

1928.
NEW ZEALAND.

E D U C A T I O N :

CHILD WELFARE, STATE CARE OF CHILDREN, SPECIAL SCHOOLS, AND INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

[In continuation of E.—4, 1927.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.—EXTRACT FROM THE FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare Branch provides generally for the maintenance of destitute, neglected, and delinquent children and young offenders committed to its care under the provisions of the Child Welfare Act, 1925. In addition the Branch provides for the following social services :—

- (1) Preventive work in the community—that is, the investigation, occasional social readjustment, and necessary supervision by Child Welfare Officers in the early stages of any cases brought under notice.
- (2) Investigation regarding the conduct, family history, and home conditions of all children brought under the notice of Children's Courts, or young persons charged with offences.
- (3) The oversight of all young offenders who are placed under supervision by the Children's Courts.
- (4) Supervision of all infants and young children who are maintained apart from their parents or guardians.
- (5) The investigation and supervision where necessary of all illegitimate births to ensure that these infants are properly placed and cared for. At the same time the Welfare Officer assists the unmarried mother, where possible to re-establish herself in the community, and to fix paternity so that the man concerned may be made to recognize his responsibilities.
- (6) Inquiry regarding all applications for the adoption of children under fifteen years of age. In every such case a report is furnished by the Welfare Officer to the Magistrate prior to the hearing of the application for adoption.
- (7) Preliminary investigation regarding applications for widows' pensions, and supervision and disbursement of pension-money in doubtful cases.
- (8) Assistance in supervising young Natives of the Pacific islands domiciled in the Dominion.

- (9) The care and training and subsequent supervision in the community of the higher grades of feeble-minded children who cannot be left in their own homes, or who cannot attend special day classes attached to public schools.
- (10) The education of deaf children and those who are partially deaf and children with speech-defects.
- (11) The inspection and registration of all children's homes, orphanages, &c.

A most important function of the Child Welfare Branch is to endeavour to check in the early stages the development of conditions in the social field that lead or are likely to lead to child wastage and, where this is not possible, to provide social readjustment for the child or young person who by reason of his environment or physical or mental condition is handicapped in the race of life and likely to become a burden on the community.

The Child Welfare Amendment Act of last session contains important provisions regarding the inspection and registration of private institutions, orphanages, &c., where children are maintained apart from their parents or guardians. Generally speaking, these private institutions for children, of which there are about eighty throughout the Dominion, have many things in common, but practically all of them retain their individuality and are working out their problems (similar problems mostly) in different ways. At this stage in the development of child welfare in the Dominion it is considered desirable in the interest of all concerned, particularly the children, that there should be a close relationship between private social-welfare organizations and institutions and the Child Welfare Branch of the Education Department.

The Amending Act considerably clarifies the powers and scope of the Children's Courts, and specially provides methods of dealing with children and young persons without the recording of convictions. Parental responsibility in the matter of ensuring that the conditions imposed on children residing in their own homes, but placed under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers by the Children's Courts, is also provided for.

CHILDREN'S COURTS.

It is pleasing to record that Magistrates and Justices specially appointed to exercise jurisdiction in Children's Courts have endeavoured to carry out the spirit of the legislation under which these Courts have been established. The view generally accepted by child-welfare authorities in regard to the offending child is that less is to be achieved by punishment than by correction of conditions, care and protection, and the prevention of a recurrence of inimical conditions through the constructive work of the Court in conjunction with the Welfare Officers. As stated in a previous report, the child should be saved to the State, not punished by it.

A certain amount of controversy has been raised in regard to the practice of permitting the publication of proceedings regarding children's cases. The Child Welfare Act stipulates that in no case shall the name of the child be published, or any particulars likely to lead to the identification of the child. Most Magistrates take the view that the presence of reporters is embarrassing and foreign to the informal atmosphere that should obtain in a Children's Court, and that the publication of reports, far from serving any good purpose, may prove distinctly mischievous and harmful.

Associates of Children's Courts.—The personnel of the Children's Court may include Honorary Associates, of either sex, whose function it is to act as the children's friend and generally to assist the presiding Magistrate or Justice in arriving at his decision. So far, Associates of both sexes have been appointed only in the four large centres and in some of the smaller centres, and have proved of very material assistance not only to the Courts but to the officers of the Child Welfare Branch. The Department wishes to acknowledge gratefully the assistance that is frequently given by the Associates after the cases have been dealt with by the Courts.

Child Welfare Officers.—One of the duties of these officers is to investigate each case from a social-welfare standpoint and to furnish the Court with particulars as to family history, environment, conduct, progress at school, degree of mentality, &c. As a rule, in the larger centres the Child Welfare Officers are identical with the regular field officers of the Child Welfare Branch, but in the outlying towns and country districts the services of local voluntary social workers have been utilized

to very great advantage. By this means the Department hopes to enlist the services of local organizations, with the object of dealing with the various classes of children in their own districts and in their own homes, where possible, by private effort directed from the nearest child-welfare centre.

The total number of children under the supervision of the Child Welfare Branch at the 31st March, 1928, was 5,816, classed under the following headings:—

Boarded out, at service, in receiving-homes, &c.	..	..	..	4,014
Under supervision	..	..	..	493
Infant-life protection	..	..	..	902
Deaf children	..	..	..	122
Feeble-minded children	..	..	..	285
Total	..	..	..	5,816

The number of children committed to the care of the Superintendent during the year ended 31st March, 1928, was 592, classified according to reason for committal as follows: Indigent, 241; delinquency, 24; detrimental environments, 75; not under proper control, 120; accused or guilty of punishable offence, 81; neglected, 51; and in addition 38 were admitted by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act), while 14 were temporarily admitted, making a total of 644.

Classified according to age at the time of admission, the numbers are as follows: Under six months, 65; over six months and under one year, 33; from one to five years, 123; from five to ten years, 146; from ten to fourteen years, 143; and over fourteen years, 134: total, 644.

NUMBERS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILD WELFARE BRANCH.

Fully 95 per cent. of the children under fifteen years of age under the guardianship of the Child Welfare Branch are placed in foster-homes in country districts, where they have the opportunity of becoming members of some family and of being gradually absorbed into the community.

So far as their scholastic education is concerned, the interest of the Child Welfare Branch in them is really similar to that of any guardian. They attend the public school and take part in the ordinary everyday activities of the community as does the child brought up by his own parents. The remaining 5 per cent. represents those who on account of anti-social habits or subnormality are not fit to be placed in foster-homes or allowed to attend the public school. For this small residue institutions are provided, with facilities for the training and education of the inmates along specialized lines suited as far as practicable to the peculiar needs of the individual cases.

At the end of the year there were 4,014 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate headings below), and of these 266 were in residence at Government receiving-homes and probation homes (many of these, of course, only temporarily), training-farms, and training institutions, and 67 in the four private schools recognized under the Child Welfare Act; 1,981 children were boarded out in foster-homes, 902 were in situations, and 631 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various private institutions.

Of the boarded-out children, 130 were over the age of fourteen years, of whom 78 are still attending primary schools, and 52 are receiving higher education (35 technical and 17 secondary).

The children over school age in employment number 758 males and 394 females (included in the total of 4,014). Of the males, 570 are farm-workers (201 skilled in dairy-work and cheesemaking, and 369 competent to milk and carry out general farm-work), 56 are apprentices (of which number some are receiving assistance), and 132 others are employed in various trades. Of the girls, there are 317 domestic workers, 42 factory employees, and 35 engaged in various employments, such as shop-assistants, nurses, dressmakers, &c.

SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION.

The number of cases dealt with by the Courts last year was 1,685, and of these 448 were placed under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers or brought under the "Big Brother" scheme as carried out by the Y.M.C.A. and the Roman Catholic authorities. The number actually admitted to institutions such as

receiving-homes, special schools, training-farm, &c., was 592, but all these, with the exception of 117 who require long periods of training or were regarded as unfit for placing out, were suitably provided for in the community before the close of the year. The remainder of the children were dealt with in a summary manner not calling for supervision by a Child Welfare Officer.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION AND ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

At the end of the year there were 902 children being maintained in 753 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 638 homes had one child each, 89 had two children each, 20 had three children each, 5 had four children each, and 1 home had six children. The payments by relatives for the maintenance of each child ranged from 5s. to £1 10s. a week, the average rate of payment being approximately 15s. 7d. per week.

Adoptions.—During the year 372 children were adopted, and in 40 of these cases premiums were received by the Department's agents and paid out at the rate of 15s. a week for each child concerned. Of the total number of children adopted, 83 were under the age of six months, 39 between the age of six and twelve months, and 250 between the age of one and six years.

CARE AND TRAINING OF DEAF CHILDREN, CHILDREN WITH DEFECTIVE SPEECH, BLIND CHILDREN, AND MENTALLY-BACKWARD CHILDREN.

The pupils under instruction at the School for the Deaf, Sumner, during the year numbered 122, and of these 14 were day pupils and 108 boarders.

