

1910  
—  
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

1909.

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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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By Authority:  
J. KEMP, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.



# R E P O R T.

DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS,  
Melbourne, 23rd June, 1910.

SIR,

In accordance with provisions Section 10, *Neglected Children's Act* 1890, Section 320 of Part II. of the *Crimes Act* 1890, and the Infant Life Protection Acts 1198 and 2102, I have the honour to submit, for your consideration, the annual report on the work of this Department for the year ending 31st December, 1909, with the statements of expenditure and the statistics.

The work of the Department has greatly increased in every branch during the year. This increase of work has only been met by a number of the staff working overtime. I find that extra assistance is necessary, as can only be expected in a growing Department.

*Statistical Tables.*—As shown by Table I, the number of children on our books on 31st December, 1908, was 5,703; on 31st December, 1909, this number had increased to 6,221, showing an increase of 518.

The committals for the present year were as follows:—

CAUSES OF COMMITTAL.						
<i>Neglected.</i>						
No means	...	...	...	...	...	1,033
Larceny	...	...	...	...	...	12
Housebreaking	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dwelling with a prostitute	..	...	...	...	...	5
Dwelling with a drunkard	...	...	...	...	...	+
Associating with a drunkard	...	...	...	...	...	1
Transfer from Methodist Home	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sec. 9, Infant Life Protection Act No. 2102	...	...	...	...	...	157
„ 15, „ „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	1,219
<i>Reformatory.</i>						
Larceny	...	...	...	...	...	19
Housebreaking	...	...	...	...	...	7
No means, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	9
Unlawful assault...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive behaviour	...	...	...	...	...	3
False pretences	...	...	...	...	...	1
Attempt to commit an unnatural offence	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vagrancy	...	...	...	...	...	1
Carnally knowing a girl under 10	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	43
<i>Transfers from Gaol.</i>						
Larceny...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Housebreaking	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cattle stealing	...	...	...	...	...	1
Receiving	...	...	...	...	...	1
Committing an unnatural offence	...	...	...	...	...	1
Attempt to carnally know a girl under 16	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	12

The Court committals again show an increase, the number for the year being 1,061, against 1,012 for the previous year. But, as is shown, an additional 158 became wards of the State through the operation of Sec. 9, Infant Life Protection Act, making a total of 1,219, the highest on record. Of this 1,219 neglected children committed, 668 were left with their mothers, with a view to payment being allowed for some of them. They belonged to 258 women, showing an increase over last year of 48 children. As regards this increase, I can only repeat what was said in my last report, that close inquiries are made, and, as far as can be learned, each case proved deserving before assistance is given. The following table will show the condition of the mothers at the time of the children's committal, and will leave little doubt that the assistance rendered was justifiable:—

172	were widows.
35	were deserted wives.
4	had blind husbands.
11	had husbands in gaol.
20	had invalid husbands.
5	had husbands in asylums.
1	had epileptic husband.
10	had husbands in hospital.
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258	total.
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I am pleased to report that, though there has been an increase in the number of neglected children, there has been a marked decrease in the number of reformatory committals. The previous year, there were no fewer than 62 of these committals, while for this year, the number is 55, a decrease of 11 per cent.

The number of committals each year since 1896:—

1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
550 ...	700 ...	10,20 ...	928 ...	874 ...	1,152 ...	842 ...	397 ...	382 ...	493 ...	702 ...	707 ...	1,178

*Mortality.*—Eighty-three deaths were recorded during the year, being slightly over 1.2 per cent. of the total number of children under supervision. Of these, 57 were under twelve months old. The medical officer explains the apparently high mortality by the deplorable condition of many of these infants when admitted. Amongst the children from 1 year to 20 years, the death rate was only 26 out of 5,894, or .44 per cent., which is exceedingly low. The general health of the children has been satisfactory.

*Expenditure.*—The increase in expenditure which has been noted in previous years still continues, the net expenditure for the year under review being £76,457 11s. 10d., as compared with £68,742 8s. 9d. for 1908, showing an increase of £7,715 2s. 3d. The average number of children who were a cost during the year increased from 4,042 to 4,421.

The expenditure on the maintenance of reformatory wards shows a decrease, the amount being £4,493 3s. 11d., the figures for 1908 being £4,639 4s. 10d., the number of wards having decreased from 161 of last year to 133. A decrease in this branch is most gratifying.

*Collection of Maintenance.*—The amount received during the year for the maintenance of children was £2,677 14s. 4d., being an increase of £264 1s. 2d. beyond the receipts for 1908. Of this amount collected, £1,785 7s. 5d. was received by clerks of courts under maintenance orders, and £892 6s. 11d. was paid in to this office under voluntary agreements. The amount paid under voluntary agreements is £226 7s. 2d. in excess of the amount received last year. As mentioned in my last report, this agreement refers to children who have become wards of the State by the payments having fallen four weeks into arrears. This increase of collections shows that we succeed in getting a more satisfactory amount in payments from those responsible by not forcing them into the unnecessary publicity of the courts.

Again we find that a number of the children committed are deserted by their fathers. To combat this, I can only suggest again that, if an Act were in force to enable the Department in one State to take proceedings on behalf of the Department in another State, to collect maintenance due, a large sum would be collected. Such a measure would also act as a deterrent, as the father would not then desert for the purpose of evading his responsibilities.

*Service.*—The number of children placed at service for the first time this year is as follows:—Boys, 152. Girls, 77.

All the year through, there has been a constant demand for the services of the children, especially for girls from 16 to 20 years of age. Most of the boys are placed out in carefully selected farm homes in the country, the girls mostly find their way to good suburban homes. The Department's officers do their best to secure for each child the wage he or she is considered to be worth. The usual starting wage is 4s., and the wages agreement is subsequently reviewed, sometimes in three months, more often after six months or nine.

Through the additions made to the staff, I have been able to have more regular and satisfactory supervision of the girl service homes. Miss Berry now devotes the whole of her time to the supervision of the suburban service homes and the girls, and I hope next year to have an officer specially set apart to do the same for the boys.

The interest shown by foster parents in providing trades, business, &c., for children boarded out to them still continues, as shown by the number so provided for. Two of the boys proved themselves so able and ambitious at their studies that they qualified themselves for a higher education, and have been placed at college, where they are acquitting themselves well.

I have again to express my conviction as to the existing need for a good Government farm training establishment, where boys could be sent for one or two years, before being launched out into the battle of life.

