

1908.

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VICTORIA.

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DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND  
REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

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R E P O R T

OF THE

SECRETARY AND INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1907.

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

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# REPORT.

DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS,

Melbourne, 29th June, 1908.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit, in accordance with section 10 of the Neglected Children's Act, and section 320 of Part II. of the Crimes Act, the Annual Report on the work of the Department during the year ending 31st December, 1907, with accompanying statements of expenditures and statistics.

As I did not enter upon the duties of Secretary of this Department until February of this year, I am unable to detail fully the work of the Department for the period under review.

*Statistical Tables.*—As will be seen from Table I., the number of children committed as neglected was 707—the highest since 1902, when 842 were received. The policy of boarding out children with their mothers was responsible for more than half the number, no fewer than 398 having been committed for the purpose of assisting deserving women to keep their families together. I am favourably impressed with the success of this policy, as there is no doubt that the mothers are the best guardians for their own children. The closest inquiries are always made in these cases.

Seventy-four (74) of the children so dealt with had been deserted by their fathers, and in the cases of 254 the fathers were dead—this table might prove interesting as showing the number of neglected children committed each year since 1896.

1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
550	700	1,020	928	874	1,152	842	397	382	493	702

*Mortality.*—The death rate was exceptionally low, although the number of children on the books exceeded that of preceding years the death rate is the lowest on record. The total number of children under supervision was 5,242, the number of deaths, 36; of these 15 were infants under 10 months, and in almost every case were in an unsatisfactory state of health when received. The general health of boarded-out children has been exceptionally good.

The total number of children under the care of the Department on the 31st December, 1906, and 31st December, 1907, respectively, was as follows:—

Neglected.				1906.	1907.
Boarded-out	...	...	...	3,113	3,358
In institutions	...	...	...	312	251
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	<b>3,425</b>	<b>3,609</b>
Reformatory.					
In institutions	...	...	...	144	146

*Boarded-out.*—The boarding-out of children in foster homes is eminently satisfactory. The foster mothers in many cases have become so attached to the children that they have applied for permission to adopt them. In others they have interested themselves in having the children apprenticed to a trade. In a few instances the foster homes have been proved unsuitable, and the children have been promptly removed.

*Expenditure.*—The net expenditure for the year was £61,660 12s. 3d., being £1,878 4s. 6d. more than in the year 1906, in which it amounted to £59,782 7s. 9d. This increase is due to the fact that the number of children maintained in foster homes was greater by 162 than for the previous year.

There has been a slight decrease in the expenditure on reformatory wards, the figures being £4,141 7s. 8d. for the year 1907, as against £4,355 8s. 11d. for 1906.

*Collection of Maintenance.*—There has been a gratifying increase in the amounts received from relatives during the year for maintenance of children, the collections being—1907, £1,931 1s. 5d. ; 1906, £1,592 14s. 11d.

*Service Children.*—The number of wards at service on the 31st December, 1907, was 777, inclusive of 20 specially selected lads employed at the Government Viticultural College Farm, at Rutherglen. As in previous years, a good demand has existed for the services of wards, particularly is this true in regard to useful girls over fifteen years of age.

The occupations open to boys are chiefly found in the farming districts of the State. Under present conditions it is difficult to secure trade openings. I hope to be able to offer suggestions which will overcome this difficulty and enable us to apprentice some of the smartest and best suited of our lads to trades, and so give them an equal opportunity with more favoured boys. A proportion of the earnings of wards of the Department who are in service homes is forwarded by their employers to this office to be deposited in a savings bank to the credit of the children. The amount received during the year for this purpose was £2,874 14s. 10d. There was a balance to the credit of this account at the end of the year of £8,692 1s. 1d.

*Receiving Dépôt, Royal Park.*—A long-felt want has been met with by the appointment of a teacher. As the room used as a school-room is not suitably situated, tenders are about to be called for its removal. Provision is also to be made to have it enlarged and improved, so as to bring the school up to the State school standard, and to give the teacher every opportunity of carrying out her duties satisfactorily. The average attendance is 35·04.

Plans are also being prepared for the much-needed brick additions, which will consist of dormitories for the elder boys, neglected and reformatory.

