

1907.

VICTORIA.

DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND
REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

R E P O R T

OF THE

ACTING SECRETARY AND INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1906.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO ACTS 54 VICT. No. 1121 AND
No. 1079, SECTION 320.

By Authority:

J. KEMP, ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT.

											£	s.	d.		
Preparation—Not given.															
Printing (650 copies)	12	0	0

REPORT.

DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Melbourne, 21st June, 1907.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of this Department, together with the usual returns, statement of expenditure, and the statistical tables for the year ended 31st December, 1906, in accordance with the requirements of section 10 of the *Neglected Children's Act* 1890 and section 320 of Part II. of the *Crimes Act* 1890.

By referring to table I., it will be seen that the total number of children under supervision on the 31st December, 1906, was 5,126, as compared with 5,048 on 31st December, 1905, showing an increase of 78.

The number of wards who were a cost to the State at the end of the year as compared with 1905 is shown hereunder.

NEGLECTED.

	1905.	1906.
Maintained in foster homes	2,871	3,113
Maintained in institutions	135	312*

REFORMATORY.

Maintained in institutions	151	144
-----------------------------------	-----	-----

Of the 3,113 in foster homes, 972 were left with their own mothers, the number of such mothers being 433.

The new committals of this class placed under the care of the Department for the past year amounted to 395, which, as compared with 193 for 1905, shows there is an increasing tendency on the part of impoverished widows and deserted wives to expect the State to support their offspring.

Boarding-out System.—I might here take the opportunity of offering to the many honorary workers on the different Ladies' Visiting Committees throughout the State sincere thanks for their hearty co-operation in promoting the welfare of the children placed under their supervision.

Much time is devoted by them to supervising the homes, as well as the children.

In some districts Christmas treats have been admirably arranged by the ladies, and thoroughly enjoyed by the wards of the State.

Attention might be again drawn to the fact that some mentally defective ex-wards who are beyond the age of 20 years are still a cost to the State.

The idea of establishing a home for backward children has been before the public on different occasions. In my sphere of work the want of such an establishment has been brought vividly before me. It is a difficult matter to know where to place children, who are to a certain degree mentally weak, but not sufficiently so, to warrant their being placed with idiots in an asylum.

Expenditure.—With regard to the expenditure it is noteworthy that the net amount for this year is £59,782 7s. 9d., as compared with £60,264 8s. 8d. for 1905, although there were more children under supervision in 1906. This is more satisfactory when it is remembered that wards are now kept at school until attaining the age of 14. Formerly the State was relieved of their maintenance at the age of 13 years, when they were placed at service.

It is a matter for congratulation that the average strength of the reformatories fell from 174 in 1905, to 149 for the year 1906, this resulting in a saving of expenditure under this head of over £800.

Collections of Maintenance.—It is gratifying to note that there has been an increase in the maintenance collections from relatives during the year, the figures being as follows:—1906, £1,592 14s. 11d., as compared with £1,391 9s. 10d. for 1905.

* NOTE.—In former years the wards placed at Bayswater Home; Albion Home, Glenroy; and St. Augustine's Orphanage, Geelong, have been included in the number of those maintained in foster homes.

Special efforts were made through the year by the Law Department as well as by the officers of this Department to force parents to contribute to the support of their children. It will be readily acknowledged that it is a matter of great difficulty to obtain money from individuals who have neglected their primary duty of properly bringing up their own children.

Children placed with Relatives and others on Probation.—Of the neglected children 724 have been placed on probation with relatives or other suitable persons without cost to the Department, whilst 20 reformatory wards were similarly treated.

Transfers from Gaols (Act 1079, Section 333).—There were 18 transfers (17 males and 1 female) during the year. The greatest care is exercised in putting this section of the Act into operation, and I am pleased to be able to record the fact that out of 61 (58 males and 3 females) transferred during 1903-4-5 there were comparatively few failures, the great majority having availed themselves of the opportunity to lead respectable lives.

Mortality.—The number of deaths for the year was 42, that number being 3 less than 1905, 25 being infants under twelve months, the greater proportion of whom were brought to the Receiving Depôt suffering from weakness and neglect.

Wards at Service.—The number of wards at service on 31st December, 1906, shows a reduction of 115 as compared with the previous year. This is accounted for by the fact that under the provisions of the Education Act, children are now compelled to attend school until they reach the age of 14.

A sum of £2,935 9s. 7d. was placed to the credit of the Service children during the year, that being a small proportion of their earnings which will be available for them when reaching the age of discharge at 18 or 20 years as the case might be. The balance in the Savings Bank to the credit of the wages account on 31st December, 1906, was £8,797 11s. 7d. The demand for girls for domestic service continues greater than the supply. I have considered it advisable to place all girls that can be trusted at service, with employers who will take an interest in the girls' welfare, and give them the necessary training, in preference to placing them in institutions, where they become accustomed to so much company, that they are apt to mope and feel miserable when they are called upon to perform the duties of a domestic, in a quiet home.

The majority of the lads available for service have been placed with farmers, and in most cases appear to give satisfaction.

In addition they are able to maintain themselves instead of being a cost to the State.

