

these special cases will receive the individual treatment that their abnormal tendencies call for; and it is hoped gradually to evolve methods which, while kindly, and recognising moral infirmities, will go in the direction of making the inmates regard themselves as clearly responsible for their actions, and of teaching them that upon their efforts to improve themselves their opportunities of promotion to a higher grade will depend. Any course that would lead to their regarding themselves as "patients" whose sickness was beyond their own power to heal would be fatal to reform.

As the law stands at present, control of industrial-school inmates may be retained until they arrive at twenty-one years of age. In the great majority of cases it is found unnecessary to exercise supervision for so long, but unfortunately there are a few who even at that age are quite unfit to take their place in society with any reasonable hope of their succeeding in life or, in some cases, of their refraining from committing crime. The problem of providing effectively and humanely for such cases is one of great difficulty; but, in view of the far-reaching consequences of their going into the world without restraint, as at present, it is necessary to attempt to find some practical means of dealing with them. Therefore it is suggested that a Magistrate, on the application of the Manager of the school in which such an inmate is detained, should be empowered, after the appointment of counsel for the inmate at the expense of the Crown, to hear evidence, and, on being satisfied that the case is not one to which the ordinary provisions as to termination of control at twenty-one years should apply, to make an order extending the period of detention to twenty-five years of age; and, if necessary at the termination of that period, a further extension could be obtained by similar procedure. The power of the Governor to discharge an inmate at any time, and of the Minister to place him out from the school on probation, should apply in the same way as in the case of an ordinary inmate of an industrial school who is under twenty-one years.

During 1908 the numbers under the control of all the industrial schools rose from 2,151 to 2,263. Of the latter number, 420 were in residence at Government schools, and 372 in the private (Roman Catholic) schools. The remaining 1,471 were non-resident, 731 being boarded out with foster-parents, and 740 being at service, with friends on probation, &c.

TABLE H.—INMATES, 1907 AND 1908.

	Boarded out.				In Residence.				At Service, &c.				Totals.			
	Dec., 1907.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1908.
Government Schools—																
Auckland (Mount Albert)	74	8	..	82	29	4	..	33	55	9	..	64	158	21	..	179
Boys' Training Farm, Wairarapa	15	..	6	9	148	11	..	159	124	..	6	118	287	..	1	286
Receiving Home, Wellington	247	28	..	275	11	..	5	6	56	7	..	63	314	30	..	344
Te Oranga Home, Christchurch	..	..	..	..	55	..	1	54	31	..	3	28	86	..	4	82
Receiving Home, Christchurch	174	15	..	189	14	..	6	8	91	..	9	82	279	..	..	279
Burnham	5	..	2	3	107	17	..	124	114	2	..	116	226	17	..	243
Caversham	171	..	5	166	28	8	..	36	83	11	..	94	282	14	..	296
Private Schools—																
St. Mary's, Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	106	19	..	125	41	8	..	49	147	27	..	174
St. Joseph's, Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	23	14	..	37	26	..	6	20	49	8	..	57
St. Mary's, Nelson ..	1	..	1	..	158	8	..	166	103	..	11	92	262	..	4	258
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	8	..	1	7	42	2	..	44	11	3	..	14	61	4	..	65
Totals	695	51	15	731	721	83	12	792	735	40	35	740	2,151	121	9	2,263

Number of children on the books at the end of the year whose maintenance

was a charge against the public funds	..	..	..	..	1,557
Increase on the total for the preceding year	..	..	..	..	116
Boarded out from Government schools	..	..	..	..	718
Boarded out from private schools	..	..	..	..	7
Number resident at schools	..	..	..	..	792