

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 12 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 four years in which a record of the deaths has been kept :—

1909	..	..	..	66 deaths out of 749 infants = 8.81 per cent.
1910	..	..	..	63 " 915 " = 6.08 "
1911	..	..	..	47 " 899 " = 5.23 "
1912	..	..	..	36 " 911 " = 3.95 "

Particulars of the deaths in these institutions during 1912 are given in the appendix.

ADOPTIONS.

During the year 232 orders of adoption were made, and two orders cancelling adoption orders. Thirty-seven of the adoption orders provided for premiums, and 195 were without monetary consideration. The following shows the ages of the adopted children :—

						With Premium.	Without Premium.
Under 6 months	..	..	..	..	..	19	57
Between 6 and 12 months.	..	..	..	..	..	9	14
" 1 " 2 years	..	..	..	..	..	5	34
" 2 " 3 "	..	..	..	..	..	2	15
" 3 " 4 "	..	..	..	..	..	1	20
" 4 " 5 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
" 5 " 6 "	..	..	..	..	..	1	5
" 6 " 7 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
" 7 " 8 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
" 8 " 9 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
" 9 " 10 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
" 10 " 11 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
" 11 " 12 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
" 12 " 13 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
" 13 " 14 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
" 14 " 15 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
						37	195

The adopting persons were,—

Husband and wife jointly	..	..	..	..	..	..	220
Husband alone	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wife alone	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Widow	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Bachelor	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

The amount of the premiums ranged from £5 to £100.

ILLEGITIMACY.

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

Provincial Districts.						Illegitimate Births registered during 1912.	Number of Illegiti- mate Children aged 12 Months or less brought under the Act during 1912.
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	360	41
Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	31	76
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	..	52	7
Wellington	..	..	..	..	..	330	74
Marlborough	..	..	..	..	..	49	..
Nelson	..	..	..	..	..	28	8
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	15	1
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	186	60
Otago	..	..	..	..	..	166	52
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	1,177	249
Totals for 1911	..	..	..	..	..	1,078	223

During the year 137 registrations were effected under the Legitimation Act.

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