

No. 4.—INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION STATISTICS.

PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO AND REMOVED FROM LICENSED FOSTER-HOMES DURING 1916.

	Under 6 Months of Age.	Between 6 Months and 1 Year of Age.	Between 1 and 2 Years of Age.	Between 2 and 3 Years of Age.	Between 3 and 4 Years of Age.	Between 4 and 5 Years of Age.	Between 5 and 6 Years of Age.	Over 6 Years of Age.	Totals.
Placed in licensed homes during the year	217	91	78	45	38	18	22	2	511
Withdrawn from homes—									
Removed by parents or guardians	33	48	90	60	43	18	26	8	326
Deaths	7	3	1	1	..	..	1	..	13
Adoptions without premiums	3	8	6	3	5	..	1	..	26
In homes to which exemption was granted	..	..	3	1	..	1	..	..	5
Brought under the operation of the Industrial Schools Act	2	4	9	3	3	..	..	..	21
Written off the books for various causes	..	6	18	11	8	8	8	55	114
Totals	45	69	127	79	59	27	36	63	505
On the books at 31st December, 1916	95	77	173	157	113	96	69	64	844

FOSTER-HOMES.

The 844 infants in foster-homes at the end of the year were distributed as follows :—

In 529 homes each having one	529
In 90 " two	180
In 27 " three	81
In 9 " four	36
In 1 " five	5
In 1 " six	6
In 1 " seven	7
658	844

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

The total number of licensed homes was 1,054, so that at the end of the year there were 396 licensed homes in which for the time being 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 :—

1 at the rate of 2s. 6d. per week.	3 at the rate of 10s. 6d. per week.
15 " 5s. "	8 " 11s. "
5 " 6s. "	34 " 12s. "
10 " 7s. "	67 " 12s. 6d. "
58 " 7s. 6d. "	1 " 13s. 6d. "
1 " 7s. 7d. "	2 " 14s. "
47 " 8s. "	21 " 15s. "
4 " 8s. 6d. "	1 " 17s. "
18 " 9s. "	2 " 17s. 6d. "
539 " 10s. "	4 " 20s. "

NOTE.—Three children were being maintained without payment, but for various reasons their names are retained on the books.

Generally, the relatives of the infants provide clothing and medical attendance in addition.

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

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Under 7s.	24	29	22	31
7s. and under 10s.	161	163	153	128
10s.	482	596	566	539
Over 10s.	91	120	137	143