Rutherglen Viticultural College.—Only boys of good character and of special aptitude or inclination for rural work are selected for this institution, where an area of nearly 1,000 acres is utilized for viticulture and general farming. Cows, sheep, and horses are kept, and milking, separating, and dairy work and its management generally, receive considerable attention.

A speciality is made of grafting, callusing, and growing American resistant vines, for the important work of reconstituting the vineyards now being decimated by phylloxera.

In this connexion a branch nursery is being opened on the banks of the Murray, and exceptional facilities are afforded the lads of obtaining a thorough grasp of the work, at which many of them are already expert. Practical work in the vineyard, orchard, garden, and general farm work also receive careful attention. Silos are an important feature, and the boys acquire a practical knowledge of the making and use of silage. During the past year four boys who had arrived at their age limit, left for situations that had been found for them. A pleasing feature was the receipt of a letter from the mother of one of these boys to the following effect:—"I desire to thank you for the care and trouble you have expended on my son, he is all I could wish him to be."

Besides the practical training referred to above, educational facilities are also afforded: these include regular lectures on scientific subjects of practical interest and usefulness, which are in most cases followed by essays. These essays, while cultivating the boys' minds, are a means of gauging the attention and receptiveness of each student.

About Christmas time last year the first annual prize distribution was held. The prizes, which included rewards for proficiency in practical every day work, as well as for studies and athletics, numbered fully 100, and were presented by Dr. Cherry, Director of Agriculture. The excellence of the boys' work evoked the highest praise. Lectures, concerts, and other entertainments are frequently given by visitors from Rutherglen.

The health of the boys has been excellent throughout, a wonderful improvement is very soon manifested in their appearance and general condition, as a result of the good sanitary arrangements and hygienic regulations, and their fine healthy surroundings. The best medical attention is provided.

Visits have been received from their Excellencies, Lord Northcote, Governor-General of the Commonwealth, and the State Governor, Sir Reginald Talbot, both of whom spoke of the institution in flattering terms.

The Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and the Director take the keenest interest in the welfare and progress of the boys.

Children's Courts.—It is a matter for congratulation that Children's Courts in Victoria are now an established fact, the Bill having passed only a few days before the end of the year.

I understand that some of the ladies who have acted as correspondents for the boarding-out committees, are likely to be appointed honorary probationary officers. Their experience will eminently fit them for the necessary work which will be entailed. I trust their efforts will have the effect of reclaiming the class of children who lack parental care and control.

Albion Home, Glenroy, for Protestant Girls.—This home still continues to do good work among the class of girls for which it was established. It is suitably situated away from the environments of the city.

Receiving Depôts, Royal Park.—The average number of children at the depôts throughout the year was 94. The health report is a favorable one:—A marked improvement is noticeable with regard to the cultivation of the grounds. Vegetables are largely grown in the vicinity of the boys' depôt, whilst some of the paddocks have been cultivated with good results. It is a matter for regret that several acres which had been used for grazing purposes have been excised, for the purpose of building an asylum for the insane. I trust the area will not be further reduced, as it is absolutely necessary to keep a number of cows on the premises, so that the infants may have that inestimable benefit, pure and fresh milk.

One of the rooms is being altered so that it may be used as a school-room, and, upon completion of this, the Education Department has undertaken to supply a teacher, to take charge of the education of all the children who require tuition.

I would draw attention to the advisability of a brick building being provided for the elder boys, neglected and reformatory. The present dormitories being of an inflammable nature, there is a grave risk in continuing to allow boys of this class to occupy them, especially as it is requisite to keep the windows barred in the one used by the reformatory boys. The interest taken in the depôt by the visiting committee is duly appreciated by me. I would also acknowledge with thanks the attention paid to the wards by various clergymen who have ministered there throughout the year.

Bayswater Home for Protestant Boys.—This home, controlled by the Salvation Army authorities, continues to meet the requirements where disciplinary training is necessary for young boys, who have proved too troublesome to place in foster homes. The boys are required to attend school on the premises.

In many cases boys of twelve and thirteen years of age through neglect or playing truant are only in the lower classes, and, unless placed in an institution of this sort, it is a matter of difficulty to make them do school-work with children of the age usually in those classes.

The school requirements are well up to the standard. I might quote from Inspector Gamble's report:—"The instruction as a whole has been carefully and faithfully imparted; the scholars work with commendable care and strive to do their best. Much of the script work deserved high praise."

The boys are also trained to milk and do other light farm work so that they may be fitted for service with farmers, or others likely to require boys of fourteen or more.

Christian Brothers' Home for Roman Catholic Boys, Geelong.—It has always been a pleasure to me to inspect this home, where Roman Catholic boys, who are unmanageable in foster homes, are placed. The Rev. Brother in charge, as well as his assistants, appear to devote their lives to the training and guiding of these young boys, whose unruly conduct will probably be nipped in the bud by their efforts.

Industrial School, Abbotsford, for Roman Catholic Girls.—Each time I have visited this institution the girls appear to be cheerful and bright. To show that their education has been carefully attended to, I quote an extract from Inspector Eddy's report, dated 16th November, 1906:—"Although the ages of classes are high, the school may be regarded as in a sound state of efficiency. The sister now in charge (Sister M. T. Gleeson) is fully alive to the requirements, and has had considerable experience previously. The pupils are well behaved and are under excellent control. The pupils generally come to this school well advanced in age for school children."

