

FORFEITED INSTALMENTS.

The old-age-pension instalments due last year and remaining unpaid on the 31st March totalled £1,805 19s. 11d., of which amount £1,775 14s. 11d. represents absolutely forfeited instalments on which there is no further claim, the balance of £30 5s. being instalments the payment of which is in abeyance. The instalments not collected within the time allowed by law, but subsequently specially authorized and paid during the year, numbered 881, representing a total of £1,757 18s. 5d. The absolutely forfeited instalments are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1912—April	150	19	4
May	138	14	2
June	147	1	0
July	129	5	7
August	155	9	9
September	178	7	1
October	119	3	0
November	137	17	2
December	162	5	0
1913—January	147	19	7
February	154	2	11
March	154	10	4
Total	£1,775	14	11

Instalments of widows' pensions forfeited during the year totalled £64 10s.

The total of instalments of military pensions forfeited was £14 15s.

HOMES AND HOSPITALS.

The amount paid to the controlling bodies of the various homes and hospitals during the year totalled £22,534 13s., an increase of £1,122 on the amount paid in the previous year. The amount includes £269 11s. 8d. paid on account of military pensioners. £1,731 17s. 6d. of the total represents the charge made for the medical treatment of 41 pensioners in hospitals. The number of pensioners paying for maintenance at the end of the year was 858, being an increase of 40 on the number at the end of the previous year. Full particulars regarding these payments, including the amount allowed to pensioners out of each month's instalment, appear in Table XV of the appendix.

The decrease in the annual expenditure on outdoor relief since the Old-age Pensions Act came into force in 1898 is indicated by the following table:—

Year ended 31st March,	European Population.	Annual Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Cost per Head of Population.
		£	s. d.
1899	746,676	50,850	1 4½
1900	758,617	41,790	1 1½
1901	772,719	42,181	1 1
1902	789,994	38,934	0 11¾
1903	814,842	43,421	1 0¾
1904	838,954	42,618	1 0¼
1905	864,971	40,799	0 11¼
1906	889,968	39,547	0 10½
1907	913,873	38,305	0 10
1908	937,587	33,998	0 8¾
1909	968,313	37,537	0 9¼
1910	987,480	38,988	0 9¼
1911	1,008,468	33,051	0 7¾
1912	1,031,500	34,171	0 7¾
1913	1,061,748	(Figures not available.)	

MENTAL HOSPITALS.

The number of old-age pensioners maintained in the mental hospitals of the Dominion during the year was 119, the percentage to the total number of pensioners whose names appeared on the roll during the same period—i.e., 18,721—being 0.64 per cent. The instalments paid to the Mental Hospitals Department on account of these totalled £1,816 3s. 7d., and the number still being maintained at the end of the year was 79.