

remaining in the Dominion. These children are waiting either to complete examination courses or until their parents can join them, but in a few cases they have expressed their intention of remaining here indefinitely, regardless of their parents' future movements.

The children who returned to the United Kingdom left in three main groups, and on each occasion the opportunity was taken to accord them an official farewell, in which the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom and representatives of the New Zealand Government took part. On these occasions, and subsequently by letter, the foster-parents of all the children were thanked for the outstanding humanitarian service they rendered by taking these children into their homes and accepting responsibility for their well-being.

It is pleasing to be able to record the great success of the scheme as it operated in New Zealand. The children who came here, almost without exception, made excellent progress and obviously benefited by their stay in this country. Many of them who returned to the United Kingdom have already indicated their desire to emigrate to New Zealand at the earliest opportunity and, if possible, to bring their relatives with them.

C. E. PEEK, Superintendent.

The Director of Education, Wellington, New Zealand.

TABLE 1.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER CONTROL AND SUPERVISION

The total number of children under the supervision of the Child Welfare Branch as at the 31st March, 1946, was 8,048, classified under the following headings, the corresponding number for the previous year being also given :—

	1944-45.	1945-46.
<i>State Wards—</i>		
In foster-homes and with friends	2,502	2,444
In situations (includes 6 absent without leave at 31st March, 1945, and 16 at 31st March, 1946)	1,022	1,006
In Government institutions, receiving homes, &c.	285	316
In private institutions	108	105
In Roman Catholic institutions recognized under Child Welfare Act	90	82
In special schools for mentally backward children (see also pupils under "Other than State Wards")	139	129
In refuges or cognate institutions	59	49
In hospital, convalescent homes, &c.	36	40
In residential colleges, &c.	17	13
	4,258	4,184
<i>Other than State Wards—</i>		
Young persons supervised by Child Welfare Officers in their own homes, with relatives, or friends, pursuant to orders of Court	1,063	1,026
Infants supervised in foster-homes registered under the Infants Act	799	909
Pupils at Schools for Deaf, Sumner and Titirangi	215	238
Pupils at schools for mentally backward children (Otekaikae and Richmond), (see also under "State Wards")	47	45
Children supervised as preventive cases	1,905	1,629
Children in New Zealand Institute for Blind for whom the Department makes payment	20	17
	4,049	3,864
	8,307	8,048
British children in New Zealand	191	46