

1926.
NEW ZEALAND.

EDUCATION : CHILD WELFARE, STATE CARE OF CHILDREN, SPECIAL SCHOOLS, AND INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

[In continuation of E.-4, 1925.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency

No. 1.—EXTRACT FROM THE FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

CHILD WELFARE.

During last session the Child Welfare Act was passed by the Legislature. The Act provides for the creation of a special branch of the Education Department to be known as the Child Welfare Branch, and is designed to make better provision with respect to the maintenance, care, and control of children who are specially under the protection of the State, and to provide generally for the protection and training of indigent, neglected, or delinquent children.

An important section of the Act provides for the establishment of Children's Courts, to be presided over by Stipendiary Magistrates or Justices specially authorized to exercise jurisdiction in these Courts. Provision is made for the appointment of honorary associates of either sex, whose function it will be to consider all the facts concerning children brought before the Courts and to advise the presiding Magistrate or Justice as to what action should be taken. The appointment of Child Welfare Officers for the investigation of all cases coming before the Courts has also been provided for. The functions of such officers will be carried out mainly by the regular officers already employed by the Department, but in outlying districts it is hoped to utilize the services of voluntary social service agents for this important work.

The principle of dealing with children in the privacy of the Magistrate's room has been followed for many years past throughout the Dominion, and the Child Welfare Act was designed to give legality to such a practice. In addition, the Act gives very wide discretionary powers to the Magistrates of these special Courts in dealing with children. The ordinary procedure of requiring the child to plead, of taking evidence on oath, and, in fact, of hearing the particular charge may be dispensed with altogether. Wherever practicable the Children's Court is to be held in premises apart from the ordinary Police Court, and no newspaper is permitted to publish either the names of children appearing before these Courts or any particulars that are likely to identify the child.

Another important provision contained in the Act authorizes the Children's Court to exercise jurisdiction over any young person under eighteen years of age charged with any offence. Such cases would be referred, of course, by a Stipendiary Magistrate or Judge of the Supreme Court.

In order to provide for the greater protection of infants of unmarried mothers and for the assistance and guidance of the mothers themselves, there is provision for Child Welfare Officers, on being notified of such births, to investigate each case and to render such assistance as is required, either in placing the child in a suitable foster-home or in advising the mother in the matter of affiliation proceedings, or in assisting her in obtaining employment, &c.

In addition to the work in connection with the maintenance and education of destitute, neglected, and delinquent children committed by the Courts, the Child Welfare Branch (1) supervises all infants and young children under the age of six years who are living apart from their parents; (2) makes inquiry through its field officers, for the information of Magistrates, of all applications for the adoption of children and for widows pensions; (3) supervises all children and young persons placed under the field officers by order of the Court; and (4) provides for the maintenance, education, and training of all afflicted children who are deaf, blind, feeble-minded, or have speech-defects.

The total number of children under the supervision of the State in 1925-26 was 5,352, classed under the following headings:—

Boarded out, industrial schools, receiving-homes, &c.	..	..	..	3,859
Juvenile probation	..	..	..	323
Infant-life protection	..	..	..	771
Deaf children	..	..	..	116
Feeble-minded children	..	..	..	283
Total	..	..	..	5,352

The number of children committed to the care of the State during the year ending 31st March, 1926, was 440, classified according to reason for committal, as follows: Destitution, 160; vagrancy, 8; associating with disreputable persons, 9; not under proper control, 179; uncontrollable (complaint by parents), 6; transferred from gaol, 4; accused or guilty of punishable offences, 72; section 47 of the Infants Act, 2; and, in addition, 63 were admitted by private arrangement.

Classified according to age at the time of admission the numbers are as follows: Under six months, 42; over six months and under one year, 18; from one to five years, 100; from five to ten years, 100; from ten to fourteen years, 109; and over fourteen years, 71.

NUMBERS UNDER CONTROL.

At the end of the year there were 3,859 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate headings below), and of these 214 were in residence at Government receiving-homes, probation homes, training-farms, and training institutions, and 76 in private industrial schools; 1,819 children were boarded out in foster-homes, 838 were in situations, and 541 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various homes or institutions.

Of the boarded-out children 95 are over the age of fourteen years and are still attending primary schools, 45 are receiving higher education (30 technical and 15 secondary), and a number are apprentices partly maintained by the State.

The children over school age in employment number 751 males and 342 females (included in the total of 3,859). Of the males 517 are farm workers, 73 are apprentices, and 161 others are employed in various trades. Of the girls there are 288 domestic workers, 37 factory employees, and 17 engaged in various employments such as shop-assistants, nurses, dressmakers, typists, &c.

SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION BY CHILD WELFARE OFFICERS.

