

1929.
NEW ZEALAND.

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

[In continuation of E.—4, 1928.]

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

NO. 1.—EXTRACT FROM THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

CHILD WELFARE.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION.

The total number of children under the supervision of the Child Welfare Branch as at the 31st March, 1929, was 6,364, classed under the following headings:—

State wards boarded out, at service, in receiving-homes, &c.	..	..	4,287
State wards under supervision of Child Welfare Officers	..	..	678
Infants in registered foster-homes under Infants Act	..	..	1,007
Pupils at School for Deaf, Sumner	..	..	117
Feeble-minded persons in institutions	..	..	275
Total	..	..	6,364

The number of children committed to the care of the Superintendent during the year ended 31st March, 1929, was 650, classified according to reason for committal as follows: Indigent, 264; delinquent, 19; detrimental environments, 99; not under proper control, 157; accused or guilty of punishable offence, 84; neglected, 27; and in addition 13 were admitted by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act), while 37 were temporarily admitted, and 2 under section 47 of the Infants Act, making a total of 702.

Classified according to age at the time of admission the numbers are as follow: Under six months, 69; over six months and under one year, 43; from one to five years, 135; from five to ten years, 159; from ten to fourteen years, 143; and over fourteen years, 153: total, 702.

NUMBERS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CHILD WELFARE BRANCH.

Fully 96 per cent. of the children under fifteen years of age under the guardianship of the Child Welfare Branch are placed in foster-homes, mostly in country districts, where they have the opportunity of becoming members of some family and of being gradually absorbed into the community. The general welfare of the children is safeguarded by careful selection of foster-homes and by frequent visits by Child Welfare Officers.

The children attend the public schools and have similar opportunities of taking part in the ordinary everyday activities of the community as the child who is brought up by his own parents. The remaining 4 per cent. represent those who on account of anti-social habits or subnormality are not fit to be placed in foster-homes or allowed to attend the public school. For this small residue institutions are provided, with facilities for the training and education of the inmates along specialized lines suited as far as practicable to the peculiar needs of the individual cases.

At the end of the year there were 4,287 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate headings below), and of these 287 were in residence at Government receiving-homes and probation homes (many of these, of course, only temporarily), training-farms, and training institutions, and 74 in the four private Roman Catholic schools recognized under the Child Welfare Act; 2,122 children were boarded out in foster-homes, 953 were in situations, and 653 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various private institutions.

Of the boarded out children, 162 are over the age of fourteen years, of whom 94 are still attending primary schools, and 68 are receiving higher education (34 technical and 34 secondary).

The children over school age in employment number 764 males and 440 females (a number of whom are residing with friends), included in the total of 4,287. Of the males, 582 are farm-workers (219 skilled in dairy-work and cheesemaking, and 363 competent to milk and carry out general farm-work), 54 are apprentices (of which number some are receiving assistance), and 128 others are employed in various trades. A number of these are also receiving assistance. Of the girls, there are 339 domestic workers, 60 factory employees, and 41 engaged in various employments, such as shop-assistants, nurses, dressmakers, &c.

SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION.

The number of cases dealt with by the Children's Courts last year was 2,023, and of these 533 were placed under the supervision of the Child Welfare Officers or brought under the "Big Brother" scheme as carried out by the Y.M.C.A. and the Roman Catholic authorities. The number actually admitted to institutions such as receiving-homes, special schools, training-farm, &c., was 650, but all these, with the exception of 130 who require further training, were suitably provided for in the community before the close of the year. The remainder of the children appearing before the Courts were dealt with in a summary manner not calling for supervision by a Child Welfare Officer.

INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

For the training and detention of State wards who have proved by their anti-social behaviour somewhat of a problem to manage, either in their own homes or in foster-homes or places of employment, and for those higher-grade improvable feeble-minded cases who cannot be suitably adjusted in the community, provision is made in institutions established for the purpose.

The raising of the age of a "child" from sixteen to seventeen years (Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1927) has materially increased the number of young persons (particularly girls) appearing before the Children's Courts, and in consequence further institutional provision has been necessary for such of these cases requiring training and treatment and the staff of Child Welfare Officers has had to be increased.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

Infants' Homes.—Under the provisions of Part V of the Infants Act, it is unlawful for any person to receive or retain in his care or charge any infant or any child under the age of six years for the purpose of maintaining it apart from its parents or guardians for a longer period than seven consecutive days, unless such person is licensed in accordance with this part of the Act. The duties in connection with the licensing and inspection of these homes, and the supervision of the children in such homes, are carried out by the officers of the Child Welfare Branch, who are all experienced nurses.

At the end of the year there were 1,007 children maintained in 797 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 655 homes had one child each, 93 had two children each, 36 had three children each, 10 had four children each, 1 home had five children, 1 had six children, and 1 had seven children. The payments by relatives for the maintenance of each child ranged from 5s. to £3 3s. a week, the average rate of payment being approximately 15s. 4d. per week.

Adoptions.—By an arrangement with the Department of Justice, all applications for adoptions are investigated by Child Welfare Officers before being dealt with by a Magistrate. During the year 371 children were adopted, and in 36 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, 65 were under the age of six months, 37 between the age of six and twelve months, 168 between the age of one and five years, 52 between the age of five and ten years, and 49 between the age of ten and fifteen years.

