

The following summary gives details of the cases considered and the decisions arrived at :—

CASES DEALT WITH		BOARD'S DECISIONS	
Persons undergoing Borstal detention	.. 371	Recommended for release on probation	.. 168
		Recommended for discharge	.. Nil
		Deferred for later consideration	.. 202
		Applications declined	.. 1
	<u>371</u>		<u>371</u>
Persons sentenced to reformatory detention	360	Recommended for release on probation	.. 179
		Recommended for discharge	.. 7
		Deferred for later consideration	.. 170
		Applications declined	.. 4
	<u>360</u>		<u>360</u>
Persons sentenced to hard labour	.. 249	Recommended for release on probation	.. 164
		Recommended for discharge	.. 2
		Deferred for later consideration	.. 79
		Applications declined	.. 4
	<u>249</u>		<u>249</u>
Habitual criminals for release or remission of head sentence	 38	Recommended for release on probation	.. 13
		Recommended for remission of head sentence	.. 2
		Deferred for later consideration	.. 19
		Applications declined	.. 4
	<u>38</u>		<u>38</u>
Probationers under Crimes Amendment Act	8	Recommended for discharge	.. 5
		Deferred for later consideration	.. Nil
		Applications declined	.. 3
	<u>8</u>		<u>8</u>
Probationers under Offenders Probation Act	15	Discharge granted	.. 9
		Modification of terms of probation granted	.. 2
		Deferred for later consideration	.. 1
		Applications declined	.. 3
	<u>15</u>		<u>15</u>

The Prisons Board was first established in 1911. From the date of its inception the work of the Board has been a most important factor in connection with the treatment of prisoners. As will be readily understood, the desire of every prisoner is to obtain his release as soon as possible, whether it be on probation or by final discharge ; and, naturally, the constitution of a Board vested with power to recommend release or discharge was an important step in the integration of institution and post-institution functions which the essential continuity of the prison and parole process requires.

The Board's powers in regard to its recommendations for remission of sentences, either by release upon probation or by complete discharge, are very large. In it Parliament has vested authority to review all direct sentences. Usually the Board's powers of recommendation are exercised only on a definite system as to the proportion of his sentence a prisoner must serve before he is eligible for consideration, but in cases where earlier attention is merited or where there are special circumstances the Board is always prepared to review a sentence, and, if it deems it wise to do so, will recommend immediate release on probation or discharge. There are occasions when such a course is necessary in the interest of justice and humanity, and the Board never hesitates to exercise the discretion given it in dealing with such cases.