The Child Welfare Act authorizes Children's Courts to place children under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers in cases where it appears undesirable or unnecessary to remove them from their own homes, and generally in all cases where

friendly contact with the parents as well as the children is sufficient to bring about a readjustment of the home conditions or the correction of incipient anti-social traits in the children. In this important work the Department has had valuable assistance from certain of the private social service organizations, notably the Y.M.C.A. through its Big Brother movement commenced in Auckland a few years ago, and now extended to most of the centres of population throughout the Dominion.

The number of cases dealt with by the Courts last year was 1,316, and of these 323 were placed under supervision and dealt with as indicated in the foregoing paragraph.

The number actually admitted to institutions, such as receiving homes, special schools, training-farm, &c., was 423, but all these, with the exception of 85 who required long periods of training or were regarded as unfit for placing-out, were suitably provided for in the community before the close of the year. The remainder of the children were dealt with in a summary manner not calling for supervision by a Child Welfare Officer.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION AND ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

At the end of the year there were 771 children being maintained in 630 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 518 homes each had one child, 88 had two children each, 19 homes had three each, and 5 homes had four each. The payments by relatives for the maintenance of each child ranged from 5s. to £1 10s. a week, the average rate of payment being approximately 15s. 8d. a week.

ADOPTIONS.

During the year 382 children were adopted, and in 38 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, 86 were under the age of six months, 41 between the age of six and twelve months, and 161 between the age of one and six years.

CARE AND TRAINING OF AFFLICTED CHILDREN.

Deaf Children, Children with Defective Speech, and Mentally Backward Children.

The pupils under instruction at the School for the Deaf, Sumner, during the year numbered 136 and of these 14 were day pupils and 122 boarders.

The special day classes in Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin for partially deaf children and for children with speech defects were continued with highly successful results. Provision has also been made in these centres and in Christchurch for night classes for the instruction of the adult deaf.

Special Schools for the Feeble-minded.

There are two such special schools—one at Richmond (near Nelson) for girls, and one at Otekaike (near Oamaru) for boys. The number of girls in residence at Richmond at the end of the year was 76 and the number of boys at Otekaike 196. These institutions are for children who are educable to a certain degree, but not at the ordinary public school.

No. 2.—CHILD WELFARE BRANCH.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the work of the Child Welfare Branch for last year :—

The Child Welfare Act passed last year removes much of the legal machinery enacted some forty-three years ago which through the effluxion of time had been found inadequate for dealing with the various classes of children who require either protection or correction or maintenance at the hands of the State. Under the Industrial Schools Act, now repealed, it was necessary for a child to be committed to an industrial school before the Department could assume control or assist in any way. Now the Child Welfare Act provides simpler methods for accomplishing this object, and, in addition, has special clauses that legalize the informal system of probation or supervision—a system that has grown up under the working of the juvenile probation system. Previously there was no provision for the State to assume control of young persons over sixteen years of age except by transfer from gaol to an industrial school. This, of course, is entirely a wrong procedure, which has been rectified in the new Act by the provision whereby any young person charged with an offence against the law may be referred to the Children's Court to be dealt with as in the case of a child under sixteen years of age.

As stated in the report of the Minister, the most important provision in the Child Welfare Act is for the establishment of Children's Courts, presided over by Special Magistrates or Justices authorized to exercise jurisdiction in these Courts. The personnel of the Courts may include honorary associates of either sex whose function it would be to act as the children's friend and generally to advise the presiding Magistrates. In addition, there is provision for the appointment of Child Welfare Officers who will investigate each case from a social welfare standpoint, and will furnish the Court with particulars as to family history, conduct, progress at school, degree of mentality, &c.

As a rule the Child Welfare Officers will be identical with the regular field officers of the Branch, but in outlying towns and in smaller centres it is proposed to utilize the services of local voluntary social-service workers. By this means it is hoped to enlist the sympathies and services of local organizations with the object of dealing with the various classes of children in their own districts and by private effort directed from the nearest child-welfare centre.

The Child Welfare Officers are now authorized to lay informations and to bring children before the Courts. Formerly the police were the only officers authorized to perform this important duty.

For some years past the Department has been much concerned at the high death-rate among illegitimate infants, in comparison with infants born in wedlock. The provision in the Child Welfare Act for all such cases to be inquired into by Child Welfare Officers and to be supervised where necessary is a step in the right direction, although it is felt by the majority of the field officers that there should be provision for earlier registration. The experience during this year should indicate whether the existing provision is sufficiently far-reaching or not.

Provision is made in the new Act for regulations governing the employment of children in street trading and places of public entertainment, and also regulating and restricting the attendance of children at places of entertainment.