REFORMATORIES.

There are six institutions for boys and four for girls, the whole having a daily average of 149.5 inmates during the year, viz. :—

	(Boys)
Excelsior Home, Brighton (Protestant and Roman Catholic)	... 10
Heathfield Home, Apollo Bay (Church of England)	... 4.5
Kingsbury, Newstead (Protestant)	... 4
Bayswater (Salvation Army)	... 24
Straight View, Harcourt (Roman Catholic)	... 2
Mt. Paradise, Pakenham (Roman Catholic)	... 5
	(Girls)
Riddell's Creek, Salvation Army (Protestant)	... } 58
Murrumbeena (branch of Riddell's Creek)	... }
Mintaro, Monnegatta (Methodist)	... 22
Oakleigh, Convent (Roman Catholic)	... 20

Riddell's Creek Reformatory for Protestant Girls.—Many thanks are due to Miss Lane, the Matron of this home, for the trouble she has taken with some of the most difficult girls. I have no hesitation in saying, that all the girls placed under her charge should benefit by the training and advice bestowed on them. Great attention has been devoted to teaching the inmates sewing, knitting, &c.

Murrumbeena Sub-reformatory.—This is a branch of the Riddell's Creek reformatory school, and was established for the purpose of separating those girls, who are known to be the worse class, from the younger and less hardened offenders. Only the girls of the latter class are placed in this home. The institution is well managed, and the girls appeared happy and contented on the occasions of my visits.

Mintaro, Monnegatta (Methodist Home).—Good accounts have been received from Mrs. Adamson, Matron of this Reformatory. I was pleased to note during my last inspection, that the mark system had been inaugurated with good results. It appears to be an incentive to good behaviour, thus making the task of controlling the girls a lighter one than formerly. The girls appeared to be well, and profiting by the training and discipline received whilst at Mintaro.

Oakleigh Reformatory for Roman Catholic Girls.—The girls in this home seem to be very contented under the able management of the Nuns of the Good Shepherd. The principal training is laundry and domestic work. The girls are placed in suitable service homes when they have proved themselves worthy of trust.

Bayswater Reformatory for Protestant Boys.—The boys in this reformatory appear to be receiving useful training which will fit them for situations with farmers. Mr. McLeod took charge early in the year and apparently has gained the respect and confidence of the boys. He evidently takes a great interest in his reforming work. The mark system has been introduced in this establishment with good effect.

Excelsior Home, Brighton.—The boys placed in this school are fortunate in having a sympathetic Superintendent, Mr. W. Groom, whose object seems to be to win them by love, rather than by fear. He has a commendable method of giving marks for good conduct. For instance, if a boy is kind to a bird or animal, he is awarded a mark. Good conduct is also rewarded by excursions in the country, where annually a week or more is spent in camping out.

Heathfield Home, Apollo Bay (Church of England).—Since the Rev. E. S. Chase has been installed as Superintendent of this home, matters have progressed favorably. The boys all appear to be contented and should benefit by the training received, as competent assistants have been engaged to teach the boys up-to-date farming. The lads are encouraged to grow vegetables. Each one has a plot of ground, and is allowed to sell the produce. The money thus earned is placed to each boy's credit, and will be available when he leaves the institution.

Kingsbury Reformatory for Protestant Boys.—This reformatory is noted for the homely manner in which the boys are treated. Mr. Brebner (Superintendent) is ably assisted by his wife, who devotes many of her evenings to educating the boys in reading, writing, and arithmetic. All branches of farming are taught here.

Straight View Reformatory for Roman Catholic Boys.—At present there are only two boys at this reformatory. The boys apparently have given no trouble, and are very kindly treated by the Superintendent, Mr. McMahon, and his family.

Mt. Paradise Reformatory for Roman Catholic Boys.—The number at this reformatory may be said to be small, as there are now only five, all of whom are doing well under the management of Mr. Millane, Superintendent, who is ably assisted by his brother. Any improvements suggested in the method of treating the boys or with regard to the building were readily carried out.

Societies dealing with Neglected Children under Part VIII. of Act 1121.—Considerably over 2,000 children are under the supervision of the different societies registered under this part of the Act. The usual Government inspections have been made, and the children appeared to be doing well. The service homes continue to be up to the average of those secured for the wards of the State.

There appeared to be a likelihood of a little friction with regard to inspecting homes where children had been adopted, and did not know but that they were living with their own parents. That difficulty was overcome by an arrangement made, satisfactory to the Department, as well as to the societies.

Great credit is due to the ladies and gentlemen who work so heartily on behalf of those who are without their natural guardians.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. L. DAVIES,

Acting Secretary and Inspector.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary,
Melbourne.

TABLE I.—STATEMENT OF ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES FOR 1906.