The special day classes in Auckland and Wellington for partially deaf children and for children with speech-defects were continued with highly successful results. About 120 children attended the classes last year. Provision has also been made in these centres and in Christchurch for night classes for the instruction of the adult deaf, 78 persons afflicted in this manner attending the classes for the year ended 31st March, 1928.

The education of blind children is provided for at the Jubilee Institute for the Blind, Auckland, which is a private institution recognized as a "separate institution" under the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act. Provision is made in this Act for the appointment of nine Trustees—five by the contributors and four by the Governor-General.

The Trustees are required by law to admit and maintain any blind children between the ages of six and twenty-one years that the Minister of Education directs to be sent to the institution. For the maintenance and education of such children the Department pays at the rate of £25 a year each. At present there are 20 children so paid for (13 boys and 7 girls) but this does not represent the total number of children receiving instruction. The Trustees are at liberty to admit any suitable case when the parents are able to pay the full fee.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR MENTALLY-BACKWARD CHILDREN.

There are two such special schools—one at Richmond (near Nelson) for girls, and one at Otekaike (near Oamaru) for boys. The number of girls in residence at Richmond at the end of the year was 85, and the number of boys at Otekaike 185. These institutions are for children who are educable to a certain degree, but who for various reasons cannot be provided for in their own homes.

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR MENTALLY-BACKWARD CHILDREN.

In order to deal with pupils who are of somewhat subnormal mentality special classes to the number of twenty have been established in connection with some of the primary schools in the larger centres. At the 30th June, 1927, there were in attendance at the special classes 305 pupils (191 boys and 114 girls). In these classes a special curriculum is offered including a very large amount of manual training and handwork occupations. For the most part the pupils react quickly to the specialized curriculum, and in some instances appear to make better progress, so far as their mental capacity permits, in the ordinary subjects of instruction. The scheme has been considerably extended during the past year, and several lines of development are under consideration. One of these is the linking-up of the work of the senior pupils with the work of the technical schools. In one centre the experiment is being tried of placing the fourteen-year-old pupils of the special

class in ordinary technical-school classes, groups of boys being drafted to manual-training classes and groups of girls to millinery and dressmaking. In addition, girls who are twelve years of age or over attend the manual-training centres for cookery, and the boys for woodwork. It is hoped by this means to ascertain the special aptitudes of the children, so that they may later on find a suitable niche in the industrial world.

Three teachers have returned from periods abroad, whither they had gone to acquire further training and to observe methods of work. One went to Canada and Great Britain, and two to Vinelands, New Jersey, which is regarded as the best training-school in the world for teachers of backward children. All three returned eager to put newly-acquired ideas into practice but convinced that our own classes are being conducted along right lines. Arrangements are under way for other special-class teachers to proceed abroad at an early date.

Two health camps for special-class children were held this year, one being in Wellington and one in Hawke's Bay. In both cases funds were raised locally and subsidized by the Department. The benefit to the children was most marked and well worth the labour involved.

No. 2.—STATEMENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CHILD WELFARE BRANCH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1928.

As stated in the annual report of the Minister of Education, one of the most important functions of the Child Welfare Branch is to endeavour to check in the early stages the development of conditions in the social field that lead or are likely to lead to child wastage; and, where this is not possible, to provide social readjustment for the child or young person who by reason of his environment or physical or mental condition is handicapped in the race of life and likely to become a burden on the community. The Child Welfare Amendment Act of last year places a further responsibility on the Child Welfare Branch—viz., the inspection and registration of all orphanages and private institutions not used wholly for educational purposes where children are maintained apart from their parents or guardians, whether for payment or not. The scope of the principal Act (Child Welfare Act, 1925) has also been considerably widened by the raising of the age of a "child" from sixteen to seventeen years.

WORK IN SOCIAL FIELD.

Preventive Work.

One of the most important duties of the field staff is that of adjusting conditions in homes and in connection with families, in order to prevent developments that, unchecked, lead to vice, delinquency, and juvenile crime, and to anti-social conduct generally. Work of this kind is of incalculable value to the community and of considerable interest to the taxpayer. In the majority of cases timely intervention by an experienced officer obviates the need for the committal of children to the care of the State and the breaking-up of homes.

As the work of the Child Welfare Branch becomes better known, more use is made of this service by the police, school-teachers, private social workers, and in fact by a great many of the parents themselves who are experiencing difficulty in controlling their children.

The following table shows the number of preventive cases notified by officers in the various districts during the year ended 31st March, 1928. This does not of course represent the total of the work done, as there are a large number of cases of minor inquiries which are not reported to the Department.

District.						Number of Families.	Number of Children.
North Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	12	26
Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	13	13
South Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	31	72
Wanganui ..	..	..	..	..	..	11	32
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	9	22
Palmerston North	..	..	..	..	..	6	6
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	..	61	94
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	32	39
West Coast ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	27
North Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	19	60
South Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	4	8
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	40	73
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	9
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	244	481

Investigation and Supervision of Cases appearing before the Children's Court.

It is provided in the Child Welfare Act that in every case where a child appears before the Children's Court investigation must be made by a Child Welfare Officer before the case can be dealt with by the Court. There is provision also for the Court to place children under the supervision of these field officers for definite periods where it is considered that the child or young person concerned can be safely left in his own home or in a home of some relative or friend approved by the Court.

From the tables published below it will be seen that during last year 448 children were so dealt with, but twenty-six of these eventually proved unsuitable and had to be removed from their homes and placed under direct State control.

A review of the boys placed by the Children's Court in Auckland under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers for a period of eighteen months from the 1st April, 1925 (the date on which the Child Welfare Act came into force) is interesting, for it reveals not only the number of cases appearing a second time before the Court, but also the number of cases where the boys had to be removed from their homes and placed under the guardianship of the Child Welfare Branch. The following are the figures:—

Total number of cases dealt with	415
Number who have appeared in Court a second time	34
Number (out of 34) committed to care of Child Welfare Branch	14
Number of repeaters still under supervision in their own homes	20
Percentage of repeaters on total number dealt with	8.19
Percentage of repeaters necessary to remove from their homes (and committed to care of Child Welfare Branch) of total number dealt with	3.37

All the boys (415) were supervised under the "big brother" scheme. As the figures indicate, the majority were suitably dealt with in their own homes without the need for further intervention by the State. The results obtained in other parts of the Dominion are equally satisfactory.

From both social and financial points of view it is impossible to estimate the benefits of such work. In the absence of the right kind of supervision and adjustment the majority of these lads would undoubtedly have drifted into anti-social ways and finally have come again into conflict with the law for more serious offences. In many cases these "little brothers" have developed into promising youths some of whom are now leaders of certain of the Boys' Divisions in the Y.M.C.A.

The total number of cases investigated by Child Welfare Officers in the main centres during the year ended 31st March, 1928, and the manner in which the children were dealt with, are set forth in the following table:—

TABLE 1.

District.	Committed care of Superintendent.	Placed under Supervision of Child Welfare Officer.	Admonished and discharged.	Withdrawn.	Returned to Institution.	Dismissed.	Adjourned.	Committed to Mental Hospital.	Adjourned, <i>sine die</i> .	Convicted and ordered to come up for Sentence.	Ordered to be returned to Australia.	Convicted and placed on Probation.	Committed to Borstal.	Convicted and birched.	Convicted and fined.	Committed to Supreme Court for Sentence.	By-law Cases.					Total—all Cases.
																	Withdrawn.	Dismissed.	Convicted and fined.	Admonished and discharged.	Convicted with Costs.	
North Auckland ..	20	17	28	..	..	1	1	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	76
Auckland ..	116	85	82	..	3	9	1	1	4	4	1	1	16	1	324
South Auckland ..	49	32	29	..	..	2	6	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	122
Wanganui and Taranaki ..	28	27	15	..	..	1	4	..	1	1	..	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Hawke's Bay and Gisborne ..	33	32	11	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	2	..	1	..	..	2	1	93
Palmerston North ..	28	19	28	..	3	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	86
Wellington ..	96	82	41	3	5	9	2	4	..	2	..	1	3	1	2	7	258
Nelson and Blenheim ..	19	6	..	..	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	32
West Coast (S.I.) ..	6	..	23	..	..	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	1	1	41
North Canterbury ..	70	48	53	..	3	2	1	..	1	..	..	6	3	..	1	1	..	64	18	..	272
South Canterbury ..	44	17	12	2	..	6	13	..	5	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103
Otago ..	61	64	16	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	151
Southland ..	22	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	43
Totals ..	592	448	338	5	20	40	33	1	15	8	1	16	26	3	3	7	2	5	66	46	10	1,685

CHILD-LABOUR.

From time to time cases are brought under the notice of the Department where it is alleged that children are required to work unduly long hours before and after school, particularly on dairy farms. Where the children are assisting the parents who may be struggling farmers it would be a difficult matter to enforce any legislation dealing with this phase of child welfare.