The disposal of boys for the year was as follows:—Farm service, 104; dairy farms, 13; Rutherglen Farm College, 5; orchardists, 4; grazier, 4; grooms, 3; engineering, 1; printing, 1; blacksmith, 1; grocery, 1; butchering, 1; hairdressing, 1. Twelve boys were placed out in homes where duties were of a somewhat domestic character, and garden work; one lad who had a fancy for a seafaring life was placed on a trading vessel.

The amount banked by the Department to the credit of service children for the year amounted to £2,933 8s. 1d. The balance at credit at the end of the year was £8,897 15s. 2d.

The total number of children who were a cost to the State on the 31st December, 1908 and 1909 respectively, was as follows:—

NEGLECTED.		1908.	1909.	REFORMATORY.		1908.	1909.
Boarded out	...	3,711	4,247				
In Institutions	...	291	319	In institutions	...	161	133
Total	...	4,002	4,566			161	133

Of these 4,247 children, 2,435 were placed in foster homes, and 1,812 were left with their mothers. The mothers number 845.

*Boarded out with Foster Parents.*—The Ladies' Committees continue to take great interest in finding suitable homes for the boarded-out children and in watching over their welfare. The amount of time and trouble they spend in those duties must be considerable, and the Department recognizes the assistance thus afforded, and wishes to take this opportunity of expressing the thanks due to these ladies for the excellent way in which they carry out these duties, especially those of the Ladies' Correspondents. The general health of the children for the year has been good. The average number of children boarded out for 1909 was 4,110, including those left with their mothers. In some cases we have been obliged to remove the children through the inability of the mother or foster parent to control them. Those so removed are placed in institutions. The foster homes still show satisfactory results.

The number of children placed on probation with friends or relatives was 731, thus relieving the Department of considerable expense. The fact that these people desire to keep these children at their own cost insures, in nearly every case, affection for the child and a good home. In a few cases we have had occasion to remove the children.

*Transfers from Gaol.* Section 333, Act 1079.—During the current year there were twelve transferred from gaol, with the most gratifying results. In the majority of these cases the boys, who have been placed in situations or with friends, are doing very well indeed, and the fact that they recognize, and are grateful for, the assistance given them, shown by letters received from them, proves the usefulness of this section, whereby we are enabled to rescue these boys from a criminal career and give them an opportunity of developing into useful citizens. Nearly all these cases passed through Mr. Groom's hands, and it is no doubt, in a great measure, due to his management and tact in dealing with these boys that we owe the good results obtained.

*Receiving Dépôt, Royal Park.*—The large number of infants still being received at the Dépôt through the operation of the provisions of the Infant Life Protection Act, has rendered necessary a further addition to the staff, an extra nurse having been appointed.

In view of the number of infants already received, and of those constantly being received, I would strongly urge the necessity of providing a properly equipped nursery, the existing nursery accommodation is totally inadequate, and, in consequence, the medical officers report that it is impossible to properly treat the infants. In the event of any infectious disease being brought in by an infant, there is no provision for effective isolation. A drying room is another urgent need.

The new brick buildings are nearly completed, and will be occupied by the boys in a few weeks. They will, no doubt be a great improvement on the old wooden dormitories. A separate dining-room for the better classification of the boys is necessary.

The returns from farm and garden are satisfactory, and the labour entailed in carrying them on, keeps the reformatory boys engaged in beneficial and lucrative employment.

*Rutherglen Viticultural College.*—The boys at Rutherglen, at the end of the year, number 23. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in supplying the class of boys expected by Mr. Adcock, but those we have sent are doing very well. The following are extracts from the report of the Principal at the annual distribution of prizes:—

“Regarding the work of the past twelve months, we have never had so successful a year. Results justify the brightest optimism. Never before, in the history of the College, has the general conduct of the boys been so good. A pleasing feature in the work is the voluntary help of some of our senior boys in endeavouring to raise the tone among the smaller boys. Several boys have gone out into the world to fight their own way, and uphold the honour of the Viticultural College, and are doing well. Such results inspire the brightest hopes. This is no “kid-glove institution. All is practical.”

*East Melbourne Training Home.*—Girls have been sent to this home, under the capable management of Miss Watson. Those over the age of fourteen years receive training to fit themselves for domestic service.

*Albion Home, Glenroy, for Protestant Girls.*—The girls sent to this home require special training to fit themselves for service. Great credit is due to the matron for the interest she takes in finding them good service homes.

*Bayswater Home for Protestant Boys.*—It is to this home we send boys whom we are obliged (on account of waywardness, and those who are backward at school), to remove from their parents or foster homes. The average number for the year was 82. On my visits, I found the boys happy and contented, and making good progress with their school work. Major Head, the Superintendent, is very successful in dealing with the boys committed to his care.

*Christian Brothers' Home for Roman Catholic Boys, Geelong.*—This home is for similar wayward and backward boys of the Roman Catholic religion. The Rev. Brothers certainly have special ability in dealing with these lads, as shown by the regard and respect in which they are held by the boys.

*Industrial School, Abbotsford, for Roman Catholic Girls.*—The girls sent to this home are of a similar character to those sent to the Albion Home for Protestants. To the kind and tactful manner of treating the girls in this home I attribute the excellent results obtained by these ladies in their good work.

PRIVATE REFORMATORIES.

	<i>Boys.</i>				<i>Inmates.</i>
Bayswater (Salvation Army)	...	...	...	...	20
Excelsior Home, Brighton (Protestant and Roman Catholic)	...	...	...	...	9
Heathfield Home, Apollo Bay (Church of England)	...	...	...	...	1
Kingsbury, Newstead (Protestant)	...	...	...	...	3
Straight View, Harcourt (Roman Catholic)	...	...	...	...	1
Mount Paradise, Pakenham (Roman Catholic)	...	...	...	...	2
	<i>Girls.</i>				
Riddell's Creek (Salvation Army)	...	...	...	...	21
Murrumbeena (branch of Riddell's Creek)	...	...	...	...	29
Mintaro Home, Monnegatta (Methodist)	...	...	...	...	25
Oakleigh Convent (Roman Catholic)	...	...	...	...	19
Total	...	...	...	...	130

*Riddell's Creek Reformatory for Protestant Girls.*—The matron, Miss Lane, deserves great credit for the way in which she manages the difficult girls placed in her charge. It surprised me, on my visits, to find general contentment amongst them, which is hardly to be expected in girls of their class.

*Murrumbeena Sub-Reformatory.*—This is a branch of Riddell's Creek, but is for girls who are less troublesome in their behaviour. I find this classifying much to be recommended. The matron is very successful in her treatment of the girls.

*Mintaro, Monnegatta, Methodist Home.*—This home is for girls of a similar class to those sent to Riddell's Creek. Mrs. Adamson appears to train the girls well, and a high percentage of those placed at service give every satisfaction.

