Deaths in Foster-homes and Exempted Institutions.

Of the 1,243 infants who were at one time or another on the books as being in foster-homes during 1923, 6 died; of these, 1 died in a foster-home and 5 died in hospitals to which they had been removed for treatment. Two of the six were under twelve months of age, and three were of illegitimate birth.

As shown in the table above relating to exempted institutions, there were 20 deaths in 1923.

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 :—

Year.	Foster-homes.			Exempted Institutions.		
	Number of Deaths.	Number of Infants.	Percentage of Deaths.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Infants.	Percentage of Deaths.
1908	26	1,017	2·56	..	No records.	..
1909	25	1,181	2·11	..	,,	..
1910	26	1,183	2·19	..	,,	..
1911	13	1,183	1·09	47	899	5·23
1912	12	1,228	0·98	36	911	3·95
1913	13	1,330	0·98	18	984	1·82
1914	20	1,423	1·40	37	944	3·91
1915	14	1,440	0·98	11	1,026	1·08
1916	17	1,250	1·36	9	939	0·96
1917	12	1,361	0·88	15	1,136	1·32
1918	6	1,341	0·44	15	955	1·57
1919	10	1,403	0·71	13	1,050	1·24
1920	14	1,306	1·07	19	1,002	1·89
1921	6	1,318	0·47	17	1,118	1·52
1922	10	1,243	0·80	16	887	1·08
1923	6	1,243	0·48	20	1,076	1·86

Adoptions during the Year 1923.

During the year 364 orders of adoption were made; 31 of the adoption orders provided for premiums, and 333 were without monetary consideration.

The following shows the ages of the adopted children :—

Age.	With Premium.	Without Premium.	Total.
Under 6 months	10	65	75
Between 6 months and 12 months	8	31	39
,, 1 year and 2 years	4	56	60
,, 2 ,, 3 ,, ...	3	39	42
,, 3 ,, 4 ,, ...	1	24	25
,, 4 ,, 5 ,, ...	3	14	17
,, 5 ,, 6 ,, ...	..	22	22
,, 6 ,, 7 ,, ...	..	7	7
,, 7 ,, 8 ,, ...	..	9	9
,, 8 ,, 9 ,, ...	2	7	9
,, 9 ,, 10 ,, ...	..	16	16
,, 10 ,, 11 ,, ...	..	7	7
,, 11 ,, 12 ,, ...	..	8	8
,, 12 ,, 13 ,, ...	..	5	5
,, 13 ,, 14 ,, ...	..	6	6
,, 14 ,, 15 ,, ...	..	17	17
	31	333	364

The adopting parents were—	
Husband and wife jointly	336
Widow	10
Widower	1
Spinster	5
Bachelor	7
Wife only	4
Husband only	1
	364

The amount of the premiums ranged from £7 10s. to £100.