It is regretted that special provision was not made in the Act for the inspection of private institutions for children and for the co-ordination of all private social-service effort with that of the Child Welfare Branch of the Department. At present there is much overlapping, and not only wasted energy, but in many cases assistance that is given direct with the best of intentions is probably not appreciated and would have produced better results if given in another manner. I think it may be freely admitted that the denominational organizations engaged in social-service work are sincere in their desire to do what is best for the children under their charge and for that section of the community that requires assistance, but probably very few of the church social-workers have had any former experience or training in constructive social-service work. There is very great need for co-ordination and for the adoption of modern standards in providing for the housing, feeding, classification, and training of children who through misfortune or improvidence on the part of their parents are dependent upon charitable organizations for subsistence.

The Branch carries out the following phases of social-welfare work :—

- (1.) Maintenance, supervision, and training of all destitute, dependent, and delinquent children committed to the care of the State.
- (2.) Supervision of children and juvenile offenders placed on probation by the Courts.
- (3.) Supervision of all infants under six years of age maintained for payment apart from their parents or guardians.
- (4.) Supervision of children in cases where widows' pensions are paid by the State.
- (5.) Supervision of all illegitimate births, with provision for assisting mother and child where necessary.
- (6.) Education and training of afflicted children over the age of six years. The definition, "afflicted" includes deaf, blind, or improvable feeble-minded children, and children partially deaf or suffering from defective speech, and stammers.

The following figures show the number of children dealt with under the foregoing headings Nos. (1), (2), (3), and (6) :—

Special schools and receiving-homes	3,859
Under supervision of Child Welfare Officers	323
Infants supervised in licensed foster-homes	771
Afflicted children—	
Deaf	116
Feeble-minded	283
	<hr/> 5,352

BOARDING-OUT SYSTEM.

The majority of the children committed to the care of the State are not detained in institutions, but are boarded out in foster-homes situated mainly in suburban areas and in districts in close proximity to the smaller centres of population. At the end of the year there were 1,819 children boarded out—1,776 from Government receiving-homes and 43 from private industrial schools (Roman Catholic). Arranged according to the ages of the children the numbers at 31st March, 1926, are as follows: Under five years, 339; from five to ten years, 657; from ten to twelve years, 362; from twelve to thirteen years, 199; from thirteen to fourteen years, 187; and over fourteen years, 95.

The rate paid to the foster-parents for the maintenance of each child is 15s. a week, but for infants under twelve months 17s. 6d. a week is paid. Each child is provided with a very complete initial outfit, the foster-parents being required to maintain the clothing at this standard. Medical attendance, medicines, and dentistry are provided by the Department, as also are school-books and school stationery. Upon Boarding-out Officers and Managers of Receiving-homes rests the responsibility of selecting proper homes and of supervising the inmates in these homes. No hard-and-fast rules can be laid down as to the type of home to be selected, or the number of times a home should be visited, or the methods of supervision. Much depends upon the personality, ability, and intuition of the officer concerned. Frequent visiting is advocated in the interests of the children, and as a 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 more frequently if necessary, and generally keep a friendly eye on the children concerned.

The numbers dealt with by the Juvenile Probation Officers in the main centres during the year ending 31st March, 1926, totalled 1,316, and were dealt with as shown in the following table :—

District.	Committed.	Convicted and super- vision.	Convicted and fined.	Convicted and dis- charged.	Convicted and birched.	Convicted and ordered to come up for Sentence.	Sent to Prison.	Committed to the Supreme Court for Sentence.	Sent to Reformative Institution.	Returned to an Insti- tution.	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> .	Adjourned under Supervision.	Admonished, and dis- charged.	Adjourned.	Withdrawn.	Dismissed.	Placed under Private Supervision.	Convicted and Proba- tion.	Convicted and ordered to pay Costs.	Totals.
North Auckland..	18	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	26	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
Auckland ..	125	..	6	2	3	..	..	..	5	8	55	77	10	..	3	..	..	1	4	304
South Auckland..	38	2	1	1	1	1	..	..	2	1	3	13	25	9	..	5	..	..	2	104
Wanganui ..	13	5	2	4	..	13	..	..	1	1	..	7	4	9	..	2	..	..	..	61
Hawke's Bay ..	25	..	..	1	11	3	..	..	3	7	..	14	20	1	..	..	..	1	..	86
Palmerston North	16	..	3	..	..	1	1	2	..	9	..	10	13	4	1	..	..	..	..	60
Wellington ..	42	..	4	3	..	3	..	1	3	5	1	59	27	..	1	4	..	..	5	158
Nelson ..	22	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	1	..	4	..	..	..	38
West Coast ..	11	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	13	1	..	1	..	..	..	34
North Canterbury	37	..	7	1	..	..	..	..	2	5	..	31	40	1	2	4	..	6	26	162
South Canterbury	16	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	32	14	1	..	2	..	..	..	71
Otago ..	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	7	30	33	..	5	9	..	1	..	119
Southland ..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Totals ..	423	8	26	14	19	25	1	3	17	38	13	306	294	37	9	34	3	9	37	1,316

ASSISTED SERVICE, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND EMPLOYMENT OF STATE CHILDREN OVER SCHOOL AGE.

