

1913.
VICTORIA.

DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND
REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

R E P O R T

OF THE

SECRETARY AND INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1912.

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, 30th June, 1913.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit for your consideration, in accordance with section 10 of the *Neglected Children's Act* 1890, section 320 of the *Crimes Act* 1890, and Infant Life Protection Acts 1198 and 2102, my report on the work of the Department for the year ending 31st December, 1912, with the necessary returns, statements of expenditure, and statistical tables.

Statistical Tables.—As will be seen by Table 1 the total number of children under supervision on the 31st December, 1911, was 7,181 ; on 31st December, 1912, the number was 7,784—an increase of 603.

The committals and causes of committal for the year are shown as follows :—

<i>Neglected.</i>					
No means	...	...	...	...	1,337
Larceny	...	...	...	...	14
Section 9, Infant Life Protection Act No. 2102	...	...	...	...	177
Uncontrollable	...	...	...	...	1
Illegally using a horse	...	...	...	...	4
Dwelling with a drunkard	...	...	...	...	7
Housebreaking	...	...	...	...	2
Transfer from Canadian Home	...	...	...	...	1
Igniting Inflammable Material	...	...	...	...	1
Transfer from Gordon Institute	...	...	...	...	1
Vagrancy	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	1,596

<i>Reformatory.</i>					
Unlawful assault on a girl	...	...	...	...	1
Throwing stones to the danger of persons	...	...	...	...	1
Larceny	...	...	...	...	15
No means	...	...	...	...	4
False pretences	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive behaviour	...	...	...	...	1
Shopbreaking	...	...	...	...	1
Illegally using a horse	...	...	...	...	2
Removing timber without a licence	...	...	...	...	1
Housebreaking	...	...	...	...	8
Insulting behaviour	...	...	...	...	1
Larceny from a person	...	...	...	...	1
Horsestealing	...	...	...	...	1
Idle and disorderly	...	...	...	...	1
Assault with intent to rape	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	40

<i>Transfers from Gaol.</i>					
Attempted buggery	...	...	...	...	1
Larceny	...	...	...	...	10
Illegally using a horse	...	...	...	...	1
Carnally knowing a girl under 10	...	...	...	...	1
Housebreaking and receiving	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient means of support	...	...	...	...	1
Carnally knowing a girl between 10 and 16 years	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	16

There is a large increase in the number of Neglected children for the year, the number of Court committals being 1,419, against 1,023 for the previous year—an increase of 396, while the number of children who became wards of the State through the operation of the Infant Life Protection Act shows a decrease of 64, being 241 for 1911 and 177 for 1912. The total number of Neglected children for the year being 1,596, and for the previous year 1,264—an increase of 332.

This increase is mainly accounted for by the fact that of the 1,596 committed 1,040 were left with their mothers. No doubt high rents and the increased cost of living are responsible for the large number of mothers applying for assistance. If the following table is analysed, it will be seen that the position of the mothers at the time of the children's committal proves that unless the children were to be reared in poverty some such assistance was imperative. This assistance coming, as it usually does, at a time of great stress, is of material benefit to a struggling mother, and enables her to bring up her children free from temptations to which, where no such assistance available, they must of necessity be exposed.

The following table will show the positions of mothers at the time of children's committal :—

Number of Cases.			Number of Children.
252	Father dead	Mother poor	657
63	" deserted	" "	149
46	" invalid	" "	116
22	" in gaol	" "	54
1	" drunkard	" "	5
2	" cripple	" "	3
11	" in lunatic asylum	" "	33
8	" in hospital	" "	23
<hr/> 405			<hr/> 1,040

The total committals each year since 1900 are :—

1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
874 ...	1,152 ...	842 ...	397 ...	382 ...	495 ...	702	707 ...	1,178 ...	1,219	1,365 ...	1,264

The number of Reformatory committals shows an increase of 7, the number for this year being 56 against 49 for 1911. This includes 16 transfers from Gaol. These were provided for as follows :—8 were sent to Excelsior Home, 3 to Apollo Bay, 4 to Bayswater, and 1 girl to Oakleigh. Of the 8 transferred from Gaol during 1911, 3 have done well, 2 have done fairly well, and the remaining 3 have proved unsatisfactory.

I may here mention the disadvantage of having no reformatory for Catholic boys. The only Catholic home provided for these boys is Straight View, which can accommodate only four at a time, and which has no adequate provision for boys of absconding tendencies.