The work done by the Ladies' Committee, often exacting and not always of the pleasantest nature, has been of great assistance to the Department, and the work of the correspondents of these Committees deserves only to be more widely known to be appreciated at its proper value.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. SMITH,

Secretary and Inspector.

The Honorable  
The Chief Secretary, Melbourne.

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TABLE I.—STATEMENT OF ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES FOR 1907.

	Neglected.			Reformatory.			Grand Total.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Number under supervision on 31st December, 1906 ... ..	2,614	2,306	4,920	81	125	206	5,126
ADMISSIONS.							
New committals ... ..	382	325	707	34	7	41	748
Transfers from Gaol ... ..	...	...	...	10	1	11	11
"    " Neglected Children's Department ... ..	...	...	...	14	26	40	40
"    " Reformatory Department... ..	14	3	17	...	...	...	17
Returned absconders ... ..	15	3	18	6	...	6	24
Total admissions ... ..	411	331	742	64	34	98	840
DISCHARGES.							
By Order of the Governor in Council ... ..	111	124	235	...	...	...	235
" Death ... ..	21	15	36	...	...	...	36
" Effluxion of time ... ..	171	110	281	33	29	62	343
" Transfer to Neglected Children's Department ... ..	...	...	...	14	3	17	17
"    " Reformatory Department ... ..	14	26	40	...	...	...	40
"    " Hospital for Insane ... ..	2	3	5	...	1	1	6
"    " Deaf and Dumb Asylum ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
Unreturned Absconders ... ..	54	2	56	20	...	20	76
Total discharges ... ..	373	281	654	67	33	100	754
Number under supervision on 31st December, 1907 ... ..	2,652	2,356	5,008	78	126	204	5,212
LOCATION.							
* { Maintained in foster-homes ... ..	1,777	1,581	3,358	...	...	...	3,358
"    " institutions ... ..	45	66	111	43	103	146	257
In service homes ... ..	402	375	777	23	16	39	816
With relatives and others, without cost to the State ... ..	416	324	740	11	7	18	758
In Hospitals ... ..	8	8	16	...	...	...	16
On a visit to friends ... ..	4	2	6	1	...	1	7
Total ... ..	2,652	2,356	5,008	78	126	204	5,212

\* In addition to these, 35 (7 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.	1 day	7 days.	14 days.	22 days.	28 days.	29 days.	5 weeks.	6 weeks.	2 months.	3 months.	4 months.	5 months.	6 months.	7 months.	8 months.	9 months.	10 months.	19 months.	2 years.	3 years.	6 years.	9 years.	10 years.	Total.
Under 1 year .. .. .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
1 to 2 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	6
2 to 3 .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
3 to 4 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
5 to 6 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
6 to 7 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
7 to 8 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
9 to 10 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
16 to 17 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3
17 to 18 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Total .. .. .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	36

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

Tubercular spinal disease and exhaustion .. .. .	1	Athrepsia and exhaustion .. .. .	1
Gastro enteritis .. .. .	4	Broncho pneumonia .. .. .	1
Congenital syphilis .. .. .	2	Bronchitis and heart failure .. .. .	1
Marasmus .. .. .	2	Tuberculosis .. .. .	3
Gastric trouble .. .. .	1	Pneumonia .. .. .	1
Congenital debility .. .. .	1	Convulsions .. .. .	2
Tubercular meningitis .. .. .	2	Colitis .. .. .	1
Capillary bronchitis .. .. .	1	Meningitis .. .. .	1
Accidentally shot .. .. .	1	Ulceration of the Stomach .. .. .	1
Pneumonia and bronchitis .. .. .	1	Lung trouble following measles .. .. .	2
Bronchitis .. .. .	2	Heart syncope .. .. .	1
Measles and diphtheria .. .. .	1	Drowned .. .. .	1
Pyæmia .. .. .	1		

