

SESSION II.
1912.
NEW ZEALAND.

EDUCATION:
SPECIAL SCHOOLS, AND INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

[In continuation of E.-4, 1911.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
1. Extract from the Annual Report (E.-1) of the Minister of Education—		Infant-life Protection— <i>continued.</i>	
Afflicted and Dependent Children..	2	Foster-homes—	
Children under State Guardianship ..	3	Rates of Payments to Foster-parents by	
Infant-life Protection ..	4	Parents or Guardians..	15
School for the Deaf, Sumner ..	4	Exempted Institutions ..	15
Jubilee Institute for the Blind, Auckland ..	5	Deaths ..	16
Special School for Children (Boys) of Feeble		Adoptions ..	16
Mind, Otekaieke ..	5	Illegitimacy ..	17
2. Industrial Schools—		5. School for the Deaf, Sumner—	
Financial Tables ..	6	Report of the Director ..	17
Statistics respecting Inmates ..	7	Report of the Medical Officer ..	19
Reports of Medical Officers of Schools ..	10	6. Special School for Children (Boys) of Feeble	
3. Costley Training Institution—		Mind, Otekaieke—	
Statement of Accounts ..	13	Report of Principa ^l ..	19
4. Infant-life Protection—		Appendix—	
Report of Secretary for Education ..	14	Infant-life Protection—	
Statistics respecting Infants in Licensed		Particulars of Deaths in Foster-homes and	
Homes ..	14	Exempted Institutions ..	24

No. 1.—EXTRACT FROM THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

AFFLICTED AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

The total number on the rolls of schools for afflicted and dependent children was on the average 2,819 during the year 1911, an increase of 233 in the number for the previous year; and the expenditure decreased from £51,922 to £47,272, of which sum the outlay in connection with the purchase of property, erection of buildings, and carrying out other new works amounted to £6,762.

The following statement gives a comparison between the years 1910 and 1911 as regards the numbers of children belonging to the various institutions and the cost to the Government:—

	Number under Control.		Net Cost.	
	1910.	1911.	1910. £	1911. £
Under Industrial Schools Act	2,419	2,632	39,280	36,841
School for the Deaf	97	98	4,087	3,651
Jubilee Institute for the Blind ..	39	35	721	405
Special School for the Feeble-minded ..	31	54	7,834	6,375

The feature of the work connected with special schools that demands the most urgent attention at the present time is that of making provision for the large number of boys and girls of feeble mind whose disabilities preclude their receiving due benefit from instruction in ordinary schools, but who are capable of being improved under special tuition. Six years is fixed by the Education Amendment Act, 1910, as the age at which young people of this kind shall come under instruction, and, unless previously exempted by the Minister of Education by reason of ill health or through having developed sufficiently to enable them to earn their own living, the instruction must be continued until they are twenty-one years old. When an inmate of the School for the Feeble-minded reaches that age, and it is considered that he has not the capacity to guide his life either in his own or the public interest, he may, on the order of a Magistrate, be kept under control for a further period of four years; and by similar procedure extensions of the currency of the order may be made from time to time, thus securing lifelong guidance where deemed advisable. It is to be noted that at such proceedings counsel appointed by the Magistrate and paid for by the Government appears on behalf of the pupil.

The number of children in the Dominion who are suitable for this training in such schools cannot be accurately determined at present, but it is undoubtedly very large—almost certainly not less than 300—and, as the parents of very few of them are in a position to pay for efficient tuition privately, a heavy expenditure must be incurred to provide for them in special schools.

The increase of mental deficiency which is so alarmingly evident in older countries is already shown plainly in New Zealand. Here, however, if energetic measures are taken, the danger to society can be eliminated, as the circumstances are very favourable for doing so. A careful watch can be kept to prevent persons of feeble mind from coming in from outside countries; our population is small, and, by detaining those adults who are mentally incapable of taking up the duties of citizenship advantageously, the propagation of their class will be kept at a minimum. The subject is of the first importance, and, although the cost of establishing and maintaining schools of this kind is heavy, their work will undoubtedly be a strong factor in restricting the expenditure in connection with destitution and criminality.

The number of children brought under the operation of the Industrial Schools Act during the year was 389, an increase of 99 over the number for 1910. In 195 of these cases vagrancy, lack of control, or being charged with offences constituted

the reason for action. Children who have drifted into bad habits of this kind are very often found to be not suitable for boarding out with foster-parents, and for that reason have to be kept in residence at the industrial schools at a heavier cost for maintenance. An examination of the causes underlying the admission of so many young people shows that in somewhat more than two years 225 boys between ten and sixteen years old were sent to industrial schools for the above-named reasons. In 93 of these cases the evidence showed that both parents were of good character; in 43 additional cases the character of the father was described as good; and in 38 others the mother's was good. Thus, out of these 225 boys who got out of hand, there were 174 cases in which one or both of the parents were of good character. This seems to show that the trouble lies more in the weakness or laxity of parental control than in the bad character of the parents or in the fault of the children; and the need for the admission in many cases might be obviated if, when the Magistrate was satisfied that want of judicious guidance was the cause of the trouble, the child were placed by the direction of the Court under the friendly and helpful oversight of an officer who had the experience and other qualifications needed to obtain a good influence over him, and thus direct his life into a proper course. Such a system as this is in operation in other countries, and it is claimed that many children who would otherwise have to be removed from the parental guardianship and placed in institutions, are encouraged, by this means, to do well; further, the natural tie between parent and child is maintained, and expense to the State is substantially reduced. This important matter is now engaging the earnest attention of the Government.

CHILDREN UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP.

The number under the control of industrial schools at the end of 1911 was 2,617, an increase of 163 during the year. Of this total, 868 were resident in the institutions, 246 being in the private (Roman Catholic) industrial schools, 856 were boarded out with foster-parents, and 893 were earning their living in situations, placed with friends on probation, &c.

The numbers of children on the books at the end of the years 1910 and 1911 respectively whose maintenance was a charge against the public funds were as follows:—

	1910.	1911.
Boarded out from Government schools	792	855
Boarded out from private schools	2	1
Number resident at schools	805	868
At other institutions	30	37
Total	1,629	1,761

	1910.	1911.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
The amount of parental contributions was ..	5,575 8 6	6,969 6 6
Rate per head for children maintained ..	3 8 5	3 19 1

Details respecting the number of children on the books of industrial schools at the end of the year are given in Table I5.

The net expenditure on account of industrial schools during the year showed a decrease of £1,217 0s. 4d. as compared with the preceding year. The following statement gives particulars:—

	1910.	1911.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cost of maintenance of schools	17,960 8 2	23,630 3 0
Boarding out (exclusive of cost of administration, inspection, &c.)	13,962 16 5	14,844 15 2
Salaries	8,816 2 2	10,466 19 1
New buildings and works, and purchase of property	10,330 6 2	3,082 2 9
Salaries, travelling-allowances, and expenses of certain departmental officers (Inspectors, visiting officers, &c.)	1,458 19 4	1,396 3 3
Sundry payments	107 7 11	108 14 2
Gross total	52,636 0 2	53,528 17 5
Recoveries	15,701 5 2	17,811 2 9
Net cost	£36,934 15 0*	£35,717 14 8*

(* Including for 1910 £3,225, and for 1911 £1,660, paid from National Endowment revenue.)

Further details of the expenditure on industrial schools during the year are contained in Tables I1 and I2.

	1910.	1911.
Payments by Charitable Aid Boards for maintenance of children who came into Government schools owing to indigence (included in the total sum recovered)	£9,336 19 6	£10,681 5 4
Number of children at the end of the year belonging to Government schools who were so paid for ..	678	713
Number maintained at the expense of Charitable Aid Boards at private industrial schools ..	98	106

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.

At the end of the year the amount in the Post Office Savings-bank held in trust in the names of inmates and former inmates of industrial schools was £29,769 10s. 9d., the Government schools accounts having £26,228 18s. 11d. to credit, and the private (Roman Catholic) schools £3,540 11s. 10d. The total sums withdrawn from these accounts during the year were £2,753 9s. 5d. and £433 1s. respectively. These moneys represent the earnings of boys and girls in situations away from the schools, or of those in residence under training, whose services are worth more than the cost of their maintenance. According to law it is at the discretion of the Minister of Education whether payment (with interest) is eventually made to these young people or not. In practice they do receive payment where there is evidence that the applicant's record after the control of the school has ceased has been good, and that he has a proper investment for the money. In exercise of his discretion the Minister may order forfeiture of the money where a former inmate proves his unworthiness to receive it. In such a case the amount is credited to the Public Account.

The following figures are taken from Tables I2 and I3:—

	£	s.	d.
Government expenditure on private industrial schools	1,036	0	0
Government expenditure on special cases at other institutions	87	0	0

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

At the end of the year the number of foster-homes licensed under the Infants Act was 738, and the number of children maintained in them for the whole or part of the year was 1,183, of whom 454 were under one year old. The total number of deaths was 13, equal to 1·09 per cent.

The report of the Secretary for Education gives detailed information as regards the various phases of the work.

The expenditure for the year, amounting to £1,156 3s. 1d., is accounted for as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries of Visiting Nurses and local representatives	791	15	1
Travelling-expenses of District Agents, Visiting Nurses, and local representatives	224	6	7
Payments to foster-parents for board of infants	92	5	3
Medical attendance	9	1	0
Office expenses (including rent) and sundries	67	7	8
Less recoveries	28	12	6

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

Number of pupils who returned to the school in February, 1911, after the summer vacation	91
Number admitted during the school year	11
Number who left during or at the end of the school year	5
Number remaining on the roll after the close of the school year	97

The cost of the school for the years 1910 and 1911 respectively was as follows :—

	1910.			1911.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries	2,958	12	6	3,380	6	7
Maintenance of pupils and sundry expenses ..	1,697	3	5	1,446	7	1
Maintenance of buildings and water charges ..	367	16	5	276	19	10
<i>Less—</i>						
Amount collected from parents by way of maintenance contributions	893	11	2	887	13	3
Amount collected from Charitable Aid Boards ..	35	9	0	563	8	7
Sundry other recoveries	7	11	3	1	7	0
Net expenditure on the institution	4,087	0	11*	3,651	4	8*

(* Including for 1910 £540, and for 1911 £235, paid from National Endowment revenue.)

It has been found necessary to erect additions to the main buildings. These will provide more class-rooms, an infirmary, larger quarters for servants, and other rooms needed for the more efficient working of the school.

JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

During the year the Government contributed towards the cost of training thirty-three pupils of this institution, the net amount expended being £405 (including £50 from National Endowment revenue) as against £721 (including £99 from National Endowment revenue) for the previous year on account of thirty-five pupils. Maintenance payments by parents and guardians decreased from £272 7s. 6d. in 1910 to £238 8s. during 1911. For the two past financial years the revenue from the National Endowment Reserves Account amounted to £149. The sum payable by the Government as subsidy to the Board of Trustees during last year under the provisions of the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act was £2,173. The amount paid by Charitable Aid Boards towards the maintenance of pupils was £269 13s. 11d.

SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN OF FEEBLE MIND.

	1910.			1911.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries	1,564	10	8	1,985	3	11
Maintenance of pupils	1,115	7	6	1,750	3	2
Maintenance of buildings	239	18	0	418	13	3
Farm and stock	318	8	9	226	5	5
Additional buildings, water-supply, drainage, fencing, &c.	4,984	0	8	2,983	15	6
Sundries	178	19	6	..		
<i>Less—</i>						
Amount collected from parents by way of maintenance contributions	371	0	1	559	5	1
Amount collected from Charitable Aid Boards ..	57	16	2	294	17	0
Sundry other recoveries	138	12	6	135	9	1
Net expenditure on the institution	7,833	16	4†	6,374	10	1†

(† Including for 1910 £440, and for 1911 £235, paid from National Endowment revenue.)

The existing accommodation of the school is fully occupied, the number of resident boys being 57; but it is proposed to make provision immediately, by means of cottage homes, for a much larger number of pupils than there are at present.

The power given to a Magistrate under the Education Amendment Act, 1910, to extend the period of control, if he is satisfied upon a pupil's nearing his majority that his mental state precludes his being free from the school's guidance, was exercised in respect of four youths. They consequently remain under control until they attain twenty-five years of age, when their cases will be reviewed again.

No. 2.—INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

TABLE II.—EXPENDITURE ON GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, 1911.

Government Schools.	Number of Inmates belonging at 31st December, 1911.	Cost of School, including Buildings and other Works.	Boarding out. (Included in column (2).)	Salaries. (Included in column (2).)	New Buildings and other Works. (Included in column (2).)	Recoveries from Parents and others, and Sales from Farms, &c.	Net Cost.
	(1.)	(2.)	(3.)	(4.)	(5.)	(6.)	(7.)
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	179	3,525 10 8	1,393 11 10	664 9 8	411 13 9	1,197 5 5	2,328 5 3
Boys' Training Farm, Weraroa	348	10,785 9 9	40 12 9	2,251 13 4	1,755 1 10	2,261 18 11	8,523 10 10
Receiving Home, Wellington	467	8,576 4 3	6,065 19 6	801 14 0	..	5,268 9 7	3,307 14 8
Boys' Industrial School, Stoke	190	5,875 1 10	..	1,302 4 8	134 6 0	930 5 11	4,944 15 11
Te Oranga Home	97	2,683 17 4	..	1,047 5 7	617 16 9	314 14 2	2,369 3 2
Receiving Home, Christchurch	368	6,446 10 10	4,237 14 11	714 9 6	..	3,475 15 10	2,970 15 0
Burnham ..	252	8,769 17 10	10 11 0	2,811 7 1	163 4 5	888 13 0	7,881 4 10
Caversham ..	339	5,361 7 6	3,096 5 2	873 15 3	..	3,473 19 11	1,887 7 7
Totals ..	..	52,024 0 0	*14,844 15 2	10,466 19 1	3,082 2 9	17,811 2 9	
Salaries, travelling-allowances, and expenses of certain departmental officers (Inspectors, visiting officers, &c.)							1,396 3 3
Grant to Postal Department in connection with payments for children boarded out ..							100 0 0
Refund of inmates' earnings							8 14 2
Total net cost							35,717 14 8†

* Exclusive of cost of administration, inspection, &c.

† Including £1,660 paid from National Endowment revenue.

TABLE II2.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PRIVATE (ROMAN CATHOLIC) SCHOOLS, 1911.

Name of School.	Gross Cost.	Recoveries.	Net Cost.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
St. Mary's, Auckland	1,286 4 3	497 19 3	788 5 0
St. Joseph's, Wellington	197 13 3	75 8 7	122 4 8
St. Mary's, Nelson	228 8 6	187 4 11	41 3 7
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	109 17 0	25 3 6	84 13 6
Totals	1,822 3 0	785 16 3	1,036 6 9

TABLE I3.—SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE ON SPECIAL CASES AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS, 1911.

	Government Schools.			
	Auckland.	Te Oranga Home.	Caversham.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland—				
“Door of Hope” Institution	21 0 3	..	..	21 0 3
Orphan Home, Papatoetoe	18 4 0	..	..	18 4 0
St. Mary's Home, Otahuhu	5 17 11	..	..	5 17 11
Christchurch—				
Mount Magdala	..	39 12 11	..	39 12 11
Dunedin—				
Salvation Army Home	..	..	1 0 0	1 0 0
Presbyterian Social Service Association	..	..	0 17 0	0 17 0
Net Cost	45 2 2	39 12 11	1 17 0	86 12 1

TABLE 14.—INMATES, 1910 AND 1911.

	Boarded out.				In Residence.				At Service, &c.				Totals.			
	Dec. 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1911.	Dec., 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1911.
Government Schools—																
Auckland (Mount Albert)	84	..	11	73	35	2	..	37	63	6	..	69	182	..	3	179
Boys' Training Farm, Weraroa	4	..	4	..	180	..	..	180	142	26	..	168	326	22	..	348
Receiving Home, Wellington	323	22	..	345	12	4	..	16	80	26	..	106	415	52	..	467
Boys' Industrial School, Stoke	..	..	..	..	85	42	..	127	74	..	11	63	159	31	..	190
Te Oranga Home, Christchurch	..	..	..	..	65	3	..	68	28	1	..	29	93	4	..	97
Receiving Home, Christchurch	208	46	..	254	12	..	2	10	100	4	..	104	320	48	..	368
Burnham	2	..	2	..	129	21	..	150	122	..	20	102	253	..	1	252
Caversham	171	12	..	183	24	10	..	34	122	..	..	122	317	22	..	339
Private Schools—																
St. Mary's, Auckland	..	..	..	..	127	..	21	106	52	15	..	67	179	..	6	173
St. Joseph's, Upper Hutt	..	..	..	..	34	2	..	36	29	..	1	28	63	1	..	64
St. Mary's, Nelson	..	..	..	..	52	..	1	51	23	..	4	19	75	..	5	70
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	2	..	1	1	50	3	..	53	20	..	4	16	72	..	2	70
Totals	794	80	18	856	805	87	24	868	855	78	40	893	2,454	180	17	2,617

TABLE 15.—INMATES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1911.

Inmates.	Government Schools.												Private Schools.				All Schools.												
	Auckland.		Boys' Training Farm, Weraroa.		Receiving Home, Wellington.		Boys' Industrial School, Stoke.		Te Oranga Home.		Receiving Home, Christchurch.		Burnham.		Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Upper Hutt.		St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Protestant.	Catholic.
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.							
In the schools	..	37	180	6	10	127	68	3	7	150	1	33	57	49	36	26	25	53	550	318	868	466	402						
Boarded out	38	35	..	204	141	..	..	143	111	..	101	82	..	..	..	..	1	486	370	856	752	104							
With friends	9	12	22	31	27	22	4	10	13	28	24	21	5	4	5	..	5	8	151	99	250	178	72						
At service	8	22	125	20	18	33	18	24	36	31	25	30	21	26	21	..	14	8	287	193	480	335	145						
Under guardianship other than that of Manager	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	9	1	1	12	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	7	36	33	3						
Training-ships	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..						
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	7	5	2						
In mental hospitals	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	4	3	7	5	2						
At School for the Deaf	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1						
At Special School for Feeble-minded Boys	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	9	8	1						
Under control of refuges or cognate institutions	..	9	..	..	1	..	3	..	2	..	..	1	..	6	2	..	..	..	..	24	24	16	8						
Under control of orphanage, cottage home, &c.	1	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	6	4	2						
In gaol..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	11	7	4						
Absent without leave, or whereabouts unknown	..	..	19	..	..	4	3	1	..	30	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	58	3	61	47	14						
Totals	64	115	348	265	202	190	97	197	171	252	165	174	87	86	64	26	44	70	1,594	1,023	2,617	1,857	760						

TABLE 16.—ADMISSIONS IN 1911, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSE OF ADMISSION.

Admitted as	Government Schools.														Private Schools.						All Schools.						
	Auckland.		Boys' Training Farm, Wairarapa.		Receiving Home, Wellington.		Boys' Industrial School, Stoke.		Te Oranga Home.		Receiving Home, Christchurch.		Burnham.		Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Wellington.		St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.					
Destitute	6	5	8	15	20	5	..	11	8	1	11	15	3	..	5	4	12	3	64	57	121						
Vagrant	..	1	2	4	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	10	2	12						
In disreputable associations	..	..	1	9	7	..	..	6	6	..	1	7	..	2	..	..	..	..	17	22	39						
Not under proper control (complaint of police)	2	3	7	4	3	..	6	25	21	2	..	..	1	2	..	3	..	..	44	35	79						
Uncontrollable (complaint of parent)	..	4	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	8	5	13						
Accused or guilty of punishable offences	2	..	48	2	..	1	..	..	..	27	..	1	5	..	1	4	..	..	89	2	91						
By arrangement ..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	1	19						
Transferred from gaol	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	3	15						
Totals	10	13	72	34	30	26	9	43	36	43	12	23	10	6	6	12	1	3	262	127	389						

TABLE 17.—ADMISSIONS IN 1911, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PARENTS' CIRCUMSTANCES AND CHARACTER.

		Precedent Condition of Children admitted in 1911.								
Fathers described as	Mothers described as	Destitute.	Vagrant.	Associating with Disreputable Persons.	Not under Proper Control.	Uncontrollable.	Accused or Guilty of Punishable Offences.	By Arrangement.	From Prison.	Total.
Dead	Dead	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
"	Good	3	1	..	1	..	8	..	1	14
"	Questionable	2	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	7
"	Bad	7	..	2	2	..	1	..	..	12
"	Deserter	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Mentally unfit	Mentally unfit	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Good "	Good	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
"	Dead	1	2	..	9	4	9	..	1	26
"	Physically unfit	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
"	Mentally unfit	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	3
"	Good	17	2	..	8	1	37	1	9	75
"	Questionable	6	4	..	5	2	3	..	..	20
"	Bad	..	..	1	3	..	4	1	..	9
"	Deserter	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	3
"	Unknown	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	3
Questionable	Dead	3	..	..	10	1	1	..	..	15
"	Mentally unfit	2	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	5
"	Good	2	..	..	1	..	6	..	..	9
"	Questionable	2	1	5	8	1	1	..	2	20
"	Bad	4	..	1	1	..	2	..	..	8
"	Deserter	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	12
"	Unknown	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bad	Dead	3	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	8
"	Good	1	..	12	..	1	..	..	..	14
"	Questionable	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
"	Bad	3	..	9	1	1	1	..	..	15
"	Deserter	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
"	Unknown	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Deserter	Mentally unfit	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
"	Good	6	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	10
"	Questionable	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
"	Deserter	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
Unknown	Dead	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	4
"	Mentally unfit	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
"	Good	7	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	9
"	Questionable	10	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	14
"	Bad	10	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	13
"	Deserter	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
"	Unknown	1	..	..	1	1	3	17	..	23
Totals ..		121	12	39	79	13	91	19	15	389

The admissions for the year (389) show an increase of 99 on the number for the previous year. From the four chief centres of population 239 of these children were admitted, 17 from Nelson, and 9 each from Riverton, Greymouth, and Timaru. In no case were more than 8 children sent from any of the other smaller towns. The records show that, of the total number received, 28.8 per cent. were known to be illegitimate.

