

1917.  
(SECOND SESSION.)

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NEW SOUTH WALES.

Legislative Council.

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EDUCATION.

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REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

INTO THE WORKING OF THE

STATE CHILDREN RELIEF BRANCH,

PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONDITIONS  
UNDER WHICH CHILDREN ARE BOARDED OUT.

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*Presented to Parliament in pursuance of an Order made by the Legislative Council  
on 1 August, 1917.*

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SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.



NAMES

OF THE

SOCIETY OF

FRIENDS

OF THE

UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

AND

THE

WEST INDIES

OF THE

SOCIETY OF

FRIENDS

OF THE

UNITED STATES

AND

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WEST INDIES

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

ABSTRACT of Papers presented to Parliament in pursuance of an *Order* made by the Legislative Council on 1st August, 1917.

1. Report of the Public Service Board in regard to the conduct of the State Children Relief Department, particularly in regard to the boarding-out of children under alleged undesirable conditions,
2. Minutes of evidence taken at Public Service Board's investigation.
3. Minute from Secretary to the Public Service Board, forwarding the foregoing Report and Minutes of evidence.



**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD IN REGARD TO THE CONDUCT  
OF THE STATE CHILDREN RELIEF DEPARTMENT, PARTICULARLY IN  
REGARD TO THE BOARDING-OUT OF CHILDREN UNDER ALLEGED  
UNDESIRABLE CONDITIONS.**

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**REPORT.**

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THIS Inquiry arose out of complaints in regard to the alleged ill-treatment of State children made by a deputation representing the Political Labour League Conference of New South Wales, which was received, in the absence of the Honorable Arthur Griffith, Minister for Public Instruction, by Mr. J. D. FitzGerald, M.L.C., Acting Minister. On Mr. Griffith's reassumption of office, he directed that, with a view to investigating the complaints, the Inspector-General of Police be asked to obtain reports from trustworthy members of the Police Force thereupon.

From the notes taken on the occasion of the deputation it would seem that the complaints in the main had emanated from Mr. J. F. Hackett, of Woollahra, who in turn obtained them from various persons who had written to him on the matter, after perusing several of Mr. Hackett's letters in the public Press on the subject of the treatment of State children.

The Police Officers' investigations were first directed to obtaining from such of the writers of the communications referred to by Mr. Hackett, as were available, oral corroboration of their written statements, but their report discloses the fact that most of the incidents mentioned to them by the persons they interviewed, are alleged to have occurred many years ago. The Officers then chose the Windsor, Pitt Town and Wiseman's Ferry districts as centres in which to make personal investigations. While in the main their reports on the treatment of the children, and their conditions of life, disclosed a satisfactory state of things, there were, in some instances, comments in their reports of such a nature as seemed to the Minister to call for a further investigation, and for this reason the Board were asked by the Minister to make a full inquiry.

The Board, before entering upon the taking of evidence, decided to visit the Lower Hawkesbury, which, from the papers, appeared to them to be a district most likely to offer evidence of the existence of such conditions as those referred to by the Minister in his minute. They were guided in their choice by the fact that this is a community of small farmers in a comparatively isolated area, where, if systematic ill-treatment were practised at all, evidences of it should be easily procurable. Their visit was a surprise one, not even the Departmental Officers at Head Office being informed of the Board's intention to visit the homes in the locality prior to the opening of the inquiry at the Court-house, Wiseman's Ferry. The Board visited as many of the homes complained of as possible to see for themselves the conditions of life of the children boarded out. They then proceeded with the taking of evidence in the district. Various guardians and boarded-out children were called and examined, most of them on oath.

One resident of the district who had written to Mr. Hackett, alleging ill-treatment of the children, was called before the Board and was allowed to make any statements and to furnish any proofs he considered he had in support of his written allegations. It soon appeared that this man had no first-hand knowledge of the matters about which he had written—indeed he utterly failed to satisfy the Board that his statements were founded on anything but the merest hearsay, and they are not prepared to give any weight whatever to his evidence.

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The Board next selected districts in the South Coast where children were boarded out, in some cases to farmers. These guardians were quite unaware of the purpose of the visits, which were made at all hours during the day.

When in the country, it was also the practice of the Board to obtain confidential oral statements from the various local police officers as to the standing and character of the guardians, and also as to the treatment of the children in the areas under their supervision.

Every opportunity was also taken of visiting local schools and interviewing the teachers.

The investigation was then resumed in Sydney, and Mr. Hackett was called before the Board to give evidence, and as the investigation proceeded was allowed to produce and examine witnesses in support of his allegations in regard to the conduct of the Department and the alleged cruelty of the present policy under which children are boarded out to guardians throughout the State. In all, twenty-eight witnesses were examined.

The evidence adduced by Mr. Hackett and his own testimony seemed to be directed to showing :—

1. That the control of the Cottage Homes at Mittagong had been conducive to cruelty to the children resident therein.
2. That children were boarded out by the Department to guardians who were unfit, for various reasons, to have the custody of State children.
3. That many so-called "Guardians" were more concerned in the amount of work that could be obtained from the children at the minimum of cost than in the actual welfare of the children themselves.

As against the present system, Mr. Hackett contends that there should be established for State children the highest possible type of boarding-school, which would afford such children opportunities of acquiring suitable trades or professions, and of becoming otherwise equipped for their future duties and responsibilities as citizens. He is uncompromisingly opposed to the system of boarding out children in private homes, or indeed to any children (State or otherwise) being called upon to perform any sort of work, even the lightest of household duties, before arriving at the age of 14 years.

The evidence produced by Mr. Hackett in support of his complaints against the conduct of the Cottage Homes at Mittagong was all in respect of incidents which were alleged to have occurred many years ago—twenty years ago in some cases. The witnesses called by him recounted, in considerable detail, incidents where severe punishments were alleged to have been inflicted upon them for comparatively trifling offences. Mr. Hackett was unable to produce evidence reflecting upon the management of the Homes during recent years, or at the present time. The Board have visited these Homes on several occasions during the past three or four years, and in the course of this investigation made a surprise visit to them. Neither the staff of the Homes nor the staff of the State Children Relief Department at Head Office were aware of the Board's intention to make the visit.

The Board are of opinion that, if there ever had been undue severity in the treatment of State children at the Homes at the far-off times when the witnesses produced by Mr. Hackett were resident therein, such a condition of affairs has not existed during recent years, nor does it exist to-day.

In all their visits during the last few years, the Board have been struck with—

1. The absolute cleanliness of the Homes and the surroundings.
2. The healthy moral tone prevailing among the children; and
3. The apparent happiness of the inmates generally.

The children, housed as they are in comparatively small families, live, even in these Homes, under conditions as nearly approaching those of the family in ordinary home life as is consistent with State control.

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The Board, as a result of their investigation, find that there is no evidence to support any contention that the Mittagong Homes to-day are conducted in anything but a satisfactory manner, but are, on the other hand, a credit to the State. Mr. Hackett in the course of the Inquiry was repeatedly invited to visit the Homes, quite unannounced, at any time he desired, and judge of the conditions for himself, but so far as the Board are aware, he has not yet done so—indeed, he exhibited a distinct unwillingness to visit them.

With regard to Mr. Hackett's allegations as to the conditions under which the State children live under the system at present prevailing, the position is this :—

The type of guardian who would accept the responsibility of rearing and educating a State child, in respect of which he or she is paid 6s. per week, would, for the most part, be a person of only moderate means. In their visits to the districts already referred to, the Board found varying types of homes. In many cases the guardians had children of their own, and, so far as could be observed, the treatment meted out in such cases to the State child was precisely similar to that which these persons' own children received at their hands. In numerous cases the State children were called upon to do odd jobs about the house. On certain dairy farms they were required to help bring in the cows, and in some cases to milk, but only to the same extent as was done by the guardian's own children. It must be recognised that in the boarding out of approximately 4,600 children, there must of necessity be homes where the control by guardians, not only of State children, but of their own children, might be considered unduly strict. The Board took every opportunity of conversing with the children themselves, apart from the guardians, and in no case did they receive any complaints in regard to their treatment. It must also be remembered that these children have only come under the control of the Department, in many cases, owing to exceptional circumstances. Many of the children have been taken from homes in congested areas, and in poor localities, and from persons who, from various causes, have proved themselves either incompetent to manage them, or unworthy to be allowed to continue to have the children in their keeping. Others have been committed by the Children's Court to the care of the Department for various offences. By reason of their earlier environment, these children require firm control and discipline, and in no case in the course of their investigations has it come to the knowledge of the Board that the discipline of the guardians has been unjustly or unduly severe. Mr. Hackett refers in his evidence before the Board to cases where boarded-out children had been cruelly ill-treated, but, in regard to these, he relied entirely on unsupported and uncorroborated statements by other parties. It is not denied—indeed, it is a matter of common knowledge—that there have been cases of cruelty to State children, even in recent years; but these are very few, and, when discovered, prosecutions have invariably followed, with the result that the offenders have been punished by fine by the presiding magistrate, and blacklisted by the Department, as undesirable persons for the future guardianship of State children. In this connection, it is but simple justice to place on record the Board's appreciation of the care exercised by the State Children Relief Department in the choice of guardians, and in the scrutiny of the housing provided for the children boarded out.

It is now the policy of the Department not to board out children under 14 years of age on dairy farms, and only to indenture boys over this age for such work. The Board have confined their inquiries in the various districts not only to boarded-out children, but to indentured children. Their remarks in regard to the result of their investigations with reference to the treatment of the boarded-out children above, apply equally to the treatment of the indentured children (*i.e.*, those over 14 years of age) on the farms they visited. In any case, the amount of work that is obtained from these small children is not sufficiently great to interfere with legitimate adult labour. Their investigations have all tended to show that there is ample opportunity for the absorption of all the available adult labour in the country districts, quite apart from the small amount of work obtained from the State children.

The Board have limited their investigations to the treatment of the children under conditions at present prevailing by reason of the policy of the Government. They do express the opinion, however, that the system of training children under family conditions, by boarding them out to proper guardians, or as is done at the  
Cottage

Cottage Homes at Mittagong, is being carried out in this State with care, foresight and humanity. In the course of their inquiries, the Board found State children who lived in homes considerably above the average, and were treated with all the care, consideration, and affection that would have been shown them had they been the natural children of the guardians concerned. There is always, in such a large community, the risk of misjudging the suitability of guardians, but every effort is made by the Department to prevent unsuitable people being given the control of State children. The whole system of boarding-out depends for its success on efficient and frequent inspections, and the Department is aiming at increasing their Inspectorial Staff in such a way as to ensure such a state of affairs obtaining. In this regard, the Board are strongly of opinion that the thorough inspection of boarded-out girls and infants, as to housing, clothing and personal cleanliness, would be better ensured if the inspection work in their cases—in the large population centres especially—were entrusted to carefully selected women inspectors, rather than to men.

The Board, in conclusion, desire to give expression to their strong opinion that the Department should take steps to scrutinise carefully the natural aptitude of State children at the age of 14 years, or thereabouts, with a view to their being afforded, where considered desirable, the advantages of training for a sufficient period at Trade Schools, providing instruction suited to their capabilities. Unless some such step as the foregoing is taken, there is a danger later on of the absorption of the State wards into the various trades being unduly hampered, with the result that many of them will become at length, not only unemployed, but unemployable.

A copy of the notes of the evidence given before the Board is herewith for the information of the Honorable the Minister.

E. H. WILSHIRE,	} Members of the
Chairman.	
J. M. TAYLOR,	
W. J. HANNA,	Public Service Board.



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## PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

INVESTIGATION into the general working of the State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction, particularly with reference to the conditions under which children are boarded out.

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## NEW SOUTH WALES.

## PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

## INVESTIGATION.

At 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 30th August, 1916, the Public Service Board (Messrs. Wilshire and Taylor) commenced an Investigation into the general working of the State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction, particularly with reference to the conditions under which children are boarded out.

Sitting held Court-house, Wiseman's Ferry, Hawkesbury River.

WEDNESDAY, 30 AUGUST, 1916.

Present:—

MR. E. H. WILSHIRE, Chairman } Public Service Board.  
MR. J. M. TAYLOR, Member }

Mr. A. W. GREEN, Boarding-out Officer, &c., State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction.  
Mr. H. L. MAXTED, Acting Chief Inspector, School Attendance and Probation Officer, &c., State Children Relief Department, Department of Public Instruction.  
Mr. J. WING, Senior Inspector, &c., State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction.  
Mrs. D. M. MACCALLUM, Member, State Children Relief Board.  
Sergeant A. W. LONSDALE, Police Department, Sydney.

Mr. R. W. GRIFFITS, Shorthand-writer, sworn.

By direction the shorthand-writer read the following letter:—

Public Service Board, 39 Hunter-street, Sydney, 26th August, 1916.

Sir,—With reference to the request forwarded by you on the 15th August from the Honorable the Minister that the Public Service Board make a full inquiry into complaints regarding the treatment of children boarded out in accordance with the provisions of the State Children Relief Act, I am directed to inform you that the Public Service Board have decided to hold an investigation into the working of the State Children Relief Branch in terms of section 9 of the Public Service Act, 1902, particularly in regard to the circumstances connected with the above matter.

The Board will commence such investigation at the Court-house, Wiseman's Ferry, on Wednesday next, 30th August, at 2:30 p.m. It is desired that you will be good enough to arrange for a representative of your Department to be present, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary.

I have, &c.,

R. A. GILFILLAN,  
Secretary.

The Under Secretary, Department of Public Instruction.

ARTHUR WILLIAM LONSDALE, sergeant of police, stationed at Sydney, was called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. What are you? A. Sergeant of police, stationed at Sydney.

Q. You made some inquiries throughout this district, and also at Windsor into the boarded-out children? A. Yes.

Q. You made a report on your inquiries? A. Yes.

Q. It would be with the papers? A. Yes.

By direction the shorthand-writer then read the report, which is as follows:—

Re the alleged ill-treatment of State Children boarded-out in different parts of the State (*vide* attached file from Mr. J. F. Hackett, of Woollahra).

No. 3 Police Station, Darlinghurst, 24th July, 1916.

I beg to report that Constable Bourke and I commenced our inquiries into this matter by first interviewing the

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Sydney writers of attached letters, the general result being failure on the part of the different writers to give any information regarding events of reasonably recent date.

One, at least, of the writers whom we interviewed was under the impression that his letter to Mr. Hackett would be treated by him as a confidential communication, and in consequence he declined to discuss the matter. This may also apply to some of the remaining writers, who might possibly assume a similar attitude.

We subsequently paid surprise visits to some of the children and their guardians, with very much more satisfactory results, but before touching that I should like to give a short account of our interviews with the Sydney writers.

We first interviewed Mrs. Suttan (46), living apart from her husband, and residing at 41 Green's-road, Paddington (*vide* Hackett's file, page 4). She stated that her complaint referred to a period of thirty-six years ago, when she was boarded-out to a Mr. and Mrs. Humphries, of Woollahra. She also stated that she had no knowledge of any cases in recent years where State children had been ill-treated. It will thus be seen that this writer can be of no service in this matter.

I subsequently interviewed the writer, H. W. Edwards, of 30 Beach-road, Dulwich Hill (*vide* Hackett's file, page 1), who is identical with 1st Class Constable Edwards, of Redfern Police Division. I informed him that I wished to interview him regarding the alleged ill-treatment of State children, upon which subject he had written to Mr. Hackett. He replied that his letter to Mr. Hackett was a private and confidential communication, and he did not wish to discuss the matter. I then asked him if he had knowledge of any recent cases of abuses under the system, when he again informed me that he did not wish to discuss the matter.

Mr. Pendoss, 27 Abercrombie-street, Sydney, late 563 King-street, Newtown, was also interviewed, and he stated that he placed his daughter, Lily, in the Church of England Industrial School, Glebe, where she remained for four years; the school authorities then placed her in State control without his authority, and the State afterwards indentured the girl to a Mrs. Bell, of Dulwich Hill, despite the fact that he had applied for her release. The Department's action in indenturing the girl in the circumstances stated is the substance of his complaint; his daughter has since been returned to his custody.

*Witness*—A. W. Lonsdale, 30 August, 1916.

The next case is the one of the boys, Charles and Ivor Phillips, aged 12 years and 10 years and 6 months respectively. I interviewed Mr. Phillips at his residence, 21 Rosebery-street, Rozelle, the boy Ivor being present; the other boy, Charles, was not at home, and his father informed me that he could not prevail upon him to give me an interview.

Mr. Phillips informed me that his two boys were sent to Mittagong Home in August, 1914; later he went there to see them, when he was informed that they had been sent to a Mrs. Fraser, at Central McDonald, about a month previously. They remained with Mrs. Fraser for some months, and were then transferred to a Mrs. Douglass, at Webb's Creek, Wiseman's Ferry. Mr. Phillips stated that in neither instance was he informed by the Department that the lads had been sent to a different locality, and he further stated that during the time, about six months, that the lads were at Mrs. Fraser's they were well treated, but the place was not visited by an inspector of the S.C.R. Board.

The boy Ivor was with Mrs. Douglass, of Webb's Creek, from April to October, 1915, and he complained that he had to rise at 4 a.m., was over-worked, and ill-fed. There were seven other State children with Mrs. Douglass at the time, and although an inspector called there twice during this period none of the children, so the boy Phillips stated, made any complaint to him.

On a subsequent date Constable Bourke and I visited Wiseman's Ferry; the full particulars regarding our inquiries there are detailed later, but to prevent confusion I might state here that whilst at Wiseman's Ferry we made careful inquiry regarding the boy Phillips' complaint, but failed to find the slightest evidence in corroboration.

Regarding the letter headed "Evans-street, Rozelle" (page 17, Hackett's file), the Under Secretary, Department of Public Instruction, had a copy of this letter forwarded to Mr. Green, of the State Children Relief Department, for inquiry by his officers.

On the 6th instant Constable Bourke and I visited Windsor per motor-car. We first called at the Windsor Public School, and there saw the following State Children:—

Atthol Carey, 11 years and 10 months; guardian, H. Buckton, newsagent, &c., Windsor. This boy appeared to be well nourished, clean, and well clothed. He stated that he rises at 7 a.m. and delivers about thirty newspapers, has breakfast, and then attends school. In the evening he again delivers about the same number of newspapers. He stated that he was kindly treated, and was well satisfied with his home. We inspected his home, and found it clean, and well furnished. His guardian appears to be in good financial circumstances. The lad Carey occupies the same bed as Mrs. Buckton's son, aged 16 years.

Agnes Huxley, 12 years; guardian, Daniel Mayne, wharfinger by occupation, residing at Mulgrave. The girl appeared to be well clothed, clean, and well nourished and contented. She stated that all she had to do was to assist in the housework; she was very satisfied with her home; her guardian recently purchased her spectacles, as she suffers from defective eyesight. We found her home to be clean, and comfortably furnished; her guardian appears to be in fairly good financial circumstances. The girl has a large bedroom to herself; she has been there about twelve months.

Dorothy Hardy (8 years and 3 months); guardian, John Harding, dairy-farmer, &c., of Mulgrave. This child was clean, well clothed, but appeared to be rather delicate. We inspected her home, it was not as clean as it should be, and was poor and scantily furnished. The child has a bedroom to herself; her guardians convey her to school regularly in a vehicle, a distance of about 2 miles. They receive no payment from the State for this child. They have had custody of her since she was 3 months old, and adopted her seven years ago. They have five children of their own, four boys ranging in age from 4 to 17 years, and a girl aged 2 years and six months.

We next visited Pitt Town Public School, and there saw the following children, and afterwards inspected their homes:—Walter Martin (12 years and 2 months) and John Martin (10 years and 8 months); guardian, James Davis, farmer, Pitt Town.

The boys were well clothed, clean, and appeared to be in good health. They stated that they rise at 7 a.m., chop wood and help feed horses, have breakfast, and then go to school; go to bed at 8 p.m. They appeared to be well satisfied with their home.

We found their home clean and well furnished, they occupy a comfortable bed each in a room to themselves; their guardian appears to be in good financial circumstances.

James Dice (10 years and 8 months), Harold Dice (7 years and 8 months), Josephine Nissen (11 years and 5 months), and Cofin Nissen (7 years and 8 months); guardian, Miss Mary Wilbow. These children stated that they rise at 7 a.m. and go to bed at 8 p.m. The two boys Dice sleep

in a bed together, the girl has a room to herself. The elder boy lights the fire, makes porridge, boils kettle, sweeps the verandah; the other two boys do no work. These boys were not wearing boots, although a very cold day, and apparently seldom do. The girl Nissen performs a little light housework. She was wearing boots and stockings; they all appeared to be well fed.

We found their home clean, and well furnished, and their beds contained good and ample coverings.

Ceell Orchard (10 years and 6 months), Walter Cleaver (11 years and 2 months), and Roy Callain (10 years and 2 months); guardian, Mary Owens, Postmistress, Pitt Town. Orchard informed me that he rises at 6.30 a.m., and milks two cows morning and evening, chops wood, and cuts chaff, &c. This boy was clean and reasonably well clad, with the exception that he was not wearing boots, although a very cold day, and judging by the appearance of his feet he seldom or ever does. He appeared to be in extremely delicate health and low spirited. He complained of being over-worked, and in my opinion his complaint is well founded, his hands were very coarse, such as would be caused by constant rough and hard work. Quite independent of this boy's tender age he is not strong enough to perform such work.

The other two boys appeared to be in good health, said they had to sweep the yard, light the fire, &c. They were not wearing boots, otherwise they were well clad. They said that the three of them slept in the one bed.

We inspected their home, found the place clean; Miss Owens admitted that Orchard had to perform the work described, but she denied that the three boys slept in the one bed, and stated that Cleaver and Callain occupied a bed in one room, and Orchard a bed in another room. She showed us one bed with clean and sufficient covering, and another bed which she said was Orchard's with merely a mattress and rug thereon. This, I took as corroboration of the boy's statements that they all occupy one bed.

Ralf Nissen (14); guardian, George Malcolm Greenwell, orchardist and farmer, Pitt Town. Nissen stated that he had been with Mr. Greenwell for about two and a half years.

He rises at 6.30 a.m., milks six cows, feeds five horses, feeds poultry, and then school, and goes to bed at 8 p.m. The boy was clean and fairly well clothed, but was not wearing boots.

We found his home clean and well furnished; the boy has a bedroom to himself, and it was clean and comfortable. His guardian appears to be in good financial circumstances.

Ada Weekes (12 years and 2 months) and Joseph Weekes (10 years and 1 month); guardian, Ernest James Johnston, farmer, Percy-place.

The boy stated that he rises at 6.30 a.m., lights the fire, brings in four cows from the paddock, mixes feed, and chops wood, &c. The girl helps in domestic work.

Both have bedrooms to themselves. They were both of them clean and well clothed and healthy. We did not see their guardian or visit their home.

William Parkes (10 years); guardian, James E. Gillespie, baker and farmer. This boy stated that he rises at 7 a.m., helps feed five horses, cuts wood, &c.; sleeps in the same bed as Gillespie's son, aged 16; goes to bed at 8 p.m.

Parkes appeared healthy, well clothed, and clean; we inspected his home, saw Mrs. Gillespie, who informed us that the boy's statement as regards the work performed by him was correct. We found the premises clean and well furnished. Mr. Gillespie appears to be in good financial circumstances.

Edward Reeves (7 years and 6 months); guardian, Charles Karlson, engineer and farmer. Reeves was not at school; we saw him at his home. He occupies the same bed as an apprentice named Robert Dawson, aged 16; his bed and home were clean. He appeared clean and fairly well clothed and healthy. Mrs. Karlson informed us that the boy shells corn for the poultry, and gathers firewood; she had the custody of him for about three years.

Sidney Summers (9 years); guardian, Ambrose Mitchell farm labourer. This boy was very clean, particularly well clothed, in good health, and contented. He said that he had to do a little work, such as sweeping the yard, &c.

We visited his home, which we found to be clean and well furnished. He has a clean and very comfortable bedroom to himself, and, in my opinion, has a very good home.

On the 11th instant Constable Bourke and I visited Wiseman's Ferry Public School, and there saw the following State children:—

William Wockhuc (12 years and 1 month); guardian, T. Stewart, orchardist. The boy stated that he rises at 7 a.m. in winter months, makes the fire, milks one cow, and feeds five pigs, chops wood for the day's use, has breakfast, and then walks to school, a distance of about 3 miles.

**WITNESS:** I made a mistake there. The distance is not 3 miles, as stated, but considerably less.

The shorthand-writer then continued reading the report.

After school has afternoon tea, then milks one cow, chops more wood. Attends a church service every other Sunday at Lower Hawkesbury (walks about 2½ miles and then takes a boat across the river). This boy was fairly clean, was not wearing boots, and was very poorly clothed—thin white cotton jacket, cotton shirt, no undershirt.

We visited his home, and saw Mrs. Stewart; she bore out his statement as regards his daily routine of work. We found the place fairly clean, but extremely poor. These people are evidently struggling for an existence, and appear quite unable to provide the boy with necessary comforts.

Reginald Parker (14) and Selby McLean (8 years and 8 months); guardian, T. W. Wilson, farmer and orchardist, Wiseman's Ferry. Parker stated that he rises at 6 a.m., fetches in nine horses from the paddock, and feeds them, then has a cup of tea and bread and butter, then milks six cows, and then separates (hand separator), then has breakfast and goes to school. Upon returning home from school has a cup of tea and bread and butter, then milks four cows, strains milk, then helps feed five pigs, then has tea, wash-up tea things, and then to bed between 8 and 9 p.m. He was not wearing boots, otherwise fairly well clothed.

Selby McLean stated that he rises at 6 a.m., lights the fire, has cup of tea and bread and butter, then milks three or four cows, helps to separate, has breakfast, then to school. After school has afternoon tea, milks two cows, helps to strain milk, gathers wood, and lock up the fowls, goes to bed 7 or 8 p.m., attends Church Service whenever service is held, usually fortnightly. States that he has been with his present guardian for about three years, and has been milking seven or eight months. He was not wearing boots, otherwise fairly well clothed.

We visited their home and saw Mr. Wilson, who admitted the correctness of the boy's statements. He stated that he has an apprentice named Albert Swan, 16 years of age, working on the farm, otherwise he employs no labour. He showed us a room which he said the two boys occupied, it measured about 10 feet x 6 feet, and it contained two spring stretchers, and no other furniture of any description; five panes of glass were missing from the window, and the place was comfortless in the extreme. Mr. Wilson showed us the beds hanging on the line. They were dirty and merely filled with chaff. We did not see the bed covering; Mr. Wilson said his wife was away, and he could not find the bed covering.

These two boys, in my opinion, are over-worked, and have not a comfortable home, although Mr. Wilson appears to be in good financial circumstances.

Edward Tinsley (12 years and 4 months), Lillie Grey (12 years and 1 month), Rose Gray (8 years and 7 months), Jessie May Joyce (11 years and 6 months), and William Joyce (7 years and 5 months); guardian, Mrs. Books, Webb's Creek, Wiseman's Ferry. Tinsley stated that he has been with Mrs. Books about four years, he rises 7 a.m., feeds five pigs, then has breakfast and goes to school; goes to bed 8 p.m. He was carefully clad in cotton jacket, cotton shirt, no undershirt, and no boots.

Lillie Grey has been with Mrs. Books about nineteen months. Her duties consist of household work. She was fairly well clothed. She said that she and the other children go to Church Service about once a month at Mrs. Rose's house. The other children were poorly clad, none of them appear to have very much work to do. They all appeared healthy.

We visited their home and saw Mrs. Books, she is an aged woman, and she informed us that in addition to the children named she has a State child named Mabel Joyce (4); she also informed us that two of the children, Jessie and Lillie Grey, are being transferred from her custody to that of her married son, who is building a house for himself about 50 yards away.

We inspected Mrs. Books' house, and found it in a most dirty and dilapidated condition, and, with the exception of beds, practically without furniture. The paper from the walls and ceilings has become detached in places, and is hanging down in dirty festoons.

There are no windows in the place, merely openings to admit light, which are closed when necessary by means of a shutter, consequently when the shutters are up the place is in total darkness.

The bedding was very dirty, the bedsteads were of wood, and very old, with pieces of rough board in place of spring or laths. The whole place is of a most uninviting character, and I should think that it would be very difficult to find a more unsuitable place for these children. Mrs. Books stated that at present her means of livelihood is mainly derived from the payments received from the State for these children.

Phillip Dawson (13 years and six months); guardian,

Mrs. J. Rose, farmer and orchardist. Dawson stated that he has been with his present guardian for about two years. He rises at 6 a.m., lights the fire, milks four cows, then has breakfast, then chops wood, helps Mrs. Rose wash up the breakfast things, and then goes to school (a distance of about 3 miles walk), and has to cross the river. After school milks four cows and gathers firewood. This boy appeared clean and well clothed; he was wearing boots and stockings.

We inspected his home, and found it clean and well furnished. He has a clean and comfortable bed. One of Mrs. Rose's sons occupies a bed in the same room. Mr. Rose, junior, admitted that the boy's statement as regards his work was correct. Mrs. Rose appears to be in very good financial circumstances. Considering that this boy has to walk 3 miles to and from school, a total distance of 6 miles, he appears to be overworked.

Reginald Prestwidge (12), Ernest Puckeridge (9), and John Puckeridge (7); guardian, W. H. Rose, farmer and orchardist, Wiseman's Ferry.

Prestwidge stated that he rises at 6.30 a.m., has breakfast, then milks four cows, then he and Ernest Puckeridge cut chaff for two horses, he then feeds three pigs, and when Mr. Rose is absent he has to also feed the cows. He then walks about a mile and a half to school. After school helps to cut chaff, and again feeds the two horses, and feeds the pigs, and sometimes cuts grass in the orchard, then has tea, and does his home lessons, and to bed at about 8 p.m.

Ernest Puckeridge stated that he rises at 6.30 a.m., has breakfast, milks two cows in the morning only; then assists Prestwidge to cut chaff for two horses, and sometimes chops wood with the other boys, also cuts barley for the horses, and then to school (a distance of about one and a half miles), having to cross the river. After school cuts more chaff, and chops wood, and sometimes washes up the tea things; goes to bed at 8 p.m.

The younger boy, John Puckeridge, gathers wood, occasionally helps to catch the horses, and washes up after meals, and attends school with the other two boys.

These boys were clean and fairly well clothed, with the exception that they were not wearing boots.

We inspected their home and found it clean; the three boys sleep in one bed; the bed was clean, with ample bedding thereon. Mr. Rose was not at home, but Mrs. Rose admitted that the boys' statements were correct as regards the work performed by them. She also stated that Mr. Rose intended buying another bed for the boys.

She also informed us that Mr. Rose has nine cows and five horses, and has no one but himself and these boys working there, although they have a fairly large property, of which they are the owners.

Since our visit there the boy, Ernest Puckeridge (9), has had three of his fingers cut off by a chaffcutter (*vide Daily Telegraph*, 18th June, 1916).

James Sullivan (12); guardian, Mrs. Walmsley, farmer, baker, boarding-house keeper, &c., Wiseman's Ferry. Sullivan stated that he rises at 6.30 a.m., lights the fire, sometimes chops wood, sweeps out the kitchen, cracks corn, feeds the fowls, milks four cows, and separates, feeds one calf, has breakfast, and then goes to school. After school brings the cows in from the paddock and milks three, chops wood, feeds the calf, takes tea to Mrs. Walmsley's two sons at the bake-house, a quarter of a mile away. On Saturdays scrubs dining-room, hall, and kitchen. Has been with Mrs. Walmsley for about eight months, and has not been to church or Sunday school during the whole time.

This boy was clean and fairly well clothed, but appeared stunted in growth and overworked, and low-spirited.

We called upon Mrs. Walmsley, and found the boy's sleeping accommodation clean and comfortable; he has a bed to himself. One of Mrs. Walmsley's sons occupies a bed in the same room.

Mrs. Walmsley was anything but candid when discussing the boy's work, but I gathered from what she did say that the boy's statement is correct.

We next visited Webb's Creek Public School, Wiseman's Ferry, and there saw the following children:—

Letitia Abbott (13 years and 7 months), Colin Fox (8 years and 7 months), Aubrey Fox (12 years and 2 months), Carl Michelson (11 years and 4 months), and Frank Michelson (5 years and 5 months); guardian, Mrs. L. Douglass, orchardist and mixed farming. These children all appeared healthy and clean; none of them were wearing boots, otherwise they were well and warmly clothed, and they all appeared satisfied with their home and their treatment there. The girl Abbott stated that she had been with Mrs. Douglass for about six years; she rises at 7 or 7.30 a.m., feeds the fowls, and sometimes helps to get breakfast, and goes to bed never later than 9 p.m.

Aubrey Fox stated that he drives in five cows from the paddock, milks one, helps feed the fowls, has breakfast, and then goes to school. After school helps water cows and cuts cornstalks for feed.



Witness—A. W. Lonsdale, 30 August, 1916.

The other children, according to their statements, do not perform any laborious work.

We inspected their home, and found it very clean, and particularly well furnished; the children's beds were very clean, with ample bedding thereon.

Mrs. Douglass also showed us a large quantity of spare clothing and dress material for the children, and about eighteen pairs of children's new boots.

Judging from what we saw, and from what we heard from an independent source, I should say that this is a first-class home for these children—that is, subject to certain disadvantages inseparable from the district, and to which I refer at the conclusion of my report.

Until quite recently Mrs. Douglass had eight other State children in addition to those now there, but they have since been transferred to other places.

Doris Melleulsh (8 years and 10 months), Cecil Melleulsh (11 years and 9 months), Charles Simpson (11 years and 3 months); guardian, Mr. J. Rose, Webb's Creek, Wiseman's Ferry. These children were formerly with Mrs. Douglass.

We did not call upon Mr. and Mrs. Rose, as we were informed that they were not at home, having taken the boy Simpson to a dentist some miles away; consequently we have only the statement of Doris and Cecil Melleulsh to go upon.

Doris Melleulsh stated that she rises at 7 a.m., sets the breakfast, &c., and after breakfast goes to school; after school gets wood, &c. She was not wearing boots, otherwise was well clothed and clean.

Cecil Melleulsh stated that he rises at 7 a.m., lights the fire, feeds fowls, then helps Mr. Rose feed the pigs, then helps an apprentice (Henry Cook) to milk twelve cows (six each), then mixes oilcake and pollard for pig feed during the day, sometimes chops wood until time to go to school. After school feeds fowls and ducks, and again milks six cows, and helps to feed them, then has tea. After tea cuts up melons, and boils same for pig feed, then cracks corn for the horses' morning feed, and states that he has to sleep in the same bed as Simpson and the apprentice, Cook.

This boy was only wearing a cotton shirt, cotton jacket and pants; no boots. He appeared over-worked, thin, and low-spirited; goes to church service every alternate Sunday at Mrs. Douglass' house.

Louis Walker (10 years and 2 months), Jessie Walker (7); guardian, Mr. Leete, orchardist, Webb's Creek, Wiseman's Ferry, both children formerly with Mrs. Douglass. These two children were clean and healthy, were not wearing boots, but otherwise were well clothed. From what they stated they appear to be fairly well treated.

Mr. Leet informed me that he has five children of his own, two boys and three girls, the oldest being 12 years of age, and he stated that he merely takes State children so as to keep the school in the district.

This completed our tour of inspection, and in framing my report upon the matter I thought it preferable to give, as far as possible, full particulars regarding the circumstances of each child, independent of whether the position was in my judgment satisfactory or not. This is perhaps a lengthy and tedious process, but it has the advantage of enabling those interested to form an independent judgment upon each individual case.

In conclusion I should like to refer to certain unfavourable features existing in the Wiseman's Ferry district, which I consider make it unsuitable for the reception of State children. The first being the absence of a resident doctor—the nearest doctor is several miles away—and he will only attend patients at Wiseman's Ferry upon the payment of a heavy fee.

Another drawback is the absence of facilities for Divine Service, and the excessive distance some of the children have to walk to school.

During the time that we were at Wiseman's Ferry Inspector J. Wing, of the S.C.R. Board, was also inspecting in the district.

(Signed) A. W. LONSDALE,  
Inspector Brooks, Sergeant 2/C. No. 5712.  
No. 3 Station.

(The above report was tendered and marked Exhibit 1.)

CHAIRMAN: Q. You also went to Windsor; had you any reason to suppose that the houses visited had heard that you were coming, and were prepared for you? A. I do not think so.

Q. The boy you chiefly complain about is the newsboy? A. No—a boy named Orchard, at Pitt Town.

Q. You said something about a paper-boy and news-boy? A. No, sir. I think his case is a satisfactory one.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Was that Phillips? A. Athol Carey.

CHAIRMAN: Q. He is all right? A. Yes.

Q. What about the boy at Pitt Town; did you think he was overworked? A. Yes,

Q. Is he? A. Yes, sir, and he appeared to be very low-spirited.

Q. Had he been there for any time? A. I do not think I have got that information.

Q. You subsequently came down to Wiseman's Ferry? A. Yes.

Q. Was it shortly after you had been at Windsor? A. We were at Windsor on the 6th and came here on the 11th July.

Q. You then inspected the places you speak of in the report? A. Yes.

Q. Since you wrote the report have you visited those places? A. Yes.

Q. Have you seen any difference in the homes? A. In one place, I think there was an alteration—the place of Mr. T. W. Wilson.

Q. Where is his place? A. At Webb's Creek.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Just over the river? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. In what way was there an alteration? A. The place appears to be very much cleaner than when we saw it. There are blinds on the window now. We did not see the coverings of the beds.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. They were out on the line? A. We saw the beds.

CHAIRMAN: Q. One case is spoken of as the beds not being too good; is that the same case? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Was that the same bedding that we saw when we were there yesterday? A. It is similar bedding. It appears to be very much cleaner than it was then.

CHAIRMAN: Q. At any of the other houses that we visited yesterday did you see any cleaning up since your visit? A. There was Mr. J. Rose's place. That appeared to be recently polished up.

Q. You saw some new boots and new clothing there? A. Yes.

Q. Otherwise there was nothing further? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. There was a cement floor? A. Yes.

Q. Was it there before? A. I could not say. That was my first visit.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You have nothing further to state? A. No.

Would you like to ask the sergeant any questions, Mr. Green?

Mr. GREEN: Thank you. I want to ask him about Miss Owens' case. She has the boy Orchard there. I would like to state that we had the boy examined by a medical officer after the police visited there, and his report is as follows:—

I certify that I, this day, examined State child, Cecil Orchard, medically, and I also examined him and his guardian, Miss Owens, re amount and character of work set him. His health appears to me quite good and his physical capacity for the work is considerably in excess of the work demanded.

T. DAVIES,

F.R.C.S. Ed., &c.

Windsor, 17/8/16.

(Doctor's certificate tendered and marked Exhibit 2.)

Mr. GREEN: I would like to read a letter from Mr. Murphy, master, Pitt Town school, which is as follows:—

Public School, Pitt Town, 3rd August, 1916.

Mr. G. E. Elliott, Inspector, S. R. Board.

Sir,—In reference to your inquiry, I beg to state that I consider Miss Mary Owens' home to be a fit and proper place for the reception and boarding-out of children.

The children from that home have always been kept clean and tidy and appear to be well fed.

They are kept strictly within the bounds when not at school, which, if not suitable to their inclinations, may be for their ultimate benefit.

I am sure the work they have to do is not excessive, and could be done by girls of similar age.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH MURPHY,

Teacher.

(Letter tendered and marked Exhibit 3.)

Mr. GREEN (continuing): Mr. Murphy, I would state, has been there for over twenty years. He knows the district very well.

Witness—A. W. Lonsdale, 30 August, 1916.

CHAIRMAN: How many children has Miss Owens got?

Mr. GREEN: Three State children. There is another communication from the Presbyterian minister as follows:—

The Maunse, Pitt Town, *via* Windsor, 28th July, 1916.  
Mr. G. Elliott, Inspector of State Children.

Dear Sir,—At your request, I desire to state to any whom it may concern, that in my opinion and to the best of my knowledge and belief the three State boys at present under the care of Miss Owens, of this town, are well cared for, well clothed, well fed, well treated, and well trained. I see them almost every day. At day school and Sabbath school they say their lessons carefully and intelligently and are well behaved, respectful, and happy looking. Indeed, I have long observed the general improvement in the condition of the children under Miss Owens' care between the time she gets them and the time they leave. In my opinion there is no family in the town where State children get a more beneficial training, both physically and otherwise. They are trained in useful work, and, so far as I know or can see, are not overwrought.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID BAIRD,  
Presbyterian Minister.

(Letter tendered and marked Exhibit A.)

Mr. GREEN: Q. Might I ask whether the sergeant spoke to the teacher about the boys? A. Yes.

Q. Did he tell you anything similar to what I have read? A. Yes, he did.

Q. And also about the other lad living next door? A. Yes.

Q. He recommended both those cases to you? A. Yes. I will refer now to the case of Cecil Orchard, who is a thin miserable little chap. I thought it better to take the doctor out there and see the whole thing. I have put his certificate in. I thought it the best way of dealing with the matter. I do not think I have any further questions to ask.

CHAIRMAN: What about Wilson's home?

Mr. GREEN: I visited all these homes myself after the police had been round and furnished their report. I must say that I do not agree with all the statements made by the police. I feel, as regards the two boys from Rose's and Stewart's, that the distance is not too far. I walked from Stewart's myself in forty minutes. I do not think that would be too far for a boy to walk to school. As far as Stewart's being a very poor place, they own 50 acres of land, 12 of which are under orchard. The trees are not all bearing, but I do not think you could call Mr. Stewart a poor man in any sense, or the home a poor one.

With regard to Mrs. Rose: The boy is supposed to work very hard and be overworked. I interviewed the boy, Maxwell. He had previously been at Mittagong Home, and he told me he was not overworked and that he liked that home better than the Mittagong Home. We all know the standard at Mittagong Home. I think, if he liked his present home better than Mittagong there was not much to complain about. I thought it a good home.

With regard to Wilson, across the river. I think the boys are not overwrought. The boy, Selby McLean, is a bit of a rogue. He is a boy who would not be overworked. In fact, he is a pet of Mrs. Wilson's.

CHAIRMAN: Did you examine the beds?

Mr. GREEN: Yes. Mrs. Wilson was away when the sergeant was there. When I went there the bed was all right. There was quite sufficient bedding to my idea, and I have been dealing with this sort of work for the last thirty years, and I think I can say that I can judge a home when I see one.

CHAIRMAN: Was that the place where the panes of glass were out?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Did you complain about that?

Mr. GREEN: I have, as a matter of fact, panes of glass out of my own rooms at home. In a place like Wiseman's Ferry it is not easy to get them done. After all, a little fresh air does not do any of us any harm; a broken window is better than a closed window. I visited these

homes myself, and I do not feel in any way that I have any need to suggest that the homes should be closed to these children.

Mr. TAYLOR: Take the Melleuish children.

Mr. GREEN: He was very depressed, but I do not think the Roses would overwork anybody. The boy was depressed by an accident. We had a new allotment clerk at the office, and he unfortunately reduced Mrs. Douglass' home. He took the two Melleuish children away and put them with Mr. Rose.

CHAIRMAN: Was there any particular reason for doing that?

Mr. GREEN: He was told to reduce the children, and he took those two. The boy was so depressed at being separated from his sisters that he was, as the sergeant said, miserable looking and depressed, because he felt being separated. When I had a talk with him I found the whole trouble out. He told me he was not overworked, but that he was anxious to get back to Mrs. Douglass'. As soon as I got back I sent word to Rose to shift the boy back, and the children are going back to Mrs. Douglass.

CHAIRMAN: There is a room out at Rose's place which has no window in it, although it was clean. When the door was shut there would be no light.

Mr. GREEN: Mrs. Douglass has had children for twenty-five years. I think the accommodation is all right.

CHAIRMAN: There is no window in the room?

Mr. GREEN: I told them that they might get that fixed up, and they have promised to do it. There have been eight inspectors to the home. They have had thirty-two or thirty-three children in their charge.

Mr. TAYLOR: What about the health of these children?

Mr. GREEN: They are all right. You ask Mr. McLean, who has done a bit of first-aid work once or twice. He was perfectly satisfied. We are satisfied that Mrs. Books is a thorough mother to these children.

CHAIRMAN: How do you do about medical attention?

Mr. GREEN: We do not have much of it. They have to go to Windsor or Sydney if there is anything wanted. That is covered by the regulations.

Mr. TAYLOR: Is there telephone communication between here and Windsor?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Would they have to bring the doctor down here?

Mr. GREEN: If a doctor is wanted they know they have to call him in, and the expense is ours, and not theirs. A guardian has no excuse for not getting a doctor in.

CHAIRMAN: Are they compelled to keep medicines?

Mr. GREEN: No, sir. These people have brought up their families in these places. If they can deal with their own families they can deal with our children. We deal with it in this way—that the children must be treated as their own children. After all, the 5s. a week which we pay them now was what we paid them in 1881. We are now paying 6s. since April last.

CHAIRMAN: Do you think it would keep the children?

Mr. GREEN: No. I think Mrs. MacCallum will agree in that. We have asked the Minister for more money because we know that they should be paid more. The cost is at least one-third greater than it was ten years ago, and therefore they should get more money.

CHAIRMAN: Why does Mrs. Douglass keep all those children;—would it be to their benefit? She said that it kept the school open.

Mr. GREEN: They are anxious to get their children educated. Rose, at the head of the creek, would not have State boys if it were not for the fact that he has his own youngster to be taught. If the school were not there he could not afford to send the child away to a boarding school.

CHAIRMAN: There must be a certain number to attend the school before a school can be opened?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

*Witnesses*—A. W. Lonsdale and T. A. W. Wilson, 30 August, 1916.

**WITNESS:** I think you misunderstood, Mr. Green, my report as regards Stewart and his boys. I did not suggest that he had to walk too far to school. He does not do very much work. I simply showed the distance he had to walk. The Board will remember that they saw Wock-hue, the boy referred to, in the street yesterday.

**Mr. GREEN:** You will find that 60 per cent. of the boys are boys who have been through the court. We have looked upon Wiseman's Ferry as an ideal spot for these children. They really cannot get away from going to school here. We have found that boys who have played truant in Sydney and have been sent up here to the Hawkesbury River, have completely changed, and we have had no further difficulty with them. Take the attendance of some of the children that have been complained about—*(interrupted)*.

**CHAIRMAN:** You had better put that in afterwards.

**Mr. GREEN:** There were 136 school days, and some of the children have attended 136, 133, 131, 127, and so on. Where could you get it better? You could not get it better. There is Mr. Wilson's boy. He makes 111 out of 136. The elder boy makes 102 out of 136. He is not needed to go to school. Mr. Wilson could keep him at home, as he is over 14 years of age.

**CHAIRMAN:** Do many in this district have apprentices?

**Mr. GREEN:** He is apprenticed, and he is going to school now. He wants to get the qualifying certificate, and I know the guardian is quite prepared to let him go on. He need not go to school, yet he makes 102 out of 136. I think it is creditable to the guardians, rather than discreditable. The boys that are with Mrs. Rose all make good time, too. Seventy and a half days is the regular time, but the boys have made twice that. I think the school attendance is excellent. If we get them fed properly, and have proper school attendance, and properly looked after, I do not think that we can expect anything more. My ideal has been to get them into homes where they have some love. The first thing, with regard to the children, is to keep them in their own homes; the next thing is to get them in a home where they get some care and some love. That has been my ideal with regard to my work. I do feel, with regard to the State children in the Hawkesbury River district, that we could not have a better place for them.

**CHAIRMAN:** As a whole, you have very little trouble with them going away from their homes?

**Mr. GREEN:** There are not many.

**WITNESS:** When I was referring to unfavourable features in the district I had in my mind the fact that there was no dentist or chemist, in addition to the doctor.

**Mr. GREEN:** We have our dentist at the dépôt. We have our medical man at the dépôt. These children are not sent down here if they are unhealthy, or if their teeth are not attended to. The dentists at both the dépôt and shelter see that they are attended to before they are sent out.

**CHAIRMAN:** You have no visiting dentists?

**Mr. GREEN:** Mr. Smith goes in the launch. If we have any boy that wants attention he does what is necessary. He lives on the river.

*(Witness retired.)*

**CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Wilson):** Do you want to give evidence, Mr. Wilson?

**Mr. WILSON:** I do not think I can say much.

**CHAIRMAN:** You might come into the box.

**THOMAS ARCHIBALD WILLIAM WILSON, farmer,** Wiseman's Ferry, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

**CHAIRMAN:** *Q.* What are you? *A.* A farmer.

*Q.* Living where? *A.* At Wiseman's Ferry.

*Q.* You have some State children? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* How many? *A.* Three.

*Q.* How long have you had them? *A.* About two or three years, I think.

*Q.* Are those the first children you have had? *A.* There are two of my old boys at the war.

*Q.* They were apprenticed to you? *A.* Yes. I had two, seven years each.

*Q.* They are now grown up and gone to the war? *A.* There was another one, I have reared three—fine lads, too.

*Q.* Were they with you up to the outbreak of the war? *A.* Oh no, within a few months of it.

*Q.* It is some years now since you first took any State children? *A.* I have had State children for the last ten or twelve years.

*Q.* You have three now? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* What ages are they? *A.* One was 16 on 31st January.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** *Q.* He is apprenticed? *A.* Yes.

**CHAIRMAN:** *Q.* Are the other two boys those boys who were sitting with you in court to-day? *A.* Yes—Reg. Parker and Selby McLean.

*Q.* They are boarded out to you? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* You have not had any trouble with them? *A.* No. All boys are a trouble for a start.

*Q.* They have not left, or played truant, or anything like that? *A.* No, they have been all right.

**Mr. GREEN:** *Q.* What sort of cows do the boys milk—cows in full milk? *A.* Dry cows. There have only been ten cows for some time. I think five participate in the milking of them, so that they cannot milk as many as they say.

*Q.* Are they in full milk, or only strippers? *A.* Strippers. As for getting up at 6 o'clock in the morning, I am sure I have not been out of bed after them, and I have not been out of bed at 6 o'clock.

**CHAIRMAN:** *Q.* In winter they get up late? *A.* Yes. They have to do a little work.

*Q.* Is the value of the work they do equal to the amount you get for keeping them? *A.* No. I reckon it is worth 15s. a week to keep boys. If I had any children of my own I would not keep State boys at all.

**Mr. GREEN:** *Q.* There are no children in your family? *A.* No. I have them there for company.

**CHAIRMAN:** *Q.* They do a little work? *A.* Yes. They grow fruit, have hens, cows, and so on, and as for feeding nine horses, it is ridiculous.

*Q.* How many horses do you keep? *A.* I keep about eight or ten foals.

*Q.* You have not to feed them all through? *A.* Only the working horses—perhaps a team of two or three—and the others occasionally.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** *Q.* You have to look after the working horses yourself? *A.* Yes, it costs money to feed them and you would not let boys spoil them.

*Q.* You grow most of your own stuff? *A.* Yes, but some seasons you have to send to town for it.

*Q.* Do you let them handle the chaffcutter? *A.* I buy my chaff as a rule. I buy it cheaper that way.

**Sergeant LONSDALE:** I do not know whether Mr. Wilson contradicts my report in any way.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** *Q.* You admit about the panes of glass being out of the window? *A.* Yes. I bought the cottage next door for the sleeping-out accommodation on the verandah. I bought it so that if I took a fancy to sleeping-out I could do it.

**CHAIRMAN:** *Q.* Is it the custom of the children to run about without their boots? *A.* Yes. If they had their boots on they would not go 100 yards before the boots would be soaking wet.

*Q.* The Department does not insist that they should have boots? *A.* No. They would only be dry for a few minutes.

**Mr. GREEN:** It is a fact that hardly any of the boys attending the school here—not only the State boys, but boys belonging to their parents—wear boots. They are not in danger of getting their feet wet and remaining in damp boots all day.



Witnesses—T. A. W. Wilson and S. J. Rose, 30 August, 1916.

CHAIRMAN: Do you want to put the boys in the box, Mr. Green?

Mr. GREEN: No. (*turning to boys in court*): Come here Parker. Now, my boy, tell me, have you too much work to do? A. No.

Q. Do you think Selby McLean is overworked? A. No.

Q. Are you sure? A. Yes.

Q. Why? A. Because he does not do hardly any.

Mr. WING (*to Parker*): Q. Would you like to go somewhere else, or remain with Mr. Wilson? A. I would like to remain with Mr. Wilson when my time is up.

Q. You hope to get the qualifying certificate at the end of the year? A. Yes.

(Witness and boy Parker retired.)

SOLOMON JOHN ROSE, farmer, of Rosevale, Wiseman's Ferry, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Where do you live? A. At Rosevale, Wiseman's Ferry.

Q. How far from here? A. 2½ miles from here.

Q. Your mother has some State children? A. One, the boy here in court, Keith Maxwell.

Q. How old is he? A. 12 years.

Q. How long has your mother had him? A. About seven weeks.

Mr. GREEN: He was formerly at Mittagong.

Sergeant LONSDALE: This is not the boy that was there when I reported.

CHAIRMAN: Q. He has only been with your mother some weeks, Mr. Rose? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: This is another boy in that home. The other boy has gone to town to have his eyes attended to.

Q. Is he away only temporarily?

Mr. GREEN: We have a letter from him. He has left now. He is apprenticed.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Are you keeping this boy in his place? A. Yes.

Q. Has your mother any other boys? A. Three brothers in the family.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You all have boys boarded-out to you? A. We all live in the one home.

Q. Not three different families? A. No, sir.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How does the boy you have at present get on? A. He is all right—no bother with him.

Q. Do you leave him near the chaffcutter? A. No. He does not feed the horses. He milks four cows. He used to milk three until the other night when another one came in.

Q. Are they in full milk? A. One of them is. Three of them are strippers.

Q. Is he able and strong enough to do that? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you cut chaff yourself? A. We have a horse-gear chaffcutter. The boy has not to feed horses, or anything like that. He gets a few morning sticks in.

Q. He goes to school? A. Yes.

Q. Is he a smart boy? A. Yes. He is smart.

Q. Has he a distinct liking for farming work? A. He does not do any. He only milks and gets the few sticks in, and lights the fire. We draw the wood for the house and cut it up. He might carry it up sometimes. He gets the morning wood in and makes the fire.

Q. What age is he? A. Twelve and three months.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Would you like to ask any questions, Mr. Green?

Mr. GREEN: I would tender a letter written by the boy who was previously with Mrs. Rose. It reads as follows:—

Care of Mrs. B. Mucio, "Fairlands," Kingswood, N.S.W., 14th August, 1916.

Dear Mrs. Rose,—I am just writing you a few lines telling you now where I am living. I am living at Mrs. B. Mucio, near Kingswood. I do not go to school now, but I stop at home and work very hard, nearly all day. I mix pollard up every morning up here for the fowls. I did a lot of work to-day, and I got a penny for that, but when I am a long

time I will get a threepence every Saturday for my day's work. I like this place very well. I have got my glasses now, and I am starting to wear them now, and I will just close now, so good-bye.

I remain, your loving son,

PHILLIP DAWSON.

(Letter tendered and marked Exhibit No. 5.)

WITNESS: The boy has to go 3 miles, including the river, to get to school. It is more than a quarter of a mile across the river.

Mr. GREEN: Q. He has companions coming along the road? A. Yes. There are three besides him—a little girl and two boys.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You have no trouble in getting him to school? A. No; he is a good boy.

Mr. GREEN (*to boy Maxwell, who was in court*): Q. Do you like being at Mrs. Rose's? A. Yes.

Q. You would rather be at Mrs. Rose's than at Mittagong? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you not care for work? A. No.

Q. How is that? A. You have to get up of a morning with no boots on, saw wood, and do harder work at Mittagong than at Mrs. Rose's.

Q. You say you had to saw wood at Mittagong? A. Yes.

WITNESS: He is a good boy. He is quick in his work. Another thing he does is to assist my sister wash-up at night.

(Witness retired.)

Mr. GREEN: I have a letter here from Mr. R. Cameron, of Wiseman's Ferry, which I will read:—

Wiseman's Ferry, 19th August, 1916.

Re report against guardians of State children near Wiseman's Ferry, Hawkesbury River.

I beg to state, as a resident of the place, in business here for the past fifteen years, that I know the people and the homes in each case, and I am very much surprised that any report against these people should have been made.

I know, in each case, that the children are well cared for and looked after. Apart from the fact that the guardians are kind and thoughtful people, the State School Inspector goes his rounds and sees that the children are properly housed and cared for. Mr. Wing, the inspector, does his work thoroughly, and the children look up to him and respect him. It would be hard to find better guardians than Mrs. D. Books, Mr. T. A. W. Wilson, T. Stewart, and Mrs. J. J. Rose.

Yours faithfully,

R. J. CAMERON, J.P.

(The above letter was tendered and marked Exhibit No. 6.)

Mr. GREEN (*continuing*): I have another letter here from Mrs. E. Walmsley, which reads as follows:—

Wiseman's Ferry, 19th August, 1916.

Just to say a few words about Mrs. David Books, which I know for a fact, and was eye-witness, when some of those State children were being taken from her they cried as if parting from their mother, and as a neighbour know Mrs. Books and family, and know them to be kind and affectionate to any children who have been under their care. They are a good-living family, which everyone knows who live in the district, for every opportunity of knowing that State children living with Mrs. Books have a good life and see them almost every day. Coming as they do for bread to my bakery they have the look of children that are well fed, clothed, clean, and tidy. Has had State children in her place for over twenty years to my knowledge, and always heard good reports of her kind motherly ways.

Mrs. E. WALMSLEY.

Private Boarding-house.

(The above letter tendered and marked Exhibit No. 7.)

Mr. GREEN (*continuing*): I have another letter from Mrs. Mary Walmsley, the contents of which are as follows:—

Wiseman's Ferry, 21st August, 1916.

Mr. Green.

Dear Sir,—This is to say that I have frequently visited Mrs. Willie Wilson's, and to the best of my belief, and, in fact, it is my candid opinion, the State children are well treated, and as for Selby McLean I feel sure that no one could overwork him or make him work hard. He cannot be badly treated when he cries if he thinks he is going to be sent away from there.

I remain, yours respectfully,

MARY WALMSLEY.

(The above letter was tendered and marked Exhibit No. 8.)



*Witnesses*—W. H. Rose and D. M. MacCallum, 30 August, 1916.

Mr. GREEN (*continuing*): The next letter I have reads as follows:—

26 Forsyth-street, Glebe Point.

Mr. J. Wing,

I have known you for about eight or nine years, and I have taken a deep interest in the welfare of State children. Some of those little ones receive rough treatment, but I have noticed that since you have had the looking after their interest I notice a great improvement, and I have heard other people say the same. I am constantly on the river, for over twenty-five years, and I see most of them, as I am travelling up four times weekly.

Yours respectfully,

T. W. Rose.

(The above letter was tendered and marked Exhibit No. 9.)

Mr. GREEN: I have a schedule here of the attendance of State children at Wiseman's Ferry public school for this year. I will tender that as an Exhibit. (*Document referred to tendered and marked Exhibit No. 10.*) (*Continuing*): I have a report from Mr. McLean, the school teacher, which reads as follows:—

Public School, Wiseman's Ferry, 18th August, 1916.

*Re Homes for State Children.*

Sir,—I have the honor to submit a short report stating my personal observations in connection with the homes named hereunder:—

(1) Mrs. Books.—This home, as far as the building is concerned, has not a very inviting appearance to the visitor, but I know, from personal observation, that the children are well cared for. They come to school clean and tidy and appear to be well fed. At school they are always supplied with sufficient lunch of good wholesome plain food. The children are contented and are fond of their home. Mrs. Books acts the part of a mother to these unfortunate children, and attends to them as if they were her own. This, to my mind, more than compensates for any deficiency in the way of fine furniture and polish.

(2) T. Stewart.—This home is about 2½ miles from school. One child comes to school from this home. He is a strong boy. I do not consider 2½ miles too far for a strong boy to walk to school. This boy appears to be well nourished and is always fairly well clad.

(3) Mrs. J. Rose.—This is a good home, is 2½ miles from school. One boy attends school from this home. He is well cared for.

Mr. Wing, of the State Children's Relief Department, takes a deep interest in the welfare of these children; in fact, the children look to him as a father and a protector. Owing to his long experience and sound judgment he has been very successful in placing children in suitable homes.

I have, &c.,

ALLAN McLEAN,  
Teacher.

A. W. Green, Esq., State Children's Relief Department,  
Sydney.

(The above letter tendered and marked Exhibit No. 11.)

(*Continuing*): I have a letter here from Miss Wilson of this place. It reads as follows:—

"Riversvale," Wiseman's Ferry, 29th May, 1916.

A. W. Green, Esq., Boarding-out Officer.

Dear Sir,—During my experience of the boarding-out system in this district has been very satisfactory indeed, and cannot speak too highly of the results.

MISS WILSON.

(The above letter tendered and marked Exhibit No. 12.)

WILLIAM HENRY ROSE, farmer, Wiseman's Ferry, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Where do you reside? A. At Rose-dale, Wiseman's Ferry.

Q. What are you? A. Farmer.

Q. Have you any State children? A. Yes, two.

Q. How long have you had them? A. Four months.

Q. Were they the first two you had? A. No. There were three before that.

Q. How long ago was it that you first had any State children? A. About nine months altogether.

Q. What became of the first lot? A. They went back. I wrote to Mr. Green to take them back. They were opening the cheques and letters and so on, and I wished to get rid of one of them.

Q. They did not behave too well? A. One boy did not. He opened several letters belonging to my nephews, Mrs. J. J. Rose's sons, and I thought it better to get rid of the boy and get two other better ones.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Would you send them for the letters? A. My daughter used to get the letters, but they used to run down in front of her and get them, and go on in front of her.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Did the two of them do this? A. Only the one.

Q. Was there another boy? A. There was another boy with him, but I do not think he opened any letters.

Q. Were they both taken away? A. One particular boy was taken away. The other boy went away afterwards.

Q. Since then you have got another boy? A. Yes.

Q. How is he behaving? A. He is a very good boy. I have the two boys in court now (*the two boys referred to then stood up*).

Q. They behave themselves? A. They are very good boys.

Q. Have they too much work to do, do you think? A. No, they have not. They have it pretty well all their own way. They have a pony to ride when they like. One boy milks three cows and gets about half a bucket of milk, and also helps the missus.

Q. Do they ride the pony? A. Yes.

Q. They can ride all right? A. Yes. They go to the ferry and go to church, and things like that.

Q. Do you see that they go to church? A. When they start off, it is with the intention of going to church about every second Sunday. It is about 4 miles down.

Q. How do they go? A. They walk and ride. One walks and the other rides. My daughter, aged 12, walks with them there and back.

Q. Where do they attend school? A. They walk from the farm.

Q. Is it 4 miles? A. To church, it is. It is down the river.

Q. But to school? A. 1½ miles.

Q. Does your little girl go down with them? A. Yes.

Q. They walk down together? A. Yes.

Q. And come back home together? A. Yes. They are two good boys.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Are they of any use for milking? A. The little boy is a first-class milker.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Are they intelligent boys, and getting on well at school? A. Yes. The biggest boy is very good at spelling and reading.

(Witness retired.)

DOROTHEA MARGARET MACCALLUM, member, State Children Relief Board, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. You are the wife of Professor Mac-callum? A. Yes.

Q. I understand that you take a great interest in these children? A. Yes. I have been a member of the State Children's Relief Board for a good many years.

Q. In connection with that work, you happened to be in this district and made some inquiries? A. Yes. I thought I would like to see some of the homes for myself.

Q. Will you tell us what you found, and what you think of them yourself? A. One home I visited in Windsor was not, in my opinion, satisfactory. I was going to report the matter to Mr. Green. It was a place where the little boy delivered newspapers. Mrs. Buckton is the guardian. I thought he was not overworked, but he did not get sufficient facilities for attending school. I went to the school first and saw the schoolmaster. He told me that the boy's attendance had been very bad indeed for the last month or two, also that he had always been late for school, both in the morning and in the afternoon.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Mr. Sullivan gave you that information? A. It was one of the assistant masters, I think. Mr. Sullivan referred me to him. I asked was it the boy's

*Witnesses*—D. M. MacCallum and E. Walmsley, 30 August, 1916.

own fault, and was the boy truanting, and I was told that the boy always brought letters of excuse written by Mrs. Buckton. I visited the home and was told that Mrs. Buckton was not well, but I saw the daughter. I asked could I see the boy, and I did see him. It was then after 10, or about 10 o'clock, and he was still at his breakfast. He had been taking out papers in the morning, and he did not seem to be in any hurry to go to school.

CHAIRMAN: Q. School starts about 9? A. At half-past 9. I had been to the school before that.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Have you anything to say, Mrs. MacCallum, about the boy Orchard—Miss Owen's case at Pitt Town? A. I saw him at the school. I had a talk with the schoolmaster about him. I asked what the boy's antecedents were, because I thought he looked like a boy who had not had every advantage. I found that his father was going about with a tilted cart and six or seven children. The father was a fencer going from one locality to another.

Q. They were his own children? A. Yes. They had neither schooling or family life, so to speak. The result was that Miss Owen got the boy. He was very backward. I thought that apparently his look of depression was the result of a little stutter that he had, so that he had no liking for talking. I was so struck with it myself that I thought I had better find out a little more about him. It was not that the boy was depressed, exactly, but he was a little boy, and a little shy, and not ready with his speech. I visited Miss Owen's home afterwards, and I must say that I was very much impressed with her motherly qualities. I thought it was one of the nicest homes I had seen.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What do you say generally as to the homes? A. I would say that in one case I was not quite so pleased with the woman. She had only the one State child. I thought that the others had shown a very great interest in the children. The sleeping accommodation sometimes was poor, but it was always sufficient in the way of bed clothes and so on. It was, as a rule, as good as their own children had. I never heard any complaints about the children. I asked in every case, "Are they good children," "Do they give any trouble," and so on, and they replied, "No," and I think that that is always a good sign.

Q. You found them clean? A. I found them particularly clean. In the Pitt Town school the schoolmaster made all the State children stand up, and I must say I was more than pleased with their appearance. They were particularly clean, nicely kept, and had intelligent looks. He pointed out to me how many were in the top class of the school, which he thought spoke for itself.

Sergeant LONSDALE: Q. You visited on the 6th July? A. It was only yesterday. It was just the merest chance that I was here. I had no idea that the Board would be here. We were going for a little holiday. I had heard that there had been some inquiry about the children, and I thought I would see them for myself.

Q. Would you tell me why you inquired into the boy, Orchard's case? A. At our last meeting we had some of the reports before us. It was that which decided me to come in this direction, rather than go to the South Coast, where we had intended going.

(Witness retired)

ELIZABETH WALMSLEY, widow, residing at Wiseman's Ferry, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Is your husband alive? A. No. I am a widow.

Q. Have you any State children? A. I have one boy.

Q. What is his name? A. James Sullivan.

Q. How long have you had him? A. He came to me in November.

Q. Is he the first boy you have had from the State? A. I had an apprenticed boy for about five years. This is the second boy.

Q. What became of the apprenticed boy? A. When his time expired, after five and a half years, he went away.

Q. What age was he when he left you? A. 18.

Q. He left to better himself? A. Yes.

Q. Have you heard from him since? A. No.

Q. He is not about the district? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Was he a good boy? A. He was just like the general run of boys—sometimes good and sometimes not.

Q. What is the present boy you have? A. He is very good, but very untruthful. He is in court now.

Q. You say he is not quite truthful? A. He is far from it.

Q. How long have you had him? A. He came in November.

Q. And you have found out that he does not always tell the truth? A. Far from it.

Q. Is that his worst fault? A. It is about his worst fault.

Q. Does he do any little work that you require of him? A. Yes. He is very willing to do little jobs, but he is not able to do much.

Q. You have only the one boy? A. That is all.

Q. Does he go to school? A. Certainly.

Q. How does he get on with his school lessons? A. Not too well, because he did not know what lessons were when he came here.

Q. Do you know where he came from? A. I do not know.

Q. You do not know his history? A. No.

Q. Does he seem satisfied and contented? A. He seems to like the place. He seems to be very well pleased. If you say anything to him about leaving he will cry. I do not know if that is genuine or not, of course.

Q. Have you had to punish him in any way? A. Only once. I am sure he has not been touched since he has been with us excepting that one occasion.

Q. What did you punish him with? A. I punished him with a rod.

Q. How did he take it? A. I did not touch him too much because he was too smart.

Q. Did you stop his porridge in the morning? A. No. That would be the last thing I would do.

Q. You feed him well? A. Yes.

Q. How old is he? A. He told me he was 12 when I got him, but he does not know when his birthday is, or anything about it. I got him as being 12 years of age.

Q. What work does he do for you? A. He feeds the fowls, sometimes sweeps the kitchen, and he will milk a couple of cows every morning, sometimes three, and sometimes more. My youngest boy does the principal part of the work. He has only begun to milk since about the beginning of March. I had a man in to do that kind of thing.

Q. And he milked the cows? A. Yes.

Q. Can the boy milk the cows? A. He can do it fairly well. He milks those that are going off their milk.

Q. You say the boy is in court? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Stand up, Sullivan. (*Does so*.) Q. Can you read? A. Yes.

WITNESS: Q. He has a pony to himself. A. I ride it to get the cows in in the morning.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you ride it bare-back? A. Yes.

Sergeant LONSDALE: Q. What hour does the boy rise? A. I make him rise at about half-past 6.

Q. What does he do, in addition to what you have already told us? A. He does little jobs. I send him perhaps to the bakehouse for bread, or I might send him to the store if I wanted something.

Q. Does he scrub the rooms? A. He washes the linoleum down, but he does not do any scrubbing.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Is the floor covered with linoleum? A. Most of the floors are.

Q. Does he separate milk? A. No. I think he told someone that he did. That was one fib. You can ask him if he separates the milk.

**Witnesses**—E. Walmsley and J. Sullivan, 30 August ; and J. Nagle, 31 August, 1916.

**CHAIRMAN:** Q. Have you a separator? A. Yes, a small one for the use of the house.

Q. Do you turn it by hand? A. Yes.

Q. The boy could do it? A. If I let him, but there are sufficient people there to do it without him—a small child like that.

Q. He rises at 6.30 and has about two and a half hours before he goes to school. He has only five minutes' walk to go to school? A. Yes.

(Witness retired.)

**JAMES SULLIVAN**, the boy referred to in the evidence of previous witness, was then called, and examined as under:—

**CHAIRMAN:** Q. Where do you come from? A. Hanley-street, Leichhardt.

Q. You used to play about there a lot? A. Yes.

Q. Jumping on and jumping off trams? A. Yes.

Q. That is all you did? A. Yes.

Q. It is a bit quiet up here now after that? A. Yes.

Q. Did you sell newspapers in Leichhardt? A. No.

Q. What work did you do for your mother? A. Nothing.

Q. You did nothing but run about the streets? A. Yes.

Q. And then somebody caught hold of you? A. Yes.

Q. Who was it? A. My mother took me to the court.

Q. Did she take your brother with you? A. Yes.

Q. Where is he? A. I do not know where he is.

Q. He went in some other direction? A. Yes.

Q. You were both taken to the court together? A. Yes.

Q. Your mother said she could not control you as you were always running about the streets? A. Yes.

Q. And you said good-bye to your people? A. Yes.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** Q. Have you any sisters? A. Yes.

Q. Where are they? A. One is on the State.

**CHAIRMAN:** Q. Where is she? A. I do not know where she is.

Q. Do you like being up here? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think it better than Leichhardt? A. Yes.

Q. There are no picture-shows up here; I suppose you used to go to the picture-shows down in Leichhardt? A. Yes.

Q. You used to slip in when you got the chance? A. Yes.

Q. You did not pay? A. No.

Q. Do you want to go to Leichhardt for a while? A. No.

Q. Do you want to get work up here? A. No.

**Sergeant LONSDALE:** I wanted to ask Mrs. Walmsley about the boy's church attendance. Perhaps you might question the boy.

**CHAIRMAN:** Q. Do you go to church? A. Not now.

Q. How is that;—you do not live far away from the church? A. No.

Q. Why do you not go?

**Mrs. WALMSLEY** (*from body of court*): I really could not tell you when there was a service of the Church of England here. It has not been for some time.

**CHAIRMAN:** Q. Mrs. Walmsley says you tell a few fibs? A. Yes.

Q. Why do you not speak the truth? You will get into trouble if you keep telling stories, one of these days; you should try and break yourself of the habit; it is much better to tell the truth; do you get any punishment from Mrs. Walmsley? A. No. Only the once.

Q. You got away before she finished with you? A. Yes.

Q. You would rather be up here than down at Leichhardt? A. Yes.

Q. You learn your lessons well? A. Yes. I cannot read yet.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** Q. What class are you in? A. Second-class.

Q. You should be able to read a bit? A. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN:** You will have to stick to your lessons a bit more or you will be kept in.

(Witness retired.)

(At this stage the Investigation was adjourned until 2.15 p.m. on Thursday, 31st August, 1916.)

At 2.15 p.m. on Thursday, 31st August, the Public Service Board (Messrs. Wilshire and Taylor) continued the Investigation into the general working of the State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction, particularly with reference to the conditions under which children are boarded out.

Sitting held Court-house, Wiseman's Ferry, Hawkesbury River.

THURSDAY, 31 AUGUST, 1916.

Present:—

**MR. E. H. WILSHIRE**, Chairman } Public Service Board.  
**MR. J. M. TAYLOR**, Member }

**Mr. A. W. GREEN**, Boarding-out Officer, &c., State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction.

**Mr. H. L. MAXTED**, Acting Chief Inspector, School Attendance and Probation Officer, &c., State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction.

**Mr. J. WING**, Senior Inspector, &c., State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction.

**Sergeant A. W. LONSDALE**, Police Department, Sydney.

**Mr. R. W. GRIFFITHS**, Shorthand-writer.

**JOHN NAGLE**, orchardist, Wiseman's Ferry, was called, sworn, and examined as under:—

**CHAIRMAN:** Q. What are you? A. An orchardist.

Q. Living where? A. About 1 mile from Wiseman's Ferry, down the river.

Q. You have an orchard there? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been living there? A. About thirty years practically.

Q. All your life pretty well? A. Yes.

Q. Have you at any time had any State children? A. No.

Q. You never applied for any? A. No.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. With children of your own? A. No.

Q. What do you do about labour? A. I do all my own labour, because I only have work for one man.

Q. You know a number of the State children boarded out in this district? A. Yes.

Q. You wrote several letters to the Department about State children? A. I wrote to Mr. Hackett.

Q. You wrote those letters intending that they should be brought under the notice of the Department? A. did not. I wrote to Mr. Hackett and told him that this was a small community. I said I did not like my name

Witness—J. Nagle, 31 August, 1916.

mentioned, and he wrote back and said anything I might say to him would be in strict confidence. It does not matter, as it happens.

Q. It does not matter about the letters being read? A. No, it does not matter, in a way. I read the newspaper *Truth*, and a lot of letters were written about the same time. There was a lot of correspondence, and I reckoned to myself that the State children were not being treated fairly.

Q. What knowledge have you on that point;—can you pick out a particular case? A. I reckon that a married man who applies for, say, five children, lives on the proceeds of those five State children.

Q. That is what you believe? A. Yes. It helps to keep the thing going. If he has not an orchard, and he lives on the banks of this Hawkesbury River, it is simply to live on the proceeds of those children. Then, again, if he had an orchard and he applies for children, they work for him and he gets so much a week for keeping them. If a man and wife have no children and get a State child, he is treated very well. If it is a grown-up family he is also treated very well and you could not treat your own better.

Q. That is only your opinion? A. Yes.

Q. On what do you base that opinion;—how do you come to that conclusion? A. Because I hear a lot of rumours about this and that—ill-treatment and other things.

Q. Have you visited many homes? A. I have not visited them.

Q. This is really on rumour? A. It is all on rumour, what you hear. I never go about very much.

Q. You have not heard their side of the question? A. The State child's side?

Q. And also the guardian's side? A. No. I have not heard them. They would not squeak.

Q. Suppose the children look remarkably well and seem well clothed and there are a number of them in the one place, that would not support what you say about them?

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. And if they appeared well and healthy and contented? A. When the inspector comes to see them?

CHAIRMAN: Q. At any time? A. Where do you get that generally?

Q. Here in the district; there are several of them; the inspector does not tell them when he is coming? A. It gets about all the same.

Q. You think they prepare for the inspector? A. I do.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you know of any individual case where a boy or a girl has been badly treated, badly housed, or badly looked after? A. Is Mr. Fenton Brown here?

Q. No? A. The Misses Brown have a State Children's Home.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Up the river? A. Yes. Fenton Brown lives on the other side.

Mr. GREEN: His place is further up the river.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Has he State children? A. Yes. He is supposed to have. Children run away. It is Fenton Brown's children again. Mr. Loomes, the policeman here, goes after them.

Q. Not the present police officer? A. Oh, no.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How many have you heard about who have run away from Fenton Brown's? A. A good few.

Q. How many? A. Four or five.

Q. Within what period? A. That I could not say.

Q. How far back would you go? A. Two or three years.

Q. You have heard that they have run away? A. Yes.

Q. For what reason? A. I heard that when Miss Brown's State children play up with her they send to Fenton to come over and fix them up.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. What do you mean—to chastise them? A. Yes.

Q. You heard that? A. Yes. I heard again that they had to pick up all the oranges, and he tied them to orange trees with trace chains because they did not pick them up.

Q. Who told you that? A. I would not divulge the name.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How long ago? A. Oh, a good while now.

Q. Is there anything else that you heard that is likely to be true—a statement made to you in confidence? A. What I say I could not swear. It is only what I heard.

You can tell us what you heard on authority which you considered sufficiently good to believe.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. And whom could you trust? A. That is what I wrote to Mr. Hackett on. It is a small community, and if I was to tell everything I knew I could not live in the district, could I, honestly?

CHAIRMAN: Q. You have made certain statements, and they have published them in the public press? A. He told me not. He said he did not put them in *Truth*.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. They went to the Minister of Public Instruction? A. I was only giving my version on what I read in *Truth*. I have seen those statements in *Truth*. I say the same. What is wanted is a home for the children without boarding them out.

Q. What has appeared in *Truth*, I take it, applies to the dairying districts; this is not a dairying district, but a fruit-growing district? A. Yes. You hear again—do not these children pull fruit and get the cases ready for the steamer? You would not like one of your own children to do the same.

Q. You say they are overworked? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of any individual case yourself, where you have seen a boy or a girl actually overworked? A. Where I live there is only one State child, who goes past my place, and he is one in a family. I do not think he has ever been chastised since he has been there.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Is that Stewart's? A. Yes.

Q. The boy Wockhue is the boy? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think he is well treated? A. Yes, I do. I do not think they treat them in the way Mr. Hackett put it they should be. There should be a home for them.

Q. Does Mr. Hackett sign the communications in *Truth*? A. No.

Q. Why do you introduce his name in connection with it? A. I told you I was only writing to Mr. Hackett personally.

Q. What you have told him in your letters has appeared in *Truth*? A. No. They were strictly confidential.

Q. How do you connect Mr. Hackett with *Truth*? A. His name is at the bottom of the letters.

Q. Does he sign the articles appearing in *Truth*? A. His name is at the bottom.

CHAIRMAN: Q. If you have information in your possession, and you are not prepared to give us that information, then we cannot rectify what you say is taking place? A. I am not much good to you.

We visited a lot of these people, and some of the children appeared to be remarkably well kept. The children all seemed to be contented, to be well fed, and well clothed.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. We also saw the sleeping accommodation. A. You have been up the river?

Yes. Up Webb's Creek, up the Hawkesbury River and down the Hawkesbury.

Q. If you have the information you should give it to us? A. I have not got the children at my place. I often swore that if I was living next to Fenton Brown he would not hurt another child.

Q. Has he any State children? A. He is supposed to have.

We saw Miss Brown's children this morning.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How do you know that Fenton Brown thrashed the children? A. That is what I know about Fenton Brown.

Q. Did the person who told you see any thrashing? A. I do not think he did. It came from some one else.

Q. We want to know the start of it; it might come through half-a-dozen channels? A. A next-door neighbour will not put his neighbour away.



Witness—J. Nagle, 31 August, 1916.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You admit that a story on being passed on may become grossly exaggerated? A. It is bound to, but I have my own opinion.

Mr. GREEN: Q. If the children attend the public school every day, and the teacher is satisfied with their clothing and the way they are fed, is not that some evidence that they are being looked after? A. Yes. That is some evidence, but a schoolmaster is not going to say anything to lose his scholars.

Q. You do not think the schoolmaster tells the truth? A. I do not say he does not tell the truth—every man for himself.

Q. What do you mean by losing his job—if he knows those things are going on and he does not report them to the Department he might lose his job? A. The school will run down.

Q. Have you ever heard of any particular case of a person thrashing a child on the river? A. Seen them?

Q. Yes, or heard of them? A. No, I have not. I do not travel about to see anyone with State children. You hear in the district about them being hit with horse-winkers, and so on.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you do journalistic work? A. No, I do not. I am no scholar, worse luck.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you want those letters that you have written read? A. I do not wish to hear them. I can tell you I was surprised to be here to-day.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. It is not quite a fair thing for any person to write anything when he is not prepared to stand by the statements he has made? A. I can say that I am not prepared; at the same time I believe it.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How can you believe it if you have no evidence?

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You admit that it may be wrong or it may be right? A. It may be wrong or it may be right.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You say:

I have seen the poor children coming up to their guardians by boat; they look that miserable and frightened one feels sorry for them; but that is not the end, their worst time is coming. I often think they should be in "Black Maria," as it looks no worse.

Have you seen them in that condition? A. I have seen them coming up with a matron.

Q. Brought up in the first instance? A. Yes, and the poor children do not know where they are going.

Q. They might think they are going to prison? A. I would not like to be in the same position.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. But they may be going to a very good home, and be scared to death until they become acquainted with their new home? A. What I said is not evidence about those people—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: Q. This is something you say yourself? A. I have been on the boat when they were being landed.

Q. Then you say:

Now, there were several got children last week. There is one woman I will tell you about first. She got four girls. . . .

then you continue:—

. . . This woman has a husband who has to live in a little hut away from the house; she used to give him his butter once, but she has refused it to him now. . . .

A. I have heard that.

Q. Then:—

. . . He is much older than her. If she would do that, how about the children. . . .

A. I have heard that.

Q. Did you hear it on good authority? A. Well, pretty good. The man is away in the hospital now.

Q. That is up Webb's Creek? A. Yes. I think it is pretty fair dinkum. What I said at first about having no home and five children—(interrupted).

Q. You have not had any children, and you do not know what it costs to keep a child per week? A. I do not know.

Q. Do you know what the State allows? A. Six shillings now.

Q. It was 5s. until recently; do you think they would have much left after feeding the children? A. When the husband is living there and is supposed to do a day's work, and they have five or six children there I think a man can manage—(interrupted).

Mr. GREEN: Q. What particular home do you speak of where the man goes out and gets a day's work, and at his place they have five children? A. Bill Rose's.

Q. He is not a casual labourer; he has regular employment every day; is he not employed by the shire? A. Yes.

Q. Is he not just close by here? A. No. He has shifted.

Q. Do you think it would cost more than 5s. to keep a child? A. Yes, I think it would.

CHAIRMAN: Q. That would be hardly a shilling a day. A. I do not think they get much of a home.

Q. They look very well? A. You go along the river bank and you see a man's trousers cut down for the kiddies.

Q. They look healthy and well fed; they do not look as if they are starved? A. Well, I do not mix up with them like that.

Q. Can you see any difference in them comparing them with the other children in the district? A. They are all marked.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Can you pick out a State child in the district by looking at him? A. In a country school you can.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You could go to the school and pick out the State children from the children of the local residents? A. I have not been living here for years for nothing. I would know which children go to school.

Q. Can you go over and pick them out? A. The little black felt hats.

Q. But their appearance generally, whether emaciated, thin, starved, or so on? A. I would not say that.

Q. You could not pick them out like that? A. Oh, no.

Q. Then how do you know? How do you distinguish them from the children of the district? They are living with the families, with the children of the house themselves; do you not think you have been making rather rash statements? A. I do not think so, somehow.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How long have you known this sort of thing to be going on? A. I have taken notice of it since childhood. I went to school with them.

Q. Why have you not let the inspectors know? A. I do not know about that.

Q. Why did you write to Mr. Hackett? A. How many are writing to him besides me?

Q. Why did you write to him? A. I thought I might be helping the kiddies a bit, somehow.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Take the boy in court now; he is a State boy; does he look anything different from any other boy? A. He is pretty tidy to-day.

Q. Look at his face; is it any different to an ordinary child? A. He is a human being.

Q. We saw a number of the children to-day in the school and we could not see any difference in the children? A. They are reared here away from their homes. When they leave here they can grow tomatoes, pull corn, pull peaches, and so on. If they had a home it would be better for them.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Were you not reared on one of these farms? A. I was reared on a farm.

Q. Is not that the same sort of thing that you learnt? A. I had my aunt and relations there.

Q. Those boys are learning just the same as you learnt? A. But they are boarded out.

Q. If you were reared in the same atmosphere, in the same school, and on the same sort of farm, what difference is there? A. If I had not a farm where would I get a living?

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You mean when a boy comes to be 14 years of age he may have a distinct dislike for farm

work, but a distinct liking for plumbing, or something like that, and therefore some attempt should be made to help him in that direction? A. Give him a trade.

Q. Sort them out and see if there are boys fit for a trade, fit for farming, or as the case may be, and then give them a trade or send them on to a farm? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Do you not know that many boys when they come to 14 years of age are shifted from the district? A. A lot of them are, but some of them get paid by the day.

Q. They are not all left here after 14 years of age? A. That may be, but a lot of them receive wages and work for 10s. and £1 per week.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. That is after they are out of their time? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Have you employed any of them? A. No.

Q. Do you not know that many of them have obtained farms of their own? A. Yes.

Q. And some of them have gone to the war? A. Yes.

Q. Some of them have come back and were received by all the people of the district? A. Yes.

Q. That does not seem to me to be very bad? A. That would be very rare, though.

Mr. GREEN: Q. You mean the number who come back from the war would be very rare? A. Yes.

Q. You cannot make myriads, when you have only a few? A. I reckon they want a trade.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You would put them all to a trade instead of putting them on farms? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Who would work the land? A. There is none to work, not on the Hawkesbury River.

Q. Do you not want labour on the Hawkesbury River? A. No; there is enough labour here already. They cannot get wages here.

Mr. GREEN: Q. What size is your farm? A. It is a farm of about 13 acres.

Q. You have no orchard? A. 1,300 trees.

Q. How much a tree would they bring you in? A. When you have a mixed lot it is awkward to put it together.

Q. Would it be 10s. a tree? A. No, I do not think so.

Q. Would it be 7s. a tree? A. We will say £300 in the year.

Q. From the orchard? A. On 12 acres.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You have 1,300 trees? A. Yes. It is a bit of a jungle, but if you counted them up there would be that many.

CHAIRMAN: Q. It pays you very well? A. I just live out of debt.

Q. You do not pay much for labour? A. I am only just living.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. The cost of living is so high? A. And Randwick, too. I go to the races.

CHAIRMAN: That is a trade I do not think you will find to be profitable.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. If you had stuck to your money and banked it you would be better off? A. Yes. I am broke now, but when the fruit comes on and I get a bit of money I will go down again.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you carry on a bookmaking trade, or do you only just bet? A. I only bet. I cannot leave home now, because I have a little work to do. I can tell you I have not been 3 miles up the river in three years. That is in reply to the gentleman who asked me had I been round the place.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. But you have made a sweeping statement about the people living there, but yet you do not know them personally? A. That is so.

Q. Did you not think it was a sort of public duty to look into this matter yourself;—you reported it, you know? A. It looked that way.

Mr. GREEN: It amounts to this, that you have been taking the characters of several people away.

CHAIRMAN: In your letter you say:

The children are always clearing away from him; then the police are sent for.

A. Yes. I have seen that.

You continue:

I was at a place not long ago. They were just having tea. I sat down close by as I had my supper. The State boy passed his plate (tin) up for meat—corned meat. He got a little slice, as thin as a wafer, and a look not to come again. I suppose had I not been there he would have been turned down. I tell you I felt it, too.

Q. Do you say that he looked half starved? A. He did not look starved. That is where I made a mistake. I did not think I would be here—although I do not care; they can do what they like outside. I am as good a man as the next. I saw that. It is a good many years ago.

Q. That is not a present-day condition? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How many years ago was that? A. Five or six years ago.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Has that family got any State children now? A. I do not think so.

Q. They are still living here? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. The only man you mentioned was Fenton Brown; he was the chief offender? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. When were you at Fenton Brown's place? A. It is only what you hear. I was never there.

Q. How long ago is it that the incident you speak of, that is, the boy being chained to the fruit-tree, took place? A. A couple of years.

Q. As recent as all that? A. Yes.

Q. Did that appear in the newspaper *Truth*? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you know Miss Brown's place? A. No. I know they have a State Home.

Q. They are people who are fairly well off? A. I could not say.

Q. They have a big orchard? A. Yes. But what do they have the State children for—why, for this big orchard?

Q. Well, I presume to give a hand in picking fruit in the season, and to get the children to do odds and ends about the place is not a crime; it certainly is not a crime to make a boy do some work, as long as he is not overworked, or ill-fed, or badly clothed? A. That is a case that wants looking at.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Did you have to work as a lad, when you went to school? A. No.

Q. You never did a tap of work before you went to school? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You did as you liked? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Do the boys, not State children, do a bit of work before they go to school? A. They do not do much.

CHAIRMAN: Q. They get the cows in, milk the cows, and so on? A. This is not a dairying district.

Q. Several of them have cows? A. It is not fair to make a little boy, like the boy in court, a boy of 14 or 15 years of age, do the work.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. If what you say is right—(interrupted)? A. It is done.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Would there be any harm in asking the boy in court to pick fruit? A. No.

Q. You suggest the inspector allows it to go on? A. The inspector is not always here.

Q. Do you see the inspector around here from time to time? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you know of any State boys who have been in the district, now running about and cannot get work? A. No.

Q. They are all in employment as far as we hear? A. There are no wages to be obtained up here.

(At the invitation of the Chairman Mr. J. G. Rose, of Webb's Creek, then asked questions.)

Mr. ROSE: Q. Have you got any further information about the children from Webb's Creek? A. Only what I state in the letter.

Witness—J. Nagle, 31 August, 1916.

Q. How did you get the information? A. I heard it, Joe, on pretty good authority. Do not get worried—I do not care.

Q. I have to defend myself; I have a character; I have children under my care, in addition to my own; I will fight for them? A. So will I.

Q. I do not want my character dragged along the road? A. Did I drag it?

Q. You have been making false reports on what you heard? A. That is the trouble.

Q. You have nothing to substantiate what you said; it is only what you heard? A. Did I say anything about you?

Q. No; that is what I want to know? A. We will leave it go at that.

Q. I am not guilty, and it hurts me very much? A. How many children have you of your own?

Q. One? A. How many State children?

Q. At present four? A. Well.

Q. What has that to do with it;—do you know why I have them? A. No. Let us know.

Q. I will; it is to keep the school going, not because I make anything out of the children, because the 5s. a week does not keep them? A. Have you any work for them to do?

Q. Very little? A. Yes—"Very little." What time do they get up?

Q. When they like, as a rule; sometimes I call them when the sun gets on the place? A. It is no good, Joe.

Q. Did you hear any report about me? A. No; not about you. Someone said that I meant the lot. I do not mean the lot.

Mr. GREEN: Q. You are reducing the whole of the characters of the people who have State children to nothing; it is not fair; it is not right to give Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Douglass, or anybody else a bad character without giving them a chance to clear themselves? A. I reckon they should not have them.

Mr. GREEN: You should say whom you mean, and about whom you have heard.

Mr. ROSE: Q. It is your opinion that they should be in a home? A. They should be put in a home and taught a trade. The people on the river who have plenty of money, let them compete with labour.

Q. Are you aware that there are more men out of the country who have gone to the war than there have been from the trades? A. Which do you mean? The State children?

Mr. ROSE: Taking it on the average.

CHAIRMAN: Q. More country people in the majority? A. I reckon they make a better soldier.

Q. If you huddle a lot of people in trades in the towns there is sure to be a slump; I think the system we have now is a splendid one. A. What do they learn, tell me? Farming; what you learnt.

Mr. ROSE: Q. I have orcharding; I also do a little dairying? A. Do they milk?

Q. Sometimes? A. Oh!

Q. The most I milked was fourteen cows? A. That is not all, Joe.

Q. It is not sixty or seventy, like they milk on the rivers? A. The youngsters milk.

Q. I milk them, unless it is when they are going off? A. You get up in the summer time, do your work, milk the cows, and you would have to get up pretty early to do that. It is only bluff.

Q. There is no bluff about it? A. You cannot bluff me.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You do not believe it? A. No.

Mr. ROSE: Q. I would like you to bring something to substantiate your evidence? A. You convict yourself, the more you talk.

Mr. ROSE: So do you.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What do you say? A. I say they get up for Mr. Rose, milk for him, and then go to school.

Mr. ROSE: I am not a sweater. You can ask the children. I defy anybody, you or anybody else, to show that I am a sweater.

Mr. TAYLOR: Can you suggest any evidence to bear out the statements you have made in your letter?

CHAIRMAN: Q. Would you like to ask Mr. Rose any questions in the box? A. No. We have had enough now.

Q. You say he is bluffing, and that you do not believe him? A. He gets up and milks fourteen cows!

Mr. ROSE: Q. It is only once in a year? A. You have only one child; you have four State children; you milk fourteen cows; and do you not also work Mrs. Douglass' and other farms?

Q. I worked a portion of Mrs. Douglass' farm last year? A. You have your own farm.

Q. Yes? A. You have one child of your own, 7 years old. Does he do any milking?

Q. It is a little girl? A. Oh! You work your own farm and do a bit of contracting on these other farms.

Q. Mine is only a young orchard; I have no fruit yet to pick? A. The youngsters get up when the sun is up?

Q. Sometimes they do; at other times they will get up after daylight, as they like? A. We will say that is right, then.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You do not believe it? A. No.

Mr. ROSE: The trouble is that he has nothing to substantiate his statements.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You cannot give the Board the name of anybody whom we might call who would give evidence to substantiate what you say in your letter? A. Put it this way: Mr. Rose has me set now. I am a neighbour. I am the local barber, and I have often cut his hair. He has me set. If I was to go round stating what I knew I could not live here.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Why did you talk at all if you did not have anything to go on? We want to know the very worst; if you know anything, why do you not give it? You go and stab these people in the back by writing to Mr. Hackett? A. He is going to reform the whole thing.

Q. Give us something to reform it on? A. You will see.

Q. If he can only produce evidence like yours, how will he reform it?

Mr. ROSE: Q. Did you write to Mr. Hackett in reference to my working Mrs. Douglass' farm? A. No. I would not have time to write that.

Q. Did you not say that I worked a farm—(interrupted)? A. That is what we have been arguing about.

Mr. ROSE: You have no correspondence to that effect.

Mr. GREEN: There is nothing reflecting on you, Mr. Rose, in the evidence.

Mr. TAYLOR: Not by name.

CHAIRMAN: The statements are rather general.

WITNESS: What other people have written is printed every week in the paper.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. What you read in *Truth* just squares with your experience and what you have heard? A. Yes.

Q. You think what is in *Truth* happens all round? A. Yes.

Q. You have not made a success on the land? A. Oh, I do not know.

Q. You did not work when you were young? A. No. I was never overworked and always overfed.

Q. You never learnt to work? A. I took it on at 14 or 16 years of age. I did not like it until I got to 20.

Q. Then you got to the bookies? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: You had better leave the bookies off.

Mr. ROSE: They might get his orchard if he does no mind.

WITNESS: I was lucky I was not on the State. My mother died when I was five months old.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You would like to see any person poor on the State well treated? A. Yes.

Q. We are here to see that there is no wrong-doing in the system which is at present in vogue; if you can put us on to anything we will investigate it? A. If I had State boy I would teach him to smoke, to drink, and all the vices imaginable, and it would not be of any use to him or me.

Q. A boy would not learn to smoke and drink up here?  
A. Oh, I do not know.

Q. You have not seen the boys about smoking? A. No.  
(Witness retired.)

JOSEPH THOMAS ROSE, farmer, Webb's Creek, was called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. What are you? A. Farmer.

Q. Where do you live? A. At Webb's Creek.

Q. Have you had any State children living with you?  
A. Yes.

Q. How long have you had State children? A. About eight years. I have four now.

Q. Do you know what became of the first children;—did they turn out to be farmers? A. One boy is in Sydney. He has a trade of some description. I could not say what he is doing. His brother went down last week, and another boy, a third one, is working in a box factory. Those are the three boys I have had.

Q. They were the first boys? A. Yes.

Q. How many have you now? A. Three boys now.

Q. How long have you had them? A. I think it must be about three months that I have had two of them.

Q. You have a girl also? A. Yes.

Q. What do the boys do for you on the farm? A. When they get up one boy gets the cows. The cows are somewhere about my 160 acres.

Q. About what time would that be—about 5 o'clock? A. Nearer sunrise than any time, in winter and in summer also.

Q. What time do they get up—about sunrise, or before sunrise? A. Between sunrise and daylight. It varies. Perhaps I get up at about or sunrise.

Q. The most you have had to milk has been fourteen cows? A. Yes. That is all the cows I possess.

Q. They would take a fair amount of milking? A. When they are in full milk I always milk myself.

Q. How many of the fourteen would you milk? A. Seven or eight of them.

Q. And the children? A. One of the big boys, whom I had apprenticed, and who went to town about four months ago, helped me milk the cows.

Q. He was over 14? A. Yes. He was over 17, and was working for wages.

Q. How many would he milk? A. Four or five.

Q. What about the little children? A. None of them have milked.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. The children under 14? A. None under 14 have milked. There is the boy Cook there. He was learning to milk.

Q. He would be put on strippers? A. Yes.

Q. You would not put him on a cow in full milk? A. No. I think too much of my herd to put them on like that.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you make the butter? A. I separate the milk and supply the butter factory. I send some cream to Foley Brothers. I am not sending any cream now. Our butter factory is now closed up.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do the children have a lot of milk?  
A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do they get milk with their porridge? A. Yes.

Q. What do you feed them on? A. They have porridge for breakfast, and also bread or toast and butter.

Q. How often do they have meat? A. We have had to put one or two off meat because they were getting too much meat.

Q. Do they get meat once a day? A. Yes.

Q. Do they get a hot meat meal every day? A. Yes. It is very rarely that there is ever less than three courses of vegetables.

Q. Are they useful to you for the amount of work they do? A. They are of a little use in doing such things as feeding fowls, or a few chickens, or a few ducks. We

have between twenty and thirty ducks, and they collect the eggs, as well as feeding the ducks and the fowls. Sometimes I have some young pigs, and the boys will help me to give them feed. They take some cobs and throw them in to the pigs.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you put them on to do any chaff-cutting? A. If they like to get hold of the handle, but I very seldom do any.

Q. It is a dangerous implement? A. Any chaff there is to cut I cut it myself. The boys might turn the handle. They might put a little barley or sorghum through.

Q. They do it themselves? A. Yes.

Q. Are they under 14? A. The boy who does it is over 15.

Q. Have you warned them about the danger of the chaffcutter? A. Yes. I am there with them. The instrument has one knife, and not two.

Q. You have warned them about the danger of going to the chaffcutter unless you are there yourself? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do they attend school during the day? A. Yes.

Q. From nine to four? A. Yes. They are always ready for school.

Q. The work they do is before they go to school and after they leave school? A. Yes.

Q. What about Sunday? A. They do nothing, unless it is to throw a little shelled corn to the fowls. We do not believe in working on Sundays. Everything is done on Saturday.

Q. There are a number of boys boarded out? A. Yes.

Q. Have you heard of any of them going wrong, or becoming a nuisance in the district, or becoming lazy after their time is up? A. No doubt there are black sheep in all flocks. Some of them are not good boys; some of them run away, and you cannot trust them. I have had some who have run away. Somebody has been talking about them, and all sorts of yarns have been told. It looks a bad rignarole on paper.

Q. Have you heard of a boy being thrashed and chained up to a fruit-tree with trace chains? A. No, I have not.

Q. Did you hear that story before? A. Not before I came here.

Q. What have you to say as to the statements made by Mr. Nagle? A. Well . . . .

Mr. GREEN: Q. How long was he at your farm? A. I have not known him to be there at all.

Q. You heard what he said with regard to your treatment of the boys, and the way they were worked: is there any truth in the statement that you work the boys before and after school to any extent? A. No. It is absolutely absurd.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What do you say as to the allowance made by this State? Do you think it is sufficient? A. I have never figured it out. I think it just about makes ends meet to keep the children. The allowance is 5s. or 6s. a week. I have not got any payment for my boarders for some considerable time. They have been apprenticed to me. It is only during the last three months that I took some other children, and only then because there was some rumour of homes being reduced. I took them in to help keep the school going. There must be a certain number to attend the school to prevent the school being closed.

Q. You have a child at school, and you want that child to be educated? A. Yes. It is a big consideration to my wife and self.

Q. Some of the other people feel the same way; you could not send your children to another school in the district? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you own the land you work? A. Yes.

Q. How many acres have you? A. Three hundred acres.

Q. Have you anybody to help you besides the apprenticed boy? A. No. Sometimes I put a man on. When there is a rush I always employ labour for anything that I cannot do myself.



*Witnesses—J. T. Rose, A. McLean, and J. Wing, 31 August, 1916.*

*Q. How many acres of that area are cultivated? A. About 15 acres. The rest is a run for stock. I only bought it recently. I have possession of some of it, but I have not purchased it. It is an entailed property. I am purchasing my cousin's interests.*

*Mr. GREEN: Q. What do the trees give you in full bearing? A. It would depend on the time they come on.*

*Q. Take the lowest average? A. On some trees you will pull as much as ten cases.*

*CHAIRMAN: Q. Are you speaking of peaches? A. You might get 6d. a case clear from the agents.*

*Mr. TAYLOR: Q. What sort of fruit would that be? A. Different kinds of peaches.*

*Mr. GREEN: Q. That is when there is a glut? A. Yes. I have had to send money down to pay the freight on them.*

*Mr. TAYLOR: Q. How often does it happen? A. I have heard of it in different places on the river.*

*Mr. GREEN: Q. What does an orchardist reckon a full-bearing tree would bring him in—5s., 10s., or 15s. a tree? A. I have no full-bearing trees.*

*Q. Have you any citrus trees in full bearing? A. Yes.*

*Q. What would they bring you in? A. Last year I had five trees in full bearing, and cleared a little over £1 a tree.*

*Q. Is that a fair average? A. That is above the average.*

*Q. What would be a fair average? About 15s. a tree? A. Perhaps less than that.*

*Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you go in co-operation as far as marketing your fruit is concerned? A. No, I am sorry to say.*

*Q. You are at the mercy of the agents in Sydney? A. Yes. We have to send everything through the agents.*

*CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to ask any questions, Mr. Nagle?*

*Mr. NAGLE: We have had our argument. It is no use arguing.*

*(Witness retired.)*

ALLAN McLEAN, school teacher, in charge of Wiseman's Ferry Public School, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

*CHAIRMAN: Q. How long have you been here? A. Five years in May last.*

*Q. You have a number of State school children attending the school? A. Yes.*

*Mr. GREEN: Q. How many children have you in the school? A. About thirteen on the roll; about twelve attend now; one boy is away injured.*

*Mr. GREEN: Q. What is the total enrolment? A. Thirty-three.*

*Mr. TAYLOR: Q. So that it is practically one-third of the enrolment? A. Yes.*

*Mr. GREEN: Q. Do they come regularly to school? A. Yes.*

*Q. They all put in good time? A. Yes.*

*Q. Do they come properly clothed? A. Yes.*

*Q. They bring their lunches with them? A. Yes.*

*Q. It is sufficient, as far as you know? A. Yes. I make it my business to have a glance at them. I have always found them with sufficient lunches, and apparently good, wholesome food.*

*Q. In your opinion they are fairly treated by their guardians in the district, as far as you know? A. Yes.*

*Q. You know Mrs. Books' home up Webb's Creek? A. Yes.*

*Q. Have you visited that home in any other capacity than that of teacher? A. I have visited the place about twice. On each occasion I was asked up by Mr. Books to come and see a child that was ill. I went after 12 o'clock at night, about 2 o'clock in the morning. Mrs. Books was nursing the child, about 3 or 4 years of age. I was struck with the way she treated that child; it was just as if it was her own child. She was very kind and motherly. The child appeared to be very fond of her.*

*Q. Do you think the children are properly cared for there? A. Yes, as far as I can see.*

*Q. You find them well-behaved? A. Yes. We have little corrections to make. They are not models of children at first, but they are all amenable to discipline.*

*Q. Have you heard of any cases of ill-usage along the river? A. No. I have not had a complaint by a child or guardian during my five years here. I have not even heard of any.*

*Q. In your opinion, the boarding-out system, as far as this portion of the district is concerned, is satisfactory? A. Yes. I cannot see that you could get anything better.*

*Q. Have you heard any complaints about the way the inspector does his duty? A. No. In fact, from what I have seen myself his visits have been of great advantage to the place.*

*Q. You have not had any complaints about Mr. Wing? A. No.*

*Q. Do you think that the people get to know readily of his coming, so that his inspections are not of much value? A. I do not know when he comes here. I do not know that anyone is aware of his visits.*

*Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Does he come along by boat? A. In the ordinary way, by the mail-boat.*

*Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You have not heard about a case where an orchardist ill-treated a child by tying him up to a tree and thrashing him? A. No. I have not heard of anything like that.*

*CHAIRMAN: Q. Is there any great difference in the State children, comparing them with the children born in the district? A. No.*

*Q. Are they ragged or ill-kept? A. No. The children in this district do not always clothe the same as in the town. The children come to school bare-footed, and children whose parents could afford something better, if they wished.*

*Q. Better to have dry feet than wet feet in boots? A. Yes. That is what I say.*

*(Witness retired.)*

JOSEPH WING, Senior Inspector, State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction, was called, sworn, and examined as follows:—

*Mr. GREEN: Q. You made a report to the Department? A. Yes (produced). (Report tendered, and marked Exhibit 13.)*

*Q. You made a report on Stewart's home? A. Yes.*

*Q. As regards Selby McLean, you also made a report? A. Yes (produced). (Report tendered, and marked Exhibit 14.)*

*Q. You made a report on Mrs. Books' home? A. Yes (produced). (Report tendered, and marked Exhibit 15.)*

*Q. You also reported on Mr. J. Rose's home at Webb's Creek? A. Yes (produced). (Report tendered, and marked Exhibit 16.)*

*Q. You also made a report about Phillip Dawson, car of Mrs. J. Rose? A. Yes (produced). I find the distance is about 2½ miles in that case. (Report tendered, and marked Exhibit 17.)*

*Q. You also made a report commencing "With reference to the concluding remarks of the police?" A. Yes (produced). (Report tendered, and marked Exhibit 18.)*

*Q. What is your practice when you first get an application? A. I visit the home, make inquiries as to the character of the people, whether they are of repute or otherwise.*

*Q. Are the applications signed by any certifying person? A. By a clergyman and magistrate, or other approved person.*

*Q. In every instance? A. Yes.*

*Q. When you are visiting these homes, do you think that the information gets around the district very quick that you have arrived here, or do you take some steps to obviate that? A. I strike in at all points of the river. Sometimes I strike in at Mangrove, at Wiseman's Ferry and other places.*

Q. Can you suggest any other scheme of getting to the homes without your inspection being found out? A. There is no way of doing it which I know of. If there were I would carry it out.

Q. You often, I understand, camp in a boat? A. I camp in the boat for the reason that I get in contact with people on the store boats, the fishermen, and working men along the banks of the river. They all trust me.

Q. How often do you camp out in the boat? Do you camp out on each trip? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. It is a small boat which you hire? A. Books' launch.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How often do you camp out on each visit? A. Five or six nights. I camp out on different portions of the river. I paid my first visit to this river about twenty-eight years ago. I then started from Mangrove Creek in a pulling-boat. I had to camp with guardians. I saw certain things which I did not approve of. The next time I visited the river I took my tent and camped on the banks. From that day to this I have been absolutely independent of any guardian.

Q. Do you know the number of children on the river? A. When I took charge in about 1906 I think there were under fifty children.

Q. How many are there now? A. There are now about 141 children and seventy-seven homes.

Q. Are there any widows or deserted wives in this district? A. No.

Q. Can you tell me roughly how many court boys are on the river? A. About sixty-seven at the present time.

Q. The 141 would include both boys and girls? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know why some of them have been sent away from their homes? A. Truancy, stealing, mischief of all kinds, and bad homes.

Q. Have you found those boys doing well on the river? A. They do remarkably well on the river, when they settle down. On my visit the time before last there were two boys at Mrs. Douglass' home. They had given a lot of trouble; they had absconded and run away for a day and a part of a night.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Is that the Douglass at Webb's Creek? A. No, it is another Douglass. I had considerable difficulty in persuading the guardian to keep the boys. On my last visit I found the boys were doing very well. They had settled down, liked the homes, and were giving the guardian satisfaction. When they first came on the river they did not like the loneliness of the place. They did not care for the change from the city slums to the country. They play up. Some of them honestly want to get back to their mothers, no matter how bad they are. For that reason they run away. That, in a large measure, accounts for the impression abroad that the boys are not well treated, and run away on account of that. In many cases where a boy runs away, it is on account of a longing for home.

Q. The natural longing for home? A. Yes. I have told Mr. Green on many occasions that I am prepared to take the worst boys he has, and place them on this river in the hope of reformation.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Have you seen the teacher at Webb's Creek, Mr. Rose? A. Yes.

Q. What is his opinion about this matter? A. He states that—(interrupted).

Q. He has made a report? A. Yes, a satisfactory report.

Q. Have you seen Mr. Hill at Leeds Vale? A. I saw him on the last visit.

Q. What was his report? A. His report was quite satisfactory.

Q. You rely largely on the teachers for reports as to the non-attendance of the children and the way they come to school? A. Yes.

Q. Do you always see the teachers? A. I always interview the teachers. I always interview each child separately, apart from the teacher, and apart from anyone else.

I have about five minutes' chat with each one. I question them in every particular that I consider is necessary for their welfare.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You encourage them to speak freely? A. Yes, to tell me the truth.

Q. You also encourage outside evidence, and ask people to tell you anything they know of the children? A. I think I rather plague the people sometimes with questions as to the treatment of the children.

CHAIRMAN: Q. On the whole, you think the boarding-out system is a success? A. An absolute success.

Q. Do you confine your inspections to this portion of the State, or do you visit other portions? A. To other parts of the State as well.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You have visited the other districts? A. Yes, I have had occasion to visit other districts.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Some children have been returned worse than they should have been? A. Many children have been returned. On this river I have had to remove boys from one home to another, until they settle down and strike the right chord in the people they come in contact with.

Q. They do not get on with the people? A. You can put a boy in a remarkably good home, but he will not settle down. You will put him into a rougher home of a different class altogether, and he will settle down and do well. It is the same as an employer and an employee. One employee thinks he has a real good employer, whereas another man would not work for him.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Have you heard any statement about maltreatment such as was indicated here to-day? A. No. Mr. Fenton Brown's name was mentioned.

Q. Do you know him? A. Yes.

Q. What is your opinion of him? A. Mr. Fenton Brown had the misfortune to have a boy placed in his care who was a feeble-minded boy. This boy ran away from him. He was for some time in the bush. That led to a lot of talk about Fenton Brown. Fenton Brown searched everywhere for that boy.