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

Name of Society or Person	Children under Supervision on 31.12.06.	Admissions during 1907.			Children under Supervision on 31.12.07.
		Court Commitments.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society .. .. .	344	2	18	3	310
Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society .. .. .	839	..	..	592	592
Church of England Diocesan Mission .. .. .	97	..	1	18	110
Methodist Homes for Children .. .. .	325	28	11	18	352
Clifden Home, Wedderburn .. .. .	103	..	..	2	105
Gordon Institute, Melbourne .. .. .	132	11	24	22	160
Burwood Boys' Home .. .. .	53	1	22	..	57
Geelong Try Boys' Brigade .. .. .	127	..	..	70	119
Methodist Boys' Training Farm, Burwood East .. .. .	62	..	..	8	68
Latrobe-street Ragged School Mission .. .. .	89	..	..	48	149
The Mission Rescue and Children's Home, Ballarat East .. .. .	28	3	2	2	35
Presbyterian Home for Girls, Brunswick .. .. .	1	..	5	3	4
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills .. .. .	184	..	..	64	288
Mr. W. M. Forster (Try Society), Hawksburn .. .. .	35	..	..	19	18
Total .. .. .	2,419	45	83	869	2,367

TABLE IV.—AGES, RELIGIONS, AND BIRTHPLACES OF CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN 1907.

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 ...	127	54	52	60	38	52	52	44	42	42	46	37	15	13	13	6	13	707
Reformatory ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	2	10	6	10	19	52
Totals ...	127	54	52	60	38	52	52	44	42	43	49	38	17	23	19	16	32	759

RELIGIONS AND BIRTHPLACES.

	Number Committed.	Religions.			Birthplaces.		
		Protestant.	Roman Catholic.	Jew.	Australia, including New Zealand.	England.	Unknown.
Neglected ...	707	456	250	1	696	4	7
Reformatory ...	52	36	16	...	51	...	1
Totals ...	759	492	266	1	747	4	8

TABLE V.—PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT IN 1907.

Particulars supplied with Order of Committal.	Neglected.	Reformatory.	Total.
Parents dead ... ..	16	1	17
" unknown ... ..	12	2	14
" deserted ... ..	6	1	7
" drunkards ... ..	7	2	9
" in gaol ... ..	1	...	1
" poor, of good character ... ..	48	27	75
Father dead; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	272	6	278
" " in hospital ... ..	6	...	6
" " deserted ... ..	6	...	6
" " a drunkard ... ..	2	...	2
" " of bad character ... ..	2	...	2
" " in lunatic asylum ... ..	1	...	1
Father deserted; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	122	2	124
" " dead ... ..	16	...	16
" " a drunkard ... ..	2	1	3
" " in gaol ... ..	...	2	2
" " in lunatic asylum ... ..	3	...	3
" " of bad character ... ..	2	...	2
" " immoral ... ..	1	...	1
" " in hospital ... ..	3	...	3
" " an imbecile ... ..	2	...	2
Father poor; Mother dead ... ..	15	5	20
" " a drunkard ... ..	7	...	7
" " deserted ... ..	4	...	4
" " in hospital ... ..	6	...	6
" " an imbecile ... ..	3	...	3
" " of doubtful character ... ..	1	...	1
" " in lunatic asylum ... ..	4	...	4
" " in gaol ... ..	2	...	2
Father unknown; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	16	...	16
" " deserted ... ..	6	...	6
" " in lunatic asylum ... ..	3	...	3
" " in hospital ... ..	1	...	1
" " immoral ... ..	2	...	2
" " of bad character ... ..	2	...	2
" " dead ... ..	7	...	7
" " an imbecile ... ..	1	...	1
Father a drunkard; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	11	1	12
" " dead ... ..	7	1	8
" " of bad character ... ..	...	1	1
Father in gaol; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	22	...	22
" " dead ... ..	2	...	2
" " of bad character ... ..	1	...	1
Father in hospital; Mother a drunkard ... ..	2	...	2
" " poor, of good character ... ..	7	...	7
Father blind; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	4	...	4
" an invalid; " " ... ..	25	...	25
" in lunatic asylum; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	12	...	12
" in good circumstances " " ... ..	1	...	1
" a cripple; Mother weakminded ... ..	3	...	3
Total ... ..	707	52	759



