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BENDIGO ADVERTISER

FUNDS FROM FAIR WILL FURNISH FIRST FLOOR AT BENEVOLENT HOME.

ASYLUM AND ITS WORK.

7907 Relief Distributions.

AT COST OF £2022.

An indication of the valuable work which the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum has been performing during the past year of stress may be gathered from the annual report of the president (Mr. W. Wright), to be presented to the annual meeting to-day.

The report states:—Two hundred and seventy persons were relieved indoors, viz., 195 men and 75 women, and on June 30 101 men and 75 women were being accommodated at the institution. The daily average was 159. The number of deaths last year was 40, the average age of deceased persons being 72 years. As in former years, our outdoor relief work has been a heavy drain upon the financial resources of the institution. To outdoor relief cases 7907 distributions were made at a cost of £2022/8/4. In addition to foodstuffs distributed the committee also granted boots, blankets and clothing to specially necessitous cases, while 25 families who reside some distance from the institution also receive outdoor relief by means of orders on storekeepers. A great deal of destitution has existed, brought about mainly by the large amount of unemployment throughout the state. In the distribution of outdoor relief the committee makes close investigation into each case, and regular visits are made by the superintendent (Mr. J. G. Austen) to the families receiving assistance. We are also in touch with the relief work being carried out by the ladies' benevolent societies, and, by comparison of the history of the cases, much of the evil of overlapping is prevented.

"The government has arranged for the work of dealing with unemployment sustenance in Bendigo, to be carried out by the asylum committee, which is giving special attention to this matter. One of the committee men, Mr. A. J. Hamilton, undertook to organise the scheme and to act as hon. secretary. The work is now well in hand and the distribution is being carried out expeditiously. The various benevolent societies are assisting by inquiring thoroughly into the position of all receiving assistance from this source, and reporting regularly to the hon. secretary. Both wards have been in full working order for the past year, and the up-to-date equipment and comfortable surroundings have been fully appreciated by the patients and their relatives who regularly visit the institution. The majority of patients in these wards are not in the position to receive treatment in their own homes; if it were not for these wards they would not be able to obtain skilled medical and nursing attention, so needed in these particular cases. The establishment of this department by the government, still helps to relieve the congestion in the various metropolitan and country hospitals. The Easter Fair Committee carried out a most successful function in aid of the charities, which extended over Easter week. In addition to the fair, a street carnival and popular girl competition were carried out by the business people of Pall Mall, View, Mitchell, and Hargreaves Streets, on Easter Saturday afternoon. Through this effort, the magnificent sum of £2100 was raised. The amount received by the asylum from all sources was £1943/1/10. The Bendigo Commercial Travellers' Charity Club's prize packet effort was responsible for £560 being raised for the fund and the Bendigo and South Bendigo Bowling Club's Easter tournament for £31/1/10. The thanks of the committee are due to the Easter fair committee, the popular girl competitors, and their supporters, the business people, the commercial travellers, the bowling clubs and the large army of local workers who took part in this fine effort.

Instead of supplying the money to re-furnish one ward at Bendigo Benevolent Home as was the intention of the 3CV Benevolent Home Auxillary when it organised the recent fair at the home, the proceeds from this remarkably successful fair will enable the whole of the first floor to be re-furnished. This fact was stated when the official presentation of the cheque by the auxillary took place in the Benevolent Home. Mr. R. J. Stilwell, president of the board, accepted the cheque on behalf of the home. Mrs. R. Dodds, general secretary, was warmly thanked by Mr. C. Paray, manager of 3CV, for the splendid organisation of the fair, and the joint secretaries, Mesdames J. Swift and J. Hamilton, and treasurer, Mrs. J. Rowe, were accorded high praise for their part in making the function such a success, also all the ladies and those who had helped the fair in any way. Business houses in Bendigo were thanked for their generous support and donations. A tribute was also paid to Mr. H. Witherington, superintendent, for his untiring efforts in the making of the grounds and home into the gay and festive setting for the fair. Mrs. Dodds praised the work achieved by the superintendent, Matron Redpath, the nursing staff and inmates which had lightened the task of the 3CV Women's Club Auxillary in the preparations for the fair. Mrs. Dodds also expressed appreciation to Mesdames J. Swift and Hamilton for their efforts and co-operation, specially mentioning the treasurer, Mrs. Rowe, Mr. Paray and all the ladies who had assisted. It was with great pleasure that she handed the cheque to Mrs. Hamilton, who in the absence of Mrs. Swift, auxillary secretary, presented the cheque to the board president from the auxillary. Conveying her thanks to the executive and all who had contributed to the success of the effort, Mrs. Swift expressed the wish that the fair would be made an annual event. Members of the 3CV Women's Club with the officials were entertained at afternoon tea by Matron Redpath and Sister Hammil.