In my last report I suggested a farm home for reformatory boys, where they could be carefully supervised and trained in farm work, &c. I still think, if it were possible to utilize the Wyuna State Farm for this purpose that such a home would be of immense advantage to this class of boys. The accommodation is already there, and the farm would be an ideal place for this purpose.

Mortality.—The total number of deaths for 1912 was 124. The total number of children under supervision was 7,784, so it will be seen that the percentage of 1.6 is comparatively low. Eighty-eight of these were under twelve months old, and, of the 88, 70 were under three months. It must be understood that a large number of these infants are sickly from birth ; in fact, many cases are hopeless when admitted. The Medical Officer in his report states—"Many of these babies were in a deplorable state of ill-health and malnutrition, and it is significant that many of them were brought to the Dépôt in a dying condition."

Expenditure.—As a result of the continued rise in the number of children committed to the care of the Department the expenditure again shows a large increase as compared with that for the previous year, viz., from £97,883 12s. 3d. to £107,620 9s. 9d., the increase being £9,736 17s. 6d. The expenditure in connexion with Neglected children was £97,151 1s. 9d., and for Reformatory children, £3,368 11s. 1d.,

the expenses of administration being £7,100 16s. 11d. The £3,368 11s. 1d. for Reformatory children is £194 2s. 3d. less than for the year 1911, and administration cost £48 15s. 2d less.

Collection of Maintenance.—The amount collected during the year for the maintenance of children was £4,495 16s. 9d., an increase of £425 11s. 3d. as compared with the previous year. The £4,495 16s. 9d. was made up of £2,496 12s. 2d. paid under Court orders and £1,999 4s. 7d. under voluntary agreements.

Amount paid to registered nurses, £9,817 14s. 1d.

The number of families deserted by their fathers is 63, and the number of children 149 for the year. I am pleased to see that an Act has been passed which will enable us, when the other States have passed similar Acts, to reach fathers who desert their families. Uniform legislation of this kind will, in my opinion, act as a deterrent in the case of a father who may be contemplating the desertion of those dependent on him.

The total number of children who were a cost to the State on the 31st December, 1911, and 1912 respectively, was—

NEGLECTED.		1911.	1912.	REFORMATORY.		1911.	1912.
Boarded-out	...	5,316	5,969				
In institutions	...	318	319			97	112
Total	...	5,634	6,288				

Of these 5,969, 2,991 were placed in foster homes, and 2,978 were left with their mothers, the mothers numbering 1,278. The condition of the latter is set forth in the following table:—

	Number of Children.		Mothers.
Father dead	1,950	844
„ deserted	383	178
„ in lunatic asylum	...	115	48
„ invalid	441	173
„ in gaol	85	33
„ old-age pension	...	4	2
Total	2,978	1,278

Service.—During the year 1912, 193 children were placed at service for the first time. Of this number, 122 were boys and 71 were girls. As in previous years, every care is taken to ensure getting the best available homes, one visiting officer giving most of his time to reporting on proposed new homes. In addition, we have the endorsement of both the clergyman and the district police.

The health of the boys and girls has been good ; indeed, few have to lose their situations on the score of health. More attention is being given to the care of the teeth, and in this connexion I would like to urge the definite appointment of a good dentist in the city to look after the dentistry requirements of wards of the State.

Even yet once again I would most strongly urge that the savings of ex-wards should be withheld until they are 21 years of age. In the great majority of cases this would prove a real good to the young people, and in the case of those—unhappily the majority—who are of thriftless disposition, it would be for their moral welfare to keep back their money until, say, 21 years of age.

It is also my duty once again to point out the existing need for the establishment of a Farm and Industrial Training Institution, where a certain class of boys should be sent for from one to two years (14 to 16 years) to be educated, trained and disciplined before being placed out in ordinary service homes. This is an imperative need, and if it can be realised it is quite possible that many boys will eventually be turned out as good citizens who, under present conditions, are failures and a menace to the economic and moral good of the community.

The wages paid for the services of the children have been about the same as during the past two or three years. The weekly amount ranges between four or five shillings as a starting wage (with home, food and washing) and a wage of from ten to fifteen shillings for a competent boy or girl 17 or 18 years of age. As a matter of fact, the competent and reliable girl or boy can secure the highest wage that is paid for the class of services they can render. It is quite a mistake to believe that because

they are wards of the State the payment for their services is necessarily lower than that given to similar young people who are not wards. At the same time, the fact that the employers of wards are, under certain circumstances, responsible for expense on account of doctor and medicine is a determining factor in fixing wages, especially of the younger service children.

