

JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, AUCKLAND.

This institution is governed by a Board of Trustees, four of whom are appointed by the Government and the remaining five elected by the subscribers to the funds of the Institute. As the Institute comes within the scope of the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, subsidy at the rate of 24s. in the pound is payable by the Government on voluntary contributions received by the Board, and 10s. in the pound on the value of bequests.

The amount paid by the Government towards the cost of training thirty-four pupils was £874, and the amount refunded to the Government during the year by parents and Charitable Aid Boards was £880, the Boards paying £523. The sum payable by the Government as subsidy to the Board of Trustees under the provisions of the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act was £1,940 3s. 7d.

SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED, OTEKAIKE.

Numbers as at the 31st December, 1915 :—

	Males.	Females.
In residence .. .. .	60	..
Boarded out .. .. .	2	4
Temporarily absent with friends .. .. .	7	..
Total of both sexes .. .. .	—	—
		73

Of the above number under control one was between the ages of five and ten, twenty-five between eleven and sixteen, thirty-one between seventeen and twenty-one, and sixteen were over twenty-one years of age. The procedure in regard to the retention of control beyond that age is similar to that already described in respect of inmates of industrial schools.

The inmates are instructed in the occupations of basket-making, coir-mat making, and wood-carving. Farm and garden work is also carried out by the inmates, the institution producing more of such commodities as milk, fruit, and vegetables than its own requirements demand. Much of the school-work undertaken takes the form of handwork and kindergarten occupations.

As there is shown to be a very considerable aggregate of young persons of feeble mind throughout the country who would best be provided for at Otekaike, an important extension of the accommodation there has been in progress for some time past, and with the advent of warmer weather it is anticipated that the institution will be in a position largely to increase its usefulness by taking in many who are now excluded. Preparations have also been made for the establishment of a separate school for feeble-minded girls at Richmond, Nelson, towards the equipment of which a sum has now been placed on the estimates.

The following is a statement of the expenditure for the years 1914-15 and 1915-16 :—

	1914-15, £	1915-16, £
Salaries .. .. .	2,510	2,630
General maintenance .. .. .	2,130	2,316
Travelling-expenses .. .. .	247	299
Maintenance of buildings .. .. .	172	144
Additional buildings, furniture, clearing land, &c. .. .. .	2,245	12,515
	— 7,304	— 17,904
<i>Less—</i>		
Amount collected from parents by way of maintenance contributions .. .. .	723	797
Amount collected from Charitable Aid Boards .. .. .	694	950
Sundry other recoveries .. .. .	133	346
	— 1,550	— 2,093
Net expenditure .. .. .	£5,754*	£15,811*

\* Including for 1914-15 £300, and for last year £139, from national-endowment revenue.