The case of the child who is engaged in street trading calls for proper supervision and regulation. From time to time surveys of the position have been made in certain of the main centres of population. One of the reports reveals the fact that no less than 355 boys attending the city and suburban schools in one of the four centres of population were employed before and after school in work, such as selling newspapers or delivering milk, that necessitated their being on the streets, and that some of them were required to rise very early in the morning, while others again were on the streets until a late hour at night. Another report of a survey made of twenty-three boys of school-age found selling newspapers

in the main thoroughfares between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. in one of the four main cities indicated the urgent need for some form of supervision. In this particular centre the city by-laws provide for such boys to be licensed, but out of the twenty-three no less than fourteen were unlicensed. Of the total number, six were found selling newspapers in hotels, and fourteen were on the streets after 6 o'clock at night. Of these, eight were selling up to 7 o'clock, and six up to 10 o'clock. Inquiry at the various public schools attended by these boys elicited the following information regarding the standards in which the boys were placed: Number of boys in—Standard I, 3; Standard II, 4; Standard III, 6; Standard IV, 5; Standard V, 2; Standard VI, 3.

In dealing with juvenile street trading, it is considered necessary in the interests of these boys, to ensure that they are physically fit for such employment, that they are not required to commence such work too early in the morning, or allowed to hang about the streets until a late hour at night. No boy should be permitted to enter any hotel-bar for the purpose of selling anything whatsoever. Provision should be made to ensure that the weight of newspapers or milk-cans, for instance, that a boy is required to carry should not be too great a tax on his strength. The unrestricted liberty of the streets, coupled with the fact that the majority of these boys handle fairly large sums of money, is in not a few instances one of the factors that is responsible for juvenile delinquency and crime. Last year, out of 180 boys under fourteen years of age appearing before the Children's Courts charged with offences, and placed under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers, twenty-eight were known to be street traders at the time the offences were committed.

Regulations dealing with street trading and the employment of children generally have been drafted, but before submitting them for the final approval of the Government it is proposed that the authorities mainly concerned should be given an opportunity of expressing their views on the subject, with the object of obtaining their co-operation in giving effect to such of the proposals as are finally approved.

TRUANCY.

Perhaps the most fruitful source of juvenile delinquency is to be found in truancy, and, as a preventive measure, it is necessary to stress the need for dealing with the children concerned in the early stages. Under the present system cases of persistent truancy do not, as a rule, come under the notice of the Child Welfare Branch until some definite offence has been committed, and often it is then too late to effect reform by leaving the child in his own home even under supervision. The general experience of Child Welfare Officers indicates that they should be in closer touch with this phase of educational work, so that cases could be handled in their incipient stages.

COSTLEY TRAINING INSTITUTION TRUST.

In another part of this report the particulars showing the revenue and expenditure in connection with the Costley Training Institution Trust are published. Under the will of the late Edward Costley a sum of money was set aside for the purpose of assisting State children during their periods of apprenticeship, or for purposes enabling such children to receive secondary education. At a later period the purposes of the trust were varied to include any deserving child (not a State ward) who is recommended for assistance by the Department's local welfare officer. As will be seen from the particulars under the heading "Expenditure," the trustees are spending practically the whole of the income from the trust in assisting deserving cases. Many a boy or girl has reason for thankfulness that there is such a fund from which assistance is available, and that the trustees are sympathetic and prepared to grant assistance wherever possible.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The total number of all ages actually under the guardianship of the Superintendent at the 31st March last was 4,289. Of these 3,753 were either placed out or employed in the community or in institutions not under the control of the Branch, such as hospitals, convalescent homes, private children's homes, refuges, hostels, &c. Of the remainder 126 were temporarily in receiving-homes awaiting placement, 140 in training institutions (Girls' Home, Burwood, 40; and Boys' Training-farm, Weraroa, 100), and 270 in institutions for backward children (Otekaieke, 185 boys; and Richmond, 85 girls).

The actual number in residential institutions receiving primary instruction, modified to suit the capacity of the particular classes of children, was 174, made up as follows: Boys' Training-farm, Weraroa, 21; institutions for backward children—Otekaieke, 103; Richmond, 50.

FUNCTIONS OF RECEIVING-HOMES.

Included in the numbers under guardianship are 126 children temporarily in residence in receiving-homes and boys' homes at the 31st March. These homes are regarded as clearing-houses where children are sheltered for short periods for observation and medical or dental treatment if necessary prior to being placed in family homes in the community or in situations. These homes are also utilized—

- (1) As a "place of safety" for abandoned or vagrant children, or children whose immediate removal from their parents was necessary pending the consideration of their cases by the Children's Court.
- (2) For housing children and young persons under State guardianship who are (a) for various reasons changing from one home or situation to another, (b) sent in from country districts for medical or dental treatment or convalescent care, (c) passing through from other centres or districts.
- (3) For girls and young women in situations who spend their weekly half-holiday and occasional week-end days with the matron of the home.

The average number of children in residence at any one time at these homes is comparatively small, but an approximation of the important part that these homes occupy in the Child Welfare system can be gathered from the following return, which represents the figures for the past year :—

TABLE 2.

Name of Receiving-home.	Average Number in Residence.	Number of Children actually passing through.
Girls' Receiving-home, Auckland	18.54	135
Boys' Receiving-home, Auckland	21.14	169
Girls' Receiving-home, Hamilton	10.28	205
Girls' Receiving-home, Wanganui	10.79	211
Girls' Receiving-home, Napier	6.44	85
Children's Home, Miramar, Wellington	18.92	173
Girls' Hostel, Wellington	10.61	57
Boys' Receiving-home, Wellington	14.04	129
Girls' Receiving-home, Christchurch	19.53	297
Boys' Receiving-home, Christchurch	12.91	130
Girls' Home, Dunedin	31.54	204
Boys' Receiving-home, Dunedin	10.47	89
	..	1,884

The disposition of the 3,879 State wards placed out in the community or in hospitals or institutions not under the control of the Child Welfare Branch is shown in the following table :—

TABLE 3.—STATUS OF CHILDREN UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AT 31ST MARCH, 1928 (OTHER THAN THOSE IN RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE CHILD WELFARE ACT).

Status.	Boys	Girls.	Both Sexes.
Temporarily in residence in receiving-homes	70	56	126
In residence, Roman Catholic schools	29	38	67
Boarded out	1,123	858	1,981
At service	615	287	902
With friends	348	269	617
In hospitals, convalescent homes	15	13	28
In mental hospitals	2	4	6
In refuges, or cognate institutions .. .. .	..	53	53
In children's homes	13	19	32
Absent without leave	29	2	31
At Borstal	2	..	2
At Jubilee Institute .. .. .	..	1	1
Boarders at colleges	2	..	2
In Y.M.C.A. Boys' Hostel, Auckland	16	..	16
In Girls' Hostel, Wellington .. .. .	..	15	15
Totals	2,264	1,615	3,879

CHILD-PLACING SYSTEM.

The majority of the children under school-age committed to the care of the State are boarded out in foster-homes situated mainly in suburban areas and in districts in close proximity to the smaller centres of population. At the end of the year there were 1,981 children boarded out—1,956 from Government receiving-homes and 25 from private industrial schools (Roman Catholic). Arranged according to the ages of the children the numbers at 31st March, 1928, are as follows : Under five years, 446 ; from five to ten years, 651 ; from ten to twelve years, 347 ; from twelve to thirteen years, 197 ; from thirteen to fourteen years, 210 ; and over fourteen years, 130.

Of the children boarded out, 78 were over the age of fourteen years but still attending the primary schools, and 52 were receiving higher education (35 secondary and 17 technical).

It is the practice to review every case when the child finishes his primary-school course, and, provided that he has the ability and has shown himself worthy, arrangements are made for him to continue his education at a high school. In the case of girls it is generally possible for them to stay on in their foster-homes, but this satisfactory arrangement is not always possible with the boys. To meet the position, and in order to provide for boys of exceptional ability, the hostel established by the Y.M.C.A. in Auckland is available. This hostel accommodates about fifteen boys at present, and, thanks to the very substantial monetary assistance given by the Costley Training Trustees, the cost to the Government for the upkeep of these boys is exceedingly small. This scheme has been very

successful, for not only have the trustees shown a great personal and practical interest in the individual boys, but the Headmaster of the school attended by them is sympathetic, and is materially assisting in furthering their interests. One of the main advantages attached to the hostel is that the boys are linked up with the activities of the Y.M.C.A., and are given all the privileges of membership free of cost. When the time comes for a boy to leave school the Y.M.C.A. authorities assist in placing him in a suitable avenue of employment, and the boy still retains his association with that organization.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS UNDER GUARDIANSHIP.

Employment of Boys.

The selection of suitable employment for all those children who have completed their education in primary and secondary schools is carried out by the field officers, but every case is carefully reviewed by responsible officers in the Head Office.

Experience has shown that for the lad whose early years have been spent in one of the crowded areas of a city it is advisable, wherever possible, to direct his inclinations towards a rural life. For those boys who are handicapped mentally and socially it is of great importance that they should be placed in decent homes with people who will be sympathetic and treat them more as members of the family than as hired helps. With the influx of boy immigrants into this country it is becoming increasingly difficult to find just the right type of employers for our boys. Another noticeable feature is the fact that with an overstocked boy-labour market there has been an all-round reduction in the rates of wages offering for work on farms. At the 31st March there were 758 lads in employment, of whom 570 were working on farms, and 56 apprenticed to trades.

