	55
Sewerage schemes	8	2
Subdivisions of land	5	2
Water supplies and sampling	86	5
Wharves, jetties, &c.	4	1
Miscellaneous	95	13

In addition to recommendations made to local authorities, forty-five orders were served by the Department for the improvement of conditions. With two exceptions, orders were complied with, without recourse to legal proceedings.

Food and Drugs Sampling.

One hundred and ninety-eight samples of food and drugs were obtained, and submitted to the Government Analyst for examination. Fourteen of this number were found to be adulterated. Legal proceedings were instituted in twelve cases; the fines, &c., amounting to £45 16s. 10d. Warnings were given in the remainder.

Testing of Alcoholic Spirits.

Special attention was directed to the examination and testing of all brands of spirits, for strength and nature of contents of containers. Four hundred and seventy-five bottles were so tested. Nine of these were found to contain spirit below the prescribed standard. In the prosecutions which ensued, fines, &c., totalling £33 5s. 6d. were imposed. One warning was given.

Inspection of Fruit Pickers' Huts.

In view of changed conditions, and the necessity for improving accommodation, a comprehensive survey was made of these buildings and the facilities provided for fruit-pickers. Of a total of nine hundred and eighty-one huts inspected, no less than five hundred and eleven cases called for repairs and renovations. In only two instances was it necessary to resort to legal action to enforce compliance with requirements.

Dairying Premises.

The inspection of dairy buildings, plant, and utensils received particular attention, to ensure the production of a wholesome milk supply. In spite of difficulties through lack of labour and materials, considerable improvements have been effected.

A Board of Inquiry was constituted, for the purpose of inquiring into the production, supply, and distribution of milk throughout the State. Departmental inspectors tendered evidence of a practical nature.

Dehydration of Food.

Consequent upon a greater demand for dehydrated vegetables for the fighting forces, a number of factories for the processing of such food were constructed in various parts of the State. The Department was called upon to take appropriate action for the abatement of nuisances arising from the disposal of waste drainage from some of these premises.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I desire to thank council clerks and health inspectors for their co-operation and assistance on all occasions.

I have, &c.,

H. H. PARKER, Chief Health Inspector.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX III.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 31st May, 1944.

SIR,

We have the honour to submit the annual report of the Nurses' Registration Board for the year 1943.

Personnel of Board.

Chairman: Dr. C. R. D. Brothers, Medical Superintendent, Lachlan Park Hospital.
Surgeon Superintendent, Royal Hobart Hospital.
Surgeon Superintendent, Launceston General Hospital.
Dr. T. C. Butler.
Miss A. R. Cockayne, Matron, Royal Hobart Hospital.
Miss C. I. Skirving, Matron, Launceston General Hospital.
Miss A. M. Booth, Matron, Devon Public Hospital, Latrobe.

Board Meetings.

The Board held three ordinary meetings and three special meetings during the year.

Training Schools.

The Royal Hobart Hospital was registered as a training school for midwifery nurses.

Training schools registered.—General, 13; mental, 1; midwifery, 5.

Reduction in period of training of general nurses for the duration of the war.—Three years in training schools with a daily average of forty or more occupied beds, and four years in those with a daily average of thirty or more occupied beds.

Applications for Training and Resumption of Training.

Approved.—General, 128; midwifery, 33.
Refused.—Nil.

Trainees.

Total number in training.—General, 372; midwifery, 43.
Resigned, &c.—General, 41; midwifery, 2.
Completed training.—General, 331; midwifery, 41.

Examinations.

Educational tests for intending trainees—

Applications	6
Passed examination	4
Failed	2

Examinations for the registration of nurses—

Candidates:		
General	79	
Midwifery	35	
Results:		
	Passed.	Failed.
General	74	5
Midwifery	35	

Registration of Nurses.

Registered.—General, 107; mental, 3; midwifery, 38.
Renewed registration.—General, 472; mental, 6; midwifery, 253.

Conference of Matrons of General Training Schools.

During the year, a Conference of Matrons of General Training Schools was held in Hobart. The purpose of the conference was to establish a general standard of training for pupil nurses, which would comply with the Nurses' Registration Act and Regulations; and to prepare, for presentation to the Board, recommendations for increasing the educational facilities for such nurses.

Matrons are particularly anxious for the establishment of a preliminary training school for nurses, as it is felt such an institution would attract to the profession an increased number of applicants of a desirable type, and afford a means of raising the standard of nursing in this State.

We have, &c.,

C. R. D. BROTHERS, Chairman.
E. J. TUDOR, Secretary.

The Hon. the Minister for Health.

APPENDIX IV.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical and General.

Population:

Estimated on the 31st December, 1943—

Males	123,513
Females	121,111
Total	244,624

Mean population, 1943 (for whole year)—

Males	122,129
Females	119,754
Total	241,883

Mean population, 1942 (for whole year) 240,120
Increase for year 1,763

The population of the State, as shown by the figures, reveals an increase of 1763.

