

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.

A list showing the institutions registered as children's homes under the provisions of the Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1927, is appended to this report. These, in conjunction with other private organizations, continue their beneficent work among orphans and dependent children.

COSTLEY TRUST.

Under the will of the late Edward Costley, of Auckland, a sum of money was set aside to assist in apprenticing State wards in the Auckland District. Later the terms of the will were varied by legislation to include assistance towards the education or training for employment of any child recommended by Child Welfare Officers in Auckland. Although the funds are comparatively small, it is a most beneficent trust in that the funds are made available by the controlling authorities to assist approximately 60 children annually either to enter a profession, learn a trade, or receive assistance towards secondary or technical education. Some are helped for short periods, some longer, according to the needs of the cases. By this means the trust funds, comparatively speaking, benefit a very large number of children.

CASES APPEARING BEFORE THE CHILDREN'S COURTS.

The number of children dealt with by the Children's Courts during the year was 2,982, and of these 697 were placed under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers, while 26 had their supervision period extended. Of the children placed under supervision, 41 were subsequently committed to the care of the Superintendent.

The number committed to the care of the Superintendent and admitted to institutions such as receiving-homes, special schools, training-farms, &c., was 503, but all of these, with the exception of 133 (89 boys and 44 girls) who required further training, were suitably placed out in the community before the close of the year. The remainder (1,756) appearing before the Courts were dealt with in a manner not calling for supervision by a Child Welfare Officer (see details below).

At the 31st March, 1938, there was a total number of 910 children under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers by order of the Courts. Of the number (697) placed under supervision this year, 58 had previously been dealt with by the Courts and placed under supervision. The Courts ordered 9 children to spend a period in an institution.

The following is a comparative statement of the number of children that appeared before Children's Courts, and the action taken:—

TABLE 2.

	1936-37.	1937-38.		1936-37.	1937-38.
Committed to the care of the Superintendent	432	503	Convicted and ordered to be returned to training-farm	..	1
Placed under supervision	636	674	Informal supervision	1	4
Admonished and discharged	600	761	Convicted and fined with costs	1	..
Admonished and ordered to make restitution	278	268	Prohibited from obtaining driving license for a period	1	..
Adjourned	56	45	Dismissed with costs	1	..
Dismissed	52	68	Convicted and discharged and driving license endorsed	..	1
Supervision extended	37	26	Admonished and discharged and stolen property returned	..	9
Committed to Borstal	30	17	Admonished and discharged and restitution made	..	24
Convicted and fined	29	4	Fined .. ..	..	48
Returned to the care of the Superintendent	22	40	Agreement enforced (section 13 (3), Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1927)	..	1
Adjourned <i>sine die</i>	19	23	Admonished and returned to parents	..	1
Admonished with costs	16	9	Remanded to Supreme Court .. ..	..	1
Withdrawn	10	21	By-law cases—		
Admonished and fined	9	18	Admonished and discharged	147	169
Convicted and ordered to come up for sentence	8	6	Convicted and fined and/or costs	130	16
Ordered to come up for sentence .. ..	..	14	Fined and/or costs .. ..	..	135
Supervision with residence	4	9	Dismissed	18	4
Probation	4	3	Admonished and costs	11	22
Admonished and driving license cancelled ..	4	1	Convicted and discharged	5	2
Convicted and discharged	3	4	Admonished and fined	4	10
Discharged	3	6	Withdrawn	1	1
Convicted and costs	3	5	Placed under supervision	1	..
Ordered to pay costs .. ..	..	2	Discharged .. ..	..	1
Referred to Magistrates' Court	2	1	Referred to Magistrates' Court .. ..	..	1
Convicted and driving license cancelled ..	1	..			
Convicted and fined and driving license cancelled	1	1			
Convicted and discharged and ordered to make restitution	1	2			
Driving license endorsed	1	..			
Acquitted	1	..			
Admonished and discharged and driving license cancelled	1	..			
			Totals	2,584	2,982

NOTE.—Convictions comprise cases that came before the Courts for offences arising out of breaches of Traffic Regulations, by-laws, &c.