For the boys who prefer to learn a trade every endeavour is made to place them suitably, but here again difficulties are met with. In practically all such cases the Department assists during the early years of apprenticeship with board and clothing. Quite a number of both boys and girls who have been given the advantage of higher education are placed in offices, shops, and warehouses, and a few of exceptional ability are found openings in the Public Service and in professions such as teaching, accountancy, &c.

Employment of Girls.

The position in regard to girls in employment is somewhat different. Generally no girl is placed in employment until she is in her fifteenth year. As a rule the majority are best placed in domestic service in homes where mistresses will undertake to train them in all the domestic arts, treat them as members of the family, and be responsible for them during their spare time. Where possible, these girls are placed in situations within easy reach of a receiving-home, which they visit on their half-days and alternate Sundays. On these occasions the matron of the home is responsible for their well-being. She assists them in the purchase of clothing and any other necessary articles, and arranges for their recreation. In addition, the girls are visited frequently in their places of employment by one or other of the welfare officers.

Establishment of Hostel for Girls.

To meet the needs of those girls desirous of learning trades and for those who are not fitted for domestic work the Department recently established a hostel in Wellington, under the control of an experienced matron, aided by the services of a vocational guidance officer. Suitable girls are drafted from all parts of the Dominion into the hostel, and suitable employment is found for them by the vocational guidance officer, who serves as a link between the employer and the hostel, and also takes a responsible part in planning and supervising the recreation of the girls. As soon as a girl is earning sufficient to keep herself, and the matron feels that she is competent to manage her own affairs, arrangements are made for the girl to be placed in private board. In such cases it is usual to relax considerably in the matter of supervision, but as a measure of protection legal control is not as a rule terminated in normal cases until a girl reaches her twentieth year. In all cases these girls are linked up wherever possible with some club or Church organization.

There is need for similar hostels in each of the other three centres of population.

RESIDENTIAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS.

For the few boys and girls who fail to do well after repeated attempts to place them in the community, and for those whose anti-social acts have caused them to be placed under control at the commencement of what is usually regarded as the wage-earning age, the residential institution is an essential part of the Child Welfare system. There is, however, no definite period fixed for residence in such institutions: everything depends upon the conduct and aptitude of the individual inmates, who are given a further trial in suitable employment as soon as it is considered that they can be placed with due regard to their own safety and the well-being of the community. There are two such institutions—the Girls' Home at Burwood, near Christchurch, and the Boys' Training-farm, Werarua, near Levin.

Girls' Home, Burwood.

During the year the Caversham School, which for the past ten years has been utilized for receiving-home purposes as well as an institution for the detention of older girls requiring discipline and training, has been closed as such, and the older inmates have been removed to the property formerly known as Te Oranga Home, Christchurch, where the buildings now in use have been remodelled and modernized. Briefly, the purpose of the home is to provide for older girls who, on account of certain anti-social tendencies, frequently due to previous undesirable environments or associations, require a period of guidance in an institution. No very young girls will be admitted, though there will be special provision for the very limited number of school age who are unfitted for a receiving-home or to attend a public school.

The idea behind the course of instruction and training in this institution is to fit the girls to take their place in the community as clean, honest, hardworking, and self-respecting women. To attain this end not only manual and industrial courses will be given, but also in varying degree academic subjects as in the primary schools. For the few girls of school age the instruction in the schoolroom will be practically the same as in a primary school. With the purely scholastic work will be correlated dramatic work, singing, drill, and folk-dancing, which it is considered will be beneficial to their well-being and tend to make them more cultured and refined.

In the workroom, training in needlework, from plain sewing to the making of their own clothing, will be given. They will also be taught laundry-work and the theoretical side in the domestic-science course. A certain part of the time of the girls will also be spent in the gardens and grounds. Agriculture, or that part of it which deals with the flower and vegetable garden, will be taken as part of the natural-science course.

Housekeeping.—All the work of the institution will be done by the girls under working attendants, and each girl will pass through the respective duties of the housekeeper, laundry, house, and parlour maid. Plain cooking will be a feature of this course. An endeavour will be made to teach the girls to observe the fluctuations in the price of foodstuffs and household articles, the study of prices and market reports to form part of their training, stress being laid upon economy. The food-values will also be taught.

Recreation.—Reading and needlework, raffia, leather-work, and other such handicrafts will form part of the recreational work. The girls during the recreation period will be allowed to have such suitable games as they desire. Walks at least twice weekly and swimming will also be part of their recreation. Concerts, organized by themselves, and such pastimes as have their place in private homes, will be organized. It is hoped that lectures on subjects of general interest, educational films and concerts will be attended in the city as opportunity offers.

Religious and Moral Training.—The girls will attend Church outside the home, and the services of local clergymen will, of course, be utilized to meet the needs of the institution. Moral training is to be achieved more by example than by precept. By the inculcation of clean good habits and healthy pleasant surroundings it is hoped to overcome earlier bad habits resulting from unsuitable environments. Responsibility will be placed on the girls, who will be trained to help largely in the control of themselves. As far as possible the inclinations of the girls will be considered in their choice of work on leaving the institution. As soon as a girl shows that she may be trusted out in the community she will be placed in suitable employment under the supervision of the field officers of the branch.

BOYS' TRAINING-FARM, WERAROA (NEAR WELLINGTON).

This institution provides for the training and detention of boys over school age who, being normal or nearly normal mentally, have proved by their anti-social behaviour somewhat of a problem to manage, either in their own homes or in situations. Associated with the main institution, but situated at a distance of about six miles, there is a home at Hokio Beach for schoolboys ranging in age from about eleven years to fourteen or fifteen years. Here the boys receive scholastic instruction similar to that of the primary school. The average number of schoolboys in residence is thirty.

Attached to the main institution there is a farm of 250 acres where dairying, agricultural work, market-gardening, fruitgrowing, and the raising of poultry, pigs, and sheep are carried out on approved modern methods. Here a lad has the opportunity of learning the rudiments of work on the land in all its branches.

The object of the institution is to train the boys in character and habits of industry, to teach them obedience and self-reliance, so that when they are allowed out in the community again they may take their place as decent, honest, law-abiding citizens.

In the work of reformation and character-building in such institutions the Department has studiously avoided the use of bolts and bars, and in fact any outward semblance of anything that would savour of compulsory detention. Long experience has shown the futility of associating such methods with the processes that lead to reformation of character and the elimination of bad habits.

As a rule no boy is detained for a longer period than twelve months—in fact, many are ready for placing out after six months in residence. At this stage the Child Welfare Officer for the district is called upon to find suitable employment for such lads and to supervise them in their situations.

The success of the work at Weraroa can best be judged by the fact that very few boys placed out have to be returned to the institution for a further period of training.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

Part V of the Infants Act, 1908, provides for the supervision of all infants under the age of six years, who are maintained, whether for payment or not, apart from their parents or guardians for more than seven consecutive days, and for the licensing of the homes in which these infants are placed. The Act provides for exemption from the need for licenses being granted by the Minister in certain cases. This provision has been applied generally to all institutions where children under six years of age are maintained. Since the passing of the Child Welfare Amendment Act last year all institutions providing for children of any age are required to be registered.

The duty connected with the registration of foster-homes and the supervision of the infants in these homes is carried out by the lady Child Welfare Officers, who are not only specially qualified nurses, but experienced social workers as well. These officers also carry out the work connected with the unmarried mother and her child, the investigation of applications for the adoption of children and the preliminary inquiry regarding applications for widows' pensions. In cases where children are adopted with premiums the amounts are handed over to the Department and paid out to the adopted parents by these officers, usually at the rate of 15s. per week for each child.

TABLE 4.—PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO AND REMOVED FROM LICENSED FOSTER-HOMES DURING 1927.

	Under 6 Months of Age.	Between 6 Months and 1 Year of Age.	Between 1 and 2 Years of Age.	Between 2 and 3 Years of Age.	Between 3 and 4 Years of Age.	Between 4 and 5 Years of Age.	Between 5 and 6 Years of Age.	Over 6 Years of Age.	Totals.
On the books at 31st December, 1926	109	109	182	153	121	84	68	52	878
Placed in licensed homes or transferred from other districts during 1927	210	107	131	80	52	43	35	3	661
Totals	319	216	313	233	173	127	103	55	1,539
Withdrawn from homes—									
Removed by parents or guardians	23	59	104	71	56	54	30	20	417
Deaths	4	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	9
Adoptions without premium	10	21	25	13	19	5	5	15	113
In homes to which exemption was granted during 1927	1	3	2	1	1	..	..	..	8
Brought under operation of Child Welfare Act	3	4	13	4	5	..	..	1	30
Written off the books for various causes (including those who attained the age of 6 years) .. ..	..	2	5	3	1	1	2	46	60
Total withdrawals	41	92	140	92	82	61	37	82	637
On the books at 31st December, 1927	116	124	201	133	112	95	71	50	902

TABLE 5.—CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE IN INSTITUTIONS GRANTED EXEMPTION UNDER THE INFANTS ACT.

