

In the institutions there were 430 at the end of the year, making in all a total of 1,204 infants being dealt with under the Act on the 31st December, 1912—an increase of 70 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 1912.

	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	73	87	151	110	108	79	59	40	707
Placed in licensed homes during the year	261	50	80	46	25	19	22	..	503
Adopted with premium (exclusive of those already on the books)	14	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	18
Total	348	139	232	156	133	98	82	40	1,228

<i>Withdrawn from and remaining on the Books.</i>									
Removed from foster-homes by parents or guardians	60	48	76	51	32	28	21	9	325
Deaths	7	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	12
Adoptions from licensed homes without premiums	3	1	5	2	1	4	1	..	17
In homes to which exemption was granted	2	3	2	4	..	..	..	..	11
Brought under operation of the Industrial Schools Act	1	6	6	4	1	..	..	1	19
Written off the books for various causes	2	6	12	6	3	3	2	36	70
On the books at 31st December, 1912	80	95	161	131	95	87	75	50	774
Total	155	162	263	199	132	122	99	96	1,228

FOSTER-HOMES.

The 774 infants in foster-homes at the end of the year were distributed as follows :—

In 428 homes each having one	428
In 102 „ two	204
In 22 „ three	66
In 11 „ four	44
In 4 „ five	20
In 2 „ six	12
569	774

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

The total number of licensed homes was 780, so that at the end of the year there were 211 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 :—

4 at the rate of 2s. 6d. per week.	485	at the rate of 10s. per week.
13 „ 5s. „	5	11s. „
6 „ 6s. „	25	12s. „
45 „ 7s. „	28	12s. 6d. „
77 „ 7s. 6d. „	1	14s. „
52 „ 8s. „	10	15s. „
11 „ 8s. 6d. „	1	20s. „
10 at the rate of 9s. „	1	21s. „