

The increase on the figures of the previous year is £579, of which amount a sum approximating £50, being a proportionate part for three months, is chargeable to the administration of the Widows' Pensions Act, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1912. The proportion of this cost to the payments on account of pensions during the year is 1·07 per cent.

The total cost of administering the Act since it was passed is £55,563, the percentage to the gross payments of £3,556,660 being 1·56 per cent., as compared with 1·62 in 1911, and 1·71 in 1910.

#### FORFEITED INSTALMENTS.

The instalments due last year and remaining unpaid on the 31st March totalled £1,629 15s. 8d., of which amount £1,482 17s. 4d. represents absolutely forfeited instalments on which there is no further claim, the balance of £146 18s. 4d. being instalments the payment of which is in abeyance.

1911.	£	s.	d.
April ... ..	102	4	5
May ... ..	91	6	4
June ... ..	120	19	5
July ... ..	162	16	10
August ... ..	154	9	0
September ... ..	136	0	5
October ... ..	132	10	4
November ... ..	123	1	8
December ... ..	151	12	7
1912.			
January ... ..	144	2	2
February ... ..	101	15	9
March ... ..	61	18	5
	£1,482	17	4

The instalments not collected within the time allowed by law, but subsequently specially authorized and paid during the year, numbered 874, representing a total of £1,728 2s. 11d.

The absolutely forfeited instalments for the past seven years are as follows:—

	£
1906 ... ..	1,330
1907 ... ..	1,363
1908 ... ..	1,199
1909 ... ..	1,330
1910 ... ..	938
1911 ... ..	1,305
1912 ... ..	1,483

#### HOMES AND HOSPITALS.

The amount paid to the controlling bodies of the various homes and hospitals during the year totalled £21,412 4s. 2d., an increase of £199 on the amount paid in the previous year. £1,494 2s. 3d. of the total represents the charge made for the medical treatment of pensioners in hospitals. The number of pensioners paying for maintenance at the end of the year was 818, being an increase of 7 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 XIII 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	European Population.	Annual Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Cost per Head of Population.
		£	s. d.
31st March, 1899 ... ..	746,676	50,850	1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1900 ... ..	758,617	41,790	1 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1901 ... ..	772,719	42,181	1 1
" 1902 ... ..	789,994	38,934	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$
" 1903 ... ..	814,842	43,421	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
" 1904 ... ..	838,954	42,618	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1905 ... ..	864,971	40,799	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1906 ... ..	889,968	39,547	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 1907 ... ..	913,873	38,305	0 10
" 1908 ... ..	937,587	33,998	0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
" 1909 ... ..	968,313	37,537	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1910 ... ..	987,480	38,988	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 1911 ... ..	1,008,468	33,051	0 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
" 1912 ... ..	1,031,500	(figures not available).	

#### MENTAL HOSPITALS.

The number of old-age pensioners maintained in the mental hospitals of the Dominion during the year was 105, the percentage to the total number of pensioners whose names appeared on the