INVESTIGATION OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

The Child Welfare Act provides for the investigation and supervision, where necessary, of all infants born out of wedlock. During the year the number of cases investigated was 1,383, of which no less than 357 were placed in foster-homes licensed under the provisions of the Infants Act. A certain number of these infants (91), through the inability of the mothers to provide properly for them, were committed to the care of the branch and placed out in foster-homes, under the child-welfare system. The remainder of the cases were suitably provided for either by their own parents or by relatives, or by admission to private institutions, and in such a manner not calling for the intervention of the Department. In a great many of these cases the assistance given by the Child Welfare Officers has been the means not only of re-establishing the mothers in the community, but also of obtaining payments from the men responsible for their condition. The work in connection with the social readjustment of these cases is of considerable importance so far as the taxpayers are concerned. In many cases the timely intervention of the Child Welfare Officers obviates the necessity for the committal of these infants to the care of the State, the parents being made to realize their responsibilities in regard to their offspring.

INSPECTION OF ORPHANAGES.

The inspection and registration of all private institutions for children are provided for in the Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1927. The definition of a "children's home" does not include any institution conducted wholly for educational purposes. Altogether there are approximately seventy private and denominational institutions for children throughout the Dominion, and so far sixty have been inspected by the Child Welfare Branch officers and granted registration.

CARE AND TRAINING OF DEAF CHILDREN, CHILDREN WITH DEFECTIVE SPEECH, AND BLIND CHILDREN.

The pupils under instruction at the School for the Deaf, Sumner, during the year, numbered 117, and of these 11 were day pupils and 106 boarders.

The special day classes in Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin, for partially deaf children and for children with speech-defects, were continued with highly suc-

cessful results. One hundred and seventy-two 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, eighty-two persons afflicted in this manner attending the classes for the year ended 31st March, 1929.

The education of blind children is provided for at the Jubilee Institute for the Blind, Auckland, which is a private institution recognized as a "separate institution" under the Hospitals and Charitable Aid Institutions Act. Provision is made in this Act for the appointment of nine Trustees—five by the contributors and four by the Governor-General.

The Trustees are required by law to admit and maintain any blind children between the ages of six and twenty-one years that the Minister directs to be sent to the institution. For the maintenance and education of such children the Department pays at the rate of £25 a year each. At present there are 20 children so paid for (16 boys and 4 girls), but this does not represent the total number of children receiving instruction. The Trustees are at liberty to admit any suitable case when the parents are able to pay the full fee.

In addition to special classes for backward children, special classes for hard-of-hearing children and speech-defectives have been established in the four large centres. These classes are staffed by teachers trained at the Sumner School for the Deaf, and it is now decided that the classes will in future be attached to public schools under the control of the Education Boards, and that sufficient teachers will be appointed to carry out the work efficiently.

No. 2.—STATEMENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CHILD-WELFARE BRANCH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1929.

WORK IN SOCIAL FIELD.

Preventive Work.

Of the many functions carried out by the Child Welfare Branch in connection with the social work of the community perhaps the most important is that known as preventive work—that is, the adjustment of conditions in connection with homes and with families that, if allowed to develop, would lead to destitution, delinquency, juvenile crime, vice, and to anti-social conduct generally.

By applying constructive preventive measures in the early stages it will be possible to reduce considerably the need later on for charitable aid and to lessen the amount of delinquency and crime. To accomplish this, perhaps the most pressing need at present is the matter of co-ordinating the services and the standardization of methods of all social service organizations, both Government and private. There is need also for provision for training persons who desire to take up social work as a vocation. At present great difficulty is experienced in obtaining men and women of the right type with any experience for our work.

With regard to the activities of the Child Welfare Branch during last year, no fewer than 203 families, representing 509 children, were brought under notice, when, by means of visits paid by field officers and by the adjustment of conditions in the home, or correction of anti-social tendencies on the part of the children, the need for further action, involving probably the committal of families to the care of the State, has been obviated.

Investigation and Supervision of Cases appearing before Children's Courts.

The Child Welfare Act provides that in every case where a child under seventeen years of age appears before a Children's Court investigation must be made by a Child Welfare Officer before the case can be dealt with by the Court.

The following statement indicates the numbers appearing before all such Courts, and the method of disposal: Admonished and discharged, 424; withdrawn, 4; returned to institution, 35; dismissed, 63; adjourned, 34; committed to Supreme Court for sentence, 1; committed to Borstal, 33; committed and discharged, 9; committed and birched, 2; committed and fined, 42; committed and probation, 5. By-law cases—Withdrawn, 1; dismissed, 5; committed and fined, 80; committed and discharged, 2; admonished and discharged, 100. Total, 840.

Of the above, 198 were charged with theft; 61, wilful damage; 101, mischief; 1, indigency; 1, forgery; 14, stone-throwing; 29, possession of firearms; 14, disorderly conduct; 9, obscene language; 9, assault; 48, breaking and entering; 9, not under proper control; 32, conversion; 1, indecent exposure; 4, receiving; 8, discharging firearms with intent; 2, vagrancy; 1, indecent assault; 1, carnal knowledge; 6, arson; 1, fraud; 2, unlawfully on premises; 6, delinquency; 6, detrimental environments; 3, drunkenness; 15 breach of Defence Act; 57, breach of Motor-vehicles Act; 9, breach of Railway Act; 1, breach of Acclimatization Act; 1, breach of State Forest Act; 2, breach of Fire Brigades Act; 188, breach of by-laws.

In addition to the above, there were 650 children committed by the Courts to the care of the State. There were also 533 children placed under supervision of Child Welfare Officers (24 of this number were subsequently committed).

