

**Anti-Cancer Council
of Victoria**

**Report and
Accounts**



30th JUNE -- 1939

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C/o. ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,
SPRING STREET, MELBOURNE, C.1

President's Report

As President of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria, I have pleasure in submitting the Third Annual Report for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1939.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Treatment Facilities.—After making a comprehensive survey of the treatment facilities available for treatment of malignant disease in the State of Victoria, the Executive Committee decided to make the following allocation of funds to enable the Hospitals concerned to install additional modern therapy equipment:—

Alfred Hospital	£2,500
Austin Hospital	£2,500
St. Vincent's Hospital	£2,127

In making this allocation the Executive Committee desired to ensure that patients requiring treatment by radiological methods are not kept waiting, and consequently the prospect of the cure or the alleviation of their disease jeopardised.

The plant at St. Vincent's Hospital is already in operation. It is expected that the plant at the Austin will be in use very shortly, and it is hoped that the plant at the Alfred Hospital will be installed in the comparatively near future. The provision of this additional treatment equipment should ensure that patients receive treatment immediately they report to the treatment centre, but should it be found, in course of time, that the treatment plants are not able to meet the demands made upon them, other hospitals will be assisted to provide increased treatment facilities.

X-ray and Radium Laboratory.—The Anti-Cancer Council financed the cost of erecting the X-ray and Radium Laboratory in the grounds of the University of Melbourne, and also installed in the Laboratory equipment to the approximate value of £2,000. The Laboratory, which was opened in September, 1938, is staffed and maintained by the Commonwealth Department of Health. As a result of the Council's interest in this Laboratory, and with the co-operation of the Commonwealth Department of Health, an adequate physical service is available to all institutions, and, in fact, to all members of the profession using radiological methods in the treatment of malignant disease. An agreement has been entered into whereby the Anti-Cancer Council subsidises the Commonwealth Department of Health to supply this very necessary physical service for the State.

Almoner Service.—It is generally agreed that an almoner service is of great value to the sick poor. Especially is this true when the patient must undergo a long period of treatment involving frequent attendances at outpatient clinics, as is so often the case with patients suffering from malignant disease. The value of sympathetic advice and practical help in connection with the numerous problems of the home and the provision of travelling expenses, accommodation, etc., rendered by such a service cannot be overstated.

It was found that excellent services were available to indigent patients attending clinics in the Melbourne and metropolitan areas, but, unfortunately, this was not the case in all provincial and country districts. Realising that the need for this service in the country areas was urgent, the Executive Committee sought the advice and co-operation of the Victorian Institute of Hospital Almoners, with the result that the Institute has agreed to provide specialised training for almoners who volunteer to undertake work in the cancer field in the country districts of Victoria. As a result of financial assistance made available to the Institute by the Anti-Cancer Council, the services of an experienced instructress in this specialised work have been obtained. The Council is subsidising the Victorian Institute of Hospital Almoners over a period of years to enable it to carry out this work on the Council's behalf.

Hospice and Convalescent Accommodation.—Representatives of the Executive Committee have conferred with the Charities Board of Victoria concerning the provision of suitable hospice and convalescent accommodation for indigent patients, who, in many cases, must travel long distances for frequent attendance as outpatients at treatment institutions. It is understood that beds for this class of patient will shortly be available. The Executive Committee desires to record its appreciation of the co-operation and help of the Charities Board of Victoria in connection with this phase of its work.

Treatment and Follow-up Records.—At some clinics at treatment institutions it is possible to ascertain the end results of treatment given, but this information is not available for all methods of treatment of all types of malignant disease. It should be realised that it is of the utmost importance to ascertain, over a long period of years, the end result of every method of treatment of all types of malignancy. With this object in view, the Council is establishing a Central Cancer Registry, which will be conducted on a machine system and which will collect and collate clinical information from all treatment institutions. More important still, it will see that every patient is followed up over a long period of years, so that the final result of treatment may be ascertained. Dr. Robert Fowler, O.B.E., M.D., V.D., F.R.A.C.S., has very kindly accepted appointment as Honorary Chief Registrar of the Central Cancer Registry, and is in charge of its work. In addition, the services of a part-time statistician have been retained. Although the work of the Registry may not be of immediate direct benefit to the patient, the information, scientifically ascertained and interpreted, will, ultimately, be of great value to members of the medical profession and, consequently, of the utmost benefit to patients.

Executive Medical Officer.—Dr. C. V. Mackay, M.D., F.R.A.C.P., has been appointed Executive Medical Officer to the Council. Dr. Mackay's duties include the collection of information, in suitable form, concerning cancer patients reporting at the various institutions. The information is then passed to the Central Cancer Registry. In addition, Dr. Mackay is organising suitable follow-up systems where such systems are not already in operation.

