

It is of interest to compare the findings with those of the Queenshaven investigation. The results of this survey were as follows:-

TABLE NO. VI.

SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF AGED PERSONS BY COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLD : QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY 1956.

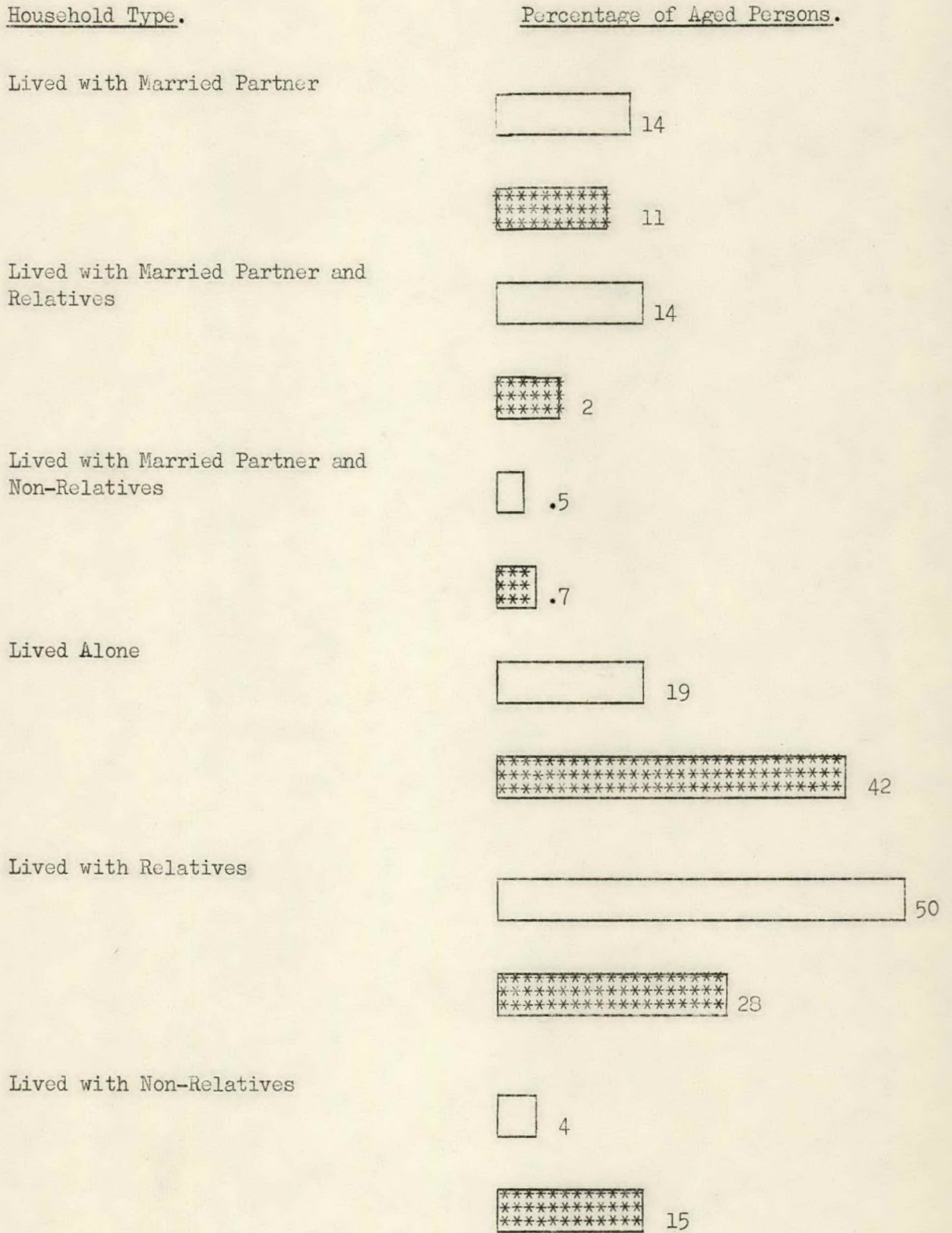
<u>Composition of Household.</u>	<u>Percentage of Aged Persons.</u>		
	<u>Males</u> (Base 56).	<u>Females</u> (Base 212).	<u>Total</u> (Base 268).
Lived with Married Partner	26.8	7.0	11.1
Lived with Married Partner and Non-Relatives	1.8	0.4	0.7
Lived with Married Partner and Relatives	5.4	1.4	( 2.2
Lived with Relatives	8.9	33.5	30.6 (28.4
Lived Alone	39.3	42.5	41.8
Lived with Non-Relatives	16.1	15.2	15.4
Not Stated	1.7	0.0	0.4
	-----	-----	-----
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	=====	=====	=====

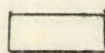
An interesting result emerges from a comparison with the 1956 Queenshaven Survey. It was noted above that 63% of the Old Age Pensioners covered by the survey lived with relatives. In the Queenshaven Survey it was found that aged persons living with relatives constituted approximately 30% of the total number surveyed and that 42% were living alone as compared with 19% in the Old Age Pensioners Survey. A possible explanation may lie in the fact that the Queenshaven Survey was an investigation of aged persons who had specifically applied for admission to an old age home, and would be more likely, therefore, to be living alone.

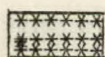


FIGURE 1.

COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLDS - OLD AGE PENSIONERS SURVEY,  
COMPARED WITH FINDINGS FROM QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY, 1956.



 Old Age Pensioner Survey 1949-50.

 Queenshaven Survey 1956.

Scale :  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch = 10 per cent.

(4) Type .....



(4) Type of Dwelling.

The majority, i.e. 65.9% of old age pensioners covered by the investigation lived in houses as compared with 9.7% living in flats and 21.2% living in furnished or unfurnished rooms. Only 1.7% lived in houses or flats in sub-economic housing schemes. One per cent lived in boarding houses and other establishments.

Pensioners who were living in houses were, for the most part, living with relatives, while the majority of old people in rooms were pensioners who lived alone and were either unmarried or had lost their partner by death or divorce.

The following table shows the distribution of dwellings by household type:-

TABLE NO. VII.

SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS BY TYPE OF DWELLING.

Composition of Household.	Type of dwelling (% of old age pensioners) (Base 701)							
	Sub-Econ. House	Sub-Econ. Flat	House	Flat	Furnished Rooms	Unfurnished rooms	Other	Total
Lived with Married Partner	.3	.1	7.7	1.1	1.8	2.3	.3	13.6
Lived with married partner and non-relatives	-	-	.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
Lived with married partner and relatives	.3	.1	11.9	1.4	-	-	-	13.7
Lived with relatives	1.0	.1	40.0	5.8	1.0	1.4	.4	49.7
Lived alone	.1	.1	3.2	.7	4.2	10.1	.4	18.8
Lived with non-relatives	-	-	2.6	.7	.2	.2	-	3.7
Total	1.7	.4	65.9	9.7	7.2	14.0	1.1	100.0

For purposes of comparison it is interesting to note that in the Queenshaven survey it was found that only 41.8% of the aged persons were living in houses, while 37.6% were occupying furnished or unfurnished rooms. This higher proportion of aged persons occupying rooms can be accounted for by the fact that the greater number in the Queenshaven survey (nearly 42%) were men and women living alone, as compared with 19% in the Old Age Pensioners Survey.

