

1911.
NEW ZEALAND.

EDUCATION :
SPECIAL SCHOOLS, AND INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

[In continuation of E.-4, 1910.]

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

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No. 1.—EXTRACT FROM THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS: AFFLICTED AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

DURING the year 1910 the total number belonging to the schools for afflicted and dependent children was on the average 2,586, and the expense to the Government was £51,922. Of this sum, £15,314 represents the outlay in connection with the purchase of property, erection of buildings, and other works. The numbers on the roll and the expenditure on account of the various institutions were as follows:—

	Number under Control.	Net Cost. £
School for the Deaf	97	4,087
Jubilee Institute for the Blind	39	721
Special School for Boys of Feeble Mind	31	7,834
Industrial schools	2,419	39,280

By the Education Amendment Act which became law last year extended provision is made for the education and training of young persons who are deaf, blind, feeble-minded, or epileptic. They must now come under efficient and suitable instruction at the age of six years, and remain so until they reach twenty-one years, unless previous to that time the Education Department is satisfied that their educational attainments or their proficiency in some art or handicraft or other calling enable them to provide for their future needs without further instruction.

If the near relative of a child so affected does not provide the education required, the Minister of Education may direct that the child be sent to a school where he will have the special instruction suited to his needs, the cost of maintenance and training to be borne by the relatives according to their means and as agreed upon between them and the Minister. In the event of the Minister's direction not being complied with, a Magistrate may order the child's admission to a special school and fix the rate of the maintenance payment. The question whether or not a child is sufficiently affected to warrant his being regarded as coming under these provisions of the Act is determined by his ability to receive proper benefit from ordinary school instruction. If maintenance payments are not duly observed they may be recovered as a debt, or the defaulter may be dealt with under the provisions of the Destitute Persons Act for disobedience of the Court order. Charitable Aid Boards are made responsible in necessitous cases for payment to a limited extent for the maintenance of children in these schools.

By order of a Magistrate a young person who is epileptic or feeble-minded may be kept under the guidance and control of a special school beyond the age of twenty-one years if it is considered that he is not fit to guide his own life, or that it is otherwise in the public interest that he should be under institutional oversight. In connection with proceedings of this kind the Magistrate appoints counsel to represent the inmate at the hearing. The period of extended guidance is not to exceed four years in the first instance, but on its expiry it may be renewed from time to time by similar procedure, and thus, where necessary, lifelong control is retained. In such cases orders for maintenance against the near relatives may be made.

Parents, school-teachers (either public or private), constables, or officers of charitable or kindred institutions who are aware of the place of residence of blind, deaf, epileptic, or feeble-minded children, and the householder in which such a child lives, must, under a penalty, send notification to the Education Department.

There is, unfortunately, very strong evidence that there are a large number of young people in New Zealand (as in other countries) who by reason of mental defect are unable to properly control their lives, and it is hoped that with the means that the law now allows they will not be permitted to drift towards destitution and criminality, but will be so cared for that they will be able eventually either to maintain themselves respectably or to contribute to their maintenance in suitable institutions according to their various capabilities.

Another important provision in this Act is that giving power for the inspection of orphanages and similar institutions by Inspectors of the Education Department.

Up till now it has been practicable to deal with boys only at the school for the feeble-minded, but plans are now in hand for buildings which would provide for the accommodation of a considerable number of girls.

Reference was made in the report for the year 1909 to the pressing need for another industrial school for boys. As the result of negotiations, the institution conducted by the Roman Catholic authorities as a private industrial school under the supervision of the Education Department, and generally known as the Stoke Orphanage, has been purchased for this purpose, and will hereafter be a Government industrial school to which Magistrates can commit boys irrespective of the religious denomination they belong to.

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

Number of pupils who returned to the school in February, 1910, after the summer vacation	89
Number admitted during the school year	12
Number who left during or at the end of the school year	11
Number remaining on the roll after the close of the school year	90

The cost of the school for the years 1909 and 1910 respectively was as follows:—

	1909.			1910.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries	2,916	2	7	2,958	12	6
Maintenance of pupils	1,513	6	8	1,551	8	4
Maintenance of buildings and water charges	332	15	6	367	16	5
Sundries	121	19	0	145	15	1
<i>Less—</i>						
Amount collected from parents by way of maintenance contributions	838	11	0	929	0	2
Sundry other recoveries	6	18	11	7	11	3
Net expenditure on the institution	4,038	13	10	4,087	0	11*

(* Including £540 paid from National Endowment revenue.)

There was an increase of 10·9 per cent. in parental contributions, as against an increase of 1·1 per cent. in the number of pupils under instruction.

JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

During the year the Government contributed towards the cost of training 35 pupils of this institution, of whom 1 was an adult, the net amount expended being £721 (including £99 from National Endowment revenue), as against £903 for the previous year on account of 39 pupils. Maintenance payments by parents and guardians increased from £215 19s. 3d. in 1909 to £291 2s. 6d. during 1910. For the two past financial years the revenue from the National Endowment Reserves Account amounted to £99 9s. 4d. The sum payable by the Government as subsidy to the Board of Trustees during last year under the provisions of the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act was £1,709.

SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF FEEBLE MIND.

This institution is being steadily developed, there being now 47 boys in residence. The matter of admitting young persons who are over twenty-one years of age has been fully considered, and it has been determined to give preference to younger applicants. Undoubtedly a large number of the pupils will need permanent institutional care, and by retaining these under control the adult section of this institution will be formed gradually. It is to be borne in mind that the Otekaike school does not admit those who are imbecile: it is essential that pupils shall have the capacity to derive benefit from the special education and training provided for in the school course.

The cost of the institution for the past two years was as follows:—

	1909.			1910.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries	1,102	15	4	1,564	10	8
Maintenance of pupils	647	14	11	1,115	7	6
Maintenance of buildings	243	19	7	239	18	0
Farm and stock	612	19	9	318	8	9
Additional buildings, water-supply, drainage, fencing, &c.	1,602	18	3	4,984	0	8
Sundries	180	6	10	178	19	6
<i>Less—</i>						
Amount collected from parents by way of maintenance contributions	182	2	2	428	16	3
Sundry other recoveries	105	2	11	138	12	6
Net expenditure on the institution	4,103	9	7	7,833	16	4†

(† Including £440 paid from National Endowment revenue.)

CHILDREN UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP.

The number under the control of industrial schools at the end of 1910 was 2,454, an increase of 74 during the year. Of this total, 805 were resident in the institutions, 263 being in the private (Roman Catholic) industrial schools, 794 were boarded out with foster-parents, and 855 were earning their living in situations, placed with friends on probation, &c.

The numbers of children on the books at the end of the years 1909 and 1910 respectively whose maintenance was a charge against the public funds were as follows:—

	1909.	1910.
Boarded out from Government schools	757	792
Boarded out from private schools	3	2
Number resident at schools	771	805
At other institutions	35	30
Total	1,566	1,629

	1909.			1910.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The amount of parental contributions was ..	5,786	8	5	5,575	8	6
Rate per head for children maintained ..	3	13	11	3	8	5

Details respecting the number of children on the books of industrial schools at the end of the year are given in Table I5.

The net expenditure on account of industrial schools during the year showed an increase of £152 2s. as compared with the preceding year. The following statement gives particulars :—

	1909.			1910.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cost of maintenance of schools	19,831	5	2	17,960	8	2
Boarding out (exclusive of cost of administration, inspection, &c.)	13,319	0	6	13,962	16	5
Salaries	8,151	3	8	8,816	2	2
New buildings and works, and purchase of property	5,838	2	0	10,330	6	2
Salaries, travelling-allowances, and expenses of certain departmental officers (Inspectors, visiting officers, &c.)	1,424	14	9	1,458	19	4
Sundry payments	186	15	0	107	7	11
Gross total	48,751	1	1	52,636	0	2
Recoveries	15,193	8	1	15,701	5	2
Net cost	£33,557	13	0	£36,934	15	0*

(* Including £3,225 paid from National Endowment revenue.)

Further details of the expenditure on industrial schools during the year are contained in Tables I1 and I2.

	1909.			1910.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments by Charitable Aid Boards for maintenance of children who came into Government schools owing to indigence (included in the total sum recovered)	8,612	16	3	9,450	1	1
Number of children at the end of the year belonging to Government schools who were so paid for ..		596			678	
Number maintained at the expense of Charitable Aid Boards at private industrial schools ..		132			98	

The amount paid by the Charitable Aid Boards on account of children sent to the private industrial schools as indigent is not stated here, as the Managers of these schools make their claims upon the Boards without reference to the Education Department.

At the end of the year the amount in the Post-Office Savings-Bank held in trust in the names of inmates and former inmates of industrial schools was £27,052 6s. 4d., the Government schools accounts having £23,710 4s. 9d. to credit, and the private (Roman Catholic) schools £3,342 1s. 7d. The total sums withdrawn from these accounts during the year were £3,369 14s. 8d. and £181 18s. 4d. respectively.

These moneys represent the earnings of boys and girls in situations away from the schools, or of those in residence under training, whose services are worth more than the cost of their maintenance. According to law, it is at the discretion of the Minister of Education whether payment (with interest) is eventually made to these young people or not. In practice they do receive payment where there is evidence that the applicant's record after the control of the school has ceased has been good, and that he has a proper investment for the money. In exercise of his discretion the Minister may order forfeiture of the money where a former inmate proves his unworthiness to receive it. In such a case the amount is credited to the Public Account.

The following figures are taken from I2 and I3 of the Appendix :—

	£	s.	d.
Government expenditure on private schools	2,200	0	0
Government expenditure on special cases at other institutions	146	0	0

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

At the end of the year the number of foster-homes licensed under the Infants Act was 705, and the number of children maintained in them for the whole or part of the year was 1,183, of whom 469 were under one year old. The total number of deaths was 26, equal to 2.19 per cent.

The report of the Secretary for Education gives detailed information as regards the various phases of the work.

The expenditure for the year, amounting to £982 4s. 4d., is accounted for as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries of Visiting Nurses and local representatives	606	0	0
Travelling-expenses of District Agents, Visiting Nurses, and local representatives	215	19	0
Payments to foster-parents for board of infants	103	6	4
Office expenses (including rent) and sundries	83	11	10
Less recoveries	26	12	10

No. 2.—SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, SUMNER.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

SIR,

School for the Deaf, Sumner, 1st May, 1911.

I have the honour to lay before you my report for the year 1910.