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 Services.	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 Depot	95	402 10 7	9 5 4	273 7 0	163 12 9	16 19 8	193 6 8	..	..	1,616 2 10	..	..	2,675 4 10
Abbotsford Industrial School	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	664 9 6	664 9 6
Training Home for Girls	10	..	..	..	..	5 0 3	..	..	..	..	..	129 6 0	134 6 3
Service Children	..	..	442 2 8	..	..	..	..	1,092 16 7*	..	..	..	..	1,541 19 3
Boarded-out Children	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Telephone Services	3,297	..	959 12 5	..	..	2,406 6 5	..	707 9 2	..	..	..	45,545 4 4	49,618 12 4
Total ..	3,449	402 10 7	1,418 0 5	273 7 0	163 12 9	2,428 6 4	193 6 8	1,800 5 9	42 0 0	1,616 2 10	..	46,338 19 10	54,676 12 2
<b>Reformatory Children.</b>													
Oakleigh (Girls)	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	497 6 6	497 6 6
Riddell's Creek (Girls)	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,415 9 2	1,415 9 2
Mintaro (Girls)	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	669 14 4	669 14 4
Excelsior Home, Brighton (Boys)	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215 19 2	215 19 2
Kingsbury (Boys)	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84 12 8	84 12 8
Straight View Farm (Boys)	3.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93 15 0	93 15 0
Heathfield Home, Apollo Bay	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234 4 3	234 4 3
Mount Paradise (Boys)	4.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	118 11 7	118 11 7
Bayswater	12.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	327 19 4	327 19 4
Service Children	..	..	153 12 4	..	..	..	..	218 17 10	..	..	..	..	372 10 2
Telephone Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111 5 6	..	..	..	111 5 6
Total ..	141.5	..	153 12 4	..	..	..	..	218 17 10	111 5 6	..	..	3,657 12 0	4,141 7 8
Head Office	..	..	..	30 17 1	44 17 2	..	127 16 0	489 12 9	..	3,801 10 10	279 0 0	..	4,773 13 10
Grand Total ..	3,590.5	402 10 7	1,571 12 9	304 4 1	208 9 11	2,428 6 4	321 2 8	2,508 16 4	153 5 6	5,417 13 8	279 0 0	49,996 11 10	63,591 13 8
<i>Deduct—</i>													
Amount received for Maintenance of Children, £1,872 7 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,931 1 5
All other receipts, £58 13 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Net cost ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61,660 12 3

£744 14s. of this expenditure was incurred under Part VIII. of the Neglected Children's Act.

## REPORTS OF SCHOOLS.

### RECEIVING DEPOTS, ROYAL PARK.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The general health of the inmates has been good. There were only five deaths of infants during the year; all were in bad health when received.

We feel the necessity of an extra attendant on the staff, to assist in the nursery, and to take children and young girls to the hospital when required, and that means two and three times a week, as children are frequently sent from the country to be under specialists in Melbourne.

Since the inauguration of "Children's Courts" a larger number of children pass through the depot, more especially boys who are left here, on remand, at times for a month, and we are badly in need of more sleeping accommodation and a proper play shed for the boys. I do hope the new building that is promised will soon be built.

The children have had several treats during the year very kindly given to them by the following ladies and gentlemen, to all of whom I beg to tender my sincere thanks:—Mr. Andrew Mack and a member of his orchestra entertained the children for over an hour one afternoon, and kept the boys and girls in a simmer of laughter from start to finish. Mr. Miscamble gave a gramophone entertainment one evening, and the children took great interest when he asked four of the girls to sing into the instrument. He then explained the mechanism of recording the song. The ladies and gentlemen from the Presbyterian Church, Ascot Vale, gave the children a very pleasant afternoon at games and a tea and concert in the evening. The ladies and gentlemen of our Visiting Committee gave the children their annual treat, which was enjoyed very much.

We have some changes in our religious instructors: the Rev. H. F. Miller attends in place of the Rev. D. Ross Hewton, and Mrs. Delaney attends on Sunday in place of Miss Kirwood, who has gone to New South Wales.

We regret, on account of ill-health, to lose the services of Mr. Mattingley, who has attended very regularly for several years to hold Sunday School for the boys.

The Rev. Father Keenan attends regularly for religious instruction to the Catholic children, and the nuns visit the Catholic girls.

E. S. GODDARD, Matron.

### REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE.

We have the honour to submit the report of the visiting committee of the Receiving Depot, Royal Park, for the year 1907.

The committee is very anxious that the wards of the State shall have every opportunity to make for good citizenship, they have met every third Friday in each month to inspect the several sections of the institution, and are favorably impressed with the order and attention given to the inmates.