Q. He would have to account to the department for him? A. Yes.

Q. He tried to find him? A. Yes. Mr. Hill said about that boy that he was a boy who should not have been placed out.

Q. He should have gone to a mental hospital? A. He said he was the thinnest boy he ever saw in his life.

Q. Was that when he came to Mr. Brown? A. Yes. If anything, the boy improved in Mr. Brown's care.

Q. From your knowledge of Mr. Brown, do you think he is a person who would treat a boy in the way that was indicated here this afternoon? A. No.

Mr. GREEN: I investigated two cases myself reported about Mr. Fenton Brown, and there was nothing in the matter at all. It was a neighbour's quarrel.

WITNESS: Mr. Brown had this against him: he has had the luck to get a remarkably bad boy to deal with each time.

Sergeant LONSDALE: Q. With regard to Mrs. Books' house; do you know that since my visit on 12th July the place has been renovated practically throughout? A. They told me on my visit that the ceilings had been repaired in places, that between my visit and your inspection they had had very heavy storms and the ceilings had come down in places.

Q. Not only ceilings; what about the walls? A. I quite admit that Mrs. Books' home, as far as outside appearances go, is not a first-class home. But in my work I have to do the best I can with the children. I have to see that they get kindness, care, and attention, and also that they are properly fed, kept clean, and sent to school regularly. If there is any home, in regard to the building itself, I do not approve of, I do not leave the children there. But in Mrs. Books' case I have left the children there on account of the care they receive.

**Witnesses—J. Wing and H. L. Maxted, 31 August, 1916.**

**Mr. TAYLOR:** *Q.* Is Mrs. Books the owner of the property? *A.* Until a few months ago, when the father died. He was 87 years of age.

*Q.* Has she a life interest? *A.* Yes. The sons are supposed to keep her. Mrs. Books' family is respectable. Some of the girls have married comfortably and settled in the district.

*Q.* One of the sons runs the launch? *A.* Yes.

(Witness retired.)

**HENRY LEWIS MAXTED**, Chief Inspector, State Children Relief Department, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

**Mr. GREEN:** *Q.* You are in charge of the inspectors of the State Children Relief Department? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* Can you tell the Board whether anything has been done with regard to getting reports on the homes of the State children throughout the whole of New South Wales? *A.* Each inspecting division is divided, and covers an area of about 35,000 people. The metropolitan district is divided into thirty sections, and the country into a corresponding thirty. There is a special report on State children required in every case.

**CHAIRMAN:** *Q.* From every district? *A.* In the case of every child.

**Mr. GREEN:** *Q.* Besides the paid inspectors, there are also honorary inspectors? *A.* Yes. There are altogether 600 honorary inspectors.

*Q.* You see the reports from the honorary inspectors, and also from the school teachers? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* Can you tell me something about the latest reports of the school teachers? *A.* Independent reports are obtained from the school teachers throughout the State. In 1,134 districts there were 1,030 reports favourable to all the children and to the system. There were 105 cases which were chronicled as minor complaints. For instance, there were eight children living a long distance from school.

*Q.* There were some who were reported to be overworked? *A.* Yes. The eight living a long distance from school were investigated, and four were marked satisfactory, and three were living with their own relatives, cases of children living with their grandmother, with regard to which we could not do anything.

*Q.* What was the other? *A.* There were ninety-three about which there were no grounds of complaint at all.

*Q.* You made inquiries of the inspector? *A.* Yes, and independent sources also.

*Q.* In the reports where there were minor complaints, you put your inspectors to work, and then found that ninety of them—(interrupted)? *A.* Were practically without foundation.

*Q.* That left a small number? *A.* In ten of the others action had been taken months previously by the Department. The teachers had reported to the inspector before reporting to the Department.

*Q.* You are speaking about reports which were got quite independently of the State Children Relief Department? *A.* Yes, as the result of complaints similar to Mr. Hackett's, originating from the different leagues.

**Mr. GREEN:** I do not know whether the Board would like to see any of the reports?

**CHAIRMAN:** I do not think so, Mr. Green.

**Mr. GREEN:** *Q.* You have had experience of Mr. Wing as an inspector? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* Have you found him trustworthy? *A.* Yes. As a matter of fact, Mr. Wing has been confined to the Hawkesbury district because of the court boys. The Hawkesbury River is used for the incorrigible children, who otherwise would be sent to Mittagong or Gosford. If they fail here they are sent to Mittagong or Gosford. They do not fail here.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** *Q.* What steps do you take to see that the inspectors carry out their duties satisfactorily and regularly? *A.* By sending another man to the district.

*Q.* That is if you suspect any laxity? *A.* Yes. I either send somebody specially or go myself.

*Q.* Do you change your inspectors with any frequency? *A.* Occasionally, where I regard it as necessary.

*Q.* Supposing an inspector sent a report to you, is he tied down to give the information after personal inspection? *A.* The information asked for in the report cannot be obtained unless he first of all visits the house and sees the teacher.

**Mr. GREEN:** *Q.* The report forms are in question and answer form? *A.* We have a specific form showing questions and answers. He has to answer those, and he cannot do so unless he has been to the home and has seen the teacher. The hours of work a child does are shown, and the nature of the employment.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** *Q.* And the appearance of the child? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* The kind of room in which he sleeps, and so on? *A.* Yes, if the accommodation is satisfactory.

**Mr. GREEN:** *Q.* Have you done a large amount of inspecting yourself, in various parts of the State? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* Have you found in any of the homes that you have had to remove the children, except for being overworked or ill-used? *A.* No. On an average there are eighty to 100 cases of neglected children with their own parents, and being overworked, and badly lodged, brought under the notice of the courts every year.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** *Q.* Those are cases of children with their own parents? *A.* Yes. There were three cases of State children only last year. These sixty-five children would be children from that class of home. It is quite possible that a child would be miserable on being taken away from his home and placed with a guardian.

**Mr. GREEN:** *Q.* No matter how bad a home, a child's instincts will turn towards his parents? *A.* Yes. It is the policy of the Department also to send a child back to the parents, even if the parents' home is not as good as the boarded-out home from which he was taken.

*Q.* That is to say, the Department encourages the children being returned to the parents and kept with the parents, rather than being boarded out? *A.* That is so.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** That is, unless you know that the parents are such that it would not be right for the child to be placed with them.

**Mr. GREEN:** Every inquiry is made of the parent beforehand. We encourage them to take their children off the State.

**CHAIRMAN:** *Q.* There is nothing further that you wish to say? *A.* No, excepting this, that all these complaints that have been made, and which have appeared in the papers, have been from one source, and one source only. They appear to be disconnected, but they are not.

**Mr. TAYLOR:** *Q.* When a child comes to be fourteen years of age, that is the time his apprenticeship usually starts, and his period of boarding-out ceases? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* Do you make any attempt, when he reaches fourteen years of age, to see if he has any pronounced leaning towards any particular calling, say farming, mechanics work, or something like that? *A.* We divide the children into two classes. A boy is in the same position as a clever boy in his own family, where advantage can be taken of the higher education. I would instance the boy who was a bursary from the school at Leets Vale. We get children of eleven, twelve, or thirteen years of age, who never lose the education which would qualify them for that.

*Q.* That is as a rule? *A.* Yes.

*Q.* You get individual cases where they have got education; when you get a case like that, what steps do you take to place the child in the condition of life which you think he is suited for? *A.* They are transferred from the

home in which they are, if the home will not give them facilities, to a home nearer to town or to a city, where they can get those facilities. Inquiries are made to get them a trade or to let them follow the educational bent that they seem to be suited for.

Mr. GREEN: Q. It is the policy of the Board to encourage higher education? A. Yes. It has to place a State child in exactly the same category as an ordinary child. I have a class of children who, through their early neglect, cannot be dealt with in that way, and proposals have been made, and are now under consideration, to provide for them in such homes which have been called homes for preliminary training. They are really an integral part of the boarding-out system. Once the system dealt only with the children of poor parents, where you could not expect, under ordinary circumstances, the children to have the educational facilities. Now you get all classes of neglected children, and special provision will have to be made. They can be boarded out up to a certain age, but when they become fourteen years of age and have not reached the educational attainments, it is necessary to take advantage of special cases. They must either join the ranks of unskilled labourers, or be provided for specially. It is a scheme to pick them up from where they leave off that is really under consideration, and it has been recommended for the last five years.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. It has not been given effect to? A. No; it has been approved by the Minister.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Is the allowance of 6s. per week more than sufficient? A. It is insufficient.

Q. Out of that, guardians have to feed the children, and have to clothe them? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. And they have to keep the clothing replenished; of course they have a supply when they leave to go out? A. Yes. In a district like the Hawkesbury River, it might be sufficient. They grow their own vegetables here. In other States the rate is from 7s. to 10s.

Mr. GREEN: Q. What is the rate in Victoria? A. 7s. or 8s.

Q. And in South Australia? A. 8s. to 10s.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. In those States do they get the initial supply of clothing? A. Just the same as here.

CHAIRMAN: What about the system in Victoria—is it different?

Mr. GREEN: Yes. The only difference in Victoria is that the inspection work is more honorary than paid. They have not the same number of paid inspectors as we have. They trust more to their honorary officers. Honorary lady visitors make all the payments to the guardians, and that sort of thing. They save a lot of expense in that way, but, to my mind, inspection is the life of the boarding-out system. Without proper inspection, I think it would be a failure. As far as our Department is concerned, we have always fought for inspection, and by paid inspectors. With regard to the honorary officers, of course we do utilise them also, but we rely to a very large extent on our paid staff. With regard to the question of payments for State children, I quite feel the time has come when we shall have to increase the rates again, because I do think that 5s. or 6s. a week, which we are paying now, is quite insufficient. We cannot expect people to keep the

children properly at those rates. When we have a higher rate we shall have a higher standard of home to deal with, and we will expect more from the guardians than we do at the present time. The boarding-out system has been going on for the last thirty-five years. When we started the system, of course things were in a very much better condition, as far as money was concerned. People got a great deal more for their money than they do now. Therefore, we could expect then what we cannot expect at the present time. But, as I said at the beginning of the inquiry, we have always fought for the ideal of having the children looked after as one would look after his own children in his own home. If we get that ideal, then we are perfectly satisfied. The fact that the children do some little work before or after school is the experience of us all. I am sure that any of us has always done his fair share of work in the hours before and after school. I do not think any boys are the worse for it. I do not think the bulk of the State children are ill-treated, and I do not think they are overworked to any very large extent. We have had an examination quite recently of the North Coast. Special inspectors were sent out. We found the statements which were made were absolutely incorrect, and that the boys were not worked as they said they were worked. They certainly were not overworked. The boys were over age, and they did the milking on the farm. It is the policy of the Department not to send any boys who are under fourteen years of age to dairy-farms, and therefore the reports which we get from our local visitors show us clearly that the State children are not overworked, and also that they are properly fed and properly housed. I do think that the millstone which the Department has got in the last few months has only come about from one particular source, and I do think, as far as our inspectors are concerned, that they do their work thoroughly, and I do think that as far as the children are concerned, they are looked after as well as they possibly can be.

CHAIRMAN: The old system of barracks and orphanages has quite passed away?

Mr. GREEN: Yes, quite so. That is another thing which we have in New South Wales. The whole of the State children are dealt with under the boarding-out system. In South Australia and Victoria they use not only the boarding-out system, but also the institutional— orphanages, and that sort of thing. The children are placed in orphanages and institutions, and they pay subsidies towards them. We deal with the whole matter as a State Department.

Mr. TAYLOR: When you are boarding out children to some guardian, do you take care that the children are boarded out with people of the same religious denomination as the children?

Mr. GREEN: Yes, in every case. We do, unfortunately, get them mixed. Children come to us, and we do not know what religion they are. Sometimes the boarding-out clerk thinks, simply because it is a Protestant child it can be placed with any Protestant family.

WITNESS: A lot of them will alter their religion.

Mr. GREEN: We always see to that.

(Witness retired.)

(At this stage the Inquiry was adjourned to Friday, 1st September, 1916.)



At 10:30 a.m. on Friday, 1st September, 1916, the Public Service Board (Messrs. Wilshire and Taylor) continued the investigation into the general working of the State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction, particularly with reference to the conditions under which children are boarded out.

[Sitting held at the Court-house, Wiseman's Ferry.]

FRIDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER, 1916.

Present:—

Mr. E. H. WILSHIRE, Chairman }  
Mr. J. M. TAYLOR, Member } Public Service Board.

Mr. A. W. GREEN, Boarding-out Officer, &c., State Children Relief Branch.

Mr. H. L. MAXTED, Chief Inspector, &c., State Children Relief Branch.

Mr. J. WING, Senior Inspector, State Children Relief Branch.

Sergeant A. W. LONSDALE.

Mr. R. W. GRIFFITS, Shorthand writer.

HENRY BENJAMIN McNAMARA, storekeeper, Wiseman's Ferry district, was called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. What are you? A. Storekeeper.

Q. You live in the district? A. Yes.

Q. Do you trade on the river? A. Yes. I am away all the week. I only come home at week-ends.

Mr. WING: Q. You are on the trading boat which runs from the ferry up Webb's Creek to Colo and the upper reaches of the river? A. Yes.

Q. You have been trading on the river for many years? A. Over seventeen years.

Q. In the course of your trading, you drive your boat into the bank of the river on the various farms where there are State children? A. Yes.

Q. You have every opportunity of seeing them? A. I practically know every child.

Q. What is your opinion of the boarding-out system—placing these boys out; do they get a fair deal and have a good home in the majority of cases, or do you know of any exceptions? A. Well, I noticed some letters in the paper some time ago. I really thought of writing to the paper on the matter, because I considered it was a gross injustice for the children to be taken away from the rivers. I have children of my own. I really think if my children were left, and it was necessary for me to put them on the State, I would rather see them on farms on the river than in schools or houses where they meet too many others. There are, perhaps, institutions where you see children, just the same as in families, who are hard to manage, and they have difficulty with them; but still, I think they are better cared for and better looked after on the farms on the river than they would be in schools and reformatories. I have seen children at Mittagong. If it was necessary for my children to be on the State I would rather see them on farms on the river than placed in any of the schools.

Mr. GREEN: Q. You have not heard of complaints about children being badly treated or overworked? A. No.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Or underfed? A. No. The children are treated just the same as the children of the house.

Q. That is your experience? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You do not think they are given heavy work to do? A. Nothing to hurt children. It would be a mistake for them to have nothing to do. They do no more than the children of the farmers are asked to do on the farm. The trouble is to get them to do it.

Q. Have you found any cruelty or chastisement at all? A. I have never noticed it.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you ever go to the homes yourself? A. Yes, and see the children.

Q. Do you find them clean and tidy? A. Yes.

Q. I mean, taking into consideration the walk of life of these people? A. For the class of people, yes. They are children who are treated just as well as their own children.

Q. They are kept clean? A. They get plenty of clean, wholesome food.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You see them travelling down in the boats? A. Yes; the children are often sent down. I have occasion to go to the farms. I deal with the farmers. I know of boys and girls who have grown up, and who have been great examples. One State boy was reared on the river. When I was ill I trusted him with my boat and my money. I can give you dozens of instances of boys who are a great credit to the State.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do many of them remain here? A. Yes. The skipper of one of the boats is a State boy, trained on the river. I knew him as a boy here. He is a married man. When he got out of his time here on the river, he went on a farm. He was reared in about the hardest home on the river, Mr. Loughrey's. In some of the homes the children are petted up, are very spoilt, and do not make much headway afterwards. I was going to write to the papers when I saw letters for and against the system. I think it would be a crying shame if the children were taken away from the river, where they are of great use and grow up into good citizens. That is my candid opinion. I have been seventeen years among them, and I know every State child by name who has been here a few years.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You believe in having them brought up in a family, with other children? A. Yes.

Q. If they are looked after, it is the better way? A. I do not know of an instance where they are not as well treated as the farmer's own children. They are not treated more harshly. As you know, some of the farmers are harsh with their own children, and naturally they would be firm with State children. I have never had an instance of cruelty under my notice in the whole seventeen years.

Mr. WING: Q. You are a magistrate? A. Yes.

(Witness retired.)

ROBERT JAMES CAMERON, Wiseman's Ferry, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you live on the river? A. Yes, at Wiseman's Ferry. I am a storekeeper here.

Q. Do you trade on the river as well? A. Yes, at the lower end of the Hawkesbury.

Q. What have you to say as to the system of boarding-out children, from your experience? A. I have given the matter some thought, and I do not think it could be very much improved upon. The system of putting children into homes on the river is perhaps the best way to care for them.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Do you think the children are generally well treated? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Well treated, well fed, and well clothed? A. Yes.

Witnesses— R. J. Cameron, 1 September; and J. F. Hackett, 17 October, 1916.

Mr. WING: Q. You have seen all the lower part, from Mangrove? A. Yes. They come to the trading boats.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Have you heard of any cases where the boys should be removed? A. No. Youngsters are youngsters. They take a bit of managing. It is their own fault if they have to be chastised a bit, but not too severely. No case has come under my notice where they have been chastised too severely.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You have never heard of a case where a boy has been tied to a tree and flogged? A. No.

Q. That is a figure of the imagination? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. One witness gave evidence, and said they were chained to a tree? A. I never heard of it.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How long have you been here? A. Fifteen and a half or sixteen years.

Q. You have been travelling up and down the river? A. Yes.

Mr. WING: Q. I have seen you nearly every time I have been on the river? A. Yes, pretty well.

Q. I always make inquiries from you? A. Yes.

Q. You give me any information that you have heard as to any cases of ill-treatment? A. Yes.

Q. You would have informed me at the time if there had been any? A. Yes. They may occur and I would not hear about them.

(Witness retired.)

(At this stage the Investigation was adjourned *sine die*.)

At 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 17th October, 1916, the Public Service Board (Messrs. Wilshire and Taylor) continued the Investigation into the general working of the State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction, particularly with reference to the conditions under which children are boarded out.

[Sitting held in the Board Room, Public Service Board, Sydney.]

TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER, 1916.

Present:—

Mr. E. H. WILSHIRE, Chairman }  
Mr. J. M. TAYLOR, Member } Public Service Board.

Mr. A. W. GREEN, President, State Children Relief Board, &c., representing the State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction.

Mr. J. S. DUNCAN, Clerk, Public Service Board, sworn.

JOHN FRANCIS HACKETT, commission agent, was called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. What are you? A. You mean my occupation?

Q. Yes. A. Commission agent.

Q. In business where? A. Out of business for the last twelve months.

Q. And where are you residing? A. At 23 Grafton-street, Woollahra.

Q. Now, do you know a man named Nagle, of Wiseman's Ferry? A. I do not know the man. I have received communications from him. I have never seen him.

Q. You received certain letters from him relating to the State children in the district? A. Yes.

Q. Have you kept his letters? A. Yes; I have his letters here.

Q. Do you produce them? A. Yes.

Q. Are those all that you have received? A. I have received two letters from that gentleman.

Q. Are those all you received? A. Yes.

Q. Now, you say you do not know the man yourself? A. No. I have not seen him.

Q. Do you know anything about the children up there? A. Only what he told me in those two letters.

Q. Do you know anything about his character? A. No.

Q. You do not know who he is? A. No. I have not seen the man in my life.

Q. And on the information contained in those letters you furnished that information to the press, did you not? A. Yes. Quite right.

Q. What papers? A. Well the names were not mentioned in the press, or any direct cases. The matter of the ill-treatment was mentioned generally, but not on this particular letter. No particular cases referred to by this gentleman were mentioned in the press at all.

Q. Well on what representations then? A. On the general matter of the whole of the correspondence received from the various centres in the country.

Q. How did you come to get any correspondence from Mr. Nagle? A. Well, I daresay he saw some of my letters in the press.

Q. You signed them? A. Yes, decidedly.

Q. Where did you get the information that you conveyed to the press? A. Well, I had toured right through New South Wales in connection with commission work, and as a traveller, and I had seen in various places where children were ill-treated by their own parents, and in making inquiries I also found that certain of those children were State children. On returning to Sydney I had written one or two letters to the press, not only dealing with the State children, but with child slavery.

Q. But what I want to get at is what information had you before you made the statements in the press? What children did you see being ill-treated? A. They were in various places. I had not taken direct notice on those occasions, but I had seen where children were ill-treated.

Q. Will you give us one instance—the first that came under your notice? A. Of course, it would hardly be right to mention names, but in some of the centres—away out as far as Bourke—I had seen where children were ill-treated by their own parents. The point I want to raise is this, that in the first place the position I took up was against the parents ill-treating their own children.

Q. You saw a father or a mother ill-treating a child? A. Not exactly ill-treating them, but the children told me they were ill-treated. One boy, especially, was working for me in a certain country place, and he told me, before he came to this business house, that he was working in the early hours of the morning from about 4 o'clock.

Q. What at? A. General work in the way of carting wood and things like that.

Q. He might have been telling the truth, but he might have been lying; did he look as if he was overworked? A. Decidedly. He used to almost fall asleep about 12 o'clock in the morning. That is why I took it up.

Q. And you are condemning a system on something you have heard of or seen; on what evidence are you condemning the system? A. When I came back to Sydney I took up the matter of child slavery—(interrupted).

Q. Was that on that Bourke case alone? A. Oh, no, I had been all over the State. I had seen various cases

Witness—J. F. Hackett, 17 October, 1916.

where children seemed tired and worn out, and I used to ask the various people round the district how it was, and they said they were overworked.

Q. Where would you see them tired and worn out; go to a town like Dubbo, for instance? A. I have seen them in Narrandera, in Cootamundra, and in Bourke.

Q. In their homes or in the street? A. In their homes sometimes, and sometimes in the street. Some of them would be working in the places I was going to.

Q. And how would you be in communication with these places? A. I was doing business with these places in the drapery line.

Q. You would only go to the houses to get orders? A. I was working at some of the places for two or three months at a time.

Q. And where were the youngsters? A. They would be attached to the shops I was in.

Q. Were these State children? A. No, decidedly not.

Q. So that there is nothing about the State children in those cases? A. No. But when I took up the matter it was dealing entirely with child slavery. My first letter appeared in the press, and it never touched State children. I took up the case against the ill-treatment by parents of their own children.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Then this is an indictment against the parents of New South Wales? A. Decidedly. It was entirely against the people for ill-treating their own children.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do I understand that you had sufficient evidence for that, or that you saw some children in the various towns who fell asleep in the middle of the day? A. Well, I think this is sufficient for any person—(interrupted).

Q. That was sufficient to indict all the people? A. I never attacked all the people in my letters.

Q. You did not see any starvation, or flogging, or anything of that sort? A. No. If I had I would have settled it in the press. I have not been lucky enough yet to meet that man, but when I meet him it will be reported, of course.

Q. It was all arrived at because you saw some children who were tired and who almost fell asleep? A. When I started the affair first these letters were forwarded to me from all parts of the State. Some gentlemen in high Government positions have written to me and explained what they have seen themselves. Not one letter have I ever written to anybody asking for evidence. All the letters I have in my possession were sent to me from every part of the State without me asking. They are coming even now.

Q. These people send to you under the seal of confidence; they would not allow you to disclose where it was or anything about it? Did you take any steps to verify it? A. In the position I am in—(interrupted).

Q. I only want yes or no? A. I have not the Government funds behind me, and I was not in a position to go round the districts and verify them.

Q. Did you verify any of them? A. Yes, in one instance I did. There was one boy, Eric Forbes. This boy and his brother were at Randwick Asylum. His mother wrote to me from Queensland. She told me she could not get any information about them, and I approached the State Children's Department and I found out where they were. I was assured that this boy was in a good home and well cared for. After some considerable trouble the boy was released, and when he was released I engineered it.

Mr. GREEN: Q. What was the "considerable trouble?" Just tell the truth; there was no "considerable trouble" at all? A. The "considerable trouble" was this: I wrote certain letters to the Education Department explaining the matter, and it took some considerable time before the boy was released. I am not blaming Mr. Green at all. The trouble was that his mother was known by two names, and there was some considerable trouble because

my first letter must have been mislaid. Both names were sent in by me, but evidently one name was mislaid by some chance.

CHAIRMAN: Well, there was some delay in identifying them—(interrupted).

Mr. GREEN: The mother was in Queensland, sir.

WITNESS: Eventually the boy was released.

CHAIRMAN: Q. He was in some home? A. Yes, out Parkes or Trundle way.

Q. How was he found when he was released? A. When he was released it was proved, on the boy's own statements, that he worked from early morning until about 8 or 9 o'clock at night. He was 11 years of age. He never went to school all the time he was there. He never saw an inspector all the time he was there.

Q. What did he work at? A. General farming work, I suppose. When he was telling me his experience—a boy of 11 years of age—and he got up to a certain point where they used to ill-treat him, he broke down and cried. That was sufficient for me. I did not ask any more.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. How long was he there? A. Six months. He never saw an inspector, according to his own statements. I asked had anyone questioned him, and he said "No." I saw that boy about four weeks ago, and I am certain, from what I know, that that boy is a consumptive. I do not know whether it was the treatment he received there or in Queensland, but I am certain he will not reach manhood.

CHAIRMAN: Q. But Trundle is a good part of the country for consumptives? A. A consumptive or a delicate boy should not be working at 11 years of age. That is the point I have always taken up. They should not be sent out to these people—that is, sent out to work. I do not approve of any boy working under 14 years of age.

Mr. GREEN: You have taken the boy's *ex parte* statement.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. He may have been consumptive before he was sent to Trundle? A. The point I take is that the boy should not be working at 11 years of age.

CHAIRMAN: Q. That depends on what he is doing, or what he is working at; that is the only boy you have in view, or knew about? A. There was another boy there, but he was not under State control. He was under Mr. Coulter.

Q. Who is Mr. Coulter? A. He is the ex-superintendent of the Randwick Asylum.

Q. Was he an inmate of the asylum? A. He was until he was boarded-out, and that boy cooked three meals—(interrupted).

Q. He told you he did? A. Yes, he stated he did.

Q. But you do not know whether he did; some of them, you know, do not always adhere to the truth? A. Well, of course, as far as I am directly and personally concerned, I accepted the boy's statement that he did that, and he had to do most of the work too.

Q. Where was that? A. With a Major Challard, an ex-military officer, at Woodburn. That boy was Stanley Robinson.

Mr. GREEN: A brother of the other boy.

Q. How old was he? A. He would be between 14 and 15 now. I would like, if it would not be out of order, to read a letter I have received from a woman in Wickham, Newcastle, in connection with the Mittagong Homes—of her experiences in the Mittagong Homes.

CHAIRMAN: Well, not at present. Q. Now, I understand that these are the only boys you saw yourself? A. That I directly saw myself.

Q. You never took the trouble, or went to the expense of going round to these places, and seeing these boys, and seeing how they were housed, and how the people treated them? A. No, I have not done that.

Q. Do you know that man who wrote to you from Wiseman's Ferry; he did not tell you who he was? A. He told me his name.



Q. But the statements he made seemed to be what he had imagined; they are all hearsay, and not even that, some of them; he is a barber and hairdresser there, and we examined him when we were there recently? A. I do not look at it in that light. I look at it that he is stating what he has seen.

Q. You can have an opportunity of seeing his evidence; he knows just about as much about it as you do? A. I would like to mention that certain people here on the deputation with me, when I was before the Minister for Education, were given an opportunity of going to these places, and I was not. I would like to know why I was not given that opportunity when I could have explained the whole thing. I object strongly to that, and I will take means to bring the Minister for Education before the public on the same matter. I do not see why I should be stood down when I have—(interrupted).

Q. You could have gone round if you wished? A. But at enormous expense. These people have been given the opportunity of going round. I have not.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You are simply against this system of boarding-out children? A. Yes, thoroughly. I am against child slavery.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. He is against all work by children before they are fourteen years of age? A. Most decidedly.

Q. And because, in the country, certain parents work their children before they are fourteen years of age, therefore the boarding-out system should not prevail in any country? A. It should not prevail anywhere.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You are in favour of the barrack system—shutting up children in a big place, without any parents to look after them individually? A. I am in favour of a system of the highest class of boarding-schools in the world. We have the highest class of boarding-schools where the wealthy people of our State send their children. I go further than that. I say that the children of the State who are left without parents should also be given those opportunities and cared for. It has been my ideal for the last three or four years, and it is going to be my ideal all through life, to see that they have a fair deal.

Q. Then you deny that they are well looked after? A. I do, certainly.

Q. Although you have no facts to put before us? A. I say these facts are quite sufficient. I have not had an opportunity yet of reading through what I have here. It is quite sufficient for me that they are not properly treated. In common sense, it must be apparent that the people who will not look after their own children will not look after the State children. Why should they be sent to these dairy-farmers? They take them for the work they get. There is one case in the Hawkesbury where there are eight State children at one house.

Mr. GREEN: Mrs. Douglass' place, at Webb's Creek.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You have not gone to see that? A. No.

Q. And yet you object to that? A. Certainly.

CHAIRMAN: Q. She has them there because she has a grandchild, and because the school would be shut up if a certain number of children did not attend; she has little children who do not do anything; they all run to her, and hang on to her, as if she was their own mother? A. Has she a farm?

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Yes, a fruit-farm? A. Does she employ any labour?

Mr. GREEN: Q. She has a husband and a son? A. Do any of these children do any work? I do object to any State child doing it, and I will see they do not do it. These children should not work before they are fourteen years of age.

CHAIRMAN: What does it hurt a little child to carry up some fruit, or to get some sticks, or anything like that?

WITNESS: Now that Mr. Green is here, he will perhaps bear this out. It is correct. A few weeks ago I

received a letter in regard to a man named Frank Mate, at Clarencetown. Another man is writing to me about him. He says:—

Some time ago I wrote to you about a certain farmer in this district by the name of Frank Mate regarding the method of treating the State children which he has in his charge. A few weeks ago one of the lads wrote to the Department and complained of the treatment dealt out to him by the so-called guardian. The Department thought it good enough to take the lad away, and make matters worse by supplying this cruel man with another. Only a fortnight ago a prominent man of this locality cautioned this Frank Mate when he caught him flogging one of his boys with a birch, just because the child did not get some work completed quick enough, which in reality was a strong man's work.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Who writes that? A. He does not want his name mentioned, but perhaps I can mention it here, seeing that it will not go any further. He is a Mr. McNamara, of Clarencetown. All the newspaper men in the city know what is going on in the country districts. I know it. I have been amongst them.

CHAIRMAN: Q. The information you rely upon is no use? A. I would rather rely upon these men than upon the Government inspectors.

CHAIRMAN: No man would go and thrash a child, or ill-treat a child in the presence of some members of the public, even if he wanted to do it.

Mr. GREEN: You see the evidence, gentlemen. That man Nagle said he did not know anything, in his evidence, and he has written these letters to Mr. Hackett. He had no evidence at all to offer personally about the case—it was only what he had heard.

WITNESS: Who did he tell that to?

Mr. TAYLOR: He told us that? A. I was not there, or perhaps he would have said something different.

CHAIRMAN: Q. He was giving evidence on oath; he tells us that he is a barber there, and that he knows nothing at all about it himself? A. I have a man I can produce in twenty-four hours who has had pieces cut out of his back.

CHAIRMAN: Q. His argument was something like yours; it was that a man had a State child; that was enough for him? A. This is a man named Edwards that I am speaking of, who was boarded out to a man on the South Coast—(interrupted).

Mr. GREEN: I never heard of it.

CHAIRMAN: It may be that there are certain cases where ill-treatment has taken place.

WITNESS: Mr. Green assured me in the House one night that if I could produce one case of ill-treatment he was satisfied the system was wrong and should be altered.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Do you know that 25,000 boys have been passed through by reason of this work, and if one case is proven, surely that does not condemn the other 24,999? A. I can reply to that very easily. You must remember this, that in regard to these cases where people take children—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: Q. Did you hear of this case up in the Hawkesbury district: a State boy came along, and grew up on a farm there, and when the war came along he went to the war; when he came back again he received a great reception among the people he had met there; another went, lived on a farm, and married the farmer's daughter, and he now has the farm himself? A. The fact that he goes to the war does not show that he has done very well out of the State Children's Relief Department.

Q. It shows that he is brought up well? A. Not necessarily. As far as the war is concerned, I do not recognise it as being any great thing for a man to go to the war at all. I take a different view.

Q. You recognise the fact that he must be well brought up before he would go? A. Not necessarily. This other boy that I mentioned had two or three pieces cut out of his back. He went to the South African war, and he curses the name of Mr. Green.

Mr. GREEN: Q. You have told us that, but you have not told us his name yet? A. His name is Henry William Edwards. It has been given time after time.



Witness—J. F. Hackett, 17 October, 1916.

Mr. TAYLOR: Who was he boarded-out to?

CHAIRMAN: It was years and years ago, I suppose.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How long ago is that? A. Just before the Boer war broke out.

CHAIRMAN: Q. And you simply condemn every person—? A. I am not condemning persons; I am condemning the system.

Q. No, you are not; you are condemning every person that takes a State child, although these children are living in the same way as their own children? A. I have had two or three cases sent to me recently that occurred in Woolahra. It is quite sufficient for me that these people do not take these children for love. The boarding-out system—*(interrupted)*.

CHAIRMAN: Q. A lot of the children get very fond of them? A. Certain people take the children for what they can get out of them. I am one of those individuals who believe that children, more than anybody else, should be cared for, and looked after, although I am a bachelor—not even a father. I do not believe in any children working; I never did.

Q. Not in being overworked? A. Overworked or underworked, only in study.

Q. That is worse than playing about and getting fresh air? A. Mr. Arthur Griffith's own report from Kyogle will show that children do work very early in the morning, milking cows. What I do object to is this, that Arthur Griffith goes into the House two or three weeks ago, and says that all the cases I sent in were proved to be false, and that certain cases were referred to the Public Service Board, and they were proved to be false.

Q. Do you object to any boy milking two or three cows in the morning? A. If they are boarded-out, yes. They should not be slaves. They are slaves in this way, that they get no pay for their work.

Q. They are being taught farm life, and it is absolutely necessary that they should start young to do that? A. No man has a right to take orphan children and make them work there. He should employ labour or get out of the business. They will not do it here if I can help it. These men are not fit to live or breathe the air who would take little children and make them work. Their own children work, perhaps, but they really share in the business; but I do object to finding children taken away, and turned loose at a certain age, and I always will.

Q. Do you not think it is better to do that than to have them running about the streets? A. They are free then.

Q. And possibly they become criminals or thieves; I know something about this, because I sat on the bench in Sydney for eight years as a magistrate, and I know something about the children who run about the streets? A. I tried to stop the children selling newspapers, and Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Black have certainly turned that down. I have done everything in regard to uplifting and giving better conditions to the children of this State, but I cannot do it.

Q. You admit that this system, as far as we know, is the best system that has been evolved so far; I would absolutely be opposed to any of this barrack system; it would be an awful system? A. Then you would be opposed to St. Joseph's College and other similar colleges?

Q. But they are educational establishments? A. Well, can we not have these establishments for these children? Arthur Griffith knows my views on that well. I have endeavoured to have a bill introduced in favour of imprisoning people, without fine, who are found guilty of ill-treating State children.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Certainly they should be punished if they do ill-treat them, but you have to prove that they do first? A. Well, if the attitude is taken up that all I have here is a matter of lies, all I can do is to pack up what I have, and carry on the campaign myself.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You supplied information that you considered were facts, and we investigated a lot of them,

and found they were not facts? A. But I was left entirely out in the cold. I was told by a certain country school teacher that a person of the same name was in that affair. The other members of the deputation were sent out, and I was left off. I have not failed to use that, and it will be used all over the State. There is no doubt about that, and I will use it here and everywhere else. It was done with some intent. If I had gone round I would have found out something more than they would, perhaps. If you go and ask children—*(interrupted)*.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How are you going to find out if the children will not tell you? A. I will find out, do not worry—in the early hours of the morning, if necessary.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. How do you know that the State inspector does not do that? A. As far as I know the State inspector does not do that.

CHAIRMAN: Well, we went to the houses, and visited them all round the place. We did not tell them we were coming. We questioned the children, and we found that, as far as we could see, the children were affectionately treated, and they seem to have a great affection for the people they were with.

Mr. GREEN: Q. As far as I know, you can do everything, and yet not satisfy Mr. Hackett; there is nothing will satisfy him at all; he has made up his mind, and no proof will be of any benefit to Mr. Hackett at all; have I not asked you to give me a system, to propound one, and you have not done it? A. I did. Arthur Griffith got it.

Q. You promised me you would give me a copy of it? A. I did promise you, but I have not done so. I gave it to the Minister in charge of the Department. That does not alter my scheme in any way. Inspectors going round and questioning children will not get any satisfaction, because the children are tutored up all right. Common sense alone tells us that if you send children of ten years and twelve years of age to a farmer, he only wants them to work.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. They are not all sent to farmers? A. Well, I have a case here—a case of a Mrs. Delaney. In this case a boy was sent out to a man on the rivers—*(interrupted)*.

Mr. GREEN: It is no use you bringing Mrs. Delaney's business before the Board. This case, gentlemen, has been investigated by the Premier, by the Governor, by the Chief Secretary, and by our own Minister. They have all turned it down after seeing the papers, and have concluded that the Department has done the right thing.

WITNESS: Well, what evidence was taken?

Mr. GREEN: Every evidence. It even went before the doctors and the matron of the hospital at the place where the boy was.

WITNESS: Was the mother's evidence taken?

Mr. GREEN: Q. The mother's evidence was before us time after time; you have seen the papers; you know that; have you not seen those papers? A. I have not seen one of them.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. What was the complaint? A. This is the complaint. Mrs. Delaney was advised by Mr. Parkinson, and the head school inspector at Auburn, and by the Church of England clergyman, to give her son over to the State, because he was a bit unruly, and she could not manage him. She was told he would be sent to Mittagong, and he would be properly cared for, and taught a trade. It will perhaps be better if I read her letters.

Mr. GREEN: It would be much better for the Board to see the whole of the papers.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Tell us the facts, shortly? A. Well, he was taken away to the Boys' Shelter, and the next the mother heard was that he was sent away 400 miles to a dairy-farmer on the Macleay River. This boy was 12 years of age. She states that she wrote to Mr. Green, telling him that that life would kill her son. She says she received one letter in reply. Anyway, there was nothing done for the boy, and within seven or eight months the boy was dead. He died in the Kempsey Hospital.

Mr. GREEN: Q. What did the boy die of? A. She says she thinks he died of typhoid. An instance of his jobs was that he had to dig holes and deposit nightsoil.

Q. That is not true; I have read to you the papers about that case myself at the office? A. I must deny that, Mr. Green.

Q. I have had those papers before me, and I have told you the facts of the case? A. I must deny that, Mr. Green, also.

Q. Well, that is a fact? A. You may have thought so, but it is not.

Mr. TAYLOR: I thought it was the practice of the Department not to send boys to dairy-farms at all.

Mr. GREEN: They are not sent under 14 years of age. That is a matter of some years ago.

WITNESS: October, 1914. The boy has been dead about twelve months. He was sent there in 1914.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Now, in regard to this Delaney case, how many of these children have been in the industrial schools and at Mittagong? A. I do not know.

You see you have not gone into the case at all.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Have you visited the industrial schools at Mittagong? A. Well, Mr. FitzGerald wrote to me, and asked me would I like to go through the various State homes. I have his letter here. I wrote and accepted that. The next I heard was that I was to communicate with Mr. Green to arrange the time and date of visit. Of course, I turned that down immediately. I would not go to a place where any arrangements were made for me to go.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Were you not told you could go to the shelter at any time you liked to see those boys; I told him that myself; did you go? A. No.

Q. Did I not tell you that you could go to Mittagong any time you liked; that you could go by yourself, or that I would go with you? A. You said you would go with me. I remember you saying you would accompany me.

Q. Did I say to you that could go and see these people any time you liked? A. You said you would make arrangements for me to go any time I liked.

Q. Did you not distinctly understand that you could go to the shelter by yourself; did you not know you could go there yourself any time? A. No, I did not know I could go there without a pass.

Q. Did I not tell you that you could go to the shelter any time you liked? A. You told me I could go there, certainly.

Q. Did I tell you you could go to Mittagong or any other place? A. You said you would make arrangements any time I liked. I certainly got no pass to take me anywhere.

Mr. GREEN: I did.

WITNESS: Well, I will read your letter.

CHAIRMAN: It is no good reading that. We know the facts.

Mr. GREEN: He has taken no steps to verify anything.

WITNESS: I have the matter in writing here.

Mr. TAYLOR: What have you in writing there? A. This is a letter signed by Mr. Green.

Q. You had one from Mr. FitzGerald, inviting you to go to any of these places? A. The next I got was from Mr. Green. He says:—

I have the honour to inform you that your letter of 15th instant, addressed to the Hon J. D. FitzGerald, M.L.C., with regard to your proposed visit to the Institutions and Homes under this Department, has been referred to me. It is the desire of the Minister that you will communicate with me in order that arrangements with regard to the time and date of your visit may be made, and I shall therefore be glad to hear further from you in the matter.

CHAIRMAN: Q. And you objected to that? A. Yes, decidedly.

Q. What you wanted was a pass? A. Yes, to go when I felt inclined.

Mr. GREEN: I told him to go any time he liked. He came and complained about that, and I said, "Go any time you like."

WITNESS: I said if I went to the shelter and they would not let me go through I would ring you up, but there was no mention about Mittagong.

Mr. GREEN: Yes—all the places. You know distinctly that there was. My memory is just as good as yours, you know. There is nothing we have to hide at all.

WITNESS: As far as that is concerned, your word may not be as good as mine.

Mr. GREEN: Well, I think it is.

WITNESS: Well, I think it is not, and I will prove it.

CHAIRMAN: You had better send Mr. Hackett an order to go when he likes at his own pleasure, and let him see for himself.

Mr. GREEN: I have no objection, sir. We have nothing to hide at all.

WITNESS: I have a letter here from a person who is grown up, and who is now a mother, with regard to the Mittagong Homes.

Mr. GREEN: But you have not been at Mittagong yourself.

WITNESS: How could I prove every blessed thing that comes before me without going to enormous expense. I am prepared to stand by these children—(interrupted).

Mr. GREEN: So am I, more than you are.

WITNESS: This is a case in Wickham. This woman says—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: What is the date of that?

WITNESS: I do not see any date on it.

CHAIRMAN: Well, about how long is it since you got it?

WITNESS: About three months. She says:—

I was a State child, and can only say that whilst at Paddington under Miss Grimes I never got any ill-treatment except, perhaps, a little misjudgment in favour of more obedient children, for I was always an unruly child if subject to any unfairness, and even now, grown up, I cannot tolerate unfairness. But I do not blame Miss Grimes, as a lot of children are a trial to manage, and some are a trifle untruthful. I was happier there than at those awful homes at Mittagong, and they are a curse to the country and the matrons of Nos. 6 and 7 are absolutely devoid of human feeling, except where their own children are concerned. I put in two painful years in No. 7, and I would rather go into my coffin than go back there again. Go to Jones-street, Ultimo, and ask for one Martha McKay, a cripple, now receiving the invalid pension. Also inquire at Newington Asylum for one Nellie Cronin. Cronin was her single name. She is also married and widowed, and, I believe, a cripple. Inquire for one Fanny Atherton, also a cripple, from the aforesaid Martha McKay, and, if possible, also question her. Now you will understand why I would rather die than go to the place I still have nightmare over. God took my husband and father from me and left me a heritage of three sturdy little sons to battle the world for, and I pray for their death to come quickly if a life like mine is in store for them.

CHAIRMAN: Q. She does not give any instances; she complains generally of cruelty? A. General brutality. I will also mention another. There is a Mrs. Lane at Cooper-street, Waterloo. She also was at Mittagong, and she told me some brutal treatment she received. She told me of one case there which outbeats the Huns. She told me, for instance, about the food they had there. Some of them were suffering from diarrhoea. One girl was a cripple, and because she could not get down to the place in time, and had to let go where she was, the woman rubbed her nose in it. She wrote and asked me would I bring her before any tribunal, and she would state just what I have said.

Mr. GREEN: You might inquire about this statement which Mr. Hackett made to me in the office. So far as that case is concerned, there happened to be an officer from the Audit Office there doing the books at the time. He was sent across any time he was in the office to find out what the food given in the home was, and we have his certificate as to what it was. There is no truth whatever in this statement.

Witness—J. F. Hackett, 17 October, 1916.

CHAIRMAN: In what the woman says?

Mr. GREEN: There is no truth whatever in the statement about the children and the diarrhoea, none whatever.

CHAIRMAN: And this woman who is alleged to have made the statement—have you seen her?

Mr. GREEN: This is the first time I got her name. I will see her now.

WITNESS: I would also mention that she said, "When Mr. Green was there everything would look nice. The table would be set with nice food and everything else. When he went away the whole of the stuff would be thrown away rather than that the children would get it, or else it would be taken away to their own children."

Mr. GREEN: Is that feasible?

WITNESS: There are some brutal people in the world. I know there are people who would do these things.

CHAIRMAN: If you would give us details of their names and addresses we will have them here before the Board. So far we have not anything to go on. Bring this woman and also the one at Newcastle before the Board.

WITNESS: When I receive such information as that it is not because these people will not come forward that I am going to allow these things to slide. I am going to introduce some new system.

CHAIRMAN: But you want to be satisfied that these things do take place.

WITNESS: I am satisfied because I have made a special study of human nature.

CHAIRMAN: You know that that woman that you spoke of admits that some of them are untruthful, and that she herself was unruly. If she was unruly she would have to be corrected. She is grown up now, and has had a family apparently, and the women she was under are perhaps all dead now.

WITNESS: I have another man here who is in the Police Department now. He tells me that he made his wife promise that before his children were allowed to go on the State she would kill them. He was on the State. I would not allow these children to go to "cow cockies." What do they go for? They don't go for love.

Mr. GREEN: How many State children are there?

WITNESS: I do not know.

Mr. GREEN: Well, there are 4,000 State children.

WITNESS: Is that all?

Mr. GREEN: That is all there are boarded out.

WITNESS: I was told there were 11,000.

Mr. GREEN: That is counting those who are with their mothers. You are not complaining about those who are with their mothers, are you?

WITNESS: No.

Mr. GREEN: And there are only 394 children at all the farms in the State.

WITNESS: Well, is not that a scandal?

Mr. GREEN: No, I do not think it is a scandal.

WITNESS: And they are getting paid for it.

Mr. GREEN: That includes apprentices as well.

Mr. TAYLOR: That includes apprentices?

Mr. GREEN: Yes, of course. On the dairy-farms they are nearly all apprentices.

WITNESS: There was a man named Asprey who attacked me in the press. I asked this man how many State children he had, and if he had not them how much he would have to pay for labour. He said he would not employ labour because, when the men began to sweat, they struck for higher wages, but he comes down to the State child, and he gets boys who cannot ask for shorter hours or wages. I have that letter here, and Mr. FitzGerald has seen it. I showed it to him the other day, and he said it was a scandal.

Mr. GREEN: Have you been to Asprey's farm?

WITNESS: I do not know him from a bar of soap. He is the greatest blackguard I have ever come across.

Mr. GREEN: Because he tackled you in the press?

WITNESS: In the most blackguardly fashion.

Mr. GREEN: You are attacking everybody else in a blackguardly fashion.

WITNESS: No, I do not.

Mr. GREEN: You blame everybody because you know of two or three cases. You blame two or three thousand people who have these children. You have not proved one case yet.

Mr. TAYLOR: You want a Mrs. Lane, of Cooper-street, Waterloo, called?

WITNESS: Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. And who is that other person? A. A Mrs. Smith. I will have to write to her and ask her to come.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Well, if there are any others that can throw any light on it, you had better get them, too? A. There is a Mr. J. T. Abbott, Post Office, Glen Innes.

Q. Well, he might make a statutory declaration.

WITNESS: And there is another one here. There is a woman named Mrs. Ellis. Her son was 10 years of age. He was also sent to a dairy-farm. That is a matter for investigation also.

Mr. TAYLOR: Well, you communicate with Mr. Abbott at the post-office, Glen Innes, and ask him to give evidence, or to furnish a statutory declaration.

WITNESS: And in regard to that Mrs. Delaney matter. Mr. Green assures you it is not true.

Mr. GREEN: I will show you the papers.

WITNESS: I would like the Board to take Mrs. Delaney's evidence direct from herself.

Mr. TAYLOR: What is her address?

WITNESS: "Violetville," Normandby-street, Auburn. She will come down. I believe there are certain people who called on Mr. Nagle from here.

Mr. TAYLOR: We saw Mr. Nagle.

CHAIRMAN: We have his evidence, and there is nothing in it. He knows nothing, of his own knowledge. It is only what he guesses. All he says is that there is one man there. In effect, he says:—"Now, Bill, you have three State children, haven't you?" and he says, "Yes, I have." Then that witness says, "That is enough for me."

WITNESS: He did not promise to give any further evidence, or anything?

CHAIRMAN: No.

WITNESS: That is the trouble. Had I gone there he might have told me more. I would like to know why I was not sent. The others on the deputation were sent up. I was not notified or invited. The first I heard of it was a letter from them to tell me how they got on. If the Department want to fight me I will take it up.

CHAIRMAN: You may believe in what you think. Probably you consider you are doing a good work, but you have not been careful in receiving evidence. You want to be careful in receiving statements.

WITNESS: I accepted statements on this matter. When I find a system like this sends children out to work for people, I accept—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: It all depends on what you mean by "work." They are brought up, perhaps, as the family is brought up, to do things about the farm.

WITNESS: The boarding-out system was not introduced for that purpose, but to put them into homes in order that they would have a mother and father, and to study.

Mr. TAYLOR: They go to school in study hours.

WITNESS: And they go to work before they go there. If this Department would only refer to a scientist or a specialist—we have any amount of them in Sydney—and ask their opinion—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: They would tell you that your system of making them study all day would make them old men before they were 15 years of age.

WITNESS: From 9 to 4, no. If they worked from 4 o'clock in the morning till about 8 o'clock, and went to school as well, it would.

Mr. TAYLOR: We did not find any evidence of their working from 4 o'clock.



WITNESS: No, but you will never find any evidence if you—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: Anybody who knows anything about a farm knows that the children are absolutely useless on a farm. They go out and gather eggs or get sticks.

WITNESS: And if they are State children and are no use they are probably sent back, and they get more useful ones. Why, people tell me about Sydney that they are going to get State girls to do the housework; it is too expensive employing labour.

CHAIRMAN: If I were you I would go and see for myself, and not take all these statements.

WITNESS: At present I have to fight slavery and brutality all through the State. We have it now. I have to address at present three or four meetings a night. As it is, I am going to fight child slavery right through, and if this Department likes to fight it for themselves—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: Now, will you communicate with these people, or do you want the Board to?

WITNESS: I will communicate with them. They cannot very well come down, all that way, some of them. You could subpoena Mrs. Delancy direct from here.

Mr. TAYLOR: You will look after Mrs. Smith and Mr. Abbott?

WITNESS: I can write and ask Mrs. Smith to make a declaration. I dare say I will have to wait until such time as I am able to go round myself and get information about most of the cases I have. The Education Department apparently made up their minds to block me going round with the party, and so I will have to do it myself. Arthur Griffith goes into the House and tells deliberate falsehoods.

CHAIRMAN: I have had a good deal of experience in the courts, and it is hard to get the truth even in courts of law. In dozens of cases there is absolute perjury committed on both sides. Some people, thinking they will get publicity, will write anything. If you choose to accept all their statements—(interrupted).

WITNESS: Then it is really not necessary to bring anything forward to show the Board the wrongs of the system?

Mr. TAYLOR: You say it cannot be good because human nature is so depraved?

WITNESS: That is right. It cannot be good because the majority of people will sweat children. They sweat their own, as Mr. Green, I daresay, knows.

Mr. GREEN: Suppose you have an institution, have you not the same people to deal with the children in the institution?

WITNESS: Not necessarily.

Mr. GREEN: Human nature is not the same under the institutional system as under the boarding-out system.

WITNESS: Could you not get highly conscientious men to take charge of an institution—a high-class intellectual staff?

Mr. GREEN: I do not think you have any better human nature inside than outside the institutions.

CHAIRMAN: You take the Children's Homes at Mittagong, for instance. Those are really the things you advocate?

WITNESS: No, I am not advocating those things at all. I would advocate them under proper supervision, but not as they are now.

CHAIRMAN: It is the best supervision that can be got.

WITNESS: Then God help Australia.

CHAIRMAN: And yet you have not been there?

Mr. GREEN: Is this evidence any good?

CHAIRMAN: I think you had better give Mr. Hackett a general order in writing, so that he can be admitted to the homes when he thinks fit. In fact, you might present him with a return ticket as well.

WITNESS: I have fought the Government before on other occasions. I do not want a pass from them. I will fight them again. They have taken other people round who were not interested in the matter at all, and left me aside. I will go on to the platform and get it from the people. You can give me a pass to go in, but as far as money is concerned for the train fare, or the tram fare, you can have that.

CHAIRMAN: Well, go and see for yourself.

WITNESS: You will find I have not finished yet.

Mr. GREEN: You look at me as if I were frightened of you doing something. If you have any system, where the children can be better provided for than in the way we are treating them now, I am willing to put it into operation.

WITNESS: Would you put Mittagong against St. Ignatius College?

Mr. GREEN: Yes, I do. I have been through all those; you have not.

WITNESS: Would you put Mittagong against Westmead?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: What you advocate is not only ordinary intellectual education, but ordinary technical education as well?

WITNESS: I would put them to a trade or a profession—law, medicine, or anything else. I think that the orphans should have the same opportunities as the children of the wealthier people of the State.

CHAIRMAN: They can go to the University now.

WITNESS: It all depends who their guardians are.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, it depends on the guardians.

WITNESS: Undoubtedly it does.

Mr. TAYLOR: We had a case down at Bulli the other day where a boy had passed the qualifying certificate examination, and he is going now for the intermediate examination, and the woman in charge of him is going to send him to the University.

Mr. GREEN: One of these boys at the Hawkesbury, off a farm, got a bursary the other day.

WITNESS: I do not believe in any loopholes at all. I believe that we should do our very utmost for these children. When the inspector goes along these children may be well dressed—(interrupted).

Mr. GREEN: The inspector does not notify them when he is going to come.

WITNESS: But they are well known.

CHAIRMAN: We even went to the public schools and asked the masters to let the State children stand up, and you could not tell the difference between them and other children.

WITNESS: A certain person who went round with the last lot told me that after they had visited one place they were expected in every other place they went.

Mr. GREEN: How could that be? It is impossible. You should have some sense about this thing, you know.

WITNESS: I am told that by some prominent people, too.

Mr. GREEN: Why, these gentlemen were on a car. They have not a horse that would go as fast as that car. How could they be informed?

WITNESS: Well, one person who was with this party told me that they had not much chance, and that they were rushed through to get through in a day.

CHAIRMAN: Well, it so happened that Professor MacCallum's wife was down there for a holiday. She is on this Board, and we told her she could have the car and run herself round to these places while we were hearing the cases in the court. She is a woman who ought to know something, and she visited where she liked, and she was perfectly satisfied, too.



*Witnesses*—J. F. Hackett, 17 October ; and M. McKay, 20 November, 1916.

Mr. TAYLOR: There were some families up in that Webb's Creek district where they had children themselves. They wanted them educated, and there would be no school there if they did not have about fifteen or twenty children, so that accounts for six or seven being in one place.

WITNESS: Why should they be sent then to Webb's Creek—just so that there might be a school there?

Mr. TAYLOR: This particular person was a most motherly woman. It seems to be a sort of mission in life with her to do that class of work.

WITNESS: I have heard some people who live round there say she is just the opposite.

CHAIRMAN: Well, she did not know we were coming, and she showed us while we were there an account for clothes. She had a big bundle of stuff there.

WITNESS: Well, if that is the best that this country can do for State children—to send eight or nine children so that some other children could get a school there—there is something wrong somewhere.

Mr. TAYLOR: It is a most exceptional case.

WITNESS: Mr. Griffith assured me twelve months ago that under no circumstances would he agree to more than two children staying at one place. He said he would withdraw the whole lot. That is what Arthur Griffith said.

Mr. GREEN: I will ask you, gentlemen, this—do you not think it would be a scandal to take these children away from this woman? She is a real mother to them, I do not care what you say.

WITNESS: Any doing any work?

Mr. GREEN: I am sure they are not. They do not do a thing except in the house. They are nearly all girls in that house.

WITNESS: You are positively certain they are not doing any work?

CHAIRMAN: There would not be enough work for them all to do.

WITNESS: The first day I went there, Mr. Green, to your office, you told me there were not eight. You laughed at me.

Mr. GREEN: I laughed at you because you complained of that home—because I knew the home. You know you are not saying what is true.

Mr. TAYLOR: They were well housed.

WITNESS: I know some of the places where they take the inspectors in and show them where the children sleep, but they do not sleep there at all. Has she a husband who lives in a hut and is a cripple?

CHAIRMAN: You should go and get some evidence yourself. You are doing some very good work, no doubt, but you want to be sure of your facts.

Mr. GREEN: We welcome fair criticism, and if Mr. Hackett has anything to complain about we will investigate it. He must know that the department is not up against him, because it is not.

WITNESS: It will be disclosed in the public interest. I say that the department has been up against me.

Mr. GREEN: Never. I say that that is absolutely untrue.

WITNESS: Well, why is it I have been ignored when other people have been sent round to see these places?

Mr. GREEN: That is not my department.

WITNESS: I have been ignored while other people, not interested, have been taken round in motor cars and expenses paid for them.

CHAIRMAN: It was, no doubt, on the statement you made that the Minister asked us to officially make the inquiry.

WITNESS: Griffith will not send me with the crowd, because he knows very well I might be able to prove it. He has refused to interview me now.

CHAIRMAN: I think if you can get those others we will meet here again. We will fix a date later on.

Mr. TAYLOR: And Mr. Hackett might send the names of any others who can come here. You could be notified, Mr. Hackett, about the date, and can come along yourself.

(Witness retired.)

(At this stage the Investigation was adjourned *sine die*.)

At 10:30 a.m. on Monday, 20th November, 1916, the Public Service Board (Messrs. Wilshire, Taylor, and Hanna) continued the investigation into the general working of the State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction, particularly with reference to the conditions under which children are boarded out.

[Sitting held in the Board Room, Public Service Board, Sydney.]

MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 1916.

Present:—

Mr. E. H. WILSHIRE, Chairman	} Public Service Board.
Mr. J. M. TAYLOR, Member	
Mr. W. J. HANNA, Member	

Mr. A. W. GREEN, President, State Children Relief Board, &c., representing the Department.

Mr. J. V. CONNOLLY, Chief Clerk, State Children Relief Branch.

Mr. J. F. HACKETT, Commission Agent.

Mr. R. W. GRIFFITS, Shorthand-writer.

CHAIRMAN: You have some witnesses, Mr. Hackett?

Mr. HACKETT: Yes. I have two here now.

CHAIRMAN: Which one do you want to call first?

Mr. HACKETT: Miss McKay.

MARTHA McKay, spinster, 232 Jones-street, Ultimo, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Are you a married woman? A. I am single.

Q. Where are you living? A. At 232 Jones-street, near Ultimo-road, Ultimo.

CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Hackett, you might examine the witness.

Mr. HACKETT: I was going to suggest that it would be advisable for the witness to explain what the circumstances at Mittagong were while she was there.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You were at Mittagong? A. Yes.

Q. How long ago? A. I cannot remember, sir, how long ago. It is a good many years.

Q. What age were you when you went there? A. I was about 7, sir, when they put me out on the State.

Q. What institution did you first go to? A. I was at the Benevolent, boarding with the Benevolent Society.

Q. You stayed there until you were about 7 years of age? A. Yes. I have been on the State since I became 7. They got me when I was 7.

Q. You were boarded with the State then? A. I was boarded with the Benevolent.

Q. Did you leave that institution with your mother? A. I do not remember my mother or my father.

Q. When you were about 7 you went away;—to what institution did you go? You were not in any place besides Mittagong? A. No, sir.

Q. Where did you live up to the age of 7? A. I cannot remember, sir. All I remember is being at the school all my life, in the Homes at Mittagong.

Q. You do not remember before that? A. No. I do not remember any of my relations.

Q. Were you there under your present name? A. Yes, Martha McKay.

Q. How long were you at Mittagong? A. I must have been there until I was 14 or 15. I do not remember how long it is.

Q. What age were you when you left there? A. I think it was 23. That was on the pension papers. I think it was that.

Q. You left there when you were about 23;—under whose care were you first of all? A. Under Mrs. Phillips' care. I was in Miss Forbes' home first, and then I went to Mrs. Phillips' home to go to school.

Q. Where did you go to school? A. I went to Mrs. Phillips' school.

Q. Did you learn to read and write? A. Yes; I was able to write and read, and all that.

Q. How were you treated? A. We were treated very strict. If we did anything, it would be low diet and dry bread and water.

Q. That was as a punishment? A. Yes. We were given cold baths in front of all the other children. We did not like that.

Q. In summer time it would be all right?

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. It would be in front of the girls? A. In front of everybody.

Q. There were no boys there then? A. No. We got a terrible lot of beatings with the brush—thrashings.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Who used to beat you? A. The matron.

Q. What is her name? A. Mrs. Phillips.

Q. Did she hurt you very much? A. She used to take us over to the big school, in front of everybody, and beat us.

Q. Did everybody get beaten or only the bad ones? A. We would all get the same.

Q. Would you get beaten every day? A. We used to do simple things about the house in our work, and we would get a beating.

Q. When you were untidy? A. Yes, or when we did not do our work properly. We would get dry bread when we did not do it properly. If we did not have our scrubbing or work done we would get beaten.

Q. How did you come to leave the institution? A. We were sent to Newington. We got too old.

Q. How long were you there? A. Three years.

Q. How were you treated there? A. We were treated very good. That is the old women's home.

Q. You are not an old woman? A. No; but we were sent there.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Were you not free to go out altogether? A. No; we could not.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You could have gone out to service? A. I was there for about three years, and then I went out with my pension.

Q. How did you get the injury to your limb? A. That was done when I was very young. I do not remember that. My leg is taken off.

Q. What age are you now? A. I am 34 years of age now.

Q. Who is this woman who used to beat you? A. We went to another home, Miss Cutcliffe's. We were there for about three years. She was very strict—more strict than Mrs. Phillips.

Q. What did she do to you? A. She used to beat us the same, and put us on low diet for a couple of days or so, or she would put us before the girls, and we would get punishment.

Q. Any beatings? A. Beatings just the same. Mrs. Phillips and Miss Cutcliffe are sisters.

Q. Where did you go after that? A. After I left that home I went to Newington.

Q. Were the other girls treated the same as you? A. Everyone was treated alike. A couple of girls ran away from the place.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. What time did you have to get up in the morning? A. About 8 o'clock.

Q. At Mittagong? A. Five o'clock in the summer.

Q. What time in the winter? A. About 6 o'clock in the winter.

Q. Was there any specific time allowed for dressing? A. Yes. We had a certain time to get out in the morning, and if we were late we would be punished.

Q. What was the punishment for exceeding the time allowed in getting dressed? A. Dry bread for a meal or one plate for dinner.

Q. The food would be reduced if you were not dressed at a certain hour? A. Yes. If we were not out at a certain time we would be punished. There was a girl there to see that we were all out.

Q. What duties did you have to perform before breakfast? A. I was over so many children. I had to bathe three of the babies. While the children were asleep I would have to do so much work before my breakfast.

Q. Did any of the girls scrub verandahs or floors before breakfast? A. So many girls scrubbed floors.

Q. What age would they be;—what would be the age of the eldest one? A. They were all different ages.

Q. Were there any about 12 years of age? A. Yes; I suppose it would be about that. We were all different ages.

Q. Is it a fact that, in the winter time, ice would be on the buckets? A. Yes. We had to take the tubs of water, and there would be ice on the tubs. When they wanted to take the water out of the buckets the ice would have to be broken.

Q. You say you would have to break the ice? A. Yes.

Q. Is it true that the matron refused to allow the girls to warm the water before using it for scrubbing? A. Yes; we were not allowed to warm the water. I never did the scrubbing. The other girls did that, but they would have to take the cold water out of the tubs to scrub. We never had hot water to scrub with.

Q. What would breakfast consist of? A. We had porridge, and bread and treacle, and a cup of tea. If we were on punishment we would have to take whatever the punishment was.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You would get meat for breakfast? A. No, never meat for breakfast; just porridge or bread and treacle.

Q. How many times would you get meat during the day? A. Once a day.

Q. At dinner-time? A. We were never certain of our meat. Sometimes we would get it to-day, and dry bread for tea for whatever we did during the day.

Q. You would get meat? A. Yes, we would always have meat. We would never be certain of a proper meal. Whatever we did there was a punishment. Sometimes it would be a stick. They used to make us put out our hands and give us the cane.

Q. They would not hit you very hard? A. Yes; they would hit hard. We were so frightened that when Mr. Green came along we would never know, and we were all too frightened to tell him.

Mr. HACKETT: That is what I have stated all through the piece.

Witness—M. McKay, 20 November, 1916.

Q. Do you remember where a girl was thrown into a tub of icy-cold water for some offence? A. One day they put me in a tub of cold water in front of all the girls for punishment.

Q. Was it icy-cold water? A. It was cold water.

Q. In the winter-time? A. I do not know whether it was winter, but it was one day.

Q. You were thrown into a tub of cold water by the matron? A. Yes, in front of all the children.

Mr. GREEN: Q. You were not thrown in by the matron, surely? A. I was not thrown in, but I was made go in.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. That was for punishment? A. Yes. They had different punishments. They were very strict with us.

Mr. HACKETT: In a British community that sounds very well.

Q. What duties did you have to perform;—apart from your own duties, do you know what the other girls had to perform during the day;—did they go to school? A. Yes, we went to school every day. If we were late for school we would get low diet for dinner or dry bread. We had to go to half-past 9 mass or 11 o'clock mass, and if we were late we would be off pudding for Sunday dinner.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Where did you have to go to church? A. About 3 miles.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How many miles did you say? A. About 2 miles.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Did you walk? A. We had to walk.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Did any of the girls there, to your knowledge, have to do any washing besides the scrubbing, which is admitted? A. There was a certain day for washing. I was on flannels, washing the flannels and colours. We would have to get a certain amount of washing done before dinner.

Q. Have you any idea of what ages the girls who used to do the washing were;—were there any under 14 years of age doing washing? A. I could not say. They were all ages.

Q. I believe there is a Boys' Home down there also? A. Yes.

Q. Did the girls have to do the washing from those homes as well? A. I do not think so. We had to do all our own washing in our own home. We did not have to do it for the other homes; they did their own.

Q. You have mentioned the punishments; mention has been made of the punishments which Mrs. Phillips used to inflict on you;—that would be before the whole of the girls? A. Yes. When we would get a beating with the brush all the girls would have to come in and see us get beaten. We did not like that.

Mr. HANNA: Q. What sort of a brush was it? A. A hairbrush.

Q. An ordinary hairbrush? A. Yes. Sometimes they had a quince rod off the trees. They used to make us hold out our hands, and give us so many on each hand.

Q. That would not do you much harm? A. They used to put marks on us. They were very strict with the children.

Q. But they have to be strict? A. We could not tell Mr. Green any of these things that were done. We were never allowed to speak to him. It was only the matron who would see Mr. Green. Then we were too frightened to tell him.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Do you remember any time, when Mr. Green or Mr. Connolly were there, that the table was set with a certain class of food, and the children called in to take their places, and when Mr. Green and Mr. Connolly left the food was taken off the table? A. No; I do not remember about the table business.

Q. But about the table being set when Mr. Connolly or Mr. Green were there? A. Sometimes they would come in when we were having dinner, after the table was set.

Q. Was the table ever set with a certain class of food, and you were not allowed to touch it, but it was taken away before you had an opportunity of using it;—did that happen in your time? A. No.

Mr. GREEN: Are these leading questions fair? Of course, I can put evidence before the Board that such things never occurred.

CHAIRMAN: Strictly speaking they are not admissible, as the questions suggest answers.

WITNESS: There was a girl on dry bread. She would not eat it, so it did for her tea. One day me and another girl was so hungry that we got a girl to steal a loaf of bread out of the safe and eat it. We were on punishment. We would steal or do anything.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Is it a fact that it was a regular thing, when the matron's dinner was going through, for the children to be ordered out? A. Yes. We were not allowed to touch the matron's property or pass it. When the food would be passing we would be told to stand aside, that the matron's dinner was passing.

Q. It might be contaminated by the children? A. Whenever there was a spoon lost we would be put on low diet till it was found.

Q. Do you know anything about washing-day, and the clothes being pegged out? A. We had to do the washing. There was a girl sent round to all the lines to see if it were done properly. If it were not we would have to take it and do it again.

Q. The girls had to do the washing? A. I had to do the flannels and colours. I was never in the house much. I was out in the paddock minding the children. If the children were to fall I used to get dry bread for my dinner or tea.

Q. Did you ever hear about any girls being punished for losing a clothes peg? A. I do not remember that.

Q. You would not have to perform the duties that perhaps other girls would do, girls who would be physically fit? A. No. I was out in the paddock nearly all day. I know all about the dry bread and all the punishments—they are true. They had a punishment for everything. There was not a thing that we would do but what there was a punishment.

Q. Was Miss Cutcliffe in charge of you or Mrs. Phillips? A. We were in Mrs. Phillips' home for so many years. We had to go to Miss Cutcliffe's on account of the sewing. We learned sewing there.

Q. How many days did you go to school? A. We went every day.

Q. How many hours;—what time did you start in the morning? A. About half-past 9—the time they always start. We would come out at dinner-time.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. It was an ordinary public school? A. The big school in the place. It was a school in the institution for all the children.

Q. It was not a public school?

Mr. CONNOLLY: We had a teacher who went there.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. You used to finish about 4? A. Yes.

Q. All this sewing and washing would have to be done apart from the school hours—in between, or in the evenings? A. We had a certain amount of work to do before we went to school. When we did that work we would have to get ready for school, at half-past 9, and go to school.

Q. It had to be done before going to school? A. Yes. We all had different work to do. The rules had to be kept up.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you remember how old you were when you were put on to the washing? A. I was not too young. The matron said I could wash them properly.

Q. You do not know how old you were when you started washing? A. I was not too old when I started washing.

Q. Were you 14? A. I was over 14 when I started to wash.



CHAIRMAN: Q. When did you leave off school? A. I was pretty old when I left off school—about 18.

Mr. CONNOLLY: They went to school when they had nothing else to do. They liked to go to school.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You were not punished every day, were you? A. Every day. We would never be sure of a proper meal every day. We might get our dinner or breakfast.

Q. As long as you did nothing wrong— (*interrupted*). A. We never did anything out of the way.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. There were some days when you did nothing wrong when you would get your meals? A. Once in a way.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you mean to say you were not happy up there? A. We were not what you would call happy, because there were all the punishments.

Q. That was their own fault? A. Not always. We got punished for the least little thing. If we did a simple thing we were talked to.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Was there a punishment inflicted for a certain offence or alleged offence, where a child would be prohibited from speaking to any other girls in the home for a certain length of time? A. Yes. We would be off talks for a certain number of days—sometimes a week or three days. If we spoke to the girls we would get low diet or dry bread.

Q. They would not talk to you? A. No.

Mr. HACKETT: That is a most important thing.

CHAIRMAN: Q. When you left Newington, did you go into service? A. I went to a lady who took me in. I gave her so much for my board from my pension. She kept me.

Q. So much was allowed you by the State? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. It is the invalid pension? A. Yes. I gave this lady ten shillings per fortnight for my board out of my pension money, and I have four shillings to keep myself in clothes. Then I left this lady and I went to another lady. I have a room off this one. I pay four shillings a week for the room. I keep myself.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Are you not able to do something? A. I am not able to do much.

Q. You could do a little sewing? A. I do a little sewing, but I could not go out and earn my living. I am not able to get about very well in the city. I do not know my way about, and I lose myself.

Q. Who was the officer in charge up there when all these things happened? A. Mr. Green was over us, and also Mr. Connolly.

Q. Mr. Connolly was not up there? A. No.

Q. It was before his time? A. Mr. Green was up there.

Q. He was not living there? A. He used to come up every week. We never had a chance of telling Mr. Green these things. We were too frightened to tell him. We were never near him to let him know. We were always out with the children. The matron used to come down with Mr. Green, and then they would go back again. We never had a chance of telling him these things. It is not Mr. Green's fault. We never had a chance to tell him. If we had had the chance to tell him he would have known all about it.

Q. Do you mean to say Mr. Green did not speak to the children? A. He used to talk to the little ones. We were too frightened to tell him. The matron would always be there.

Q. He would speak to some of them? A. He would say, "How are you getting on," and say, "Hulloa" to us. We were too frightened to tell Mr. Green anything.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. That is understood? A. We would get a hiding after Mr. Green went.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Did you ever tell me anything? A. No.

Q. How do you know you would get a hiding if you never told me anything? A. We used to be frightened.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you know anybody who told Mr. Green anything and got a hiding? A. No. We were frightened into it.

Mr. HACKETT: That is understood.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Were you frightened to tell me anything? A. I never used to see you, Mr. Connolly.

Q. Would you be frightened to tell me anything? A. I would if Mrs. Phillips was there, but if you were by yourself I might have told you.

Q. Did you never see me by myself? A. You used to come down to see us, but I never saw you by yourself.

Q. Did I not go amongst you girls, just the same as I would go into the school and talk to everyone? A. But we were too frightened to tell you anything like that. We were terrible cowards.

Q. Why? A. I do not know why it was. I suppose it was on account of the matron.

Mr. HACKETT: That is understood.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Did you ever hear of anyone getting a hiding for telling Mr. Green anything, or wanting to tell him anything? A. I do not remember that.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How long is it since you left Mittagong? A. It is a couple of years.

Q. Is it eight years or more? A. I was at Newington for three years.

Q. How long have you been away from Mittagong? A. I have been five years on the pension.

Q. It is eight years since you went to Newington? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. They were not very strict at Newington? A. No. We could go out day and night.

Q. They were all old ladies there? A. Yes. There was no strictness like there was at the homes. We will never forget the homes.

Q. The old ladies do not play up? A. No. They take their glass, but that is all they do. They do not have the rules like they have in the homes. It is a different place altogether.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Did you have to do any work at Newington? A. I used to go in for sewing all day. We never got punished. We always got our meals and everything.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You do not control Newington, Mr. Green?

Mr. GREEN: Not now. I was in charge of it.

Q. Do you remember the names of any girls who were at Mittagong? A. There were lots of girls.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Tell me some of their names? A. May David and Topsy Lindsay.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you know where they are now? A. No. I have had a few letters from May David at Newcastle.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Do you remember any of the other girls? A. Maudie White, Ruby Conroy, and Maggie Gleeson.

Q. Who were your particular chums, about your own age? A. I used to be a lot with May David.

Q. You would play up now and again? A. No, not very seriously. What punishments we got were for trifles. You might happen to do something wrong in your work, or we might be late up, or not do our washing properly, and we would get dry bread for that. If we got up in the night we would have to go out in the front; we would not be allowed to go down the yard. They were terribly strict; I will say that.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Do you know of the case of a girl suffering from dysentery? A. Yes. She is outside now—Mrs. Peterson. She is married now. Nellie Cronin was her name.

(Witness retired.)



Witness—H. Peterson, 20 November, 1913.

HELEN PETERSON, married woman, residing at 432 Jones-street, Ultimo, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Are you a married woman? A. I am married. My husband is dead.

Q. You are a widow now? A. Yes.

Q. Where are you living? A. 432 Jones-street, Ultimo.

Q. About what age are you? A. I do not know. I left my mother when I was young. Then she died.

Q. Where did you go? A. To Parramatta.

Q. Can you say how long you were at Parramatta? A. They reckon I was there for about six years.

Q. Where did you go to from Parramatta? A. To Mittagong.

Q. How long were you at Mittagong? A. I must have been there about ten or eleven years.

Q. Where did you go to after you left Mittagong? A. After I left Mrs. Phillips' home I was put into Miss Cutcliffe's home. I was there three years.

Q. How long were you at Mittagong altogether? A. About ten years at Mrs. Phillips, I think, and three years at Miss Cutcliffe's, as far as I remember.

Q. You left Mittagong. A. I was in for about three weeks suffering from dysentery. Miss Cutcliffe got the doctor to me, and she kept me in bed for about three weeks. I was so bad that I could not eat. They sent for the doctor, and the doctor said, "My word, she has got thin." After he went I said, "What did the doctor say?" and she said, "The doctor said there was nothing wrong with you." Anyhow, she kept me there for three weeks. Then she took me down as far as Rookwood, and sent me down to the Newington Asylum.

Q. Were you still ill? A. Yes.

Q. You did not recover? A. No; I never recovered till I got to Newington.

Q. Did the doctor attend to you? A. Dr. Fox put me on eggs and butter, and I was there about a month and got on splendidly.

Q. You got quite well again? A. Yes. I was there for about four or five years.

Q. You left there and got married? A. I came out with a friend of mine, Agnes Macfarlane. She let me in with her, and we went to Parramatta. I was twelve months with her and then she died.

Q. That was after you left Newington? A. Yes.

Q. What happened after her death? A. She went up to Newington first, and stayed three or four months, and I went to Mrs. Macfarlane's, and I got the invalid pension. It was through her that I got the invalid pension.

Q. I suppose you got married then? A. That was a long time after this.

Q. You got the invalid pension, you say? A. I was staying with Mrs. Macfarlane. I had a room there. She is a cousin of Agnes.

Q. How long after you left the institution was it that you got married? A. I do not know how long it was.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How long is it since you left Mittagong? A. I was five years at Newington.

Q. It is ten years or more since you left Mittagong? A. It must be about ten years now.

Q. How long have you been married? A. I was not married long when my husband died.

Q. Is it two years? A. He will be three years dead on the 10th January.

Q. You say you were not married to him very long; was it one year or two years? A. Eight or nine months, I think. Then I took bad again, and I had to go back to Newington.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How old were you when you were at Mittagong? A. I could not say.

Mr. GREEN: She was at the Parramatta Cottage Homes first when she was quite a little thing.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Were you grown up? A. I must have been over 20 when I went to Mittagong.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How old do you think you are now? A. They have me down as 44, but I would not be sure. I do not know properly.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Do you remember what ages the girls were who had to do the washing and scrubbing? A. Sixteen or 18, and different ages.

Q. Would 16 be the youngest? A. I do not think so. There would be younger children than that, about 15 or 16.

Q. What forms of punishment did you notice were inflicted on the inmates for offences against the rules? A. Dry bread, and off talk—no right to speak to anyone.

Q. What was the longest period that they were not allowed to speak? A. I had to call all the girls up in the morning. They had seven minutes to get dressed. Whoever was last out got dry bread all that day. I used to call them up. If I was five minutes late in calling them up I got dry bread all day and off talk. I was not allowed to talk to anyone.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Who told on the girls if they were late? A. We would have to tell on one another. We all turned against one another. I would have to see who was late, and if I did not tell I would be punished myself.

Q. If you knew that a girl was going to get dry bread all day you would tell on her? A. I used to tell to save myself. That is the way we were brought up. I had to do it to save myself.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Did you notice at any time a girl being thrown by the matron into a tub of water, icy-cold, for an offence? A. Not exactly thrown in.

Q. Pushed in? A. There were cold baths.

Q. Did you ever notice of a morning that the girls would be doing scrubbing work, and there would be ice on the buckets or tubs? A. Yes.

Q. Were they allowed to warm the water before placing their hands in it? A. No. We used to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning. I had to make all the beds in the ward. I never had any boots on; I had to go about in my stockinged feet in the ward. Each girl used to scrub a portion. Each girl would take about four boards. If she took more than four boards I would have to tell on her. If she fell asleep or if I feel asleep we would have to tell on one another.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Who was in charge of the home then? A. Mrs. Phillips.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. What kinds of punishment were inflicted on them, besides dry bread and cold baths? A. Off talk, and we would have our hair cut.

Q. For talking? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Not for talking. You never got your hair cut for talking.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Except for talking immorally? A. I was off talk one day for getting up late. If I called the girls five minutes late I would get dry bread that morning and off talk. I was not even allowed to talk to any girl, even on business. One Sunday they came in and spoke to me. They were waiting for their clothes. The girls were all on the other side, and they were singing out, "Hurry up and give us our clothes." I was not well at the time. This was at Miss Cutcliffe's, before I was sent to Newington. One of the girls went and told Miss Cutcliffe. She was at Mrs. Phillips' home. She went away and told Miss Cutcliffe that I would not hurry up and give them their clothes for church. When they were late for church they got no pudding, or something like that. If I did not give them their clothes out I would be punished. Anyhow, she told Miss Cutcliffe that I would not hurry up and give them their clothes. She boxed my ears, and my ears have not been right since. The drum is still a bit funny. I can hear out of it, but it is not as right as it was. She boxed them until I said I would give them out. Previously I had said I would not give them out. I said I could not hurry any quicker. There

were seven, or eight, or twelve of them waiting for their clothes, boots, and everything else. I had to get them out of the store or the linen room. I would have to take my boots off to go into the linen room to get what they wanted out of the linen press. I was punished for it. If I was not there by 9 o'clock I would be punished. If I did not have a dress made by lunch-time I would have to wait until I got it made. I was often there, sitting up at night sewing. Three of us had to sew for all the home, every morning, and we had to get the sewing ready for the homes.

Mr. HACKETT: Sweated labour!

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you say your hair was cut for talking? A. Yes. I had lengths cut off my hair when I spoke to a little girl when I was put off talk. We were not supposed to talk to anyone even on business. If you said yes or no they would tell on you. Then Miss Cutcliffe would come and cut your hair. She turned me over the stool one day with a brush, and called every girl in the home to have a look at me, in order to take the shame out of me. Everyone looked at me excepting Martha McKay, who would not.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Very creditable? A. I was treated bad enough at Mrs. Phillips', but when I went to Miss Cutcliffe's it nearly settled me. They thought I was dying when I went to Newington.

Q. There was one girl there who was suffering from dysentery one evening, and could not get out to the proper place in time (I was told), and the matron rubbed this girl's nose in it; do you know anything about that at all? A. No. That was not me. It may have been one of the other girls.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. You never heard of that happening within your knowledge? A. I was there the longest, and I do not remember that at all. We would not dare to tell Mr. Green or Mr. Connolly, because they made out that we were such liars that we ought not to be believed. I could not even tell my own sister when she came to see me.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. At any time while Mr. Green or Mr. Connolly were present was the table ever set with a certain class of food, and that food removed after they had gone? A. Yes.

Q. Can you explain how that happened? A. I cannot exactly explain it. I know what you mean.

Q. What was on the table? A. I forget exactly now. I know that whenever Mrs. Phillips' things came along we would have to stand aside. We were not allowed to go near where the things were. One day, when I was not there very long, I was wiping the crockery, and one of the other girls was washing up, Mrs. Phillips came up and boxed my ears for wiping her crockery on our towel. I told her to stop, and she said, "I will not stop it. I have boxed the ears of other girls." If one of the girls got into their kitchen we would get into trouble.

Q. When you were down there did the other girls ever know when Mr. Green or Mr. Connolly were coming? A. Yes. We always knew when they were coming.

Mr. GREEN: Q. You always knew when I was coming? A. She said you were coming, and we would have to get in and hurry up and get our work done.

Q. You knew I was coming every time? A. Not every time.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Was Mr. Connolly living there? A. No, not in my time. He used to visit there.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Were there special preparations made when these gentlemen were coming up, in order to get the work done by a certain time? A. We would have to get certain things done.

Q. Do you remember a girl named May David? A. Yes.

Q. Perhaps you may know something about this: on one occasion this girl is supposed to have left a bucket behind; Mr. Green arrived somewhat unexpectedly, and she had to clear right away and get out of the road; you do not know that she was punished for leaving the bucket behind? A. She was.

Q. You can recollect that? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. How long ago is that? A. A good while now.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. May David is married, but her husband is dead; I was speaking to her on Saturday at Newcastle? A. There was a bit of string in the yard one day when the matron came along with Mr. Green, and it was not picked up. She was punished after Mr. Green had gone. If there was a bit of a footmark on the oil-cloth I would get punished after Mr. Green and Mr. Connolly went. A lot of different people would come out, and if the yard was not up to what it ought to be we would get punished when they went.

Q. They would always wait until they had gone? A. Yes. We had a picnic every twelve months. I said I did not want to go to one. That was the time I was bad. I said, "I am not too well—I am ill," and she said, "You will have to go: Mr. Green will be looking for you." She told me that Mr. Green might wonder why I was not there. We never had a chance to tell anyone about anything. We were too frightened. We were punished if we told anybody.

Q. You would be punished after they had gone? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Do you know that anyone was punished afterwards for what they told me? A. No.

Q. How did you know? A. We knew.

Q. How? A. She made out that we were such storytellers that we would not have been believed.

Q. Do you not know that you were kept there for many years longer than you need have been, because of Mrs. Phillips and Miss Cutcliffe asking for you to remain? A. Yes.

Q. On account of the state of your health? A. Yes.

Q. If they were so cruel to you, why did they ask for you to remain there? A. Only when I was useful to them. When I got sick she was glad to pack me off to Newington, but while I was able to do anything she was glad to keep me there.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Did you not want to stay at Mittagong yourself? A. No. I wanted to get away, but I was frightened to tell her.

Mr. HACKETT: I think it is clear that these children were forced into answering questions.

Mr. GREEN: They were not children. This woman was over 20 years of age at the time. She was not a child. She was a free agent.

WITNESS: I was not. I was turned over the stool in front of them all.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. At that age? A. Yes. One girl 25 years of age was put on dry bread. Miss Cutcliffe turned me over at 30 years of age.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Some of them were breaking the rules? A. We had a certain amount of punishment.

Q. But you think the punishments were too severe? A. Yes.

Q. A lot of them told lies, and one thing and another? A. I do not know.

Q. Did you hear any improper talk there? A. No. If we were late for church we would get punished. If we did not come home and tell what the Gospel was we would get punished.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. When you were turned over the stool, what was that for? A. Getting up late, or something like that. I never did anything out of the way. We never saw anyone out in the bush. We went to church. We were put over the stool for doing anything bad. It was only over our work, or different things like that.

Witness—H. Peterson, 20 November, 1916.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. While you were at Mittagong did all the children go to school, that is, those that were of school age? A. Yes.

Mr. HANNA: Q. You said that the girls were allowed seven minutes to dress in the morning? A. Yes.

Q. And also that the last one out was punished? A. Yes.

Q. Supposing the last one out was out in six and half minutes, would she be punished? A. She had seven minutes. If she was over the seven minutes—(interrupted).

Q. If she was inside the seven minutes she would not be punished? A. No, but over the seven minutes she would be punished.

Q. I understood you to say that the last girl was always punished? A. The last one out of the ward.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. She would have to be late before she would be punished? A. Yes.

Q. If everyone got out within the seven minutes it would be all right? A. Yes. But over that we would get punished.

Q. If she was inside the seven minutes it would be all right? A. Yes. I would have to watch, and would have to tell Mrs. Phillips.

Q. How did you keep the time? A. I had one of the little clocks, and I would have to call them up and watch for the last one out.

Q. You would take a note of the time you called them? A. Yes. I would have to tell Mrs. Phillips the time I called them, and take the clock into her when I would go and tell her they were all out. If I did not I would get punished myself.

Q. If you had not the clock with you, how could you tell to a quarter of a minute the time you spent between the dormitory and going to tell Mrs. Phillips? A. I called them first, and I took the clock into her bedroom.

Q. Did you tell her the time? A. Yes. I would watch until they were all out of the wards, and I would go back and say that all the girls were out, and she would look at the time and see what the time was. I would say, "It is seven minutes past," and she would say, "Are they all out to time?" and I would say, "Yes." Perhaps a girl could not find a stocking, and she might be a few minutes late, and I would tell on her.

Q. Do you know of any girls having their hair cut for any offences? A. If they ran away, or if there was anything in their heads, they would have their hair cut.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. It would have to be considered a serious offence before they would have their hair cut? A. If some of the girls ran away they got their hair cut off.

Q. They got their hair cut for running away? A. Yes. You would get a good length off when you were supposed not to talk.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. It would never be cut for that? A. My hair was cut several times for talking.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Do you know of any of the girls being immoral there? A. No.

Q. Do you know Mary Croft? A. Yes.

Q. Was she an immoral girl? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you know where she came from? A. No.

Q. You do not know that she went there from the Shaftesbury Reformatory? A. No.

Q. Did some of the girls have skin eruptions and skin diseases, and that sort of thing? A. Yes.

Q. They had sores on them, and they would go there with various kinds of complaints; you went there because you were a cripple? A. Yes.

Q. Other girls went there with diseases, skin diseases, dirty heads, and that sort of thing? A. They came there with dirty heads, and they were made clean.

Q. Did not that account for the matron not wanting every girl to touch her crockery or her towels? A. I do not know.

Q. Would not that be a good reason? A. They would not allow any of us to touch it. When the girl with the crockery was passing by, we would have to stand aside for her to pass. She said one day that her children smelt sweeter than we did.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Her own children? A. Yes. She has two girls and a boy. One day we heard her say, "Don't my children smell sweet compared with the State children?"

Q. To whom did she say that? A. To her sister, in front of us. Her sister is Miss Cutcliffe.

Q. You heard that yourself? A. Yes, and the others heard it also.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. The girls did the same work practically every day? A. Yes—the washing, doing the yards, and one thing and another.

Q. There was a certain time, and they had to get through with their work, in order to get to school? A. Yes. They would have to be done by school-time, otherwise they would be punished.

Q. Some girls would be inclined not to work? A. Yes, some of them were.

Q. Some of them were sent there for punishment? A. I do not know that they were sent there for punishment.

Q. Do you know of any girls who had been removed from places where they had been placed out? A. Yes.

Q. They were returned for punishment, and they were there really on punishment? A. Yes, a couple of them were. Some of them were there because they had no homes.

Q. You know of instances where there were girls there—I do not recall any of them now, but I know they were there—who were naughty girls, and they were sent there because they wanted dealing with in some way, and they were made to work so that they would be better girls at the next place they went to; I am not saying anything about the sort of work they had to do; they were made to work, but it was expected that they would do it properly, and up to time? A. They were taught to be clean, and that sort of thing.

Q. Did you have any little picnics or parties among yourselves? A. Miss Cutcliffe used to give us a picnic on her birthday. Anyone who was on punishment would be let off that day. She used to ask for us to be let off.

Q. Did you see me there frequently? A. Yes.

Q. You never made any complaint to me? A. No. I have nothing against you or Mr. Green.

Q. You were never frightened of me? A. No. I often wished I could tell you a thing or two, but I could not.

Q. Why did you not? A. I was too frightened.

Q. Did I not go around and speak to all the girls individually? A. Yes.

Q. At any time? A. If I told you I would be told on. They would tell on me. That is how it was. We were all against one another. I met a girl one day down George-street, and she said, "Do you remember me," and I said, "Yes, I remember you—a bit too much. You used to pick on me." She said, "We were put up to that." I said, "It does not matter, it was not nice." She had her sister with her.

(Witness retired.)

CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Hackett, have you any other witnesses?

Mr. HACKETT: Mrs. Lane promised to be here today. She is an important witness, and I would like to call her at some future sitting.

CHAIRMAN: Do you want to call any evidence, Mr. Green?

Mr. GREEN: I will have to call Mrs. Phillips and Miss Cutcliffe. The two girls have made statements about these two ladies. It is certainly news to us that Helen Cronin or the other girl had been badly treated. I always



thought that Helen Cronin was one of the pets of the place, because we kept her there for so many years, which was unnecessary.

Mr. HACKETT: I have been up in the Hawkesbury district. I have been told that an inquiry was held up there, and that a certain car went round the Hawkesbury, and that certain men were called as witnesses. I was not in any way notified of this. These people have never seen me in their lives. When I went up there they thought they had fallen into a trap. They did not say everything. They thought they had fallen into a trap.

CHAIRMAN: The inquiry was held by the Board.

Mr. TAYLOR: You got certain information from Mr. Nagle about Wiseman's Ferry.

Mr. HACKETT: Not all of it.

Mr. TAYLOR: You got the main part of it.

Mr. HACKETT: I received the information as to the inquiry—I cannot tell you who it was. It is a matter of strict confidence.

Mr. TAYLOR: Mr. Nagle told us that he gave you the information.

Mr. HACKETT: Certain information.

Mr. TAYLOR: We saw his letters.

Mr. HACKETT: That is not at the inquiry. That was dealing with what he had seen up there, or what he knew.

CHAIRMAN: I think, if I recollect aright, you only mentioned Nagle as the person who gave you the information. You did not mention anybody else's name.

Mr. HACKETT: There was somebody else who protested to me.

CHAIRMAN: We did not know these things.

Mr. HACKETT: I am saying that I received certain information, and I believe it is quite correct that an inquiry was held.

CHAIRMAN: It was held up there by the Board.

Mr. HACKETT: I supplied the information, but I was not notified of the inquiry in any way. I do not want any expenses from the Department. I would have gone myself and stayed by the people who were not then prepared to say what they knew. They thought they had fallen into a kind of trap when they started to speak.

CHAIRMAN: A trap—what trap? All they had to do was to tell the truth. That is all we expected them to do.

Mr. HACKETT: Of course, apart from that, we, the people who know the world, understand that there are certain things that men have said and done . . . . People in the country, not mixed up with affairs of anybody or with matters of the world, become nervous—

Mr. TAYLOR: There was no nervousness.

CHAIRMAN: It was held in open court, and they were sworn to tell the truth. If they wanted to make up some story we did not expect it.

Mr. HACKETT: I have been informed that there was a person of the same name as myself up there who went about at that inquiry. Is that correct? I received that from an officer of the Government service a long while back.

Mr. GREEN: No. Give the Board the name of the man who gave the information, and let us see who it was.

Mr. HACKETT: I got certain information from another place.

Mr. GREEN: Are these generalities of any value?

Mr. TAYLOR: We went into the different houses where the children were, and examined everyone that we could possibly find. We recognised that there was a bit of tidying up at some places, but it was very small indeed.

Mr. HACKETT: I have been forced to go to enormous expense trying to find out these things. I have to go away again to find out certain things.

Mr. GREEN: You are not relying on these two witnesses. I can show that they are absolutely unreliable.

Mr. HACKETT: I have asked Mr. Green and Mr. Griffith also, through the press, certain questions, but I have not been answered yet. I want to know how many children are on dairy farms, and have been during the past five years, and all that sort of thing. These things are going on. I know it very well, and common sense tells me that certain people—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: You can draw any conclusions you like. We deal with the evidence, and we can only deal with the evidence and the facts that are before us.

Mr. TAYLOR: Is it a fact that they are now sent to dairy farms?

Mr. GREEN: Not under 14.

Mr. HACKETT: None under 14 at the present time?

Mr. TAYLOR: We were down the South Coast some little time ago, and we saw several of the farms. We found that the youngsters were well looked after. The Department seem to have shown very great care in choosing the places which we saw. They were all that one could possibly wish.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Hackett is obsessed with the idea that the children are badly treated, and nothing we can do or say can prove anything otherwise to him.

Mr. HACKETT: Before another three months are over I will prove it. If you can make out that the testimony is not true I will give it up.

Mr. GREEN: As far as these two witnesses are concerned, I can show you that they are absolutely unreliable, and have been unreliable.

Mr. TAYLOR: If what these women said to-day about the discipline is true, in my opinion that wants to be remedied.

Mr. GREEN: You must have discipline with these girls. You could not carry on a place like that without discipline.

Mr. TAYLOR: Those punishments are wrong, if they are true.

Mr. GREEN: This gentleman places them against everyone else. These two girls have been unreliable all through their lives, and we know that they have been unreliable. If I had known that these two girls were to have been brought here to-day I would have brought the papers to show you.

Mr. HACKETT: I think I will satisfy the Board, whether Mr. Green likes it or not, that my evidence is reliable.

(At this stage the Inquiry was adjourned until 10-30 a.m. on 24th November, 1916.)



At 10:30 a.m. on Friday, 24th November, 1916, the Public Service Board (Messrs. Wilshire, Taylor, and Hanna) continued the investigation into the general working of the State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction, particularly with reference to the conditions under which children are boarded out.

[Sitting held in the Board Room, Public Service Board, Sydney.]

FRIDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1916.

Present:—

MR. E. H. WILSHIRE, Chairman }  
MR. J. M. TAYLOR, Member } Public Service Board.  
MR. W. J. HANNA, Member }

Mr. A. W. GREEN, President, State Children Relief Board, &c., representing the Department.  
Mr. J. V. CONNOLLY, Chief Clerk, State Children Relief Branch.  
Mr. J. F. HACKETT, Commission Agent.

Mr. R. W. GRIFFITS, Shorthand-writer

CHAIRMAN: Have you any further witnesses to call, Mr. Hackett?

Mr. HACKETT: I would like to call Mrs. Delaney.

Mrs. MADELINE DELANEY, 19 Normanby-road, Auburn, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Are you a married woman? A. Yes.

Q. Living with your husband? A. Yes.

Q. Where at? A. 19 Normanby-road, Auburn.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Some time ago, I am not sure of the exact date, your son was taken away from you? A. Yes.

Q. Was Albert his name? A. Yes.

Q. He was placed under the care of the State? A. Yes.

Q. Who recommended that the boy should be placed under the care of the State? A. It was recommended by the minister, Mr. Harris—two ministers, in fact.

Q. What was the reason; was he a bit out of hand? A. Yes.

Q. What was his age? A. Twelve.

Q. What year was that? A. 7th October, 1914.

Q. He was 12 at that time? A. A little over 12.

Q. I believe he was sent to the Boys' Shelter at Albion-street? A. Yes.

Q. Is it a fact that you went there on a certain date and heard from your son that he was to be sent away? A. Yes.

Q. You asked the matron where he was going to be sent to? A. Yes.

Q. She refused to give you the information? A. Yes.

Q. You asked for the Superintendent, Mr. Humphries, I believe? A. Yes.

Q. He referred you to Mr. Green? A. Yes.

Q. You called to see Mr. Green? A. Yes.

Q. Is it a fact that they refused you an interview with Mr. Green? A. Yes.

Q. They would not allow you to see him? A. No.

Q. When you found that the boy was to be sent away, and where he was being sent to, who told you where he was being sent to? A. I did not know where he had been sent to until after I got his letter.

Q. You found out that he was—where? A. At Mr. Saul's, Macleay River.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. How long after he was taken away? A. Five weeks after he had been taken away from me.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. You were told by the clergyman—a Church of England clergyman, I presume he was, by the papers—that he would be sent to the Mittagong Home for a certain amount of training; instead of that he was sent away to the Macleay River? A. Yes.

Q. What was the occupation of the man he was sent to? A. Dairy-farmer.

Q. Did you complain to the Department about his being sent away? A. Yes.

Q. How many letters did you write? A. My husband and I wrote five letters.

Q. Who to? A. To Mr. Green himself.

Q. Did you receive any replies? A. I cannot remember receiving one reply.

Q. In those letters did you make any reference to the boy's health, and what would happen to him if he was to remain on that farm? A. I told Mr. Green that I was afraid that that kind of life would kill the boy, because he was not strong enough to stand it.

Q. How long was he away before he died? A. Seven months.

Q. You received a communication that he was ill in Kempsey Hospital? A. Yes.

Q. You went up straight away? A. Two days after I got the wire saying that he was ill.

Q. When you went to the hospital, did you notice anything about the boy which would lead you to believe that he was overworked? A. Yes; the child was overworked.

Q. Who brought him to the hospital? A. Mr. Saul took him there himself.

Q. Did he take him to the hospital in the car? A. In a sulky. The child was left until he could not stand up.

Q. Did Mr. Saul take him right up to the hospital? A. Yes.

Q. Was he carried into the ward? A. He walked in.

Q. Do you know what he was suffering from? A. They wired to Mr. Green and myself too that the child had rheumatic fever, but I am sure it was not rheumatic fever; it was typhoid, and a broken heart.

Q. What kind of work was he doing; did he tell you? A. All kind of farming work, and the milking. The worst, I think, was having to empty the dunnican tins.

Q. He had to empty the night-soil pans? A. Yes.

Q. That was at 12 years of age? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How often did he do that? A. Every Saturday. He said it made him sick every week when he had to do it.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. From the time he left you until he died, how long was it? A. Seven months exactly from the time they took him away.

Q. When he left you, what kind of health was he in? A. You could not find a healthier boy.

Q. You had not had the doctor to him within twelve months from the time he was taken away from you? A. No. He had excellent health. He passed the doctors at the shelter as being in excellent health.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Why did you write to us and say that the work would kill him? A. Because he was overgrowing his strength.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Common sense would tell us that a boy working on a dairy-farm would be killed; from the time you went up there, Mrs. Delaney, to the time he died, how many days would that be? A. I was with him for ten days.

Q. Did he at any time complain to you about being flogged because he reported to an inspector that he had been overworked by the alleged guardian of his? A. Yes.

Q. Did he tell you that he had been flogged because he reported to an inspector that he had been ill-treated? A. Mr. Saul told me himself that he had whipped him. He told me he had whipped him for telling him a lie. My boy said, "No, it was because I said something to the inspector which he did not wish me to speak about."

Q. While you were at Kempsey did you hear anything from the neighbours which would lead you to believe that the boy was ill-treated or had been overworked? A. One neighbour said she could see him fading away from the day he went there. She said she could see the child getting weaker and weaker. He complained of not having sufficient to eat. He had so much work to do, sometimes for four or five hours, before he could get his breakfast.

Q. I understand that he was very ill at the time you were up there, but at any time while he was in bed before he died did he ever tell you about any work he did while he was there? A. No.

Q. I understand the position very well—I do not suppose he could; when a boy is dying he could not tell what he had gone through; there is another matter—while you were away up there, is it a fact that the police or somebody from the Government Departments called at your place and took another boy from you? A. Yes.

Q. It was while you were away attending to the other boy? A. Yes.

Q. What was this boy's name? A. Stanley.

Q. While you were attending to Albert, is it a fact that you had a baby in arms, and that baby died up there while you were attending to Albert? A. He died just after I came back.

Q. That is, two children were lost by you while you were away looking after a son of yours, who was under the control of the State Children Relief Department; when you came back you found that another child had been taken away from you by the police? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. You also had a daughter taken later on? A. That was before.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Did you protest against the action of these particular parties or people, whoever they were, who took Stanley away from you? A. Yes.

Q. Did you write a letter? A. Yes. I could not find out the name of the person who took Stanley away.

Q. It was the Police Department, at the instigation of the State Children Relief Department—(interrupted).

Mr. GREEN: You have no right to presume it.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. I insist on the presumption; did you write to Mr. Green applying for the return of Stanley? A. I remember three letters that I wrote, and then Mr. Dunn, the member for Mudgee, also wrote.

Q. Do you remember his replying to you about the receipt of any letter from the Department? A. Yes.

Q. What did he say? A. I think I have the letter here (produced).

(By direction, the shorthand-writer then read the following communication):—

Sydney, 6th September, 1915.

W. F. Dunn, Esq., M.L.A., Parliament House, Sydney.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Minister for Education to acknowledge receipt of the letter forwarded by you from Mr. G. N. Delaney, of "Violetville," Normanby-road, Auburn, in regard to the death of his son, Albert, who was under the control of the State Children Relief Department.

The file of papers in connection with this matter is at present before the Minister, and Mr. Griffith will consider the request conveyed by you from Mr. Delaney.

Yours faithfully,

N. L. SALMON,  
Minister's Secretary.

Mr. HACKETT: When I first came into touch with this case I placed the matter before the State Children Relief Department—I mean that I communicated with the Minister for Education, then Arthur Griffith. Then

I got a letter from Mr. Board, dated 6th October, informing me that the Minister for Education had the case under consideration, and that he had decided to allow the lad to return to the care of his parents, on the understanding that if his behaviour was not satisfactorily reported upon he would be returned to the control of the Department. That is from 24th July, when I put the application in, until 6th October. You can quite understand that the matter had been speedily dealt with.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Has the boy been returned to your care? A. Not yet. I do not wish to have him brought home until Christmas.

Q. He is, at the present time, with your mother? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. That is at your own wish? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. You are under the impression, from what you saw on your visit to Kempsey, that your son Albert was ill-treated when he was on the farm with Mr. Saul? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know a man named Charteris? A. I heard of him. He was ill in the hospital while I was there.

Q. Have you heard this man make any complaint about this particular individual named Saul who had charge of your son? A. I heard from other people that he had been cruelly used while he was with him.

Q. Did you ever hear, while you were in Kempsey, that two boys who were in the charge of Mr. Saul were drowned? A. Yes.

Q. While fishing, or something like that? A. Yes.

Q. You are perfectly satisfied from what you know that your son was ill-treated? A. I am sure he was.

Q. And at 12 years of age he was working on a dairy farm? A. Yes.

Q. You had written to the Department informing them that that kind of life would kill the boy? A. Yes.

Q. And they took no notice? A. No.

Q. The boy died? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: If it was my son I would shake things up a bit.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Did you see the doctor while you were up there? A. Yes. It was not satisfactory. Mr. Saul said himself that that doctor was the best fever doctor. I have been deceived all round.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. This question is the most important; I repeat it again, so that it may be impressed on the minds of all here; did the boy state that he had been flogged for reporting to the inspector? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Flogged or whipped?

Mr. HACKETT: There is no difference.

WITNESS: I think Mr. Saul was kind enough to wrap up the whip he had flogged him with and to wrap up the whip with some other little trinkets my boy had, and he gave them to me to bring home. I have the whip at home.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. He had been flogged for stating to the inspector that he was ill-treated? A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear who the man, or individual, or inspector was while you were there? A. No.

Q. You are perfectly satisfied that that boy was flogged for reporting what had happened to him? A. I am quite satisfied of that.

Q. Did he tell you anything else about the work he had done? A. He said it was heavy work.

Q. Did he say anything to you about going to school? A. He said he was half-an-hour to three-quarters of an hour late for school every morning. He was kept back to cut and pack lunches for the other children.

Q. That is, for the children of the alleged guardian? A. Yes.

Q. Is it not a fact that this man Saul brought him to the gates of the hospital and allowed him to walk into the hospital himself? A. Yes. The patients told me how my boy limped in. He could not walk in

Witness—M. Delaney, 24 November, 1916.

Q. This man Saul brought him to the hospital, but he had to walk in himself? A. I have a note from the school teacher saying that my boy had never complained until the last Thursday. He had been at school, but he was walking limp. My boy told me he was afraid to complain. The other children were watching him.

Mr. HACKETT: That is a general thing with the State children—they are afraid to complain.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What does your husband do? A. He is a labourer. At present he is shearing in the country.

Q. Is he often at home? A. His work often takes him away.

Q. How many children have you? A. I have five living.

Q. How many living with you? A. Four daughters.

Q. What ages are they? A. The eldest is 17 and the youngest is about five months.

Q. What are the ages of the others? A. One is 9, and one is 4 or 5.

Q. Have any of them been State children? A. The eldest girl was a State child.

Q. For how long? A. I had her put to the school at Parramatta. She was away for sixteen months.

Q. Was it your wish to get her put there? A. I had to put her away.

Q. Why? A. Through another girl that she got to know. In fact, this girl came to board at my house. I had not the slightest idea that she was a bad girl. I did my best to be a mother to the girl, but she deceived me all the time and tried to get my girl to leave home. Of course, my girl thought she knew better than me.

Q. Did she leave home? A. No. But she had a strong mind to do it, and would have been led into it, and into worse, too, had I not happened to step in.

Q. You put her to the State at Parramatta? A. Yes.

Q. And she was there for sixteen months? A. Yes.

Q. When she came back, had she improved? A. She has improved wonderfully.

Q. She has improved through the medium of the school at Parramatta? A. Yes.

Q. She was looked after all right there? A. That was a good school. It was a splendid school for girls.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Her behaviour is all right now? A. Yes.

Mr. HANNA: Q. What is she doing now? A. She is at home.

Q. She is not at any work or in any occupation? A. No.

Q. Does your husband support you? A. Yes.

Q. He sends you money regularly every week? A. Not every week. Sometimes I have to wait a fortnight or a month until he gets it.

Q. Is shearing the only thing he does? A. He has been working at Clyde and other places.

Q. You do not do any work yourself, except work in the house? A. Only the house-work.

Q. How is it that the child of 12 got out of hand? A. In former years I had to work very hard. My husband was station managing when I was first married, up in Queensland, but he left the station and seemed to get away from work altogether.

Q. He did not do anything? A. No.

Q. He was lazy; does he drink? A. He neither drinks nor gambles.

Q. What did he do all the day? A. It is only the last four or five years that he had done any hard work. It made things very awkward, and it kept me from doing things for my children.

Q. He just stayed at home and did nothing? A. Yes.

Q. Was this boy running about the streets, and not under any control? A. His father is very peculiar, and has a very cruel temper. He was rather cruel to the boy. He was not a bad boy. I do not know, but the father did not take sufficient interest in him, and he seemed to get beyond my control.

Q. Did his father attempt to control him? A. His father was very cruel.

Q. Was the father more cruel to him than you were? A. It was unjust.

Q. In beating him? A. Yes. He was positively cruel to the boy. When the minister told me he would be well looked after at Mittagong—(interrupted).

Q. Did you ask the minister to have him taken to Mittagong? A. The minister offered. I did not ask the minister.

Q. You consented to his being taken? A. Yes. The minister said he could recommend it as a good home, and that he would come back a manly and good boy.

Q. He did not go to Mittagong? A. No. He was not sent there at all. I wrote and asked one of the inspectors, who told me to have him sent there. I paid 2s. 6d. for him—(interrupted).

Q. Who took him away from your place? A. It was an old lady.

Q. Did she take him to the Children's Court? A. She took him to the Boys' Shelter.

Mr. CONNOLLY: That is attached to the Children's Court.

CHAIRMAN: Q. An order was made by the magistrate; were you there? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Was an order made by the magistrate? A. No.

Mr. GREEN: The papers are here showing the magistrate's order.

CHAIRMAN: Q. They sent him to a farm? A. Yes.

Q. How is it that you did not go with your child? A. How could I?

Q. I want to know why you could not? A. I had boarders to attend to.

Q. You keep a boarding-house? A. I had six children then.

Q. Your daughter could not have looked after them? A. She was not old enough then.

Q. She had to be looked after herself? A. Yes.

Q. You have boarders now? A. I have one now. I have a lady staying with me now.

Mr. HACKETT: I would like to mention one question—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: I thought you had finished.

Mr. HACKETT: I am satisfied.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Take your mind back as far as 1911; you were living at the Glebe then? A. Yes, when Mr. Chambers called to see me.

Q. How often had the boy been to school at that time; he was 10 years old then? A. Yes. I had to leave him in the country with my mother for three years. He had not had any schooling at all. He had not been well enough to attend school.

Q. He had never been to school up to the time he was 10 years of age? A. No.

Q. You remember the time when he was taken before the court at Liverpool? A. Yes.

Q. You went further out? A. I remember the day quite well.

Q. What was he before the court for? A. He and his brother had taken a gun.

Q. They had stolen it? A. I can hardly say it was stolen. They were children, and had been shooting with my mother. They were always wanting their father to buy a gun. They happened to see this gun, and I suppose they picked it up. I can hardly say it was stolen, because they had not any idea of the wrong they were doing. They were fond of shooting. They did a lot of shooting with my brother.

