

during the year: a boy between 7 and 8 years old died at Nelson, of tubercular meningitis; a boy of 5 years, boarded out from Burnham, died in hospital of tumour on the brain; and a boy nearly 15 years old, a half-caste Maori, an inmate of Burnham, who had absconded from his place of service, was accidentally shot on the Port Hills, near Christchurch. By warrant of His Excellency the Governor, 172 other inmates were discharged.

The new inmates are distinguished, with respect to religious denomination, as follows: Church of England, 76; Roman Catholic, 54; Presbyterian, 26; Methodist, 18; Salvation Army, 1. There were 60 girls among the 175 new inmates: 36 destitute, 6 vagrant, 11 living in disreputable places, 6 guilty of punishable offences, and 1 admitted by arrangement. Of the boys, 50 were destitute, 8 vagrant, 7 living in disreputable places, 2 uncontrollable, 45 guilty of punishable offences, and 3 admitted by arrangement.

So far as the information summarised in Table U can be relied on, it appears that in 35 cases father and mother alike were of unsatisfactory character, in 47 cases the father alone, in 29 cases the mother alone, in 54 cases neither; and in the 10 cases remaining the data are wanting.

TABLE U.—ADMISSIONS, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PARENTS' CIRCUMSTANCES AND CHARACTER, 1895.

Children of	Mothers described as						Total.
	Dead.	Sick, Lunatic, Disabled, &c.	Of Good Character (or Poor).	Not known or not stated.	Of Bad Character.	Deserters.	
Fathers described as—							
Dead	3	1	15	1	9	..	29
Sick, lunatic, disabled, &c.	1	..	..	..	2	1	4
Of good character (or poor)	9	2	23	1	7	2	44
Not known or not stated	2	1	3	2	7	1	16
Of bad character	19	2	10	1	24	2	58
Deserters	1	4	10	..	4	5	24
Totals	35	10	61	5	53	11	175

The cost of maintaining the industrial schools and the amount recovered (from Charitable Aid Boards, from parents, from sale of farm produce, &c.) are shown in Tables W and X. These do not differ from the similar tables for 1894 in any degree that seems to call for notice.

TABLE W.—COST OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, 1895.

School.	Gross Cost of School.			Cost of boarding out. (Included in preceding Column.)			Recoveries.			Net Cost.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Auckland	1,282	1	7	648	5	2	337	13	9	944	7	10
Burnham	6,002	5	6	2,631	10	8	2,282	8	2	3,719	17	4
Caversham	6,359	14	8	3,257	12	10	4,228	14	1	2,131	0	7
Totals	13,644	1	9	6,537	8	8	6,848	16	0	6,795	5	9
Salary and expenses of Visiting Officer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	373	15	9
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,169	1	6

With respect to the Government schools, the average number boarded out was 399, and the cost per head (not reckoning the time spent by the managers and the Visiting Officer in attending to their cases) was (£6,537 ÷ 399) about £16 7s. 8d. The whole number maintained by the Government schools was on the average 634; and if these cases are charged with the whole expenditure, the cost is (£14,018 ÷ 634) about £22 2s. 2d. per head. If, however, the whole number of cases under control (an average of 1,100) is taken into account, the gross expenditure is about £12 15s. per head, and the net expenditure about £6 10s.