The number of pupils who have been under instruction during the year is shown in the following tabulated statement :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Pupils of the previous year who returned to school	49	40	89
Admitted at or near the commencement of the year	7	3	10
Admitted later	1	1	2
<hr/>			
Total number on the roll	57	44	101
Left before the end of the school year	2	..	2
Left at the end of the school year	1	8	9
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Pupils expected to return in 1911	54	36	90

Of the 101 pupils, 29 came from the Auckland District, 2 from Taranaki, 4 from Hawke's Bay, 22 from Wellington, 1 from Nelson, 2 from Marlborough, 2 from Westland, 22 from Canterbury, and 17 from Otago.

Owing to the increase in the number of the pupils and to the lack of accommodation at the school, 6 boys and 1 girl were boarded out. In addition to these, 2 boys and 2 girls attended as day pupils, their parents having made private arrangements for their board and lodging in Sumner. The desirability of giving deaf children as much opportunity as possible for associating with hearing persons has been again exemplified by the progress of these boarded-out children and of those children whose parents live near enough to the school for them to go home weekly.

Three of the twelve cases admitted during the year call for special mention. One was that of a mentally deficient boy of eight years and a half, whose hearing was almost normal and whose inability to speak was due to his defective mentality. After six months' trial it was found that, though he had benefited somewhat by physical and kindergarten training, he was unable to take advantage of the ordinary course of instruction. He was accordingly removed. Another case was that of a boy of twelve, who had been attending a public school and had got as far as the Second Standard. His defective hearing had handicapped him considerably, as he was only to a limited extent able to profit by the instruction given. It was expected that the extra amount of individual attention he would be able to receive here, together with training in lip-reading, would be of considerable advantage to him, more especially as there was some likelihood of his deafness increasing. It was gratifying to find that after being six months with us he had acquired sufficient knowledge of lip-reading to enable him to return to the public school, and to continue his education there satisfactorily. The third case was that of a little girl of eleven. An attack of scarlet fever in infancy had left her almost stone-deaf. On account of her being able to hear loud noises and to say one or two words in a more or less intelligible manner her relatives had formed a totally wrong idea of the nature of her affliction, and had been led, as in many similar cases, to believe that she would grow out of it. It was only after she had attended a public school for about four years that the question of her suitability for this school was inquired into. She is now making excellent progress. This case, coming as it does on top of two somewhat similar cases met with in 1908, emphasizes the necessity of the functions of this school being better understood by teachers and by the public generally. If a circular were sent to head teachers asking them to report all cases coming under their notice of defective hearing or speech, it is probable that similar cases would be discovered elsewhere. It may not be out of place to again enumerate the classes of pupils that are received at this school :—

- (1.) Children born deaf or becoming so in infancy or before learning to speak.
- (2.) Children, or in some cases adults, who have lost their hearing after having learned to speak. (In such cases the sooner instruction in lip-reading is commenced the better.)
- (3.) Children who by reason of their defective hearing cannot be efficiently educated at an ordinary public school.

With the exception of the mentally afflicted boy referred to above, good progress was made by the newcomers, all of whom completed the articulation course prescribed for the first year. Taken as a whole, the results of the work for the year may be regarded as extremely satisfactory. In the case of a few children only, of comparatively low mental power, was the rate of progress less than normal. Better results would be obtained in these cases if they could be educated separately. But this, however, will not be possible until our growing population has increased sufficiently to enable us to reap the advantages that can only be obtained by a proper classification system. Meanwhile the progress of the dull pupil will continue to be the best test of the skill and devotion of the teacher, and the extent to which the latter is able to subdue his natural inclination to pass over the unattractive dull pupil in favour of his more brilliant classmate will mark the rank he has attained in his profession.

On account of their approaching marriage, we had the misfortune to lose the valuable services of two members of the teaching staff—viz., Miss A. C. Gemming at the end of May, and Miss H. B. Anthony at the end of the year. The vacancy caused by the retirement of the former was filled in June by the appointment of Miss J. St. M. Waterston.

At the end of the year eight girls and one boy were removed. The latter had become deaf as a result of an attack of meningitis at about ten years of age, but was, unfortunately, not sent here until four more years had elapsed. He had remained three years and a half at this school, with the result that his speech, which at the time of his admittance was fast disappearing, had been preserved and his education continued. One of the girls leaving was also a lip-reading pupil; but in her case the loss of hearing had occurred after she had completed a public-school education. In both these cases lip-reading had been hampered by defective vision. The girl is now employed in domestic service in Dunedin; and in a letter recently received she states that she has no difficulty in reading the lips of her mistress and of the children of the family. Another case removed was that of a girl with defective speech and hearing, who had been admitted in the middle of the preceding year. Her speech had been very much improved, and she left with a fair general education. The six other girls removed had been congenital deaf-mutes. One had been with us a year only, and was removed owing to her parents leaving the Dominion. Another was a mentally weak girl of nineteen, whom it had been necessary to keep twelve years at the school. She had received a fair general education, and could readily make herself understood by speech. She had been trained in housework to the extent that her relatives now find her very useful in the house. Of the four other girls, one had been ten years and three had been eight years at school. Two of them had been exceptionally bright pupils, and all had received a good general education, besides a careful training in general housework, including cooking, laundry, and needlework.

The general health of the pupils throughout the year was very satisfactory. There were comparatively few cases of illness, the most serious being two very mild cases of enteric towards the end of the year. The work of the school, however, was seriously hampered by illness amongst the teaching staff, three of the members of which were incapacitated for varying periods during the second half of the year.

Our thanks are due to the members of the Canterbury Automobile Association for their kindness in taking the children for an outing in their cars, and also to Messrs. Fuller and Sons for again kindly extending to us an invitation to visit their kinematograph matinees whenever convenient. At these entertainments our pupils are fortunately on a level with hearing children, and from them derive much educational benefit as well as pleasure.

In September the school was visited by Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the distinguished inventor of the telephone. Dr. Bell has spent a lifetime in furthering the interests of the deaf. In his young days he was a teacher of articulation, and it was while attempting to produce a machine that would convey some conception of sound-variations to the deaf that he hit upon the idea from which he subsequently developed the telephone. By his generosity in devoting the Volta prize-money, which he received for his wonderful invention, to the founding of the Volta Bureau, at Washington, he has earned the gratitude of all co-workers. The Volta Bureau was founded for the collecting and the disseminating of information respecting the deaf, and for the promotion of the teaching of speech to them. Dr. Bell was accompanied by his wife, who was herself at one time a deaf-mute. Mrs. Bell is a highly cultured lady, whose interest in and enthusiasm for the instruction of the deaf by means of speech are equal to her husband's. Their visit was of very great interest, and the information derived from them with regard to the education of the deaf in other parts of the world was most valuable.

The following newspaper extracts relating to Dr. Bell's visit are taken from the *Lyttelton Times* of the 6th and 7th September:—

Lyttelton Times, 6th September, 1911.

Dr. A. Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, spent a few very interesting hours at the School for the Deaf at Sumner yesterday. Instruction of deaf children is his hobby and his life-study, and he has been looking forward to a visit to the Sumner institution ever since he came to New Zealand.

He states that he is delighted with the school, with its modern methods, with the able work done by Mr. J. E. Stevens and members of his staff, and, above all, with the genuine affection which the children show towards their teachers. It is the best school of the kind he has seen since he left the United States. He saw several institutions for teaching the deaf in Australia, but none so modern in methods and so enlightened in the application of ideas as at Sumner. As far as he has seen, the Sumner school is the only one in these parts where the oral system of instruction has completely superseded the old manual system. The children at Sumner are taught to read from the teacher's lips, not from words spelt out on the fingers. This principle has been adopted in all the institutions in the United States, and has given satisfactory results. It is now recognized that every deaf child is necessarily dumb not because of defects in its vocal organs, but because it is deaf. It cannot use language because it has never heard language spoken. At Sumner the children are taught the "word-by-word" articulation. The United States have discarded that in favour of phrases. If a wish is expressed that a book should be placed on the table, for instance, at Sumner each word will be given separately: "Place—a—book—on—the—table." In the United States the sentence would be given in three phrases: "Place—a book—on the table." Phrasing, as it is called, is regarded as a notable improvement on the single-word method, and as a very important part of the system of instruction, the articulation being much more natural.

The schools of the United States are purely educational institutions. They do not provide vocations for the pupils, who are sent away as soon as their course is completed. In some of the large centres there are day schools for deaf children who live at home. This enables the promoters of the movement to reach a much larger proportion of deaf children than would be instructed if there were only one large central institution. The small day schools, which are conducted on the kindergarten principle, reach little children. Some of the day schools of Wisconsin are attended by tiny tots only three years old. These schools are usually held in a room in the ordinary school buildings, where the deaf children have ample opportunities for associating with other children. It is believed to be a mistake to bring defective children into exclusive association with each other, especially during their education. Some of the older pupils at Sumner are boarded out instead of being compelled to live

at the school, an arrangement which Dr. Bell describes as admirable, and which he thinks should be introduced into the United States. Intermingling with hearing and speaking people increases alertness, and is found to be a great help to the children when they have to go out into the world. Dr. Bell found a great deal to admire at the Sumner school, and he says that he wishes it "God speed" in its good work.

Lyttelton Times, 7th September, 1911.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I quite concur with what our distinguished visitor, Dr. A. Graham Bell, has to say as to the value of phrasing in the teaching of articulation to the deaf, but it is a method which should only be applied after the elements of speech have been established. In attempting to make use of it too soon I am convinced that harm is done.

The method that has been followed at Sumner since the opening of the school by the late Mr. G. van Asch in 1880 is practically that made use of in the most successful schools for the deaf in Germany and Holland. In the earliest stages of instruction the elements of speech are taught single at first and afterwards in combination, as h-oo-p, hoop. Later on, the word-by-word method is applied, and easy sentences containing only simple words are taught. These are pronounced word by word as noticed by Dr. Bell. Later on, polysyllables are brought into use, and the children are taught to speak and read in phrases. This stage of education is usually reached about the third year of instruction, or in some cases earlier. A simple phrase such as "on the table" presents no more difficulty to a pupil when taken as a whole than does a common word such as "vegetable."

Had Dr. Bell been able to spend longer time at the school I should have had pleasure in showing him the work of the higher classes in this respect.—I am, &c., J. E. STEVENS.

Owing to the continued increase in our numbers, more accommodation in the way of schoolrooms and servants' quarters is urgently necessary. Some time ago, as a temporary expedient, it was found necessary to subdivide two of the larger class-rooms, but this arrangement has not worked very well. The partitions interfere with the lighting and ventilation of the rooms, and should be removed as soon as other rooms can be provided. The course to be recommended is the building of a new wing on the western side of the building, and the addition of an upper story to the kitchen block. The new wing should include sick-rooms. Besides these a play-shed and gymnasium at the Boys' Home are much needed.