CHAIRMAN: Q. They borrowed it without consent? A. Yes.

Q. Did they take it from somebody's house? A. Yes.

Q. Did they break in? A. No. The place was open.

Mr. GREEN: Q. After the Liverpool affair the boy was allowed to go out on probation? A. Yes.

Q. He got into trouble at Auburn? A. I do not remember that.

Q. I mean the time he was taken away? A. He played truant at the time he was taken away from Auburn.

Q. He had not been behaving himself? A. He had a severe whipping. I do not know what it was for.

CHAIRMAN: The husband was cruel to him.

Mr. GREEN: There is no doubt whatever that there has been trouble in the house.

Mr. TAYLOR: He was taken because he was a truant.

Mr. GREEN: Q. When you went up to Kempsey you saw the doctor? A. Yes.

Q. What did the doctor tell you was the matter with the boy? A. I said to the doctor, as soon as I looked at the boy, "That is not rheumatic fever; the boy has typhoid." He only said, "Oh, they never have typhoid on this river."

Q. The doctor told you it was rheumatic fever? A. Yes.

Q. It is your opinion against the doctor's? A. Yes.

Q. Did you see the matron of the hospital? A. Yes. I sent a note and said that the boy was not suffering from rheumatic fever, but she said the boy had pains before I came.

Q. Did the matron say anything about the boy being treated? A. She said he looked perfectly clean when he came in.

Q. She wrote to this effect, dated third day of June, 1915:—

I regret the delay in sending reply to your memo. dated 28th May, re Albert Delaney. I am on holidays. The acting matron sent it on yesterday. The patient was seen by Dr. MacInnes, one of the medical officers, who gave an admission order. The patient was suffering with rheumatic fever. There was no evidence of the boy being neglected.

Did she tell you that? A. She said to me, "You cannot take notice of what he says to you." She heard him saying that. She said, "He is delirious." I said, "He is not delirious, matron, and he knows perfectly well what he is saying."

Mr. GREEN: I do not know whether the Board would like to see the papers. They give the whole history of the thing. When Mrs. Delaney made complaints we sent an officer up to make inquiries.

Q. I would like to ask you did you see Mr. Saul when you were up there? A. Yes.

Q. Did he give you any money? A. Yes.

Q. That was money to help you over your trouble? A. Yes. I told him I could not manage without it. I said I intended to return as soon as I could get the money.

Mr. GREEN: I would like to read Mr. Eury's report.

(Mr. Green then read the following report:—)

#### REPORT ON THE CASE OF M. DELANEY, AUBURN.

Allegations as to her son Albert's removal and treatment by Mr. J. R. Saul, Seven Oaks, Macleay River.

To the Minister, stating his offence as truancy—see record attached.

He was under supervision from 22nd December, 1911, until 4th June, 1913, before any action was taken. He was then convicted for stealing, and placed on probation with his father, George Nicholas Delaney, for twelve months. He broke the conditions of the release, the boy also doing the same, again stealing.

While attending Auburn School he stole £1 from the teacher, and would not attend after.

7th October, 1914.—Was taken to the Shelter.

#### J. R. Saul's Guardianship.

27th October, 1914.—Placed with him on this date. He told him he was 14 years of age. As soon as Mr. Saul was aware he had to attend school he sent him.

School Record.—Enrolled on 1st December, 1914; age 13 years and 6 months (given by boy); attended 12 days out of 14 to 18th December, 1914, 36½ days to 31st March, 1915, and 15½ days to 5th May, 1915. Left on account of illness.

Mr. Saul has a comfortable dwelling of seven rooms, well furnished. The boy had a room to himself, with proper and

adequate bedding. He was treated in every way as one of the family—having meals with them, and going out with them to any amusements, and always supplied with money. He was never up before 6 a.m., and helped with the cows, he milking four; Saul's own son also helping. As to taking 3d. per week of his pay, the boy himself paid this to the school football club. As to emptying the lavatory or w.c. pan he did this once.

The boy gave a lot of trouble. He took a pea-rifle and shot three fowls, besides endangering a little girl's life. He stole money from the house, and when going to bathe with school children would go through their pockets. He was punished for using the pea-rifle.

The doctor's certificate shows the cause of the boy's death as rheumatic fever—no neglect. He went into hospital on 5th May, 1915, and died on 28th May, 1915. The matron says there was no evidence of neglect.

Mrs. Delaney went to Kempsey on the 13th May, 1915. She was advised to go into hospital as a nursing mother; she entered on 15th May, and left on 30th May. Her demand for refund of £6 2s. 2d. is not an honest one. She paid nothing while in hospital, for which she sets down as £3, and Mr. Saul gave her £2, so that all her expenditure was £1 2s. 2d.

I have no hesitation in saying that the whole of Mrs. Delaney's allegations against Mr. Saul are exaggerations, and her sole object is to work up a case against the department for damages.

Look at the record attached, which gives all the history of the case, and shows Mrs. Delaney and her husband both to be improper guardians. The case was under supervision for nearly two years before any action was taken, and then for theft. There is another boy and girl away from them—the boy at Mittagong, and the girl at Parramatta Industrial School.

Mr. J. R. Saul owns the property he is on, and his family are (as per margin):—Kathleen, 15 years; Stanley, 11 years; Jessie, 11 years; James, 9 years; William, 7 years; Wallace, 5 years; Bruce, 2½ years.

In this case I recommend that Mrs. Delaney be taken no further notice of.

WALLACE R. EURY,

Chief Inspector.

2nd August, 1915.

Mr. HACKETT: You should be ashamed to read it—such trash as that!

Mr. GREEN: Q. Is it a fact that you have made application for compensation in this case? A. Yes.

Q. Is it a fact that you have no legal claim in the matter? A. I have. I deserve every penny of it.

Q. Is it a fact that you wrote to the Governor about the matter? A. Yes.

Q. You wrote to the Premier? A. I did.

Q. Is it a fact that all these papers have been brought before these people and they are satisfied that the action of the Department was satisfactory? A. No.

Q. You were informed to that effect? A. The Governor said on account of his being a Constitutional Governor he could not do anything in the matter for me. I have had a hard life. I defy anyone to say I am not a good woman and a good mother.

Mr. GREEN: The certificate of death is here, certified to as rheumatic fever. I have nothing more to say about this case. It has been fully gone into, and as far as I know the boy was not badly treated. Mr. Eury is perfectly satisfied about Mr. Saul's home, and the way the boy was treated. It is not a fact that the boy had to clean the lavatories out.

Mr. HACKETT: Can you prove it?

Mr. GREEN: Yes, absolutely.

Mr. HACKETT: How, by the report?

Mr. GREEN: The same as you, from hearsay evidence.

Mr. HACKETT: I would take the boy's word first.

Mr. TAYLOR: Do you send boys out under 14 years of age?

Mr. GREEN: No. We do not send any boy out under 14 years of age.

Mr. HACKETT: I suggest that the case be thoroughly investigated again, in spite of what Mr. Green says.

Mr. GREEN: I am quite prepared for it to be investigated.

(Witness retired.)

Mr. HACKETT: I would like to call Eric Forbes.



*Witness*—E. Forbes, 24 November, 1916.

(The boy Eric Forbes, and his mother, then came into the Board-room.)

CHAIRMAN: *Q. (to boy)*: How old are you? A. Twelve next Christmas.

*Q. Do you understand the taking of an oath in court?* A. Yes.

*Q. Do you go to school?* A. No.

*Q. Can you read and write?* A. No.

Mrs. FORBES: He can read and write. He is under the doctor. He is not able to go to school.

CHAIRMAN: Now, my boy, say this after me: "I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." (*Boy does so.*) You understand that you are not to tell any lies? A. Yes.

*Q. What is your name?* A. Eric Forbes.

*Q. And you are 12 years of age?* A. Yes.

*Q. Where are you living?* A. At 191 Margaret-street, Leichhardt.

*Q. Do you just play about the streets, or what do you do at home?* A. I play in the yard and outside.

*Q. I suppose you go out into the streets?* A. Yes.

*Q. You are not at school now?* A. No.

*Q. Have you been at school?* A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: *Q. You used to go to school?* A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: *Q. Why do you not go now?* A. The doctor has told me not to go.

Mr. HACKETT: *Q. Where were you when you were in the country?* A. At Mrs. Tanswell's.

*Q. Where was that?* A. Out at Parkes.

*Q. What time did you get up in the morning?* A. At 5 o'clock.

*Q. Did you have to do any work before breakfast?* A. Yes. I had to get the cows in.

*Q. How many were there?* A. Five cows.

*Q. Did you have to do any milking at all?* A. No. I was learning to milk.

*Q. What time did you have breakfast?* A. Eight o'clock.

*Q. What did you have for breakfast usually?* A. Sometimes we would have bread and treacle, and sometimes chops.

*Q. And what else?* A. Treacle.

*Q. After breakfast did you have to do some work?* A. Yes.

*Q. What did you have to do then?* A. Feed the fowls, and pigs, and dogs.

*Q. What time did you have dinner?* A. At 12 o'clock.

*Q. What did you have for dinner, usually?* A. Sometimes we would have pudding and roast meat.

*Q. Did you have your dinner, breakfast, or tea with the other people in the house?* A. Yes.

*Q. You always sat down with the other people in the house?* A. Yes.

*Q. Did you not sit by yourself?* A. I had my meals with the others at the table.

*Q. You were lucky; did you have to do any work in the afternoon?* A. Yes. I had to run the cows up and put the calves in the pens.

*Q. Did you have any work to do after tea?* A. No. I only washed up.

*Q. Were you with anyone;—did anyone help you wash up?* A. I was the only one who washed up.

*Q. You had to dry up?* A. Yes. I never put the plates up.

*Q. What time did you go to bed?* A. Any time I wanted to go.

*Q. Did you go to school while you were there?* A. No.

*Q. How long were you there?* A. About six months.

Mr. TAYLOR: *Q. Was there a school there?* A. No. *Q. How far would you have to go?* A. I was 14 miles out of Parkes.

*Q. There was no school there at all?* A. No. The school was right in town.

Mr. HACKETT: *Q. Did they punish you while you were there for supposed defects, or for anything that you were supposed to have done?* A. They gave me a hiding if I did anything wrong.

*Q. How often did that happen;—did you get knocked about much while you were there; was it once a week or once a day?* A. Nearly every day.

*Q. Who used to knock you about?* A. Mrs. Tanswell.

Mr. TAYLOR: *Q. What used she to beat you with?* A. She had a stick sometimes.

CHAIRMAN: *Q. When she used a stick, what would she do?* A. She would hide it in a press, and when I came up she would beat me.

*Q. Would she beat you severely?* A. Yes.

*Q. How many strokes would she give you?* A. I do not know.

*Q. Four or five, or more?* A. More.

*Q. With the stick?* A. Yes.

*Q. Over the back?* A. Yes.

*Q. Did it hurt?* A. Yes.

*Q. You got this every day?* A. Yes.

*Q. What did you do to be punished in that way?* A. She told me to do a lot of things.

*Q. Can you tell me one thing that you got a beating for; did you spill the milk?* A. I broke a plate.

*Q. How many strokes did you get for it?* A. I do not know.

*Q. Did you get punished for it?* A. Yes.

*Q. What else did you do?* A. I broke a cup and saucer.

*Q. Did you let them fall out of your hand?* A. They slipped out of my hand when I was wiping them up. She gave me a hiding and said I was slow. I had to go to the big paddock for the cows.

*Q. Did you not ride for them?* A. They would not let me ride.

*Q. I suppose you could not ride, really?* A. I was on a horse once, but they made me get off.

*Q. You did not fall off him?* A. No.

*Q. You wanted to learn to ride?* A. Yes.

*Q. How long were you up there?* A. Six months.

*Q. What did you return for; did you get ill?* A. No.

*Q. Why did you leave?* A. Mother sent for me.

Mr. HACKETT: I insisted on his return.

Mr. GREEN: You did not insist on his return. The woman applied, and it was dealt with by the Department.

Mr. HACKETT: I will argue that question.

Mr. GREEN: What had you to do with the matter?

Mr. HACKETT: You will find out later on.

*Q. Were you pleased to leave the place?* A. Yes.

*Q. You wanted to get away?* A. Yes.

*Q. You were worked hard up there?* A. Yes.

*Q. You never went to school?* A. No.

Mr. HACKETT: Mr. Green assured me that this boy was in a good home and was well cared for.

Mr. GREEN: So he was. The school was closed because the teacher had gone to the war.

CHAIRMAN: *Q. Did you feel the work was very hard?* A. It was just running up the cows. The buckets of water were the hardest.

*Q. You had to carry buckets of water?* A. Yes.

*Q. They were a bit heavy?* A. Yes.

*Q. How far had you to carry them?* A. A good way.

*Q. That is the hardest part?* A. Yes.

*Q. Did you feed the calves?* A. No. I just locked them up in the pens in the morning. When the cows were milked I would take them back into the paddock again. I would come back and wipe and wash up, and then feed the fowls.

*Q. That was not hard work—feeding the fowls?* A. No.

Mr. GREEN: All I want to say with regard to the schooling is that the school was closed because the man

had gone to the war. There was no school there. The daughter of the home wanted to teach this boy, but she found him intractable and could not manage him. I have a letter here from her.

(Mr. Green then read the following communication:—)

Cleveland, Bk. Trundle road, Parkes, 17/6/16.

Mr. Green.

Dear Sir,—In reference to your letter *re* the lad Eric Forbes, four months of the six he was here the school was closed through the teacher going to the front, and it was too far for him to walk, and he was not capable of riding. My daughter tried to teach him, but he had a most stubborn temper, and said he wouldn't learn, and we could not make him. As for work, he got the cows in and carried the wood in. He never chopped a bit, and wiped up or sweep the kitchen up. You can inquire of neighbours how he was treated. He complained when he came to me of all the scrubbing he had to do, even make his own bed, when he was on the State. I never saw an inspector all the time he was here.

Yours truly,

I. TANSWELL.

There was no application made for him; it was a boy to apprentice.

(Continuing.) This boy was in a home that was recommended to us. As far as we knew it was perfectly satisfactory, and as far as we know the home is now satisfactory. The mother was in Queensland at the time. This boy was in the Randwick Asylum. If the mother had been in Sydney at the time the place was closed, the boy would have been handed over to her. She was in Queensland at the time, and the boy was boarded out. As soon as she applied for him he was returned to her.

Mr. TAYLOR: He was sent to this place 14 miles from Parkes?

Mr. GREEN: The school, which was close to the place, was closed because the man went to the war. The boy could not ride into Parkes. It was too far. He could not ride a horse.

Mr. TAYLOR: Had you known there was no school, you would not have sent him there?

Mr. GREEN: There was a school there, but it was closed because they could not get teachers.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Where are you living now? A. With my mother.

Q. Do you go to school?

Mrs. FORBES: He is not allowed to go to school.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Why do you not go to school? A. The doctor will not let me.

Q. What is the matter with you? A. I do not know.

Mrs. FORBES: The doctors cannot trace what is the matter with him. He has been twice under the X-ray, and all that I know is that he is not allowed to go to school until such time as Dr. Harper gives permission. He has been six months away from school now.

CHAIRMAN: What do they suppose is the matter with him?

Mrs. FORBES: They cannot trace what is the matter with him, except that he is fading.

CHAIRMAN: Was he bigger up there than he is now?

Mrs. FORBES: He was a fine boy when I left him in Sydney. When I came back he was very thin. He had great lumps on his hands when he came back because of the things he had been carrying up at Parkes.

Mr. HACKETT: Has he still got the marks?

Mrs. FORBES: I do not know. Dr. Harper says he must have all his own way. If he wants to play he must play.

Mr. TAYLOR: I have looked at his hands, and there are no lumps there now.

Mr. HACKETT: They must have worn off.

CHAIRMAN: Has he a good appetite, Mrs. Forbes?

Mrs. FORBES: He has no appetite. I have to force him to eat. I was going to bring in the mixture to show you. It has to be kept in a dark place. It is an iron tonic. I could not see Dr. Harper this morning, or else I would have got a certificate to prove that he is not ready to go to school.

Mr. GREEN: How long was he at the Randwick Asylum?

Mrs. FORBES: Not eighteen months.

Mr. GREEN: You had not seen him for eighteen months?

Mrs. FORBES: No.

Mr. GREEN: It was really about two years?

Mrs. FORBES: Yes, when I came down.

Mr. TAYLOR: Have you tried malt for him?

Mrs. FORBES: No. I am going exactly on what Dr. Harper says.

Mr. TAYLOR: You carry out what the doctor tells you?

Mrs. FORBES: Yes. Since 15th September he has been under Dr. Harper at the Children's Hospital.

(Witness and his mother retired.)

MRS. HENRIETTA JOSEPHINE LANE, 69 Cooper-street, Waterloo, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Are you a married woman? A. Yes.

Q. Living with your husband? A. Yes.

Q. Where at? A. 69 Cooper-street, Waterloo.

Q. What does your husband do? A. He is a railway porter.

Q. Have you any children? A. One child.

Q. What age? A. Three years on 3rd December.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. What year did you leave Mittagong? A. About 1907 or 1908.

Q. What home were you in down there? A. No. 7.

Q. What time did you get up in the morning? A. At 5 o'clock in the summer, and half-past 5 in the winter—not often half-past, but whenever Mrs. Phillips would feel inclined to let us get up.

Q. Was there any specified time allowed for dressing? A. Yes. We were supposed to be up at 5, and be out at seven minutes past. If we were not out at that time we would be on dry bread the whole day, and not allowed to speak to anybody.

Q. For that day? A. Yes.

Q. Did you have to do any work before breakfast? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Is Mrs. Phillips here, Mr. Green?

Mr. GREEN: Yes. Miss Cutcliffe is also here.

CHAIRMAN: They had better hear the evidence.

(Mrs. Phillips and Miss Cutcliffe then came into the Board Room.)

Mr. HACKETT: Q. What duties had you to perform before breakfast? A. Each child had a certain amount of work. They were only allowed to scrub three boards in a room, a very small space. In the winter time we used to get the water out of a bucket or tub that was covered with ice. We used to have to break the ice on the water with a scrubbing brush. If we cried we used to get punished for it.

Q. Were you allowed to warm the water before using it? A. No.

Q. I think I asked about the time allowed for dressing—seven minutes, was it not; I ask that for the benefit of the two ladies in the room;—the time allowed was seven minutes? A. Yes.

Q. If you were not dressed in that time? A. We used to get dry bread all day and off talk. If we were late two or three times in the week we would get half a cup of milk and half a cup of water. That would be all, all day.

Q. Did the girls have to do any scrubbing there of a morning? A. Yes. Some had yards to do, and some had rooms to scrub. As I said, they were only allowed to take three boards in very small patches. Other girls were made to watch them, and if they appeared to slum it over, or took more than three boards, they would get the brush. On a cold morning their hands would be stiff and blue from the ice water. That would be done by the quince rod.

Q. By whom? A. By Mrs. Phillips.

Q. With regard to the brush business; was that done in front of the whole of the girls? A. Yes. Martha McKay, the cripple girl with one leg, used to be turned over a stool that was there and beaten very hard with a hair-brush, and the girls used to be called to see them getting beat. They were only little innocent things.

Q. Who used to administer the punishment? A. Mrs. Phillips would. We would hold the girls down while she beat them.

Q. With regard to scrubbing the floors; what ages were the girls who had to do that? A. They were all ages, from 12 up to 21.

Q. Would girls of 12 years of age have to scrub the floors? A. Oh, yes. They used to wash the men's clothes from the farm.

Q. At that age? A. Yes, young as some of them were.

Q. With regard to the ice-cold water; they used to have to break the ice on the buckets of water before they could possibly use the water for scrubbing? A. Yes.

Q. They were not allowed to warm it in any way? A. No. Sometimes two or three girls would put it on the ashes, and when Mrs. Phillips was vexed with them, or anything like that, she would not allow it. She would throw water on the ashes.

Q. Was there a girl ever thrown in, forced in, or ordered into a tub of ice-cold water by the matron? A. Yes. Ruby Paterson was one, and Nellie Hull was another. They were a few minutes late for breakfast. They were not given any breakfast, but were put into the cold ice-water. That is God's truth.

CHAIRMAN: Q. That was in the winter time? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Would you use the ice-cold water? A. Yes. My arm was like that (*indicating*) from scrubbing. I have a mark there now. (*Mark shown to Board.*) I have a splendid home and a good husband.

CHAIRMAN: They brought you up well to enable you to get a good husband.

Mr. HACKETT: That need not be answered. A. We were too innocent. I do not say that all the girls were, because some of them were being sent from the Reformatory amongst us innocents, and we did not know anything about it. The thing seemed so ridiculous—(*interrupted*).

CHAIRMAN: Q. How did you come to be sent there? A. Because I was on the State from a little child of about 7 years of age.

Q. Are your father and mother dead? A. They are both dead.

Q. Were they at that time? A. My mother was not dead. I never knew anything of my parents. I do not remember them. I worked very hard and I kept myself respectable, and my husband would tell you that I was pure from the day I was born to this day. These ladies here never spared us anything. I must give Mr. Connolly all honour, for when we wrote to him and asked him about our time on the State he always answered our prayers, no matter what they were. Mr. Connolly, I must thank you very, very much. I am sure you did not know of it.

CHAIRMAN: Q. These girls were rather bad up there? A. There was not one of us, not out the twenty-eight, who ever gave trouble to Mrs. Phillips.

Q. You were never punished yourself? A. More times than I can tell.

Q. You must have been naughty? A. But I was not naughty. If you could only understand the silly little questions we were punished for, well, you would fall through with surprise. When we would lose clothes-pegs, Mrs. Phillips would not give us a mouthful of anything until they were found. Was not that ridiculous?

Q. Of course, if you were losing pegs, there would be nothing to hang the clothes out with.

Mr. TAYLOR: It would be ridiculous, if that were so.

Mr. HACKETT: Most decidedly.

WITNESS: It is most ridiculous. When we went to school, instead of praying to God, we would pray that we would find the clothes-pegs. She said we would have to find our own pegs. That is most ridiculous. Mrs. Phillips, you know that is true.

Mrs. PHILLIPS: That is not the truth.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. How old were these girls that were put over the block and got the brush? A. If they did any paltry thing, such as talking, Mrs. Phillips would cut their hair, and laugh at us, and call us "bob-tail fillies." That is true, Mrs. Phillips. I do not know how you can deny it. I would not stand in front of these gentlemen and tell untruths. What would I get out of it?

CHAIRMAN: Q. Was that a little joke? A. That is the absolute truth.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. What age was the eldest girl who was put over the block? A. I would not be sure whether Martha was 21 or 31. The other girls were little girls. We were all little things. I was 12 or 14.

Q. You all had your hair cut up there as little girls, had you not? A. Yes.

Q. It was to keep you clean? A. No fear. If there was anything caught in the girls' heads they would get thrashed, and dry bread, and be locked up, and would not be allowed to speak to anybody until they were made to keep their heads clean. They had no fine comb to do it with. My word, sir, you think it funny, but you have not been up there.

CHAIRMAN: Q. It is the custom to have the hair cut up there? A. Very few girls have their hair short.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Some of them have their hair long, but you say some had it cut off as punishment? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. It was only cut round the back? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: That was the same evidence as was given on Monday.

CHAIRMAN: I do not see that that is a punishment for a little girl.

Mr. GREEN: These people have been in communication with you and with themselves.

Mr. HACKETT: That is a matter for the Board to decide.

Q. Is it a fact that on several occasions when Mr. Connolly or Mr. Green were expected at Mittagong, it was known, and the children would have to be ready and have everything spick and span for them when they arrived? A. Yes.

Q. You always knew when they were arriving? A. Mr. Westbury often came and told her. They used to see Mr. Green come up sometimes, and they would run in, and they would always know if the Inspectors were coming. They pretty well always knew when the Inspectors were coming.

Q. They knew when Mr. Green was arriving? A. Yes.

Q. With regard to the food; when either of these gentlemen was there, did you know anything about a certain class of food being put on the table, and the children ordered to stand round while Mr. Green, or Mr. Connolly, or some gentlemen from headquarters were inspecting, and when they went away the food was taken off the table? A. Yes. Mr. Connolly came up one day—I do not know whether he would remember it now; it is a good long time ago—and they had dumplings on the table. Mr. Connolly came up and stood over me and tasted one, and said it was lovely. He little knew that after he went away half of us had to go from the table and leave our dinner there, and have half a slice of dry bread. Mr. Connolly or Mr. Green did not know anything about that.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Was that as a punishment? A. Mrs. Phillips and Miss Cutcliffe were very, very cunning.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Who was the Matron at No. 7—was it Mrs. Phillips? A. Yes. Miss Cutcliffe, when she was relieving the Matron, used to stay there too, and the two children used to stay there.

Q. Were there any relatives of Mrs. Phillips' staying at Mittagong? A. Plenty of them used to come and eat our food. We always knew when she had plenty of visitors, because there would be a little piece of comb, and if it was lost they would not give us a mouthful of food until the comb was found.

Q. I would like to have this matter mentioned again, because it is very important.

CHAIRMAN: Do not repeat the questions. Everything has been taken down.

Mr. HACKETT: Children were sent to bed without food.

CHAIRMAN: We rely on the evidence, and not on your statements.

Mr. CONNOLLY: The witness did not say that they were sent to bed without food at night? A. Yes, Mr. Connolly. We would be up at 12 o'clock at night drying those men's clothes. You would not believe that.

Mr. TAYLOR: Did you ever complain to the Inspectors? A. We were not allowed. We had made up our minds to tell Mr. Connolly, because we knew he would take notice of it.

Q. Did you tell him? A. We were too frightened, because Mrs. Phillips would say, "Oh, that child is not right in her head." We would be flogged.

Q. Mr. Connolly was living up there?

Mr. CONNOLLY: Not in her time. I went up inspecting at that time.

WITNESS: Mr. Connolly was very good. I must say that. Mr. Green gave us picnics, but they were deceived.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You were badly treated? A. Yes.

Q. Flogged every day? A. Not every day, because we would be in our graves.

Q. How often in a week? A. I could not tell you how often in a week, but so many times a month.

Q. They were severe floggings? A. Yes.

Q. Were many of you in the hospital? A. I do not know about many being in the hospital through it.

Q. Nobody was killed? A. No. My word, sir, you may think it funny, but I wish you had gone through it. I wish I could see you using ice water. You would not like to be thrust into an ice bath now. It is not very pleasant.

Q. Were you thrown into it? A. Yes.

Q. How many times? A. Several times.

Q. Were you doing anything wrong to be punished in that way? A. Only silly little things, such as being late for breakfast. How could a child help being late. You forgot to ask about the butter, Mr. Hackett.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Was there any trouble about butter? A. There would be 6 lb. of butter for the State children. We would see about a quarter of it about once a week. We could smell it, but we could not see it. Mrs. Phillips and her friends and relatives used to have that. That is the honest truth.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You seem to be very happy now? A. I never spoke to Mrs. Phillips' visitors. We would be thrashed if we did it.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You were happy amongst yourselves? A. We were made to do these things.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Do you remember a girl named May David? A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember that she was supposed to be scrubbing a floor; she had a bucket, and Mr. Green was announced as coming in the distance by the Matron, and she had to run away for her life, but she forgot her bucket? A. Yes.

Q. She had to go through some form of punishment—*(interrupted)*.

CHAIRMAN: You had better ask the question.

Mr. HACKETT: It is a question.

CHAIRMAN: You are telling the whole story, and she is saying "yes." That is not right.

WITNESS: I know it. She was on dry bread because she left the bucket behind. We never got a good slice. You could see through it. Miss Cutcliffe, I would not laugh, if I were you. I would blush for shame. When we used to get dry bread we would go out and get a drink of water. Miss Cutcliffe came out, and said, "I never allow the girls to have water; it fills them up, and they do not feel the punishment." That is the truth, Miss Cutcliffe. How can you deny it!

Mr. HACKETT: Q. While you were down there, was there any order that the children had to stand aside when the Matron's lunch was passing? A. Yes. If the kitchen door was open, the girls had to sing out, "Close the door, please," and if there was no girl in the kitchen to close the door you would have to wait there. If Mrs. Phillips' crockery was coming down, we would all have to run away as if we were diseased, or something. It was most ridiculous, sir. You could not understand it, even if you were there yourself.

Mr. GREEN: Q. What were you sent to Mittagong for—do you know? A. No.

Q. Was it not for misbehaving yourself at the home you were at? A. No. I never misbehaved myself.

Mr. HACKETT: I object to the question. We are inquiring into the actual training.

CHAIRMAN: You cannot object to the questions in cross-examination.

Mr. HACKETT: Possibly not, but I do formally object.

Mr. GREEN: Q. How long were you at Mrs. Phillips'? A. About eight years.

Q. After you left Mrs. Phillips' home, and were discharged from the State, you knew Mr. Connolly? A. Yes, but only through being an Inspector up at the home.

Q. You said just now that he always did what you asked him to do? A. Yes, and so he did.

Q. Why did you not, for the sake of the other children, come and complain to him when you left the State? A. I was not in a position to do so. I was working for my living. I never had the sense to do it.

Q. You just now told the Board that you would not tell Mr. Connolly because you were frightened? A. So we were.

Q. Were you frightened after you left the State to tell Mr. Connolly? A. No.

Q. Were you afraid to tell other people? A. I did not know where Mr. Connolly was. I knew he was an Inspector. If I went to Mr. Connolly he would have seen to it. Why, he was a father to the State children.

Q. Why did you not tell him after you left the State; why did you not tell him after you got married? A. As soon as I say it in *Truth* I wrote to Mr. Hackett and asked him to take up the case.

Q. Why did you not do it years ago? A. I was not in a position. Where would I get the money?

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You did not know how to do it? A. No. My husband will tell you how innocent I was.

Mr. HANNA: Q. Did you tell your husband? A. Yes. Q. And did not your husband tell you to tell the authorities? A. He said, "Everyone for themselves." He did not care about it.

Mrs. PHILLIPS: Q. Your mother came up to see you? A. Yes. She is dead now.

Mrs. PHILLIPS: Q. And your brother? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Did you tell your mother about these troubles? A. We were too frightened, Mr. Green.

Q. Did your brother call to see you? A. Yes.

Q. Did you tell your brother? A. Mr. Connolly was always close when my brother was there.

Q. Was Mrs. Phillips present when your brother was there? A. She was present, and she gave him his tea. She was there when he went away that night.

Q. Did he go there more than once? A. He only came up once.



Witnesses—H. J. Lane and N. M. Hahn, 24 November, 1916.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Was he a grown man? A. Yes.

Q. Mrs. Phillips gave him his tea? A. My brother was unfortunate. He was a criminal. That was no fault of mine. That has nothing to do with this case. I need not blush for shame. These ladies never spared us anything.

Mr. HANNA: Q. Whatever your brother did you are not responsible? A. No.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. It is remarkable to bring these things up in a case like this? A. If Mrs. Phillips and Miss Cutcliffe had treated us like children, there would not have been any of this trouble. My mother gave me my brother Joe's paper. I have not seen him since I was a baby. Mrs. Phillips kept it, and would not allow me to have it. She said, "Perhaps it is some old drunk's paper." When my sister wrote to me (I had not seen her since I was a baby) she would not give me the letter. She would not let me write to my poor mother. If we got a letter from our parents at any time, the address at the top was always torn off. It was very rarely that we wrote.

(Witness retired.)

NELLIE MARY HAHN, spinster, 71 Brisbane-street, Surry Hills, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Are you a married woman? A. No.

Q. Where are you living? A. 71 Brisbane-street, Surry Hills.

Q. Have you any occupation? A. I am not in an occupation now.

Q. What are you? A. I am a general servant, but I have not been doing anything for two years. I have been getting the invalid pension.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. When you were up at Mittagong, was there any number to the home you were in? A. No. 7.

Q. Who was the Matron? A. Mrs. Phillips.

Q. How long ago is it since you left the home? A. 1902.

Q. When you were there, do you remember what time you had to get up in the morning? A. Five o'clock.

Q. Summer and winter? A. Yes.

Q. Did you have to do any work before you went to your breakfast? A. Yes.

Q. What were your duties? A. Sometimes we would scrub the laundry out, sometimes do the front verandah, and sometimes one of the wards.

Q. Did you ever see any young girls scrubbing, or doing any work before breakfast? A. Yes.

Q. What was the age of the youngest? A. All ages from 12.

Q. They were scrubbing? A. Some under.

Q. Under 12? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Do you remember any of their names? A. There were such a lot there that I forget now.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. From what you know you are prepared to say that you are of the opinion that there were girls under 12 years of age scrubbing floors? A. Yes. I was only 13, and I had the washing to do.

Q. Was there a very great quantity? A. Yes. I had assistance, you know. I was responsible.

Q. At 13 years of age you had to do washing? A. Yes.

Q. What did the washing consist of—something from the home? A. Only that of the home children and Mrs. Phillips' children.

Q. You had to do the matron's washing also? A. Yes.

Q. Did you have any special time allowed for dressing? A. Seven minutes.

Q. If you were late, and over that time—(interrupted)? A. Dry bread all day, and not speak to the other girls.

Q. Did they have school there during the day? A. Yes.

Q. What time would they start? A. Half-past 9.

Q. What were the usual punishments for defects or alleged defects? A. Dry bread for three days, sometimes no pudding on Sundays, and sometimes no fruit. Some punishments were humiliating. They were placed over the stool before everybody and thrashed.

Q. Who would the person be who would do that? A. The Matron. If she had not a cane it was a hair-brush.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What would be the ages of the girls who would get that? A. All ages.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. They were big girls? A. Yes. I was one of the biggest. I was about 16, and I got it.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Who was the person or party who inflicted that punishment on you? A. The Matron.

Q. What is her name? A. Mrs. Phillips.

Q. Did you have anything to do with the washing while you were there? A. Yes.

Q. Was there any trouble about loss of clothes-pegs while you were there? A. Yes, or of spoons.

Q. What was the punishment inflicted for these tremendous crimes? A. Dry bread till you found them.

Q. With regard to this silence business, when you were not allowed to speak; what was the longest period you ever knew that children were put on that punishment? A. Sometimes a week.

Q. They were not allowed to speak to anybody for a week? A. No.

Q. Huns, h'm! If anybody spoke to them during that time, what would happen? A. They would be punished, and you would be punished.

Q. What was the punishment that was given for that? A. Mostly the cane.

Q. Do you know anything about anybody having their hair cut? A. Yes. I had mine cut.

Q. As a punishment? A. Molly Adamson had her hair cut, too.

Q. As a punishment? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What was it cut, short? A. Short.

Q. Very short like a man's hair? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. What age were you when you had your hair cut? A. Well up to 16.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Was there any objection to cutting your hair short? A. We like to let our hair grow.

Q. Was it not the fashion a few years ago to cut the hair short? A. I do not know. Children do not like it.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. When Mr. Connolly or Mr. Green were expected at Mittagong, were you made aware of the fact that they were coming? A. Yes.

Q. You always knew? A. Yes.

Q. Were any special instructions issued as to what was to be done? A. We had to have all the work done, and everything spick and span, before they arrived. We were punished if we did not do it.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Was it not done every day? A. Only when visitors were there.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. When Mr. Green or Mr. Connolly were on the scene, was any special table set with food, and the food taken away, and the children not allowed to eat it? A. I cannot say that.

Q. Not to your knowledge? A. No.

Q. Was there any order there that the girls had to clear away when the Matron's dinner was passing? A. Oh, well, no, I do not think so.

Q. That was not in your time? A. No.

Q. You say there was no order to stand aside while the Matron's dinner was passing through? A. I do not remember that.

Q. You have already stated that children were placed on bread and water for certain offences? A. Yes.

Q. To your knowledge, for what length of time would it be—more than a day? A. Four days. One girl was four days; I was three days.

Q. On bread and water? A. Yes.

Q. That is very important.

Mr. GREEN: Q. But what had she done? A. Really, I could not remember what was done.

Mr. GREEN: Q. What was her name? A. Bella Humphries, we called her.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. How long were you at Mittagong? A. I think I was 18 years old.

Q. Your general opinion was what? A. Well, at the time I did not understand it, but now I think it was disgraceful.

Q. Right through for the time you were there? A. Yes.

Q. You would not suggest that anybody should be sent there again? A. No.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Did you get plenty to eat? A. No; we did not. There were twenty-five or twenty-six children, and two loaves for breakfast in the morning.

Q. Anything else? A. Porridge.

Q. A plate of porridge or two plates? A. One plate.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Did you get meat every day? A. Once a day.

Q. Did you get milk with your porridge? A. If it was not sour.

Q. It would not be all sour? A. Very often.

Q. Is there not a farm up there? A. The farm was not there in my time. It was just beginning.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How long were you up at the home? A. I think I was 8 years when I went there, and I think I was about 18 when I left.

Q. You were there for about ten years? A. Yes.

Q. How long were you there when you were thrown into the ice-cold water? A. I was never thrown in. I have seen them stripped and put into the cold bath before the others.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Was this in winter time? A. Yes.

Q. You say it was before the others? A. So many were brought forward. They were the bigger girls.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Was it not a fact that no two big girls were allowed to bathe together? A. I do not know—but this was punishment.

Q. As a general rule, no two girls were allowed to bathe together? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. A big girl was put into the bath as a punishment, and the other girls were brought round to look at her? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What punishment would it be? A. It was humiliating.

Q. You say it was humiliating to see another girl in the bath? A. Yes.

Q. But you can go down to the surf and see thousands there? A. Oh, but this was different.

Q. If it is a fact, it is absolutely wrong; we have not heard the evidence of the other side, of course; what other things were done;—some girls were not quite as good as the others? A. That is right.

Q. Have they not to be very strict with some of them? A. If the larger girls were sent up from the Reformatories they were strict with them. The younger girls were brought up from infancy there.

Q. Were the bigger girls allowed to go round conversing with the others? A. Yes. You could not help speaking to one another.

Q. They objected to that; they did not want the bigger girls speaking to the younger ones? A. Yes.

Q. The bigger girls came from Parramatta? A. Yes.

Q. Was it not the practice to keep the older girls in one home and the small ones in another? A. They were all in the same dormitory.

Q. Even the little ones? A. Yes.

Q. They had as much as they could do to keep them apart? A. Yes. They would not allow them to speak to the little girls.

Q. Some of the older girls were not as good as the younger ones? A. No.

Q. Was your hair cut in pieces to make it look absurd, or was it just cut short? A. Just short.

Q. It was not a lump here and a lump there taken out? A. No.

Q. It was conducive to cleanliness? A. Very often for punishment. I had charge of the smaller girls' heads, and I know they were kept clean.

Q. How many children did you have charge of? A. Twenty-four or twenty-five.

Q. What age were you then? A. Between 14 and 15.

Q. And the others were younger? A. Yes.

(Witness retired.)

CHAIRMAN: Have you any more witnesses, Mr. Hackett?

Mr. HACKETT: That is all this morning.

Mr. GREEN: I would now like to call Miss Cutcliffe.

ELIZABETH AGNES CUTCLIFFE, Mother-in-charge, No. 6 Cottage Home, Mittagong, was then sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. What is your position at the homes? A. Matron, No. 6.

Q. How long have you been in that position? A. Twenty-one years.

Q. At the same homes? A. I have been thirteen years Matron.

Q. You were Relieving Matron before then? A. Yes. Q. At Mittagong? A. All the time at Mittagong.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. During the time you have been in the service you have had a large number of girls under your control, have you not? A. Yes.

Q. What class of child is generally sent to your home? A. All classes. The girls have no one else to control them.

(Mrs. Phillips was then directed to retire from the precincts of the room.)

Q. Some of them are very troublesome, are they not? A. Very much so.

Q. They come from all kinds of homes and institutions to you for correction? A. Yes.

Q. Some come up to convalesce? A. Yes.

Q. Some come from the public hospitals as incurable cases, and you also get those who have failed in service? A. Yes; and bad eyes.

Q. Particularly those who have failed at service? A. Yes. They are girls who get out at night, and will not behave themselves in service.

Q. Do you know the four girls (or women now) named, Martha McKay, Helen Cronin, and the two ladies who have just given evidence? A. I know Martha McKay and Helen Cronin. I had nothing to do with the two other girls, but I know of them.

Q. Were the other two girls under your care at some time? A. Yes.

Q. For how long? A. Helen Cronin was for four years, and Martha McKay was for five years.

Q. It would be some years ago since they left? A. Helen Cronin left ten years ago, and Martha McKay, the one with the one leg, was eight years. She had a very vicious temper and she was very feeble-minded. You could not teach her anything.

Q. Was there anything particular that she would do? A. She would get the young children on the floor, and uncover them. She would starve herself for days and days at a time, and not even take a drink of water.

Q. Have you had to deal with her for that? A. Yes. I had to give her a smack on the hand to bring her to her senses. She was very rude and very violent.

Q. Was she morally a good girl? A. I think she was a morally good girl, as far as I know.

Q. What sort of girls were they; I mean, were they normal as regards their health, intelligence, &c.;—take Martha McKay? A. She had a very vicious temper. She was very feeble-minded, and you could not teach her anything.

Q. In what way did she show her temper? A. I would say she was insane most of the time. She did not seem to know what she was doing.

Witness—E. A. Cutcliffe, 24 November, 1916.

Q. Had you any trouble with them? A. Yes. No one knows what it is.

Q. A statement, somewhat similar to what you have just heard, has been made that you were unkind to the children under your charge—is that true? A. No, certainly not—never.

Q. What time did they get up of a morning? A. Six in the winter and 5 in the summer.

Q. Who usually does the bathing of the children? A. Only the bigger girls. The little ones do not get up until 7 o'clock.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do they sleep in the same dormitory? A. I keep all the smaller ones together, as much as I can. We did not have any small girls there at that time. They were over 14 or 15, or babies.

Q. About the time Martha McKay got the small children out of bed—was there anyone in charge of the dormitory when this happened? A. No, not particularly.

Q. Was there not a big girl in charge of the dormitory? A. Only myself.

Mr. HANNA: Q. One of the senior girls took charge? A. Yes.

Q. No one sits up all night and minds them? A. No; unless they are ill, when they have plenty of attention.

Q. Who usually bathes the babies? A. There were only two babies at the time. One slept with me, and I bathed that child always with my own hands.

Q. That is the child you have now? A. Yes. The other girl was 2 years of age, and Martha McKay used to bathe her.

Q. Would it be true if she stated that she bathed the babies before breakfast every morning? A. There were only two babies.

Q. Did she do the sewing? A. Martha McKay never did any of the new sewing for the home. She used to go out about 12 o'clock with the baby in the pram, and sit in the open air, and do the mending.

Q. She helped with the mending you say? A. Yes.

Q. Is it true that for the most trivial fault the children were put on bread and water as punishment? A. No.

Q. Is there a regular dietary scale for the home? A. No. We cook what we wish, and give them what we like.

Q. You give them what would be suitable to their ailments or their ages? A. Yes. The babies have all milk food.

Q. There is no truth in the statement that you put them on dry bread? A. They get dry bread and water for punishment when they really and truly deserve it.

Q. Is it true that they never know when their food will be docked? A. No.

Q. What would be the nature of the punishment? A. If they were rude or did not do their work—(interrupted).

Q. They are big girls, and that was the way you had of dealing with them? A. Yes.

Q. You find it effective? A. Yes.

Q. You did not do it to the extent that these girls you have just heard say? A. No.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What was the longest period that you kept them on dry bread? A. We never kept them on it for two meals running. They were on dry bread for a meal, then they would have dinner, and then they would get their tea.

Q. What is low diet? A. A soup-plate of food.

Q. They did not get off their proper food? A. They did not. They were not deprived of their breakfast because it would be too cold in the winter time.

Q. You used to punish them with a low diet when they did not get up in the morning? A. That would be dinner.

Q. What did you usually take from their dinner? A. Perhaps two helpings of dinner.

Q. They would get some food? A. They would get one plate of food.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. They would not get a second helping? A. No.

Q. If they wanted it they would not get it? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Would they be put on low diet for losing a clothes-peg? A. I do not think so.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Would that be true? A. No. They would have to find them, of course.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Would they be on low diet until they found them? A. I do not think so.

Mr. HANNA: Q. You could very well remember what punishments you gave them? A. I never gave them much punishment, because the pegs were found.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Did you ever give the girls punishment by docking food for losing clothes-pegs? A. I do not know that I did.

Q. Try and remember—for losing a clothes-peg? A. We very seldom missed them.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Did it ever happen that you would put a child on bread and water for losing a clothes-peg—that might include clothes-pegs, so do not limit yourself to peg or pegs? A. I never put a child on bread and water for that.

Q. But on low diet? A. I would not say. I would not be sure about it, because we did not very often lose a peg.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you not think it would be in your mind? A. It would not be one peg. It would perhaps be a dozen pegs missing.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. They would be given a certain number of pegs? A. Yes. When the clothes are taken down from the line those pegs have to be brought in.

CHAIRMAN: Q. They would also bring them in? A. They would be scattered all over the place, and we would lose them.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. You would be continually asking for clothes-pegs if they did not find them? A. Yes. Next washing day there would not be any.

Q. The statement has been made (and rather much stress laid upon it) that when the Matron's food was being brought in the girls were made to stand aside, apparently for fear of contaminating it; what is the explanation of that, if true? A. That is true. We had so many diseases—eczema, and other things—that we had to look after our own welfare as well as that of the children.

Q. You had, presumably, one girl who would look after your cooking and serving arrangements? A. Yes, that is right.

Q. She was set apart to do it? A. Yes.

Q. And you expected that no other girl would have anything to do with your crockery? A. No other girl was responsible.

Q. Who did the scrubbing;—what age would the girls be? A. About 14 or 15, and upwards. All the big girls.

Q. Did they go to school? A. Yes.

Q. Did you supervise the scrubbing? A. Yes, of course, always.

Q. Did you give any instruction, at any time, that girls were not to have hot water to scrub with, in winter time? A. Certainly not. The copper is there at their disposal when they want it.

Q. As a matter of fact, is not hot water always available? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. What time would they start washing in the morning? A. About 8 o'clock.

Q. Whose business was it to fire up? A. One of the girls would light the fire. They could light the fire at night and leave it overnight.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Is that your usual practice? A. Yes, to put the fire underneath it and let it stay there.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. So that there would be hot water in the morning? A. Yes.

Q. Who supervises the bathing of the big girls? A. I do.

Q. Did you ever make a big, or, in fact, any girl, get into a cold bath in winter, and call other girls in to see her bathe as a punishment to her? A. Never. That would be immodest. We are supposed to teach children to be modest.

Q. Would you swear that? A. Yes. I never called a girl into see another girl being bathed.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. I asked one of the girls just now, as I always understood it as an old officer of the institution, whether you allowed more than two girls, or any two big girls, in the bathroom at the one time? A. No, never.

Q. As a matter of fact, did you ever allow two big girls into the bathroom together? A. No, never.

Q. That was a strict rule of the home? A. Yes. No such thing ever happened. I would never let two children in the bathroom together, except that a girl might bathe a small child.

Q. The girls bathed the little children? A. Yes.

Q. Was any form of punishment, such as compelling girls to desist from speaking to one another for any length of time, ever practised in your home? A. No, not for any length of time. A girl might be very rude or troublesome, and she would have to apologise before she could speak to the others. That is to teach the other children that they are not to be rude.

Q. You had all kinds of girls to deal with, bad you not? A. Yes.

Q. You had girls, I suppose, that were very troublesome? A. Yes.

Q. You had girls who had been failures everywhere? A. Yes.

Q. You had girls from the Reformatory, the Good Shepherd Convent, Shaftesbury Refuge, and girls who had misbehaved at Ormond House and at service? A. Yes.

Q. These girls were naturally very troublesome at times? A. Yes. They had all kinds of tempers, and you had to see the best you could do with them, and treat them accordingly.

Q. You had to devise the best means to suit each case and temperament in dealing with them? A. Yes.

Q. You frequently saw Mr. Green at Mittagong? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever know when he was coming? A. He would come in the morning or afternoon.

Q. Was any special preparation made on the days he visited? A. No. The house is kept in order every day.

Q. Is the same routine gone through every day? A. Yes, every day; there is no difference.

Q. Did he go amongst the children? A. Yes.

Q. Did he speak to them individually? A. Certainly.

Q. Was it possible that he could go into the home without you knowing? A. Yes. He has been there many a time and I have met him coming away from the front door.

Q. Did he not come in the front way or back way at any and all times? A. Yes.

Q. He was often in the home speaking to the children for several minutes before you could know of his presence? A. Yes.

Q. You might have been engaged on some other work? A. Yes.

Q. And they could tell Mr. Green anything they wished? A. If they wished to, there was nothing to stop them. He was there in the home.

Q. Would they be punished for speaking to him? A. No.

Q. Usually you met Mr. Green? A. Yes.

Q. Has any girl ever been punished or threatened with punishment for speaking to Mr. Green or myself? A. No, Mr. Connolly, you might have been there and talked to them, and I might not have known. He used to see them at any time.

Mr. CONNOLLY: I saw them morning, noon, and night.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Were there any complaints? A. No. If they said they wanted to see Mr. Connolly I would take them to him, and when they saw him they would not say anything.

Q. You did not threaten them with punishment? A. I have brought a girl before Mr. Connolly for not speak-

ing to another girl for some time. One girl was Martha McKay.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. What action did I take? A. You said it would have to end. I told you about it, and you came and saw them.

Q. Statements have been made that you wished to beat the girls with a brush and quince-stick? A. I beat Martha McKay with a quince-stick, but that is all.

Q. What for? A. For temper, at times. That is the only way I could get her back from her temper. I think I only smacked her on the hand.

Q. Did you use the quince-stick? A. I did use a thin quince-stick, because we do not use canes.

Q. Did you ever box Helen Cronin's ears so hard that she is not able to hear now? A. No. I never touched Helen Cronin in my life, because she was too crippled and too old. She was held up as one of the officers of the home. We looked upon her as being a sort of assistant.

Q. Did you turn her over a stool, and pull her clothes up, and beat her, calling the girls in to see the punishment? A. Certainly not.

Q. You did not have cause to beat her? A. It is not as though we did not have occasion. There was occasion to do it, but we did not do so.

Q. You are sure of this? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Did you ever see it done up there? A. Not in my time. I do not know about the others.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. But in any other home? A. I do not know about the others.

Q. Did you see it done in Mrs. Phillips' home? A. She might have done it once or twice when a child ran away.

Q. What girl would that be? A. Not any of these girls.

Q. She never did it with the cripple girl? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. That is as far as you know? A. Yes.

You may be pretty sure of that.

Q. Did you say it was done on one occasion? A. Yes.

That is when they ran away.

Q. They were put over the stool? A. Put over the bed.

Q. And their clothing lifted up, and then they were whacked? A. I do not think their clothes were moved. I think the child was in her night-dress, going to bed.

Q. Were the other children brought in to see her? A. No.

Q. You did not see anything like that? A. No.

Q. You are sure you never saw anything like that? A. No. No child has been turned up and the others brought in.

Q. Was this girl's body bare? A. No.

Q. How old was the girl that you saw? A. I think she was about 13.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. This was years ago. It is hard to remember the circumstances? A. I should say it is about eighteen years ago.

(At this stage the Investigation was adjourned until 2:20 p.m. the same day.)

(On resuming):—

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. You took Helen Cronin to Newington Asylum? A. Yes.

Q. At whose instance? A. At the instance of the doctor. She was ordered away.

Q. Was she under the care of the doctor? A. Yes.

Q. Has she been under the doctor for some considerable time, for a week or so, suffering from diarrhoea? A. Yes. She was in bed for a week.

Q. Was she a delicate subject? A. Always.

Q. Was she on special diet? A. Yes, whatever the doctor ordered.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How many years ago was this? A. Ten years ago.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Were the doctor's orders carried out strictly as regards her? A. Yes.

Q. You did whatever the doctor said to do to her? A. Yes.



*Witness—E. A. Cutcliffe, 24 November, 1916.*

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Did the doctor go out to the home? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. On the question of the transfer of these girls to Newington, have you ever heard that they blame you for having transferred them? A. Yes. One of the girls said they would never forgive me for sending her there, which I did not do. It was the doctor who did it.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Who said that? A. Both of them, Helen Cronin and Martha McKay. They did not like going. Fanny Atherton, not in my home, came up for a holiday on one occasion, and spent a few days with Mrs. Phillips, and she said she would never forgive me because I sent Martha McKay to the old women's home.

Mr. CONNOLLY: It was looked upon by these girls as a disgrace to be sent from the cottage home to the only institution suitable to their cases. It was looked upon as an asylum for old women.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What age were they when they were sent down? A. Martha McKay was 27, and Helen Cronin was 31. They were sent because the doctor ordered them there. The doctor ordered Helen Cronin there because she was in a delicate state of health.

Mr. CONNOLLY: They looked upon it as a kind of disgrace or humiliation to be sent there.

CHAIRMAN: Q. I think she told us that she got better when she went there? A. She had nurses and everybody to wait on her.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. That was the reason for sending them? A. Yes.

Q. It was for hospital treatment? A. Yes. Martha McKay was sent because she was suffering from appendicitis once, and the doctors would not operate, and they told Mr. Connolly to send her away where she could get closer to a doctor.

Mr. CONNOLLY: I was really the party who sent the girls away from there for their own good, and not with any idea of punishment.

CHAIRMAN: They were old for the institution.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Still, we looked upon them as girls? A. They were only children in mind.

Mr. CONNOLLY: We looked upon them as children all the time.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You consider them all of rather poor intellect? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. How long is it since Martha McKay went there? A. Eight years.

Mr. CONNOLLY: This occurred from eight to twenty-five years ago, so that it is impossible to get any witness to contradict all that the girls have said.

CHAIRMAN: I thought it was only eight years ago.

Mr. CONNOLLY: It is eight years since Martha McKay left the home.

WITNESS: I looked it up in my book yesterday. It is ten years since Helen Cronin left.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. How long is it since Mrs. Lane left? A. About eight years.

Q. You heard, rightly or wrongly, that the girls had grievances on that account? A. Yes. Fanny Atherton and May David told her.

Mr. CONNOLLY: They had been in the homes, and from what Miss Cutcliffe says, they visited the homes after they left, and they told the Matron that they would never forgive Miss Cutcliffe for having sent them to Newington.

Mr. HANNA: Q. Did they give evidence this morning?

Mr. CONNOLLY: No. They have not given evidence yet. They have not been produced yet.

WITNESS: May David went there on her honeymoon, and came to see me. After Fanny Atherton left she came up for a holiday.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Do you swear you were never unkind in any way as the girl stated? A. There is no such thing as being unkind to these girls. These girls

had their birthdays kept up by little parties in the afternoon. Many a time they turned my dining-room upside down and had fun amongst themselves at night.

Mr. CONNOLLY: I know that for a fact.

WITNESS: They cannot deny it.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. On the matter of the girls having seven minutes to dress, I do not know whether it applied to you; it applied to Mrs. Phillips? A. To me also.

Q. The girls had seven minutes to dress? A. Yes. Instead of getting up, they fooled about and did not get dressed.

Q. Did anybody wake them up? A. There was a girl told off to wake them up.

Q. That means that they dressed in the ordinary way; they did not dress for school? A. No. They only dressed for their ordinary work. If they had their beds made or something else done they would go out and get washed, and their hair done properly.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You were up before they were out? A. No. They got up at 5 o'clock, and I got up at 6.

Q. In winter time they got up at 6, and you get up at what time? A. A quarter past.

Q. What supervision have you over them? A. Each girl does so much work. When we are about we go out and look at the work, and see that it is all done. Each girl has so much to do. One girl makes so many beds.

Q. Supposing a girl exercises petty tyranny over some girl she has an edge on? A. We do not take any notice of the girls unless we see things ourselves.

Q. If you are not up till a quarter of an hour after the girls you have to take the evidence of the girl you put in charge? A. We pass the work—(interrupted).

Q. But about the time of getting up? A. The girl is in charge.

Q. You have to depend on what she says? A. Yes. They do not deny it themselves.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. From time to time have you heard from any of the girls who have been under your care? A. Heaps of them. If you like you can come to my sitting-room, and every little nick-nack I have was given to me by the children after they left the home. After they leave they never forget me at Christmas or on my birthday. Of course, there are some who are not much real good when they leave.

Mr. CONNOLLY: There are a few original letters here from which I might be allowed to read a few extracts. Q. Do you remember a girl named Valerie Cardew? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY (reading):—

C/o Mrs. Guy, "Hillview," Malton-road, Epping.  
5/8/1916.

I often think of the home, and although I naturally am glad to be free, as it were, I have to thank you over and over again, for I feel you made me see what an awful thing it is not to control one's self, and although I am glad it is all over now, still I am glad I went to the cottage home to learn that lesson. Then again, I feel I have not forgotten your good religious principles, and feel that I miss it in other people's homes I have since lived in; so you see, although I am glad to be free, still I did see something good in the cottage home after all's said and done.

Your affectionate friend,  
VALERIE CARDEW.

CHAIRMAN: When was she there?

Mr. CONNOLLY: She wrote that on 5th August, 1915.

WITNESS: That is not the only letter she wrote.

CHAIRMAN: Q. She wrote that after she had been out? A. Yes, two years afterwards.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Another girl writes from Reservoir-street, Surry Hills, as follows:—

I met Alice Harris; she is living not far from me. She is always asking me would I like to go back to you, and I always say I would go back to-morrow if I could, you were so very good to me.

Yours sincerely,  
FLORENCE EVANS.

Another one writes from Ormond House, Paddington, as follows:—

I am having a good rest here, and wonder how long I am going to stay. I am getting a bit stronger, and can talk perfectly well now, thanks to the good treatment I am receiving. With best wishes to all at the home.

EILEEN BRIGHTON.

Ada Drinkwater writes:—

I suppose you think I have forgotten you, but I must plead my excuse on the ground that I have been very unsettled. If you are in Sydney any future time, will you call and see me? I would be delighted. I was confirmed last October. Remember me very kindly.

Yours very sincerely,

ADA DRINKWATER.

Another girl writes from Goulburn:—

I have not been able to write before. They sent me to the Refuge, a horrid place. I had to go to the Protestant church and eat meat on a Friday, which was so new to me after being so well instructed at your home.

AMY.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Are those all letters from previous inmates? A. Yes.

Q. They are now free and they wrote those letters to you? A. Yes.

Q. You say you have other letters? A. Yes. I have heaps of others, but I did not bring them.

Q. How long have you been in charge there? A. Thirteen years as Matron. I have been about twenty-one years in the home altogether. I relieved the rest of the time.

Q. Since you have been up there has any charge been made against you of ill-treating any of the inmates? A. I do not think so.

Q. I mean a formal charge made against you.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Have you been asked for an explanation by the Department in connection with the management of the home? A. There was something once, but it was not for ill-treating children.

Q. It was for something in connection with your duty when you were relieving? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. That is over thirteen years ago? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Before you were appointed? A. Yes.

Q. These girls saw the priests and sisters? A. Yes. They would go to mass every Sunday, except when one might have to take charge. They all went in their turn.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What school did they attend? A. They had a school in the grounds.

Q. There is a public school over the road?—

Mr. CONNOLLY: We had a teacher there.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. There is a school there now? A. Yes. The Church of England children go to the public school, and the Catholic children go to Mittagong.

Q. They are brought in? A. We are in town.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. They were not always in town? A. When we were out we had a teacher.

Q. With regard to the question of washing, and that sort of thing. In the old times there were certain difficulties connected with the work, because water was not laid on to the premises for the reason that there was no water supply at Mittagong. There was no light supply, and we had to take whatever homes we could get. The Government had not built the homes then. They were rented cottages. There were a lot of disadvantages that had to be made the best of. It meant then what does not obtain now. The girls had certainly to do harder work than they would be called upon to do now because of the exigencies of the situation? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: You have been there all the time?

Mr. CONNOLLY: Miss Cutcliffe lived outside the town.

Mr. GREEN: We have only acquired this property within the last six or seven years.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How many inmates would be there, on the average? A. Thirty-five.

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Q. What do they go down as low as? A. I have never had less than twenty-four or twenty-five.

Q. Most of them are young children? A. No.

Q. What would be the ages? A. All big girls—from 12 upwards.

Q. Up to what age? A. Twenty-five, 31, or 32.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Would there be many over 20 or many over 18? A. Well, about 16 or 17.

Q. When they come to 16 or 17 they are sent out to service? A. As soon as they behave themselves, and are fit to take places, they go out to service.

Q. Do many of them fail or come back? A. No; I have not had a big girl back.

Q. What is the trouble when they stay in until they are 21 years of age? A. It may be through very bad tempers, or weak intellects.

Q. How do you treat the children of weak intellect? A. Just as an ordinary girl would be treated.

Q. What about the cripples? A. They caused trouble because they were sent to Newington. They wished to stay where they were.

#### CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Were you at any time in charge of No. 7? A. No.

Q. In charge of No. 6? A. Yes.

Q. There was a certain punishment for being late in the time of dressing; what was the punishment? A. Low diet.

Q. What would this low die consist of? A. If they had two or three slices of bread for tea, or dinner, or breakfast, they would only have one on low diet.

Q. Their fare was reduced as a punishment? A. Yes.

Q. Now, take the duties; they had to do some work before they had breakfast? A. Every child did a little.

Q. What was the age of the youngest child that had to work before breakfast? A. I have never had any really young children, children not able to work.

Q. Were there any under or about 12 years of age? A. Yes, 12 or 13.

Q. Would they have to do work before breakfast? A. Such as cleaning the knives.

Q. And scrubbing? A. No.

Q. They would have to scrub floors? A. No.

Q. Would any children under your charge have to scrub floors? A. The big girls.

Q. What ages would they be? A. Girls over 13 and 14.

Q. Is there any truth in the statements that in the winter time at Mittagong there would be ice on the water, and they would have to use it? A. Such a thing was never true.

Q. There was never any ice on the water in the buckets? A. Yes. If they did it they did it of their own free will.

Q. Did these girls do any work in the morning before you got up? A. Yes. They used to make the beds.

Q. Was it possible that ice would be on the water before you saw it? A. No. If the copper was not ready for them, and alight, they would put the water on the ironing fire, and have it warmed there.

Q. Were instructions issued that the fires should be lit of a morning for the warming of the water? A. Yes. They were told to light it, or they could do it at night.

Q. Who were the parties who used to do it? A. One of the girls.

Q. They would have to get up earlier than the others in the morning? A. While the other girls would be making the beds they would be making the fires, but as a rule the water was warmed at night.

Q. Any girl taking a bucket of cold water would do it of her own free will? A. Yes.

Q. They did not have any icy water at all? A. No.

Q. They could warm the water if they liked? A. Yes; they could warm the water as they liked. Another thing,

Witness—E. A. Cutcliffe, 24 November, 1916.

if they say they used icy water, how could the water be icy if it was drawn out of a well?

Q. Was it not drawn out of a well the night before? A. And put into the copper the night before. The copper is under cover.

Q. You stated that girls of 13 years of age would scrub? A. They would not do much.

Q. But was there not a special regulation existing which required the girls to do a special scrub, or were they supposed to do whatever they could? A. They would take a little patch (it would not be a big one), and they would do it without wetting their clothes.

Q. And those girls were 13 years of age? A. Yes. Even the big girls would do the same. They would take a patch of floor so that they would not get wet.

Q. If the girls did not do what was considered up to the standard, was there any punishment? A. They were made to go over it again.

Q. What time did they have breakfast? A. Half-past seven.

Q. What time did they get up in the morning? A. Five o'clock.

Q. That was in the summer time? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. What time would they go to bed? A. The little ones would go to bed at half-past six, and next lot at seven, and next lot at eight, and the big girls would go at nine.

Q. They would be up two and a half hours before they would have any breakfast? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. And what would the breakfast consist of? A. Porridge, bread and treacle, and milk and tea. The big girls have a cup of milk as well as a cup of tea.

Q. After breakfast were there any other duties performed before going to school? A. Only to tidy up the room afterwards.

Q. What time would they go to school? A. Half-past nine.

Q. With regard to the statements that have been made, I do not know whether they are in regard to your home, but do you know anything about a girl being placed in an icy-cold tub of water? A. No; I have never heard of such a thing.

Q. They have never been placed in icy-cold water to your knowledge? A. No, not icy-cold water.

Q. Did you hear of girls being punished in connection with a missing clothes-peg? A. I have punished them myself.

Q. For one clothes-peg? A. No.

Q. For two? A. No; I missed a lot. I heard that girls say they were on punishment for four days at a time. That is not true. If they were not found before dinner, the dinner would be put away until they found them. They generally found them immediately after the dinner was put away, but they never go a day without food. They never missed a meal without having some food.

Q. The dinner is put away, you say; supposing a clothes-peg was not found? A. They would find it.

Q. If it was not found? A. They would get low diet.

Q. But what if they did not find it? A. They would get low diet. The children are never off food for all day.

Q. But you admit that the food is reduced? A. Yes.

Q. I heard it mentioned in the earlier part of the day with regard to a punishment—what is known as the hair-brush—you know something of that? A. Yes. A child did get it when she ran away.

Q. One only, to your knowledge? A. Yes.

Q. To your knowledge as matron of that home, do you think it is a proper punishment to inflict on a child? A. Yes. That is not too severe for them.

Q. Do you still think it is a proper punishment at the present day? A. Perhaps they do not do things now.

Q. But even assuming they do the same things, do you think it is a proper punishment? A. At that age the brush does not hurt as much as a cane.

Q. Do you think it is a proper thing to try and carry out such things as have been made out to shame these girls? A. Yes. When a girl has no shame in her, and will play up, and run away, and not behave, and is very rude, I think she deserves it.

Q. Would you be prepared to say, because a girl made a slight mistake or committed some fault, she had no shame in her? A. We know what kind of girl we are dealing with.

Q. But that is a very big statement to make; it is a matter like this—whether you consider or study their mental capacity and what they will be in the future, and whether they will be of any use in the future in the community; that is the position I take up? A. The girl who got the brush turned out a very good girl afterwards, and never gave any further trouble.

Q. By making that girl feel ashamed it did her good, you say? A. Yes. She did not like the idea of being beaten.

Q. Would you believe in doing that to any girl who was a bit unruly? A. It was according to whether she was very naughty.

Q. Do you think it is a good policy to reform them? A. Well, a slap across the hands—(interrupted).

Q. That is the policy you believe in? Is it a fact that some children were ordered away while the matron's dinner was passing through? A. We used to have children with bad mouths, eczema, wasting disease, and ever so many other things, and, of course, we had to look after our own welfare.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Are those girls isolated from the others? A. Yes. They were isolated. They would not be near the kitchen, of course.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. But you believed the fact of those girls being present while the matron's dinner was passing through would contaminate it? A. No. We do not think of the children like that. We treat the children the same as we treat anyone else.

Q. And that is the reason they were ordered away? A. It is only because these children had such a nasty air, the children with the bad mouths.

Q. Do you not think, being in charge of the homes, that, if the children were suffering, you would recommend to the Department that they should be placed in isolated areas? A. They were convalescent.

Q. If they were convalescent, it is hardly right for them to be placed there; do you not think that a recommendation should be made to headquarters that they should be placed in some medical institution where the doctors could attend to them and care for them? A. But the doctors ordered them to the country.

Q. Was that recommendation sent to headquarters?

Mr. CONNOLLY: They were in the country by direction of the doctor.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. I am well aware of the fact that they are in the Mittagong Home, but were they ordered away to the country? A. They were sent to Mittagong.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you keep the girls who are suffering from eczema away from the other girls? A. We keep them away as much as we can. We do not, of course, allow the girls to use the same towels or anything like that, as the others.

Mr. HANNA: But they were allowed to mix with the other children?

CHAIRMAN: Q. You isolate them as well as you can? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. While protecting yourself do you protect the other children? A. Yes.

Q. Were those children allowed to sit at the same table as the other children? A. Yes. They had another table—there were two tables there.

Q. They were put at a separate table in the same room? A. Yes.

Q. But while the matron's lunch was passing through they were not allowed to look at it? A. Oh, that is not true.



Q. They were allowed to stay in the same room with the other children and have their meals at a separate table? A. In the same room.

Q. With regard to bread and water, you state that some of the children were placed as a punishment on bread and water? A. Yes.

Q. What were the offences? A. They may have been very disobedient or stubborn, and would not do as they were told.

Q. Do you think, as matron in charge of children, that that was a punishment likely to do the children any good? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever consider what happens to children who are affected in that way—if the diet is reduced, have you never thought of what would happen to them? A. But they do not get it for long.

Q. They would not get it for a day? A. No, not a whole day. It may be for two meals.

Q. Never for twenty-four hours would they be on bread and water? A. No.

Q. You realise what it means to a child, especially a growing child, to be on bread and water for twenty-four hours—you realise the damage to their bodies, and to their growing powers? A. Yes.

Q. At any time down there did you ever sentence any child to keep silence for a certain length of time for doing something? A. Yes. Martha McKay went off for a week on her own account.

Q. At your orders? A. No, not my orders.

Q. At anybody else's orders while you were there? A. It was on her own account. She had a very violent temper.

Q. She would not speak to anyone in the home for a week on her own account? A. Yes.

Q. Was there any girl under your charge sentenced to keep silence for any length of time? A. Not unless the child—(interrupted).

Q. How long would it be—what is the longest you can remember? A. Only a few hours.

Q. Never for a day? A. The children did not like to be off talking.

Q. No child to your knowledge has ever been kept off talking for a day or twenty-four hours? A. It may have been a day because she would not apologise.

Q. Never for longer than a day—never for two days? A. No. They would not allow us to be that long without talking.

Q. You realise, being in touch with children, what it means to be prevented from speaking for that length of time, how it affects their mental capacity and their brains? A. Yes.

Q. You also mentioned about the two witnesses that were here on Monday, that they were feeble-minded and vicious? A. Yes. I referred to Miss McKay and Miss Cronin.

Q. You still state on oath that those people were feeble-minded? A. Yes.

Q. And with vicious tempers? A. I do not say that Helen Cronin had a vicious temper, but she was very sly. The other girl had undoubtedly a vicious temper.

Q. That would lead you to think she was vicious? A. In a temper she was like someone insane. She would pull her hair down and go without food and throw herself on the ground and scream.

Q. What was the usual thing that would send her into a temper? Was it anything that happened in the home? A. Not that I know of. Perhaps something did not suit her, or something did not please her.

Q. You state that Helen Cronin was not vicious? A. No, but she was very slow.

Q. Was she also feeble-minded? A. Yes, very. It took me three years to teach her what sewing she knows, and that is not very much.

Q. You are perfectly satisfied to state on oath that these girls are feeble-minded, and that one is vicious? A. Yes, they are feeble-minded.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. They were when they were under your control? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. With regard to the letters written by some of the girls who have been under your control. Was any application made by you for those letters—did you write to them asking them to communicate with you at any time? A. Never. If they did not write, we did not ask them to write.

Mr. CONNOLLY: The dates speak for themselves.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. You also mentioned that some girls did not gather up the clothes-pegs because they were lazy;—were any girls lazy at Mittagong? A. They were all lazy. They did not want to work.

Q. As matron of a home of orphan children or deserted children, do you think it right that the children should work at all? A. Yes. If they did not work they would get into mischief.

Q. It is your opinion that these children should work as well as attend school? A. Yes. The school children do not work.

Q. Not in the mornings or the evenings either? A. The little ones may clean a knob, but I do not call that work.

Mr. TAYLOR: They do not scrub, or anything like that.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. As far as I can remember, I was under the impression that you explained that the children 13 years of age were doing scrubbing of a morning, and they had to get a certain amount of work done before going to school? A. Not the little ones.

Q. Who are girls about 13? A. They are not small.

Q. Do they do any sweeping? A. Yes.

Q. Do they ever sweep up the yards? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. The children do it in their own homes? A. Half a dozen children sweep up the small yard.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Do any of the children who go to school do any scrubbing in the morning? A. Not in my home.

Q. According to your statements all those children who go to school do not do any work at all? A. No.

Q. They simply get up and go to school? A. As I say they clean the knobs.

Q. All those girls 13 years of age who do the scrubbing never go to school? A. Yes, up to 14 years of age.

Q. They do some scrubbing before they go to school? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think it right that a girl should get up at 5 o'clock in the morning, scrub, and then go to school? A. Yes; for the little that each child does it would not hurt anyone.

Q. But even on the principle of the thing, do you think it is good for them to do work as well as attend school? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that the strain on the brain— A. The little bit of work they do would not hurt anyone's brain.

Q. Do they have to scrub verandahs? A. The big girls do.

Q. Not the school girls? A. No.

Q. What age would the girls finish schooling? A. They used to go to school until they were up to third-class standard.

Q. What age would they be? A. It would be according to what brain they had.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Fourteen years of age? A. If they were bright.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Some of them went to school until they were 21? A. They go to school all the time until they reach the standard. They never leave school until they are 14, and if they are not fairly up to the standard they would go on.



Witness—E. A. Cutcliffe, 24 November, 1910.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. The girls of 12, 13, and 14 had to wash the men's clothing? A. They never did such a thing as wash men's clothing.

Q. Or boys' clothing? A. Not in my home.

Q. Are you still under the impression that these children should work as well as go to school at that age? A. Yes. They should do the work they do. It is better for them than doing nothing and quarrelling.

Q. Do you think it is a right kind of punishment that children should be put on low diet for any offence? A. Low diet does not hurt anyone. The low diet is more than I would eat.

Q. Is there any doctor at the Mittagong Home? A. Yes.

Q. What is his name? A. Dr. Short.

Q. Has that doctor been called in to any children there? A. Yes, certainly.

Q. Does he know that the children have been placed on low diet for offences? A. I do not know. I suppose he might.

Q. No complaints have been made to him? A. The doctors put patients on milk foods.

Q. But that is when they are suffering from a complaint. A doctor would never recommend that for punishment?

Mr. GREEN: That is for the discipline of the place.

WITNESS: And not unless the child is very bad.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. But the doctor has never been consulted on the matter, whether it is a fair and reasonable kind of punishment;—it has been left to the matron? A. The low diet they get would not hurt anyone.

Q. It is a matter for yourself alone to decide the form of punishment right through;—there has been no form of punishment arranged by the State Children Relief Department? A. No.

Q. It has been left to formulate what punishment you like? A. Yes.

Q. You admit that children of 13 years of age have been scrubbing? A. So they should. Some of them are big girls.

Q. You say that they should? A. Yes.

Q. And that they have also been washing the clothes from the Boys' State Home? A. Not in my home.

Q. They have been scrubbing, and you believe they should do so? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Q. You have only given punishments for corrective purposes, in forming the characters of the girls? A. Yes, not for any other purposes.

Q. An accusation has been made that you have been cruel. Is that true? A. No; I have never been cruel to any State child.

Q. Have you had any complaints from anyone at all as to your being cruel? A. No.

Q. The girls you have had there are nearly all rejects from other homes? A. Yes.

Q. Or they are convalescents from hospitals? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. What class do they come from? Do they come from the criminal class? A. We have all kinds.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Some are there through force of circumstances? A. Yes; some are unfortunate. There are some very bad ones.

Mr. CONNOLLY: The girls are sent there who have been committed by the courts to, we will say, the Good Shepherd Home at Ashfield, but the sisters could not manage them, so they have been sent to Miss Cutcliffe. That is the sort of girl, as a rule, that would go there. It is the girl who is too bad to be kept in an outside home.

Mr. HACKETT: Is that generally so?

Mr. GREEN: Yes, generally so.

Mr. CONNOLLY: They are not sent to a reformatory. Those are the vicious girls. We do not like to send them there, because of the possible contamination.

Mr. GREEN: We have to be careful with regard to sending children out. We have no other place to put bad girls except these homes. We do not bring the girls before the court. These are girls returned from boarding out, and they are sent to these homes (Mittagong) because they could not be managed in the boarding-out homes. They have to be managed in these homes. These women could not be cruel to them under any circumstances. They do the best, under the circumstances, for them. I have not had one complaint about this witness in the whole of my thirty years' experience. She has done her work excellently, and as far as treating the children is concerned, I do not believe any other woman in New South Wales would have done as well as this witness has done. Look at the girls before you here to-day. They are a credit to the State, due to the training of this woman and Mrs. Phillips. They have certain punishments up there. You can quite understand it. They are necessary.

CHAIRMAN: The girls must be corrected.

Mr. GREEN: Yes. It is all in connection with the formation of the character. It is necessary that certain things should be done. With regard to the work the children do, you can understand that there are twenty or thirty children in each home. What can the work be in a five or six-roomed house for each one to do?

Mr. HACKETT: You are making a statement.

WITNESS: If Mr. Hackett wishes to go to Mittagong, he can see the homes. He can go through and take each child separately.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Hackett told me he did not want to know anything that was good. He wanted to know only the things which were bad.

Mr. HACKETT: I will swear that that is untrue.

Mr. GREEN: It is not untrue.

CHAIRMAN: I suppose Mr. Hackett could go up to the homes unannounced?

Mr. GREEN: He could go at any time he likes.

Mr. HACKETT: Mr. Green spoke about these girls. Does he state that the girls I have brought before you as witnesses are bad?

Mr. GREEN: I say that these girls were in the cottage homes because they could not be placed anywhere else.

Mr. HACKETT: For what reason?

Mr. GREEN: I will not say.

Mr. HACKETT: I challenge the statement. Mr. Green is not game.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you state definitely, Miss Cutcliffe, that you did not put the children on bread and water for three days at a time? A. Yes.

Q. The evidence was that you did; you deny it? A. Yes. There is the cripple girl, Helen Cronin. She has a grown-up brother and sister, and the sister came to the home two or three times and the brother once. If she and the others were so cruelly treated, why did she not tell her brother and sister? She spent the whole morning with them.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You will admit that if grown girls or any person were put on bread and water for a couple of days it would not be good for them? A. Certainly.

Mr. HANNA: I do not think the evidence was that they were three or four days on poor diet.

Mr. TAYLOR: The lame girl gave evidence.

Mr. HANNA: I understood that one meal was on low diet, and then it would be an ordinary meal, and then another meal.

Mr. TAYLOR: That is what Miss Cutcliffe says, but the girls say the opposite.

CHAIRMAN: You say the brother and sister came up to the homes?

WITNESS: If they had any complaints why did she not tell them, and why did they not tell the relieving matron, who was in my home when I was on holidays? They went away and told Mr. Green and Mr. Connolly that my home was the best home the girl had been in.

Witnesses—E. A. Cutcliffe and L. S. Phillips, 24 November, 1916.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. There was some evidence about encouraging girls to tell tales on the others; do you encourage it in any way? A. If a child comes and tells any yarns, we listen. If we think it is serious and we should stop it, then we would take action. Perhaps a child might be a very immoral child. If another child comes and tells us that that is so, we have to take notice of it, but for simple things we please ourselves.

Q. For trivialities you would not encourage it? A. We consider whether we should take notice of the child. If it is anything serious we take notice, but if not, we pass it by.

Q. The evidence was that children told on one another, and that was encouraged? A. We listen to everything, so that if there is anything very wrong in the homes we can put it down at once.

Q. You would not listen to a tale about trivialities? A. No. If we did listen, we would not take any notice of it.

(Witness retired.)

LAURA SOPHIA PHILLIPS, mother-in-charge, No. 5 Cottage Home, Mittagong, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. You are a married woman? A. I am a widow.

Q. You are in charge of what home? A. No. 7.

Q. How long have you been in charge of that home? A. About twenty-four years.

Q. What class of girl have you in the home? A. I have a boys' home.

Q. How long have you had the boys' home? A. Five years.

Q. What is the name? A. The Feeble-minded Home.

Q. About how many are there in your charge? A. Twenty-three.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. You were in charge of the No. 7 home? A. Yes.

Q. For how many years? A. I have been twenty-four years there.

Q. What class of girls were sent to you as a rule? A. Just the same as Miss Cutcliffe's—mixed, from all places, from the Shaftesbury Reformatory, and other places.

Q. Do you remember a girl named Nellie Croft? A. Yes.

Q. Where did she come from? A. Shaftesbury Reformatory.

Q. Do you remember what she was sent to you for? A. They could not manage her there.

Q. Did you hear the real reason why she was sent to you, what she actually did? A. No; I do not remember.

Q. Did you hear that she was the leader of a riot at Shaftesbury? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: She has not been here. I only wanted to show the sort of girl that Miss Cutcliffe and Mrs. Phillips had. The girls were committed from the courts here, the same as they are to Parramatta.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How long ago is that? A. It is not so very long ago.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. What happened to that girl? A. She turned out a good girl and went to a place.

Q. She could not be managed in an institution? A. No. She was no trouble to me at all.

Q. You made her a good girl on the treatment you gave her? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How long was she with you? A. For a good many years.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. What age was she when she went to you? A. In her teens.

Q. Early teens? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. She was a notorious girl; I bring that out to show the sort of girl that went to the homes; during the time you have been in the service you have had a large number of girls? A. Yes. I have had really the worst girls of that class.

Q. You remember Martha McKay and Helen Cronin? A. Yes.

Q. And also Mrs. Lane and Nellie Hahn? A. Yes.

Q. They were all under your care? A. Yes.

Q. Did you have any trouble with them individually or collectively? A. As regards disobedience.

Q. What sort of a girl was Martha McKay? A. She had a very bad temper. One night she went round the beds and pulled all the clothes off the children to frighten them. Then when I went down to her she began to sing out and kept the other children awake. She terrified them.

Q. What was your opinion as regards her mental capacity? A. Feeble.

(On the application of Mr. Hackett the witnesses previously examined were brought into the Board-room.)

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Was she vicious in any way? A. I do not think she was.

Q. Did she have any special privileges in your home? A. She was one of the pets.

Q. Why? A. She was a cripple. She used to have very long hair.

Q. Is it true that for the most trivial faults the children were put on bread and water as a punishment? A. No.

Q. Did you have a regular dietary scale and give the children food according to the dietary scale? A. Yes.

Q. What was the usual diet? A. Porridge in the morning and bread, and they would have roast twice a week.

Q. They would have milk with their porridge? A. Yes.

Q. Statements have been made about the matron's food being brought in, and the girls having to stand aside, was that done? A. If that was done it was their own doing. Another thing, it is a very awkward corner to turn.

Q. It was done not with any idea that the girls would contaminate it in any way? A. No.

Q. You had one particular girl to look after your own food? A. Yes.

Q. And another girl looked after the children's food? A. Yes.

Q. Was the same care taken with the children's food as with yours? A. Yes, exactly.

Q. You had girls with all kinds of complaints? A. Yes. I had a girl there, and when the doctor saw her he sent her to Little Bay, and she died there.

Q. You had all sorts of cases, tubercular, and every kind? A. Yes.

Q. Naturally you were careful that the children did not touch the food? A. Yes.

Q. Is that your reason? A. Yes, that was my reason.

Q. There were no instructions on the fact that they should not touch your food, or touch the children's food?

A. Only that I had girls to do certain things and had to keep things in proper order.

Q. Who did the scrubbing? A. All the big girls—not Martha or the cripple girls, of course. Nellie Hahn and Helen Cronin used to scrub the scullery, but that is only a small place.

Q. Did you issue instructions that they were not to have warm water for scrubbing? A. No. They used to put it in the fire-place after ironing to keep it warm.

Mr. HANNA: Q. They never scrubbed with cold water? A. I did not make any rule about it, but I think they used to get the water out of the pump.

Mr. CONNOLLY: This is so many years ago—(interrupted).

Mr. HANNA: Q. That would not be hot? A. No; but it would not be as cold as the other water.

CHAIRMAN: Q. It would not be frozen? A. No; it would not be as cold as the other water.

Q. The water is carried to your place? A. Yes, right through.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Did you ever make a big girl, or any girl, get into a cold bath in winter or any other time, and call the other girls in to see her bathe? A. No.

Q. You will swear that? A. Yes, not that I remember.

Witness—L. S. Phillips, 24 November, 1916.

Q. Would you do it? A. I am sure I would not do it, before the others.

Q. As a matter of fact (I remember putting the same question to Miss Cutcliffe); I know it is one of the rules of the home; do you ever allow two big girls in the bathroom together? A. No, except to wash the little ones. Martha would bathe the little ones, and Helen used to bathe the middle girls.

Q. Was it a strict rule? A. Yes.

Q. Was there any form of punishment to compel the girls not to speak to one another for any length of time? A. No.

Q. Did you use that form of punishment? A. Yes. I would say, "You girls are not to talk to one another until you apologise."

Q. Would that be for any particular kind of thing, or for any particular kind of talk? A. It would be more used when they had done very wrong, or ran away.

Q. Did you have any immoral girls—girls who spoke or acted immorally? A. No.

Q. Were the punishments that you used towards these girls used with the idea of correcting them? A. As corrections.

Q. It was not done with any idea of ill-treating them? A. No. If I punished them I would punish myself just the same.

Q. What punishment or what tasks, or whatever you allotted them, would be given with the idea of improving them and not with the idea of punishment? A. The idea of improvement.

Q. You saw Mr. Green from time to time at Mittagong? A. Yes, every fortnight.

Q. Did you know Mr. Green was coming when he came to see you? A. No.

Q. Did you make any special preparation for him? A. Not more than I would for anyone else.

Q. You have a certain routine? A. The work is all done by 9 o'clock.

Q. Did you ever hear of any girls alleging or stating that if they spoke to Mr. Green they would be punished? A. No.

Q. Did Mr. Green go amongst them? A. Yes.

Q. Did I go amongst the children? A. Yes. You were in the homes, seeing the rooms, and where the girls washed.

Q. And I stayed sometimes how long? A. You used to stay talking to them.

Q. They were not scared of Mr. Green or myself? A. No. I do not see why they should be.

Q. Did you turn Helen Cronin over a stool and beat her? A. No.

Q. A statement has been made that you turned her over a stool and put her clothes up and beat her. A. No.

Q. That is not true? A. No.

Q. You are quite sure of that? A. Yes.

Q. A statement was also made about the girls having a certain time to dress; I do not know why every girl said seven minutes. A. They used to play and loiter in the morning.

Q. And you made it seven minutes? A. To put on their clothes, not do their hair or put their boots on or anything like that.

Q. That is to go out ready for work? A. Yes.

Q. You had one girl down there, Fanny Atherton? A. Yes.

Q. Did she make any statement about these girls? A. She said she would never forgive Miss Cutcliffe for sending her to Newington.

Q. Was Fanny Atherton sent to Newington? A. No.

Q. Fanny Atherton said that these girls told her that they would—(interrupted)? A. She said she would not forgive her.

Q. Did you ever hear that the girls had grievances against Miss Cutcliffe for sending them to Newington? A. No; I never saw them afterwards.

Q. You knew that Newington was looked upon, from their point of view, as a sort of disgrace to be sent there? A. Yes.

Q. They did not like to be sent there, naturally? A. No, among the old women.

Q. Have you ever been unkind to children under your care? A. Not that I know of. I do not think so.

Q. You are now in charge of the Feeble-minded Home for Boys? A. Yes.

Q. You have visitors there by the score, I presume? A. Yes.

Q. What opinions have they expressed as to your treatment of the children? A. Splendid. It could not be better.

Q. They have put that on record? A. Yes.

Q. Have you letters to that effect? A. Yes; I have it in my visitors' book.

Q. Your home is open to be visited by anybody at any time and at all times? A. Yes.

Q. There are no visiting hours? A. No. At least, there are now, but not in those days.

Q. Anybody could walk in and out? A. Yes.

Q. They could see the girls and talk to them? A. If I was out they would come in and talk to the girls.

Q. Did the sisters visit them? A. Yes.

Q. Did the priests visit them? A. Yes.

Q. They went to church in town? A. Yes.

Q. Altogether there was every chance, if there was anything wrong, for them to tell somebody? A. Yes; as far as I know, the teacher came over too.

Mr. CONNOLLY: We will call the teacher.

#### CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. You are in charge of No. 7? A. Yes.

Q. What time, according to your orders, would children be up in the morning? A. Five in the summer and six in the winter.

Q. You have already stated that you allowed seven minutes for dressing? A. Yes.

Q. If they exceeded that time what was the usual punishment? A. I cannot remember now. I would tell them to speak to me for being disobedient.

Q. Before breakfast, what duties would the girls from 12 to 16 years of age perform? A. Scrubbing.

Q. Would girls of that age have to scrub? A. I cannot remember taking in any middle-aged children.

Q. You do not remember eight or nine years ago having girls of 12 years of age to do the scrubbing? A. I do not think I had any 12 years of age. If there were any they were tall, womanly, big girls. I have been trying to remember, and I do not think I had any small children. I had babies, but they would be in bed—quite little ones.

Q. You cannot recall any about 12 years of age doing any scrubbing in the home? A. No.

Q. A statement has been made about the water for scrubbing, that the water was drawn the night before, and there was ice on it in the morning; do you know anything about the ice being broken? A. No.

Q. Are you prepared to state on oath that you, in your home, allowed these children to warm that water before they used it for scrubbing? A. I say that I made no rule about it at all.

Q. If the children were prohibited from warming the water, who would be responsible; would you be responsible for prohibiting them? A. Yes.

Q. Certain orphan children have stated that they were not allowed to warm the water for scrubbing; would that be correct? A. I have never said anything about it, and they have never said anything about it either. If the water was pumped it would be warm enough.

Q. Was there not a regulation or some understanding that it should be drawn the night before? A. No; and if it was it would be in the scullery.

Q. If the previous witness was to say it had been a rule in her home, it would not be necessarily a rule in yours? A. Not at all.

Mr. HANNA: Q. Have you any arrangement for warming the water for them? A. We have a copper.

Q. Is it heated up every morning? A. We are talking about olden times.

Q. Yes? A. They used to do the washing. They could get hot water in the copper.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. But for scrubbing? A. There was a girl told off to warm the water.

Q. She would be up earlier than the others? A. Oh, no.

Mr. CONNOLLY: In a home like that there is a lot of washing to be done.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. They would not wash at 6 o'clock in the morning? A. They would light the copper. There were so many girls to do certain work. One girl might light the copper, another do scrubbing, and so on.

Q. Would she light the fire specially for scrubbing? A. No. We were washing nearly every day.

Mr. CONNOLLY: There are babies to be washed, and babies' clothes to be washed.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Would you deny that girls had to use cold water to scrub with? A. I would deny it.

Q. The possibilities are that they had to use it? A. Yes, but not as cold as they say.

Q. These girls got out of bed at 6 o'clock in the morning? A. Yes.

Q. What time did you get up? A. I got up later than that. I would be out in time for breakfast.

Q. Who was in charge of the girls to see that they had hot water to scrub with? A. Helen was over that kind of thing for me.

Q. Was she representing you? A. Yes.

Q. Was she next to you in charge of the girls; if these girls had to use cold water to scrub with, it was their own fault? A. Yes.

Q. You do not deny that they had to use cold water? A. Yes, and bring it into the house and warm it.

Q. At any time did you order any girl to be placed in a tub of water for some offence? A. I do not remember.

Q. Could you say as a positive fact that you did not do so? A. No. I do not think I ever did.

Q. Could you say for a positive fact? A. Put a girl in cold water?

Q. In a tub of water before the other girls? A. Not before the other girls.

Q. Even by herself? A. I might have by herself.

Q. As a kind of punishment? A. I think I did do it once. She ran away.

Q. Was it in winter time? A. I do not think I should be as cruel as that.

Q. But still you did do it? A. Yes. They ran away, or something like that. I would not wait to get the hot water, but I would bathe them straight away.

Q. Did you have any kind of instruction, regulation, or rule that if the girls, in gathering up the washing pegs, lost a clothes-peg they would have to go without food until they found the clothes-pegs. A. No. If it was tea-time I would say, "You will find it before you have anything."

Q. What would it be? A. It would be dry bread.

Q. You would not send them to bed hungry? A. I have never sent a girl to bed without something. I give them a large cup of milk.

Q. About the brush punishment business. Do you know anything about that at all? A. I did use the brush.

Q. On those girls? A. No.

Q. On any girls? A. I have used the brush.

Q. Do you think it is a kind of punishment to humiliate the girls? A. I slapped them on the hands.

Q. Only on the hands? A. Yes. I do not remember any girl in particular. I think I did hit a girl with a brush.

Q. Only one girl? A. Yes. She ran away once. I do not know exactly what she did, but I put her across a bed and gave it to her.

Q. Were any of the other girls present when you did that? A. I did not touch her nightdress. I would never do anything like that.

Q. Did you call any of the other girls in while you were doing that? A. No.

Q. Was that the only girl that you remember doing that to? A. Yes.

Q. You will swear for a positive fact that you treated a girl in that way? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. How old was that girl—about 15? A. I suppose she was.

Q. She ran away from the place, you say? A. I cannot exactly remember what the offence was.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Is a book kept there showing the punishments? A. No.

Q. It is left entirely to the person in charge to inflict what punishment she likes on the children? A. Yes. There may be a book kept now.

Q. But in your time? A. No.

Q. With regard to the girls doing washing, apart from scrubbing, for the boys' home. Was the boys' washing sent down there? A. Yes.

Q. Did the girls have to do the washing? A. The children who were not attending school used to wash.

Q. Did any girls attending school have to do any washing? A. I do not think so.

Q. You are positive about that, that none of them did any washing. Would a girl of 13 years of age have to do any washing? A. If a big girl, she would.

Q. Size does not matter? A. You would not put a little girl to a big thing where you would put a big girl.

Q. If a girl of 13—(interrupted)? A. I cannot tell you that.

Q. The possibility was that numbers of girls of 13 had to do washing? A. I could not say that.

Q. Supposing a girl of 12 years of age was of fair size for her age, she might have to do some washing and scrubbing? A. Scrubbing, yes.

Q. Are you still in charge of No. 7 Home? A. No; No. 5, the Feeble-minded Boys' Home.

Q. At any time while you were in charge of No. 7 did you sentence a child to keep silence for any length of time for a certain offence? A. Yes.

Q. What was the longest term a girl had to keep silence? A. Not longer than a day.

Q. You are positive? A. You are asking me things a long way back, and I cannot remember every little thing like that.

Q. But things like that are important. We are dealing with the whole system. You cannot recall the longest term? A. I am sure I would not do it for a day. If a girl apologised for whatever it was it would be all right.

Q. It all depends on what the crime was. Was it a crime against you, saying something about you, or what would it be? A. It would have to be something serious.

Q. Supposing a girl did not apologise would she have to keep silence for about a week? A. No; no girl would do that.

Q. I admit they would be in a mad-house before a week. Can you remember the longest period for which they had to keep silence? A. No.

Q. There was no specific time set apart? A. No.

Q. Do you think it is a proper form of punishment, to put a child to silence for any period? A. It would be only interfering with the rules of the home. I might say that you could not undertake things properly until you made them apologise.

Q. They would not be allowed to speak until they apologised? A. To those particular girls concerned.

Q. Is that still a rule down there? A. No.



Witness—L. S. Phillips, 24 November, 1916.

Q. Do you remember at any time, as a form of punishment, cutting off a girl's hair? A. Yes, I think I clipped them.

Q. That is, as a form of punishment? A. When a girl ran away I did.

Q. I daresay you know what that means to a girl? A. I have never cut off long hair.

Q. You admit that you cut off the hair of a girl? A. Yes. It was not long. It was clipped.

Q. Whether long or short it did not matter—you cut the hair? A. It is not much of a punishment to a girl who would run away.

Q. A statement was made that the two girls who gave evidence, Miss McKay and Miss Cronin, were feeble-minded and vicious. Do you know anything about that? A. Yes; they were feeble-minded.

Q. You are prepared to state that on oath? A. Yes. They were feeble-minded—I do not say vicious, but they were certainly feeble-minded.

Q. Do you think it a right thing for girls of that age to have to work as well as attend school? A. Yes. They do very little work before breakfast. There were twenty odd girls to do the work, and it was not much of a place.

Mr. CONNOLLY: It was a cottage of six or seven rooms.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. How many would be in the home? A. Twenty-six girls.

Q. It would be rather a fair-sized place that would hold twenty-six girls? A. It was only a small place. It was a private place.

Q. How many rooms would be in the place? A. Four wards.

Q. They were only small rooms? A. One room was large.

Q. You really think it quite right that girls should do work as well as attend school? A. Yes. It does not hurt them.

Q. You do not think for a minute that a child of tender years and attending school should have her whole time concentrated on books and on play? You do not believe in the scientists, who state that children should not work until they are 14 years of age? A. It is nothing more than a child getting up, doing the bed, and tidying the room.

Q. You do not believe in the people who say that a child's whole time should be entirely given up to education, play, and sleep? A. A little work does not do much harm.

Mr. GREEN: Work is part of their education.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Was any relative of yours stopping there? A. I cannot remember that I had any relatives stopping with me at that place.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Your own children? A. No.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Any of your relatives? A. I do not think that anyone stopped with me. I only had the one room, and it was divided up into two with a screen.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. It was a sitting-room and a bedroom combined? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Was there a Mrs. Jim Outcliffe staying there on a honeymoon trip? A. I do not know whether she stayed with me.

Q. She was up at Mittagong? A. It was a trip through. I do not know whether they stayed with me. I do not see how I could put them up.

Mr. HANNA: Q. How long ago is that? A. Their child is now 16 or 17 years of age.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. It must have been at least eighteen years ago; they might have called to see you? A. They were there, but they did not stay and sleep there. I do not know how I could put them up.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You had no spare room? A. No.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Did you receive a notification from the State Children Relief Department that any of these gentlemen would call at any time? A. No.

Q. You never knew when they were coming until they arrived on the premises? A. No.

Q. You never knew until they walked through the door? A. No.

Q. If a girl said that they had to have everything in perfect order before Mr. Green arrived—(interrupted)? A. Whenever they heard the Board were coming up—(interrupted).

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. They had to be in perfect order when I went round? A. Yes, or when the lady visitors came.

Mr. GREEN: Q. But was the place not in order every morning? A. At 9 o'clock every morning.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Did Mr. Green and Mr. Connolly come in at any time? A. Yes.

Q. They never let you know when they were coming? A. No.

Q. It would not be correct if the girls said that they knew when they were coming? A. No.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Have you had Mr. Green at the place at 6 o'clock in the morning? A. Yes. He used to leave about 9, after being around the homes. He would have to go round the homes, and he would get away by the 9 o'clock train.

Q. That would be when they were in town? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Do you know a man in Mittagong named Rotey? A. Yes.

Q. Did he give any information that certain gentlemen were coming from headquarters? A. Which gentlemen?

Q. Either of them? A. I cannot say that he did.

Q. You are positively certain—(interrupted).

Mr. GREEN: He would not know himself.

WITNESS: I cannot say that he did.

CHAIRMAN: Q. He was an officer? A. Yes, I suppose you would call him an officer.

Q. How long have you been in charge of the boys' home? A. Five years.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Do you know a boy by the name of Gunderson? A. No.

Q. He was away from there about five times, altogether?

A. How long ago?

Q. It would be about two years. A. No, I cannot remember the name.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Was there any boy, whom you can recollect, who cleared away during the last two years—have any of your boys cleared away? A. No. Mine are babies. They would not run away.

Q. Would you know when the others went? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. You have not charge of all the boys' homes—you have only one section? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You have the Feeble-minded Boys' Home? A. Yes. (To Mr. Hackett): You should come up and see us, Mr. Hackett.

CHAIRMAN: He has been invited up.

Mr. HACKETT: I have not been invited properly.

WITNESS: I invite you up there.

Mr. HACKETT: I have never been given a paper.

Mr. GREEN: You can go up there any time you like.

Mr. HACKETT: I am going up, but I will be there at about 5 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Mr. Hackett has been asking you about some punishments; you have only punished the girls to correct them and reform them? A. Yes.

Q. You have never been cruel? A. Not that I can remember.

Q. You have never had any complaints about being cruel? A. No.

Q. As far as these girls are concerned, it has been your aim to try and improve them in every possible way? A. Yes.

Q. Whatever punishments you have given them have been for their own good? A. Yes.

Q. Supposing you had a girl 13 years old, would you have any objection to giving that girl some work to do? A. No.

Q. You think work is part of an education just as much as learning from books is? A. Yes.

Q. You mean to say that as far as that is concerned, for discipline's sake work is necessary? A. Yes.

Q. Just as much as learning is necessary? A. Yes.

Q. You have recently had a visit from Miss Simpson, of the Teachers' College? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: She is the Montessori expert?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. That would be in connection with the administration of the feeble-minded children? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: She wrote a letter to Miss Eagar, the teacher up there, as follows:—

Teachers' College, Sydney, 16/11/16.

Dear Miss Eagar,—I shall be very pleased to see you any day after the twenty-fourth instant, and shall show you anything you care to see in our school. The new reading will, I think, interest you greatly. You will be able to see the children at work on it. I would ask you to come sooner, but we have both evening and day students in for observation until the end of next week, and their presence would make it impossible for you to see the work as fully as I want you to see it.

I have thought much and often of your work since my visit to Mittagong. You are doing something fine and exceptional with those afflicted little ones—something that should give you a glow of joy every time you think of it. I do not know which pleased me most—the extraordinary progress the children have made under your teaching, or the very fine homelike tone of your room. I should like to talk the whole matter over with you when you come down.

Give my very kindest regards to Matron Phillips. It was a privilege to meet her and see her work.

Hoping to see you soon,

Yours very sincerely,  
M. M. SIMPSON.

Mr. GREEN: Miss Simpson has just returned from a visit to Europe, where she has visited every institution of this kind.

Mr. TAYLOR: She is an authority on the Montessori system.

Mr. CONNOLLY: She thinks—and she has put it on record—that she has never seen any work such as the Department has done at Mittagong.

Mr. GREEN: The only reason I bring this forward is to show the general adaptability of the matron for the work she is doing. Just what I said about the other lady I can say about this witness. There are hundreds of girls who can thank this matron for having brought them up in a proper and homelike way, and it is a terrible thing that they should, after twenty years of service, be accused of such things as these. None of these cases is recent—they are years, and years, and years ago; and this matter now being brought forward makes it difficult for these women to get evidence to repudiate the statements made. The only thing that they can possibly do is to rely on things like this, where people who know something on the matter have seen these women while they have been doing their work.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Was there any punishment inflicted on the children for being late for church service on Sunday? A. Yes.

Q. What was the punishment? A. I would not allow them to have pudding. It was a trouble to get them there.

Mr. GREEN: Q. It was a matter of discipline? A. Yes. They would never get to church at all.

Mr. HACKETT: If I were to read letters—(interrupted).

Mr. GREEN: Bring it up to date, and not take us back into twenty years ago.

Mr. HACKETT: Mr. Green wants to know why these things are not very up-to-date. Well, it is very hard to get the children on the State at the present time to say anything, and I have to rely on those who have been there.

Mr. GREEN: They were there ten years ago. Why did they go there?

Mr. HACKETT: I have been fought, right along the line, by the Department.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you had better go up there, Mr. Hackett, and see things for yourself.

Mr. HACKETT: I will go further than Mittagong. The time has now arrived when I have the chance to bring these things forward.

CHAIRMAN: We have not stopped you from bringing evidence forward.

Mr. HACKETT: Mr. Green has mentioned that these are all old cases. They are old cases. The reason is that I have been getting the people who have gone through the mill. The present children are frightened.

Mr. GREEN: It is difficult to get evidence to repudiate these old cases.

CHAIRMAN: Everything will be considered. Q. (To witness): Where did the girls that you had come from? A. From the State Departments.

Q. From other Departments? A. Yes.

Q. Would you get many from the Shaftesbury Reformatory? A. I did have them from there.

Q. Which ones? A. The girls here at present did not come from there.

Q. Many of them? A. About five or six.

Q. Were they girls who had been before the court and had been committed to some other institution? A. Yes.

Q. They were committed to some home or place, and then sent to you from there? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Were there some girls who were there by misfortune—by the death of their parents? A. No.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. No girls were kept there who could be apprenticed or boarded out? A. No.

Mr. GREEN: Q. It was only the rejects from the boarding-out system that were sent to these places? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Did many of them keep in touch with you after they left there? A. Yes. They were not Shaftesbury girls. One of them did try to, but I did not keep it up.

(Witness retired.)

ELIZABETH LOUISA EAGAR, teacher, Cottage Homes, Mittagong, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Are you a married woman? A. No; I am single.

Q. What is your occupation? A. Teacher at the Home for Feeble-minded Children at Mittagong.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Prior to taking up that position, what did you do? A. I was teacher at all the Girls' Homes.

Q. How long were you teaching at the Girls' Homes? A. Nineteen years altogether.

Q. You were teaching at Mrs. Phillips' home one part of the week, and at another home for the remainder? A. Once I had three schools. Latterly I have had only two. I have been teaching at Mrs. Phillips' home all the time. I was at her home when she had girls, and now I teach in her Boys' Home.

Q. You knew most of the children of school age? A. Yes.

Q. You remember girls named Helen Cronin, Martha McKay, and Nellie Hahn being at the homes? A. Yes. Helen and Martha went to school, but I cannot remember the other one.

Q. They attended the school at which you taught? A. Yes.

Q. What class of girls were they? A. I should say that they were decidedly not up to normal standard.

Witnesses—E. L. Eagar and N. Condon, 24 November, 1916.

Q. Were they teachable? A. To a certain extent they were, but they were women when I had charge of them, and had the teaching of them. They were certainly not very bright.

Q. What was Martha McKay's character, as far as you knew her? A. She was of rather sullen disposition. She was also the sort of girl who would be likely to fancy herself very much injured. People who are not quite normal are often taken that way.

Q. You had these girls for several hours away from the matrons? A. Yes. We had the ordinary school hours.

Q. Did they ever complain of any ill-treatment as regards the matron? A. No.

Q. Did you hear of any ill-treatment being practised on the children by Mrs. Phillips or Miss Cutcliffe? A. No.

Q. You have had lengthy experience with all classes of children? A. Yes.

Q. Were these girls normal, in your opinion? A. No; I would say not.

Q. You have known Mrs. Phillips and Miss Cutcliffe for a number of years? A. I have known the former for twenty-five years, and the latter not quite so long—perhaps twenty-one or twenty-two years.

Q. What opinion have you formed of them as regards their management of the homes and of the children in their charge, so far as they have come under your notice and observation? A. I think it excellent. I have the very highest respect for them, especially for Mrs. Phillips. I was told the other day that one could not help feeling the moment one entered the door how homelike and comforting the feeling was that existed between the matron and the children.

Q. Who told you that? A. Miss Simpson, of Blackfriars College. I have been told it on two or three occasions by other people.

Q. A long list of charges has been made against these two women by the different witnesses who have been here; I will not go into them *seriatim*, but I will give them to you generally; in your opinion would they be—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: It is no use asking those questions. It would only be an expression of opinion.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Have you ever seen—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: She may not have been there at the time.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. If anything had been done, would you have been in such a position that you would have heard about it? A. Yes. I would have heard them talking about things amongst themselves.

Q. You have never heard them talking about anything? A. No. They were always particularly clean and tidy when they came to school, and always appeared to me to be well cared for, and well nourished. In fact, I was always under the impression that the girls in Mrs. Phillips' home were especially fortunate. I did not come much in contact with Miss Cutcliffe's home, although the girls came to me for some time. As far as that goes they were always the same. They always looked exactly the same. They seemed well cared for and well nourished.

Q. Did the girls complain to you about being put in an ice cold bath? A. No, never at any time.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. How long have you been at Mittagong? A. Twenty-eight years.

Q. Where are you at the present time? What is the number of the home you are in? A. I am the teacher at Mrs. Phillips' home.

Q. For girls? A. For feeble-minded boys.

Q. What would be the age of the eldest? A. Thirteen would be the eldest.

Q. Have they to do any work? A. No. They may clean the door-knobs, and forks and spoons.

Q. They do not scrub floors? A. No. There are girls to do that.

Q. Do they sweep up the yards? A. One did sweep up the yard, but I have never seen him do it.

Q. They have a special class for the feeble-minded? A. Yes.

Q. Who teaches there? A. I do.

Q. You have charge of the feeble-minded boys? A. Yes. There are twenty-one now, I think.

Q. Are there any severe punishments for the boys? A. No.

Q. There is no corporal punishment at all? A. No. There might be, perhaps, a very little slap on the hand like this (*indicating*). That is all I have seen. That is all I have seen of corporal punishment amongst the children. We generally put them in a corner, or sit them on a chair by themselves.

Q. Their diet has never been reduced, or they have never been put on short food? A. Sometimes the little boys may be put off pudding, as we say. The matron always sees to it that they have an equivalent, because they are delicate children and need nourishment.

Q. The diet is reduced for some feeble-minded children? A. If they show very violent temper they are put to one side, away from the table, until the others have finished their meal. That might have happened two or three times during the time these children have been at the Homes. It very seldom happens.

Q. Are they sent to bed without their tea? A. Not that I know of. I should not think so.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. What time do they get up in the morning? A. I suppose they get up about 7 o'clock in the morning.

Q. What time do they have breakfast? A. I do not know that. I am only the teacher.

Q. You have no idea of what they do from the time they get up to the time they go to school? A. I am sure they do very little.

Q. You do not see them doing any work? A. They may do trifling jobs. Children like to do odd things.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you teach them to read and write? A. The people tell me that children are getting on very nicely.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Do any of them read and write? A. We have several of them.

Q. When they leave what becomes of them? A. This is a new experiment. The home has not been going very long. Those who have been old enough to go from us have gone to another home that is there, where they are taught gardening. Some of them take up carpentering.

Q. They can read fairly well, but they are not much good, it seems. A. I have one or two who are good at arithmetic, but the majority of them are not very much good at arithmetic.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. How long has the feeble-minded boys' home been there? A. Five years.

Q. Where were you previously? A. I was teaching at the Girls' Homes at Mittagong.

Q. You were never resident? A. For nine years I was with my mother in the home.

Q. You would not see what happened out of school hours? A. No.

Q. You would not know what happened, morning or evening? A. No.

(Witness retired.)

Mr. GREEN: The next witness was in the home at the time two of these girls were there, and she is still there.

NELLIE CONDON, State child, Mittagong Cottage Homes, was then called, sworn, and examined as follows:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. How long have you been at Mittagong? A. Thirteen years.

Q. How old are you now? A. Twenty-one.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Are you still an inmate of Miss Cutcliffe's home? A. Yes.

Q. Did you know the two girls Helen Cronin and Martha McKay? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever hear that they were ill-treated by Miss Cutcliffe or Mrs. Phillips? A. No.

Q. How did Mrs. Phillips treat Martha McKay, in your opinion? A. I was never in Mrs. Phillips' home. I was always in Miss Cutcliffe's.

Q. Did you ever hear that they were ill-treated by Miss Cutcliffe? A. No.

Q. Were you ever forbidden to speak to any girl for three or four days at a time? A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear of any girl being forbidden to speak to another girl? A. No. They went off themselves in tempers.

Q. You have never known any girls who have been told not to speak to other girls for three or four days? A. No.

Q. It has been stated by one of the girls that Miss Cutcliffe, on one occasion at least, as a punishment, made Martha McKay get into a cold bath, and brought in all the other children in the home to see her; you were there during that time; did you ever hear of that? A. No.

Q. You were never called in? A. No.

Mr. HACKETT: It was Mrs. Phillips.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Q. Do you think Miss Cutcliffe did it? A. No. I was twelve years of age then, and I would remember it.

Q. You are still with Miss Cutcliffe? A. Yes.

Q. Is she cruel to the children under her care? A. No.

Q. Has she ever been cruel to you? A. No, never.

Q. Are you happy in the home? A. Yes.

Q. Would you like to go away? A. No.

Q. Have you heard of any other children who are there being unhappy? A. No, not one of them.

Q. Did you ever hear of Mrs. Phillips being cruel to the children? A. No, nothing of the sort.

#### CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. How long have you been with Miss Cutcliffe? A. Thirteen years.

