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 exemptions provide for inspection, and for removal of the infants only with due formality.

		19		nissions, 1916.		Deaths.			On the Books at 31st December,1916.		
Name of Institution.	E Under 6 Months of Age.	© Between 6 and 12 ✓ Months of Age	Total—All Ages (including Cols. (1) and (2)).	To Under 6 Months of Age.	© Between 6 and 12 ✓ Months of Age.	Fotal—All Ages (including Cols. (4) and (5).	Under 6 Months of Age.	® Between 6 and 12 Months of Age.	Total—All Ages (including Cols. (7) and (8)).		
Mission House of the Order of the Good Shepher The Methodist Orphanage, Mount Albert, Auckl The Orphan Home, Papatoetoe, Auckland St. Mary's Orphanage, Epsom, Auckland St. Vincent's Home of Compassion, Epsom, Auckland St. Joseph's Orphanage, Takapuna, Auckland Children's Home, Ponsonby, Auckland Children's Home, Ponsonby, Auckland Leslie Presbyterian Orphanage, Remuera, Auckl St. Mary's Home, Otahuhu, Auckland Salvation Army Home, Russell Salvation Army Samaritan Home, Gisborne Cook County Women's Guild Crèche, Gisborne Salvation Army Bethany Home, Napier Wanganui Orphanage, Wanganui Children's Home, Palmerston North Salvation Army Children's Home, Wellington The Levin Memorial Home, Wellington	and	and	38 	··· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ··	60 13 9 8 13 5 11 3 39 7 17 21 5 3 6			 1 4 	18	6	36 29 14 26 28 12 6 42 5 3 10 2
Presbyterian Orphanage, Wellington Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington St. Joseph's Orphanage, Upper Hutt, Wellington St. Mary's Orphanage, Nelson Salvation Army Maternity Home, Christchurch Sacred Heart Orphanage, Mount Magdala, Christ Nazareth House, Christchurch Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home, Pa	tchurch	Christ-	9 1 1 	9 1 1 	5 72 24 9 1 11 11 4		•••	 2 	4 	3 1 	6 71 30 14 1 21 36 6
church Presbyterian Orphanage, Papanui, Christchurch St. Saviour's Home, Shirley, Christchurch Children's Convalescent Cottage, New Brighton Children's Crèche, Timaru St. Mary's Orphanage, Mornington, Dunedin Salvation Army Home, Bishopscourt, Dunedin St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedi Glendining Home, Anderson's Bay, Dunedin Salvation Army Home, Middlemarch Victoria Memorial Home, Invercargill Totals for 1916	••		1	1	7 15 41 7 1 4 15 6			 1 			7 21 1 15 5 11 9
Totals for 1915	••		93	28	458	7	1	11	26	22	486

DEATHS IN FOSTER-HOMES.

Of the 1,250 infants that were at one time or another on the books as being in foster-homes during 1915, 17 died. Of these, 9 died in the foster-homes and 8 in hospitals or nursing-homes to which they had been removed for treatment, so that the deaths in foster-homes represented 0.72 per cent. of the total number dealt with. Nine of the 14 were under the age of twelve months, and 13 were of illegitimate birth.

The following is a statement of the number of deaths during the time that the infant-life-protection system has been in the Department's charge:—

1908	 	 	$26 \ \epsilon$	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	,,
1912	 	 	12	,,	1,228	,,	= 0.98	,,
1913	 	 	13	,,	1,330	,,	= 0.98	,,
1914	 	 	20	,,	1,423	,,	= 1.40	,,
1915	 	 	14	,,	1,440		= 0.98	,,
1916	 	 	17	,,	1.250		= 1.36	

This continued low death-rate reflects great credit on the district agents, their assistants, the local visitors, and the foster-parents. Generally speaking, the Department has reason to be well satisfied with the homes in which these infants are placed.