The amount banked by the Department to the credit of the service children for the year amounted to £2,806 3s. 1d. The balance at credit at the end of the year was £8,814 1s. 9d.

The following analysis of the boys' service homes is appended. It shows the class of home and employment to which new boys were sent during 1912:—

General farms	...	...	...	...	66
Dairy farms	..	..	..	..	16
Orchards	...	...	...	...	9
Viticultural College	...	..	...	...	6
Market gardens	...	...	...	...	2
Blacksmith	...	...	...	..	2
Engineering...	...	..	...	...	1
Baker	...	...	...	...	2
Butcher	...	...	...	...	1
Fruiterer	...	...	...	..	1
News agent	...	...	...	...	1
Draper	...	...	...	...	1
Indentor	...	...	...	...	1
Various	...	...	...	...	13
					<hr/>
		Total Boys	...	...	122
		, Girls	...	...	71
					<hr/>
		Total Children	...	...	193

Educational.—The practice inaugurated by me of arranging that wards of the State, if they showed the necessary ability and the desire to better themselves, be allowed to participate in the benefits of the higher education facilities now available, has been continued and the results of this policy show clearly that the practice is a commendable one, and highly beneficial to the students.

At present there are thirteen of our charges in attendance at the various high schools, viz. :—three at Ballarat, one at Sale, three at Geelong, one at Castlemaine, and one at Essendon, while four others attend technical schools.

During the present year the following results were obtained by wards who had attended High School during the previous year. One lad passed the Senior Public examination and the Federal and State Clerical examinations, and is now in the Federal Public Service. Two girls passed the Junior Public examination and one of these has since been appointed a junior teacher. Another girl from a different centre has also been appointed to the Teaching Service. In still another centre a boy who showed aptitude for teaching has entered the Education Department. One girl who had received tuition in shorthand and typewriting, and had gained certificates for proficiency in these subjects, has received an appointment as stenographer.

The Stansmore Scholarship, founded in accordance with the provisions in the will of the late J. W. Stansmore of Campbell's Creek, was gained by a ward of the State, only 12 years old, who had to compete against lads of nearly 16 years.

Boarded-out with Foster Parents.—Again I can report the satisfactory results obtained from the boarding-out system. In very few cases have there been complaints from the foster parents, or requests for the removal of children, and also in very few cases, has the Department seen fit to have children removed from the foster home. The Ladies' Committees still show their interest in this branch of the work, and I would take this opportunity of tendering my thanks and appreciation for the important work they continue to do, in supervising the large number of children and homes throughout the State. Especially must I thank the Lady Correspondents, who take upon themselves no small amount of clerical work in addition to the visiting.

Six hundred and ninety-five children were placed on probation this year with friends or relatives who took on themselves the cost of keeping these children, and of providing them with a suitable occupation after the school limit was reached.

With regard to the absence of provision (referred to in my previous report) for training of backward and feeble-minded children, I am pleased to see that the Education Department has taken the matter up, and, as an initial step, has set aside a school at Fitzroy, where these children will be taught by experts in Montessori methods.

Clifton Home, Wedderburn.—We still find this a very useful home to which we can send certain delicate children. A comfortable home life in addition to the suitable climate, and plentiful supply of milk, etc., that is available here is the very best of treatment for children suffering from chest or lung complaint. The number of wards so placed there during the year under ordinary boarded-out conditions was ten. The ladies carrying on this home (Miss Colvin and Miss Bromley) cannot be too highly spoken of; their hearts are in their work and their lives are devoted to the children in their charge.

I must again express my thanks for the continued services rendered to this Department by the officers of Kindred Councils, and Associations in other States, and I would here acknowledge the assistance received, and express my thanks for the same. This also applies to the Police Departments of other States, who, as well as our own, have at various times assisted us, by making inquiries, or supplying information as needed.

Receiving Dépôt, Royal Park.—1,212 children were received during the year. At the end of the year 34 girls and 41 boys remained. The new Nursery, and Isolation ward are almost completed, and when finished it is to be hoped that they will fulfil all necessary requirements. The old buildings will be converted into a play room for the little girls, and will be of great advantage in very hot or wet weather. The electric light has been installed in the girl's division, so that now electric lighting is complete throughout the Dépôt.