The necessity for providing isolated wards for infectious cases is urgent, also the erection of a brick building for the boys in place of the wooden dwelling now occupied, which from its construction, in case of fire, would be dangerous.

The committee regret the loss of so much grazing land, thereby decreasing the dairying operations; fresh milk is an absolute necessity where there are so many infants and young children.

Several entertainments of an educational, interesting, and amusing character have been provided by friends of the children, assisted by some of the inmates, and our hearty thanks is tendered to all those who helped to make these entertainments such a success.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN S. WALKER.

R. P. LORD,

Correspondent.

### ALBION HOME AT GLENROY, FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS.

I have the honour to submit a report for the year ended 31st December, 1907.

In reviewing the work of the year there is much cause for thankfulness.

With a few exceptions, the girls have shown much improvement in their daily work, in their conduct, and in their general appearance; while many have taken a keen interest in what they hitherto considered quite beyond them, viz., fine needlework, fancy work, and machining.

The general health of the girls has been good. One girl showed early symptoms of consumption, and is at present in Miss Colvin's Home at Wedderburn.

Several girls who went out to situations during the year have caused us much anxiety, two of whom are in the home again. Apart from this, we have had every reason for encouragement, as in a great many cases the good results of the influence and training of the institution has been plainly apparent in the altered lives and characters of the numbers of girls who are doing well in their situations.

The school girls are making steady progress in their lessons. Unfortunately the Government Examiner overlooked us this year, so I am unable to give percentage or passes.

Many friends interested in the work have visited us, and expressed themselves as delighted with and surprised at, all they saw. And then the visits of the friends who know and love the girls! The shouting and laughter may be heard half-a-mile away, when on Saturday afternoons a cricket match is in full swing. Of all games, the one game for Glenroy girls is cricket.

Christmastide was indeed a feast of good things. We are indebted to the ladies of Glenroy who invited our girls to the garden fete and Christmas tree. The girls came home laden with

gifts. Then on the 18th the visit to the City, when each girl received a beautiful present from Mrs. Mackie, and last the Christmas tree at the home, loaded with useful and suitable gifts for each girl—many girls exclaiming, "We have never spent such a lovely Christmas before."

WINIFRED HORSLEY, Matron.

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#### MINTARO REFORMATORY FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS AT MONNEGATTA.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1907. It gives me much pleasure to be able to state that the work of the year has been very satisfactory, and whilst we have had some difficult girls to deal with, yet the influence of those under more perfect control and the general moral atmosphere of the home, have made it less difficult to maintain a higher standard of discipline and also secure better results.

The work of the home in its various departments is still maintained at a higher level of efficiency. Every girl receives a thorough training, and while some show greater aptitude for certain classes of work than others, yet our chief efforts are directed to the inculcation of thrift, order, and cleanliness. No girl leaves the home without having had an opportunity of learning domestic duties, and if she has a speciality in any given direction we have also sought to encourage and help the girl to the best possibilities of her life.

We still have in force the "mark system," and as the months go by we find it more and more helpful in our work. The cost of it is not inconsiderable, but we are certain that the direct and indirect influence of it upon the discipline of the home and the lives of the girls more than compensates for the extra cost and care of working. After an experience of nearly three years of this system we consider it indispensable.

I am pleased to be able to report that in April last we were again able to repeat the happy experience of giving the girls a week by the seaside. Similar arrangements to those of the previous year were carried out.

Miss Adamson was placed in charge of the Dromana home and remained the whole time. The various detachments were sent down with a sister in charge. The conduct of the girls was very good, and no difficulty was experienced. We hope to take the girls to the seaside again this year.

The health of the inmates has been exceptionally good, and save passing epidemics, we have not had any sickness worthy of note. Dr. J. F. Wilkinson, of Melbourne, and Dr. Murdoch, of Romsey, are our medical advisers; Mr. J. W. Tuckfield is our honorary dentist.

The girls in situations are on the whole giving satisfaction to their employers, and it is a matter of thankfulness to us that we have applications for our girls from all parts of the State. We have absolutely no difficulty in placing the girls as soon as they are fit to leave the home.

The moral and religious side of our work has been carefully attended to. The girls are regularly instructed in Sunday School, Bible class, and elementary secular instruction. Divine service is also conducted every Lord's Day.

