

CHILD-PLACING SYSTEM.

Assisted Service, Higher Education, and Employment of State Children over School Age.

At the end of the year 130 State wards over fourteen years of age were in attendance at primary schools and maintained by the Department, 58 were attending secondary schools, and 31 technical schools.

Of the State wards in employment, 122, mainly apprentices, were being partly maintained by the Department.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

At the end of the year 1,131 infants and young children were supervised in 944 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 806 homes had one child each, 105 had two children each, 26 had three children each, 4 had four children each, 2 had five children each, and 1 home had nine children.

ADOPTIONS.

By an arrangement with the Department of Justice, applications for adoptions are investigated by Child Welfare Officers before being dealt with by a Magistrate. During the year 337 children were adopted, and in 30 of these cases premiums were received by the Department's agents, and paid out usually at the rate of 15s. per week for each child concerned. Of the total number of children adopted, 61 were under the age of six months, 59 between the age of six and twelve months, 118 between the age of one and five years, 58 between the age of five and ten years, and 41 between the age of ten and fifteen years.

TABLE 1.—STATUS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AT 31ST MARCH, 1932.

Status.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
In residence	158	130	288
Boarded out	1,340	949	2,289
At service	608	303	911
With friends	410	378	788
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.	12	6	18
In refuges or cognate institutions .. .. .	..	97	97
In orphanages	45	18	63
Absent without leave	18	5	23
In Borstal institutions	5	..	5
Y.M.C.A. Hostel, Auckland	16	..	16
Institute for the Blind .. .. .	..	1	1
In colleges .. .. .	..	2	2
In Girls' Hostel, Wellington .. .. .	..	14	14
In residence, Roman Catholic schools	33	54	87
In schools for mentally backward	184	83	267
In School for Deaf, Sumner	2	6	8
In mental hospitals	4	2	6
Totals	2,835	2,048	4,883

TABLE 2.—COMMITTALS AND ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1932.

The following table shows the admissions according to age :—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Totals
Under six months	35	24	59
Over six months and under one year	14	11	25
One year to five years	61	27	88
Five years to ten years	70	40	110
Ten years to fourteen years	73	35	108
Over fourteen years	108	59	167
Totals	361	196	557