Q. Can you remember right back to the time you went to Miss Cutcliffe? A. Yes.

Q. Did you have any kind of work to perform there of a morning or evening, before or after school? A. No.

Q. You did not have to work at all? A. No.

Q. Did anybody else have to do any kind of work? A. No little child ever did work before going to school.

Q. What age were you before you had to do any work at the Mittagong Home? A. I was about 15, or something like that.

Q. Do you remember any occasions where girls have been put on dry bread and water for some offence, or something they were supposed to have done? A. Yes. They were very rude.

Q. For how long do you remember? A. They might have got it for one meal.

Q. Not for a day? A. Oh, no, not for a day.

Q. Do you remember any girls there being forbidden to speak to any other girls who had been doing anything wrong? A. I have never known that. They went off talk themselves.

Q. For being late for church on Sunday? A. They would get pudding taken off if they played along the road.

Mr. TAYLOR: Have you to walk into Mittagong to church?

Mr. GREEN: It is just across the line. These girls' homes are right in town, behind Tooth's place.

Mr. HACKETT: Do the children of each denomination go to their own church?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Are you in town, or a couple of miles out? A. I am in town.

Q. Did you ever hear about girls having to use ice-cold water for scrubbing? A. No. They used to light the copper.

Q. Who used to light the copper; would they take it by turns, and each girl would light the copper? A. Yes.

Q. Would they carry the buckets along? A. They used to fill up the copper.

Q. Was that specially for washing purposes? A. For scrubbing.

Q. You have never seen any girl breaking ice on the water in order to scrub? A. No. I never saw it while I was there.

Q. Did you see any girls scrubbing the floors and the verandahs? A. Not while I have been there.

(Witness retired.)

Mr. GREEN: Those are all the witnesses we have.

Mr. HACKETT: If the Inquiry is sitting again I could bring one or two witnesses, and I would like to ask a few questions of Mr. Green in the box.

CHAIRMAN: There will be no objection to that.

Mr. TAYLOR: You will visit the homes, Mr. Hackett?

Mr. HACKETT: I cannot do it for a few weeks.

(At this stage the Investigation was adjourned until 10-30 a.m. on Monday, 11th December, 1916.)



At 10-15 a.m. on Friday, 5th January, 1917, the Public Service Board (Messrs. Wilshire, Taylor, and Hanna) continued the investigation into the general working of the State Children Relief Branch, Department of Public Instruction, particularly with reference to the conditions under which children are boarded out.

[Sitting held in the Board Room, Public Service Board, Sydney.]

FRIDAY, 5 JANUARY, 1917.

Present:—

Mr. E. H. WILSHIRE, Chairman, }  
Mr. W. J. HANNA, Member, } Public Service Board.  
Mr. J. M. TAYLOR, Member, }

Mr. A. W. GREEN, President, State Children Relief Board, &c., representing the Department.

Mr. J. B. CONNOLLY, Chief Clerk, State Children Relief Branch.

Mr. H. L. MAXTED, Acting Chief Inspector, &c., State Children Relief Branch.

Mr. J. F. HACKETT, Commission Agent, Sydney.

Mr. R. W. GRIFFITS, Shorthand-writer, Public Service Board.

CHAIRMAN: I think when we adjourned, Mr. Hackett, you wanted to put Mr. Green in the box.

Mr. HACKETT: Yes; but before anything is done I would like to mention this, that certain statements are very current in the city with regard to this matter. It is only fair that this should be brought up. It may have some effect on the finding, and it may not. It has been reported to me by many people that I am conducting this matter for the specific purpose of removing Mr. Green and placing Mr. Donald Fraser in his place. How they can make out that I have that enormous power, to place Mr. Fraser in a position vacated by Mr. Green, I do not know. That has been stated in many circles. I do not know where it came from. It has also been stated that I am not the first champion Mr. Fraser has had. I had been dealing with this matter for over eighteen months before I knew anything of Mr. Fraser. I first wrote to Mr. Fraser. Seeing many letters of his in the press, I asked him to interview me, and he did so; so that as far as he is concerned he has nothing to do with this matter at all. I have no desire to shift Mr. Green. It is ridiculous to think that for a moment. There is another matter that I would like to mention. This came from the State Children Relief Department. I will not mention names now, but I will later on publicly. It has been stated that I am run by George Ardill and other private institutions, so that I may destroy the boarding-out system and benefit by it. These people remind me of insects under a flower-pot. You take up the flower-pot and you see them run away out of the light. They are not game to come out into the open and state these things before me; but they go among my friends and try to discredit me; but it fails every time. I want to impress upon the Board at the present time that these statements are absolutely false, and that the persons who stated them are absolute liars. I can form no better term than that.

CHAIRMAN: As far as the Board are concerned we know nothing about that matter.

Mr. HACKETT: These things are told to me every time I go about.

Mr. GREEN: This is the first time I have had these things before me. As far as the Department is concerned, I do not think there is the slightest idea of any suggestion of the sort. It is just like another one of the things he imagines.

Mr. HACKETT: I will put the names of the persons in the press later on.

CHAIRMAN: They have not said that against you—  
(interrupted).

Mr. HACKETT: It is against me, decidedly.

Mr. TAYLOR: We know nothing about it at all.

Mr. HACKETT: If you do not know, then it is marvellous. Everyone I meet tells me about it.

Mr. GREEN: It is the first time I have heard it.

CHAIRMAN: I have not heard anything about it. I do not think Mr. Hanna has.

Mr. HANNA: I certainly have not. If I did hear it I would pay no attention to it. I have had to deal with many cases of that kind.

CHAIRMAN: What witness do you want to call now, Mr. Hackett?

Mr. HACKETT: I would like to recall Mrs. Delaney.

Mrs. MADELINE DELANEY, 19 Normanby-road, Auburn, was then recalled, sworn, and examined as under:—

Mr. HACKETT: Q. How long were you at Kempsey before your son died? A. Ten days.

Q. When you arrived what did the matron say was wrong with the boy? A. She said he had rheumatic fever and a ruptured heart.

Q. Did the doctor confirm the matron's statement? A. The doctor said he had rheumatic fever.

Mr. HANNA: Q. What was the date? A. The boy died on 28th May, 1915.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Did you see the doctor's certificate? A. No.

Q. From the general appearance of the boy when you saw him lying in bed did you think he was overworked? A. He had been overworked.

Q. Was there much difference from the time you saw him last until then? A. There was a big difference.

Q. Did you receive any letters from the boy while he was there? A. Yes. He spoke of his work in several of them.

Q. What age was he? A. He was 13 the Sunday before he died.

Q. He was 12 when he was sent away? A. A little over 12 when he was sent away.

Q. You spoke to the neighbours about the boy's treatment? A. I spoke to several of them, and they said they knew that the guardian had been cruel to other boys as well.

Q. Before the boy died did he tell you he had been ill-treated in any way? A. He told me about Mr. Saul whipping him, and he said the work was very hard and heavy, and he was kept continually at it.

Q. Did he say anything about an inspector calling there at any time? A. Only once.

Q. Did he say anything to the inspector? A. I think that was before he took ill—about the time the other boy ran away.

Q. Is it a fact that one or two boys under the charge of Mr. Saul were drowned while swimming or bathing? A. Two boys were drowned.

Q. Accidentally, of course? A. I do not know whether it was this Mr. Saul or one of his brothers.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Did a boy run away from Mr. Saul's place? A. Yes. He was there while my boy was there.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. You are perfectly satisfied that your boy had to work? A. I am perfectly satisfied he did have to work. One of the clergymen interested in my boy made inquiries, and he said he did not know the people, but he made himself known to them. When he brought the message to me the day my boy died he said, "Those people do not mean to be actually cruel, but it is understood that they have to work hard."

Q. Mr. Saul only had the two boys? A. He had two boys at this time.

Q. Did you ever hear anything about the district whether he had paid any wages to any man? A. No. He only had the boys.

Q. He was a Briton! Have you any idea where Mr. Saul lived? A. Seven miles from Kempsey.

Q. Do you know anybody up there? A. No.

Q. Do you know a man named Charteris? A. He was in the hospital while I was there. I did not have a chance to speak to him. He had been boarded-out to one of the Sauls. He ran away as soon as he was able to leave.

Q. You are perfectly satisfied that the boy was overworked? A. Yes, I am.

Q. You did not see the doctor's certificate? A. No.

Mr. HACKETT: I ask for the doctor's certificate to be produced.

Mr. GREEN: It was produced at the last sitting of the Board.

CHAIRMAN: This is practically a repetition of what this witness said last time.

Mr. HACKETT: Not exactly. It is somewhere near it, but not the same. I want to find out the actual cause of the boy's death.

Mr. HANNA: Q. This boy was not in one of the homes? A. He was boarded-out to Mr. Saul by the State Children Relief Department.

CHAIRMAN: Was an inquest held on the boy?

Mr. GREEN: The doctor certified to the death of the boy. He was in the hospital for some weeks. I have sent for the papers in connection with the matter, and they should be here shortly.

Mr. HACKETT: Mrs. Delaney, did you hear how the boy was sent to the hospital when he was taken ill?

Mr. GREEN: This was given in evidence previously.

WITNESS: He was driven there.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Was he taken right to the door? A. He walked up to the door.

Q. From the buggy, sulky, or whatever it was, did he? This is very important.

Mr. GREEN: This evidence was given before.

Mr. HACKETT: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Then why reiterate it?

Mr. HACKETT: It is very important. The boy is dead. I want to see this case fixed up.

CHAIRMAN: It is giving the evidence twice over.

Mr. HACKETT: It is not giving the evidence twice over. I will not ask any further questions until the papers which have been sent for arrive.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Did you see the inspector, Mr. Eury, who investigated the case? A. No; that was after I came home.

CHAIRMAN: You might stand down, Mrs. Delaney.

(Witness left the box.)

ALFRED WILLIAM GREEN, President, State Children Relief Board, &c., State Children Relief Branch, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. What is your position? A. President of the State Children Relief Board.

Q. How long have you been connected with the Board? A. Thirty-two years.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. I am asking you something very big. I do not know whether you can answer it from memory. Can you tell me how many children are at present boarded out? A. You mean children under the control of the Department.

Q. Children boarded-out? A. There are just on 17,000 under the control of the Department.

Q. But boarded-out? A. You mean by payment?

Q. No. Just boarded-out? A. I cannot give you the exact figures.

Q. Would it be 15,000? A. You mean children paid for only?

Q. Simply boarded-out—apart altogether from the Mittagong and other homes? A. There are 4,600 apprenticed and boarded-out. There are 390 on the farms.

Q. Would there be as many as 13,000 in the homes? A. You do not understand. We board them out to strangers and to parents, and then we have the control of children who are in the cottage homes and institutions.

Q. I mean boarded-out, and apart from the institution, and apart from the mothers? A. 4,600.

Q. Those are the figures Mr. Fitzgerald gave me. How many are boarded-out to dairy farmers? A. There are 394 apprenticed, but not boarded-out. They are placed with the farmers.

Q. They are boarded-out?

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. They have to be over 14 years of age? A. There are some under 14 years of age.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Can you give me an idea of how many there are under 14? A. About 100.

Q. What is the largest number boarded-out with one guardian? A. I cannot tell you from memory.

Q. Tell me as near as possible? A. Boys or girls—what is it you want to get at?

Q. How many children are boarded out to the one guardian; children are boys and girls? A. Do you mean dairy-farmers?

Q. Anybody at all? Q. We have in our cottage homes—(interrupted).

Q. Apart from the cottage homes? A. It is limited to four.

Q. No one has more than four? A. There are in the cottage homes.

Q. I do not mean in the cottage homes; take Mrs. Douglass at Webb's Creek.

CHAIRMAN: We saw Mrs. Douglass.

WITNESS: That is a cottage home.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Is it a cottage home under the Act? A. Yes. That is a shelter and cottage home under the Act.

Q. She is not in the pay of the Government? A. We have power to make cottage homes under certain conditions.

Q. And Fenton Brown and Miss Brown, have they a cottage home under the Act? A. Miss Myra Brown has a shelter and depôt for the Catholic boys at Wiseman's Ferry. Mrs. Douglass has the Protestant children. Any children that are to be transferred are sent to Mrs. Douglass or Miss Myra Brown until we get a new home for them. They act as depôts for our children.

Q. Mrs. Douglass is a depôt? A. Yes.

Q. And Miss Brown is a depôt? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. They are not on the same status as the homes at Mittagong? A. No. We may be transferring a child from one home to another, and he will be placed in one of these homes until we get a guardian fixed up. We have had as many as ten children in a home at a time.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Is it a fact that Mrs. Douglass has a poultry or a mixed farm? A. She has an orchard.

Q. Is it a fact that she employs no labour of any kind? A. It is not a fact.

Q. She does employ labour? A. Yes.

Q. How many? A. I have seen men working there, and she does employ labour.

Witness—A. W. Green, 5 January, 1917.

Q. Apart from Mr. Rose, do you swear that she employs any other labour? A. I will swear I have seen labour on that farm, ploughing the ground. I have seen it—not that I have heard it.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Apart from Mr. Rose? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: The children we saw could not do ploughing.

Mr. HACKETT: Did the Board visit Mrs. Douglass's place?

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Did the Board see labour employed there?

Mr. TAYLOR: It was a sort of farm. We saw Mr. Rose coming through the garden.

Mr. HACKETT: Were adults employed on the farm while the Board visited the place?

CHAIRMAN: We did not look into that question. We went there to see the condition of the children. The children we saw there were very young, and they could not do any ploughing at all.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Is it the policy of the State Children Relief Board to make children work? A. It is the policy of any parent or any guardian.

Q. I am not asking you that; it is the policy of the Department to make the children work? A. It is the policy of every decent person to let children work.

Q. I do not consider that matter—(interrupted). A. I am answering you as I think fit. It is the policy of every decent person for a child to do work.

Q. I am not asking you that—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: Q. It is considered right that these children should be employed? A. Yes—the same as in an ordinary family.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. But at 8, 9, or 10 years of age; do you think it right that the guardians should be allowed to flog these children? A. You give me an instance and I will tell you about it.

Q. I am asking you—(interrupted). A. Give me a single case.

Q. I have abundance of evidence? A. I do not believe in corporal punishment at all.

Q. Neither do I; I have certain evidence, but I am not allowed by the persons who gave it to me to publish it; I am asking you this: is it the policy of the Department that people should treat children in this way? A. It is not the policy of the Department to allow children to be ill-used in any sense.

Q. The Department does not believe in corporal punishment? A. No one believes in corporal punishment.

Q. The Department does not sanction it? A. No.

Q. I am very pleased to hear that; now, in your opinion, is the boarding-out system the very best you can suggest? A. Yes. It is the best in the world. You cannot suggest any better.

Q. It is a matter of opinion? A. I am, of course, telling you what I think.

Q. You can think what you like; do you not think that the system allows many people to secure cheap labour? A. It does not.

Q. After what you heard at Webb's Creek, when three sittings of the Board were held? A. After thirty-four years' experience I say it does not.

Q. After what you heard at Webb's Creek, you do not think so? A. After thirty-four years' experience I do not think so.

Mr. HACKETT: The Board would not allow me to be there—(interrupted).

Mr. TAYLOR: You are not right in saying that the Board would not allow you to be there.

CHAIRMAN: You are here to ask questions, and not to make comments about what the Board did.

Mr. HACKETT: It was my evidence that the Board—(interrupted).

Mr. TAYLOR: We had the letter you wrote to the Minister referring to Mr. Nagle. We subpoenaed Mr. Nagle. You could not have obtained any further evidence from Mr. Nagle than he gave.

Mr. HACKETT: Mr. Nagle was cross-examined by the officers of the State Children's Relief Department, and I was not there to stand by him.

Mr. GREEN: This man says anything.

Mr. HACKETT: If you come outside I will tell you what I think of you. You are Government men. I am absolutely free.

CHAIRMAN: We do not want to hear any statements. You can just ask questions.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Do you think it right that these guardians should be supplied with State children, and thereby do adults out of employment? A. That is not my business at all.

Q. You do not think so? A. The policy of the State is to board the children out, and the Board do it. That is the policy.

Q. Even though they may compete with the labour market of the State? A. I am not allowed to discuss the policy of the Government.

Mr. HANNA: Q. What are about the ages of these children?

Mr. HACKETT: Some of them referred to in the police report are 9 and 10 years of age. A boy of 9 or 10 years of age had three fingers cut off in a chaff-cutter. Is it any wonder I take up a severe attitude on the matter?

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Do you know a man called Joe Asprey? A. You know him.

Q. I know him by repute? A. He answered you in the press.

Q. In the most insulting manner possible; I asked him how many boys he had, and he said—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: Just wait a minute; who is this Joe Asprey?

WITNESS: He is a man at Sackville, who answered this man in the press.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Has he still got children? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT (reading):

You ask me how many boys I have had. Six in twelve years. How much labour have you had to employ? I never employed labour before I got the boys, as if you get a man, as soon as he begins to sweat he will strike for shorter hours and more wages.

WITNESS: You say that?

Mr. HACKETT: There are the man's own words.

CHAIRMAN: We have not got it on oath.

Mr. HACKETT: Up in *Truth* office the letter is there and it is signed by him. Q. I will ask Mr. Green if he knows a boy named Eric Forbes? A. Yes. You had the Forbes case here the other day.

Q. Do you remember one day I went to the office and asked about this case, and you told me he was in a good home? A. I said in an approved home.

Q. I said a good home. A. I said an approved home.

Q. You found afterwards that he was in a home where he never went to school and never saw an inspector—(interrupted).

A. Nothing of the sort. I told you at the last meeting that the school closed up because the teacher went to the war.

Mr. HACKETT: It was also mentioned by the boy that he worked very—(interrupted). A. That is not asking me questions. Ask me questions and not make statements.

Q. But I am asking you questions; are you satisfied that the boy was in a good home? A. I am perfectly satisfied.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You took him away from the home A. I let him go back to his mother.

Q. He was not taken away by an inspector?

Mr. CONNOLLY: We were not informed that the school was closed.

Mr. HACKETT: He was 11 years of age. At the present time he is dying. There is a case here, on page of the notes. The paragraph reads as follows:—

James Dice (10.8), Harold Dice (7.8), Josephine Nisse (11.5), and Colin Nissen (7.8), guardian Miss Mary Wilbov

These children stated that they rise at 7 a.m. and go to bed at 8 p.m. The two boys Dice sleep in a bed together; the girl has a room to herself. The elder boy lights the fire, makes porridge, boils kettle, sweeps the verandah; the other two boys do no work. These boys were not wearing boots, although a very cold day, and apparently seldom do.

Q. Do you think it is a proper thing for a boy of that age to do that work? A. I do not know what you are talking about.

Q. I am giving you the case; that is Sergeant Lonsdale's report? A. Where was this?

Q. It was at the courthouse at Wiseman's Ferry? A. What name was it?

Q. The guardian was Miss Mary Wilbow? A. That was at Pitt Town.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. We heard the sergeant at Wiseman's Ferry? A. He gave his evidence there.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. I am asking Mr. Green if that is the policy of the Department? A. What is the policy?

Q. That a boy of 10 years of age should get up in the morning, light fires, boil the kettle, make porridge, and sweep the verandah, and so on? A. I do not think there is any harm in it.

Q. Would you like your son to do it at 10 years of age? A. My son has done it.

Q. My son would not do it, if I had one. A. No, thank God for that.

Mr. HACKETT: Take the case of the boy Cecil Orchard; guardian, Miss Mary Owens, Postmistress, Pitt Town. Sergeant Lonsdale wrote:—

Orchard informed me that he rises at 6.30 a.m. and milks two cows, morning and evening; chops wood, and cuts chaff, &c. This boy was clean and reasonably well clad, with the exception that he was not wearing boots, although a very cold day, and, judging by the appearance of his feet, he seldom or ever does. He appeared to be in extremely delicate health, and low-spirited. He complained of being overworked, and in my opinion his complaint is well founded. His hands were very coarse, such as would be caused by constant rough and hard work. Quite independent of this boy's tender age, he is not strong enough to perform such work.

The other two boys appeared to be in good health; said they had to sweep the yard, light the fire, &c. They were not wearing boots, otherwise they were well clad. They said that the three of them slept in the one bed.

We inspected their home; found the place clean. Miss Owens admitted that Orchard had to perform the work described, but she denied that the three boys slept in the one bed, and stated that Cleaver and Callain occupied a bed in one room, and Orchard a bed in another room. She showed us one bed with clean and sufficient covering, and another bed, which she said was Orchard's, with merely a mattress and rug thereon. This I took as corroboration of the boys' statements that they all occupy one bed.

Q. She is in the Government service? A. Do you want me to answer it?

Q. Yes, decidedly? A. The boy Orchard was examined by the doctor immediately after the report came in, and the doctor certified that he was in perfectly good health—he was certainly not a strong lad, but what work he did could be done by a girl of much younger age.

Q. I might ask if the doctor is in the Government service under the Department? A. He is an independent man, and he was paid his fee.

Q. The doctor's certificate is in total opposition to the sergeant's report? A. The doctor examined the boy and saw the work he did, and upon that he gave that certificate.

Q. Did he see the work he did? A. Yes.

Mr. CONNOLLY: He did it himself.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. The doctor cut chaff, chopped wood, and got the cows in? A. He did some of it.

Q. He must be a marvellous man? A. It does not suit you—(interrupted).

Mr. HACKETT: I might mention that Sergeant Lonsdale is the most trustworthy man in the police service, according to Superintendent Tait.

CHAIRMAN: I have no doubt the officer reported what he saw and was told; but there is the doctor's certificate.

Mr. HACKETT: I will take Sergeant Lonsdale's word before the word of a doctor any time.

CHAIRMAN: They both speak to the best of their ability.

Mr. HACKETT: I might mention here that the guardians, in pretty well all these cases, are mentioned as being "in good financial circumstances."

CHAIRMAN: You could not get "in good financial circumstances" on 6s. per week.

Mr. HACKETT: But the labour is there.

WITNESS: Why do you not go and see these people?

Mr. HACKETT: Q. I am not allowed a Government car and expenses like some people are. A. You can see them for yourself for 10s. You have not seen them. You come along here with a lot of rotten reports.

Q. They are not rotten reports; are you prepared to say that Sergeant Lonsdale's report is a rotten report? A. I am satisfied that he is a decent chap, but when I get a medical certificate like this one then I am quite prepared to say he made a mistake.

Q. You are prepared to state here that Sergeant Lonsdale is lying? A. I say that the doctor's certificate is sufficient for me.

Q. You are prepared to state here that Sergeant Lonsdale made a mistake? A. Yes. I say he has misjudged the case—that is all. We all make mistakes. You make many mistakes yourself.

Mr. HACKETT: Sergeant Lonsdale has not made a mistake in this case. His report continues:—

Reginald Parker (14) and Selby McLean (8.8), guardian, T. W. Wilson, farmer and orchardist, Wiseman's Ferry. . . . I am terribly handicapped in this case by not being allowed to go up there. I supplied the evidence to Mr. Fitzgerald—(interrupted).

WITNESS: How long are you going to keep me here in the box?

Mr. HACKETT: Very well. I do not intend to go through the evidence. The report is in the notes.

Mr. TAYLOR: We saw all these cases.

Mr. HACKETT: You were there. The departmental officers cross-examined every witness and not one of my witnesses was allowed to say anything. That is what I object to. I might mention here that Arthur Griffith stated in the House on 5th September, 1916 (Parliamentary Debates No. 27, page 1398), as follows:—

I therefore asked the Inspector-General of Police to tell off two practical plain-clothes constables to make the investigations. They did so, and I have received their report. In the great majority of the cases the allegations were absolutely disproved, but there were six cases where the police report gave me the idea that everything was not all right. I submitted these six cases to the Public Service Board—as a body which is charged with the making of investigations—gave it the use of the departmental motor-car, and asked it to make a personal investigation. This morning I was informed by the Chairman that the Board had made the investigation desired, and that in no case had the charges of under-feeding, overworking, or ill-treatment been justified. The children were in every case happy and bright, and quite satisfied with their surroundings.

I think the cases in the report are proved beyond all possible doubt by an independent witness, Sergeant Lonsdale. When the matter was taken up first it was at my instigation—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: Just wait a minute. Do you want to call any other witnesses?

Mr. HACKETT: I have no further witnesses at present, excepting to call Mrs. Delaney again, and also a witness who has not yet arrived.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You have no witnesses to call, Mr. Green? A. No.

(Witness retired.)

Mr. HACKETT: I object to that statement appearing in *Hansard*. That is thrown up at me on every public platform I have stood on for the last three months.

Mr. TAYLOR: You have a grievance against the Board for not bringing you down there?

Mr. HACKETT: Yes, absolutely.



Witnesses—A. W. Green and A. Cox, 5 January, 1917.

Mr. GREEN: It is a grievance against everything.

Mr. HACKETT: Why did they not take me there when it was my evidence which started the inquiry?

CHAIRMAN: All the evidence you had was in writing.

Mr. HACKETT: It was at my instigation that the inquiry was started first. I can prove that by letters.

Mr. TAYLOR: We saw the people who gave you the information. We saw Nagle, and Sergeant Lonsdale was at the inquiry. Then we also saw the places.

Mr. HACKETT: And you had four members of the State Children's Relief Department. I was left out of it and was not even notified.

CHAIRMAN: We had to make the inquiry for ourselves.

Mr. GREEN: Sergeant Lonsdale was there to get the evidence in regard to his report. He asked questions on his report.

Mr. HACKETT: I have the whole lot.

Mr. GREEN: You have no *locus standi* at all.

ALICE COX, State child, was then called, and examined as follows:—

(Her guardian, Mrs. Toohey, was also present while the witness was giving evidence.)

CHAIRMAN: Q. How old are you? A. 13½ years.

Q. Do you know the nature of taking an oath? A. No.

Q. Say this after me: "I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." (*Witness does so.*)

Q. What is your name? A. Alice Cox.

Q. Where do you live? A. With Mrs. Toohey, 30 Grosvenor-street, Neutral Bay.

Q. How long have you been with her? A. Six months.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Were you ever at Mrs. Jackson's place at Underwood-street, Paddington? A. Yes.

Q. How long were you there? A. For a year and six months.

Q. While you were there what did you have to do before you went to school? A. I used to scrub the room, wash up and get the breakfast, light the fire, and I used to have to make the bed and do other things.

Q. What time did you get to school? A. Nearly always 10 o'clock.

Q. Did you ever do any washing while you were there? A. I used to do my own and some of Mrs. Jackson's.

Q. Did you have to hang it out yourself on the line? A. Yes.

Q. When Mrs. Jackson helped you did you have to hang the whole yourself? A. No.

Q. What age were you when you were at Mrs. Jackson's? A. 12½.

Q. While you were there you had to do the scrubbing? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms at at time; did you have to go through the whole of the house at one time? A. No. It was one room a day.

Q. Apart from scrubbing, washing, and getting the breakfast, did you have to get any of the other meals—dinner or tea? A. I used to have to set the table.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You did not get the breakfast yourself, did you? A. Yes.

Mr. HANNA: Q. Did you do the cooking? A. I set the table.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You did not do any cooking? A. No. Sometimes I used to look after the dinner on a Sunday.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Did Mrs. Jackson ever ill-treat you in any way? A. Yes.

Q. In what way? A. She used to kick me about three months after I went there.

Q. Did she knock you about generally? A. Yes.

Q. Did she ever hit you on the head with her hand? A. She did hit me once with a long stick.

Mr. HACKETT: It is coming out now.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Did it raise a lump? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Why did you leave Mrs. Jackson? Were you taken away, or did you want to get away? A. I was taken away.

Q. You do not know why? A. No.

Q. Where are you now? A. At Mrs. Toohey's.

Q. Where is that? A. At 31 Grosvenor-street, Neutral Bay.

Mr. HACKETT: I will not ask any further questions.

Mr. GREEN: I would like to put Mr. Maxted into the box in connection with this matter.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. While you were at Mrs. Jackson's, did the inspector come there to see you? A. I saw him three times.

Q. You did not tell him you were knocked about? A. I was afraid.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Were you ever threatened by Mrs. Jackson, that if you told you would get into trouble? A. Yes.

Q. While you were there was there any other State child there? A. There was another girl there.

Q. Did you ever hear about a girl jumping over the verandah? A. Yes.

Q. What was her name? A. Daisy Driver.

Q. Why did she do that? A. I do not know. Mrs. Jackson said she jumped over.

Mr. HACKETT: I think that covers the whole ground very well. I have no further questions to ask.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You are with Mrs. Toohey now? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been with her? A. Six months.

Q. Are you satisfied there; do you like it better than the other place? A. Yes.

Q. How large was the room that you had to scrub? A. They were fairly large rooms.

Q. You did one each morning? A. Yes.

Q. How long did it take you to do a room? A. About half an hour.

Q. Did you light the fire? A. Yes.

Q. Did you scrub the room with hot or cold water? A. Cold water.

Q. And then you would light the fire and set the table? A. Yes.

Q. How many people were living in the house at the time? A. Three and myself.

Q. Who were they? A. Mrs. Jackson and two sons.

Q. What age were the sons? A. One was 16 and the other 24.

Q. They lived there? A. Yes. There was a daughter there as well.

Q. What age was the daughter? A. About 17.

Q. Did she help her mother with the housework? A. No. She was a dressmaker.

Q. What did the boy of 16 do; did he light the fire? A. No. He was a barber.

Q. He went away early? A. Yes.

Q. Did he have his breakfast before he went away? A. Yes.

Q. Did you or the mother get the breakfast? A. I set the table and the mother cooked the breakfast.

Q. What time did you have breakfast? A. About 7 o'clock.

Q. You would have to have the room scrubbed by then? A. I did not do the room until after breakfast.

Q. Then you went to school? A. Yes.

Q. What time did you leave for school? A. About half past 9.

Q. When did you leave off work—about 9? A. Yes.

Q. Then you would have to tidy yourself for school? A. Yes, and make the beds.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Before you went to school? A. Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Q. And you left at half-past 9? A. Yes.

Q. And what time did you have your breakfast? A. About half-past 7.

Q. Did you have it with the rest of the family? A. No. I had it in the washhouse, but sometimes I would have it in the kitchen.

Q. Was that before or after the others had finished? A. After they had finished.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Was any remark made by the school teacher about being late? A. Mrs. Jackson wrote a note excusing me for being late.

Q. What was the school teacher's name? A. Mrs. Robson.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. At Paddington school? A. Yes.

Q. Was that the teacher of the class? A. The head-mistress.

CHAIRMAN: Q. You would leave school about 4 o'clock? A. Yes.

Q. Was the school close to your house? A. It was not very far away.

Q. When you came back, what would you be doing; or did you do anything? A. I used to peel the vegetables and get them ready for tea.

Q. Then you would have your meal about 6 o'clock? A. Yes.

Q. Would you have much to do from the time you came back from school up to the time you had your tea? A. No.

Q. Did you set the table? A. Yes.

Q. After they had tea did you go to bed, or did you stop up late at night? A. I washed up at night and then went to bed.

Q. At what time? A. About 8.

Q. Did you have any home-lessons to do? A. No. I was never allowed to do home-lessons.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. By whom? A. By Mrs. Jackson.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Were you given home-lessons? A. Yes.

Q. What excuse did you make for not doing your lessons? A. Mrs. Jackson wrote a lot of notes about it.

Q. Why would she not allow you to do home-lessons? A. Because my eyes were too weak.

Q. Were they weak? A. Yes. They were very weak.

Q. Are they better now? A. Yes.

Q. The only reason was that your eyes were too weak to do work at night? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Did anybody treat your eyes to make them better?

Mrs. TOOHEY: I made her bathe her eyes every night with boracic and water. It made her better. Her eyes were red and very bad when she came to me. And then I made her have her own towel.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Your eyes are better now? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Her eyes were bad when she went to you, Mrs. Toohey? A. Yes.

(Witness retired.)

HENRY LEWIS MAXTED, Acting Chief Inspector, &c., was then recalled, sworn, and examined as under:—

Mr. GREEN: Q. What are you? A. Chief Inspector for the State Children Relief Department.

Q. You saw the child just now in the witness-box? A. Yes.

Q. A complaint was made about her being badly treated; you made some inquiries? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: It was an anonymous letter which was received at the Department. It reads as follows:—

Underwood-street, Paddington.

To the Inspector of State Children.

Dear Sir,—I take the liberty of writing to you, as I feel it my duty, about a little child who is living with a Mrs. Jackson in a house a few doors away from me. That poor little girl is nothing but a drudge, and is treated something cruel. She does all the work of the house—scrubbing and washing—and is never allowed one minute's play, and is never let to be with them for five minutes, just treated like poison, and when the Inspector goes to see her she is made to say she is happy, but only through fright, for that big son there brings his great fist down heavy enough when he likes. Now, being a mother myself, I would rather see one of my children dead than treated like that; she shivers with the cold and sleeps on the boards on balcony. The last poor little child she had jumped over the balcony to get away from

them. Do please see to it and take her away from such a place. We can see the poor little thing bare-footed running out in the cold and rain. It is too bad, and should be seen into. Let her go somewhere else, and don't let those people have any more children to do with.

Hoping you will see into it, I remain,

"A NEIGHBOUR."

CHAIRMAN: Q. What was the date of it? A. The letter is not dated. It was registered on 15th May, 1916.

Q. The child was then at Mrs. Jackson's? A. Yes. I ascertained that that anonymous letter was written by a neighbour with whom this woman had been on bad terms. I saw the girl, and I saw the guardian.

Q. What was your report? A. It is as follows:—

S.C.R. Dept., Sydney, Dec. 9, 1916.

Re alleged ill-treatment of State Children (contained in anonymous letter) whilst with Mrs. Jackson, 202 Underwood-street, Paddington.

I have made careful inquiry into this case, and the statement made to me by the girl, Alice Cox. Statement appended.

This girl represented to me that she had not been properly treated by Mrs. Jackson, and that she did not like the kind of food given to her. The girl is not truthful. She told Mrs. Toohey, her present guardian, that she had had bruises on her (made by Mrs. Jackson) when she went to Ormond House, where she was for five days before going to Mrs. Toohey's. She denied making that statement to me. See her own written statement.

I have interviewed several teachers at the Paddington superior public school re the treatment of this child. Her school attendance was good, though one teacher stated (Miss Harris) that the girl frequently did not attend till twenty minutes to 10, and on occasions she did not attend until 11. There was no knowledge or record of any note at the school to the effect that the girl was to be excused from doing home-work. On one occasion the girl was sent home from school for having a dirty head. For the first six months of this year the girl's school attendance was forty-two and a half out of fifty-five days, and thirty-three out of thirty-three days.

I saw Mrs. Jackson at her address. She explained—

- (1) As regards the girl having meals alone, the girl had breakfast and tea with her in the kitchen, where she always had her meals. She never had meals alone. Her two sons had their meals alone, because of their special hours of work; one was a hair-dresser.
- (2) As regards the girl's going late to school, she said she could have been in time always but she loitered. If sent a message to do after school, she would go before school.
- (3) As regards the girl's dirty head, she said the girl had a dirty head when sent to her, and she tried to get it clean without cutting off her hair. But the girl was sent home from school with a request that her hair should be cut short, and she therefore cut it short.
- (4) As regards the girl cutting wood in the rain, she said there was a shed in which the girl could cut the wood, without doing so in the rain. I saw the shed. There was no need for the girl to be in the rain.
- (5) As regards the girl's not doing home-work, she said the girl's eyes were too weak for her to work at night. (This is confirmed by present guardian.) The girl did not get home from school till late, and she then used to play with the neighbour's children till 6.

Mrs. Jackson points out that the girl was very untruthful and dishonest. On one occasion she went up to the school because the girl was late home, and found she had gone swimming. When she returned, the girl told her she had been kept in. She then found out that the girl had been stealing money from her for months, and it was not until she threatened to send for the police and return the girl to Ormond House that the girl admitted the thefts. Mrs. Jackson further states that she persisted with the girl, not wishing to return her, and intended having her taught dress-making, but, in the end, found she had to take her back. Mrs. Jackson attributes a great deal of the girl's naughtiness to the influence of a next-door neighbour, with whom she is not on friendly terms on that account.

There is really nothing to show that the girl was badly treated in any way. The present guardian (Mrs. Toohey) also states that the girl is untruthful. Little credence can be placed on her statements.

Mrs. Jackson points out that the girl has, since her transfer, been to spend the afternoon with her of her own accord, when she gave her toys, and her daughter gave her sixpence. Miss Robson (Paddington superior public school head-

Witness—H. L. Maxted, 5 January, 1917.

mistress) corroborates Mr. Inspector Robertson's report, that the girl, when questioned in her presence at the school, never complained about the home.

As regards the alleged overwork, the girl says she did not have too much work to do, and Mrs. Toohey (her present guardian) says the girl is very slow and incapable of doing much work. The girl appears to be quite capable of making any complaints, whether true or otherwise. Mrs. Toohey states that she has complained very much of her treatment by Mrs. Dunk, with whom she was for fifteen months before going to Mrs. Jackson's.

Alice Cox was admitted to control in February, 1913. The mother, Marian Cox, widow, received help for this and other children, but aid was discontinued owing to her intemperate and vagabond habits. A sister then took the child, but would not keep her, and stated that her mother and other relatives were not fit to have the care of her. The child was accordingly admitted to control. She was placed as a boarder with Mrs. Dunk, West Maitland, before going to Mrs. Jackson.

(Sgd) H. L. MAXTED,  
Chief Inspector,  
6. 12. 1916.

WITNESS: I saw the girl in regard to the alleged thefts. She said that she did unlock a drawer and take 3d. on one occasion when Mrs. Jackson was out. She did not tell Mrs. Jackson.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Was it much money? A. One shilling and sixpence. She said it belonged to her. She told me also that Mrs. Jackson had treated her very well. As regards Daisy Driver, my report was as follows:—

Re attached anonymous letter. There is no evidence to show any foundation for the statements made.

As regards the girl, Daisy Driver, 12 years, Mrs. Jackson states she was a very bad girl, and did not appear to be mentally sound. She states the girl fell over the balcony whilst there, accidentally.

The present guardian of Daisy Driver has had her thirteen months, and it is to her credit that she has been able to keep her. This girl has been in sixteen homes. She has run away three times since being with Mrs. Haworth, but the latter has persisted with her, and the girl has done well for some time.

Attached statement, signed by Daisy Driver, contradicts the anonymous charges as to her treatment by Mrs. Jackson, who, she says, treated her well in every way. She visited Mrs. Jackson after leaving her.

Mrs. Jackson and her people are reputable. Until this letter was received there was no suggestion that it was not a suitable home.

CHAIRMAN: Q. The child has been there since to see her? A. Both children have been there to see her. One was at Ormond House for some time, and she went back to see Mrs. Jackson.

Q. How was it that the child was removed? A. She did her best to keep her, but she had to give her up.

Q. Then you sent her on to Mrs. Toohey? A. Yes. Mrs. Toohey speaks well of the girl. She says she has found her to be untruthful.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. You were up at Wiseman's Ferry; did you make any inquiries to see if this anonymous letter was genuine? A. Yes.

Q. How did you go about it; did you call at the home and interview the guardian? A. Yes.

Q. Did you expect the guardian to tell you anything? A. No.

Q. After you finished with the guardian, where did you see the child? A. At Mrs. Toohey's.

Q. How long had she been at Mrs. Toohey's? A. Six months.

Q. You received the letter on 15th May and you did not look into it until December? A. The child left the home immediately after the letter was written. She was returned to Ormond House.

Q. What date did you see her? A. On 6th December.

Q. You do not mean to convey to the Board that no action was taken on the letter?

Mr. GREEN: The child was returned after the anonymous letter was received, and no other child was sent there.

Q. When was the first action taken on the letter? A. The child was removed. No action was taken on the anonymous letter. The child was removed from the house.

Mr. GREEN: The people returned the child. There was no child in the home there. Mr. Maxted saw the child afterwards at Mrs. Toohey's place.

Mr. TAYLOR: No action was taken between 15th May and 6th December?

Mr. GREEN: The child was removed five days afterwards.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. What action was taken between 15th May and 6th December? A. No action was taken. There was no child in the home.

Q. Did you not think it necessary to ascertain whether a charge against the person like this is correct or not? A. There was no way of finding out. The letter was anonymous. As you say, it is no use expecting the guardian to tell you anything. The child was removed from the home. All the reports on the home by the different inspectors during the time she was there were satisfactory. The reports of the school teacher were satisfactory, and there were no complaints from the girl.

Q. Tell the Board how the inspectors make their reports? A. They make their reports according to the circumstances of the particular case.

Q. Who do they interview? A. I think that is an absurd question. There are no rules laid down for making inquiries. You have to satisfy yourself about it.

Q. The answer to that is that you do not tell your inspectors how to make their inquiries? A. You use your own discretion and commonsense when making inquiries.

Q. The answer is simple? A. You are not allowed to go on hearsay evidence. We discredit hearsay evidence.

Q. You do not know; the answer is simple; you do not know how they make inquiries? A. We know how they make inquiries.

Q. I asked you—(interrupted). A. I say there are no set rules for making inquiries. They go according to commonsense and the facts and particular circumstances of each case. We do not go on hearsay evidence.

Mr. GREEN: It is no use arguing about it, Mr. Maxted. Mr. Hackett will not understand it.

Mr. HACKETT: Mr. Green has made the suggestion that it is no use arguing on the matter. Very well. Q. How did you find out about this child being untruthful? A. From conflicting statements she made to me.

Q. She made different statements to you? A. Yes. She told me that she did not go to school until eleven o'clock, and that she did not go to school regularly. I saw the school roll, and I find she did attend school regularly.

Q. At what time? A. At a quarter-past 10. She told me that a note was given her to the teacher that she was not to go to school until 11 o'clock. The teacher did not receive such a note; she did receive a note that the child was not to do home-work. When I saw the girl she said, "I never saw what was in the note, but I thought it was a note not to go to school until 11 o'clock." She told me she had seen the note in the first instance.

Q. You must admit that a child might say that, and yet not be untruthful? A. She told me that it was not to go to school until 11 o'clock. I had a note to that effect. When I found out that that was not true, she said, "Oh, I didn't see the note."

Q. Quite possible? A. That is the direct contrary to what she said previously.

CHAIRMAN: It is no use arguing about it.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. A child might say that and not be untruthful; is that the only thing you have against the girl? A. We are here to protect the children, and we do so.

Q. Is there anything else against this girl apart from that? A. According to the report, and according to my inquiries, the girl is one who is incapable of doing very much work.



Witnesses—H. L. Maxted and M. Toohey, 5 January, 1917.

Q. Incapable, you say? A. Yes.

Q. Why do you come to that conclusion? A. She is physically incapable. She is lazy.

Q. How do you come to that conclusion?

Mr. GREEN: Q. How long have you been an inspector? A. For twenty-three years.

Q. This is the result of your experience? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: A man might be an inspector for a thousand years, and not understand the physical nature of a child. What I want to know is how did you come to the opinion that this child was not capable of doing this work.

Mr. GREEN: Through his own judgment.

Mr. HACKETT: Then why not say so. It settles it immediately.

WITNESS: And also the girl's statement to me. The girl said that she had not too much work to do.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Did you interview any neighbours in Underwood-street, Paddington, about this child? A. Yes. They spoke very well of Mrs. Jackson.

Q. What were the names? A. I could not tell you.

Q. Were they the next door neighbours, or two or three doors away?

Mr. GREEN: We do not know. Give us the name of the writer of the anonymous letter.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. I do not know; I never write an anonymous letter; I sign all my stuff. A. There was one person who spoke ill of Mrs. Jackson, and that was one neighbour with whom she is at variance. Every one in the place speaks well of her except that one neighbour.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. How long was the child with Mrs. Jackson? A. Eighteen months.

Q. How many times had the place been inspected? A. Five times.

Mr. HACKETT: Is that all—five times in eighteen months?

Mr. GREEN: Yes. We have not got one thousand inspectors.

Mr. HACKETT: And you tell me that the boarding-out system is a success?

Mr. GREEN: I do say it is a success. You have to prove otherwise.

Mr. HACKETT: I will prove it. Do not worry. The evidence given at Wiseman's Ferry proves it.

Q. Did you inquire at Paddington with regard to this child? A. Yes.

Q. How many neighbours did you interview? A. Four or five, I suppose.

Q. Were they in the same street? A. Adjoining.

Q. Did you take their names? A. Yes. I know their names.

Q. You have them on a list? A. Yes.

Q. Have you them with you? A. No. I would not give them to you if I had. It would be impossible to get any information at all if we disclosed people's names. It would cause endless friction.

Mr. HACKETT: How can you prove your case? I am only fair. I am only asking for the sake of the child.

Mr. GREEN: Bring the person who gave you the information before the Board.

Mr. HACKETT: The person has left the State.

Mr. GREEN: I could bring half-a-dozen people here to speak well of Mrs. Jackson. How much further ahead would you be then?

Mr. HACKETT: Here is the child. I will take her word against that of Mrs. Jackson.

Mr. GREEN: You would?

Mr. HACKETT: Undoubtedly I would.

Mr. GREEN: I would take Mrs. Jackson's word.

Mr. HACKETT: The child has given her evidence in the box. Q. (to witness): You say you interviewed all these people—(interrupted).

CHAIRMAN: Do you want to ask any further questions?

Mr. HACKETT: I am asking questions.

CHAIRMAN: But that is not a question. Do you want to ask any further questions?

Mr. HACKETT: That settles it. There will be another inquiry before long.

(Witness retired.)

MABEL TOOHEY, married woman, living at Grosvenor-street, Neutral Bay, was then called, sworn, and examined as under:—

CHAIRMAN: Q. Where are you living? A. At Grosvenor-street, Neutral Bay.

Q. How long have you had this girl with you? A. Six months.

Mr. GREEN: Q. You heard the statement she made about the work? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think she is capable of doing what she said? A. She could not possibly do all the work of a house. She washes up for me, but it takes her such a long time to do it. As for washing, she could not do a lot of washing. She might be able to wash out a little thing or so for herself. It would take her a long time to do the whole of the work of a house—it would take her about a week. She is not a bad little girl. I like her. She washes up and does such things as one's own child would do. I do not think she could possibly do the whole of the housework.

Q. Your experience of her is, after six months' trial, that you do not think she is capable of doing the work she says she has done? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Do you find her untruthful? A. She told me two or three untruths. One was a most deliberate lie—I asked her about a certain thing, and she told me another thing altogether. I said, "I know you are telling a lie. Tell me the truth." She said, "No. I never." I found out subsequently and I was told then that it was not true. She would cry every time. I never punished her.

Q. Did she make any complaints to you about bad treatment at the other place? A. She said lots of things about Mrs. Jackson to me. I said, "Mrs. Jackson must have been good to you," because she said she did nice things.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Her clothes were clean? A. Yes.

Q. Did she tell you she went back to visit Mrs. Jackson? A. I let her go.

Q. Did she ask to go? A. I let her go to school to get some books which she had left, and she went on to see Mrs. Jackson.

Q. Did she tell you she was going there? A. No.

Mr. TAYLOR: She was suffering from bad eyes when she came to you?

WITNESS: When she came to me her eyes were very sore.

Q. Had you any idea of how long she had been suffering? A. No. She told me her eyes were sore, and that if she did any reading or writing at night her eyes got very sore.

Q. Do you know how long she was suffering from bad eyes? A. They were very bad.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Is she clean and tidy in her habits? A. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. She could not do much work? A. No. She is very thin. To look at her you would not think she was as old as she is. You would think she was only 10 or 11 years of age. I have been doctoring her up. I have had to give her oil and medicines and look after her. She catches cold very quickly.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Has she improved since she has been with you? A. She seems to be getting on slowly.

Q. Has she any more flesh on her bones? A. She is not very fleshy. I try to do all I can for her, but she is very slow. She could not possibly do the whole of the housework.



Witness—M. Toohey, 5 January, 1917.

Q. She minds your own little girl? A. She washes up and sets the table. That is not hard work. Anybody's child could do that. A child should not be idle and have nothing to do.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. You stated that this child was untruthful; would you make that as a general statement? A good many people in their public lives make many untruthful statements; would you say she was untruthful because she made one statement? A. My idea is that she would not tell the truth if she could tell a lie to get out of anything. I told her to tell me the truth always.

Q. Have you any children of your own? A. Three.

Q. Why do you think it necessary to get a State child? A. Because my little girl is going to school, and she has to cross the tram line. I must have somebody to take her across the tram line.

Q. How old is your eldest girl? A. She will be 6 on the 17th of the month.

Q. You got this girl, Alice Cox, to take her to school and back? A. Not especially for that. She is good company for me. My husband has to go away to the country. It is lonely for me at night, and she is company for me when he is away.

Q. You never got her to help you in any way? A. Not to make a slave of her. I expected her to wash up and help at the table.

Q. And she is 13 years of age? A. She is 13½ years of age.

Q. You think a destitute or orphan child should help you in your house-work? A. Yes. She is very like one of my own children. She gets the same treatment as my own children, and she is not treated like an orphan or State child, or anything else. If I had a girl of my own at her age she would help me in the washing-up, setting the table, and things like that.

Q. I am not suggesting that you ill-treat the girl in any way; I am just asking with regard to these children, as to whether they are taken for the work they do; I am not suggesting that in your case at all; of course, as far as I can find out and realise from the evidence this child was not treated well. I do not care what inspector from the Department comes forward—(interrupted).

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. Did you notice any marks on the child? A. There were no marks at all.

Mr. HACKETT: You might kill a man without marking him.

Mr. MAXTED: She said she had marks on her. That is one of the statements she made—that she had bruises.

Mr. TAYLOR: I think she made that statement in the box.

Mr. MAXTED: That was investigated and found not to be true.

Mr. HACKETT: What time after it was supposed to have happened?

Mr. MAXTED: The same day.

Mr. HACKETT: The inspector went specially out from the Department—(interrupted).

Mr. MAXTED: Mrs. Jackson returned her to the dépôt.

Mr. HACKETT: She made the statement that she had marks.

Mr. MAXTED: She made the statement, but she was examined to see if there were any mark on her. She left the next day to go to Mrs. Toohey, and she told Mrs. Toohey she had bruises on her. She told me that she did not go for five days afterwards. As a matter of fact she went next day.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. You found no bruises on her, Mrs. Toohey? A. No.

Mr. HACKETT: How long after the bruises were supposed to be there that she was examined?

Mr. MAXTED: She was with Mrs. Toohey the next day, practically.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. Did she tell you it was the day previous that she had these marks on? A. She said that Mrs. Jackson used to hit her and she had bruises on her.

Q. It is quite possible that this may have happened two or three days before, and that the bruises disappeared.

Mr. MAXTED: The girl told me it was not Mrs. Jackson, that it was someone else. She said she made a mistake.

Mr. HACKETT: She had marks and bruises on her for eighteen months—(interrupted).

Mr. MAXTED: That is how she altered her statements to me, and that is why I say she is untruthful.

Mr. HACKETT: People of 30 or 40 years of age are quite confused when they come before a magistrate. It is quite possible that a child may make a mistake when being asked by an inspector about a thing like this. There is no proof to show that her statement was not genuine.

CHAIRMAN: No one saw the bruises.

Mr. MAXTED: I understand that Mrs. Jackson is now outside the Board-room.

CHAIRMAN: Do you want her, Mr. Hackett?

Mr. HACKETT: I do not mind. I do, however, strongly object to the present guardian being in the room when the child was examined. It may be considered right, but I object to it.

Mr. GREEN: You want the facts.

Mr. HACKETT: I want the child's facts, quite independent of what the guardian says.

CHAIRMAN: That would not make the child make any different statements.

Mr. HACKETT: I have it here where children were examined by the Board with their guardians in court at Wiseman's Ferry.

CHAIRMAN: We went up to get information. This is really the formal inquiry.

Mr. HACKETT: And that inquiry was not formal?

Mr. TAYLOR: Those witnesses were called, and they were cross-examined. You do not want to insinuate that Mrs. Toohey—(interrupted).

Mr. HACKETT: I object to the guardian being in the room while the child is being cross-examined.

(Witness retired.)

(At this stage the former guardian of the child, Alice Cox—Mrs. Jackson—came into the room, but owing to the state of her health she was not sworn.)

Mr. GREEN: Mrs. Jackson says she always treated the child well.

CHAIRMAN (to Mrs. Jackson): Q. Did she call to see you once? A. She came of her own accord, and I gave her 6d. and some cake. She said she would come again.

Q. It was quite a friendly visit? A. Yes. She was always very friendly.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. She says that you got her to scrub the whole of the house, room after room, from time to time; is that so? A. She would not work for me. She would wash-up and I would help her. I have only a son and daughter at home, and I have not much to do.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Did she scrub a room before going to school? A. Oh, no.

Q. She never did such a thing as that. She might wash her own room.

Mr. GREEN: Q. Do you think she was strong enough to do it? A. She was strong enough: she gained 14 lb. while she was with me and she got 4 inches taller.

Mr. HACKETT: If Mrs. Jackson's statements will be received as evidence I must have the right to question her.

Mr. GREEN: I want to put it in as evidence.

Mr. HACKETT: I submit it must be struck out.

(Mrs. Jackson retired.)

Witness—M. Delaney, 5 January, 1917.

MRS. MADELINE DELANEY was then recalled, and examined as under:—

Mr. GREEN: You wanted to hear the doctor's certificate read. It is as follows:—

Children's Protection Act of New South Wales.

Memo. from the District Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, in the district of Kempsey, to the Chief Officer, Children's Protection Act, Sydney.

I have to inform you that the child, Albert Delaney, registered under the Children's Protection Act, as being in the custody of Mr. G. R. Saul, of Seven Oaks, died on 28th May, 1915, and the death was registered, No. 268.

This infant was attended to by Dr. A. MacInnes, of Kempsey, who has certified that the child died of ac. rheumatism, endocarditis, aortic disease, and heart failure, and that the cause of death was in no way consequent upon neglect or ill-treatment.

The late guardian has been informed that he must advise you of the death of the infant, in compliance with the requirements of section 10 of the Children's Protection Act.

M. E. SOANE, District Registrar.

1st June, 1915.

Mr. GREEN: There is a letter amongst the papers from the matron, as follows:—

South-west Rocks, 3rd June, 1915.

To Mr. Green.

Dear Sir,—I regret the delay in sending reply to your memo. dated May 28, re Albert Delaney. I am on holidays. The Acting Matron sent it on yesterday.

The patient was seen by Dr. MacInnes, one of the medical officers, who gave an admission order. The patient was suffering with rheumatic fever. There was no evidence of the boy having been neglected.

I remain, &c.,

S. M. YOUNG, Matron.

Mr. HACKETT: I would like to ask if Dr. MacInnes is connected with the Department?

Mr. GREEN: We pay fees to our medical officers. He is not connected with the Department at all.

Mr. HACKETT: He said the boy died from heart failure.

CHAIRMAN: Heart disease, really.

Mr. HACKETT (*to witness*): Q. What were you told when you went up there? A. That he had a ruptured heart.

Mr. TAYLOR: That is borne out by the certificate.

Mr. HACKETT: Heart failure is not a ruptured heart.

Mr. HANNA: It is the matron's way of putting it. She has not been through the university.

WITNESS: What caused the ruptured heart when the boy was passed by the Department as being in good health?

Mr. HACKETT: I would have the body exhumed to be quite certain.

Mr. TAYLOR: Was there any certificate as to the boy's condition before he went to Mr. Saul?

Mr. GREEN: No.

Mr. HACKETT: Was he not examined by the doctor at the Boys' Shelter?

WITNESS: The matron told me that the boy passed the doctor as being in good health.

Mr. HANNA: How long before was that?

Mr. GREEN: On commitment there is a general medical examination.

Mr. HACKETT: Is it a medical examination?

Mr. GREEN: Yes. The doctor at the Shelter is Dr. Stewart. Each child is examined at the Shelter both for physical and mental defects. We also have a dentist there. Dr. MacInnes' medical certificate is in the papers. The boy was in the hospital and was treated. The suggestion that Mr. Saul neglected the boy is what has to be proved by Mr. Hackett. We say that Mr. Saul did not neglect the boy under any circumstances.

Mr. HACKETT: You cannot prove it.

Mr. GREEN: I can prove it by my own officers.

CHAIRMAN: Do not argue about it. Have you any questions, Mr. Green?

Mr. GREEN: No.

Mr. TAYLOR: He was medically examined seven months before he died?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Is the certificate amongst the papers?

Mr. GREEN: The certificate is as follows:—

Metropolitan Boys' Shelter.

Physical condition (present) of Albert Delaney (12, 23.5.1914)—C.E., Auburn.

Examined on 12.10.1914.

Height, 4 ft. 10 in.; weight, 5 st. 10 lb.

Colour of hair—brown.

Size and shape of head—53.2, 36, 35.

Eyes—colour, hazel; vision, good.

Chest expansion, 25½ in., 2 in.

Ears— . . . .

Throat and palate—tonsils slightly.

Nose— . . . .

Teeth need attention.

Heart— . . . .

Lungs—pigeon chest.

Nervous system, epilepsy, &c.— . . . .

Genito-urinary— . . . .

Marks or scars—One vacc.; small scars left foot.

Degree of mentality—Below normal; very slow in actions and thoughts.

Probable cause—General ill-health.

Education test—Backward two years.

Mental capacity—Below normal two years.

Conduct in Shelter— . . . .

Characteristics—Simple and childish.

Self-control—Weak.

Moral sense—Fair.

Recommendations by Dr. ————Change surroundings.  
SUPERINTENDENT.

Mr. CONNOLLY: That is written in a book, so that it can be seen by the Board.

CHAIRMAN: The original report is at the Shelter?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: I will ask Mrs. Delaney if she is satisfied with the matter as it stands, and whether she thinks the doctor's certificate is correct. But, before I do that, I might ask whether Dr. MacInnes is a resident doctor of Kempsey.

Mr. GREEN: He is a medical officer of Kempsey Hospital.

WITNESS: Mr. Saul told me he was not the best fever doctor.

CHAIRMAN: Q. Mr. Saul was the guardian of the boy? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Yet you say he was neglected.

Mr. HACKETT: Q. How long has the boy been dead? A. For two years.

Mr. TAYLOR: Q. And the reason he was taken away was because he played truant? A. Yes.

Mr. GREEN: There was nothing wrong with the boy except that he had a little mental trouble, as far as we know.

(Witness retired.)

Mr. HACKETT: Is Dr. Mackellar here to-day?

Mr. GREEN: No.

Mr. HACKETT: He will not attend the inquiry?

CHAIRMAN: He said he would come down, but we cannot get him at present.

Mr. HACKETT: He is not going to attend?

CHAIRMAN: I do not think he knows about it.

Mr. GREEN: I do not suggest calling him. The Board wanted to see him, I understand.

CHAIRMAN: There is only one thing I wanted to ask Mr. Green, and it is this: before these boys are boarded out to the farms—say at the Hawkesbury River—what inquiries are made, and by whom, as to the stability of the person applying?

Mr. GREEN: An application form is filled in and is sent to the office. It is then given to the inspector for the district, who makes full inquiries. In the first place the application form has to be signed by a clergyman and by a justice of the peace, or some other reputable person. The inspector calls at the house of the applicant and makes inquiries and ascertains whether the accommodation is suitable. When he is satisfied it comes before the Board for approval. The Board has to approve of each application. Of course, the Board refuses numbers of applications.

CHAIRMAN: Who is sitting on the Board?

Mr. GREEN: There are nine members.

CHAIRMAN: As a rule the members do not all attend.

Mr. GREEN: We generally get about five.

CHAIRMAN: Are the applications read out?

Mr. GREEN: They are all laid on the table. Mr. Connolly, who acts as secretary to the Board, reads the reports.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Each one is laid on the table for the Board's information.

CHAIRMAN: In the ordinary course they would be laid before the Board.

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: The value of the whole thing depends on the thoroughness, or want of thoroughness, on the part of the inspector.

Mr. GREEN: Of course.

Mr. TAYLOR: If there is not a very careful and rigid examination by the inspector the whole thing is a farce.

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Mr. HANNA: That is what the inspector is there for.

Mr. GREEN: He makes his inquiries, and he has to satisfy himself before he puts it before the Board. If anything transpires later on he is asked for an explanation.

CHAIRMAN: You say there is a clergyman or other reputable person—(interrupted).

Mr. GREEN: Would the Board look at the form I have before me now (handing printed form referred to for the Board's information?) The inspectors are supposed to visit four times at least.

Mr. TAYLOR: In the country, or in the city only?

Mr. GREEN: Everywhere. Of course, the Board know that we have been shorthanded up till quite recently.

Mr. TAYLOR: You have not got your full staff yet?

Mr. GREEN: We are much better off than we were. Under the new arrangement we hope to get our four visits in each year.

Mr. TAYLOR: Would it not be better to have more frequent inspection round about the city, because the children may be allowed to run round the streets, and so on?

Mr. HANNA: That is the guardian's responsibility.

Mr. GREEN: I think the closer the inspection the better it is.

Mr. HANNA: You could not send your inspectors round every week.

Mr. GREEN: If we did that the guardians would not keep the children. You could not be bothering the guardians every day. I would again inform the Board that we not only have our own paid inspectors, but we have honorary officers as well. These honorary officers live in the towns and they look after the children. Then we also have reports from school teachers with regard to every child under 14.

Mr. TAYLOR: How often do you get those reports in?

Mr. GREEN: We get the general report every year. They have instructions from the Department of Education to report every case of a State child attending the school who is not properly looked after. They are supposed to make a special report at any time when it appears to them that a child is not being looked after. It is quite a close inspection by the school teachers of the children under 14.

Mr. TAYLOR: It is a pity, Mr. Hackett, that you have not been round the Wiseman's Ferry district to see the homes.

Mr. HACKETT: It is a pity. I may say the reason I was not there to help these people—(interrupted).

Mr. TAYLOR: There was no intention on the part of the Board to frighten anybody.

Mr. HACKETT: The Department was not game.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Hackett has not taken any steps to prove his case. He says the Department was not game. May I read my instructions? (Mr. Green then read the following correspondence):—

"Berowra," Grafton-street, Woollahra.

The Hon. J. D. FitzGerald, M.L.C.

Dear Sir,—Your letter to hand offering me an opportunity of visiting the institution and homes in which State children are at present placed. I will be very pleased to accept your kind offer, as it will greatly assist me in the cause I have at heart. I will be prepared to take the matter in hand any time after the 21st inst.

Should a personal interview be desirable in connection with this matter, I will be available at any time.

Thanking you for your kind offer.

I am, &c.,

JOHN F. HACKETT.

May 15th, 1916.

Mr. Hackett has been asked to communicate with Mr. Green in order that arrangements as suggested above may be completed.

Mr. FitzGerald desires Mr. Hackett's visit to be facilitated. 18. 5. 16. (Sgd.) N.L.S.

Noted.—This will be attended to.—(Init'd) A.W.G.

Sydney, 26th May, 1916.

Sir,—I have to inform you that your letter of the 15th inst., addressed to the Honorable J. D. FitzGerald, M.L.C., with regard to your proposed visit to the institutions and homes under this Department, has been referred to me. It is the desire of the Minister that you will communicate with me in order that arrangements with regard to the time and date of your visit may be made, and I shall therefore be glad to hear further from you in the matter.

I have, &c.,

A. W. GREEN,

Boarding-out Officer.

John F. Hackett, Esq., "Berowra," Grafton St., Woollahra.

Mr. HACKETT: What has that to do with the inquiry at Wiseman's Ferry? Do you think I would arrange times and dates of my visits to these institutions?

Mr. GREEN: But you had to get the addresses of the places, surely.

Mr. HACKETT: I know them without getting your approval. You have not given me permission to go there.

Mr. GREEN: I desire at this stage to submit graphs illustrating the variation in the death rates of children under one year (per 1,000 births) and of children under 5 years (per 1,000 living at those ages). It shows them from 1881, when the State Children Relief Board came into operation, practically up to date. I submit that, really because Mr. Hackett thinks that the children have been ill-treated, but the death rate of the children, according to the graph, is marvellously low, and the death rate of the whole State has been brought down by the work of the Department because of the supervision of infants' homes and the supervision of lying-in homes. The death rate of infants particularly has been reduced very considerably.

CHAIRMAN: Have you had any serious outbreaks of illnesses or diseases at the Homes at Mittagong?

Mr. GREEN: Only measles and that kind of thing.

CHAIRMAN: But apart from that.

Mr. GREEN: Nothing at all. Now, Mr. Hackett also made a statement with regard to the children not being properly fed at the Cottage Homes. I want to submit—(interrupted).

Mr. HACKETT: Where is the letter?

Mr. GREEN: You came to see me about it.

Mr. HACKETT: Where is the letter?

Mr. GREEN: You made a complaint.

Mr. HACKETT: It is verbal. I will not deny it.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Hackett called at my office. My memo to Mr. Turner, the Superintendent, is as follows:—

Mr. Hackett complains that the boys at the farm home are overworked and not properly fed. He states that they only get bread and dripping for one meal each day.

He also states that the girls at Miss Cutcliffe's home are ill-used and not properly fed.

I think you had better write a report on the whole question of feeding and treatment of children at the homes.

A. W. GREEN.

13. 6. 16.

I desire to submit a dietary scale, and also a statement from Mr. H. E. Notting, Senior Inspector of Public Accounts, who happened to be going through the accounts at the time. He adds to his report, as follows:—

I wish to add before I conclude this report that the Superintendent informed me that adverse reports were received at head office on the treatment of the children and the quality, &c., of food supplied. These statements are not borne out by my inspections of the various homes. I personally asked various children of the food supplied, and the quality. The answers were all the same—plenty to eat and drink, and very good. I looked at the articles being cooked, and the stores on hand, and they are of the best. The homes were beautifully clean and well kept, and the children not overworked, and all looked healthy.

I thought it would be a good thing to get an independent man outside our own Department to see the food, &c.

CHAIRMAN: What is the date of that?

Mr. GREEN: June, 1916.

Mr. HACKETT: Mr. Green sticks up for Mittagong. On page 19 of the official record the witness S. J. Rose was being examined. The extract I will read is as follows:—

1. WITNESS: The boy has to go 3 miles, including the river, to get to school. It is more than a quarter of a mile across the river.

4. Mr. GREEN (*to boy Maxwell, who was in Court*): Q. Do you like being at Mrs. Rose's? A. Yes.

5. Q. You would rather be at Mrs. Rose's than at Mittagong? A. Yes.

6. CHAIRMAN: Q. Do you not care for work? A. No.

7. Q. How is that? A. You have to get up of a morning, with no boots on, saw wood, and do harder work at Mittagong than at Mrs. Rose's.

8. Q. You say you had to saw wood at Mittagong? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: I ask Mr. Green is it correct that the boys at Mittagong have to do that work?

Mr. GREEN: Certainly.

Mr. HACKETT: I am very pleased indeed to have that.

Mr. GREEN: My own grandchildren do not wear boots.

Mr. HACKETT: I do not care whether they do or do not. When I brought these cases before you you said they were splendidly treated.

Mr. GREEN: You are not game to go and look for yourself.

Mr. HACKETT: I have no time to waste. I will go down some day, do not worry. Then there is Mr. Thomas A. Wilson, also a farmer at Wiseman's Ferry. It is marvellous that all these farmers have children. I quote from page 16, as follows:—

Q. Is the value of the work they do equal to the amount you get for keeping them? A. No. I reckon it is worth fifteen shillings a week to keep boys. If I had any children of my own I would not keep State boys at all.

Why does he have State children? It answers itself.

Mr. CONNOLLY: Because he likes children.

Mr. HACKETT: On page 17 I quote the following:—

5. Mr. GREEN: No. (*Turning to boys in court*): Come here, Parker. Q. Now, my boy, tell me, have you too much work to do? A. No.

6. Q. Do you think Selby McLean is overworked? A. No.

7. Q. Are you sure? A. Yes.

8. Q. Why? A. Because he does not do hardly any.

9. Mr. WING (*to Parker*): Q. Would you like to go somewhere else, or remain with Mr. Wilson? A. I would like to remain with Mr. Wilson when my time is up.

10. Q. You hope to get the qualifying certificate at the end of the year? A. Yes.

Mr. HACKETT: And Mr. Wilson was in the court listening to the evidence which was given.

Mr. TAYLOR: The Board saw Mr. Wilson's home and saw the boys there. We had a conversation with the boys apart from Mr. Wilson.

Mr. HACKETT: Do I understand the Board to say that they are in direct opposition to Sergeant Lonsdale's report?

Mr. GREEN: The Board are not called upon to say anything about it.

Mr. HACKETT: Do the Board agree with the report? Evidently a decision was given, according to *Hansard*, upon the visit of the Board to Webb's Creek.

Mr. GREEN: You have not proved one case with regard to the whole of your suggestions.

Mr. HACKETT: Sergeant Lonsdale is an independent witness.

CHAIRMAN: He gives that as his opinion and the doctor gives his opinion.

Mr. HACKETT: A departmental officer.

CHAIRMAN: A professional officer. Do you mean to insinuate that, because a man is a Departmental officer, he cannot speak the truth? Some correspondent told you, evidently, a lot of things, and you got them into your mind and you seem to be obsessed with the idea that everything this man said was true. The Board went up there and we found out that these things were exaggerated.

Mr. TAYLOR: Mr. Nagle was put into the witness-box.

Mr. HACKETT: But I should have been there to deal with the case. There were four members of the State Children Relief Department cross-examining that man, and I was not there to help him.

CHAIRMAN: As far as we were concerned you could have been there.

Mr. HACKETT: Why was I not informed?

Mr. TAYLOR: It was not our duty to take you up there.

Mr. HACKETT: I never come on the Government for one halfpenny.

Mr. TAYLOR: The evidence was given by Mr. Nagle.

Mr. HACKETT: Why was Mr. Green invited? I was invited—(*interrupted*).

Mr. HACKETT: Why was Mr. Maxted invited?

Mr. GREEN: Because we had evidence.

CHAIRMAN: Allegations were made against them as officers of the Government. They were on their defence.

Mr. HACKETT: Mr. FitzGerald came to me at the P.L.L. Conference and then wrote me a letter. I have that letter at home.

Mr. TAYLOR: He thought that there was something radically wrong and he asked us for an investigation—(*interrupted*).

Mr. HACKETT: It was what happened at the deputation to the Minister for Public Instruction.

Mr. TAYLOR: Very many statements were made—(*interrupted*).

Mr. HACKETT: Nagle was only one of many. I would have liked to have been there. I can see the reason why I was not invited, because the evidence given is all fact.

Mr. GREEN: You have had an opportunity of bringing evidence here. You have not tried to prove your case.

Mr. HACKETT: I carry more weight with the public. There is a movement going on now which will protect the children. Mr. Boston, member for Wagga, on page 384 *Hansard* says:—

From my experience of the State Children Relief Department I can say it is the worst controlled department in the State. It is almost impossible to get a reply to letters of complaint sent to that department. If there is one item in the estimates above all others which should be reduced, it is the salary of £680 paid to the officer-in-charge of this department. While we are not here to ask for a reduction in the salary of any individual, I am almost inclined to move that that item be reduced by at least £180. If my words here to-night have no effect, I intend to take the next grievance submitted to me direct to the Minister. It is a shame that when we write letters to the department to ventilate the grievances of our constituents, we should not be favoured with replies.

CHAIRMAN: That is a generality. They are advertising themselves a lot.

Mr. HACKETT: If you take it that way we are all advertising ourselves.

CHAIRMAN: The investigation is now closed.

(Investigation concluded.)

DEPARTMENT



No. 17/1710.

Public Service Board, 33-39 Hunter-street, Sydney,  
20th April, 1917.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The General Working of the State Children Relief Branch.

With reference to the accompanying papers, the Public Service Board direct me to forward, for the information of the Minister, a copy of the notes of the evidence adduced at the investigation into the working of the State Children Relief Branch, particularly in regard to the boarding out of children under alleged undesirable conditions.

After hearing the evidence of the witnesses called by Mr. J. F. Hackett, of Grafton-street, Woollahra, and by the Department, the investigation was concluded on 5th January.

A copy of the report of the Public Service Board is now submitted herewith for the Minister's information.

R. A. GILFILLAN,  
Secretary.

The Under Secretary,  
Department of Public Instruction.

---

Seen. Forward a copy of the Report to Mr. Hackett. Also make available for publication by the Press. (Copy also to be forwarded to the State Children Relief Board.)—A.G.J., 4/5/17. Letters to Mr. Hackett and President, State Children Relief Board.—J.H., 5/5/17.

1918 Vol. 3.

FROM P. 59

45 PGS.

1918.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.  
NEW SOUTH WALES.

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# STATE CHILDREN RELIEF BOARD.

## REPORT

OF THE

PRESIDENT, ALFRED WILLIAM GREEN,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL, 1918.

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Presented to Parliament in pursuance of the provisions of Section 10 of the State Children Relief Act, 1901.

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*Printed under No. 19 Report from Printing Committee, 10 December, 1918.*

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1912

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

STATE CHURCHES BOARD

## REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

JANUARY

BY THE STATE CHURCHES BOARD

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE CHURCHES BOARD, 1912.

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1912



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• **Pyridine**

# PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE STATE CHILDREN RELIEF BOARD.

1881 to 1916-18.

Name.	Date of Appointment.	Date of Retirement.
(a) PAST MEMBERS—		
<i>Mackellar, Hon. Sir Charles K., Kt., M.B., M.L.C., &amp;c. (Ex-President).</i>	20 October, 1882*	1 December, 1914.
<i>Renwick, Hon. Sir Arthur, Kt., M.D., M.L.C. (Ex-President).</i>	19 April, 1881	24 February, 1902.
<i>Garran, Mrs. Andrew</i> ... ..	19 April, 1881	1 August, 1911.
<i>Street, John Rendell, J.P.</i> ... ..	19 April, 1881	7 October, 1881.
<i>Allen, Lady</i> ... ..	19 April, 1881	19 December, 1893.
	12 June, 1901	27 March, 1907.
	(Re-appointed).	
<i>Jefferis, Mrs. Marian</i> ... ..	19 April, 1881	30 September, 1889.
<i>Stuart, Miss Mary</i> ... ..	19 April, 1881	4 October, 1884.
<i>Windeyer, Mrs. William (afterwards Lady Windeyer).</i>	19 April, 1881	20 December, 1886.
	6 December, 1889	26 February, 1897.
	(Re-appointed).	
<i>Innes, Hon. Sir J. G. Long, Kt.</i> ... ..	19 April, 1881	20 October, 1882.
<i>Jennings, Lady</i> ... ..	30 September, 1881	27 November, 1888.
<i>Slattery, Thos. Michael</i> ... ..	20 October, 1882	8 July, 1892.
<i>Barry, Mrs. Louisa Victoria</i> ... ..	4 October, 1884	13 April, 1887.
<i>Trickett, Hon. W. J., M.L.C.</i> ... ..	23 October, 1885	31 March, 1911.
<i>Goodlet, Mrs. A. A.</i> ... ..	13 April, 1887	20 July, 1898.
<i>Manning, Lady</i> ... ..	4 January, 1887	6 February, 1901.
<i>Austin, Mrs. Fanny M.</i> ... ..	6 December, 1889	Died in April, 1894.
<i>Slattery, Mrs. T. M.</i> ... ..	8 June, 1894	10 April, 1905.
<i>Renwick, Lady</i> ... ..	26 February, 1897	30 January, 1899.
<i>Grimshaw, Mrs.</i> ... ..	29 August, 1898	20 June, 1902.
<i>Barton, Mrs. Edmund</i> ... ..	30 January, 1899	25 September, 1899.
<i>Stephen, Mrs. C. B.</i> ... ..	23 May, 1899	17 July, 1900.
<i>McGowen, J. S. T., M.L.A.</i> ... ..	28 September, 1900	25 September, 1908.
<i>See, Lady</i> ... ..	28 October, 1901	Died in March, 1904.
<i>Suttor, Lady</i> ... ..	8 August, 1902	1 June, 1911.
<i>MacLaurin, Lady</i> ... ..	2 April, 1904	26 September, 1904.
<i>Hughes, Mrs. Thos.</i> ... ..	18 May, 1905	7 February, 1911.
<i>Stephen, The Hon. Sir Henry</i> ... ..	31 August, 1907	31 December, 1909.
(b) PRESENT MEMBERS—		
<i>Green, A. W. (President)</i> ... ..	1 May, 1911†	.....
<i>Heydon, Hon. L. F., M.L.C.</i> ... ..	8 July, 1892	Died in April, 1918.
<i>Fegan, Hon. John L.</i> ... ..	18 November, 1908	.....
<i>McMillan, Lady</i> ... ..	15 October, 1904†	.....
<i>MacCallum, Mrs.</i> ... ..	14 February, 1910	.....
<i>Golding, Miss Annie</i> ... ..	1 May, 1911	.....
<i>Scobie, Miss G. C.</i> ... ..	16 July, 1913	.....
<i>Griffith, Mrs. Arthur</i> ... ..	29 March, 1915	.....
<i>Morrish, J. J., M.L.A.</i> ... ..	29 March, 1915	.....
<i>Mullins, Hon. John Lane</i> ... ..	12 June, 1918	.....

\* Retired 23rd October, 1885; re-appointed, 23rd April, 1902.

† Also a Member from 19th December, 1893, to 10th April, 1899, and from 24th November, 1899, to 12th June, 1901.

‡ Appointed President, 1st January, 1915, upon resignation of the Hon. Sir Charles Mackellar from the Board.





The President of the State Children Relief Board to The Minister for Education.

State Children Relief Board Offices,  
Department of Education,  
Bridge-street, Sydney,

Sir, 5th April, 1918.

In conformity with the provisions of section 10 of Act No. 61, of 1901, I have the honor to present a Report upon the operations of the State Children Relief Board for the year ended 5th April, 1918.

During the year 16 meetings of the Board were held, the attendance of members being :—Mr. A. W. Green (President), 16 meetings; Hon. J. L. Fegan, 6; Miss Annie Golding, 13; Mrs. Arthur Griffith, 7; Hon. L. F. Heydon, 13; Mrs. MacCallum, 13; Lady McMillan, 9; Mr. J. J. Morrish, 5; and Miss G. L. Scobie, 3. During a large portion of the year, Miss Scobie was absent on special recruiting work.

The Board has most regretfully to report the death of its oldest member, the Hon. L. F. Heydon, M.L.C., which occurred in April last. Mr. Heydon had been a member of the Board continuously for twenty-six years, and the loss of his services to the Board (for which he was always an assiduous and enthusiastic worker) and to various other philanthropic bodies with which he was also closely associated will be very difficult to estimate. The late Mr. Heydon's place on the Board has been filled by the Hon. John Lane Mullins, M.L.C. There have been no other changes in the personnel of the Board.

During the year the Board brought under the consideration of the Minister the question of establishing special places as Trades Schools, additional Day Nurseries, and a Boarding House for wards who are out-patients at Hospitals.

In November last I had the pleasure of conducting a party of South Australians over various institutions. The party, which included the Under Secretary for Education, South Australia, and T. C. Magery, Esq., Vice-President of the "Minda" Home, incorporated, South Australia, expressed themselves as highly gratified with the work seen. A subject of their special inquiry was that of mental deficiency.

Approval was given during the year for the extension of monetary aid for three weeks to mothers, whose husbands returned home from hospitals incapacitated, in order to give them an opportunity to fully recover without hardship to their families. Hitherto, conditions had required that aid under the provisions of the State Children Relief Act should cease on the date the husbands returned home, the ensuing responsibility of assisting being with the Chief Secretary—a change of venue which occasioned delay.

At the January meeting of the Board, Mr. Morrish, member of the Board, was granted three months' leave of absence.

The visitors to the Cottage Homes at Mittagong included Mrs. MacCallum, member of the State Children Relief Board, and Professor MacCallum.

The question of making legal provision for mothers with illegitimate children was submitted by my Board for Ministerial consideration. At the present time this matter is governed by expediency, and my Board has actually no power to board children with their mothers who are unmarried, notwithstanding that the latter are worthy to care for them.

Another matter submitted for consideration was that of providing additional accommodation for the children at the Mittagong Cottage Homes.

Many of the important matters referred to in my last Report have not yet materialised. The absence of these constitute a serious blemish upon the boarding-out system, and should be dealt with as soon as possible.

One question of outstanding importance is that of dealing adequately with the feeble-minded in the community.

There were 16 deaths of State children (4 girls and 12 boys) during the year. Details are given in the body of the Report.

My Board's thanks are tendered to the Hon. Sir James Burns for his usual distribution of gifts to the children of the Parramatta Cottage Homes.

The assistance freely given by the Director of the Bureau of Statistics (Mr. Trivett) is gratefully acknowledged, as is also that of the Inspector-General of Police in this State and the Commissioners of Police in other States and New Zealand.

This Report is as usual arranged in four sections—(a) and (b) Operations under the State Children Relief Act; (c) Operations under the Infant Protection Act; (d) Operations under the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act; (e) Operations under the Children's Protection Act.

In connection with the Acts administered by my Board, I should point out that the State Children Relief Act was passed in 1881 and, except for some slight amendments, it has not been altered. The time has now arrived when the whole of the Acts administered by the Department should be consolidated and extended, so that legislation being upon activities relating to child-life may be brought to date and in line with that of other countries.

#### DIVISION A.

##### THE STATE CHILDREN RELIEF ACT—CHILDREN UNDER CONTROL.

Under this measure, children may be boarded out with strangers or relatives until they are 14 years of age, or they may be adopted up to the time they are 8 years of age (with the parents' concurrence); after 14 years of age they may be apprenticed, discharged or dealt with in any other way the Board may determine. The Board, subject to the direction of the Minister, is the authority for dealing with all matters relating to boarding out. Payments made for the maintenance of children vary according to their age and physical conditions. The Board has power to determine necessary rates of payment, and the sanction of the Minister can continue the payments after the age of 14 years is attained. The general rates now paid are:—

- 12s. per week for young, ailing infants.
- 10s. per week for children under 1 year.
- 8s. per week for children up to 2 years.
- 7s. per week for children up to 3 years.
- 6s. per week for children up to 14 years.

My Board has under consideration the question of recommending to the Minister that a 7s. rate per week be paid for boarded-out children, aged from 3 to 14 years.

The total number of children placed out under the State Children Relief Act is now 12,420 (or 444 more than were under control during the preceding twelve months). Of the children under control, 4,656 are placed out apart from their mothers, and 7,764 with their mothers. The increase in the number in the former section since last year is 3, and in the latter section is 441.

#### FINANCIAL.

The expenditure for the entire services of the Department for the year was £183,356 5s., or £8,853 0s. 2d. more than that for 1917. Of this amount, £63,533 18s. 11d. was for the maintenance of children boarded out apart from their parents. Deducting maintenance contributions by parents, £7,235 17s. 6d., the actual cost to the State for each child per annum was £18 10s. 4d., the daily average being 3,040 children.

In allowances to widows and deserted wives towards the support of their own children, the expenditure was £84,274 14s. 8d., or £8,113 19s. 11d. more than that for 1917. After adding £5,088 18s. 7d., proportionate cost of salaries and inspection, the total, £89,363 13s. 3d., represents a capitation cost of £11 10s. 2d. for the daily average of 7,764.

The following is a summary of the annual expenditure for the past three years:—

Under Control on—	Boarded out apart from Mothers.	Boarded out with Mothers.	Cottage Homes.	Children's, Infants, and Neglected Children's Acts.	Total.	Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
5 April, 1916 .....	57,996 4 3	76,989 2 10	11,599 7 6	10,046 11 5	156,631 6 0	6,357 6 2
„ 1917 .....	67,689 1 0	79,420 19 11	14,868 11 8	12,524 12 3	174,503 4 10	7,555 4 9
„ 1918 .....	63,533 18 11	89,363 13 3	14,428 8 8	16,030 4 2	183,356 5 0	7,836 14 1

## Hereunder is a statement of Receipts and Expenditure, 1917-1918 :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1917. To Balance .....				2,487	10	9	By Allowances under Sec. 16	84,274	14	8			
1 May Advance .....	8,500	0	0				Maintenance .....	43,985	1	2			
1 June .....	7,000	0	0				Conveyance .....	1,332	16	7			
27 " .....	300	0	0				Travelling .....	5,857	4	2			
2 July .....	22,000	0	0				Medical .....	1,574	17	6			
31 " .....	8,500	0	0				Incidental Expenses .....	905	12	6			
3 Sept. .....	12,000	0	0				Cottage Homes .....	7,691	8	0			
5 Oct. .....	12,500	0	0				Depôt .....	861	16	2			
1 Nov. .....	12,500	0	0				Shelter—Albion-street .....	567	11	8			
3 Dec. .....	12,750	0	0				Cicada .....	622	0	8			
1918.							Eastwood .....	1,043	6	7			
4 Jan. .....	12,750	0	0				Hillside .....	415	5	0			
1 Feb. .....	13,000	0	0				Raymond Terrace .....	890	9	4			
1 Mar. .....	12,500	0	0				C.P. Act Registrars .....	417	9	6			
3 April .....	13,250	0	0				N.C. and J.O. Acts .....	286	1	4			
				14,750	0	0	Truant School .....	5	12	0			
Advances to pay Salaries and Petty Expenses .....				25,399	10	9	Government Printer .....	84	14	6			
Accounts paid at Treasury and by Stores Department .....				8,316	19	0	Hawkesbury College .....	2	15	4			
							Stores Department .....	7,095	13	2			
							Forestry Department .....	1	0	0			
							Works .....	29	7	7			
							Attorney General and Justice .....	11	16	10			
							Salaries .....	25,399	10	9			
											183,356	5	0
							Balance .....				397	15	6
											183,754	0	6
				£183,754	0	6							

The following is a Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1916-17 and 1917-18, on account of Widows and Deserted Wives :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1916.							1917.						
April .....	6,173	18	0				April .....	7,396	18	3			
May .....	5,962	19	1				March .....	6,350	1	9			
June .....	7,390	0	6				June .....	7,184	7	2			
July .....	6,120	11	5				July .....	6,467	14	7			
August .....	6,093	4	4				August .....	5,931	10	5			
September .....	7,738	18	4				September .....	7,908	14	6			
October .....	6,355	14	3				October .....	6,042	8	4			
November .....	6,201	16	6				November .....	6,940	14	0			
December .....	7,658	3	2				December .....	7,826	17	7			
1917.							1918.						
January .....	4,112	11	2				January .....	7,009	14	9			
February .....	6,512	6	7				February .....	7,214	3	9			
March .....	5,830	11	5				March .....	8,009	19	7			
				76,160	14	9					84,274	14	8
							Increase for 1917-18 .....				£8,113	19	11

## PARENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS.

The contributions by parents and other relatives towards the support of dependent children totalled £7,235 17s. 6d., as compared with £4,505 6s. 3d. for the previous twelve months. With a view to endeavouring to secure a still greater increase in the amount of maintenance collections, this work has been placed in the hands of a special officer (an inspector), who works directly with the accountant. There are, of course, several social factors militating against collection of maintenance, such as the greater cost of living, economic stress due to the war, absence of parent or relative on active service, unemployment, and the Ministerial direction that maintenance charges shall not be made in the case of children over 14 years of age, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These factors have full recognition, and any action taken by the Department for the collection and recovery of maintenance. Payments are of two kinds :—(a) Pay on orders of Court, (b) voluntary agreements.

Special visits in connection with maintenance collections totalled 730, and with affiliation inquiries, 142. Successful proceedings in the latter section were undertaken in eighty-one cases (one other only failing). In four instances men resident in other States (Victoria and South Australia), and in New Zealand, were compelled to pay towards the cost of keep of their illegitimate children. In six instances deserting husbands were brought back from remote country districts and other States, and orders obtained against them towards the maintenance of their families.

## INSPECTION.

## INSPECTION.

The total number of children, under all headings, now under the supervision of the Board's officers, in conformity with the several Acts administered by the Department, is 16,075. This total is made up as follows (the previous four years' figures being shown for comparison):—

Classification.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
State children boarded out (apart from mothers)...	4,734	4,695	4,880	5,081	4,653	4,656
Children boarded out with their own mothers ...	5,386	5,970	6,612	7,310	7,323	7,764
Registered under Children's Protection Act ...	1,215	925	925	1,268	1,094	1,112
In licensed institutions (Infant Protection Act) ...	411	311	535	500	382	395
Engaged in street trading... ..	652	477	680	695	785	782
Released on probation ... ..	1,129	1,213	1,184	1,566	1,903	3,382
Employed in theatres ... ..	321	280	265	180	240	243
	13,848	13,891	15,081	16,600	16,380	18,334

The inspection of these children is carried out by the salaried officers of the Board and by honorary visitors. So far as the salaried staff is concerned, in the metropolitan area, visits are made to State children quarterly; to children boarded with their own mothers, quarterly, as a minimum, with special action in necessary cases. The children on probation are visited monthly, but visits are dispensed with if the frequency of visitation is detrimental to the child's interests. The children under the Children's Protection Act (mostly pre-nuptial) are visited monthly; the children in licensed institutions, those engaged in street trading, and those employed at theatres and similar places are visited as occasion requires. In regard to country visitation, all children are visited quarterly, as far as practicable, by salaried officers of the Department. As regards the honorary visitation, this is usually monthly in the metropolitan area, and quarterly in the country. Honorary officers do not visit all children, the lady visitors visit boarded-out children only, and honorary probation officers visit children on probation only. Lady visitors are appointed by the State Children Relief Board in conformity with the State Children Relief Act, and honorary probation officers by His Excellency the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister for Education. The duties of honorary officers are carefully set out in pamphlet form; the officers work in the district in which they live, and they visit only children of the same religious denomination as themselves. They work in conjunction with the departmental inspector for each district. The responsibility of the welfare and general treatment of infants rests mainly with the female inspectors of the Department, who are charged with the special supervision of the conditions of infant life, and with the duty of instructing custodians and mothers, where necessary, in the dieting and general treatment of infants, and of arranging for the medical inspection of children periodically at one or other of the children's hospitals, at a clinic, or private practitioners.

The following is a list of lady visitors and the districts in which they work:—

## LADY VISITORS.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Abbotsford ... ..	Mrs. West.	Badgery's Creek ... ..	Mrs. Swann.
Adelong ... ..	Mrs. Russell.	Balgownie ... ..	Mrs. Cram.
	Mrs. F. A. Smith.	Balmain ... ..	Miss B. Hagan.
Albury ... ..	Mrs. Tietjens.		Mrs. McKeon.
	Mrs. Howe.	Bango ... ..	Mrs. Cooke.
Alexandria ... ..	Mrs. Fitzjohn.	Bathurst ... ..	Mrs. Oakes.
	Miss Faber.		Mrs. Caples.
Allynbrook ... ..	Mrs. Boydell.	Baulkham Hills ... ..	Mrs. Hewitt.
Annangrove ... ..	Mrs. Pearce.	Backyamma ... ..	Mrs. Brophy.
Araluen ... ..	Mrs. A. McFadyen.	Bellambi ... ..	Mrs. King-Brown.
Arncliffe ... ..	Mrs. Peterkin.	Berrigan ... ..	Miss Greggergy.
Ashfield ... ..	Mrs. Baxter.		Mrs. Gorman.
	Miss Lacy.		Mrs. F. Verso.



## LADY VISITORS—continued.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Berrima ...	Mrs. A. Hopkins.	Crookwell ...	Mrs. M. Bensley.
Blacktown ...	Mrs. Pearce.	Cudal ...	Miss Healy.
Blandford ...	Mrs. Greer.		Mrs. A. Bate.
Blayney ...	Mrs. Harris.	Dalton ...	Miss Wheatley.
Bob's Range ...	Miss Onslow.	Dapto ...	Mrs. Evans.
Boggabri ...	Mrs. Tebbutt.	Darlington ...	Mrs. F. R. Hanrahan.
Bombala ...	Miss Little.		Miss Pallister.
Booral ...	Miss Hopkins.		Mrs. G. Foley.
Botany ...	Mrs. Fahrner.	Dagworth ...	Mrs. O'Connell.
	Mrs. Lupton.	Deniliquin ...	Miss Hosking.
Bowan Park ...	Mrs. Mulholland.		Mrs. G. Williams.
Bowral ...	Miss Bagot.	Derringullen ...	Mrs. Cooke.
	Miss Riley.	Dora Creek ...	Mrs. O'Neill.
Bourke ...	Mrs. F. McMahon.		Mrs. Reed.
	Mrs. Chapman.	Dorans ...	Mrs. Hyndes.
Braidwood ...	Miss G. McGrath.	Drummoyne ...	Mrs. K. Chisholm.
Breadalbane ...	Mrs. W. Chisholm.		Mrs. E. P. Boulton.
Branxton ...	Mrs. Tulloch.	Dulwich Hill ...	Miss G. Pickering.
Broken Hill ...	Miss O'Leary.		Mrs. R. Newall.
	Mrs. A. Allen.	Dunmore ...	Mrs. Warden.
Brownlow Hill ...	Mrs. Nesbitt.	Enfield ...	Miss Hinchy.
Brunswick Heads ...	Mrs. Holt.		Miss Hurley.
Bringelly ...	Mrs. Swann.	Epping ...	Mrs. A. Masterman.
Brewarrina ...	Mrs. Allan.	Erskineville ...	Mrs. Fitzjohn.
Bandanoon ...	Mrs. Osborn.		Mrs. Genders.
	Mrs. Knaption.	Five Dock ...	Mrs. West.
Bungendore ...	Miss Powell.	Fishery Creek ...	Mrs. O'Connell.
Burradoo ...	Mrs. King.	Forbes ...	Mrs. Moloney.
Burrowa ...	Mrs. Goudie.	Forrester ...	Mrs. McDonald.
Burwood ...	Miss Hurley.	Fullerton Cove ...	Miss Smith.
	Miss Hinchy.	Gladesville ...	Miss O'Shea.
Cambewarra ...	Mrs. M. Brown.	Gledswood ...	Miss Chisholm.
Camden ...	Mrs. Nesbitt.	Glen Innes ...	Mrs. H. I. Newton.
	Miss Onslow.	Glebe (Newcastle) ...	Mrs. M. Chapman.
Campbelltown ...	Mrs. Vardy.	Gordon ...	Mrs. Richardson.
	Mrs. Chinnocks.	Gloucester ...	Miss M. Middlebrook.
Camperdown ...	Mrs. Eppel.		Mrs. M. Brooker.
Campsie ...	Sister Mary Josephine.	Gore Hill ...	Mrs. Catterall.
Canley Vale ...	Mrs. Downey.	Gosford ...	Mrs. Fielder.
Canbelego ...	Mrs. E. Davis.	Goulburn ...	Mrs. Cropper.
	Mrs. J. Hogan.		Mrs. Fleming.
Canomore ...	Miss Finn.		Mrs. Kelly.
Canterbury ...	Miss M. Reilly.		Miss De Lauret.
Carrington ...	Mrs. A. Mann.		Mrs. Howell.
Castlereagh ...	Mrs. Woodriff.		Mrs. E. Chapman.
Cattai ...	Mrs. McDonald.		Mrs. M. Arnott.
Central McDonald ...	Mrs. Cavanough.		Miss L. J. Wood.
Centennial Park ...	Mrs. J. R. Dixon.		Miss E. Sherriff.
Chatswood ...	Miss Wright.	Granville ...	Mrs. Ross.
	Mrs. Catterall.		Mrs. Mason.
Chippendale ...	Mrs. Hanrahan.	Gresford ...	Mrs. Boydell.
Cobargo ...	Miss C. Tarlington.	Gulgong ...	Mrs. E. Marina.
Cobar ...	Mrs. M. Duffy.	Guildford ...	Mrs. Downey.
	Mrs. P. Snelson.		Mrs. McCredie.
Cobbity ...	Mrs. Allnutt.		Mrs. J. Pooley.
Concord ...	Mrs. Vaughan.		Mrs. Andy O'Neill.
	Miss Hurley.		Mrs. Sowell.
	Miss Hinchy.		Sister of St. Joseph's Convent.
Cook's Hill ...	Miss S. Pearce.	Gundagai ...	Miss Sullivan.
Cooma ...	Mrs. Ward.		Mrs. Champion.
	Mrs. M. Bannister.	Gunning ...	Mrs. A. Grovenor.
Coonamble ...	Mrs. A. Perry.	Gurrundah ...	Mrs. Heaton.
Cooranbong ...	Mrs. O'Neill.	Haberfield ...	Mrs. West.
Coraki ...	Mrs. Riley.		Mrs. Moore.
Corrimal ...	Mrs. King-Brown.		Miss Gillies.
Cox's River ...	Mrs. Waller.	Harden ...	Mrs. Brady.
Cootamundra ...	Mrs. M. H. Mockett.		Mrs. M. Mitchell.
	Mrs. Ellis.		Mrs. I. Gibson.
Colo Vale ...	Miss Riley.	Hamilton ...	Mrs. W. H. Lyon.
Cranbrook ...	Mrs. Woodriff.		Mrs. W. R. Alexander.
Croydon ...	Mrs. Baxter.		Mrs. M. J. Moroney.
	Miss Lacy.	Hawkesbury ...	Miss Wilson.

## LADY VISITORS—continued.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Hay ...	Miss Butterworth.	Mount Pleasant ...	Mrs. Cram.
	Mrs. Longfield.	Mudgee ...	Mrs. Acton.
	Mrs. Donohue.		Mrs. Dunstan.
	Mrs. Kitchen.	Mulgrave ...	Mrs. Campbell.
Hermidale ...	Mrs. McKeon.	Mullumbimby ...	Mrs. Holt.
Hill Top ...	Miss Riley.	Mummell ...	Mrs. Dalgleish.
Homebush ...	Miss Hurley.	Murrumbateman ...	Mrs. Watson.
	Miss Hinchy.	Murrumburrah ...	Mrs. Brady.
Hornsby ...	Miss Newberry.		Mrs. Mitchell.
Hunter's Hill ...	Miss Lagleyze.		Mrs. Gibson.
Hurlstone Park ...	Mrs. E. Cannon.	Narellan ...	Miss Chisholm.
	Miss M. Reilly.	Nevertire ...	Mrs. Poole.
Inverell ...	Mrs. C. Dale.	Neutral Bay ...	Mrs. Watkins.
	Mrs. Cloman.		Miss F. Kelly.
Ironbarks ...	Miss Chandler.	Newcastle ...	Mrs. E. Crawford.
Islington ...	Mrs. Brown.		Miss K. Carrol.
Jamberoo ...	Mrs. Hill.	Newtown ...	Mrs. Hansen.
Jerilderie ...	Mrs. Curtin.		Mrs. Fremlin.
Junction ...	Mrs. M. Champion.		Mrs. McGovern.
Kangaloon ...	Mrs. Brenning.	Nimitybelle ...	Mrs. O'Harvey.
Kangaroo Valley ...	Miss O'Sullivan.	North Sydney ...	Mrs. Harris.
Kellyville ...	Mrs. Hewitt.		Mrs. E. Shead.
Kelso ...	Mrs. Oakes.		Miss N. Stewart.
Kogarah ...	Mrs. Vogel.		Miss A. Green.
Kurrajong ...	Mrs. E. Hennessy.		Miss M. Green.
Lambton ...	Mrs. J. Purcell.		Mrs. Fitzgerald.
	(Mrs.) Dr. Harker.		Mrs. G. Carter.
Leichhardt ...	Mrs. Corcoran.	Oakhampton ...	Mrs. Glasheen.
	Mrs. Jackson.	Oakes ...	Miss Onslow.
Leura ...	Mrs. Bloome.	O'Connell ...	Mrs. Todd.
Lindfield ...	Mrs. Richardson.	Orange ...	Mrs. McNeilly.
Lithgow ...	Mrs. Dillon.		Miss Dalton.
Lochinvar ...	Miss M. Knipe.	Paddington ...	Sister Mary Anastasia.
Lostock ...	Mrs. Hopson.	Parkes ...	Mrs. Seymour-Smith.
Longueville ...	Mrs. Catterall.	Parkesbourne ...	Mrs. Chisholm.
Louth Park ...	Mrs. O'Connell.	Parramatta ...	Mrs. Moxham.
Maitland East ...	Mrs. Rooney.		Mrs. Watkins.
Maitland West ...	Mrs. Silk.		Mrs. Sides.
	Mrs. Glasheen.		Miss Neale.
Manilla ...	Mrs. Rudd.		Mrs. Mason.
Manly ...	Mrs. Douglas.		Mrs. Downes.
	Miss M. Phillips.	Penrith ...	Mrs. S. R. Baker.
Marrickville ...	Miss Campbell.	Picton ...	Mrs. McGuiggan.
	Miss N. Redmond.		Mrs. Parry.
Marshall Mount ...	Mrs. Evans.		Miss Antill.
Mayfield ...	Mrs. J. Parker.	Pitt Town ...	Mrs. Deane.
	Mrs. A. Smith.		Mrs. McDonald.
Menangle ...	Miss Onslow.	Pomeroy ...	Mrs. Dalgleish.
Meranburn ...	Mrs. Kelly.	Portland ...	Mrs. Evans.
Merewether ...	Mrs. M. Chapman.	Pymble ...	Mrs. Richardson.
Merilla ...	Mrs. Chisholm.	Pymont ...	Mrs. Gray.
Merrylands ...	Mrs. Downey.	Quaama ...	Mrs. Tarlington.
Miller's Point ...	Miss M. Green.	Queanbeyan ...	Mrs. McIntosh.
Millthorpe ...	Mrs. and Miss Kelly.	Quirindi ...	Mrs. McNickle.
Milton ...	Mrs. M. Booth Potter.	Randwick ...	Mrs. Scaife.
	Miss J. Kendall.	Redfern ...	Sister M. Claver.
Mittagong ...	Miss Riley.	Richmond ...	Mrs. Morris.
	Mrs. C. E. Chester-Smith.	Rockdale ...	Miss L. G. Wearne.
Molong ...	Mrs. Leavers.	Rooty Hill ...	Mrs. Hyatt.
Morce East ...	Mrs. Slater.	Rozelle ...	Miss Toohey.
Mortlake ...	Miss Hurley.		Mrs. Nolan.
	Miss Hinchy.	Rylstone ...	Mrs. Hansard.
Mosman ...	Miss Newton.	Sandy Creek ...	Mrs. Waller.
	Mrs. M. Curtis.	Scone ...	Miss Galvin.
	Mrs. S. McCauley.	Smithfield ...	Mrs. Downey.
	Mrs. A. J. MacDonald.	Springwood ...	Mrs. Griffin.
	Mrs. C. Glauddfield.	Strathfield ...	Miss Hurley.
	Mrs. M. Holden.		Miss Hinchy.
	Miss E. Newton.	Stroud ...	Mrs. P. Casey.
	Mrs. R. A. Ewart.		Mrs. E. Casey.
Moss Vale ...	Mrs. Hughesdon.	St. Ives ...	Miss Hopkins.
Mount Fairy ...	Miss Graham.		Mrs. Richardson.

## LADY VISITORS—continued.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
St. Leonards ...	Mrs. Catterall.	Waitara ...	Miss Newbury.
St. Mary's ...	Mrs. Barrett.	Wahroonga ...	
Summer Hill ...	Mrs. Cripps.	Warriwee ...	
Surry Hills ...	Miss Cox.	Wallsend ...	Miss E. Treay.
	Miss M. Forsythe.	Wardell ...	Mrs. Meaney.
	Miss C. Moberley.	Warren ...	Mrs. Poole.
	Miss A. Williams.	Waterloo ...	Mrs. Dillon.
Sutherland ...	Mrs. Gilligan.		Miss Faber.
	Mrs. Greig.	Waverley ...	Mrs. Pyke.
Sutton Forest ...	Mrs. Roberts.		Mrs. Bryant.
Tallong ...	Mrs. Netterfield.	Wedderburn ...	Mrs. Vardey.
Taree ...	Mrs. E. Creed-Scharkie.	Wentworth ...	Mrs. Crang.
Tamworth ...	Mrs. Britz.		Mrs. M. E. Morgan.
	Mrs. Landers.	Willoughby ...	Mrs. Catterall.
	Miss Thibault.		Miss Fogelin.
	Mrs. V. Cohen.	Williamtown ...	Miss Smith.
	Mrs. Fairweather.	Windsor ...	Miss Hall.
	Mrs. Adams.		Mrs. Campbell.
	Mrs. Newman.	Wingham ...	Mrs. Redpath.
	Mrs. Page.	Wollongong ...	Miss Copas.
	Mrs. Fletcher.	Wombat ...	Mrs. McKenzie.
	Mrs. Johnstone.		Mrs. Metcalfe.
	Miss Tettatres.	Wolstonecraft ...	Mrs. Catterall.
Taralga ...	Mrs. S. A. McKenzie.	Woollahra ...	Mrs. Redmond.
Tarago ...	Miss Graham.		Miss Bluett.
Temora ...	Mrs. A. Smith.	Woolloomooloo ...	Miss Shiel.
	Miss M. Coleman.	Woonona ...	Mrs. King-Brown.
Tenterfield ...	Mrs. Miller.	Woolwich ...	Miss Lagleyzo.
Tighe's Hill ...	Mrs. J. Parker.	Woy Woy ...	Mrs. Garrett.
Timor ...	Mrs. McMurphy.	Wyalong West ...	Mrs. Andrew.
Tingha ...	Miss K. Brown.	Wyalong ...	Mrs. Watterson.
Terrania ...	Mrs. Chisholm.	Wybong Creek ...	Mrs. Cox.
Trundle ...	Mrs. Berry.	Yass ...	Mrs. Cusack.
Tumut ...	Mrs. O'Mara.		
Turramurra ...	Mrs. J. Richardson.	Young ...	Mrs. McKenzie.
Wagga Wagga ...	Mrs. O'Reilly.		Mrs. Metcalfe.
	Mrs. Giles.		

The salaried inspectors' responsibilities are now very varied; there are thirty-two distinct sections of departmental work regularly submitted for action to the inspectors. Each section represents a different phase of activity, and involves the exercise of varied characteristics, as well as the thorough knowledge of the various laws, departmental policy and methods. Each phase is governed by set principles of action and forms of report. The sections are :—

1. Applications for State Children.
2. Applications for Admission of Children.
3. Applications for Discharge of Children.
4. Application for Special Relief (*Sunday Times* Fund).
5. Application for Section 16 Relief (children of widows, &c.).
6. Inspection of State Children.
7. Inspection of Section 16 cases (widows and deserted wives).
8. Inspection of C.P. Children (*i.e.*, children placed out by their own mothers privately).
9. Inspection of Probation Children (Children's Court).
10. Inspection of Lying-in Homes.
11. Inspection of Nursing Homes, C.P.A.
12. Inspection of Licensed Places, I.P.A.
13. Inspection of Institutions.
14. Court Report on Home Surroundings.
15. Prosecuting and Conducting Proceedings.
16. Inquiries into cases of Neglect or Ill-treatment.
17. Inquiries into School Default.
18. Inquiries into Truancy.
19. Inquiries into School Exemption Applications.
20. Inquiries into Street Trading Applications.
21. Inquiries into Theatre License Applications, C.P.A.
22. Inquiries into H.P.O. Nominations.
23. Inquiries into L.V. Nominations.
24. Visiting and Advising H.P.O.'s.
25. Visiting and Advising L.V's.

26. Inquiries into Affiliation matters.
27. Inquiries into Maintenance Cases.
28. Collection of Maintenance.
29. Inquiries into caste children in unsupervised areas.
30. Visiting Schools.
31. Attendance at Children's Courts.
32. Special and General Reports upon any phases of the work.

To assist them with their work a small booklet has been issued to each officer.

During the year 34,507 visits were paid to homes in which State children are placed in conformity with the State Children Relief Act. This includes 20,544 visits to homes in which children are boarded with their own mothers under section 16 of the Act.

The following table is a summary of the various investigations conducted by the salaried staff during the year under each Act administered by the Board :—

State Children Relief Act :—

					Total visits to Homes.
(a)	Boarded out, apart from mothers	...	...	...	13,963
(b)	„ with mothers	...	...	...	20,544
					<hr/> 34,507
(c)	Applications for care of State children	...	...	...	1,575
(d)	„ admission of children	...	...	...	726
(e)	„ discharge of children	...	...	...	864
(f)	„ children to be boarded with own mothers (Sec. 16)	...	...	...	1,404
(g)	Visits to lady visitors	...	...	...	559
(h)	Maintenance inquiries	...	...	...	1,547
(i)	Unfinished	...	...	...	4,144
(j)	Visits to cottage homes	...	...	...	80
(k)	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	4,976
					<hr/> 15,875

Children's Protection and Infants' Protection Acts :—

(a)	Visits to children	...	...	...	3,542
(b)	„ nursing homes	...	...	...	227
(c)	„ lying-in homes	...	...	...	1,057
(d)	Applications for children to perform at theatres	...	...	...	240
(e)	„ license of nursing homes	...	...	...	113
(f)	Visits to institutions	...	...	...	303
					<hr/> 5,482

Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act :—

(a)	Visits to children on probation	...	...	...	7,233
(b)	„ honorary probation officers	...	...	...	618
(c)	„ street traders	...	...	...	372
(d)	Applications for license to street trade	...	...	...	249
(e)	Neglect cases	...	...	...	2,870
(f)	Court cases	...	...	...	892
(g)	Court inquiries	...	...	...	371
					<hr/> 12,605

School Attendance :—

(a)	Visits to truants and school defaulters	...	...	...	22,809
(b)	Applications for exemption	...	...	...	710
(c)	Street cases	...	...	...	775
(d)	Prosecutions and court visits	...	...	...	477
(e)	Visits to schools	...	...	...	11,502
(f)	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	366
					<hr/> 36,639

Total ... .. 105,108

*Grand Total.*—Thus the grand total of separate inquiries for the year was 105,108, as compared with 89,365 visits during the previous year.

Three thousand one hundred and ten visits were recorded as having been made by honorary lady visitors. This total, however, does not represent all the work performed by them. Many of the ladies regularly carry out the duties, but are disinclined to commit the results of their investigations to writing, by reason of the clerical labour involved. Statistics in relation to honorary probation officers are detailed under a separate heading.

It will be noticed that the number of prosecution cases for neglect was 2,870, as compared with 934 for the previous twelve months, and that the number of prosecution cases for school default is 477.

CHILDREN



### CHILDREN PROVIDED FOR APART FROM THEIR MOTHERS.

At the close of the official year there were 4,656 children (2,703 boys and 1,953 girls) in this division, of whom 3,469 were entirely supported by the Government as boarders with guardians, as inmates of cottage homes, the central depôts, or hospitals; 774 (455 boys and 319 girls) were apprenticed, and 313 (108 boys and 205 girls) were under adoption, without payment. On the 5th April, 1917, the total number of children was 4,653 (2,733 boys and 1,920 girls); during the present official year, 1,218 (757 boys and 461 girls) were admitted, the aggregate being thus 5,871 (3,490 boys and 2,381 girls). Of these, 741 were discharged to relatives or friends, 218 were discharged over age, 16 died, one accidentally killed, 155 discharged to guardians, 27 discharged from records, 13 to the Reception House, Darlinghurst, 1 to Lady Edeline Hospital, 2 to Blind Institution, 39 to own resources, 7 to Girls' Industrial School, Parramatta, 6 to Female Refuge, 4 to Salvation Army Home, 2 to Scarba Home, 19 to Farm Home, Gosford, 2 to H.M.A.S. Tingara, 9 to convents, 2 to Westmead Home, 4 to sea, 3 enlisted, 4 to Roman Catholic Orphanages, 1 to Ardill's Home, 6 to Aborigines Mission Homes.