When children are before the Courts the Magistrates, after hearing evidence, direct in what religious denomination they are to be brought up. The orders made in 1911 show the denomination to be as follows: Church of England, 216; Roman Catholic, 90; Presbyterian, 54; Methodist, 24; Baptist, 3; Plymouth Brethren, 1; Church of Christ, 1.

The number of inmates over whom the control of the schools terminated during the year was 226. Of this number, 143 were then of good character, 7 fair, 9 bad, 6 were of weak mind, 5 were married, 24 were discharged under the age of fifteen years (11 of whom were legally adopted). In 21 cases information as to character cannot be given, the whereabouts of the inmates who were absent without leave being unknown at the time of termination of the period of control.

There were 11 deaths, particulars of which appear in the following table:—

Age at Death.		Status at Death.	Certified Cause of Death.	School to which belonging.
Years.	Months.			
..	7	At Karitane Home	Acute general tuberculosis and exhaustion ..	Caversham.
4	1½	At board ..	Diabetes mellitus; coma	"
..	3½	In hospital ..	Meningitis	St. Mary's, Auckland.
..	2½	In residence ..	Gastro-enteritis and exhaustion	St. Vincent de Paul's.
3	2½	At board ..	Croup; congestion of the lungs; convulsions..	Wellington Receiving Home.
16	10	With friends ..	Psoas abscess; pyæmia	St. Mary's, Auckland.
4	1	In residence ..	Bronchitis; syncope	" Nelson.
10	3	In hospital ..	Tuberculous meningitis; heart-failure ..	Christchurch Receiving Home.
5	5	" ..	Acute pancreatitis.. ..	"
..	1	At board ..	Marasmus	Caversham.
3	5½	" ..	Acute appendicitis and peritonitis	"

TABLE 18.—DISCHARGES, 1911.

Cause of Termination of Control.	Government Schools.												Private Schools.							All Schools.		
	Auckland.		Boys' Training Farm, Wera-roa.	Receiving Home, Wellington.		Boys' Industrial School, Stoke.	Te Oranga Home.	Receiving Home, Christchurch.		Burnham.	Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Upper Hut.	St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin.	Boys.	Girls	Total	
	B.	G.	B.	B.	G.	B.	G.	R.	G.	B.	B.	G.	R.	G.	G.	B.	G.	G.				
Warrant of discharge	1	3	26	7	10	19	4	14	4	41	3	1	6	5	..	..	4	1	117	32	149	
Death ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	3	1	1	..	1	..	1	5	6	11	
Reached age of 21 years	..	6	2	..	1	..	13	..	3	26	..	3	..	1	3	..	..	1	28	31	59	
Period of control beyond age of 21 years terminated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	
Marriage ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	5	
Written off the books	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	
Totals	1	11	29	8	11	19	19	15	8	67	4	7	7	8	3	1	4	4	151	75	226	
	12			19				23			11		15			5						

TABLE 19.—INMATES: NUMBERS OF 1910 AND 1911 COMPARED.

Inmates.	At End of Year		Increase or Decrease.
	1910.	1911.	
In the schools ..	805	868	+ 63
Boarded out ..	794	856	+ 62
With friends ..	260	250	- 10
At service ..	473	480	+ 7
Under guardianship other than that of Manager ..	..	36	+ 36
Training-ship ..	3	1	- 2
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c. ..	8	7	- 1
In mental hospitals ..	8	7	- 1
At School for the Deaf ..	2	1	- 1
At Special School for Feeble-minded Boys ..	4	9	+ 5
Under control of refuges or cognate institutions ..	24	24	..
Under control of orphanage, cottage home, &c. ..	1	6	+ 5
In gaol ..	6	11	+ 5
Absent without leave, or whereabouts unknown ..	66	61	- 5
Totals ..	2,454	2,617	+ 163

REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

AUCKLAND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

SIR,—

Auckland, 24th February, 1912.

I beg to report that the health of the children at the Mount Albert Industrial School has been excellent during the last twelve months. What few cases of illness have occurred have been slight, and the children are all happy and contented.

I am, &c.,

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

A. CHALLINOR PURCHAS.

ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, AUCKLAND (GIRLS' BRANCH).

SIR,—

Auckland, 19th March, 1912.

During the year March, 1911, to March, 1912, the health of the children in the Girls' Branch of St. Mary's Industrial School, Auckland, has been good.

One girl, a mental defective, was committed to the Mental Hospital. There has been one sporadic case of chicken-pox, and two sporadic cases of measles. The fact that neither of these diseases spread to the other children speaks well for the care and attention of the Sisters. Four of the girls have suffered from bad tonsils and adenoids, which were causing deafness, and during the course of the year these four children were operated upon.

At present the children are housed in a dwelling next to the old buildings, which have been pulled down. The premises are only temporary, but they have been kept clean, and the children have been well looked after, and the very best has been made of the limited space available. Within the next fortnight the new buildings at Northcote will be open, and the children will be removed there.

I consider that as an institution the place is well looked after, and the children all look well and are scrupulously clean. The Mother Superior, Sister Mary Frances, takes a great interest in each of her charges, and does everything in her power to see that the children under her care thrive.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

E. H. B. MILSOM, M.D., B.S. (Lond.),
Medical Officer.

ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, AUCKLAND (BOYS' BRANCH), TAKAPUNA.

SIR,—

Devonport, 31st March, 1912.

In reference to the Industrial School at Takapuna, I have the honour to report that there have been no serious cases of illness during the period I have been in attendance, and the boys appear happy. On the 24th March I visited and inspected the buildings, &c., and saw all the pupils, who were very well. The dormitory accommodation is excellent, and the ventilation leaves nothing to be desired. There were ninety-two boys in the institution on that date.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

C. H. WHEELER, M.D., D.P.H.

BOYS' TRAINING-FARM, WERAROA.

SIR,—

Levin, 27th February, 1912.

I have the honour to present the annual medical report on the Boys' Training-farm.

The number of boys in the institution is about 200. There has been a good deal of sickness, chiefly of a minor character, during the last few months. In the spring influenza was very prevalent, and recently an epidemic of mumps, which is likely to become general, has started. In addition to this, there has been a succession of scarlatina cases, and it will be difficult to stamp out the disease until an isolation ward is provided for infectious diseases. At present they have to be put into the Hospital ward, which is most inconvenient. There should also be a consulting-room for the Medical Officer, who at present has to see his patients in the storeroom.

High-pressure water has been recently installed, and this cannot fail to be beneficial to the general health; also, arrangements have been made for improving the septic-tank treatment of sewage.

I would like to add that the institution is run with the smoothness of a machine; the boys seem generally happy and contented, and the food is good and abundant—too much so in some cases.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

HENRY A. DAVIES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (GIRLS'), UPPER HUTT.

Upper Hutt, 2nd March, 1912.

This is to certify that I have this day inspected St. Joseph's Industrial School, Upper Hutt. The general state of the school is quite satisfactory, and the health of the inmates excellent.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

FREDERICK W. KEMP, M.D.,
Medical Officer.

WELLINGTON RECEIVING HOME.

SIR,—

Wellington, 21st February, 1912.

I have the honour to inform you that during the past year I have attended the children of the Wellington Receiving Home when ill, and also visited the Home at intervals. There has been very little illness among the children during the year, which I attribute to the care exercised in the selection of foster-parents and the absence of the usual spell of hot weather this summer.

I have, &c.,

DONALD MCGAVIN, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.S.,
Medical Officer.

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

BOYS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, STOKE.

SIR,—

Nelson, 26th January, 1912.

During the year I have paid twelve monthly visits of inspection, and in addition have had cause to visit the institution at odd times on account of sickness of some of the boys. Taken as a whole, the health of the inmates has been excellent, and I am glad to say there has been no epidemic of any sort. Two boys have been sent to the Nelson Hospital for operation for hernia, and have returned to Stoke with satisfactory results. One boy was sent to the hospital with rheumatic fever, and he also returned cured. One boy is still in the hospital with tubercular disease of the knee, and his prospects of permanent cure are not good. Two other boys were sent with intractable skin-diseases, and have returned much improved. During the year about twenty boys have been reported to me as "wetting their beds" at night. Under treatment this number has been considerably reduced. I should advise that any persistent cases be circumcised. In an institution that contains a large number of boys like this I would suggest that every boy under the age of thirteen years be circumcised. The operation in itself is not dangerous (beyond the usual danger of an anæsthetic), and the result is beneficial in the highest degree. It reduces the tendency to self-abuse in a remarkable way, and is, in my opinion, an essential to clean living.

A certain number of the boys suffer from adenoids. I propose to operate on the worst cases next month, with the permission of the authorities. The effects of these growths is to retard the development of the boy, both mentally and physically, and it is essential that the growths be removed when it is manifest the boy is not doing as well as might be the case after an operation.

The average number of boys is about 129. Age, from twelve years to seventeen years.

I inspect the punishment-book every month, and am satisfied that the punishment inflicted is not too much. A strap is used for the purpose, and chastisement is always administered by the Manager in the presence of a witness.

Each boy has a hot bath once a week. During the summer months bathing is indulged in once or twice a day, under the supervision of one of the masters.

The food is excellent. I have from time to time inspected the kitchens, and have taken advantage of finding the boys at meals to inspect the food, and am satisfied that it is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. There is an excellent supply of vegetables, and meat and pudding are served, with two kinds of vegetables, every midday. Porridge and milk, with bread, butter, or treacle, forms the chief article of diet at breakfast; and the working-boys receive meat and vegetables at tea-time, in addition to the ordinary bread, butter, and jam.

The milkers rise at 5 a.m., the others at 6 a.m. Workers work from 8 a.m. to noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. School hours (for boys under fourteen), 9 a.m. to 12, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bed-time is 7.30 p.m., and lights are out at 8 p.m.

The cooking department is excellent in every way.

There are two dormitories, the front room being 75 ft. by 36 ft. by 15 ft., and contains sixty-four beds. There are twelve large windows, giving plenty of ventilation. The other dormitory is rather larger, and contains sixty-five beds. The dormitories are kept beautifully clean and fresh, but the beds are too close together. The remedy for this is to either reduce the number of boys or build another dormitory. I do not approve of beds less than 4 ft. apart.