Name of Institution.	Admissions, 1927.			Deaths, 1927.			On the Books, 31st December, 1927.		
	Under 6 Months of Age.	Between 6 and 12 Months of Age.	Total—All Ages (including Cols. (1) and (2)).	Under 6 Months of Age.	Between 6 and 12 Months of Age.	Total—All Ages (including Cols. (4) and (5)).	Under 6 Months of Age.	Between 6 and 12 Months of Age.	Total—All Ages (including Cols. (7) and (8)).
(1.)	(2.)	(3.)	(4.)	(5.)	(6.)	(7.)	(8.)	(9.)	
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Auckland	54	..	54	1	..	1	13	2	15
Salvation Army Home, "Grange," Herne Bay, Auckland .. ..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	55
Methodist Orphanage, Mount Albert, Auckland .. ..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	71
Leslie Orphanage, Remuera, Auckland .. ..	..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	56
St. Mary's Orphanage, Otahuhu, Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Takapuna, Auckland .. ..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	6
Children's Home, Ponsonby, Auckland .. ..	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	57
Methodist Orphanage, Epsom, Auckland .. ..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	40
St. Mary's Home, Otahuhu, Auckland	4	25	30	..	..	..	2	6	31
Manurewa Children's Home, Auckland .. ..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	69
Star of the Sea Convent, Howick, Auckland .. ..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	40
Orphan Home, Papatoetoe, Auckland .. ..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	26
Salvation Army Children's Home, Hamilton .. ..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	37
Salvation Army Boys' Home, Eltham .. ..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	52
Wanganui Orphanage, Gonville, Wanganui .. ..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	31
Salvation Army Boys' Home, Putaruru .. ..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	64
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Gisborne	65	1	66	4	..	4	11	..	11
Cook County Women's Guild Creche, Gisborne .. ..	..	..	14	..	..	1	..	..	32
Salvation Army Bethany Home, Napier	68	2	74	1	..	1	9	..	17
St. Hilda's Home, Otane, Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	26
Manawatu Willard Home, Palmerston North .. ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	19
Cecilia Whatman Memorial Home, Masterton .. ..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	69
Children's Home, Palmerston North .. ..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	37
All Saints Children's Home, Foxton .. ..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	25
St. Barnabas Home, Khandallah, Wellington .. ..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	17
Presbyterian Orphanages, Berhampore, Wellington .. ..	..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	103
St. Mary's Children's Home, Lancaster Street, Karori .. ..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	31
St. Mary's Home, Karori, Wellington .. ..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	26
Salvation Army Boys' Home, Island Bay, Wellington .. ..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	45
Salvation Army Girls' Home, Owen Street, Wellington .. ..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	44
Salvation Army Maternity Hospital, Wellington	78	..	82	4	..	4	16	..	18
Residential Nursery, Newtown, Wellington	8	14	158	..	..	..	2	2	14
Levin Memorial Home, Wellington .. ..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	29
Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington	24	..	46	..	..	4	5	4	115
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Upper Hutt, Wellington .. ..	..	..	230	..	..	1	..	..	183
St. Mary's Orphanage, Nelson .. ..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	30
St. Saviour's Guild Home, Sumner, Christchurch .. ..	..	26	26	..	3	3	..	25	25
Sacred Heart Orphanage, Mount Magdala, Christchurch .. ..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	12
St. Saviour's Guild Home, Shirley, Christchurch .. ..	..	..	38	..	..	..	..	..	138
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Christchurch	59	..	59	4	..	4	7	2	14
Nazareth House, Christchurch .. ..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	17
Children's Convalescent Home, Governor's Bay, Christchurch .. ..	..	..	96	..	..	..	..	..	21
Methodist Orphanage, Papanui, Christchurch .. ..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	52
Salvation Army Boys' Home, Temuka .. ..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	59
St. Saviour's Guild Orphanage, Timaru .. ..	..	..	26	..	..	..	..	..	76
Grant's Braes Home, Anderson's Bay, Dunedin .. ..	..	..	14	..	..	1	..	..	31
Salvation Army Children's Homes, Anderson's Bay, Dunedin .. ..	..	..	32	..	..	..	..	..	63
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Roslyn, Dunedin	128	..	128	11	..	11	13	..	19
Children's Rest Home, Mornington's, Dunedin	4	5	60	..	..	..	2	..	10
St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin .. ..	..	2	13	..	..	..	..	2	25
Presbyterian Children's Home, Anderson's Bay, Dunedin .. ..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	44
St. Mary's Orphanage, Mornington, Dunedin .. ..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	19
Victoria Memorial Home, Invercargill	2	3	13	..	..	..	1	1	8
Presbyterian Orphanage, Gladstone Home, Invercargill .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Presbyterian Orphanage, Cameron Home, Invercargill .. ..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	23
Totals	494	78	1,641	25	3	35	81	44	2,214

Of the above 2,214 children, 138 have no parents living, 318 have a mother only, 522 have a father only, the remainder (1,236) have both parents living.

Deaths in Foster-homes and Exempted Institutions.

Of the 1,539 infants who were at one time on the books as being in foster-homes during 1927, nine died in foster-homes, of whom seven were under twelve months of age.

The following is a statement of the number of deaths during the last five years :—

TABLE 6.

Year.	Foster-homes.			Exempted Institutions.		
	Number of Deaths.	Number of Infants.	Percentage of Deaths.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Infants.	Percentage of Deaths.
1923	6	1,243	0·48	20	1,076	1·86
1924	5	1,213	0·41	21	1,175	1·78
1925	5	1,301	0·38	12	1,638	0·73
1926	1	1,423	0·07	18	3,196	0·56
1927	9	1,539	0·58	35	3,603	0·97

TABLE 7.—ADOPTIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1927.

During the year 372 orders of adoption were made; 40 of the adoption orders provided for premiums, and 332 were without monetary consideration. The following table shows the ages of the adopted children :—

Age of Child.				With Premium.	Without Premium.	Totals.
Under 6 months .. ..	..	..	..	18	65	83
Between 6 months and 1 year .. ..	..	..	..	10	29	39
„ 1 year and 5 years .. ..	..	..	..	11	133	144
„ 5 „ 10 „ .. ..	..	..	..	..	63	63
„ 10 „ 15 „ .. ..	..	..	..	1	42	43
Totals .. ..	..	..	..	40	332	372

The adopting parents were—Husband and wife jointly, 354; widow, 9; widower, 4; spinster, 5: total, 372.

The amount of the premiums ranged from £10 to £175.

Five adoption orders were revoked: three of the current year adoptions, and two of previous year's adoptions.

Children born out of Wedlock.

The following table shows for the past five years the death-rate of illegitimate infants as compared with that of other infants :—

TABLE 8.—DEATHS.

Year.	Legitimate.			Illegitimate.		
	Births.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births.	Births.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1923	26,707	1,143	42·80	1,260	82	65·08
1924	26,676	1,033	38·60	1,338	94	70·20
1925	26,821	1,056	39·33	1,332	69	51·80
1926	28,270	1,054	37·28	1,473	78	52·95
1927	26,494	1,011	38·159	1,387	77	55·51

The experience is that the illegitimate infants that come under the Department's supervision are more or less impaired in health, the result of neglect (not always wilful) and ignorance as to proper feeding and care. Notwithstanding this fact, the number of deaths among illegitimate infants supervised by the State is unusually low. Last year, for instance, of the 535 infants born during the year and supervised in licensed homes, there were seven deaths. The very high death-rate and the large number of children who ultimately come under the notice of our officers suffering from malnutrition and other results of want of proper care were some of the reasons that led to the provision in the Child Welfare Act for the supervision of illegitimate births by Child Welfare Officers.

TABLE 9.—ILLEGITIMACY.

District.	Illegitimate Births registered during 1927.	Number of Illegitimate Children aged Twelve Months or less brought under the Infants Act during 1927.	Illegitimate Children under Six Years in Licensed Foster-homes at 31st December, 1927.	Deaths amongst Illegitimate Children under the age of One Year.
North Auckland ..	32	2	2	2
Auckland ..	287	51	110	12
South Auckland ..	101	12	17	8
Hawke's Bay ..	62	7	17	2
Gisborne ..	33	12	27	3
Wanganui and Taranaki ..	85	16	33	7
Palmerston North ..	68	14	32	4
Wellington ..	278	65	145	12
Nelson ..	46	9	14	1
West Coast ..	14	1	6	3
North Canterbury ..	195	60	151	12
South Canterbury ..	18	12	27	2
Otago ..	125	10	30	7
Southland ..	43	7	21	2
Totals for 1927 ..	1,387	278	632	77
Totals for 1926 ..	1,473	285	559	78

Children committed to the Care of the Superintendent during the Year.

Preventive methods are applied as far as possible in dealing with the large number of children coming under notice throughout the year, but where there is no home, or the home conditions are irretrievably bad, or the child is incorrigible or has committed some serious offence against the law, it is usually necessary for the State to assume full responsibility for maintenance and guardianship. Last year the number of children so dealt with was 644, but the majority were placed out in suitable private homes in the community during the year.

The following tables set out the ages of the children, the causes of admission, and particulars regarding the state or characters of the parents.