*Oakleigh Reformatory for Roman Catholic Girls.*—Considering the class of girls received into this home, the results are very satisfactory. The Rev. Mother and Sister in charge no doubt exercise an influence for good over the girls, with gratifying results.

*Bayswater Reformatory for Protestant Boys.*—The number of boys in this home for the year averaged 20. These boys had excellent training in all branches of farm work, under the capable care of Major Head and staff. These lads are thus turned out efficient farm hands.

*Excelsior Home, Brighton.*—The usual success shown by Mr. Groom, the superintendent, in his management of the boys is again repeated in this year's work. Very few lads fail to respond to the influence for good, which Mr. Groom exercises over them.

*Heathfield Home, Apollo Bay, and Kingsbury Reformatory, Newstead, Protestant—Straight View and Mount Paradise, Roman Catholic.*—There are only seven boys in these homes. On my visits, I found the lads in good health. They are trained in the usual farm pursuits.

## INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT.

The work of the Infant Life Protection Act is still going on fairly satisfactorily.

The total number of "Applications to Board Out" dealt with since the Department took control of the work on 1st January, 1908, to 31st December, 1909, is 942, and the number dealt with for 1909, is 354.

The total number of infants under constant supervision on 31st December, 1909, was 344, of these 150 were under twelve months old, and 194 over that age.

The deaths amounted to 34 (as against 48 for 1908, and 71 for 1907). A death rate of 10 per cent., which, as against 7 per cent. of legitimate children, and 19.7 per cent. for illegitimate children, as reported by the Government Statist, is, I think, satisfactory, seeing that these infants are handed over to the nurses, in a great many cases, in a very neglected and emaciated condition. If intelligent supervision could be tactfully exercised before these infants are boarded out from the Maternity Homes, I feel sure the death rate would be still further reduced. There is urgent need for amendment of the Act in this direction.

During the year, 647 infants have been under supervision. Of these, 158 have become wards of the Department (section 9, Act 2102), 34 have died, and these, with the 344 still under notice on 31st December, 1909, leaves 111 children who have been taken charge of by the relatives or parents, or have attained the age of five years, and so passed from supervision.

Of the 354 applications to "board out," dealt with for the year under review, 54 were born in wedlock, and 43 illegitimates over twelve months old at the time the application to board out was made, thus leaving 257 illegitimate infants under one year dealt with under the Act for 1909.

I am advised by the Government Statist that 1,867 illegitimate births were registered for 1909, allowing for the 257 applications to board out received by the Department for infants under twelve months, this leaves the large number of 1,610 to a certain extent unaccounted for. Many mothers take their infants with them into situations, and there are a few societies, exempted by the Minister, which take in, and deal with, infant life, but allowing for this, the disparity in the numbers is very great, and calls for urgent and serious attention. To properly protect infant life, the Department should be in a position to say, with some degree of definiteness, what has been done with the large number of infants at present unaccounted for, and to see that they have a fair chance of surviving.

One hundred and seven adoptions were reported, and seven exemptions allowed during the year. There is urgent need for amendment of the Act regarding adoptions, to allow the Department the power of veto, and, in cases where adoptions are allowed, the power of discretionary and tactful supervision.

There are now so many applications from women wishing to register for the care of these infants, that the Department is in a position to discriminate in a larger degree as to the homes to be selected. Those that are not altogether satisfactory are being put on one side. As time goes on, this improvement will be continued. The Inspectors are zealous in the discharge of their duties, and, particularly in the cases of sick infants, the homes are visited very frequently, sometimes twice in the one day, to see that the medical officer's instructions are being properly carried out. The diminishing death rate showing, as far as the Act goes, it is to some extent carrying out the object for which it was established. Any case of reported neglect is at once brought under notice, and promptly dealt with.

Another urgent need is a depôt where sick infants can be taken for special medical care and attention. This could be done at the Receiving Depôt, Royal Park, if sufficient accommodation were provided. The Inspectors report the nurses careful and conscientious; but, in the case of serious illness, skilled nursing and special medical care and attention are invaluable.

The amount received from parents was £6,477 16s. 4d. for children in registered homes, being an increase of £718 11s. 7d. on that received for 1908. This money was all paid out to registered nurses.



## DEATHS, 1909.

Districts.		Months.		Age at Time of Death.					
Ballarat East	...	1	January	...	5	4 weeks	...	3	
„ West	...	1	February	...	7	2 months	...	10	
Bendigo	...	7	March	...	5	3 „	...	5	
Brunswick	...	2	April	...	3	4 „	...	5	
Camperdown	...	1	May	...	1	5 „	...	5	
Carlton	...	4	June	...	—	6 „	...	2	
Canfield	...	1	July	...	3	8 „	...	3	
Collingwood	...	1	August	...	1	18 „	...	1	
Fitzroy	...	1	September	...	—			—	
Gisborne	...	1	October	...	—		Total	...	34
Geelong	...	2	November	...	2			—	
Moonee Ponds	...	3	December	...	7			—	
Northcote	...	1			—			—	
Port Melbourne	...	2	Total	...	34			—	
South Yarra	...	1			—			—	
Stawell	...	1			—			—	
Warrnambool	...	1			—			—	
Depôt	...	3			—			—	
Total	...	34			—			—	

## AGES OF INFANTS IN REGISTERED HOMES ON 31st DECEMBER, 1909.

3 weeks.	2 mths.	3 mths.	4 mths.	5 mths.	6 mths.	7 mths.	8 mths.	9 mths.	10 mths.	11 mths.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	TOTAL.
2	30	22	20	19	14	14	8	5	4	11	78	51	38	27	344

There were 205 registered homes with 1 child	...	...	...	205
„ „ 50 „ „ 2 children	...	...	...	100
„ „ 9 „ „ 3 „	...	...	...	27
„ „ 3 „ „ 4 „	...	...	...	12
Total	...	...	...	344

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

Colitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enterocolitis and Exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gastro-enteritis and Exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ „ Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Asthenia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis and Congestion of Brain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Degeneration and General Asthenia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastro-enteritis and Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Inflammation of Bowels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia, Convulsions, and Heart Failure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coma and Cerebral Inflammation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tubercular Meningitis and Exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ileo-colitis and Exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34

Coronial inquiries were held in 4 cases, but no blame was attachable to the nurses.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. SMITH,  
Secretary.

To the Honorable The Chief Secretary.