The results .....



The results obtained in the Queenshaven survey were as follows:-

TABLE NO. VIII.

SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF AGED PERSONS - QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY BY  
TYPE OF DWELLING.

Composition of Household	Type of dwelling (% of aged persons) (Base 268)							Total
	Sub-Econ. House	Sub-Econ. Flat	House	Flat	Furnished/Unfurnished rooms	Other	Not stated	
Lived with married partner	0.7	-	6.0	1.5	2.2	0.7	-	11.1
Lived with married partner and relatives	-	-	2.2	-	-	-	-	2.2
Lived with married partner and non-relatives	-	-	-	0.7	-	-	-	0.7
Lived alone	-	-	1.8	5.6	33.6	0.4	0.4	41.8
Lived with relatives	-	-	24.3	3.0	1.1	-	-	28.4
Lived with non-relatives	-	-	7.5	0.7	0.7	6.5	-	15.4
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	.4	-	0.4
	0.7	0.0	41.8	11.5	37.6	8.0	0.4	100.0

It is evident both from the findings in 1949 and from the figures of the smaller check-survey in 1956 in which the group surveyed were applicants for accommodation at Queenshaven, that the largest group of old people contrary to expectation comprised those living in houses, rather than in flats or rooms. Furthermore, taking the earlier more representative survey as the basis of deduction, since the Queenshaven survey was made on a specialised closed group, namely those desiring accommodation in an institution, the largest number of elderly people taken as a group were living with relatives.

This result .....



This result is in accord with that of a survey made in Great Britain in 1954 (viz. "Over Seventy") where the prevalent idea that families generally are repudiating their responsibility towards aged relatives was proved unjustifiable. The Report of the National Assistance Board for 1954, which incorporated the findings of a survey carried out between August and October, 1954, during which reports were collected from 400 area offices of the National Old People's Welfare Council, has this to say:

"In broad outline the picture which emerges is not dissimilar from that presented by the report of the recent survey, Over Seventy, by the National Old People's Welfare Committee .... It affords support for the view not only that there has been no decline in the sense of responsibility for their old relatives on the part of the younger generation, but also that there is a positive growth of neighbourliness and community interest in all parts of the country."

The latter part of the sentence regarding a growing interest in the elder members of the community by the public at large is still in its beginnings in South Africa, as compared with developments in the United Kingdom.

(5) Sex Distribution.

In Table No. IX details are given about the sex distribution of the Old Age Pensioners together with comparative figures based on the Queenshaven survey:-

TABLE NO. IX.

SHOWING SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE OLD AGE PENSIONERS WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FROM THE QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY.

<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Pensioners.</u>		<u>Queenshaven Survey.</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Male	128	18.3	56	20.9
Female	573	81.7	212	79.1
Total	<u>701</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Of the 701 old age pensioners surveyed, 573 or 81.7% were women.

There are several explanations to account for this preponderance of women. Men reaching old age are more likely than women to be able to support themselves without resort to Government Old Age Pensions. Many are eligible for industrial and commercial pension benefits. Others may have provided for themselves through endowment schemes or are eligible for War Veterans and Military Pensions. Elderly women tend to have spent their lives as housewives or in the lower paid occupations reserved for women, and in any case, elderly men as was found in the United Kingdom survey, are frequently "adopted" and looked after by younger women because they are considered helpless, while women are not so regarded. Furthermore, statistics show that the death rate for males, particularly in the later years of life, is higher than that for females. In the Union, in 1940, the death rate of male persons aged 65 to 74 years, was 53.73 per 1,000 of the population compared with 40.82 per 1,000 of the population for women in the same age group.

(6) Age .....



(6) Age Distribution.

An analysis is given in Table No. X of the ages of the 701 persons studied:-

TABLE NO. X.

SHOWING AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE OLD AGE PENSIONERS.

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Old Age Pensioners.</u>					
	<u>Male..</u>		<u>Female.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Under 60 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
60 and under 65	-	-	94	16.4	94	13.4
65 and under 70	19	14.8	171	29.8	190	27.1
70 and under 75	38	29.7	143	25.0	181	25.8
75 and under 80	39	30.4	98	17.1	137	19.6
80 and under 85	23	18.0	42	7.3	65	9.3
85 and under 90	5	4.0	17	3.0	22	3.1
90 and over	3	2.3	5	.9	8	1.1
Not stated	1	.8	3	.5	4	.6
Total	<u>128</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>701</u>	<u>100.0</u>

The average age of male pensioners was : 76.15 years.

The average age of female pensioners was : 71.55 years.

The average age of all the pensioners was : 73.05 years.

Probably the slightly higher average age of male pensioners is due to the fact that men tend to work as long as possible before retiring, while women especially of the lower income group, have spent their lives as housewives and have no alternative means of support.

A comparison .....



A comparison with the Queenshaven survey show similar results:-

TABLE NO. XI.

SHOWING AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE OLD PEOPLE - QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY.

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Males.</u>		<u>Females.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Under 60 years	1	1.7	5	2.5	6	2.2
60 and under 65	3	5.3	41	19.3	44	16.5
65 and under 70	13	23.2	48	22.6	61	22.8
70 and under 75	12	21.4	46	21.7	58	21.6
75 and under 80	16	28.6	41	19.3	57	21.3
80 and under 85	8	14.4	21	9.9	29	10.8
85 and under 90	3	5.4	7	3.3	10	3.7
90 and over	-	-	2	.9	2	.7
Not stated	-	-	1	.5	1	.4
Total	<u>56</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>100.0</u>

The average age of males was : 73.5 years.

The average age of females was : 71.8 years.

The average age of all the old people was : 72.4 years.

(7) Marital Status.

In table No. XII an analysis is given of the marital status of the old age pensioners:-

TABLE NO. XII.

SHOWING THE MARITAL STATUS OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS.

<u>Pensioners.</u>	<u>Male.</u>		<u>Female.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Never Married	11	1.6	29	4.1	40	5.7
Married	80	11.4	114	16.3	194	27.7
Widowed	34	4.8	419	59.8	453	64.6
Separated	3	.4	7	1.0	10	1.4
Divorced	-	-	4	.6	4	.6
Total	<u>128</u>	<u>18.2</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>81.8</u>	<u>701</u>	<u>100</u>

A study of the marital status of the old age pensioners included in the survey revealed some interesting facts.

More than six out of ten of the old age pensioners (64.6%) were widowed. About three out of ten (27.7%) were married and still living with their partners. Less than one out of ten (5.7%) had never been married, and two per cent were either divorced or separated.

The majority of the pensioners, 59.8% were women who had been widowed, as compared with 4.8% widowers. Only 4.1% were spinsters, and 1.6% were bachelors.