Australian Birth-rate for the Year 1943 per 1000 Persons Living.

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

	1933.	1942.	1943.
New South Wales	16.99	18.60	20.03
Victoria	15.60	18.27	19.74
Queensland	18.14	20.46	22.20
South Australia	15.32	18.54	21.47
Western Australia	17.95	21.06	22.39
Tasmania	19.93	22.09	23.17
Northern Territory	15.23	10.45	7.82
Australian Capital Territory	14.43	32.15	34.61
Australia	16.78	19.06	20.65

Death Rate for 1943 per 1000 Persons Living.

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

	1933.	1942.	1943.
New South Wales	8.58	10.32	10.10
Victoria	9.59	11.18	10.76
Queensland	8.84	9.30	10.10
South Australia	8.44	11.04	10.59
Western Australia	8.64	10.80	9.80
Tasmania	9.60	10.12	10.48
Northern Territory	12.55	9.43	4.79
Australian Capital Territory	4.19	6.23	6.26
Australia	8.92	10.49	10.30

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 1943, also the death-rate per 10,000 persons living (mean population 241,883), as contrasted with the previous year, 1942 (mean population estimated at 240,120).

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths, 1942.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.	Number of Deaths, 1943.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.
General Diseases—				
Typhoid Fever	1	.1	1	.1
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...
Measles	7	.3	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	1	.1
Whooping Cough	1	.1	2	.1
Diphtheria and Croup	11	.5	15	.6
Influenza	16	.6	9	.4
Dysentery	1	.1	...	...
Syphilis	10	.4	21	.9
Tubercular Diseases	129	5.4	113	4.7
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism, and Gout	18	.7	16	.6
Cancer, all forms	283	11.8	283	11.7
Dietic Diseases and Industrial Poisoning .....	...	...	...	...
Other General Diseases	115	4.7	139	5.7
Total General	592	24.7	600	24.9
Local Diseases—				
Diseases of Nervous System...	229	9.5	262	10.8
Diseases of Circulatory System	636	26.5	674	27.9
Diseases of Respiratory Organs	255	10.6	258	10.7
Diseases of Digestive Organs	114	4.7	119	4.9
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	199	8.3	206	8.5
Diseases of Puerperal Origin..	20	.8	17	.7
Diseases of the Skin	4	.2	6	.2
Diseases of Bones and Malformations	24	1.0	27	1.1
Diseases of Early Infancy	132	5.5	137	5.7
Total Local Diseases	1613	67.1	1706	70.5
Deaths Produced by External Causes—				
Accident or Negligence.....	124	5.1	126	5.2
Homicide	2	.1	4	.2
Suicide	23	1.0	12	.5
Total External Causes ...	149	6.2	142	5.9
Ill-defined—Not Specific Diseases—				
Old Age	74	3.1	77	3.1
Ill-defined Diseases	2	.1	2	.1
Total Ill-defined Diseases	76	3.2	79	3.2
Total Deaths, All Causes	2430	101.2	2527	104.5

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

Year.	Under 5.		5-10.		10-15.		15-20.		20-25.		25-30.		30-35.		35-40.		40-45.		45-50.		50-55.		55-60.		60-65.		65 and over.		Total all Ages.	
	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.	Persons	
1934...
35...
36...
37...
38...
39...
40...
41...
42...
43...
Totals

DEATHS from Tuberculosis during the last Ten Years.

	Number.										Death Rate per 100,000 Persons Living.									
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (No. 13)	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. 14-22)	93	105	112	86	107	102	85	96	108	93	41	46	48	37	45	43	36	40	45	38
Totals	19	25	23	34	16	24	18	14	21	20	8	11	10	14	7	10	7	6	9	8
	112	130	135	120	123	126	103	110	129	113	49	57	58	51	52	53	43	46	54	46

Typhoid Fever.

Year, 1943.

Number of cases notified	8
Number of deaths, year 1943 (calendar)—	
Males	1
Females	—

Scarlet Fever.

Year.	Cases	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living.	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of Cases.
1923	604	3	-1	2.79	5.0	0.5
1924	376	3	-1	1.74	8.0	0.8
1925	288	3	-1	1.84	10.4	1.0
1926	188	1	-0.5	.88	5.3	0.5
1927	91	2	-1	.43	22.0	2.2
1928	190	1	-0.5	.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	-0.5	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	—	—
1940	240	1	-0.4	1.00	4.2	0.4
1941	127	1	-0.4	.53	7.9	0.8
1942	72	—	—	.30	—	—
1943	92	1	-1	.38	10.9	1.1

Diphtheria.

Year, 1943.