The chief idea we keep before us is the moral uplifting of the girls committed to our care. In doing this we strive to make life at "Mintaro" as home-like as possible, and as an evidence of our success in this direction several of the girls who have passed out of our hands, have asked to be permitted to return home for a time. This we always encourage.

Christmas and New Year brought their annual festivities. We have also had our regular recreations indoor and outdoor, as weather permits, these with our quarterly social evenings help to break the monotony of life in the home which is exceedingly desirable. We seek in every possible way to make the girls helpful, happy, and hopeful, and to develop an individuality which will fit them for their life work.

EMILY A. ADAMSON, Matron.

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#### TRAINING HOME FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS AT EAST MELBOURNE.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1907. I have sent out all the Government girls but one, who is still at school. The girls at service are staying out well and keep very respectable and honest. I hear no complaints whatever.

The health of the inmates has been excellent, we have had no sickness at all among the Government girls.

Through the kindness of friends we are able to give the inmates a happy Christmas, the committee are grateful to the friends who kindly sent donations in money and kind, during the year.

LILIAN M. WATSON, Matron.

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#### RIDDELL'S CREEK REFORMATORY FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS.

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1907.

During the year our work in this Reformatory has been very encouraging, every effort has been put forth to fit each girl for her future life's battles. It is difficult to convince depraved natures that they are capable of better lines of action, and it has been interesting to watch the gradual development in some instances towards this end.

The fact that one of our girls obtained second prize at the Women's Exhibition in Melbourne for "Drawn Thread Work" has encouraged them very much, and many of the girls exhibit a great eagerness to acquire the knowledge of how to do anything and everything that will help them to lead a pure, honest, and happy life.

The girls find it hard to unlearn the bitter lessons of the past, but time, patience, new surroundings, and faith in a loving Father who hath power to help, will fit them for a fresh start in life.

Bright letters from those who have thus started and are getting on well encourage us to persevere in our labours for their betterment. The prizes and amusements of various kinds which were provided for them have formed no small part in making the year a very happy one.

CLARA LANE, Matron.

### SUB-REFORMATORY FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS AT MURRUMBEENA.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1907.

The health of the girls has been excellent. We are grateful to Dr. Murray for his willing services, but thankful that they have been so little required, as we have been almost free from sickness during the year. There have been a few cases of influenza.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Officer, who holds a Bible class every Friday afternoon. Her little talks on these occasions will, we are sure, make a lasting impression for good on the girls. She is greatly interested in them.

The Christmas festivities passed off very happily. On Christmas Eve there was a presentation of prizes. Twenty were awarded for highest number of marks. During the year marks are given for good conduct, school work, punctuality, and Bible studies. On Christmas Day each girl received a nice, useful present. The treat provided by Commissioner and Mrs. McKie was much enjoyed, and Mrs. McKie's gift of a beautiful Bible to each girl, was greatly appreciated.

The girls are giving every satisfaction, and doing the work allotted to them cheerfully and well. They seem anxious to fit themselves for respectable, useful lives.

Nine girls' terms have expired during the year. The majority of these are doing well, also those in situations.

We have much to encourage us in the past year's work. There is a marked improvement in the character, appearance, and work of the girls.

We are anxious to send them out capable workers, and with characters so built up and strengthened that they will be able to battle successfully against the temptations we know will beset them, and to this end we work.

We are grateful to all kind friends who are interested and try to help us.

MAGGIE LOWERY, Matron.

### OAKLEIGH REFORMATORY FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC GIRLS.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The work of this institution has gone forward very satisfactorily; the conduct of the inmates, in most cases, being all that could be desired, and the general health good.

A garden fete is at present being organized to supply funds for the extension of the Reformatory buildings. Should our appeal meet with the generous response we anticipate, accommodation will shortly be provided for a much greater number than are at present in our charge. New dormitories, lavatory, infirmary should add much to the comfort of the girls.

The numerous sources of healthful recreation, always regarded as a necessity, now include the possession of a gramophone, and during the year, special treats have been provided in the shape of entertainments given by the members of St. Vincent's Band, and the children of the

Parochial School. We gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to the many kind friends who, by Christmas gifts and other means, have materially assisted us during the year.