At the 31st March, 1926, there were 40 inmates at service receiving assistance (assisted service in most cases refers to apprenticeship). There were 45 children receiving post-primary education—30 secondary and 15 technical. In addition, there were 51 children over the age of fourteen years still attending the public schools and being maintained by the Department.

Nature of Employment at 31st March, 1926, of Boys having left School.

At the 31st March, 1926, 517 boys were at service as farm workers. There were 73 boys apprenticed as follows: 10 cabinetmakers, 7 carpenters, 5 bakers, 5 motor mechanics, 5 bootmakers, 4 ironmoulders, 4 tinsmiths, 3 electrical engineers, 3 coachbuilders, 2 general engineers, 2 blacksmiths, 2 upholsterers, 2 electricians, 2 plumbers, 2 painters and paperhangers, 2 plasterers, 2 wickerworkers,

1 butcher, 1 printer and bookbinder, 1 monumental mason, 1 sheet-metal worker, 1 wireworker, 1 glass-beveller, 1 motor-car painter, 1 range-maker, 1 nurseryman, 1 typewriter mechanic, and 1 bricklayer. Boys otherwise employed (not apprenticed) totalled 161, as follows: 33 labourers, 30 factory hands, 30 shop-assistants, 15 telegraph messengers, 13 clerks, 4 message-boys, 3 seamen, 3 orchardists, 2 fishermen, 2 butchers, 2 drivers, 2 H.M. Navy, 2 waiters, 2 electrical engineers, 2 school-teachers, 2 porters, 2 motor mechanics, 1 baker, 1 motor-panneller, 1 electrician, 1 saddler, 1 tailor, 1 plasterer, 1 circus hand, 1 woodworker, 1 painter, 1 window-dresser, 1 civil engineer, and 1 railway fireman.

Nature of Employment at 31st March, 1926, of Girls having left School.

There were 288 domestics, 37 factory employees, 8 apprentices (4 dressmakers, 3 tailoresses, and 1 bookbinder), and 9 in other employment, as follows: 3 shop-assistants, 2 typists, 2 waitresses, 1 clerk, and 1 bookbinder. This gives a total of 342 girls in employment.

PREVENTIVE WORK.

The following table shows the number of preventive cases notified by officers in the various districts during the year ended 31st March, 1926:—

District.					Number of Families.	Number of Children.
North Auckland	..	..	..	..	3	18
Auckland	..	..	..	..	23	33
South Auckland	..	..	..	..	15	30
Wanganui	..	..	..	..	1	1
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	10	20
Palmerston North	..	..	..	..	9	13
Wellington	..	..	..	..	19	23
Nelson	..	..	..	..	34	37
West Coast	..	..	..	..	7	15
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	42	79
South Canterbury	..	..	..	..	3	3
Otago	..	..	..	..	21	33
Southland	..	..	..	..	34	93
Totals	..	..	..	..	221	398

ADMISSIONS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE AT ADMISSION.

The following table shows the new admissions according to age:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Under six months	23	19	42
Over six months and under one year	9	9	18
One year to five years	55	45	100
Five years to ten years	55	45	100
Ten years to fourteen years	84	25	109
Over fourteen years	40	31	71
Totals	266	174	440

Table I 4 attached to this report shows the new admissions classified according to the causes of admission. Of the total number (440), 160 were destitute, 202 not under proper control, and 72 had been charged with punishable offences. Of the children admitted under these headings all except 83 were placed out in foster-homes before the 31st March.

The following figures show (1) the number of children of drunken parents, and (2) the number of children of feeble-minded parents:—

Admission of Children on account of the Drinking Habits of one or both Parents.

Drunken mother	..	..	..	..	..	4
Drunken father	..	..	..	..	..	26
Both parents drunkards	..	..	..	..	..	5
						35

Admission of Children on account of the Mental Deficiency of one or both Parents.

Mentally deficient mother	..	..	..	..	..	20
Mentally deficient father	..	..	..	..	..	..
Both parents defective mentally	..	..	..	..	..	1
						21

For purposes of comparison three tables have been prepared showing—(1) Children admitted on account of destitution; (2) children found to be not under proper control, or reported as uncontrollable by the parents; and (3) children charged with offences against the law. In each case the

parents have been divided into the following groups: (1) Dead, deserter, or unknown; (2) good character; (3) bad or questionable character, including drunkards, feeble-minded, or physically unfit.

Particulars of Parentage: 1925 Admissions.