## CAUSES OF DEATH.

Marasmus and enteritis ... ..	1	Measles ... ..	1
Inflammation of stomach ... ..	1	Scarlet fever ... ..	1
Gastro-enteritis ... ..	8	Congenital athrepsia ... ..	1
Entero-colitis ... ..	5	Pneumonia ... ..	4
Enteritis and exhaustion ... ..	2	Spinal disease ... ..	1
Convulsions and whooping cough ... ..	1	Intussusception and exhaustion ... ..	1
Diarrhœa ... ..	3	Athrepsia and exhaustion ... ..	2
Meningitis ... ..	6	Drowning... ..	1
Broncho-pneumonia ... ..	8	Peritonitis ... ..	1
Congenital syphilis ... ..	8	Bronchitis ... ..	1
Congenital debility and exhaustion ... ..	2	Tuberculosis of brain ... ..	1
Marasmus ... ..	2	Convulsions ... ..	2
Hernia... ..	1	Enteritis and asthenia ... ..	1
Inflammation of kidneys ... ..	1	Inflammation of bowels ... ..	1
Gastritis ... ..	3	Asthenia and congenital syphilis ... ..	1
General debility and whooping cough ... ..	1	Congenital heart disease ... ..	2
Asthenia and exhaustion ... ..	1	Tumor on brain ... ..	1
Toxæmia ... ..	1	Tubercular disease and exhaustion ... ..	1
Tubercular meningitis ... ..	3	Diphtheria ... ..	1

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

Name of Society or Person	Children under Supervision on 31.12.08.	Admissions during 1909.			Children under Supervision on 31.12.09.
		Court Committals.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society ... ..	299	4	17	1	300
Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society ... ..	483	...	...	39	419
Church of England Neglected Children's Aid Society ... ..	106	2	2	18	96
Methodist Homes for Children ... ..	379	18	9	30	426
Misses Colvin and Bromly, Clifden Home, Wedderburn ... ..	107	...	...	...	102
Gordon Institute, Melbourne ... ..	218	4	6	40	226
Burwood Boys' Home ... ..	70	...	20	7	87
Geelong Try Boys' Brigade ... ..	111	...	...	34	111
Methodist Boys' Training Farm, Burwood East ... ..	78	1	...	21	80
Latrobe-street Ragged School Mission ... ..	92	2	...	92	94
Mission Rescue and Children's Home, Ballarat East ... ..	38	5	1	17	42
Presbyterian Home for Girls, Elsternwick ... ..	6	3	3	2	11
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills ... ..	139	2	...	49	157
Mr. W. M. Forster (Try Society), Hawksburn ... ..	23	1	...	35	24
Total ... ..	2,149	42	58	385	2,175

TABLE IV.—PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED IN 1909.

Particulars supplied with Order of Committal.	Neglected.	Reformatory.	Total.
Parents dead ... ..	12	1	13
„ unknown ... ..	8	...	8
„ deserted ... ..	8	1	9
„ drunkards ... ..	4	...	4
„ poor, of good character ... ..	47	27	74
Father dead; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	448	6	454
„ „ a cripple ... ..	1	...	1
„ „ an invalid ... ..	1	...	1
„ „ in Hospital ... ..	1	...	1
„ „ a drunkard ... ..	10	...	10
„ „ in lunatic asylum ... ..	4	...	4
„ „ deserted ... ..	1	...	1
Father deserted; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	372	6	378
„ „ dead... ..	18	...	18
„ „ a cripple ... ..	1	...	1
„ „ in lunatic asylum ... ..	1	...	1
„ „ in hospital ... ..	1	...	1
„ „ imbecile ... ..	2	...	2
„ „ a drunkard ... ..	5	1	6
„ „ immoral ... ..	3	...	3
„ „ of bad character ... ..	2	...	2
Father unknown; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	26	...	26
„ „ in hospital ... ..	1	...	1
„ „ in lunatic asylum ... ..	3	...	3
„ „ dead ... ..	6	...	6
„ „ imbecile ... ..	4	...	4
„ „ deserted ... ..	9	...	9
„ „ in gaol ... ..	2	...	2
Father a drunkard; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	4	3	7
„ „ dead ... ..	2	...	2
„ „ in gaol ... ..	2	...	2
„ „ immoral ... ..	4	...	4
„ „ of bad character ... ..	5	2	7
Father in gaol; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	29	1	30
„ „ dead... ..	2	...	2
„ „ in hospital ... ..	2	...	2
Father poor; Mother deserted ... ..	5	...	5
„ „ dead ... ..	14	3	17
„ „ imbecile ... ..	1	...	1
„ „ a drunkard ... ..	3	...	3
„ „ immoral ... ..	6	...	6
„ „ in gaol ... ..	3	...	3
Father an invalid; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	67	2	69
„ an imbecile; „ „ „ „ ... ..	...	1	1
„ in lunatic asylum; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	15	...	15
„ in hospital; Mother poor, of good character ... ..	32	...	32
„ blind „ „ „ „ ... ..	10	...	10
„ epileptic „ „ „ „ ... ..	2	...	2
„ a cripple „ „ „ „ ... ..	...	1	1
„ „ Mother dead ... ..	9	...	9
„ a bad character; Mother in hospital ... ..	1	...	1
	1,219	55	1,274

TABLE V.—TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN—  
NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY, 1909.