The present number of pupils is, in my opinion, greater than it is desirable to have educated in one institution. It was the opinion of the late Director, Mr. G. van Asch, with which I fully agree, that no more than seventy or seventy-five deaf pupils should be educated in one school, and that better results could be obtained with forty or fifty. The question of subdivision is now ripe for consideration. As I have previously stated in my reports, subdivision should be in accordance with a scheme of classification based on the mental and auditory capacities of the pupils. The system I should recommend would be somewhat on the lines of that adopted in Denmark. The children should be admitted first to a preparatory school, where they should remain from one to three years, according to their abilities. In Denmark there are about 350 children of school age, and the pupils there are classified from the preparatory school into four separate schools according to their auditory and mental powers. With our small deaf population it would be advisable to commence the subdivision by the establishment of the preparatory school. The other developments could follow with our increase of population. Children might be admitted to the preparatory school somewhat earlier than under present conditions is desirable. Its establishment would tend to diminish existing defects. In a school containing a considerable proportion of children with little or no acquaintance with language there is too great a tendency on the part of the older pupils to resort to signs when communicating with them. At the same time, the necessity of commencing the training in articulation while the vocal organs are still plastic, and when the child is not too far removed from that period of its existence at which in the hearing child the hereditary speech instincts become active, should not be overlooked. By the separation of the younger children in a preparatory school the natural development of speech could be more closely followed and the tendency above referred to removed.

I enclose for your information a letter received from a parent expressing appreciation of the training that his daughter received at the school. I have, &c.,

The Inspector-General of Schools.

J. E. STEVENS, Director.

DEAR SIR,—

Wellington, 30th April, 1911.

Just a few lines, which I think is due to you, to let you know how H. has been getting on since she left school at the end of last year. You will be pleased to know that after enjoying a good long holiday her mother got her engaged as an apprentice dressmaker in a warehouse here. She got engaged simply on her own merits, as they had applied in the local paper for two apprentices at the time. At first the head dressmaker was very doubtful about engaging her; but when she was shown a sample of her work (thanks to the lessons she got at school) and understood that she could speak and understand speech, she took quite a different view of the case, and said she would give her a trial; and she has since expressed herself in terms of the highest praise of H.'s ability, and says she is a beautiful sewer, and that they have no difficulty in understanding her speech or making her understand what they want done. She also remarked that H. was such a neat tidy girl that one could take kindly to her. I think she is talking more and getting more confidence in herself since she went to business. It is a great pleasure to be able to talk to our children in the ordinary way when they are at home, and to see that they understand what we are saying to them; and I cannot speak too highly in praise of, or express adequately here how thankful we are for, the purely oral system taught at Sumner by you and your staff to our children.

Before coming to New Zealand we resided near the Institution for the Deaf at Langside, Glasgow, where, as you are aware, the fingering or sign and manual system is taught, and had many opportunities of observing the pupils there; and I am convinced that they are terribly handicapped through life compared with the children taught by the oral system here. One great disadvantage, among others, is, I think, that they lack to a very great extent that self-respect and self-confidence which the ability to speak to others and understand others' speech alone gives.

You can imagine, as we often do, what a great difference it would have made to us and our children if they had been taught by the fingering and sign system only. I am sure you will agree with me that it would have handicapped them terribly, and to a great extent isolated them from us in the home life. I believe that if the education authorities at Home had an opportunity of seeing the oral system in operation here, and the beneficial results obtained, they would at once adopt it exclusively.

In closing, I desire to thank and express our gratitude to you and your staff in the various departments for the manner in which our children have and are being educated; and I feel sure that if A. and K. come home as well equipped as H. at the end of their school career they will be well able to make headway and earn their living in the Dominion.

Hoping this will find you all well. I remain, dear sir,

Yours very sincerely,

R. S.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER.

SIR.—

Christchurch, 15th June, 1911.

I have the honour to report as follows on the health of the School for the Deaf for the year 1910. There have been the usual number of slight ailments, and the only cases of consequence were two very mild cases of enteric fever in November. A hospital or isolation building is much needed, as at present no means exist for isolating cases of illness.

I have, &c..

W. H. SYMES, M.D., Medical Officer.

The Inspector-General of Schools, Wellington.

No. 3.—SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS, OTEKAIKE, OAMARU.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL.

SIR.—

Otekaike, 14th May, 1911.

I herewith present my third annual report on the work of this institution for the year ending 31st March, 1911.

ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND DEATHS.

In the school on 1st April, 1910	31
Admitted	18
Discharged or left	2
Died	0
In school on 31st March, 1911	47
Ages of boys in institution on 31st March, 1911 :—	
From 5 to 10 years	4
.. 10 to 16	30
.. 16 to 21	8
Over 21 years	5
Total	47

Ages of boys admitted during the year: Of those boys admitted during the year, 16 were between 7 and 16 years of age; 2 were between 16 and 21 years of age: total, 18.

Admissions.—The admissions classed according to mentality show—High-grade cases, 6; middle-grade, 5; low-grade, 7. Of the admissions, 2 are epileptics.

Discharges.—During the year two cases were discharged—one being removed to his home, the other transferred to Burnham Industrial School.

Deaths.—It is extremely gratifying to be able to report for the third successive year that no death has occurred, neither has there been any serious accident.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The general-health record of the year has been exceptionally good, and is a gratifying response to the precautions taken. In September of last year we had a virulent epidemic of influenza, which attacked both children and staff, and for several weeks the extra work thrown on those of the staff who kept well was very heavy. Several of the children and staff developed pneumonia, but, thanks to careful nursing and medical attention, no deaths occurred. I am thankful, for several reasons, that we have had no case of what is commonly called infectious disease, more particularly as we have no place where we could isolate a case if it occurred. A small inexpensive hospital for infectious cases

must be provided in the near future. An infirmary or general-hospital block, on the lines I indicated in the plan I submitted to you some months back, will also be necessary in the near future, where the many ordinary ailments so common to our children may be satisfactorily dealt with.

That we shall not be immune from that most persistent associate of feeble-mindedness—tuberculosis—is apparent from what has occurred during this year. We have had two cases of active tubercular trouble this year. Both cases were sent home for treatment, as our present facilities for isolation and open-air treatment do not permit of such cases remaining here. Inexpensive bungalows, adapted to the needs of these unfortunates, will form a portion of our requirements in the near future.

It will be interesting to compare the weights of the 31 children who were in residence on 31st March, 1910, with their respective weights on 31st March, 1911, as shown in the following table:—

Age.	Date of Admission.	Weight on Admission.	Gain.	Age.	Date of Admission.	Weight on Admission.	Gain.
		St. lb.	lb.			St. lb.	lb.
22	18/1/09	7 9	20	17	1/5/09	7 5	26
17	1/5/09	9 7	Left.	20	13/1/10	6 4	11 $\frac{3}{8}$
13	1/5/09	5 3	10	18	5/2/10	5 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	10
24	19/1/09	7 6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	10/6/08	4 1	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
20	23/7/09	9 1	6 $\frac{7}{8}$	19	13/1/10	9 9	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
23	5/2/10	7 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{8}$	15	10/11/08	3 9	Home.
21	13/1/10	8 4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	4/2/09	4 1	Home.
13	5/2/10	5 8	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	13/1/10	4 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
13	7/7/09	5 3	23 $\frac{3}{8}$	13	31/10/08	4 0	19
15	13/1/10	6 11	11	8	13/1/10	3 5	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
14	22/4/09	4 6	30 $\frac{3}{8}$	14	1/5/09	4 1	19 $\frac{3}{4}$
16	3/2/09	5 1	32 $\frac{7}{8}$	10	5/2/10	3 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
12	24/9/09	3 11	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	17/12/09	4 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
13	8/7/09	3 12	9	9	13/1/10	2 7 $\frac{3}{8}$	9 $\frac{3}{8}$
8	1/5/09	2 8	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	5/2/10	9 5	Left.
19	24/11/08	7 6	23 $\frac{3}{8}$				

SCHOLASTIC AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

We are severely handicapped in our attempts at school teaching and indoor manual occupations by the fact that we have no separate school buildings or industrial workshops. At present we utilize four separate rooms in different parts of the institution. This lack of centralization is apparent. Effective supervision is very difficult under these conditions, and, as the buildings are a considerable distance apart, much time is lost in transferring children from place to place for the various forms of instruction. Yet, despite these drawbacks, good work has been done by the teaching staff. The smaller children, in the kindergarten class, do not improve by leaps and bounds, but rather by slow and plodding steps. The principle underlying all the training in the school is essentially the awakening of the dormant faculties of the children through the senses. In this section of the school many subdivisions into small classes of perhaps three, four, or five children are necessary, according to the varying mental capacity and intelligence of the boys. Music, drawing, colour-work, paper-folding, clay-modelling, articulation, nature-study and walks, simple manual occupations, sense-training exercises, physical exercises and imitation drill, sewing, &c., form the chief occupations of this department of the school.

The middle division of the school contains the low-grade cases who are incapable of attaining any degree of proficiency in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Following out the theory of the development through the awakening and training of the sense-organs, the greater part of their day is spent in suitable manual occupations, weaving, plaiting, mat-making, and basketry.

The upper division of the school consists of high-grade children who are capable of deriving benefit from the ordinary scholastic curriculum. Very good work has been accomplished by this division. In this connection the case of one boy is worthy of special mention, seeing that when he came to the school, somewhat over twelve months back, he did not know his letters. It was a very proud moment for the little fellow the other day when he penned the first letter to his mother. The industrial training in farm, garden, stable, stores, living and dining rooms, the preparation of food, and the washing and ironing of the clothes, afford scope for the activities of a certain section of the children. Under the capable direction of the garden staff much valuable work in the shape of formation of new roads, kitchen-gardens, and ornamental grounds has been accomplished. This kind of employment is very well adapted to the elder boys, and they are becoming quite useful in it, taking an intelligent interest in their work.

In the manual branch we are now making our own door-mats and baskets. The progress made in this work is necessarily very slow, but we shall not only be able to supply our own wants, but also, as our numbers increase, supply the needs of kindred institutions.

RECREATION.

Our phonograph affords constant amusement for the children. Music lends its stimulus to all the senses, and it is astonishing to hear boys, when going about their work, singing a few lines of a song or humming, more or less correctly, fragments of a tune which have been acquired without any effort

by means of the phonograph—especially when one remembers that the same boys would never have been able to retain two consecutive words or notes had the same been attempted by means of ordinary school lessons. Our magic lantern also is a source of delight to the children on dark evenings. This form of amusement is always attractive to normal children, but by means of a lantern entertainment many of our dullest and most apathetic children are reached, and are seen to be making use of powers of attention and concentration which under ordinary conditions one would deny they possessed. Cricket and football are the favourite outdoor pastimes for the recreation hours of summer and winter respectively.