There is a night lavatory, flushed by water, and close to the dormitories. This is altogether insufficient, and it is not reasonable to expect a small boy to visit this in the dark. I would suggest that a portable urinal be placed in each dormitory at night and removed in the morning. There are two day lavatories on the trench system, and well flushed by water. The lavatories are excellent in themselves, but at least two more are urgently needed. The evil effects of having to wait too long for relief are easily seen, and I would strongly urge the immediate erection of two more lavatories on the same system as the present ones. There is one day urinal and one night urinal: these could well be augmented by the building of two or three extra ones. I have never yet had any fault to find with the sanitary arrangements as regards offensive smells, but I must urge the immediate attention to the lack of accommodation in this respect.

The dairy is insufficient and out of date. One wall is not match-lined, and the floor is of wood. I would urge the erection of a new dairy as soon as possible.

In conclusion, I would wish to thank the manager and staff for the courtesy they have always extended during my visits, and to compliment them on the splendidly efficient manner in which they have conducted the institution. Taken as a whole, the management of the boys (from a health point of view) has been excellent.

There is one point I would like to bring up—the want of accommodation in case of an epidemic such as scarlet fever. The Nelson Hospital could not accommodate more than five or six patients, and might very easily be overtaxed already. There is no part of the building reserved as a hospital, and in the event of serious illness the patient has to be taken to the town. In the event of an epidemic

the position would be very awkward, and the only remedy the erection of large hospital tents. I would therefore urge the early consideration of a scheme for building a small hospital, to hold six to ten beds. This could be used for other purposes when not required for sickness, and might easily be the means of saving considerable expense and even loss of life.

To sum up, I would urge—(1) The erection of a new dairy; (2) the erection of three or four new latrines; (3) the erection of a small hospital-room; (4) increased bed room in the dormitories.

I have, &c.,

PHIL. ANDREW, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.,
Medical Officer.

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (GIRLS'), NELSON.

SIR,—

Nelson, 31st March, 1911.

I beg to hand you herewith the report on the St. Mary's Industrial School, Nelson.

During the year ending 31st March, 1912, the health of the children at the Convent, Nelson, has been on the whole very good. In June measles appeared and rapidly spread through the institution. The type was on the whole mild, but two young children died, both of complicating broncho-pneumonia. These were C— S—, aged four, and J— H—, aged three. N— D—, aged ten months, died in convulsions in August, 1911.

The management of the Convent and the care bestowed on the children are together admirable, and the whole of the arrangements of the institution are in a satisfactory condition.

I have, &c.,

F. G. BETT, M.B., M.R.C.S.

TE ORANGA HOME (GIRLS' REFORMATORY).

SIR,—

Christchurch, 21st February, 1912.

I beg to submit my report on the Te Oranga Home.

The health of the inmates generally has been particularly good during the year. A sporadic case of mild typhoid occurred, and another inmate had to be sent to the Mental Hospital. She has now recovered and returned.

The recent changes in the staff have caused no interruption in the efficient working of the institution.

I am, &c.,

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

JESSIE C. MADDISON, Medical Officer.

CHRISTCHURCH RECEIVING HOME.

SIR,—

Christchurch, 26th February, 1912.

I beg to submit my report on the Christchurch Receiving Home.

The health and condition of the children have been satisfactory. Occasional overcrowding of the Home caused difficulties last year, and, as usual, the health of the staff suffered somewhat during the winter months.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

J. C. MADDISON, Medical Officer.

BURNHAM BOYS' REFORMATORY.

SIR,—

Christchurch, 27th May, 1912.

I have the honour to report that the health of the boys and staff at Burnham Industrial School has been fairly good during the year 1911, and there has been less sore throat than formerly, in consequence of some improvement to the drainage, which, however, is still imperfect. The principal trouble with the boys has been with those of a tubercular constitution, causing multiple ulcers of an intractable nature. The only satisfactory treatment for such cases is for them to sleep in tents, which are infinitely better for them than the dormitories, besides preventing the infection from spreading. These cases have seldom done well when sent to hospital; besides which the Hospital has not room for such chronic cases. But they require the care of a trained nurse; and it is very necessary that a trained nurse should be added to the regular staff. Also the present large number of boys at Burnham, about 150, and the distance from town, about twenty miles, seriously calls for such an arrangement.

The number of boys on the sick-list varies from fifteen to thirty or forty, and slight accidents are of almost daily occurrence. One bad accident occurred to G. P—, while working the fire-engine, when the stables were burned down: his hand was badly crushed in the engine, and his recovery took four months. There were two severe cases of goitre and epilepsy.

The percentage of boys discharged who have behaved well, as far as we know, is 84 per cent.; but some of those discharged at twenty-one are likely to transmit serious hereditary defects, and it may be worth considering whether means should be adopted, such as X-ray treatment, to prevent the transmission and multiplication of such evils.

I am frequently asked by country people to get a Burnham boy licensed to them, on the ground that those boys are so much better behaved and trained than any others available in the country. This is, I think, good evidence that the cost of Burnham is remunerative, and that the staff there is efficient and successful.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

W. H. SYMES, M.D., Medical Officer.

CAVERSHAM INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

SIR,—

Dunedin, 24th February, 1912.

In presenting the annual report of the above school I have pleasure in stating that, on the whole, the general health of the inmates has been good. Functional nervous diseases have been rather

I have, &c.,

EMILY H. SEIDEBERG, M.B., L.R.C.P.I.

SIR,—

I beg to submit my annual report on the St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin.

I have, &c.,

EUGENE J. O'NEILL, M.B., F.R.C.S. Eng.,
Medical Officer.

[illegible]

To Expenses (office rent, £25)	£	s.	d.	By Balance as per last account	£	s.	d.
Maintenance of boys	39	10	2	Interest received	932	4	2
Balance as per balance-sheet above ..	1,608	12	11		752	13	11
	£1,684	18	1		£1,684	18	1

Examined and found correct.—R. J. COLLINS, Controller and Auditor-General.—4/3/1912.

No. 4.—INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION.

Education Department, Wellington, 31st May, 1912.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

I SUBMIT the following report on the work of the Department in respect of infant-life protection for the year 1911.

It will be seen that the bulk of the infants were in foster-homes—that is, with women who have the motherly capacity, and the time and accommodation necessary to satisfy the Department's requirements for the license prescribed by the Act. The remainder were in various benevolent institutions, of which particulars are given below.

NUMBERS.

The number of infants in licensed foster-homes on the 31st December was 707, which is 27 more than there were at the beginning of the year. The individuals changed to a much greater extent than those figures indicate, however; the total number of individuals dealt with in connection with foster-homes during the year, by admissions, withdrawals, transfers, &c., being 1,183. The number placed in foster-homes was 48 more than in the previous year, and the number removed from the homes was 27 less.

In the institutions there were 427 at the end of the year, making in all a total of 1,134 infants being dealt with under the Act on the 31st December, 1911—an increase of 32 over the number on the books a year previously.

The following table exhibits the transactions of the year in respect of infants in licensed foster-homes :—

PARTICULARS OF ADMISSIONS TO AND REMOVALS FROM LICENSED FOSTER-HOMES DURING 1911.

	Under 6 Months.	Between 6 Months and 1 Year.	Between 1 and 2 Years.	Between 2 and 3 Years.	Between 3 and 4 Years.	Between 4 and 5 Years.	Between 5 and 6 Years.	Over 6 Years, and still in Foster-homes.	Total.
<i>Entered on the Books.</i>									
On the books at the beginning of the year	56	83	150	136	94	63	60	38	680
Placed in licensed homes during the year	246	60	76	39	30	15	24	..	490
Adopted with premium (exclusive of those already on the books)	8	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	13
Total	310	144	227	176	124	79	85	38	1,183
<i>Withdrawn from and remaining on the Books.</i>									
Removed from foster-homes by parents or guardians	41	42	92	53	48	16	21	10	323
Deaths	6	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	13
Adoptions from licensed homes without premiums	3	5	5	4	3	3	1	..	24
In homes to which exemption was granted	1	4	2	2	2	2	2	..	15
Brought under operation of the Industrial Schools Act	1	..	5	3	..	1	..	..	10
Written off the books for various causes	3	10	11	10	4	4	1	48	91
On the books at 31st December, 1911	73	87	151	110	108	79	59	40	707
Total	128	150	270	182	165	105	84	99	1,183

FOSTER-HOMES.

The 707 infants in foster-homes at the end of the year were distributed as follows :—

In 460 homes each having one ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	460
In 76 .. two ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	152
In 21 .. three ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
In 4 .. four ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
In 2 .. five ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
In 1 .. six ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

Thirty-five of the homes were those in which children under six were boarded out by Charitable Aid Boards.

The total number of licensed homes was 738, so that at the end of the year there were 174 licensed homes in which for the time no infants were boarded.

RATES OF PAYMENTS TO FOSTER-PARENTS BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

An account of the rates paid is given in the following statement :—

2 at the rate of 2s. 6d. per week.			13 at the rate of 9s. per week.		
1	"	3s.	504	"	10s.
3	"	4s.	1	"	10s. 6d.
1	"	4s. 6d.	3	"	11s.
16	"	5s.	26	"	12s.
8	"	6s.	41	"	12s. 6d.
3	"	6s. 8d.	1	"	14s.
51	"	7s.	9	"	15s.
95	"	7s. 6d.	1	"	20s.
62	"	8s.	1	"	21s.
11	"	8s. 6d.			

Generally the relations of the infants provide clothing in addition.

The following comparison of the rates paid during the last three years shows that the usual payment is about 10s. a week :—

	1909.	1910.	1911.
Under 7s.	45	36	34
7s. and under 10s.	193	224	232
10s.	351	448	504
Over 10s.	77	97	83

EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONS.

From the provision that "it shall not be lawful for any person in consideration of any payment or reward to receive or retain in his care or charge any infant for the purpose of nursing or maintaining it apart from its parents or guardians for a longer period than seven consecutive days unless such person is licensed as a foster-parent," the Minister may grant certain exemptions, and under this authority exemption has been granted to the institutions set forth in the following list, which shows also the numbers dealt with and the deaths. The conditions of the exemption provide for inspection, and for removal of the infants only with due formality.