One thousand two hundred and eighty-two children were thus discharged from the records during the year (840 boys and 442 girls), leaving, as stated, 4,656 (2,703 boys and 1,953 girls) under supervision. Compared with the figures for last year, there were 237 more admissions and 114 fewer discharges.

Of the 1,218 children admitted during the year, 445 came from Children's Courts, 724 were boarded out direct, 28 from the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney, and 21 from the police.

The following table shows the distribution of children under control on the 5th April, 1918:—

	Boarders.					Apprentices.	Adopted.	Boarders with Subsidy.	Absented.	Unofficial.	In Hospitals.	In Cottage Homes.	In Depot.	Total at present under control.
	10s.	8s. Special.	7s. Under 3 years old.	6s. and Under.	Total.									
Boys .....	52	28	65	1,543	1,688	455	53	55	71	2	29	329	21	2,703
Girls .....	67	34	36	1,154	1,291	319	101	104	20	7	4	84	23	1,953
Totals ...	119	62	101	2,697	2,979	774	154	159	91	9	33	413	44	4,656

The following table shows the ages of children admitted to control:—

	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 6.	6 to 7.	7 to 8.	8 to 9.	9 to 10.	10 to 11.	11 to 12.	Over 12.	Age not known.	Total.
Preceding years.....	1,895	1,121	1,338	1,367	1,437	1,579	1,713	1,719	1,844	1,789	1,753	1,533	3,050	1,033	23,171
Year ended 5/4/14 ...	148	57	50	49	70	66	51	76	77	81	102	82	289	20	1,218
Total.....	2,043	1,178	1,388	1,416	1,507	1,645	1,764	1,795	1,921	1,870	1,855	1,615	3,339	1,053	24,389

The following table shows the social antecedents of the children:—

Uncontrollable ...	...	...	...	288	Father dead: mother in hospital ...	5
Neglected ...	...	...	...	154	„ unknown: mother in asylum ...	2
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	194	„ „ „ destitute ...	11
Parents unknown ...	...	...	...	34	„ „ „ dead ...	2
„ destitute ...	...	...	...	76	„ at front „ „ ...	3
„ deserted ...	...	...	...	34	„ in mental hospital: mother	
„ deceased ...	...	...	...	65	destitute ...	14
„ bad characters ...	...	...	...	8	„ respectable: mother in hospital	11
„ living apart ...	...	...	...	30	„ at front: mother distressed	
„ divorced ...	...	...	...	1	circumstances ...	12
Foundlings ...	...	...	...	20	„ in gaol: mother dead ...	6
Father dead: mother destitute ...	...	...	...	76	„ „ „ destitute ...	7
„ deserted: mother destitute ...	...	...	...	74	„ at front: mother deserted ...	6
„ „ „ dead ...	...	...	...	13	„ invalid: „ in asylum ...	5
„ „ „ in asylum ...	...	...	...	11	„ deserted: „ in gaol ...	3
„ respectable: mother deserted ...	...	...	...	13	„ interned: „ deceased ...	1
„ dead: mother deserted ...	...	...	...	5	„ in hospital: mother destitute ...	2
„ „ „ in gaol ...	...	...	...	1		
„ respectable: mother dead... ..	...	...	...	31	Total ... ..	1,218



The proportion of applications for apprentices, boarded-out children, and children for adoption for the past three years is shown in the table hereunder :—

Year.	Boards.	For Adoption.	For Service.
1916 ... ..	50·9 per cent.	2·3 per cent.	46·8 per cent.
1917 ... ..	70·4 "	9·3 "	20·3 "
1918 ... ..	56·7 "	4·4 "	38·9 "

The number of approved applications during the year was 1,022, and of refusal 307.

#### SERVICE CHILDREN.

On the 5th April, 1918, there were 774 children at service (455 boys and 319 girls). Last year the number was 824. Approximately two-thirds of these children are placed out in country districts, and the remainder in suburban areas. The majority of the lads are on farms, whilst the girls are at domestic service.

Two important matters in connection with the placing out of State children at service have now reached finality :—

- The revision of the wages scale of payments—a draft form of indenture is now under consideration.
- The establishment of special cottage homes for the preliminary training of male and female wards prior to service.

The absence for so long of these necessary accompaniments of boarding-out no doubt operated in a prejudicial way upon the public mind in its interpretation of the administration of the boarding-out system, which will now benefit substantially by their introduction.

The operations in connection with the Apprentices' Fund since 1887 have been :—

	£	s.	d.
Total collections to 31st March, 1917 ... ..	90,505	13	5
Disbursements to apprentices to 31st March, 1917 ... ..	74,078	2	2
Total collections to 31st March, 1918 ... ..	94,833	8	0
Disbursements to apprentices to 31st March, 1918 ... ..	76,609	5	5
To credit of fund, 1st April, 1918 ... ..	18,224	2	7

The collections for the year amounted to £4,327 14s. 7d., as against £4,798 0s. 4d. last year.

The following table shows the number of apprentices placed out by the Board during the past three years :—

	1916.	1917.	1918.
Boys ... ..	155	123	154
Girls ... ..	90	84	96
Total ... ..	245	207	250

#### ADOPTED CHILDREN.

There are now 313 adopted children, 108 boys and 205 girls, placed out with foster-parents. I am not, however, in a position to speak of the question of adoptions as a whole. The State Children Relief Act provides for the adoption of boarding out children, but the terms of the legal documents necessary to complete such adoptions actually discourages the practice, because the proposed foster-parents feel that they have not got complete control of the children, and are liable to lose them if they comply with the law. Consequently, in the majority of cases, the adoption of children takes place privately without the knowledge of the Department, through the medium of the Press and private establishments. A draft Bill has been prepared, with the object of remedying this defect, by an amendment of the Children's Protection Act.

#### COTTAGE HOMES FOR INVALID, DELICATE, AND FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

The Cottage Homes for invalid, delicate, and feeble-minded children are established in rural surroundings in the Pennant Hills district of Parramatta, where there are four homes, and at Mittagong, where there are altogether eleven homes, including those comprised in the term "Farm Home." Of these eleven homes, three are exclusively for the use of invalids.

The

The cottages at Parramatta are reserved for the occupation of delicate children, and one home is exclusively for the use of feeble-minded girls, who are instructed by a specially-trained teacher. The average number of inmates in the three homes is forty-two, and the accommodation is taxed to the fullest extent. The general health of the children during the year has been good; a new laundry has been installed during the year. Shelter sheds are urgently required for the homes.

The report from the teacher of the feeble-minded children at Parramatta is as follows :—

This year has seen great changes at the school for feeble-minded girls, Parramatta. Up to the beginning of the year both the home and the school were so congested that the work was greatly handicapped owing to want of space. However, early in January, the children were removed to a very suitable building about a mile further along the Pennant Hills road. Adjoining the new home is a fairly roomy building which at one time served as the public school for the children of the district. This building was taken over by the State Children Department, to be used as a special school for feeble-minded girls. Standing on the top of a long slope, and surrounded by 6 acres of beautifully wooded grounds, the school is ideally situated for its purpose.

The building was thoroughly renovated and modernised in many respects. All that was necessary in the way of alterations to meet the special requirements of the children was carried out by the Department.

Now there is nothing more modern for the purpose in the State. The school is all it claims to be—an up-to-date Montessori kindergarten, perfectly equipped for the training of mentally-defective children by special methods.

The room is dry, bright, and airy, and is furnished and decorated in the best manner possible to suit the needs of the feeble-minded pupils.

The walls are ornamented with attractive nursery friezes, which at once claims the attention of even the most backward child. Hung low on the wall are many fascinating pictures depicting favourite fairy tales, and other bright subjects all specially selected for their suitability of colour and action.

Apart from decoration, the room is full of everything that is calculated to charm the heart of any child, and to comfort and soothe the most nervous and restless. Rocking horses, waggons, motor-cars, besides dolls of every description, teddys, kewpies, &c., all find a place in the room. There is nothing missing, every toy that the heart of a child can desire is found in our beautiful play-room. The word school scarcely applies, "play-room" or "kindergarten" is far more appropriate. Our greatest assets are our kindergarten circle and our piano, even though it is a very old one. For "play" is the keynote to all our work.

*The Children.*—During the year the average number on roll has been fourteen. Practically all these children are of widely different type, and very varied power. Hence the need for absolutely individual teaching.

Without exception, all show many years mental retardation, and almost every case is one of congenital want of development. This can almost invariably be traced to degenerate social antecedents. Mental defect and moral depravity exist with the greater number of parents. The child is often the outcome of what should be, by law, a criminal union.

Though so widely different in type, most of the children are characterised by several outstanding features in common.

1. Defective speech.
2. Clumsy or bad gait, due to want of muscular control.
3. Tendency towards dirty and depraved habits.

On the other hand, the two most marked extremes to be found in the school are—

- (a) Those who are dull and lethargic.
- (b) Those who are restless, hysterical, and nervous.

While it is difficult to rouse the former type, it is the latter who are far more difficult to handle, for they often lose control of themselves and disturb the other children.

*Type of Work.*—Differing from the ordinary schools, the work at the special school is far more physical than literary. This is most necessary—our aim being that, through action and occupation, the child may be given some means of self-expression, which through natural infirmity has been denied her from birth. Training does a lot in this direction.

It is useless to teach a mentally-deficient child how to do a thing. She must do it herself, and by experience she will learn.

But the most pitiable thing about it is that the first thing these children have to learn is how to play. When they come newly to the school they have usually no power or initiative in this direction. Therefore we spend many hours per week at rhythm and musical games. It is wonderful how the children respond in this direction. Children who had not sufficient power to even walk round the circle, with training have learnt to take part in little folk dances and kindergarten games. They learn to imitate the music and develop muscular control to a wonderful extent. Experience proves that as soon as a child learns to play and responds to music, she is on the highway to improvement. After bodily movement, as a means of development and self-expression, next in importance comes handwork of all kinds. It is often wonderful how skilful feeble-minded children become in this direction. As an example, several of our little girls can now make some really excellent baskets in raffia and straw.

Our handiwork is as varied as possible, and is selected to suit the individual need of each child. The following are the most useful at present in use :—Modelling in plasticine, paper cutting and pasting, cardboard modelling, drawing, painting, block building, basket-making, knitting, and gardening. Housewifery is taken in all its branches by the older girls. Our Montessori material also gives much opportunity for free work and mental growth.

Sense



Sense games are taken daily, and are a great assistance to physical developments. Speech drills are also taken at intervals through the day, as a result of which the speech has greatly improved.

*Medical Attendance.*—Throughout the year the children have been regularly attended when necessary by both a doctor and a dentist. This has been of great assistance to their mental improvement. In addition, a special visit was paid to the school quite recently by Dr. Davidson, mental specialist. He made a careful examination of every child, and in many cases made some valuable suggestions concerning the future treatment of various cases. His experience and advice will be of the greatest use in handling many of the children.

Concerning the types of cases one or two specially mentioned may prove of interest and serve to show the varied class of children which the school deals with, and the improvement possible.

1. H.H., a girl, aged 8 years.

Admitted six months ago, very neglected, no power of speech, dirty habits, no muscular control. Could not sit still for five minutes, wandered aimlessly about, outbursts of temper. Could not skip nor attempt to join in games. Now can skip, and joins readily in musical games, is cleaner and takes more interest. Can sit still now for a reasonable time. More obedient. A much happier child, though still a very bad case.

2. F.R., a peculiar case, aged 15 years. Retardation about eight years.

Has been several years in the home. Is bright, happy, and interested in everything. Through training, uses her hands well. Can knit, also raffia and other handwork nicely. Will always be a useful child in an institution.

3. J.W., aged 8 years. Mentally retarded three years.

On admission had habits which were very dirty; no power of speech; very lethargic and nervous. This case has shown greatest improvement of all. She is now bright and interested and learning fast. Plays spontaneously. Her speech is rapidly becoming normal, and if not set back should eventually be quite able to earn her own living. This is proving itself to be a case of rough usage and neglect, rather than congenital unsoundness. Parents are unknown, but must be of better than usual type. Her mental power is latent rather than absent.

In conclusion, it can only be said that as a result of the year's work the children are happier and brighter, more active and more useful. Each succeeding year will help them on still a step further. The work is necessarily slow and tedious, and great patience is needful; but if by education we help to make those children lead happier, cleaner, and more useful lives, then our labour is not in vain. Following the idea that "a vacant mind is a mind distressed," these children are always kept occupied—singing, playing, or working, and from their activity comes their happiness.

Left without training, these children naturally sink far below the animal level. They become morbid, vicious, and overmastered with their naturally bad instincts. From the class of children we get the material which is continually filling our asylums, gaols, maternity hospitals, and refuges of all kinds. On this class of children we get the material on which the State is spending millions of pounds per year. How much more economical it would be to establish special homes and schools on a large scale, and so by education save some of the annual waste that is continually going on. This human flotsam is ever drifting, uncared for, out into the sea of crime. How easy it would be to stem this great tide by taking the children in hand, and by skilful handling guiding them safely along the path of usefulness to ultimate happiness.

But the problem does not end with the children. After adolescence a graver condition exists, and even greater protection is required. Then it is that legislation should step in and insist that all mental defectives should remain segregated in a properly equipped industrial colony. By this means only can we ever hope to eventually stamp out the type which is, of all, our greatest social menace.

The matter is all important, and needs a Government which will organise and handle the problem strongly and wholeheartedly. It is useless playing with this question, for it calls for vigorous and united action. Surely this idea that "a stitch in time saves nine" should be sufficient incentive. A nation's economy is at stake, and while the possibilities and improvement in our special school children have been emphasised, it would be most unwise to raise the public hope too far, for children they are now, and children they ever will be. Education can never give them what Nature has denied them. Experience conclusively proves that these children are only teachable up to a certain point. Beyond that, undue optimism is foolish, and must meet with disappointment. But our special effort should be centred on making the very best possible use of their naturally very limited powers. So that, in due time, they may at least be able to lead happy, clean, useful lives within the safety of a State industrial colony.

### THE FARM HOME AT MITTAGONG.

The Farm Home at Mittagong has continued its activities in the amelioration of the condition of the invalid and delicate, the mentally infirm, and the morally debilitated boys and girls who have come under the control of the Board.

In the Cottage Homes for invalid and delicate children, care and treatment has been bestowed upon those whose enfeebled health has required change of aid and nourishing diet, while accommodation has been found for children of delicate constitution or suffering from malformed limbs in circumstances where special consideration can be given to their particular needs.

The operations of the homes for feeble-minded boys have been steadily maintained. There are two such homes, one for boys of tender years, with whom an effort is being made to expand their mental capacity, and the other for boys of mature years who

who are incapable of mental development, and who are in consequence employed in manual work about the garden in the cultivation of vegetables and flowers.

In the former, the enrolment during the year was twenty-one, and the average daily attendance at the special school, 19.5. Four boys were admitted and six discharged. Six boys have learned to read and write, and have acquired some knowledge of arithmetic, a seventh is rapidly developing in the same direction. Three others, who appeared to be very unresponsive, have developed considerable motor activity, and made some improvement in articulation. The more advanced children have made fairly good progress, although within the last few months one boy has shown signs of retrogression. The "Ellis" phonetic system of teaching to read, introduced last year, has proved helpful, especially in children of defective hearing and speech.

Progress in the school may be gauged from the following examples of unaided composition :—

J.E., aged 11 years, admitted to the home six years ago.

A lady took us a long trip in a motor lorry to Berrima. As we were driving along we saw sheep, cows, shops, flowers, motors, bicycles, buggies, motor bikes. We saw the navvies' huts, where they are making a new train line and a new tunnel through the Gib. When we got to Berrima we saw a lot of Germans who are interned there ; some of them were sailors from the German boats. We saw some of them swimming, some playing tennis, some had their clothes hanging on the line, some making their little huts. There was a bridge which they had made across the river, and underneath the bridge there were a lot of little boats floating about. Two Germans were chasing a horse. The motor was going very fast along the road. We had a happy time and enjoyed ourselves very much.

(The writer is the child previously mentioned as exhibiting signs of retrogression during the last six months.)

W.B., aged 10 years.

Teacher took Hanlon and me to Sydney one day. We went in a sulky to the station, and then our train came, and we all got into it ; and when we were in the train Hanlon and I were looking out of the window all the way. We saw a lot of soldiers on horseback, some walking about, and some in tents. There were some men making new lines ; and we saw cows, horses, and sheep. When we got to the station teacher gave her bag to a man to mind, and we went in a tram. We went to see Dr. D, twice, then we went to the Blackfriars school, and saw a lot of children, some of them at work in each room, and some skipping all round the room. We slept at the A. Hotel, the lady there is Miss D., and she took us to the picture show. The next day we went to the Zoo in a boat, and we saw lions, snakes, bears, elephants, goldfish, seals, a hippopotamus, monkey ; all kinds of birds. I had a ride on the elephant, but Hanlon was frightened to go. We went back in another boat to Sydney, we saw a lot of ships. One was a war-ship, and one a punt, with some horses and carts on it. The monkeys were very funny animals. I gave them some nuts, one monkey took a nut out of my hand.

In the home for the elder boys, the average daily number of inmates has been thirteen, and the boys have been regularly employed in manual work. Their mental capacity is not capable of development, and healthful outdoor occupation to train the hand is the only possible course with them.

The past few decades have witnessed a remarkable change in public attitude towards mental defectives and progress in methods of treatment. Instead of being regarded as an individual misfortune, mental defect has come to be recognised as a destructive social force. The idea is now generally accepted that custodial care should be provided for mental defectives for their own safeguarding and for the protection of society, and that they should be given whatever training their mental condition makes possible.

While it is impossible to supply missing mentality through any course of training, many individuals who are deficient mentally may be made useful to themselves and to society if they can be trained under proper conditions, difficult to secure in the home or ordinary school. They may be taught to care for themselves properly and to feel an interest in sharing the work of the community. The training must be largely manual, fitting them for work around the household, farm, and shop. Farm colonies and industrial institutions have proved that mental defectives in some cases may be made self-supporting, a condition which not only relieves society of the burden of their care, but turns their energies from an injurious and morbid channel into useful and happy ones.

#### THE FARM HOME FOR BOYS.

In the division of the Mittagong activities known as the "Farm Home for Boys," and technically regarded as an "institution" within the meaning of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders' Act, are committed by the Children's Courts the neglected and wayward boys guilty of truancy, petty stealing and similar offences—

boys

boys without homes, or with homes unworthy of the name, or boys who, through the indifference or the incompetence of parents, have become uncontrollable.

The homes, of which there are six, are primarily classified on the basis of religion, and secondly on the basis of age (to separate the elder from the younger boys). Four homes are for Protestant and two for Roman Catholic boys, and the officers in charge are of the same religion as the inmates, to ensure the due observance of religious practices. Realising the importance of religious training in the reformation of the boys, every facility is afforded for religious instruction by the ministers of religion, the Anglican rector and the Salvation Army ministering to the Protestant boys, and the parish priest and the members of the community of Marist Brothers to the Roman Catholic.

Formerly, the policy of dealing with the delinquent children of the State was to keep the children in an institution for a term of years, but enlightened opinion now argues a shorter period, and the boys are generally kept at Mittagong for only a term of months, usually four.

The natural place for the rearing of a child is in his own home with his own parents, when they are competent; and after a term of disciplinary treatment under skilled officials, during which he is brought to a due sense of obedience and responsibility, he is returned to his own home. When that home, for any reason, is unsuitable, he is placed with a relative, or, in the last resource, with a guardian selected by the Department. Although the farm home is designed and operated to approximate as nearly as possible to normal home conditions, the aggregation of a number of unrelated boys must necessarily assume to a certain extent the characteristics of an institution, and for that reason continued residence therein should be avoided. Hence the desirableness, in the interests of character-building of the individual, to restore him as quickly as possible to his natural place as a member of the general community, where he is exposed to and learns by daily contact with, to survive the tests of honesty, truthfulness, and obedience.

During the last twelve months, the Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the farm home, carried out experiments with wheat and oats for green fodder and hay purposes, maize for fodder, onions, and potatoes, whilst the grass and lucerne plots sown several years ago are still under observation.

The wheat and oat plots sown 19th May, 1917, and harvested 28th November, 1917, yielded satisfactorily. "Cleveland" wheat gave the best returns in the wheat section (it is a good hay wheat, but comes in rather late to be of any use in early spring feed). In the oat section, "Algerian" topped the yield, but was very late in maturing compared with "Sunrise." A sowing of "Thew" wheat and "Canada" fieldpeas yielded most satisfactory results. Considering the dry weather experienced during the early days of the growth of these crops, the returns are highly satisfactory.

A plot of onions was sown 17th July, 1917, four varieties being tested. Unfortunately the season proved anything but suitable, and the weed growth was difficult to keep in check owing to the showery weather in spring. No returns were secured.

The potato plot again, unfortunately, met a wet season, and the best of the tubers were lost through wet rot.

The maize plots sown for silage were disappointing, as it was hoped to again fill the silo, but late sowing (due to seed and manure not coming to hand on time) was perhaps the chief trouble. However, the season was wet and the ground remained cold, which militated against the crop maturing.

The grass plots continue to do well—*Phalaris bulbosa* is thickening up, Perennial Rye grass is holding well, and Red Clover is making good growth. The lucerne plot is now well established and satisfactory cuts are being obtained.

The following are the returns from the wheat and oats plots of green fodder per acre :—

Wheat :—	tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	Oats :—	tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.
Florence ...	6	5	2	25	Ruakura ...	6	7	0	16
Firbank ...	6	11	1	21	Sunrise ...	6	17	0	16
Cleveland ...	7	2	3	12	Algerian ...	7	12	3	12
Thew ...	6	4	1	4					
Thew and Peas ...	7	8	2	88					
*Thew ...	5	1	1	20					

\*No manure.

All plots were manured with superphosphate, 1 cwt. per acre, except where otherwise stated.

FARM

## FARM HOME FOR BOYS, MITTAGONG.

Period, 1st April, 1917, to 31st March, 1918.

Bootmaker :—				Nightshirts	...	...	...	29
Boots and shoes made	...	...	1,399 pairs.	Table cloths	...	...	...	24
Bluchers	...	...	3 „	Bed ticks	...	...	...	34
Boots repaired	...	...	714½ „	Boys' fronts	...	...	...	60
Boot laces...	...	...	457 „	Pillow cases	...	...	...	27
Repairs to harness	...	...	£13/9/0	Trousers altered	...	...	...	121
Tailor :—				Tarpaulin	...	...	...	1
New Work :—				Bags for exhibit	...	...	...	14
Knickers	...	...	149 pairs	Repairs :—				
Trousers	...	...	4 „	Trousers	...	...	...	2,955 pairs.
Shirts	...	...	328	Coats	...	...	...	331
Suits	...	...	5	Jerseys	...	...	...	192
Aprons	...	...	50	Shirts	...	...	...	41
Tea towels	...	...	92	Overcoats	...	...	...	36
Face towels	...	...	143	Vests	...	...	...	39
Knickers (f otball)	...	...	42 pairs.					

**Dairy :—**Milk produced, 50,192 quarts.

Farm :—	£	s.	d.
334 loads firewood (217 tons) at 15/- ...	162	15	0
Carting timber, stores, &c., 92 loads at 3/-	16	16	0
Manure, carting, 87 loads at 5/-...	21	15	0
Blacksmithing ... ..	66	7	6
Chaff, 60 tons at £5 ... ..	300	0	0
Green feed, 11 tons at £1/10/0 ...	16	10	0
Potatoes, 2½ tons at £7 ... ..	17	10	0
„ weighing and delivering ... ..	7	16	0
Hay, 10 tons at £3 ... ..	30	0	0
Sanitary service, 66 pans per week at 7d.	100	0	0
Horses for Homes, 215 days at 2/-	21	10	0

Orchard :—

Sales of fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135	4	11
Jam produced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195	15	5
Apple pulp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	6	11
Vegetables ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	10	6
Eggs and poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	19	11
Fodder crops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161	9	11
Carting sand, cutting timber, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	159	16	3

## STATISTICS IN CONNECTION WITH COTTAGE HOMES.

Since the inception of the Cottage Homes system, 8,811 children have passed through the homes, the number at present remaining there 358 (281 boys and 77 girls). This number includes 217 boys in the Farm Home division. Statistics of the current year are :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Total number of children admitted to Cottage Homes to 5th April, 1918 ...	6,008	2,803	8,811
Total number of children discharged from Cottage Homes to 5th April, 1918	5,727	2,726	8,453
Number in Homes on 5th April, 1918 ... ..	281	77	358
In Homes on 5th April, 1917 ... ..	256	79	335
Admitted during the year ended 5th April, 1918	504	80	584
Discharged during the year ended 5th April, 1917	479	82	561

The above numbers include the inmates of the Farm Home, Mittagong, opened on the 16th October, 1906 :—

Admitted to 5th April, 1918	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,974
Discharged to 5th April, 1918	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,757
								—
Remaining in Farm Home 5th April, 1918	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	217

The gross expenditure properly chargeable to the year, for all Cottage Homes and the Farm Home for Boys was £14,090 13s. 1d., or a capitation cost of £38 16s. 4d., the daily average number of the inmates being 363.

## HOMES FOR BABIES WITH MOTHERS.

The reasons for the establishment of these special homes are briefly—

- (a) To keep young, victimised women from the demoralising influences frequently associated with large maternity establishments;
- (b) to give expectant mothers a chance to attain some degree of physical fitness for motherhood;
- (c)



- (c) to encourage breast-feeding and the development of parental affections;
- (d) to safeguard the life of the infants during the first critical stages of infancy by keeping them with their mothers;
- (e) to ensure that the mothers shall receive some measure of training in the rearing of infants.

There are three homes for the care of mothers with babies :—

(a) *Eastwood Home, Eastwood.*

The number admitted during the year were 52 mothers and 95 children.

The number discharged, 50 mothers and 94 children.

The number in the home on 5th April, 1918, was 20 mothers and 30 babies.

The number of expectant mothers admitted, 10.

Average period of detention of mothers and infants, 5½ months.

Number of deaths during the year—Nil.

Since the home was opened on 13th February, 1915, 139 women have been admitted to the home, and 211 children. Total number of deaths of children, 5.

(b) *Cicada Home, Croydon.*

Number admitted during the year—mothers 45, infants, 53.

Number discharged—mothers, 35 ; infants, 41.

At the close of the year under review there were 11 mothers and 11 children under treatment.

Number of expectant mothers admitted, 1.

Number of expectant mothers discharged, 1.

Average period of detention—mothers, 4½ months ; infants, 4 months.

Since the opening of this home in June, 1909, 299 mothers have been admitted, and 437 children; 13 children have died. Causes of death have been premature birth, entro-colitis, chronic gastro-enteritis, cyanosis, whooping-cough, and bronchitis (1 each); pneumonia (2), syncope (3), unknown (3).

(c) *Hillside Home, Paddington.*

This was opened as a Government establishment in December, 1913. During the year under review—admitted 22 mothers, 107 babies; discharged 25 mothers, 109 babies; 9 mothers and 11 children remained in the home on 5th April, 1917, thus leaving 6 mothers and 9 children in the home at the close of the year under review; 24 expectant mothers admitted, 25 expectant mothers discharged. Average period of detention of mothers, 4 months, children 5 months. There were no deaths.

Since the opening of this home 124 mothers have been admitted and 109 expectant mothers; number of infants, 383. There has been only one death (meningitis, 14 months).

The cost for the year of the foregoing homes, shown separately, is given in the following table :—

Home.	Total Expenditure, 1916-17.	Expenditure, less Buildings, Additions, &c., 1915-16.	Average No. Inmates.	Per Capita Cost, based on (2).
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Hillside Home ... ..	580 13 3	580 13 3	15	38 14 2
Eastwood Home ... ..	1,361 0 5	1,361 0 5	51	26 13 8
Cicada Home ... ..	784 17 6	784 17 6	20	39 4 10

HOME FOR FEEBLE-MINDED BOYS, RAYMOND TERRACE.

There were 32 boys in the home on the 5th April, 1917.

During the year 17 were admitted and 17 discharged, leaving 32 boys in the home on 5th April, 1918.

The boys in the home are more or less weak, some are of very feeble intellect. Of these boys, 6 are truants, or habitual wanderers; 3 aboriginals; 2 half-castes; 1 cripple; 1 totally blind; 6 degenerates (sexually weak); 2 young boys very determined thieves and wanderers; and 1 takes epileptic fits.

The general health of the boys has been good. There has been no sickness nor deaths during the year.

The

The conduct of the boys has been generally good.

The boys in the home are employed as follows :—

Tailor's Shop ... ..	8	Woodturning ... ..	1
Bootmaking ... ..	6	In Garden ... ..	2
Making boot uppers ... ..	2	Cutting firewood ... ..	2
Carpenter's Shop ... ..	2	Kitchen... ..	2
Wood toy making ... ..	5	Dormitory ... ..	2

Hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Seven boys attend school full-time, and 6 boys (backward), but willing to learn, attend half-time.

During the year 1 boy was discharged over age, and placed in a situation; 4 were sent to sea at their own request, and with permission of parents; 6 discharged to relatives; 1 to hospital for insane; 2 absconded, now at Gosford; 1 to lucerne farm; 1 to dairy farm; 1 epileptic to Maitland Hospital.

Boys discharged or apprenticed in the district have been visited by an inspector four times during the year.

*Workshops.*—Boys in the workshops have been fully employed during the year, and these shops are now showing a substantial profit to the Department.

Tailor's Shop—8 boys employed.

Goods produced—value as per contract prices.

Tweed, suits of clothes ... ..	429	£	s.	d.
Tweed, caps ... ..	227			
Trade value ... ..		277	11	3
Less cost of material ... ..		135	10	3
Net profit to shop for tweed ... ..		£142	1	0

Gambroon, Trousers ... .. 129 pairs.

Caps ... ..	58			
Vests ... ..	2			
Trade value ... ..		£39	5	3
Less cost of material ... ..		9	11	10½

Net profit to shop for Gambroon ... .. £29 13 4½

Shirting, Boys' shirts, 127—

Trade value ... ..	£15	2	0
Less cost of material ... ..	9	16	9

Net profit to shop for shirting ... .. £5 5 3

Bedding and Pillows—

Trade value ... ..	£8	17	0
Less cost of material ... ..	2	9	5

Net profit to shop... .. £6 7 7

Total net profit to Tailor's shop, 1917 to 1918 ... .. £183 7 11½

Bootmaker's Shop—3 boys employed.

Goods produced—value as per contract price.

Boots, 1,028 pairs.				
Trade value ... ..		£411	4	0
Less cost of material ... ..		302	10	6

Net profit to shop... .. £108 13 6

Boot uppers, two boys, 1,152 pairs.

Trade value ... ..	£213	18	0
Less cost of material ... ..	110	0	1

Net profit to shop... .. £103 17 11

Boot repairs, 72.

Net profit ... .. £5 14 0

Belts, 36.

Trade value ... ..	£3	12	0
Less cost of material ... ..	1	8	0

Net profit to shop... .. £2 4 0

Harness repairs,

Trade value ... ..	£3	2	0
Less cost of material ... ..	1	10	9

£1 11 3

Total net profit to Boot Shop, 1917 to 1918 ... .. £222 0 8

Toy

19

Toy Shop: Five boys only, six months working.

Goods produced:—

Trade price	...	...	...	...	£77	5	9
Less cost of material	...	...	...	...	16	2	6
Net profit to shop...	...	...	...	...	£61	3	3

Summary of Profits:—

Tailor's Shop	...	...	...	...	...	£183	7	11½
Boot Shop	...	...	...	...	...	222	0	8
Carpenter's Shop	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0
Toys	...	...	...	...	...	61	3	3
Garden and Produce	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0
Firewood	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0
Total	...	...	...	...	...	£616	11	10½

The expenditure for the year was £1,196 5s. 2d.; cost per head, £37 7s. 8d.; average daily number of inmates, 32.

ORMOND HOUSE, CENTRAL DEPOT FOR STATE CHILDREN, AND GIRLS' SHELTER, PADDINGTON.

During the twelve months ended 5th April, 1918, 1,596 children passed through Ormond House, as compared with 1,612 children during the preceding year. Of these, 1,294 (623 boys and 671 girls) were State children, and 302 (69 boys and 233 girls) were Court children, i.e., children dealt with by the various Children's Courts.

For the past three years the numbers passing through Ormond House have been—

	1916.	1917.	1918.
State children	1,709	1,443	1,294
Court children	116	169	302
Total	1,825	1,612	1,596

Ormond House operations thus show a decrease for the year of 149 in the number of State children, and an increase of 133 in the number of Court children. Operations were suspended during the year owing to Ormond House being in quarantine for a period of five weeks, on account of an outbreak of scarlet fever.

The total cost of provisions and other supplies during 1917-18 was £1,218 2s. 8d., inclusive of the expense incurred in connection with the proportion of Court children's maintenance. The capitation cost was £27 13s. 8d., the average daily number of inmates being 44.

DIVISION B.

CHILDREN BOARDED OUT WITH THEIR OWN MOTHERS.

Two thousand six hundred and forty widows and deserted wives are now receiving allowances in their own homes towards the support of 7,764 children under the age of 14 years. The increase in the cost of this section is generally due to the increase in the rates of payment. The total number of cases dealt with during the year was 3,585, aid being granted or continued in 2,309.

Since payment to the children of widows and deserted wives was introduced, applications for aid have totalled 17,250. Last year 1,414 new cases were dealt with, being 135 more than the number received during the previous twelve months. Of the new applications received, 1,129 were approved and 261 refused, representing 22 per cent. of the total; 24 cases were dealt with other than by the granting of monetary allowances, being given food orders, or referred to the Chief Secretary's Department or the Benevolent Society, Sydney.

Section 51 of the Neglected Children Juvenile Offenders Act requires that my Board shall refer every case to the Children's Court for inquiry, on oath, before aid is granted. This amendment was introduced to minimise the degree of imposition.

I have referred in previous Reports to the necessity for introducing legislation to compel near relatives who are in a position to do so to contribute to the support of parents and younger members of the family, and thus confine the measure of State relief to the lowest necessary terms. The following are typical cases coming under the supervision of the State Children Relief Board, illustrative of filial neglect:—

1. A received aid for one child ; three children away from home did not assist ; two others earning 30s. and 15s. per week respectively, allowed their mother 20s. and 12s. each weekly ; lodger paid 13s. per week. Applicant herself supplementing the income by earning 16s. weekly.
2. B's husband died, leaving a family of nine children ; four away from home did not contribute ; three other children earning gave 5s. per week each to their mother ; rent of home 5s. per annum. Mother not earning.
3. C's husband died, leaving one child unprovided for ; nine other children away from home did not contribute towards their mother's support. Owned the house she lived in ; stated she was unable to obtain employment returning greater remuneration than 3s. weekly.
4. D, a widow with five children, supports one child ; four other children away from home do not contribute. Applicant earns 10s. weekly, out of which she pays 5s. per week rent.
5. E received aid which was discontinued. Applied for further assistance owing to desertion by her husband. Ten children in the family, six of whom are away from home and do not pay anything towards their mother's support ; one son at home earns, and gives her 15s. per week. Applicant receives 15s. weekly under Court order and 5s. 6d. invalidity pension.
6. F, a widow in poor circumstances, has seven children, six of whom are away from home and do not help their mother. Rent of cottage in country, 5s. 6d. per week. Applicant earns 20s. weekly and receives 4s. per week from a lodger.
7. G's husband died, leaving eleven children ; nine away from home not contributing. Applicant owns the cottage she lives in, and earns 5s. per week to support herself and the two children at home.
8. H, a widow residing in the country, has ten children ; two are at home to be supported. Of the remaining members of the family, one son contributes occasionally. Applicant unable to earn. Rent of house £3 per annum.
9. I, a widow, has nine children. One son invalided home from the front, and three other children to support. Daughter 16 years of age assists at home owing to applicant being in delicate health. Another daughter earns 12s. 6d. weekly, and contributes 3s. per week. Applicant, invalidity pensioner, lives rent free, but receives no help from the other members of the family, who are away from home.
10. J is a widow with eight children ; five are away from home and do not contribute. One son at home earning £2 17s. 6d. per week gives 25s. weekly ; 10s. per week is given by one of her brothers. Applicant earns 5s. per week, and suffers from chronic rheumatism.

The following table gives the result of new applications from year to year:—

Year.	New cases considered.	Approved.	Refused.	Percentage of new cases.
1896-7 ... ..	479	378	101	21
1897-8 ... ..	717	501	216	30
1898-9 ... ..	654	385	269	41
1899-1900 ... ..	514	371	143	28
1900-1 ... ..	596	374	222	37
1901-2 ... ..	632	448	184	30
1902-3 ... ..	803	501	302	37
1903-4 ... ..	666	413	253	38
1904-5 ... ..	631	413	218	34½
1905-6 ... ..	567	410	157	27½
1906-7 ... ..	426	363	63	14½
1907-8 ... ..	555	471	84	15
1908-9 ... ..	540	442	98	18
1909-10 ... ..	675	528	147	21·8
1910-11 ... ..	658	511	147	22·3
1911-12 ... ..	637	518	119	18·6
1912-13 ... ..	759	638	121	16
1913-14 ... ..	867	674	193	22
1914-15 ... ..	1,058	721	337	31
1915-16 ... ..	1,492	955	537	35
1916-17 ... ..	1,279	947	271	22
1917-18 ... ..	1,390	1,129	261	22



In 1917-18 allowances were granted in 1,129 new cases, and the number of children with their mothers, is shown hereunder:—

With 1 child ... ..	118 mothers	With 7 children ... ..	8 mothers
" 2 children ... ..	372 "	" 8 " ... ..	5 "
" 3 " ... ..	292 "	" 9 " ... ..	1 mother
" 4 " ... ..	169 "		
" 5 " ... ..	125 "	Total ... ..	1,129
" 6 " ... ..	39 "		

All cases are regularly reviewed by the Board, and allowances are assessed or withdrawn according to circumstances. During the year the total cases considered were 3,210, as follows:—

Admitted ... ..	1,129	Continued ... ..	212
Discharged ... ..	984	Miscellaneous ... ..	31
Refused ... ..	261		
Increased ... ..	344	Total ... ..	3,585
Reduced ... ..	624		

For purposes of comparison, similar information is supplied for preceding years:—

Year.	Cases dealt with.	Aid granted or continued.	Aid refused or discontinued.	Percentage of refused cases.
1897-8 ... ..	1,207	882	325	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
1898-9 ... ..	1,540	1,051	489	31 $\frac{3}{4}$
1899-1900 ... ..	1,492	1,112	380	25
1900-1 ... ..	1,772	1,151	621	35
1901-2 ... ..	1,589	1,082	507	32
1902-3 ... ..	1,849	1,132	717	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
1903-4 ... ..	1,703	997	636	37 $\frac{3}{4}$
1904-5 ... ..	1,629	968	661	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
1905-6 ... ..	1,610	968	642	39 $\frac{5}{8}$
1906-7 ... ..	1,317	911	406	30 $\frac{3}{4}$
1907-8 ... ..	1,444	1,019	425	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
1908-9 ... ..	1,421	945	476	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
1909-10 ... ..	1,824	1,183	641	35
1910-11 ... ..	1,919	1,260	659	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
1911-12 ... ..	1,795	1,220	575	32
1912-13 ... ..	1,682	1,097	585	34 $\frac{3}{4}$
1913-14 ... ..	1,843	1,222	621	33 $\frac{3}{4}$
1914-15 ... ..	2,244	1,372	872	38 $\frac{3}{4}$
1915-16 ... ..	2,654	1,812	842	32
1916-17 ... ..	3,210	1,952	1,258	39
1917-18 ... ..	3,585	2,309	1,276	35 $\frac{1}{2}$

The following tables indicate percentages in relation to wife desertion since the inception of relief to families of defaulting husbands and fathers:—

NEW Applications approved of each Year.

Year.	Total number approved for year only.	Widows.	Percentage of Total.	Deserted <i>de facto</i> .	Percentage of Total.	Technical desertion.	Percentage of Total.
1896-7 ... ..	378	293	77	62	17	23	6
1905-6 ... ..	410	242	59	96	23	72	18
1906-7 ... ..	363	208	57	109	30	46	13
1907-8 ... ..	471	269	57	139	29	63	14
1908-9 ... ..	442	259	58	119	28	64	14
1909-10 ... ..	528	288	54	132	26	108	20
1910-11 ... ..	511	285	56	124	24	102	20
1911-12 ... ..	518	306	59	122	24	90	17
1912-13 ... ..	638	340	53	191	30	107	17
1913-14 ... ..	674	380	56	192	29	102	15
1914-15 ... ..	721	406	56	205	28	110	16
1915-16 ... ..	955	488	51	318	33	149	16
1916-17 ... ..	947	521	55	232	24	194	21
1917-18 ... ..	1,129	587	52	265	23	277	25

There are now 1,455 widows and 1,185 deserted wives receiving allowances. The proportion of the latter to the total is 44·8 per cent., as compared with 43·4 per cent. for the previous twelve months. These figures refer to desertion *de facto*. The term "deserted wives" includes also women whose husbands are in gaol, in a hospital for the insane, a general hospital, or a Government asylum for the infirm and destitute. This percentage of cases has risen from 22·5 in 1897 to 44·8 during the year under review. Details for each year appear in the following table :—

Year.	Deserted Wives.						Widows.	Proportion.	
	Husband Deserted.	Insane.	In Gaol.	In Asylum.	In Hospital.	Total.		Deserted Wives.	Widows.
1897 ... ..	62	14	5	4	...	85	293	22·5	77·5
1898 ... ..	132	26	25	15	5	203	567	26·3	73·7
1899 ... ..	179	39	18	17	8	261	674	28·0	72·0
1900 ... ..	211	45	23	19	16	314	755	29·4	70·6
1901 ... ..	198	48	33	25	31	335	709	32·1	67·9
1902 ... ..	204	51	45	34	38	372	795	31·8	68·2
1903 ... ..	200	55	39	46	41	381	871	30·5	69·5
1904 ... ..	214	54	59	51	44	422	860	32·3	67·7
1905 ... ..	176	69	67	59	57	428	826	34·2	65·8
1906 ... ..	169	69	67	56	62	423	756	35·9	64·1
1907 ... ..	158	69	71	63	64	425	782	35·2	64·7
1908 ... ..	210	82	99	62	72	525	880	37·4	62·6
1909 ... ..	230	91	98	65	80	564	923	37·9	62·1
1910 ... ..	250	102	109	64	92	617	936	39·8	60·2
1911 ... ..	264	125	93	63	109	654	914	41·7	58·3
1912 ... ..	296	142	95	68	126	727	947	43·4	56·6
1913 ... ..	377	158	95	69	142	841	1,052	44·4	55·6
1914 ... ..	425	165	105	69	139	903	1,192	43·1	56·9
1915 ... ..	458	169	115	72	166	980	1,310	42·8	57·2
1916 ... ..	523	191	124	78	186	1,102	1,443	43·3	56·7
1917 ... ..	508	201	126	78	204	1,117	1,388	44·4	55·6
1918 ... ..	522	225	126	83	229	1,185	1,455	44·8	55·2

The following table shows the proportion of wives "technically deserted" and those "deserted *de facto*":—

Year.	Wives deserted <i>de facto</i> .	Wives technically deserted.	Deserted Wives (Total).	Proportion of former to Total.
1897 ... ..	62	23	85	per cent. 73·0
1898 ... ..	132	71	203	65·0
1899 ... ..	179	82	261	68·2
1900 ... ..	211	103	314	67·2
1901 ... ..	198	137	335	59·1
1902 ... ..	204	168	372	54·8
1903 ... ..	200	181	381	52·2
1904 ... ..	214	208	422	50·7
1905 ... ..	176	252	428	41·1
1906 ... ..	169	254	423	40·0
1907 ... ..	158	267	425	37·1
1908 ... ..	210	315	525	40·0
1909 ... ..	230	334	564	40·7
1910 ... ..	250	367	617	40·5
1911 ... ..	264	390	654	40·3
1912 ... ..	296	431	727	40·7
1913 ... ..	377	464	841	44·8
1914 ... ..	425	478	903	47·0
1915 ... ..	458	522	980	46·7
1916 ... ..	523	579	1,102	47·4
1917 ... ..	508	609	1,117	45·3
1918 ... ..	522	663	1,185	44·0

The increase in the number of actually deserted wives since the inception of this form of relief is very noticeable. Five hundred and twenty-two destitute families are at the present time a permanent charge upon the Government in consequence.

The number of mothers and children towards whose support assistance has been granted each year is indicated hereunder :—

Year.	Number of Mothers.	Number of Children.	Increase in number of Children.	Decrease in number of Children.
1896-7 ... ..	378	1,230	...	...
1897-8 ... ..	770	2,422	1,192	...
1898-9 ... ..	935	2,884	462	...
1899-1900 ... ..	1,069	3,257	373	...
1900-1 ... ..	1,044	3,065	...	192
1901-2 ... ..	1,167	3,265	200	...
1902-3 ... ..	1,252	3,366	121	...
1903-4 ... ..	1,282	3,435	49	...
1904-5 ... ..	1,254	3,317	...	118
1905-6 ... ..	1,179	3,146	...	171
1906-7 ... ..	1,207	3,025	...	121
1907-8 ... ..	1,405	3,633	608	...
1908-9 ... ..	1,487	3,980	347	...
1909-10 ... ..	1,553	4,097	117	...
1910-11 ... ..	1,568	4,182	85	...
1911-12 ... ..	1,674	4,453	271	...
1912-13 ... ..	1,893	5,386	933	...
1913-14 ... ..	2,095	5,970	584	...
1914-15 ... ..	2,290	6,612	642	...
1915-16 ... ..	2,545	7,310	698	...
1916-17 ... ..	2,505	7,323	13	...
1917-18 ... ..	2,640	7,764	441	...

In the following table a contrast is made between the rates of payment for "relief to children of widows and deserted wives" during the years 1904 and 1909, and similar rates paid since 1912 :—

RELIEF to Widows and Deserted Wives.

Year.			No. of Children.	Admitted during year.	Rates paid per week for each.						
					5/-	4/6	4/-	3/6	3/-	2/6	2/-
1904	...	...	3,435	49	15	2	55	39	637	1,188	1,402
1909	...	...	3,980	347	62	11	230	176	890	1,288	1,316
1912	...	...	4,453	271	678	133	943	496	883	501	819
1913	...	...	5,386	933	1,537	88	1,471	355	707	434	791
1914	...	...	5,970	584	2,021	72	1,648	297	770	391	769
1915	...	...	6,612	642	2,198	54	2,101	321	809	362	765
1916	...	...	7,310	698	4,524	20	1,881	118	504	133	23
1917	...	...	7,323	431	5,271	6	1,391	71	335	91	2
1918	...	...	7,764	441	5,356	8	1,197	50	268	78	...

In the remaining few cases the following weekly rates are paid :—10s. per week for each of 5 children, 7s. 6d. per week for each of 29 children, 7s. per week for each of 111 children, 6s. 8d. per week for each of 4 children, 6s. per week for each of 647 children, 3s. 9d. per week for each of 6 children, 3s. 4d. per week for each of 5 children.

The figures for these later years show the tendency to pay for all children at the maximum rates. As this aspect has been thoroughly reviewed in former Reports, I shall not deal with it again here.

TOTAL

TOTAL Number of Mothers on Books at end of each Year.

Year.	Total number of Mothers.	Widows.	Percentage of Total.	Deserted <i>de facto</i> .	Percentage of Total.	Technical desertion.	Percentage of Total.
1896-7 ...	378	293	77	62	17	23	6
1905-6 ...	1,179	756	64	169	14	254	22
1906-7 ...	1,207	782	64	158	15	267	21
1907-8 ...	1,405	880	62	210	15	315	23
1908-9 ...	1,487	923	62	230	15	334	23
1909-10 ...	1,553	936	60	250	17	367	23
1910-11 ...	1,568	914	58	264	17	390	25
1911-12 ...	1,674	947	56	296	18	431	26
1912-13 ...	1,893	1,052	56	377	20	464	24
1913-14 ...	2,095	1,192	57	425	20	478	22
1914-15 ...	2,290	1,310	57	458	20	522	23
1915-16 ...	2,545	1,443	57	523	20	579	23
1916-17 ...	2,505	1,388	55	508	20	609	25
1917-18 ...	2,640	1,455	55	522	19	663	26

The following table shows the distribution of mothers and children, and the separate rates paid :—

CHILDREN Boarded out to their own Mothers.

Allowances.			Continued.	Miscellaneous Applications.	Refused.	Discharged.	Total.
Granted.	Increased.	Reduced.					
1,129	344	624	212	31	261	984	3,585

The undermentioned Mothers are now in receipt of relief :—

Widows.	Deserted Wives.					Total.
	Husbands Deserted.	Husbands Insane.	Husbands in Gaol.	Husbands in Govt. Asylums.	Husbands in Hospitals.	
1,455	522	225	126	83	229	2,640

The children with their own mothers are being paid for at the following weekly rates :—

5/-	4/-	6/-	3/-	7/-	2/6	3/6	7/6	4/6	3/9	10/-	3/4	6/8	Total.
5,356	1,197	647	268	111	78	50	29	8	6	5	5	4	7,764

### DIVISION C.

#### INFANT PROTECTION ACT.

The operations under the Infant Protection Act, which provides for the supervision, maintenance, and care of children up to 7 years of age apart from their parents in private homes or religious establishments, are likely, shortly, to be substantially increased by an amendment of the law, which proposes to bring all children in such places under supervision up to the age of 16 years. A draft bill is now with the Minister.

Licenses for children are recommended after inquiry by the Board's officers, by my Board, to the Minister for Education, as the licensing authority. The number of children who may be kept in any one home is conditioned by the license. The licensed homes are classified under two headings—

(a) Those for the accommodation of a maximum of 5 children.

(b) Those for the accommodation of a greater number than 5 children.

Separate regulations govern each child.

The



The total number of licenses granted under this Act for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1917, was 166. For the same period licenses have been issued to the following institutions, maintained by public subscription. (Supervision, of course, applies only to the children under 7 years):—

	Children.
Foundling Home, Waitara ... ..	75
Infants' Home, Ashfield ... ..	60
Babies' Home, Rockdale ... ..	25
St. Michael's Orphanage, Baulkham Hills ... ..	100
C.E. Deaconess' Home, Marrickville ... ..	45
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Boys, Kincumber ... ..	20
St. Anne's Orphanage for Girls, Liverpool ... ..	12
St. Brigid's Orphanage for Girls, Ryde ... ..	30
Dalmar Children's Home, Croydon ... ..	36
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Goulburn ... ..	12
St. Anne's Orphanage for Girls, Broken Hill ... ..	12
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Bathurst ... ..	10
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Gore Hill ... ..	10
Church of England Orphanage, Burwood... ..	45
St. John's Boy's Orphanage, Goulburn ... ..	20
St. John's Orphanage, Albury ... ..	12
Burnside Orphanages, Parramatta... ..	75
Salvation Army Home, Arncliffe ... ..	20
Sydney Norland Nurseries... ..	20
Dill Macky Memorial Home, Auburn ... ..	10
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Cowper ... ..	14

Ten applications from private householders were refused, or licenses withdrawn, because of the unsatisfactory character of the applicants or their homes.

The number of children under 7 years who were inmates of private establishments on the 31st December, 1917, is shown in the following table:—

Institution.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 6 years.	6 to 7 years.	Total.
Foundling Home, Waitara ... ..	15	21	2	13	8	9	4	72
Infants' Home, Ashfield ... ..	6	4	7	5	6	1	...	29
Babies' Home, Rockdale ... ..	...	6	2	3	4	6	3	24
St. Michael's Orphanage, Baulkham Hills ... ..	...	...	...	3	11	12	11	37
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Kincumber ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	10	...	11
St. Anne's Orphanage, Liverpool ... ..	...	...	...	4	1	4	4	13
St. Brigid's Orphanage, Ryde ... ..	...	...	3	5	...	...	13	21
Dalmar Children's Home, Croydon ... ..	...	1	6	...	6	2	5	20
St. John's Boys' Orphanage, Goulburn ... ..	...	...	...	...	4	8	1	13
St. Anne's Orphanage, Broken Hill ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Bathurst ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Gore Hill ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	5	3	10
Church of England Orphanage, Burwood ... ..	...	...	2	1	3	2	4	12
St. John's Orphanage, Albury ... ..	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	5
Burnside Presbyterian Homes, Parramatta ... ..	...	...	...	3	14	16	22	55
Norland Nurseries, Waverley ... ..	7	2	...	8	...	...	1	18
Salvation Army Home, Arncliffe ... ..	...	...	...	2	2	4	6	14
C.E. Deaconess' Home, Marrickville ... ..	...	...	1	1	2	5	6	15
St. Joseph's Girls' Home, Goulburn... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	9
King Edward VII Home, Auburn ... ..	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	5
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Cowper ... ..	...	...	...	4	...	6	...	10
Total ... ..	28	34	24	57	65	94	98	400

The general health of the children has been good. Deaths have been reported from the Infants' Home, Ashfield, and the Foundling Home, Waitara (which deals with very young infants). The mortality of children in these institutions, with particulars of age, cause of death, was :—

CHILDREN CARED FOR APART FROM THEIR MOTHERS.—Ages and causes of death, 1st January to 31st December, 1917.

	3 months and under.		3 to 6 months.		6 to 9 months.		9 to 12 months.		Over 12 months.		Total.
	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	
Gastro-enteritis .....	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	1	...	6
Whooping cough and enteritis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Broncho-pneumonia .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Total .....	...	2	...	3	...	2	...	...	4	...	11

The deaths at the Infants' Home, Ashfield, and the Foundling Home, Waitara, in relation to the number of children admitted, were for the past five years :—

	With Mothers.						Without Mothers.					
	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Waitara Foundling Home—												
Admissions ... ..	30	50	50	42	58	23	55	82	45	23	36	62
Deaths ... ..	5	6	6	12	6	2	20	27	11	13	8	4
Ashfield Infants' Home—												
Admissions ... ..	46	35	37	33	30	45	28	28	38	32	28	27
Deaths ... ..	3	6	6	1	5	14	2	2	3	4	11	7

#### DIVISION D.

The Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders' Act—operations in regard to—

- (a) The Metropolitan Children's Court; (b) Metropolitan Boys' Shelter, Sydney; (c) release of children on probation; (d) street trading by children.

#### (a) METROPOLITAN CHILDREN'S COURT.

The operations of the Metropolitan Children's Court are divided into two distinct sections.

In No. 1 room, presided over by Mr. H. S. Hawkins, matters are dealt with—

1. When the defendants are adults.
2. Affiliation cases under the Infant Protection Act.

In No. 2 room, presided over by Mr. F. H. Galbraith, the cases dealt with are—

1. Where children only are concerned as neglected, uncontrollable, or delinquent.
2. Of widows and deserted wives, who are applicants for monetary relief in terms of section 16 of the State Children Relief Act.

Courts are also held in the metropolitan area, at Parramatta, Hunter's Hill, and Hornsby.

As pointed out in my last Report, the method of inviting children to the Court has been further simplified, the practice now in vogue is to simply send a memorandum to the child requesting attendance at the Court, and that he should be accompanied by a parent or adult friend. This arrangement relieves the parents of all Court costs. The results have been highly satisfactory; in one case only during the past year was it found necessary to issue a summons.

In its aim to keep the members of families together, the Court was not quite so successful as in previous years. One hundred and sixty-six children, representing 61 families, were before the Court as being neglected by their parents; the cause being generally excessive drinking by one or both parents. Of these children, 103 of them, representing

representing 42 families, were returned to their own homes on the parents showing they can live soberly. Among those referred to in this respect are the children of twelve men—soldiers fighting in France. In their cases the mothers had been drinking to excess, and consequently neglecting their children. I am pleased to report that in nine of these cases the women pulled themselves together, and their children have been returned to them. I am of opinion that a special home should be established at Mittagong for the children of soldiers thus neglected.

For the official year ended 5th April, 1918, the number of children brought before the Metropolitan Children's Court was 2,396, of whom 2,163 were boys and 233 girls. Compared with the figures of last year, the total represents an increase of 157 in the number of boys and 61 in the number of girls. Of the 2,396 cases dealt with, 720 were either withdrawn or dismissed, so that the actual number of proved cases was 1,676 (or 57 more than the number last year). In some instances more than one charge was laid against a child, but one only has been considered in the calculation.

The following table shows the decision of the Court in regard to other children. Figures for the past six years are here inserted for purposes of comparison :—

Decision.	1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.		1917.		1918.	
	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,591).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,421).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,314).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,515).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,617).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,676).
Committed to gazetted institutions—												
To Farm Home, Mittagong .....	165	10.37	164	11.5	213	16.2	187	12.3	186	8.3	211	12.5
To Farm Home, Gosford .....	26	1.63	29	2.04	45	3.4	28	1.9	38	1.7	38	3.4
To Girls' Industrial School Parramatta .....	13	2.19	8	.08	30	2.8	38	3.3	18	2.1	18	2.2
To Girls' Training Home, Parramatta .....	22		4		7		12		31		19	
Totals .....	226	14.19	205	13.62	295	22.4	265	17.5	273	12.1	306	18.1
Released on probation .....	674	...	708	...	780	...	1,051	...	1,202	...	1,282	...
Committed to care of persons .....	244	...	188	...	75	...	82	...	66	...	...	...
Totals .....	918	57.69	896	63.0	855	65.0	1,133	74.7	1,268	57.3	1,282	76.5
Committed to Ormond House to be boarded out .....	73	5.33	58	5.8	53	6.6	74	6.5	59	3.3	66	5.2
Committed to care of State Children Relief Department .....	15		25		35		25		15		22	
Committed to Rescue Homes .....	10	.62	22	1.5	8	.6	11	.7	2	.1	...	...
Totals .....	98	6.15	105	7.3	96	7.2	110	7.2	76	3.4	88	5.2

Three hundred and six children were committed to institutions gazetted under the Act (or 33 more than the number last year). The committals to the Farm Home, Mittagong, were 211, or 25 more than the number for the previous year. 83.3 per cent. of the cases brought before the Court were dealt with otherwise than commitment to institutions. Fifty-eight boys were sent to the Farm Home for Boys at Gosford, being 20 more than the number last year. No boys were fined during the year.

As regards the total number of "cases proved" during the year, the following tables, giving a comparison for the past nine years in the method of treatment, are interesting :—

	1910. per cent.	1911. per cent.	1912. per cent.	1913. per cent.	1914. per cent.	1915. per cent.	1916. per cent.	1917. per cent.	1918. per cent.
Total committals to institutions (gazetted and otherwise) ... ..	23.7	16.2	14.6	14.81	12.56	23.0	18.2	12.1	18.1
Gazetted—Farm Home, Mittagong ... ..	11.9	8.3	12.2	10.37	9.1	16.2	12.3	8.3	12.5
" Sobraon "      { now Farm	5.8	5.8	2.3	1.63	1.6	3.4	1.9	1.7	3.4
Brush Farm      { Home, Gos-	1.9	0.5							
Industrial School (Girls). Training Home for Girls, Parramatta ... ..	1.4	0.8	.07	2.19	.66	2.8	3.3	2.1	2.2
Total of cases disposed of other than committed to institutions ... ..	76.3	83.5	84.7	85.19	87.3	77.6	81.8	84.5	83.3
Released on probation ... ..	42.0	47.6	51.05	57.69	49.8	65.0	74.7	56.2	76.5
Committed to be boarded out ... ..	7.3	5.3	6.3	5.53	4.6	6.6	6.5	3.3	5.2
Fined ... ..	19.6	30.6	26.5	21.93	11.8	5.1	.6	.1	.0

As in former years, the largest proportion of offences was stealing; this year, 557 cases.

Six hundred and ninety cases, or 39·2 per cent. of those dealt with and proved, were withdrawn after the children had been admonished by the Special Magistrate.

Committals to all institutions have increased since last year from 12·1 to 18·1 per cent.

It will be noticed that 96 per cent. of the children dealt with by the Court and committed to institutions or placed on probation came under the jurisdiction of the Board. Last year the proportion was also 96 per cent, and the previous year 94·2.

The cases dismissed or withdrawn numbered 720, or 84 more than for the corresponding period last year. There were 809 cases under the "Neglected" or "Uncontrollable" provisions of the Act, as follows:—

Charge.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Neglected ... ..	151	62	213
Uncontrollable ... ..	240	42	282
Breaking terms of probation ... ..	56	14	70
Improper guardianship (Children's Protection Act) ... ..	13	12	25
Cases under above headings discharged or withdrawn ... ..	183	36	219
	643	166	809

Of these 809 cases, 52 boys were committed to the Farm Home, Mittagong, for breach of conditions of release on probation, and 3 to the Farm Home for Boys at Gosford for a similar reason. In addition, 58 uncontrollable and 11 neglected boys were sent to the Farm Home, Mittagong, and 11 uncontrollable boys to the Farm Home, Gosford. Seven uncontrollable and 7 neglected girls were sent to the Industrial School, and 8 uncontrollable and 2 neglected girls to the Training Home at Parramatta. For breaches of conditions, 3 girls were sent to the Industrial School and 8 to the Training Home, Parramatta. Twenty-five children—10 more than last year—found to be under improper guardianship were committed to the care of the Board. Fifty-nine children were committed to Ormond House to be boarded out.

The following statistical tables are submitted in connection with the year's operations at the Metropolitan Children's Court:—

TABLE I.—Disposal of Cases dealt with (showing ages of children).

Disposal.		Age in Years.													Total.
		1-4.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.	
Released on Probation .....	{ Boys	...	...	3	11	41	85	136	132	189	189	185	184	...	1,155
	{ Girls	...	...	1	3	2	2	3	1	5	10	13	13	...	53
Ormond House, Paddington .....	{ Boys	...	3	5	6	5	5	3	1	3	1	1	...	...	33
	{ Girls	...	2	1	6	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	6	...	29
Farm Home, Mittagong .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	2	7	9	24	36	47	53	24	9	...	211
Farm Home, Gosford .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	11	14	30	2	58
Industrial School, Parramatta .....	{ Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	11	2	...	19
Training Home, Parramatta .....	{ Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	11	2	...	19
Care of Persons (Military) .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Probation to other than Parents .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	...	2	1	4	4	7	10	9	5	...	42
	{ Girls	...	2	...	...	2	1	2	3	5	4	5	8	...	32
Kindred Institutions .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Children Relief Board .....	{ Boys	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
	{ Girls	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Fined .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Committed for Trial .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Truant School .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total .....	{ Boys	8	11	8	19	55	101	167	173	247	264	233	228	2	1,516
	{ Girls	10	6	2	9	5	5	7	7	15	25	42	31	...	164
		18	17	10	28	60	106	174	180	262	289	275	259	2	1,680
Withdrawn .....	{ Boys	5	4	6	7	24	28	39	52	63	100	146	144	1	619
	{ Girls	3	2	3	...	4	3	3	6	4	9	11	17	1	66
Discharged .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	...	2	1	5	5	5	2	3	5	...	28
	{ Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	3
Grand Total .....	{ Boys	13	15	14	26	81	130	211	230	315	366	382	377	3	2,163
	{ Girls	13	8	5	9	9	8	10	13	20	34	53	50	1	233
		26	23	19	35	90	138	221	243	335	400	435	427	4	2,396



TABLE II.—Summary of Children dealt with.

How dealt with.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Released on probation to parents .....	1,155	53	1,208
Do to other than parents .....	42	32	74
Committed to Ormond House, Paddington .....	33	29	62
Committed to Farm Home, Mittagong .....	211	.....	211
Committed to Farm Home, Gosford .....	58	.....	58
Committed to Girls' Industrial School, Parramatta .....	.....	19	19
Committed to Girls' Training Home, do .....	.....	19	19
Committed to care of persons (military offences) .....	.....	.....	.....
Committed to kindred institutions .....	.....	.....	.....
Committed to care of State Children Relief Board .....	16	12	28
Fined .....	.....	.....	.....
Withdrawn .....	619	66	685
Dismissed or discharged .....	28	3	31
Committed for trial .....	.....	.....	.....
Truant Schools .....	1	.....	1
Total .....	2,163	233	2,396

TABLE III.—Released on Probation.

Offence.	Age in Years.										Total.
	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Boys.											
Uncontrollable .....	...	2	12	16	19	21	34	23	15	17	159
Neglected—No means of support— Living under conditions.....	2	...	1	4	2	...	3	4	1	...	17
Street trading .....	...	...	1	1	5	...	13	9	5	4	46
Loitering .....	...	2	2	7	7	7	7	7	2	...	34
Sleeping out.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Improper lodger .....	1	...	2	1	...	...	2	1	2	...	9
Parent a drunkard.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Indecent assault.....	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3
Indecent behavior .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Attempting to steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Stealing .....	...	6	6	20	58	52	63	92	72	67	436
Exploding fireworks .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Having stolen goods in possession .....	...	...	1	1	1	2	...	1	...	...	6
Breaking, entering, and stealing.....	...	3	11	22	28	21	34	16	19	13	167
False pretences .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Furious riding.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aiding and abetting game of chance.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assault .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Malicious damage .....	...	...	3	9	6	9	11	9	7	1	55
Offensive behaviour.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	5	10	17
Playing cards in street .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	4	9
Breaking lamp.....	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	2	2	3	11
Receiving .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2	6
Riotous behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	10	16
Playing games in street.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Two-up .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Breaches of City by-laws .....	...	...	...	1	3	5	2	2	2	4	19
Breaches of traffic regulations .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Breaches of Railway and Tramway by-laws ..	...	...	...	2	1	5	10	12	25	24	79
Trespassing .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	4	8
Indecent language .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	9	13
Throwing stones .....	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	2	2	1	10
Discharging firearms in street.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	1	6
Malicious shooting with intent.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Embezzlement .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Illegally using horse.....	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	1	1	...	6
Neglect—Begging .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    Ill-treated .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Uttering counterfeit .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Collect old wares without license .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Ill-treating dog .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Forgery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total .....	3	11	41	85	136	132	189	190	185	184	1,155
GIRLS.											
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	4	5	17
Neglected—Vice and crime .....	1	2	1	1	...	...	1	1	2	1	10
Street trading.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wandering .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Insufficient lodging .....	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Stealing .....	...	...	1	...	2	...	2	3	4	3	15
Breaking and entering .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
False pretences .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Forgery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Assault .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Breaches—Railway and Tramway by-laws ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Riotous behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Indecent language .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Set fire to home .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total .....	1	3	2	2	3	1	5	10	13	13	53

Released on probation—Total number of Boys .....	1,155
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Boys .....	51
Girls.....	53

Grand Total .....	1,208
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TABLE IV.—Released on Probation to persons other than parents.

Offence.	Age in years.											Total.
	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Boys.												
Uncontrollable .....	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	2	8
Neglected—												
Living under conditions .....	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	5
Street trading .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	3	1	5	2	15
Throwing stones .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Playing cards in street .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Break, enter and steal .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	7
Offensive behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Indecent language .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Indecent assault .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Illegally using horse .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Breach Railway and Tramway by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Neglected wandering .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Fraudulent appropriation .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Receiving .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Total .....	...	...	...	2	1	4	4	7	10	9	5	42
GIRLS.												
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	6	14
Neglected—												
Living under conditions .....	2	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	7
Fraudulent appropriation .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Break, enter and steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Improper guardianship .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stealing .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	4
Breach Railway and Tramway by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	3
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Offensive behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total .....	2	...	...	2	1	2	3	5	4	5	8	32
Total number of Boys .....												42
,, Girls .....												32
Grand total .....												74

TABLE V.—Committed to the care of the State Children Relief Department Board.

Offence.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	Total.
Boys.									
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Absconding .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Improper guardianship .....	3	4	1	8	...	...	...	...	16
Neglected—									
No means of support .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total .....	3	4	1	8	...	...	...	...	16
GIRLS.									
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Absconding .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Neglected—									
Improper Guardianship .....	4	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	12
Total .....	4	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	12
Total number of Boys .....									61
,, Girls .....									12
Grand Total .....									28

TABLE

TABLE VI.—Committed to the Farm Home, Mittagong.

Offence.	Age in Years.										Total.
	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Boys.											
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	5	1	5	11	14	12	7	3	58
Neglected—											
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	1	2	2	1	1	1	...	...	8
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	3	9	9	14	11	4	2	52
Stealing .....	...	1	..	1	6	8	11	16	6	3	52
Breaking lamps .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Riotous behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Have unlawful purpose .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Illegally using horse .....	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	3
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	1	2	2	4	6	10	5	1	31
Maliciously wounding .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Neglected—Vice and crime .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
„ Street trading .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
False pretences .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
Trespassing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total.....	...	2	7	9	24	36	47	53	24	9	211

TABLE VII.—Committed to the Farm Home, Gosford.

Offence.	Age in Years.					
	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.	Total.
Uncontrollable .....	...	1	3	7	...	11
Neglected—						
Living under conditions .....	...	1	...	...	...	1
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	1	...	2	3
Riotous behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Indecent assault .....	...	...	1	...	...	1
Stealing .....	1	4	3	11	...	19
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	5	6	11	...	22
Indecent exposure .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
War Precautions Regulations .....	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total .....	1	11	14	30	2	58

TABLE VIII.—Committed to the Girls' Industrial School, Parramatta, with which is incorporated the Training Home for Girls. (The table shows those who were expressly committed to that branch.)

Offence.	Age in years.					Total.
	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.						
Neglected—						
Living under conditions .....	...	1	1	5	...	7
Uncontrollable .....	...	1	2	4	...	7
Stealing .....	1	...	...	1	...	2
Breach of conditions.....	...	...	...	1	2	3
False pretences .....	...	...	..	...	...	...
Total .....	1	2	3	11	2	19
TRAINING HOME FOR GIRLS.						
Neglected—						
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	...	2	...	2
Living under conditions .....	...	...	...	3	...	8
Uncontrollable .....	...	5	3	...	...	8
Breach of conditions.....	...	1	...	5	2	8
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Attempt suicide .....	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total .....	...	1	5	11	2	19
Grand Total .....	1	3	8	22	4	38

TABLE 1X.—Committed to Ormond House, Paddington.

Offence.	Age in years.											Total.
	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Boys.												
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	3
Indecent Assault .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Neglected—												
Living under conditions .....	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	...	...	...	12
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	1
Improper guardianship .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No fixed place of abode .....	2	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	..	9
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Trespassing .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total .....	3	5	6	5	5	3	1	3	1	1	...	33
GIRLS.												
Neglected—												
No means of support .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Not sufficient lodging .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3
Living under conditions .....	1	1	5	1	1	...	1	...	2	1	2	15
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Breaches of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	3
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3
No fixed place of abode .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Parent a drunkard .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Ill-treated .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total .....	2	1	6	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	6	29
Total number of Boys ..... 33												
" Girls ..... 29												
Grand Total ..... 62												

TABLE X.—Withdrawn. The policy of the Court in minor offences is to have cases, although fully proved, formally withdrawn (usually on payment of costs) to avoid the recording of a conviction.

Offence.	Age in Years.													Total.
	1-4.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.	
BOYS.														
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	4	1	5	3	6	...	24
Neglected—														
Street trading .....	...	...	...	...	1	5	5	9	11	6	6	3	...	46
Insufficient lodging .....	...	2	2	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Vice and crime .....	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	4
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	3	...	1	1	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	10
Insufficient medical treatment .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Improper guardianship .....	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	3	5	8	14	8	9	20	5	10	1	8
Breaches of Park by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Breaches of Railway and Tramway by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	11	8	10	21	29	52	105	104	...	34
Throwing stones .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	3	...	...	...
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Stealing .....	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	...	4	2	3	3	...	1
Using insulting words .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Riotous behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Playing games in street .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Traffic by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	...	...
Indecent language .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trespassing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
Assault .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3	1	2	...	1
Break lamp .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	1	2	3	1	...	1
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Having goods in possession .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Make bonfire .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Discharge firearms .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Playing cards .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Breach of Council by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	3	6	6	...	...
Absent from apprenticeship .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Truants .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...
Illegally using horse .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Total .....	5	4	6	7	24	28	39	52	63	100	146	144	1	6



TABLE X—continued.

Offence.	Age in Years.													Total.
	1-4.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.	
GIRLS.														
Uncontrollable .....	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	3	...	7
Neglected--	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vice and crime .....	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	7
Insufficient lodging .....	...	1	1	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	7
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	...	3	1	9
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Improper guardianship.....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	...	...	5
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Assault.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Breach of Railway and Tramway by-laws	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	6	9	...	18
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No fixed place of abode.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	...	6
Breach of City Council by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Truants .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total.....	3	2	3	...	4	3	3	6	4	9	11	17	1	66
Total number of Boys ..... 619														
" Girls ..... 66														
Grand Total ..... 685														

TABLE XI.—Dismissed or Discharged.

Offence.	Age in Years.											Total.
	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Boys.												
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Neglected—												
Living under conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Improper guardianship .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Break lamp.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Street trading.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Breach of conditions.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	2	1	6
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	2	2	9
Throwing stones .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	5
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cruelly illtreat dog .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Attempt to steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Embezzlement .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Total .....	...	...	...	2	1	5	5	5	2	3	5	28
GIRLS.												
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	3
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Neglected—												
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vice and crime .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assault .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Breach of conditions.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Improper guardianship .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	3
Total number of Boys .....												28
,, Girls .....												3
Grand total .....												31

TABLE XII.—Committed to Truant School, Guildford.

Offence.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	Total.
Boys.				
Truanting .....	...	1	...	1
Total .....	...	1	...	1

## PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AMENDMENT ACT.

The Public Instruction Amendment Act came into operation at the Court in August, 1917, and up till the 5th April, 1918, one boy only was committed to the Truant School. Thirty-one cases against parents were withdrawn on their undertaking to see that their children attended school regularly in future; in 23 cases the parent was fined a small amount.

## METROPOLITAN BOYS' SHELTER.

The Shelter adjoins the Court, and is used for the following purposes :—

1. For the detention of lads committed to institutions from all Courts throughout the State pending Ministerial determination as to their disposal.
2. For the detention of lads apprehended by the police in the metropolitan and sub-metropolitan districts, pending the Court's decision in regard to them.
3. For the detention of lads remanded until reports have been obtained as to home surroundings and general character.
4. For the detention of lads remanded for discipline and for mental and medical examination and necessary treatment.
5. For the detention of lads sentenced to imprisonment in default of payment of fines.

The admissions for the year totalled 1,510 (which was 37 less than last year), and were as follow :—

For detention in lieu of paying fines	...	...	...	...	1
For medical examination	...	...	...	...	4
From metropolitan court	...	...	...	...	287
From country courts	...	...	...	...	118
From police	...	...	...	...	646
For transfer	...	...	...	...	453
Presented himself	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/> 1,510

The discharges were 1,497, and were disposed of as follow :—

Discharged, over 16 years of age	...	...	...	...	1
To Aborigines Board	...	...	...	...	6
To Ormond House	...	...	...	...	28
Farm Home, Gosford	...	...	...	...	97
Farm Home, Mittagong	...	...	...	...	349
Parents or guardians	...	...	...	...	920
Training ship "Tingara"	...	...	...	...	1
Liverpool Asylum	...	...	...	...	1
Arrested by police and allowed home with parents prior to appearance in court					<hr/> 94

On 5th April, 1917, there were in the Shelter 32 boys. During the year, 1,510 were admitted and 1,497 discharged. The daily average for the year was 44.1, as compared with 43.4 for the previous year.

It will be noticed that 94 boys, arrested by the police, were allowed home with their parents prior to appearing before the Court on a promise to be present when required; in every case, as in the previous year, each boy so trusted kept his promise.

There were no absconders.

The religious training of the boys received attention; visitors of both Protestant and Catholic churches attended and gave lessons. The lads were taken to their respective churches on Sundays. Moral lessons were given daily by the superintendent.

Mr. Ellison, dentist, visited the Shelter twice weekly and attended to the teeth of the boys.

As Shelters are not connected with the Courts at Parramatta and other sub-metropolitan stations, it would be in the interests of all parties—parents, children and police—were the children's cases held in the Sydney Court. It would save a deal of travelling by all concerned. For instance, a child is arrested at Parramatta. As there is no Shelter there, he is brought to Sydney. He is called for on the next sitting day of that Court; in the event of him being committed to an institution, he is again returned to the Shelter at Sydney. Were these cases heard at the Sydney Court the expense of providing attendants would be done away with, and as this Court sits daily decisions would be more promptly given.

MENTAL

### MENTAL AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Shelter is visited three times weekly by Dr. Stewart. He examines all children who are apparently mentally, physically, or morally defective. As a preliminary to the doctor's examination, children are tested as to their educational standard; also their mental capacity, which is determined by the Binet-Simon method.

During the year, 223 boys were examined, with the following results:—

Mental condition—Below normal	...	...	...	...	...	44
Normal	...	...	...	...	...	179

Physical defects recommended for hospital treatment:—

Throat	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nose	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ears	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Eyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Circumcision	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
							<hr/> 33

Thus 33 children, or 6 per cent. of those examined, needed treatment by a medical man.

The thanks of the Department is due to the staffs of the different metropolitan hospitals for the kind and sympathetic treatment of the children whilst under their care.

The total cost of provisions, &c., at the Shelter for the year was £1,578 7s. 9d., the cost per head being £35 17s. 5d., and the daily average of inmates 44.

### RELEASE OF CHILDREN ON PROBATION.

The number of children released on probation by the Metropolitan and Suburban Children's Courts from the 6th April, 1917, to the 5th April, 1918, was 1,297. Of these, 1,215 were boys and 82 girls. From the country for the same period, 313 children were placed on probation, 284 being boys and 29 girls. The total number of children released on probation for the year was 1,610.

In addition to these, 225 children were discharged to their relatives in the city and suburbs by the State Children Relief Board and Ministerial authority, and 47 children were returned to their relatives in the country—total 272.

One thousand five hundred children, who were released on probation previous to 6th April, 1917, and whose period had not expired, were visited by departmental inspectors; so that a total of 3,382 children on probation have been visited during the year.

Of the children released on probation by the Metropolitan Children's Court during the year 1917-18, 169 boys and 22 girls were committed to institutions.

In the country, 22 boys and 2 girls were sent to institutions.

Children on probation are visited by the Board's inspectors and by an honorary staff of some 300 ladies and gentlemen appointed by His Excellency the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister for Education, who received nominations from my Board. A full list of honorary officers, with districts, is shown herein. The list includes members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Salvation Army, Church of England Men's Society, clergymen of various religious denominations, and a number of ladies, and my Board has much pleasure in placing on record the valuable services rendered by them in their capacity as probation officers.

The statistical tables under this heading sufficiently explain themselves. As regards Table (III), it is explained that—

1. "Neglected" includes "habitually wandering," "lapsing into a career of vice and crime," "not being provided with sufficient and proper lodging," "having no fixed place of abode."
2. "Uncontrollable" includes cases of truancy.

3. "Stealing" includes "breaking and entering," "breaking, entering and stealing," "attempting to steal," "larceny as a bailee," "receiving stolen property."
4. "Minor offences" includes "riotous behaviour," "breaking street lamps," "soliciting hire on railway stations," "selling without a license," "throwing stones," "breaches of city, park, railway, tramway and other by-laws."
5. "Serious offences" includes "offensive behaviour," "causing grievous bodily harm," "breach of conditions," "indecent language," "obtaining goods by false pretences," "embezzlement," "forgery."

RETURN OF CHILDREN RELEASED ON PROBATION.  
Ages of Children on Probation as at date of release.

	Years. 5-10.	Years. 10-12.	Years. 12-14.	Years. 14-16.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—					
Boys ... ..	170	283	396	366	1,215
Girls ... ..	16	7	21	38	82
Country :—					
Boys ... ..	31	76	91	86	284
Girls ... ..	6	6	5	12	29
Grand total ... ..					1,610

Period of Release on Probation.

	Up to 1 year.	Over 1 year and up to 2.	Over 2 years and up to 3.	Over 3 years.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—					
Boys ... ..	1,192	19	2	2	1,215
Girls ... ..	34	30	8	10	82
Country :—					
Boys ... ..	269	13	.....	2	284
Girls ... ..	23	3	1	2	29
Grand total ... ..					1,610

Nature of Offence Committed.

	Neglected.	Uncon- trollable.	Stealing.	Minor Offences.	Serious Offences.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—						
Boys ... ..	107	160	641	251	56	1,215
Girls ... ..	26	31	17	4	4	82
Country :—						
Boys ... ..	11	21	172	51	29	284
Girls ... ..	13	2	8	1	5	29
Grand total ... ..						1,610

Behaviour of Children while on Probation.

	Excellent.	Satisfactory.	Un- satisfactory.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—				
Boys ... ..	624	238	353	1,215
Girls ... ..	45	24	13	82
Country :—				
Boys ... ..	175	77	32	284
Girls ... ..	22	4	3	29
Grand total ... ..				1,610



## Committed to Institutions while on Probation.

City and Suburban :—							
Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Country :—							
Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total							204

Released on Probation by the State Children Relief Board, and Ministerial Authority.

City and Suburban :—							
Boys and Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
Country :—							
Boys and Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Total							272

The usual periodical reports have been received from the honorary probation officers. The co-operation of two important social organisations has proved very effective—the Church of England Men's Society and the St. Vincent de Paul probation committee. Both these organisations report very satisfactory results. During the year meetings of probation committees were held in various suburbs and at the larger country centres, with the object of obtaining unity and action, and more closely familiarising honorary officers with the purposes in view. At these meetings the boarding-out officer, the chief inspector, and the inspector in charge of the district attended. It is found that these meetings have a very salutary influence on the performance of the work.

The following is a list of the honorary probation officers and the districts in which they work :—

## HONORARY PROBATION OFFICERS.

District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.	District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.
Abbotsford .....	Mr. M. J. West .....	C.E.	Broken Hill .....	Rev. E. J. Luck .....	Church of Christ.
Adaminaby .....	Rev. F. J. Chapple .....	C.E.	.....	Capt. James Wishart .....	S.A.
Alexandria .....	Rev. Father James Norris .....	R.C.	.....	Adj. Wm. Coudey .....	S.A.
Amundale .....	Mr. J. Fairfield .....	C.E.	Bondi .....	Mr. Jno. Sharpe .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. Jno. J. Diman .....	R.C.	Burwood .....	Mrs. Daniel .....	Baptist.
Araruen .....	Rev. Robt. Rook .....	Protestant.	.....	Mr. E. J. Hollingdale .....	R.C.
.....	Father O'Donnell .....	R.C.	.....	Rev. Father Barlow .....	R.C.
Ashfield .....	Mr. Gornley .....	R.C.	Botany .....	Rev. Wm. Thos. Price .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. D. C. Byrne .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. Reginald Bonnergea .....	Methodist.
.....	Mr. Henry Cook .....	C.E.	Booral .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Auburn .....	Mr. H. E. Page .....	Baptist.	Bulladelah .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. Wm. John Williams .....	R.C.	Boggabri .....	Rev. T. K. Reid .....	Methodist.
Arcliff .....	Mr. Herbert Hayes .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. F. St. John .....	C.E.
Allworth .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.	Camden .....	Miss H. M. Martin .....	C.E.
Balmain .....	Mr. Jno. C. Crawley .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. W. C. Furner .....	Methodist.
.....	Mr. Roy Wilson Robinson .....	Methodist.	Campsie .....	Mr. W. A. Sommers .....	R.C.
Balranald .....	Mr. A. A. Williams .....	Presbyterian.	.....	Rev. Andrew Calvin .....	C.E.
Bateman's Bay .....	Rev. Phillip Cassidy .....	R.C.	Canbelego .....	Rev. G. Snowden .....	C.E.
Beaconsfield .....	Mr. J. Fairfield .....	C.E.	Canowindra .....	Mr. B. H. Birchill .....	Protestant.
.....	Mr. Roy McKenzie .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. Charles E. Archer .....	C.E.
Bathurst .....	Mr. R. Bolton .....	Methodist.	.....	Rev. Robt. Douglas .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. P. J. Falvey .....	R.C.	Cessnock .....	Mr. Geo. Brown .....	Protestant.
.....	Rev. F. J. Harris .....	C.E.	Coraki .....	Mrs. J. M. Cameron .....	Presbyterian.
Barraba .....	Mr. Richard Blackall .....	C.E.	Canterbury .....	Mr. James Reilly .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. Patrick Jas. O'Mara .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. Thomas Boulton .....	R.C.
Bega .....	Miss Jane Ritchie .....	Methodist.	Chatawood .....	Mr. H. D. Williams .....	R.C.
.....	Rev. Father James Gunning .....	R.C.	.....	Rev. E. Walker .....	C.E.
.....	Rev. Benjamin Dore Bryant .....	C.E.	Cattai .....	Rev. David Beard .....	Protestant.
Bellambi .....	Mr. F. H. Fleming .....	Baptist.	.....	Mrs. David Beard .....	Protestant.
Belmont .....	Mr. Jno. Anderson .....	C.E.	Clunes .....	Mr. Robt. E. Walker .....	Methodist.
Berrigan .....	Mr. H. P. Whitty .....	C.E.	Copmanhurst .....	Mrs. Davidson .....	C.E.
Bexley .....	Rev. H. T. Holliday .....	C.E.	Cudal .....	Mrs. A. McKellar .....	C.E.
Belmore .....	Mr. P. Braek .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. Jan. Thos. Bate .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. Maurice Condon .....	R.C.	Corowa .....	Mrs. W. J. Broadbent .....	C.E.
Bombala .....	Rev. W. H. Marshall .....	Presbyterian.	Cox's River .....	Mr. Jno. W. Berghofer .....	C.E.
Bodalla .....	Rev. Samuel Hart .....	C.E.	Cooma .....	Rev. Father James Norris .....	R.C.
Bowral .....	Miss Constance Smith .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. Archdeacon Ward .....	Protestant.
Blayney .....	Rev. Canon Harris .....	C.E.	Coonamble .....	Mr. Jos. Clarke .....	All religions.
Bungendore .....	Rev. Father Daniel O'Sullivan .....	R.C.	Canley Vale .....	Mr. Aug. H. Wheatley .....	Protestant.
Baulkham Hills .....	Mrs. Louisa Telfer .....	Protestant.	.....	Mr. James O'Malley .....	R.C.
Bellingen .....	Father O'Regan .....	R.C.	Cabramatta .....	Mr. Aug. H. Wheatley .....	Protestant.
Broken Hill .....	Mr. Jno. Sherlock .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. James O'Malley .....	R.C.
.....	Rev. C. Doley .....	Methodist.	Condobolin .....	Mr. Jos. B. May .....	C.E.
.....	Rev. E. B. Wichert .....	Baptist.	Coogee .....	Rev. C. L. Williams .....	C.E.
.....	Rev. E. J. Stacey .....	Congregational.	.....	Mr. Walter D. Seafie .....	R.C.
.....	Rev. J. Waugh .....	Presbyterian.	Coolumba .....	Rev. Ross Edwards .....	C.E.

minimised. Very definite reports showed the necessity for the issue of such licenses, and that such issue will not result in injuring the child's moral welfare are required by the licensing officer before the licenses are issued. The necessity for the issue of the licenses is usually determined by the circumstances of the applicant's family. No charge is made for the license, but a deposit of 1s. 6d. is insisted upon from each licensee, the money being refunded to him when the badge is returned. The deposit is necessary because of the abuses and impositions practised amongst the lads. The badges are of metal and worn on the arm of the licensees. Children of school age wear badges of a distinctive colour. The necessity for amending the regulations has been brought under notice, and a draft copy of amendments has been submitted for the consideration of the Minister.

During the period ended 31st March, 1918, 782 licenses were granted; there were in all 837 applications, 55 being refused for various reasons (under age, unsuitable character, &c.), 32 licenses were withdrawn during the year for breaches of the regulations. The number of applications was 52 more than that received during last year. The age of licensees and the purposes for which licenses were granted were :—

						(a) Ages.		
						Under 14.	Over 14.	Total.
						401	381	782
						(b) Purposes.		
Hawking :—						Under 14.	Over 14.	Total.
	Newspapers	...	...	...	...	386	360	746
	Flowers, &c.	...	...	...	...	9	5	14
	Other articles	...	...	...	...	6	16	22
						401	381	782

Special attention has been given to the supervision of children frequenting fruit markets and similar places, and a number of cases of pilfering and neglect have been detected and dealt with. One hundred and twenty children have been found wandering about the markets, and there have been 35 prosecutions. Loitering at the Central Railway Station has also been reduced.

I would strongly urge that licenses should not be issued to boys under 14 years of age.

## DIVISION E.

### CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT.

This measure provides for the supervision of infants up to the age of 3 years who are placed in foster-homes for payment apart from their parents; for the inspection of nursing-homes (or private houses in which more than one infant is taken for payment), and for the oversight of infants born in lying-in homes.

The Children's Protection Act has enabled much good to be done in the direction of preserving the lives of young infants and minimising baby-farming, but it needs serious amendment on the lines which I have already indicated, in order that its purpose may be more effectively realised.

The Board once more has pleasure in acknowledging the valuable co-operation of medical men in private practice and at the various metropolitan hospitals in the work of protecting infant life.

A large proportion of the children supervised in terms of this Act are illegitimate. Only a section of this latter class is reached in this way. Over the others there is no control whatever—a grave defect, which should be remedied without delay.

There are now six female inspectors who visit licensed children in the city and suburbs, examine the home conditions and the health of the babies, and give instruction, where necessary, to the custodians in the proper dieting and general care of infants. They also take precaution to see that the regulation as to taking children during their first twelve months of life to a metropolitan hospital for medical examination fortnightly is strictly observed by the foster-mothers.

Statistical

Statistical information in connection with the operations of this Act for the year ended 31st December, 1917, is as follows:—

CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT—STATISTICS FOR PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

Registrations from lying-in homes...	10,039
Foster-homes registered	126
Children registered	1,112
Children discharged—	
To parents	306
To control of the State Children Relief Board	39
Over age (3 years)	151
Sent to Hospitals and Asylums, &c.—	
Children's Hospital	29
Other public hospitals	9
Benevolent Asylum	1
Private homes	9
Left the State	2
Adopted	34
Deaths	579
Total number of children under supervision on 31st December, 1917	34
Number of theatre licenses for children	499
	240

The total number of children under supervision in this section for the year was 1,112. Of these, 34 died. The ages and causes of death were as under. Death-rate, 3.05 per cent.

AGES AND CAUSES OF DEATH.

Under 1 year.				Under 1 year.			
Gastro enteritis	16	Congenital debility	1				
Marasmus	3	Broncho-pneumonia	4				
Gastritis	1	Syncope	1				
Bronchitis	2	Meningitis	1				
Enteritis	4	Diarrhoea	1				
Total				34			

THEATRE LICENSES FOR CHILDREN.

There were 240 theatre licenses for children. Such licenses are granted by the Minister in conformity with section 23 of the Act, and the supervision of investigations entailed before licenses are given is carried out by a special officer. Licenses are issued to children over 10 years of age in the metropolitan area. Children under 14 are not permitted to travel with touring companies. Applicants for licenses must produce a certificate from a school teacher that they have attended school 90 per cent. of the maximum number of school days. Strict supervision is required to protect the moral and material interests of children engaged in theatrical work and under similar conditions, and, as I have previously urged, legislation should be introduced to secure uniformity of action as between the different States; the co-operation of all is essential to obtain effective results.

CONCLUSION.

I have given in detail the operations under various headings of departmental work with which the State Children Relief Board is directly concerned. The series of appendices and progressive statistical tables, usually following the Report, are embodied in it.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. GREEN,

President, State Children Relief Board.

The Under Secretary,  
Department of Education.

1919 VOL. 2.

FROM P. 899



1919.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
NEW SOUTH WALES

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STATE CHILDREN RELIEF  
REPORT

OF THE

PRESIDENT, ALFRED WILSON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 1919

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Presented to Parliament in pursuance of the provisions of  
Relief Act, 1901.

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*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed*

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER

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BLY.

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ELIEF BOARD.

RT

ILLIAM GREEN,

RIL, 1919.

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of Section 10 of the State Children

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*printed, 26 November, 1919.*

GOVERNMENT PRINTER.



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# PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE STATE CHILDREN RELIEF BOARD.

1881 to 1916-19.

Name.	Date of Appointment.	Date of Retirement.
(a) PAST MEMBERS—		
<i>Mackellar, Hon. Sir Charles K., Kt., M.B., M.L.C., &amp;c. (Ex-President).</i>	20 October, 1882*	1 December, 1914.
<i>Renwick, Hon. Sir Arthur, Kt., M.D., M.L.C. (Ex-President).</i>	19 April, 1881	24 February, 1902.
<i>Garran, Mrs. Andrew ... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	1 August, 1911.
<i>Street, John Rendell, J.P.... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	7 October, 1881.
<i>Allen, Lady ... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	19 December, 1893.
	12 June, 1901 (Reappointed).	27 March, 1907.
<i>Jefferis, Mrs. Marian ... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	30 September, 1889.
<i>Stuart, Miss Mary ... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	4 October, 1884.
<i>Windeyer, Mrs. William (afterwards Lady Windeyer).</i>	19 April, 1881 6 December, 1889 (Reappointed).	20 December, 1886. 26 February, 1897.
<i>Innes, Hon. Sir J. G. Long, Kt. ... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	20 October, 1882.
<i>Jennings, Lady ... ..</i>	30 September, 1881	27 November, 1888.
<i>Slattery, Thos. Michael ... ..</i>	20 October, 1882	8 July, 1892.
<i>Barry, Mrs. Louisa Victoria ... ..</i>	4 October, 1884	13 April, 1887.
<i>Trickett, Hon. W. J., M.L.C. ... ..</i>	23 October, 1885	31 March, 1911.
<i>Goodlet, Mrs. A. A. ... ..</i>	13 April, 1887	20 July, 1898.
<i>Manning, Lady ... ..</i>	4 January, 1887	6 February, 1901.
<i>Austin, Mrs. Fanny M. ... ..</i>	6 December, 1889	Died in April, 1894.
<i>Slattery, Mrs. T. M. ... ..</i>	8 June, 1894	10 April, 1905.
<i>Renwick, Lady ... ..</i>	26 February, 1897	30 January, 1899.
<i>Grimshaw, Mrs. ... ..</i>	29 August, 1898	20 June, 1902.
<i>Barton, Mrs. Edmund ... ..</i>	30 January, 1899	25 September, 1899.
<i>Stephen, Mrs. C. B. ... ..</i>	23 May, 1899	17 July, 1900.
<i>McGowen, J. S. T., M.L.A. ... ..</i>	28 September, 1900	25 September, 1908.
<i>See, Lady ... ..</i>	28 October, 1901	Died in March, 1904.
<i>Suttor, Lady ... ..</i>	8 August, 1902	1 June, 1911.
<i>MacLaurin, Lady ... ..</i>	2 April, 1904	26 September, 1904.
<i>Hughes, Mrs. Thos.... ..</i>	18 May, 1905	7 February, 1911.
<i>Stephen, The Hon. Sir Henry ... ..</i>	31 August, 1907	31 December, 1909.
<i>Heydon, The Hon. L. F., M.L.C.... ..</i>	8 July, 1892	Died in April, 1918.
(b) PRESENT MEMBERS—		
<i>Green, A. W. (President) ... ..</i>	1 May, 1911†	.....
<i>Fegan, Hon. John L. ... ..</i>	18 November, 1908	.....
<i>McMillan, Lady ... ..</i>	15 October, 1904†	.....
<i>MacCallum, Mrs. ... ..</i>	14 February, 1910	.....
<i>Golding, Miss Annie ... ..</i>	1 May, 1911	.....
<i>Scobie, Miss G. C. ... ..</i>	16 July, 1913	.....
<i>Griffith, Mrs. Arthur ... ..</i>	29 March, 1915	.....
<i>Morrish, J. J., M.L.A. ... ..</i>	29 March, 1915	.....
<i>Mullins, Hon. John Lane ... ..</i>	12 June, 1918	.....

\* Retired 23rd October, 1885; reappointed, 23rd April, 1902.

† Also a Member from 19th December, 1893, to 10th April, 1899, and from 24th November, 1899, to 12th June, 1901.

‡ Appointed President, 1st January, 1915, upon resignation of the Hon. Sir Charles Mackellar from the Board.

The President of the State Children Relief Board to The Minister for Education.

State Children Relief Board Offices,  
Department of Education,  
Bridge-street, Sydney,

Sir,

5th April, 1919.

In conformity with the provisions of section 10 of Act No. 61, of 1901, I have the honor to present a Report upon the operations of the State Children Relief Board for the year ended 5th April, 1919.

During the year eighteen meetings of the Board were held, the attendance of members being:—Mr. A. W. Green (President), 18 meetings; Hon. J. L. Fegan, 4; Miss Annie Golding, 15; Mrs. Arthur Griffith, 9; Mrs. MacCallum, 14; Lady McMillan, 11; Miss G. L. Scobie, 11; and the Hon. John Lane Mullins, M.L.C., 11; Mr. Morrish, nil. Miss Scobie was unable to attend regularly, owing to being engaged in recruiting work. It is gratifying to state that she was signally honoured by the King in being granted the distinction of the Order of the British Empire.

I have to report a further increase in the Board's expenditure, due primarily to the policy of paying widows and deserted wives for the maintenance of thier children in their own homes, and to the natural expansion of the various activities of the Board. The War, which has happily come to a close, was in a large measure responsible for a great deal of distress, added to which the extraordinarily high cost of living and its apparent ever upward tendency, has not failed to make the burden of caring and providing for the children more pronounced.

I regret to say that the rate paid for the maintenance of children in this State is still greatly below that which obtains in all of the younger States of the Commonwealth, and I have not failed to impress this on the Minister in charge of the Department. He is more than sympathetic on the question, and has promised that when the funds will permit, the payments will be brought up to what may be considered a fair standard.

I am pleased to report that a long-felt want of the Department was met by the opening during the year of a fully-equipped Home for dealing with feeble-minded girls, and girls of arrested development, at Carlingford. Previously these girls were obliged to remain in the Cottage Homes for Convalescent Children, to their own disadvantage and that of the other children. Now, under different surroundings, and with up-to-date methods, the improvement in their general progress has been most marked. The Department is fortunate in its teacher of these children—she is enthusiastic and devoted to her work, and her brightness, patience, and consideration for the children has been the means of effecting some remarkable improvement in her charges. Her report is referred to later on in this Report, and makes satisfactory reading.

Another matter for satisfaction by my Board has been the Minister's permission to start, even in a tentative way, a series of trade schools for boys at Mittagong—already a separate Home has been established for the accommodation of a limited number of boys who have been put to various avocations in and about the Mittagong Estate, such as tailoring, boot-making, carpentering, blacksmithing, &c. I trust during the coming year to be able to initiate a scheme for the training of girls in all kinds of domestic science, and thus improve the methods of dealing successfully with girls suitable for apprenticeship. To facilitate this work, and the extension of the Training Homes for Boys, it will be necessary to add to the accommodation of the Homes at Mittagong and elsewhere, and this fact has been represented to the Minister at the express desire of my Board.

Hitherto the Cottage Homes have been designated by numerals. My Board decided to commemorate in some slight manner the splendid work of some of the original members of the Board, and directed that the three homes at Parramatta should, in future, be known as the "Jeffries," "Garrahan," and "Windeyer," the founders of the Boarding-out System in the State, and members of the first Board appointed by the Government to administer the new system.

During the year a further evidence of the Minister's desire to assist the Board in its forward social activities was his ready approval of the establishment of Hostels for working mothers with their babies. A most suitable property was secured at Waverley, and a start made with the work. The official opening ceremony, which was delayed owing to the influenza epidemic, was performed by Mrs. A. G. F. James. Already the work is in full swing, with most satisfying results. Here are housed homeless girls and their babies, under conditions approaching, as nearly as possible, to home conditions. For a nominal sum they have splendid board and residence, are permitted to go out daily to work at their ordinary occupations, returning in the evening to their children, who are, during their absence, nursed and cared for. This, whilst adding to the happiness, comfort, and self-respect of the girl mothers, and ensuring the wellbeing of the children, has been the means, in some slight way, of solving the domestic problem, by providing efficient and reliable help for families who are unable to obtain suitable domestics in the ordinary way. The Matron of the Pre-Maternity Home in a portion of "Ormond House," Paddington, has been placed in charge of this Hostel, and her late activities transferred there. The vacant portion of "Ormond House" building has been utilised as a Depot and Shelter for the elder girls, thus permitting the long-needed separation and training of this class from the younger children.

The matter of the establishment of additional Day Nurseries under the aegis of the Board, and the Cottage Home for wards of the State who are out-patients of the Hospital, referred to in my last report, although not lost sight of, has not, I regret to say, for various reasons, been arranged.

To mark in a special manner the early promise of a glorious Peace, the Minister approved of the release of all well-behaved boys committed to the Farm Home at Mittagong. These boys were discharged during the Armistice celebrations, and I am pleased to state that the Minister's thoughtfulness and kindness were not misdirected. Few of the boys so released have since come before the Court again. Needless to say, the Minister's action was greatly appreciated by the parents and boys.

The question of raising the age of boys trading on the streets has been brought prominently before the Department during the year, and it is considered that no boy should be permitted to sell papers, or engage in any class of street trading, before attaining the age of 14 years. The many temptations to which boys are subjected while engaged in street trading are such that it seems a pity to continue a system which is felt to be dangerous and detrimental to the future wellbeing of the lads.

At the end of December and early in January, my Board, in anticipation of a possible outbreak of the dreaded influenza scourge, placed "Ormond House" and the staff, and the other kindred Institutions also controlled by the Board, at the disposal of the Government for the accommodation of the children of affected parents; this arrangement proved of great assistance in caring for the children during the epidemic.

In previous reports I have had occasion to refer to the number of boys who had passed through the Board's hands as wards of the State, or as inmates of the Mittagong Home for Committed Boys, and who had done their duty manfully and honourably by assisting in the great War. Many of these lads have received special distinctions, and have been commemorated in the Homes on special Honour Boards. I have pleasure in again referring to the matter to announce the erection of another Honour Roll in connection with the boys from the Raymond Terrace Home for Boys. This should be regarded as unique, inasmuch as the majority of the boys sent to this Home were, more or less, of low mentality—sent there for this reason—and on their admission there were most unlikely embryo soldiers. It speaks volumes for the success of the system when such material can be turned into efficient soldiers, alike a credit to the Department and the country.

The officers of the Department—Messrs. Tedder, Windsor, Hardy, McNamara, Frith, and Ritchie—who enlisted for active service abroad, have now returned to their respective duties, with the exception of Lieutenant-Colonel Tedder, D.S.O., who, after taking up his position, found, unfortunately, that through ill-health he could not continue. He has since resigned, and his retirement from the Inspectorial Staff, upon which he was engaged for many years, is regretted by the Board and his fellow-officers.

Many

Many matters of reform frequently referred to in my Report have, I regret to say, not yet been consummated. I refer particularly to the following:—

- (1) *Consolidation of Acts.*—The consolidation and amendment of the various Acts, administered by the Department, should now be undertaken so that legislation upon the activities of child life may be brought up to date in this State.
- (2) The question of making legal provision for unmarried mothers with children, by boarding them out with them.
- (3) The important matter of segregation of the feeble-minded in homes and colonies.
- (4) The establishment of homes for epileptics.

In these connections I would bring under notice the following cases of women at present sheltered in one of the Department's Homes, viz., the Eastwood Home for Mothers and Babies. The cases speak for themselves, and illustrate most forcibly my oft-reiterated plea for special provision for them:—

L.A. (34 years).

Four illegitimate children (two living, two dead) admitted to Hargrave House, where her son Raymond was born on 27th July, 1913. Now at Eastwood Home for mentally-deficient mothers. Child of above, now 6 years old, mentally deficient.

L.M.B. (23 years).

Mother of two illegitimate children, mentally deficient. Admitted with her infant to Eastwood Home in November, 1917. A previous child was accidentally drowned in Port Macquarie at the age of 3 years. The child now living is mentally deficient.

M.A. (29 years).

Mother of two illegitimate children; admitted to Eastwood Home on 16th June, 1919, with her infant two weeks old. Woman of weak intellect, child delicate, with little hopes of rearing it unless under supervision. A previous child provided for at "Scarba" Home, Waverley. Both children dull and backward.

M.L. (25 years).

Admitted to Eastwood Home with her infant in July, 1919. Mother of weak intellect, not fit to take care of herself, and should always be in a Home for feeble-minded. Child mentally deficient.

A.M. (24 years).

Mother of one illegitimate child. Admitted with her son, Stanley J., to Eastwood Home in May, 1919. Woman of feeble intellect, and not fit to be let out on her own resources, else she would be back with another child. Child normal.

C.S. (15 years).

Mother of an illegitimate child. Confined on 4th May, 1917, at Lying-in Home, Marrickville. Investigations showed that she was a moral degenerate. Admitted with her infant to Eastwood Home on 7th June, 1917. Discharged, and again readmitted with her infant on 3rd April, 1919. This woman cannot be trusted outside the Home, else she will get into trouble again. Child normal.

P.J.

Mentally deficient; has two illegitimate children—Edna, 2 years old, is very deficient mentally; the second child, aged 7 months, is apparently normal, but may become backward and dull later on.

F.D.

Mentally deficient. Has two illegitimate children. The elder child, George, is with girl's relatives; no knowledge of mental condition. The second child, Doris, 1 year 4 months, is mentally deficient.

There were sixteen deaths of State children, viz., nine girls and seven boys, during the year, as shown herein.

Successful sports meetings and picnics were held during the year, both at the Mittagong Homes and Parramatta Homes. My Board's thanks are tendered to the Hon. Sir James Burns, K.C.M.G., for his usual kindness in providing the annual treat and distribution of gifts to the children of the Parramatta Cottage Homes, also to Miss Rose

Rose, of Colo Vale, who distributed Christmas Cheer to the inmates of the Cottage Homes, Mittagong; also to Messrs. J. C. Williamson Ltd. and Ben Fuller, who invited the children of "Ormond House" and other Metropolitan Homes, to performances at the theatres under their control.

Thanks are also due to the Inspector-General of Police for the valuable aid so freely given by him and his many officers in connection with the work of the Department; also to Magistrates presiding at the Children's Court for the interest displayed in dealing with the cases brought before them by my officers; to the large body of honorary lady visitors and honorary probation officers for the admirable work undertaken by them during the year; and, lastly, to the Minister for Education for his unfailing sympathy with, and assistance to, my Board in its oft-times difficult work.

#### DIVISION A.

##### THE STATE CHILDREN RELIEF ACT—CHILDREN UNDER CONTROL.

Under this measure, children may be boarded out with strangers or relatives until they are 14 years of age, or they may be adopted up to the time they are 8 years of age (with the parents' concurrence); after 14 years of age they may be apprenticed, discharged, or dealt with in any other way the Board may determine. The Board, subject to the direction of the Minister, is the authority for dealing with all matters relating to boarding out. Payments made for the maintenance of children vary according to their age and physical conditions. The Board has power to determine necessary rates of payment, and the sanction of the Minister can continue the payments after the age of 14 years is attained. The general rates now paid are :—

12s. per week for young, ailing infants.

10s. per week for children under 1 year.

8s. per week for children up to 2 years.

7s. per week for children up to 3 years.

6s. per week for children up to 14 years.

Owing to the increased cost of living, my Board has recommended to the Minister that a 7s. rate per week be paid for boarded-out children aged from 3 to 14 years.

The total number of children placed out under the State Children Relief Act is now 12,838 (or 418 more than were under control during the preceding twelve months). Of the children under control, 4,581 are placed out apart from their mothers, and 8,257 with their mothers. The decrease in the number in the former section since last year is 75, and in the latter section the increase is 493.

#### FINANCIAL.

The expenditure for the entire services of the Department for the year was £211,507 10s. 3d., or £28,151 5s. 3d. more than that for 1918. Of this amount £69,762 1s. was for the maintenance of children boarded out apart from their parents. Deducting maintenance contributions by parents, £7,669 7s. 6d., the actual cost to the State for each child per annum was £21 2s., the daily average being 2,943 children.

In allowances to widows and deserted wives towards the support of their own children, the expenditure was £96,620 2s. 4d., or £12,345 7s. 8d. more than that for 1918. After adding £5,605, proportionate cost of salaries and inspection, the total £102,225 2s. 4d., represents a capitation cost of £12 18s. 3d. for the daily average of 7,917.

The following is a summary of the annual expenditure for the past three years :—

Under Control on—	Boarded out apart from Mothers.	Boarded out with Mothers.	Cottage Homes.	Children's, Infants, and Neglected Children's Acts.	Total.	Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
5 April, 1917 .....	67,689 1 0	79,420 19 11	14,868 11 8	12,524 12 3	174,503 4 10	7,555 4 9
" 1918 .....	63,533 18 11	89,363 13 3	14,428 8 8	16,030 4 2	183,356 5 0	7,836 14 1
" 1919 .....	69,762 1 0	102,225 2 4	19,957 3 0	21,763 3 11	211,507 10 3	11,635 10 9



## Hereunder is a statement of Receipts and Expenditure, 1918-19 :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1918. To Balance .....				397	15	6	By Allowances under Sec. 16	96,620	2	4			
1 May Advance .....	12,750	0	0				Maintenance .....	50,247	1	0			
1 June „ .....	12,000	0	0				Conveyance .....	1,483	6	7			
20 „ „ .....	750	0	0				Travelling .....	6,792	5	4			
1 July „ .....	24,000	0	0				Medical .....	1,600	8	1			
8 August „ .....	12,500	0	0				Incidental Expenses .....	1,187	17	0			
2 Sept. „ .....	13,000	0	0				Cottage Homes .....	8,850	3	5			
2 Oct. „ .....	14,000	0	0				Depôt .....	935	11	1			
1 Nov. „ .....	13,000	0	0				Shelter—Albion-street .....	616	7	7			
2 Dec. „ .....	13,000	0	0				Cicada .....	609	17	0			
1919.							Eastwood .....	1,249	2	8			
4 Jan. „ .....	14,500	0	0				Hillside .....	850	4	11			
1 Feb. „ .....	13,500	0	0				Raymond Terrace .....	1,066	3	3			
5 Mar. „ .....	13,700	0	0				Santa Marina Hostel .....	218	6	3			
1 April „ .....	15,000	0	0				C.P. Act Registrars .....	428	8	0			
				171,700	0	0	N.C. and J.O. Acts .....	371	17	11			
Advances to pay Salaries .....				27,234	5	1	Government Printer .....	4	10	9			
Accounts paid at Treasury and by							Hawkesbury College .....	3	1	0			
Stores Department .....				12,549	1	3	Stores Department .....	11,020	13	3			
							Forestry Department .....	3	11	3			
							Works .....	45	2	3			
							Agriculture Department .....	61	4	3			
							Attorney General and						
							Justice .....	8	0	0			
							Salaries .....	27,234	5	1			
											211,507	10	3
							Balance .....				373	11	7
				£211,881	1	10					£211,881	1	10

The following is a Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1917-18 and 1918-19, on account of Widows and Deserted Wives :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1917.							1918.						
April .....	7,396	18	3				April .....	6,818	6	6			
May .....	6,350	1	9				May .....	6,772	13	7			
June .....	7,184	7	2				June .....	8,579	5	3			
July .....	6,467	14	7				July .....	7,234	8	11			
August .....	5,931	10	5				August .....	6,928	14	1			
September .....	7,908	14	6				September .....	8,846	12	4			
October .....	6,042	8	4				October .....	7,161	18	5			
November .....	6,940	14	0				November .....	7,162	2	7			
December .....	7,826	17	7				December .....	9,097	14	2			
1918.							1919.						
January .....	7,009	14	9				January .....	6,990	17	0			
February .....	7,214	3	9				February .....	7,392	14	1			
March .....	8,009	19	7				March .....	9,378	0	9			
				84,274	14	8					92,363	7	8
							Increase for 1918-19				8,088	13	0

## PARENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS.

The contributions by parents and other relatives towards the support of dependent children totalled £7,669 7s. 6d., as compared with £7,235 17s. 6d. for the previous twelve months. With a view to endeavouring to secure a still greater increase in the amount of maintenance collections, this work has been placed in the hands of a special officer (an inspector), who works directly with the accountant. There are, of course, several social factors militating against collection of maintenance, such as the greater cost of living, economic stress due to the war, absence of parent or relative on active service, unemployment, and the Ministerial direction that maintenance charges shall not be made in the case of children over 14 years of age, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These factors have full recognition in any action taken by the Department for the collection and recovery of maintenance. Payments are of two kinds :—(a) Pay on orders of Court, (b) voluntary agreements.

