

In very many cases parents whose children are difficult to manage avail themselves of the services of Child Welfare Officers for the purpose of supervision and friendly guidance.

At the end of the year there was a total number of 1,182 children being dealt with in this connection.

Table 1 shows the number of cases notified during the year.

TABLE 2.—PREVENTIVE CASES.

The following table shows the number of preventive cases notified by Child Welfare Officers during the year ended 31st March, 1937.

District.	Number of Families.	Number of Children.
North Auckland	17	40
Auckland	9	15
Hamilton	8	38
Gisborne	2	2
Hawke's Bay	3	9
Hawera	4	4
Wanganui	8	30
Palmerston North	13	22
Wellington	9	9
Nelson and Marlborough	16	47
West Coast (South Island)	1	2
North Canterbury	6	15
South Canterbury	19	44
Otago	27	54
Southland	24	61
Totals	166	392

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

At the 31st March, 1937, there were 4,241 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate heading below), and of these 184 were in residence at Government receiving-homes (many of these only temporarily), training-farms, and training institutions; 253 in Special Schools for Mentally Backward Children; 70 in the four Roman Catholic Schools recognized under the Child Welfare Act; 2,011 were boarded out in foster-homes; 866 were in licensed situations; and 611 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various private institutions.

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.

Young persons over school age in employment numbered 817 males and 422 females (a number of whom are residing with friends), included in the total of 4,241. Of the males, 556 were farm-workers (198 skilled in dairy-work and cheesemaking, and 358 competent to milk and carry out general farm-work), 80 factory employees, 31 labourers, 28 shop-assistants, 13 clerks, 7 warehouse assistants, 9 bakers, 5 butchers, 4 motor-body builders, 6 carpenters, 4 cabinetmakers, 4 plasterers, 6 bootmakers, 5 printers and bookbinders, 9 garage attendants, 3 electrical engineers, 4 messengers, 4 tailors, 2 gardeners, 4 drivers, 3 grocers' assistants, 3 jockeys, 3 railway-workshop employees, 2 painters, 2 freezing-works employees, 2 salesmen, 1 upholsterer, 1 engineer, 1 coachbuilder, 2 racing-stable hands, 1 fisherman, 1 builder, 1 sawmill hand, 1 nursery-gardener, 1 seaman, 1 waiter, 1 milkman, 1 plumber, 1 market-gardener, 1 miner, 1 office-assistant, 1 basketmaker, and 1 presser.

Of the girls, 280 were domestic workers, 10 tailoresses, 7 dressmakers, 3 fur-factory employees, 13 shop-assistants, 3 clerks, 4 waitresses, 2 laundresses, 3 teachers, 6 typistes, 6 machinists, 99 factory employees, 2 wards maids, 1 bookbinder, 1 hairdresser, 1 nurse, and 1 cook.

Of the above, 116 (75 boys and 41 girls, including some apprentices) were being partly maintained by the State.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

At the end of the year 830 infants and young children were supervised in 750 licensed foster-homes. Of these homes, 687 had 1 child each, 52 had 2 children each, 7 had 3 children each, 3 had 4 children each, and 1 had 6 children. Payments for maintenance, which were made by the relatives, ranged from 2s. to 30s. per week for each child. Out of the 1,378 infants who were residing in licensed homes throughout the year there were three deaths.