ADDITIONS TO BUILDINGS.

The kitchen administrative block, with children's dining-room, staff sitting-rooms, stores, needle-room, &c., is now nearing completion. The completion of this block will add very markedly to the comfort as well as the ease of administering the institution, besides setting free for the use of the children several rooms in the main building now occupied by the staff. Our steam laundry is a great success, while the old laundry in the main building has been converted into a staff sitting-room. In the next two or three months our steam cooking-plant will be in full working-order.

GRATEFUL LETTERS FROM PARENTS.

I have received many grateful letters from the parents of the children, from which I take the following extracts:—

“20th December, 1910.—I received your most kind letter with profound thankfulness. No doubt it has made my life a little happier to think there is one who takes such an interest in my child and one who is so good to him. I may say, Mr. Benstead, that I do not worry over him, as I feel you do as a father would do for his own child. It has been a great consolation to me that Mr. ——— as well as myself saw to whom he was going, and felt quite confident that he would be well looked after.”

“1st February, 1911.—I think it says very much for the conduct of you and your staff that ——— is quite anxious to return to school. If he showed any reluctance to return, I might think he had not been well treated, but it takes off a great load from Mother and me to see his readiness to go back to school.”

“6th February, 1911.—There was certainly a great improvement in him—he had grown and put on flesh, and the schooling was doing him good. I am glad to say our son was quite pleased to know that he is going back to the school again.”

“20th December, 1910.—He looks so well and healthy, and we can see such improvement in him. He looks more intelligent and contented, and articulates so much better. We consider the improvement for the past year something wonderful.”

“5th January, 1911.—I beg to say that during the few weeks we have had him with us we find him very much improved in manner, and parts of speech are more pronounced, and his sentences are longer. I am also pleased to report that his health is good and his facial expression more pleasing and appreciative.”

CLASSIFICATION.

All our little boys are now located in a separate villa, where, under the guardianship of a capable nurse, they are very happy. These children, from six to ten years of age, are mere babies, and are infinitely happier by themselves. Before the end of the year we hope to have at least three other villas erected for boys, so that we can continue our scheme of classification. The initial cost is somewhat heavy, but the results achieved more than compensate for the expenditure.

While these facilities are necessary for what may be termed the “home life” of the children, it is just as essential that equal facilities for the careful classification of the children in their school-work should be provided. We require sufficient schoolrooms where the children can be classified according to their mental capacity—a school with small schoolrooms for small classes containing a sense-training room, kindergarten rooms, an object-room, a drawing and modelling room where instruction is given to groups of children in rotation, a music-room or central hall, a Sloyd room, and ordinary class-rooms where the high-grade children, who are capable of more complex mental effort, can be taught the three R's, &c. The sense-training room is necessary for the low-grade cases. The kindergartens will attempt the same kind of work as that done in the schools for normal children, with modifications, but always keeping in mind the principles of Froebel. All the children will go through the kindergarten classes, beyond which classification must take place. The low-grade boys and girls will go directly to the industrial classes.

Both boys and girls are taught by means of object-lessons, so that they may formulate ideas gained in speech. The middle-grade boys would be taught drawing, modelling, and cardboard work, which form an introduction to the Sloyd room. The middle-grade girls will proceed to sewing by hand, knitting, basketry, rug-work, &c. All the high-grade children will go on to ordinary scholastic instruction in the usual school subjects, but, as in all cases their limitation for this class of work is soon reached, their most prolonged development must come through manual or industrial work.

SEASIDE CAMP.

This year we tried the experiment of taking to camp, at Hampden, the children who were unable to return home for their holidays. The boys and staff lived in true campers' style for seventeen days. The lads thoroughly enjoyed the change, and came back fitter both physically and mentally. We are specially indebted to the Mayor of Hampden (W. Nicholson, Esq.) and several local ladies and visitors for their many acts of kindness, which contributed in no small degree to the success of the undertaking. Next summer we hope to repeat the experiment on a more extended scale.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Owing to the prolonged drought throughout the whole of the district, our farm and garden crops suffered considerably. By means of irrigation, however, we were able to keep our grass paddocks green when the whole of the surrounding country was dry and parched. With the assistance of the Department of Agriculture we are establishing a pure-bred Ayrshire milking-herd, and throughout the very dry weather we were fortunate in maintaining our milk-supply. Our potato crop was not at all up to the average, partly owing to the excessively dry season and also to the ravages, later on in the season, of the potato moth and grub, which caused so much damage to all the potato crops of this district. Despite the dry weather, our mangolds are very fair. We have had a plentiful supply of vegetables and fruit, which form a valuable part of the children's diet.

Several acres of new kitchen-garden have been formed by the combined efforts of the farm and garden staff and the boys. This involved a vast amount of work, owing to the fact that the timber on the land had first to be felled and the ground stumped before the land could be worked. Apart from the drought, a very successful year's work has been performed.

FUTURE SCOPE OF THE WORK.

The contemplated extension of the scope of our work by providing for the care, control, and training of the feeble-minded girls of the Dominion is a step which will meet with the approval of all sections of the community. Apart from the eugenist's point of view—and all who have the future welfare of the race at heart are agreed as to the undesirability of the multiplication of the unfit—the providing of accommodation for girls at Otekaieke will prove a distinct advantage, inasmuch as in every institution there is always ample work which can be more profitably undertaken by the girls. By including girls in our scheme we shall be able to devote more time to the manual training of the boys. From all points of view it is desirable that this contemplated extension should be entered upon with all speed.

In conclusion, I would draw your attention to the following facts which have come to my notice during my visits of inspection of cases for admission :—

- (1.) The number of cases of feeble-minded persons (children and adults) which come to light incidentally, and which go to show that there are a good number of cases of whom we have no official record.
- (2.) The number of cases of feeble-minded adults over the age of twenty-one years who cannot be accommodated at Otekaieke, and who are still outside institutional control. Several that I have seen are quite capable of work under direction and supervision. They are a menace to society, and should be segregated as soon as discovered.

The question of the segregation of all mental degenerates who are over the age of twenty-one years at the present time, and who are at large but are not suitable cases for admission to the mental hospitals, could be dealt with by means of a farm colony, as is the case at Templeton Farm Colony, near Waverley, Massachusetts, where at the present time 182 of the older cases are leading useful lives. In speaking of the Templeton Farm Colony, it is stated in the report of the Waverley Institution, "They [the inmates] are like those in charge, interested in their work, and delighted when they see the groaning wagon-loads carrying to their fellows at Waverley the products of their efforts. They feel the interest of ownership, and are happy when they can show the largest and best potatoes or carrots or onions in the State."

New Zealand is a young country, and is to be congratulated in having set to work on the question of dealing with the feeble-minded at so early a stage and with a full appreciation of the problem. In speaking of the work undertaken by the New Zealand Government, a monthly journal published in New Jersey State, in February, 1911, states, "We are in receipt of a very interesting report from the Principal of the Institution for the Feeble-minded at Otekaieke, New Zealand. This report is most encouraging, as it reveals the fact that they are taking hold of the matter seriously." In concluding the article, the editor of the New Jersey journal gives us a word of timely warning, thus: "All this is most encouraging, only we hope the people of New Zealand will not make the mistake of turning even high-grade feeble-minded persons out into the world to marry and reproduce their kind. Europe and America are beginning a struggle with a problem which New Zealand can avoid by starting right."

Having passed a Bill last year which provides for the compulsory notification of all feeble-minded persons of school age, and also for the compulsory education of all afflicted children up to the age of twenty-one years (results which our co-workers at Home are earnestly hoping for as a tangible result of the prolonged deliberations of the Royal Commission which presented its report as far back as 1908), with power for further detention in all cases needing continuous supervision, can we not go one step further and say that all the feeble-minded persons over twenty-one years of age at the present time who are yet outside the care and control of an institution specially adapted for the purpose—and who from my own observation and personal examination are unable to control their own lives, and whose presence in the outside world is a possible menace to, and a probable source of further pollution of, the race—must be segregated? I venture to suggest that no better solution of this problem is to be found than the establishment of a farm colony similar to the one referred to at Templeton, near Waverley, Massachusetts. There can be no question of the violation of the rights or liberty of the subject, as it is unquestionably the State's duty to take charge of the lives of all those persons who are unable to control their own, irrespective of age.

Referring to the work of the institution generally, I may say that, though but yet in our infancy, we may regard the work of the past year as satisfactory, and as part of the solid foundations upon which to build up the great undertaking which we have before us.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE BENSTEAD, Principal.

The Inspector-General of Schools, Wellington.

No. 4.—INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

TABLE 11.—EXPENDITURE ON GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, 1910.

Government Schools.	Cost of School, including Buildings and other Works.		Boarding out. (Included in first column.)		Salaries. (Included in first column.)		New Buildings and other Works. (Included in first column.)		Recoveries from Parents and others, and Sales from Farms, &c.		Net Cost.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Auckland	3,136	17 9	1,570	7 5	594	19 6	..	..	1,128	3 8	2,008	14 1
Boys' Training Farm, Weraroa	9,075	13 3	87	7 10	2,159	0 7	404	18 4	2,785	10 4	6,290	2 11
Receiving Home, Wellington	7,666	5 9	5,379	15 5	790	15 7	..	..	4,717	13 9	2,948	12 0
Boys' Industrial School, Stoke	7,694	0 0	..	..	..	..	7,694	0 0	..	..	7,694	0 0
Te Oranga Home	3,240	10 11	..	..	959	3 5	1,319	9 11	216	9 1	3,024	1 10
Receiving Home, Christchurch	5,397	0 2	3,752	14 11	635	5 10	..	..	2,505	0 2	2,892	0 0
Burnham	9,710	9 3	5	10 0	2,775	1 9	911	17 11	858	8 3	8,852	1 0
Caversham	5,148	15 10	3,167	0 10	901	15 6	..	..	3,489	19 11	1,658	15 11
Totals	51,069	12 11	*13,962	16 5	8,816	2 2	10,330	6 2	15,701	5 2		
Salaries, travelling-allowances, and expenses of certain departmental officers (Inspectors, visiting officers, &c.)											1,458	19 4
Grant to Postal Department in connection with payments for children boarded out											100	0 0
Sundries											7	7 11
Total net cost											†86,934	15 0

* Exclusive of cost of administration, inspection, &c.

† Including £3,225 paid from National Endowment revenue.

TABLE 12.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PRIVATE (ROMAN CATHOLIC) SCHOOLS, 1910.