Name of Institution.	(1911) Admissions.			Deaths.			On the Books at 31st December, 1911.		
	Total Number.	Under 6 Months.	Between and 12 Months.	Total Number.	Under 6 Months.	Between 6 and 12 Months.	Total Number.	Under 6 Months.	Between 6 and 12 Months.
The Orphan Home, Papatoetoe, Auckland	5	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
St. Mary's Maternity Home, Otahuhu, Auckland	13	..	13	1	..	1	26	..	6
The Door of Hope, Auckland	29	25	2	3	2	1	16	9	7
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Auckland	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
St. Mary's Orphanage, Ponsonby, Auckland	8	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Takapuna, Auckland	7	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..
Children's Home, Remuera, Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Children's Home, Ponsonby, Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	..
St. Vincent de Paul's Foundling Home, Auckland	33	15	13	5	4	1	39	4	8
Mission House of the Order of the Good Shepherd, Auckland	13	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Leslie Presbyterian Orphanage, Remuera, Auckland	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Cook County Women's Guild Crèche, Gisborne	29	1	2	..	..	..	11	..	1
Wanganui Orphanage, Wanganui	6	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
Children's Home, Palmerston North	2	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Upper Hutt, Wellington	7	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
Salvation Army Children's Home, Wellington	9	..	2	..	..	..	10	..	..
The Levin Memorial Home, Wellington	2	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..
Home of Compassion, Wellington	75	31	11	22	12	3	77	12	11
Presbyterian Orphanage, Wellington	1	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..
St. Mary's Orphanage, Nelson	17	4	1	4	1	1	36	2	..
Sacred Heart Orphanage, Mount Magdala	7	..	1	..	..	..	9	..	1
Children's Convalescent Cottage, New Brighton	32	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Christchurch	5	3	2	..	..	..	9	1	..
Nazareth House, Sydenham, Christchurch	20	..	..	1	..	..	18	..	..
St. Saviour's Home, Shirley, Christchurch	12	..	..	..	..	..	23	..	..
St. Mary's Orphanage, Dunedin	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, Dunedin	9	3	..	2	1	..	23	..	..
Karitane Home, Dunedin	61	51	10	6	6	..	11	5	5
Presbyterian Orphanage, Dunedin	4	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Dunedin	42	38	4	2	2	..	12	7	5
Salvation Army Children's Home, Middlemarch	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
Victoria Memorial Home, Invercargill	15	13	2	1	1	..	11	7	4
Totals for 1911	474	195	66	47	29	7	427	48	48
Totals for 1910	493	190	62	63	47	10	422	48	36

DEATHS IN FOSTER-HOMES.

Out of the 1,183 infants under six years of age that were at one time or another on the books of the foster-homes during 1911, 13 died—that is, 1·09 per cent. Of these, 9 died in the foster-homes, and 4 in hospitals or nursing-homes to which they had been removed for treatment. Nine of the 13 were under the age of twelve months, and all were of illegitimate birth.

The following is a comparison of the number of deaths in foster-homes during the last four years :—

1908	..	..	..	26 deaths out of 1,017 infants = 2·56 per cent.
1909	.	..	..	25 „ 1,181 „ = 2·11 „
1910	..	..	..	26 „ 1,183 „ = 2·19 „
1911	..	..	..	13 „ 1,183 „ = 1·09 „

The percentages are given merely for illustration, for in dealing with such small numbers a percentage may, of course, have a very misleading appearance. These rates are only very slightly above the normal death-rate of the Dominion for children of the same age, and the result therefore reflects great credit on the District Agents, their assistants, the Local Visitors, and the foster-parents.

Particulars of the 13 deaths are given in the appendix.

DEATHS IN EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONS.

These, with other particulars, are shown in the foregoing table relating to exempted institutions. The following is a statement of the deaths during the last three years :—

1909	..	..	..	66 deaths out of 749 infants = 8·81 per cent.
1910	..	..	..	63 „ 915 „ = 6·08 „
1911	..	..	..	47 „ 899 „ = 5·23 „

Particulars of the deaths in these homes during 1911 are given in the appendix.

ADOPTIONS.

During the year 221 orders of adoption were made, and one order cancelling an adoption order. Thirty-two of the adoption orders provided for premiums, and 189 were without monetary consideration. The following shows the ages of the adopted children :—

						With Premium.	Without Premium.
Under 6 months	..	..	..	..	..	18	58
Between 6 and 12 months	..	..	..	..	..	5	20
„ 1 „ 2 years	..	..	..	..	..	3	26
„ 2 „ 3 „	..	..	..	..	..	3	22
„ 3 „ 4 „	..	..	..	..	..	1	16
„ 4 „ 5 „	..	..	..	..	..	1	11
„ 5 „ 6 „	..	..	..	..	..	1	12
„ 6 „ 7 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
„ 7 „ 8 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
„ 8 „ 9 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
„ 9 „ 10 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
„ 10 „ 11 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
„ 11 „ 12 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
„ 12 „ 13 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
„ 13 „ 14 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
„ 14 „ 15 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
						32	189

The adopting persons were,—

Husband and wife jointly	..	..	..	..	..	..	211
Husband alone	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Widow	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Widower	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Spinster	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

The amount of the premiums ranged from £10 to £160.

ILLEGITIMACY.

For its obvious relation to the intentions of the Infants Act the following table is given:—

Provincial Districts.	Illegitimate Births registered during 1911.	Number of Children aged 12 Months or less brought under the Act during 1911.
Auckland	293	29
Taranaki	35	3
Hawke's Bay	57	13
Wellington	263	60
Marlborough	15	..
Nelson	40	6
Westland	10	..
Canterbury	170	66
Otago	195	46
Totals	1,078	223
Totals for 1910	1,162	211

During the year 122 registrations were effected under the Legitimation Act.

E. O. GIBBES,
Secretary for Education.

No. 5.—SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, SUMNER.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

SIR,—

School for the Deaf, Sumner, 20th April, 1912.

I have the honour to lay before you my report for the year 1911.

The number of pupils who have been under instruction during the year is shown in the following tabulated statement:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Pupils of the previous year who returned to school	53	36	89
Admitted at or near the beginning of the year	3	6	9
Admitted later	1	1	2
Absent during the year, but retained on the roll	1	..	1
Total number on the roll	58	43	101
Left before the end of the school year	2	..	2
Left at the end of the school year	2	..	2
Sent to Ruakura Experimental Farm for training	1	..	1
Pupils expected to return to Sumner in 1912	53	43	96

The total number on the roll was the same as in 1910—viz., 101. Of these, 27 came from the Auckland District, 1 from Taranaki, 7 from Hawke's Bay and Gisborne, 26 from Wellington, 1 from Nelson, 1 from Marlborough, 2 from Westland, 20 from Canterbury, and 16 from Otago.

During the early part of the year, owing to lack of accommodation at the school, 6 boys were boarded out, but in July this number was reduced to 2, several of the boarded-in pupils then becoming day pupils. During the latter part of the year 6 boys and 4 girls attended as such, and it is anticipated that next year all those children whose parents reside in the vicinity of the school will be able to attend in the same way. The horizon of a deaf child is necessarily very limited, and every opportunity of extending it should be welcomed. In the case of a day pupil the incidents of the daily journey to and from school are very effective in developing his faculties of observation and in creating self-reliance. The development of his powers of speech and, by consequence, of his reflective powers is furthered by the same means. Daily at the end of his journey he has something fresh to say; at school to his teachers or schoolmates; at home, to his friends or relatives. By frequent intercourse with the normal the child becomes at last almost normal himself, and displays fewer and fewer of those characteristics which, in the case of a boarded-in pupil, are at once a condition and a consequence of his too constant association with others similarly afflicted.

The health of the pupils during the year was exceedingly good. There were no cases of serious illness, and what interruptions there were in the school-work on account of illness among the children

were not of great importance. The health of one of the teachers, however, was unable to stand the strain of the work, and she was obliged to obtain leave of absence for a month.

There were some changes in the personnel of the teaching staff during the year. At the beginning of June Miss E. E. Tosswill was appointed to go into training to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Miss H. B. Anthony at the end of 1910. In November Mr. J. S. Hilson, who had been a member of the staff since March, 1907, was transferred to the Special School for Boys at Otekaike, and in the same month Miss E. Kinloch Paul, a lady who had been trained as a teacher of the deaf in England, and who had had considerable experience in teaching there, became a member of our staff.

The progress made by the pupils during the year was on the whole very satisfactory. In most cases the results obtained were highly encouraging, and only in one or two instances were they disappointing. It was particularly gratifying to observe marked improvement in the case of some of the more backward pupils. The great majority of the pupils passed with credit through the ordeal of the Inspector's annual examination held in December.

Of the ten new pupils admitted during the year, all but one made good progress. The exception was a boy whose mental and physical development was considerably below normal, and whose progress was necessarily much slower than that of the other beginners. Two of these were girls of nearly twelve years of age, who should have been admitted at least five years previously, but had been kept away owing to ignorance. Neither of these girls was stone deaf, and each on admission was able to say, more or less distinctly, a few words. They were able to copy writing, but without comprehension of the meaning of the words copied, and were quite incapable of being educated along with ordinary hearing children. These two cases resemble others that we have had in the past, and emphasize the importance of teachers and other persons notifying the Department of cases of deaf children coming under their notice. This is especially necessary in the case of partial deafness, as the ability of a child to utter a few words is extremely likely to mislead its parents as to the nature of its affliction, and to prevent them from making inquiries in the proper quarter. Another case admitted was that of a girl of fifteen, who was able to speak distinctly, and who had been educated as far as the Third Standard, but whose hearing had become so defective that she could no longer be taught efficiently at the public school she had been attending. Another case was that of an adult, a lady who had become almost completely deaf, and who required training in lip-reading. By the end of the year she had become fairly proficient in the art, although prevented by ill health from attending regularly.

Inquiries as to the utility of and the possibility of learning lip-reading are frequently made by deaf persons residing in the Dominion. There is no doubt as to the value of the art to those deaf people who have been able to acquire it. It can most readily be learned by attendance at a school for the deaf, but, unfortunately, in the case of business people, this is seldom possible. In such cases it is necessary to enlist the services of a teacher who has knowledge of the principles of articulation and elocution. Facility in the art demands considerable and regular practice, and depends more on the pupil than on the teacher. The looking-glass is a useful aid, and the deaf person who can get a friend to converse with him for half an hour or more daily will obtain gratifying results in a comparatively short space of time. Information as to methods is difficult to convey by means of writing, but can always be obtained on application at the school.

At the end of the year a Maori boy of seventeen, who had been a pupil here for nine years, was transferred to the Government Experimental Farm at Ruakura, to be trained there as a cadet. This course was considered advisable in view of the fact that the boy was an orphan, and the possessor in his own right of about 100 acres of land, which, it is hoped, he will one day be able to farm for himself. On leaving this school he had obtained a fairly good general education, and was able to make himself readily understood by strangers. He was able to read the daily papers, and could express himself fairly well both in speech and in writing. He could milk a cow, and could use a spade, a scythe, and a hay-fork, and also the ordinary carpenter's tools. In addition, he could play a fair game of cricket or football, and could swim well. The acquirements of the four boys who left at about the same time were somewhat similar. None of the girls was sufficiently advanced to be permitted to leave the school.

