

on leave and those resident at a given date, together with the accommodation available and the number of wards into which it is divided.

Mental Hospital.	Patients on Register on 29th March, 1924, as classified.											
	Class I, Unsound Mind.		Class II, Mentally Infirm.		Class III, Idiots.		Class IV, Imbeciles.		Class V, Feeble-minded.		Class VI, Epileptics.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Auckland	296	254	159	53	11	6	107	66	7	30	63	38
Christchurch	218	318	34	31	7	7	36	46	22	9	41	46
Dunedin (Seacliff and Waitati)	436	329	41	39	13	5	51	26	40	37	55	44
Hokitika	129	42	34	13	..	2	2	4	2	1	8	3
Nelson (and Stoke)	37	43	87	44	..	1	58	17	5	5	28	7
Porirua	545	381	9	12	3	7	22	37	17	11	54	52
Tokanui	74	51	42	28	..	..	29	17	16	1	5	3
Totals	1,735	1,418	406	220	34	28	305	213	109	94	254	193

Mental Hospital.	Inmates resident on 29th March, 1924.								Accommodation on 29th March, 1924.			
	Less Absent on Probation.		Patients.		Voluntary Boarders.		Total Resident in Institution.		Number of Wards.		Bedrooms and Dormitories for	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Auckland	9	13	634	434	5	11	639	445	9	9	629	480
Christchurch	9	14	349	443	8	17	357	460	7	7	385	448
Dunedin (Seacliff and Waitati)	6	4	630	476	17	11	647	487	11	8	528	456
Hokitika	3	5	172	60	..	..	172	60	4	3	156	88
Nelson (and Stoke)	1	1	214	116	3	2	217	118	4	4	213	119
Porirua	16	25	634	475	15	20	649	495	8	7	590	403
Tokanui	3	2	163	98	..	2	163	100	3	2	172	100
Totals	47	64	2,796	2,102	48	63	2,844	2,165	46	40	2,673	2,094

These figures show an all-round shortage of accommodation for 171 men and 71 women. The ratio of excess means that in each group of 16 to 17 men there is one too many, and in each group of about 30 to 31 women there is one too many. It is not this odd one only who is incommoded, but the whole group more or less. However, were the odd ones alone affected the position could not be defended, for the law hands the patient against his will to us to be provided for, and he and his relatives have a right to expect adequate housing. But, as I have previously indicated, bare sufficiency of accommodation is not enough; there should be about 5 per cent. of excess of accommodation for classification, as from time to time the numbers of any one class of case vary considerably, and at the present time some of the wards have an excess of accommodation because of the shortage of patients suitable for the particular ward, which, of course, means that matters are so much the worse for those in some other ward.

It is a great satisfaction to me, therefore, and to my officers that, recognizing this fact, you have helped to push forward a building programme of which the present position is as follows:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
<i>Auckland</i> — Proposed separate modern hospital ward, leaving present infirmary for senile, &c.	40	..	40
<i>Christchurch</i> — Staff quarters, emptying single rooms for patients, in course of construction ..	24	..	24
Proposed farm buildings at Templeton	28	..	28
<i>Porirua</i> — Tenders called for five villas, each accommodating thirty-four	102	68	170
<i>Hokitika</i> — Nearing completion, administration block, with admission wards and hospital ..	31	31	62
Tenders called for "closed" villa	38	..	38
<i>Nelson</i> — Tenders called for "closed" villa at Stoke	42	..	42
<i>Tokanui</i> — Tenders let for admission ward .. .. .	..	27	27
	305	126	431

If these works are completed in average time the resident population may be expected to increase in the interval by 112 (m., 58; f., 54), in which case there will be an excess of accommodation for 77 (m., 76; f., 1). This will leave the position satisfactory in Auckland, Sunnyside, and Porirua. At Seacliff modernizing work now being carried out by the artisan staff will continue; but the main additions next taken in hand will be at Waitati; Hokitika by being able to pull down the condemned buildings will have wiped out its reproach; Nelson will have gone a further step in adapting the Mental Hospital for mental deficient, and with the "closed" villa at Stoke will be able to transfer thither Nelson patients who cannot be trusted in the "open door" sections. Concurrently the erection of villas will be necessary for women patients to be transferred from Nelson—the site for these