Both the boys' and girls' divisions are badly in need of painting. They have not been attended to in this respect for several years, and the woodwork is suffering in consequence of this neglect.

Gymnasium.—I must again urge the necessity of a gymnasium for the boys, who have no way of passing the long winter evenings excepting that of reading or sitting about. An hour or so romping in a room, where they could be noisy if they wished, would send them to bed ready for sleep, and would aid their moral as well as physical welfare.

Kindergarten.—The provision of a kindergarten for little ones is also urgently needed, and I hope that the coming year will see this want supplied.

A store for provisions and clothing is badly needed, the one in use at present is quite unsuitable, making the proper receipt and issue of goods almost an impossibility.

I would call attention to the need for alteration to the fire appliances, stand-pipes, etc., as recommended by the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Milk, &c.—21,438 quarts of milk were supplied from the farm, being a very plentiful supply for all purposes. The advantage of such a supply of milk twice daily can hardly be estimated, especially for the use of infants and young children. The Dépôt has also been well supplied with fresh vegetables from the garden, the work of which, as well as the farm, is done by the boys who are for the time being detained at the Dépôt, thereby providing them with work, and exercise necessary for their well being. The quantity of vegetables supplied by garden was 15,303 lbs., and 53,120 lbs. of fodder for cattle was grown on the farm.

Rutherglen Viticultural College.—Six new boys were sent to Rutherglen this year, making a total of 20 at the end of the year. Unfortunately we have had a number of absconding boys, an occurrence which up till now has been rare under Mr. Adcock's rule. In the present instance, it can only be ascribed to a certain want of tact shown by one of the men employed to instruct the boys. I have discussed the matter with the Director of Agriculture, and have reason to hope that the cause of

disaffection will be removed. The work of the College is carried on by Mr. Adcock in his usual able manner. In fact each year shows more clearly to my mind that Mr. Adcock possesses special ability for the work of training and educating these boys in this especial branch.

Training Home, East Melbourne.—The number of girls in the home at the end of the year was 26. Four were placed at service, one of whom absconded, and is still at large. Three are doing well.

Albion Home (Glenroy) for Protestant Girls.—There are 53 girls at present in this home. Of the five placed at service during the year, four have proved satisfactory. The girls sent here no doubt find a "home," they are perfectly happy, and show rapid improvement under the tactful training of the Matron.

Bayswater Home for Protestant Boys.—Sixty-four boys were sent to this home during the year. Twenty-four were placed at service, seventeen of these did very well, three fairly well and four were unsatisfactory. There have been several changes of Superintendents during the year; these changes are not conducive to the well doing of the boys. The present Superintendent, Major Smith, is, however, an experienced officer, and I have no doubt that under his control the home will show its usual satisfactory results.

Christian Brothers' Home for Roman Catholic Boys (Geelong).—As stated in my previous reports, the boys sent to this home are of wayward and absconding tendencies, not suitable for foster homes. Sixty-five boys were in the home at the end of the year. Sixteen were sent to service, twelve of them proving satisfactory. On my several visits during the year I have found the boys much improved. No doubt the Reverend Brothers care for these lads, and train them well, both morally and physically.

Industrial School (Abbotsford) for Catholic Girls.—Twenty-five girls remained here at the end of the year. Five were placed at service, and of these three gave satisfaction in their new homes. The girls sent to this home correspond in character with the boys sent to St. Augustine's, that is, have proved unsuited for foster homes, but under the firm and tactful control of the Reverend Mother and Sisters, the girls show wonderful improvement and soon lose their wayward tendencies.

PRIVATE REFORMATORIES.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Inmates on 31st December, 1912.</i>
Bayswater (Protestant)	15
Excelsior Home, Brighton (Protestant and Roman Catholic)	7
Heathfield Home, Apollo Bay (Protestant)	13
Straight View, Harcourt (Roman Catholic)	2
Total	37
	<i>Girls.</i>	
Riddell's Creek (Protestant)	22
East Camberwell (branch of Riddell's Creek)	33
Oakleigh Convent (Roman Catholic)	27
Total	82

Riddell's Creek Reformatory for Protestant Girls.—The number of girls in this home at the end of the year was twenty-two. Three were placed at service; one is employed at machine-knitting in the home; the other two are placed in domestic service, and are doing well. Besides being trained in domestic duties, the girls are taught fancy work, knitting, etc. Taking into account the type of girls sent here, the results obtained by the matron and her assistants are highly satisfactory.

