

TABLE 12—continued-

81 children accused or guilty of offences, representing 71 families. Characters of parents described as—

				Dead, Deserter, or Unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble-minded, and Physically Unfit.
Father	..	..	..	14	41	16
Mother	..	..	..	9	49	13
Both parents	..	..	..	2	33	4

TABLE 13.—ADMISSIONS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

(Magistrates after hearing the evidence direct in what religious denomination children committed are to be brought up.)

	Anglican.	Roman Catholic.	Presbyterian.	Methodist.	Salvation Army.	Baptist.	Pentecostal.	Plymouth Brethren.	Church of Christ.	Rafana.	Seventh Day Adventist.	Liberal Catholic.	Hindu.	Unknown.	Total.
Number	344	110	106	29	36	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	8	644
Percentage	53.42	17.08	16.46	4.5	5.6	0.31	0.154	0.31	0.154	0.154	0.31	0.154	0.154	1.24	100.0

NOTE.—The children for whom no religion is shown were temporary admissions.

TABLE 14.—INMATES WHO CEASED TO BE UNDER CONTROL DURING YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1928.

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Discharged (Child Welfare Act, section 23)	237	103	340
Attained age of twenty-one years	14	22	36
Adopted	14	24	38
Written off books	34	29	63
Married	..	11	11
By death	13	4	17
Committal order cancelled	..	1	1
Totals	312	194	506

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE MENTALLY BACKWARD.

The two institutions (boys and girls separate) for mentally backward children and young people are an essential part of the Child Welfare system, for they provide a suitable environment for those mentally backward children who, on account of indifferent home conditions, careless parents, anti-social habits, or specific offences against the law, are not fitted to remain in the community and therefore require social readjustment. For the instruction and training of the mentally backward child whose conduct is good and whose home environment is suitable special classes attached to the public school have been established, but for those cases residing in remote country districts the residential institutions referred to above have been utilized to a certain extent.

As there is frequently a considerable amount of doubt in the minds of parents, public-school teachers, School Medical Officers, and the authorities of private social-service organizations as to the type of child likely to benefit by admission to a residential institution and the existing provision for training in these places, the following statement will be of some value :—

Type of Child suitable for Admission.

Subnormal children capable of benefiting from training (whether mental, manual, or handwork) are, as a rule, children whose intelligence quotients (Stanford revision of Binet test) range from 50 to 75. It has been found, however, that some children of intelligence quotients slightly below 50, although incapable of benefiting from mental training, can receive benefit from handwork or manual training. This type of child gives a much better response to a mechanical or performance test than to the more intellectual Binet test. On the other hand, some children with intelligence quotients of 50 and over, while perhaps able to learn parrot-fashion, receive no material benefit from scholastic work, and have little aptitude for handwork and manual work. These children gain very little from the training given in these institutions. Again, some children, owing to anti-social tendencies or