

Under the provisions of the Industrial Schools Act, 1909, power is given for the detention beyond the age of twenty-one years of any inmate who, upon application being made to a Magistrate by the Manager of the school at the direction of the Minister of Education, is found to be morally degenerate or otherwise not (in the public interest) a fit person to be free from control. In the fourteen years since this Act came into operation there have been ninety-two orders issued extending the period of control, sixty-seven of the inmates concerned being girls. The Act provides for extension for four years, and gives power to the Court on similar procedure to renew the order from time to time for a period of four years. It is expected that the number of those over whom authority beyond twenty-one years will be needed will always be small in proportion to the whole number of inmates; but the value of such an enactment in respect of the remainder who have to be detained is obvious, both in their own interests and in that of the community at large.

No. 5.—INFANT-LIFE-PROTECTION STATISTICS.

PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO AND REMOVED FROM LICENSED FOSTER-HOMES DURING 1923.

	Under 6 Months of Age.	Between 6 Months and 1 Year of Age.	Between 1 and 2 Years of Age.	Between 2 and 3 Years of Age.	Between 3 and 4 Years of Age.	Between 4 and 5 Years of Age.	Between 5 and 6 Years of Age.	Over 6 Years of Age.	Totals.
On the books at 31st December, 1922	77	79	141	127	79	91	74	74	742
Placed in licensed homes or transferred from other districts during 1923	160	80	106	63	37	26	29	..	501
Totals	237	159	247	190	116	117	103	74	1,243
Withdrawn from homes during 1923—									
Removed by parents or guardians	28	38	79	75	42	26	36	13	337
Deaths	1	1	3	1	..	2	..	..	8
Adoptions without premiums	4	2	12	11	8	2	3	2	44
In homes to which exemption was granted	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	3
Brought under the operation of the Industrial Schools Act	2	4	2	3	3	2	5	..	21
Written off the books for various causes	1	5	9	8	4	2	6	111	146
Total withdrawals	36	50	106	98	57	34	51	127	559
On the books at 31st December, 1923	78	88	169	118	83	85	63	..	684

RATES OF PAYMENTS BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

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

2 at the rate of 5s. per week.	119 at the rate of 20s. per week.
1 " 6s. "	1 " 21s. "
1 " 7s. 6d. "	12 " 25s. "
65 " 10s. "	2 " 30s. "
2 " 10s. 6d. "	2 adopted with premium disbursed at the rate of 10s. per week.
1 " 11s. "	18 adopted with premium disbursed at the rate of 15s. per week.
7 " 12s. "	1 adopted with premium disbursed at the rate of 22s. per week.
90 " 12s. 6d. "	2 adopted with premium disbursed at the rate of 22s. 6d. per week.
4 " 13s. "	10 for whom no payment is being made.
2 " 13s. 6d. "	1 where clothing only is supplied.
2 " 14s. "	1 where only occasional payments are being made.
290 " 15s. "	
1 " 15s. 6d. "	
1 " 16s. "	
2 " 17s. "	
43 " 17s. 6d. "	
1 " 18s. "	