

for information and for assistance in the matter of adjusting undesirable or unfavourable conditions in homes where there are children, and in fact parents whose children are difficult to manage or are uncontrollable avail themselves of the services of our officers for the purpose of supervision and friendly guidance. A timely visit of a Probation Officer frequently saves a child from further trouble. Very often it is found that the parents are at fault, and in these cases the officer's duty is to point out plainly and clearly the parental obligations and responsibilities. It is gratifying to find that these visits frequently have satisfactory results.

The following table shows the number of preventive cases notified by officers in the various districts during the period 1st January, 1924, to 31st March, 1925 :—

District.	Number of Families.	Number of Children.
North Auckland	1	7
Auckland	21	24
South Auckland	8	13
Wanganui	13	35
Hawke's Bay	14	14
Palmerston North	9	9
Wellington	53	109
Nelson	41	51
West Coast	7	29
Canterbury	45	68
South Canterbury	7	34
Otago	14	22
Southland	50	111
Totals	283	526

ADMISSIONS DURING PERIOD 1ST JANUARY, 1924, TO 31ST MARCH, 1925.

The following table shows the new admissions according to age :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Under six months	28	22	50
Over six months and under one year	13	7	20
One year to five years	43	40	83
Five years to ten years	75	47	122
Ten years to fourteen years	109	32	141
Over fourteen years	68	30	98
Totals	336	178	514

Table I4 attached to this report shows the new admissions classified according to the causes of admission. Of the total number (514), 199 were destitute, 161 not under proper control, and 98 had been charged with punishable offences. Of the children admitted under these headings all except 91 were placed out in foster-homes before the 31st March.

Table I7 gives particulars of the character or state of the parents at the time of the admission of the children. From this table I have selected the following figures showing (1) the number of children of drunken parents, and (2) the number of children of feeble-minded parents :—

Admission of Children on account of the Drinking Habits of one or both Parents.

Drunken mother	8
Drunken father	21
Both parents drunkards	6
	35

Admission of Children on account of the Mental Deficiency of one or both Parents.

Mentally deficient mother	30
Mentally deficient father	5
Both parents defective mentally	Nil.
	35

An analysis of the new admissions for last year, grouped according to the characters or state of the parents at the time of admission, is interesting, for the results seem to indicate that, generally speaking, the child who is admitted on account of destitution or orphanhood, or whose parents have deserted him, comes either from an undesirable home or from morally unwholesome surroundings ; while, on the other hand, the child who commits an offence against the law and is regarded as a delinquent comes almost invariably from a good home. On more than one occasion the Department has been criticized for permitting orphans and destitute children to remain even as a temporary measure in the various probation or adjustment homes where juvenile delinquents are also detained, but in view of the facts disclosed in the following tables it is evident that in some instances at least