Name of School.	Gross Cost.		Recoveries.		Net Cost.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
St. Mary's, Auckland	1,794	11 9	447	8 4	1,347	3 5
St. Joseph's, Wellington	187	15 0	65	4 10	122	10 2
St. Mary's, Nelson	925	12 0	285	8 0	640	4 0
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	129	10 0	39	11 7	89	18 5
Totals	3,037	8 9	837	12 9	2,199	16 0

TABLE 13.—SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE ON SPECIAL CASES AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS, 1910.

	Government Schools.						Total.	
	Auckland.	Wellington Receiving Home.	Te Oranga Home.	Christchurch Receiving Home.	Caversham.			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Auckland—								
Orphan Home, Papatoetoe	18	4 0	..	..	..	..	18	4 0
St. Mary's Home, Otahuhu	21	1 5	..	..	..	..	21	1 5
"Door of Hope" Institution	14	11 6	..	..	..	..	14	11 6
Wellington—								
St. Mary's Home, Karori .. .. .	..	..	13	0 0	..	..	13	0 0
Christchurch—								
Mount Magdala .. .. .	..	..	..	63	10 4	..	63	10 4
Salvation Army Maternity Home .. .. .	..	..	..	..	0	15 0	..	0 15 0
Dunedin—								
Karitane Home .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	14	14 3	14 14 3
Net Cost	53	16 11	13	0 0	63	10 4	0	145 16 6

TABLE 14.—INMATES, 1909 AND 1910.

	Boarded out.			In Residence.			At Service, &c.			Totals.						
	Dec., 1909.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1909.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1910.			
Government Schools—																
Auckland (Mount Albert)	90	..	6	84	27	8	..	35	58	5	..	68	175	7	..	182
Boys' Training Farm, Wera- raroa	5	..	1	4	165	15	..	180	164	..	22	142	334	..	8	326
Receiving Home, Welling- ton	296	27	..	323	7	5	..	12	82	..	2	80	385	30	..	415
Boys' Industrial School, Stoke	..	..	..	..	..	85	..	85	..	74	..	74	..	159	..	159
Te Oranga Home, Christ- church	..	..	..	..	56	9	..	65	30	..	2	28	86	7	..	93
Receiving Home, Christ- church	199	9	..	208	11	1	..	12	101	..	1	100	311	9	..	320
Burnham	1	1	..	2	126	3	..	129	120	2	..	122	247	6	..	253
Caversham	176	..	5	171	28	..	4	24	105	17	..	122	309	8	..	317
Private Schools—																
St. Mary's, Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	123	4	..	127	42	10	..	52	165	14	..	179
St. Joseph's, Wellington..	..	..	..	..	32	2	..	34	28	1	..	29	60	3	..	63
St. Mary's, Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	151	..	99	52	91	..	68	23	242	..	167	76
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	3	..	1	2	45	5	..	50	18	2	..	20	66	6	..	72
Totals	770	37	13	794	771	137	103	805	839	111	95	355	2,380	249	175	2,454

TABLE 15.—INMATES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1910.

Inmates.	Government Schools.												Private Schools.					All Schools.											
	Auckland.		Boys' Training Farm, Wera- raroa.		Receiving Home, Wellington.		Boys' Indus- trial School, Stoke.		Te Oranga Home.		Receiving Home, Christchurch.		Burnham.		Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Wellington.		St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Protestant.	Catholic.
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.							
In the schools	35	180	4	8	85	65	..	12	129	..	24	70	57	34	25	27	50	493	312	805	503	302							
Boarded out	44	40	4	187	136	..	..	122	86	2	102	69	..	..	..	..	2	461	333	794	705	89	
With friends	11	7	23	24	18	27	3	12	21	33	24	24	5	3	4	..	12	159	101	260	201	59							
At service	6	25	101	19	17	40	16	31	28	38	31	38	14	24	23	..	11	280	193	473	371	102							
Training-ship .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	3	..
In hospitals, con- valescent homes, &c. .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	8	8	..
In mental hospi- tals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	8	7	1
At School for the Deaf	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2	..
At Special School for Feeble- minded Boys ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	4	..
Under control of refuges or cog- nate institutions	..	8	..	..	2	..	6	..	2	..	..	1	..	3	2	..	..	..	24	24	20	4
Under control of orphanage, cot- tage home, &c.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
In gaol .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	6	6	..
Absent without leave, or where- abouts unknown	1	..	16	..	..	5	2	..	39	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	64	2	66	57	9
Totals	65	117	326	234	181	159	93	171	149	253	158	159	92	87	63	25	50	72	1,488	971	2,454	1,888	566						

The admissions to the schools during the year are classified according to the two following tables:—

TABLE 16.—ADMISSIONS IN 1910, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSE OF ADMISSION.

Admitted as	Government Schools.										Private Schools.				All Schools.						
	Auckland.		Boys' Training Farm, Weraoa.		Receiving Home, Wellington.		Te Oranga Home.		Receiving Home, Christchurch.		Burulan.	Caversham.	St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Wellington.		St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin.		
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Destitute ..	1	5	8	26	14	..	17	18	..	11	11	7	3	6	6	..	4	76	61	137	
Vagrant..	..	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	7	1	8
In disreputable associations	..	4	..	8	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	4	1	2	..	13	15	28
Not under proper control (complaint of police)	2	3	7	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	3	..	1	2	..	..	15	6	21
Uncontrollable (complaint of parent)	..	2	8	1	3	2	1	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	12	9	21
Accused or guilty of punishable offences	3	3	24	..	..	2	..	..	21	..	..	1	..	..	8	..	..	57	5	62
By arrangement ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Transferred from gaol	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	2	12
Totals ..	6	19	54	35	22	7	19	19	31	13	12	14	9	8	18	..	4	190	100	290	
	25		57				38		25		23		18				38		100		290

TABLE 17.—ADMISSIONS IN 1910, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PARENTS' CIRCUMSTANCES AND CHARACTER.

Fathers described as	Mothers described as	Precedent Condition of Children admitted in 1910.								Total.
		Destitute.	Vagrant.	Associating with Disreputable Persons.	Not under Proper Control.	Uncontrollable.	Accused or Guilty of Punishable Offences.	By Arrangement.	From Prison.	
Dead ..	Dead ..	3	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	8
" ..	Mentally unfit ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
" ..	Good ..	11	1	3	1	2	6	..	2	26
" ..	Questionable ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
" ..	Bad ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
" ..	Deserter ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
" ..	Unknown ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Physically unfit	Good ..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5
Mentally unfit	" ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Good ..	Dead ..	1	1	..	1	2	2	..	1	8
" ..	Mentally unfit ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
" ..	Good ..	10	1	..	3	8	30	..	7	59
" ..	Questionable ..	4	..	..	1	1	3	..	..	9
" ..	Bad ..	1	1	5	3	3	..	..	..	13
" ..	Unknown ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Questionable ..	Dead ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	3
" ..	Mentally unfit ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
" ..	Good ..	8	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	12
" ..	Questionable ..	1	..	..	2	1	5	..	1	10
" ..	Bad ..	8	..	5	..	3	..	..	..	16
Bad ..	Dead ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
" ..	Mentally unfit ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
" ..	Good ..	4	..	5	..	..	1	..	..	10
" ..	Questionable ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
" ..	Bad ..	4	..	4	1	..	1	..	..	10
" ..	Deserter ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Deserter ..	Dead ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
" ..	Good ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
" ..	Questionable ..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
" ..	Bad ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Unknown ..	Dead ..	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
" ..	Mentally unfit ..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
" ..	Good ..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12
" ..	Questionable ..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
" ..	Bad ..	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	6
" ..	Deserter ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
" ..	Unknown ..	7	1	..	1	1	2	..	..	12
Totals ..		137	8	28	21	21	62	1	12	290

The admissions for the year (290) show a decrease of 4 on the number for the previous year. From the four chief centres of population 186 of these children were admitted, and 13 each from Wanganui and Timaru. In no case were more than 8 children sent from any of the other smaller towns. The records show that, of the total number received, 29 per cent. were known to be illegitimate.

When children are before the Courts the Magistrates, after hearing evidence, direct in what religious denomination they are to be brought up. The orders made in 1910 show the denomination to be as follows: Church of England, 164; Roman Catholic, 77; Presbyterian, 36; Methodist, 10; Lutheran, 3.

The number of inmates over whom the control of the schools terminated during the year was 216. Of this number, 155 were then of good character, 4 fair, 5 bad, 3 were of weak mind, 20 were discharged under the age of fifteen years (7 of whom were legally adopted). In 27 cases information as to character cannot be given, the whereabouts of the inmates who were absent without leave being unknown at the time of termination of the period of control.

There were only 2 deaths: 1 child, aged 1 year and 9 months, died in the Auckland Hospital of acute hydrocephalus and heart-failure; and 1 girl at service, aged 19 years and 8 months, committed suicide by phosphorus poisoning. There were no deaths among children belonging to private industrial schools.

TABLE 18.—DISCHARGES, 1910.

Cause of Termination of Control.	Government Schools.										Private Schools.					All Schools.				
	Auckland.		Boys' Training Farm, Wera-roa.	Receiving Home, Wellington.		The Orange Home.	Receiving Home, Christchurch.		Burnham.	Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Wellington.	St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
	B.	G.	B.	B.	G.	G.	B.	G.	B.	B.	G.	B.	G.	G.	B.	G.	G.			
Warrant of discharge	4	3	77	6	3	2	9	3	21	1	4	1	6	2	14	4	..	133	27	160
Death	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Reached age of 21 years	..	..	3	..	3	7	2	6	13	2	5	..	1	3	1	..	..	21	25	46
Marriage	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	8
Totals	4	4	80	6	6	11	11	11	35	3	13	1	7	5	15	4	..	155	61	216
	8			12			22			16		8			19					

TABLE 19.—INMATES: NUMBERS OF 1909 AND 1910 COMPARED.

Inmates.	At End of Year		Increase or Decrease.
	1909.	1910.	
In the schools	771	805	+ 34
Boarded out	770	794	+ 24
With friends	257	260	+ 3
At service	464	473	+ 9
Training-ship	3	3	..
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.	9	8	- 1
In mental hospitals	7	8	+ 1
At School for the Deaf	4	2	- 2
At Jubilee Institute for the Blind	1	..	- 1
At Special School for Feeble-minded Boys	2	4	+ 2
Under control of refuges or cognate institutions	17	24	+ 7
Under control of orphanage, cottage home, &c.	6	1	- 5
In gaol	2	6	+ 4
Absent without leave, or whereabouts unknown	67	66	- 1
Totals	2,380	2,454	+ 74

REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS TO THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOLS.

AUCKLAND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

SIR,—

Auckland, 4th April, 1911.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the health of the children in this school has been excellent. Beyond one or two minor ailments, there has been no serious sickness. Unfortunately, there are at present three epileptics in the institution, and that necessarily entails more work upon the staff.