INSPECTION.

## INSPECTION.

The total number of children, under all headings, now under the supervision of the Board's officers, in conformity with the several Acts administered by the Department, is 17,327. This total is made up as follows (the previous four years' figures being shown for comparison):—

Classification.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
State children boarded out (apart from mothers)...	4,880	5,081	4,653	4,656	4,581
Children boarded out with their own mothers ...	6,612	7,310	7,323	7,764	8,257
Registered under Children's Protection Act ...	925	1,268	1,094	1,112	927
In licensed institutions (Infants Protection Act) ...	535	500	382	395	429
Engaged in street trading... ..	680	695	785	782	902
Released on probation ... ..	1,184	1,566	1,903	3,382	1,955
Employed in theatres ... ..	265	180	240	243	276
	15,081	16,600	16,380	18,334	17,327

The periodical inspection of these children is carried out by the salaried officers of the Board and by honorary visitors. In the metropolitan area, visits are made to State children quarterly by the salaried staff; children boarded with their own mothers are visited quarterly, as a minimum, with special action in necessary cases. The children on probation are visited monthly, but visits are dispensed with if the frequency of visitation is detrimental to the child's interests. The children under the Children's Protection Act (mostly pre-nuptial) are visited monthly; the children in licensed institutions, those engaged in street trading, and those employed at theatres and similar places are visited and supervised as occasion requires. In regard to country visitation, all children are visited quarterly, as far as practicable, by salaried officers of the Department. As regards the honorary visitation, this is usually monthly in the metropolitan area, and quarterly in the country. Honorary officers do not visit all children, the lady visitors visit boarded-out children only, and honorary probation officers visit children on probation only. Lady visitors are appointed by the State Children Relief Board in conformity with the State Children Relief Act, and honorary probation officers by His Excellency the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister for Education. The duties of honorary probation officers are carefully set out in pamphlet form; the officers work in the district in which they live, and they visit only children of the same religious denomination as themselves. They work in conjunction with the departmental inspector for each district. The responsibility of the welfare and general treatment of infants rests mainly with the female inspectors of the Department, who are charged with the special supervision of the conditions of infant life, and with the duty of instructing custodians and mothers, where necessary, in the dieting and general treatment of infants, and of arranging for the medical inspection of children periodically at one or other of the children's hospitals, at a clinic, or private practitioners.

The following is a list of lady visitors and the districts in which they work:—

## LADY VISITORS.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Abbotsford ...	Mrs. West.	Ashfield ...	Mrs. Baxter.
Adelong ...	Mrs. F. A. Smith.		Miss Lacy.
Albury ...	Mrs. Tietjens.		Mrs. G. B. Robertson.
	Mrs. Howe.	Auburn ...	Mrs. Lightfoot.
Alexandria ...	Mrs. Fitzjohn.		Miss Millett.
	Miss Faber.		Mrs. Weeks.
Allynbrook ...	Mrs. Boydell.	Balmain ...	Miss B. Hagan.
Arncliffe ...	Mrs. Peterkin.		Mrs. McKeon.
Armidale ...	Mrs. Mary West.	Balranald ...	Miss Dowling.
	Mrs. W. J. Willis.	Bango ...	Mrs. Cooke.
	Mrs. W. Varley.	Bathurst ...	Mrs. Oakes.
	Mrs. Bliss.		Mrs. Caples.
	Miss M. Blaxland.	Baulkham Hills ...	Mrs. Hewitt.
	Miss A. Crossman.	Bellambi ...	Mrs. King-Brown.
	Mrs. F. B. Putland.	Belmore ...	Mrs. Eather.
	Mrs. A. Middleton.		

## LADY VISITORS—continued.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Berrigan ...	Mrs. Gorman. Miss Gregger. Mrs. F. Verso.	Cootamundra ...	Mrs. M. H. Mockett. Mrs. Ellis.
Berrima ...	Mrs. A. Hopkins.	Colo Vale ...	Miss Riley.
Blacktown ...	Mrs. Pearce.	Cranbrook ...	Mrs. Woodriff.
Blayney ...	Mrs. Harris.	Croydon ...	Miss Lacy.
Bob's Range ...	Miss Onslow.		Mrs. Baxter.
Boggabri ...	Mrs. Tebbutt.	Crookwell ...	Mrs. M. Beasley.
Bombala ...	Miss Little.	Cudal ...	Miss Healy.
Booral ...	Miss Hopkins.		Mrs. A. Bate.
Botany ...	Mrs. Fahrner. Mrs. Lupton.	Dalton ...	Miss Wheatley.
Bowan Park ...	Mrs. Mulholland.	Dapto ...	Mrs. Evans.
Bowral ...	Miss Bagot. Miss Riley.	Darlington ...	Mrs. F. R. Hanrahan. Miss Pallister.
Bourke ...	Mrs. F. McMahon. Mrs. Chapman.		Mrs. G. Foley.
Braidwood ...	Miss G. McGrath.	Dagworth ...	Mrs. O'Connell.
Breadalbane ...	Mrs. W. Chisholm.	Deniliquin ...	Miss Hosking. Mrs. G. Williams.
Branxton ...	Mrs. Tulloch.		Mrs. Cooke.
Broken Hill ...	Miss O'Leary. Mrs. A. Allen.	Derringullen ...	Mrs. O'Neill.
Brownlow Hill ...	Mrs. Nesbitt.	Dora Creek ...	Mrs. Reed.
Brunswick Heads ...	Mrs. Holt.		Mrs. Hyndes.
Brookfield ...	Mrs. S. Carlton.	Dorans ...	Mrs. K. Chisholm.
Brewarrina ...	Mrs. Allan.	Drummoyne ...	Mrs. E. P. Boulton.
Broadmeadow ...	Mrs. A. Martin.		Miss G. Pickering.
Bundanoon ...	Mrs. Osborn. Mrs. Knapton.	Dulwich Hill ...	Mrs. R. Newall. Miss E. de Putron.
Bungendore ...	Miss Powell.		Mrs. Warden.
Burrowa ...	Mrs. Goudie.	Dunmore ...	Miss Bryant.
Burwood ...	Miss Hurley. Miss Hinchy.	Enmore ...	Miss Hinchy.
	Mrs. R. Newland.	Enfield ...	Miss Hurley.
Cabramatta ...	Mrs. M. Brown.	Epping ...	Mrs. A. Masterman.
Cambewarra ...	Mrs. Nesbitt.	Erskineville ...	Mrs. Fitzjohn.
Camden ...	Miss Onslow.	Five Dock ...	Mrs. West.
Campbelltown ...	Mrs. Vardy.	Fishery Creek ...	Mrs. O'Connell.
	Mrs. Chinnocks.	Forbes ...	Mrs. Moloney. Mrs. C. Hill.
Camperdown ...	Mrs. Eppel.	Forrester ...	Mrs. McDonald.
Campsie ...	Sister Mary Josephine. Miss M. Reilly.	Fullerton Cove ...	Miss Smith.
Canley Vale ...	Mrs. Downey. Mrs. R. Newland.	Gladesville ...	Miss O'Shea.
Canbelego ...	Mrs. E. Davis. Mrs. J. Hogan.	Gledswood ...	Miss Chisholm.
Canomore ...	Miss Finn.	Glen Innes ...	Mrs. H. I. Newton.
Canterbury ...	Miss M. Reilly.	Glebe ...	Mrs. J. Slack.
Carlton ...	Mrs. J. Pope.	Glebe (Newcastle) ...	Mrs. M. Chapman.
Carrington ...	Mrs. A. Mann.	Gordon ...	Mrs. Richardson.
Castlereagh ...	Mrs. Woodriff.	Gloucester ...	Miss M. Middlebrook. Mrs. M. Brooker.
Cattai ...	Mrs. McDonald.		Mrs. Catterall.
Centennial Park ...	Mrs. J. R. Dixon.	Gore Hill ...	Mrs. Fielder.
Clarencetown ...	Miss M. Devine.	Gosford ...	Mrs. Cropper.
Chatswood ...	Miss Wright. Mrs. Catterall.	Goulburn ...	Mrs. Fleming. Mrs. Kelly.
Clyde ...	Mrs. Bartholomew Hines.		Miss De Lauret.
Chippendale ...	Mrs. Hanrahan.		Mrs. Howell.
Cobargo ...	Miss C. Tarlington.	Granville ...	Mrs. E. Chapman. Mrs. M. Arnott.
Cobar ...	Mrs. M. Duffy. Mrs. P. Snelson.		Miss L. J. Wood. Miss E. Sherriff.
	Mrs. Allnutt.		Mrs. Ross.
Cobbity ...	Mrs. Vaughan.	Gresford ...	Mrs. Mason.
Concord ...	Miss Hurley. Miss Hinchy.	Gulgong ...	Mrs. Bartholomew Hines.
	Mrs. Ward.	Guildford ...	Mrs. Boydell.
Cooma ...	Mrs. Bannister.		Mrs. E. Marina.
	Mrs. A. Perry.		Mrs. Downey.
Coonamble ...	Mrs. O'Neill.		Mrs. McCredie.
Cooranbong ...	Mrs. Riley.		Mrs. J. Pooley.
Coraki ...	Mrs. King-Brown.		Mrs. Andy O'Neill.
Corrimal ...	Mrs. Ryall.		Mrs. Sowell.
Cowra ...	Mrs. G. Baymes.		Sister of St. Joseph's Convent.
		Gundagai ...	Miss Sullivan.
			Mrs. Champion.
		Gunning ...	Mrs. A. Grovenor.
		Gurrundah ...	Mrs. Heaton.

## LADY VISITORS—continued.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Haberfield ...	Mrs. West. Miss Gillies.	Mosman ...	Miss Newton. Mrs. M. Curtis.
Harden ...	Mrs. Brady. Mrs. M. Mitchell.		Mrs. S. McCauley. Mrs. A. J. MacDonald.
Hamilton ...	Mrs. I. Gibson. Mrs. W. H. Lyon. Mrs. W. R. Alexander. Mrs. M. J. Moroney.		Mrs. C. Glaufield. Mrs. M. Holden. Miss E. Newton. Mrs. R. A. Ewart.
Hawkesbury ...	Miss Wilson.	Mount Fairy ...	Miss Graham.
Hay ...	Miss Butterworth. Mrs. Longfield. Mrs. Donohue. Mrs. Kitchen.	Mudgee ...	Mrs. F. Robinson. Mrs. Dunstan.
Hermidale ...	Mrs. McKeon.	Mulgrave ...	Mrs. Campbell.
Hill Top ...	Miss Riley.	Mullumbimby ...	Mrs. Holt.
Homebush ...	Miss Hinchy. Miss Hurley.	Mummell ...	Mrs. Dalgleish.
Hornsby ...	Miss Newberry.	Murrumbateman ...	Mrs. Watson.
Hurstville ...	Mrs. J. Pope.	Murrumburrah ...	Mrs. Brady. Mrs. Mitchell. Mrs. Gibson.
Hurlstone Park ...	Mrs. E. Cannon. Miss M. Reilly.	Narellan ...	Miss Chisholm.
Inverell ...	Mrs. C. Dale. Mrs. Cloonan.	Neutral Bay ...	Mrs. Watkins. Miss F. Kelly.
Ironbarks ...	Miss Chandler.	Newcastle ...	Mrs. E. Crawford.
Islington ...	Mrs. Brown.	Newtown ...	Miss K. Carroll. Mrs. Hansen. Mrs. Fremlin.
Jamberoo ...	Mrs. Hill.		Mrs. McGovern.
Jerilderie ...	Mrs. Curtin.	Nimitybelle ...	Mrs. O'Harvey.
Junction ...	Mrs. M. Chapman.	North Sydney ...	Mrs. Harris. Mrs. E. Shead.
Kangaloon ...	Mrs. Brenning.		Miss N. Stewart. Miss Beaumont.
Kangaroo Valley ...	Miss O'Sullivan.		Miss A. Green. Mrs. Fitzgerald.
Kellyville ...	Mrs. Hewitt.	Nyngan ...	Mrs. T. Woolley.
Kelso ...	Mrs. Oakes.	Oakes ...	Miss Onslow.
Kogarah ...	Mrs. Vogel.	O'Connell ...	Mrs. Todd.
Kurrajong ...	Mrs. E. Hennessy.	Orange ...	Mrs. McNeilly. Miss Dalton.
Lambton ...	Mrs. J. Purcell. (Mrs.) Dr. Harker.	Ormond House ...	Miss K. Griffin. Mrs. Scaiffe.
Lakemba ...	Mrs. M. Eather.	Paddington ...	Sister Mary Anastasia. Mrs. Tarlington.
Leichhardt ...	Mrs. Corcoran.	Parkes ...	Mrs. Seymour-Smith.
Leura ...	Mrs. Bloome.	Parkesbourne ...	Mrs. Chisholm.
Lidcombe ...	Mrs. M. Child. Mrs. D. Blair Todd.	Parramatta ...	Mrs. Moxham. Mrs. Watkins. Mrs. Sides. Miss Neale.
Lindfield ...	Mrs. Richardson.		Mrs. Mason. Mrs. Downes.
Lithgow ...	Mrs. Dillon.	Penrith ...	Mrs. S. R. Baker.
Lochinvar ...	Miss M. Knipe.	Picton ...	Mrs. McGuigan. Mrs. Parry. Miss Antill.
Lostock ...	Mrs. Hopson.		Mrs. Deane.
Longueville ...	Mrs. Catterall.	Pitt Town ...	Mrs. McDonald.
Louth Park ...	Mrs. O'Connell.		Mrs. Dalgleish.
Maitland East ...	Mrs. Rooney.	Pomeroy ...	Mrs. Evans.
Maitland West ...	Mrs. Silk.	Portland ...	Mrs. Richardson.
Manilla ...	Mrs. Rudd. Mrs. Moore.	Pymble ...	Mrs. McIntosh.
Manly ...	Mrs. Douglas. Miss M. Phillips.	Quaama ...	Mrs. Tarlington.
Marrickville ...	Miss Campbell. Miss N. Redmond. Miss E. de Putron.	Queanbeyan ...	Mrs. Scaiffe.
Marshall Mount ...	Mrs. Evans.	Randwick ...	Sister M. Claver.
Mayfield ...	Mrs. J. Parker. Mrs. A. Smith.	Redfern ...	Mrs. Morris.
Menangle ...	Miss Onslow.	Richmond ...	Miss L. G. Wearne.
Meranburn ...	Mrs. Kelly.	Rockdale ...	Mrs. E. Sheridan.
Merewether ...	Mrs. M. Chapman.	Rooty Hill ...	Mrs. Hyatt.
Merilla ...	Mrs. Chisholm.	Rozelle ...	Miss Toohey. Mrs. Nolan.
Merrylands ...	Mrs. Downey.		Mrs. Hansard.
Miller's Point ...	Miss M. Green.	Smithfield ...	Mrs. Downey.
Millthorpe ...	Mrs. Kelly.	Springwood ...	Mrs. Griffin.
Milton ...	Mrs. M. Booth Potter. Miss Kendall.		
Mittagong ...	Miss Riley. Mrs. C. E. Chester-Smith.		
Moree East ...	Mrs. Slater.		
Mortlake ...	Miss Hurley. Miss Hinchy.		

## LADY VISITORS—continued.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Strathfield ...	Miss Hinchy.	Waitara ...	Miss Newberry.
Stroud ...	Miss Hurley.	Wahroonga...	
St. Ives ...	Miss Hopkins.	Warriwee ...	
St. Leonards ...	Mrs. Richardson.	Wardell ...	
St. Mary's ...	Mrs. Catterall.	Waterloo ...	Mrs. Meaney.
Summer Hill ...	Mrs. Barrett.		Mrs. Dillon.
Surry Hills ...	Mrs. G. B. Robertson.		Miss Faber.
	Miss Cox.	Waverley ...	Mrs. Pyke.
	Miss M. Forsythe.		Mrs. Bryant.
	Miss C. Moberley.	Wedderburn ...	Mrs. Vardey.
	Miss A. Williams.	Wentworth ...	Mrs. Crang.
Sutherland ...	Mrs. Gilligan.		Mrs. M. E. Morgan
	Mrs. Greig.	Willoughby ...	Mrs. Catterall.
Sutton Forest ...	Mrs. Roberts.		Miss Fogelin.
Tamworth ...	Mrs. Britz.	Williamstown ...	Miss Smith.
	Mrs. Landers.	Windsor ...	Miss Hall.
	Mrs. V. Cohen.		Mrs. Campbell.
	Mrs. Fairbrother.	Wingham ...	Mrs. Redpath.
	Mrs. Adams.	Wollongong...	Miss Copas.
	Mrs. Newman.	Wombat ...	Mrs. McKenzie.
	Mrs. Page.		Mrs. Metcalfe.
	Mrs. Fletcher.	Wolstonecraft ...	Mrs. Catterall.
	Mrs. Johnstone.	Woollahra ...	Mrs. Redmond.
	Miss Tettatres.		Miss Bluett.
Taralga ...	Mrs. S. A. McKenzie.		Mrs. Leibus.
Tarago ...	Miss Graham.		Mrs. Tarlington.
Temora ...	Mrs. A. Smith.	Woolloomooloo ...	Miss Shiel.
Tenterfield ...	Mrs. Miller.	Woonona ...	Mrs. King-Brown.
Tighe's Hill...	Mrs. J. Parker.	Woy Woy ...	Mrs. Garrett.
Tingha ...	Mrs. K. Broon.		Mrs. W. M. Tanner.
Trundle ...	Mrs. Berry.	Wyalong West ...	Mrs. Andrew.
Tumut ...	Mrs. O'Mara.	Wyalong ...	Mrs. Watterson.
Turrumurra...	Mrs. J. Richardson.	Wybong Creek ...	Mrs. Cox.
Wagga Wagga	Mrs. O'Reilly.	Yass... ..	Mrs. Cusack.
	Mrs. Giles.	Young ...	Mrs. McKenzie.
			Mrs. Metcalfe.

The salaried inspectors' responsibilities, as pointed out in the previous annual report, are of an important and varied character, covering thirty-two different sections of work. Each phase of activity requires peculiar and careful investigation, which demands a unique knowledge of the different laws, methods, and administration of the Department. Specific details of the sections are as follows:—

1. Applications for State Children.
2. Applications for Admission of Children.
3. Applications for Discharge of Children.
4. Application for Special Relief (*Sunday Times Fund*).
5. Application for Section 16 Relief (children of widows, &c.).
6. Inspection of State Children.
7. Inspection of Section 16 cases (widows and deserted wives).
8. Inspection of C.P. Children (*i.e.*, children placed out by their own mothers privately).
9. Inspection of Probation Children (Children's Court).
10. Inspection of Lying-in Homes.
11. Inspection of Nursing Homes, C.P.A.
12. Inspection of Licensed Places, I.P.A.
13. Inspection of Institutions.
14. Court Report on Home Surroundings.
15. Prosecuting and Conducting Proceedings.
16. Inquiries into cases of Neglect or Ill-treatment.
17. Inquiries into School Default.
18. Inquiries into Truancy.
19. Inquiries into School Exemption Applications.
20. Inquiries into Street Trading Applications.
21. Inquiries into Theatre License Applications, C.P.A.
22. Inquiries into H.P.O. Nominations.
23. Inquiries into L.V. Nominations.
24. Visiting and Advising H.P.O's.
25. Visiting and Advising L.V's.



26. Inquiries into Affiliation matters.
27. Inquiries into Maintenance Cases.
28. Collection of Maintenance.
29. Inquiries into caste children in unsupervised areas.
30. Visiting Schools.
31. Attendance at Children's Courts.
32. Special and General Reports upon any phases of the work.

The boarding-out of State children in accordance with the provisions of the State Children Relief Act causes an ever-increasing number of visits to be made by inspectors. During the year 39,169 visits were paid to the various homes in which State children are placed. This number includes 25,614 visits in connection with children boarded with their own mothers under section 16 of the Act.

The following table is a summary of the various investigations conducted by the salaried staff during the year under each Act administered by the Board :—

State Children Relief Act :—

	Total visits to Homes.
(a) Boarded out, apart from mothers ... ..	13,555
(b) „ with mothers ... ..	25,614
	<hr/> 39,169
(c) Applications for care of State children and special inquiries ... ..	7,562
(d) Visits to lady visitors ... ..	591
(e) Unfinished ... ..	7,326
(f) Miscellaneous ... ..	9,898
	<hr/> 25,377

Children's Protection and Infants Protection Acts :—

(a) Visits to children ... ..	3,150
(b) „ nursing homes ... ..	142
(c) „ lying-in homes ... ..	1,324
(d) Applications for children to perform at theatres ...	277
(e) Visits to institutions ... ..	219
	<hr/> 5,112

Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act :—

(a) Visits to children on probation ... ..	8,193
(b) „ honorary probation officers ... ..	554
(c) „ street traders ... ..	286
(d) Neglect cases ... ..	4,701
(e) Court cases ... ..	584
	<hr/> 14,318

School Attendance :—

(a) Visits to truants and school defaulters ... ..	27,809
(b) Applications for exemption ... ..	746
(c) Street cases ... ..	897
(d) Prosecutions and court visits ... ..	421
(e) Visits to schools ... ..	12,082
	<hr/> 41,955

Total ... .. 125,931

**Grand Total.**—Thus the grand total of separate inquiries for the year was 125,931, as compared with 105,108 visits during the previous year.

The honorary lady visitors rendered their usual valuable assistance during the past year. As pointed out in my previous report, the majority of the ladies regularly carry out the duties allotted to them, but there is a growing disinclination to report the results of their investigations by reason of the clerical work involved. The statistics with regard to honorary probation officers are specifically detailed under the heading which deals with the probation work.

A slight increase is noticeable in the number of prosecution cases for neglect, which totalled 4,701, as compared with 2,870 for the previous twelve months, and the number of prosecution cases for school default was 421.

CHILDREN

### CHILDREN PROVIDED FOR APART FROM THEIR MOTHERS.

At the close of the official year there were 4,581 children (2,622 boys and 1,959 girls) in this division, of whom 3,413 were entirely supported by the Government as boarders with guardians, as inmates of cottage homes, the central depôts, or hospitals; 791 (451 boys and 340 girls) were apprenticed, and 377 (148 boys and 229 girls) were under adoption, without payment. On the 5th April, 1918, the total number of children was 4,656 (2,703 boys and 1,953 girls); during the present official year, 1,346 (827 boys and 519 girls) were admitted, the aggregate being thus 6,002 (3,530 boys and 2,472 girls). Of these, 890 were discharged to relatives or friends, 241 were discharged over age, 16 died, 179 discharged to guardians, 39 were discharged from records, 2 to Mental Hospitals, 5 to Convents or Orphanages, 2 to H.M.A.S. Tingara, 1 to Waterfall Sanitarium, 6 to Lady Edeline Hospital, 8 to the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institution, 10 to Female Refuge, Glebe, 5 to the Industrial School for Girls, Parramatta, 16 to Gosford Farm Home, and 1 to the Mission Home, Singleton.

One thousand four hundred and twenty-one were thus discharged during the year (908 boys and 513 girls), leaving, as stated, 4,581 (2,622 boys and 1,959 girls) under supervision. Compared with the figures for last year, there were 128 more admissions and 193 more discharges.

Of the 1,346 children admitted during the year, 436 came from Children's Courts, 867 were boarded out direct, and 43 from the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney.

The following table shows the distribution of children under control on the 5th April, 1919 :—

	Boarders.					Apprentices.	Adopted.	Boarders without Subsidy.	Absconded.	Unofficial.	In Hospitals.	In Cottage Homes.	In Depôt.	Total at present under control.
	10s.	Ss. Special.	7s. Under 3 years old.	6s. and Under.	Total.									
Boys .....	52	40	90	1,471	1,653	451	68	80	75	1	15	276	3	2,622
Girls .....	62	54	72	1,061	1,249	340	112	117	23	5	10	85	18	1,959
Totals ...	114	94	162	2,532	2,902	791	180	197	98	6	25	361	21	4,581

The following table shows the ages of children admitted to control :—

	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 6.	6 to 7.	7 to 8.	8 to 9.	9 to 10.	10 to 11.	11 to 12.	Over 12.	Age not known.	Total.
Preceding years....	2,043	1,178	1,388	1,416	1,507	1,645	1,764	1,795	1,921	1,870	1,855	1,615	3,339	1,053	24,389
Year ended 5/4/19	169	86	74	54	80	67	63	70	83	94	97	98	293	18	1,346
Total.....	2,212	1,264	1,462	1,470	1,587	1,712	1,827	1,865	2,004	1,964	1,952	1,713	3,632	1,071	25,735

The following table shows the social antecedents of the children :—

Uncontrollable ...	...	...	...	367	Father unknown: mother in asylum ...	9
Neglected ...	...	...	...	213	" " " destitute ...	7
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	220	" " " dead ...	14
Parents unknown ...	...	...	...	46	" in mental hospital: mother	
" destitute ...	...	...	...	81	destitute ...	6
" deserted ...	...	...	...	28	" respectable: mother in hospital	10
" deceased ...	...	...	...	70	" A.I.F.: mother distressed	
" bad characters ...	...	...	...	16	circumstances ...	15
Foundlings ...	...	...	...	18	" in gaol: mother dead ...	5
Father dead: mother destitute ...	...	...	...	85	" " " destitute ...	7
" deserted: mother destitute ...	...	...	...	63	" A.I.F.: " deserted ...	2
" " " dead ...	...	...	...	10	" invalid: " in asylum ...	...
" " " in asylum ...	...	...	...	7	" deserted: " in gaol ...	1
" respectable: mother dead...	...	...	...	10	" in hospital: mother destitute ...	9
" " " deserted ...	...	...	...	9		
" dead: mother in hospital ...	...	...	...	18	Total ...	1,346

Details

Details of deaths of State children during the year are as follow :—

Cause of Death.	No.	Sex.	Age.
Accidentally killed ... ..	1	boy ...	15 years 10 months.
Primarily syphilitic, secondly inanition ... ..	1	boy ...	2 months.
Heart failure ... ..	4	{ 3 girls	13½ years ; 1 year 9 months ; 2 months
		{ 1 boy	16 years.
Gastro-enteritis ... ..	2	{ 1 boy	1 year 10 months.
		{ 1 girl	6 months.
Gastro-enteritis and bronchitis ... ..	1	girl ...	1 year 1 month.
Gastro intestinal catarrh ... ..	1	boy ...	15 years.
Meningitis and bronchial pneumonia ... ..	1	girl ...	8 months.
Infantile convulsions ... ..	1	boy ...	14 "
Septicaemia and pneumonia ... ..	1	girl ...	15 "
Pneumonia ... ..	1	girl ...	8 years 3 months.
Bronchial pneumonia ... ..	1	girl ...	7 months.
Drowned ... ..	1	boy ...	8 years 9 months.
Total ... ..	16		

The method of disposal of children received through Children's Courts is shown in a separate portion of this Report.

#### DISTRICTS IN WHICH CHILDREN ARE LOCATED.

Every applicant for a State child is required by law to complete a form, which sets out the environment of the home; each form must be endorsed by a magistrate, a clergyman, or other prominent resident, who must certify that they are "acquainted with above applicant and his or her family, and can recommend them as being of sober habits and kindly character, and fit persons to have the charge and care of children." An officer of the Board then sees the home before the children are sent, and every care is subsequently taken to keep approved homes to standard. Preference is given to those localities possessing the most healthful features from both moral and physical standpoints.

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN EACH HOME.

Except in the case of families of children (brothers and sisters usually not being separated), not more than three (or occasionally four) children are sent to the one guardian. Individual attention is obtained for each child as far as possible, the adult assistance available in the home being one of the considerations which influence the Board in determining where children shall be placed. Other factors in the selection of suitable homes are the applicant's character and circumstances, and the number, age, sex, and general health of her own family.

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

There are now 4,070 children placed out apart from their parents in 2,664 homes, as boarders under payment, as apprentices, or under adoption. Of these, 1,875 have 1 child, 449 have 2 children, 174 have 3 children, 103 have 4 children, 41 have 5 children, 11 have 6 children, 8 have 7 children, 2 have 8 children, 1 has 9 children, and 1 has 11. There are eleven boys in the private probationary farm home at Toronto. These last eight homes are of a special character, hence the large number in each.

Included in the above are 470 homes containing 1,192 children of the same families, ranging from two to six members in each.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR THE CUSTODY OF CHILDREN.

The number of children applied for during the year as boarders, apprentices, or for adoption was 1,625. Last year the number was 1,604. The following table shows the conditions under which children were sought :—

Religion.	Boarders.			For Adoption.			For Service.			Total asked for.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Protestant .....	195	434	629	17	41	58	197	329	526	1,213
Roman Catholic	114	124	238	4	6	10	60	104	164	412
Total .....	309	558	867	21	47	68	257	433	690	1,625

The proportion of applications for apprentices, boarded-out children, and children for adoption for the past three years is shown in the table hereunder:—

Year.	Boarders.	For Adoption.	For Service.
1917	70·4 per cent.	9·3 per cent.	20·3 per cent.
1918	56·7 "	4·4 "	38·9 "
1919	53·3 "	4·2 "	42·5 "

The number of approved applications during the year was 935, and of refusal 304.

Many applications for apprentices were not dealt with owing to children over school age being very scarce.

#### SERVICE CHILDREN.

On the 5th April, 1919, there were 791 children at service (451 boys and 340 girls). Last year the number was 774. Approximately two-thirds of these children are placed out in country districts, and the remainder in suburban areas. The majority of the lads are on farms, whilst the girls are at domestic service.

Two important matters in connection with the placing out of State children at service have now reached finality:—

- (a) The revision of the wages scale of payments—a draft form of indenture is now under consideration.
- (b) The establishment of special cottage homes for the preliminary training of male and female wards prior to service.

The absence for so long of these necessary accompaniments of boarding-out no doubt operated in a prejudicial way upon the public mind in its interpretation of the administration of the boarding-out system, which will now benefit substantially by their introduction.

The operations in connection with the Apprentices' Fund since 1887 have been:—

	£	s.	d.
Total collections to 31st March, 1918	94,833	8	0
Disbursements to apprentices to 31st March, 1918	76,609	5	5
Total collections to 31st March, 1919	100,494	17	5
Disbursements to apprentices to 31st March, 1919	81,660	6	9
To credit of fund, 1st April, 1919	18,834	10	8

The collections for the year amounted to £5,661 9s. 5d., as against £4,327 14s. 7d. last year.

The following table shows the number of apprentices placed out by the Board during the past three years:—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
Boys	123	154	165
Girls	84	96	129
Total	207	250	294

#### ADOPTED CHILDREN.

There are now 377 adopted children, 148 boys and 229 girls, placed out with foster-parents. The State Children Relief Act provides for the adoption of boarding out children, but the terms of the legal documents necessary to complete such adoptions actually discourages the practice, because the proposed foster-parents feel that they have not got complete control of the children, and are liable to lose them if they comply with the law. Consequently, in the majority of cases, the adoption of children takes place privately without the knowledge of the Department, through the medium of the Press and private establishments. As pointed out in a previous report, a draft Bill has been prepared with the object of remedying this defect by an amendment of the Children's Protection Act.

#### COTTAGE HOMES FOR INVALID, DELICATE, AND FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

The Cottage Homes for invalid, delicate, and feeble-minded children are established in rural surroundings in the Pennant Hills district of Parramatta, where there are four homes, and at Mittagong, where there are altogether eleven homes, including those comprised in the term "Farm Home." Of these eleven homes three are exclusively for the use of invalids.

The

The Cottages at Parramatta are reserved for the occupation of delicate children, and one home is exclusively for the use of feeble-minded girls, who are instructed by a specially trained teacher. The average number of inmates in the three homes is forty-two, and the accommodation is taxed to the fullest extent. The general health of the children during the year has been good.

The report from the teacher of feeble-minded children at Parramatta is as follows:—

The scope of work undertaken during the past year has been an extension and expansion of last year's programme, particulars of which are given in detail further on in this report. At the present time there are twenty-five children attending school, of whom nineteen are inmates of "May Villa" Home, the remaining five come each day from the Cottage Homes, Parramatta. Although a certain amount of progress is shown by each individual child, a few cases are doing remarkably well. A distinct improvement is noticeable in each child as regards gait, general carriage, and speech.

The children, without exception, show many years' mental retardation: practically all mental types are represented, but the majority of cases are the outcome of morbid or neurotic heredity. In March last, mental tests were carried out under the Binet-Simon and Porteous Methods. Some sixty children were examined; the results proved most interesting, and the following suggestions, based upon the examination, have been carried out as far as possible:—

- (a) Six children, being hopeless mental cases, were transferred to Newcastle.
- (b) Twenty children were sent to day school in Parramatta.
- (c) Four children were admitted to "May Villa" School.
- (d) Thirty children were classed as feeble-minded, and in need of special classes in manual training, singing, games, &c.

*Type of Work.*—As pointed out in previous reports, the work at the special school differs from ordinary school work in that it is far more physical than literary. This is essential, the general aim, as regards feeble-minded children, being that through action and occupation the child may be given some means of self-expression which Nature has denied it from birth. Training accomplishes a lot in this direction, but the main factor is that a child so afflicted must do a thing for herself, and by experience she will learn.

Our handiwork is as varied as possible, and is selected to suit the individual need of each child—modelling in plasticine, paper cutting and pasting, cardboard modelling, drawing, painting, block-building, basket-making, knitting, and gardening. With the older girls a more advanced course of manual labour has been taken up. The new occupations being taught are the making of hammocks, and onion nets, re-caning of chair seats, woodwork, advanced basket work, and gardening. The other branches of handiwork commenced last year have improved wonderfully. Each child has shown a marked improvement as regards their manual power. Rhythmic exercises, folk dances, games and singing form a part of the daily programme, as a result of which the naturally limited powers of the children are made keener, at the same time giving them improved nerve control. In this respect, psychological training is a great factor in dealing with the many shortcomings of a feeble-minded child. It enables her to a certain extent to pass muster with others later in life. Scientific training has the further effect of making her natural deficiencies less apparent than would otherwise have been the case.

A problem which will require solving in the immediate future is the existing difficulty of providing for girls who by reason of their age are transferred from "May Villa" to the Cottage Homes. At the present time lack of accommodation makes it an impossibility to do otherwise than engage them in domestic duties in one or other of the homes. It is admitted that a few hours house or laundry work each day is good for the girls of this type, but an effort should be made to provide them with some manual training as a means to the development of mental alertness and normal mannerism. The Goddard School system advocates the retention of girls under the control of the school so long as it may be necessary, for it must always be borne in mind that, although physically old, these girls are mentally still young children. Want of suitable homes prevents the Board from making adequate provision for girls who have passed the school age.

In conclusion, it can only be said that as a result of the year's work, the development of the children has proved entirely satisfactory—they are happier, brighter, more active and useful. The work is necessarily slow and tedious, and although we may at times be somewhat inclined to optimism as regards the children under our care, it is worth while when we consider that the small part taken in this mighty, and, so far, neglected work, is daily proving the necessity for concerted action to deal with the gigantic efforts to educate these children. Education can never give them what Nature has denied them, still the matter remains all-important. Some millions of pounds per annum are now being expended by the State in continually filling our asylums, gaols, maternity hospitals, and refuges of all kinds, with the untrained material similar to that being moulded into shape at the school. If by education, and the establishment of special homes and schools on a large scale, we could divert the overflowing tide of the morbid, vicious, and criminally inclined amongst this type, we should at least feel that we were making progress in the right direction of endeavouring to eventually stamp out one of our greatest social menaces. It is after adolescence that the gravest condition exists, and even greater protection is required as regards the mentally afflicted. This is where legislation should step in and insist upon the segregation of mental defectives in a properly equipped industrial colony. The matter is not one which can be toyed with indefinitely, and calls for vigorous, united, strong, and wholehearted action, if we are to retain our place as regards progress made in this direction by other countries. Experience proves that these children are only teachable up to a certain point. Undue optimism meets with disappointment. Special endeavours should be centred on making the greatest possible use of their naturally very limited powers, so that, in due time, the harmless confinement of mental defectives within a State Industrial Colony might at least benefit them sufficiently to help them to lead happy, industrious, and clean lives as useful citizens.

FARM



## FARM HOME, MITTAGONG.

The Farm Home at Mittagong has continued its manifold functions in the care and treatment of certain boys and girls who come under the control of the State Children Relief Board.

There are now eleven distinct cottages devoted to the following purposes :—

One for the treatment of feeble-minded boys of tender years.

One for the care of crippled boys, and boys whose persistent misbehaviour whilst boarded-out with private guardians necessitates a special course of training.

One for the treatment of girls whose indifferent health demands change of air and special diet.

Two for the accommodation of boys undergoing technical training between the period of boarding-out and apprenticeship.

Two for the treatment of Roman Catholic boys committed by the Children's Courts.

Four for the treatment of Protestant boys committed by the Children's Courts.

Originally established for the care of only the invalid and delicate children, the scope of the work at Mittagong has gradually been extended until it now embraces children of all ages, from infants in arms to youths and girls of 18 years, who may broadly be divided into four classes, namely :—The dependent, the defective, the delinquent, and normal boys to be technically trained prior to apprenticeship.

*The Dependent.*—For the care and treatment of invalid and delicate children there are two homes—one for girls, and one for boys. To these are sent the girls and boys requiring change of air while convalescing from serious illness, and children whose physical deformities render them unsuitable for boarding-out under ordinary conditions. Opportunity is also taken at the girls' home to secure accommodation for certain elder girls whose waywardness renders it difficult to place privately.

*The Defective.*—One home is maintained for the custody and education of the feeble-minded boys under 12 years of age, where effort is made to expand the mental ability of the boys by the employment of kindergarten and Montessori methods.

*The Delinquent.*—Six homes are devoted to the classification, care, and treatment of boys of the delinquent class, committed by the Children's Courts, who require reformatory methods for their rehabilitation.

*The Normal.*—Two homes serve to accommodate the boys who, after completion of their period of boarding-out, are to receive technical instructions before being apprenticed.

Each of the eleven homes is a separate and distinct unit, devoted to the execution of a particular phase of the work, and is modelled to approximate as nearly as possible to the conditions of the family in an ordinary home. The cottages are distributed over a wide area to maintain their individual character.

For the due employment and instructions of the inmates there are the following industrial activities :—

Bootmaking Tailoring	{	To afford opportunity for the instructions of the physical defectives who require sedentary occupation. All the boots for the Homes and most of those for the Central Dépôt for State Children in Sydney, are made here; and some of the clothing, and all clothing repairs.		
Carpentry		{	For the instruction of the elder boys. Furniture for the Homes, and house fittings are made and repaired.	
Dairy ...	...	To produce milk for home consumption.		
Orchards Piggery ... Poultry ... Pulp-making Jam-making	{	For the instruction of boys, and as a source of revenue.		
Laundry			{	For the instruction and employment of the girls, who, in addition to doing all the laundry work, make underclothing for the inmates.
Sewing ...				
Cultivation of fodder crops, vegetables, &c.				

The

The estate comprises 440 acres. The daily average number of inmates is 300, but the population is changing practically daily, due to the policy of short periods of detention. The admissions and discharges average 600 per annum.

*The Defectives.*—During the year the Home for the elder boys classified as of feeble-mind was closed and the inmates distributed amongst other Homes, pending the development of a more comprehensive scheme for the treatment. The due care and instruction of the feeble-minded boys is dealt with elsewhere in this report.

In the Home for the younger boys of this class the enrolment was 23; admissions during the year 13, and discharges 10. Little progress has been made by the children owing to the fact that the school was closed from July until January, consequent upon changes in the staff. However, those who were responding to the instruction given prior to the closing of the school appear to have retained what they had been taught, or have speedily recovered lost ground. About 50 per cent. of the children are doing scholastic work now. Of the remainder, seven appear unlikely to respond to any instruction, while the interest of the others is gradually being aroused.

Mrs. L. S. Phillips, Mother-in-Charge of this Home, retired during the year. She had been identified with its work since its inception. An officer of high ideals and untiring energy, and possessing tact and a genuine motherliness, she exercised her talents to the considerable advantage of the little ones committed to her care. Her retirement, and that of her daughter, who ably seconded her efforts in the interests of the children, are a distinct loss to the Department.

*The Delinquent.*—The boys under 14 years of age, and those whose education is not up to standard, attend daily the ordinary Public School adjacent to the Farm Home, whilst the boys over 14 years of age are regularly employed about the orchards, the farm in the cultivation of vegetables, or in the care of poultry. At the Homes they are taught habits of cleanliness, orderliness, obedience, &c. On Sundays all the boys attend Divine Service at the churches in the township, and religious instruction is also given at the Homes.

Improved classification of the inmates has been secured during the year. Formerly the boys employed in the workshops (bootmaking, tailoring, and carpentry) were accommodated in various homes; now they have been placed as far as possible in one home, to secure a community of interest and more effective control, whilst administrative changes at the dairy have been productive of much good. The herdsman having been transferred to another department, the dairy and piggery have been placed under an officer who also is in charge of one of the homes, and the boys employed in that division live with him and his wife. Single control at work and at home is thus advantageously secured.

#### *The Farm Home in its relation to the establishment of Trades Schools for State Children.*

Presenting as it does a convenient and suitable opportunity for the training of boys in all branches of work appertaining to the production of crops, fruit, &c., the Farm Home has been selected for the establishment of a Trade School for the boys under the control of the Board, where they can receive definite instruction in a particular branch of activity, and so avoid the danger of augmenting the ranks of unskilled labour. It is designed that the boys shall be sent to the Farm on completion of their period of boarding-out (at 14 years of age), and remain there for two years, when they will be again placed with individual guardians, preferably in the country, to complete their training under ordinary conditions.

Features of the year's development are :—

*Piggery.*—Removal of the styes from old and unsuitable buildings in undesirable proximity to one of the homes to new and properly-designed buildings with modern equipment, in a new situation where oversight can be conveniently exercised in conjunction with the dairy and other farming activities.

*Orchards and Jam-making, &c.*—Completion of the plant for the convenient and expeditious harvesting, grading, packing, and storing of the fruit crop, the making of jam for home consumption, and sale, and making of apple-pulp for sale, &c. A commodious building, centrally situated with ample cellar accommodation, is now available for the handling of fruit. A steam boiler and two steam-jacketed coppers have been installed for the making of jam and pulp. 17,685 lb. of jam for use in the homes

homes was made this year, in addition to 1,200 lb. sold, and 2,000 lb. was prepared from material supplied by a customer, with a charge of 1d. per lb. for the making. The value of apple-pulp sold was £160 5s., and it is satisfactory to record that negotiations are pending for the disposal of the whole of the output of pulp next season to one customer, who this season paid for the product of the Farm Home 1d. per lb. more than he could obtain pulp elsewhere.

Containers for the pulp were purchased this year, as plant for cannister making could not be procured. It is very desirable that the plant be provided, primarily on grounds of economy, but also to afford an opportunity for instructing the boys in the manufacture of the containers. Abnormal conditions, due to the war, prevented the acquisition of the necessary presses, dies, tinplate, &c., and it is to be hoped that before the next fruit season the impediment will have been removed.

*Poultry.*—Extension of the plant for poultry-keeping by the erection of additional yards, poultry houses, &c.

*Dam.*—Completion of a dam for the conservation of water in connection with the orchards. 2,738 yards of earth have been excavated in an elevated position, which will enable the water to be gravitated to the orchards, and militate against the dangers of a dry season, such as has been experienced during the last year.

#### FARM HOME, MITTAGONG.

Bootmaker :—				New Work :—			
Boots made	...	...	2,000 pairs.	White aprons	...	...	37
„ repaired	...	...	732 „	Bed ticks	...	...	4
„ laces	...	...	304 „	Pillow covers	...	...	12
Harness repaired	...	...	£5/3/6	Neck fronts	...	...	14
Tailor :—				Table cloths	...	...	11
New Work :—				Window Blinds	...	...	10
Knickers	...	...	217	Repairs :—			
Shirts	...	...	117	Knickers	...	...	2,901
Suits	...	...	2	Coats	...	...	347
Trousers	...	...	7	Shirts	...	...	111
Tea towels	...	...	71	Jerseys	...	...	23
Face towels	...	...	55	Waistcoats	...	...	17
Black aprons	...	...	29	Trousers	...	...	56
Poultry :—							
Eggs produced	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,564 doz.
Chickens hatched	...	...	...	...	...	...	850
							£ s. d.
Value of eggs sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	126 10 7
„ birds sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	51 2 4
„ bags sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 7 0
							£178 19 11
Cost of fodder	...	...	...	...	...	...	81 12 11
							£97 7 0
Milk produced :—56,348 quarts @ 2½d.				...	...	...	584 15 0
Expenses in wages, feed, cartage...				...	...	...	383 0 9
							£201 14 3

#### Carpentry :—

New Work.—63 articles made, including presses, chairs, wall cases, forms, filing cabinets, pantry bins, &c.

Repairs.—105 items, including chairs, drawers, picture frames, stretchers, flour bins, wash-stands, &c.

Building.—Carpentry, &c., at new pig styes, renovations at Homes 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, &c.

Orchards :—				£	s.	d.
Sales of fruit	...	...	...	95	0	0
Apple pulp	...	...	...	160	3	0
Jam (Homes)	...	...	...	405	5	0
„ (sold)...	...	...	...	25	0	0
Jam made from material supplied	...	...	...	8	6	0
Fruit to Homes	...	...	...	17	11	0
Poultry and eggs	...	...	...	31	11	0
Fodder and vegetables	...	...	...	107	17	0
Firewood, clearing, carting, &c.	...	...	...	141	8	0

77165—B

Farm :—

Farm :—										£	s.	d.
206 tons firewood ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	4	0
Sanitary services ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88	8	0
Blacksmithing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67	8	6
30 tons hay ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	0	0
Clearing land, &c. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	0	0
Cartage of timber, stores.												

#### STATISTICS IN CONNECTION WITH COTTAGE HOMES.

Since the inception of the Cottage Homes system, 9,433 children have passed through the homes, the number at present remaining there 361 (272 boys and 89 girls). This number includes 230 boys in the Farm Home division. Statistics of the current year are :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Total number of children admitted to Cottage Homes to 5th April, 1919 ...	6,546	2,887	9,433
Total number of children discharged from Cottage Homes to 5th April, 1919	6,270	2,802	9,072
Number in Homes on 5th April, 1919 ...	272	89	361
Number in Homes on 5th April, 1918 ...	281	77	358
Admitted during the year ended 5th April, 1919 ...	538	84	622
Discharged during the year ended 5th April, 1919 ...	543	76	619

The above numbers include the inmates of the Farm Home, Mittagong, opened on the 16th October, 1906 :—

Admitted to 5th April, 1919 ...	4,507
Discharged to 5th April, 1919 ...	4,277

Remaining in Farm Home 5th April, 1919 ... 230

The gross expenditure properly chargeable to the year, for all Cottage Homes and the Farm Home for Boys, was £17,757 3s., or a capitation cost of £47 19s. 10d., the daily average number of inmates being 370.

#### HOMES FOR BABIES WITH MOTHERS.

The reasons for the establishment of these special homes are briefly—

- To keep young victimised women from the demoralising influences frequently associated with large maternity establishments;
- to give expectant mothers a chance to attain some degree of physical fitness for motherhood;
- to encourage breast-feeding and the development of parental affections;
- to safeguard the life of the infants during the first critical stages of infancy by keeping them with their mothers;
- to ensure that the mothers shall receive some measure of training in the rearing of infants.

There are three homes for the care of mothers with babies :—

##### (a) *Eastwood Home, Eastwood.*

The number admitted during the year were 74 mothers and 128 children.

The number discharged during the year, 68 mothers and 127 children.

The number in home on 5th April, 1919, 26 mothers and 31 children.

Number of expectant mothers admitted, 5.

Average period of detention of mothers and infants, 5½ months.

Number of deaths during the year, 1.

Since the home was opened, on 15th February, 1915, 213 women have been admitted to the home, and 339 children. Total number of deaths of children, 6.

##### (b) *Cicada Home, Croydon.*

Number admitted during the year—mothers 43, children, 44.

Number discharged during the year—mothers, 40 ; children, 39.

The number under treatment on 5th April, 1919, was 14 mothers and 14 children.

The number of expectant mothers admitted, 2.

Average period of detention : Mothers 5 months, children 4 months.

Since the opening of this home, in June, 1909, 344 mothers have been admitted, and 481 children; 13 children have died. Causes of death have been premature birth, entro-colitis, chronic gastro-enteritis, cyanosis, whooping-cough and bronchitis (1 each); pneumonia (2), syncope (3), unknown (3).

(c)

(c) *Hillside Home, Paddington.*

This was opened as a Government establishment in December, 1913. During the year under review—admitted 34 mothers, 79 babies; discharged 32 mothers, 82 babies; 6 mothers and 9 children remained in the home on 5th April, 1918, thus leaving 8 mothers and 6 children in the home at the close of the year under review; 17 expectant mothers admitted, 14 expectant mothers discharged. Average period of detention of mothers, 4 months, children 5 months. There were no deaths.

Since the opening of this home 158 mothers have been admitted and 126 expectant mothers; number of infants, 462. There has been only one death (meningitis, 14 months).

The cost for the year of the foregoing homes, shown separately, is given in the following table:—

Home.	Total Expenditure, 1917-18.	Expenditure, less Buildings, Additions, &c., 1917-18.	Average No. Inmates.	Per Capita Cost, based on (2).
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Hillside Home ... ..	850 4 11	850 4 11	16	53 2 10*
Eastwood Home ... ..	1,249 2 8	1,249 2 8	48	26 0 6
Cicada Home ... ..	609 17 0	609 17 0	22	27 14 5

\* The increased cost shown is due to the fact that for two months the home was utilised in connection with the influenza epidemic.

## HOME FOR FEEBLE-MINDED BOYS, RAYMOND TERRACE.

There were 32 boys in the home on the 5th April, 1918.

During the year 25 were admitted and 23 discharged, leaving 34 boys in the home on 5th April, 1919.

The boys in the home are more or less weak, some are of very feeble intellect. Of these boys, 4 are truants, or habitual wanderers; 3 aboriginals; 2 half-castes; 1 cripple; 4 degenerates (sexually weak); and 1 takes epileptic fits.

The general health of the boys has been good. There has been no sickness nor deaths during the year.

The conduct of the boys has been generally good.

The boys in the home are employed as follows:—

Tailor's shop ... ..	8	Woodturning ... ..	1
Bootmaking ... ..	6	In garden ... ..	2
Making boot uppers ... ..	2	Cutting firewood ... ..	2
Carpenter's shop ... ..	2	Kitchen ... ..	2
Wood-toy making ... ..	7	Dormitory ... ..	2

Hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Eight boys attend school full-time, and 6 boys (backward), but willing to learn, attend half-time.

During the year 14 boys were discharged to their parents; 2 to Sydney Shelter; 1 to the Blind Institution; 4 discharged over age; 2 went to Sydney, and 2 were placed in local situations.

Boys discharged or apprenticed have been visited by an inspector four times during the year.

*Workshops.*—Boys in the workshops have been fully employed during the year, and these shops are now showing a substantial profit to the Department.

Tailor's Shop—8 boys employed.

Goods produced—value as per contract prices.

Tweed suits of clothes, 796

Tweed caps, 471

Trade value ... ..	£ s. d.
494 13 6	
Less cost of material ... ..	322 1 2

Net profit to shop for tweed ... .. £172 12 4

Gambrcon,



Gambroon Trousers, 197 pairs.						
Caps, 104						
Vests, 2						
Trade value	...	...	...	...	£	s. d.
Less cost of material	...	...	...	...	37	1 6
					13	11 7½
Net profit to shop for Gambroon					£23	9 10½
Shirting, Boys' shirts, 96.						
Trade value	...	...	...	...	16	18 0
Less cost of material	...	...	...	...	9	1 3
Net profit to shop for shirting					£7	16 9
Pyjama Suits, 57.						
Trade value	...	...	...	...	12	16 0
Less cost of material	...	...	...	...	9	11 8
Net profit to shop...					£3	4 4
Total net profit to Tailor's Shop, 1918 to 1919					£207	3 3½
Bootmaker's Shop—6 boys employed.						
Goods produced—value as per contract prices.						
Boots, 896 pairs.						
Trade value	...	...	...	...	386	16 10
Less cost of material	...	...	...	...	259	15 1
Net profit to shop...					£127	0 11
Plus boot repairs, 60.						
Net profit	...	...	...	...	4	10 0
Net profit to shop					£131	10 11
Boot uppers, two boys, 939 pairs.						
Trade value	...	...	...	...	198	13 9
Less cost of material	...	...	...	...	111	1 11
Net profit					£87	11 10
Belts	...	...	...	...	1	4 0
Harness repaired	...	...	...	...	1	18 0
Total net profit					£90	13 10
Total net profit to Boot Shop, 1918 to 1919					£222	4 9
Toy Shop—7 boys employed.						
Net profit to shop...					£123	7 2
Summary of Profits :—						
Tailor's shop	...	...	...	...	207	3 3½
Boot shop	...	...	...	...	222	4 9
Carpenter's shop	...	...	...	...	50	0 0
Toys	...	...	...	...	123	7 2
Garden and produce	...	...	...	...	50	0 0
Firewood	...	...	...	...	50	0 0
Total					£702	15 2½

The expenditure for the year was £1,066 3s. 3d.; cost per head, £31 7s. 2d.; average daily number of inmates, 34.

#### ORMOND HOUSE, CENTRAL DEPÔT FOR STATE CHILDREN, AND GIRLS' SHELTER, PADDINGTON.

During the twelve months ended 5th April, 1,828 children passed through Ormond House, as compared with 1,596 children during the preceding year. Of these, 1,666 (965 boys and 701 girls) were State children, and 162 (5 boys and 157 girls) were Court children, i.e., children dealt with by the various Children's Courts.

For the past three years the numbers passing through Ormond House have been—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
State children	1,443	1,294	1,666
Court children	169	302	162
Total	1,612	1,596	1,828

Ormond House operations thus show an increase for the year of 372 in the number of State children, and a decrease of 140 in the number of Court children.

DIVISION B.

## DIVISION B.

## CHILDREN BOARDED OUT WITH THEIR OWN MOTHERS.

Two thousand eight hundred and eighty six widows and deserted wives are now receiving allowances in their own homes towards the support of 8,257 children under the age of 14 years. The increase in the cost of this section is generally due to the increase in the rates of payment. The total number of cases dealt with during the year was 3,814, aid being granted or continued in 2,498.

Since payment to the children of widows and deserted wives was introduced, applications for aid have totalled 18,970. Last year 1,720 new cases were dealt with, being 306 more than the number received during the previous twelve months. Of the new applications received, 1,229 were approved and 331 refused, representing 27 per cent. of the total; 160 cases were dealt with other than by the granting of monetary allowances, being given food orders, or referred to the Chief Secretary's Department or the Benevolent Society, Sydney.

Section 51 of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act requires that my Board shall refer every case to the Children's Court for inquiry, on oath, before aid is granted. This amendment was introduced to minimise the degree of imposition.

In previous Reports I have frequently recommended the introduction of legislation to compel near relatives who are in a position to do so to contribute towards the support of parents and younger members of the family. Legislation of this kind would be a step in the right direction, and would confine the granting of State relief to the lowest necessary quota. In this respect, and illustrative of the examples of filial neglect coming under the notice of the State Children Relief Board, the following are a few of the many typical cases received during the year:—

1. A applied for aid for one child aged six years; eight children away from home, six of them unmarried; the earnings of four of these members of the family are stated to be £9 10s. between them. One daughter only contributes towards her mother's support, allowing her 10s. a month; the other children do not contribute, and have allowed their mother to apply for an Invalidity pension, also for State aid in respect of her youngest child. A earned 6s. per week; rent, 8s. per week.
2. B's husband died, leaving a family of nine children; seven away from home earning for themselves. Applicant in poor health had an income of 3s. 9d. a week, a War Pension, out of which, she paid a weekly rent of 2s. 6d., leaving her 1s. 3d. per week for the support of herself and two children who were dependent upon her. None of the children away from home assisted in any way.
3. C supporting one child is in receipt of the Invalidity Pension; eight other members of the family, four of whom reside at home and are earning, do not contribute adequately towards their mother's support. She lives rent free, and with the Invalid Pension of 12s. 6d. per week assesses her weekly income at 15s. 6d. Other relatives reported to be in good circumstances.
4. D, a widow with nine children, five of whom are away from home, has four children residing with her, two of whom are dependent. The children at home and earning give her 12s. 6d. and 10s. per week each respectively; rent, 15s. a week. A soldier son allows her 21s. weekly, and this, together with the earnings above quoted, is her sole income; five members of the family away from home are in a position to contribute towards their mother's support, but do not do so. Applicant does not earn.
5. E is in receipt of aid for two children; one son at home contributes 30s. per week; eight away from home, two of whom allow their mother 6s. 6d. weekly out of their earnings. Applicant lives rent free and earns about 4s. per week from poultry.
6. F received aid which was discontinued; one child only was dependent upon her out of her family of eight children, six of whom are away from home. Applicant's income of 10s. per week was supplemented by allowances of 6s. per week and 2s. per week respectively from two of her children, none of whom were married, but all were in fairly comfortable circumstances. F also owned her own home.
7. G was deserted by her husband, leaving her with a family of nine children, four of whom resided at home and were dependent upon her. She was unable to earn owing to a deformity; none of the children from home contributed towards the support of their mother and the younger members of the family.
8. H's husband died, leaving his widow in destitute circumstances; nine children in the family, two out of five at home earning 10s. and 5s. per week respectively; rent 15s. weekly. Ill-health prevents applicant from earning her own living, and none of the four children away from home contribute towards her support.
9. I, earning 15s. per week, has two children dependent upon her; five other members of the family being away from home do not contribute; rent of room, 6s. per week.
9. J, in very poor circumstances, is the mother of nine children, seven away from home; one son contributes £1 per week towards upkeep of home. Applicant a country resident, earns 25s. per week; rent 12s. 6d. weekly.
10. K renewed her application for assistance for aid in respect of one child dependent upon her; total income of home 30s. per week earned and contributed by one son, out of which house rent of 5s. per week was paid; four children away from home do not contribute; one daughter able to earn was not doing so, although residing at home.

The

The following table gives the result of new applications from year to year:—

Year.	New cases considered.	Approved.	Refused.	Percentage of new cases.
1896-7 ... ..	479	378	101	21
1897-8 ... ..	717	501	216	30
1898-9 ... ..	654	385	269	41
1899-1900 ... ..	514	371	143	28
1900-1 ... ..	596	374	222	37
1901-2 ... ..	632	448	184	30
1902-3 ... ..	803	501	302	37
1903-4 ... ..	666	413	253	38
1904-5 ... ..	631	413	218	34½
1905-6 ... ..	567	410	157	27½
1906-7 ... ..	426	363	63	14½
1907-8 ... ..	555	471	84	15
1908-9 ... ..	540	442	98	18
1909-10 ... ..	675	528	147	21·8
1910-11 ... ..	658	511	147	22·3
1911-12 ... ..	637	518	119	18·6
1912-13 ... ..	759	638	121	16
1913-14 ... ..	867	674	193	22
1914-15 ... ..	1,058	721	337	31
1915-16 ... ..	1,492	955	537	35
1916-17 ... ..	1,279	947	271	22
1917-18 ... ..	1,390	1,129	261	22
1918-19 ... ..	1,560	1,229	331	27

In 1918-19 allowances were granted in 1,229 new cases, and the number of children with their mothers is shown hereunder:—

With 1 child ... ..	126 mothers	With 6 children ... ..	57 mothers
" 2 children ... ..	393 "	" 7 " ... ..	28 "
" 3 " ... ..	288 "	" 8 " ... ..	3 "
" 4 " ... ..	202 "		
" 5 " ... ..	132 "		
Total ... ..			1,229

All cases are regularly reviewed by the Board, and allowances are assessed or withdrawn according to circumstances. During the year the total cases considered were 3,814, as follows:—

Admitted ... ..	1,229	Continued ... ..	169
Discharged ... ..	985	Miscellaneous ... ..	78
Refused ... ..	331		
Increased ... ..	415		
Reduced ... ..	607		
Total ... ..			3,814

For purposes of comparison, similar information is supplied for preceding years:—

Year.	Cases dealt with.	Aid granted or continued.	Aid refused or discontinued.	Percentage of refused cases.
1897-8 ... ..	1,207	882	325	26½
1898-9 ... ..	1,540	1,051	489	31¾
1899-1900 ... ..	1,492	1,112	380	25
1900-1 ... ..	1,772	1,151	621	35
1901-2 ... ..	1,589	1,082	507	32
1902-3 ... ..	1,849	1,132	717	38½
1903-4 ... ..	1,703	997	636	37½
1904-5 ... ..	1,629	968	661	40½
1905-6 ... ..	1,610	968	642	39¾
1906-7 ... ..	1,317	911	406	30½
1907-8 ... ..	1,444	1,019	425	29½
1908-9 ... ..	1,421	945	476	33½
1909-10 ... ..	1,824	1,183	641	35
1910-11 ... ..	1,919	1,260	659	34½
1911-12 ... ..	1,795	1,220	575	32
1912-13 ... ..	1,682	1,097	585	34¾
1913-14 ... ..	1,843	1,222	621	33¾
1914-15 ... ..	2,244	1,372	872	38¾
1915-16 ... ..	2,654	1,812	842	32
1916-17 ... ..	3,210	1,952	1,258	39
1917-18 ... ..	3,585	2,309	1,276	35½
1918-19 ... ..	3,814	2,498	1,316	34½

The following tables indicate percentages in relation to wife desertion since the inception of relief to families of defaulting husbands and fathers :—

New Applications approved of each Year.

Year.	Total number approved for year only.	Widows.	Percentage of Total.	Deserted <i>de facto</i> .	Percentage of Total.	Technical desertion.	Percentage of Total.
1896-7 ... ..	378	293	77	62	17	23	6
1905-6 ... ..	410	242	59	96	23	72	18
1906-7 ... ..	363	208	57	109	30	46	13
1907-8 ... ..	471	269	57	139	29	63	14
1908-9 ... ..	442	259	58	119	28	64	14
1909-10 ... ..	528	288	54	132	26	108	20
1910-11 ... ..	511	285	56	124	24	102	20
1911-12 ... ..	518	306	59	122	24	90	17
1912-13 ... ..	638	340	53	191	30	107	17
1913-14 ... ..	674	380	56	192	29	102	15
1914-15 ... ..	721	406	56	205	28	110	16
1915-16 ... ..	955	488	51	318	33	149	16
1916-17 ... ..	947	521	55	232	24	194	21
1917-18 ... ..	1,129	587	52	265	23	277	25
1918-19 ... ..	1,229	625	50	267	21	337	29

There are now 1,560 widows and 1,326 deserted wives receiving allowances. The proportion of the latter to the total is 46 per cent., as compared with 44·8 per cent. for the previous twelve months. These figures refer to desertion *de facto*. The term "deserted wives" includes also women whose husbands are in gaol, in a hospital for the insane, a general hospital, or a Government asylum for the infirm and destitute. This percentage of cases has risen from 22·5 in 1897 to 46 during the year under review. Details for each year appear in the following table :—

Year.	Deserted Wives.						Widows.	Proportion.	
	Husband Deserted.	Insane.	In Gaol.	In Asylum.	In Hospital.	Total.		Deserted Wives.	Widows.
1897 ... ..	62	14	5	4	.....	85	293	22·5	77·5
1898 ... ..	132	26	25	15	5	203	567	26·3	73·7
1899 ... ..	179	39	18	17	8	261	674	28·0	72·0
1900 ... ..	211	45	23	19	16	314	755	29·4	70·6
1901 ... ..	198	48	33	25	31	335	709	32·1	67·9
1902 ... ..	204	51	45	34	38	372	795	31·8	68·2
1903 ... ..	200	55	39	46	41	381	871	30·5	69·5
1904 ... ..	214	54	59	51	44	422	860	32·3	67·7
1905 ... ..	176	69	67	59	57	428	826	34·2	65·8
1906 ... ..	169	69	67	56	62	423	756	35·9	64·1
1907 ... ..	158	69	71	63	64	425	782	35·2	64·7
1908 ... ..	210	82	99	62	72	525	880	37·4	62·6
1909 ... ..	230	91	98	65	80	564	923	37·9	62·1
1910 ... ..	250	102	109	64	92	617	936	39·8	60·2
1911 ... ..	264	125	93	63	109	654	914	41·7	58·3
1912 ... ..	296	142	95	68	126	727	947	43·4	56·6
1913 ... ..	377	158	95	69	142	841	1,052	44·4	55·6
1914 ... ..	425	165	105	69	139	903	1,192	43·1	56·9
1915 ... ..	458	169	115	72	166	980	1,310	42·8	57·2
1916 ... ..	523	191	124	78	186	1,102	1,443	43·3	56·7
1917 ... ..	508	201	126	78	204	1,117	1,388	44·4	55·6
1918 ... ..	522	225	126	83	229	1,185	1,455	44·8	55·2
1919 ... ..	581	257	136	85	204	1,326	1,560	46·0	54·0

The following table shows the proportion of wives "technically deserted" and those "deserted *de facto*":—

Year.	Wives deserted <i>de facto</i> .	Wives technically deserted.	Deserted Wives (Total).	Proportion of former to Total.
				per cent.
1897 ... ..	62	23	85	73·0
1898 ... ..	132	71	203	65·0
1899 ... ..	179	82	261	68·2
1900 ... ..	211	103	314	67·2
1901 ... ..	198	137	335	59·1
1902 ... ..	204	168	372	54·8
1903 ... ..	200	181	381	52·2
1904 ... ..	214	208	422	50·7
1905 ... ..	176	252	428	41·1
1906 ... ..	169	254	423	40·0
1907 ... ..	158	267	425	37·1
1908 ... ..	210	315	525	40·0
1909 ... ..	230	334	564	40·7
1910 ... ..	250	367	617	40·5
1911 ... ..	264	390	654	40·3
1912 ... ..	296	431	727	40·7
1913 ... ..	377	464	841	44·8
1914 ... ..	425	478	903	47·0
1915 ... ..	458	522	980	46·7
1916 ... ..	523	579	1,102	47·4
1917 ... ..	508	609	1,117	45·3
1918 ... ..	522	663	1,185	44·0
1919 ... ..	584	742	1,326	44·0

The increase in the number of actually deserted wives since the inception of this form of relief is very noticeable. Five hundred and eighty-four destitute families are at the present time a permanent charge upon the Government in consequence.

The number of mothers and children towards whose support assistance has been granted each year is indicated hereunder :—

Year.	Number of Mothers.	Number of Children.	Increase in number of Children.	Decrease in number of Children.
1896-7 ... ..	378	1,230	.....	.....
1897-8 ... ..	770	2,422	1,192	.....
1898-9 ... ..	935	2,884	462	.....
1899-1900 ... ..	1,069	3,257	373	.....
1900-1 ... ..	1,044	3,065	.....	192
1901-2 ... ..	1,167	3,265	200	.....
1902-3 ... ..	1,252	3,386	121	.....
1903-4 ... ..	1,282	3,435	49	.....
1904-5 ... ..	1,254	3,317	.....	118
1905-6 ... ..	1,179	3,146	.....	171
1906-7 ... ..	1,207	3,025	.....	121
1907-8 ... ..	1,405	3,633	608	.....
1908-9 ... ..	1,487	3,980	347	.....
1909-10 ... ..	1,553	4,097	117	.....
1910-11 ... ..	1,568	4,182	85	.....
1911-12 ... ..	1,674	4,453	271	.....
1912-13 ... ..	1,893	5,386	933	.....
1913-14 ... ..	2,095	5,970	584	.....
1914-15 ... ..	2,290	6,612	642	.....
1915-16 ... ..	2,545	7,310	698	.....
1916-17 ... ..	2,505	7,323	13	.....
1917-18 ... ..	2,640	7,764	441	.....
1918-19 ... ..	2,886	8,257	493	.....



In the following table a contrast is made between the rates of payment for "relief to children of widows and deserted wives" during the years 1904 and 1909, and similar rates paid since 1912 :—

## RELIEF to Widows and Deserted Wives.

Year.	No. of Children.	Admitted during year.	Rates paid per week for each.											
			10/-	8/-	7/6	7/-	5/-	4/6	4/-	3/6	3/-	2/6	2/-	
1904	...	3,435	49	...	...	...	...	15	2	55	39	637	1,188	1,402
1909	...	3,980	347	...	...	...	...	62	11	230	176	890	1,288	1,316
1912	...	4,453	271	...	...	...	...	678	133	943	496	883	501	819
1913	...	5,386	933	...	...	...	...	1,537	88	1,471	355	707	434	791
1914	...	5,970	584	...	...	...	...	2,021	72	1,648	297	770	391	769
1915	...	6,612	642	...	...	...	...	2,198	54	2,101	321	809	362	765
1916	...	7,310	698	...	...	...	...	4,524	20	1,881	118	504	133	23
1917	...	7,323	431	...	...	...	...	5,271	6	1,391	71	335	91	2
1918	...	7,764	441	...	...	...	...	5,356	8	1,197	50	268	78	...
1919	...	8,257	493	17	108	47	507	4,612	8	784	40	148	79	...

In the remaining few cases the following weekly rates are paid :—7 at 3s. 4d. ; 9 at 3s. 9d. ; 1,877 at 6s. ; 5 at 6s. 6d. ; 9 at 6s. 8d.

The figures for these later years show the tendency to pay for all children at the maximum rates. As this aspect has been thoroughly reviewed in former Reports, I shall not deal with it again here.

## TOTAL Number of Mothers on Books at end of each Year.

Year.	Total number of Mothers.	Widows.	Percentage of Total.	Deserted <i>de facto</i> .	Percentage of Total.	Technical desertion.	Percentage of Total.
1896-7 ...	378	293	77	62	17	23	6
1905-6 ...	1,179	756	64	169	14	254	22
1906-7 ...	1,207	782	64	158	15	267	21
1907-8 ...	1,405	880	62	210	15	315	23
1908-9 ...	1,487	923	62	230	15	334	23
1909-10 ...	1,553	936	60	259	17	367	23
1910-11 ...	1,568	914	58	264	17	390	25
1911-12 ...	1,674	947	56	296	18	431	26
1912-13 ...	1,893	1,052	56	377	20	464	24
1913-14 ...	2,095	1,192	57	425	20	478	22
1914-15 ...	2,290	1,310	57	458	20	522	23
1915-16 ...	2,545	1,443	57	523	20	579	23
1916-17 ...	2,505	1,388	55	508	20	609	25
1917-18 ...	2,640	1,455	55	522	19	663	26
1918-19 ...	2,886	1,560	54	584	20	742	26

The following table shows the distribution of mothers and children, and the separate rates paid :—

## CHILDREN Boarded out to their own Mothers.

Allowances.			Continued.	Miscellaneous Applications.	Refused.	Discharged.	Total.
Granted.	Increased.	Reduced.					
1,229	415	607	169	78	331	985	3,814

The undermentioned Mothers are now in receipt of relief :—

Widows.	Deserted Wives.					Total.
	Husbands Deserted.	Husbands Insane.	Husbands in Gaol.	Husbands in Govt. Asylums.	Husbands in Hospitals.	
1,560	584	257	136	85	264	2,886

The children with their own mothers are being paid for at the following weekly rates :—

6/6	8/-	10/-	5/-	4/-	6/-	3/-	7/-	2/6	3/6	7/6	4/6	3/9	3/4	6/8	Total.
5	108	17	4,612	784	1,877	148	507	79	40	47	8	9	7	9	8,257

### DIVISION C.

#### INFANT PROTECTION ACT.

The operations under the Infant Protection Act, which provides for the supervision, maintenance, and care of children up to 7 years of age apart from their parents in private homes or religious establishments, are likely shortly to be substantially increased by an amendment of the law, which proposes to bring all children in such places under supervision up to the age of 16 years. A draft Bill is now with the Minister.

Licenses for children are recommended after inquiry by the Board's officers, by my Board, to the Minister for Education, as the licensing authority. The number of children who may be kept in any one home is conditioned by the license. The licensed homes are classified under two headings—

- (a) Those for the accommodation of a maximum of 5 children.
- (b) Those for the accommodation of a greater number than 5 children.

Separate regulations govern each child.

The total number of licenses granted under this Act for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1918, was 84. For the same period licenses have been issued to the following institutions maintained by public subscription. (Supervision, of course, applies only to the children under 7 years) :—

	Children
Foundling Home, Waitara ... ..	75
Infants' Home, Ashfield ... ..	63
Babies' Home, Rockdale ... ..	25
St. Michael's Orphanage, Baulkham Hills ... ..	100
C.E. Deaconess' Home, Marrickville ... ..	14
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Boys, Kincumber ... ..	20
St. Anne's Orphanage for Girls, Liverpool ... ..	10
St. Brigid's Orphanage for Girls, Ryde ... ..	30
Dalmar Children's Home, Croydon ... ..	20
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Goulburn ... ..	12
St. Anne's Orphanage for Girls, Broken Hill ... ..	26
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Bathurst ... ..	12
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Gore Hill ... ..	20
Church of England Orphanage, Burwood... ..	12
St. John's Boy's Orphanage, Goulburn ... ..	20
St. John's Orphanage, Albury ... ..	12
Burnside Orphanages, Parramatta... ..	130
Salvation Army Home, Arncliffe ... ..	20
Sydney Norland Nurseries... ..	20
Dill Macky Memorial Home, Auburn ... ..	10
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Cowper ... ..	14

Six applications from private householders were refused, or licenses withdrawn, because of the unsatisfactory character of the applicants or their homes.

The

The number of children under 7 years who were inmates of private establishments on the 31st December, 1918, is shown in the following table:—

Institution.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 6 years.	6 to 7 years.	Total.
Foundling Home, Waitara ... ..	3	9	20	6	4	7	...	49
Infants' Home, Ashfield ... ..	12	11	3	5	2	2	1	36
Babies' Home, Rockdale ... ..	...	2	2	3	4	4	5	20
St. Michael's Orphanage, Baulkham Hills ... ..	...	...	1	6	19	16	8	50
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Kincumber ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	1	10	13
St. Anne's Orphanage, Liverpool ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	1	3	7
St. Brigid's Orphanage, Ryde ... ..	...	...	2	2	3	6	4	17
Dalmar Children's Home, Croydon ... ..	1	...	3	4	5	3	3	19
St. John's Boys' Orphanage, Goulburn ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	13
St. Anne's Orphanage, Broken Hill ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	3
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Bathurst ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	11
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Gore Hill ... ..	...	...	1	3	4	6	...	14
Church of England Orphanage, Burwood ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	4
St. John's Orphanage, Albury ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	4	3	8
Burnside Presbyterian Homes, Parramatta ... ..	...	...	11	19	18	26	17	91
Norland Nurseries, Woollahra ... ..	3	5	...	2	4	1	5	20
Salvation Army Home, Arncliffe ... ..	...	...	1	5	7	1	2	16
C.E. Deaconess' Home, Marrickville ... ..	...	...	1	1	1	3	4	10
St. Joseph's Girls' Home, Goulburn... ..	1	...	2	3	1	3	1	11
Dill Macky Memorial Home, Auburn ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	1	3	6
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Cowper ... ..	...	...	...	1	3	5	2	11
Total ... ..	20	27	47	63	84	102	86	429

The general health of the children has been good. Deaths have been reported from the Infants' Home, Ashfield, and the Foundling Home, Waitara (which deals with very young infants). The mortality of children in these institutions, with particulars of age, cause of death, was:—

**CHILDREN CARED FOR APART FROM THEIR MOTHERS.—Ages and causes of death, 1st January to 31st December, 1918.**

	3 months and under.		3 to 6 months.		6 to 9 months.		9 to 12 months.		Over 12 months.		Total.
	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	
Whooping cough .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastritis .....	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	5
Pneumonia .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	4
Total .....	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	4	1	10

The deaths at the Infants' Home, Ashfield, and the Foundling Home, Waitara, in relation to the number of children admitted, were, for the past five years:—

	With Mothers.					Without Mothers.				
	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Waitara Foundling Home—										
Admissions ... ..	50	42	58	23	71	45	23	36	62	28
Deaths ... ..	6	12	6	2	8	11	13	8	4	7
Ashfield Infants' Home —										
Admissions ... ..	37	33	30	45	45	38	32	28	27	44
Deaths ... ..	6	1	5	14	3	3	4	11	7	3

## DIVISION D.

The Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act—operations in regard to—  
(a) The Metropolitan Children's Court; (b) Metropolitan Boys' Shelter, Sydney; (c) release of children on probation; (d) street trading by children.

## (a) METROPOLITAN CHILDREN'S COURT.

The operations of the Metropolitan Children's Court are divided into two distinct sections.

In No. 1 room, presided over by Mr. H. S. Hawkins, matters are dealt with—

1. When the defendants are adults.
2. Affiliation cases under the Infant Protection Act.

In No. 2 room, presided over by Mr. F. H. Galbraith, the cases dealt with are—

1. Where children only are concerned as neglected, uncontrollable, or delinquent.
2. Of widows and deserted wives who are applicants for monetary relief in terms of section 16 of the State Children Relief Act.

Courts are also held in the metropolitan area, at Parramatta, Burwood, Hunter's Hill, and Hornsby.

As pointed out in previous Reports, the simplified method of inviting children to the Court, thus relieving the parents of all Court costs, has proved highly satisfactory. The practice now in vogue is to simply send a memorandum to the child requesting attendance at the Court, and that he should be accompanied by a parent or adult friend. In no case during the past year was it found necessary to issue a summons.

In its aim to keep the members of families together, the Court was quite as successful as in previous years. One hundred and forty-three children, representing 50 families, were before the Court as being neglected by their parents; the cause being generally excessive drinking by one or both parents. Of these children, 114 of them, representing 38 families, were returned to their own homes on the parents showing they can live soberly. These figures are gratifying and show an improvement over last year, but unfortunately several cases among those enumerated were in respect of the children of soldiers fighting in France. In their cases the mothers had been drinking to excess, and consequently neglecting their children.

For the official year ended 5th April, 1919, the number of children brought before the Metropolitan Children's Court was 2,850, of whom 2,586 were boys and 264 girls, in addition to which 191 parents were proceeded against for breaches of the Public Instruction Amendment Act. Compared with the figures of last year, the total represents an increase of 423 in the number of boys and 31 in the number of girls. Of the 2,850 cases dealt with, 987 were either withdrawn or dismissed, so that the actual number of proved cases was 1,863 (or 187 more than the number last year). In some instances more than one charge was laid against a child, but one only has been considered in the calculation.

The following table shows the decision of the Court in regard to other children. Figures for the past six years are here inserted for purposes of comparison :—

Decision.	1914.		1915.		1916.		1917.		1918.		1919.	
	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,421).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,314).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,515).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,617).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,676).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,863).
Committed to gazetted institutions—												
To Farm Home, Mittagong .....	164	11.5	213	16.2	187	12.3	186	8.3	211	12.5	138	7.4
To Farm Home, Gosford .....	29	2.04	45	3.4	28	1.9	38	1.7	58	3.4	65	3.5
To Girls' Industrial School, Parramatta .....	8	.08	30	2.8	38	3.3	18	2.1	18	2.2	15	2.0
To Girls' Training Home, Parramatta .....	4		7		12		31		19		21	
Truant School, Guildford .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	2.1
Totals .....	205	13.62	295	22.4	265	17.5	273	12.1	306	18.1	277	15.0
Released on probation .....	708	...	780	...	1,051	...	1,202	...	1,282	...	1,458	...
Committed to care of persons .....	188	...	75	...	82	...	66	...	...	...	...	...
Totals .....	896	63.0	855	65.0	1,133	74.7	1,268	57.3	1,282	76.5	1,458	78.2
Committed to Ormond House to be boarded out .....	58	5.8	53	6.6	74	6.5	59	3.3	66	5.2	56	4.0
Committed to care of State Children Relief Department .....	25		35		25		15		22		18	
Committed to Rescue Homes .....	22	1.5	8	.6	11	.7	2	.1	...	...	54	2.8
Fined .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals .....	105	7.3	96	7.2	110	7.2	76	3.4	88	5.2	128	6.8

Three hundred and fifty-one children were committed to institutions gazetted under the Act (or 45 more than the number last year). The committals to the Farm Home, Mittagong, were 138, or 73 less than the number for the previous year. 87.6 per cent. of the cases brought before the Court were dealt with otherwise than commitment to institutions. Sixty-five boys were sent to the Farm Home for Boys at Gosford, being seven more than the number last year. Fifty-four boys were fined during the year for breaches of the Railway and Tramway By-laws.

As regards the total number of "cases proved" during the year, the following tables, giving a comparison for the past nine years in the method of treatment, are interesting:—

	1911. per cent.	1912. per cent.	1913. per cent.	1914. per cent.	1915. per cent.	1916. per cent.	1917. per cent.	1918. per cent.	1919. per cent.
Total committals to institutions (gazetted and otherwise) ... ..	16.2	14.6	14.81	12.56	23.0	18.2	12.1	18.1	15.0
Gazetted—Farm Home, Mittagong ... ..	8.3	12.2	10.37	9.1	16.2	12.3	8.3	12.5	7.4
" Sobraon "      { now Farm }	5.8	2.3	1.63	1.6	3.4	1.9	1.7	3.4	3.5
Brush Farm      { Home, Gosford }	0.5								
Truant School, Guildford ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.1
Industrial School (Girls). Training Home for Girls, Parramatta ...	0.8	.07	2.19	.66	2.8	3.3	2.1	2.2	2.2
Total of cases disposed of other than committed to institutions ... ..	83.5	84.7	85.19	87.3	77.6	81.8	84.5	83.3	81.1
Released on probation ... ..	47.6	51.05	57.69	49.8	65.0	74.7	56.2	76.5	78.2
Committed to be boarded out ... ..	5.3	6.3	5.53	4.6	6.6	6.5	3.3	5.2	4.0
Fined ... ..	30.6	26.5	21.93	11.8	5.1	.6	.1	.0	2.8

As in former years, the largest proportion of offences was stealing; this year, 861 cases, an increase of 304 cases over last year.

Nine hundred and eighty-seven cases, or 35 per cent. of those dealt with and proved, were withdrawn after the children had been admonished by the Special Magistrate.

Committals to all institutions have decreased since last year from 18.1 to 12.3 per cent.

It will be noticed that 92.3 per cent. of the children dealt with by the Court and committed to institutions or placed on probation came under the jurisdiction of the Board. Last year the proportion was 96 per cent.

The cases dismissed or withdrawn numbered 987, or 267 more than for the corresponding period last year. There were 687 cases under the "Neglected" or "Uncontrollable" provisions of the Act, as follows:—

Charge.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Neglected ... ..	95	71	166
Uncontrollable ... ..	201	39	240
Breaking terms of probation ... ..	34	17	51
Improper guardianship (Children's Protection Act) ... ..	8	8	16
Cases under above headings discharged or withdrawn ... ..	168	46	214
	506	181	687

Of these 687 cases, 22 boys were committed to the Farm Home, Mittagong, for breach of conditions of release on probation, and 9 to the Farm Home for Boys at Gosford for a similar reason. In addition, 44 uncontrollable and 5 neglected boys were sent to the Farm Home, Mittagong, and 10 uncontrollable and 8 neglected boys to the Farm Home, Gosford. Three uncontrollable and 10 neglected girls were sent to the Industrial School, and 8 uncontrollable and 1 neglected girl to the Training Home at Parramatta. For breaches of conditions, 2 girls were sent to the Industrial School and 9 to the Training Home, Parramatta. Sixteen children—5 less than last year—found to be under improper guardianship were committed to the care of the Board. Seventy-one children were committed to Ormond House to be boarded out.

The



The following statistical tables are submitted in connection with the year's operations at the Metropolitan Children's Court :—

TABLE I.—Disposal of Cases dealt with (showing ages of children).

Disposal.	Age in Years.														Total.
	1-4.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.		
Released on Probation .....	{ Boys	...	1	6	30	52	75	111	153	191	208	210	260	...	1,297
	{ Girls	...	...	...	2	1	4	4	7	12	8	8	20	...	66
Ormond House, Paddington .....	{ Boys	...	2	3	...	8	2	6	3	3	2	...	1	...	30
	{ Girls	...	2	...	2	2	1	1	2	2	5	1	8	...	26
Farm Home, Mittagong .....	Boys	...	...	...	...	1	9	18	27	31	38	12	2	...	138
Farm Home, Gosford .....	Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	29	30	...	65
Industrial School, Parramatta .....	Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	4	6	...	15
Training Home, Parramatta .....	Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	9	4	...	21
Probation to other than Parents .....	{ Boys	...	1	...	1	3	1	1	2	3	13	10	6	...	41
	{ Girls	...	5	1	2	3	4	5	5	5	7	7	10	...	54
State Children Relief Board .....	{ Boys	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
	{ Girls	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	9
Fined .....	Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	24	24	...	54
Truant School .....	Boys	...	...	...	...	5	6	8	4	10	5	...	...	...	38
Total .....	{ Boys	8	4	9	31	69	93	145	191	241	273	285	323	...	1,672
	{ Girls	8	7	1	6	6	9	10	15	24	28	29	48	...	191
		16	11	10	37	75	102	155	206	265	301	314	371	...	1,863
Withdrawn .....	{ Boys	...	11	8	6	27	32	55	74	110	132	211	210	...	876
	{ Girls	...	4	2	3	3	5	3	7	5	5	9	22	...	68
Discharged .....	{ Boys	...	1	...	1	1	5	6	6	5	4	5	4	...	38
	{ Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	5
Grand total .....	{ Boys	8	16	17	38	97	130	206	271	356	409	501	537	...	2,586
	{ Girls	8	11	3	9	9	14	14	24	30	34	38	70	...	264
		16	27	20	47	106	144	220	295	386	443	539	607	...	2,850

TABLE II.—Summary of Children dealt with.

How dealt with.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Released on probation to parents .....	1,297	66	1,363
Do to other than parents .....	41	54	95
Committed to Ormond House, Paddington .....	30	26	56
Committed to Farm Home, Mittagong .....	138	...	138
Committed to Farm Home, Gosford .....	65	...	65
Committed to Girls' Industrial School, Parramatta .....	...	15	15
Committed to Girls' Training Home, do .....	...	21	21
Committed to care of State Children Relief Board .....	9	9	18
Fined .....	54	...	54
Withdrawn .....	876	68	941
Dismissed or discharged .....	38	5	43
Truant Schools .....	38	...	38
Total .....	2,586	264	2,850



TABLE V.—Committed to the care of the State Children Relief Department.

Offence.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	Total.
<b>Boys.</b>														
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Improper guardianship .....	2	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Total .....	2	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	9
<b>GIRLS.</b>														
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Improper guardianship .....	2	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Total .....	2	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	9
Total number of Boys .....													9	
"    Girls .....													9	
Grand total.....													18	

TABLE VI.—Committed to the Farm Home, Mittagong.

Offence.	Age in Years.											Total.
	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.		
Boys.												
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	3	6	11	11	9	2	2	44	
Neglected—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	2	2	2	6	8	2	...	22	
Stealing .....	...	...	1	2	7	6	14	13	6	...	49	
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	2	1	6	...	4	2	...	15	
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Neglected—Vice and crime .....	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	2	...	...	5	
Utter counterfeit coin .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Breach Railway and Tramway by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Total.....	...	...	1	9	18	27	31	38	12	2	138	

TABLE VII.—Committed to the Farm Home, Gosford.

Offence.	Age in Years.						
	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.	Total.
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	3	7	...	10
Neglected—							
Living under conditions .....	1	...	...	2	3	...	6
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	2	3	4	9
Riotous behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Indecent assault.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Stealing .....	...	2	3	11	6	...	22
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	8	2	...	10
Illegally use a horse .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Throw stones .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Indecent language .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Play two-up .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total.....	1	2	3	29	26	4	65

TABLE VIII.—Committed to the Girls' Industrial School, Parramatta, with which is incorporated the Training Home for Girls. (The table shows those who were expressly committed to that branch.)

Offence.	Age in years.						Total.
	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.	
GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.							
Neglected—							
Living under conditions .....	...	3	...	3	3	...	9
Uncontrollable .....	...	1	...	...	2	...	3
Breach of conditions.....	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
No home .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total .....	...	4	1	4	6	...	15
TRAINING HOME FOR GIRLS.							
Neglected—							
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	5	3	...	...	8
Breach of conditions.....	1	1	1	5	...	1	9
Stealing .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Set fire to dwelling .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
No fixed place of abode .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total .....	1	1	6	9	3	1	21
Grand total .....	1	5	7	13	9	1	36

TABLE IX.—Committed to Ormond House, Paddington.

Offence.	Age in Years.											Total.
	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Boys.												
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	4	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	7
Neglected—												
Living under conditions .....	1	3	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	8
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Habitually wandering .....	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Breach of conditions.....	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	3
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Insufficient food .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
No fixed place of abode .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Stealing .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Trespassing .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total .....	2	3	...	8	2	6	3	3	2	...	1	30
GIRLS.												
Neglected—												
Not sufficient lodging .....	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Living under conditions .....	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	7
Breaches of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	5
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	2	6
No fixed place of abode .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Ill-treated.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Total.....	2	...	2	2	1	1	2	2	5	1	8	26
Total number of Boys ..... 30												
" Girls ..... 26												
Grand total ..... 56												

TABLE X.—Withdrawn. The policy of the Court in minor offences is to have cases, although fully proved, formally withdrawn (usually on payment of costs) to avoid the recording of a conviction.

Offences.	Age in Years.														Total.
	1-4.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.		
Boys.															
Uncontrollable .....	...	1	...	1	1	2	...	3	6	3	7	5	...	29	
Neglected—															
Street trading.....	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	5	4	4	4	2	...	27	
Insufficient lodging .....	...	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	...	2	2	...	...	15	
Vice and crime .....	...	1	3	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	11	
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	3	1	5	...	1	...	16	
Improper guardianship.....	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	5	4	10	5	7	11	5	9	5	61	
Fly kite in street .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	4	
Breaches of Railway and Tramway by-laws	...	...	...	1	8	5	19	34	60	73	166	139	...	505	
Throwing stones.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	3	...	...	9	
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	4	1	...	9	
Stealing .....	...	...	1	1	3	4	6	3	2	5	1	4	...	30	
Using insulting words .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	
Riotous behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	8	
Playing games in street .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	
Traffic by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	5	8	...	16	
Offensive behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	14	...	20	
Trespassing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	2	1	4	...	14	
Assault.....	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	8	
Break lamp.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	6	
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	6	
Truants.....	...	...	...	...	2	6	8	11	14	15	...	...	...	56	
Discharge firearms.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Playing cards .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Breach of Council by-laws.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	4	
Embezzlement .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Removing bathing costume .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	
Fail to wear mask .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	4	
Total .....	7	4	8	6	27	32	55	74	110	132	211	205	5	876	

TABLE X—continued.

Offence.	Age in Years.												Total.	
	1-4.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.		16-17.
GIRLS.														
Uncontrollable .....	...	..	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	2	...	7
Neglected—														
Vice and crime .....	...	1	2	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	8
Insufficient lodging .....	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	11
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	4	3	4	14
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Improper guardianship .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assault.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	4
Breach of Railway and Tramway by-laws	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	11	...	14
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Street trading .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Use insulting words .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Truants .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total.....	2	2	2	3	3	5	3	7	5	5	9	18	4	68
Total number of Boys .....														876
„ Girls .....														68
Grand Total .....														944

TABLE XI.—Dismissed or Discharged.

Offence.	Age in Years.											Total.
	1-4.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Boys,												
Neglected—												
Improper guardianship .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Breach Railway by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	...	2	1	...	9
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	3	2	...	3	12
Malicious damage .....	...	...	1	...	2	2	2	1	...	2	1	11
Assault .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Attempt to steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trespass .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total .....	1	...	1	1	5	6	6	5	4	5	4	38
GIRLS.												
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	4
Neglected—												
Ill-treated .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	5
Total number of Boys .....											38	
,, Girls .....											5	
Grand total .....											43	

TABLE XII.—Committed to Truant School, Guildford.

Offence,	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	Total.
BOYS.								
Truanting .....	...	5	6	8	4	10	5	38
Total .....	...	5	6	8	4	10	5	38

## PARENTS.

Parents Fined .....	61
,, Cases not proceeded with .....	130

TABLE XIII.—Fined.

## Boys.

Offence.	Age in Years.					
	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	Total.
Breach of Railway and Tramway by-laws .....	1	1	4	24	24	54

Girls—Nil.



## PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AMENDMENT ACT.

Under the Public Instruction Amendment Act, which came into operation at the Court in August, 1917, thirty-eight boys were committed to the Truant School, Guildford; fifty-seven cases were withdrawn upon the offenders promising to attend school regularly in future. One hundred and thirty cases against parents were withdrawn on their undertaking to see that their children attended school regularly in future. In sixty-one cases the parent was fined a small amount.

## METROPOLITAN BOYS' SHELTER.

The Shelter adjoins the Court, and is used for the following purposes:—

1. For the detention of lads committed to institutions from all Courts throughout the State pending Ministerial determination as to their disposal.
2. For the detention of lads apprehended by the police in the metropolitan and sub-metropolitan districts, pending the Court's decision in regard to them.
3. For the detention of lads remanded until reports have been obtained as to home surroundings and general character.
4. For the detention of lads remanded for discipline and for mental and medical examination and necessary treatment.
5. For the detention of lads sentenced to imprisonment in default of payment of fines.

The admissions for the year totalled 1,285 (which was 225 less than last year), and were as follow:—

For medical examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
From metropolitan court	...	...	...	...	...	...	294
From country courts	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
From police	...	...	...	...	...	...	675
For transfer	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Presented himself	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							1,285

The discharges were 1,323, and were disposed of as follow:—

To Ormond House	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Farm Home, Gosford	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
Farm Home, Mittagong	...	...	...	...	...	...	349
Parents or guardians	...	...	...	...	...	...	693
Training ship "Tingara"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Reception House	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Truant School	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Arrested by police and allowed home with parents prior to appearance in court	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
							1,323

On 5th April, 1918, there were in the Shelter 45 boys. During the year, 1,285 were admitted and 1,323 discharged. The daily average for the year was 36·8, as compared with 44·1 for the previous year.

It will be noticed that 84 boys, arrested by the police, were allowed home with their parents prior to appearing before the Court on a promise to be present when required; in every case, as in the previous year, each boy so trusted kept his promise.

The religious training of the boys received attention; visitors of both Protestant and Catholic churches attended and gave lessons. The lads were taken to their respective churches on Sundays. Moral lessons were given daily by the superintendent. Splendid results have been obtained by the instruction imparted to the lads remanded for discipline, and it is a rare occurrence for a delinquent to again be brought before the Court.

Mr. Ellison, dentist, visited the Shelter twice weekly and attended to the teeth of the boys.

As pointed out in my last report, it would be in the interests of all parties—parents, children, and police—were the children's cases held in the Metropolitan Children's Court, as Shelters are not connected with the Courts at Parramatta and other sub-metropolitan stations. It would save a deal of travelling by all concerned. Reform in this direction would do away with the expense of providing attendants, save unnecessary travelling, and as the Sydney Court sits daily, decisions would be more promptly given.

MENTAL

### MENTAL AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The remarkable change during the past few decades in the public attitude towards mental defectives has caused the authorities who deal with children in all parts of the world to give serious attention to the study and treatment of juvenile offenders whose lapse may primarily be traced to feeble-mindedness. During the past year the mental capacity of 878 boys admitted to the Shelter was determined by the Binet-Simon method, with the following results :—

Below normal 6 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 boys
" 5 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 "
" 4 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 "
" 3 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	27 "
" 2 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	69 "
" 1 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	133 "
Normal	...	...	...	...	...	...	624 "
Abnormal	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 "
							878 boys

The Shelter is visited three times weekly by Dr. Stewart. He examines all children who are apparently mentally, physically, or morally defective. Four hundred and twenty-eight children so examined during the past year by the Binet-Simon method produced the following results :—

Below normal	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Normal	...	...	...	...	...	...	339
Abnormal	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							428

Physical defects recommended for hospital treatment :—

Throat	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Nose	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Ears	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Eyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Circumcision	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
							132

Thus 132 children, or 30·8 per cent. of those examined, needed treatment by a medical man. In several cases the parents had neglected to have treatment carried out as recommended by the School's doctor of the Education Department.

The thanks of the Department is due to the staffs of the different metropolitan hospitals for the kind and sympathetic treatment of the children whilst under their care.

### RELEASE OF CHILDREN ON PROBATION.

The number of children released on probation by the Metropolitan and Suburban Children's Courts from the 6th April, 1918, to the 5th April, 1919, was 1,607. Of these, 1,480 were boys and 127 girls. From the country for the same period, 348 children were placed on probation, 314 being boys and 34 girls. The total number of children released on probation for the year was 1,955.

In addition to these, 241 children were discharged to their relatives in the city and suburbs by the State Children Relief Board and Ministerial authority, and 82 children were returned to their relatives in the country—total 323.

One thousand two hundred and forty-four children, who were released on probation previous to 6th April, 1918, and whose period had not expired, were visited by departmental inspectors; so that a total of 3,522 children on probation have been visited during the year.

Of the children released on probation by the Metropolitan Children's Court during the year 1918-19, 155 boys and 9 girls were committed to institutions.

In the country, 37 boys and 1 girl were sent to institutions.

In the country, 1 boy and, in the city 4 boys, were committed to the Truant School.

Children on probation are visited by the Board's inspectors and by an honorary staff of some 350 ladies and gentlemen appointed by His Excellency the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister for Education, who received nominations from my Board. A full list of honorary officers, with districts, is shown herein. The list includes members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Salvation Army, Church of England Men's Society, clergymen of various religious denominations, and a number of ladies, and my Board has much pleasure in placing on record the valuable services rendered by them in their capacity as probation officers.

The

The statistical tables under this heading sufficiently explain themselves. As regards Table III, it is explained that—

1. "Neglected" includes "habitually wandering," "lapsing into a career of vice and crime," "not being provided with sufficient and proper lodging," "having no fixed place of abode."
2. "Uncontrollable" includes cases of truancy.
3. "Stealing" includes "breaking and entering," "breaking, entering, and stealing," "attempting to steal," "larceny as a bailee," "receiving stolen property."
4. "Minor offences" includes "riotous behaviour," "breaking street lamps," "soliciting hire on railway stations," "selling without a license," "throwing stones," "breaches of city, park, railway, tramway, and other by-laws."
5. "Serious offences" includes "offensive behaviour," "causing grievous bodily harm," "breach of conditions," "indecent language," "obtaining goods by false pretences," "embezzlement," "forgery."

RETURN OF CHILDREN RELEASED ON PROBATION.  
Ages of Children on Probation as at date of release.

	Years. 5-10.	Years. 10-12.	Years. 12-14.	Years. 14-16.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—					
Boys ... ..	195	312	469	504	1,480
Girls ... ..	24	26	36	41	127
Country :—					
Boys ... ..	40	84	111	79	314
Girls ... ..	11	6	8	9	34
Grand total ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,955

Period of Release on Probation.

	Up to 1 year.	Over 1 year and up to 2.	Over 2 years and up to 3.	Over 3 years.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—					
Boys ... ..	1,452	20	1	7	1,480
Girls ... ..	53	50	5	19	127
Country :—					
Boys ... ..	299	12	.....	3	314
Girls ... ..	27	3	.....	4	34
Grand total ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,955

Nature of Offence Committed.

	Neglected.	Uncon- trollable.	Stealing.	Minor Offences.	Serious Offences.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—						
Boys ... ..	62	156	815	364	83	1,480
Girls ... ..	50	45	25	6	1	127
Country :—						
Boys ... ..	10	43	188	54	19	314
Girls ... ..	19	7	8	.....	.....	34
Grand total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1,955

Behaviour of Children while on Probation.

	Excellent.	Satisfactory.	Un- satisfactory.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—				
Boys ... ..	890	374	226	1,480
Girls ... ..	64	44	19	127
Country :—				
Boys ... ..	199	96	19	314
Girls ... ..	11	19	4	34
Grand total ... ..	...	...	...	1,955

## Committed to Institutions whilst on Probation.

## City and Suburban :—

Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

## Country :—

Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Total ... .. 202

## Committed to Truant School while on Probation.

City and Suburban:—Boys ... .. 4

Country:—Boys ... .. 1

Total ... .. 5

## Released on Probation by the State Children Relief Board and Ministerial Authority.

## City and Suburban :—

Boys and Girls ... .. 241

## Country :—

Boys and Girls ... .. 82

Total ... .. 323

## HONORARY PROBATION OFFICERS.

District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.	District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.
Abbotsford .....	Mr. M. J. West.....	C.E.	Broken Hill(etc.)	Mr. W. G. Bennett.....	C.E.
Adaminaby .....	Rev. F. J. Chapple.....	C.E.		Rev. W. A. Dunn .....	Methodist.
Adelong .....	Rev. Father James Norris .....	R.C.		Rev. W. G. Oram .....	Church of Christ.
Alexandria .....	Rev. Jas. Mann Thomas .....	C.E.		Mr Herbert Turner.....	Methodist.
Annandale .....	Mr. J. Fairfield.....	C.E.	Bondi .....	Mr. Jno. Sharpe .....	R.C.
	Mr. Jno. J. Dinan .....	R.C.	Burwood .....	Mrs. Daniel .....	Baptist.
	Rev. Robt. Rook .....	Protestant.		Mr. E. J. Hollingdale .....	R.C.
Araluen .....	Father O'Donnell.....	R.C.		Rev. Father Barlow .....	R.C.
Ashfield .....	Mr. Gormley .....	R.C.		Mr. J. P. Flynn .....	R.C.
	Mr. H. C. Byrne .....	C.E.		Mr. P. McMahon .....	R.C.
	Mr. Henry Cook .....	C.E.	Botany .....	Rev. Wm. Thos. Price .....	C.E.
Auburn .....	Mr. H. E. Page .....	Baptist.		Rev. M. Fletcher.....	Methodist.
	Mr. Wm. John Williams .....	R.C.		Rev. R. Barratt .....	Methodist.
Arncliffe .....	Mr. Hector G. Robb .....	C.E.	Booral .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Allworth .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.	Bulladelah .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Balmain .....	Mr. Jno. C. Crawley .....	R.C.	Boggabri .....	Rev. T. K. Reid .....	Methodist.
	Mr. Roy Wilson Robinson .....	Methodist.		Rev. F. St. John.....	C.E.
	Mr. Jno. Bul on .....	C.E.	Barmedman.....	Rev. Father Tracey .....	R.C.
Balranald.....	Mr. A. A. Williams .....	Presbyterian.	Broadmeadow.....	Mrs. A. A. Martin .....	Methodist.
Beaconsfield.....	Mr. J. Fairfield.....	C.E.		Mr. A. E. Swain .....	R.C.
Bathurst .....	Mr. R. Bolton .....	Methodist.	Camden .....	Miss J. M. Martin .....	C.E.
	Mr. P. J. Falvey .....	R.C.		Mr. W. C. Furner.....	Methodist.
	Rev. King Howell .....	C.E.	Campsie .....	Mr. W. A. Sommers. ....	R.C.
	Rev. Canon Wilton .....	C.E.	Canowindra .....	Mr. B. H. Birchill .....	Protestant.
Barraba.....	Mr. Richard Blackall.....	C.E.		Mr. Charles E. Archer .....	C.E.
	Mr. P. J. O'Mara .....	R.C.		Rev. Robt. Douglas .....	C.E.
Bega.....	Miss Jane Ritchie .....	Methodist.		Rev. Stan. Drummond .....	Methodist.
	Rev. Father J. Gunning.....	R.C.	Cessnock .....	Mr. Geo. Brown .....	Protestant.
	Rev. Benjamin Dore Bryant.....	C.E.	Coraki.....	Mrs. J. M. Cameron.....	Presbyterian.
Bellambi .....	Mr. F. H. Fleming .....	Baptist.	Canterbury .....	Mr. James Reilly.....	R.C.
Belmont .....	Mr. Jno. Anderson .....	C.E.		Mr. Thomas Boulton .....	R.C.
Berrigan .....	Mr. H. P. Whitty .....	C.E.	Chatswood .....	Mr. H. D. Williams.....	R.C.
Bexley .....	Rev. H. T. Halliday .....	C.E.		Rev. E. Walker .....	C.E.
Belmore .....	Mr. P. Brack .....	C.E.	Cattai .....	Rev. David Baird .....	Protestant.
	Mr. Maurice Condon .....	R.C.		Mrs. David Baird .....	Protestant.
Bombala .....	Rev. W. H. Marshall .....	Presbyterian.	Chunns.....	Mr. Robt. E. Walker .....	Methodist.
Bowral .....	Miss Constance Smith .....	C.E.	Copmanhurst .....	Mr. Davison .....	C.E.
Blayney .....	Rev. Canon Harris.....	C.E.	Cudal .....	Mrs. A. McKellar .....	C.E.
Baulkham Hills	Mrs. Louisa Telfer .....	Protestant.		Rev. Jas. Thos. Bate.....	C.E.
Bellingen .....	Father O'Regan .....	R.C.	Cooma .....	Rev. Father J. s. Norris .....	R.C.
Broken Hill.....	Mr. Jno. Sherlock .....	R.C.		Rev. Archdeacon Ward.....	Protestant.
	Rev. E. B. Wichert .....	Baptist.	Coonamble .....	Mr. Jos. Clarke.....	All religions.
	Rev. E. J. Stacey .....	Congregational.	Condobolin .....	Mr. Jos. B. May .....	C.E.
	Rev. J. Waugh .....	Presbyterian.	Coogee .....	Rev. C. L. Williams .....	C.E.
	Rev. E. J. Luck .....	Church of Christ		Mr. Walter D. Scaife .....	R.C.
	Capt. James Wishart.....	S.A.	Coolamon.....	Rev. Ross Edwards.....	C.E.
	Adj. Wm. Cousley .....	S.A.			

