in this class of children, the results of the last year may be considered eminently creditable to the District Agents, their assistants, and the foster-parents. Particulars of the 25 deaths are given in detail in the following table. It will be observed that many of these children were for only a very short time in the foster-homes, the average stay being in fact not more than sixteen days.

Deaths during 1909.

Locality.	Date.	Sex.	Age at Death. Y. M.	Legal Status.	Time in Foster-home. Foster-home. M'ths Days	Under Control. M'ths Days	Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Auckland	1909. Jan. 7	F	2 0	Illegitimate	1 0	12 0	Meningitis and convulsions	No inquest.
Ashburton	" 20	M	0 11	"	9 0	9 0	Diarrhœa and enteritis	"
Onehunga	" 22	M	0 4	"	3 12	3 12	Hydrocephalus	"
Auckland	Feb. 3	F	0 2	"	2 0	2 0	Immaturity	"
" Hospital	" 6	M	0 2½	"	{ 0 14, 1 14* }	2 0	Natural causes (heart disease)	"
"	March 2	M	0 3½	"	3 0	3 0	Infantile diarrhœa, marasmus	"
Christchurch H'spt'l	" 3	F	1 2	"	{ 0 6, 0 2* }	11 0	Meningitis	"
Onehunga	" 22	F	1 1	Legitimate	10 0	10 0	Tubercular meningitis syncope	"
Wanganui	April 7	M	0 8	Illegitimate	7 0	7 0	Malnutrition	Inquest.
Auckland	" 20	M	0 4½	"	4 0	4 0	Cerebral affection	"
"	" 25	M	0 7½	Legitimate	0 12	0 12	Convulsions	No inquest.
New Plymouth	" 30	F	0 2½	"	1 0	1 0	Gastro-enteritis	"
Wellington	May 15	M	1 0	Illegitimate	{ 0 9, 0 6† }	0 23	Spinal caries and bronchitis	"
Onehunga	" 16	F	0 11¾	"	11 0	11 0	Colitis (diarrhœa)	"
Timaru	June 6	M	0 7¾	Legitimate	2 0	2 0	Marasmus and gastritis	"
Dunedin	" 17	M	0 5	"	1¾ 0	3 0	Marasmus	"
Auckland	July 19	F	0 6¾	Illegitimate	5 0	5 0	Marasmus from natural causes	"
Wellington	Aug. 25	F	1 0	"	11 0	11 0	Bronchial pneumonia and exhaustion	"
Christchurch	Sept. 5	F	0 1	"	0 28	0 28	Marasmus	"
Auckland	" 6	F	0 10	"	7 0	10 0	Gastritis and heart failure	"
Wellington	" 14	F	0 11¾	"	4 13	7 7	Acute bronchial pneumonia	"
Auckland Hospital	Oct. 12	M	0 1¾	Legitimate	{ 0 25, 0 1* }	0 25	Marasmus	"
"	Nov. 26	F	1 2	"	{ 0 19, 3 0* }	3 19	Natural causes—inflammation of large intestine	Inquest.
Gisborne	Dec. 21	M	0 5	Illegitimate	2 0	4 0	Dysentry	No inquest.
Timaru	" 25	F	8 days.	"	0 5	0 5	Prematurity and asthenia	"

* Hospital. † Nursing-home.

DEATHS IN EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONS.

These, with other particulars, are shown in the foregoing table relating to exempted institutions. The number of deaths—66 out of 445 infants dealt with—is a much larger proportion than is exhibited in the foregoing statement of the deaths in foster-homes, but the circumstances are not favourable to comparison, and all that can fairly be said is that it is the experience of the world that the death-rate of children under a well-organized system of boarding-out with foster-parents is much lower than that of children maintained in institutions.

ADOPTIONS.

During the year, 215 orders of adoption (one in favour of two children) were made, and two orders cancelling adoption orders. Forty-one of the adoption orders provided for premiums, and 174 were without monetary consideration. The following shows the ages of the adopted children :—

	With Premium.	Without Premium.
Under 6 months ...	22	39
Between 6 and 12 months ...	7	18
,, 1 ,, 2 years ...	6	21
,, 2 ,, 3 ,, ...	3	17
,, 3 ,, 4 ,, ...	1	14
,, 4 ,, 5 ,, ...	...	8
,, 5 ,, 6 ,, ...	...	8
,, 6 ,, 7 ,, ...	...	12
,, 7 ,, 8 ,, ...	1	10
,, 8 ,, 9 ,, ...	...	5
,, 9 ,, 10 ,, ...	...	3
,, 10 ,, 11 ,, ...	...	2
,, 11 ,, 12 ,, ...	...	6
,, 12 ,, 13 ,, ...	...	5
,, 13 ,, 14 ,, ...	...	4
,, 14 ,, 15 ,, ...	1	3
	41	175