

Classified according to age at the time of admission the numbers are as follows: Under six months, 49; over six months and under one year, 23; from one to five years, 83; from five to ten years, 100; from ten to fourteen years, 94; and over fourteen years, 61.

*Numbers under Control.*

At the end of the year there were 3,798 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate headings below), and of these 153 were in residence at Government receiving-homes, probation homes, training-farms, and training institutions, and 153 in private industrial schools; 1,969 children were boarded out in foster-homes, 780 were in situations, and 464 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various homes or institutions. Of the boarded-out children 48 are over the age of fourteen years and are still attending primary schools, 30 are receiving higher education (5 technical and 25 secondary), and a number are apprentices partly maintained by the State.

The children over school age in employment number 610 males and 378 females (included in the total of 3,798). Of the males 468 are farm workers (124 skilled in dairy-work and cheesemaking and 344 competent to milk and carry out general farm-work), 49 are apprentices, and 93 others are employed in various trades. Of the girls there are 333 domestic workers, 9 apprentices, 23 factory employees, and 13 engaged in various employments such as shop-assistants, nurses, dressmakers, typists, &c.

*Juvenile Probation System.*

The functions of Juvenile Probation Officers are to assist the Courts in ascertaining the full facts regarding parents, conditions of homes, and environment of all children brought under the notice of the police, to supervise and befriend any juveniles placed on probation by the various Magistrates, and to undertake, on the application of the parents, the supervision of any children who are inclined to become uncontrollable. In addition, all male inmates of industrial schools or training-farms placed in situations, or with relatives or friends, are supervised by the Juvenile Probation Officers. There were 1,080 cases dealt with by the Courts in the principal centres of population throughout the year, and of these only 338 were actually admitted to receiving-homes or training institutions, 265 were placed on probation and supervised in their own homes, and the remainder were dealt with generally in a summary manner not calling for supervision by Probation Officers.

*Infant-life Protection and Adoption of Children.*

At the end of the year there were 742 children being maintained in 601 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 497 homes each had one child, 72 had two children each, and 27 homes had three each. The payments made by parents or guardians for the maintenance of each child ranged from 5s. to £3 a week, but the average rate of payment was approximately 14s. 6d. a week.

*Adoptions.*

During the year 349 children were adopted, and in 44 of these cases premiums were received by the Department's agents and paid out at the rate of 15s. a week for each child concerned. Of the total number of children adopted, 76 were under the age of six months, 34 between the age of six and twelve months, and 144 between the age of one and six years.

CARE AND TRAINING OF AFFLICTED CHILDREN.

*School for the Deaf, Sumner.*

The pupils under instruction during the year numbered 135, and of these 38 were day pupils and 97 boarders.

In 1920 special day classes for partially deaf children and for stammerers were established in Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin, and have been continued with highly successful results. About 240 children attended the classes last year. Provision has also been made in these centres and in Christchurch for night classes for the instruction of the adult deaf, 97 persons afflicted in this manner attending the classes in 1922.