The following shows the new admissions according to age :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Under six months	41	24	65
Over six months and under one year	15	18	33
One year to five years	66	57	123
Five years to ten years	85	61	146
Ten years to fourteen years	100	43	143
Over fourteen years	83	51	134
	390	254	644

Table 10 attached to this report shows the new admissions classified according to the causes of admission. Of the total number (644) 241 were indigent, 120 not under proper control, and 81 had been charged with punishable offences. Of the children admitted under these headings, 348 were placed out in foster-homes before the 31st March.

TABLE 10.—ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1928, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES OF ADMISSION.

Admitted as	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Indigent	144	97	241
Neglected	27	24	51
Delinquent	17	7	24
In detrimental environment	38	37	75
Not under proper control	73	47	120
Accused or guilty of punishable offence	62	19	81
Admission by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act)	21	17	38
Temporary admissions	8	6	14
Totals	390	254	644

TABLE 11.—ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1928, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATUS AT 31ST MARCH, 1928.

Status.	Indigent.		Delinquent.		Detrimental Environments.		Not under Proper Control.		Accused or Guilty of Punishable Offence.		Neglected.		Admissions under (Sec. 12, Child Welfare Act.)		Temporary Admissions.		Totals.		
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	Both Sexes.
Temporarily in receiving-homes ..	7	5	3	1	3	2	5	4	7	6	3	3	1	..	..	1	29	22	51
In private schools (R.C.) ..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	1	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	6	3	9
In residential institutions ..	3	..	4	1	..	..	12	7	24	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	44	13	57
Boarded out	114	80	3	..	24	28	35	22	6	..	17	14	3	2	..	..	202	146	348
At service	4	1	4	1	1	2	6	3	11	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	10	36
With friends	9	5	2	4	2	..	12	4	6	3	3	2	..	..	..	..	34	18	52
In refuges, or cognate institutions, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	3	3	1	5	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	10	18
In hospitals	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	4	5	9
In special schools ..	2	..	1	..	1	1	1	1	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	9	2	11
Discharged, written-off, died, &c. ..	2	3	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	16	15	8	5	28	25	53
Totals	144	97	17	7	38	37	73	47	62	19	27	24	21	17	8	6	390	254	644

Table 12 gives particulars of the character or state of the parents at the time of the admission of the children. From this table the following figures have been selected 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 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Drunken father ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Both parents drunkards ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
							24

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

Mentally deficient mother ..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Mentally deficient father ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Both parents defective mentally ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
						24

TABLE 12.—PARTICULARS OF PARENTAGE : ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1928.

241 indigent children, representing 180 families. Character of parents described as—

				Dead, Deserter, or Unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble-minded, and Physically Unfit.
Father ..	..	..	..	83	48	49
Mother ..	..	..	..	30	67	85
Both parents ..	..	..	..	11	25	13

120 uncontrollable children, representing 98 families. Character of parents described as—

				Dead, Deserter, or Unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble-minded, and Physically Unfit.
Father ..	..	..	..	20	49	29
Mother ..	..	..	..	11	60	27
Both parents ..	..	..	..	2	36	11

TABLE 12—continued-

81 children accused or guilty of offences, representing 71 families. Characters of parents described as—

				Dead, Deserter, or Unknown.	Good.	Bad, Questionable, Drunkards, Feeble-minded, and Physically Unfit.
Father	..	..	..	14	41	16
Mother	..	..	..	9	49	13
Both parents	..	..	..	2	33	4

TABLE 13.—ADMISSIONS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

(Magistrates after hearing the evidence direct in what religious denomination children committed are to be brought up.)

	Anglican.	Roman Catholic.	Presbyterian.	Methodist.	Salvation Army.	Baptist.	Pentecostal.	Plymouth Brethren.	Church of Christ.	Rafana.	Seventh Day Adventist.	Liberal Catholic.	Hindu.	Unknown.	Total.
Number	344	110	106	29	36	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	8	644
Percentage	53.42	17.08	16.46	4.5	5.6	0.31	0.154	0.31	0.154	0.154	0.31	0.154	0.154	1.24	100.0

NOTE.—The children for whom no religion is shown were temporary admissions.

TABLE 14.—INMATES WHO CEASED TO BE UNDER CONTROL DURING YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1928.

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Discharged (Child Welfare Act, section 23)	237	103	340
Attained age of twenty-one years	14	22	36
Adopted	14	24	38
Written off books	34	29	63
Married	..	11	11
By death	13	4	17
Committal order cancelled	..	1	1
Totals	312	194	506

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE MENTALLY BACKWARD.

The two institutions (boys and girls separate) for mentally backward children and young people are an essential part of the Child Welfare system, for they provide a suitable environment for those mentally backward children who, on account of indifferent home conditions, careless parents, anti-social habits, or specific offences against the law, are not fitted to remain in the community and therefore require social readjustment. For the instruction and training of the mentally backward child whose conduct is good and whose home environment is suitable special classes attached to the public school have been established, but for those cases residing in remote country districts the residential institutions referred to above have been utilized to a certain extent.

As there is frequently a considerable amount of doubt in the minds of parents, public-school teachers, School Medical Officers, and the authorities of private social-service organizations as to the type of child likely to benefit by admission to a residential institution and the existing provision for training in these places, the following statement will be of some value :—

Type of Child suitable for Admission.

Subnormal children capable of benefiting from training (whether mental, manual, or handwork) are, as a rule, children whose intelligence quotients (Stanford revision of Binet test) range from 50 to 75. It has been found, however, that some children of intelligence quotients slightly below 50, although incapable of benefiting from mental training, can receive benefit from handwork or manual training. This type of child gives a much better response to a mechanical or performance test than to the more intellectual Binet test. On the other hand, some children with intelligence quotients of 50 and over, while perhaps able to learn parrot-fashion, receive no material benefit from scholastic work, and have little aptitude for handwork and manual work. These children gain very little from the training given in these institutions. Again, some children, owing to anti-social tendencies or

temperamental instability, rather than to serious mental defect, appear incapable of making satisfactory progress in a public school, and require special class or school training. The intelligence quotients of these children may range from 75 to 80. The standard (I.Q. 50–75), therefore, cannot be an arbitrary one. Children whose intelligence quotients are 45 or lower are not, as a rule, suitable.

Special Institution for Boys at Otekaike, near Oamaru.

On the 31st March, 1928, the number of boys in residence was 185, against 190 on the 1st April, 1927. During the year twelve boys were placed at service, thirteen were returned to friends, one was placed at board, nine were transferred to the Boys' Training-farm, Weraroa, four were transferred to the Salvation Army Boys' Home, Putaruru, five were admitted to a mental hospital, one died in hospital, and one boy absconded and was not located. Thirty-four new pupils were admitted, one boy was returned from board, and three boys who were returned from service during the year were in residence on the 31st March, 1928.

In the industrial department the inmates were employed in farm, garden, and orchard work, boot making and repairing, coir-mat making, seagrass-furniture making and basketmaking, sawmilling, and domestic work (laundry, kitchen-work, &c.). The average daily number in this group was seventy-nine, with a chronological age of sixteen years and upwards, and an average mental age of eight years three months.

One hundred and three boys were in attendance at the day school, the average chronological age being eleven years five months, the average mental age seven years three months, and the intelligence quotients 0.64.

The organization and classification are similar to that of previous years. Physical training in all its forms still holds importance of place in the curriculum. During the past year the chief innovation to this work has been the introduction of two periods of rest daily, and a few minutes' postural work, for the whole school in the afternoon, as a corrective to probable wrong posture during manual occupations. The first rest-period follows the morning physical activities, while the second period immediately follows midday dinner. During this period when the boys lie in a correct, restful posture, they enjoy gramophone selections, or stories. Besides proving beneficial from the aspect of the children's health, this period, therefore, is one of enjoyment to the boys.

Our manual occupations remain much as usual. As the boys grow more proficient, more difficult forms of handwork are being introduced in the junior handwork classes, and the work of the senior class has been extended. Marquetry has been added to the senior handwork occupations. As the output of the handwork classes has increased not only has a greater number of private orders been executed, but some of the manual work, raffia and pine-needle, is now sent to Oamaru for sale.

As a result of the free occupation work the senior boys are learning to use common tools, and, when required, can make much useful material for the junior classes.

As musical work forms an invaluable part of the training of the subnormal, it is hoped that before long a mouth-organ band may be formed.

As formerly, classification for mental work is determined by (1) school attainment, (2) results of intelligence tests, (3) temperament. Scholastic work from P1 to Standard III is being carried on at present. This work is made as varied in method, as individual, and as practical as possible.

During the year definite sense training has been introduced for the children of lowest mental age. To this end, a Seguin sense-training room has been added and fully equipped, the apparatus and method of training being based on that devised by Seguin, and later amplified by the late Dr. Fernald, of Waverley, Massachusetts.

From the periodic visits of Mr. Stuckey (Senior Inspector), Mr. Roydhouse and Miss Dickson (Physical Instructors), and Mr. Green (Instructor in Agriculture, Otago Education Board), the school staff has gained much valuable assistance.