	Neglected.			Reformatory.			Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Number under supervision on 31st December, 1905	2,570	2,243	4,813	107	128	235	5,048
ADMISSIONS.							
New committals	382	320	702	36	15	51	753
Transfers from Gaol ... ..	...	...	...	17	1	18	18
" " Neglected Children's Department ... ..	...	...	...	6	15	21	21
" " Reformatory Department... ..	11	...	11	...	...	...	11
Returned absconders	8	...	8	8	...	8	16
Total	401	320	721	67	31	98	819
DISCHARGES.							
By Order of the Governor in Council	104	116	220	4	4	8	228
" Death	23	19	42	...	...	...	42
" Effluxion of time	162	100	262	51	29	80	342
" Transfer to Neglected Children's Department ... ..	...	...	...	11	...	11	11
" " Reformatory Department	6	15	21	...	...	...	21
" " Lunatic Asylum	6	3	9	1	...	1	10
" " Deaf and Dumb Asylum ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
Unreturned Absconders	56	3	59	26	1	27	86
Total	357	257	614	93	34	127	741
Number under supervision on 31st December, 1906	2,614	2,306	4,920	81	125	206	5,126
LOCATION.							
* { Maintained in foster-homes	1,758	1,557	3,315	...	...	...	3,315
" " institutions	30	80	110	46	98	144	254
In service homes	405	346	751	22	20	42	793
With relatives and others, without cost to the State	411	313	724	13	7	20	744
In Hospitals	4	6	10	...	...	...	10
On a visit to friends	6	4	10	...	...	...	10
Total	2,614	2,306	4,920	81	125	206	5,126

* In addition to these, 32 (4 males, 28 females), who are free from legal control, are still being maintained by the State, as they are incapacitated.

TABLE II.—DEATHS DURING 1906.

LENGTH OF TIME UNDER CARE OF DEPARTMENT.

Age at Time of Death.	Length of Time Under Care of Department.																Total.									
	1 day	7 days.	11 days.	14 days.	15 days.	17 days.	3 weeks.	4 weeks.	5 weeks.	6 weeks.	2 months.	3 months.	4 months.	6 months.	7 months.	9 months.		15 months.	20 months.	2 years.	3 years.	3½ years.	6 years.	7 years.	8 years.	
Under 1 year	1	1	1	..	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	4	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
1 to 2	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
2 to 3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
4 to 5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
6 to 7	1	..	..	..	1
11 to 12	1	..	..	1
12 to 13	1	..	..	1
13 to 14	1	..	..	..	1
15 to 16	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
16 to 17	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
18 to 19	1	..	..	1
Total	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	2	1	3	6	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	43

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	Marasmus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Improper development and debility .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	Tubercular meningitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Broncho pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3	Convulsions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gastro enteritis and athrepsia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Entero-colitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	Atelectasis and prematurity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gastro enteritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3	Bronchitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Atrophy and exhaustion .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	Bright's disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gastritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	Peritonitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chronic diarrhœa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	Valvular disease of heart .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Marasmus and gastritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	Whooping-cough and pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Meningitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	Congenital asthenia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Suffocation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	Prematurity and asthenia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Heart disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	English cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital hydrocephalus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	Gastro enteritis and asthenia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Infantile atrophy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	Congenital syphilis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tetanus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1																				

TABLE III.—WORK OF SOCIETIES AND PERSONS REGISTERED UNDER PART VIII. OF THE NEGLECTED CHILDREN'S ACT.

Name of Society or Person	Children under Supervision on 31.12.05.	Admissions during 1906.			Children under Supervision on 31.12.06.
		Court Committals.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society	343	16	18	3	344
Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society	855	3	..	119	839
Church of England Neglected Children's Aid Society	77	1	..	23	97
Methodist Homes for Children	311	17	17	24	325
Clifden Home, Wedderburn	103	..	..	..	103
Gordon Institute, Melbourne	158	2	19	11	132
Burwood Boys' Home	43	..	21	..	53
Geelong Try Boys' Brigade	95	..	..	89	127
Latrobe-street Ragged School Mission	106	..	..	26	89
Methodist Boys' Training Farm, Burwood East	50	1	2	14	62
The Mission Rescue and Children's Home, Ballarat East	23*	1	..	4	28
Mr. W. M. Forster (Try Society), Hawksburn	41	1	..	37	35
Mrs. Goldspink, 285 Rathdown-street, Carlton	201	15	14	22	252
Total	2,406	57	91	372	2,486

* Incorrectly shown as 18 in 1905 report.

TABLE IV.—AGES, RELIGIONS, AND BIRTHPLACES OF CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN 1906.

AGES.

	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	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15	15 to 16	16 and over.	Total.
Neglected ...	135	58	43	60	61	54	54	47	31	41	25	34	20	18	8	8	5	702
Reformatory ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	8	9	20	24	69
Total ...	135	58	43	60	61	54	54	47	31	41	27	36	24	26	17	28	29	771

RELIGIONS AND BIRTHPLACES.

	Number Committed.	Religions.				Birthplaces.		
		Protestant.	Roman Catholic.	Ismaelites.	Quaker.	Australian States and New Zealand.	England.	Unknown.
Neglected ...	702	464	233	5	...	700	...	2
Reformatory ...	69	48	20	...	1	68	1	...
Total ...	771	512	253	5	1	768	1	2

TABLE V.—PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT IN 1906.