Neglected Children.	Average strength	Items of Expenditure.												Total.
		Provi- sions.	Clothing and Bedding.	Fuel and Light.	Stores, Stock, &c.	Medical Attend- ance.	Incidi- dentials.	Transport and Travelling.	Tele- phone Services.	Salaries.	Postage and Tele- grams	Mainte- nance.		
		£ 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 Abbotsford Indus- trial School ..	99	587 14 10	115 10 0	361 10 0	236 18 5	39 17 9	271 17 0	..	..	1,871 1 8	..	..	3,484 9 8	
Training Home for Girls ..	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	574 9 4	574 9 4	
Service Children ..	17	..	385 5 8	..	..	8 10 8	..	..	..	..	..	248 17 11	257 8 7	
Boarded-out Child- ren ..	4,110	..	1,205 2 11	..	..	3,286 5 6	..	1,076 12 1*	..	..	..	57,679 5 10	62,738 10 2	
Telephone Services ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56 11 4	..	..	..	56 11 4	
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>587 14 10</b>	<b>1,705 18 7</b>	<b>361 10 0</b>	<b>236 18 5</b>	<b>5,334 13 11</b>	<b>271 17 0</b>	<b>1,644 8 0</b>	<b>56 11 4</b>	<b>1,871 1 8</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>58,502 13 1</b>	<b>68,573 6 10</b>	
<b>Reformatory Child- ren.</b>														
Oakleigh (Girls) ..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	588 5 9	588 5 9	
Riddell's Creek (Girls)	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,357 12 1	1,357 12 1	
Mintaro (Girls) ..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	736 15 10	736 15 10	
Excelsior Home, Brighton (Boys) ..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	314 14 1	314 14 1	
Kingsbury (Boys) ..	2.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65 12 10	65 12 10	
Straight View Farm (Boys) ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49 6 10	49 6 10	
Heathfield Home (Boys) ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	162 9 5	162 9 5	
Mount Paradise (Boys)	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109 17 4	109 17 4	
Bayswater (Boys) ..	2.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	518 3 1	518 3 1	
Service Children ..	..	..	268 11 11	..	..	..	..	209 10 2	..	..	..	478 2 1	478 2 1	
Telephone Services ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	112 4 7	..	..	..	112 4 7	
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>151.5</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>268 11 11</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>209 10 2</b>	<b>112 4 7</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>3,902 17 3</b>	<b>4,493 3 11</b>	
Head Office ..	..	..	..	11 18 7	47 14 9	..	110 2 8	618 18 2	..	5,026 18 11	300 10 0	..	6,116 3 1	
<b>Grand Total ..</b>	<b>4,421.5</b>	<b>587 14 10</b>	<b>1,974 10 6</b>	<b>373 8 7</b>	<b>284 13 2</b>	<b>3,334 13 11</b>	<b>381 19 8</b>	<b>2,472 16 4</b>	<b>168 15 11</b>	<b>6,898 0 7</b>	<b>300 10 0</b>	<b>62,405 10 4</b>	<b>79,182 13 10</b>	
<i>Deduct—</i> Amount received for Maintenance of Child- ren, £2,677 14s. 4d. All other receipts £47 8s. 6d.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,725 2 10	
<b>Net cost ..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>76,457 11 0</b>	

\*£549 7s. 1d. of this expenditure was incurred under Part VIII. of the Neglected Children's Act.

TABLE VI.—AGES, RELIGIONS, AND BIRTHPLACES OF CHILDREN  
COMMITTED IN 1909.

## AGES.

	Under 1 year.	AGES.															Total.	
		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		Over 16
Neglected ...	327	123	92	84	90	90	73	75	70	69	36	30	24	15	10	8	3	1,219
Reformatory ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	3	3	9	9	8	21	55
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,274</b>

## RELIGIONS AND BIRTHPLACES.

	Number Committed.	Religions.			Birthplaces.		
		Protestant.	Roman Catholic.	Jew.	Australia and New Zealand.	England.	Unknown.
Neglected ...	1,219	845	372	2	1,210	3	6
Reformatory ...	55	43	12	..	55	..	..
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

## REPORTS OF SCHOOLS.

### RECEIVING DEPÔTS, ROYAL PARK.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1909.

It has been a very busy year. During the early part of the year, we had a large number of infants brought to us suffering from summer diarrhoea and vomiting; later on in the year, we received a number of children suffering from whooping cough, in one instance a family of five, all of whom had the disease in a severe form, and, although we took every precaution, some of the children in the depôt contracted the disease, at one time we had as many as 22 children in the tent together.

The amount of sickness and the wet winter made us feel the need of a drying room more than usual, it was very difficult to get enough clothing dry for the use of the children.

There were 26 deaths during the year of infants, and two of older children; these children were all in bad health when received, in some cases dying almost immediately on admission.

I am glad to be able to report the new buildings for the senior and reformatory boys are nearly completed.

I have also to report that the Girls' Reformatory has been painted throughout, and the two attendants' rooms papered.

The children have had several treats during the year, a few of the big girls were taken to Launching Place for the day, and had a picnic among the ferns.

The committee ladies and gentlemen gave their annual treat to the children, which is always looked forward to, and a number of children were taken to an open-air entertainment at St. George's Church, and other friends have entertained the children with magic lantern and gramophone, and the Brunswick String Band gave us a very pleasant evening with selections of music.

On Christmas eve, Mrs. Godfrey, assisted by Master and Miss Godfrey, gave the children a Christmas tree, every child in the depôts receiving a suitable gift, in some cases two or three. The children rendered some action songs very creditably, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

We tender our sincere thanks to the kind friends who sent presents of toys and books, and also to those who sent us donations for Christmas.

The Rev. H. F. Miller and Mrs. Delaney attend very regularly, and give religious instruction to the Protestant children.

The Rev. Father Keenan attends regularly for the Catholic boys, and the nuns visit the Catholic girls.

E. S. GODDARD, Matron.

### REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER.

I have the honour to briefly report as follows, on some aspects of the medical work at this institution:—

Since the introduction of certain clauses of the *Infants Life Protection Act*, the number of ill-nourished, sickly, diseased and emaciated infants admitted to the depôt has been proportionately much greater than formerly. The fact of their

being literally "neglected children" in the majority of cases, almost of necessity implies impaired health, and the consequence is that about two-thirds of the infants received require active medical treatment—more or less prolonged—at the depôt. Many of these cases are, so far as saving their lives is concerned, almost hopeless from the start, particularly those with congenital disease. In consequence of these facts the mortality of infants under twelve months old has been unusually high. By reason of the fact that children suffering from "congenital disease," and certain other conditions, cannot be sent out to foster mothers, there is a tendency to accumulation in the depôt of sick and diseased infants. These cases are at present treated in tents when possible, but the equipment is less than elementary, and the method of supervision and care, especially at night time, is most cumbersome and unsatisfactory; and proper segregation is practically impossible. These defects will have to be overcome by the construction as soon as possible of a new building to replace the present night nursery (a most inadequate structure). Such new building should contain two dormitories, each holding twelve to fifteen beds, with accommodation for nurse and the necessary officers. In addition, there should be three or four isolation rooms attached. Suitable verandahs for open-air treatment will also be required. By this means the present night nursery could revert to its original purpose—that of a play room. With regard to the older children there have been a great number returned from being boarded out for the purpose of special medical treatment of various ailments, affections of the eyes being particularly numerous. Epidemic disease has not been unduly prevalent, except as regards whooping cough, which spread extensively, and has been most difficult to stamp out. A few sporadic cases of typhoid, diphtheria, and measles have been discovered from time to time. The nursing staff might be rendered more efficient by the appointment of an extra nurse or two.

C. E. GODFREY, M.R.C.S., Eng., &c.  
Acting Medical Officer.

31.12.09.

The Secretary,  
Neglected Children's Department.

### REPORT OF THE ROYAL PARK VISITING COMMITTEE.

The Visiting Committee have much pleasure in forwarding their yearly report for the year ending 31st December, 1909.