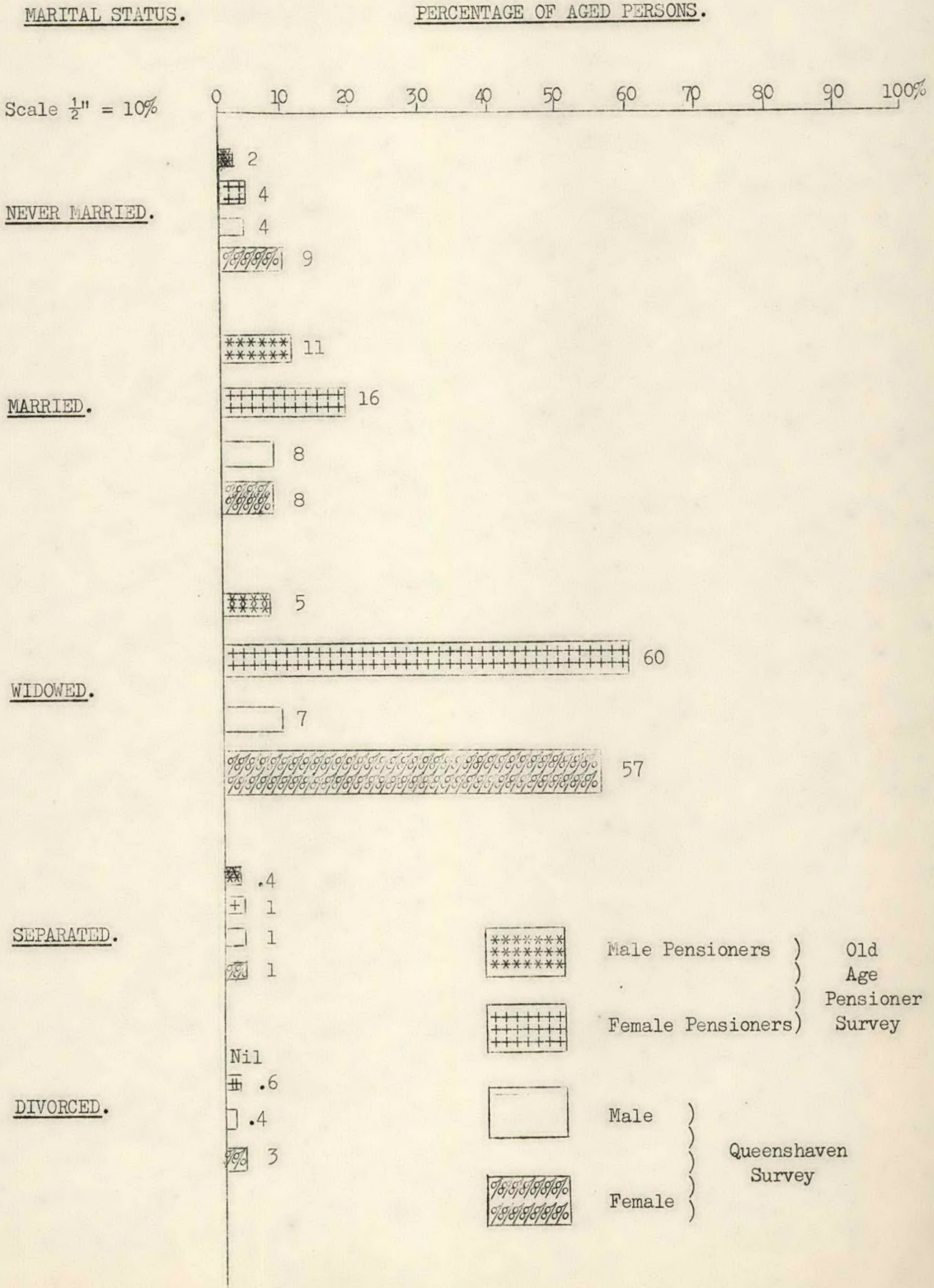
The higher proportion of widows among the pensioners is partly because four-fifths of the persons included in the study were women. Furthermore, statistics show that in general there are more than four times as many widows as widowers in the population. In the Union of South Africa, in 1946, there were 86,681 widows as compared with 23,458 widowers, due in part to a higher mortality rate among men in the later years of life than among women, and partly because men tend to re-marry more frequently than women. Women who have been widowed are more likely to need state aid than men, whether bachelors or widowers who tend to have alternative means of support or persons who have undertaken to care for them.



The Queenshaven Survey (Figure II) reveals a great similarity in the findings:-

MARITAL STATUS : OLD AGE PENSIONERS.

Compared with Findings from Queenshaven Survey, 1956.





(8) Income.

The actual amount of the old age pension received by individual pensioners varied from 10/- per month up to the maximum of £5.0.0. allowable under the Old Age Pension Act at the time of the survey in 1949. The majority 84%, of the pensioners received the total pension. The balance comprising 16% of the total number received less than the full pension since they were in receipt of income from other sources.

TABLE NO. XIII.

TABLE SHOWING THE AMOUNTS RECEIVED IN OLD AGE PENSIONS AND THE NUMBER OF PENSIONERS RECEIVING SUCH AMOUNTS.

<u>Amounts Received.</u>	<u>Old Age Pensioners.</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
£. s. d.		
5. 0. 0.	592	84.0
4.10. 0.	29 )	
4. 7. 0.	1 )	
4. 0. 0.	26 )	
3.10. 0.	9 )	16.0
3. 0. 0.	10 )	
2.10. 0.	12 )	
2. 5. 0.	1 )	
2. 0. 0.	7 )	
1.15. 0.	1 )	
1.10. 0.	1 )	
1. 5. 0.	1 )	
1. 0. 0.	5 )	
-.10. 0.	6 )	
Total	<u>701</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Other sources from which income was derived together with comparative figures taken from the Queenshaven survey, were as follows:-

TABLE NO. XIV.

TABLE SHOWING SOURCES OF INCOME OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FROM THE QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY.

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Old Age Pensioners.</u>		<u>Queenshaven survey % (Base 183).</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	
Old Age Pension only	518	73.4	79.8
Old Age Pension Plus:			
Contribution from relatives	62)	8.8	3.2
Contribution from non-relatives	2)	.3	.6
Contribution from Lodgers	6)	.9	-
Contributions from sub-tenants	19)	2.7	-
Income from property	3) 183	.4	1.1
Income from earnings	22)	3.1	1.6
Income from capital	10)	1.4	6.0
Income from social services	2)	.3	1.1
Income from other pensions	31)	4.4	4.9
Combinations of the Above	21)	3.0	1.1
Not Known	2)	.9	.6
Other	3)	.4	-
Total	<u>701</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>



It is clear that the majority of pensioners relied solely on their old age pension, supplementary sources of income being available to comparatively few persons.

It will be noted that there is a difference between the total number in receipt of the full pension, 84% and the percentage found to have income from the old age pension only, 73.4%, due to the fact that some pensioners in receipt of the full pension had other income within the limits of the free income ceiling permitted under the Old Age Pension Act.

Furthermore, analysis reveals that only 22 or 3.1% of the pensioners were in receipt of earnings, and that although 48 pensioners were owners of property, only three derived any income from such property because in most instances the property owned was occupied by the pensioners themselves. Only two pensioners received any income from social services, one person received a monthly allowance from the Church and another person received an allowance for food.

A comparison with the Queenshaven survey reveals similar findings. However, only 183 (68.3%) of the 268 aged persons covered in this survey were old age pensioners. The sources of income of the remaining 85 (31.7%) aged people were as follows:-

TABLE NO. XV.

SHOWING THE SOURCES OF INCOME OF AGED PERSONS - QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY.

