

The number of boys will soon be about seventy, and the cost of maintenance per head will then be considerably reduced. (The cost per head in the Parental School at Chicago, U.S.A., was £76 5s. 2d. in 1906.)

Children under State Guardianship.

During 1909 the numbers under the control of all the industrial schools rose from 2,263 to 2,380. Of the latter number, 420 were in residence at Government schools, and 351 in the private (Roman Catholic) schools. The remaining 1,609 were non-resident, 770 being boarded out with foster-parents (10 without payment) and 839 being at service, with friends on probation, &c.

The numbers of children on the books at the end of the years 1908 and 1909 respectively whose maintenance was a charge against the public funds were as follows :—

	1908.	1909.
Boarded out from Government schools	718	757
Boarded out from private schools	7	3
Number resident at schools	792	771
At other institutions	40	35
Total	1,557	1,566

	1908.			1909.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The amount of parental contributions was ...	5,604	6	7	5,786	8	5
Rate per head for children maintained ...	3	12	0	3	13	11

Details respecting the numbers of children on the books of industrial schools at the end of the year are given in E.-4, "Special Schools and Infant-life Protection," Tables H and H4.

The net expenditure on account of industrial schools during the year showed a decrease of £97 15s. 10d. as compared with the preceding year. The following statement gives particulars :—

	1908.			1909.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cost of maintenance of schools	19,487	9	2	19,831	5	2
Boarding out (exclusive of cost of administration, inspection, &c.)	13,001	12	4	13,319	0	6
Salaries	7,612	18	6	8,151	3	8
New buildings	6,328	2	2	5,838	2	0
Salaries, travelling-allowances, and expenses of certain departmental officers (Inspectors, visiting officers, &c.)	1,545	1	5	1,424	14	9
Sundry payments	418	4	7	186	15	0
Gross total	48,393	8	2	48,751	1	1
Recoveries	14,737	19	4	15,193	8	1
Net cost	33,655	8	10	33,557	13	0

Further details of the expenditure on industrial schools during the year are contained in E.-4, "Special Schools and Infant-life Protection," Tables H1, H2, and H3.

	1908.			1909.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments by Charitable Aid Boards for maintenance of children who came into Government schools owing to indigence (included in the total sum recovered)	8,376	7	8	8,612	16	3
Number of children at the end of the year belonging to Government schools who were so paid for	542			596		
Number maintained at the expense of Charitable Aid Boards at private industrial schools ...	152			132		

The amount paid by the Charitable Aid Boards on account of children sent to the private industrial schools as indigent is not stated here, as the managers of these schools make their claims upon the Boards without reference to the Education Department.