

Since the end of the financial year substantial additional savings, amounting to approximately £3,500, have been effected by the further reduction of the numbers in residence at two of the industrial schools.

Number of Children belonging to Industrial Schools.

The total roll number of children belonging to industrial schools and receiving-homes at the 31st December, 1917, was 3,252. Of these, 1,934 were boys and 1,318 girls.

The children are classified as follows:—

In residence—						
In Government industrial schools	..	..	..	..	..	365
In private industrial schools	..	..	..	..	..	334
Total	..	..	..	..	..	699
Boarded out—						
From Government schools (including receiving-homes)	..	..	..	..	..	1,210
From private industrial schools	..	..	..	..	..	9
Total	..	..	..	..	..	1,219
Placed out in situations	..	..	..	..	..	646
With friends on probation	..	..	..	..	..	390
In private institutions, hospitals, absent without leave, in prison, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	298
Grand total	..	..	..	..	..	3,252

Expenditure on Industrial Schools and Probation System.

The net expenditure for the last financial year, including expenditure under the probation system but exclusive of capital charges for additional buildings, works, &c., was £42,580, showing an increase of £1,276 on that of the preceding year. The number maintained at the end of the year was 2,054. It should be mentioned, however, that the increase during the year of the rate of payment for boarded-out children from 8s. to 10s. a week, necessitated by the increased cost of living, involved an expenditure of £5,000 in excess of the previous year's figures.

The contributions from parents under orders of Court, agreements, &c., amounted to £14,359, being at the rate of £7 per head of those maintained. This is an increase of £2 7s. per head over the rate of the preceding year.

The following figures show the expenditure in connection with Government and private industrial schools during the year:—

EXPENDITURE ON GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS, 1917-18.							£
Salaries	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,687
General maintenance	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,483
Travelling-expenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,752
Furnishings, repairs to buildings, small works	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,250
New buildings and works	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,999
Payments to foster-parents	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,796
Gross cost	..	..	..	..	..	..	75,967
Recoveries from parents and others	..	..	..	..	..	£25,266	
Sales, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,603
						26,869	
Earnings of past inmates paid to Public Account	..	..	..	..	..	5,934	
							32,803
Net cost of institutions	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,164
Salaries, &c., of visiting and probation officers and sundries	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,415
							£45,579
EXPENDITURE ON PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.							
Gross cost	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,976
Recoveries	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,835
Net cost	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,141