## HONORARY PROBATION OFFICERS—continued.

District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.	District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.
Camperdown .....	Mr. S. Emery.....	Methodist.	Lewisham.....	Mr. Jno. Walsh .....	R.C.
Carcoar .....	Rev. Harold Woodger.....	C.E.	Lismore .....	Monsignor McGuire.....	R.C.
Croydon .....	Mr. Jno. Dart .....	Methodist.	.....	Rev. Ebbs.....	C.E.
.....	Mr. Albert Trout .....	C.E.	Liverpool.....	Rev. Hy. J. Noble .....	C.E.
.....	Rev. Chas. Hughesden .....	C.E.	Lithgow .....	Mr. M. J. Stollery .....	R.C.
Callarenebri .....	Rev. Cecil Saunders .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. David Henry Dillon .....	C.E.
Cobar.....	Mr. Healey .....	R.C.	Lostock .....	Mrs. Fred. Hopson .....	C.E.
.....	Rev. Jas. Benson.....	C.E.	Lidcombe.....	Mr. J. Wm. Minton .....	R.C.
Coff's Harbour .....	Rev. F. W. Hart.....	Protestant.	Lakemba .....	Mr. Maurice Condon .....	R.C.
Casino.....	Rev. Canon Geo. P. W. Ware.....	C.E.	Long Bay .....	Rev. Jno. H. Morris .....	R.C.
Cook's Hill .....	Rev. W. J. Ritchie.....	C.E.	Lavender Bay .....	Mr. P. M. O'Keefe .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. H. Dodsley .....	C.E.	Limeburner's .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Carrington .....	Mr. E. McCarthy.....	R.C.	Creek.....	.....	.....
Cowra .....	Rev. J. B. Howard.....	R.C.	Lambton .....	Mr. R. Purcell.....	R.C.
.....	Mr. George Baines .....	C.E.	Maclean.....	Mr. T. McN. Lobban .....	Presbyterian.
Darlinghurst.....	Rev. E. C. Beck .....	C.E.	Manly .....	Miss S. Wright Fry .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. S. White .....	R.C.	.....	Miss Alice Ella.....	Protestant.
Darling Harbour .....	Miss Farrell .....	C.E.	Marrickville .....	Miss Margaret Phillips .....	R.C.
Dorrigo .....	Rev. W. G. Nisbet.....	C.E.	.....	Mr. Wm. J. Hartley .....	R.C.
Dumnoyne .....	Mr. E. Cavanagh .....	R.C.	.....	Rev. A. J. Birt .....	Protestant.
.....	Mr. Wm. A. Hastie .....	C.E.	Manildra .....	Mr. A. Wright .....	C.E.
Dulwich Hill .....	Mr. Jno. Hy. Smith.....	C.E.	.....	Rev. W. Colter .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. Oliver Nichols .....	R.C.	.....	Miss Ada Griffin .....	C.E.
Dungog.....	Rev. A. Luscombe .....	C.E.	.....	Mr. Percy Hambrough .....	C.E.
Dunoon .....	Rev. Wm. Coleman .....	Methodist.	Merrylands .....	Rev. Croft .....	Protestant.
Delegate .....	Rev. W. H. Marshall .....	Presbyterian.	Morewether .....	Mr. Fredk. Sarratt .....	Protestant.
Ebenezzer .....	Mrs. Brown .....	Baptist.	.....	Mr. Ed. Byrnes .....	R.C.
Epping.....	Mrs. Masterman .....	Methodist.	Miller's Point .....	Mr. Sidney G. Palmer .....	C.E.
Enmore .....	Mr. Fredk. Molloy .....	R.C.	Milton.....	Mrs. C. Kendall .....	C.E.
Enfield .....	Mr. Jno. Dart .....	Methodist.	.....	Rev. Edgar Potter .....	Protestant.
Forrester .....	Rev. David Baird .....	Protestant.	Moss Vale.....	Rev. Wm. A. O'Neill.....	C.E.
.....	Mrs. David Baird .....	Protestant.	Mogo .....	Rev. Phillip Cassidy .....	R.C.
Forbes .....	Mrs. Daniel J. Moloney .....	R.C.	Major's Creek .....	Rev. Father M. McNamara .....	R.C.
Five Dock.....	Rev. F. J. Chapple .....	C.E.	Mosman .....	Mr. Thomas Forrest .....	C.E.
Goulburn.....	Mr. Jno. O'Brien .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. Patk. A. Collins .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. E. P. Sheekey .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. Collins .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. Edwin Owen .....	Protestant.	.....	Mr. A. W. Butcher .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. M. G. Mitchell .....	Methodist.	.....	Mr. G. Filshie .....	Presbyterian.
.....	Mr. M. Farrell .....	R.C.	Mudgee .....	Rev. R. B. Farnar .....	Presbyterian.
Glebe .....	Mr. Emanuel Cook.....	C.E.	Murrurundi .....	Rev. R. Atkinson .....	Presbyterian.
Granville .....	Mr. Samuel Skerrett .....	Protestant.	Muswellbrook .....	Mrs. Wilson .....	C.E.
.....	Mrs. Elizabeth Lambeth.....	Methodist.	.....	Mr. J. H. Connor .....	Protestant.
.....	Mr. Edgar Thackray .....	C.E.	.....	Mr. Frank L. Cheate .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. A. E. Dunne.....	R.C.	Moore Park .....	Mr. Sylvester White .....	R.C.
Grafton.....	Rev. G. F. Ure .....	C.E.	Maroubra .....	Rev. Jno. H. Morris .....	R.C.
.....	Ven. Archd. A. Broughton .....	C.E.	Murwillumbah .....	Rev. H. Lomas .....	C.E.
.....	Rev. Father Daniel Lawton .....	R.C.	Mascot .....	Mr. Jas. T. Beriman .....	R.C.
Gosford.....	Mrs. Fielder .....	C.E.	.....	Mr. Jno. Thos. Cunningham .....	R.C.
Gulgong.....	Mr. Wm. Fletcher .....	Methodist.	Murrumburrah .....	Mrs. Minnie Mitchell .....	C.E.
Glen Innes .....	Right Rev. Monsignor M. Lobin .....	R.C.	.....	Mrs. Isabella Gibson.....	C.E.
.....	Rev. Canon Wm. Hy. Kemmis .....	C.E.	Mayfield .....	Mr. F. J. Smith .....	R.C.
Gundagai.....	Rev. H. F. A. Champion .....	C.E.	Narrandera .....	Rev. J. Rawling .....	C.E.
Gordon .....	Rev. R. Raymond King .....	C.E.	Narooma .....	Rev. Phillip Cassidy .....	R.C.
.....	Rev. Leopold Charlton .....	C.E.	.....	Mr. J. Lannon .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. Anthony L. Vider.....	R.C.	Newtown .....	Mr. Patk. W. O'Keefe.....	R.C.
Guildford.....	Rev. Croft .....	Protestant.	North Sydney .....	Mrs. R. Harris.....	C.E.
Gunning .....	Rev. T. A. Cato .....	C.E.	.....	Mrs. Thomas Qu'nn .....	R.C.
.....	Rev. Thos. Jenkin .....	Methodist.	.....	Rev. Newby Fraser.....	C.E.
Globe (N'castle) .....	Mr. G. Sarratt .....	Protestant.	.....	Mr. J. J. Madden.....	R.C.
Gloucester.....	Mr. S. Brooker .....	Protestant.	.....	Miss Alice Manners.....	C.E.
Hillgrove .....	Mrs. McNamara .....	C.E.	.....	Mr. Ernest Pepper .....	C.E.
Hornsby .....	Mr. Edward A. McMahon .....	R.C.	Nymagee .....	Mrs. C. J. Buttenshaw .....	Methodist.
Hunter's Hill.....	Mr. C. A. Fairland .....	C.E.	Nyngan .....	Mr. F. E. Ford .....	Protestant.
Hurstville.....	Mr. W. J. Agnew .....	R.C.	.....	Rev. E. Woolley .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. Percy C. Hill .....	C.E.	Newcastle.....	Mr. Henry Bull .....	R.C.
.....	Mrs. P. Smythe .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. Robt. Hewitt .....	R.C.
Haberfield.....	Mr. Jno. Hughes .....	R.C.	.....	Rev. Varcoe Cook .....	Methodist.
.....	Mr. Edwin Wensor .....	Protestant.	.....	Mrs. Stewart .....	C.F.
Hamilton .....	Mr. R. T. Randall .....	—	.....	Mr. S. A. Samuels .....	C.E.
.....	Mrs. G. Tudor .....	—	.....	Mr. C. Morgan.....	C.E.
Harden.....	Mrs. Minnie Mitchell .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. E. North Ash.....	C.E.
.....	Mrs. Isabella Gibson.....	C.E.	Narromine .....	Mr. A. Hetherington .....	Presbyterian.
Inverell.....	Dean O'Neill.....	R.C.	Naremburn .....	Mr. A. J. Rix .....	C.E.
.....	Rev. E. H. Stammer .....	C.E.	O'Connell .....	Rev. A. S. Creswell.....	C.E.
Jerilderie .....	Mrs. Elliott .....	Protestant.	Orange .....	Rev. J. C. McDonald.....	Presbyterian.
Junction.....	Mr. Fredk. Sarratt .....	Protestant.	.....	Mr. Arnold T. Caldwell .....	Protestant.
Johnston's Creek .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.	Paddington .....	Miss E. L. Watson .....	Presbyterian.
Kelso .....	Ven. Archdeacon Oakes.....	C.E.	.....	Mr. Stanley Stephenson.....	C.E.
Kogarah .....	Mr. John Kavanagh .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. Ernest H. S. Goldsmith .....	C.E.
Kempsey .....	Rev. M. Bembrick .....	Protestant.	.....	Mr. Ronald Palmer .....	R.C.
Kiama .....	Mr. Jno. Cope .....	Methodist.	Parramatta .....	Mrs. Paterson .....	Presbyterian.
.....	Rev. G. M. Torbett.....	Presbyterian.	.....	Mr. N. Austin .....	R.C.
Keerong .....	Rev. Wm. Coleman .....	Methodist.	.....	Mrs. Louisa Telfer .....	Protestant.
Leichhardt .....	Mr. R. Ellis .....	R.C.	Pambula .....	Mr. T. J. Corbett .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. Geo. Vaughan Rahn .....	C.E.	.....	Mr. C. A. Baddy .....	C.E.



## HONORARY PROBATION OFFICERS—continued.

District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.	District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.
Petersham .....	Mr. John Walsh .....	R.C.	Tamworth.....	Rev. Wm. Augustus Mullins...	R.C.
Portland.....	Mrs. J. C. Evans .....	C.E.	Rev. Canon Fairbrother.....	C.E.	
	Mr. Wm. Kelly .....	R.C.	Temora .....	Rev. W. Anson Smith .....	Presbyterian.
Pitt Town .....	Rev. David Baird .....	Protestant.		Rev. Father Tracey .....	R.C.
	Mrs. David Baird .....	Protestant.	Tempe .....	Mr. John T. Quinn .....	R.C.
Pymont .....	Mr. Michael J. Weslan .....	R.C.		Mr. Thos. Swadling.....	C.E.
	Mr. M. O'Dwyer .....	R.C.		Mr. Jeppe P. Smith .....	C.E.
Plumpton .....	Mrs. A. Hyatt.....	Protestant.		Mr. E. Burrows .....	Methodist.
Pymble .....	Mr. Anthony L. Vider.....	R.C.	Tenterfield .....	Mr. Daniel Mullane .....	R.C.
Penshurst .....	Mr. Hy. Pollard .....	R.C.	Tumut .....	Mr. Spencer Groves .....	C.E.
Queanbeyan.....	Mrs. J. M. McIntosh.....	Presbyterian.		Rev. A. Holden .....	Presbyterian.
	Rev. Robt. Elliott .....	C.E.		Rev. C. Burgess .....	C.E.
	Father Haydon .....	R.C.	Tumbarumba .....	Mr. G. T. Honecke .....	Protestant.
Randwick.....	Mrs. W. Barnes .....	Methodist.		Rev. H. J. Delvin .....	C.E.
	Rev. W. Cakebread .....	C.E.		Rev. F. O'Dea .....	Presbyterian.
	Mr. Thos. McNamara .....	R.C.	Taree .....	Rev. Rd. Hy. Phillips .....	C.E.
Redfern .....	Mr. Michael Harnsey .....	R.C.	The Channon.....	Rev. Wm. Coleman .....	Methodist.
Rozele .....	Mr. J. P. Meaney .....	R.C.	Tentabo .....	Rev. Wm. Coleman .....	Methodist.
	Mr. H. Wexted .....	R.C.	Tea Gardens .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Rockdale .....	Mr. Thos. O'Connell .....	R.C.	Teleghree.....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Ryde .....	Mr. John Kelly .....	R.C.	Tomingley .....	Mr. Frank B. Dicken.....	C.E.
Riverstone .....	Rev. Jas. Steele .....	Presbyterian.	Turrumurra .....	Rev. Ronald Cameron .....	C.E.
Rooty Hill .....	Mr. A. Hyatt .....	Protestant.	Urana .....	Mr. C. H. McCulloch .....	Presbyterian.
Raymond .....	Mr. Richardson .....	C.E.	Ultimo .....	Mr. Norbert Chinchin .....	R.C.
	Mr. R. Curtis .....	C.E.	Upper Tuntable .....	Rev. Wm. Coleman.....	Methodist.
St. Leonards.....	Mr. A. J. Hogan .....	R.C.	Creek.....		
Springwood .....	Mr. A. G. Griffin .....	C.E.	The Vineyards...	Rev. Jenkins .....	C.E.
Summer Hill .....	Mr. Jno. Walsh .....	R.C.	Warialda .....	Rev. P. A. Smith .....	Presbyterian.
Sutherland .....	Mrs. G. R. Greigh .....	Presbyterian.	Waterloo .....	Mr. Jos. Climson .....	R.C.
Stockton .....	Mr. Harry Gilbert .....	Methodist.		Mr. Cornelius McCormack .....	R.C.
Stammore .....	Mr. Percy D. Brady .....	C.E.	Wagga Wagga .....	Mr. Chas. Hardy .....	C.E.
St. Ives.....	Rev. Herbert C. Vindin .....	C.E.	Waverley .....	Mr. Francis Walsh .....	R.C.
St. Peters.....	Mr. Fredk. Molloy .....	R.C.		Mrs. E. Johnson .....	C.E.
	Mr. Hy. Gilroy .....	C.E.	Watson's Bay...	Mr. Thos. Molyneux .....	R.C.
	Mr. E. Burrows .....	Methodist.	West Wallsend...	Mr. J. H. Jones .....	Presbyterian.
Surry Hills.....	Mr. Thos. Row .....	C.E.		Miss Ellen Tracey .....	R.C.
	Mr. Wm. D. B. Creagh .....	C.E.	Wingham .....	Mr. Hy. Scrivener .....	Presbyterian.
	Mr. Phillip Leamore .....	R.C.	Wickham .....	Mr. Jos. Farnham .....	C.E.
	Miss Q. Williams .....	R.C.	Windsor .....	Mr. H. M. Pulsford.....	Presbyterian.
	Mr. D. R. Haugh .....	R.C.		Rev. Jenkins .....	C.E.
	Rev. J. Chapple .....	C.E.	Woollahra .....	Mr. Aug. Keogh .....	R.C.
Sydney .....	Mr. Edgar Sawell .....	Christadelphian.		M. S. R. Ullathorne .....	C.E.
	Sister Keith.....	Methodist.		Mr. Jno. Sharpe .....	R.C.
	Mr. Jno. O'Neill .....	R.C.	Woonona .....	Mr. H. F. Fleming .....	Baptist.
	Mr. Henry Conroy .....	R.C.	Wollongong .....	Mr. Jas. Dean .....	Congregational.
	Mr. B. Tansey .....	R.C.		Very Rev. Jno. P. Dunne.....	R.C.
	Mr. Chas. G. Smith.....	R.C.	Willoughby .....	Mr. Hy. O. Williams .....	R.C.
	Mr. B. Peterson.....	R.C.	Woolloomooloo .....	Rev. S. H. Denman .....	C.E.
	Mr. W. Creighton.....	R.C.	Woolwich.....	Mr. C. A. Fairland .....	C.E.
	Mr. F. Mulligan .....	R.C.	Wankwong .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
	Mr. Sidney G. Palmer .....	C.E.	Wentworth .....	Mr. W. G. Bennett.....	C.E.
Stroud .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.	Wrightville .....	Rev. Jas. Benson .....	C.E.
Sawyer's Point...	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.	Yass .....	Mr. A. A. Edwards .....	C.E.
Springdale .....	Rev. Father Tracey.....	R.C.		Rev. Arthur Rix .....	C.E.
Sing'eton .....	Mr. G. Colton Smith .....	C.E.	Young .....	Mrs. L. A. Metcalfe.....	C.E.

## (d) STREET TRADING BY CHILDREN.

Street trading by children under the age of 16 years is controlled by the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act. "Hawking newspapers, matches, flowers or other articles, singing or performing for profit, or any like occupation carried on in a public place" constitutes an offence against the Act unless a license is granted by the boarding-out officer as licensing authority. The minimum age for which a license is granted is 12 years; for certain occupations, 14 years. Girls are not permitted to trade. The supervision of this work is carried out by officers of the Board.

There are 902 licenses to "street-trade" in existence at the present time, and the closest supervision is exercised to see that the Act is complied with. Children of school age found wandering about are kept under observation and action taken when necessary.

As pointed out in previous reports, street trading by children under 14 years should not be encouraged. The demoralising effect of this class of work upon the unformed

unformed characters of boys between 12 and 13 years of age is such as to have a tendency to unsettle them, and ultimately they drift off into undesirable spheres, in preference to undertaking useful employment, or being indentured to some trade. Very definite reports showing the necessity for the issue of licenses and that such issue will not result in injuring the child's moral welfare are required by the licensing officer before the licenses are issued. The necessity for the issue of the licenses is usually determined by the circumstances of the applicant's family. No charge is made for the license, but a deposit of 1s. 6d. is insisted upon from each licensee, because of the abuses and impositions practised amongst the lads. The badges are of metal and worn on the arm of the licensees. Children of school age wear badges of a distinctive colour. A draft copy of amendments is at present being considered by the Minister as regards the amending of the regulations which is a necessity as far as this class of work is concerned.

During the period ended 31st March, 1919, 902 licenses were granted; there were in all 990 applications, 88 being refused for various reasons (under age, unsuitable character, &c.). The number of applications was 153 more than that received during last year. Eighteen licenses were withdrawn during the year for breaches of the regulations.

		(a) Ages.		
		Under 14.	Over 14.	Total.
		570	420	990
		(b) Purposes.		
Hawking :—		Under 14.	Over 14.	Total.
Newspapers	... ..	541	410	951
Flowers, &c.	... ..	12	6	18
Other articles	... ..	17	4	21
		570	420	990

## DIVISION E.

### CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT.

This measure provides for the supervision of infants up to the age of 3 years who are placed in foster-homes for payment apart from their parents; for the inspection of nursing-homes (or private houses in which more than one infant is taken for payment), and for the oversight of infants born in lying-in homes.

The Children's Protection Act has enabled much good to be done in the direction of preserving the lives of young infants and minimising baby-farming, but it needs serious amendment on the lines which I have already indicated, in order that its purpose may be more effectively realised.

The Board once more has pleasure in acknowledging the valuable co-operation of medical men in private practice and at the various metropolitan hospitals in the work of protecting infant life.

A large proportion of the children supervised in terms of this Act are illegitimate. Only a section of this latter class is reached in this way. Over the others there is no control whatever—a grave defect, which should be remedied without delay.

There are now six female inspectors who visit licensed children in the city and suburbs, examine the home conditions and the health of the babies, and give instruction, where necessary, to the custodians in the proper dieting and general care of infants. They also take precaution to see that the regulation as to taking children during their first twelve months of life to a metropolitan hospital for medical examination fortnightly is strictly observed by the foster-mothers.

Statistical information in connection with the operations of this Act for the year ended 31st December, 1918, is as follows :—

CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT—STATISTICS FOR PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1918.

Registrations from lying-in homes...	11,165
Foster-homes registered	110
Children registered	927
Children discharged—	
To parents	258
To control of the State Children Relief Board	28
Over age...	136
To Children's Hospitals	27
To other hospitals	3
Away from State	4
Adopted	32
	488
Deaths	8
Children transferred to hospital, where they subsequently died	24
Total number of children under supervision on 31st December, 1918	431
Number of theatrical licenses granted	270

The total number of children under supervision in this section for the year was 927. Of these, 8 died. The ages and causes of death were as under. Death-rate, .862 per cent.

AGES AND CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Under 1 year.
Gastro-enteritis	4
Marasmus	2
Cerebral congestion	1
Pneumonia	1
Total	8

THEATRE LICENSES FOR CHILDREN.

There were 276 theatre licenses for children. Such licenses are granted by the Minister in conformity with section 23 of the Act, and the supervision of investigations entailed before licenses are given is carried out by a special officer. Licenses are issued to children over 10 years of age in the metropolitan area. Children under 14 are not permitted to travel with touring companies.

The majority of applications were in respect of children employed in the pantomime productions and dramas where a child is in the cast. The demand for the "child" performer on the Music Hall stage is becoming less each year. One of the principal reasons for this is the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act No. 31, which compels the children to attend school daily, thus leaving very little time for rehearsals.

Strict supervision is required to protect the moral and material interests of children engaged in theatrical work and under similar conditions. A special feature during the past year has been the extra care exercised by the various theatrical managements in the comfort of the children behind the stage.

CONCLUSION.

I have given in detail the operations under various headings of departmental work with which the State Children Relief Board is directly concerned. The series of appendices and progressive statistical tables, usually following the Report, are embodied in it.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. GREEN,

President, State Children Relief Board.

The Under Secretary,  
Department of Education.



1920 VOL. 2.

From P. 425

1920.

(SECOND SESSION.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

NEW SOUTH WALES

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# STATE CHILDREN RELIEF

## REPORT

OF THE

PRESIDENT, ALFRED V. RUSSELL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 5 AUGUST 1920

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Presented to Parliament in pursuance of the provisions of the  
Children Relief Act, 1919

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*Printed under No. 15 Report from Printing Committee*

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1921.

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RELIEF BOARD.

RT

WILLIAM GREEN,

APRIL, 1920.

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1901.

ting Committee, 22 December, 1920.

LICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

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# PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE STATE CHILDREN RELIEF BOARD.

1881 to 1916-19.

Name.	Date of Appointment.	Date of Retirement.
(a) PAST MEMBERS—		
<i>Mackellar, Hon. Sir Charles K., Kt., M.B., M.L.C., &amp;c. (Ex-President).</i>	20 October, 1882*	1 December, 1914.
<i>Renwick, Hon. Sir Arthur, Kt., M.D., M.L.C. (Ex-President).</i>	19 April, 1881	24 February, 1902.
<i>Garran, Mrs. Andrew ... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	1 August, 1911.
<i>Street, John Rendell, J.P.... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	7 October, 1881.
<i>Allen, Lady... ..</i>	19 April, 1881 12 June, 1901 (Reappointed).	19 December, 1893. 27 March, 1907.
<i>Jeffries, Mrs. Marian ... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	30 September, 1889.
<i>Stuart, Miss Mary ... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	4 October, 1884.
<i>Windeyer, Mrs. William (afterwards Lady Windeyer).</i>	19 April, 1881 6 December, 1889 (Reappointed).	20 December, 1886. 26 February, 1897.
<i>Innes, Hon. Sir J. G. Long, Kt. ... ..</i>	19 April, 1881	20 October, 1882.
<i>Jennings, Lady ... ..</i>	30 September, 1881	27 November, 1888.
<i>Slattery, Thos. Michael ... ..</i>	20 October, 1882	8 July, 1892.
<i>Barry, Mrs. Louisa Victoria ... ..</i>	4 October, 1884	13 April, 1887.
<i>Trickett, Hon. W. J., M.L.C. ... ..</i>	23 October, 1885	31 March, 1911.
<i>Goodlet, Mrs. A. A. ... ..</i>	13 April, 1887	20 July, 1898.
<i>Manning, Lady ... ..</i>	4 January, 1887	6 February, 1901.
<i>Austin, Mrs. Fanny M. ... ..</i>	6 December, 1889	Died in April, 1894.
<i>Slattery, Mrs. T. M. ... ..</i>	8 June, 1894	10 April, 1905.
<i>Renwick, Lady ... ..</i>	26 February, 1897	30 January, 1899.
<i>Grimshaw, Mrs. ... ..</i>	29 August, 1898	20 June, 1902.
<i>Barton, Mrs. Edmund ... ..</i>	30 January, 1899	25 September, 1899.
<i>Stephen, Mrs. C. B. ... ..</i>	23 May, 1899	17 July, 1900.
<i>McGowen, J. S. T., M.L.A. ... ..</i>	28 September, 1900	25 September, 1908.
<i>See, Lady ... ..</i>	28 October, 1901	Died in March, 1904.
<i>Suttor, Lady ... ..</i>	8 August, 1902	1 June, 1911.
<i>MacLaurin, Lady ... ..</i>	2 April, 1904	26 September, 1904.
<i>Hughes, Mrs. Thos.... ..</i>	18 May, 1905	7 February, 1911.
<i>Stephen, The Hon. Sir Henry ... ..</i>	31 August, 1907	31 December, 1909.
<i>Heydon, The Hon. L. F., M.L.C.... ..</i>	8 July, 1892	Died in April, 1918.
<i>Morrish, J. J., M.L.A. ... ..</i>	29 March, 1915	— April, 1919.
(b) PRESENT MEMBERS—		
<i>Green, A. W. (President) ... ..</i>	1 May, 1911†	.....
<i>Fegan, Hon. John L., M.L.A. ... ..</i>	18 November, 1908	.....
<i>McMillan, Lady ... ..</i>	15 October, 1904†	.....
<i>MacCallum, Mrs. ... ..</i>	14 February, 1910	.....
<i>Golding, Miss Annie, O.B.E. ... ..</i>	1 May, 1911	.....
<i>Scobie, Miss G. C. ... ..</i>	16 July, 1913	.....
<i>Griffith, Mrs. Arthur ... ..</i>	29 March, 1915	.....
<i>Mullins, Hon. John Lane, M.L.C. ... ..</i>	12 June, 1918	.....

\* Retired 23rd October, 1885; reappointed, 23rd April, 1902.

† Also a Member from 19th December, 1893, to 10th April, 1899, and from 24th November, 1899, to 12th June, 1901.

‡ Appointed President, 1st January, 1915, upon resignation of the Hon. Sir Charles Mackellar from the Board.

The President of the State Children Relief Board to The Minister for Education.

State Children Relief Board Offices,  
Department of Education,  
Bridge-street, Sydney,  
5th April, 1920.

Sir,

In conformity with the provisions of section 10 of Act No. 61, of 1901, I have the honor to present a Report upon the operations of the State Children Relief Board for the year ended 5th April, 1920.

During the year eighteen meetings of the Board were held, the attendance of members being:—Mr. A. W. Green (President), 18; Hon. J. L. Fegan, 3; Miss Annie Golding, 16; Mrs. Arthur Griffith, 4; Mrs. MacCallum, 13; Lady McMillan, 10; Miss G. L. Scobie, 4; and the Hon. John Lane Mullins, M.L.C., 8; Mr. Morrish, nil. Miss Scobie was unable to attend regularly owing to being engaged on influenza work; Mrs. Griffith was exempted from attendance at Board Meetings for a period of three months on account of her health; and Mr. Morrish, who had been a member of the Board for the past five years, intimated his inability to further interest himself in the business of the Board, and tendered his resignation, which was accepted with regret.

The Board's expenditure has considerably increased during the current year, primarily on account of the high cost of living necessitating the granting of increased allowance to widows and deserted wives for the maintenance of their children in their own homes. During the year many cases of distress were brought under notice where husbands were invalids residing at home and totally unable to earn a livelihood. As a consequence the children necessarily suffer, and in view of the fact that the existing legislation does not provide for the granting of monetary assistance in such cases, representations were made to the Minister that the liberal interpretation of section 16 of the State Children Relief Act might be so construed as to permit of relief being granted in cases of this kind. The Minister approved of the extension of the aid, and intends to introduce legislation dealing with this question.

The ever upward tendency of the cost of commodities, clothing, &c., caused some action to be taken to increase the maintenance rates for boarded-out children, and I am pleased to state that during the period under review, the rate in respect of State children was increased to 10s. per week for each child boarded out with an approved guardian. This involved a further increase in the Board's expenditure. The maintenance rates paid in this State are now equal to those allotted in the other States of the Commonwealth. It is gratifying to note that the boarding-out system is being generally adopted throughout the world, and a movement is now on foot in England to practically follow out the system at present in vogue in this State. Another matter of interest from the same source is an endeavour to obtain pensions for widows for the maintenance of children under the age of 14 years in the United States—this practically follows out the enactment now in force under section 16 of the State Children Relief Act, and shows that this Department is well in the forefront in modern methods of dealing with unfortunates requiring assistance.

Efforts in this State, although far from having attained perfection, have resulted in the growth of a Department which is well equipped in every respect for dealing with the welfare of children. In order to show the progress made, I have scheduled the growth and expenditure of the Department from 1901 to date.

My Board was exceedingly pleased at the sympathetic manner in which the Minister endeavoured to meet the constant demand for increased accommodation as regards Cottage Homes for Feeble-minded and Epileptic Children. Unfortunately, this phase of child welfare has not received the attention it deserves. However, with the Minister's authority, preparations were completed for the erection of two cottage homes for feeble-minded children and one for epileptic cases.

My Board was also gratified at the decision of the Minister to approve of the teacher at "May Villa" Feeble-minded Home for Girls being allowed to proceed to America to gain experience and knowledge as regards the treatment of these unfortunate children. It is to be hoped that upon the return of the officer mentioned steps will be taken to segregate the feeble-minded in colonies of cottage homes. The efforts of the Board

to



to deal with the mentally deficient children under its care have been along the lines laid down by the older countries, and the object lesson set up shows clearly that some definite steps must be taken to grapple with this question on broad lines. "Catch them young" must be the watchword if there is to be any permanent good for the community; once the feeble-minded get beyond the adolescent stage they become more or less a menace to society. The experience of the Department has been that almost all the feeble-minded children can be taught some useful trade or occupation; indeed it is surprising the amount of work they can get through. At Mittagong the boys are taught basket-work, carpentering, bootmaking, farm and orchard work, while the older boys at Raymond Terrace are taught tailoring, bootmaking, and toy-making. The girls at "May Villa" are taught basket-work, sewing, and gardening. The Board strongly urges again that separate colonies of cottage homes be established, one for girls and another for boys.

In recent investigations in Canada and America it is estimated that the ratio of mental defectives to the whole population is 3 in 1,000. If the same ratio obtains in New South Wales, there are 6,000 persons of this type to be dealt with. Further, the Canadian report says the number of feeble-minded is increasing more rapidly than the number of normal persons in the ratio of two to one, or even three to one. In the face of this evidence, should not something be done at once to segregate the mental defectives in this State?

I am pleased to report that after repeated efforts to obtain an amendment of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act as regards the inquiry upon oath in connection with section 16 recipients, the Minister for Justice approved of a more liberal interpretation being made in this section of the Act. As a consequence, the attendance of applicants for assistance in the country at the nearest Children's Court is now discretionary instead of mandatory. The benefit derived by recipients owing to the removal of this unsatisfactory feature of the Act is undoubted—my Board has felt for many years that extreme hardship was caused in numerous instances where applicants in the country desiring to have their children boarded out to them—where the assistance asked for was obvious—had to travel long distances—frequently to find that their cases were postponed to a future date.

I would again urge the codification and amendment of the various Acts administered by the Department on the lines already submitted as a necessity for the proper working of the Department. The efforts of my Board to have the various Acts brought up to date have not met with the success deserved. The matter is all-important, and vitally essential in the best interests of the State and its wards. Draft Bills prepared as far back as 1915 still lie dormant, as a result of which the administration is held responsible for faults in the Statutes which they are powerless to rectify. In justice to my Board and the Department, legislation should no longer be delayed to bring into line the State Children Relief Act, Children's Protection Act, Infants' Protection Act, and Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act—the legal authority for dealing with all neglected, dependent, and orphan children of the State.

As a result of the undoubted success of the hostel established at Waverley for the reception of working mothers with their babies, the Minister approved of further homes being started for the housing of homeless girls and their babies, under conditions which as nearly as possible approach home life. These hostels are availed of to the fullest extent, and arrangements have been completed with public (maternity) hospitals whereby young unmarried women with their infants are admitted direct to these homes as soon as they are able to leave the hospital. One of these hostels is also largely used for pre-maternity cases.

The activities of the Department were somewhat disorganised during the months of May, June, and July, when the State was again visited by the influenza pandemic. The Department was called upon to make arrangements for the care and attention of children whose parents were afflicted with the disease, with the result that all available accommodation was placed at the disposal of the Influenza Committee. To further accentuate the difficulties under which the Board was at that time working, an outbreak of typhoid fever took place at the cottage homes at Mittagong, consequently the homes were quarantined until the scourge was stamped out.

A matter for satisfaction by my Board has been the Minister's approval of the purchase of premises at Glebe Point to be utilised as a dépôt for State Children. This will materially relieve the existing congestion at "Ormond House," the present dépôt, which

which is also used as a shelter for court girls and young children as well as being the establishment for the housing of State children in the course of transit to and from their respective homes; this will admit of a further classification of the children under control.

Particulars concerning the activities of the Farm Home for Boys, Mittagong, are given in the body of this report. It is pleasing to note that the products of the Home obtained prizes, and met with a fair share of success at the Moss Vale Show. These Homes have been most successful in dealing with cases of juvenile offenders.

It may not be out of place to here invite attention to the interest displayed in other parts of the world in the Child Welfare Movement. In England and France organisations have been formed for the skilful and hygienic treatment of children from childhood until such time as they attain adolescence, and although movements have been started in this State upon similar lines, the progress so far reached in the education of mothers is infinitesimal. I am, however, submitting an article dealing with this phase of child welfare for consideration as to suitable means being adopted for the saving of child life.

In this report I have departed somewhat from the usual procedure by referring to matters which call for attention, and are dealt with under separate headings in the text thereof. I particularly refer to the need for legislation as regards the teaching of trades or callings to all children when possible; the exercise of supervision over the conditions under which children frequent picture shows; the amendment of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act to permit of more adequate supervision being maintained over girls over school age; street-trading clauses to embrace trading upon ferry-boats, railway stations, picture shows, and in kindred places.

A suggestion has been submitted for consideration that boys should not be licensed for street-trading under 14 years of age.

The Board desires to tender its thanks to Messrs. J. C. Williamson and Ben Fuller, who invited the children of "Ormond House" and other Metropolitan Homes to performances at the theatres under their control. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Prince, of Woollahra, for the kindly interest displayed by her in the crippled children at Mittagong; also, for the presentation of an invalid carriage donated by her for the use of these children; also, to Mrs. Reynolds, of Newport, who so kindly placed her cottage at the disposal of the feeble-minded children of "May Villa," to enable them to recuperate from the effects of influenza; to the Inspector-General of Police for the valuable aid so freely given by him and his many officers in connection with the work of the Department; also to Magistrates presiding at the Children's Courts for the interest displayed in dealing with cases brought before them by my officers; to the large body of Honorary Lady Visitors and Honorary Probation Officers for the admirable work undertaken by them during the year; to the Minister for Education for his unfailing sympathy with, and assistance to my Board in its oft-times difficult work; and to Sir James Burns, M.L.C., for his kindness in providing an annual picnic for the children of the Cottage Homes, Parramatta.

#### SOCIAL AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE.

The present conditions of the various social and charitable activities of the State call loudly for alteration and co-ordination. Although the State is possibly as forward as most countries in the world as regards its social work, this obtains here more in spite of its legislation than because of it. One has to be retrospective, and to call attention to the fact that it is now thirty-nine years since the first serious attempt was made to deal with the children of the State in anything like a humane manner. Prior to that time, the conditions of dependent children were shocking—as witness the report of the Royal Commission on the Randwick Asylum, and other criticisms of the system then in vogue, the outcome of which was the substitution of the boarding-out system for the justly-condemned Barrack System, and the establishment of the State Children Relief Board to carry out the intentions of the Act. It will hardly be believed that as late as fifteen years ago, girls of from 9 to 18 years (inmates of a reformatory under the Justice Department) were subject to all the severity of prison life as then practised, *e.g.*, solitary confinement, dark cells, &c. That the provisions of the State Children Relief Act have been honestly and faithfully carried out is undoubted, and although the Act referred to has been amended in a few details since it was originally passed

passed (the Boarding-out of children with their mothers which was a very important innovation excepted), it has, with the passing of the Children's Protection and Infants' Protection Acts, and the Juvenile Offenders Act later on, become to all intents and purposes the palladium of child legislation for State dependents; and that many enthusiastic and broad-minded citizens have given their time and valuable services without fee or reward—as Members of the Board for this long period—is a most remarkable tribute to their humanitarian ideals. The State Children Relief Board has, however, been hampered in its usefulness and effectiveness in dealing with the larger problems of the children of the State. The new trend of child welfare has outgrown the Board's legal limitations, and it is undoubted that the Board should be invested with much more comprehensive powers on this question. The child is now coming into its rightful heritage in that it is at least the best asset of the State, and the nation that cares for its children and specialises in a proper way in their regard must inevitably become the foremost in the van of civilised nations. To this, and the wisdom and legislative labours of the Government of the State should be sedulously and unceasingly advanced, and with the object of obtaining the best results from whatever social legislation is best suited for the State requirements, a bold plan of dealing with the subject is advocated—firstly, by acknowledging that the matter is one of such importance as to warrant the creation at an early date of a separate Department of State to deal with it in all its various phases and ramifications.

The serious drawback in successfully dealing with the subject up to the present has been the division of the activities in social work amongst different Departments of the State, *i.e.*, the Chief Secretary's Department controls the subsidising of denominational orphanages, &c., which totals £3,000 annually, and also the expenditure of a large amount on the distribution of Charities Vote, which covers in a measure expenditure not provided by the State Children Relief Act, but which should be administered under amended provisions of the Act. The Minister for Health controls the Baby Clinics, Lady Edeline Hospital, Child Welfare Association, the Benevolent Society, &c., and subsidises these institutions; and the Minister for Education has, under his direction, the State Children Relief Board, the Industrial School for Girls, Parramatta, and the Boys' Reformatory at Gosford, with a total expenditure of nearly £275,000 annually. The latest figures available show that the institutions conducted by organisations of a religious character which received children wholly orphaned, or partly so, from relatives, have 2,017 children therein, and that the expenditure incurred by them in this connection totals approximately £47,000 per annum, provided mostly by private subscriptions. It will thus be seen that the public, as represented by the Ministers, and the religious bodies as representing private effort, are both concerned in the care of dependent children placed in institutions, whilst the Minister for Education is concerned with the children of the same class who are placed out by the State Children Relief Board with guardians privately, and with other children placed in institutions which are licensed by legislative enactment to receive them. To further emphasise this dual control, or divided authority, the Health Department controls the Lady Edeline Hospital for Babies, also the Baby Clinics—the latter were founded to supply instructions with regard to the proper nursing of children—whilst the State Children Relief Board, under the Minister for Education, has five homes for mothers with their babies, *viz.*, at Eastwood, Burwood, Marrickville, Summer Hill, and Waverley. The Minister for Education also controls the activities of the State Children Relief Board as follows, *viz.* :—Children placed out under the boarding-out system with private guardians, also those boarded out with their own mothers; delinquent children under the Neglected Children's Act; the mentally and physically defective in cottage homes; the protection of infants in lying-in homes; and of children under 3 years of age privately boarded out; the protection of children placed in institutions under and up to the age of 7 years, also of children engaged in public performances, and of children engaged in street-trading, and also the enforcement of the truant clauses of the Public Instruction Act. Total children under supervision by the State Children Relief Department is approximately 20,000.

Quite independently of the above, the Minister deals directly with girls and boys in institutions, under the Neglected Children's Act, *viz.*, one for Girls at Parramatta and one for Boys at Gosford, whilst the State Children Relief Board deals with one for Boys, subject to the same Act, at Mittagong, and likewise controls the Metropolitan Shelter and Country Shelters attached to the Children's Courts through which the *whole* of the children committed to these institutions pass. Again, whilst the President of the State Children Relief Board is appointed by the Governor, and is directly responsible to

to the Minister, all his administrative Acts are subject to review by subordinate officers of the Department of Public Instruction before submission to the Minister. This phase of the unfavourable position in which this official is placed has only to be mentioned to be condemned.

The Acts relating to children directly are as follow :—

Act,	Department Administering.
State Children Relief Act ... ..	Public Instruction.
Children's Protection Act ... ..	Public Instruction.
Infant Protection Act ... ..	Public Instruction.
Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act	Public Instruction and Justice.
Private Hospitals Act ... ..	Health Department.

One of the principal sections of the Children's Protection Act is the regulating of Lying-in Homes, *i.e.*, " Houses in which more than one woman is received for confinement for payment of money, either at the same time or within a period of two months." The Private Hospitals Act also controls these homes, and, as shown, two different Ministers of the Crown administer them. The mere recitation of these anomalies of administration is sufficient to at least condemn the present system, and to call for a speedy and effective alteration. Further, this splitting up of child welfare activity is responsible for the lack of attention given to the crying need for effectiveness and for the neglect of the introduction of long-asked-for reforms.

As showing the want of interest taken in social work, it should be mentioned that as far back as ten years ago the following resumé of suggestions, as affecting the work of the State Children Relief Board, would appear to have been dealt with in special correspondence with the Minister, extending over a period of years. These are still awaiting consideration, and were specifically brought under notice in the Annual Report of the State Children Relief Board submitted to Parliament, *viz.* :—

1. The establishment of a Cottage Home for epileptic State children.
2. The opening of a dépôt for a classifying and Isolation Home for Court children committed to Mittagong.
3. Reclassification of children in all institutions.
4. Amendment of the Acts administered by this Department on the lines indicated in my last report.
5. Facilities for Industrial Training of State children prior to apprenticeship.
6. Official recognition as Institutions within the meaning of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act of certain establishments now dealing with the reformation of children sent there by the Children's Courts.

Other reforms of a general character have repeatedly been urged on the different Ministerial heads without results, *vide* Annual Reports, *i.e.* :—

Legal authority for establishing colonies and homes for feeble-minded children, also homes for epileptics.

Authority to establish nursing homes in all the populated centres, enabling mothers to leave their children whilst they go to work.

More provision to be made to reclassify and rearrange the various homes for mental defectives.

Powers to more liberally interpret and legalise the intention or spirit of the Act as applying to widows and deserted wives, *viz.*, to pay a woman whose husband, though not in hospital, gaol, or other institution, is unable to maintain her and the children through illness an allowance for the children.

Other recommendations, such as the amendment of the Children's Protection Act to provide for the—

Supervision of all children placed out either privately or in institutions whether for payment or otherwise.

Approval and licensing of all private nursing homes before children are placed in them.

Greater powers as regards proceedings for neglect or ill-treatment—deletion of the provision that permanent or serious injury to the child shall be proved.

Notification of illegitimate births in lying-in homes within a specified period.

And



**And under the Infant Protection Act—**

Amendment of the clauses providing for corroborative evidence as regards the affiliation of the illegitimate child.

Amendment in the direction of provision for bringing any child, no matter what age, before the Court as a Neglected Child. There is at present an age limit in this regard.

These are all of an urgent and important character, and have been the subject of representations by the Women's Reform League and other interested bodies to some of the present Ministers as late as last year.

Other important matters necessitating attention are the proper administration of affiliation work by which the mother would be protected and helped both prior to and after the birth of her child. The supervision of street-trading by juveniles. With regard to the latter, it is a very serious and debatable question as to whether children should not be eliminated from this work altogether, and the work now undertaken by them left to cripples or women who would be provided with stalls or kiosks in all the popular thoroughfares, thus ridding the streets of all children out for trading, and saving many from careers of vice and crime. The benefits of this reform could be greatly enlarged upon in the interests of the children, and from every physical and moral standpoint.

Also the supervision of picture shows and similar places attended by children is necessary.

The matters of truancy, provision for "caste" children in special homes, probation, &c., in its broadest sense, and many other matters affecting the child life of the State, require serious attention.

I would, therefore, strongly urge the co-ordination of all the Acts and agencies dealing with dependent children of the State and the laws applicable in this regard to the general population. They should be placed under direct Ministerial control, with the Head of the Department as permanent head, responsible to, and only to the Minister, as obtains now in the Health, Lunacy, and Prisons Departments, which are surely not of greater importance to the State than the Children's Department. It should be the first aim of any Government desirous of doing its duty as such to appoint a Ministry or Bureau of Child Welfare, to direct and control all private and public activities for the protection and care of children.

Legislation would, of course, be necessary to legally extend the activities of the Department in the direction of some of the matters brought under notice, but the present Acts would meet many pressing reforms if given Ministerial sanction and approbation.

The establishment in every large Industrial Centre of Day Nurseries where children might be cared for during the absence of their mothers at work, such as now obtains in three or four centres in the metropolitan area, is a matter of much importance. It is at the same time a question worthy of consideration whether the mothers of young children should be expected to go out to work at all, and whether they should not receive an adequate supporting allowance for themselves and their children to remain at home and properly care for them. In this connection also the question of a Widows' Pension Scheme should receive serious consideration on the lines of the New Zealand Act.

As advocated early in this memorandum, all Institutions whether of a private or public nature, dealing with child life, should be subject to Governmental supervision or regulation. This would include Institutions, &c., already in existence, such as Orphanages, Infants' Homes, Creches, Benevolent Societies (especially those dispensing relief to the poor), Reformatory Institutions for Children, male and female, Institutions for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Children. The State Children Relief Board administers the State Children Relief Act, Children's Protection Act, Infants' Protection Act, Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act, Cottage Homes for Invalid Children, Cottage Homes for Delinquent Children, Cottage Homes for Mentally Deficient Children, Metropolitan and Country Shelters for children waiting to be dealt with by the Children's Court, Homes for Mothers and Babies, Pre-maternity and After-maternity Homes, Hostels for Mothers and Babies, Street-trading, and Truancy as affected by the latter.

Consideration



Consideration should be given to an increase of, and to the utilisation of the Baby Bonus in the direction of the care of the mother for some weeks prior to confinement, and for some six weeks or so afterwards, in lieu of the present system. (This is at present a Federal matter.)

Settlements or Clubs should be established in populous districts for the instruction and entertainment of girls and boys between the ages of 14 and 16 years to keep them off the streets. The school attendance age should be extended to 16, or the apprenticeship age altered to permit of apprenticeship at the age of 14 years. Between 14 and 16, both boys and girls get into blind alley occupations at much higher rates of payment than if apprenticed, and after that age they will not be content to accept the starting wages of apprentices. Hence the large amount of unskilled labour to be found in the labour market.

The District Maternity Nursing Scheme should be inaugurated on the lines of the Plunkett Nurses of New Zealand.

Homes or Colonies for mentally afflicted and feeble-minded children are urgently needed, also Homes for Epileptics, where they may be segregated and legally restrained, and be taught useful occupations, and prevented from propagating their species.

Hostels for working mothers with children should be further provided in all of the large suburbs to permit of unmarried mothers who are compelled to work, having decent and homelike surroundings and being able to have their children with them and nurse them.

Provision is also necessary for the subsidising of women whose husbands, though at home, are physically unfit, by reason of illness, loss of limbs, or other cause, from working, to properly maintain them.

Milk depôts should also be established either apart from or in connection with the Baby Clinics, where pure fresh milk could be distributed to the mothers whose children need it. The question of a pure and adequate milk supply is one of paramount importance.

Many other matters such as the granting of additional relief to the widows and children of miners whom the provisions of the Miners' Accident Relief Fund do not sufficiently provide for, and likewise for the widows of soldiers who are not in receipt of sufficient pensions for the proper upbringing of their families, or the amendment of the Acts governing these grants.

From the foregoing it will be seen that urgent necessity exists for the alteration of many of the social, charitable and reformatory activities in the direction of direct Ministerial control. And to be effective, the new scheme should at once be far reaching and really national in character. Every phase of child uplifting and reformation should have its proper place in the scheme which should also be so elastic as to be capable of expansion to meet every arising want.

#### MATERNITY.

With regard to the maternity question, the suggestions arrived at for serious consideration are as under, culled from some eminent works and authorities on the matter, and they apply, in my opinion, to our conditions, viz. :—

##### 1. Ante Natal.

- (a) Home visiting of expectant mothers.
- (b) Clinics for expectant mothers.
- (c) Arrangements for confinement of expectant mothers, including hospital accommodation, and preparation of clothing for infants and mothers.
- (d) Rest Homes.

##### 2. Natal—

- (a) Arrangements for skilled attendance at confinement.
- (b) Special arrangements for difficult cases, and for women in their first confinement.

##### 3. Post Natal—

- (a) Treatment in hospital of complicated cases.
- (b) Provision of systematic treatment for infants, and advice for mothers at centres.
- (c) Provision of Health Visitors to advise mothers in their own homes.
- (d) Provision of skilled advice by midwives and nurses for mothers in cases requiring it at home.
- (e)

- (e) The establishment of nurseries, creches, Clinics and Baby Clubs, and provision of skilled advice at these places, and the teaching of mothers.
- (f) Rest Homes for Mothers and Babies.

Baby Clinics, Day Nurseries, &c., exist, but these should be extended to every large centre. As showing the importance of this work, I would like to quote the following resolution which was submitted at the International Conference for the protection of Childhood at Brussels :—

Free medical attendance to every pregnant woman.

Prohibition of pregnant women to work in factories and workshops during the six weeks immediately preceding their confinement, and to be paid during those six weeks an allowance based on the average rate of women's wages.

Payment of a daily allowance during a period of six months to every woman who suckles her infant.

This State should surely go some way along this path.

#### CARE OF THE YOUNG DURING ADOLESCENCE.

Under present conditions, with the cost of living so high, many parents feel that children when they reach the age for leaving school, must go to work and help in the upkeep of the home. The consequence is that both boys and girls are placed in avenues of employment which lead nowhere, and they go to swell the already overloaded unskilled labour market. If some scheme could be evolved which would tend to have every boy or girl taught some skilled trade or profession, then I am sure many of our troubles and anxieties would cease to exist. The age between the time of leaving school, namely, 14 years, and the age at which a boy or girl may be apprenticed to a trade, namely, 16 years, is the most difficult period for the parents of small means. It then behoves us to make an effort to have every child taught a profession or trade.

The problem of unskilled labour—the apprenticeship system in regard to children—the inability to place them in skilled employment until the age of 16 years, is one of the problems which must sooner or later make itself felt. The difficulty of finding board for children with people who are willing and competent to train them in skilled trades is also one which must be attacked, as the formation of bad habits by children between 14 and 16 years of age, and the taking up of unsuitable occupations unfitting them subsequently for skilled employment, *e.g.*, street-trading, chocolate selling on ferry boats, railway stations and picture shows, and kindred occupations, is detrimental to their future career.

The supervision of the conditions under which children of tender years frequent picture shows and similar places, unaccompanied by suitable guardians, should be undertaken. In this matter there is the twofold temptation of viewing unsuitable films, and the opportunity to contract unsuitable companionship. Recommendations have been made to the Minister that films should be censored by the Children's Department, or at least by the Education Department. Educational films, speaking generally, have decreased in inverse ratio to the popularity of the picture shows. So called problem plays and sex studies now predominate, and the instructive, amusing, and thoroughly clean films which were introduced originally, are now the exception.

The exposure of girls at the age of 17 years to their own devices at a time when they most need supervision—*e.g.*, girls discharged from State control and from the supervision of private establishments, or who leave their own homes at the age of 16 to follow their own devices. The Girls' Protection Act is by no means a sufficient protection. The Neglected Children's Act protects girls up to the age of 16 only. The following is an extract from the New South Wales Statistical Report for 1914, covering a period of twenty-three years, showing the ages of 2,614 mothers of illegitimate children up to 16 years of age :—

Age of Mothers. Years.	Number.
11.....	1
12.....	2
13.....	34
14.....	156
15.....	644
16.....	1,777

Total ..... 2,614

This represents 4 per cent. of the total illegitimate children born.

There

There is a difficulty as to what is best to be done with girls of the age mentioned so that the liberty of the subject shall not be interfered with, but something should be done as unfortunately only too many of them are betrayed with the consequent result, and the unfortunate girl-mother is left with her unwanted child. "Prevention is better than cure," so that if some more adequate law can be devised for the protection of the girl, lasting benefit shall have been accomplished. Everyone will admit that this is a pressing need, and should be tackled at once.

The necessity for the establishment of a home for epileptic children as apart from feeble-minded children is also undoubted.

#### REARING AND ADOPTION OF INFANTS.

The adoption of boarded-out children is provided for under the State Children Relief Act. The adoption of children is otherwise uncontrolled by law, and in the large majority of cases the adoption is carried out by private persons or private institutions without the necessity for reference to any public body. The public press is frequently used to assist them in this connection, and a Baby Bonus of £5 is frequently offered as an inducement to a person to adopt a child. From these three points are obvious the necessity for—

1. Legal provision for the adoption of children.
2. Supervision of advertisements appearing in the public press in regard to children, and
3. Supervision of the conditions under which the Baby Bonus is given.

The general exploitation of the Baby Bonus for purposes other than those for which it is intended should be noticed. Private Institutions usually absorb a very large proportion of the £5 for medical and nursing fees. Suggested alternatives are—

1. To distribute the Baby Bonus in kind; or
2. To pay it at a weekly rate to the mother under conditions ensuring that the child will benefit.

The above suggestions involve the extension of the system of homes for mothers and babies. The experience of the State Children Relief Board amply justifies the extension of such homes under capable management.

The provision for further subsidising single mothers with one child is undoubted; such women, frequently very deserving, are thrown on their own resources, and are quite unable to compel the alleged father to keep their children. They do not come within the scope of the boarding-out supervision, though the State Children Relief Board has dealt with such a matter as one of expediency. Such women find it exceedingly difficult to maintain themselves and the children in any regular and respectable employment, and thus frequently seek the path of least resistance. The suggested course in regard to them is to grant them a weekly allowance towards the support of their children under conditions in which it can be ascertained that the money is applied to that purpose. All that should be a matter of concern to the Department is the health and welfare of the infants, and that the mothers have the opportunity to cherish and provide for them. Experience shows that this will be done by the mothers if they are given the opportunity. The opportunity frequently covers the desire for secrecy in all matters appertaining to their identity, and occasionally to the paternity of the child. There is no doubt that the introduction of this element of absolute secrecy under conditions which would ensure that the mother retain the child with her would tend to operate against the crime of infanticide to which some women are occasionally driven.

Stress should be laid on the fact that the Government has been alive to the necessity for making provision in such matters, and that the Municipal Council of the City of Sydney, the State Board of Health, the Clinics, the Alice Rawson School for Mothers, and other private organisations have done noble work. The law, too, is valuable as far as it goes, but is quite out of date. Milk Depots, Public Dispensaries, and the furthering of the mothering policy by the subsidising of motherhood in all its phases are all necessary.

INFANTILE

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The following vital statistics showing the deaths per 1,000 of infants under one year in New South Wales prove the necessity for action with respect to hygienic feeding and care of the young during the most critical period of their life :—

INFANTILE MORTALITY of Legitimate and Illegitimate Children.  
(Deaths under 1 per 1,000 births.)

Year.	Rate for Legitimate Children.	Rate for Illegitimate Children.	Year.	Rate for Legitimate Children	Rate for Illegitimate Children.
1895	96	245	1907	82	178
1896	109	294	1908	67	193
1897	91	260	1909	67	178
1898	109	297	1910	67	183
1899	106	286	1911	64	148
1900	89	288	1912	65	169
1901	91	264	1913	74	158
1902	97	287	1914	65	153
1903	99	270	1915	64	141
1904	74	192	1916	64	146
1905	72	183	1917	54	120
1906	66	182	1918	56	108

Reference to the year 1918 (later statistics are not available) show that one out of every six children born in New South Wales died before attaining the age of one year. The figures are the lowest yet recorded, and following as they do on the gradual decline, with but slight variation from 131.1 per 1,000 in 1835, is a source of congratulation to the community.

The extent of the congratulation is modified by a critical examination of the causes of death, because the scrutiny reveals that whilst much has been done to reduce the mortality, much yet remains to be done, and my excuse for referring here to the subject is the hope that future effort will be stimulated in the direction of accomplishing that which yet remains to be done.

The highest mortality occurs in what for statistical purposes are classified as "wasting" and "diarrhoeal" diseases. The former include congenital defects, injuries at birth, prematurity, &c., and the latter, cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, enteritis, gastro-enteritis, &c.

"Wasting and diarrhoeal" diseases are thus by far the worst forms of fatal ailments to which infants are subject, and it is with this latter I propose to deal, particularly because being preventable diseases it is very unsatisfactory to notice what a large part they play in increasing the mortality returns.

Doubtless many women who could do so do not nurse their babies, and the fact is to be deplored, as in human milk there is, to quote Dr. G. F. Cleary, Medical Officer of Battersea, England, "a unique and wonderful food which the ingenuity of man may toil in vain to find a satisfactory substitute for." These women do not sufficiently appreciate the advantages of breast-feeding their offspring, nor realise the danger to the children of depriving them of it. To combat this ignorance in Sydney, praiseworthy efforts are being made by the Municipal Council by the employment of a competent woman Inspector, whose duty it is to visit the home of each child within a few days of the birth, and talk confidentially to the mother on the management of the child, and counsel her to feed it naturally. Where breast-feeding is not possible, advice is given in the preparation and treatment of milk food, and a printed caution couched in simple language, of the dangers of infantile diarrhoea is distributed. The practice is commendable, and might with profit be adopted by other Councils.

Failing natural means of sustaining the child, resort to artificial methods is inevitable, and as the preservation of human life is involved, the substitute should be the best that can be devised. Scientific research has disclosed that modified cow's milk is by far the best, but its use is attended with grave danger. On the one hand, cow's milk is singularly liable to bacteriological contamination either through disease of the cow, disregard of proper sanitation in the dairy, or carelessness in transport to the consumer, or by the consumer through the use of dirty vessels in the home. On

the



the other, ignorance of the proper degree of modification of pure milk results in a product which cannot readily be digested by the delicate stomach of the infant. "The condition of the milk supply in many civilised countries," says Dr. H. L. Heath, Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health, &c., "has been largely responsible for a greater slaughter of lives than the most sanguinary of wars."

Amplifying the principle that it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure a wholesome food supply for the community, I now urge the establishment of depots where pure milk in properly modified parcels can be supplied for the diet of infants. Such depots are in successful operation in Great Britain, the United States, and in France. In Great Britain, several are controlled by the Municipal Councils, others in the United States and in France are controlled by private agencies, assisted in some by subsidies by the Municipal Councils. Generally, the procedure is for milk of guaranteed purity to be purchased from the particular dairies which are subjected to rigid inspection. At the depots the milk is modified to suit the requirements of the child on an "age" basis, and is bottled in quantities sufficient for one meal. The milk is then sterilised, placed in bottles, and sold in baskets which contain sufficient meals for one child for twenty-four hours.

My suggestion for Sydney is that a supply of pure milk be obtained from the various Government Farms, and after being properly bottled, delivered from depots attached to the Baby Clinics established in the Metropolis. This scheme ought to ensure a good cheap supply of pure milk.

The following shows the development of the work of the State Children Relief Department from 1900 to 1920 :—

Year 1900.	Year 1920.
Only two Acts administered—the State Children Relief and Children's Protection Act. Boarding-out children to strangers and to mothers, and supervising children privately placed out apart from their mothers, and also births in lying-in homes.	Four Principal Acts administered, with amendments and new regulations :—
None of this work hitherto.	(a) <i>The State Children Relief Act and Amendments</i> : Work greatly developed, especially the boarding out of children to their mothers.
None of this work hitherto.	b) <i>The Children's Protection</i> (as before).
None of this work hitherto.	(c) <i>The Infant Protection Act</i> dealing with the supervision of children under seven years in private institutions, of which there are twenty-three, and of all children under seven years placed in private houses apart from their parents (where more than one child is so placed) ; also with affiliation proceedings in paternity cases.
From being merely a boarding-out body with a salaried staff of sixty-nine.	(d) <i>The Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act</i> involving the supervision and wellbeing of all children under 16 years, with very important and, extensive inspection work, court proceedings, &c.
Two hundred and thirty honorary officers.	(e) The administration of the <i>Compulsory Clauses of the Public Instruction Act</i> , and the supervision of truancy and school attendance of all children at State schools.
Little of this work possible.	It has become a large organisation with a salaried staff of 153, responsible for the supervision and protection of all children needing such, both within and without institutions.
Little of this work possible.	Four hundred honorary officers.
It dealt with a fixed normal element in the community—State guardians—in number comparatively few—therefore the Department was able to administer its thousands of small instalments annually to them with a general adherence to regulations.	It is the recognised State Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.
Regulations few in number and small in scope.	It is the official agency for the presentation and circulation of reports, documents, pamphlets, books dealing with the welfare of delinquent and dependent children, and performs work usually credited to a Children's Bureau in other parts of the world.
	It is the medium through which social legislation in regard to children has been introduced. This same proportion—greatly augmented—is still dealt with. But, moreover, and particularly, the Department deals with a much larger proportion of the community which is sub-normal, unfortunate, irresponsible, and (through circumstances) avaricious.
	Regulations greatly augmented as regards number and scope.



Year 1900.	Year 1920.
<p>The extent of work was not sufficient to make regulations felt as a nuisance and a hardship if strictly applied.</p>	<p>And the Department is unable to administer from its more than doubled vote its thousands of annual instalments according to set regulations without hardship resulting. This omission to strictly apply regulations to many branches of the work for humanitarian reasons is recognised not only by the Board, but by other Departments with which it is constantly brought into contact.</p>
<p>Its functions were eleemosynary and distributive, and <i>fixed</i>.</p>	<p>It is not Departmental practice that should be amended, but such regulations as provoke hardship and unnecessary work. Changed conditions demand the utmost latitude in humanely carrying out the laws the Department administers.</p>
<p>Its chief divisions of work were eight (and comparatively small):—</p>	<p>It is still eleemosynary and distributive—doubly so—moreover, it is creative, consultative, reformatory, educative, and, above all, progressive and constantly expanding. There are now twenty-nine divisions of work:—</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Boarding-out children to strangers.</li> <li>2. Boarding-out children to mothers.</li> <li>3. Appointment of lady visitors.</li> <li>4. Control of Cottage Homes for State wards.</li> <li>5. Collection of maintenance payments for Board's wards only.</li> <li>6. Supervision of children under three years placed apart from parents.</li> <li>7. Supervision of children born in Lying-in Homes.</li> <li>8. Maintenance of "Ormond House," Central Depot for State children.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 8 (as per opposite side). Each section greatly increased by natural expansion and new regulations.</li> <li>In addition, new legislation and administration have added the following:—</li> <li>9. Collection of maintenance charges for all children in all gazetted institutions.</li> <li>10. Conduct of affiliation cases and paternity proceedings, Infant Protection Act.</li> <li>11. Conduct in Children's Courts of hundreds of cases of neglect annually.</li> <li>12. Assisting in the administration and revision of procedure in Children's Courts.</li> <li>13. Conduct of hundreds of cases annually for breaches of the compulsory clauses of the Public Instruction Act.</li> <li>14. Supervision of truancy and school attendance of children of school age at State and other schools.</li> <li>15. Supervision of the moral and general living conditions of families throughout the State in conformity with the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act, whereby hundreds of homes are reformed annually without cost to the State.</li> <li>16. Supervision of probation children whereby children are reformed in their own homes, practically without cost to the State, and with an estimated annual saving on the earlier policy of treatment of £12,000. 1,587 children were released on probation during the current year.</li> <li>17. Administration and maintenance of the Farm Home for Boys, Mittagong.</li> <li>18. Appointment and control of some 400 Honorary Probation Officers.</li> <li>19. Creation and maintenance of four Cottage Homes for Feeble-minded Wards (one of these being a Home for Sexual Degenerates).</li> <li>20. Creation of four Homes for Mothers with Babies for special treatment.</li> <li>21. Establishment and maintenance of Metropolitan Boys' Shelter (some 1,000 children passing through annually) and similar smaller shelters in the country districts.</li> <li>22. Establishment and maintenance of "Ormond House," central Depot for State Children and Girls' Shelter (some 1,600 children passing through annually).</li> <li>23. Supervision of Street-trading by Boys (some 900 cases annually).</li> <li>24. Supervision of Theatre Licenses for Children (some 300 annually).</li> <li>25. Supervision of all children under 7 years of age in private and denominational institutions (some 465 in twenty-three establishments), also the supervision of all private houses and licensing of same in which more than one child under 7 years is maintained apart from the parent.</li> <li>26. Supervision of Aborigines and half-castes, not in camps, but also of those in camps, by arrangement with the Aborigines' Protection Board.</li> </ol>
<p>None of these sections of work were performed.</p>	
<p>Except at "Ormond House" Depot (on a limited scale).</p>	
<p>None of these sections of work were performed.</p>	

Year 1900.	Year 1920.
None of these sections of work were performed.	27. Creation and maintenance of a system of mental and medical examinations of delinquent and neglected children passing through the Metropolitan Boys' Shelter (some 800 examinations annually), and application of the Binet-Simon tests for measuring mentality.
This work limited to the Annual Report of thirty-one pages.	28. Arrangement of Conference periodically in connection with various sections of Departmental work.
	29. Compilation and circulation of reports and pamphlets in connection with Departmental work.
	Amongst these may be mentioned :— An annual report and progressive history of the Department showing details of development of every section of work.
	The "Treatment of Neglected and Delinquent Children in Great Britain, Europe, and America," with a scheme for the reorganisation of the system in New South Wales (a book of 267 pages).
	"The Child, the Law, and the State" (a booklet of 80 pages).
	"Probation" (a booklet).
	"Delinquent Children and Parental Control" (a pamphlet).
	"Direction to Hon. Probationary Officers" (a pamphlet).
	"Address to the Clergy on 'Juvenile Delinquency'" (a pamphlet).
	A series of papers contributed to the Interstate Congress of Social Workers, Adelaide S.A., 1909—"Child Desertion," "Boarding-out in N.S.W." and "Juvenile Delinquency."
Annual expenditure, £62,615, as follows :—	£181,583, as follows :—
Children boarded out to strangers, 3,844, costing £41,308.	Children boarded out to strangers, 4,979, costing £54,069.
3,257 children boarded with their mothers (1,493), costing £17,823.	10,797 children boarded out with their mothers (3,810) costing £127,514.
Rates paid to mothers for their children :—	Rates paid in respect of such children :—
Only 25 out of 3,257 were paid for at 4s. or 5s. per week each : 2,348 of them were paid for at half rates (2s. or 2s. 6d. per week each).	8 at 6s. 6d. per week each.
	124 at 8s. " "
	4,207 at 5s. " "
	3,105 at 6s. " "
	2,476 at 7s. " "
	22 at 3s. 6d. " "
	7 at 6s. 8d. " "
	18 at 10s. " "
	620 at 4s. " "
	108 at 3s. " "
	40 at 2s. 6d. " "
	53 at 7s. 6d. " "
Children under supervision in all sections, 7,191.	Children under supervision in all sections, approx. 20,000.
Inspectors' visits and inquiries, 22,315.	Inspectors' visits and inquiries, 118,003.
There were 9 cottage homes with a staff of 15.	16 cottage homes, with staff of 61 officers.
"Ormond House" maintenance, £243 per annum.	"Ormond House" maintenance, £1,395 per annum.
Departmental salaries for 69 officers, £5,629 per annum.	Salaries are now for 153 officers, £30,209 per annum.
Conveyance and travelling: £1,433 per annum.	Other items of expenditure for new series :— Conveyance £1,220, and travelling £5,860. Total, £7,080.
Clothing: £2,572 per annum.	Stores Department: £10,486.
The Department consisted of a head office, with 24 clerks and 13 inspectors; a dépôt for boarding-out; a home for girls; and 9 cottage homes for invalid children.	The Department consists of a head office, with 46 clerks, and 46 inspectors; a dépôt for boarding-out; cottage homes for sick or crippled children: five cottage homes forming the farm home, Mittagong; two cottage homes for feeble-minded children; one cottage home for sexually degenerate boys; four cottage homes for mothers with babies; one central boys' shelter; one central girls' shelter; smaller shelters in the country; representation in the Metropolitan Children's Court.
The 13 inspectors included three women.	The 46 inspectors include 12 women, and submit an extraordinary bulk of work under the various sections enumerated to the indoor administrative staff.

Year 1900.	Year 1920.
There were 13 outdoor to 24 indoor officers.	The inspection staff has been augmented to cope with new functions, and additions have also been made to the clerical staff.
The immediate head is the boarding-out officer (also chief officer, Children's Protection Act). Salary : £600 per annum.	Immediate head—the boarding-out officer, who is also President of the State Children Relief Board ; chief officer, Children's Protection Act ; chief officer, Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders' Act ; Chief Probation Officer. Salary : £800 per annum.
Certain of these positions were paid for separately.	These positions have been vested in one person for the sake of economy, and the work has been carried out as well as the resources placed at the Department's disposal would permit. But there has been no corresponding creation of new positions, and no indication of the extra duties performed is conveyed by the increases in salary.
Chief clerk : £300 per annum (staff of 69). Chief inspector : £300 per annum (staff of 13).	Accountant : £494 per annum (staff of 14). Chief clerk : £494 per annum (staff of 32). Chief Inspector and Principal School Attendance Officer : £494 per annum (staff of 46).

### DIVISION A.

#### THE STATE CHILDREN RELIEF ACT.—CHILDREN UNDER CONTROL.

This enactment provides that children may be boarded-out with strangers or relatives until they are 14 years of age, or they may be adopted up to the time they are 8 years of age (with the parents' concurrence); after 14 years of age they may be apprenticed, discharged, or dealt with in any other way the Board may determine. The Board, subject to the direction of the Minister, is the authority for dealing with all matters relating to boarding-out. Payments made for the maintenance of State wards are in accordance with the rates stipulated. Special cases of sick or invalid children are specifically considered by the Board, which has power to determine necessary rates of payment. The sanction of the Minister can continue the payments after the age of 14 years is attained. The general rates now paid are :—

10s. per week for children up to 14 years of age.

The total number of children placed out under the State Children Relief Act is now 15,776 (or 2,938 more than were under control during the preceding twelve months). Of the children under control, 4,979 are placed out apart from their mothers, and 10,797 with their mothers. The increase in the number in the former section since last year is 398, and in the latter section 2,542.

### FINANCIAL.

The expenditure for the entire services of the Department for the year was £257,365 10s. 11d., or £45,858 0s. 8d. more than that for 1919. Of this amount £85,553 19s. was for the maintenance of children boarded out apart from their parents. Deducting maintenance contributions by parents, £6,674 9s. 8d., the actual cost to the State for the year was £78,979 9s. 4d.

In allowances to widows and deserted wives towards the support of their own children, the expenditure was £127,514 1s. 8d., or £30,893 19s. 4d. more than that for 1919. After adding £5,875 10s. 11d., proportionate cost of salaries and inspection, the total cost for the year was £133,389 12s. 7d.

The following is a summary of the annual expenditure for the past three years :—

Under Control on—	Boarded out apart from Mothers.	Boarded out with Mothers.	Cottage Homes.	Children's, Infants, and Neglected Children's Acts.	Total.	Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
5 April, 1918 .....	63,533 18 11	89,363 13 3	14,428 8 8	16,030 4 2	183,356 5 0	7,836 14 1
" 1919 .....	69,762 1 0	102,225 2 4	19,957 3 0	21,763 3 11	211,507 10 3	11,635 10 9
" 1920 .....	85,553 19 0	133,389 12 7	20,627 13 6	17,794 5 10	257,365 10 11	8,012 8 0

Hereunder is a statement of Receipts and Expenditure, 1919-20 :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1919. To Balance .....				373	11	7	By Allowance--Section 16...	127,514	1	8			
5 May, to Advance .....	11,000	0	0				Maintenance .....	54,068	18	8			
13 " " .....	3,000	0	0				Conveyance .....	1,219	17	5			
2 June " " .....	14,060	0	0				Travelling .....	5,880	7	0			
3 July " " .....	20,000	0	0				Medical .....	1,736	9	7			
5 August " " .....	14,000	0	0				Incidental Expenses .....	1,425	16	6			
5 September " " .....	15,000	0	0				Cottage Homes .....	10,740	4	10			
4 October " " .....	19,500	0	0				Depôt .....	1,395	9	8			
1 November " " .....	17,000	0	0				Shelter .....	961	19	10			
2 December " " .....	17,500	0	0				Cicada .....	790	0	3			
1920.							Eastwood .....	1,660	9	0			
3 January " " .....	22,000	0	0				Hillside .....	544	0	10			
5 February " " .....	18,000	0	0				Raymond Terrace .....	1,248	17	11			
9 March " " .....	17,500	0	0				Santa Marina Hostel .....	1,151	3	8			
8 April " " .....	22,500	0	0				Corelli Hostel .....	689	18	10			
				211,000	0	0	C.P. Registrars .....	372	10	0			
Advance by Treasury to pay Salaries	30,209	0	7				N.C. and J.O. Act .....	735	18	4			
Accounts paid at Treasury and Stores							Government Printer .....	9	19	0			
Department .....	16,079	17	10				Stores Department .....	10,486	14	2			
							Forestry " .....	2	13	7			
							Works " .....	59	13	11			
							Agricultural Department	21	8	9			
							State Drug " .....	111	4	6			
							Ordnance " .....	4	10	0			
							Public Instruction Dept.	4	12	10			
							Erskine Boot Factory .....	214	9	7			
							Purchase of "Bidura" .....	4,125	0	0			
							Salaries .....	30,209	0	7			
											257,365	10	11
							Balance .....				256	19	1
											£257,662	10	0

The following is a Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1918-19 and 1919-20, on account of Widows and Deserted Wives :—

1918.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	1919.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
April .....	6,818	6	6				April .....	7,617	7	6			
May .....	6,772	13	7				May .....	7,618	2	9			
June .....	8,579	5	3				June .....	10,108	16	6			
July .....	7,234	8	11				July .....	9,274	17	1			
August .....	6,928	14	1				August .....	10,228	15	11			
September .....	8,846	12	4				September .....	12,634	11	6			
October .....	7,161	18	5				October .....	10,645	6	10			
November .....	7,162	2	7				November .....	10,572	17	11			
December .....	9,097	14	2				December .....	12,691	17	8			
1919.							1920.						
January .....	6,990	17	0				January .....	10,896	6	10			
February .....	7,392	14	1				February .....	11,179	13	1			
March .....	9,378	0	9				March .....	14,015	8	1			
				92,363	7	8					127,514	1	8
							Increase for 1919-20				35,150	14	0

#### PARENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS.

The contributions by parents and other relatives towards the support of dependent children totalled £6,674 9s. 8d. as compared with £7,669 7s. 6d. for the previous twelve months. Endeavours are being made to secure an increase in the amount of maintenance collections by a special officer (an inspector) detailed to undertake work of this character. The increased cost of living, unemployment, and the Ministerial direction that maintenance charges shall not be made in the case of children over 14 years of age unless there are exceptional circumstances, are social factors which militate against maintenance being collected from parents or relatives in respect of children under control. These factors have full recognition in any action taken by the Department for the collection and recovery of maintenance. Payments are of two kinds:—(a) Pay on orders of Court; (b) voluntary agreements.

#### INSPECTION.

INSPECTION.

The total number of children, under all headings, now under the supervision of the Board's officers, in conformity with the several Acts administered by the Department, is 20,028. This total is made up as follows (the previous four years' figures being shown for comparison):—

Classification.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
State children boarded out (apart from mothers)...	5,081	4,653	4,656	4,581	4,979
Children boarded out with their own mothers ...	7,310	7,323	7,764	8,257	10,797
Registered under Children's Protection Act ...	1,268	1,091	1,112	927	762
In licensed institutions (Infants' Protection Act)...	500	382	395	429	465
Engaged in street-trading... ..	695	785	782	902	1,118
Released on probation ... ..	1,566	1,903	3,382	1,955	1,587
Employed in theatres ... ..	180	240	243	276	320
	16,600	16,380	18,334	17,327	20,028

The children under Departmental supervision are visited periodically by the salaried officers of the Board and by honorary visitors. In the metropolitan area, State children are visited quarterly by the salaried staff; children boarded with their own mothers are similarly visited, unless in special instances where the circumstances warrant more frequent visitation. Probation cases are visited each month, but visits are dispensed with if the frequency of visitation is detrimental to the child's interests. The children under the Children's Protection Act (mostly prenuptial) are visited each month; the children in licensed institutions, those engaged in street-trading, and those employed at theatres and similar places are visited and supervised as occasion requires. In regard to country visitation, all children are visited quarterly as far as practicable by salaried officers of the Department, whose visits are supplemented by the honorary officers visiting each month in the metropolitan area and quarterly in the country. Honorary officers do not visit all children—the lady visitors visit boarded-out children only, and honorary probation officers visit children on probation only. Lady visitors are appointed by the State Children Relief Board in conformity with the State Children Relief Act, and honorary probation officers by His Excellency the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister for Education. The duties of honorary probation officers are carefully set out in pamphlet form; the officers work in the district in which they live, and they visit only children of the same religious denominations as themselves. They work in conjunction with the departmental inspector for each district. The responsibility of the welfare and general treatment of infants rests mainly with the female inspectors of the Department, who are charged with the special supervision of the conditions of infant life. It is the duty of these officers to instruct custodians and mothers, where necessary, in the dieting and general treatment of infants, arranging for the medical inspection of children periodically at one or other of the children's hospitals, at a clinic, or by a private practitioner.

The following is a list of lady visitors and the districts in which they work:—

LADY VISITORS.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Adamstown ... ..	Mrs. Rachel Scarlet.	Armidale ... ..	Miss A. Crossman.
Adelong ... ..	Mrs. F. A. Smith.		Mrs. F. B. Putland.
Albury ... ..	Mrs. Tietjens.		Mrs. A. Middleton.
	Mrs. Howe.	Ashfield ... ..	Mrs. Baxter.
Alexandria ... ..	Mrs. Fitzjohn.		Miss Lacy.
	Miss Faber.		Mrs. G. B. Robertson.
Allynbrook ... ..	Mrs. Boydell.	Balmain ... ..	Miss B. Hagan.
Arncliffe ... ..	Mrs. Peterkin.		Mrs. McKeon.
Armidale ... ..	Mrs. Mary West.	Balranald ... ..	Miss Dowling.
	Mrs. W. J. Willis.	Bathurst ... ..	Mrs. A. J. Ambrose.
	Mrs. W. Varley.		Mrs. Oakes.
	Mrs. Bliss.		Mrs. Caples.
	Miss M. Blaxland.	Baulkham Hills ...	Mrs. Hewitt.



## LADY VISITORS—continued.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Bellambi ...	Mrs. King-Brown.	Corrimal ...	Mrs. King-Brown.
Belmore ...	Mrs. Eather.	Cowra ...	Mrs. Ryall.
Berrigan ...	Mrs. Gorman.		Mrs. G. Baymes.
	Miss Greggery.	Colo Vale ...	Miss Riley.
	Mrs. F. Verso.	Cranbrook ...	Mrs. W. H. Hand.
Berrima ...	Mrs. A. Hopkins.		Mrs. Woodriff.
Blacktown ...	Mrs. Pearce.	Croydon ...	Miss Lacy.
Blayney ...	Mrs. Harris.		Mrs. Baxter.
Bob's Range ...	Miss Onslow.	Crookwell ...	Mrs. M. Beasley.
Boggabri ...	Mrs. Tebbutt.	Cudal ...	Miss Healy.
Borral ...	Miss Hopkins.		Mrs. A. Bate.
Botany ...	Mrs. Fahrner.	Dalton ...	Miss Wheatley.
	Mrs. Lupton.	Dapto ...	Mrs. Evans.
Bowan Park ...	Mrs. Mulholland.	Darlington ...	Miss F. Barling.
Bowral ...	Miss Riley.		Mrs. G. Foley.
Bourke ...	Mrs. F. McMahon.		Mrs. F. R. Hanrahan.
	Mrs. Chapman.		Miss Pallister.
Braidwood ...	Miss G. McGrath.	Dagworth ...	Mrs. O'Connell.
Breadalbane ...	Mrs. W. Chisholm.	Deniliquin ...	Miss Hosking.
Branxton ...	Mrs. Tulloch.		Mrs. G. Williams.
Broken Hill ...	Mrs. A. Allen.	Dora Creek ...	Mrs. O'Neill.
Brownlow Hill ...	Mrs. Nesbitt.		Mrs. Reed.
Brunswick Heads ...	Mrs. Holt.	Dorans ...	Mrs. Hyndes.
Brookfield ...	Mrs. S. Carlton.	Drummoyne ...	Mrs. K. Chisholm.
Brewarrina ...	Mrs. Allan.		Mrs. E. P. Boulton.
Broadmeadow ...	Mrs. A. Martin.	Dubbo ...	Mrs. L. Lavers.
Bundanoon ...	Mrs. Knapton.		Mrs. Perry.
Bungendore ...	Miss Powell.	Dulwich Hill ...	Miss G. Pickering.
Burrowa ...	Mrs. Goudie.		Mrs. R. Newall.
Burwood ...	Miss Hurley.		Miss E. de Putron.
	Miss Hinchy.	Dummore ...	Mrs. Warden.
Cabramatta ...	Mrs. R. Newland.	Enmore ...	Miss Bryant.
	Miss H. Rowe.	Enfield ...	Miss Hinchy.
Cambewarra ...	Mrs. M. Brown.		Miss Hurley.
Camden ...	Mrs. Nesbitt.	Epping ...	Mrs. A. Masterman.
	Miss Onslow.	Erskineville ...	Mrs. Fitzjohn.
Campbelltown ...	Mrs. Vardy.	Fishery Creek ...	Mrs. O'Connell.
	Mrs. Chinnocks.	Forbes ...	Mrs. Moloney.
Camperdown ...	Mrs. Eppel.		Mrs. C. Hill.
Campsie ...	Sister Mary Josephine.	Forrester ...	Mrs. McDonald.
	Miss M. Reilly.	Fullerton Cove ...	Miss Smith.
Canley Vale ...	Mrs. Downey.	Gladesville ...	Miss O'Shea.
	Mrs. R. Newland.	Gledswood ...	Miss Chisholm.
	Miss H. Rowe.	Glen Innes ...	Mrs. H. I. Newton.
Canbelego ...	Mrs. E. Davis.	Glebe ...	Mrs. J. Slack.
	Mrs. J. Hogan.	Glebe (Newcastle) ...	Mrs. M. Chapman.
	Miss G. Carruth.	Gloucester ...	Miss M. Middlebrook.
Canomore ...	Miss Finn.		Mrs. M. Brooker.
Canterbury ...	Miss M. Reilly.	Gore Hill ...	Mrs. Catterall.
Carlton ...	Mrs. J. Pope.	Gosford ...	Mrs. Fielder.
Carrington ...	Mrs. A. Mann.	Goulburn ...	Mrs. Cropper.
Castlereagh ...	Mrs. Woodriff.		Mrs. Fleming.
Cattai ...	Mrs. McDonald.		Mrs. Kelly.
Centennial Park ...	Mrs. J. R. Dixon.		Miss De Lauret.
Clarencetown ...	Miss M. Devine.		Mrs. Howell.
Chatswood ...	Miss Wright.		Mrs. E. Chapman.
	Mrs. Catterall.		Mrs. M. Arnott.
Clyde ...	Mrs. B. Hines.		Miss L. J. Wood.
Chippendale ...	Mrs. Hanrahan.		Miss E. Sherriff.
Cobargo ...	Miss C. Tarlington.	Granville ...	Mrs. Ross.
Cobar ...	Mrs. M. Duffy.		Mrs. Mason.
	Mrs. P. Snelson.		Mrs. B. Hines.
Cobbity ...	Mrs. Downes.	Grenfell ...	Mrs. Howell.
Concord ...	Mrs. Vaughan.	Gresford ...	Mrs. Boydell.
	Miss Hurley.	Gulgong ...	Mrs. E. Marina.
	Miss Hinchy.	Guildford ...	Mrs. Downey.
Cooma ...	Mrs. Bannister.		Mrs. J. Pooley.
	Mrs. Harvison.		Mrs. Andy O'Neill.
	Mrs. Ward.		Mrs. Sowell.
Cooranbong ...	Mrs. O'Neill.		Sister of St. Joseph's Convent.
Coraki ...	Mrs. Riley.	Gundagai ...	Mrs. Champion.
Corowa ...	Mrs. J. Thomas.		Miss K. Sullivan.

## LADY VISITORS—continued.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Gunning ...	Mrs. A. Grovenor.	Mittagong ...	Miss Riley.
Gurrundah ...	Mrs. Heaton.	Mrs. C. E. Chester-Smith.	
Haberfield ...	Miss Gillies.	Morce East ...	Mrs. Slater.
Harden ...	Mrs. Brady.	Mortlake ...	Miss Hurley.
	Mrs. I. Gibson.		Miss Hinchy.
Hamilton ...	Mrs. W. H. Lyon.	Mosman ...	Mrs. M. Curtis.
	Mrs. W. R. Alexander.		Mrs. S. McCauley.
	Mrs. M. J. Moroney.		Mrs. A. J. MacDonald.
Hawkesbury ...	Miss Wilson.		Mrs. C. Glaudfield.
Hay ...	Miss Butterworth.		Mrs. M. Holden.
	Mrs. Longfield.		Miss E. Newton.
	Mrs. Donohue.		Mrs. R. A. Ewart.
	Mrs. Kitchen.	Mount Fairy ...	Miss Graham.
Hermidale ...	Mrs. McKeon.	Mudgee ...	Mrs. F. Robinson.
Hill Top ...	Miss Riley.		Mrs. Dunstan.
Homebush ...	Miss Hinchy.	Mulgrave ...	Mrs. Campbell.
	Miss Hurley.	Mullumbimby ...	Mrs. Holt.
Hornsby ...	Miss Newberry.	Mummell ...	Miss Dalgleish.
Hurstville ...	Mrs. J. Pope.	Murrumbateman ...	Mrs. Watson.
Hurlstone Park ...	Mrs. E. Cannon.	Murrumburrah ...	Mrs. Brady.
	Miss M. Reilly.		Mrs. Gibson.
Inverell ...	Mrs. C. Dale.	Narellan ..	Miss Chisholm.
	Mrs. Cloonan.	Neutral Bay ...	Mrs. Watkins.
Ironbarks ...	Miss Chandler.		Miss F. Kelly.
Islington ...	Mrs. Brown.	Newcastle ...	Mrs. E. Crawford.
Jamberoo ...	Mrs. Hill.		Miss K. Carroll.
Jerilderie ...	Mrs. Curtin.	Newtown ...	Mrs. Hansen.
Junction ...	Mrs. M. Chapman.		Mrs. Fremlin.
Junea ...	Mrs. M. Poole.		Mrs. McGovern.
	Mrs. E. Day.	Nimitybelle ...	Mrs. O'Harvey.
Kangaloon ...	Mrs. Brenning.		Mrs. W. H. White.
Kangaroo Valley ...	Miss O'Sullivan.	North Sydney ...	Mrs. Harris.
Kellyville ...	Mrs. Hewitt.		Mrs. E. Shead.
Kelso ...	Mrs. Oakes.		Miss N. Stewart.
Kogarah ...	Mrs. Vogel.		Miss Beaumont.
Kurrajong ...	Mrs. E. Hennessy.		Miss A. Green.
			Miss M. Green.
Lambton ...	Mrs. J. Purcell.		Mrs. Fitzgerald.
Lakemba ...	Mrs. M. Eather.	Nyngan ...	Mrs. T. Woolley.
Leichhardt ...	Mrs. Corcoran.	Oakes ...	Miss Onslow.
Leura ...	Mrs. Bloome.	O'Connell ...	Mrs. Todd.
Lidcombe ...	Mrs. M. Child.	Orange ...	Mrs. McNeilly.
	Mrs. D. Blair Todd.		Deaconess E. Bostock.
Lindfield ...	Mrs. M. West.		Mrs. M. Earle.
Lismore ...	Mrs. Mason.	Ormond House ...	Miss K. Griffin.
	Mrs. Sharp.		Mrs. Scaiffe.
Lithgow ...	Mrs. Dillon.	Paddington ...	Sister Mary Josephine.
Liverpool ...	Mrs. F. Alderson.	Parkes ...	Mrs. G. W. Seaborn.
Lochinvar ...	Miss M. Knipe.	Parkesbourne ...	Mrs. Chisholm.
Lostock ...	Mrs. Hopson.	Parramatta ...	Mrs. Moxham.
Longueville ...	Mrs. Catterall.		Mrs. Watkins.
Louth Park ...	Mrs. O'Connell.		Mrs. Bromilow.
Maitland East ...	Mrs. Rooney.		Miss Neale.
Maitland West ...	Mrs. Silk.		Mrs. Mason.
Manilla ...	Mrs. Moore.		Mrs. Downes.
Manly ...	Mrs. Douglas.	Penrith ...	Mrs. S. R. Baker.
	Miss M. Phillips.	Picton ...	Mrs. McGuigan.
Marrickville ...	Miss Campbell.		Miss Antill.
	Miss N. Redmond.	Pitt Town ...	Mrs. Deane.
	Miss E. de Putron.		Mrs. McDonald.
Marshall Mount ...	Mrs. Evans.	Pomeroy ...	Mrs. Dalgleish.
Mayfield ...	Mrs. J. Parker.	Portland ...	Mrs. Evans.
	Mrs. A. Smith.	Quaama ...	Mrs. Tarlington.
Menangle ...	Miss Onslow.	Queanbeyan ...	Mrs. McIntosh.
Meranburn ...	Mrs. Kelly.	Randwick ...	Mrs. Scaiffe.
Merewether ...	Mrs. M. Chapman.	Redfern ...	Sister M. Claver.
	Mrs. M. Wilmott.		Miss Willard.
	Mrs. M. Morton.	Richmond ...	Mrs. Morris.
Merilla ...	Mrs. Chisholm.	Rockdale ...	Miss L. G. Wearne.
Merrylands ...	Mrs. Downey.		Mrs. E. Sheridan.
Miller's Point ...	Miss M. Green.	Rooty Hill ...	Mrs. Hyatt.
Milton ...	Mrs. M. Booth Potter.	Rozelle ...	Miss Toohey.
	Miss Kendall.		Mrs. Nolan.

## LADY VISITORS—continued.

District.	Name of Visitor.	District.	Name of Visitor.
Rylstone ...	Mrs. Hansard.	Wardell ...	Mrs. Meaney.
Smithfield ...	Mrs. Downey.	Waterloo ...	Mrs. Dillon.
Springwood ...	Mrs. Griffin.		Miss Faber.
Strathfield ...	Miss Hinchy.	Waverley ...	Mrs. Pyke.
	Miss Hurley.		Mrs. Bryant.
Stroud ...	Miss Hopkins.		Mrs. Shiel.
St. Leonards ...	Mrs. Catterall.		Mrs. Blakey.
St. Mary's ...	Mrs. Barrett.		Mrs. Fitzpatrick.
Summer Hill ...	Mrs. G. B. Robertson.	Wedderburn ...	Mrs. Vardey.
Surry Hills ...	Miss Cox.	Willoughby ...	Mrs. Catterall.
	Miss M. Forsythe.		Miss Fogelin.
	Miss C. Moberley.	Williamstown ...	Miss Smith.
	Miss A. Williams.	Windsor ...	Miss Hall.
Sutherland ...	Mrs. Gilligan.		Mrs. Campbell.
	Mrs. Greig.	Wingham ...	Mrs. Redpath.
Sutton Forest ...	Mrs. Roberts.	Wollongong ...	Miss Copas.
Tallong ...	Mrs. Netterfield.	Wombat ...	Mrs. McKenzie.
Tamworth ...	Mrs. Britz.		Mrs. Metcalfe.
	Mrs. Landers.	Wolstonecraft ...	Mrs. Catterall.
	Mrs. Johnstone.	Woolahra ...	Mrs. Redmond.
	Miss Tettatres.		Miss Bluett.
	Mrs. Birkley.		Mrs. Leibius.
Taralga ...	Mrs. S. A. McKenzie.	Woolloomooloo ...	Miss Shiel.
Tarago ...	Miss Graham.	Woonona ...	Mrs. King-Brown.
Temora ...	Mrs. A. Smith.	Woy Woy ...	Mrs. Garrett.
Tenterfield ...	Mrs. Miller.		Mrs. W. M. Tanner.
Tighe's Hill ...	Mrs. J. Parker.	Wyalong West ...	Mrs. Andrew.
Tingha ...	Mrs. K. Bruen.	Wyalong ...	Mrs. Watterson.
Tirranna ...	Mrs. Chisholm.	Wybong Creek ...	Mrs. Cox.
Trundle ...	Mrs. Berry.	Yass ...	Mrs. Cusack.
Tumut ...	Mrs. O'Mara.	Young ...	Mrs. McKenzie.
Wagga Wagga ...	Mrs. O'Reilly.		Mrs. Metcalfe.
	Mrs. Giles.		Mrs. Baxter.
Waitara ...	Miss Newberry.		Mrs. Putland.
Wahroonga ...			Mrs. Steel.
Warrawee ...			Mrs. Moroney.

The responsibilities of the salaried inspectors are of an important and varied character. The various sections of the work are thirty-two in number, requiring peculiar and careful investigation. The effective inquiry into each phase of activity demands a unique knowledge of the different laws, methods, and administration of the Department. Specific details of the sections are as follows :—

1. Applications for State Children.
2. Applications for Admission of Children.
3. Applications for Discharge of Children.
4. Application for Special Relief (*Sunday Times* Fund).
5. Application for Section 16 Relief (children of widows, &c.).
6. Inspection of State Children.
7. Inspection of Section 16 cases (widows and deserted wives).
8. Inspection of C.P. Children (*i.e.*, children placed out by their own mothers privately).
9. Inspection of Probation Children (Children's Court).
10. Inspection of Lying-in Homes.
11. Inspection of Nursing Homes, C.P.A.
12. Inspection of Licensed Places, I.P.A.
13. Inspection of Institutions.
14. Court Report on Home Surroundings.
15. Prosecuting and Conducting Proceedings.
16. Inquiries into cases of Neglect or Ill-treatment.
17. Inquiries into School Default.
18. Inquiries into Truancy.
19. Inquiries into School Exemption Applications.
20. Inquiries into Street Trading Applications.
21. Inquiries into Theatre License Applications, C.P.A.
22. Inquiries into H.P.O. Nominations.
23. Inquiries into L.V. Nominations.
24. Visiting and Advising H.P.O's.
25. Visiting and Advising L.V's.
26. Inquiries into Affiliation matters.

27. Inquiries into Maintenance Cases.
28. Collection of Maintenance.
29. Inquiries into caste children in unsupervised areas.
30. Visiting Schools.
31. Attendance at Children's Courts.
32. Special and General Reports upon any phases of the work.

During the year 39,896 visits were paid to the various homes in which State children are placed. This number includes 27,034 visits in connection with children boarded with their own mothers under section 16 of the Act.

The following table is a summary of the various investigations conducted by the salaried staff during the year under each Act administered by the Board :—

State Children Relief Act :—

	Total visits to Homes.
(a) Boarded out, apart from mothers ... ..	12,862
(b) „ with mothers ... ..	27,034
	<hr/> 39,896
(c) Applications for care of State children and special inquiries ... ..	9,251
(d) Visits to lady visitors ... ..	475
(e) Unfinished ... ..	7,242
(f) Miscellaneous ... ..	15,099
	<hr/> 32,067

Children's Protection and Infants' Protection Acts :—

(a) Visits to children ... ..	2,190
(b) „ nursing homes ... ..	103
(c) „ lying-in homes ... ..	1,012
(d) Applications for children to perform at theatres ...	320
(e) Visits to institutions ... ..	381
	<hr/> 4,006

Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act :—

(a) Visits to children on probation ... ..	6,961
(b) „ honorary probation officers ... ..	486
(c) „ street traders ... ..	685
(d) Neglect cases ... ..	3,708
(e) Court cases ... ..	892
	<hr/> 12,732

School Attendance :—

(a) Visits to truants and school defaulters ... ..	19,508
(b) Applications for exemption ... ..	680
(c) Street cases ... ..	690
(d) Prosecutions and court visits ... ..	551
(e) Visits to schools ... ..	7,873
	<hr/> 29,302

Total ... .. 118,003

*Grand Total.*—Thus the grand total of separate inquiries for the year was 118,003, as compared with 125,931 visits during the previous year, a decrease of 7,928. This decrease is due to the influenza epidemic which raged with so much severity throughout the State during the early part of the year. The Branch of the Department's activities most affected was School Attendance, owing to the closing of the schools, and the whole of the School Attendance Staff being detailed for special influenza duty. In this branch alone the decrease is 12,563.

The honorary lady visitors, as usual, rendered valuable assistance in visiting boarded-out children between the periodical visits paid by the salaried staff. The majority of the ladies regularly carry out the duties allotted to them with satisfactory results, and display an interest in the work which is both gratifying and beneficial to the success of the administration. The statistics with regard to honorary probation officers are specifically detailed under the heading which deals with the probation work.

A decrease is noticeable in the number of prosecution cases for neglect, which totalled 3,708 as compared with 4,701 for the previous twelve months, and the number of prosecution cases for school default was 551.

CHILDREN

## CHILDREN PROVIDED FOR APART FROM THEIR PARENTS.

At the close of the official year there were 4,979 children (2,869 boys and 2,110 girls) in this division, of whom 3,622 were entirely supported by the Government as boarders with guardians, as inmates of cottage homes, the central depôts or hospitals; 880 (498 boys and 382 girls) were apprenticed, and 477 (182 boys and 295 girls) were under adoption, without payment. On the 5th April, 1919, the total number of children was 4,581 (2,622 boys and 1,959 girls); during the present official year 1,493 (885 boys and 608 girls) were admitted, the aggregate being thus 6,075 (3,508 boys and 2,567 girls). Of these, 746 were discharged to relatives or friends, 107 were discharged over age, 30 died, 74 discharged to guardians, 33 were discharged from records, 19 to Mental Hospitals, 15 to Convents or Orphanages, 3 to H.M.A.S. Tingara, 1 to Waterfall Sanatorium, 4 to the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institution, 2 to the Female Refuge, Glebe, 12 to the Industrial School for Girls, Parramatta, 28 to Gosford Farm Home, 1 to the Mission Home, Cootamundra, 1 accidentally killed, 1 accidentally scalded, 8 to the Burnside Homes, 2 to Newington Asylum, 1 to Ryde Home for Incurables, 1 to the Queen Victoria Home, Annandale, 3 to the King Edward VII Home, 2 to the care of the Public Trustee, and 1 to the Salvation Army Home, Dee Why.

One thousand and ninety-five were thus discharged during the year (672 boys and 423 girls), leaving, as stated, 4,979 (2,835 boys and 2,144 girls) under supervision. Compared with the figures for last year, there were 147 more admissions and 326 less discharges.

Of the 1,493 children admitted during the year, 415 came from Children's Courts, 1,056 were boarded out direct, and 22 from the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney.

The following table shows the distribution of children under control on the 5th April, 1920 :—

	Boarders. 10s.	Apprentices.	Adopted.	Boarders without Subsidy.	Absconded.	Unofficial.	In Hospitals.	In Cottage Homes.	In Depôt.	Total at present under control.
Boys .....	1,695	498	75	107	116	2	38	325	13	2,869
Girls .....	1,231	382	146	149	27	7	27	96	45	2,110
Totals .....	2,926	880	221	256	143	9	65	421	58	4,979

The following table shows the ages of children admitted to control :—

	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 6.	6 to 7.	7 to 8.	8 to 9.	9 to 10.	10 to 11.	11 to 12.	Over 12.	Age not known.	Total.
Preceding years.....	2,212	1,264	1,462	1,470	1,537	1,712	1,827	1,865	2,604	1,904	1,952	1,713	3,632	1,071	25,735
Year ended 5/4/20	216	115	71	60	80	76	96	91	77	91	103	94	280	23	1,493
Total.....	2,428	1,379	1,533	1,530	1,617	1,788	1,923	1,956	2,681	2,095	2,055	1,807	3,912	1,094	27,228

The following table shows the social antecedents of the children :—

Uncontrollable ... ..	308	Father dead ; mother deserted ... ..	13
Neglected ... ..	209	„ dead : mother in hospital ... ..	29
Illegitimate ... ..	290	„ „ „ destitute ... ..	4
Parents unknown ... ..	26	„ in mental hospital : mother	
„ destitute ... ..	47	„ destitute ... ..	6
„ deserted ... ..	30	„ respectable : mother in hospital	18
„ deceased ... ..	237	„ in gaol : mother dead ... ..	6
Foundlings ... ..	8	„ „ „ destitute ... ..	11
Father dead : mother destitute ... ..	128	„ in hospital : mother destitute ... ..	7
„ deserted : mother dead ... ..	26		
„ „ „ destitute ... ..	60		
„ „ „ in asylum ... ..	30		
		Total ... ..	1,493

Details



Details of deaths of State children during the year are as follow :—

Cause of Death.	No.	Sex.	Age.
Heart failure ... ..	6	girl ... girl ... girl ... girl ... girl ... boy ... girl ... girl ... boy ... boy ...	3 years 11 months. 3 months. 12 years 3 months. 13 years. 3 months. 17 years. 8 months. 11 months. 1 year. 1 year.
Pneumonia ... ..	9	girl ... boy ... boy ... boy ... girl ...	2 months. 2 years 4 months. 1 year 8 months. 17 years. 5 months.
Asthma ... ..	1	girl ...	6 weeks.
Gastric trouble ... ..	7	boy ... girl ... boy ... boy ... boy ... boy ...	7 months. 4 months. 1 month. 9 months. 4 months. 3 weeks. 1 month.
Convulsions ... ..	1	boy ...	1 year 3 months.
Endocarditis ... ..	1	girl ...	15 years 3 months.
Accidentally scalded ... ..	1	boy ...	2 years 8 months.
„ killed ... ..	2	boy ... boy ...	1 year 10 months. 14 years 10 months.
Meningitis ... ..	1	girl ...	4 years 10 months.
Diphtheria ... ..	1	girl ...	5 months.
Rheumatic fever ... ..	1	girl ...	12 years.
Septicaemia ... ..	1	boy ...	13 years.
Total ... ..	32		

The method of disposal of children received through Children's Courts is shown in a separate portion of this Report.

#### DISTRICTS IN WHICH CHILDREN ARE LOCATED.

The Regulations require that every applicant for a State child shall complete a form which sets out the environment of the home; each form must be endorsed by a magistrate, a clergyman, or other prominent resident, who must certify that they are "acquainted with the applicant and his or her family, and can recommend them as being of sober habits, kindly character, and fit persons to have the charge and care of children." An inspection of the home is then made by an officer of the Board before the children are allotted, and every care is subsequently taken to keep approved homes to the required standard. Preference is given to those localities possessing the most healthful features from both moral and physical standpoints.

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN EACH HOME.

The policy of the Board is to allot not more than three (or occasionally four) children to the one guardian, except in the case of families of children (brothers and sisters usually not being separated). Individual attention is obtained for each child as far as possible, the adult assistance available in the home being one of the considerations which influence the Board in determining where children shall be placed. Other factors in the selection of suitable homes are the applicant's character and circumstances, and the number, age, sex, and general health of her own family.

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

There are now 4,292 children placed out apart from their parents in 2,781 homes, as boarders under payment, as apprentices, or under adoption. Of these, 1,928 have 1 child, 497 have 2 children, 182 have 3 children, 92 have 4 children, 57 have 5 children, 14 have 6 children, 6 have 7 children, 3 have 8 children, 1 has 9 children, and 1 has 12. These last eight homes are of a special character, hence the large number in each.

Included in the above are 545 homes containing 1,324 children of the same families, ranging from two to six members in each.

APPLICATIONS

## APPLICATIONS FOR THE CUSTODY OF CHILDREN.

The number of children applied for during the year as boarders, apprentices, or for adoption was 1,255. The following table shows the conditions under which children were sought :—

Religion.	Boarders.			For Adoption.			For Service.			Total asked for.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Protestant .....	224	277	501	25	54	79	117	221	338	919
Roman Catholic .....	93	101	202	7	11	18	72	45	117	337
Total .....	317	386	703	32	65	97	189	266	455	1,255

The proportion of applications for apprentices, boarded-out children, and children for adoption for the past three years is shown in the table hereunder :—

Year.	Boarders.	For Adoption.	For Service.
1918 ... ..	56.7 per cent.	4.4 per cent.	38.9 per cent.
1919 ... ..	53.3 "	4.2 "	42.5 "
1920 ... ..	56.0 "	7.7 "	36.3 "

The number of approved applications during the year was 760, refused 148, cancelled 78, outstanding 269.

In addition to the above applications there were many others from old guardians for additional children.

## SERVICE CHILDREN.

On the 5th April, 1920, there were 880 children at service (498 boys and 382 girls). Last year the number was 791. Approximately two-thirds of these children are placed out in country districts, and the remainder in suburban areas. The majority of the lads are on farms, whilst the girls are at domestic service.

The establishment of special Cottage Homes for the preliminary training of male and female wards prior to indenture has resulted in the children being better fitted for employment, and their services are sought to such an extent that the supply is not equal to the demand.

The operations in connection with the Apprentices' Fund since 1887 have been :—

	£	s.	d.
Total collections to 31st March, 1919 ... ..	100,494	17	5
Disbursements to apprentices to 31st March, 1919 ... ..	81,834	10	8
Total collections to 31st March, 1920 ... ..	105,956	17	8
Disbursements to apprentices to 31st March, 1920 ... ..	86,947	10	7
To credit of fund, 1st April, 1920 ... ..	18,814	6	0

The collections for the year amounted to £5,462 0s. 3d. as against £5,661 9s. 5d. last year.

The following table shows the number of apprentices placed out by the Board during the past three years :—

	1918.	1919.	1920.
Boys ... ..	151	165	161
Girls ... ..	96	129	111
Total ... ..	250	294	272

## ADOPTED CHILDREN.

There are now 477 adopted children and children boarded without subsidy (182 boys and 295 girls) placed out with foster-parents. The State Children Relief Act provides for the adoption of boarded-out children, but the terms of the legal documents necessary to complete such adoptions actually discourage the practice, because the proposed foster-parents feel that they have not got complete control of the children, and are liable to lose them if they comply with the law. Consequently, in the majority of cases, the adoption of children takes place privately without the knowledge of the Department, through the medium of the press and private establishments. An amendment of the Children's Protection Act has been frequently urged to remedy this defect, and the time has now arrived when suitable legislation in this regard should receive favourable and earnest consideration.

COTTAGE

### COTTAGE HOMES FOR INVALID, DELICATE, AND FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

The Cottage Homes for invalid, delicate, and feeble-minded children are established in rural surroundings in the Pennant Hills District of Parramatta, and at Mittagong, where are also situated the Cottage Homes used for the detention and treatment of children committed by the Children's Courts, and termed the Farm Home. Special Homes are set apart for the exclusive use of feeble-minded, crippled, or invalid children.

The Cottages at Parramatta are reserved for the occupation of delicate children, and one home is exclusively for the use of feeble-minded girls, who are instructed by a specially trained teacher. The average number of inmates in the three homes is forty-two, and the accommodation is taxed to the fullest extent. The general health of the children during the year has been good.

A report is submitted with regard to the feeble-minded children at Parramatta :—

There are twenty-four inmates at "May Villa"—of this number twenty are pupils attending the feeble-minded school; three are being trained for domestic work and sewing in the home; one girl is assisting in the care of the younger children in the school. During the past year eight girls have been transferred to Newcastle as hopeless mental cases. Four children were sufficiently improved to be transferred to another home, and daily attend the public school with the other inmates. Inquiries show that these girls are making splendid progress in their class-work. The teacher reports they are most obedient and anxious to progress.

The regular teacher at "May Villa" is at present in America studying the most up-to-date methods of feeble-minded treatment, but her successor is displaying the same enthusiastic zeal in furthering the training of her charges.

*Type of Work.*—It has been truly said by Dr. Montessori that "effective teaching is the child's own self-teaching." In the education of defectives this is specially emphasised.

The Montessori method is followed at "May Villa," in addition to which individual observation and sympathy play not the least important part. Each child is thus given the benefit of the environment specially adapted for its growth in self-help and independent action. The general aim is to have the school radiate contentment and affectionate interest to each individual.

The inmates include highly-strung neurotic little girls, showing in every action and glance that they have suffered much at the hands of society through being misunderstood. Some of the children branded in the ordinary school as lazy, stupid, or possessed of ungovernable temper, are suffering from a sense of repressed emotion, feeling keenly the injustice of the stigma. In such cases psychological training is essential to encourage the wavering and weak efforts; suitable employment is given to arouse interest and satisfy the need so that the weakest has no feeling of discouragement or failure. The primary object is for each individual to attain confidence by personal effort. Reward or punishment is banished from the treatment—the former comes in the child's own sense of mastery; the only punishment possible for a troublesome child is to treat it as one requiring individual attention by reason of the fact that the subject cannot help herself.

The daily routine includes bright music, folk dances and songs. Rhythmic music is played to encourage nerveless little hands to clap in time, and shuffling feet to skip lightly. Then there is the childish joy of personally accomplishing the little tasks set to make a pretty rag rug, or basket of bright raffia—to thread coloured beads into belts, rings, &c. Feeble faces take on the contour of conquest at the building of the Montessori Long Stair or the Tall Tower which (though the child is not aware of it) is establishing association between visual, muscular tactile, and auditory sensations. The tracing of beautiful patterns with insets (gradually preparing muscular control for writing) and using of all the wonderful material and multi-coloured handwork makes education possible for the mentally deficient. The older girls of four or five years' training (average age 15 years) read well from story-books suitable for children of 10 years. Three of these girls, recently tested, wrote a creditable original story.

Care of person and pride in appearance are encouraged to the utmost—even the most defective child may be taught to button, unbutton, tie and hook her clothing. Rosy, whose shoe laces always dangled, now keeps tidy, neat bows, her shoes being laced with blue ribbons. The children excel and are keenly interested in gardening; they keep the schoolroom gay with flowers. The work in the garden holds a very important place in the general scheme—it helps the physical, moral, and mental development. It is wonderful to observe the sense of responsibility awakened, for if the plants are not tended they die. By planting seeds and watching the growth, patience and faith are strengthened. The crowning joy of all is the bush surrounding "May Villa." April and May this year have been specially suited for bush walks, and delightful times have been spent with matron or teacher in nature hunts in the gullies round the school. Many of these children have never before been beyond the city. The response and love shown by our children to all the beauty of the bush proves the forethought in establishing Homes of this description within easy reach of such a great and rich pleasure.

The establishment of Homes for feeble-minded is the best help to any nation in the prevention of crime. Many of the great authorities have scientifically proved that the majority of juvenile offenders brought before the Court are mentally deficient. A very high percentage of immoral women and confirmed criminals are morons or imbeciles, yet the scientific study of the feeble-minded is only fourteen years old! Dr. Berry, of Victoria, in his psychological research, found that amongst many other noted criminals convicted, Ned Kelly and Deeming were defective brain types.

The condition of the elder girls at "May Villa" has attained the utmost degree of perfection as regards education, yet it would be a menace to themselves and the community at large to throw them upon their own resources in an endeavour to conquer the many temptations which beset them through life. It must be evident to the most casual observer that the only reasonable manner in which cases of this nature can be successfully treated is by the provision of colonies where the unfortunates can be segregated in properly equipped industrial surroundings, and the need of legislation in this direction cannot be too strongly emphasised.

FARM

## FARM HOME, MITTAGONG.

The Farm Home at Mittagong has continued its various activities in the care and treatment of children, both boys and girls, who have been either transferred to it by the Board or committed by the Children's Courts.

I should like to emphasise the varied aspects of the work at Mittagong, because I fear the variety is not realised and appreciated.

Besides the Homes for Boys on the Farm, girls are housed in a Cottage Home near the town of Mittagong. The ages of the inmates range from infants in arms to youths and girls of adolescent age.

Children of three classes—the dependent, the defective, and the delinquent—possessing widely different characteristics are provided for.

The Dependent represent those ordinary wards of the Board who are invalid or delicate, or who possess some physical peculiarity which renders them unsuitable for boarding-out with private guardians, because of the danger of their being subject to ridicule or experiencing handicap in association with their normal fellows.

The Defective represent the boys of tender years who are feeble-minded. Defectives are divided into the following classes:—

Idiots, *i.e.*, persons so deeply defective in mind from birth or from early age as to be unable to guard themselves against common physical dangers.

Imbeciles, *i.e.*, persons in whose case there exists from birth or from an early age mental defectiveness not amounting to idiocy, yet so pronounced that they are incapable of managing themselves or their affairs, or, in the case of children, of being taught to do so.

Feeble-minded persons, *i.e.*, persons in whose case there exists from birth or from an early age mental defectiveness not amounting to imbecility, yet so pronounced that they require care, supervision, and control for their own protection or for the protection of others, or in the case of children are incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in ordinary schools.

The Farm Home at Mittagong seeks to make provision for the boys under 12 years of age who are of the "feeble-minded" class.

The Delinquent represent the boys who are committed by the Children's Courts as being technically "neglected," "uncontrollable," or "juvenile offenders." For the purpose of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act, the Farm Home is an Industrial School for the "reception, detention, and maintenance of children committed to such institution."

In the "Dependent" class are included the children who suffer from debilitated health or physical deformity. The former, with the advantage of a healthful climate, have suitable nursing and liberal and appropriate diet, and are accommodated until their health is rehabilitated and they can return to homes and private guardians. The latter, which include children with deformed limbs, &c., have the advantage of skilled treatment at the Metropolitan hospitals, and then attend the special school operated for them, or, when old enough, are taught either tailoring or bootmaking in the shops conducted at the Farm.

The defectives are separated in a Home which is distinguished from the other Homes at the Farm, by being in charge of a Matron instead of a married couple. The tender age of the boys and their mental infirmity argue the constant care of a woman. For this reason the staff consists of a Matron and Sub-matron, with a female teacher to impart the specialised teaching during school hours.

Owing to changes in the personnel of the staff, and an outbreak of sickness, the continuity of the work at this Home has been seriously interrupted during the year, and progress has been seriously retarded; but the staff having been selected, and, in addition, new school room accommodation having been provided, it is confidently hoped that the regular and systematic training of the children will be maintained in future.

Dr. James Dawson, private practitioner of Mittagong, is specially interesting himself in the children of this class who are in the Homes at Mittagong, and proposes to systematically examine and observe them with the object of ascertaining whether their condition can be improved by medical treatment which he will apply.

Co-ordination



Co-ordination of the services of the teacher in the schoolroom with the services of the doctor should produce data with regard to children of this class that should prove of great value.

The Delinquent are represented by the boys from the Children's Courts who have been guilty of habitually wandering, breach of probation conditions, petty stealing, being uncontrollable (usually "sleeping-out"), &c., and whose persistent misbehaviour has rendered a separation from their own homes necessary in the interests of both themselves and the community. Usually, boys of this class settle down quietly at the Home; some chafe at the unaccustomed discipline, and abscond, but the number is proportionately very small. The greater number quickly respond to the treatment, and appreciate the admonition of the Magistrate that "upon yourself depends the period of your detention in the Institution." The interest which these lads evince in the work of the Farm generally is surprising, seeing that the majority of them have been brought up in the city.

#### *Industrial Activities.*

Work in the various "shops," in the orchards, the poultry yards, and on the Farm has been steadily maintained throughout the year.

In the carpenter's shop, there are nine (9) boys receiving instruction; in the bootmaker's shop, ten (10) boys are engaged, while six (6) boys are under the direction of the tailor. Under their instructors, the boys are engaged on work of a reproductive character, details of which will be found in the Appendices.