The health of the inmates during the year was very satisfactory.

Special Institution for Girls at Richmond, near Nelson.

During the year 109 pupils passed through the school. Of that number eighty-eight remain on the school roll—i.e., eighty-eight residential, one day pupil, and three on vacation. During the year twenty-two new pupils were admitted, excluding five temporary admissions, and sixteen left, including five temporary admissions. Fifty pupils are attending the regular school classes daily, and all show marked improvement in their work. The usual school curriculum is taught up to the Fourth Standard, and satisfactory progress has been made by the majority of the pupils.

The handwork (needlework) section has expanded in a marked degree, and excellent results are being obtained from the pupils in this branch. Orders from the general public for the various articles manufactured are in excess of our present output, and future development will prove a valuable asset to this institution. The senior girls assist in domestic, gardening, and orchard work, also poultry-keeping. These branches of work are also promising profitable expansion.

The Rev. Mr. Daynes, Vicar of Richmond, pays his usual weekly visit to the children, who also attend Divine service in the village on Sundays, weather permitting.

Organized games—dancing, singing, and drill—are carried out in an efficient manner. Miss Blackburn and Mr. Price, drill instructors for the Nelson District, visit the school and introduce new features into this section. Mrs. Morrow again very kindly placed her furnished house at Tabuna at the disposal of the children for a holiday at the seaside.

In addition to visits of inspection by officers of the Child Welfare Branch the school was visited during the year by Dr. A. Paterson, Director of School Medical Services; Dr. Keith, Schools Medical Officer; and Mr. Dalglish, Inspector of Primary Schools, Nelson. The Nelson schools dental clinic attended the pupils during the year and carried out the necessary requirements.

TABLE 15.—RETURN OF INMATES AT 31ST MARCH, 1928, AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

	Richmond. (Girls.)	Otekaike. (Boys.)	Total.
In residence	85	185	270
On vacation	3	3	6
At service (under C.W.O.) .. .. .	..	5	5
In mental hospital .. .. .	..	1	1
Missing .. .. .	..	3	3
Totals	88	197	285

TABLE 16.—PARTICULARS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1927-28.

Item.	Otekaike.	Richmond.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries.. .. .	5,370 2 10	1,819 10 4	7,189 13 2
Advertising	2 9 0	1 5 0	3 14 0
Maintenance of buildings	357 13 1	98 17 4	456 10 5
Maintenance of institutions	4,757 4 5	1,391 9 9	6,148 14 2
Contingencies	1 1 0	..	1 1 0
	10,488 10 4	3,311 2 5	13,799 12 9
Travelling-expenses .. .. .	..	..	259 9 6
			14,059 2 3
Less recoveries (parental contributions and revenue from farms, sale of articles manufactured, &c.)			3,509 9 11
Net cost to Department			£10,549 12 4

The net expenditure for the year 1926-27 was £11,323 16s. 2d.; the recoveries for the year compared with the previous year, show an increase of £546 11s.

EDUCATION OF DEAF CHILDREN.

Under the provisions of the Education Act the education of deaf children between the ages of six and twenty-one years is compulsory. For such children who are normal mentally provision is made at the residential school for the deaf at Sumner, which is really a boarding-school. Practically the same vacations are observed as in public schools, and during the summer vacations the pupils return to their homes and the institution is closed. As soon as a pupil has completed his education or the equivalent to the standard of education in an ordinary primary school he is returned to his home and the control of the school over him ceases. In this respect the school at Sumner differs from the residential institutions under the Child Welfare system—there is no adult section at Sumner, and there is no need for a system of after-care for those pupils who pass through the school.

In the main centres special classes have been established under expert teachers for the training of partially deaf children and children with defective speech, and for the adult deaf who desire to learn lip-reading.

The following is an extract from the annual report of the Director of the School:—

“The work of the school was maintained to the standard that one might reasonably expect where children are removed from school about the age of sixteen years. Considering that a deaf child requires four years’ schooling to be about equal in intellectual equipment and development to a hearing child of six years, the standard of work attained here may be said to be satisfactory. The aim so far as a curriculum is concerned is to equip the pupils with a general education as similar as possible to that given in a public school. It is to be remembered, however, that the deep, far-reaching interaction between thought and language gives the hearing child an enormous advantage over the deaf who come to school with no language. From the fact that only two ex-pupils during the last five years have appealed to me to assist them in finding employment it would appear that the lines on which the pupils’ education is conducted are such as equip these young people to obtain employment on leaving school. It should be realized by parents that about ten years’ attendance here is necessary to give an average deaf child a sound general education.

“It is to be regretted that nine children on the roll last December were detained at their homes for several weeks after the school reopened in February last. Three of these have not yet returned. It should be clearly understood by parents that deaf children require every educational advantage that it

is possible to bring within their reach, and that to keep them at home when they should be at school is to retard their progress and to cause extra work to their teachers in any endeavour to redeem the time lost. Cases have occurred where parents, noting the improvement in their children after some training here, have assumed that the children can be taught at home or in public schools. Uninstructed effort based on such ideas can only result in the children's retardation in progress through lack of skilled instruction.

"The necessity for teachers in public schools noting any indications of a hard-of-hearing condition among their pupils is important. Speech defects among school-children are often due to a condition of impaired hearing, and this condition may easily cause children to be classed as dull or retarded. Statistics in this connection are not easily available, but in Berlin, where there are 290,000 school-children, investigation over a long period showed that there were many thousands with impaired hearing and over seven thousand who were very noticeably hard of hearing. Dr. Bock, in his researches in the United States found that three times as many children dropped back to repeat their grades through impaired hearing as through any other cause.

"The special classes established in Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin have done good work during the year. These classes are staffed by teachers from Sumner, and are attended by partially deaf children who are unable to profit by instruction in public schools, and whom it would be otherwise necessary to send to Sumner; by children who have lost their hearing after having learned to speak; and also by children who stammer or have other speech defects. Apart from preventing congestion at Sumner, these classes in correcting speech defects do a real service for the general education of the pupils, as it is an established fact that defective speech is a fruitful cause of retardation in school subjects. Apart from the evidence of writers on the subject, several cases are known of children with acute speech defects who, though naturally intelligent, are much below standard in general education.

"Besides the ordinary school-work, instruction was given in technical subjects. The boys did garden-work and woodwork, and the girls laundry-work, and some general housework. Instruction in sewing and in cooking are part of the usual school-work.

"A team of girls from this school who had been trained by Miss McEwan won the Rotary Club's Challenge Cup at the annual sports held by the Christchurch Girls' Sports Association. As there were over two hundred competitors, this was a particularly good performance."

CLASSES FOR THE ADULT DEAF.

The classes held at Wellington and Auckland for the instruction of the adult deaf in speech-reading were attended by about the usual numbers. Considering the number of adult deaf there are it is surprising that these classes are not more largely attended. The classes in Christchurch are conducted by the Director of the School, assisted by two of the senior teachers.

Pupils at School for the Deaf.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Pupils on the roll as on 1st April, 1927	60	61	121
Admitted during the year	6	15	21
Left during the year	8	13	21
Resident pupils, 31st March, 1928	46	53	99
Day pupils	8	6	14
Not returned from vacation, 31st March, 1928	4	5	9
On the roll as on 31st March, 1928	58	64	122

The numbers attending the special classes are—Wellington, 35 children, 20 adults; Auckland, 31 children, 22 adults.

Expenditure on School for the Deaf, 1927-28.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries	5,881	16	9			
Advertising, &c.		7	8			
Maintenance of pupils and sundry expenses	1,868	6	0			
Travelling-expenses		354	8			
Maintenance of building, furnishing, &c.		174	12			
				8,286	12	10
Less parental contributions and amount received from Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards	2,500	17	1			
Sales of farm-produce		3	17			
National endowment		210	0			
				2,714	14	9
				<u>£5,571</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>

Net expenditure for the year 1926-27 was £5,754 11s. 9d.

TABLE 17.—CHILD WELFARE: EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR, 1927-28.