Taking the Auckland Children's Court, for instance, the District Supervisor reports that a review of the cases placed under supervision for the year shows that at the 31st March the number of boys was 130. Of this number, twenty-five had been before the Court a second time, and it was finally necessary to commit twelve of this number to the care of the Superintendent. These figures are somewhat in excess of those for the last preceding year, but this is largely accounted for by the fact that the Child Welfare Amendment Act, which came into operation in 1927, raised the age of the jurisdiction of the Children's Court from sixteen to seventeen years. These figures do not indicate an increase in delinquency nor a slackening of supervision, but the raising of the age has brought a larger number of children within the scope of the Children's Court.

The method of supervision consists of close contact by field officers with parents, schoolmasters, &c., and the giving of constant advice and guidance by the "big brothers." The "big brother" scheme has now been in operation for the past six years, and has proved a very effective instrument not only in preventing children from repeating delinquencies, but in advising them, placing many children in situations, and helping them to make a respectable start in life.

There are two "big brother" movements in Auckland. One is controlled by the Y.M.C.A., and one is controlled by the Roman Catholic Church authorities. At the 31st March the Y.M.C.A. "big brother" movement had one hundred boys under its care, and the balance were under the supervision of the Roman Catholic Movement. The latter movement, which provides only for boys of the Roman Catholic faith, has recently been reorganized. The reorganization was taken in hand as the authorities were anxious to cope more adequately with the situation, and also to provide suitable means of expansion in the future. It is hoped that the reorganization will facilitate the extension of the work to other centres of this province, and eventually become Dominion-wide.

COSTLEY TRAINING INSTITUTION TRUST.

Under the will of the late Edward Costley a sum of money was set aside for the purpose of assisting State children during their periods of apprenticeship, or for purposes enabling such children to receive secondary education.

This year the Costley Trustees are assisting forty children. Of this number, twenty-four are not State wards, and are living in their own homes. They are receiving various amounts of assistance, either in cash or school-books or school uniform, and their studies are carefully supervised by the Department. As an instance of what the Trust is accomplishing, it will be interesting to note the following thirty cases. All of these children have received aid from the Trustees during the last five years, and have been enabled through such aid to follow the careers which they are now doing. The twenty boys consist of two coachbuilders, one plasterer, one clerk, two law students, three cabinet-makers, two motor mechanics, one electrician, one teacher, one civil engineer, one carpenter, one postal clerk, one accountant, one railway clerk, one bricklayer, and one chemist's apprentice. The ten girls are made up as follows: six teachers, one University law student, two typists, and one teacher (University), music degree L.A.M. In quoting the cases of what these children have done, it must be remembered that only two of these children are now in receipt of Costley assistance; the rest have been well started on their careers.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The total number of all ages actually under the guardianship of the Superintendent at the 31st March last was 4,562. Of these, 4,001 were either placed out or employed in the community or in institutions not under the control of the Branch, such as hospitals, convalescent homes, private children's homes, refuges, hostels, &c. Of the remainder, 152 were temporarily in receiving-homes awaiting placement, and 137 in training institutions.

The actual number in residential institutions receiving primary instruction, modified to suit the capacity of the particular classes of children, was 184, made up as follows: Boys' Training-farm, Weraroa—full time and of school age, 30; half-time pupils over school age, 24. Institutions for backward children and problem cases—Otekaikē, 100; Richmond, 30.

RECEIVING-HOMES.

During the year 1,752 children passed through the receiving-homes, and on the average about 150 children per day were in residence.

TABLE 1.—NUMBERS IN RESIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS AT 31ST MARCH, 1929.

Institution.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Girls' Receiving-home, Auckland	1	20	21
Boys' Receiving-home, Auckland	12	..	12
Receiving-home, Hamilton	7	6	13
Receiving-home, Wanganui	7	4	11
Receiving-home, Napier	4	5	9
Boys' Training-farm, Weraroa	96*	..	96
Children's Home, Miramar	7	16	23
Boys' Receiving-home, Wellington	14*	..	14
Girls' Receiving-home, Christchurch	1	15	16
Boys' Receiving-home, Christchurch	12	..	12
Girls' Home, Burwood	..	41	41
Receiving-home, Timaru	3	3	6
Girls' Receiving-home, Dunedin	4	7	11
Boys' Receiving-home, Dunedin	4	..	4
St. Mary's School, Auckland	10	7	17
St. Joseph's School, Upper Hutt	12	27	39
St. Mary's School, Nelson	6	3	9
St. Vincent de Paul's School, Dunedin	..	9	9
Special School for Boys, Otekaike	192	..	192
Special School for Girls, Richmond—			
Boarders	..	79	79
Day pupils	..	1	1
School for Deaf, Sumner—			
Boarders	48	56	104
Day pupils	6	5	11
Totals	446	304	750

* Includes boys placed under supervision and ordered to be detained in an institution for a period.

N.B.—The boys in residence in the Girls' Receiving-homes at Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin are infants.

CHILD-PLACING SYSTEM.

Assisted Service, Higher Education, and Employment of State Children over School Age.

At the 31st March, 1929, there were 105 inmates at service receiving assistance ("assisted service" in most cases refers to apprenticeship). There were 68 children receiving higher education—34 secondary, and 34 technical. In addition, there were 94 children over the age of fourteen years still attending the primary schools and being maintained by the Department. Furthermore, 22 children were receiving secondary education, 16 of whom were residing at the Boys' Hostel, Auckland, and 6 residing in colleges.

Nature of Employment at 31st March, 1929, of Boys having left School.