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Aged Persons.</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Other pension only	33	38.8
Other pension plus:		
Contributions from sub-tenants	1	1.2
Income from property	1	1.2
Income from earnings	1	1.2
Income from capital	8	9.4
Income from other pensions	3	3.5
Contributions from relatives only	14	16.4
Income from property only	2	2.4
Income from earnings only	8	9.4
Income from capital only	7	8.2
Income from social services only	5	5.9
Not stated	2	2.4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	<u>85</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Here again the majority of the aged non-pensioners included in the Queenshaven investigation relied solely on a pension for their income, and in 25 instances this pension was a War Veterans Pension. Another interesting result was that 16% of the non-pensioners relied solely on contributions from relatives.

The total .....



The total monthly income of old age pensioners from all sources was as follows:-

TABLE NO. XVI.

SHOWING TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS FROM ALL SOURCES AS COMPARED WITH THE QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY.

<u>Total Monthly Income.</u>	<u>Old Age Pensioners.</u>		<u>Queenshaven Survey %.</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>Old Age Pensioners (base 183).</u>	<u>Others (base 85).</u>
£5 and under	525	74.9	.6	5.9
Over £5 and up to £10	115	16.4	9.8	14.1
Over £10 and up to £15	35	5.0	79.3	45.9
Over £15 and up to £20	9	1.3	7.6	13.0
£20 and over	3	.4	2.7	17.6
Not stated	13	1.9	-	3.5
Refusal	1	0.1	-	-
Total	<u>701</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

At the date of the survey the total amount of money allowable to a pensioner including free income, in terms of the Old Age Pension Act was £10.0.0. per month for a single European person. For a couple the amount was £20 per month. It will be noted that the income of approximately 26 pensioners exceeded this maximum amount.

A comparison with the Queenshaven investigation shows that the majority of the aged included in this survey received a total monthly income of over £10 and up to £15 per month, a much higher income than that noted in the Old Age Pensioners Survey.

Since 1949, the year of the Old Age Pensioners Survey, pensions have been increased by a cost of living bonus and the free income limitation has been raised. Pensioners are now permitted a total income of £18.0.0. i.e. £10.10.0. pension plus £7.10.0. free income per month as compared with the sum of £10.0.0. per month previously allowed. However, although pensioners are now better off financially than they were in 1949, the increase is not as valuable as it appears. Since 1948, the cost of living index has risen by 59.4 thereby offsetting the increase in pensions by 80%.

Among .....



Among the old age pensioners included in the study 48 (or 6.8%) were found to be property owners. The value of such property, as estimated by the pensioner in each instance, was as follows:-

TABLE NO. XVII.

SHOWING NUMBERS OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS OWNING PROPERTY AND  
VALUE OF SUCH PROPERTY.

<u>No. of Old Age Pensioners</u> <u>owning property.</u>	<u>Estimated Value of Property in £.</u>
3	200
2	300
2	400
1	500
2	550
1	850
4	1,000
2	1,070
2	1,100
2	1,250
1	1,500
1	1,600
1	1,700
1	1,900
1	1,950
4	2,000
1	3,000
17	Not Stated
<u>Total</u>	<u>48</u>

Old age pensioners at the time of the survey were permitted to own property up to a specified maximum value of £800 (unbonded) if they resided on that property. Property owned in excess of £800 meant a reduction in pension at the rate of 5% per every £100. (Pensioners are now permitted to own property up to a specified maximum value of £1,200.) On this basis, 38 pensioners out of the total of 48 owning property, were penalised for possessing their own homes.

The fact that a means test in old age will be applied to applicants for an old age pension suggests an unfortunate choice be made between thriftiness and improvidence, with the dice loaded in favour of providence. A policy which penalises savings and the possession of one's own home is obviously in need of review.

(9) Leisure.

An attempt was made in the course of this study to obtain a general view of the manner in which the old age pensioners occupied their leisure-time.



A limited variety of interests were recorded:

TABLE NO. XVIII.

SHOWING LEISURE-TIME ACTIVITIES OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS.

<u>Activity.</u>	<u>% of Old Age Pensioners.</u>	
	<u>Male (base 128).</u>	<u>Female (base 573).</u>
Reading the newspaper	67.2	55.1
Reading books	60.9	56.3
Listening to the radio	33.6	53.6
Knitting and Sewing	0.0	34.2
Social Visiting	7.0	27.8
Attending church activities	15.6	24.1
Gardening	11.0	5.4
Attending the cinema	4.7	8.3
Hobbies	4.7	3.0
Indoor games	2.3	.7
Sports (as spectator)	2.3	0.0
Sports (as participator)	0.7	0.0
Attending concerts, lectures, talks	0.7	.9
Club membership	0.7	.2
Other	0.7	1.2
None	7.8	7.5
Refusal	0.0	.1

The main leisure-time pursuits of pensioners were the reading of books and newspapers, listening to the radio, attendance at Church activities (including religious services), and, for women, knitting, sewing and social visiting was favoured. A small number occasionally attended cinema shows.

A minor proportion, 11% of the men and 5.4% of the women, had gardening as an interest. A negligible number, less than 3 in every 100 pensioners, listed other hobbies, 1% stating that they attended lectures and talks while only 2 pensioners enjoyed membership of a social club, viz: the John Gray Community Health Centre.

Only 2% of the men and no women at all took part in sport, and only seven pensioners participated in indoor games.

43 female pensioners and 10 male pensioners (i.e. 7.5% in all) said that they had no particular leisure-time interest.

31 or 4% of the pensioners stated that there were certain kinds of leisure-time activities which they would like to pursue but from which they were debarred by lack of means, including attending cinema shows, concerts, spectators sports, and having no radio, listening to radio programmes.

Other pensioners, 18 or 2% in all, were unable to implement their desire for certain types of leisure-time activity due to the lack of the necessary medical aids to failing sight and hearing and physical frailty which made locomotion a problem.

Still others, numbering 66, or nearly one in ten pensioners expressed regret at being unable to pursue certain interests due to defects in sight, hearing and locomotion despite the possession of the appropriate medical aids. These interests included reading, knitting and sewing, attendance at church and social visiting.

Significant findings from this section of the study were the negligible number of old age pensioners who were able to engage in constructive hobbies, attend concerts, lectures or talks, enjoy any form of sport or outdoor entertainment or belong to social clubs.

The scarcity .....



The scarcity of leisure-time pursuits available to old age pensioners in Johannesburg, is a matter demanding special attention.

(10) Occupational Distribution.

In order to obtain a picture of the main trades or professions of old age pensioners, a study was made of their occupational grouping before retirement. The detailed distribution was as follows:-

TABLE NO. XIX.

SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS PRIOR TO RETIRING.