Number of cases notified	370
Number of deaths, year 1943 (calendar)—	
Males	7
Females	8

Diphtheria.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living.	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of Cases.
1923	870	32	1.5	4.02	36.8	3.7
1924	597	20	.9	2.76	33.5	3.4
1925	473	13	.6	2.19	27.5	2.7
1926	347	6	.3	1.62	17.1	1.7
1927	507	10	.5	2.38	19.7	2.0
1928	908	18	.8	4.21	19.8	2.0
1929	488	18	.8	2.24	36.9	3.7
1930	573	20	.9	2.59	34.9	3.5
1931	589	19	.8	2.62	32.3	3.2
1932	455	17	.8	1.96	37.4	3.7
1933	706	16	.7	3.14	22.3	2.2
1934	491	22	.9	2.14	44.8	4.5
1935	537	24	1.0	2.34	44.7	4.5
1936	575	20	.9	2.49	34.8	3.5
1937	305	12	.5	1.30	39.3	3.9
1938	343	10	.4	1.46	29.2	2.9
1939	365	14	.6	1.53	38.4	3.8
1940	366	18	.8	1.53	49.2	4.9
1941	401	25	1.0	1.67	62.3	6.2
1942	291	11	.5	1.21	37.8	3.8
1943	370	15	.6	1.53	40.5	4.1

APPENDIX V.**ANNUAL REPORT OF ST. JOHN'S PARK.**St. John's Park,
New Town, 25th July, 1944.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of St. John's Park for the year ended 30th June, 1944.

Statistics.

Number resident, 30.6.43	312
Admissions during the year	324
Total	636
Less—	
Discharges	193
Deaths	124
	317
Patients resident, 30.6.44	319

Admissions.

Admissions totalled 324 (172 males and 152 females). These figures show a reduction, compared with those for the previous year, when 378 persons (207 males and 171 females) were admitted.

Discharges.

There were 193 discharges (111 males and 82 females). These figures show a reduction, compared with those for 1942-43, when 255 (144 males and 111 females) were discharged.

Mortality.

The number of deaths was 124 (62 males and 62 females). The average age of the people who died in the Institution was 77.53 years.

Daily Average.

The daily average number of ordinary inmates was 316.64 (190.46 males and 126.18 females), compared with 290.15 (175.52 males and 114.63 females) for the previous year. The daily average number of resident after-care patients was 37.18, compared with 36.78 for 1942-43.

The daily average for the whole of the Institution was 353.82, compared with 326.93 last year.

Revenue.

The revenue received from all sources amounted to £13,926 0s. 4d., which was £4232 17s. 6d. more than that collected the previous year.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the upkeep of the Institution was £33,257 15s. 7d., being an increase of £3991 14s. 3d. compared with the previous year.

Gross and Net Cost of Maintenance.

There was an increase in both gross and net cost of maintenance as detailed hereunder:—

	s.	d.
Gross daily cost per inmate, 1943-44	5	8.87
Gross daily cost per inmate, 1942-43	5	6.32
Net daily cost per inmate, 1943-44	3	4.03
Net daily cost per inmate, 1942-43	3	8.35
	£	s. d.
Gross weekly cost per inmate, 1943-44	2	0 2.09
Gross weekly cost per inmate, 1942-43	1	18 8.24
Net weekly cost per inmate, 1943-44	1	3 4.21
Net weekly cost per inmate, 1942-43	1	5 10.45

Thanks for Donations.

On behalf of the inmates of St. John's Park, I desire to thank all those kind persons who again so generously provided gifts of money and goods for their comfort during the year.

Devotional.

During the year, the spiritual welfare of the inmates was given every attention by the various denominations; services being held regularly at the Institution.

I have, &c.,

L. WOODHOUSE, Secretary.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX VI.

Mental Deficiency Act.

CERTIFIED DEFECTIVES UNDER INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL.

The number of defectives under institutional control at the end of June, 1944, was 81, classified as follows:—

Imbeciles, 13; feeble-minded, 68.

The total number for the previous year was 101.

In the Government Institution for Defectives at St. John's Park, New Town, there were 56 certified defectives (20 male and 36 female, classified as 13 imbecile (10 female and 43 feeble-minded (26 female). In the Lachlan Park Institution there were 25 male patients.

During the period under review, the orders of 30 patients were varied to guardianship and 5 to supervision; and 5 patients were transferred to the Lachlan Park Hospital under the Mental Hospitals Act. The number under guardianship or supervision was 50. Variation orders to supervision lapse ultimately on good behaviour, the number lapsing in 1943-44 being 25. There were also 10 variations of placements as between institutions.

In addition, there is a number of middle-aged and old-age inmates of St. John's Park, who have not been certified as they have been admitted voluntarily and are exemplary in conduct.

The number of mentally defective patients in Lachlan Park Hospital not under the control of the Mental Deficiency Board is given in the annual report of the Medical Superintendent.

During 1943, the number of persons ascertained to be mentally defective were as follows:—Imbeciles, 8 (3 female); feeble-minded, 25 (16 females), the total being 33.

Table with multiple columns and rows, likely a statistical or financial report, with some text overlaid in the center.

The Royal Sanitary Institute Library

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Vertical text on the right side of the page, possibly bleed-through or a separate column of text.