Particulars supplied with Order of Committal.	Neglected.	Reformatory.	Total.
Parents dead	12	2	14
" unknown	6	...	6
" deserted	8	...	8
" drunkards	5	1	6
" in gaol	1	...	1
" of bad character	2	1	3
" poor, of good character	43	31	74
Father dead; Mother poor, of good character	326	11	337
" " in gaol	3	...	3
" " a drunkard	2	1	3
" " of doubtful character	3	...	3
" " deserted	1	...	1
Father deserted; Mother poor, of good character	117	5	122
" " dead	16	3	19
" " in hospital	1	...	1
" " immoral	2	...	2
" " in lunatic asylum	3	...	3
" " in gaol	6	...	6
" " of doubtful character	2	...	2
" " a drunkard	2	...	2
Father unknown; Mother poor, of good character	8	...	8
" " dead	3	2	5
" " in gaol	2	...	2
" " deserted	7	...	7
" " weakminded	4	...	4
" " immoral	4	...	4
" " in lunatic asylum	1	...	1
Father poor; Mother dead	10	4	14
" " a drunkard	10	...	10
" " deserted	3	1	4
" " an imbecile	1	...	1
" " immoral	3	1	4
Father a drunkard; Mother poor, of good character	2	2	4
" " dead	11	1	12
" " an imbecile	3	...	3
" " deserted	4	...	4
" " of bad character	1	...	1
Father in gaol; Mother poor, of good character	15	1	16
" " deserted	1	...	1
" " dead	2	...	2
" " immoral	4	...	4
Father in lunatic asylum; Mother poor, of good character	13	...	13
" " a drunkard	2	...	2
Father in hospital; Mother poor, of good character	15	...	15
Father an invalid; " " " "	9	...	9
" " dead	...	1	1
Father an imbecile; Mother dead	2	...	2
Father of bad character; Mother poor, of good character	1	1	2
Total	702	69	771

TABLE VI.—TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN—
NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY.

Neglected Children.	Average strength	Items of Expenditure.											
		Provi- sions.	Clothing and Bedding.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Stores, Stock, &c.	Medical Attend- ance. &c.	Inci- dentals, &c	Transport and Travelling Expenses.	Tele- phone Service	Salaries.	Postage and Tele- grams.	Main- tenance.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Boys' and Girls' Receiving Depôts	94	424 6 11	5 10 10	285 2 10	145 2 8	41 11 9	207 9 11	..	..	1,562 9 2	..	..	2,672 14 1
Abbotsford Indus- trial School ..	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	659 11 3	659 11 3
Training Home for Girls ..	21	..	..	..	..	10 16 8	..	..	..	..	..	283 11 5	294 8 2
Service Children ..	..	..	523 6 8	..	..	..	..	1,089 17 8*	..	..	..	..	1,613 4 4
Boarded-out Chil- dren ..	3,135	..	878 19 0	..	..	2,212 14 0	..	1,095 14 7	..	..	..	43,459 15 11	47,647 3 6
Telephone Service ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42 1 0	..	..	..	42 1 0
Total ..	3,295	424 6 11	1,407 16 6	285 2 10	145 2 8	2,265 2 5	207 9 11	2,185 12 3	42 1 0	1,562 9 2	..	44,402 18 7	52,929 2 3
Reformatory Chil- dren.													
Oakleigh (Girls) ..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	490 19 9	490 19 9
Riddell's Creek (Girls)	58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,511 4 6	1,511 4 6
Mintaro (Girls) ..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	582 1 2	582 1 2
Excelsior Home, Brighton (Boys) ..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	266 14 9	266 14 9
Heathfield Home, Apollo Bay (Boys)	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121 11 7	121 11 7
Kingsbury (Boys) ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100 1 5	100 1 5
Straight View Farm (Boys) ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45 5 4	45 5 4
Moun't Paradise (Boys)	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136 19 11	136 19 11
Bayswater (Boys) ..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	629 8 1	629 8 1
Service Children ..	..	..	122 7 9	..	..	..	..	255 2 8	..	..	..	..	377 10 5
Telephone Service ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93 12 0	..	..	..	93 12 0
Total ..	149.5	..	122 7 9	..	..	..	..	255 2 8	93 12 0	..	..	3,884 6 6	4,355 8 11
Head Office ..	..	..	..	25 7 0	86 7 9	..	153 5 7	..	..	3,614 9 5	260 2 0	..	4,140 11 9
Grand Total ..	..	424 6 11	1,530 4 3	311 9 10	232 10 5	2,265 2 5	360 15 6	2,440 14 11	135 13 0	5,176 18 7	260 2 0	48,287 5 1	61,425 2 11
<i>Deduct -</i> Amount received for Maintenance of Chil- dren, £1,592 14 11 All other receipts, £50 0 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,642 15 2
Net cost ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59,782 7 9

£749 6s. 2d. of this expenditure was incurred under Part VIII. of the Neglected Children's Act.

REPORTS OF SCHOOLS.

RECEIVING DEPÔTS, ROYAL PARK.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending December, 1906.

The general health of the inmates has been good. When the whooping cough was prevalent in Melbourne and suburbs during the early spring, some children suffering from the disease were received here. They were not allowed to come in contact with the other children, but were at once placed in suitable foster homes. It is no doubt owing to this prompt action that we were spared an outbreak at the depôt.

There were eleven deaths of infants during the year. They were all received in bad health.

We constantly have children from country and other foster homes who need to attend hospitals, chiefly for eye and throat troubles. I find this a great tax on the working of the depôt, an attendant being required to go to the hospitals twice, and sometimes, three times a week. They leave here at 9 a.m., and do not return until 12 o'clock, and after.