It would be of advantage if it could be arranged for the teeth of the pupils to be periodically inspected and attended to by a qualified dentist. This would, no doubt, result in the mental and physical tone of the pupils being improved, and in their instruction being rendered more efficient, as it is evident that children suffering from decayed teeth or from indigestion caused thereby cannot be satisfactory pupils. The eyesight of the pupils is also a matter of great importance, and I have to thank Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Terras Bell, of Christchurch, for their great kindness in examining and prescribing for those of our pupils who have defective sight. The common belief that when one sense is lacking Nature strengthens the remaining senses in compensation is an erroneous one. By many people it is supposed that the eyesight of the deaf and the touch of the blind are preternaturally acute; but experiments have shown that this is a popular fallacy, and that where one sense is deficient the others are likely to be more or less affected also.

The carrying-on of the work of the school will shortly be greatly facilitated by the erection of a new wing and of an additional story to the servants' quarters at the main building. A contract for the erection of these has been let, and at the time of writing the laying of the foundations is well under way. When these additions are completed the present overcrowded condition of the schoolrooms and of the girls' dormitories will be relieved, and it will be possible to provide for the isolation and the treatment of sick cases.

A suitable workshop should be provided at the Boys' Home, so that technical instruction can be carried on better than is possible under present conditions. The rebuilding in brick of the Boys' Home itself is a matter that should also be considered. The present building is an old wooden one, and cannot be expected to last many more years. Great precautions have to be taken in the use of it to

avoid danger from fire. It would, no doubt, be safer if electrically lighted. Should the erection of a new Boys' Home be decided on, it should not be designed so as to accommodate a greater number of boys than the present building. I have repeatedly stated my conviction that the school in point of view of numbers is already too large. There is every indication that the number of deaf children in the Dominion will continue increasing, and to provide for this increase a preparatory school for young deaf children should be established in the near future. To it children might be admitted at an earlier age than under present conditions is desirable. After two or more years at the preparatory school they should be transferred to the main school, which would then contain no pupils unable to speak. Thus the tendency to resort to signs on the part of the pupils would be largely diminished. In previous reports I have pointed out other benefits that would be derived from the establishment of such a preparatory school. Instruction in it should be carried on as much as possible in the open air, and abundant use made of kindergarten methods.

The appearance of the school-garden during the year reflected credit on the gardeners, and the educational value of an æsthetic environment was apparent. The grounds are artistically laid out and planted, and contain a large and varied collection of trees and shrubs, as well as flowers. Thus plenty of opportunity for nature-study is provided, and has been made use of in open-air lessons. Even the little children evince considerable zeal in learning the names of and in distinguishing the different kinds of trees and flowers. The names of many common flowers present difficulties in articulation, which provide excellent and agreeable practice for deaf children interested in nature-study, and by their selection necessary articulation lessons may be relieved of much of their drudgery.

The annual picnic of the school was held at Diamond Harbour, and our thanks are due to the Lyttelton Harbour Board for kindly granting the use of their tug to convey our party from and to Lyttelton, and also to Miss Stoddart for the use of her grounds on the occasion.

The school is also indebted to the members of the Canterbury Automobile Association for their kindness in taking the pupils for a most enjoyable outing to Rangiora.

We have also again to thank Messrs. Fuller and Sons, of the Colosseum Pictures, for their kindness in admitting us to their matinees. The pictures have been greatly appreciated by the children, who have derived much profit as well as pleasure from them.

The Inspector-General of Schools, Wellington.

I have, &c.,

J. E. STEVENS, Director.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

SIR,—

28th May, 1912.

I have the honour to report that no serious illness occurred in the School for the Deaf at Sumner during the year 1911. But we have had rather more than usual of the chronic tubercular ulcers and tubercular bone-disease. We badly want more tents for these cases, as also for isolating any other infectious cases. It is desirable that one member of the staff should be a trained nurse. Open-air classes have been instituted by the Director with great benefit to some of the pupils.

The food is excellent, besides being varied judiciously and well cooked; and all the domestic arrangements reflect credit on the Matron. Most of the pupils seem very bright, happy, and healthy, and much attached to their teachers, who are devoted to their work. We are indebted to the Borough Council for the recent erection of dressing-shelters on the beach, so that the pupils have now much more facility for sea-bathing, from which they have derived great benefit.

I have, &c.,

W. H. SYMES, M.D.

The Secretary for Education.

No. 6.—SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS, OTEKAIKE, OAMARU.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL.

SIR,—

Otekaieke, 30th May, 1912.

I beg to submit the following report of the administration of the affairs of this school for the year ending 31st March, 1912.

ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND DEATHS.

Number of children in the school on 1st April, 1911	..	..	..	47
Admitted during the year	..	..	..	25
Discharged during the year	..	..	..	4
Died	..	..	..	1
In the school on 31st March, 1912	..	..	..	67
Ages of boys in the institution on 31st March, 1912 :—				
From 5 to 10 years	..	..	..	8
„ 11 „ 16 „	..	..	..	39
„ 17 „ 21 „	..	..	..	14
Over 21 years	..	..	..	6
Ages of boys admitted during the year :—				
Between 7 and 16 years	..	..	..	18
„ 16 „ 21 „	..	..	..	6
Over 21 years	..	..	..	1

Admissions.—During the past year 25 children have been admitted to the school. Of the 67 children in residence on the 31st March, 1912, 33 children hail from the North Island and 34 from the South Island.

Discharges.—During the year 4 children have been discharged from the school. The reasons for the discharges were as follows:—

- (1.) A hemiplegic deaf-mute was transferred to the Nelson Home for Unimprovable Cases, as, after a considerable period, it was found that he was unimprovable.
- (2.) This boy, who had been admitted temporarily for observation, was allowed to return home.
- (3.) This case was over the compulsory age when the Education Amendment Act of 1910 came into force. As the Education Department had no legal jurisdiction over him, he was allowed to return to his parents.
- (4.) This case was of a weak-minded lad, just over twenty-one years of age, who had been sentenced for breaking into and entering, but who had been allowed out on probation on certain conditions. These conditions were not fulfilled, and eventually he came to me to be under observation. He remained at the school till the end of his probationary period, and had improved considerably, but, as we had no further hold over him, he was free to take his discharge. The short term of training he had with us was undoubtedly beneficial to him, and I am sorry we had no legal power to keep him longer, as he is essentially one of these weak-willed individuals who could be urged on by the stronger will of some unscrupulous person to commit some anti-social act, so that, in all probability, he will again be heard of in the prison records.

Deaths.—There has been one death during the year: A—— B—— died on the 4th December, 1911—sudden heart-failure. This is the first child we have lost during the four years the school has been in existence. It is interesting to point out at this stage of our history that the death-rate among the children has been remarkably low. Taking the average number of children resident during the past four years, the average death-rate works out at the remarkably low figure of 0·65 per 100, or 6·5 per 1,000.

Mentality.—The admissions classified according to mentality show—High-grade cases, 6; middle-grade cases, 11; low-grade cases, 8. Of the admissions, one boy is an epileptic. There are now four epileptic boys in residence.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The general health of the children during the year has been good. In the early spring we had two very serious cases of pneumonia among the boys and one amongst the female staff. All three cases, thanks to the careful treatment received, fortunately recovered.

We have again been fortunate, as far as infectious diseases are concerned. We had one case of cutaneous erysipelas, which was promptly isolated, and fortunately did not spread. During the year we have had three cases of tubercular trouble among the Mongol type of children. All, however, have done well, and only one of these cases is at present at home for treatment. In the other two cases there is at present no active mischief. During the very cold portions of the year the Mongol section of our children suffer severely from chilblains. These children generally suffer from abnormal heart-action, with enfeebled circulation, the cyanosed condition of their extremities being very marked during the cold winter months. Great care is taken, however, before the winter sets in to ensure that these children are as physically fit as their abnormal physical condition will allow, so that they may the better withstand the cold of the winter months. In connection with the various illnesses to which our children are subject, I would call your attention to the faithful work performed by our nurses, who are untiring in their care of the sick children.

Regarding the question of the health of our children, I would again point out to you, in view of our increasing numbers and the extensions contemplated in the immediate future, the urgent need for providing hospital accommodation at once. A small, inexpensive hospital for infectious cases, and a general hospital or infirmary where the many ordinary ailments common to our children may be satisfactorily dealt with, and where the children who are recovering from an illness can be carefully tended during convalescence, are necessary. The whole of our dormitory accommodation is at present occupied, so that, should any serious outbreak of illness occur, our resources for providing proper attention to the sick would be totally inadequate. I submit this question to you for your consideration as one of great urgency.

SCHOLASTIC AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

The school-work, as a whole, has been carried on along much the same general lines as in other years. The smaller children, who now comprise about one-half of our school population, have made good progress during the year as far as both scholastic and manual instruction are concerned. With the low grades, who are incapable of any book-learning, the entire day is given to manual training; and, recognizing the truth of the maxim of Froebel that the "working hand makes strong the working brain," some branch of manual instruction is given throughout the school.

The younger division of our school is now divided into four classes of the following grades: (1.) A kindergarten for low-grade children; (2) a kindergarten for middle-grade children; (3) a middle-grade class of boys promoted from the kindergarten; (4) a high-grade class who are capable of receiving benefit from scholastic instruction.

It is exceedingly difficult work with the three lower sections of this part of our school. The development through the hand with the lower grade, and the awakening of the senses through the

stimulation of the emotions under the fascination of having done or made something is the only true road to development. Many are the disappointments for the teachers of this section. Some ailment, some sign of physical or mental strain and fatigue, as evidenced by the child's loss of appetite and loss of weight, overtakes many of these little, frail beings, and I have to take the child out of school entirely for a time so as to build him up and make him fit to make another attempt. When I return him again to the school, after maybe a few weeks, I know too well it means commencing again in a lower division.

While dealing with the younger section of the children in this division of our school—the special difficulty of the work and the need for experienced and specially qualified teachers for carrying on the work successfully—I would venture to quote the words of an expert in this work. In speaking of the awakening and training of mental defectives, Dr. Bucknell says this must be done “first by teaching him the use of his senses and of his muscles; by teaching him to speak and, as far as may be, to converse; by teaching him to sit, to stand, to walk, and to play, thereby teaching him to love and trust, and not to hate and fear; by replacing dull inanity or sullen moroseness with sociable attachment to others; by training and examining all the conditions of mind—however imperfect mind and body may be—towards wholesome, useful, and agreeable activities in the place of chill, torpid inertness, or the dull ache of helpless discomfort.”

Again, Mrs. Burgwin, the pioneer of and Superintendent of Special Instruction in London, in speaking of the work of teaching feeble-minded children, says, “It will readily be seen that from such difficulties as these [she has been enumerating the difficulties of dealing with feeble-minded children] that only teachers of the highest training and intelligence should attempt to teach feeble-minded children.”

