

general rule this is carried out ; but the Department arranges a further safeguard by obtaining confidential reports every quarter from the headmasters or class-teachers of the schools which the children attend. Wherever possible arrangements are also made for local honorary Lady Visitors to visit the foster-homes monthly, or oftener if necessary, and generally to keep a friendly eye on the children concerned.

For certain types of dependent children there is no question that the boarding-out system is superior to all other systems of dealing with them. The fact that under the boarding-out system children have the opportunity of growing up as ordinary members of the community under decent conditions is in itself sufficient to commend the system apart from any other consideration in its favour.

Associated with boarding out, it is essential that there should be cottage homes where a preliminary training in correct habits and discipline may be carried out. This is provided for in the receiving-homes for children and older girls, and in probation homes for boys. As these homes are of limited capacity, the period for which any one child is kept in residence is necessarily limited, but further provision is made at the Boys' Training-farm, Weraroa, and at the Caversham Industrial School for the accommodation for periods up to twelve months (or longer if necessary) of boys and girls respectively who after a trial at board fail to do well.

JUVENILE PROBATION SYSTEM.

The results obtained during the past five years have proved beyond doubt the efficacy of probation under proper supervision as a means of reforming the large number of boys and youths who, on account of the lack of proper home conditions, would, but for the intervention of the Department, drift into a career of crime and general lawlessness. Difficulty has been experienced, however, in obtaining the services of capable Probation Officers. To be successful as a Probation Officer a man must have exceptional qualifications: he must possess initiative, be sympathetic though firm, and must at all times be prepared to devote the whole of his time to his work. For the man who carries out his duty properly there can be no fixed hours—he must be prepared to respond at all times to any call for assistance or advice. Probably the most important part of a Probation Officer's work lies in home-visiting, and in many cases he is called upon to insist on reforms on the part of the parents and in the home conditions as a necessary aid in the reformation of the boy.

The numbers dealt with by the Juvenile Probation Officers in the main centres during last year are shown in the following table:—

Children dealt with by the Courts in the various Districts in the Year 1921.

	Not under Proper Control (Complaint by Police).	Wilful Damage.	In Possession of Firearms.	Theft.	Destitute.	Breach of By-laws.	Assault.	Begging.	False Pretences.	Breaking and Entering.	Absconding.	Alleged Indecent Assault.	Smoking.	Mischief.	Disreputable Associations.	Throwing Stones.	Uncontrollable.
North Auckland ..	5	5	..	15	5	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
Auckland ..	44	20	1	92	44	22	9	3	..	..	8	..	..	12	7	11	4
South Auckland ..	..	9	..	25	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wanganui ..	1	6	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay ..	6	..	..	25	4	..	1	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Palmerston North ..	1	..	..	15	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wellington ..	5	3	1	113	32	11	2	16	4	1	1	1	3	13	6	7	2
Nelson ..	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Coast ..	..	6	..	7	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North Canterbury ..	43	4	1	65	3	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
South Canterbury ..	..	..	..	25	18	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	..
Otago ..	29	3	2	65	18	2	5	..	2	..	1	..	..	14	1	2	1
Southland ..	3	3	2	19	14	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	140	59	7	485	140	47	21	36	9	1	12	1	3	43	18	26	11

	Converting to own Use.	Obscene Language.	Letting off Fireworks.	Receiving.	Breach of Arms Act.	Carnal Knowledge.	Breach of Probation.	Forgery.	Cruelty to Animals.	Arson.	Indecency.	False Declaration.	Trespass.	Disorderly Conduct.	Mental Case.	Preventive.	Totals.
North Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Auckland ..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	2	..	2	..	1	13	2	1	1	303
South Auckland ..	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	46
Wanganui ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Hawke's Bay ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Palmerston North ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Wellington ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
West Coast ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
North Canterbury ..	..	..	4	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139
South Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Otago ..	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	152
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Totals ..	14	2	6	4	3	3	3	3	1	4	1	1	13	2	1	1	1,121