The Rev. D. Ross Hewton has attended regularly, and given religious instruction to the Protestant girls and boys. We now have a visit each Sunday from Miss Kirwood, who has kindly taken on the afternoon Sunday school for Protestant girls. The Rev. Father Gleeson has been very attentive to the Catholic children, and the nuns come each week to see the Catholic girls, and give religious instruction.

I beg to tender my thanks to the teachers of the Ascot Vale Presbyterian Church for a very pleasant entertainment during the winter, also to the teachers and junior members of the Ascot Vale Congregational Church for the Christmas tree and good things provided at Christmas, which the children enjoyed very much.

E. S. GODDARD, Matron.

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE, ROYAL PARK RECEIVING DEPÔTS.

The Committee have to report their year's work has been attended with a fair amount of success in the interests of the inmates.

During the year 879 children have been admitted to the Neglected Children's Department and Reformatory, and 881 discharged. In addition to the above, 118 children were received on remand from the various courts, the average number requiring the attention of the matron and attendants being about 100.

We regret the Committee's recommendations of last year are not yet fully carried out, but we are pleased to have the promise of their soon being carried into effect. We further regret that so much grazing land should have been excised from the farm, thereby limiting the work of the dairy, which, in an institution of this character, is important, the greater portion of the inmates being young children.

The Committee's work is purely of love, and their desire is to improve the moral and physical welfare of the children.

J. C. LANGLEY, Chairman.
R. P. LORD, Correspondent.

ALBION HOME, GLENROY, FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1906.

A number of girls have been sent to situations during the year, and with few exceptions are giving satisfaction.

One of our girls who had been in a delicate state of health for years died suddenly from heart disease: otherwise the general health of the girls has been very good.

During the year amusements of different kinds have been provided, and enjoyed by all, and we are thankful to all the friends who have helped to brighten the lives of those intrusted to our care.

CAROLINE McCABE, Matron.

BAYSWATER HOME FOR PROTESTANT BOYS.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The progress made in the home has been of an encouraging nature, a large number of boys having been placed in situations, and others, through good behaviour, having been returned to their friends.

The annual school examination, conducted by Inspector Gamble, of the Education Department, gave good results. The school on the whole passed creditably, the classes being specially commended for brushwork and drawing.

Great credit is due to the teachers (Captain Shearman and Lieut. Houston) for the excellent discipline, and for the progress made, seeing that the materials to work upon are truants from other schools.

KENNETH McLEOD, Superintendent.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, ABBOTSFORD, FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC GIRLS.

I have the honour to forward my report for the year ended 31st December, 1906.

The number of girls remaining in the school on 31st December, 1905, was 36.

ADMISSIONS.

Remaining in school, 1.1.06	...	36
Admitted (including re-admissions)	...	45
Transferred from depôt	...	6
Returned absconder	...	1
		—
		88
		—

REMOVALS.

To service (including girls eligible for re-admission)	...	48
Discharged on probation	...	2
Transferred to depôt, &c.	...	6
Absconded	...	1
Remaining, 31.12.06	...	31
		—
		88
		—

The general health of the girls has been good, and conduct satisfactory on the whole.

We take this opportunity of publicly thanking our many generous friends who have given pleasure to the little ones by their visits and presents.

MARY F. CORBETT, Acting Mother Superior.

TRAINING HOME FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS, EAST MELBOURNE.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1906.

The health of the inmates has been excellent; we have had no sickness in the home at all. There has been a great improvement in the conduct of the girls, several girls who were most troublesome have gone out to service, and are now doing very well.

We have a number of young private children in the home now. I find the work most interesting among them; they are wonderfully good children.

The service girls are staying out well, and giving general satisfaction. I have only had three or four returned during the past year.

Dr. A. Jeffreys Wood, Dr. Percy Webster, Dr. Clara Stone, and Dr. W. R. Boyd are still our honorary doctors, but Dr. Boyd is the only one whose services we have required. He is always most kind and attentive.

Mr. Fred Baker is still our honorary dentist; he has given a great deal of time to looking after the girls' teeth.

The Committee is grateful to the friends who have given donations in money and kind, and enabled it to carry on the work of the home, also to the friends who have visited and taken an interest in the girls.

LILIAN M. WATSON, Matron.

MINTARÓ REFORMATORY FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS, MONNEGATTA.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1906, and it gives me great pleasure to state that in every department of the home we can report satisfactory progress, and a great uplift in the general character of the girls.

The discipline of the home has been well maintained, and there have been no serious lapses of any kind during the past year.

The health of the inmates has been exceptionally good. We have had no serious illness, and only such incidental sickness as may be expected amongst so large a company of girls. What medical aid we have needed has been cheerfully rendered by Dr. J. F. Wilkinson, of Melbourne, and Dr. Murdock, of Romsey. Mr. Tuckfield has acted as honorary dentist.

The various departments of home work have been well sustained during the year. A careful and thorough domestic training is given to every girl. During the year we have added to the other departments that of machine knitting, and the making of wool rugs. In this way, we expect to give many a girl the means of livelihood when she shall leave us.

Last year we intimated that a system of marking had been introduced. We have much pleasure in stating that it has afforded most satisfactory results in maintaining a higher standard of discipline, doing away with most of the minor punishments, and helping the girls to more easily secure and retain a better control of themselves. We are so satisfied with the results that we consider it now a necessary adjunct for our work at Mintaro.