At the 31st March, 1929, there were 582 farm-workers—219 skilled in dairy and farm work, and 363 competent to carry out general farm-work. There were 54 boys apprenticed, as follows: 1 cabinet-maker, 3 carpenters, 8 bootmakers, 4 motor mechanics, 1 electrical engineer, 5 bakers, 1 painter, 1 ironmoulder, 1 wire-mattress maker, 2 motor-body builders, 1 motor-car painter, 1 monumental mason, 1 coachbuilder, 5 engineers, 2 upholsterers, 2 plumbers, 3 tinsmiths, 1 glass-beveller, 2 jockeys, 2 bookbinders and printers, 1 tailor, 1 chemist, 1 builder, 1 boilermaker, 1 grocer, and 2 brass-finishers. Boys otherwise employed (not apprenticed) totalled 128, as follows: 48 labourers, 29 factory employees, 6 shop-assistants, 1 driver, 11 clerks, 1 warehouse employee, 3 seamen, 9 Postal employees, 3 errand-boys, 1 photographer, 1 sawmill hand, 1 blacksmith, 5 market-gardeners, 1 garage hand, 1 nursery hand, 1 houseboy, 1 porter, 5 butchers.

Nature of Employment at 31st March, 1929, of Girls having left School.

There were 339 domestics, 60 factory employees, 4 clerks, 8 tailoresses, 1 upholsterer, 2 bookbinders, 1 laundry hand, 5 waitresses, 2 dressmakers, 6 shop-assistants, 2 nurses, 4 teachers, 4 typists, 1 furrier, and 1 printer. This gives a total of 440 girls in employment.

REGISTRATION OF CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Under the provisions of the Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1927, it is necessary for all institutions for children, not including institutions maintained solely for educational purposes, to be registered. Up to the present eighty such institutions have applied for registration and in all except four cases have been inspected by officers of the Child Welfare Branch and granted registration. The following summary shows the number of institutions, grouped according to religious denomination, with the total number of children, grouped according to age.

TABLE 2.—CHILDREN IN RESIDENCE IN PRIVATE ORPHANAGES.

Denomination.	Number of Orphanages.	Boys.					Girls.					Totals.		
		Under 1 Year.	1 Year to 2 Years.	2 Years to 6 Years.	6 Years to 14 Years.	Over 14 Years.	Under 1 Year.	1 Year to 2 Years.	2 Years to 6 Years.	6 Years to 14 Years.	Over 14 Years.	Boys.	Girls.	Both Sexes.
Anglican ..	22	20	16	91	267	15	17	15	55	265	105	409	457	866
Roman Catholic ..	10	8	8	117	304	37	8	9	91	357	101	474	566	1,040
Presbyterian ..	13	..	..	40	208	56	..	..	15	130	35	304	180	484
Salvation Army ..	16	5	8	36	167	42	3	1	19	114	23	258	160	418
Methodist ..	4	..	..	19	53	5	..	1	4	73	5	77	83	160
Baptist ..	1	..	1	4	18	3	..	..	4	26	6	26	36	62
Plymouth Brethren	1	..	1	1	9	..	..	1	3	7	..	11	11	22
Masonic ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	11	..	19	19
Undenominational ..	12	6	9	36	78	40	3	9	28	65	38	169	143	312
Totals ..	80	39	43	344	1,104	198	31	36	219	1,045	324	1,728	1,655	3,383

The particulars regarding parentage are not available in all cases, but out of 2,324 cases the returns received show that 135 children are orphans (no parents living), 109 have no father, 262 have no mother, and the remainder (1,818) have both parents living.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

TABLE 3.—PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO AND REMOVED FROM LICENSED FOSTER-HOMES DURING 1928.

	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, 1927 ..	116	124	201	133	112	95	71	50	902
Placed in licensed homes or transferred from other districts during 1928 ..	301	122	116	71	45	30	25	11	721
Totals ..	417	246	317	204	157	125	96	61	1,623
Withdrawn from homes—									
Removed by parents or guardians ..	22	57	91	66	41	33	17	18	345
Deaths ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Adoptions without premium ..	14	14	29	19	10	9	3	16	114
In homes to which exemption was granted during 1928 ..	..	3	1	1	..	1	..	..	6
Brought under operation of Child Welfare Act ..	1	14	10	7	4	5	2	1	44
Written off the books for various causes (including those who attained the age of 6 years) ..	5	4	11	14	5	2	13	51	105
Total withdrawals ..	43	92	142	107	60	50	36	86	616
On the books at 31st December, 1928 ..	149	138	216	175	124	105	60	40	1,007

Rates of Payment by Parents or Guardians.

The following is a comparison of the rates paid by parents or guardians during the last six years :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Under 7s. per week ..	3	2	1	4	8	6
7s. and under 10s. per week ..	1	7	9	..	3	5
10s. per week ..	65	48	48	39	54	73
Over 10s. per week ..	580	615	699	785	747	903

Foster-homes.

The 1,007 children in 797 foster-homes at the end of the year were distributed as follows :—

In 655 homes each having one child ..	655
In 93 homes each having two children ..	186
In 36 homes each having three children ..	108
In 10 homes each having four children ..	40
In 1 home having five children ..	5
In 1 home having six children ..	6
In 1 home having seven children ..	7

1,007

Three of the homes were those in which children were boarded out by Charitable Aid Boards.

The total number of licensed homes was 1,237, so that at the end of the year there were 440 homes in which for the time being no infants were boarded,

Deaths in Foster-homes and Exempted Institutions.

Of the 1,623 infants who were at one time on the books as being in foster-homes during 1928, two died in hospitals. One infant was under one year and the other was five years of age, and both were of illegitimate birth.

The following is a statement of the number of deaths since 1924 :—

TABLE 4.

