

B. *Epileptics.*

With regard to epileptics, the Commissioners are of opinion that “ the relation between epilepsy and mental defect is so close that it is not possible to make provision for sane epilepsy separately and under a separate authority.”

C. “ *Heredity* ” and *Mental Defect.*

The Commissioners sum up the general effect of the evidence as to the relationship between “ heredity ” and mental defect as follows :—

- (1.) That, both on the grounds of fact and of theory, there is the highest degree of probability that “ feeble-mindedness ” is usually spontaneous in origin—that is, not due to influences acting on the parent—and tends strongly to be inherited.

(2.) That, especially in view of the evidence concerning fertility, the prevention of mentally defective persons from becoming parents would tend largely to diminish the numbers of such persons in the population.

(3.) That the evidence for these conclusions strongly supports measures, which on no other grounds are of pressing importance, for placing mentally defective persons, men and women, who are living at large and uncontrolled, in institutions where they will be employed and detained, and in this and in other ways kept under effectual supervision as long as may be necessary.

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
GEORGE BENSTEAD, Principal.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS.

Number on the books of all the industrial schools at 31st December, 1908	2,263
Increase on number for the preceding year	112
On books of Government industrial schools at 31st December, 1908	1,709
Increase on number for the preceding year	77
On books of private (Roman Catholic) industrial schools at 31st December, 1908	554
Increase on number for the preceding year	35

The following table shows the status of all the inmates at the close of the year :—

TABLE H4.—INMATES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1908.

Inmates.	Government Schools.										Private Schools.					All Schools.											
	Auckland.		Boys' Training Farm, Weraoa.		Receiving Home, Wellington.		Te Oranga Home.		Receiving Home, Christchurch.		Burnham.		Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Wellington.		St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Protestant.	Catholic.
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.							
In the schools ..	33	159	3	3	54	1	7	124	3	33	66	59	37	124	42	44	480	312	792	399	393						
Boarded out ..	44	38	9	153	122	..	103	86	3	98	68	..	..	..	7	410	321	731	644	87				
With friends ..	8	5	35	16	11	2	8	10	29	8	21	5	1	4	14	5	123	68	191	131	60						
At service ..	7	22	59	20	8	15	31	26	52	19	40	12	28	16	42	19	242	179	421	283	138						
Training-ship ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c. ..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	5	2	7	3	4
In mental hospitals ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	4	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	9	2	11	10	1
At Costley Training Institution ..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	15	15	..
At School for the Deaf ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	..
At Special School for Mentally Backward Boys ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
Under control of refuges or cognate institutions ..	1	3	..	..	..	8	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12	13	7	6
Under control of orphanage, cottage home, &c. ..	1	2	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	8	8	..
In gaol ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	6	6	..
Absent without leave, or whereabouts unknown ..	..	..	22	..	..	1	3	..	25	1	..	1	1	..	10	..	62	2	64	48	16		
Totals ..	76	103	286	194	150	82	149	130	243	132	164	85	89	57	192	66	65	1,357	906	2,263	1,558	705					