Research.—A number of research proposals have been carefully investigated by the Research Sub-Committee appointed by the Executive Committee. The Committee is ready and willing thoroughly to investigate all proposals submitted, and should it consider that the proposed work warrants financial assistance, it will render that assistance within the limit of the resources at its disposal.

British Empire Cancer Campaign.—During the period under review, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Sir Hugh Devine, Kt., M.S., F.R.A.C.S., visited England and conferred with the officials of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, and with members of the Campaign's staff, concerning the work being carried on in the British Isles to combat cancer. The Executive Committee is grateful to the officials of the British Empire Cancer Campaign for the help and advice which they so readily gave.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Members of the Finance Committee gave very careful consideration to the permanent investment of £30,000 of the Council's funds in accordance with a decision made by the Executive Committee. Suitable gilt-edged authorised trustee investments were obtained. In addition, funds not immediately required for the purpose of the work of the Council have been invested in suitable short-term securities. These investments mature at comparatively early dates, but should the money be required in connection

with the work of the Council, they are readily realisable. The higher return so obtainable gives them an advantage over fixed deposits without any loss of convenience.

From time to time, meetings of the Committee have been held and statements of receipts and expenditure to the date of each meeting have been placed before members. All accounts, authorised by the Executive Committee, have been submitted to the Committee for execution by payment.

A copy of the Council's audited Balance Sheet at the 30th June, 1939, together with a statement of revenue and expenditure for the twelve months ended that date, is submitted with this report.

MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

The Medical and Scientific Committee has continued to act in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee, and has given consideration to all problems of a purely medical and scientific nature which have confronted the Anti-Cancer Council. The more important matters dealt with include the consideration of three research proposals, placed before the Council, and also matters of detail concerning the co-operation between the Anti-Cancer Council and the Commonwealth Department of Health in connection with the work being carried out from the Commonwealth X-ray and Radium Laboratory at the University of Melbourne for the State of Victoria. It is important to note that the services of the staff of the Commonwealth X-ray and Radium Laboratory are available not only to treatment institutions in the State, but to all members of the medical profession.

The various matters upon which the Medical and Scientific Committee has advised the Executive Committee are mentioned in detail in the report from the Executive Committee to the Council.

APPEALS COMMITTEE.

During the period under review it has not been necessary for the Appeals Committee to meet. Nevertheless, although not actively working on behalf of the Anti-Cancer Council, members of the Appeals Committee are keenly interested in the Council's work and have watched with interest the growth and development of the work of the Council.

Should their services be required at any time, members of the Appeals Committee will be glad to co-operate with the Council in the furtherance of its objects.

Members of the Appeals Committee desire to inform members of the public, and of the legal profession, and trustees under wills, charitable endowments, etc., that the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria is a body created by an Act of Parliament of Victoria for the purpose of, inter alia, receiving subscriptions, gifts, bequests, etc., to be devoted to combating the scourge of cancer in this State. They confidently recommend the work being carried out by the Council as worthy of assistance by benefactors.

A. W. COLES, President.

ANTI-CANCER COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

BALANCE SHEET, 30th JUNE, 1939.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
Sundry Creditors £8 9 7	National Bank of Australasia Ltd.— Current Account £767 17 4
Anti-Cancer Fund— Balance, 30th June, 1938 £64,558 14 7	National Bank of Australasia Ltd.— Fixed Deposits 25,200 0 0
Add Furniture and Fittings Purchased prior to 30th June, 1938 45 0 0	Investments in Authorised Trustee Securities, at cost 31,323 11 8
64,603 14 7	Furniture and Fittings— Purchased prior to 30th June, 1938 £45 0 0
Less Balance transferred from Revenue and Expenses Account 7,210 15 7	Additions, at cost 75 1 5
57,392 19 0	120 1 5
	Less Depreciation written off 10 1 5
	110 0 0
£57,401 8 7	£57,401 8 7

REVENUE AND EXPENSES ACCOUNT, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1939.

DR. To Grants £9,839 10 4	CR. By Interest £2,145 17 1
" Salaries £748 5 0	" Donations 819 16 1
" Printing and Stationery 67 2 6	" Bequests 575 0 0
" Postages, Telegrams and Telephone 32 8 7	" Balance transferred to Anti-Cancer Fund 7,210 15 7
" Lighting and Power 16 4 8	
" Advertising 23 14 0	
" General Expenses 10 6 3	
" Insurance 3 11 0	
" Exchange and Bank Charges 0 5 0	
" Depreciation 10 1 5	
911 18 5	
£10,751 8 9	£10,751 8 9

H. B. DEVINE, Chairman of the Executive Committee.
H. A. PITT, Chairman of the Finance Committee.
H. G. WHEELER, Secretary.

Audited and found correct—(Sgd.) HERBERT TAYLOR, Auditor,
(Young & Outhwaite, Chartered Accountants [Australia]),
6th July, 1939. 368 Collins Street, Melbourne.