

**WANGARATTA HOSPITAL.**—The ordinary meeting of the committee of this institution was held on Thursday last. Cheques for £1 1s and £7 17s 6d were received from Mr Hattersley, of Yackandandah, and Messrs Nichol and Telford of Yarrowongga, respectively. A communication was received from J. Jones, surgical instrument maker, enclosing a pair of artificial legs. There were 22 patients in the hospital. The Patients' and House Committees' reports were received and adopted. The collector reported receiving £29 12s 10d, and the following accounts were passed for payment:—Salaries and wages, £47 7s 11d; John Brincombe, £1 16s; Sing Hang, £1 10s; John Grant, £4 17s 2d; Charles A. Rundle, £1 15s 6d; Richard Hughes, 11s 6d; J. Williams, £3 2s 9d; Bridget Jarvis, £1 10s 7d; Henry Kett, £5 0s 8d; W. H. Rawlings, £1 5s; Samuel Osboldstone, £11 1s 5d; McKeone Bros., £1 10s 3d; Charles A. Rundle, 11s 8d; John Danks, 10s; Felton, Grimwade, and Co., £14 19s. The committee then adjourned.

**SECRETARY OF MINES**—Mr Thomas Couchman has been gazetted as secretary for mines.

**LOAFERS IN FARM LABORERS' CLOTHING.**—It is well known that during harvest time the Victorian farmer has much trouble in procuring the assistance necessary to enable him to gather in his crops, even when he is willing to pay a high figure for the services of very indifferent hands. A man who would not in the old country be considered worth his salt, here where labor is scarce, gets ten shillings per day and board, and looks for beer or spirits being served out to him; and in many instances, after working a few days gets tired of work, demands his pay, and marches off to the nearest shanty to besot himself with beer, spending his last shilling at the bar, and then marching off, without a blush on his dissipated countenance, begs for food asserting that he is on the list of unemployed, and starving. A true specimen of the harvest-field loafer the other day made his appearance on the farm of Mr John Moore of the Three Mile. As the men were knocking

of the Three Mile. As the men were knocking off work at dinner time Mr Moore espied a fellow leaning against the fence of the paddock wherein the harvest men were employed and going up to him enquired the purport of his visit. The fellow replied by enquiring whether he could have something to eat, and on Mr Moore asking him whether he could not find employment, he replied that he had been offered 10s per day, but could not think of turning to under 15s. "What," replied Mr Moore, "you refused 10s per day and board, and prefer begging for food! If you do not make yourself scarce, and that quickly I shall send for the police, and have you taken to quarters where if you eat you shall have to work." The skunk took the hint, and was soon out of sight. 'Tis a pity such scoundrels have it in their power to loaf upon and pester the farming community; a few dozen cuts from the lash of Mr Gately would bring them to their senses, but unfortunately they do not get their deserts.—*Dispatch*.

#### LECTURE AT MILAWA.

Mr A. L. Ely delivered his promised lecture on "The Fiscal System of Victoria" to a very small audience, on Saturday evening, at Kettle's Assembly Rooms, Milawa. The chair was taken by Mr G. H. Brown, shire secretary.

Mr ELY, who was well received, said:—I shall take for my text this evening certain propositions of Mr John Stuart Mill, the distinguished economist and logician. You are aware that politicians of all shades of opinion express the deepest admiration of his reasonings, and refrain from attempting to controvert his deductions—some, I fear, without adopting the one or being convinced by the other. As in speaking I cannot use inverted commas, I refer you to his prin-