

## PREVENTIVE WORK

The strengthening of the staff during recent years has reduced the case-load for each officer to more reasonable numbers and has made possible a much more effective concentration on preventive work. The importance of this aspect of child welfare activity is justifiably stressed, for it is considered that appropriate measures undertaken at an early stage do in many cases prevent children with wayward tendencies from becoming delinquent. In these cases it is essential to gain the confidence not only of the child, but also of the parents, and to enlist their co-operation. Where the need for expert opinion seems desirable, the Branch avails itself of the services of psychologists, psychiatrists, and other professional persons. In addition to those children who came under the notice of the Branch through the Courts, there were during the year 1,569 children who were being dealt with under "preventive" supervision.

## EDWARD COSTLEY TRUST, AUCKLAND

During the year the trustees assisted 49 children in the Auckland District engaged in educational courses, apprenticeships, &c. This assistance took the form of grants for books, school uniforms, fees, travelling-expenses, and clothing, and was granted upon favourable recommendations being received from the District Child Welfare Officer, who made careful inquiry into each application. The majority of the children helped were fatherless or their parents were not in a position at the time to provide the necessary help.

The assistance given was highly appreciated by the parents and children themselves. The work of the trust is looked upon by this Department as a most valuable adjunct to child welfare services in the community.

C. E. PEEK,

The Director of Education, Wellington, New Zealand.

Superintendent.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE CHILD WELFARE BRANCH AT 31ST MARCH

	1945.	1946.	1947.
<i>State Wards—</i>			
In foster-homes .. .. .	1,976	1,924	1,858
With relatives or friends .. .. .	526	520	464
In employment (includes 6 absent at 31st March, 1945, 16 at 31st March, 1946, and 15 at the 31st March, 1947)	1,022	1,006	922
In Government receiving homes .. .. .	137	153	137
In Government hostels .. .. .	25	31	26
In Government residential institutions .. .. .	123	132	143
In private children's homes registered under the Child Welfare Act .. .. .	108	105	95
In Roman Catholic institutions recognized under the Child Welfare Act .. .. .	90	82	74
In special schools for mentally backward children (see also pupils under "Other than State wards")	139	129	127
In refuges .. .. .	59	49	38
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c. .. .. .	36	40	32
In residential colleges .. .. .	17	13	18
	4,258	4,184	3,934
<i>Other than State Wards—</i>			
Young persons supervised by Child Welfare Officers in their own homes, with relatives, or friends, pursuant to orders of Courts	1,063	1,026	915
Infants supervised in foster-homes registered under the Infants Act .. .. .	799	909	788
Pupils at Schools for the Deaf, Sumner and Titirangi .. .. .	215	238	250
Pupils at schools for mentally backward children (Ōtekaikē and Richmond) (see also under "State Wards")	47	45	45
Children supervised as preventive cases .. .. .	1,905	1,629	1,569
Children in New Zealand Institute for the Blind for which the Department makes payment	20	17	24
	4,049	3,864	3,591
	8,307	8,048	7,525
British children in New Zealand .. .. .	190	46	11