

ILLEGITIMACY.

For its obvious relation to the intentions of the Infants Act the following table is given:—

Provincial Districts.	Illegitimate Births registered during 1911.	Number of Children aged 12 Months or less brought under the Act during 1911.
Auckland	293	29
Taranaki	35	3
Hawke's Bay	57	13
Wellington	263	60
Marlborough	15	..
Nelson	40	6
Westland	10	..
Canterbury	170	66
Otago	195	46
Totals	1,078	223
Totals for 1910	1,162	211

During the year 122 registrations were effected under the Legitimation Act.

E. O. GIBBES,
Secretary for Education.

No. 5.—SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, SUMNER.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

SIR,—

School for the Deaf, Sumner, 20th April, 1912.

I have the honour to lay before you my report for the year 1911.

The number of pupils who have been under instruction during the year is shown in the following tabulated statement:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Pupils of the previous year who returned to school	53	36	89
Admitted at or near the beginning of the year	3	6	9
Admitted later	1	1	2
Absent during the year, but retained on the roll	1	..	1
Total number on the roll	58	43	101
Left before the end of the school year	2	..	2
Left at the end of the school year	2	..	2
Sent to Ruakura Experimental Farm for training	1	..	1
Pupils expected to return to Sumner in 1912	53	43	96

The total number on the roll was the same as in 1910—viz., 101. Of these, 27 came from the Auckland District, 1 from Taranaki, 7 from Hawke's Bay and Gisborne, 26 from Wellington, 1 from Nelson, 1 from Marlborough, 2 from Westland, 20 from Canterbury, and 16 from Otago.

During the early part of the year, owing to lack of accommodation at the school, 6 boys were boarded out, but in July this number was reduced to 2, several of the boarded-in pupils then becoming day pupils. During the latter part of the year 6 boys and 4 girls attended as such, and it is anticipated that next year all those children whose parents reside in the vicinity of the school will be able to attend in the same way. The horizon of a deaf child is necessarily very limited, and every opportunity of extending it should be welcomed. In the case of a day pupil the incidents of the daily journey to and from school are very effective in developing his faculties of observation and in creating self-reliance. The development of his powers of speech and, by consequence, of his reflective powers is furthered by the same means. Daily at the end of his journey he has something fresh to say; at school to his teachers or schoolmates; at home, to his friends or relatives. By frequent intercourse with the normal the child becomes at last almost normal himself, and displays fewer and fewer of those characteristics which, in the case of a boarded-in pupil, are at once a condition and a consequence of his too constant association with others similarly afflicted.

The health of the pupils during the year was exceedingly good. There were no cases of serious illness, and what interruptions there were in the school-work on account of illness among the children