

No. 9.

MOTUEKA ORPHANAGE.

Summary of a Report furnished by Mr. Wallis.

In the year 1867 Mr. and Mrs. Wallis opened their Home as a refuge for fallen women; but after a short trial with four or five of such persons the scheme proved a failure, and had to be given up. But during their visits among these unfortunates they found that a large number of children were growing up in vice. They therefore resolved to establish an Orphanage Home, and they succeeded in persuading several drunken and depraved parents to place their children in it. The boys were trained to habits of industry, and were educated in the Home until fourteen years old, when they were apprenticed or placed out to service. The girls were trained for domestic service.

In March, 1869, Mr. and Mrs. Wallis had, at their own expense, eight boys and five girls in their Home of Refuge." A few persons took an interest in the work, but the whole of the work, and the greater part of the expense, devolved upon themselves. About this time the Provincial Government of Nelson had about a dozen orphan or neglected children boarded with different families. Mr. and Mrs. Wallis were invited by the Government to take them into their Home, and an agreement was come to whereby the children would be maintained and educated at a charge of 7s. each a week, all medical expenses being paid by the Government. This arrangement was continued until June, 1872, when pecuniary difficulties compelled Mr. and Mrs. Wallis to give it up. Four boys and four girls were returned to their parents, one boy was apprenticed, one boy was placed at service, one was retained at the Home, and another was provided for by the Government. One girl, nearly blind, was placed in the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallis now entered into an arrangement with the Provincial Government whereby all the children maintained in the Home should be paid for at the rate of 7s. a week for each. In June, 1878, it was agreed that all children entered after that date should be paid for at the rate of 8s. per week.

The Home consists of two separate residences, with kitchen and a number of suitable outbuildings. There is a large playground, a portion of which is set apart for small gardens for the children. Attached to the Home is a farm of 100 acres, the cultivation of which affords profitable occupation and training for the children.

As a rule, the children are not placed out to service until they are fourteen years old; but occasionally a boy or a girl is sent out at an earlier age, when circumstances seem to warrant this course. Care is taken that the children's wages, after defraying the cost of clothes, &c., shall be placed to their credit in the Post Office Savings Bank. Nearly all the children that have left the Home have moneys in the bank. One young woman was compelled by ill-health to leave her situation for a time. She paid £5 for medical attendance, and 4s. a week for her board, until able to return to service. She has now £30 in the bank. A boy went to service for three years, during which time he acquired a good supply of clothing, and saved upwards of £14. He then paid his passage to Wellington, apprenticed himself as a saddler, and maintained himself partly out of his savings. He is now doing well. Another youth, after saving £30, apprenticed himself as a blacksmith in the district of Marlborough.

Since the Home was opened, fourteen years ago, there has been one death, that of an infant that had been only a few days an inmate, and only on three occasions has medical aid been required.

No. 10.

LYTTELTON ORPHANAGE.

1.—*From the Secretary to the Charitable Aid Board.*

SIR,—

Christchurch, 23rd February, 1881.

I have the honor to forward herewith the returns requested by your Circular No. 68, of the 6th ultimo. The Canterbury Orphan Asylum was originally founded as a Church of England institution, but, assuming too large proportions, it was taken over by the late Provincial Government. It was established for the purpose of providing a home for orphan children of respectable parents, and to train and teach them to become useful members of society.

The institution is now situated at Lyttelton; the extent of the grounds is about three acres; the buildings are very convenient, and in a fair state of repair. The Charitable Aid Board is the governing body, the Board being nominated by the Government. The institution has been a decided success in every sense.

The Secretary, Education Department, Wellington.

I have, &c.,

J. E. MARCH.

2.—*Report by Medical Officer.*

SIR,—

Lyttelton, 8th February, 1881.

I have the honor to report that the health of the children at the orphanage for the twelve months ending 31st December has been generally satisfactory. During the year there were fourteen cases of diphtheria, of a much milder character, however, than that of the epidemic of 1879; the last cases were convalescent in November. There was no other sickness of a serious nature. No deaths occurred.

The sanitary arrangements in and about the institution have been much improved, and the completion of the hospital has proved a great boon. The quality of provisions has invariably been good, and the allowance ample. I have much pleasure in testifying to the unremitting kindness and attention shown to the children by the master and matron.

I have, &c.,

H. MACDONALD, M.D.,

Medical Officer.

The Hon. the Minister for Education.