

Under the provisions of the Industrial Schools Act, 1909, power is given for the detention beyond the age of twenty-one years of any inmate who, upon application being made to a Magistrate by the Manager of the school at the direction of the Minister of Education, is found to be morally degenerate or otherwise not (in the public interest) a fit person to be free from control. In the nine years since this Act came into operation there have been eighty-eight orders issued extending the period of control, sixty-three of the inmates concerned being girls. The Act provides for extension for four years, and gives power to the Court on similar procedure to renew the order from time to time for a period of four years. It is expected that the number of those over whom authority beyond twenty-one years will be needed will always be small in proportion to the whole number of inmates; but the value of such an enactment in respect of the remainder who have to be detained is obvious, both in their own interests and in that of the community at large.

No. 5.—INFANT-LIFE-PROTECTION STATISTICS.

PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO AND REMOVED FROM LICENSED FOSTER-HOMES DURING 1921.

	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.
On the books at 31st December, 1920	75	105	109	136	116	93	69	94	797
Placed in licensed homes during the year	160	75	108	60	49	39	21	9	521
Totals	235	180	217	196	165	132	90	103	1,318
Withdrawn from homes—									
Removed by parents or guardians	27	45	78	50	49	46	19	29	343
Deaths	2	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	6
Adoptions without premiums	5	8	11	12	6	1	3	2	48
In homes to which exemption was granted	..	1	3	1	..	1	1	..	7
Brought under the operation of the Industrial Schools Act	1	6	9	8	5	5	1	4	39
Written off the books for various causes	6	13	34	24	13	16	11	52	169
Total withdrawals	41	74	136	96	74	69	35	87	612
On the books at 31st December, 1921	65	67	168	95	98	94	50	69	706

RATES OF PAYMENTS BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

An account of the rates paid is given in the following statement :—

1 at the rate of 5s. per week.	26 at the rate of 17s. 6d. per week.
1 " 6s. "	96 " 20s. "
5 " 7s. 6d. "	3 " 21s. "
5 " 8s. "	1 " 22s. 6d. "
1 " 9s. "	11 " 25s. "
133 " 10s. "	10 " 30s. "
1 " 10s. 6d. "	1 " 42s. "
1 " 10s. 10d. "	6 adopted with premium (10s. per week).
1 " 11s. "	1 " (12s. 6d. "
26 " 12s. "	29 " (15s. "
126 " 12s. 6d. "	1 " (23s. "
2 " 13s. "	1 " (40s. "
3 " 14s. "	1 " (60s. "
196 " 15s. "	13 adopted without premium, but who are still under supervision.
1 " 15s. 6d. "	
2 " 16s. "	
1 " 17s. "	

The following is a comparison of the rates paid during the last five years :—

	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Under 7s. per week ..	19	11	7	2	2
7s. and under 10s. per week	75	52	53	22	11
10s. per week ..	532	502	368	240	133
Over 10s. per week ..	215	294	376	531	508