I have, &c.,

A. CHALLINOR PURCHAS, M.B., C.M., M.R.C.S. (Eng.).
Medical Officer.

ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL. AUCKLAND: GIRLS' BRANCH, PONSONBY.

SIR,—

Auckland, 22nd May, 1911.

I have made my usual annual inspection of the above institution. Everything I find in good order; the children are well fed and properly clothed, their bedding being extremely clean and seasonably provided for. Lavatories are well flushed and kept in order. In a word, the orphanage is up to date and thoroughly managed under Mother Francis, the Superioress.

I have, &c.,

W. J. DARBY,

Hon. Physician.

ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (BOYS' BRANCH), TAKAPUNA.

SIR,—

Auckland, 1st July, 1911.

This is to certify I have medically visited the Takapuna Orphanage and find all the appointments in good order. The health of the children is excellent, sanitary arrangements, &c., up to date and clean, and the general condition of the home is very satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

W. GRATTAN GUINNESS, M.D., D.P.H.

BOYS' TRAINING FARM, WERAROA.

SIR,—

Levin, 3rd April, 1911.

I have the honour to report that during the year there have been, with one exception, no serious cases of illness in the institution; still, there has been a very large amount of minor sickness, more than one would expect with the number of boys here. This has been of the nature of boils, abscesses, and festering sores. The exception mentioned above was a case of scarlet fever; but, owing to prompt action by the officers of the institution and myself, the outbreak was confined to the one case.

The septic tank has caused trouble during the year. Owing to the increase in the number of inmates, it is not capable of dealing with the amount of sewage discharged from the institution. I consider this matter should be attended to without delay.

The Manager, Matron, and attendants have at all times given me every assistance in carrying out my duties, and I have always found the institution well kept and the food good.

I have, &c.,

H. D. MACKENZIE, M.D.,

Medical Officer.

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (GIRLS') UPPER HUTT.

SIR,—

Upper Hutt, 20th March, 1911.

I beg to report that I have inspected St. Joseph's Orphanage School at Upper Hutt. The general health of the inmates is excellent, with the exception of two new children, both of whom are suffering from ringworm. In both cases the children had this complaint before they entered the school.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK W. KEMP, M.D.,

Medical Officer.

WELLINGTON RECEIVING HOME.

SIR,—

Wellington, 10th March, 1911.

I have the honour to report that during the past year I have visited the Receiving Home at regular intervals and also at such times as my services have been required.

The Home has during the past year been exceptionally free from sickness, and such as has occurred has been of a mild nature. The health of the boarded-out children has also been very good on the whole—a fact which I think may be largely attributed to the careful selection and education of foster-mothers.

I have, &c.,

DONALD MCGAVIN, M.D., F.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer.

BOYS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, STOKE.

SIR,—

Nelson, 1st March, 1911.

I have the honour to report that I have inspected the Stoke Orphanage twelve times during the last year at intervals of about one month. About 106 boys were housed in or near the building. The general health has been exceptionally good. The sanitary arrangements also are good. The food is plain, but sufficient. I have no fault to find from a medical point of view with any of the arrangements.

I have, &c.,

PHIL. ANDREW, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer.

ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, NELSON.

SIR,—

Nelson, 6th June, 1911.

During the year ending 31st March, 1911, the health of the children at St. Mary's Orphanage, Nelson, has been very good on the whole. At the beginning of the year there was a mild epidemic of whooping-cough, and later a few children developed chicken-pox. During the period there was one death—that of a baby (a private inmate), from gastro-enteritis. The children are well cared for and happy, and the institution is in a satisfactory condition.

I have, &c.,

F. G. BETT, M.B., M.R.C.S.,
Medical Officer.

TE ORANGA HOME, CHRISTCHURCH.

SIR,—

Christchurch, 23rd March, 1911.

I beg to submit my report on Te Oranga Home, Christchurch.

The health of the inmates has been generally good, except for an outbreak of sore throats last winter, which caused some trouble. One case of scarlet fever had to be despatched to Bottle Lake Hospital, and one girl was brought back from domestic service suffering severely from phosphorus poisoning, and subsequently died at the public hospital.

Cleanliness and order are always good.

I have, &c.,

JESSIE C. MADDISON, M.B., Ch.B., L.R.C.P.I.,
Medical Officer.

CHRISTCHURCH RECEIVING HOME.

SIR,—

Christchurch, 8th March, 1911.

I beg to present my annual report on the Christchurch Receiving Home.

In respect to the condition of the Home on the inspections, it has always been entirely satisfactory. During last winter there was, as usual, a good deal of ill health amongst the members of the staff—a matter to which I have referred in previous reports.

The health of the children attached to the institution has generally been good, except during last spring, when there was more illness than usual in Christchurch, and when, accordingly, a slight rise in the amount of sickness amongst them occurred.

I have, &c.,

J. C. MADDISON, M.B., Ch.B., L.R.C.P.I.,
Medical Officer.

BURNHAM INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

SIR,—

Christchurch, 12th June, 1911.

I have the honour to report on the health of the Burnham Industrial School for the year 1910.

There has been less sickness than usual during the year. An epidemic of influenza prevailed in September, when thirty boys were confined to bed, but no bad results followed.

The discipline, harmony, and air of happiness about the school are most admirable, and are a great contrast to the conditions of some years ago. I consider that the advent of Mr. Bathgate has greatly conduced to this, by enabling Mr. Archey to devote more time to the boys themselves. From the outside, the great want at Burnham is more trees. Only 2,000 were planted last season, of which 75 per cent. were killed by the drought. The bitter east winds and the scorching north-westerns sweeping over the plains call imperatively for more trees, both for the sake of the pasture and of the health and comfort of the residents.

I have, &c.,

W. H. SYMES, M.D.,
Medical Officer.

CAVERSHAM INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

SIR,—

Dunedin, 10th March, 1911.

In presenting the annual report of the above school, I have to remark that there have been no deaths in the school, and the general health has been good. One child, who was becoming more degenerate mentally each year, was sent to Seacliff Mental Hospital. A few cases were sent to the hospital for removal of adenoids, and one girl for removal of a large splinter of wood in the leg. The cases causing most trouble this year were two girls with dirty habits, one of whom no medical treatment or discipline would improve. This girl would be more suitable for a home for the feeble-minded.

I have, &c.,

EMILY H. SIEDEBERG, M.B., L.R.C.P.I.,
Medical Officer.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S (GIRLS') INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, DUNEDIN.

SIR,—

Dunedin, 25th March, 1911.

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin.

No deaths or cases of infectious disease occurred during the year, and the general health of the children continues in a very satisfactory condition. The children are well housed, clothed, and fed, and their personal hygiene reflects great credit upon the Rev. Mother and Sisters in charge.

I have, &c.,

EUGENE J. O'NEILL, M.B., F.R.C.S. (E.).
Medical Officer.

No. 5.—COSTLEY TRAINING INSTITUTION.

SIR,—

Attached is a copy of the yearly accounts to 31st December, 1910, which will be audited in due course by the Government Auditor.

Auckland, 23rd January, 1911.

I have, &c.,

C. HUDSON,

Hon. Secretary.

The Minister of Education, Wellington.

COSTLEY TRAINING INSTITUTION.

Balance-sheet for the Year ending 31st December, 1910.

<i>Liabilities.</i>			<i>Assets.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Costley bequest ..	£12,150	0 0	Loans on mortgage ..	13,960	0 0
Hodge bequest ..	742	3 9	Interest accrued ..	140	13 6
			Bank of New Zealand ..	5	19 9
Boys' Trust Account ..		12 0 6			
Revenue Account ..		932 4 2			
Jackson and Russell ..		270 4 10			
	£14,106	13 3		£14,106	13 3

Revenue Account for the Year ending 31st December, 1910.

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Expenses (office rent, £25) ..	37	3 11	By Balance as per last account ..	446	11 5
Maintenance of boys, &c. ..	64	17 0	Interest ..	558	8 8
Balance as per balance-sheet above ..	932	4 2	Rent ..	29	5 0
	£1,034	5 1		£1,034	5 1

Auckland, 23rd January, 1911.

C. HUDSON,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Examined and found correct.—ROBERT J. COLLINS, Controller and Auditor-General.

No. 6.—INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION.

Education Department, Wellington, 31st May, 1911.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

I SUBMIT the following report on the work of the Department in respect of infant-life protection for the year 1910.

During the year the Act has been amended by repeal of the section which laid down the legal procedure to be followed for recovery of moneys paid to foster-parents by the Crown on the default of the parents to meet their obligations for the maintenance of the infants, and all proceedings of this kind are now to be taken under the Destitute Persons Act. It has previously been reported that the provisions of the Act in this respect were unworkable, and that the intention to guarantee foster-parents against the loss in which their confidence sometimes involves them could not be carried into effect. Experience of the new enactment is not yet sufficient for the expression of any opinion with regard to its efficacy in this particular direction.

It is satisfactory to be able to report, however, that on the whole the agreements between parents and foster-parents are well kept, and that few cases of such hardship as it was intended to remedy by the provision referred to have come under the Department's notice.

NUMBERS.

The number of infants that have been dealt with directly by the Department in connection with licensed foster-homes during the year is 1,183; the number for last year was 1,181. Of this class there were 680 on the books at the end of the year, being 46 less than there were at the beginning of the year. There were in addition 422 in exempted institutions under the Department's inspection, making a total of 1,102 infants being dealt with under the Act on 31st December, 1910—28 more than at the corresponding period of the previous year.

The distribution of the infants between foster-homes and institutions changed considerably, for while the former lost 46 the latter gained 118. The number placed in foster-homes was 68 less than during the previous year, and the number removed from the homes was larger by 24. Of the institutions there are now three more than there were last year, and as they take children for a more or less nominal payment they must be expected to exercise an attraction against which the foster-home cannot compete.

The following table exhibits the transactions of the year in respect of infants in licensed foster-homes :—

Particulars of Admissions to and Removals from Licensed Foster-homes during 1910.