<u>Occupation.</u>	<u>Old Age Pensioners.</u>				
	<u>Male.</u>		<u>Female.</u>		
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	
1. No gainful occupation (Housewives)			<u>514</u>	514	89.7
2. <u>Tradesmen and Skilled Workers.</u>					
Miner	11				
Engineering (Boilermaker, Fitter and Turner, Welder, Blacksmith)	16				
Mason (Bricklayer, Plaster, Builder)	18				
Painter	3				
Tailor	2				
Carpenter	5				
Mechanic	2				
Baker, Confectioner, Chef	8				
Electrician	4				
Printer	1				
Plumber	2				
Butcher	1				
Shoemaker	2				
Watchmaker	1				
Hairdresser	1				
Dressmaker			<u>11</u>	11	1.9
	<u>77</u>	60.2			
3. <u>Unskilled Workers.</u>					
Labourers	16				
Washerwomen			7		
Caretaker	<u>2</u>		<u>5</u>		
	18	14.1		12	2.1

4. Semi .....



<u>Occupation.</u>	<u>Old Age Pensioners.</u>				
	<u>Male.</u>		<u>Female.</u>		
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	
	b/f	95	74.3	537	93.7
4. <u>Semi-skilled and Miscellaneous.</u>					
Driver (lorry, taxi, etc.)		4			
Agricultural worker (farmer, etc.)		10			
Barman		2			
Warder		1			
Gardener		1			
Cook				4	
Steward		<u>1</u>		-	
		19	14.8	4	.7
5. <u>Administrative and Clerical.</u>					
Salesmen (shopkeeper, shop assistant, etc.)		2			
Typist				6	
Traveller		1			
Clerical (bookkeeper, Clerk)		<u>11</u>		-	
		14	10.9	6	1.0
6. <u>Personal and Domestic.</u>					
Housekeeper, Nursemaid, etc.				<u>21</u>	
				21	3.7
7. <u>Professional.</u>					
Nurse, librarian				<u>5</u>	
				5	.9
		<u>128</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>100.0</u>

The results revealed that approximately four out of every five (89.7%) women pensioners had never been gainfully employed. The majority of male pensioners (60.2%) had been previously employed as skilled workers and tradesmen; unskilled and semi-skilled workers represented 28.9% and only 10.9% had been employed before retirement as clerical workers. The small proportion of professional and white collar workers among the male pensioners and the high proportion of housewives among the female pensioners, shows that a person who applied for an old age pension is usually from the lower income group, who would not normally receive a pension through his employment, and who would not normally make provision for his wife if he predeceases her.

#### VI. PENSIONERS LIVING UNDER CONDITIONS OF HARDSHIP.

One of the primary aims of this study was to ascertain the proportion of old age pensioners who were living under conditions of hardship, and the provisions necessary for their re-housing or alternative care.



In the absence of suitable standards for assessing the extent of hardship among old people, the basis upon which their circumstances have been judged is, of necessity, an arbitrary one. The judgments made are related solely to the material conditions of life, and no attempt was possible in the course of the investigation to study the emotional and personal relationships of the pensioners. Research undertaken overseas in recent years has thrown considerable light upon the importance of human relationships and the sense of "belonging" in contributing to social adjustment in old age. The study of this aspect of the conditions of old age pensioners might prove a fruitful field for future investigation.

It was found that no less than three out of every ten old age pensioners were living under conditions of hardship as defined in the following pages. This included pensioners living alone, whose advancing infirmity rendered them incapable of adequately fending for themselves; pensioners who were obliged to pay exorbitant rentals in relation to their meagre incomes and pensioners, mainly those living with relatives, for whom sleeping accommodation was unsatisfactory.

A further two out of every ten old age pensioners were living under other unsatisfactory conditions, and included old people who lived on the upper floors of buildings which had no lifts; pensioners who lived in brick and iron dwellings or homes that were damp; and those who lacked proper bathroom facilities.

Information on other aspects of living conditions of old people, such as the absence of living rooms and kitchens, the sharing of facilities with other households and the presence of outside lavatories was also collected. As these were circumstances, however, which might be regarded as less serious, they were not taken into account in assessing the proportion of pensioners living under adverse conditions.

Only five out of every ten pensioners were found to be living in circumstances which could be regarded as satisfactory and with few exceptions, they were persons living in the care of relatives. Table No. XX is an analysis of the total of 701 pensioners covered by the study and portraying the living conditions of this group as classified above.

TABLE NO. XX.

ANALYSIS OF LIVING CONDITIONS OF PENSIONERS.

<u>Category.</u>	<u>Old Age Pensioners.</u>							
	<u>Males.</u>		<u>Females.</u>		<u>Couples.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>194 persons</u>		<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Pensioners living under conditions of hardship	17	35.	149	33	22	23	210	30
Pensioners living under other unsatisfactory conditions	10	21	75	16	29	30	143	20
Pensioners living under satisfactory conditions	21	44	235	51	46	47	348	50
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	<u>48</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>459</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>701</u>	<u>100</u>

(1) Pensioners .....



(1) Pensioners Living Under Conditions of Hardship.

In order to obtain the most accurate information possible the conditions of hardship under which pensioners were living were studied both in respect of the source of hardship and the actual circumstances constituting a hardship.

(a) Sources of Hardship.

The main sources of hardship experienced by the old age pensioners under investigation are reflected in the following table, the preponderating factor being that of exorbitant rentals in relation to both the accommodation itself and the income of the pensioners.

TABLE NO. XXI.

SOURCES OF HARDSHIP.

<u>Sources of Hardship.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Couples.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
	(base 48)	(base 459)	(base 97 persons 194)	(base 701)	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
<b>A Hardship.</b>					
(i) Infirmity of Pensioners living alone	1	14	3	21	3.0
(ii) Exorbitant rentals	9	63	8	88	12.0
(iii) Combination of (i) and (ii)	7	31	8	54	8.0
(iv) Unsatisfactory sleeping accommodation	-	41	3	47	7.0
	<u>No.</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>210</u>
Total	<u>%.</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>30</u>

(In order to deal more graphically with the circumstances of the old age pensioners under category A which represents the more extreme cases of hardship, brief notes have been given on each case in Annexure D.)

(b) Conditions of Hardship.

1. Infirmity of Pensioners Living Alone.

The pensioners in most urgent need of help appeared to be those living alone, whose infirmity made it impossible for them to manage for themselves without great difficulty or without assistance from some neighbour or friend. The word "manage" means, in this connection that they were unable to adequately perform the simple functions of doing their own shopping, cooking their food or dressing themselves. These activities were regarded as the minimum chores that the old people should be able to undertake if they were to continue to live independently. The criterion of ability to carry out such tasks had necessarily to be left to the old people themselves, since no uniform basis could be adopted, apart from the standardization of questions asked in every instance, eg:-

"Do you do your own shopping/cooking/dressing -  
With ease? With difficulty? Only with Assistance? Not at all?  
The limitations .....



The limitations of this method, however, are fully recognised. The figures available from the replies received showed that the main difficulty experienced by pensioners was that of inability to do their own shopping. Although, not infrequently, difficulty was experienced with more than one of the major domestic chores.

Where a pensioner indicated that he was unable to do his own shopping, cooking or dressing except with difficulty or with assistance, or that he could not undertake one or more of these tasks it was considered a hardship for him to attempt to continue living by himself.

<u>Basic Activities.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Dressing	16	2
Cooking	21	3
Shopping	73	11
	<u>110</u>	<u>16</u>

The analysis above indicates that more than one in ten, or 11% of the pensioners, were living under circumstances in which they were unable to manage for themselves. 43 were women, 8 were men and 11 were married couples. The circumstances of 54 or 8% of these pensioners (see Table XXI-) was considerably worsened by the need to pay excessive rent for accommodation. In addition, a number of these pensioners lived in dwellings that were damp or unsatisfactory from some other point of view.

2. Exorbitant Rentals.

In many instances hardship in the living conditions of old age pensioners was occasioned or aggravated by the high cost of accommodation and the payment of rent which was exorbitant in relation to income.