B. O'ROURKE, Superioress.

### REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE.

We have pleasure in recording the very favorable impression made on us at our annual inspection held to-day.

We have gone over all the parts of the establishment, a model of neatness and careful attention to ventilation, and all that contributes to the health and comfort of the inmates. The laundry deserves special mention, and the cheerful appearance of the girls confirm our favorable impression.

We notice the extension now in progress to enable the good sisters to give accommodation to more inmates, as well as to enlarge the present dormitories, &c.

The progress of this valuable institution gives us much pleasure.

N. FITZGERALD.  
EDWARD O'DONNELL.  
DAN. WHITE.

### BAYSWATER HOME FOR PROTESTANT BOYS.

I regret that through the death of Major Kenneth McLeod the duty of sending the report falls on me. But I can speak of the good work accomplished at the institution during the past year, under the superintendence of the late superintendent. He was loved by the boys, and his memory is revered by them.

The children who have been admitted during the year have been of the usual class for which the institution was established, viz., truant, those addicted to various habits and indolence, and there has also been a percentage of those who are not very strong mentally. No doubt in some cases this is caused by falling into evil practices.

The children attending school are, as a rule, backward for their age, having in many cases wilfully thrown away their chances by truancy. The weak-minded are hard to teach anything satisfactorily, but we hope to do better with this class as the school is being strengthened.

We were compelled during the past year (on account of losing a building we had on lease) to combine two homes, but we intend to build and again separate the very smallest children. We have every reason to be pleased with the moral and physical improvement of the boys, and feel sure the training they have had will improve their prospects in life and also be of good service to the general community.

We have had visits from the heads of the Department, and also from the Commissioner and Chief Secretary of the Salvation Army. They have always done what they could for the happiness of the boys.

We look forward to increased usefulness this year.

JAMES H. BRAY, Superintendent.

### BAYSWATER REFORMATORY FOR PROTESTANT BOYS.

During the past year we have not dealt with as many reformatory boys as in previous years, the number admitted for various reasons being much less. It is to be hoped that it is an indication of a decrease in juvenile crime. The late Major McLeod was in charge during the greater portion of the year, and the work accomplished has been on the usual lines. Some of the boys have been troublesome and difficult to manage, but the majority have responded to the firm, kind, treatment, and we are certain have received much permanent benefit by their detention here.

They have been taught good useful labour, and should not have any difficulty when they go forth into the general community to earn a good honest living.

We have again proved that it takes a long time to eradicate years of neglect and evil practices which the majority of these boys have acquired before detention. There must be great good accomplished by their stay in an institution surrounded with good moral influences such as exist at Bayswater.

JAMES H. BRAY, Superintendent.

### INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AT ABBOTSFORD FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC GIRLS.

I have the honour to forward my report for the year ended 31st December, 1907.

The number of girls remaining in the school on 31st December, 1906, was 31.

Remaining in school, 1.1.07	..	..	31
Admitted (including re-admissions)	..	..	41
Transferred from depot	..	..	11

Total	..	..	83
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Sent to service (including girls eligible on re-admission)	..	..	50
Discharged on probation	..	..	3
Transferred to Oakleigh	..	..	2
Remaining, 31.12.07	..	..	28

Total	..	..	83
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We have little of interest to relate for the year 1907. The work of the school has gone on very much the same as in former years.

The general health of the children has been very good, and their conduct, on the whole, satisfactory.

In conclusion, I beg to offer most sincere thanks to all the kind benefactors and visitors who, during the year, afforded pleasure to the "little ones," not forgetting Dr. Ryan, who has been so kind and attentive on all occasions when medical aid was required.

ANNIE DOWLING, Provincial Superioress.

### EXCELSIOR HOME FOR BOYS, BRIGHTON.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

At the close of the year there were only seven boys in the home, three transferred from gaol, and four from the depot; there were also two

others here whose terms had expired (both gaol transfers) waiting until I could find suitable situations for them. Three of the seven youths, I am glad to say, helped their parents (poor, but respectable), one by paying his maintenance money into court, the others by sending home their earnings of 4s. and 5s. a week.