160 destitute children representing 105 families. Character of parents described as—

	Dead, Deserter, or Unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble- minded, and Physically Unfit.
Father	31	12	22
Mother	7	21	33
Both parents	8	15	9

183 uncontrollable children representing 117 families. Character of parents described as—

	Dead, Deserter, or Unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble- minded, and Physically Unfit.
Father	20	17	36
Mother	22	24	27
Both parents	7	27	7

76 children accused or guilty of offences, representing 73 families. Character of parents described as—

	Dead, Deserter, or Unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble- minded, and Physically Unfit.
Father	6	9	13
Mother	11	11	6
Both parents	2	36	4

SCHOOLS FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

Numbers at 31st March, 1926.

	Richmond. (Girls.)	Otekaike. (Boys.)	Total.
In residence	76	196	272
On vacation	1	1	2
In situations under supervision .. .. .	..	4	4
In boys' receiving-homes .. .. .	..	4	4
With friends .. .. .	..	1	1
Totals	77	206	283

The Director of Education.

I have, &c.,
J. BECK,
Superintendent of Child Welfare.

No. 3.---STATISTICS: INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AND PROBATION SYSTEM, AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

TABLE I.—EXPENDITURE ON INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS AND PROBATION SYSTEM, 1925-26.

Institution.	Foodstuffs		Clothing and Boots.		Fuel, Light, and Water.		Farm and Garden.		Medicine, Medical Attendance, and Dentistry.		Household Requisites.		Sundries.		Total.		Add Stocks, 31/3/1925.		Totals.		Deduct				Net Expenditure.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	Issues to Board.	Issues to Service.		Issues to Temporary Probationers.	Stocks, 31/3/1925.
Receiving-homes—																										
Auckland ..	328 16 5	251 4 6	79 12 0	..	..	..	..	..	33 13 9	47 19 5	33 1 9	774 7 10	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	16 3 11	14 4 8	1 3 8	£	s. d.	685 0 4	742 15 7			
Hamilton ..	171 15 5	553 2 7	37 15 3	..	..	..	..	..	4 5 0	12 1 4	68 3 7	847 3 2	1,002 4 9	1,464 4 11	297 15 11	430 7 6	2 18 5	1,127 11 6	433 5 9							
Napier ..	213 17 2	189 3 11	52 0 5	..	..	..	..	..	1 7 0	10 12 1	26 16 11	493 17 6	1,464 4 11	1,958 2 5	151 11 1	222 1 5	..	1,958 2 5	456 18 5							
Wanganui ..	167 18 6	73 10 4	50 4 6	..	..	..	..	..	1 15 1	5 11 3	17 6 9	169 5 9	493 1 4	662 7 1	86 2 3	126 11 8	..	241 6 1	208 7 1							
Wellington ..	312 3 8	125 7 6	95 15 11	..	..	..	..	..	8 6 3	54 5 9	41 13 1	386 17 2	1,458 10 6	1,845 7 8	381 16 11	29 3 10	..	709 13 1	724 13 10							
Christchurch ..	341 7 1	300 18 7	102 2 10	..	..	..	..	..	23 10 2	35 9 10	72 6 2	875 14 8	1,709 12 9	2,585 7 5	651 16 0	91 18 0	..	1,085 1 9	756 11 8							
Probation Homes—																										
Auckland ..	324 8 9	62 18 0	71 2 9	..	..	..	..	..	24 18 1	41 15 1	61 14 8	586 17 4	..	586 17 4	..	..	..	..	586 17 4							
Wellington ..	315 1 8	37 2 0	53 5 2	..	..	..	..	..	3 13 3	5 17 0	49 10 10	464 9 11	..	464 9 11	..	..	..	..	464 9 11							
Christchurch ..	200 10 8	370 15 11	52 9 6	..	..	..	..	..	4 19 7	30 3 5	93 12 7	752 11 8	342 10 1	1,095 1 9	162 0 1	306 2 5	..	170 19 1	456 0 2							
Dunedin ..	209 4 6	4 16 3	40 0 10	..	..	..	..	..	2 8 6	14 19 5	81 19 3	353 8 9	..	353 8 9	..	..	..	..	353 8 9							
Boys' Training-farm, Weraoa ..	724 14 5	1,265 10 5	238 13 11	1,239 2 11	79 8 4	32 6 5	128 1 1	3,707 17 6	1,833 8 11	5,541 6 5	..	..	..	..	81 7 6	1,072 17 10	..	4,790 4 9	403 3 8							
Boarding-out Offices																										
Nelson ..	..	686 7 8	..	..	0 3 0	1 17 3	6 14 10	691 2 3	1,308 5 5	617 3 2	0 11 11	158 8 11	..	..	44 2 1	..	..	..	414 12 2							
Palmerston North ..	..	0 11 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 11 11							
Timaru ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 9 0	1 9 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 9 0							
Invercargill ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 2 7	4 2 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 2 7							
Industrial School, ..	518 15 2	419 3 6	202 1 6	..	21 6 11	42 18 1	76 2 10	1,280 8 0	2,753 17 7	4,034 5 7	..	..	..	..	518 4 11	381 6 3	..	1,799 8 10	1,335 5 7							
Caversham ..	..	..	7 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 0 0							
Children's Home, ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miramar ..	5 14 11	..	4 7 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39 5 1	41 2 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	41 2 6							
Te Oranga Home ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,972 14 2	12,365 16 3	22,338 10 5	2,391 0 8	2,833 2 6	4 2 1	10,609 5 5	6,500 19 9							
Repairs to buildings			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,607 1 2							
Salaries of staffs of homes, Managers, Probation Officers, visiting nurses, &c.			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,231 16 4							
Boarding-out of children—																										
Payments to foster-parents			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65,237 1 0							
Payments to Postal Department as commission			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	607 15 6							
Issues of clothing, &c.: From institutions, £2,391 0s. 8d. + £16 11s.; from central stores, £728 2s. 5d. + £736 16s. 6d.			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,872 10 7							
Medicine, medical attendance, dentistry, &c.			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,489 17 4							
Inmates at service—																			72,207 4 5							
Issues of clothing, &c.: From institutions, £2,837 4s. 7d. + £27 19s. 3d.; from central stores, £805 13s. 7d. + £789 10s. 5d.			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,270 7 10							
Miscellaneous payments			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,927 1 1							
Refund of maintenance payments			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,197 8 11							
Refund of inmates' earnings			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	191 14 4							
Rent, office requisites, &c.			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81 6 5							
Travelling-expenses			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,935 1 3							
Wages of inmates ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,779 4 7							
Law-costs ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61 9 8							
Libraries ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66 14 8							
Transfer and removal expenses			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 16 5							
Contingencies ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38 11 10							
Less recoveries—																			1 6 4							
Parents and others			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115,900 16 1							
Sales of farm produce			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,416 2 10							
Inmates earnings for clothing, &c.			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,098 13 8							
Miscellaneous ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,278 10 0							
Totals ..																			35,990 12 2							
Totals ..																			£79,910 3 11							