According to a Scandinavian authority the maximum reasonable expenditure upon rent to be expected of an old age pensioner, should not exceed 14% of his income. The wellknown standard laid down by the Manchester Housing Authority is that the maximum amount to be expended on rent by the family unit, should be not more than one-fifth or 20% of the household income. In Johannesburg, however, rents are generally high and because it was decided to confine this section of the study to such cases in which the pensioner was occasioned special hardship by his living conditions, the arbitrary standard of 25% has been taken to represent an excessive or exorbitant rental.

The majority of pensioners falling into this class paid considerably more than that proportion. Three-quarters of them paid more than 40% of their income in rent, and the majority paid between 40% and 60% whilst a number spent as much as 75% or 80% of their income on this one item.



Since the bulk of pensioners had a total income of not more than £5 a month (which was the maximum Old Age Pension in 1949) it is clear that these pensioners burdened with high rent would be obliged to forego many of the bare necessities of living in order to make ends meet.

One in every five pensioners surveyed (20%) were paying an equivalent of more than one quarter of their total income in rent. In addition, 8% (See Table No. XXII) were suffering from infirmity, the remaining 12% consisting of 63 women and 9 men of whom 8 were married couples, being able to fend for themselves.

### 3. Unsatisfactory Sleeping Accommodation.

The third source of hardship for pensioners who were living with relatives was unsatisfactory sleeping accommodation.

In dealing with the housing conditions of old age pensioners a selective approach had to be adopted towards the various problems which investigators recorded. Adverse housing conditions are the lot of many families, particularly in the lower income groups. It is a moot point whether old people in this category should be removed from these circumstances merely on account of their years or whether the greater need is not rather that of planning to rehouse that section of the population as a whole, whose living conditions constitute a real hardship.

In order to circumvent this problem, adverse housing conditions affecting sections of the population at large, were not, of themselves, taken into account. Only such conditions were selected which occasioned undue discomfort by virtue of the special needs of the aged. Again, in the absence of suitable standards for the general housing of old people, this selection was made on a purely arbitrary basis, with all the limitations which this entails. General problems of accommodation are discussed in sub-section II entitled "Other unsatisfactory conditions". Inadequate sleeping accommodation, however, is regarded as a form of hardship to which special attention should be given and therefore has been included under the heading "Conditions of Hardships."

The main problem in this category was found to be overcrowding which resulted in the need for the pensioner to share a bedroom with two or more children under 21 years of age or perhaps to sleep in the living room. The bulk of pensioners classified in this group were of the first kind.

Elderly people tend to prefer quiet and need opportunities for rest. Where these are denied to them, it may be assumed that some degree of hardship exists. Sharing a room with an adult person or even with one child, provided the child was reasonably controlled might not occasion discomfort but, where the old age pensioner is obliged to share the bedroom with 2 or more minor children, his opportunities for privacy, quiet and rest are likely to be considerably restricted. With few exceptions, the pensioners in this group were suffering from ill-health at the time of the investigation, a fact which accentuated the probability of hardship.

Indeed .....



Indeed, the most recent research into factors which influence and accelerate the process of aging has indicated that noise and lack of adequate rest and sleep play a not inconsiderable part.

Forty-seven of the old age pensioners surveyed or 7% fell into the category of those for whom sleeping accommodation was inadequate. Forty-one were unattached women and three were married couples.

A number of persons that is 14 women and 1 married couple fell into this category and would be classed as infirm in terms of their inability to manage for themselves were they living alone. Five of the women were bedridden.

It is of interest to compare these findings with those of the Queenshaven investigation (made in 1956) since "hardship" is closely connected with income, and pensioners incomes have doubled since the Old Age Pensioners Survey undertaken in 1949.

A greater proportion of the aged in the Queenshaven investigation (46.3%) were found to be suffering from "hardship", as compared with the Old Age Pensioner Survey (30%). The fact that the Queenshaven survey was of a group of aged people applying for admission to an old age home, would account for this discrepancy, as it can be presumed that a great number of them were living in unsatisfactory conditions, by virtue of such applications.

TABLE NO. XXII.

SOURCES OF HARDSHIP : QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY.

<u>Sources of Hardship.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Couples.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
	(base 37)	(base 193)	(base 19 38 persons)	(base 268)	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
A. Hardship.					
(i) Infirmary of pensioners living alone	5	19	1	26	9.7
(ii) Exorbitant rentals	4	41	8	61	22.8
(iii) Combination of (i) and (ii)	5	17	2	26	9.7
(iv) Unsatisfactory sleeping accommodation	1	10	-	11	4.1
	<u>15</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>46.3</u>
Total	<u>15</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>46.3</u>
	<u>40.5</u>	<u>46.0</u>	<u>57.9</u>		

A scrutiny of Table No. XXII demonstrates that a very high proportion, i.e. 32.5% of the aged in the Queenshaven Investigation were suffering hardship because of exorbitant rentals and indicates that although pensions have been doubled since the Old Age Pensioners Survey, rent has also increased, and therefore the financial position of pensioners has not been improved. The index of rents of houses on the Witwatersrand of from 3 to 6 rooms increased by 33 from June 1949 to May, 1954.

(b) Other .....



(c) Other Unsatisfactory Conditions.

In addition to those persons suffering from the hardships which have been outlined above, namely the advance of infirmity upon pensioners no longer able to manage alone, the payment of exorbitant rentals and unsuitable sleeping arrangements, many pensioners were confronted with various housing problems.

Table No. XXIII relates to conditions of housing of particular disadvantage to old people and the remarks on pages 45 and 46 are of application to this section. Other unsatisfactory conditions experienced by pensioners are reflected in Table No. XXIII and it should be noted -

1. A number of pensioners fell into more than one category under B.
2. Many of the pensioners listed under A "Conditions of Hardship" also suffered from the additional hardships listed in B.

TABLE NO. XXIII.

OTHER UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS.

<u>Source of Hardship.</u>	<u>No. of Times this Condition Occurs.</u>				
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Couples.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
B.					
Absence of lift	3	16	2	23	3
Brick and Iron dwelling	-	27	11	49	7
Damp dwellings	6	36	17	76	11
No. of outside bathrooms	9	67	23	122	18

Total Number of Pensioners affected by the above conditions -  
(a number of pensioners fell into more than one category).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Couples.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	No. 10	75	29	143
	% 21	16	30	20

1. Absence of a lift.

During investigation into the several main hardships connected with actual accommodation, findings revealed that many of the pensioners lived on the upper floors of buildings which did not provide a lift. It is true that many people live in double storeyed houses in which a lift would rarely be found and whilst it would be preferable for old people not to have to climb a staircase too often, normally it would not be considered a hardship for them to live in dwellings of this kind. However, for the purpose of this study, where an aged pensioner was housed on the second or subsequent floor of a building which had no lift, this was considered an undue hardship as well as a hazard. 3% of the pensioners (mainly women) lived under circumstances of this kind.

2. Brick .....



2. Brick and Iron Dwellings.

Seven per cent of the pensioners lived in dwellings constructed of galvanised iron, with or without bricks. These structures tended to be badly ventilated and improperly insulated against heat, cold and draft.

