

The following table exhibits the transactions of the year in respect of infants in licensed foster-homes :—

*Particulars of Admissions to and Removals from Licensed Foster-homes during 1910.*

	Under 6 Months.	Between 6 Months and 1 Year.	Between 1 and 2 Years.	Between 2 and 3 Years.	Between 3 and 4 Years.	Between 4 and 5 Years.	Between 5 and 6 Years.	Over 6 Years, and still in Foster-homes.	Total.
<i>Entered on the Books.</i>									
On the books at the beginning of the year	82	91	195	121	78	75	55	29	726
Placed in licensed homes during the year	218	64	65	39	19	20	17	..	442
Adopted with premium (exclusive of those already on the books)	12	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	15
Total .. ..	312	157	261	160	97	95	72	29	1,183
<i>Withdrawn from and remaining on the Books.</i>									
Removed from foster-homes by parents or guardians	37	56	97	58	27	19	20	6	320
Deaths .. ..	14	5	5	..	..	..	2	..	26
Adoptions from licensed homes without premiums	5	3	13	5	2	4	1	..	33
In homes to which exemption was granted ..	2	4	3	3	1	2	1	1	17
Brought under operation of the Industrial Schools Act	3	5	7	4	3	4	1	1	28
Written off the books for various causes	2	7	15	10	3	4	3	35	79
On the books at 31st December, 1910	56	83	150	136	94	63	60	38	680
Total .. ..	119	163	290	216	130	96	88	81	1,183

**FOSTER-HOMES.**

The 680 infants in foster-homes at the end of the year were distributed as follows :—

In 401 homes each having one .. ..	401
In 81 .. two .. ..	162
In 22 .. three .. ..	66
In 9 .. four .. ..	36
In 3 .. five .. ..	15
516	680

Twenty-seven of the homes were those in which children under six were boarded out by Charitable Aid Boards.

The total number of licensed homes was 705, so that at the end of the year there were 189 licensed homes in which for the time no infants were boarded.

Nothing has occurred during the year to shake the Department's confidence in the boarding-out system, or to reflect upon the body of excellent women in whose charge the children have been placed ; and it is difficult to account for the large number (182) of transfers of children from one foster-home to another, except upon the supposition that they are due to personal or financial considerations that ought not to arise where the case of infants is the object in view.

*Medical Attendance on Infants in Foster-homes.*

One effect of the difficulty of recovering moneys expended under the Act has appeared in respect of medical attendance on the infants. Theoretically the parents are responsible for medical attendance, but the services of medical men have often to be obtained without reference to the parents, or even in opposition to them if they do not wish to incur the expense, and the medical fees must then be paid either by the foster-parents, who cannot afford them, or by the Department, which has not been provided with the means of recovering the expenditure. After many attempts at adjusting this difficulty it was decided that all other considerations must give way to the necessity for proper medical attendance being available when required, and arrangements have accordingly been made with a sufficient number of medical practitioners to attend, on behalf of the Department, all cases that shall be regularly introduced to them.

The instructions given to the District Agents in this matter are as follows : " When an infant requires medical aid the foster-parent must, if possible, communicate with the parents or guardians immediately. If they make any delay in providing medical attendance the foster-parent must at once let the District Agent, or her representative, or the local visitor know of the illness and get instructions. If, however, the foster-parent considers the case one of such urgency that delay would be