This opinion is supported by nearly all the leading experts both in England and America. If, then, it is the general opinion that our best teachers—“those with the highest training and intelligence”—are needed to carry on successfully the training of our feeble-minded children, it is only reasonable to assume that the work of training mental defectives successfully presents special difficulties which have only to be experienced to be fully recognized and appreciated.

The upper section of the school consists of two divisions—(1) The low-grade older children, (2) the high-grade older children. In connection with the training of the first group, which consists mainly of children bordering on fifteen years and upwards, though they are showing considerable improvement in manual work, it must be remembered that these children are those who were admitted to the school at an age when the period which experience shows to be the proper period for training—viz., from seven to fifteen years—was almost past. Moreover, prior to their admission they received no training at all. The results attainable with this section of our school-children are not nearly so great as may be hoped for with those children who come to us at an earlier age. The group of high-grade boys have made really good progress in all branches of scholastic work.

To carry on our work successfully we must in the immediate future strengthen our teaching staff by the inclusion of at least two lady teachers who have had experience at Home in schools for feeble-minded children. They must be fully qualified trained teachers, possessing the higher Froebel certificate, and specially capable of teaching physical exercises, singing, and drawing. Our teachers must possess full knowledge of the kindergarten methods, and, seeing that our children so easily tire and become apathetic or restless, each teacher should be qualified to take her own class at intervals for singing, musical drill, and games. The drawing qualifications in our teachers is much more necessary than with the teachers in schools for normal children, seeing that, in every lesson, it is so necessary to illustrate by crayons or chalk on blackboard, paper, &c., so many points which our children, through lack of observing-powers, are unfamiliar with, but which a normal child learns unconsciously and automatically.

We are now also sufficiently advanced with our school-work to engage a teacher for Sloyd work. The Sloyd room is always one of the most attractive departments in schools of this kind. I would also recommend the engagement of a lady teacher from Home who has had experience in teaching gardening to feeble-minded children. Nature-study in all its branches is of great service in the training of our children, seeing that it essentially calls into play the observing-powers. In my first report on the school in March, 1909, I mentioned the question of a nature programme and its connections. After giving an example, I remarked, “This practically is known as an ‘environment programme.’ If with a normal child it is necessary to show the connection between the essential elements of a child's environment and his own life, it is doubly so with a feeble-minded child.” To have a qualified lady teacher to teach the younger children horticulture, and to teach such expression lessons as drawing, colouring, painting, modelling, brushwork, cutting, &c., as correlated subjects, would be a great gain educationally.

TYPICAL CASES OF IMPROVEMENT.

The following extracts from letters which I have received during the year indicate a feeling of satisfaction on the part of those who have noticed marked improvement in the mental and physical condition of their children who are being trained at this school:—

From the Headmaster, ——— Public School.

“DEAR SIR,—

“29th February, 1912.

“I feel it incumbent upon me to inform you of the very great—I had almost said startling—improvement that I noticed in the lad ——— when I met him casually the other day. I found him attending ——— School when I took charge of it some years ago, and was informed that to teach him anything was impossible. My own experience with him made it quite evident that, with the ordinary methods, this view was correct. When I met him the other day, I had time for a short conversation only, but I was amazed at the improvement in his general intelligence and bearing. That this is the outcome of your labours admits of no doubt whatever, and I offer you my sincere congratulations on their result.—Yours faithfully, ———.”

"12th July, 1911.—I duly received the letter you sent me written by my son, and I feel I must write you a line of congratulation on the success of your methods of teaching. When the boy came to you I really thought that you were attempting a hopeless task, and that neither you nor any one else would be able to educate him. However, time has proved me to be mistaken, and I assure you that I am very pleased to have to admit the fact. My opinion at the time was also the opinion of others, and it is therefore very much to the credit of your system that you have been able to achieve such results—results which have astonished and at the same time pleased me."

"14th February, 1912.—I was pleased on his return home to see him looking so well. I noticed also that he had improved greatly in a number of ways—he does not seem to be half so awkward in his movements, and I thank you very much for your care and patience with him."

"13th February, 1912.—We are very pleased with the improvement ——— shows, and the doctor who had attended him since birth is much more hopeful of him than he was a year or two ago. He considers that he has made such progress as to warrant the belief that he is capable of learning a good deal more than we expected of him at one time."

"11th February, 1912.—I find a great improvement in his speech, and he does his exercises wonderfully."

"14th February, 1912.—I am very pleased with the progress he has made, and thought on his return from school he looked much stronger."

"29th January, 1912.—I asked my doctor if he would examine him. He has had him under observation, and he was quite pleased to hear him count and say his letters. He told me there was certainly a great improvement in every way, and that there was great credit due to you for the way in which he had been taught."

"20th February, 1912.—He showed a marked improvement generally; his realization of objects and events was more logical. He was pleased to go back to school, and the meeting at the railway-station between him and his teacher was to us indeed gratifying. A smile of pleasure came over ———'s face when he shook hands with his friend and tutor, which told the tale of kindness."

"15th December, 1911.—Mrs. ——— and myself indeed feel grateful for the care bestowed upon him to prevent the cold he contracted from leaving any injurious effects, and for your general care of the boy. Yours is a trying position, but we may all feel content with our boys under your protection and care."

Such letters encourage us to make the greater efforts to promote the happiness and well-being of our children.

ADDITIONS TO BUILDINGS.

The opening of the new kitchen administrative block, with the children's dining-room, staff sitting-rooms, store, &c., has not only afforded much better accommodation for boys and staff, but has also allowed us to use two of the large rooms in the main building for the boys. One of these rooms is now used as an additional schoolroom, while the other is utilized as a play-room for the boys. The steam cooking plant now in use will further add to the efficiency of the domestic arrangements. The old kitchen in the main building can be easily converted by our own staff into a spacious needlework-room, and the scullery in the same block, now no longer needed for this purpose, will be converted into a surgery, so much needed in a school of this description.

FARM AND GARDEN.

A greater difference in the climatic conditions obtaining in this district between last year and this could not well be imagined. Most of our crops last year were below the average, owing to the prolonged drought. This year we have had an abundance of rain, and, but for a shortage of the usual hot, sunny days, our farm and garden crops would have been extraordinarily good. On the whole, however, we have had a good year. Four years ago—the first year of the school's existence—we were able to secure a large crop of hay, which has been of great service to us for feed for the stock during the winter months. This year, though we were unable to lay aside as large an area owing to the increase in our stock, we have secured four large stacks of hay—approximately the same quantity as that stacked four years back from an area about 15 acres greater in extent.

The Department of Agriculture has this year undertaken an extensive system of co-operative field tests with a view to ascertaining the most suitable varieties of cereal, root, and other crops for the various districts. Feeling that this would be of value to ourselves, as well as to the farmers of the surrounding district, it was decided to carry out on our property, under the conditions laid down by the Department of Agriculture, experiments with potatoes, mangolds, turnips, swedes, carrots, chou mollier, Buda kale, Soya beans, cow-peas, maize, and millet. It is unnecessary for me to give details as to the results of these experiments, seeing that the quantities of the various crops produced per acre will be published in the *Journal of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture*. Speaking generally, I may say that the experiments have been successful in every case with the exception of maize, millet, Soya beans, and cow-peas.

Apart from the experimental interest in the above tests, I would point out that the institution has benefited largely, inasmuch as we have, as the result of these experiments, secured an ample supply of winter feed for our stock. Our potato crop this year is undoubtedly the best produced, and we shall, in addition to supplying the wants of the institution, in all probability have a considerable quantity available for sale. Even though the past season was not suitable for fruitgrowing, I may mention that we have produced from our gardens and orchard sufficient preserved fruit and jam to carry us through till the next season's fruit is available. Many of the older boys are becoming very useful on the farm and in the garden, and two of the boys assist with the milking of the cows.

UN SOUNDNESS OF MIND, PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND EUGENICS.

All the intelligent and thoughtful members of any community who are anxious to ensure (1) the physical, mental, and moral progress of the race, (2) the elimination of all taint tending towards the deterioration of the race, will feel more than a passing interest in such important questions as the public health and education.

Dr. Clouston, in his recent work entitled "Unsoundness of Mind," states: "Mental unsoundness should be looked at not as an isolated fact in the history of mankind, but as one of the results of natural-law breaking—sometimes wilful, but more frequently through ignorance or want of the means of healthful living—on the part of former generations of mankind. If one-tenth of the thought and one-twentieth of the effort that has been wasted on political discussion and on unhealthful amusements were, for a few generations, given to health knowledge and the upbuilding of a "health conscience" among mankind we might make more progress. We need a genius and a few fiery enthusiasts to compel the attention of men and women to such questions." And again: "Soundness of mind is the master key to all human effort and progress."

If, then, we are more than casually interested in the progress—mental and moral—of the race, and if we would attempt to eliminate all that which tends towards the degeneration of the race, our first duty is to help to develop or build up a "health conscience" among mankind. If mental unsoundness is the result of "natural-law breaking" or "want of the means of healthful living" on the part of former generations—that which, through ignorance largely, we have had bequeathed to us—is there any reason why now, in the twentieth century and in this enlightened young country, this state of darkness, these sins of ignorance, should be handed on to future generations? Our first duty, then, clearly is to disseminate knowledge of the laws of health as widely as possible, and to point out the penalty Nature imposes on posterity when her laws are broken or unheeded. We establish mental hospitals for the insane, schools for mentally deficient, reformatory schools and prisons for the vicious and criminal imbecile, but to hope to stem the tide of national degeneracy we must go further back—we must begin with the child yet unborn, if possible, by spreading the knowledge to the parents that all forms of mental abnormality or mental unsoundness are not an isolated fact in the history of mankind, but one of the results of natural-law breaking.

A dissemination of such knowledge as will tend to lessen the chances of production or reproduction of unsoundness of mind in future generations, and the formation of a public opinion which will create a sense of responsibility in all matters pertaining to human parenthood, are questions of national importance, and demand the serious attention of not only eugenic education societies, but of our Public Health Departments. The definition of the new science of eugenics is "the study of agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations, either physically or mentally." All thoughtful people are, consciously or unconsciously, eugenicists. It has been proved over and over again that the most fruitful cause of mental degeneracy is heredity.

Mental degeneracy in all its forms—insanity, idiocy, imbecility, feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, criminality, inebriety, &c.—is closely allied to the question of our public health. If that is admitted, is it not a question as to whether it is not the business of the State to set up a Department where such work as is now undertaken by eugenic societies could be dealt with? The State rightly interests itself now in "nurture," but by far the most important question is that of "nature." The education of the normal portion of our people is of paramount importance, seeing that our theory of education is now founded on a system which aims to bring the whole organism to such perfection as it is capable of, to train the brain-power in accordance with its capacity so as to avoid the straining of any power or faculty. Our trend now is to conduct the whole of our educative processes in such a way as to conduce towards general organic health. The ultimate aim of our educational system is to produce a healthy, moral, intellectual, and strong race. This, of course, is as it should be, but at the same time we should consider it our first duty to set on foot a scientific movement—which in time will become of true social value—to scientifically inquire into the questions of production or reproduction of those blots on public health and well-being—insanity, idiocy, imbecility, feeble-mindedness, &c.—which are now treated by separate Departments, but which are clearly portions of one vast question of national importance.