Murrumbeena Sub-Reformatory.—This home has been removed to Camberwell, where a suitable building with a fine allotment of ground has been obtained for the purpose. Thirty-three girls are in this home, and of these, six were placed at service, and all have retained their situations. One good feature of the move to Camberwell is the fact that the girls who are placed in service can visit and spend their holidays at the home. The matron very wisely encourages this, and makes their visits as pleasant as possible.

Oakleigh Reformatory for Roman Catholic Girls.—There were twenty-seven girls in this home at the end of the year. Two were placed in service, giving satisfaction. The worst class of girls are sent here, and no doubt the Reverend Mother and Sisters have great influence over them, for, after being in the home or a short time the behaviour of the girls shows great improvement.

Bayswater Reformatory for Protestant Boys.—Fifteen boys remained in this home on the 31st December. Two who were placed in service homes are doing well, while two others who were sent out, absconded. On my visits I found the boys in good health and contented.

Excelsior Home, Brighton.—Seven boys were in this home at the end of the year; two were licensed out, and are still in their situations. Mr. Groom is deeply interested in this work, and the boys under his care and supervision receive every possible assistance and encouragement.

Apollo Bay.—Thirteen boys remained at Apollo Bay at the end of the year; six were placed in service from this home; three absconded from their situations. There is great difficulty in holding this type of boy once he is beyond the control of the home. The boys sent here, especially those from the city, improve wonderfully physically, and no effort is spared by the Superintendent (Mr. Clyne) to encourage and assist the boys to do well.

Straight View, Roman Catholic Home for Boys (Harcourt).—Two boys were in this home at the end of the year. This home can only accommodate four lads, and as it is the only Roman Catholic home for Reformatory boys, and is not suitable for incorrigibles, there is at times a little difficulty in placing boys of this character. The boys in this home are well treated, and Mr. McMahon does his best for them, finding them good service homes as soon as they can be trusted out.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT.

The work in connexion with this Act is still progressing satisfactorily. The system in vogue of boarding out infants to a competent nurse, with the attendance of a medical officer always available and a trained nurse to supervise and direct, has been the means of saving many lives. There is no doubt that the individual care bestowed on these children by the registered nurses is far before the "regulation attention" bestowed on them in any institution. This Act, I am convinced, when the suggested amendments are brought into force, will be still more effective.

There were 454 applications dealt with, and the children placed in homes in addition to the 388 already under supervision at the end of 1911, thus making a total of 842 under the care of this Act, of this number:—

Became wards of the State	...	...	...	...	177
Died	...	...	...	...	50
Adopted	...	...	...	...	33
Removed by parents or guardians	...	...	...	...	128
Reached the age of five years...	...	...	...	...	16
Leaving under supervision 31st December, 1912	...	...	...	...	438
Total	...	...	...	...	842

The 438 children on 31st December, 1912, were placed as follow:—

Homes with 1 child	...	...	...	305	305
" " 2 children	...	...	...	51	102
" " 3 "	...	...	...	9	27
" " 4 "	...	...	...	1	4
Total	...	..	...	...	438

The mortality for the year 1912 was 50, being a percentage of less than 6 per cent of the total number under supervision.

APPLICATION TO BOARD OUT.

For the year 1912 there were 454 children placed with registered nurses. The low death rate speaks volumes for the work of these nurses, for, unfortunately, very many of the infants placed in their care are very frail, and, indeed, need and receive unceasing and intelligent attention, as well as the excellent care of the medical officers.

INFANTS UNDER SUPERVISION.

The total number of infants under supervision by the Inspectors on 31st December, 1912, was 438, as compared with 388 on 31st December, 1911. The ages of infants being as follows:—

Under 1 wk.	2 wks.	3 wks.	4 wks.	2 mths.	3 mths.	4 mths.	5 mths.	6 mths.	7 mths.	8 mths.	9 mths.	10 mths.	11 mths.	12 mths.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.	TOTAL.
1	1	7	5	22	23	23	22	23	15	17	13	15	6	8	103	53	41	40	438

INSPECTORS.

The number of inspectors is the same—(6), five having city and suburban districts, and one dealing with the office work of interviewing applicants. These inspectors visit the homes regularly, and report on conditions of home and children.

ADOPTIONS.