Year.	Foster-homes.			Exempted Institutions.		
	Number of Deaths.	Number of Infants.	Percentage of Deaths.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Infants.	Percentage of Deaths.
1924	5	1,213	0·41	21	1,175	1·78
1925	5	1,301	0·38	12	1,638	0·73
1926	1	1,423	0·07	18	3,196	0·56
1927	9	1,539	0·58	35	3,603	0·97
1928	2	1,623	0·12	17	2,324	0·73

TABLE 5.—ADOPTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1928.

During the year 371 orders of adoption were made. Thirty-six of the adoption orders provided for premium, and 335 were without monetary consideration. The following table shows the ages of the adopted children :—

Age of Child.	With Premium.	Without Premium.	Totals.
Under six months	14	51	65
Between six months and one year	8	29	37
Between one year and five years	13	155	168
Between five years and ten years	1	51	52
Between ten years and fifteen years	..	49	49
Totals	36	335	371

The adopting parents were—Husband and wife jointly, 350 ; widow, 10 ; widower, 3 ; spinster, 6 ; bachelor, 2 : total, 371.

The amounts of the premiums ranged from £10 to £350.

Two adoption orders were revoked.

ILLEGITIMACY.

Illegitimate births registered	1928. 1,383	1927. 1,387
Number of illegitimate children aged twelve months or less brought under the Infants Act	357	278
Illegitimate children under six years in licensed foster-homes at 31st December	731	632

Deaths amongst Illegitimate Children for Year ended 31st December, 1928.

Under six months	51	Between four and five years	1
Over six months and under one year	5	Between five and six years	5
Between one and two years	11		
Between two and three years	2	Total	76
Between three and four years	1		

TABLE 6.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN COMPARED FOR YEAR 1928.

Year.	Legitimate.			Illegitimate.		
	Births.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births.	Births.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1924	26,676	1,033	38·60	1,338	94	70·20
1925	26,821	1,056	39·33	1,332	69	51·80
1926	28,270	1,054	37·28	1,473	78	52·95
1927	26,494	1,011	38·159	1,387	77	55·51
1928	25,817	928	35·945	1,383	56	40·49

TABLE 7.—STATUS OF CHILDREN UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AT 31ST MARCH, 1929 (OTHER THAN THOSE IN RESIDENCES).

Status.	Boys.	Girls.	Both Sexes.
Boarded out	1,200	922	2,122
At service	635	323	958
With friends	358	295	653
In hospitals or convalescent homes	11	10	21
In mental hospitals	2	4	6
In refuges or cognate institutions	11	58	69
In orphanages	13	16	29
Absent without leave	23	5	28
At Borstal	3	..	3
Y.M.C.A. Hostel, Auckland	16	..	16
Institute for the Blind	..	1	1
At colleges	3	3	6
Girls' Hostel, Wellington	..	14	14
	2,275	1,651	3,926

Committals to the Care of the Superintendent during the Year ended 31st March, 1929.

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

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Under six months	41	28	69
Over six months and under one year	24	19	43
One year to five years	68	67	135
Five years to ten years	87	72	159
Ten years to fourteen years	88	55	143
Over fourteen years	101	52	153
Totals	409	293	702

Table 8 attached to this report shows the new admissions, classified according to the causes of admission. Of the total number (702), 264 were destitute or indigent, 157 not under proper control, and 84 had been charged with punishable offences. Of the children admitted under these headings, 406 were placed out in foster-homes before the 31st March, 1929.

TABLE 8.—ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1929, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES OF ADMISSIONS.

Admitted as	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Indigent	148	116	264
Not under proper control	79	78	157
Delinquent	11	8	19
Detrimental environments	48	51	99
Accused or guilty of punishable offence	76	8	84
Admission by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act)	9	4	13
Neglected	13	14	27
Temporary admissions	23	14	37
Section 47, Infants Act	2	..	2
Totals	409	293	702

Table 9 shows the distribution and disposal of the children committed to the care of the Superintendent during the year.

TABLE 9.—ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1929, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATUS AT 31ST MARCH, 1929.

Status.	Boys.	Girls.	Both Sexes.
In residence	79	48	127
Boarded out	222	184	406
At service	39	16	55
With friends	15	15	30
Refuges, or cognate institutions	..	6	6
Hospitals	6	2	8
Mental Hospitals	1	..	1
School for Boys, Otekaike	9	..	9
Y.M.C.A. Hostel, Auckland	2	..	2
Borstal	1	..	1
Discharged	2	..	2
Written off	24	16	40
Died	1	..	1
Absent without leave	4	..	4
Holiday	1	..	1
Orphanages	3	3	6
College	..	1	1
Girls' Hostel, Wellington	..	2	2
Totals	409	293	702

Table 10 gives particulars of the character or state of the parents at the time of the admissions of the children. From this table has been selected the following figures, showing (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	7
Drunken father	31
Both parents drunkards	4
	42

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

Mentally deficient mother	35
Mentally deficient father	3
Both parents mentally deficient.. .. .	2
	40

An analysis of the new admissions for last year, grouped according to the characters or state of the parents at the time of admission, is interesting, for the results seem to indicate that, generally speaking, the child who is admitted on account of destitution or orphanhood, or whose parents have deserted him, comes either from an undesirable home or from morally unwholesome surroundings; while, on the other hand, the child who commits an offence against the law and is regarded as a delinquent comes almost invariably from a good home.

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 identity unknown; (2) good character; (3) bad or questionable character, including drunkards, feeble-minded, or physically unfit, and character unknown.

TABLE 10.—PARTICULARS OF PARENTAGE: ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1929.