In connection with the foregoing table it should be borne in mind that there are really only two residential institutions in our industrial-schools system—the Boys' Training-farm, Weraroa, for boys, and a section of the Caversham Industrial School for girls.

The receiving-homes and probation homes are regarded as clearing-houses, where children are admitted for short periods for observation and treatment, if necessary, prior to being placed in ordinary homes in the community or in situations. These homes are also utilized—

- (1.) For housing children who for various reasons are changing from one home or situation to another, or who are sent in from country districts for medical or dental treatment, &c.;
- (2.) For children and young persons passing through from other centres or districts; and
- (3.) For girls and young women in situations who spend their weekly half-holiday and occasional week-end days with the Matron of the home.

The average number of children in residence at these homes is comparatively small, but an approximation of the work of the homes is given in the following return:—

Name of School.	Average Number in Residence.	Number of Children actually passing through.
Girls' Receiving-home, Auckland	19·3	152
Boys' Receiving-home, Auckland	17·8	215
Girls' Receiving-home, Hamilton	8·92	243
Girls' Receiving-home, Wanganui	10·69	127
Girls' Receiving-home, Napier	8·08	81
Girls' Receiving-home, Wellington	13·18	164
Boys' Receiving-home, Wellington	12·04	184
Girls' Receiving-home, Christchurch	17·31	210
Boys' Receiving-home, Christchurch	11·95	141
Boys' Receiving-home, Dunedin	10·44	99
	..	1,616

Average Cost of maintaining Industrial-school Inmates for Year ending 31st March, 1926.

	£	s.	d.
Gross cost of maintaining industrial-school inmates	115,900	16	1
Plus excess of liabilities, 31st March, 1926, over those of 31st March, 1925 ..	375	18	1
	116,276	14	2
<i>Less—</i>			
Direct expenditure on service inmates	1,927	1	1
Issues from institutions and stores	4,270	7	10
Salaries of Probation Officers, Infant-life Protection Agents, and proportion of Managers and office staffs of institutions ..	10,615	18	2
Travelling-expenses of Probation Officers, Infant-life Protection Agents, &c. (estimated at two-thirds of expenditure, £5,779 4s. 7d.)	3,852	16	4
Refund of inmates' earnings	81	6	5
Rent, office requisites, &c. (two-thirds of expenditure, £1,935 1s. 3d.) ..	1,290	0	10
Law-costs	66	14	8
	22,104	5	4
Gross cost of inmates a charge on the State	£94,172	8	10

Number of inmates maintained (including inmates in residence at Government schools, boarded out, hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.) .. 2,175

Average cost per week per inmate—

	£	s.	d.
Gross	0	16	8
Recoveries	0	5	1
Net	0	11	7

The net cost to the State of maintaining children under the industrial-schools system is therefore 11s. 7d. per head per week.