	Under 6 Months.	Between 6 Months and 1 Year.	Between 1 and 2 Years.	Between 2 and 3 Years.	Between 3 and 4 Years.	Between 4 and 5 Years.	Between 5 and 6 Years.	Over 6 Years, and still in Foster-homes.	Total.
<i>Entered on the Books.</i>									
On the books at the beginning of the year	82	91	195	121	78	75	55	29	726
Placed in licensed homes during the year	218	64	65	39	19	20	17	..	442
Adopted with premium (exclusive of those already on the books)	12	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	15
Total	312	157	261	160	97	95	72	29	1,183
<i>Withdrawn from and remaining on the Books.</i>									
Removed from foster-homes by parents or guardians	37	56	97	58	27	19	20	6	320
Deaths	14	5	5	..	..	..	2	..	26
Adoptions from licensed homes without premiums	5	3	13	5	2	4	1	..	33
In homes to which exemption was granted ..	2	4	3	3	1	2	1	1	17
Brought under operation of the Industrial Schools Act	3	5	7	4	3	4	1	1	28
Written off the books for various causes	2	7	15	10	3	4	3	35	79
On the books at 31st December, 1910	56	83	150	136	94	63	60	38	680
Total	119	163	290	216	130	96	88	81	1,183

FOSTER-HOMES.

The 680 infants in foster-homes at the end of the year were distributed as follows :—

In 401 homes each having one	401
In 81 two	162
In 22 three	66
In 9 four	36
In 3 five	15
516	680

Twenty-seven of the homes were those in which children under six were boarded out by Charitable Aid Boards.

The total number of licensed homes was 705, so that at the end of the year there were 189 licensed homes in which for the time no infants were boarded.

Nothing has occurred during the year to shake the Department's confidence in the boarding-out system, or to reflect upon the body of excellent women in whose charge the children have been placed ; and it is difficult to account for the large number (182) of transfers of children from one foster-home to another, except upon the supposition that they are due to personal or financial considerations that ought not to arise where the case of infants is the object in view.

Medical Attendance on Infants in Foster-homes.

One effect of the difficulty of recovering moneys expended under the Act has appeared in respect of medical attendance on the infants. Theoretically the parents are responsible for medical attendance, but the services of medical men have often to be obtained without reference to the parents, or even in opposition to them if they do not wish to incur the expense, and the medical fees must then be paid either by the foster-parents, who cannot afford them, or by the Department, which has not been provided with the means of recovering the expenditure. After many attempts at adjusting this difficulty it was decided that all other considerations must give way to the necessity for proper medical attendance being available when required, and arrangements have accordingly been made with a sufficient number of medical practitioners to attend, on behalf of the Department, all cases that shall be regularly introduced to them.

The instructions given to the District Agents in this matter are as follows : " When an infant requires medical aid the foster-parent must, if possible, communicate with the parents or guardians immediately. If they make any delay in providing medical attendance the foster-parent must at once let the District Agent, or her representative, or the local visitor know of the illness and get instructions. If, however, the foster-parent considers the case one of such urgency that delay would be

serious, she is to call in the authorized Government doctor, or take the child to his surgery, on her own responsibility. The foster-parent should be warned that if a Plunket nurse, or a nurse belonging to any other similar organization, is attending the child, that does not relieve her of the responsibility of acting in strict accordance with these directions: and the orders of the doctor must be carefully followed."

The provisions of the Destitute Persons Act will be made use of to recover from the parents what is spent in this way.

RATES OF PAYMENTS TO FOSTER-PARENTS BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

An account of the rates paid is given in the following statement:—

4 at the rate of 2s. 6d. per week.			448 at the rate of 10s. per week.		
1	"	3s.	4	"	10s. 6d.
2	"	4s.	1	"	10s. 10d.
1	"	4s. 6d.	5	"	11s.
13	"	5s.	25	"	12s.
2	"	5s. 6d.	41	"	12s. 6d.
10	"	6s.	1	"	13s.
3	"	6s. 8d.	2	"	14s.
62	"	7s.	11	"	15s.
84	"	7s. 6d.	2	"	16s.
54	"	8s.	4	"	20s.
9	"	8s. 6d.	1	"	21s.
15	"	9s.			

Generally the relations of the infants provide clothing in addition.

The following comparison of the rates paid during the last three years shows that the usual payment is about 10s. a week:—

	1908.	1909.	1910.
Under 7s.	40	45	36
7s. and under 10s.	164	193	224
10s.	297	351	448
Over 10s.	73	77	97

EXEMPTIONS.

From the provision that "it shall not be lawful for any person in consideration of any payment or reward to receive or retain in his care or charge any infant for the purpose or nursing or maintaining it apart from its parents or guardians for a longer period than seven consecutive days unless such person is licensed as a foster-parent," the Minister may grant certain exemptions, and under this authority exemption has been granted to the institutions set forth in the following list, which shows also the numbers dealt with and the deaths. The conditions of the exemption provide for inspection, and for removal of the infants only with due formality.

Name of Institution.	(1910) Admissions.			Deaths.			On the Books at 31st December, 1910.		
	Total Number.	Under 6 Months.	Between 6 and 12 Months.	Total Number.	Under 6 Months.	Between 6 and 12 Months.	Total Number.	Under 6 Months.	Between 6 and 12 Months.
The Orphan Home, Papatoetoe	5						4		
St. Mary's Maternity Home, Otahuhu	24	3	16				22		9
The Door of Hope, Auckland	26	15	6	4	4		11	5	3
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Auckland	3	3					2	2	
St. Mary's Orphanage, Auckland	23						29		
Children's Home, Remuera, Auckland	6		1				9		
Children's Home, Ponsonby, Auckland	4						12		
St. Vincent de Paul's Foundling Home, Auckland	40	16	9				29	11	
Cook County Women's Guild Crèche, Gisborne	20	5	1	4	2	1	12		2
Wanganui Orphanage, Wanganui	2						3		
Children's Home, Palmerston North							6		
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Upper Hutt, Wellington	11	1					11		
Salvation Army Children's Home, Wellington	1						7		
The Levin Memorial Home, Wellington	3								
Home of Compassion, Wellington	118	55	17	31	22	4	77	12	11
St. Mary's Orphanage, Nelson	7	2	1				32	1	1
Sacred Heart Orphanage, Mount Magdala	3						9		
Children's Convalescent Cottage, New Brighton	26						5		
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Christchurch	6	6					6	2	
Nazareth House, Sydenham, Christchurch	16						30		
St. Saviour's Home, Shirley, Christchurch	42	2					26		
St. Mary's Orphanage, Dunedin	1						3		
St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, Dunedin	9	2		1	1		39		3
Karitane Home, Dunedin	75	65	10	16	11	5	9	6	3
Presbyterian Orphanage, Dunedin	3						8		
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Dunedin	2	1	1	5	5		8	3	3
Victoria Memorial Home, Invercargill	16	14		2	2		9	6	1
Salvation Army Children's Home, Middlemarch	2						4		
Totals for 1910	493	190	62	63	47	10	422	48	36
Totals for 1909	445	193	45	66	57	5	304	64	28

DEATHS IN FOSTER-HOMES.

Out of the 1,183 infants under six years of age that were at one time or another on the books of the foster-homes during 1910, 26 died—that is, 2·19 per cent. Of these, 20 died in the foster-homes, and 6 in hospitals or nursing-homes to which they had been removed for treatment. Nineteen of the 26 were under the age of twelve months, and 19 were illegitimates.

The following is a comparison of the number of deaths in foster-homes during the last three years :—

1908	..	..	..	26	deaths out of 1,017	infants = 2·56	per cent.
1909	..	..	..	25	..	1,181	.. = 2·11
1910	..	..	..	26	..	1,183	.. = 2·19

The percentages are given merely for illustration, for in dealing with such small numbers a percentage may, of course, have a very misleading appearance. These rates are only slightly above the normal death-rate of the Dominion for children of the same age, and the result therefore reflects great credit on the District Agents, their assistants, the Local Visitors, and the foster-parents.

Particulars of the 26 deaths are given in the appendix.

DEATHS IN EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONS.

These, with other particulars, are shown in the foregoing table relating to exempted institutions. The following is a statement of the deaths during the last two years.

1909	..	..	..	66	deaths out of 749	infants = 8·81	per cent.
1910	..	..	..	63	..	915	.. = 6·08

Particulars of the deaths in these homes during 1910 are given in the appendix.

ADOPTIONS.

During the year, 187 orders of adoption were made, and four orders cancelling adoption orders. Thirty-three of the adoption orders provided for premiums, and 154 were without monetary consideration. The following shows the ages of the adopted children :—

	With Premium.	Without Premium.
Under 6 months	17	34
Between 6 and 12 months	8	20
.. 1 .. 2 years	3	32
.. 2 .. 3	1	19
.. 3 .. 4	2	7
.. 4 .. 5	..	6
.. 5 .. 6	1	10
.. 6 .. 7	1	4
.. 7 .. 8	..	4
.. 8 .. 9	..	6
.. 9 .. 10	..	6
.. 10 .. 11	..	1
.. 11 .. 12	..	2
.. 12 .. 13	..	..
.. 13 .. 14	..	2
.. 14 .. 15	..	1
	33	154

The adopting persons were,--

Husband and wife jointly	..	..	..	..	..	177
Wife alone	..	..	..	..	..	1
Married man	..	..	..	..	..	2
Widow	..	..	..	..	..	5
Widower	..	..	..	..	..	2

The amount of the premiums ranged from £10 to £125.

During the year two cases of adoption having more or less lamentable results to the children concerned have come under the Department's notice. In one of these a boy of illegitimate parentage, an inmate of one of the recognized private Homes, was adopted by order of Court in 1906, and taken to one of the outlying islands, where he suffered much ill-treatment before his condition was observed. He has now been placed in one of the industrial schools.

The other case was that of a girl, also of illegitimate parentage, and also an inmate of one of the recognized private Homes. This girl was adopted by a Maori, under order of Court in 1905, and although receiving such care and attention as Maoris usually extend to their children, and not needing the intervention of the law relating to the protection of children, is nevertheless in a position in which a white child ought not to be placed.

ILLEGITIMACY.

For its obvious relation to the intentions of the Infants Act the following table is given:—

Provincial Districts.						Illegitimate Births registered during 1910.	Number of Children aged 12 Months or less brought under the Act during 1910.
Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	281	33
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	39	2
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	50	11
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	..	304	44
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	44	6
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	220	75
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	199	40
Totals ..						1,162	211
Totals for 1909 ..						1,223	276

During the year 121 registrations were effected under the Legitimation Act.

E. O. GIBBES,
Secretary for Education.

APPENDIX.

PARTICULARS OF DEATHS IN FOSTER-HOMES DURING 1910.