264 indigent children, representing 187 families. Parents described as—

	Dead, Deserter, or Identity unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble-minded, Physically Unfit, and Character unknown.
Father	47	40	100
Mother	34	57	96
Both parents (included in above)	10	14	18

157 uncontrollable children, representing 101 families. Parents described as—

	Dead, Deserter, or Identity unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble- minded, Physically Unfit, and Character unknown.
Father	22	33	46
Mother	18	36	47
Both parents (included in above) ..	8	20	15

82 children accused or guilty of offences, representing 81 families. Parents described as—

	Dead, Deserter, or Identity unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble- minded, Physically Unfit, and Character unknown.
Father	12	48	22
Mother	7	61	14
Both parents (included in above) ..	1	39	5

TABLE 11.—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.	Ratana.	Seventh Day Adventist.	Jewish.	Unknown.	Total.
Number ..	350	125	120	42	28	13	1	1	3	2	4	1	12	702
Percentage ..	49.86	17.806	17.094	5.982	3.988	1.851	0.142	0.142	0.427	0.284	0.569	0.142	1.709	..

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

TABLE 12.—INMATES DISCHARGED FROM CONTROL DURING YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1929.

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Discharged (Child Welfare Act, section 23) ..	208	66	274
Attained the age of twenty-one years ..	13	27	40
Adopted	19	19	38
Written off books	40	20	60
By death	12	9	21
By marriage	..	17	17
Totals	292	158	450

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE MENTALLY BACKWARD.

Special School for Boys, Otekaike.

On the 31st March, 1929, the number of boys in residence was 192, as against 185 on the 1st April, 1928. During the year sixteen boys were placed at service, twelve were returned to friends, six were transferred to other institutions under the control of the Department, and five were admitted to mental hospitals. Forty-one new pupils were admitted.

During the year a new building with sleeping and bathing accommodation for eighty boys has been completed. In addition to relieving the overcrowding in the main building, this has enabled a cottage with accommodation for twenty-six boys to be set apart for the use of the lower-grade younger boys. A large social hall with a fireproof room for a moving-picture machine has also been completed.

In the industrial section the inmates, 82 in number on the average, were employed in farm, garden, and orchard work, boot making and repairing, coir-mat making, seagrass-furniture making, basket-making, sawmilling, and assisting with the domestic work of the institution.

At present there are 111 boys in the primary school. Owing to regular and good meals, regular sleep and habits, soon after admission boys begin to show improvement in health. A diversified

programme of physical education makes provision for the gradual building-up of the body and increasing the correlation between mind and muscle. This training consists of rhythmic work, eurhythmics, Swedish drill, organized games, sports, postural work, and rest.

Boys of the type admitted to this school respond better to the stimulus afforded by manual work than to that afforded by academic subjects, hence manual work forms a large part of the daily training. The occupations, graded to meet the needs of the individual, consists of knitting, sewing, darning, and weaving for the younger boys; drawing, designing, stencilling, leatherwork, and woodwork for the elder boys. All boys take an active part in the school-garden.

The cultural aspect of school is not neglected. Singing is taught, and direct instruction in the appreciation of good music. The gramophone is in daily use, and is a constant source of instruction and enjoyment. A mouth-organ band has been established and is a very popular institution.

A curriculum in reading, writing, &c., arranged to meet the needs of the boys, is in operation, and gives them an opportunity of proving themselves fit for transfer, if their conduct is satisfactory, to a non-institutional environment.

With the object of giving the boys an opportunity of mixing with their equals in age, a Scout troop (Oamaru No. 4) has been formed. The troop has taken part in Scout activities in the district.

The health of the boys continues to be very satisfactory.

Special School for Girls, Richmond.

The school roll at the 1st April, 1929, numbered eighty-eight pupils. During the year two new pupils were admitted, four returned to parents, one died at Nelson Hospital, three were transferred to a receiving-home, with the view of being placed in suitable positions in the general community. The usual school curriculum (kindergarten to Standard IV) has been satisfactorily carried out, and the pupils have made marked progress. The handwork section is expanding, and excellent work has been performed by the older girls. A varied assortment of handwork of this section was considered worthy of exhibition at the recent Special Schools Conference held in Wellington.

As in former years, the elder pupils are being trained in the different lines of domestic and gardening work and poultry-keeping. These branches, in addition to providing congenial occupation, are of very great value to the school.

The Rev. Mr. Daynes, Vicar of Richmond, visits the school and gives religious instruction to the children each Friday morning.

To Mrs. Morrow, who allowed the children the use of her seaside home, for a holiday at the beach; Mr. W. E. Wilkes, of Richmond, who placed his car at the disposal of the school, and arranged many pleasant motor outings; the Junior Branch of the Y.C.T.U., and the citizens of Nelson, for much kindness and hospitality, our thanks are due.

TABLE 13.—INSTITUTIONS FOR BACKWARD CHILDREN: NUMBERS AT 31st MARCH, 1929.

—					Richmond. (Girls.)	Otekaieke. (Boys.)	Totals.
In residence	..	..	..	..	79	192	271
On vacation	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
At service	..	..	..	..	..	7	7
In hospital	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Day pupil	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Totals					81	201	282

TABLE 14.—PARTICULARS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1928-29.

Item.					Otekaieke.		Richmond.		Total.	
					£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Salaries	..	..	..	..	5,487	4 0	1,786	12 7	7,273	16 7
Advertising	..	..	..	..	12	9 5	3	5 6	15	14 11
Maintenance of buildings	..	..	..	..	736	0 9	15	15 0	751	15 9
Maintenance of institutions	..	..	..	..	5,708	11 0	1,588	10 1	7,297	1 1
					11,944	5 2	3,394	3 2	15,338	8 4
Travelling-expenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	299	19 2
										15,638 7 6
Less recoveries (parental contributions and revenue from farms, sale of articles manufactured, &c.)										3,817 1 5
Net cost to Department										11,821 6 1

The net expenditure for the year 1927-28 was £10,549 12s. 4d.; the recoveries for the year, compared with the previous year, show an increase of £307 11s. 6d.