Last April, we were enabled, by the kindness of friends, to take all the girls to the sea-side for a week's holiday. We secured a cottage-home at Dromana, and Miss Adamson was placed in charge. A party of girls went each week in charge of a sister, and, after a week's residence, returned home. The whole was carried out with perfect ease. The conduct of the girls was all that could be desired, and the results in improved health and general moral tone of the girls has been most satisfactory.

We have had our regular outdoor and indoor recreations, and, during Christmas and New Year, festivities of a very pleasant character were carried out, to the great enjoyment of the girls. Many kind friends outside remembered each girl with Christmas presents.

We have a staff of five sisters, and the number of girls who have passed through our hands during the year have been as follows:—

On 1st January, 1906, there were sixteen girls in the home, ten have been sent to the institution during the year, five have been returned for various reasons (three coming home at their own request, and through no fault of theirs), five have been sent to situations, and one girl's time expired, leaving us on 1st January, 1907, with twenty-five girls in the home, and six at service, who are still under our care.

The girls in situations are giving general satisfaction.

The moral and religious side of our work has been carefully attended to, and the girls have been suitably instructed in Sunday school, Bible class, and elementary secular instruction.

EMILY A. ADAMSON, Matron.

RIDDELL'S CREEK REFORMATORY FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS.

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

During the year many of the girls placed in our care have shown great promise of benefiting by the training and advice given to them, and, besides becoming efficient servants, are excelling in the various branches of sewing and knitting.

The preference given to sewing and knitting by the majority of the girls is very marked, and special attention is given to such, so that when they are again free to choose their own means of earning a livelihood they will not have to resort to the distasteful or degrading, but will find pleasure in earning their living at work that is congenial and elevating.

We have had a few very difficult girls to deal with who have caused us a great deal of anxiety, but, with these exceptions, the girls have behaved well, and are grateful for the interest taken in them.

Many of those whose terms have expired are doing well, proving the wisdom of the authorities who arrested them as they were starting a depraved and sinful life.

During hours of recreation various games and amusements have been thoroughly enjoyed by the girls.

Commissioner and Mrs. McKie with other officers have visited the reformatory on several occasions, and have brought much cheer and encouragement to girls and officers.

The Christmas festivities were an untold delight, each girl receiving some useful present.

The quarterly prizes obtained by the girls have been very much appreciated.

CLARA LANE, Matron.

SUB-REFORMATORY AT MURRUMBEENA FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS.

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ending 1906.

The health of the girls is excellent, and Dr. Murray's kindly services very little in demand.

The girls employ their recess in healthful, open-air games; physical exercises, club swinging, &c., are also favorite pastimes. The number attending school show marked progress, and a keen desire to

improve. In this they receive every encouragement. Sewing and fancy work are taught, also house work in all its branches. Every effort is put forth to equip them for lives of respectability and usefulness.

The girls in situations in most instances give satisfaction. These we keep in touch with by regular correspondence.

We are cheered by the visits of discharged girls who are doing well, and retain a grateful affection for the home.

Our thanks are due to Commissioner McKie, Ministers of the Gospel, and other Christian friends who have visited us, and have spoken helpful words to the girls, which we believe will bear good fruit. Friends have also provided a number of entertainments, helping to brighten the lives of the girls. With few exceptions, they are happy and contented.

Christmas was a happy time for all, and the treat given by Commissioner and Mrs. McKie eagerly looked forward to and greatly enjoyed.

Our earnest desire is to send the girls out to be useful and respectable members of society, and there is every indication that our hopes for them will be abundantly fulfilled.

MAGGIE LAWERY, Matron.

OAKLEIGH REFORMATORY FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC GIRLS.

I have the honour to submit my annual report for 1906.

The course of the year has not been marked by any striking event, but steady and satisfactory work has been done. Devotedness to the duties assigned them in the school, with a view to the needs of their after life, and good reports from mistresses, go to show that an appreciation of the "Dignity of Labour" is evidently increasing among the girls.

The health is generally good, thanks in a great measure to the care and attention of Dr. Dunkley.

Various entertainments, including some beautiful biographic views, given during the year, proved a source of great enjoyment. Our warmest thanks are due to the kind friends who provided them, as also to the visiting committee and others who have done much to aid us in our efforts to make the lives of our charges bright and happy.

MARY A. O'SHEA, Superioress.

REPORT OF THE VISITING COMMITTEE.

In our annual visit to the Oakleigh Reformatory School for girls, conducted by the nuns of the Good Shepherd, we find 95 girls in the institution: 20 in the reformatory and 75 in the preservation class.

The laundry and dormitories are well ventilated, scrupulously clean, and provided with everything calculated to promote the comfort, happiness, and health of the inmates.

The girls appear cheerful and happy, and seem to appreciate the peaceful and healthful surroundings in which they live.

We are very favorably impressed with everything we have seen and heard during our visit to this institution, and we feel assured that the sisters are doing a noble work in educating and training the girls to habits of industry, which will enable them to become good members of society. We are glad to learn from the sisters that a large majority of the girls who have left the institution are leading respectable lives, and giving every satisfaction to their employers.

