

said with regard to the probable existence of a considerable amount of evasion of the Act, the point will be of interest. The following table shows the statistics according to the several provincial districts :—

Provincial Districts.							Illegitimate Births registered during 1908.	Number of Children aged 12 Months or less brought under the Act during 1908.
Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	286	63
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	5
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	20
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	311	116
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	1
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	4
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	192	89
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	172	45
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,105	343

The District Agent at Auckland, writing with regard to the small proportion of illegitimate children appearing in foster-homes, expresses the opinion that the fact "is very little likely to bear the favourable construction which it would appear to bear to the uninitiated." The District Agent at Dunedin says, "I cannot too strongly recommend the supervision of *all* illegitimate children, as, in my opinion, such children at home with parents or friends are more in need of looking after than those in foster-homes, the foster-parent knowing that at any moment she may be visited."

During the year 119 registrations were effected under the Legitimation Act.

E. O. GIBBES,
Secretary for Education.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.—INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

DIRECTIONS TO FOSTER-PARENTS.

(The license should be kept in this book.)

1. FOSTER-PARENTS are urged in their own interests to make themselves thoroughly familiar with the Act, the regulations, and these directions. The District Agents will be pleased to give all necessary information to foster-parents.

2. If any child under six years of age is received for the purpose of being maintained for payment or reward apart from its parents, the person who takes care of the child must apply to the District Agent *at once* for a license unless she has the written authority of the Minister of Education to maintain it without a license.

3. The license remains in force until it is cancelled.

4. No greater number of infants than the license allows may be maintained in the home at any one time for payment or reward, and any condition entered on the license as to the ages of the children to be maintained must be strictly complied with.

5. Whenever a licensed foster-parent receives a child into her home she must at once give notice to the District Agent, using the form headed "Particulars of an Infant received into a Foster-home."

6. The record-book and account-book must be carefully and accurately kept.

7. In every case an agreement, *approved by the Secretary for Education*, for the maintenance of the infant in the foster-home must be entered into between the foster-parent and the person who places the infant with her. It is most important for the foster-parent to have this agreement signed and completed *before she takes charge of the child*. The agreement should state clearly whether the foster-parent or the person who places the child with her is to provide necessary clothing.

8. If the agreement provides for a foster-parent to receive one or more *lump sums* to cover the cost of maintaining a child, instead of smaller payments at short intervals, these lump sums *must on no account be kept by the foster-parent*, but must be paid over by her to the District Agent, and regular monthly payments may be made to the foster-parent from this sum.

9. If at any time payment is not made by the parents or friends of the infant as agreed upon, the foster-parent should at once make application for payment to the person who made the agreement with her, and the District Agent should be informed immediately.

10. Any officer appointed under the Act may at any time enter and inspect a foster-home and the infants maintained in it, and refer to the record-book. He or she may be accompanied by a medical practitioner, and may remove any infant without any notice whatever if it appears necessary to do so. Such an officer must not be hindered or obstructed in the performance of his or her duties. No one except a Government officer, a lady Local Visitor, or some one who holds authority from the Education Department or the District Agent, is authorised to visit, enter, or inspect a foster-home or examine the foster-parent's books,