EDUCATION OF DEAF CHILDREN.

School for Deaf, Sumner; Special Classes for Hard-of-hearing and Speech-defectives at Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin.

The number of children on the roll at Sumner on the 31st March, 1929, was fifty-six boys and sixty-one girls. Twelve pupils left and seven were admitted during the year. Special classes for hard-of-hearing children and speech-defectives established in Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin afforded training in speech to 172 afflicted children. In addition, the teachers of the special classes give tuition in lip-reading to adults.

The school at Sumner continues to do good work. The curriculum is adapted to meet the special needs of the children, and special methods are employed with great success. The children are brought into touch with outside life as much as possible, and every incentive is given to encourage them to express their ideas in words. Training in speech and in lip-reading goes on in every waking-hour of the child, and no opportunity is lost of widening his outlook and enriching his vocabulary. The teacher's problem is to awaken and keep alive a desire to speak. The technique is involved, and the utmost patience is required. The children enjoy excellent health and are happy and contented.

In February of this year Their Excellencies Sir Charles and Lady Alice Fergusson paid a visit to the school. His Excellency spent considerable time in talking to the children, and before leaving promised to send as a memento a photograph of himself and Her Excellency. This duly arrived, and will serve to remind the children of a notable event in the school year.

Expenditure on School for the Deaf, 1928-29.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries.. .. .	5,945	15	11			
Advertising, &c.		12	6			1
Maintenance of pupils and sundry expenses	2,225	15	7			
Travelling-expenses	337	1	3			
Maintenance of building, furnishing, &c.	77	0	7			
				8,597	19	5
Less parental contributions and amount received from Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards	2,584	4	3			
Sales of farm-produce		0	17			0
National endowment	219	0	0			
				2,804	1	3
				£5,793	18	2

Net expenditure for the year 1927-28, £5,571 18s. 1d.

TABLE 15.—CHILD WELFARE : EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 1928-29.

Institution.	Foodstuffs.	Clothing and Boots.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Medical and Dental.	Household Requisites.	Farm and Garden.	Sundries.	Total.	Add Stocks, 31st March, 1928.	Total.	Deduct			Net Expenditure.				
											Issues to Board.	Issues to Service.	Stocks, 31st March, 1929.					
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Girls' receiving-homes—																		
Auckland ..	363 7 0	119 10 8	85 2 5	101 13 10	62 8 3	..	39 13 9	711 15 11	478 13 11	1,221 10 2	125 14 6	224 13 2	360 16 4	711 15 11				
Hamilton ..	169 14 3	236 19 2	38 14 7	3 8 6	10 19 10	..	82 19 11	542 16 3	616 8 10	1,225 11 3	141 16 7	228 8 6	601 6 3	253 19 11				
Napier ..	124 3 2	382 0 11	36 4 3	27 5 2	14 6 2	..	25 2 9	609 2 5	209 16 11	551 19 9	32 6 5	66 18 6	215 17 1	236 17 9				
Wanganui ..	156 19 9	106 5 1	26 13 6	5 0 2	9 2 0	..	38 2 4	342 2 10	841 0 11	2,451 2 2	817 12 9	43 2 9	787 13 3	802 13 5				
Christchurch ..	331 0 11	954 8 7	164 7 5	36 13 7	61 0 3	..	62 10 6	1,610 1 3	756 3 10	1,438 14 1	179 15 3	121 18 1	..	1,137 0 9				
Dunedin ..	186 12 2	298 7 1	61 15 11	51 0 5	18 0 0	..	66 14 8	682 10 3	..	517 19 5	..	..	..	517 19 5				
Boys' receiving-homes—																		
Auckland ..	245 2 0	51 8 3	94 0 2	21 1 0	15 15 5	..	90 12 7	517 19 5	..	400 16 8	..	..	..	400 16 8				
Wellington ..	261 3 8	23 11 3	53 0 3	15 18 11	27 4 9	..	19 17 10	400 16 8	119 3 3	648 0 4	39 5 10	177 5 2	151 9 5	279 19 11				
Christchurch ..	142 6 4	244 8 10	61 1 0	19 9 8	10 17 11	..	50 13 4	528 17 1	315 1 11	764 8 3	134 19 5	138 13 11	..	490 14 11				
Dunedin ..	154 3 3	105 2 6	75 7 9	35 14 3	13 16 9	..	65 1 10	449 6 4	4,836 11 2	10,284 19 3	41 2 3	775 14 1	4,758 11 3	4,709 11 8				
Boys' Training-farm, Wera- roa ..	1,179 16 0	1,511 18 11	525 10 0	76 10 1	267 10 1	1,453 14 3	433 8 9	5,448 8 1	..	879 17 4	..	..	..	879 17 4				
Children's Home, Miramar ..	410 12 5	43 12 10	215 9 7	80 15 6	61 3 2	..	68 3 10	879 17 4	..	537 6 5	..	..	..	537 6 5				
Girls' Hostel, Wellington...	371 1 0	9 11 8	73 5 8	8 3 5	32 5 4	..	42 19 4	537 6 5	..	1,621 8 11	..	..	..	1,621 8 11				
Girls' Home, Burwood ..	687 15 10	217 5 8	207 6 2	177 9 10	169 4 9	..	162 6 8	1,621 8 11	..	193 1 0	19 11 3	..	..	173 9 9				
Girls' Home, Timaru ..	49 2 10	7 7 3	12 16 7	4 13 3	94 7 1	..	24 14 0	193 1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..				
Totals ..	4,773 0 7	4,311 18 8	1,730 15 3	664 17 7	868 1 9	1,453 14 3	1,273 2 1	15,075 10 2	8,173 0 9	23,248 10 11	1,532 4 3	1,776 14 2	6,875 13 7	13,063 18 11				
Repairs to buildings																		
Salaries of staffs of homes, Child Welfare Officers, visiting nurses, &c. . .																		
Boarding-out of children—																		
Payments to foster-parents																		
Payments to Postal Department as commission																		
Issues of clothing, &c.: From institutions																		
From Central and Branch Stores																		
Medicine, medical attendance, dentistry, clothing, &c.																		
Inmates at service—																		
Issues of clothing, &c.: From institutions																		
From Central and Branch Stores																		
Miscellaneous payments (clothing and medical, &c.)																		
Refund of maintenance payments																		
Refund of inmates earnings																		
Rent, office requisites, &c.																		
Travelling-expenses																		
Wages of inmates																		
Legal expenses.. .. .																		
Transfer and removal expenses																		
Contingencies																		
Less recoveries—																		
Parents and others																		
Sales of farm-produce																		
Inmates' earnings for clothing, &c.																		
Miscellaneous																		
National endowment																		
Totals																		
£111,723 8 11																		