In their monthly visitation and inspection, they have found the several departments, both male and female, satisfactory, the management and attendants attentive to the interests of the inmates. The boys will soon be able to occupy the new building, which, with its up-to-date appliances, will add greatly to the supervision and management of the section. The committee is anxious that their recommendation for a separate building will soon be realized. From observation it has become a necessity.

We are also pleased to note the favorable reports of many of the wards sent to service.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WALKER, Chairman.  
R. P. LORD, Correspondent.

## ABBOTSFORD INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

I have the honour to forward my report for the year ended 31st December, 1909. The number of girls remaining in the school on 31st December, 1908, was 28.

*Admissions.*

Remaining in school on 1.1.09	...	28
Admitted (including re-admissions)	...	40
Transferred from Dépôt	...	8
Transferred from Hospital	...	1
		—
Total	...	77

*Removals.*

To service	...	42
Discharged on probation	...	1
Transferred to Dépôt	...	1
Transferred to Hospital	...	1
Discharged	...	4
For holidays	...	2
Died	...	1
Remaining, 31.12.09	...	25
		—
Total	...	77

The girls' health was robust during the year, excepting three epileptic patients, one of whom it became necessary to have transferred to an asylum.

Regarding the girls placed at service, it may be said the majority proved satisfactory, but, in a few cases, there has been a lack on the girls' part to co-operate with the efforts made to induce the necessary desire and endeavour towards improvement and overcoming of habitual faults. Girls whose terms of control have expired continue to visit or correspond, when advice or assistance in procuring situations is required. Several of those girls are earning good wages, up to 10s., 12s., and 15s. weekly. As far as possible, the sisters keep in touch with girls who have left the school.

Grateful appreciation is felt for the valuable service rendered from time to time by Miss Berry, who, as departmental visitor, has evinced ever ready and practical interest in girls' welfare, her kindly and prudent influence being very beneficial to the girls in service homes, whom Miss Berry has occasion to visit. The sisters also wish to thank the officers of the Department for their uniform courtesy in all business transactions.

During the year, each festive season was marked by special treats, entertainments, and enjoyment for the girls at Abbotsford. In addition to those home recreations, they attended two matinees to view the celebrated moving pictures at the Bijou Theatre, for which rare pleasure the girls are indebted to J. A. Wilson, Esq. A generous distribution of gifts, also a repast in the refectory, were enjoyed by the girls early in the new year, the funds for which had been donated by Mr. C. Gollin, as recorded in last report. Mrs. G. Fairbairn also gave an afternoon tea on Empire Day, which the girls enjoyed very much. Other kind friends to whom the children are specially indebted for unvarying interest are Mr. and Mrs. D. Slattery, of East Melbourne, who provided a most pleasurable afternoon tea for the whole school at midwinter.

Rev. E. O'Brien, of Collingwood, entertained them on another occasion by an instructive lecture, illustrated by limelight views, on his travels through Jerusalem. Mr. M. Ward and Mr. Kyrle gave a very fine bioscope entertainment, which was both enjoyable and instructive. For these and many other kindnesses shown them during the year, much gratitude is felt.

Among the gala days were those on which the school was honoured by the visits of His Grace the Most Rev. T. J. Carr, D.D., Archbishop of Melbourne, Her Excellency Lady Gibson-Carmichael

and party, the Hon. J. Murray, Premier of Victoria, and party; the Hon. W. A. Watt, Treasurer of Victoria, and party; the Hon. Will Crooks, M.P., of London. The latter promised to report to His Gracious Majesty King Edward the loyalty shown by the girls at Abbotsford in song and recitation, and, true to his word, Mr. Crooks has recently intimated that His Gracious Majesty requested him by letter to express "How greatly the King appreciates the loyalty shown on the occasion of Mr. Crooks' visit to the Industrial School, Abbotsford."

On the whole, no opportunity was lost of improving the girl's minds, and encouraging them to aim at advancing their future prospects. Some, of course, benefit by these helps, but the majority prove themselves incapable of self-reliance, and seem always to need guidance and supervision, hence the difficulty and risk of finding such individuals suitable means of livelihood.

With reference to the children on the school roll, they were examined on 21st December, 1909, by Mr. Gates, who accorded the following report:—

"Visited to examine school, and some candidates for exemption and merit certificates. Present 13. Industrial school is held in a nice room, clean, bright, and nicely decorated. The light is not strong enough on a dull day. Specimens for nature-study kept, some living examples under study, birds, silkworms, &c.

"Classification is accepted. Promotions for the year, 88 per cent. The school may now be promoted almost bodily. *Progress* on whole, good. Examination preparations were duly made, pupils properly placed, and provided with all requisites. Classes are mostly very old, conditions of the school render this unavoidable as a rule. The examination was held on the lines of the State school examinations. It is a good one. Class II. secures 78 per cent., very good. The first class girl gets 66 per cent., in her case, this is good. The recorded work is mostly very good. *Drawing*—Some nice work shown, but in cases more freehand is needed, and in some others more work should be presented. *Needlework* is very nice throughout. *Reading* good. Some III. Class girls need plenty of individual practice. The *School Papers* are used in the V. and VI. classes; they would also be found useful in the III. and IV. classes. *Arithmetic* good. More attention may well be given to reasons, methods, and definitions. Spelling of I. and III. weak. At geography and history the answering was fairly good by some of the pupils. Many, however, had not a real grasp of the subjects, they have not got beyond the words. *Singing* is tuneful and expressive. A little scale practice would be useful. *Drill* good; details of exercises may be improved."

But, on the whole, I can record that these children are being carefully and methodically trained. The sisters are working well and earnestly. The girls behave very nicely. Last quarter's attendances to be registered."

I have the honour to remain, sir,

Yours respectfully,

MARY F. CORBETT,  
Acting Superioress.

TRAINING HOME FOR PROTESTANT  
GIRLS, EAST MELBOURNE.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1909.

We have had a most prosperous year, especially the last six months. Last August, the trustees of the James Russell McPherson estate gave £300 to do up the laundry. Since then, all our friends

have rallied round us, and given and collected enough money to pay our debts, and give us many improvements.

A second story has been built to the laundry, and it has been renovated, and fitted up with every convenience, a special feature being to save labour. A thanksgiving service was held on Thursday afternoon, December, 22nd, by the Rev. B. Newport White, which was attended by many friends, and all our service and present girls; the same evening, a Christmas tree was given to the inmates by some of the service girls, especially Phœbe Westcott and Minnie Burrows. The former was dressed up like Father Christmas, greatly to the children's delight.