2—E. 4.

TABLE I 1A.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PRIVATE (ROMAN CATHOLIC) SCHOOLS, 1925-26.

	£	s.	d.
St. Mary's, Auckland	531	8	1
St. Joseph's, Upper Hutt	528	17	7
St. Mary's, Nelson	391	6	1
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	241	17	5
	<hr/>		
	£1,693	9	2
	<hr/>		

TABLE I 1B.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF INMATES SENT TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS, 1925-26.

	£	s.	d.
Salvation Army Home, Grey Lynn .. .	26	10	0
Institute Notre des Missions, Christchurch .. .	46	3	6
	<hr/>		
	£72	13	6
	<hr/>		

TABLE I 2.—GROSS RECOVERIES FROM PARENTS AND OTHERS.

	1924-25.			1925-26.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Industrial schools	22,072	14	8	22,825	3	6
Special schools	4,633	19	9	2,194	13	1
Charitable Aid Boards (special schools) .. .	2,163	17	1	1,587	16	11
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	£28,870	11	6	£26,607	13	6
	<hr/>			<hr/>		

TABLE I 3.—NUMBERS UNDER CONTROL AT 31ST MARCH, 1926—continued.

Particulars of Children belonging to the Schools.	Government Schools.										Private Schools.						Totals of a. Schools.												
	Female Child Welfare Officer, Greymouth.		Male Child Welfare Officer, Greymouth.		Girls' Receiving-home, Christchurch.		Boys' Receiving-home, Christchurch.		Female Child Welfare Officer, Timaru.		Male Child Welfare Officer, Timaru.		Special School for Girls, Dunedin.		Boys' Receiving-home, Dunedin.				Female Child Welfare Officer, Invercargill.		St. Mary's School, Auckland.		St. Joseph's Upper Hut.		St. Mary's School, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's School, Dunedin.		
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	Boys.	Girls.	Both Sexes.
In residence ..	16	16	..	..	2	16	5	3	27	42	..	..	1	45	4	..	..	..	..	12	17	18	7	9	13	128	162	290
Boarded out ..	..	..	..	..	153	114	3	3	..	..	..	..	105	67	..	..	..	..	..	20	21	..	..	..	2	1,037	782	1,819
At service ..	..	..	..	..	..	55	75	..	..	32	..	..	..	38	31	..	..	..	..	20	20	7	1	..	2	565	273	838
With friends ..	2	5	4	4	7	20	17	..	5	11	6	..	4	11	10	..	..	..	..	8	17	4	..	1	4	309	232	541
Under guardianship ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	7	17
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c. ..	1	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	13	15	28
In mental hospitals ..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	4	10
In refuges or cognate institutions ..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	1	..	..	45	45
In orphanages, cottage homes, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	18	29
In probation homes ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	..	22
Absent without leave ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	4	35
At Special School, Otago ..	..	..	..	..	8	..	9	..	2	..	2	..	5	..	10	3	..	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	135	..	135
At Special School, Richmond ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43	43
Temporary Girls' Receiving-home, Napier ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2
Under arrest ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
At School for the Deaf, Sumner	2	2	2
Totals ..	19	21	8	174	228	115	34	57	40	123	190	58	42	52	33	46	82	36	8	12	23	2,272	1,587	3,859					

TABLE I 4.—ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1926, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES OF ADMISSION.

Admitted as	Girls' Receiving-home, Auckland.		Boys' Receiving-home, Auckland.		Girls' Receiving-home, Hamilton.		Girls' Receiving-home, Wanganui.		Girls' Receiving-home, Napier.		Boy Training-farm, Weraoa.		Children's Home, Miramar.		Boys' Receiving-home, Wellington.		Girls' Receiving-home, Christchurch.		Boys' Receiving-home, Christchurch.		Special School for Girls, Dunedin.		Boys' Receiving-home, Dunedin.		St. Mary's School, Auckland.		Totals of all Schools.		
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	Both Sexes.		
Destitute ..	5	2	..	8	6	8	..	3	..	27	19	..	13	18	..	28	17	..	..	87	73	160					
Vagrant ..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	8
In disreputable associations	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	9
Not under proper control (complaint by police)	49	46	7	8	10	6	2	4	3	3	5	4	..	8	7	1	2	9	1	2	2	96	83	179					
Uncontrollable (complaint by parents)	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
Accused or guilty of punishable offences	5	3	13	3	..	5	1	1	1	19	1	1	2	4	..	3	6	2	2	..	64	8	72						
Transferred from gaol	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	4
Section 47, Infants Act	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Totals ..	60	55	21	19	17	20	12	14	9	26	33	25	2	25	26	5	36	28	3	2	2	266	174	440					

TABLE I 5.—ADMISSIONS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATUS AT 31ST MARCH, 1926.