I have tried with success a system of self-government amongst the boys, which does much to check misconduct, idleness, insolence, and even absconding. No door is locked at any time, the boys at once feel they are trusted, and in time awake to a proper sense of right and wrong. Only once during the year was corporal punishment resorted to, and that at the boy's own request. The nature of each boy is studied, and when his special bad tendencies are learnt, appeal is made (generally with success), to his reason; his sense of self-respect is also stimulated as much as possible.

The general health has been so good that only once has Dr. Praagst's services been needed, but Mr. Davey, our honorary dentist, has done a great deal for the boys, grateful thanks is due to both these gentlemen. Mr. Le Page, of the Elsternwick State School, continues to take a very great interest in the boys attending his school. Last month the attendance reports show that all the boys attended the full number of days possible.

The demand for service boys is greater than ever; those at service and on probation are giving every satisfaction.

The Christmas camp was a great success this year, six old boys also spending part of their holidays with us there.

The trustees of the Exhibition kindly allowed the boys two free visits to the Aquarium, which were much enjoyed.

I wish to thank his Honour Judge Moule for a lecture he gave to the boys, and for the interest he takes in some of them.

Mr. Davies would be pleased to know that his visits as inspector have had a good effect, four times during the year the boys were encouraged by his remarks.

Mr. Connor and all in authority at the gaol have given every assistance possible in helping to find the suitable cases for transfer under section 333. I have often wished the age under section 333 could be extended to the age of 19, as in many cases it would be of undoubted benefit to the youth himself, and also indirectly a benefit to the State.

In conclusion, I must thank your officers for the help I at all times receive.

W. GROOM, Superintendent.

### HEATHFIELD HOME FOR PROTESTANT BOYS, APOLLO BAY.

I have the honour to report that the work for the year ending 31st December, 1907, has been fairly satisfactory.

At the beginning of the year we had some abscondings, but that will always happen in dealing with this class of boys, till they are weaned from their town habits and associations.

The Rev. E. S. Chase continued as superintendent till October, when my work commenced.

The conduct and health of the boys has been good, this being a particularly healthy district.

Seven boys have been sent to service, and on probation, whose terms in the institution have averaged less than two months, their employers give a good account of them.

Two or three boys are eligible for service, and will be sent this month.

The boys are taught dairying and other branches of farm work, which is under the management of Mr. Kelly. They are also taught carving and other useful work.

The boys are given a monthly pic-nic on the beach, besides their ordinary holiday pic-nics. They also have plenty of sea baths, which they thoroughly enjoy.

I must, in conclusion, thank the many kind friends of the institute in the district; also the officers of the Department, for their sympathetic assistance in carrying on the work.

W. HRY. DUNSTAN, Superintendent.

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#### KINGSBURY REFORMATORY FOR PROTESTANT BOYS, NEWSTEAD.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The health of the boys has been good with one exception, that a serious case of appendicitis, which recovered after an operation.

The behaviour on the whole was satisfactory, but at times some are anxious to return to their old haunts and friends in the city, and thereby upset those who had apparently settled down to country life.

The demand for boys for farm and orchard work has been greater than I could supply.

We had visits from several of the "old boys" during the year, who, generally, put in a few days with us.

Three boys were admitted during 1907, six were discharged whose terms had expired, one was at service, three were in the home, and there were two absconders at the end of the year.

I wish to thank the various officers of the Department and other friends who so kindly gave their help and sympathy during the year.

A. BREBNER, Superintendent.

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#### STRAIGHT VIEW REFORMATORY FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC BOYS, HARCOURT.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The health of the boys has been excellent, and their conduct during the year has been very good, and in nearly all cases those at service have done well.

Many of the old boys visited us during the year, and a number of them are settled in the district and doing well.

PETER McMAHON, Superintendent.

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#### MOUNT PARADISE REFORMATORY FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC BOYS, PAKENHAM.

I have the honour to forward a report for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The climate—bracing in the extreme—gives health and vigour to the boys, and encourages a healthy mind. No sickness occurred during the year.

The boys whose terms have expired (probation and service), are, in the great majority of cases, doing well. There are a few failures, but all who grasp the difficulty of dealing with depraved boys will fully understand that.

Christmas and New Year passed very enjoyably with them here, fishing, hunting, bathing, &c., being indulged in.

Number in institution, six.

J. J. MILLANE, Superintendent.