EXTENSION OF THE PERIOD OF CONTROL.

The Education Amendment Act, 1910, which came into operation last year, provides for the compulsory education of afflicted children—i.e., blind, deaf, feeble-minded, and epileptic—between the ages of six and twenty-one years. Prior to the passing of this Act the education of such children was only compulsory up to the age of sixteen years. This of course meant that when a child of feeble mind reached the age of sixteen years he was free, despite his mental incapacity, to go forth into the world, where his presence would be a standing menace to the community, inasmuch as it would probably mean a perpetuation of the unfit. This extension of the period of legal control in the case of afflicted children up to the age of twenty-one years was clearly a step in the right direction, but had the framers of this Act hesitated at this point the gain to the community would have been but very small. The Act, however, wisely provides that when "a feeble-minded or epileptic child who is or is apparently twenty years and six months of age and is through mental or physical defect or otherwise not (in his own or the public interest) a proper person to be free from guidance and control in a special school," then an application may be made to a Magistrate for an order directing that the said child be kept under guidance and control for a further period. Such period of further detention may not exceed four years. If found to be necessary in the interests of the child and the community, further proceedings may be taken to again extend the period of control, and so on.

During the past year it has been found necessary to propose a period of further detention in five cases (four boys and one girl), who are pupils of this school and who have now reached the

age of twenty-one years. An order for a further period of control for four years was made in each case. Thus a beginning has been made by the Government of this young Dominion of New Zealand towards checking the multiplication of the unfit.

In the future all those children who by reason of their mental incapacity are unable to control their own lives, and are also incapable of contributing to future human progress, or are even incapable of standing the stress and strain of present-day conditions, will be carefully trained to become useful members of a colony where it is possible to brighten their lives and render them more or less efficient workers, and so make it possible for them to offer a contribution of service in return for their guardianship and maintenance.

The fundamental point in this scheme is *prevention*. We can feel justly proud in this young country that the Legislature has taken this bold step of ensuring the detention of all those feeble-minded children whose liberty would be a menace to the well-being of the race.

I have, &c.,

The Inspector-General of Schools, Wellington.

GEORGE BENSTEAD, Principal.

APPENDIX.

PARTICULARS OF DEATHS IN FOSTER-HOMES DURING 1911.

Locality.	Date.	Sex.	Age at Death.	Birth.	Time in Foster-home.		Cause of Death.	Remarks.
					Foster-home.	Under Control.		
Christchurch	1911. Feb.	2 M	Y. M. 0 2½	Illegitimate	Y. M. D. 0 0 13	Y. M. D. 0 0 13	Gastro-enteric toxæmia	Inquest.
	Mar.	6 M	0 7		0 1 8	0 6 8	Bronchitis and heart-failure	"
Wellington	April 20	M	0 1½	"	0 1 0	0 1 0	Marasmus ..	No inquest.
Christchurch	" 21	F	1 5	"	0 11 0	0 11 0	Bronchitis and pneumonia	"
Auckland	" 28	M	1 0½	"	0 11 28	0 11 28	Zymotic diarrhoea ..	"
Wanganui	May 8	M	1 4½	"	1 3 26	1 3 26	Pneumonia ..	"
Onehunga	June 11	M	0 9½	"	0 6 13	0 6 13	" ..	"
Christchurch	" 12	M	0 2½	"	0 1 10	0 1 10	" ..	Inquest.
Dunedin ..	" 26	M	0 1½	"	0 1 4	0 1 4	Acute bronchitis ..	No inquest.
Gisborne	" 27	F	0 1	"	0 0 21	0 0 21	Natural causes ..	Inquest.
Christchurch	Aug. 5	F	0 1½	"	0 0 22	0 0 22	Bronchitis ..	"
Dunedin ..	Oct. 2	M	0 1½	"	0 0 23	0 0 23	General wasting; marasmus	No inquest.
Invercargill	Dec. 28	F	6 0	"	5 7 28	5 7 28	Meningitis ..	"

PARTICULARS OF DEATHS IN EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONS DURING 1911.

Date of Death.	Sex.	Age at Death.	Birth.	Time in Institution.	Cause of Death.	Inquest or not.
----------------	------	---------------	--------	----------------------	-----------------	-----------------

St. Mary's Home, Otahuhu.

1911.	Y. M. D.	Y. M. D.				
April 26 ..	M.	0 8 16	Illegitimate	0 2 26	Gastro-enteritis; collapse ..	No inquest.

St. Vincent de Paul's Foundling Home, Auckland.

Feb. 2 ..	M.	0 5 0	Illegitimate	0 3 14	Acute enteritis ..	No inquest.
Sept. 20 ..	M.	0 5 0	Legitimate	0 0 10	Gastro-colitis; broncho-pneumonia ..	"
Oct. 7 ..	F.	0 3 0	Illegitimate	0 3 0	Marasmus; enteritis ..	"
Oct. 31 ..	M.	0 10 0	Legitimate	0 3 0	Pneumonia; heart-failure ..	"
Nov. 20 ..	M.	0 2 21	Illegitimate	0 2 14	Marasmus ..	"

"Door of Hope," Auckland.

May 27 ..	F.	0 0 25	Illegitimate	0 0 25	Premature birth; atelectasis pulmonum ..	No inquest.
June 6 ..	M.	0 3 0	"	0 3 0	Enlarged thymus gland ..	Inquest.
Oct. 8 ..	F.	0 7 0	Legitimate	0 0 1	Otitis media; cerebral thrombosis ..	"

PARTICULARS OF DEATHS IN EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONS DURING 1911—*continued.*

Date of Death.	Sex.	Age at Death.	Birth.	Time in Institution.	Cause of Death.	Inquest or not.
<i>Home of Compassion, Wellington.</i>						
1911.		Y. M. D.		Y. M. D.		
Jan. 3 ..	M.	0 3 0	Legitimate	0 2 0	Gastro-enteritis; exhaustion ..	No inquest.
" 26 ..	M.	2 0 0	Illegitimate	2 0 0	General tuberculosis; exhaustion ..	"
" 29 ..	M.	0 3 0	Legitimate	0 1 0	Chronic gastro-enteritis ..	"
" 31 ..	M.	2 0 0	Illegitimate	1 0 0	Chronic gastro-enteritis; exhaustion ..	"
Feb. 8 ..	M.	0 2 0	"	0 1 0	Diarrhœa; wasting ..	"
" 12 ..	M.	0 11 0	"	0 2 0	Premature birth; malnutrition ..	"
Mar. 5 ..	F.	0 2 0	"	0 1 0	Dermatitis exfoliativa (Rubra); marasmus ..	"
" 17 ..	M.	0 11 0	Legitimate	0 0 1	Gastro-enteritis ..	"
" 29 ..	F.	0 2 0	Illegitimate	0 1 14	Congenital heart-disease; wasting ..	"
April 24 ..	M.	0 1 14	"	0 0 14	Gastro-enteritis; general tuberculosis ..	"
May 1 ..	F.	2 0 0	Legitimate	1 6 0	Tubercular meningitis ..	"
" 1 ..	F.	1 0 0	Illegitimate	0 2 0	Tubercular meningitis; wasting ..	"
" 2 ..	F.	0 9 0	"	0 2 0	Tuberculosis; tubercular meningitis ..	"
" 13 ..	M.	0 2 0	Legitimate	0 0 14	Tuberculosis; tubercular meningitis ..	"
" 15 ..	F.	0 5 0	Illegitimate	0 1 14	Congenital heart disease; hæmatemesis ..	"
" 23 ..	F.	0 1 21	"	0 0 19	Tuberculosis; tubercular meningitis ..	"
June 18 ..	M.	0 8 0	"	0 2 0	Phthisis; heart-failure ..	"
July 1 ..	M.	0 5 0	"	0 4 0	Bronchial pneumonia ..	"
" 3 ..	M.	0 4 0	Legitimate	0 2 0	Measles ..	"
" 18 ..	F.	0 6 0	"	0 3 0	Measles; congenital idiocy ..	"
" 20 ..	M.	0 3 0	Illegitimate	0 2 14	Marasmus ..	"
Oct. 16 ..	F.	0 0 8	"	0 0 6	" ..	"
<i>St. Mary's Orphanage, Nelson.</i>						
Mar. 22 ..	M.	0 1 25	Legitimate	0 0 11	Marasmus; exhaustion ..	No inquest.
July 24 ..	M.	4 1 0	"	2 7 9	Bronchitis; syncope ..	"
" 29 ..	M.	3 0 13	"	0 6 12	Broncho-pneumonia; syncope ..	"
Aug. 4 ..	M.	0 10 14	Illegitimate	0 9 6	Convulsions; coma ..	"
<i>Nazareth House, Christchurch.</i>						
Feb. 16 ..	F.	3 1 0	Legitimate	0 10 0	Tubercular meningitis; coma ..	No inquest.
<i>Salvation Army Maternity Home, Dunedin.</i>						
Oct. 2 ..	M.	0 1 12	Illegitimate	0 1 12	Marasmus ..	No inquest.
" 3 ..	F.	0 0 12	"	0 0 12	Prematurity, asthenia ..	"
<i>Karitane Home, Dunedin.</i>						
Feb. 2 ..	M.	0 0 29	Legitimate	0 0 4	Gastro-stenosis; starvation ..	No inquest.
" 28 ..	M.	0 1 12	Illegitimate	0 1 0	Prematurity; malnutrition ..	"
Mar. 12 ..	M.	0 0 18	Legitimate	0 0 18	Acute summer diarrhœa; vomiting ..	"
May 6 ..	M.	0 1 0	Illegitimate	0 0 17	Prematurity; malnutrition ..	"
" 17 ..	F.	0 5 0	Legitimate	0 5 0	Meningitis ..	"
Nov. 13 ..	M.	0 1 5	"	0 0 3	Congenital heart-disease; collapse ..	"
<i>St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin.</i>						
Feb. 20 ..	F.	2 6 0	Illegitimate	1 9 0	Tubercular meningitis ..	No inquest.
April 15 ..	F.	0 2 6	"	0 1 5	Gastro-enteritis; exhaustion ..	"
<i>Victoria Memorial Home, Invercargill.</i>						
Nov. 12 ..	M.	0 4 7	Illegitimate	0 4 0	Congenital cardiac disease ..	No inquest.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (3,300 copies), £26.

By Authority JOHN LACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1912.

Price 9d.]