*Orchards.*—The orchards, which comprise 50 acres, are under the control of the Overseer, who also is Officer-in-charge of No. 8 Home, and the inmates of that Home above school age are employed about the production of fruit, jam and pulp making, &c. The value of the product of the orchards for the year was £781.

*Poultry Yards.*—The poultry yards are under the control of the Officer-in-charge of No. 10 Home, and the inmates of that Home are employed in the care of the poultry. 1,210 dozen eggs were produced during the year, the revenue yielding £125.

*Dairy.*—The dairy, a portion of the general "Farm" activities, is under the immediate care of the Officer-in-charge of No. 3 Home, the inmates of which are confined to the work there and at the piggery. During the year 47,931 quarts of milk were produced for consumption in the eleven Homes, and pigs to the value of £484 were sold.

*"The Farm."*—The Farm generally is under the control of the Foreman, who is also Officer-in-charge of No. 4 Home, and the boys from that Home are engaged in agriculture, clearing, carting, sanitary, and other services. The value of crops, &c., produced, and services rendered, was £1,377 0s. 5d.

*New Cottage.*—The premises occupied as No. 3 Home being old, of unsuitable design, and in bad state of repair, a new building of modern design and equipment was commenced in January, and should be available for occupation at an early date. The work is being carried out by the Farm Home staff, with assistance from day labour in the skilled trades.

#### FARM HOME, MITTAGONG.

##### Bootmaker :—

										pairs.
Boots and shoes made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,498½
Bluchers...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Boots repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	586½
Laces cut	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Harness repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	value	£ s. d. 5 6 6

##### Tailor :—

Articles made.					Articles repaired.				
Knickers	...	...	...	232	Trousers	...	...	...	2,167
Shirts	...	...	...	277	Coats	...	...	...	223
Trousers (long)	...	...	...	19	Jerseys	...	...	...	25
Suits	...	...	...	2	Overcoats	...	...	...	26
Tea towels	...	...	...	73	Trousers (long)	...	...	...	45
Face towels	...	...	...	14					
Black aprons	...	...	...	30					
White aprons	...	...	...	32					
Bed ticks	...	...	...	11					
Pillow cases	...	...	...	12					
Neck fronts	...	...	...	109					
Table cloths	...	...	...	9					
Toilet covers	...	...	...	6					
Bags (exhibit)	...	...	...	15					

Poultry



## Poultry :—

Eggs produced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,210 dozen
									£ s. d.
Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125 4 11
Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103 0 5
Value of stock on hand	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75 0 0

Milk produced ... 47,931 quarts.

## Carpentry :—

New work.—83 articles made, including tables, presses, cupboards, wash-tubs, screens, &c.  
Repairs.—131 items, including chairs, chest of drawers, blinds, ladders, toys, &c.  
Building.—Carpentry, &c., in renovating and repairing at Homes Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, laundry, &c.

## Orchards :—

									£ s. d.
Sales of fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18 6 6
" pulp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48 4 0
Jam (sold)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54 19 0
Jam (Homes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	342 15 6
Jam (making only)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 5 2
Fruit to pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 0 0
Potatoes (22 cwt.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 4 0
Hay (8 tons)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64 0 0
Green corn (60 tons)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60 0 0
Wood cut	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62 0 0
Clearing (3 acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30 0 0
Fencing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 0 0
Carting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29 0 0
Poultry and eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 16 0
Sale of Produce, &c., Berrima Show	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 18 6
Vegetables (2,500 lb.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 8 4

## On hand—

3,690 lb. jam. @ 7d.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107 12 6
3,360 lb. pulp @ 4½d.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59 10 0
3½ tons potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42 0 0

## Farm :—

204 tons firewood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	142 0 0
Sanitary services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78 0 0
Clearing 10 acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80 0 0
Blacksmithing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22 0 0
32 tons hay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	256 0 0
Seed oats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0 0
Green corn (84 tons)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84 0 0
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 5 4
Eggs (208 dozen)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 12 0
Quinces, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 0 0
Pigs sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	484 3 1
Calves sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 1 0

## STATISTICS IN CONNECTION WITH COTTAGE HOMES.

Since the inception of the Cottage Homes system, 10,000 children have passed through the Homes, the number at present remaining there 421 (325 boys and 96 girls). This number includes 292 boys in the Farm Home division. Statistics of the current year are :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Total number of children admitted to Cottage Homes to 5th April, 1920	7,002	2,998	10,000
Total number of children discharged from Cottage Homes to 5th April, 1920	6,694	2,912	9,606
Number in Homes on 5th April, 1920	325	96	421
Number in Homes on 5th April, 1919	272	89	361
Admitted during the year ended 5th April, 1920	456	111	567
Discharged during the year ended 5th April, 1920	424	110	534

The above numbers include the inmates of the Farm Home, Mittagong, opened on the 16th October, 1906 :—

Admitted to 5th April, 1920	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,983
Discharged to 5th April, 1920	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,675
Remaining in Farm Home, 5th April, 1920	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	308

The gross expenditure properly chargeable to the year, for all Cottage Homes and the Farm Home for Boys, was £20,627 13s. 6d.

HOMES

### HOMES FOR BABIES WITH MOTHERS.

The reasons for the establishment of these special Homes are briefly—

- (a) Preservation of child life, and consequent decrease in infant mortality;
- (b) To keep young victimised women from the demoralising influences frequently associated with large maternity establishments;
- (c) to give expectant mothers an opportunity to attain some degree of physical fitness for motherhood;
- (d) to encourage breast-feeding and the development of parental affections;
- (e) to safeguard the life of the infants during the first critical stages of infancy by keeping them with their mothers;
- (f) to ensure that the mothers shall receive some measure of training in the rearing of infants.

There are two Homes for the care of mothers with babies :—

#### (a) *Eastwood Home, Eastwood.*

The number admitted during the year : mothers, 90; children, 212.  
 The number discharged during the year : mothers, 87; children, 189.  
 The number in Home on 5th April, 1920 : mothers, 21; children, 43.  
 Number of expectant mothers admitted, 6.  
 Average period of detention of mothers and infants, 3½ months.  
 Number of deaths during the year, 2.

Since the Home was opened, on 15th February, 1915, 300 women have been admitted to the Home, and 557 children. Total number of deaths of children, 9.

#### (b) *Cicada Home, Croydon.*

Number admitted during the year : mothers, 51; children, 70.  
 Number discharged during the year : mothers, 41; children, 45.  
 Number in Home on 5th April, 1920 : mothers, 13; children, 19.  
 Number of expectant mothers admitted, 5.  
 Average period of detention of mothers and infants, approximately 3 months.  
 Number of deaths, 2.

Since the Home was opened on the 9th December, 1919, 416 women have been admitted to the Home and 456 children. Total number of deaths of children, 15. The causes of death have been broncho-pneumonia, whooping-cough, enterocolitis, syncope, gastro-enteritis, and 1 premature birth.

### HOSTELS FOR WORKING MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN.

In my previous report reference was made to an innovation as regards Homes for Mothers with young infants. In the past great difficulty was experienced by young mothers with children obtaining suitable accommodation for themselves and infants so that the care of the children might not interfere with the daily occupation of the mother. After mature consideration of the matter my Board decided that representations should be made to the Minister for the establishment of special Homes for the accommodation of girl mothers with babies or young children. As a result of these negotiations an establishment was opened at "Santa Marina," Waverley. This, apparently, filled a long-felt want, and so successful was the Home that it became immediately necessary to make further provision for cases of this description.

Another Hostel has now been established at "Corelli," Marrickville, but despite the fact that the Mothers and Babies' Homes, "Eastwood," and "Cicada," are also being conducted on the Hostel principle, there is no doubt that an extension of the scheme will be necessary in the near future.

The Hostels not only provide a suitable home for the mothers, but the advantages of being able to obtain accommodation, food, and the care of their infants are certainly far in excess of what could be done under private arrangement at a greatly increased cost. Deductions are not made from the earnings of the mothers, who are permitted to undertake daily employment as domestics, waitresses, &c., or in various trades and occupations. They are, however, expected to contribute a nominal amount for their room and board. No compulsion of any kind is exercised over the inmates in order to retain them in the Hostels should they at any time be able to make arrangements as regards

regards their infants; assistance is given in every possible direction to enable the mothers to take up their life and do the best possible for themselves and their infants; if necessary, employment is obtained for them, and, generally, the Institutions are conducted upon the lines of a family home, the Matron acting in the capacity of a friend and mother to the young and inexperienced inmates entrusted to her care. The following statistics are given with regard to the operations of these Homes during the year :—

*“ Santa Marina,” Waverley.*

Number admitted during the year—mothers, 61 ; children, 103.

“ discharged ” 52 ; babies, 87.

“ of expectant mothers admitted—22.

“ in Home on 5th April—mothers, 9 ; babies, 14.

Average period of detention of mothers—3 to 6 months.

Number of deaths—2.

Since the Home was opened on the 1st December, 1919, 123 mothers have been admitted and 138 babies. There have been two deaths ; causes of death—1 influenza, 1 heart failure.

*“ Corelli,” Marrickville.*

Number admitted during the year—mothers, 41 ; children, 39.

“ discharged ” 30 27.

“ in Home on 5th April, 1920—mothers, 14 ; children, 14.

“ of expectant mothers admitted—5.

Average period of detention of mothers and infants—4 months.

Number of deaths from 5th April, 1919, to 5th April, 1920—Nil.

Since the Home was opened on 29th September, 1919, 45 women have been admitted to the Home and 40 children.

*“ Hillside ” TRAINING HOME FOR GIRLS.*

This Home was previously used as a Home for mothers and infants. The activities have now been transferred to “ Santa Marina.”

“ Hillside ” is now utilised as a Training Home for girls prior to apprenticeship. Operations were started in this respect in March, 1919, and some 370 State children have passed through the Home since its inception. The girls are trained in domestic duties, sewing, cooking, &c., thus fitting them to undertake employment during the period they are indentured.

In common with other Institutions under the control of my Board, “ Hillside ” was utilised for the reception of influenza contacts during the influenza pandemic, and, therefore, operations were temporarily suspended.

The religious and moral training of the girls is given particular attention; the inmates attend church regularly every Sunday, and prayer meetings are conducted at the Home on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The cost for the year of the foregoing Homes, shown separately, is given in the following table :—

Home.	Total Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.
“ Eastwood” ... ..	2,108	4	5
“ Cicada” ... ..	1,008	18	9
“ Santa Marina” ... ..	1,392	0	2
“ Corelli” ... ..	1,016	18	1
“ Hillside” ... ..	746	4	10

*HOME FOR FEEBLE-MINDED BOYS, RAYMOND TERRACE.*

There were 34 boys in the Home on the 5th April, 1919.

During the year 14 were admitted and 13 discharged, leaving 35 boys in the Home on the 5th April, 1920.

The boys in the Home are all more or less weak, some are of very feeble intellect. Of these boys, 6 are truants or habitual wanderers; 2 aborigines; 3 half-castes; 1 cripple; 1 with only one hand; 8 degenerates (sexually weak); 1 takes epileptic fits, and 1 deaf and dumb.

*General*

*General Health.*—The general health of the boys has been good. There were 34 cases of influenza during the year, six of which were very serious; there was 1 death from pneumonic influenza.

*Conduct.*—The conduct of the boys has been generally good.

*Employment of Boys.*—The boys in the Home are employed as follows:—

Tailor's shop ... ..	8	Woodturning ... ..	1
Bootmaking ... ..	6	Cutting firewood ... ..	2
Making boot uppers ... ..	2	In garden ... ..	2
Toy making ... ..	8	Kitchen... ..	2
Carpenter's shop ... ..	2	Dormitory ... ..	2

The hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Nine boys attend school full-time, and 3 boys (backward), but willing to learn, attend half-time.

During the year 5 boys were discharged to their parents; 4 over age; 1 to Depot; 1 to the Hospital for Insane; 1 boy absconded.

*Workshops.*—The general work was somewhat interfered with during the year through a serious outbreak of influenza, coupled with the fact that difficulty was experienced in securing material. The completed work, however, shows a reasonable profit.

Tailor's Shop—8 boys employed.

Goods produced—value as per contract prices.

Tweed suits of clothes ... ..	563
„ trousers ... ..	10
„ caps ... ..	103
Gambroon trousers ... ..	154
„ coats ... ..	30
Flannel shirts ... ..	66
Dungaree shirts ... ..	91
Pyjama shirts ... ..	58

Trade value ... ..	£	s.	d.
Less cost of material ... ..	469	11	5
	308	12	4

Net profit to tailor's shop ... .. £160 19 4

Bootmaker's Shop—6 boys employed.

Goods produced—value as per contract prices.

Boots, 1,154 pairs.

Repairs, 64.

Trade value ... ..	531	16	0
Less cost of material ... ..	453	11	2

Net credit to shop ... .. £128 4 10

Boot uppers, two boys, 917 pairs.

1 Bridle.

2 sets Breeching.

24 Belts.

2 Football covers.

Trade value ... ..	219	11	0
Less cost of material ... ..	116	0	10

Net profit ... .. £103 10 2

Toy Shop—Wood Toys—8 boys employed.

Goods produced—Trade value ... .. 162 7 6

Less cost of material:—

New timber ... ..	£	s.	d.
451 Empty cases ... ..	9	5	5
Sundries ... ..	17	14	0
	2	0	0

28 19 5

Net credit to Toy Shop ... .. £133 8 1

Carpenter's Shop—2 boys employed.

Maintenance and repairs ... .. 40 0 0

Additional building fitted up for store ... .. 50 0 0

Painting Home throughout ... .. 50 0 0

Garden and Produce—2 boys employed ... .. 50 0 0

Firewood Cutting—2 boys employed... .. 50 0 0

Summary

Summary of Profits :—							£	s.	d.
Tailor's shop	...	...	...	...	...	...	160	19	4
Boot shop	...	...	...	...	...	...	128	4	10
Uppers and sundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	103	10	2
Wood toys	...	...	...	...	...	...	133	8	1
Carpenter's shop	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	0	0
Painting	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0
Firewood	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0
Garden and produce	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0
Total							£766	2	5

The expenditure for the year was £1,781 9s. 7d.; average daily number of inmates, 33.

**“ORMOND HOUSE,” CENTRAL DEPÔT FOR STATE CHILDREN, AND GIRLS’ SHELTER,  
PADDINGTON.**

During the twelve months ended 5th April, 1,100 children passed through “Ormond House,” as compared with 1,828 children during the preceding year. Of these, 950 (451 boys and 499 girls) were State children, and 210 (58 boys and 152 girls) were Court children, *i.e.*, children dealt with by the various Children’s Courts.

For the past three years the numbers passing through “Ormond House” have been—

	1918.	1919.	1920.
State children	1,294	1,666	950
Court children	302	162	210
Total	1,596	1,828	1,160

“Ormond House” operations thus show a decrease for the year of 716 in the number of State children, and an increase in the number of Court children of 70.

The total cost of provisions and other supplies during 1919–20 was £1,889 12s.

### DIVISION B.

#### CHILDREN BOARDED OUT WITH THEIR OWN MOTHERS.

Three thousand eight hundred and ten widows and deserted wives are now receiving allowances in their own homes towards the support of 10,797 children under the age of 14 years. The increase in the cost of this section is generally due to the increase in the rates of payment. The total number of cases dealt with during the year was 3,942, aid being granted or continued in 2,611.

Since payment to the children of widows and deserted wives was introduced, applications for aid have totalled 21,081. Last year 2,111 new cases were dealt with, being 391 more than the number received during the previous twelve months. Of the new applications received, 1,684 were approved and 369 refused, representing 21 per cent. of the total; 58 cases were dealt with other than by the granting of monetary allowances, being given food orders, or referred to the Chief Secretary’s Department or the Benevolent Society, Sydney.

Section 51 of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act requires that my Board shall refer every case to the Children’s Court for inquiry, on oath, before aid is granted. This amendment was introduced to minimise the degree of imposition. It is gratifying to note that the repeated representations of the Department to make this clause discretionary and not mandatory has at last resulted in the Minister for Justice realising the necessity of amendment in the direction indicated.

Once again I would urge the need for legislation to compel near relatives, in a position to do so, to contribute towards the support of parents and younger members of their families. The State would thus be relieved in a certain measure of the enormous annual expenditure at present entirely borne in granting monetary allowances in specific cases which, upon investigation, can only be classed as instances of filial neglect. A few typical examples of this character coming under the notice of the State Children Relief Board are here quoted :—

1. A., a deserted wife with eight children, applied for aid for two youngest children (illegitimate); the five eldest children away from home, three of them unmarried, do not contribute towards the support of their mother. A. earned 10s. per week; rent 7s. per week.
2. B’s husband died, uninsured, leaving a family of 10 children; six children away from home, three of them unmarried; the earnings of four of these members of the family are stated to be £9 5s. per week between them; one son, only, contributes £2 towards applicant’s support for herself and two youngest children. B. earns 25s. per week and rations, and lives rent free. 3.



3. C., a widow with nine children, five of whom are away from home; (two are married and do not assist, two daughters earn 22s. per week between them and do not contribute; for one son, applicant receives 15s. per week war pension); the three youngest members of the family are dependent. Rent 16s. per week, income 15s.
4. D., a widow with nine children; three are away from home and do not assist; three earn 50s. per week and contribute 37s. per week towards the support of applicant and three youngest children. Rent, 11s. per week.
5. E., a widow with six children; four married and away from home do not contribute; one son at home earns 30s. and pays 15s. to applicant. Rent, 12s. per week.
6. F., a widow with nine children; seven are away from home, three of them being married; with the exception of 3s. 9d. per week war pension for one son, applicant receives nothing towards the support of herself and two children. Rent, 2s. 6d. per week.
7. G., a widow with fourteen children; nine children away from home do not assist; two eldest at home, aged 16 and 15 years respectively, do not earn; applicant in bad health. Rent, 8s. per week.
8. H., a widow with six children; four away married do not assist; one daughter earns £2 and contributes £1 towards applicant's support for herself and child. Rent, 13s. per week.
9. I., a widow with eight children; six away from home (five of them married) do not assist; one son earns 20s. per week, fares amount to 3s. per week; applicant is in receipt of an invalid pension. Rent, 14s. per week.
10. J., a widow with ten children; six away from home, one of whom contributes 5s. per week towards the support of applicant; applicant receives 10s. per week military pension. Rent, 10s. per week. Relatives in poor circumstances, and cannot assist.
11. K., whose husband is in receipt of the Invalidity Pension, has eight children, five of whom are away (4 being married) and do not contribute; two at home earn 37s. 6d. and 10s. each per week, and give applicant 35s. and 10s. per week respectively; rent 10s. per week, thus leaving applicant with 50s. per week to support four persons.

The following table gives the result of new applications from year to year:

Year.	New cases considered	Approved.	Refused.	Percentage of new cases.
1896-7 ... ..	479	378	101	21
1897-8 ... ..	717	501	216	30
1898-9 ... ..	654	385	269	41
1899-1900 ... ..	514	371	143	28
1900-1 ... ..	596	374	222	37
1901-2 ... ..	632	448	184	30
1902-3 ... ..	803	501	302	37
1903-4 ... ..	666	413	253	38
1904-5 ... ..	631	413	218	34½
1905-6 ... ..	567	410	157	27½
1906-7 ... ..	426	363	63	14½
1907-8 ... ..	555	471	84	15
1908-9 ... ..	540	442	98	18
1909-10 ... ..	675	528	147	21·8
1910-11 ... ..	658	511	147	22·3
1911-12 ... ..	637	518	119	18·6
1912-13 ... ..	759	638	121	16
1913-14 ... ..	867	674	193	22
1914-15 ... ..	1,058	721	337	31
1915-16 ... ..	1,492	955	537	35
1916-17 ... ..	1,279	947	271	22
1917-18 ... ..	1,390	1,129	261	22
1918-19 ... ..	1,560	1,229	331	27
1919-20 ... ..	2,053	1,648	369	18

In 1919-20 allowances were granted in 1,684 new cases, and the number of children with their mothers is shown hereunder:—

With 1 child ... ..	160 mothers	With 7 children ... ..	26 mothers
„ 2 children ... ..	520 „	„ 8 „ ... ..	4 „
„ 3 „ ... ..	419 „	„ 9 „ ... ..	3 „
„ 4 „ ... ..	304 „	„ 11 „ ... ..	1 „
„ 5 „ ... ..	172 „		
„ 6 „ ... ..	75 „	Total ... ..	1,684

All

All cases are regularly reviewed by the Board, and allowances are assessed or withdrawn according to circumstances. During the year the total cases considered were 3,942, as follows :—

Admitted ... ..	1,684	Continued ... ..	241
Discharged ... ..	760	Miscellaneous ... ..	97
Refused ... ..	369		
Increased ... ..	589	Total ... ..	3,942
Reduced ... ..	202		

For purposes of comparison, similar information is supplied for preceding years :—

Year.	Cases dealt with.	Aid granted or continued.	Aid refused or discontinued.	Percentage of refused cases.
1897-8 ... ..	1,207	882	325	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
1898-9 ... ..	1,540	1,051	489	31 $\frac{3}{4}$
1899-1900 ... ..	1,492	1,112	380	25
1900-1 ... ..	1,772	1,151	621	35
1901-2 ... ..	1,589	1,082	507	32
1902-3 ... ..	1,849	1,132	717	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
1903-4 ... ..	1,703	997	636	37 $\frac{3}{4}$
1904-5 ... ..	1,629	968	661	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
1905-6 ... ..	1,610	968	642	39 $\frac{7}{8}$
1906-7 ... ..	1,317	911	406	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
1907-8 ... ..	1,444	1,019	425	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
1908-9 ... ..	1,421	945	476	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
1909-10 ... ..	1,824	1,183	641	35
1910-11 ... ..	1,919	1,260	659	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
1911-12 ... ..	1,795	1,220	575	32
1912-13 ... ..	1,682	1,097	585	34 $\frac{3}{4}$
1913-14 ... ..	1,843	1,222	621	33 $\frac{3}{4}$
1914-15 ... ..	2,244	1,372	872	38 $\frac{3}{4}$
1915-16 ... ..	2,654	1,812	842	32
1916-17 ... ..	3,210	1,952	1,258	39
1917-18 ... ..	3,585	2,309	1,276	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
1918-19 ... ..	3,814	2,498	1,316	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
1919-20 ... ..	3,942	2,611	1,331	34

The following tables indicate percentages in relation to wife desertion since the inception of relief to families of defaulting husbands and fathers :—

New Applications approved of each Year.

Year.	Total number approved for year only.	Widows.	Percentage of Total.	Deserted <i>de facto</i> .	Percentage of Total.	Technical desertion.	Percentage of Total.
1896-7 ... ..	378	293	77	62	17	23	6
1905-6 ... ..	410	242	59	96	23	72	18
1906-7 ... ..	363	208	57	109	30	46	13
1907-8 ... ..	471	269	57	139	29	63	14
1908-9 ... ..	442	259	58	119	28	64	14
1909-10 ... ..	528	288	54	132	26	108	20
1910-11 ... ..	511	285	56	124	24	102	20
1911-12 ... ..	518	306	59	122	24	90	17
1912-13 ... ..	638	340	53	191	30	107	17
1913-14 ... ..	674	380	56	192	29	102	15
1914-15 ... ..	721	406	56	205	28	110	16
1915-16 ... ..	955	488	51	318	33	149	16
1916-17 ... ..	947	521	55	232	24	194	21
1917-18 ... ..	1,129	587	52	265	23	277	25
1918-19 ... ..	1,229	625	50	267	21	337	29
1919-20 ... ..	1,684	1,062	63	279	17	343	20

There are now 2,245 widows and 1,565 deserted wives receiving allowances. The proportion of the latter to the total is 41.1 per cent., as compared with 46 per cent. for the previous twelve months. These figures refer to desertion *de facto*. The term "deserted wives" includes also women whose husbands are in gaol, in a hospital

hospital for the insane, a general hospital, or a Government asylum for the infirm and destitute. This percentage of cases has risen from 22·5 in 1897 to 41·1 during the year under review. Details for each year appear in the following table :—

Year.	Husband at home ill.	Deserted Wives.						Widows.	Proportion.	
		Husband Deserted.	Insane.	In Gaol.	In Asylum.	In Hospital.	Total.		Deserted Wives.	Widows.
1897 ...	...	62	14	5	4	.....	85	293	22·5	77·5
1898 ...	...	132	26	25	15	5	203	567	26·3	73·7
1899 ...	...	179	39	18	17	8	261	674	28·0	72·0
1900 ...	...	211	45	23	19	16	314	755	29·4	70·6
1901 ...	...	198	48	33	25	31	335	709	32·1	67·9
1902 ...	...	204	51	45	34	38	372	795	31·8	68·2
1903 ...	...	200	55	39	46	41	381	871	30·5	69·5
1904 ...	...	214	54	59	51	44	422	860	32·3	67·7
1905 ...	...	176	69	67	59	57	428	826	34·2	65·8
1906 ...	...	169	69	67	56	62	423	756	35·9	64·1
1907 ...	...	158	69	71	63	64	425	782	35·2	64·7
1908 ...	...	210	82	99	62	72	525	880	37·4	62·6
1909 ...	...	230	91	98	65	80	564	923	37·9	62·1
1910 ...	...	250	102	109	64	92	617	936	39·8	60·2
1911 ...	...	264	125	93	63	109	654	914	41·7	58·3
1912 ...	...	296	142	95	68	126	727	947	43·4	56·6
1913 ...	...	377	158	95	69	142	841	1,052	44·4	55·6
1914 ...	...	425	165	105	69	139	903	1,192	43·1	56·9
1915 ...	...	458	169	115	72	166	980	1,310	42·8	57·2
1916 ...	...	523	191	124	78	186	1,102	1,443	43·3	56·7
1917 ...	...	508	201	126	78	201	1,117	1,388	44·4	55·6
1918 ...	...	522	225	126	83	229	1,185	1,455	44·8	55·2
1919 ...	...	584	257	133	85	234	1,326	1,560	46·0	54·0
1920 ...	40	685	231	110	86	333	1,555	2,245	41·1	58·9

The following table shows the proportion of wives “technically deserted” and those “deserted *de facto*” :—

Year.	Wives deserted <i>de facto</i> .	Wives technically deserted.	Deserted Wives (Total).	Proportion of former to Total.
1897 ...	62	23	85	per cent.
1898 ...	132	71	203	73·0
1899 ...	179	82	261	65·0
1900 ...	211	103	314	68·2
1901 ...	198	137	335	67·2
1902 ...	204	168	372	59·1
1903 ...	200	181	381	54·8
1904 ...	214	208	422	52·2
1905 ...	176	252	428	50·7
1906 ...	169	254	423	41·1
1907 ...	158	267	425	40·0
1908 ...	210	315	525	37·1
1909 ...	230	334	564	40·0
1910 ...	250	367	617	40·7
1911 ...	264	390	654	40·5
1912 ...	296	431	727	40·3
1913 ...	377	464	841	40·7
1914 ...	425	478	903	44·8
1915 ...	458	522	980	47·0
1916 ...	523	579	1,102	46·7
1917 ...	508	609	1,117	47·4
1918 ...	522	663	1,185	45·3
1919 ...	584	742	1,326	44·0
1920 ...	685	880	1,565	44·0
				43·0

The increase in the number of actually deserted wives since the inception of this form of relief is very noticeable. Six hundred and eighty-five destitute families are at the present time a permanent charge upon the Government in consequence.

The

The number of mothers and children towards whose support assistance has been granted each year is indicated hereunder :—

Year.	Number of Mothers.	Number of Children.	Increase in number of Children.	Decrease in number of Children.
1856-7 ... ..	378	1,230	.....	.....
1857-8 ... ..	770	2,422	1,192	.....
1898-9 ... ..	935	2,884	462	.....
1899-1900 ... ..	1,069	3,257	373	.....
1900-1 ... ..	1,044	3,065	.....	192
1901-2 ... ..	1,167	3,265	200	.....
1902-3 ... ..	1,252	3,386	121	.....
1903-4 ... ..	1,282	3,435	49	.....
1904-5 ... ..	1,254	3,317	.....	118
1905-6 ... ..	1,179	3,146	.....	171
1906-7 ... ..	1,207	3,025	.....	121
1907-8 ... ..	1,405	3,633	608	.....
1908-9 ... ..	1,487	3,980	347	.....
1909-10 ... ..	1,553	4,097	117	.....
1910-11 ... ..	1,568	4,182	85	.....
1911-12 ... ..	1,674	4,453	271	.....
1912-13 ... ..	1,893	5,386	933	.....
1913-14 ... ..	2,095	5,970	584	.....
1914-15 ... ..	2,290	6,612	642	.....
1915-16 ... ..	2,545	7,310	698	.....
1916-17 ... ..	2,505	7,323	13	.....
1917-18 ... ..	2,640	7,764	441	.....
1918-19 ... ..	2,886	8,257	493	.....
1919-20 ... ..	3,810	10,797	2,540	.....

In the following table a contrast is made between the rates of payment for "relief to children of widows and deserted wives" during the years 1904 and 1909, and similar rates paid since 1912 :—

RELIEF to Widows and Deserted Wives.

Year.	No. of Children.	Admitted during year.	Rates paid per week for each.											
			10/-	8/-	7/6	7/-	5/-	4/6	4/-	3/6	3/-	2/6	2/-	
1904	...	3,435	49	...	...	...	...	15	2	55	39	637	1,188	1,402
1909	...	3,980	347	...	...	...	...	62	11	230	176	890	1,288	1,316
1912	...	4,453	271	...	...	...	...	678	133	943	496	883	501	819
1913	...	5,386	933	...	...	...	...	1,537	88	1,471	355	707	434	791
1914	...	5,970	584	...	...	...	...	2,021	72	1,648	297	770	391	769
1915	...	6,612	642	...	...	...	...	2,198	54	2,101	321	809	362	765
1916	...	7,810	698	...	...	...	...	4,524	20	1,881	118	504	133	23
1917	...	7,323	431	...	...	...	...	5,271	6	1,391	71	335	91	2
1918	...	7,764	441	...	...	...	...	5,356	8	1,197	50	268	78	...
1919	...	8,257	493	17	108	47	507	4,612	8	784	40	148	79	...
1920	...	10,797	2,540	18	124	53	2,476	4,207	...	620	22	108	40	...

In the remaining few cases the following weekly rates are paid :—9 at 3s. 9d. ; 8 at 6s. 6d. ; 7 at 6s. 8d.

The figures for these later years show the tendency to pay for all children at the maximum rates. As this aspect has been thoroughly reviewed in former Reports, I shall not deal with it again here.

TOTAL

TOTAL Number of Mothers on Books at end of each Year.

Year.	Total number of Mothers.	Widows.	Percentage of Total.	Deserted <i>de facto</i> .	Percentage of Total.	Technical desertion.	Percentage of Total.
1896-7 ...	378	293	77	62	17	23	6
1905-6 ...	1,179	756	64	169	14	254	22
1906-7 ...	1,207	782	64	158	15	267	21
1907-8 ...	1,405	880	62	210	15	315	23
1908-9 ...	1,487	923	62	230	15	334	23
1909-10 ...	1,553	936	60	259	17	367	23
1910-11 ...	1,568	914	58	264	17	390	25
1911-12 ...	1,674	947	56	296	18	431	26
1912-13 ...	1,893	1,052	56	377	20	464	24
1913-14 ...	2,095	1,192	57	425	20	478	22
1914-15 ...	2,290	1,310	57	458	20	522	23
1915-16 ...	2,545	1,443	57	523	20	579	23
1916-17 ...	2,505	1,388	55	508	20	609	25
1917-18 ...	2,640	1,455	55	522	19	663	26
1918-19 ...	2,886	1,560	54	584	20	742	26
1919-20 ...	3,810	2,245	58	685	18	880	23

The following table shows the distribution of mothers and children, and the separate rates paid :—

CHILDREN Boarded out to their own Mothers.

Allowances.			Continued.	Miscellaneous Applications.	Refused.	Discharged.	Total.
Granted.	Increased.	Reduced.					
1,684	589	202	241	97	369	760	3,942

The undermentioned Mothers are now in receipt of relief :—

Widows.	Deserted Wives.					Husbands at Home Ill.	Total.
	Husbands Deserted.	Husbands Insane.	Husbands in Gaol.	Husbands in Govt. Asylums.	Husbands in Hospitals.		
2,245	685	281	140	86	333	40	3,810

The children with their own mothers are being paid for at the following weekly rates :—

6/6	8/-	10/-	5/-	4/-	6/-	3/-	7/-	2/6	3/6	7/6	4/6	3/3	3/4	6/8	Total.
8	124	18	4,207	620	3,105	108	2,476	40	22	53	...	9	...	7	10,797

## DIVISION C.

## INFANT PROTECTION ACT.

The operations under the Infant Protection Act provides for the supervision, maintenance, and care of children up to 7 years of age apart from their parents in private homes or religious establishments. An amendment of the law, as proposed, to bring all children in such places under supervision up to the age of 16 years, would substantially increase the work under the provisions of the enactment.

Licenses for children are recommended after inquiry by the Board's officers, by my Board, to the Minister for Education, as the licensing authority. The number of children who may be kept in any one home is conditioned by the license. The licensed homes are classified under two headings :—

(a) Those for the accommodation of a maximum of 5 children.

(b) Those for the accommodation of a greater number than 5 children.

Separate Regulations govern each child.

The



The total number of licenses granted under this Act for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1919, was 71. For the same period licenses have been issued to the following institutions maintained by public subscription. (Supervision, of course, applies only to the children under 7 years):—

	Children.
Foundling Home, Waitara ... ..	75
Infants' Home, Ashfield ... ..	63
Babies' Home, Rockdale ... ..	25
St. Michael's Orphanage, Baulkham Hills ... ..	75
Church of England Deaconess' Home, Marrickville ... ..	14
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Boys, Kincumber ... ..	20
St. Anne's Orphanage for Girls, Liverpool ... ..	10
St. Brigid's Orphanage for Girls, Ryde ... ..	30
Dalmar Children's Home, Croydon ... ..	20
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Goulburn ... ..	20
St. Anne's Orphanage for Girls, Broken Hill ... ..	26
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Bathurst ... ..	12
St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Gore Hill ... ..	20
Church of England Home for Girls, Burwood ... ..	12
St. John's Boy's Orphanage, Goulburn ... ..	20
St. John's Orphanage, Albury ... ..	12
Burnside Orphanages, Parramatta... ..	90
Salvation Army Home, Arncliffe ... ..	20
Sydney Norland Nurseries... ..	20
Dill Macky Memorial Home, Auburn ... ..	10
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Cowper ... ..	20
Church of England Children's Home, Glebe ... ..	12
Church of England Home for Boys, Burwood ... ..	20

Five applications from private householders were refused, or licenses withdrawn, because of the unsatisfactory character of the applicants or their homes.

The number of children under 7 years who were inmates of private establishments on the 31st December, 1919, is shown in the following table:—

Institution.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 6 years.	6 to 7 years.	Total.
Foundling Home, Waitara ... ..	1	10	11	16	5	5	2	53
Infants' Home, Ashfield ... ..	7	9	7	1	8	...	...	32
Babies' Home, Rockdale ... ..	...	5	5	2	3	6	3	21
St. Michael's Orphanage, Baulkham Hills ... ..	...	...	1	3	9	17	7	37
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Kincumber ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
St. Anne's Orphanage, Liverpool ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	5
St. Brigid's Orphanage, Ryde ... ..	...	...	2	4	7	6	6	25
Dalmar Children's Home, Croydon ... ..	1	2	1	3	3	4	3	17
St. John's Boys' Orphanage, Goulburn ... ..	...	...	...	4	1	6	...	11
St. Anne's Orphanage, Broken Hill ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	3	3	8
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Bathurst ... ..	...	...	1	1	2	4	...	8
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Gore Hill ... ..	...	...	3	4	2	7	4	20
Church of England Home for Girls, Burwood ... ..	...	...	1	2	...	3	1	7
St. John's Orphanage, Albury ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	2	5	9
Burnside Presbyterian Homes, Parramatta ... ..	...	...	...	18	26	42	14	100
Norland Nurseries, Woollahra ... ..	5	...	2	4	...	1	2	14
Salvation Army Home, Arncliffe ... ..	...	...	1	3	1	5	...	10
Church of England Deaconess' Home, Marrickville ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	2	3	8
St. Joseph's Girls' Home, Goulburn... ..	...	...	5	8	1	4	3	21
Dill Macky Memorial Home, Auburn ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	6
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Cowper ... ..	...	...	3	2	5	7	4	21
Church of England Children's Home, Glebe... ..	...	...	...	6	7	...	...	13
Church of England Home for Boys, Burwood ... ..	...	...	...	1	6	2	2	11
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>465</b>

The general health of the children has been good. Deaths have been reported from the Infants' Home, Ashfield, and the Foundling Home, Waitara (which deals with very young infants). The mortality of children in these institutions, with particulars of age, cause of death, was :—

CHILDREN CARED FOR APART FROM THEIR MOTHERS.—Ages and causes of death, 1st January to 31st December, 1919.

	3 months and under.		3 to 6 months.		6 to 9 months.		9 to 12 months.		Over 12 months.		Total.
	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	Waitara.	Infants' Home.	
Gastro-enteritis .....	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	1	7	2	16
Pneumonia .....	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	1	6
Marasmus .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peritonitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Congenital heart .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total .....	...	...	6	5	...	...	...	2	9	3	25

The deaths at the Infants' Home, Ashfield, and the Foundling Home, Waitara, in relation to the number of children admitted, were, for the past five years :—

	With Mothers.					Without Mothers.				
	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Waitara Foundling Home—										
Admissions ... ..	42	58	23	71	79	23	36	62	28	31
Deaths ... ..	12	6	2	8	12	13	8	4	7	15
Ashfield Infants' Home—										
Admissions ... ..	33	30	45	45	44	32	28	29	44	50
Deaths ... ..	1	5	14	3	3	4	11	7	3	10

#### DIVISION D.

The Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act—operations in regard to—

(a) The Metropolitan Children's Court; (b) Metropolitan Boys' Shelter, Sydney; (c) release of children on probation; (d) street-trading by children.

##### (a) METROPOLITAN CHILDREN'S COURT.

The operations of the Metropolitan Children's Court are divided into two distinct sections.

In No. 1 Court matters are dealt with—

1. When the defendants are adults.
2. Affiliation cases under the Infant Protection Act.

In No. 2 Court, presided over by Mr. F. H. Galbraith, the cases dealt with are—

1. Where children only are concerned as neglected, uncontrollable, or delinquent.
2. Of widows and deserted wives who are applicants for monetary relief in terms of section 16 of the State Children Relief Act.

The time appears to be opportune when matters dealt with in the No. 1 Court should be conducted in a building removed from the Court, dealing solely with cases of children. At times the accommodation for the public is taxed to its utmost by parties and witnesses waiting for cases to be called. Another objectionable feature is that children and adults cannot be conveniently kept apart; the complainant, defendant, and witnesses are adults. The discussion of these cases outside the actual Court should not be overheard by children. Under existing conditions, it is impossible to separate children from adults, and alterations should be made to make this practicable.

Courts are also held in the Metropolitan Area at Parramatta, Burwood, Hunter's Hill, and Hornsby.

During the official year ended 5th April, 1920, 2,517 children appeared before the Court, of whom 2,271 were boys and 246 girls. These figures are most satisfactory as compared with those of the previous year, when 2,850 children were dealt with (2,586 boys and 264 girls).

The

The children were brought to the Court in the following manner :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Brought by parents ... ..	40	29	69
" " notice ... ..	1,223	65	1,288
" " summons ... ..	33	5	38
" " warrant ... ..	57	34	91
Arrested by police ... ..	340	80	420
By request of police ... ..	578	33	611
	2,271	246	2,517

It will be seen that a large percentage of cases were brought before the Court by notice, *i.e.*, by a memorandum sent to the child requesting him to attend, accompanied by a parent or adult relative, at a fixed time, on a specified date. In no instance did a child fail to present himself when requested to do so.

Five hundred and seventy-eight boys and 33 girls (611 children) appeared before the Court by request. In these cases, the Police ascertained that the children concerned had committed offences, and, on visiting the homes, found that the parents were respectable people. The parents were then asked to present the children at the Court.

Ninety-one children, arrested under warrant, were before the Court; in each case the warrant was issued at the request of a parent, the child having left home.

In my last report it was pointed out that 143 children, representing 50 families, were before the Court as being neglected by their parents, one or both drinking excessively. A pleasing feature of the Court work during the present year is the noticeable improvement in this regard—only 46 children, representing 17 families, were dealt with as a result of neglect by their parents. Of this number some 29 children were returned to their parents consequent upon improved living conditions in the home, and 17 were committed to the care of the State Children Relief Department to be boarded out with approved guardians.

For the official year ending 5th April, 1920, the number of children brought before the Metropolitan Children's Court was 2,517. Of these 2,271 were boys and 246 girls. Parents proceeded against for breaches of the Public Instruction Amendment Act number 152. Compared with the figures for the previous year, the total represents a decrease of 315 in the number of boys and 18 in the number of girls. Of the 2,517 children dealt with, the cases against 549 of them were withdrawn and 32 dismissed.

The following table shows the decision of the Court in regard to other children. Figures for the past six years are here inserted for purposes of comparison :—

Decision.	1915.		1916.		1917.		1918.		1919.		1920.	
	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,314).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,515).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,617).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,676).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,863).	Total.	Per-centage to proved cases (1,936).
Committed to gazetted institutions—												
To Farm Home, Mittagong .....	213	16.2	187	12.3	186	8.3	211	12.5	138	7.4	125	6.5
To Farm Home, Gosford .....	45	3.4	23	1.9	38	1.7	53	3.4	65	3.5	51	2.6
To Girls' Industrial School, Parramatta .....	30	2.8	38	3.3	18	2.1	18	2.2	15	2.0	5	1.4
To Girls' Training Home, Parramatta .....	7		12		31		19		21		23	
Truant School, Guildford .....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	38	2.1	53	2.7
Totals .....	295	22.4	265	17.5	273	12.1	306	18.1	277	15.0	257	13.2
Released on probation .....	789	.....	1,051	.....	1,202	.....	1,282	.....	1,458	.....	1,275	.....
Committed to care of persons .....	75	.....	82	.....	66	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....
Totals .....	855	65.0	1,133	74.7	1,268	57.3	1,282	76.5	1,458	78.2	1,275	66
Committed to "Ormond House" to be boarded out .....	53	6.6	74	6.5	59	3.3	66	5.2	53	4.0	71	4.3
Committed to care of State Children Relief Department .....	35		25		15		22		18		12	
Fined .....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	54	2.8	321	16.6
Totals .....	88	6.6	99	6.5	74	3.3	88	5.2	128	6.8	404	20.9

Three hundred and forty children were committed to Institutions gazetted under the Acts (or 11 less than the number last year). The 125 committals to the Farm Home, Mittagong, show a decrease of 13 over the corresponding period for last year.

Of

Of the children brought before the Court, 86.5 per cent. were dealt with otherwise than by committal to Institutions. Fifty-one boys were sent to the Farm Home for Boys at Gosford, being 14 less than the number similarly dealt with the previous year. Three hundred and twenty-one boys were fined during the year for breaches of the Railway and Tramway By-laws.

As regards the total number of "cases proved" during the year, the following tables, showing a comparison for the past ten years in the method of treatment, are interesting:—

	1911. per cent.	1912. per cent.	1913. per cent.	1914. per cent.	1915. per cent.	1916. per cent.	1917. per cent.	1918. per cent.	1919. per cent.	1920. per cent.
Total committals to institutions (gazetted and otherwise) ... ..	16.2	14.6	14.81	12.56	23.0	18.2	12.1	18.1	15.0	13.2
Gazetted—Farm Home, Mittagong ...	8.3	12.2	10.37	9.1	16.2	12.3	8.3	12.5	7.4	6.5
" Sobraon "      { now Farm } Brush Farm      { Home, Gos- }	5.8 } 0.5 }	2.3	1.63	1.6	3.4	1.9	1.7	3.4	3.5	2.6
Truant School, Guildford ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.1	2.7
Industrial School (Girls). Training Home for Girls, Parramatta ... ..	0.8	.07	2.19	.66	2.8	3.3	2.1	2.2	2.2	1.4
Total of cases disposed of other than com- mitted to institutions ... ..	83.5	84.7	85.19	87.3	77.6	81.8	84.5	85.3	81.1	86.5
Released on probation ... ..	47.6	51.05	57.69	49.8	65.0	74.7	56.2	76.5	78.2	66
Committed to be boarded out ... ..	5.3	6.3	5.53	4.6	6.6	6.5	3.3	5.2	4.0	4.3
Fined ... ..	30.6	26.5	21.93	11.8	5.1	.6	.1	.0	2.8	16.6

Seven hundred and six children were before the Court for stealing, a decrease of 155 under this heading. These figures are gratifying when consideration is taken of the fact that the schools were closed for lengthy periods owing to the influenza pandemic, and children had not the same restrictions placed upon their liberty.

The cases withdrawn against children after admonishment by the Special Magistrate totalled 449, or 22 per cent. of those dealt with and proved.

Committals to all institutions have decreased since last year from 15 to 13.2 per cent.

It will be noticed that 91.7 per cent. of the children dealt with by the Court and committed to institutions or placed on probation came under the jurisdiction of the Board. The proportion during the preceding year was 92.3 per cent.

The cases dismissed and withdrawn numbered 581, a decrease of 406. There were 768 children dealt with as "Neglected" or "Uncontrollable," as follows:—

Charge.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Neglected ... ..	124	59	183
Uncontrollable ... ..	210	73	283
Breaking terms of probation ... ..	16	13	29
Improper guardianship (Children's Protec- tion Act) ... ..	7	5	12
Cases under above headings discharged or withdrawn ... ..	221	40	261
	578	190	768

A summary of the above 768 cases shows that 12 boys were committed to the Farm Home, Mittagong, for breach of conditions of release on probation, and 4 to the Farm Home for Boys at Gosford for a similar reason. In addition, 43 uncontrollable and 9 neglected boys were sent to the Farm Home, Mittagong, and 11 uncontrollable and 2 neglected boys to the Farm Home, Gosford. Two uncontrollable and 3 neglected girls were sent to the Industrial School, and 5 uncontrollable and 9 neglected girls to the Training Home at Parramatta. For breaches of conditions, 5 girls were sent to the same institution. Twelve children—4 less than last year—found to be under improper guardianship were committed to the care of the Department to be boarded out; 65 children were committed to "Ormond House" for a similar purpose.

The small number of children, 29, dealt with by the Court for breaking the conditions of release on probation shows the wisdom of placing our budding manhood on their honour to do the right thing; this is just what probation means. During the year 1,275 children were released on probation, and only 39 or 3.3 per cent. failed to carry out the conditions of their release on probation. It will thus be seen that the discretion of the Court in dealing leniently with juvenile offenders proves the undoubted success of the system.

The

The following statistical tables are submitted in connection with the year's operations at the Metropolitan Children's Court :—

TABLE I.—Disposal of Cases dealt with (showing ages of children).

Disposal.	Age in Years.														Total.
	1-4.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.		
Released on Probation .....	{ Boys	...	2	3	12	49	56	81	122	174	189	184	182	...	1,054
	{ Girls	...	1	1	...	2	1	5	7	10	10	12	19	...	68
Ormond House, Paddington .....	{ Boys	...	2	2	3	4	8	5	3	3	1	1	...	...	32
	{ Girls	...	3	...	...	...	1	2	3	5	8	6	11	...	39
Farm Home, Mittagong .....	Boys	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	18	36	42	14	3	...	125
Farm Home, Gosford .....	Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	18	26	1	51
Industrial School, Parramatta .....	Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	5
Training Home, Parramatta .....	Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	8	9	...	23
Probation to other than Parents .....	{ Boys	...	...	...	2	2	2	5	8	18	29	23	16	...	105
	{ Girls	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	8	6	14	16	...	48
State Children Relief Board .....	{ Boys	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
	{ Girls	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fined .....	Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	197	111	...	321
Truant School .....	Boys	...	...	...	...	2	8	4	9	16	14	...	...	...	53
Total .....	{ Boys	7	4	5	17	57	79	102	160	247	294	437	538	1	1,748
	{ Girls	5	4	1	...	2	3	7	14	26	26	41	59	...	188
		12	8	6	17	59	82	109	174	273	320	478	397	1	1,936
Withdrawn .....	{ Boys	1	4	6	8	19	23	39	46	97	107	90	51	...	491
	{ Girls	3	2	1	1	1	3	4	3	4	11	10	13	2	58
Discharged .....	Boys	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	3	4	6	5	10	...	32
Grand total .....	{ Boys	8	8	11	25	77	104	142	209	348	407	532	399	1	2,271
	{ Girls	8	6	2	1	3	6	11	17	30	37	51	72	2	246
		16	14	13	26	80	110	153	226	378	444	583	471	3	2,517

TABLE II.—Summary of Children dealt with.

How dealt with.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Released on probation to parents .....	1,054	68	1,122
Do to other than parents .....	105	48	153
Committed to "Ormond House," Paddington .....	32	39	71
Committed to Farm Home, Mittagong .....	125	...	125
Committed to Farm Home, Gosford .....	51	...	51
Committed to Girls' Industrial School, Parramatta .....	...	5	5
Committed to Girls' Training Home, do .....	...	23	23
Committed to care of State Children Relief Board .....	7	5	12
Fined .....	321	...	321
Withdrawn .....	491	58	549
Dismissed or discharged .....	32	...	32
Truant Schools .....	53	...	53
Total .....	2,271	246	2,517



TABLE III.—Released on Probation.

Offence.	Age in Years.											Total.
	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Boys.												
Uncontrollable .....	1	1	3	10	8	13	10	27	24	16	18	131
Neglected—												
Vice and crime .....	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	3	1	...	8
Habitually wandering .....	...	1	2	3	5	2	6	5	4	4	1	33
Street trading .....	...	...	...	1	1	2	7	6	7	6	7	37
Begging .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	3
Insufficient clothing .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Indecent behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Use insulting words .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
Stealing .....	...	...	4	17	19	34	52	66	63	76	52	383
Attempt to steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	...	6
Offensive behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	14	17
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	1	10	11	17	19	26	33	16	19	152
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	1	4	4	5	3	4	6	4	31
Break lamp .....	...	...	...	1	3	2	6	3	3	2	6	26
Riotous behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	4
Throw stones .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	5	10
Breaches of Railway and Tramway by-laws. ....	...	...	...	4	1	3	10	33	37	35	26	149
Trespass .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	4
Indecent language .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Play two-up .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	7	12
Breach of City Council by-laws .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	5
Let off fireworks in street .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	4
Assault .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	2	6
False pretences .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Illegally use horse .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Discharge firearm in street .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Receive stolen property .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	1	5
Embezzlement .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Illegally use motor car .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Interfere with oyster lease .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Break and enter .....	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	5
Wager by totalisator .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Maliciously wound .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	3
Found in common gaming house .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Play game in street .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Give short measure .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total .....	2	3	12	49	56	81	122	174	189	184	182	1,054
GIRLS.												
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	4	6	4	10	31
Neglect—Vice and crime .....	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	3	10
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Begging .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Insufficient clothing .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stealing .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	1	3	2	10
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Breaches of Railway and Tramway by-laws. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	1	...	6
False pretences .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Assault .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Found in common gaming house .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Offensive behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Total .....	1	1	...	2	1	5	7	10	10	12	19	68

Total number of Boys .....

1,054

Girls .....

68

Grand total .....

1,122

TABLE IV.—Released on Probation to persons other than parents.

Offence.	Age in Years.									Total.
	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Boys.										
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	3	4	16
Stealing .....	...	...	1	3	5	5	9	11	4	38
Neglect—										
Vice and crime .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	1
No home .....	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
Wandering .....	1	1	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	6
Insufficient lodging .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Street-trading .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Begging .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	1	...	1	1	3	6	6	2	20
Breach of Railway and Tramway by-laws.....	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	2	3	11
Play two-up .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Breach of City Council by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Maliciously shoot .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Throw stones .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Break lamp.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Attempt to steal .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total.....	2	2	2	5	8	18	29	23	16	105
Girls.										
Uncontrollable.....	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	10	7	22
Stealing .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	5	7
Neglect—Vice and crime .....	...	...	...	...	2	3	4	4	3	16
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Make false declaration .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total.....	...	...	1	...	3	8	6	14	16	48
Total number of Boys .....										105
" Girls .....										48
Grand total .....										153

TABLE V.—Committed to the care of the State Children Relief Department.

Offence.	Age in Years.													Total.
	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	
Boys.														
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Improper guardianship .....	1	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total .....	1	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
GIRLS.														
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Improper guardianship .....	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total .....	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total number of Boys .....													7	
" Girls .....													5	
Grand total.....													12	

TABLE VI.—Committed to the Farm Home, Mittagong.

Offence.	Age in Years.										Total.
	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	3	4	5	10	14	5	2	43
Neglected—											
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	5	...	...	12
Stealing .....	...	...	...	2	2	6	7	14	6	1	38
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	3	10	7	2	...	22
Attempting to steal .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Neglected—Vice and crime .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
No home .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Street-trading .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>125</b>

TABLE VII.

TABLE VII.—Committed to the Farm Home, Gosford.

Offence.	Age in Years.						Total.
	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.	
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	1	5	5	...	11
Neglected—							
Living under conditions .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
No home .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	1	1	1	1	4
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Indecent assault .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Stealing .....	...	...	3	5	6	...	14
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	1	5	11	...	17
Illegally use a horse .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Discharge fire-arms in street .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Indecent language .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Play two-up .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total .....	...	...	6	18	26	1	51

TABLE VIII.—Committed to the Girls' Industrial School, Parramatta, with which is incorporated the Training Home for Girls. (The table shows those who were expressly committed to that branch.)

Offence.	Age in years.						Total.
	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.	
GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.							
Neglected—							
Living under conditions .....	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Breach of conditions.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No home .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total .....	...	...	...	1	4	...	5
TRAINING HOME FOR GIRLS.							
Neglected—							
Breach of conditions.....	...	...	1	2	2	...	5
Stealing .....	...	...	1	2	2	...	5
Set fire to dwelling .....	...	...	...	1	3	...	4
No fixed place of abode .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vice and crime .....	1	3	...	3	2	...	9
Total .....	1	3	2	8	9	...	23
Grand total .....	1	3	2	9	13	...	28

TABLE IX.—Committed to Ormond House, Paddington.

Offence.	Age in Years.											Total.	
	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.		
BOYS.													
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	1	...	3	2	...	2	...	1	...	9	
Neglected—													
Living under conditions .....	2	...	1	1	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	10	
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Habitually wandering .....	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	4	
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Break, enter, and steal .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Insufficient food .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
No fixed place of abode .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	
Stealing .....	...	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Total .....	2	2	3	4	8	5	3	3	1	1	...	32	
GIRLS.													
Neglected—													
Living under conditions .....	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	1	8	
Breaches of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	3	8	
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	2	5	13	
No fixed place of abode .....	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	1	1	8	
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	
Total .....	3	...	...	...	1	2	3	5	8	6	11	39	
Total number of Boys .....													
"          Girls .....												32	
Grand total .....													
													71

TABLE X.

TABLE X.—Withdrawn. The policy of the Court in minor offences is to have cases, although fully proved, formally withdrawn (usually on payment of costs) to avoid the recording of a conviction.

Offence.	Age in Years.													Total.
	1-4.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	16-17.	
Boys.														
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	3	6	12	3	1	...	32
Neglected—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Street trading.....	...	...	...	...	6	7	11	14	23	15	10	6	...	92
Insufficient lodging .....	...	2	2	...	2	1	1	1	...	3	1	...	...	13
Vice and crime .....	...	1	1	...	3	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	...	10
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	1	2	1	2	3	2	5	1	1	2	...	20
Improper guardianship.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	3	5	2	2	14	10	8	2	...	46
Breaches of Railway and Tramway by-laws	1	...	2	...	4	16	20	46	54	57	35	...	...	235
Throwing stones.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3
Malicious damage .....	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	8
Stealing .....	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	8
Using insulting words .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Riotous behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Traffic by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Offensive behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	5
Assault.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	4
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	5
Truants.....	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	4
Neglected—No home.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Breach of Council by-laws.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Embezzlement .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Removing bathing costume .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Indecent language .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total .....	1	4	6	8	19	23	39	46	97	107	90	51	...	491
GIRLS.														
Uncontrollable .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	1	...	7
Neglected—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vice and crime .....	...	2	...	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	2	2	...	11
Insufficient lodging .....	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	6
Breach of conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	3	2	10
Habitually wandering .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improper guardianship .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Breach of Railway and Tramway by-laws	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	3	5	...	13
Malicious damage .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Street trading .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Use insulting words .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Throw stones .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Total.....	3	2	1	1	1	3	4	3	4	11	10	13	2	58
Total number of Boys .....														491
,, Girls .....														58
Grand Total .....														549

TABLE XI.—Dismissed or Discharged.

Offence.	Age in Years.										Total.
	1-4.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	9-10.	10-11.	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	
Boys.											
Neglected—											
Street Trading .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Breach Railway by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
False Pretences .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Break, enter, and steal.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	...	3
Stealing .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	1
Malicious damage.....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Assault .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Receive Stolen Property .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Feloniously slay.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Offensive behaviour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Indecent assault .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Use insulting words .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Trespass .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Throw missiles .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Breach of City Council by-laws .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total .....	...	...	...	1	2	1	3	4	6	5	10
Total number of Boys .....											32
,, Girls .....											0
Grand total .....											32

TABLE XII

TABLE XII.—Committed to Truant School, Guildford.

Offence.	Age in Years.							Total
	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	
Truanting .....	...	2	8	4	9	16	14	53
Total .....	...	2	8	4	9	16	14	53

PARENTS.

Parents Fined .....	51
„ Cases not proceeded with .....	99
„ Dismissed .....	2
Total .....	152

TABLE XIII.—Fined.

Boys.

Offence.	Age in Y					Total.
	11-12.	12-13.	13-14.	14-15.	15-16.	
Breach of Railway and Tramway by-laws .....	...	...	13	197	111	321

Girls—Nil.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AMENDMENT ACT.

The Public Instruction Amendment Act—Truancy Act—has now been in operation for over two years. During the year just ended 53 boys—15 more than last year—were committed to the Truant School, Guildford; 42 cases were withdrawn upon the offenders promising to attend school regularly in future. The following table shows the disposal of 152 cases against parents for failure to send their children to school regularly :—

Dismissed .....	2
Fined .....	51
Withdrawn .....	99

Total ... .. 152

METROPOLITAN BOYS' SHELTER.

The Shelter adjoins the Court, and is used for the following purposes :—

1. For the detention of boys committed to institutions from the various Children's Courts throughout the State pending Ministerial determination as to their disposal.
2. For the detention of boys apprehended by the police in the metropolitan and sub-metropolitan areas, pending the Court's decision in regard to them.
3. For the detention of boys remanded, awaiting reports as to general character and home surroundings.
4. For the detention of boys remanded for discipline, mental, or medical examination and treatment.
5. For the detention of boys sentenced to imprisonment for default in payment of fines.

The admissions for the year totalled 1,399 (an increase of 114 over the corresponding period for last year), viz. :—

From Metropolitan Court .....	200
From Country Courts .....	184
From police .....	636
For transfer .....	375
Presented themselves .....	4

Total ... .. 1,399

Of those received from the Metropolitan Court, 88 were remanded for a week's discipline.

The



The discharges which aggregated 1,374 were disposed of as follow :—

To Ormond House ... ..	20
„ Farm Home, Gosford ... ..	109
„ Farm Home, Mittagong ... ..	337
„ Truant School ... ..	49
„ Parents or guardians ... ..	714
„ Aborigines' Home ... ..	1
Discharged over age ... ..	6
Arrested by police and allowed home before appearing before the court ... ..	138
	<hr/> 1,374

On the 5th April, 1919, there were seven boys in the Shelter. During the year 1,399 were admitted and 1,374 discharged. The daily average for the year was 37·8 as compared with 36·8 for the previous year.

The practice now obtaining at the Shelter when a boy is brought in by a police officer is to immediately communicate with his parents, requesting their presence, with the view of allowing the offender home until his presence is required at the Court. Some 138 boys so admitted were allowed home on a promise by a parent and the child to attend the Court at its next sitting; every child so trusted kept his word.

The Influenza Epidemic visited the Shelter upon two separate occasions during the year. Upon the first occasion the boys under detention numbered 7 only, and the Shelter Staff were able to cope with the disease. The second outbreak occurred in June when 39 boys out of a total of 40 were infected, and a number of the staff contracted the disease. At each outbreak Dr. Curgenven was called in and attended the patients. There were several serious cases, but fortunately no deaths. This is undoubtedly due to the zealous and assiduous attention of the medical practitioner named, to whom the thanks of the parents of the boys, the boys and the staff are due for the treatment given the many patients during the critical period of their illness.

Several meetings of Honorary Probation Officers were held at the Shelter during the year, and were well attended.

The moral and religious training of the lads received serious and constant attention, and the resultant good is evident amongst the inmates of the institution. Moral lessons are given nightly by the Superintendent, and the various members of the staff encourage the lads at all times to follow the right path. The boys attended at their respective churches on Sundays. Special lessons were given each Thursday afternoon by Mr. Rowe to the Protestant children; members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society interested themselves in the Catholic children.

Mr. Ellison, dentist, visited the Shelter twice weekly and attended to the teeth of the boys.

#### MENTAL AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

For the past eight years, children admitted to the Shelter have been tested as to their mental capacity by the Binet-Simon Tests. The results of these tests show that primarily the lapses of juvenile offenders are only too frequently traceable to a pre-disposition towards feeble-mindedness, which if not detected at an immature age is likely to lead to unfortunates of this class becoming vicious and hardened criminals. There is not the slightest doubt that special provision should be made for such cases being placed in properly equipped schools for observation and subsequent treatment, if necessary.

The following tables gives particulars of mental capacity determined in 1,056 cases during the year by means of the Binet-Simon method :—

Below normal 6 years ... ..	5 boys
„ 4 „ ... ..	15 „
„ 3 „ ... ..	19 „
„ 2 „ ... ..	63 „
„ 1 „ ... ..	127 „
Normal ... ..	827 „
	<hr/> 1,056 boys

The visits of Doctor Stewart during the year were, unfortunately, not so regular as hitherto. As a consequence, the physical and mental examinations of the children were not conducted as frequently as could be desired.

During

During the year 129 boys were seen by the visiting doctor; they were classified as follows :—

<i>Degree of Mentality.</i>									
Below average	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Average	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
									129
<i>Education.</i>									
Very backward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Backward...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Up to standard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
									129

Of the number examined 45 or 35 per cent. were recommended for treatment at hospital for the following physical defects :—

Eyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ears	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Throat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Heart	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Skin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
									45

These cases were treated at various Metropolitan Hospitals, and the thanks of the Department are due to the staffs of these Institutions for their kind and sympathetic treatment of the children whilst under their care.

#### RELEASE OF CHILDREN ON PROBATION.

The number of children released on probation by the Metropolitan and Suburban Children's Courts from the 6th April, 1919, to the 5th April, 1920, was 1,303. Of these 1,195 were boys and 108 girls. From the country for the same period 284 children were released on probation, 263 being boys and 21 girls. The total number of children released on probation for the year was 1,587.

In addition to these, 131 children were discharged to their relatives in the city and suburbs by the State Children Relief Board and Ministerial Authority, and 65 children were returned to their relatives in the country. Total, 196.

One thousand eight hundred and eleven children, who were released on probation previous to the 6th April, 1919, and whose period had not expired, were visited by Departmental Inspectors; so that a total of 3,594 children on probation have been visited during the year. Of the children released on probation by the Metropolitan Children's Court during the year 1919-20, 42 boys and 6 girls were committed to Institutions.

In the country 11 boys and one girl were sent to Institutions.

In the country no boys, and in the city 8 boys, were committed to the Truant School.

During the year 3 children were killed while carrying out a term of probation, whereas 3 youths who were on probation and over sixteen years of age were sentenced to two months—six months and twelve months' hard labour respectively.

Children on probation are visited by the Board's Inspectors and by an Honorary Staff of some 380 Ladies and Gentlemen appointed by His Excellency the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister for Education, who received nominations from my Board. A full list of Honorary Officers, with districts, is shown herein. The list includes members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Salvation Army, Church of England Men's Society, clergymen of various denominations, and a number of ladies, and my Board has much pleasure in placing on record the valuable services rendered by them in their capacity as probation officers.

#### RETURN OF CHILDREN RELEASED ON PROBATION. Ages of Children on Probation as at date of release.

					Years. 5-10.	Years. 10-12.	Years. 12-14.	Years. 14-16.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—									
Boys	...	...	...	...	128	239	413	415	1,195
Girls	...	...	...	...	10	13	29	56	108
Country :—									
Boys	...	...	...	...	36	55	94	78	263
Girls	...	...	...	...	4	4	6	7	21
Grand total					...	...	...	...	1,587

## Period of Release on Probation.

	Up to 1 year.	Over 1 year and up to 2.	Over 2 years and up to 3.	Over 3 years.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—					
Boys ... ..	1,187	4	1	3	1,195
Girls ... ..	43	35	9	21	108
Country :—					
Boys ... ..	225	20	3	15	263
Girls ... ..	11	.....	4	6	21
Grand total ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,587

## Nature of Offence Committed.

	Neglected.	Uncon- trollable.	Stealing.	Minor Offences.	Serious Offences.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—						
Boys ... ..	51	153	619	305	67	1,195
Girls ... ..	32	54	16	2	4	108
Country :—						
Boys ... ..	14	18	162	29	40	233
Girls ... ..	14	2	4	.....	1	21
Grand total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1,587

## Behaviour of Children while on Probation.

	Satisfactory.	Un- satisfactory.	Total No. of Children.
City and Suburban :—			
Boys ... ..	950	245	1,195
Girls ... ..	98	10	108
Country :—			
Boys ... ..	249	14	263
Girls ... ..	16	5	21
Grand total ... ..	...	...	1,587

## HONORARY PROBATION OFFICERS.

District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.	District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.
Abbotsford .....	Mr. M. J. West.....	C.E.	Belmore .....	Mr. P. Brack .....	C.E.
Adaminaby .....	Rev. Father James Norris .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. Maurice Condon .....	R.C.
Adelong .....	Rev. J. J. Mann Thomas .....	C.E.	Bombala .....	Rev. W. H. Marshall .....	Presbyterian.
Alexandria .....	Mr. J. Fairfield.....	C.E.	Bowral .....	Miss Constance Smith .....	C.E.
Annandale .....	Mr. Ernest Campbell .....	R.C.	Blayney .....	Rev. Canon Harris.....	C.E.
.....	Mr. Jno. J. Dinan .....	R.C.	Baulkham Hills .....	Mrs. Louisa Telfer .....	Protestant.
Araluen .....	Rev. Robt. Rook .....	Protestant.	Bellingen .....	Rev. Father John Fitzpatrick .....	R.C.
Ashfield .....	Father O'Donnell.....	R.C.	Broken Hill.....	Mr. Jno. Sherlock .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. Goranley .....	R.C.	.....	Rev. E. B. Wichert .....	Baptist.
.....	Mr. H. C. Byrne .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. E. J. Stacey .....	Congregational.
.....	Mr. Henry Cook .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. J. Waugh .....	Presbyterian.
Auburn .....	Mr. H. E. Page .....	Baptist.	.....	Rev. E. J. Luck .....	Church of Chr't.
.....	Mr. Wm. John Williams .....	R.C.	.....	Capt. James Wishart.....	S.A.
Arneliffe .....	Mr. Hector G. Robb .....	C.E.	.....	Adj. Wm. Cousley .....	S.A.
Allworth .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. Godfrey .....	C.E.
Balmain .....	Mr. Jno. C. Crawley .....	R.C.	.....	Mr. Thomas Walmsley .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. Roy Wilson Robinson .....	Methodist.	.....	Rev. W. A. Dunn .....	Methodist.
.....	Mr. W. T. Seymour .....	C.E.	.....	Mr. Herbert Turner .....	Methodist.
Barranall .....	Mr. A. A. Williams .....	Presbyterian.	Bondi .....	Rev. Charles E. Dunstan .....	C.E.
Baconsfeld .....	Mr. J. Fairfield.....	C.E.	Burwood .....	Mrs. Daniel .....	Baptist.
Bathurst .....	Mr. R. Bolton .....	Methodist.	.....	Mr. E. J. Hollingdale .....	R.C.
.....	Mr. P. J. Falvey .....	R.C.	.....	Rev. Father Barlow .....	R.C.
.....	Rev. King Howell .....	C.E.	.....	Mr. P. McMahon .....	R.C.
.....	Rev. Canon Wilton .....	C.E.	Botany .....	Rev. Wm. Thos. Price .....	C.E.
.....	Mr. High Larkin .....	R.C.	.....	Rev. M. Fletcher .....	Methodist.
Barraba .....	Mr. Richard Blackall .....	C.E.	.....	Rev. R. Barratt .....	Methodist.
.....	Mr. P. J. O'Mara .....	R.C.	Booral .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Bega .....	Miss Jane Ritchie .....	Methodist.	Bulladellah .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
.....	Rev. Father J. Gunning .....	R.C.	Boggabri .....	Rev. T. K. Reid .....	Methodist.
.....	Rev. Benjamin Dore Bryant.....	C.E.	.....	Rev. F. St. John .....	C.E.
Bellambi .....	Mr. F. H. Fleming .....	Baptist.	Barmedman.....	Rev. Father Tracey .....	R.C.
Belmont .....	Mr. Jno. Anderson .....	C.E.	Broadmeadow.....	Mrs. A. A. Maria .....	Methodist.
Borrigan .....	Mr. H. P. Whitty .....	C.E.	.....	Mr. A. E. Swain .....	R.C.
Buxley .....	Rev. H. T. Halliday .....	C.E.	Blackheath .....	Rev. J. C. McDonald .....	C.E.

## HONORARY PROBATION OFFICERS—continued.

District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.	District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.
Camden .....	Miss J. M. Martin .....	C.E.	Glen Innes .....	Right Rev. Monsignor M. Lobin .....	R.C.
Campsie .....	Mr. W. C. Farner .....	Methodist.		Rev. Canon Wm. Hy. Kemmis .....	C.E.
Canowindra .....	Mr. W. A. Sommers .....	R.C.	Gundagai .....	Rev. H. F. A. Champion .....	C.E.
	Mr. B. H. Birchill .....	Protestant.	Gordon .....	Rev. R. Raymond King .....	C.E.
	Mr. Charles E. Archer .....	C.E.		Rev. Leopold Charlton .....	C.E.
	Rev. Robt. Douglas .....	C.E.		Mr. Anthony L. Vider .....	R.C.
	Rev. Stan. Drummond .....	Methodist.	Guildford .....	Rev. Croft .....	Protestant.
Casbrook .....	Mr. Geo. Brown .....	Protestant.	Gunning .....	Rev. T. A. Cato .....	C.E.
Canterbury .....	Mr. James Reilly .....	R.C.		Rev. Thos. Jenkins .....	Methodist.
	Mr. Thomas Boulton .....	R.C.	Glebe (N'castle) .....	Mr. G. Sarratt .....	Protestant.
Chatwood .....	Mr. H. D. Williams .....	R.C.	Gloucester .....	Mr. S. Brooker .....	Protestant.
	Rev. E. Walker .....	C.E.	Hillgrove .....	Mrs. McNamara .....	C.E.
Cattai .....	Rev. David Baird .....	Protestant.	Hornshy .....	Mr. Edward A. McMahon .....	R.C.
	Mrs. David Baird .....	Protestant.	Hunter's Hill .....	Mr. C. A. Fairland .....	C.E.
Clun s. ....	Mr. Robt. E. Walker .....	Methodist.	Hurlstone Park .....	Mr. O. Nicholls .....	R.C.
Copmanhurst .....	Mrs. Davison .....	C.E.	Hurstville .....	Mr. W. J. Agnew .....	R.C.
Cudal .....	Mrs. A. McKella .....	C.E.		Mr. Percy C. Hill .....	C.E.
	Rev. Jas. Thos. Bate .....	C.E.		Mrs. P. Smythe .....	R.C.
Cooma .....	Rev. Father Jas. Norris .....	R.C.	Haberfield .....	Mr. Jno. Hughes .....	R.C.
	Rev. Archdeacon Ward .....	Protestant.		Mr. Edwin Wensor .....	Protestant.
Coonambl .....	Mr. Jos. Clarke .....	All religions.	Hamilton .....	Mr. R. T. Randall .....	—
Coodobolin .....	Mr. Jos. B. May .....	C.E.		Mrs. G. Tudor .....	—
Coogee .....	Rev. C. L. Williams .....	C.E.	Harden .....	Mrs. Minnie Mitchell .....	C.E.
	Mr. Walter D. Scaife .....	R.C.		Mrs. Isabella Gibson .....	C.E.
	Rev. William Greenwood .....	C.E.	Inverell .....	Dean O'Neill .....	R.C.
Coolamon .....	Rev. Ross Edwards .....	C.E.		Rev. E. H. Stammer .....	C.E.
Camperdown .....	Mr. S. Emery .....	Methodist.	Jerilderie .....	Mrs. Elliott .....	Protestant.
Carcoar .....	Rev. Harold Woolger .....	C.E.	Junction .....	Mr. Fredk. Sarratt .....	Protestant.
Croydon .....	Mr. Jno. Dart .....	Methodist.	Johnston's Creek .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
	Mr. Albert Trout .....	C.E.	Kelso .....	Ven. Archdeacon Oakes .....	C.E.
	Rev. Chas. Hughesdon .....	C.E.	Kogarah .....	Mr. Hector G. Robb .....	C.E.
Collarenebri .....	Rev. Cecil Saunders .....	C.E.		Mr. John Kavanagh .....	R.C.
Cobar .....	Mr. Hesley .....	R.C.	Kempsey .....	Rev. M. Bembrick .....	Protestant.
	Rev. Jas. Benson .....	C.E.	Kiama .....	Mr. Jno. Cope .....	Methodist.
Coff's Harbour .....	Rev. F. W. Hart .....	Protestant.		Rev. G. M. Torbett .....	Presbyterian.
Casino .....	Rev. Canon Geo. P. W. Ware .....	C.E.	Keerong .....	Rev. Wm. Coleman .....	Methodist.
Cook's Hill .....	Mr. H. Dodsley .....	C.E.	Leichhardt .....	Mr. R. Ellis .....	R.C.
Carrington .....	Mr. E. McCarthy .....	R.C.		Mr. Geo. Vaughan Rhan .....	C.E.
Cowra .....	Rev. J. B. Howard .....	R.C.	Lewisham .....	Mr. Jno. Walsh .....	R.C.
	Mr. George Baines .....	C.E.	Lismore .....	Monsignor McGuire .....	R.C.
Chippendale .....	Mr. John O'Neill .....	R.C.		Rev. Ebbs .....	C.E.
Corowa .....	Mrs. Josephine Thomas .....	C.E.	Liverpool .....	Rev. Father J. J. Walsh .....	R.C.
Canbelego .....	Rev. Frank Weston .....	C.E.		Rev. Eric Cowper Robinson .....	Protestant.
	Rev. M. Skimmer .....	Protestant.	Lostock .....	Mrs. Fred. Hopson .....	C.E.
	Rev. Father Griffin .....	R.C.	Lithgow .....	Mr. M. J. Stollery .....	R.C.
Cranebrook .....	Mr. William H. Hand .....	C.E.		Rev. David Henry Dillon .....	C.E.
Concord .....	Mr. J. P. Bruce .....	C.E.	Lidcombe .....	Mr. J. Wm. Minton .....	R.C.
Camdenville .....	Mr. M. T. Pawley .....	C.E.	Lakemba .....	Mr. Maurice Condon .....	R.C.
Darlinghurst .....	Rev. E. C. Beck .....	C.E.	Long Bay .....	Rev. Jno. H. Morris .....	R.C.
Darling Harbour .....	Miss Farrell .....	C.E.	Lavender Bay .....	Mr. O. M. O'Keefe .....	R.C.
Darlington .....	Rev. Allan J. Whitehorn .....	C.E.	Limeburner's Creek .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Dorrigo .....	Rev. W. G. Nisbet .....	C.E.			
Drummoyne .....	Mr. E. Cavanagh .....	R.C.	Lambton .....	Mr. R. Purcell .....	R.C.
	Mr. Wm. S. Hastie .....	C.E.		Mrs. A. A. Martin .....	Methodist.
Dulwich Hill .....	Mr. Jno. Hy. Smith .....	C.E.	Maclean .....	Mr. T. McN. Lobban .....	Presbyterian.
	Mr. Oliver Nicholls .....	R.C.	Manly .....	Miss S. Wright Fry .....	C.E.
Dungog .....	Rev. A. Luscombe .....	C.E.		Miss Alice Ella .....	Protestant.
Dunoon .....	Rev. Wm. Coleman .....	Methodist.		Miss Margaret Phillips .....	R.C.
Delegate .....	Rev. W. H. Marshall .....	Presbyterian.	Marrickville .....	Mr. Albert J. Kenny .....	R.C.
Ebenezer .....	Mrs. Brown .....	Baptist.		Mr. Wm. J. Hartley .....	R.C.
Epping .....	Mrs. Masterman .....	Methodist.		Rev. A. J. Birt .....	Protestant.
Enmore .....	Mr. Fredk. Molloy .....	R.C.	Manildra .....	Rev. W. Colter .....	C.E.
Enfield .....	Mr. Jno. Dart .....	Methodist.		Miss Ada Griffin .....	C.E.
Erskineville .....	Rev. J. Newton Stephen .....	C.E.		Mr. Percy Hambrough .....	C.E.
	Nurse Eva Johnson .....	C.E.	Merrylands .....	Rev. Croft .....	Protestant.
Forrester .....	Rev. David Baird .....	Protestant.	Merewether .....	Mr. Fredk. Sarratt .....	Protestant.
	Mrs. David Baird .....	Protestant.		Mr. Ed. Byrnes .....	R.C.
Forbes .....	Mrs. Daniel J. Moloney .....	R.C.	Miller's Point .....	Mr. Sidney J. Palmer .....	C.E.
Forest Lodge .....	Mr. John Walsh .....	R.C.	Milton .....	Mrs. C. Kendall .....	C.E.
Five Dock .....	Rev. F. J. Chappel .....	C.E.		Rev. Edgar Potter .....	Protestant.
Goulburn .....	Mr. Jno. O'Brien .....	R.C.	Moss Vale .....	Rev. Wm. A. O'Neill .....	C.E.
	Mr. E. P. Sheekey .....	R.C.	Mogo .....	Rev. Phillip Cassidy .....	R.C.
	Mr. Edwin Owen .....	Protestant.	Mosman .....	Mr. Thomas Forrest .....	C.E.
	Mr. M. G. Mitchell .....	Methodist.		Mr. Patk. A. Collins .....	R.C.
	Mr. M. Farrell .....	R.C.		Mr. A. W. Butcher .....	C.E.
Glebe .....	Mr. Emanuel Cook .....	C.E.		Mr. G. Filshie .....	Presbyterian.
Granville .....	Mr. Samuel Skerrett .....	Protestant.	Mudgee .....	Rev. B. B. Farner .....	Presbyterian.
	Mr. Edgar Thackray .....	C.E.	Muswellbrooke .....	Mrs. Wilson .....	C.E.
	Mr. A. E. Dunne .....	R.C.		Mr. J. H. Connor .....	Protestant.
Grafton .....	Rev. G. F. Ure .....	C.E.		Mr. Frank L. Cheate .....	C.E.
	Ven. Archd. A. Broughton .....	C.E.	Moore Park .....	Mr. Sylvester White .....	R.C.
	Rev. Father Daniel Lawton .....	R.C.	Maroubra .....	Rev. Jno. H. Morris .....	R.C.
	Mr. Duncan McFarlane .....	Protestant.	Murwillumbah .....	Rev. H. Lomas .....	C.E.
	Rev. Herbert T. William .....	Protestant.	Mascat .....	Mr. Jas. T. Berriman .....	R.C.
	Mr. Alfred J. Pollock .....	Protestant.		Mr. Jno. Thos. Cunningham .....	R.C.
	Mr. Joseph Reid .....	Protestant.	Murrumburrah .....	Mrs. Minnie Mitchell .....	C.E.
Grenfell .....	The Ven. Archdeacon Howell .....	Protestant.		Mrs. Isabella Gibson .....	C.E.
Gosford .....	Mrs. Fielder .....	C.E.	Mayfield .....	Mr. F. J. Smith .....	R.C.
Gulzong .....	Mr. Wm. Fletcher .....	Methodist.			

## HONORARY PROBATION OFFICERS—continued.

District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.	District.	Name of Officer.	Religion.
Molong .....	Rev. J. A. Poole.....	C.E.	Surry Hills.....	Mr. Thos. Row .....	C.E.
Narrandera .....	Rev. J. Rawling .....	C.E.		Mr. Wm. D. B. Creagh .....	C.E.
Narooma .....	Rev. Phillip Cassidy .....	R.C.		Mr. Phillip Leamicro .....	R.C.
Newtown .....	Mr. J. Lunn .....	R.C.		Miss Q. Williams .....	R.C.
North Sydney .....	Mr. Patk. W. O'Keefe.....	R.C.		Mr. D. R. Haugh .....	R.C.
	Mrs. R. Harris.....	C.E.	Sydney .....	Rev. J. Chapple .....	C.P.
	Mrs. Thomas Quinn .....	R.C.		Mr. Edgar Sawell .....	Christadelphian.
	Rev. Newby Fraser.....	C.E.		Sister Keith.....	Methodist.
	Mr. J. J. Madden.....	R.C.		Mr. Jno. O'Neill .....	R.C.
	Miss Alice Manners.....	C.E.		Mr. Henry Conroy .....	R.C.
	Mr. Ernest Pepper .....	C.E.		Mr. Chas. G. Smith .....	R.C.
Nymagee .....	Mrs. C. J. Buttenshaw .....	Methodist.		Mr. W. Creighton .....	R.C.
Nyngan .....	Mr. F. E. Ford .....	Protestant.		Mr. Sidney G. Palmer .....	C.E.
	Rev. E. Woolley .....	C.E.	Stroud .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Newcastle.....	Mr. Henry Bull .....	R.C.	Sawyer's Point.....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
	Mr. Robt. Howitt .....	R.C.	Springdale .....	Rev. Father Tracey.....	R.C.
	Rev. Varcoe Cook .....	Methodist.	Singeton .....	Mr. G. Colton Smith .....	C.E.
	Mrs. Stewart .....	C.E.	Tamworth.....	Rev. Wm. Augustus Mullins.....	R.C.
	Mr. S. A. Samuels .....	C.E.		Rev. Canon Fairbrother.....	C.E.
	Mr. G. Morgan .....	C.E.	Temora .....	Rev. W. Anson Smith.....	Presbyterian.
Narromine .....	Mr. A. Hetherington .....	Presbyterian.	Tempe .....	Mr. John T. Quinn .....	R.C.
Naremburn .....	Mr. A. J. Rix .....	C.E.		Mr. Thos. Swadling .....	C.E.
O'Connell .....	Rev. A. S. Crosswell .....	C.E.		Mr. Joppe P. Smith .....	C.E.
Orange .....	Mr. Arnold T. Caldwell .....	Protestant.		Mr. E. Burrows .....	Methodist.
Paddington .....	Miss E. L. Watson .....	Presbyterian.	Tenterfield .....	Mr. Daniel Mullane .....	R.C.
	Mr. Stanley Stephenson.....	C.E.	Tumut .....	Mr. Spencer Groves .....	C.F.
	Mr. Ernest H. S. Goldsmith .....	C.E.		Rev. A. Polden .....	Presbyterian.
	Mr. Ronald Palmer .....	R.C.	Tumbarumba .....	Rev. C. Burgess .....	C.E.
Parramatta .....	Mrs. Paterson .....	Presbyterian.		Mr. G. T. Hennecke .....	Protestant.
	Mr. N. Austin .....	R.C.		Rev. H. J. Delvin .....	C.E.
	Mrs. Louisa Telfer .....	R.C.		Rev. F. O'Dea.....	Presbyterian.
	Mr. T. J. Corbett .....	R.C.	Taree .....	Rev. Rd. Hy. Phillips .....	C.E.
Pambula .....	Mr. C. A. Baddeley.....	C.E.	The Channon.....	Rev. Wm. Coleman .....	Methodist.
Petersham .....	Mr. John Walsh .....	R.C.	Tentable .....	Rev. Wm. Coleman .....	Methodist.
Portland.....	Mrs. J. C. Evans .....	C.E.	Tea Gardens .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
	Mr. Wm. Kelly.....	R.C.	Teleghree.....	Rev. Knox .....	C.E.
Pitt Town .....	Rev. David Baird .....	Protestant.	Tomingley .....	Mr. Frank B. Dicken .....	C.E.
	Mrs. David Baird .....	Protestant.	Turramurra .....	Rev. Ronald Cameron .....	C.E.
	Rev. J. F. Cherry .....	C.E.	Urana .....	Mr. C. H. McCulloch .....	Presbyterian.
Pymont .....	Mr. Michael J. Weslan .....	R.C.	Upper Tentable Creek.....	Rev. Wm. Coleman.....	Methodist.
	Mr. M. O'Dwyer .....	R.C.	The Vineyards.....	Rev. Jenkins .....	C.E.
Plumpton .....	Mrs. A. Hyatt .....	Protestant.	Warialda .....	Rev. T. A. Smith .....	Presbyterian.
Pymble .....	Mr. Anthony L. Vider.....	R.C.	Waterloo .....	Mr. Jos. Climson .....	R.C.
Penshurst .....	Mr. Hy. Pollard .....	R.C.		Mr. Cornelius McCormack .....	R.C.
Queanbeyan.....	Mrs. J. M. McIntosh.....	Presbyterian.	Wagga Wagga .....	Mr. Chas. Hardy .....	C.E.
	Father Haydon .....	R.C.	West Wallsend.....	Mr. J. H. Jones .....	Presbyterian.
Randwick.....	Mrs. W. Barnes .....	Methodist.		Miss Ellen Tracey .....	R.C.
	Rev. W. Cakebread .....	C.E.	Wellington .....	Rev. Canon Robert Barry Brown.....	C.E.
	Mr. Thos. McNamara .....	R.C.		Mr. Hy. Scrivener .....	Presbyterian.
	Mr. Robt. Chinchin .....	R.C.	Wingham .....	Mr. Jos. Farnham .....	C.E.
Redfern .....	Mr. John Sharp .....	R.C.	Wickham .....	Mr. H. M. Pulsford.....	Presbyterian.
	Mr. Michael Harmey .....	R.C.	Windsor .....	Rev. Jenkins .....	C.E.
Rozelle .....	Mr. J. P. Meaney .....	R.C.		Mr. Aug. Keough .....	R.C.
	Mr. H. Wexted .....	R.C.	Woollahra .....	Mr. S. R. Ullathorne .....	C.E.
Rockdale .....	Mr. Thos. O'Connell .....	R.C.		Mr. H. F. Fleming .....	Baptist.
Ryde .....	Mr. John Kelly .....	R.C.	Woonona .....	Mr. Jas. Dean .....	Congregational.
Rooty Hill .....	Mr. A. Hyatt .....	Protestant.	Wollongong .....	Very Rev. Jno. P. Dunne.....	R.C.
Raymond .....	Mr. Richard on .....	C.E.		Mr. Hy. O. Williams .....	R.C.
Terago .....	Mr. R. Curtis .....	C.E.	Willoughby .....	Rev. S. H. Denman .....	C.E.
Rylstone .....	Rev. Owe Evans .....	Methodist.	Woolloomooloo .....	Mr. C. A. Fairland .....	C.E.
Springwood .....	Mrs. A. G. Griffin .....	C.E.	Woolwich .....	Rev. Knox .....	C.F.
	Mr. A. G. Griffin.....	C.E.	Wankwong .....	Mr. W. G. Pennott.....	C.E.
Summer Hill.....	Mr. Jno. Walsh .....	R.C.	Wentworth .....	Rev. Jas. Benson .....	C.F.
Sutherland .....	Mrs. G. R. Greigh .....	Presbyterian.	Wrightville .....	Mr. A. A. Edwards .....	C.E.
Stockton .....	Mr. Harry Gilbert .....	Methodist.	Yass .....	Rev. Arthur Rix .....	C.E.
Stanmore .....	Mr. Percy D. Brady .....	C.E.		Mrs. L. A. Metcalfe.....	C.E.
St. Peters.....	Mr. Fredk. Molloy .....	R.C.	Young .....		
	Mr. Hy. Gilroy .....	C.E.			
	Mr. E. Burrows .....	Methodist.			

## STREET TRADING BY CHILDREN.

Street trading by children under the age of 16 years is controlled by the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders' Act. "Hawking newspapers, matches, flowers, or other articles, singing or performing for profit, or any like occupation carried on in a public place" constitutes an offence against the Act unless a license is granted by the boarding-out officer as licensing authority. The minimum age for which a license is granted is 12 years; for certain occupations, 14 years. Girls are not permitted to trade. The supervision of this work is carried out by officers of the Board.

There are 1,216 licenses to "street-trade" in existence at the present time, and the closest supervision is exercised to see that the Act is complied with. Children of school age found wandering about are kept under observation, and action taken when necessary.

As



As pointed out in previous reports, street-trading by children under 14 years should not be encouraged. The demoralising effect of this class of work upon the unformed characters of boys between 12 and 13 years of age is such as to have a tendency to unsettle them, and ultimately they drift off into undesirable spheres in preference to undertaking useful employment, or being indentured to some trade. Very definite reports showing the necessity for the issue of licenses, and that such issue will not result in injuring the child's moral welfare, are required by the licensing officer before the licenses are issued. The necessity for the issue of the licenses is usually determined by the circumstances of the applicant's family. No charge is made for the license, but a deposit of 1s. 6d. is insisted upon from each licensee, because of the abuses and impositions practised amongst the lads. The badges are of metal, and worn on the arm of the licensees. Children of school age wear badges of a distinctive colour.

During the period ended 31st March, 1920, 1,216 licenses were granted; there were in all 1,256 applications, 40 being refused for various reasons (under age, unsuitable character, &c.). The number of applications was 256 more than that received during last year.

last year.										

#### DIVISION E.

##### CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT.

This measure provides for the supervision of infants up to the age of 3 years, who are placed in foster-homes for payment apart from their parents; for the inspection of nursing-homes (or private houses in which more than one infant is taken for payment), and for the oversight of infants born in lying-in-homes.

The Children's Protection Act has enabled much good to be done in the direction of preserving the lives of young infants and minimising baby-farming, but it needs serious amendment on the lines which I have already indicated, in order that its purpose may be more effectively realised.

The Board once more has pleasure in acknowledging the valuable co-operation of medical men, in private practice and at the various metropolitan hospitals, in the work of protecting infant life.

A large proportion of the children supervised in terms of this Act are illegitimate. Only a section of this latter class is reached in this way. Over the others there is no control whatever—a grave defect, which should be remedied without delay.

Special female inspectors visit licensed children in the city and suburbs, examine the home conditions and the health of the babies, and give instruction, where necessary, to the custodians in the proper dieting and general care of infants. They also take precaution to see that the regulation as to taking children during their first twelve months of life to a metropolitan hospital for medical examination fortnightly is strictly observed by the foster-mothers.

Statistical information in connection with the operations of this Act for the year ended 31st December, 1919, is as follows :—

##### CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT—STATISTICS FOR PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

Registrations from lying-in homes...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,335
Foster-homes registered ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Children registered ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	762
Children discharged—								
To parents ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
To control of the State Children Relief Board ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Over age ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
To Children's Hospitals ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Away from State ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Adopted ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
								378
Deaths ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Children transferred to hospital, where they subsequently died ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Total number of children under supervision on 31st December, 1919 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	355
Number of theatrical licenses granted ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	320

The

The total number of children under supervision in this section for the year was 762. Of these, 13 died. The ages and causes of death were as follows. Death-rate, 1·7 per cent.

#### AGES AND CAUSES OF DEATH.

								Under 1 year.
Gastro-enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Marasmus .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital debility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

#### THEATRE LICENSES FOR CHILDREN.

There were 320 theatre licenses for children. Such licenses are granted by the Minister in conformity with Section 23 of the Act, and the supervision of investigations entailed before licenses are given is carried out by a special officer. Licenses are issued to children over 10 years of age in the metropolitan area. Children under 14 are not permitted to travel with touring companies.

The majority of applications were in respect of children employed in the pantomime productions and dramas where a child is in the cast. The demand for the "child" performer on the music hall stage is becoming less each year. One of the principal reasons for this is the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act No. 31, which compels the children to attend school daily, thus leaving very little time for rehearsals.

Strict supervision is required to protect the moral and material interests of children engaged in theatrical work and under similar conditions.

#### CONCLUSION.

I have given in detail the operations, under various headings of departmental work, with which the State Children Relief Board is directly concerned. The series of appendices and progressive statistical tables usually following the Report are embodied in it.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. GREEN,

President, State Children Relief Board.

The Under Secretary,  
Department of Education.

### OPINIONS ON THE BOARDING-OUT SYSTEM SUBMITTED BY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

*Albury Public School.*—The children are, as a whole, as well clothed as others; their attendance and conduct are satisfactory.

*Allynbrook Public School.*—State children attending this school appear to be well cared for, and warmly clad. They work fairly well, and keep abreast of the other pupils in their school work.

*Ashfield Public School.*—My observation has proved that the children under the system are getting a fair run. They are tidy in appearance, well nourished, and in most cases well behaved—certainly quite as well behaved as those who are apparently more fortunately placed.

*Bathurst Public School.*—The atmosphere surrounding home life as apart from an Institution must be beneficial, and generally the results of the Boarding-out System have been satisfactory. My experience proves that boarded-out children compare very favorably with their more fortunate playmates.

*Berrima Public School.*—There are 5 children attending this school; they compare very favorably in every respect with more fortunate children.

*Binalong Public School.*—The question of environment enters seriously into any comparison, but my experience is that State children compare favorably with other children.

*Bondi Commercial Superior Public School.*—I consider the Boarding-out System in this State a good one—the various guardians appear to treat the children as their own—I have frequently been surprised that some extra neatly dressed pupils were State children.

*Bundanoon Public School.*—Two State children attend this school; they have a good home, are well cared for, kept neat and clean, attend school regularly, and so far as my experience goes the Boarding-out System is successful.

*Bungendore Public School.*—The one State child attending my school could not be better treated with the kindest of parents.

*Cattai Public School.*—In my opinion no better system can be evolved than the Boarding-out System.

*Clifton Public School.*—I have two State children attending this school; they are bright, healthy, and regular in attendance.

*Concord Primary School.*—The State children at this school compare favorably with others. Their class results are satisfactory.

*Coogee Public School.*—I have always taken a keen interest in these little ones, and admire the commendable efforts of the Board controlling the system. The State children of this school are all in good homes.

*Corrimal Public School.*—I know of no unfavorable conditions obtaining with regard to the few boarded-out children attending this school. Their appearance, conduct and general welfare disclose no undue dissimilarity with other children, but, if anything, they may be said to be better cared for than a certain small percentage under parental control in their own homes.

*Cranebrook Public School.*—The children here, in my opinion, compare more than favorably with many of the pupils attending this school. They appear at school in all cases neat and clean; they have the appearance of being well cared for, and their regularity could not be better.

*Cronulla Public School.*—My experience of the Boarding-out System convinces me that the children so placed compare very favorably with the other children attending the school; they are evidently well fed, properly clothed, and, generally, well treated.

*Croydon Park Public School.*—The system appears to me to work satisfactorily, and the boarded-out children compare favorably with more favored pupils.

*Douglas Park Public School.*—The one State child enrolled at this school has every appearance of being well treated.

*Dundas Public School.*—My experience has been limited to the observation of children boarded out with their own mothers; in these cases, however, I have always considered the allowances justified.

*East Maitland Public School.*—It is a pleasure to testify that the State children attending this school are well clad, well behaved, clean in clothes and body, and apparently well nourished and cared for.

*Eastwood Public School.*—I consider the system worthy of commendation, and although I know of only one pupil attending this school, I consider he has fallen into very good hands.

*Elderslie Public School.*—The children compare very favorably with others under my charge; they are well cared for, and treated as members of the family. They attend school in a tidy manner, well provided with food.

*Erina Public School.*—I consider the Boarding-out System the best possible training for the civic life of the future. The State children under my charge are well treated, and equal in intelligence with the average pupil.

*Five Dock Public School.*—The policy of the State Children Relief Board of keeping the fact of children being its wards as private as possible is a good one, but from my personal knowledge the lot of the children concerned compares favorably with the general run of school pupils.

*Gordon Public School.*—My experience of the treatment of State children boarded out has been at all times of a very satisfactory character. The children are clean, suitably clothed and well nourished.

*Goulburn East Public School.*—State children attending this school are well cared for and happy; their conditions of life are equal to, and in some cases better than those of their school mates.

*Grafton Public School.*—I have had several pupils who were boarded out by the State Children Relief Department; in every case I have found them well dressed and fed, comparing very favorably with other children.

*Gulgong Public School.*—The two State children attending this school are dressed respectably, and appear to be properly cared for.

*Hartley Vale Public School.*—The system appears to be quite successful; the State children under my charge are well clothed and fed; they always seem happy and contented, and their work compares very favorably with that of other children.

*Hay Public School.*—As far as the children attending this school are concerned, they are regular in attendance, appear well cared for and properly nourished.

Hornsby

**Hornsby Public School.**—The State children I have seen are decently clothed, and appear to be well nourished. There is nothing about them to suggest that they are in any way living under different conditions to the other children of the school.

**Hurstville South Public School.**—I am well satisfied with the results of the Boarding-out System in this State; the State children attending this school are as well nurtured and clad as those cared for by their own parents.

**Islington Public School.**—From my observation, the State children attending this school certainly compare favorably with other pupils.

**Kenmore Public School.**—My experience leads me to the conclusion that the children are well cared for in the homes; their progress and school work compare very favorably with the other pupils in my charge.

**Kingswood Public School.**—The Boarding-out System in this State appears to overcome the baneful effects of a State child brought up in an Institution—it removes a child in its most impressionable years from the attendant vices of institutions to the pure atmosphere of home life. The children under my charge appear to be well fed and clothed, and are respected by their fellow school-mates.

**Lambton Public School.**—The Boarding-out System gives highly satisfactory results. Children are well cared for, attend school regularly, and compare favorably with other pupils.

**Laughtondale Public School.**—The nine State children in attendance at my school appear to be well fed and clad, and attend school regularly.

**Lawson Public School.**—The State Boarding-out System works satisfactorily—the children attending here appear to be satisfactorily clothed and fed, and seem quite happy.

**Lcel's Vale Public School.**—The State children here attend school regularly; they are clean, tidy, and as happy as the rest of the scholars. Owing to bad environment or irregular attendance in early life, many of these children are more backward than ordinary pupils.

**Luddenham Public School.**—I must say that the pupils attending my school who are under the boarding out system compare very favorably with other children.

**Mangrove Creek Public School.**—The Boarding-out System gives satisfactory results; the supervision by inspectors eliminates any possibility of abuses arising. The State children under my charge compare favorably with other pupils.

**Manly Superior Public School.**—The boarding-out System is an excellent one; children are well conducted, and there is every indication that they are placed where the home influence is of an uplifting character.

**Martin's Creek Public School.**—The five State children at this school attend regularly; are always neatly and cleanly dressed; appear happy and contented, and compare favorably with other pupils.

**Menangle Public School.**—As far as my experience goes, the children always appear as well cared for as any other pupils.

**Mona Vale Public School.**—The Boarding-out System is a success; the children attending here have comfortable homes, are well kept, and bear favorable comparison with any living under their parents' roofs.

**Muswellbrook Public School.**—From my experience of State children, I have no hesitation in stating that they compare most favorably with other children.

**Normanhurst Public School.**—I consider the Boarding-out System is a success, and is far before congregating the children in Homes. Children who are boarded out young compare favorably with the other children of the school.

**North Richmond Public School.**—The children attending here are, without exception, well cared for. Clean and tidy in appearance, their happy faces give evidence of their treatment. As far as my experience goes, the present system of boarding-out is undoubtedly successful.

**Nowra Public School.**—The children boarded out in this district are very well looked after, and compare favorably with others.

**Oatley Public School (Primary).**—The Boarding-out System appears to have very satisfactory results; the children have very good homes, are well fed and clothed—their general deportment being as satisfactory as that of other pupils.

**Orange Primary School.**—From my experience, I can say that the system is a boon to boarded-out children who are generally well cared for.

**Ourimbah Public School.**—Only one State child at this school; he compares more than favorably with the other children, is well fed, well clothed, and very cleanly in his clothes and appearance.

**Paterson Public School.**—I consider the Boarding-out System is achieving admirable results; the children in attendance at this school have very good homes, are well clothed and cared for, and have kindly people to deal with.

**Payne's Crossing Public School.**—The State children boarded-out in this locality compare favorably with others; they are well cared for, fed and clothed, also regular in school attendance.

**Pitt Town Public School.**—The children under my tuition seem to be well treated, well fed, and sufficiently clothed. They are certainly not behind in attainments when all circumstances are considered.

**Plumpton Public School.**—The Boarding-out System seems to be a decided success; the guardians take a great interest in the children placed with them.

**Queanbeyan Public School.**—I beg to state that the results of the system in vogue are beneficial. The children attend school regularly, are kept clean and well clothed, and are happy.

**Randwick Public School.**—My observation leads me to believe that without exception the children are well cared for, and generally well provided with good homes.

**Raymond Terrace.**—The State children attending this school are well cared for, and are in every way as well off as children in their own homes.

**Roseville Infants' Public School.**—During my experience, the boarded-out children are very kindly treated, and seem as happy as other children.

**Rozelle Public School.**—The system in vogue in our State is well conceived, humane, and calculated to operate in the best interests of the child.

**Ryde Public School.**—The Boarding-out System is successful; the children are well cared for, and compare favourably with others.

*Sackville*

*Sackville Reach Public School.*—The one State child attending this school is well dressed and cared for, and compares favourably with other pupils.

*St. Mary's Public School.*—Children boarded out compare favourably with the other children. My experience says it is far better than keeping the children in large homes.

*Smithfield Public School (Bossley Park).*—Judging by the State children under my charge who compare favourably with other pupils, I conclude the Boarding-out System is successful.

*Strowl Public School.*—The children under my charge compare favourably with others, and are well cared for.

*Tamworth Public School.*—Two children attending my school are clean, well dressed, and evidently well cared for.

*Taralga Public School.*—The one State boy attending my school compares favourably with the other pupils.

*Taree District School.*—The system of boarding out children has everything to commend it; as far as I can see, the pupils attending here are quite up to the standard of others, both physically and mentally.

*The Oaks Public School.*—I consider the Boarding-out System in this State a splendid one. The guardians care for the children who are strong and healthy, and the system of boarding out a family of children in the one home is worthy of highest admiration.

*Thirlmere Public School.*—Four State children attending my school are neatly dressed, and appear to be well cared for, and in attainments they compare most favourably with the other children in the school.

*Thornleigh Public School.*—As far as I know there are no State pupils attending here, but from past experience such children compare favourably with others.

*Trevallyn Public School.*—The children attending this school appear well cared for, and compare favourably in their work with other children.

*Turramurra Public School.*—I consider the system an excellent one; there is nothing to distinguish the children from others more luckily placed.

*Waterloo Public School.*—The Boarding-out System is very successful, and my experience shows that boarded-out children appear to be well treated.

*Waverley Commercial Superior Public School.*—The State children who attend this school compare very favourably with the majority of pupils attending.

*Webb's Creek Provisional School.*—I find the Boarding-out System a very good one—it gives the children an opportunity of gaining home training. They appear happy and contented, and indistinguishable from other children.

*Wedderburn Provincial School.*—The State children at this school appear to have good homes, are always clean and tidy, and seem to be well cared for.

*Werris Creek Public School.*—The children under my charge appear to be well nourished and clad; they are clean, and compare favourably with children living with their parents.

*West Maitland (Horseshoe Bend) Infants' School.*—The State children in this school are most regular in attendance, happy, clean, and well cared for.

*West Maitland (Bishop's Bridge) Public School.*—The State children compare favourably with others under my supervision; they are regular, punctual, clean, and well dressed.

*West Wallsend Superior Public School.*—I have had little actual experience of the system, but as far as I can judge it has worked satisfactorily. The watchful care of your Department has a beneficial influence on the actions of persons with whom State children are placed.

*Willoughby Public School.*—The children in attendance here are clean, neat, decently clothed, and apparently have a reasonable amount of leisure and outings. So far as my observation goes, the Boarding-out System works very satisfactorily.

*Windsor Public School.*—Children boarded out in this district are neat, clean, and apparently well cared for.

*Wollombi Public School.*—I have much pleasure in stating that I find it a very highly satisfactory system; the State children attending here are as well cared for and well treated as other pupils attending the school.

*Woodhouselee Public School.*—I have had to deal with only two children attending this school, both were taken when quite infants, and were reared in the belief that the guardians were their actual parents.

*Young District School.*—The State children attending here have always been well treated as regards food, clothing, and opportunity for schooling—they compare favourably with other pupils.

#### OPINION OF THE BOARDING-OUT SYSTEM SUBMITTED BY LADY VISITORS.

*Mrs. A. H. Allen, Broken Hill.*—My impressions, as formed of the cases visited in this district, are that the children boarded out with strangers are, on the whole, clean, well cared for, and comfortable; the children appear happy and content.

*Mrs. M. M. Almutt, Goulburn.*—On the whole, the children are very happy.

*Mrs. E. J. Andrew, West Wyalong.*—My experience in visiting the children, from time to time, is that the system is an admirable one.

*Mrs. J. Barrett, St. Mary's.*—From my own personal observation the children are well looked after in every way, and treated as members of the family.

*Mrs. H. L. Bromilow, Parramatta.*—I was pleased with the interest taken in the children boarded out in the homes I visited.

*Mrs. C. E. Butterworth, Hay.*—As a lady visitor for this district for the last eight or nine years, I am of the opinion that the Boarding-out System is productive of good in thousands of cases.

*Mrs. Esther Cannon, Summer Hill.*—The Boarding-out System is satisfactory. In the homes visited by me the children are healthy, well cared for, and where of age attend church and school regularly.

*Mrs. L. Cloonan, Inverell.*—I find that in every instance the children boarded out in this district are well cared for—they are contented and happy. The system, in my opinion, works splendidly for the welfare of children.

*Mrs. A. M. Carrington, Carrington.*—The children in this district are well and happy. They attend school every day, and are progressing favourably.

*Mrs. Kate Dillon, Waterloo.*—From my experience as lady visitor, I consider the Boarding-out System a most beneficial one for the children under State control.

Mrs.



*Mrs. M. H. Earl, Orange.*—I think the system in the country proves most beneficial. The children in this district are well mannered, clean, and attend school regularly.

*Mrs. M. Eppel, Camperdown.*—I consider the Boarding-out System one of the best—the guardians usually treat the children as their own. In many instances, they take an interest in their welfare all through life.

*Mrs. A. Fitzgerald, Northbridge.*—Speaking generally, I have the greatest appreciation for the good work.

*Mrs. A. Graham, Mount Fairy.*—The State children in this district are in good homes. They compare favourably with other children both in appearance and conduct.

*Sister B. M. Hagan, Gladesville.*—I think in most instances the system works splendidly. The children are well cared for, and trained.

*Mrs. K. Hanrahan, Sydney.*—The system has much to recommend it, and I venture to say shows very good results. The children visited by me are very well looked after.

*Mrs. D. Harvey, Nimmitabel.*—The system, in my opinion, stands unquestionably for the greatest benefit to both the child and the State. All the children are well cared for, attend the several schools and churches regularly, and their home life leaves nothing to be desired from the standpoint of judicious control and sympathetic treatment.

*Mrs. R. Hennessy, Kurrajong.*—I consider the present system is an unqualified success. The children boarded out in this district all have good homes, and are treated as members of the family. Many of the children have turned out capable, reliable, and distinct assets to the district.

*Mrs. Mary Hinchey, Concord.*—I consider the boarding-out system very good. Children in my district are well looked after.

*Mrs. Eliza Hogan, Canbelego.*—My experience is that the system is highly commendable, and the results very satisfactory.

*Miss Edith Hyatt, Rooty Hill.*—In my district I find the Boarding-out System an excellent one—the guardians treating the children well and kindly.

*Mrs. A. M. Kelly, Goulburn.*—I think the Boarding-out System excellent. The children under my supervision are well cared for, and all seem happy.

*Mrs. I. Kendall, Milton.*—As a lady visitor of 40 years' standing, I have much pleasure in testifying that the Boarding-out System has worked very satisfactorily—it seems to me the best substitute for real home life.

*Mrs. A. Lyon, Hamilton.*—My experience has been that in every instance children are well cared for and enjoy the love and privileges of home from which otherwise, through no fault of their own, they would be debarred.

*Mrs. G. McGrath, Braidwood.*—The system, without doubt, is an excellent one, and in the homes visited by me the children are all well, happy and contented.

*Mrs. A. A. McKenzie, Goulburn.*—Children in this district (Taralga) have good homes, and appear quite happy.

*Mrs. E. McMahon, Bourke.*—My experience here is very satisfactory.

*Mrs. E. Mason, Parramatta.*—I have found the homes and children very satisfactory, and a credit to this system.

*Mrs. M. Pooley, Guildford.*—I think the system good. The children visited by me are all well cared for and happy in the home life.

*Mrs. A. B. Redpath, Wingham.*—The children I have visited and have had under my supervision from time to time have been well treated.

*Mrs. K. Robertson, Ashfield.*—I visit some 20 homes and see about 60 children, and as far as my observation goes, I find the system satisfactory. The children under the care of the State are as healthy and as happy as those I have seen under ordinary parental care.

*Mrs. F. Robinson, Mudgee.*—From my observation of the Boarding-out System I am in favour of it. The children I have visited have good homes, are well cared for, well fed, and I consider the system much better than crowding them into Institutions.

*Mrs. M. Rudd, Manilla.*—I have found the Boarding-out System to work very satisfactory.

*Mrs. E. Shead, Crow's Nest.*—In my district I have found all the homes most satisfactory.

*Mrs. J. Slack, Forest Lodge.*—The children I have visited in this district have good homes, sleeping accommodation, and clothing. My observations show that they are well cared for in every instance.

*Mrs. R. Scarlett, Adamstown.*—I wish to state that in my experience the Boarding-out System is the most satisfactory way in which to deal with children. In every case visited in my district the children are in good homes, are well treated, and have every home comfort.

*Mrs. E. Vaughan, Ando.*—My experience of over 30 years of the Boarding-out System proves it to be an excellent one. The foster-parents take a great interest in the children, and I can cite instances where young children who were far from promising when first boarded out have turned out respectable and reputable citizens.

*Mrs. J. Vogel, Kogarah.*—After 27 years' experience as lady visitor, I consider the Boarding-out System the best that can be adopted in the interests of the children. It gives them a chance of home life of which they are deprived in orphan schools where even with the best intentions the characteristics of a child cannot be fostered.

*Mrs. E. J. Whyte, Nimmitabel.*—I have been impressed with the care and humane treatment meted out to the several families of State children by their respective guardians in this district. In no instance have I noticed any evidence of neglect. The children are invariably looked upon as members of the respective families among whom they are boarded out.

*Mrs. A. A. Wilson, Wiseman's Ferry.*—I cannot speak too highly of the Boarding-out System. All the children appear happy and well cared for.