TABLE 16.—AVERAGE COST OF MAINTAINING INMATES IN INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE CHILD WELFARE ACT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1929.

	£	s.	d.
Gross cost of maintaining inmates	146,403	4	4
Less—			
Reduction of liabilities as at 31st March, 1929, compared with	£	s.	d.
31st March, 1928	1,467	7	6
Direct expenditure of service inmates	3,545	1	7
Issues from institutions and stores	3,198	14	2
Salaries—Child Welfare Branch, estimated at £12,000.. .. .	12,000	0	0
Travelling-expenses	5,225	16	10
Refund of inmates' earnings	25	4	6
Rent, office requisites, &c.	1,425	11	1
Legal expenses	58	19	0
	29,946 14 8		
Net cost	£116,456	9	8
Number of inmates			2,524
Average cost per week per inmate—			£ s. d.
Gross			0 17 9
Recoveries			0 4 0
Net average cost per week per inmate	£0	13	9

TABLE 17.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PRIVATE (ROMAN CATHOLIC) SCHOOLS, 1928–29.

For the maintenance of State wards who are inmates of the four private institutions recognized under the Child Welfare Act, 1925, the Department pays capitation at the rate of 10s. a week each. The following table indicates the expenditure under this heading:—

	£	s.	d.
St. Mary's, Auckland	349	1	0
St. Joseph's, Upper Hutt	822	15	0
St. Mary's, Nelson	232	11	5
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	154	10	10
	£1,558 18 3		

TABLE 17A.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF INMATES SENT TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS, 1928–29.

	£	s.	d.
Salvation Army Home, Auckland	22	17	1
Mount Magdala Home, Christchurch	23	7	0
Salvation Army Home, Wellington	7	0	0
St. Mary's, Otahuhu	62	1	6
Anglican Boys' Home, Lower Hutt.. .. .	7	16	0
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Napier	41	7	2
Salvation Army Home, Eltham	2	4	3
Bethany Home	10	4	3
	£176 17 3		

TABLE 17B.—GROSS RECOVERIES FROM PARENTS AND OTHERS.

	1927–28.			1928–29.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Child Welfare	19,872	19	2	21,232	19	9
Special Schools	2,600	8	4	2,737	0	11
Charitable Aid Boards (Special Schools)	1,856	10	8	2,058	6	1
	£24,329 18 2			£26,028 6 9		

TABLE 17C.—CASH SALES OF FARM PRODUCE, 1928-29.

Item.	Boys' Training-farm, Weraroa.			Special School, Otekaike.			Totals.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Milk and cream	1,266	10	11	373	3	10	1,639	14	9
Poultry and eggs	51	19	6	16	18	7	68	18	1
Fruit and vegetables	16	1	11	11	16	2	27	18	1
Sheep, cattle, beef, and mutton ..	515	8	6	400	10	6	915	19	0
Mats and basketwork	..	..	..	322	13	11	322	13	11
Boot-repairs and leather goods ..	..	..	..	29	13	9	29	13	9
Timber	..	..	..	573	5	10	573	5	10
Chaffcutting, haymaking, and threshing	11	5	0	..	..	..	11	5	0
Pigs and bacon	284	2	8	17	8	4	301	11	0
Sundries	12	13	3	88	15	7	101	8	10
Totals	2,158	1	9	1,834	6	6	3,992	8	3

COSTLEY TRAINING INSTITUTION.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

Dr.				Cr.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Maintenance	1,549	0	1	By interest	1,576	4	6
Less refund, Education Department	85	5	0				
			1,464 15 1				
Office expenses and commission on in- terest collected			97 9 7				
Balance to Accumulated Fund			13 19 10				
			£1,576 4 6				£1,576 4 6

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

Liabilities.				Assets.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Capital account—				Bank balance		17	9 6
Costley Bequest	12,150	0	0	Jackson, Russell, Tunks, and West ..	2,839	14	9
Hodge Bequest	742	3	9	5½ per cent. N.Z. inscribed stock ..	1,500	0	0
			12,892 3 9				
Accumulated fund—							
Balance, 31st December, 1927	12,914	16	11	Mortgages	21,266	5	0
Income and Expenditure Account	13	19	10	Accrued interest	197	11	3
			12,928 16 9			21,463	16 3
			£25,821 0 6				£25,821 0 6

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