The health of the inmates has been good, the only illness being two cases of scarlet fever, which were very mild, and were treated at the Infectious Hospital.

We have had a number of cases of post nasal growth; we had eighteen operations in three months; and generally have twelve girls attending the Eye and Ear Hospital. Many of the girls have to get glasses as their sight is defective. For six months past, there have been some girls attending the hospital every day of the week but Sunday.

The Committee feel deeply gratified to our honorary doctors, Dr. Percy Webster, Dr. W. R. Boyd, and Dr. J. H. Boyd, also Dr. Kendall, and Mr. F. H. Baker, the honorary dentist, who have all been most kind and attentive when needed.

The girls' conduct has been fairly good. Of course, there are always some who give trouble, but many who are troublesome when they come, greatly improve after a short time.

The service girls are staying out well, and giving satisfaction. I had very few returned last year. I have very good reports from those who have gone out lately. We are greatly encouraged by the way the girls behave when out, and they are so respectable and honest.

Two girls who were here twelve years ago, have asked to come and stay here. One girl is married, and brought her little baby boy for us to mind while she went to the Hospital to undergo an operation.

The Committee are deeply grateful to all the friends who have helped us, the Christmas donations were most generous and numerous, both in money and kind.

Their thanks is also due to Mrs. Ross, of the Metropolitan Gas Company, who gave the girls twelve lessons of two and a half hours in cooking, Mr. John Grice very kindly providing the material. These lessons have been most helpful, and very greatly appreciated by the girls, who were very sorry when they were over.

The religious instruction given by the ladies of the Missionary Training Home has been most helpful. The girls have greatly improved since they taught them.

LILLIAN M. WATSON,  
Matron.

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

I have the honour to submit a brief report of the work done during the past year.

First would I sound a note of thanksgiving with regard to the health of the children. This has been exceptionally good. The training of our girls for efficient service and good citizenship has been the chief work of the staff, and very gratifying have been the results.

About thirty-five girls were sent to situations during the year, most of whom are doing well. There have, of course, been disappointments in this direction, but on the whole the girls have striven to do well.

There being so many little folk in the Home, the playground is in almost constant requisition, and without a doubt the happiest feature of our home life is the children at play. How they do enjoy themselves! Indeed, this is so noticeable that a neighbour composed a song about the "happy Glenroy children."

The visitors, almost without exception, must visit the playground, and be initiated into the mysteries of cricket, rounders, French and English, &c., &c. There are two cricket teams, "Wallaby" and "All Blacks," and a great amount of friendly "barrack" is indulged in during a match. The outdoor games do much in the way of building up both the physique and character of the girls. Our thanks are due to the many friends who, from time to time, help in the entertaining of the children. The Presbyterian Church Committee have kindly invited the children to a tea-meeting and concert on two occasions during the year. Mrs. Cartwright also sent a huge "bran-pie," in which was a present for each child. Mrs. Pearson also sent a Christmas present all round.

The annual treat was much enjoyed, each child receiving either a beautiful doll, or silver thimble, according to her age. Christmas in the Home was a time of merry making, and exchanging of gifts one to another. There have also been several entertainments and meetings given by the Salvation Army, which have contributed largely to the happiness of the children. Commissioner and Mrs. Hay and staff have visited the Home, and held a meeting with the girls, which was much enjoyed.

WINNIE HORSLEY,  
Matron.

#### BAYSWATER HOME FOR PROTESTANT BOYS.

For the better classification of boys, a third Home has been opened here, which is proving a success. On the whole, the conduct of the boys has been satisfactory, also the health of same, although a rather severe epidemic of influenza swept over the Home causing discomfort to the boys, and a great deal of extra work and anxiety to the Matrons. One boy died from pneumonia supervening on influenza. All the others, under the skilful care of Dr. Craig, recovered. A large number of boys have been placed out at service, and a large percentage have done well, as well as a number allowed on probation. The standard of schooling has been more than maintained, and the examination showed a very careful attention to this very necessary work. The dairy has been much improved at the Home. Refrigerating machinery has been placed here, also the latest appliances for treating milk. This has brought it up to date. We have also had the electric light installed in all the Homes, and close the year feeling that very satisfactory progress has been made.

#### THE REFORMATORY.

The work at this Home has been of a most encouraging nature. The boys, on the whole, have been most amenable to the discipline of same, and for the last six months of the year, not a single case of absconding has taken place. Useful work has been taught them, and gratuity wages have been given.

A number have been placed in situations, also on probation. Some who have been placed at situations have left same without permission, and have



been brought back to the Home, but a number are doing well at the places they have been sent to. The probation boys are doing well, constant touch is kept with same. Numerous games have been entered into with spirit against neighbouring clubs. The annual picnics were a great success. The boys at this Home have officers who take a personal interest in each one, and who are respected very highly by the boys.

ALF. G. HEAD,  
Superintendent.

#### MINTARO REFORMATORY FOR PROTESTANT GIRLS, MONEGATTA.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the work at the Mintaro Girls' Home is still proceeding in a satisfactory and successful manner. The discipline of the Home has been well maintained during the year, and, as an evidence of this fact, there has not been one act of serious insubordination or absconding. The girls who are out in situations, and still under our care, are giving general satisfaction, and whilst we have had some disappointments, on the other hand, very cheering evidences have been given of the uplift that has come into the lives of several of the girls who had been the cause of some anxiety. We still continue the "mark" system, and are more than ever convinced that it is a helpful adjunct to our work.

In the ordinary routine of the Home, we still train the girls in all household work, plain and fancy needlework, also machine knitting, and should a girl show any speciality for any other work, we give her the opportunity of entering the larger sphere.

The moral side of the girls' lives is still our chief care. Divine service is held regularly every Sunday, and also Bible class and Sunday-school. During the week, there are regular hours for recreation, and, in every wise way, we seek to bring as much brightness as possible into the lives of the girls, and, at the same time fit them for their life work.

During my visit to England, I had frequent opportunity of inspecting similar work in the Old Land, and comparing ours with theirs. As might be supposed, the work in England is different from ours, nevertheless, the work done in Victoria does not suffer by comparison as to its quality and results. One thing I could wish that we had here. In England, the girls are taken very much younger, and all my experience points in that direction, as a deep necessity for successful reformatory work. I gained much valuable information whilst visiting some of the reformatory schools in England, and received great courtesy from the Chief Inspector and officers of the Home Department in London. I hope to adopt some of their methods to our work, and thereby improve it by the breadth of a larger experience.

