

The average number of children in residence at any one time at these homes is comparatively small, but an approximation of the important part that these homes occupy in the Child Welfare system can be gathered from the following return, which represents the figures for the past year :—

TABLE 2.

Name of Receiving-home.	Average Number in Residence.	Number of Children actually passing through.
Girls' Receiving-home, Auckland	18.54	135
Boys' Receiving-home, Auckland	21.14	169
Girls' Receiving-home, Hamilton	10.28	205
Girls' Receiving-home, Wanganui	10.79	211
Girls' Receiving-home, Napier	6.44	85
Children's Home, Miramar, Wellington	18.92	173
Girls' Hostel, Wellington	10.61	57
Boys' Receiving-home, Wellington	14.04	129
Girls' Receiving-home, Christchurch	19.53	297
Boys' Receiving-home, Christchurch	12.91	130
Girls' Home, Dunedin	31.54	204
Boys' Receiving-home, Dunedin	10.47	89
	..	1,884

The disposition of the 3,879 State wards placed out in the community or in hospitals or institutions not under the control of the Child Welfare Branch is shown in the following table :—

TABLE 3.—STATUS OF CHILDREN UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AT 31ST MARCH, 1928 (OTHER THAN THOSE IN RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE CHILD WELFARE ACT).

Status.	Boys	Girls.	Both Sexes.
Temporarily in residence in receiving-homes	70	56	126
In residence, Roman Catholic schools	29	38	67
Boarded out	1,123	858	1,981
At service	615	287	902
With friends	348	269	617
In hospitals, convalescent homes	15	13	28
In mental hospitals	2	4	6
In refuges, or cognate institutions	..	53	53
In children's homes	13	19	32
Absent without leave	29	2	31
At Borstal	2	..	2
At Jubilee Institute	..	1	1
Boarders at colleges	2	..	2
In Y.M.C.A. Boys' Hostel, Auckland	16	..	16
In Girls' Hostel, Wellington	..	15	15
Totals	2,264	1,615	3,879

CHILD-PLACING SYSTEM.

The majority of the children under school-age committed to the care of the State 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 1,981 children boarded out—1,956 from Government receiving-homes and 25 from private industrial schools (Roman Catholic). Arranged according to the ages of the children the numbers at 31st March, 1928, are as follows : Under five years, 446 ; from five to ten years, 651 ; from ten to twelve years, 347 ; from twelve to thirteen years, 197 ; from thirteen to fourteen years, 210 ; and over fourteen years, 130.

Of the children boarded out, 78 were over the age of fourteen years but still attending the primary schools, and 52 were receiving higher education (35 secondary and 17 technical).

It is the practice to review every case when the child finishes his primary-school course, and, provided that he has the ability and has shown himself worthy, arrangements are made for him to continue his education at a high school. In the case of girls it is generally possible for them to stay on in their foster-homes, but this satisfactory arrangement is not always possible with the boys. To meet the position, and in order to provide for boys of exceptional ability, the hostel established by the Y.M.C.A. in Auckland is available. This hostel accommodates about fifteen boys at present, and, thanks to the very substantial monetary assistance given by the Costley Training Trustees, the cost to the Government for the upkeep of these boys is exceedingly small. This scheme has been very