Institution.	Foodstuffs.	Clothing and Boots.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Medical and Dental.	Household Requisites.	Farm and Garden.	Sundries.		Total.	Add Stocks, 31st March, 1928.	Total.		Deduct		Net Expenditure.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Girls' receiving-homes—																
Auckland ..	310 6 1	8 8 11	84 0 6	40 4 10	28 16 10	..	106 5 9	578 2 11	578 2 11	..	578 2 11	..	7 15 8	478 13 11	570 7 3	478 13 11
Hamilton ..	171 18 11	580 7 7	38 18 8	19 10 3	25 19 0	..	122 7 4	959 1 9	1,474 15 7	..	1,474 15 7	..	346 17 7	616 8 10	473 18 4	616 8 10
Napier ..	132 17 6	347 12 10	47 1 2	35 17 6	37 15 6	..	15 17 5	617 1 11	1,252 13 9	..	1,252 13 9	..	183 3 8	209 16 11	266 17 2	209 16 11
Wanganui ..	140 13 6	161 3 0	23 18 8	3 13 5	16 6 10	..	37 7 5	383 2 10	583 14 2	..	583 14 2	..	60 0 9	841 0 11	242 4 7	841 0 11
Christchurch ..	308 4 0	877 6 10	151 0 11	51 13 10	29 15 0	..	67 1 10	1,485 2 5	2,437 3 11	..	2,437 3 11	..	675 3 9	756 3 10	874 19 4	756 3 10
Dunedin ..	475 5 4	448 12 9	180 10 8	38 12 4	72 6 6	..	164 7 8	1,379 15 3	2,667 9 5	..	2,667 9 5	..	261 5 11	..	1,250 6 4	1,250 6 4
Boys' receiving-homes—																
Auckland ..	314 3 1	74 13 8	100 9 7	35 2 11	64 17 0	..	60 1 8	649 7 11	649 7 11	..	649 7 11	..	..	..	649 7 11	649 7 11
Wellington ..	276 9 8	38 7 7	51 6 2	30 5 1	37 9 5	..	78 13 3	471 5 8	471 5 8	..	471 5 8	..	..	..	471 5 8	471 5 8
Christchurch ..	294 0 9	88 15 3	57 8 3	15 8 11	17 12 0	..	161 17 8	551 18 5	704 1 9	..	704 1 9	..	184 0 9	119 3 3	350 3 9	350 3 9
Dunedin ..	148 13 9	432 2 8	45 12 10	32 0 0	27 7 10	..	168 11 10	847 14 9	847 14 9	..	847 14 9	..	44 0 0	315 1 11	387 6 0	387 6 0
Boys' Training farm, Wera- roa ..	1,047 14 10	1,181 4 5	392 8 8	56 10 1	126 18 5	2,277 8 1	82 15 7	5,250 16 4	9,968 14 8	..	9,968 14 8	..	14 10 2	4,836 11 2	4,429 14 7	4,429 14 7
Children's Home, Miramar	388 1 7	Cr. 195 9 7	160 7 6	34 0 11	57 16 6	..	29 14 11	527 12 6	874 0 4	..	874 0 4	..	1 17 6	..	827 13 2	827 13 2
Girls' Hostel, Wellington ..	249 10 11	12 10 1	60 7 3	5 13 3	35 13 7	..	58 13 6	393 10 0	393 10 0	..	393 10 0	..	..	..	393 10 0	393 10 0
Girls' Home, Burwood ..	279 9 1	131 17 3	74 4 2	14 18 4	87 16 10	..	..	646 19 2	646 19 2	..	646 19 2	..	..	..	646 19 2	646 19 2
Totals ..	4,537 9 0	4,187 13 3	1,467 15 0	413 11 8	666 11 3	2,277 8 1	1,191 3 7	14,741 11 10	23,549 14 0	8,808 2 2	23,549 14 0	1,704 7 11	1,837 12 1	8,173 0 9	11,834 13 3	11,834 13 3

Repairs to buildings ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,257 2 5	1,257 2 5
Salaries of staffs of homes, Child Welfare Officers, visiting nurses, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,796 6 10	23,796 6 10
Boarding-out of children—																
Payments to foster-parents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70,689 10 4	70,689 10 4
Payments to Postal Department as commission ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	671 17 6	671 17 6
Issues of clothing, &c.: From institutions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,721 5 6	1,721 5 6
From Central and Branch Stores ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,200 14 3	1,200 14 3
Medicine, medical attendance, dentistry, clothing, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,921 19 9	2,921 19 9
Inmates at service—																
Issues of clothing, &c.: From institutions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,544 9 6	2,544 9 6
From Central and Branch Stores ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76,827 17 1
Miscellaneous payments (clothing and medical, &c.) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,142 0 8	3,142 0 8
Refund of maintenance payments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,479 5 7	3,479 5 7
Refund of inmates earnings ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,621 6 3	6,621 6 3
Rent, office requisites, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	281 14 9	281 14 9
Travelling-expenses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48 8 8	48 8 8
Wages of inmates ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,929 7 2	1,929 7 2
Law-costs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,944 9 2	6,944 9 2
Transfer and removal expenses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	206 6 4	206 6 4
Contingencies ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69 1 2	69 1 2
Less recoveries—																
Parents and others ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 4 3	4 4 3
Sales of farm-produce ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 3 6	8 3 6
Inmates earnings for clothing, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129,829 0 10	129,829 0 10
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20,413 2 4	20,413 2 4
National endowment ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,292 9 4	2,292 9 4
Totals ..	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2	32,384 4 2
Totals ..	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8	£97,444 16 8

TABLE 18.—AVERAGE COST OF MAINTAINING INMATES IN INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CHILD WELFARE ACT, FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1928.

	£	s.	d.
Gross cost of maintaining inmates	129,829	0	10
Add excess of liabilities at 31st March, 1928, over those of 31st March, 1927 ..	1,676	8	11
	131,505	9	9
Less—			
Direct expenditure on service inmates	3,479	5	7
Issues from institutions and stores	3,142	0	8
Salaries of Child Welfare Officers, Infant-life Protection Agents, and proportion of Managers and office staffs of institutions ..	11,898	3	5
Travelling-expenses of Child Welfare Officers, Infant-life Protection Agents, &c. (estimated at two-thirds of expenditure, £6,944 9s. 2d.)	4,629	12	9
Refund of inmates' earnings	48	8	8
Rent, office requisites, &c. (two-thirds of expenditure, £1,929 7s. 2d.)	1,286	4	9
Law costs	69	1	2
	24,552	17	0
Gross cost of inmates a charge on the State	£106,952	12	9

Number of inmates maintained (including inmates in residence at Government schools, boarded out, hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.) 2,516

Average cost per week per inmate—

	£	s.	d.
Gross	0	16	4
Recoveries	0	4	0
Net	£0	12	4

The net cost to the State of maintaining children under the Child Welfare system is therefore 12s. 4d. per head per week.

TABLE 19.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PRIVATE (ROMAN CATHOLIC) SCHOOLS, 1927–28.

For the maintenance of State wards who are inmates of the four private institutions recognized under the Child Welfare Act, 1925, the Department pays capitation at the rate of 10s. a week each. The following table indicates the expenditure under this heading:—

	£	s.	d.
St. Mary's, Auckland	325	14	2
St. Joseph's, Upper Hutt	580	18	6
St. Mary's, Nelson	221	7	1
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	153	3	8
	£1,281	3	5

TABLE 19A.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF INMATES SENT TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS, 1927–28.

	£	s.	d.
Salvation Army Home, Auckland	14	15	6
Mount Magdala Home, Christchurch	12	7	0
Salvation Army Home, Christchurch	6	6	0
Essex Home, Christchurch	11	17	10
Redroofs Maternity Home, Dunedin	10	10	0
St. Joseph's, Invercargill	0	4	8
	£56	1	0

TABLE 19B.—GROSS RECOVERIES FROM PARENTS AND OTHERS.

	1926–27.			1927–28.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Child Welfare	21,976	3	4	19,872	19	2
Special Schools	2,404	2	5	2,600	8	4
Charitable Aid Board (Special Schools) ..	1,650	18	5	1,856	10	8
	£26,031	4	2	£24,329	18	2

TABLE 19C.—CASH SALES OF FARM PRODUCE, 1927-28.

Item.	Boys' Training-farm, Weraroa.	Special School, Otekaike.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Milk and cream	1,247 0 7	384 2 10	1,631 3 5
Poultry and eggs	205 7 2	26 6 11	231 14 1
Fruit and vegetables	31 14 3	32 15 8	64 9 11
Sheep, cattle, beef, and mutton	530 17 0	328 18 0	859 15 0
Mats and basketwork .. ..	..	245 3 10	245 3 10
Boot-repairs and leather goods .. ..	..	24 5 9	24 5 9
Timber .. ..	..	262 5 3	262 5 3
Chaffcutting, haymaking, and threshing	75 11 4	..	75 11 4
Pigs and bacon	177 18 2	8 10 0	186 8 2
Sundries	35 8 10	102 5 9	137 14 7
	2,303 17 4	1,414 14 0	3,718 11 4

COSTLEY TRAINING INSTITUTION.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1927.

<i>Liabilities.</i>				<i>Assets.</i>			
Capital account—	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Costley Bequest	12,150	0 0			Bank balance	161	16 2
R. Hodge Bequest	742	3 9			Jackson, Russell, Tunks, and West	994	6 0
			12,892	3 9	New Zealand Government stock	1,500	0 0
Accumulated fund—						£	s. d.
Balance at 31st December, 1927	12,491	10 6			Mortgages	22,941	5 0
Income and Expenditure Account	423	6 5			Accrued interest	209	13 6
			12,914	16 11			23,150 18 6
			£25,807	0 8			£25,807 0 8

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1927.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s. d.
To Maintenance of boys and girls approved by Educa- tion Department	1,360	8 11			By Interest	1,606	2 9
Less refunds from Educa- tion Department	269	14 10					
			1,090	14 1			
Office expenses and commission on in- terest collected			92	2 3			
Balance to Accumulated Fund			423	6 5			
			£1,606	2 9			£1,606 2 9

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,000 copies), £30.

By Authority: W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.—1928.

Price 9d.]