The health of the girls has been almost perfect. Only in one or two instances have we had to consult our medical advisers. Dr. Wilkinson and Dr. Gault, of Melbourne, and Dr. Murdock, of Romsey; and in every instance it has been for constitutional ailments. We were not able to take the girls to Dromana for their annual holiday this year on account of my absence in England, but we hope to be able to make suitable arrangements for a visit to the sea-side this year.

Miss Adamson discharged the duties of Matron during my absence in England to my complete satisfaction, and I found everything in perfect order on my return.

EMILY A. ADAMSON.  
Matron.

#### RIDDELL'S CREEK REFORMATORY.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1909.

During the year, the girls placed with us have had careful training and supervision. On the whole, we have found them conformable to discipline, they seem to appreciate the efforts put forth for their betterment. They are very conscious that their lives have been blighted by immorality, and, in all probability, the effects of the same will ever be with some of them. In the face of this, it is difficult to inspire them with hope to regain their lost position. However, it has been very cheering to learn that a good percentage of girls who have passed through the institution are married, others are doing well in situations or with relatives.

Throughout the year, seasons of amusement have been arranged for the girls, which they have greatly enjoyed. We regretted very much the loss of Commissioner and Mrs. McKie, who always planned for our well-being, and were interested in everything connected with the home. Commissioner and Mrs. Hay, who have taken their places, were heartily welcomed on two occasions within one month, and they have already convinced us that they are deeply interested in the welfare of all at the home.

CLARA LANE,  
Matron.

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

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending the 31st December, 1909.

Good work has been accomplished during the year. There has been much to encourage us. The conduct of the girls has been good, and their health, too, all that could be desired. The girls sent out during the year are giving satisfaction in situations, and keep in touch with the home by correspondence or regular visits.

We have many kind friends who are interested in the work. Among them is Mrs. Frank Officer, who has faithfully kept up her Bible Class during the year. This is held every Friday afternoon. We have to thank this lady, too, for a very pleasant evening enjoyed by the girls on Christmas eve. On that occasion, prizes were presented for good conduct, punctuality, and work. There were about twenty prizes in all.

The girls were entertained by Commissioner and Mrs. Hay on Tuesday, 21st December, at the City Temple. This annual treat was much enjoyed.

The year has been a very busy one, and the gratifying results more than repay for the labour expended.

We look hopefully forward to the next year.

MARGARET LOWERY,  
Matron.

#### OAKLEIGH REFORMATORY FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC GIRLS.

I have the honour to report that, during the year ending 31st December, 1909, the work of this institution has proceeded on lines evidently embracing all that makes for the moral and physical well-being of the inmates. The Hon. the Premier, Mr. Murray, during a visit made in the course of the year, expressed his warm approval of the establishment as an instrument for good to the State. And, as a gratifying proof that the response of the girls to the efforts made on their behalf is of a perma-

ment character, it is encouraging to learn from a glance at the records of the past five years that at least three-fourths of those who passed through the school during that time are now settled in life as respectable members of society.

In addition to a constantly bright and healthy environment, special recreation treats have been provided, notably by the members of the St. Kilda Dramatic Club, and the pupils of the parochial school.

Our appreciative thanks are due to the esteemed members of the visiting committee, and to the many kind friends who, by their gifts, assisted us to make the Christmas season a fittingly festive conclusion to a satisfactory year.

B. O'ROURKE,  
Superioress.

#### REPORT OF THE VISITING COMMITTEE.

Our annual visit to the Oakleigh Training and Reformatory Home, conducted by the nuns of the Good Shepherd, was made to-day.

We have much pleasure in reporting that we found the inmates apparently healthy, happy and contented. Their surroundings leave nothing to be desired, as the institution is without a doubt a model of cleanliness throughout, as well as having everything in order.

The greatest praise is due to the sisters in charge for the training of those placed under their care.

At present there is a total of 128 girls in the home, of whom 24 are wards of the State.

(Signed) { H. O'CALLAGHAN.  
DAN WHITE.  
EDWARD O'DONNELL.  
T. O'LEARY.

#### EXCELSIOR HOME FOR BOYS, BRIGHTON.

I have the honour to hand you my annual report.

The health of the boys has been good, conduct fairly good; the general progress in almost every case, excellent; and, when you remember the class of boys under care during the year, the work has been satisfactory.

The school report is good. The reports of those at service and on probation are most encouraging.

Many of our old boys turned up during the year, and came to camp with us, and, I am pleased to say, three married since my last report.

In closing, I wish to thank you and your staff, also Judge Moule, Mr. Maxwell, Dr. Praagst, Mr. Davy, and all who have helped me in my work.

W. GROOM,  
Superintendent.

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

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending the 31st December, 1909.

Mr. Dunstan continued as Superintendent until 1st September, when I took up that position. The conduct and health of the boys have been very good; the strong desire of some of the boys to get back to city life is the cause of many of them absconding. There has been no sickness of any sort during the year, and the boys are given as much enjoyment and made to feel at home as much as possible.

The Rev. Mr. Staples visited the home every Wednesday, and imparted scriptural lessons, and gave lectures to the boys.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the many kind friends of the institute in the district for their liberal supply of cakes, &c., from the socials, and also thank the officers of the Department for their assistance in carrying on the work.

HENRY CLYNE,  
Superintendent.

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

I have the honour to report on the work done in this school for the past year.

On the whole, the conduct has been satisfactory. Of course, there are some who are troublesome, and it seems very hard for them to settle down to a quiet country life, and to give up cigarettes.

The health of the boys has been excellent, not one needing medical aid throughout the year.

There are more applications for service boys than I can fill. They are taught all branches of farm and orchard work, and are thus fitted to take situations as soon as trustworthy.

We have had visits from several of our old boys during the year, while I keep in touch with many others by letter.

I must thank the officers of the Department for their assistance, so readily given.

A. BREBNER,  
Superintendent.

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

I have the honour to forward my report for the year ending 31st December, 1909.

The health of the boys has been excellent, and their conduct satisfactory; those placed at service and on probation have done well during the year.

J. McMAHON,  
Superintendent.

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

I have the honour to place before you my report for the year.

The year has been remarkable for the small number of boys received.

This institution had the honour of an official inspection from the Secretary of the Reformatory Schools Department, also a surprise inspection by Mr. J. L. Davies.

The health of the boys has been perfect. One boy admitted has a misshapen head, is weak and delicate, and suffering from running sores, but he has made a great recovery, and is doing well.

We had three visits from the old boys during the year, one a transfer from Pentridge, and is in a good position in the Mallee, also several letters from boys at service, and those whose terms have expired.

J. J. MILLANE,  
Superintendent.