

born in wedlock (23·5 per thousand) the difference is startling and calls for some definite measures to prevent this human wastage.

Out of 1,260 illegitimate births during the year only 185 were placed in licensed foster-homes under the supervision of the Department's officers, as provided for under Part V of the Infants Act, and of this number 2 died. The death-rate among illegitimate infants supervised by the State during last year was, therefore, 10·81 per 1,000. Taking the total number of infants (both legitimate and illegitimate) under twelve months (396) supervised by the State during last year, and the number of deaths (2) during the same period, the rate per 1,000 is 5·05.

SCHOOLS FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

Numbers at 31st December, 1923.

	Richmond. (Girls.)	Otekaike. (Boys.)	Total.
In residence	57	132	189
On vacation	7	12	19
At service	1	2	3
In hospital .. .. .	..	1	1
In probation homes .. .. .	..	5	5
Totals	65	152	217

PARTICULARS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR, 1923-24.

Item.	Otekaike.	Richmond.	Total.
	£	£	£
Salaries	4,349	1,718	6,067
Advertising	15	1	16
Maintenance of buildings	346	38	384
Maintenance of institutions	2,881	1,304	4,185
Additional buildings	15	45	60
	7,606	3,106	10,712
Travelling-expenses .. .. .	..	..	513
			11,245
Less recoveries .. .. .	..	..	2,222
			£9,023

The net expenditure for the year 1922-23 was £8,262. The recoveries for the year compared with the previous year show a decrease of £766, so that the gross cost is much the same as for 1922.

I have, &c.,

J. BECK,

The Director of Education.

Officer in Charge, Special Schools Branch.

No. 3.—SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, SUMNER.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

SIR,—

I have the honour to lay before you my report for the year 1923. The number of pupils under instruction during the year is shown in tabulated form hereunder:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Pupils of 1922 that returned to the school	47	49	96
Admitted during 1923	14	11	25
Left during the school year	5	3	8
On the roll at the end of the school year	56	57	113
Received instruction during the year	66	63	129

Of the 113 pupils on the roll it is expected that 52 boys and 51 girls will return in 1924. There were 90 pupils in residence, and there were 23 day pupils at the close of the school year.

The numbers attending the special classes were as follows:—

	Auckland.	Wellington.	Dunedin.
Received instruction	40	43	42
Left during the year	17	20	19
On the roll	23	23	23

Most of the children attending these classes are part-time pupils.