3. Damp Dwellings.

Eleven per cent of the pensioners visited, lived in dwellings that were damp due to water seeping through the walls, ceilings or floors during the rainy season and never really drying out. Apart from the obvious danger to health which this represents, it constituted a special hazard for old people among whom rheumatoid and respiratory diseases are prevalent.

4. No Bathroom or only Outside Bathroom.

During the visits made to old people in the course of the survey it was common to find that there was no bathroom to which the pensioner had access, and that often he or she was obliged to go outside for water from a communal tap for ordinary washing and domestic use. A number of pensioners had the use only of an outside bathroom, a situation which presents obvious disadvantages to the elderly, particularly in adverse weather.

Eighteen per cent of the pensioners surveyed fell into one or other of these groups.

(Note : The existence of outside lavatories was recorded but since there are many parts of Johannesburg in which the bucket-system is still in use whilst living conditions otherwise are satisfactory, this in itself was not regarded as constituting an undue hardship.)

(d) Health of the Pensioners Living under Conditions of Hardship.

The survey which is the basis of this report was concerned mainly with the nature of accommodation and the types of facility which should be provided for old people. It was not intended that this investigation should carry out an analysis of the medical condition of the old age pensioners studied. It was decided that, for the purpose of the survey, a sufficient indication of their general degree of infirmity could be ascertained from the extent to which pensioners were able to manage for themselves, as reflected in their ability to perform the elementary tasks of own dressing, cooking and shopping for themselves. When a pensioner had difficulty in doing any of these things he or she was regarded as suffering from slight infirmity but if the pensioner could perform these tasks only with great difficulty or not at all, he or she was regarded as being "infirm".

According to this standard 9.3% of the pensioners fell into the category "slightly infirm", and 3% into the category "infirm".



A tabulated analysis is given of the health of the 353 old age pensioners living under conditions of hardship in 1949:-

TABLE NO. XXIV.

HEALTH OF PENSIONERS LIVING UNDER CONDITIONS OF HARDSHIP.

<u>Health.</u>	<u>Old Age Pensioners.</u>							
	<u>Males.</u>		<u>Females.</u>		<u>Couples.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>(base 48)</u>		<u>(base 459)</u>		<u>(base 97)</u>		<u>(base 701)</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Able bodied	18	37.5	171	37.4	39	40.2	267	38.1
Slightly infirm	2	4.2	49	10.6	7	7.2	65	9.3
Infirm	6	12.5	15	3.3	-	-	21	3.0
Total	<u>26</u>	<u>54.2</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>51.3</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>47.4</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>50.4</u>

It is interesting to note by way of comparison that in the Queenshaven Survey there was a higher percentage, i.e. 12.7% of "infirm" aged, and that 10.5% of this group of people was found to be suffering from Alcoholism and Mental Instability. This result is not surprising, as the people concerned had been in need of institutional care for some time.

The following tables show the health of aged persons living under conditions of hardship according to the findings of the Queenshaven Investigation of 1956.

TABLE NO. XXV.

HEALTH OF AGED : QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY LIVING UNDER CONDITIONS OF HARDSHIP.

<u>Health.</u>	<u>Aged - Queenshaven Survey.</u>							
	<u>Males.</u>		<u>Females.</u>		<u>Couples.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>(base 37)</u>		<u>(base 193)</u>		<u>(base 19)</u>		<u>(base 268)</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Able bodied	5	13.5	51	26.4	8	42.1	72	26.8
Slightly infirm	2	5.4	10	5.2	3	15.8	18	6.8
Infirm	8	21.6	26	13.5	-	-	34	12.7
Total	<u>15</u>		<u>87</u>		<u>11</u>		<u>124</u>	<u>46.3</u>

TABLE NO. XXVI.

SHOWING NUMBER OF INFIRM AGED : QUEENSHAVEN SURVEY BY TYPE OF DISABILITY.

<u>Disability.</u>	<u>Aged - Queenshaven Survey.</u>					
	<u>Male.</u>		<u>Females.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>(base 37)</u>		<u>(base 193)</u>		<u>(base 268)</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%.</u>
Alcoholic	3	13.5	7	3.6	10	3.7
Mental Instability	5	8.1	13	6.7	18	6.8
Total	<u>8</u>	<u>21.6</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>10.3</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>10.5</u>



VII. OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CARE OF THE AGED.

The care of the aged has been receiving growing attention in Britain and the United States. A broad outline of some of the services which have been developed will serve as a guide to the lines along which welfare amenities for old persons might be expanded in South Africa.

Agreement has generally been reached among students of the aged, that the old person is better off in his own home than under any other conditions, and that services for the aged should primarily be geared to assist old people to remain independent members of the community for as long as possible. This principle applies both to the able-bodied and to old persons who are infirm.

A memorandum recently issued by the Department of Health for Scotland emphasises that the first aim of all services for old people should be to help them to live independent lives in their own homes even when they are ill.

This fundamental principle is clearly set out in the Report of the National Conference on the Care of Old People held in Brighton in 1950, where it was pointed out that:-

"The home is the right place for everybody well or ill without distinction of age. The family unit which is fundamental to all healthy national life is none the less vital in our approach to the problems of the aged so there can be no proper solution which ignores our moral responsibility as individuals towards our own old people. The right order for rallying to their aid must always remain : first the family, then the good neighbour, and only thirdly the State."

Proximity to friends and family and continued life in the community are basic in producing adjustment and contentment in an old person's life.

The majority of old persons endeavour to live an active and independent life for as long as possible and the Nuffield Survey in Great Britain has indicated that in fact 95 per cent of elderly persons are living either in their own homes or as lodgers in the homes of other persons. In the U.S.A. in 1949, it was estimated that almost 96 per cent of persons 65 years and over were living in households of some kind. Thus the tendency to think primarily of old persons' problems in terms of institutional care is a fallacious one. The question of housing old people from the ideal point of view and in practical terms, should be considered in the light of those services which will assist the old persons to maintain themselves in the community.

Referring to this important need in dealing with the problems of the aged, Mr. Arthur Blenkinsop, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health in Great Britain, said in the House of Commons on 29th June, 1950:-

"Our main anxiety today is to try to find means for keeping old people within the life of the community.

Our desire is to encourage in every way the co-operation between local authorities and the great variety of welfare organisations doing most valuable work in this field."



A Bulletin of the National Old People's Welfare Committee published in February, 1951, states that it is essential that old people should not be segregated from the rest of the community but that their housing needs should be catered for as part of general housing. The Committee considered that this was essential in order to prevent the feeling of loneliness and isolation from which old people tend to suffer.

There has been a marked trend away from the establishment of homes and institutions for the aged, and towards the provision of private living arrangements which will safeguard the independence of the old person. First efforts therefore, are directed, towards assisting the aged to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, by means of what are known as domiciliary welfare services.

There are a large number of old people, however, who do not possess suitable homes, in which they might be maintained by domiciliary service. In Johannesburg, for example, it is known that many live in backyard rooms, in slum premises, in condemned tenements, in converted garages and other sordid surroundings. For old people such as these, as well as for others whose present living-conditions are unsatisfactory, suitable accommodation must be found. Among the modern measures which are offered are - the provision of small dwellings, flatlets and apartments for old people who have no satisfactory homes of their own; the placing of old people in private houses, foster-care and out-residents' programmes; the provision of co-operative houses with four or five old people at a time; the establishment of residential clubs for older persons.

