

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

	1911.	1912.	1913.
Under 7s.	34	23	24
7s. and over 10s.	232	195	161
10s.	504	485	482
Over 10s.	83	71	91

EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONS.

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 of 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.	(1913) Admissions.			Deaths.			On the Books at 31st December, 1913.		
	Total Number.	Under 6 Months of Age.	Between 6 and 12 Months of Age.	Total Number.	Under 6 Months of Age.	Between 6 and 12 Months of Age.	Total Number.	Under 6 Months of Age.	Between 6 and 12 Months of Age.
The Orphan Home, Papatoetoe, Auckland	7	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..
St. Mary's Home, Otahuhu, Auckland	15	..	12	1	..	1	26	..	3
St. Mary's Orphanage, Epsom (girls)	16	1	..	..	..	..	15	..	1
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Takapuna (boys)	2	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	..
"Door of Hope," Auckland	31	18	8	2	1	1	12	6	3
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Auckland	5	2	2	..	..	..	4	..	2
Children's Home, Remuera, Auckland	9	..	1	..	..	..	5	..	1
Children's Home, Ponsonby, Auckland	6	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..
St. Vincent's Foundling Home, Epsom	17	11	3	4	3	1	47	2	4
Leslie Presbyterian Orphanage, Remuera	4	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..
Mission House of the Order of the Good Shepherd, Auckland	24	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cook County Women's Guild Crèche, Gisborne	36	1	2	..	..	..	17	..	..
Wanganui Orphanage, Wanganui	8	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	..
Children's Home, Palmerston North	3	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Upper Hutt	23	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	..
Salvation Army Children's Home, Wellington	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
The Levin Memorial Home, Wellington	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
Presbyterian Orphanage, Wellington	7	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
Home of Compassion, Island Bay	33	11	2	6	1	2	62	7	1
St. Mary's Orphanage, Nelson	28	2	1	..	..	..	23	1	..
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Christchurch	8	1	1	..	..	..	5	..	3
Children's Convalescent Cottage, New Brighton	126	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..
Sacred Heart Orphanage, Mount Magdala, Christchurch	3	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..
Nazareth House, Christchurch	14	..	..	..	..	..	31	..	..
St. Saviour's Home, Shirley, Christchurch	9	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	..
Presbyterian Home, Papanui, Christchurch	4	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..
Salvation Army Maternity Home, Dunedin	35	35	..	4	4	..	13	13	..
Presbyterian Orphanage, Anderson's Bay .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Mary's Orphanage, Dunedin	7	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..
Salvation Army Home, Middlemarch	4	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
Victoria Memorial Home, Invercargill	20	8	2	..	..	..	6	6	..
Glendining Home, Anderson's Bay	10	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..
St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin	33	4	5	1	1	..	22	..	3
Totals for 1913	554	98	41	18	10	5	464	35	21
Totals for 1912	484	182	62	36	22	10	430	33	29

DEATHS IN FOSTER-HOMES.

Of the 1,330 infants under six years of age that were at one time or another on the books as in the foster-homes during 1913, 13 died. Of these, 8 died in the foster-homes and 5 in hospitals or nursing-homes to which they had been removed for treatment, so that the deaths in foster-homes represented 0.60 of the total number dealt with. Eleven of the 13 were under the age of twelve months, and 11 were of illegitimate birth.

The following is a statement of the number of deaths during the time that the infant-life-protection system has been in the Department's charge:—

1908	26 deaths out of 1,017 infants = 2.56 per cent.
1909	25 ,, 1,181 ,, = 2.11 ,,
1910	26 ,, 1,183 ,, = 2.19 ,,
1911	13 ,, 1,183 ,, = 1.09 ,,
1912	12 ,, 1,228 ,, = 0.98 ,,
1913	13 ,, 1,330 ,, = 0.98 ,,

This continued low death-rate reflects great credit on the District Agents, their assistants, the Local Visitors, and the foster-parents.

Particulars of the 13 deaths are given in the appendix.