Status.	Totals.																		
	Destitute.		Vagrant.		Disreputable Associations.		Not under Proper Control. (Complaint by Police.)		Uncontrollable. (Complaint by Parents.)		Accused or convicted of Punishable Offences.		Transferred from Gaol.		Section 47, Infants Act.				
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	Both Sexes.
In residence	13	8	1	1	..	..	19	11	2	1	21	6	..	..	..	..	56	27	83
Boarded out	70	62	3	1	3	5	57	48	1	1	16	1	..	..	..	..	150	118	268
At service .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	7	5	..	..	15	..	1	..	..	..	24	5	29
With friends	1	3	..	..	1	..	1	7	1	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	10	10	20
In refuges or cognate institutions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5
Adopted .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
At Special School, Otekaieke ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	17	..	17
Absent without leave .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Mental hospitals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Discharged by warrant .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	3
Written off the books .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	2
Died	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Totals	87	73	6	2	4	5	96	83	4	2	64	8	4	1	1	266	174	440	

TABLE I 6.—DEATHS DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1926.

Age.		Status at Death.	Certified Cause of Death.
y.	m.	In hospital ..	Osteo-myelitis of the humerus, cardiac failure.
3	0		Cerebro-spinal meningitis, cardiac failure.
4	3		Acute pulmonary tuberculosis.
4	6		Pyæmia, empyema.
6	8		Varicose aneurism, hæmorrhage, and cardiac failure.
10	4		Streptococcal pericarditis.
10	8		Acute appendicitis, toxæmia, heart-failure.
11	9		Rheumatic endocarditis, cardiac failure.
12	2		Typhoid fever.
12	6		Osteo-myelitis of right os calcis, complicated epyæmia, and broncho-pneumonia.
13	3	..	Septic arthritis, septicæmia.
18	2		

DEATHS IN FOSTER-HOMES AND EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONS.

Of the 1,301 infants who were at one time or another on the books as being in foster-homes during 1925, 5 died, 1 in a foster-home and 4 in hospitals to which they had been removed for treatment. One of the five was under twelve months of age, and three 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 :—

Year.	Foster-homes.			Exempted Institutions.		
	Number of Deaths.	Number of Infants.	Percentage of Deaths.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Infants.	Percentage of Deaths.
1908	26	1,017	2.56	..	No records	..
1909	25	1,181	2.11	..	"	..
1910	26	1,183	2.19	..	"	..
1911	13	1,183	1.09	47	899	5.23
1912	12	1,228	0.98	36	911	3.95
1913	13	1,330	0.98	18	984	1.82
1914	20	1,423	1.40	37	944	3.91
1915	14	1,440	0.98	11	1,026	1.08
1916	17	1,250	1.36	9	939	0.96
1917	12	1,361	0.88	15	1,136	1.32
1918	6	1,341	0.44	15	955	1.57
1919	10	1,403	0.71	13	1,050	1.24
1920	14	1,306	1.07	19	1,002	1.89
1921	6	1,318	0.47	17	1,118	1.52
1922	10	1,243	0.80	16	887	1.08
1923	6	1,243	0.48	20	1,076	1.86
1924	5	1,213	0.41	21	1,175	1.78
1925	5	1,301	0.38	12	1,638	0.73

DEATHS AMONGST ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE DURING 1925.

District.	No.	District.	No.
North Auckland	2	Nelson	2
Auckland	23	West Coast	2
South Auckland	6	North Canterbury	10
Wanganui and Taranaki	4	South Canterbury	2
Gisborne .. ..	..	Otago	4
Hawke's Bay	1	Southland	2
Palmerston North .. ..	..	
Wellington	11	Total	69

In addition, 8 infants of unknown birth were found dead.

No. 4.—COSTLEY TRAINING INSTITUTION.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

Liabilities.		£	s.	d.	Assets.		£	s.	d.
Costley bequest .. ..	..	12,150	0	0	War-loan stock .. ..	..	1,500	0	0
Hodge bequest .. ..	..	742	3	9	Accrued interest .. ..	..	91	8	1
Accrued Revenue Account—	£	s.	d.		Mortgages .. ..	..	23,890	0	0
Balance at 1st January,					Bank of New Zealand ..	..	14	14	10
1925	12,294	19	1						
Less deficit for year ..	3	11	3						
		12,291	7	10					
Jackson, Russell, Tunks, and West ..		312	11	4					
		£25,496	2	11			£25,496	2	11

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

Dr.		£	s.	d.	Cr.		£	s.	d.
To Maintenance Account .. ..	..	1,550	9	11	By Interest .. ..	..	1,652	12	8
Expenses .. ..	..	105	14	0	Balance—Deficit to Accrued Revenue Account .. ..	..	3	11	3
		£1,656	3	11			£1,656	3	11

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given ; printing (925 copies), £26.