H. O'CALLAGHAN,
JAMES HOGAN,
EDWARD O'DONNELL.

BAYSWATER REFORMATORY FOR PROTESTANT BOYS.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

Fifteen boys have gone from our institution during the year: thirteen having been placed in situations and two returned to friends.

With the exception of one lad all are on good behaviour and doing well.

The all-round knowledge gained in connexion with dairying and farming qualifies the lads for country life, so that we find no difficulty in placing them as first-class farm hands.

The boys possess cricket and football teams of no mean order, and many city teams visit us for a friendly game with them.

KENNETH McLEOD, Superintendent.

EXCELSIOR HOME FOR BOYS, BRIGHTON.

I have the honour to forward my report for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The health of the boys at service, on probation, and in the home has been good. Dr. Praagst, who readily attends any of my boys, was only called twice during the year; but Mr. Davy had plenty to do with the teeth. To these gentlemen I wish to tender my sincere thanks.

The demand for service boys is far more than I am able to supply. The reports to hand from those at service and on probation are satisfactory. Very many of my old boys whose terms have expired came to see us through the holidays; one asked if he might stay for a time, as he did not want to go wrong again. Some of his old feelings for doing what he got into trouble for, in the first place, were coming back; his request was granted with good results.

Mr. Le Page, the headmaster of the Elsternwick State school, still takes a deep interest in my boys. The Sunday school teacher's report I enclose.

The boys enjoyed a great treat during the holidays through the kindness of the officer in charge of the flag ship *Cerberus*, who went to a lot of trouble in explaining all connected with the ship and the torpedo boats; in fact, everything at the Naval Department, Williamstown. The boys were very much interested, and will remember that outing for many years to come. We all thanked the officer who explained everything in such a way as to make the youngest boy understand.

I am also deeply grateful to Messrs. Huddard, Parker, and Company for granting a free trip to Sorrento to sixteen of us; this was appreciated by all.

I must take this opportunity to thank you, sir, for the many visits you paid through the year. Your comments and advice on the merit card of each boy has been a great help, not only to the boys but to myself. Most of the boys hate to have anything on the wrong side of the card now, as they never know when the inspector may come.

Mr. Connor and the other authorities of the various gaols have, as in years past, helped me in every way possible in recommending suitable cases for transfer.

W. GROOM, Superintendent.

REPORT OF EXCELSIOR HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL.

I have very great pleasure in reporting that I succeeded the Rev. F. J. Wilkin in the conduct of the Sunday school held in the Excelsior Home last February, 1906.

The welcome always given by the boys, and the excellent attention, and the fact that nearly every boy voluntarily memorizes a text of Scripture every Sunday, has been to me one of the most gratifying experiences of several years of Sunday school work, and testifies to the general discipline of the home.

I have further pleasure in testifying to many genuine words of gratitude and appreciation expressed by some of the boys upon leaving, and by letters afterwards received.

The Bay-street Baptist Sunday school has kindly contributed through me Bibles, lesson notes, and literature, and are now offering prizes for the encouragement of the boys.

W. R. HAWKINS.

HEATHFIELD HOME REFORMATORY FOR
PROTESTANT BOYS, APOLLO BAY.

I have the honour to forward my report for the last quarter of 1906.

The year closed with seven lads in the home. The work of the farm is carried on with regularity under the farm manager, Mr. Kelly, assisted by Mr. Dunstan. The work of the boys has proved satisfactory.

Care is taken that the lads shall thoroughly enjoy their holidays and times of recreation. They attend the parish church every Sunday morning. A cheerful spirit prevails amongst the lads, and their conduct has been good. Encouraging letters have been received from a lad sent to sea and from his parents.

We were pleased to have a visit from the acting secretary, Mr. J. L. Davies. We have had several donations of books to our library, which is appreciated by the boys.

E. SELWYN CHASE, Superintendent.

KINGSBURY REFORMATORY FOR
PROTESTANT BOYS, NEWSTEAD.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The health of the boys has been excellent, and their conduct during the year fairly satisfactory; but, as is often the case, one restless spirit upsets the whole school, and causes at times trouble.

The outdoor work, consisting of farming, dairying, fruit-growing, and poultry farming, directed by myself, has the effect of, so far, training them to fit them for any of the above branches of agriculture.

During the year five boys' terms expired; there were three admitted, and four are still in the home at the end of the year, whilst five were in service on that date, and reported to be doing well.

Many of the old boys visited us during the year, a number of whom are now settled down themselves.

I must thank all your officers who have helped me during the year.

A. BREBNER, Superintendent.

STRAIGHT VIEW REFORMATORY FOR
ROMAN CATHOLIC BOYS, HARCOURT.

I have the honour to report that on the whole the past year's work has been very satisfactory.

The health of the boys has been excellent, and in nearly all cases those at service have done well.

PETER McMAHON, Superintendent.

MOUNT PARADISE REFORMATORY FOR
ROMAN CATHOLIC BOYS, PAKENHAM.

I have the honour to forward report for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The health of the boys has been very satisfactory, no sickness of any description occurring. The boys placed at service and on probation have done well. Christmas passed very enjoyably with them.

I desire to thank Mr. Mayger, dentist, of Pakenham, for attention to the boys' teeth.

J. J. MILLANE, Superintendent.