Locality.	Date.	Sex.	Age at Death.	Birth.	Time in Foster-home.		Cause of Death.	Remarks.
					Foster-home.	Under Control.		
	1910.		Y. M.		Y. M. D.	Y. M. D.		
Napier ..	Jan. 9	F	0 2	Illegitimate	0 0 24	0 0 24	Dysentery ..	No inquest.
Christchurch ..	" 15	M	0 9	Legitimate	0 6 9	0 6 9	Whooping-cough and diarrhoea	Inquest.
Auckland ..	" 18	M	0 1½	Illegitimate	0 0 9	0 0 9	Diarrhoea, vomiting, and exhaustion	"
Wellington ..	" 22	M	1 2	Legitimate	0 6 16	0 6 16	Pneumonia ..	No inquest.
Christchurch ..	" 29	F	0 1½	Illegitimate	0 1 5	0 1 5	Gastro-enteritis ..	Inquest.
Feilding ..	Feb. 3	F	0 5	"	0 4 21	0 4 21	Bronchitis, pneumonia, and dilated heart	No inquest.
Caversham ..	" 11	M	0 8½	Legitimate	0 3 14	0 3 14	Dentition, meningitis, and whooping-cough	"
Wanganui ..	" 28	M	0 5½	Illegitimate	0 3 0	0 4 14	Marasmus ..	Inquest.
Wanganui ..	March 1	M	1 0	"	0 5 0	0 5 0	Diarrhoea and convulsions	"
Auckland ..	" 2	M	1 4	"	{ 0 1 0 0 1 0* }	0 2 0	Gastro-enteritis ..	"
Dunedin ..	" 5	F	0 5½	"	{ 0 1 0 0 0 3† }	0 1 0	Marasmus ..	"
Dunedin ..	" 15	F	0 5	"	0 3 15	0 3 15	Whooping-cough and convulsions	No inquest.
Dunedin ..	" 18	M	0 2	"	0 1 14	0 1 14	Diarrhoea and exhaustion	"
Gisborne ..	" 23	F	0 6	"	0 1 0	0 3 0	Diarrhoea and vomiting	"
Christchurch ..	" 30	M	5 5	"	2 3 0	2 3 0	Marasmus ..	Inquest.
Auckland ..	May 11	M	0 5	Legitimate	{ 0 3 0 0 0 5* }	0 3 0	Gastro-enteritis ..	No inquest.
Christchurch ..	July 5	F	0 3	Illegitimate	0 2 17	0 2 26	Congestion of lungs ..	Inquest.
Onehunga ..	" 26	M	0 6½	Legitimate	{ 0 0 28 0 1 2* }	0 2 21	Chicken-pox and nasal diphtheria	No inquest.
Gisborne ..	Sept. 2	F	0 5	Illegitimate	0 4 19	0 4 19	Heart-weakness ..	"
Dunedin ..	" 10	F	0 11½	"	0 4 20	0 8 12	Inflammation of bowels and pneumonia	"
Dunedin ..	" 15	M	5 4	"	2 11 3	2 11 3	Suffocation (the result of vomit-matter in windpipe)	Inquest.
Christchurch ..	" 30	F	1 2	Legitimate	0 8 4	1 1 24	Meningitis ..	"
Dunedin ..	Oct. 9	F	0 0½	Illegitimate	{ 0 0 2* 0 0 22 }	0 0 24	Gastro-enteritis ..	No inquest.
New Plymouth ..	Nov. 20	F	1 3	Legitimate	0 10 16	0 10 16	Whooping-cough and capillary bronchitis	"
Christchurch ..	" 25	F	0 3½	Illegitimate	{ 0 0 30 0 0 2* }	0 0 30	Pneumonia ..	"
Dunedin ..	Dec. 9	M	0 1½	"	0 1 11	0 1 11	Congenital syphilis ..	"

* Hospital.

† Nursing-home.

PARTICULARS OF DEATHS IN EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONS DURING 1910.

Date of Death.	Sex.	Age at Death.	Birth.	Time in Institution.	Cause of Death.	Inquest or not.
<i>"Door of Hope," Auckland.</i>						
1910.		Y. M.		Y. M. D.		
May 29 ..	M.	0 4½	Illegitimate..	0 4½ 0	Meningitis	No inquest.
June 13 ..	M.	0 3	"	0 0 1	Convulsions	" ..
Feb. 12 ..	F.	" ..	"	" ..	Dead-born	" ..
July 19 ..	F.	0 2½	"	0 0 6	Dropsy (imbecile child)	" ..
Dec. 24 ..	F.	0 5	"	0 4½ 0	Marasmus	" ..
<i>Heni Mataroa Crèche, Gisborne.</i>						
Feb. 10 ..	F.	0 7½	Legitimate ..	0 3½ 0	Tubercular peritonitis and diarrhœa	No inquest.
Feb. 19 ..	F.	18 days	Illegitimate..	0 0 8	Premature birth and constitutional debility	" ..
Mar. 21 ..	M.	0 3	Legitimate ..	0 0 2	Improper feeding	" ..
Mar. 31 ..	M.	1 1	Illegitimate..	0 6 5	Gastro-intestinal catarrh	" ..
<i>Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington.</i>						
Jan. 8 ..	M.	0 4	Illegitimate..	0 1 0	General tuberculosis and diarrhœa	No inquest.
" 11 ..	F.	0 2	"	0 1 7	Gastro-intestinal catarrh	" ..
" 11 ..	M.	0 2½	"	0 2 0	Tubercular meningitis	" ..
" 17 ..	F.	0 4	"	0 1 21	Marasmus and bronchitis	" ..
" 29 ..	F.	0 1½	"	0 0 21	Gastro-enteritis	" ..
Feb. 3 ..	F.	0 2½	"	0 2 0	Infantile summer diarrhœa, cardiac failure	" ..
" 19 ..	M.	0 1½	"	0 1 0	Tubercular meningitis, general tuberculosis	" ..
Mar. 8 ..	M.	0 5	Legitimate ..	0 1 0	Tuberculosis marasmus	" ..
" 8 ..	F.	0 2½	Illegitimate..	0 0 14	Diarrhœa and marasmus	" ..
April 13 ..	F.	3 weeks	Legitimate ..	0 0 2	Marasmus	" ..
" 23 ..	F.	0 2½	"	0 0 28	"	" ..
" 25 ..	M.	7 weeks	Illegitimate..	0 0 21	Acute nephritis	" ..
May 17 ..	F.	5 0	Legitimate ..	2 0 0	Infantile paralysis, asthenia, and heart-failure	" ..
" 22 ..	F.	0 4	Illegitimate..	0 2 0	Marasmus, heart-failure	" ..
June 24 ..	M.	0 5	"	0 0 21	Broncho-pneumonia and exhaustion	" ..
July 29 ..	M.	0 2	"	0 1 0	Marasmus and diarrhœa	" ..
Aug. 6 ..	F.	1 4	"	0 0 14	Acute tuberculosis and congenital syphilis	" ..
" 11 ..	F.	0 4	"	0 3 0	Mastoid disease and tuberculosis	" ..
" 14 ..	M.	0 2	"	0 1 0	Tubercular meningitis and tuberculosis	" ..
" 15 ..	F.	0 5	"	0 4 0	Acute pneumonia and syncope	" ..
" 20 ..	F.	0 10	Legitimate ..	0 0 21	Tubercular meningitis and tuberculosis	" ..
Sept. 16 ..	F.	0 9	Illegitimate..	0 1 7	Tubercular mastoid meningitis	" ..
Oct. 7 ..	M.	0 2	"	0 1 0	Syphilis, cardiac	" ..
Dec. 6 ..	M.	0 6	Legitimate ..	0 3 0	Meningitis	" ..
" 15 ..	M.	0 2	Illegitimate..	0 1 7	Marasmus	" ..
" 20 ..	M.	4 0	Legitimate ..	0 0 7	Congenital heart-disease	" ..
" 27 ..	M.	0 5	"	0 2½ 0	Broncho-pneumonia	" ..
" 27 ..	M.	0 10	"	0 0 14	Meningitis	" ..
" 30 ..	M.	0 7	Illegitimate..	0 2½ 0	"	" ..
" 30 ..	F.	4 0	"	1 7 0	Pneumonia	" ..
<i>Salvation Army Maternity Home, Heriot Row, Dunedin.</i>						
July 8 ..	M.	9 days	Illegitimate..	0 0 9	Debility from birth	No inquest.
" 17 ..	F.	0 3	Legitimate ..	0 2 14	Marasmus and exhaustion	" ..
" 24 ..	M.	0 1½	Illegitimate..	0 1½ 0	Convulsions	" ..
Aug. 10 ..	F.	10 days	"	0 0 10	Debility from premature birth	" ..
Nov. 16 ..	M.	0 1½	"	0 1½ 0	Debility from birth, exhaustion	" ..
<i>St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin.</i>						
Feb. 24 ..	F.	0 1½	Illegitimate ..	0 0 15	Acute meningitis	No inquest.
<i>Karitane Home, Dunedin.</i>						
Feb. 19 ..	F.	0 3	Legitimate ..	0 0 3	Diarrhœa, vomiting, and intestinal toxæmia	No inquest.
Mar. 1 ..	F.	0 9½	"	0 0 4	Epidemic diarrhœa, vomiting, convulsions	" ..
" 3 ..	F.	0 6½	"	0 0 7	Epidemic diarrhœa, vomiting, collapse	" ..
" 5 ..	F.	0 5½	Illegitimate..	0 0 2	Marasmus, due to malassimilation of food	Inquest.
" 6 ..	M.	0 7½	Legitimate ..	0 0 9	Epidemic diarrhœa, vomiting, convulsions	No inquest.
" 12 ..	F.	0 3½	Illegitimate..	0 0 32	Epidemic diarrhœa, vomiting, collapse	" ..
" 8 ..	F.	0 6	Legitimate ..	0 0 1	"	" ..
" 24 ..	F.	0 4	"	0 0 37	"	" ..
April 17 ..	M.	0 4½	"	0 0 39	Chronic indigestion, nephritis	" ..
" 18 ..	M.	0 6½	"	0 0 33	Tuberculosis, wasting	" ..
" 25 ..	F.	0 3	"	0 0 15	Enteritis and inanition	" ..
" 26 ..	M.	0 2¾	Illegitimate..	0 0 21	Chronic inanition from birth, gastro-enteritis, toxæmia	" ..
Sept. 12 ..	F.	0 3	Legitimate ..	0 0 26	Prematurity, inanition from birth	" ..
" 18 ..	F.	0 3½	"	0 0 32	Prematurity, asthenia	" ..
Oct. 15 ..	M.	0 3½	"	0 0 8	Cleft palate, malnutrition	" ..
" 26 ..	F.	0 9½	"	0 0 7	Cerebral abscess, coma	" ..
<i>Victoria Memorial Home, Invercargill.</i>						
April 19 ..	M.	0 4	Illegitimate..	0 3½ 0	Malnutrition from birth	No inquest.
Aug. 3 ..	M.	0 7½	"	0 7½ 0	Bronchial pneumonia	" ..

Approximate cost of paper.—Preparation not given; printing (2300 copies), £22 10s.