#### A. DOMICILIARY WELFARE SERVICES.

In order to assist old persons to continue to enjoy the privacy and comfort of their own homes for as long as possible, welfare organisations and local authorities overseas have developed a number of domiciliary welfare services.

These are designed to assist the old person in carrying out the normal activities of every-day living when, due to advancing years, it has become a strain for him to fully meet his own needs. Many old persons are quite capable of maintaining an independent existence, if simply given a little help with regard to the heavier chores of housework, or with shopping and queueing. An old man or woman may be fully able to lead an independent existence if relieved of the fatigue of doing their own cooking. Or they may require help with regard to laundry, bathing, or periodic nursing or medical services. Often the need of the elderly person may be for counselling and advice in regard to his personal affairs or it may merely be for the companionship and friendship of some kindly visitor to mitigate the loneliness of a solitary life.

The domiciliary care of the aged in their own homes not only assures them the most satisfying basis for living, but it offers as well, the most economical method of care. According to Sir Andrew Davidson, the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health for Scotland, it was estimated that the total cost of caring for an elderly person in his or her own home amounted to approximately £98 per year, or just under £2.0.0. per week. This figure included the cost of the Old Age Pension, National Assistance and services of a home-help, home-nurse and house-visitor. When meal and laundry services were added the cost was raised to £123. By comparison the cost of maintaining old people in homes for the aged amounted to £180 a year or £2.10.0. a week, and in hospitals £8.0.0. or more a week or upwards of £400 a year.

Sir Andrew .....



Sir Andrew Davidson expressed the view that -

"Very often and quite naturally old people become attached to the house they have occupied and it is my view that so long as these people desire to live in their former home (even though it seems too large for them) and so long as they have the strength to maintain the standards of reasonable decency in that home, they are absolutely entitled to continue living there."

American opinion strongly supports this view and the Report published by a New York State Joint Legislative Committee on the Problems of the Aged says:

"Considering the intrinsic human values, such as the love of home with all its family associations and its connotation for the people of the State, it is imperative that we pause before we embark upon an expansive and costly plan of constructing public institutions to house the growing aging segment of our population, as a substitute for the traditional home, which after all is the foundation of our traditional way of life."

The National Conference on the Care of Old People held in Great Britain in 1950, came to the conclusion that for their own sakes old people should not leave their homes except when this was demanded by:-

1. Acute medical or surgical reasons as apply to any other age group.
2. The need for a temporary change of surroundings for holidays.
3. The fact that home-care has become an impossibility.

The best means of assisting old people to remain in their own homes the Conference concluded was by a co-ordination of domiciliary welfare services.

(a) Case work with the Aged.

A fundamental need in dealing with old people is to provide expert counsellors who will be able to recognise, understand and properly treat their problems. Social Case work with the aged is, therefore, being developed as a special field of social work overseas.

It is not sufficient to provide excellent home-help, meals, nursing or other services alone. There must be a single responsible person who will be able to draw on these various facilities, co-ordinate them and plan a balanced service for the aged person to meet each varied aspect of his need.

In Britain the National Assistance Board has recognised this important need for case work services with the aged in their own homes. Officers of the Board visit persons in receipt of the old age pension regularly, maintain a friendly contact with and supervision over them, and are always there to assist when occasion arises. The officials of the Board work in close co-operation with voluntary agencies in providing the necessary help and advice.

In an .....



In an article on the needs of the aged Margaret Boyd, a worker with a large American organisation concerned with the aged says:-

"Case work with old people is not basically different from that with any other group.

True their basic needs are those of everyone. Old people need provision for security of the individual in relation to their total situation, and the feeling of importance to others, as well as the fact that they are socially useful. In short, they need a real and meaningful role in life."

The nucleus of such a case work service in Johannesburg exists in the Care of the Aged Section of the City Social Affairs Department, which gives advice on problems of all kinds; arranges placement of old people in institutions; and provides case work services for those old people housed in homes run under Municipal auspices or with Municipal help.

(b) Housekeeping Service, Home-makers and Home-helps.

Local authorities in Great Britain, are empowered under the National Health Service Act of 1946, Section 29, to provide what is known as a home-help service. The service extends to households when there is any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, a mental defective, aged person or child under school-going age.

Every county in England and Wales is now operating a domestic-help service and together they employ more than 2,000 full-time and 10,000 part-time workers, approximately seventy to seventy-five per cent of whose services are devoted to old people.

In the United States, home-maker services, or housekeeping services are also being developed on a wide basis. The New York City Department of Public Welfare has inaugurated a special service designed for old persons on public assistance. Home-makers employed by the Department shop, char and work for old people who can no longer do this work for themselves, thus enabling them to stay in their own homes for a longer period and delaying the need for them to go into institutions.

One of the main problems encountered in the administration of home-maker and home-help services is the difficulty of obtaining sufficient workers of a suitable type. One answer to this problem has been to recruit workers on the basis of welfare work rather than domestic service. Many home-helps develop an affection for the old people under their care and render many little additional acts of kindness which fall outside the scope of their duties.

Among the many local schemes which have been developed is the Liverpool Home-Help Service which pays its home-helps 1/2d an hour plus the cost of transport. In London women are paid 2/1d an hour and men 2/6d. In Sussex a basic rate of 2/6d per hour is charged. This amount may be reduced or waived, however, where circumstances justify.

It is .....



It is of interest to examine in more detail the workings of the domestic-help service in London. From 1st January to 31st July, 1950, the Service assisted 850 households in the area of Lewisham and Ganderwell.

About one-half of the 1,040 occupants of these households were women over the age of 75 years, the majority of whom were suffering from diseases such as rheumatism, degeneration of the circulatory system, and senility. About two-thirds of these cases were living alone, and about one-tenth of them were bedridden. In describing the study, the investigator states that these cases were capable of an active life, despite their disabilities, and the money spent on enabling this life to continue was money well spent. It would cost more than twice as much to accommodate these old people in hospitals.

To illustrate other types of services rendered by the home-helps -

23 per cent of cases received help with cooking,  
36 per cent of cases received help with shopping,  
48 per cent of cases received help with washing,  
72 per cent of cases received help with cleaning.

In 69 per cent of cases the service was rendered without charge. Four per cent of the old people lived under bad housing conditions and 48 per cent under conditions classed only as fair, while 38 per cent were in good accommodation.

While many were referred by social agencies, doctors, friends or relations, there were a number of instances in which the aid had not been sought until the patient was bedridden and helpless, and the damage done through lack of timely assistance was irreparable.

The need for early referral to be made to the service, therefore, appears to be fundamental to the success of home-help services.

An average of 6.88 hours of service were given per week to each household, and the average duration of service was found to be three years. In all, 110 full-time home-helps were employed at a gross cost of £625 per week, including administrative expenses.

Male home-helps were employed although some prejudice was encountered to this, mainly on the part of men beneficiaries.

If the scheme were to be adapted to Johannesburg conditions it might be practical to consider the employment of Non-European domestic helps under the general supervision of European homemakers who would generally handle the management of the household whilst leaving certain of the heavier chores to the Non-European workers. In this way it would be possible to overcome the antipathy on the part of European women in this country to domestic service as such, and at the same time reduce the cost of operating a home-help scheme.

(c) Meals .....



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