

THOMAS WALSH, examined on oath.

54. *Mr. Harley.*] How old are you?—Eighteen last November.
55. How long were you at the Orphanage?—I went there in September, 1891, and left in March, 1898.
56. Where are you working now?—At Mr. Mellett's, cab-owner.
57. You are discharged from the institution now?—So I believe.
58. Have you been back to the Orphanage since you left?—I used to go back frequently on Sundays after I left, and stayed all day. I used to go to church there.
59. How did they punish the boys at the school?—By flogging on the naked skin and by punishment on the hands.
60. When it was flogging on the naked skin, where were the boys struck?—Across the behind and on the back. They were not particular where they hit so long as it was on the body.
61. Who did the flogging, and where did the thrashing take place?—Brother Wibertus did it in the lavatory.
62. In what position were the boys placed?—They were bent over a bench with their hands touching the bench, and their trousers down. They were supposed to hold their shirts up at the same time.
63. Did you ever get any of this?—No; I was never flogged myself.
64. Have you seen any marks on other boys?—Yes; I have seen boys who could not sit down for a fortnight. They had to hold their trousers out at the back to keep other boys from rushing into them, and to keep the trousers from sticking to the blood-blisters, which broke and made sores.
65. Have you seen the marks on the boys yourself?—Yes.
66. Did many boys get treated like this?—I have seen a good many treated like that.
67. Did you see the boy Lane kicked by Brother Wilbertus?—Yes; one morning as we were going into breakfast. Lane did not have his boots laced or something. He was kicked against two dining-room doors, and his head was cut open.
68. *Mr. Wardell.*] On what part of the body was he kicked?—On the behind; he was kicked forward on to the doors.
69. *Mr. Harley.*] Have you done any hill-work?—Yes; I was up there the greater part of my time. When they were putting up the boundary-fence I was always up there.
70. Was it hard or easy?—Hard.
71. How many times a day did you go up?—Sometimes four; sometimes five. As soon as we got one load down we had to go up again.
72. Who kept you at it?—Sometimes Brother Wibertus, and sometimes Brother Cuthbert. I was not up four times a day with Brother Cuthbert, but I was with Brother Wibertus. When I was with Brother Cuthbert I had to carry posts out of the bush.
73. What happened to those who could not do the work?—Big or little, the boys had to go. Some of the little boys could hardly manage it. Sometimes, if they did not carry a certain number, they had to go without their tea.
74. You have heard the food described lately. Was it the same in your time?—Yes; sometimes worse than now. Sometimes we had boiled rice with syrup in it, and it used to make us sick; none of the boys liked it. On one occasion Brother Wibertus forced us to eat it.
75. I suppose you have eaten rice since?—I have not eaten much since, but what I have had was better than I had at the school.
76. *Mr. Wardell.*] On how many occasions were you forced to eat it?—At only one meal. We had to go up the hill after it, and most of the boys vomited.
77. *Mr. Harley.*] Did you get plenty to eat?—Sometimes I did; sometimes not. Sometimes when I held up my hand for more I would not get it.
78. Did you ever see them cooking the Irish stew?—Yes.
79. Was the meat always good?—No. On a few occasions I have seen it crawling. I have not seen it put into the stew; but I have seen it chopped up ready to be put in.
80. *Mr. Wardell.*] What do you call "crawling"? Maggoty?—Yes; there was a good dose on it.
81. *Mr. Harley.*] Was it often like this?—Pretty often; I could not say that it was like that every day.
82. Did you get any mustard and water?—Yes; three or four times. On one occasion, when Brother Finian gave it to me, it made blood come from my nose and mouth.
83. When the blood came what did he do?—He got hot water and bathed me. He then propped me up with pillows for a while till I was all right.
84. How many cells do you know of under the stairs?—Two.
85. Have you ever been in them?—No; but I have seen boys in both of them.
86. There is one facing the front of the building. Where is the other?—Right underneath the staircase. It starts with a height of about 4 ft. 6 in. and runs down to nothing at the foot of the staircase.
87. Could a boy stand up in it?—Yes; he could at one end for about one yard or so; but not further.
88. *Mr. Fell.*] Is it not a fact that the boys used to be "jolly glad" to go up the hill? Were not the boys glad when the order came the night before to go up the hill?—I cannot say they were.
89. Did they not get ready for this as for a picnic?—Well, some had to be working up there all day, and others had to go up and down. The stronger boys were taken to bring the posts out of the bush.