There were ninety adoptions registered during 1912. Of this number, sixteen were adopted by the nurses under the Act, in whose care they were placed. Seventeen were removed by their relatives for adoption by suitable applicants whom the Department had arranged with to take these children. The remaining 57 were applied for in other ways, viz., through solicitors, institutions, advertising, and other methods.

Under this Act the section dealing with adoptions does not sufficiently safeguard the child in the event of the child being taken into an unsatisfactory home. I would suggest that more discretionary power be given to the Department in dealing with applicants that desire to adopt children.

The arrangements for adoption, as the Act stands at present, are all finally made before this Department is notified, and there is very strong indication of trafficking in infants. It would be advisable that all cases of adoption be supervised by the departmental inspectors for a period, and power given to cancel any arrangements made if the person adopting the infant prove undesirable.

EXEMPTIONS.

Applications for exemption are not numerous, there being only seven for this year; small amounts being paid for the maintenance of the children in most of the cases, and in every instance the child was in the care of relations.

MORTALITY.

The number of deaths during 1912 was 50. This is very satisfactory considering that many of these children are predisposed to disease consequent on the pre-natal conditions; the mother in many instances being ill-nourished and much worried, thus making the child very often a weakling apart from any inherent disease.

Artificial and unsuitable feeding is another factor in this mortality. The harm is often commenced before the child is placed in the care of the registered nurse, thus making it a difficult matter to rear these children.

Occasionally a wet-nurse offers and her services are always availed of.

LENGTH OF TIME CHILD IN HOME AT TIME OF DEATH.

Under 1 Wk.	2 Wks.	3 Wks.	4 Wks.	2 Mos.	3 Mos.	4 Mos.	5 Mos.	6 Mos.	7 Mos.	8 Mos.	9 Mos.	10 Mos.	11 Mos.	12 Mo.	2 years and over	Total.
2	5	3	4	14	4	6	3	1	3	2	...	1	...	...	2	50

VARIOUS CAUSES OF THE 50 DEATHS.

Gastro Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	6
Convulsions and Como	...	...	...	...	...	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	3
Entero-colitis and exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	2
Entero-colitis and malnutrition	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity and congenital syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Colitis and pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2
Capillary bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary inflammation (premature infant)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nasal diphtheria and asthma (following chronic inflammation)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital disease	...	...	...	...	...	2
Malformation of heart and disease of lungs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prematurity and inanition	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastro enteritis and toxæmia	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Exhaustion from Yate's mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inability to assimilate food	...	...	...	...	...	1
Anthrepsia and exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastritis and prematurity of birth...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis and pneumonia...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marasmus and heat exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastro enteritis, convulsions and exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	1
Exhaustion and syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchial pneumonia (following on measles)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastritis and athemia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ileo-colitis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis and exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	50

Districts.	No. of Deaths.	Months.	No. of Deaths.	Age at Time of Death.
Ballarat	5	January	7	1 week
Bendigo	2	February	4	2 weeks
Brunswick	5	March	11	3 "
Carlton	2	April	8	4 "
Coburg	6	May	2	2 months
Colac	1	June	2	3 "
Collingwood	2	July	4	4 "
Fitzroy	1	August	5	5 "
Geelong	1	September	1	6 "
Hamilton	1	October	1	7 "
Lilydale	1	November	—	8 "
Malvern	2	December	5	9 "
Port Melbourne	1		—	10 "
North Melbourne	4	Total	50	11 "
South Melbourne	1		—	12 "
Moonee Ponds	2			Over 1 year
Mordialloc	1			
Northcote	2			Total
Oakleigh	2			50
Portland	1			
Prahran	4			
Richmond	2			
Windsor	1			
Total	50			

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. SMITH,
Secretary.

To the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

TABLE I.—NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN.

STATEMENT OF ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES FOR 1912.

	Neglected.			Reformatory.			Grand Total
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Number under supervision on 31st December, 1911 ...	3,703	3,312	7,015	68	98	166	7,181
ADMISSIONS.							
Court committals ...	714	705	1,419	34	6	40	1,459
Section 9, Infant Life Protection Act No 2102 ...	93	84	177	...	...	...	177
Transfers from Gaol ...	...	...	...	15	1	16	16
" " Neglected Children's Department ...	...	...	...	20	29	49	49
" " Reformatory Department ...	10	...	10	...	...	...	10
Returned absconders ...	19	...	19	4	4	8	27
Total Admissions ...	836	789	1,625	73	40	113	1,738
DISCHARGES.							
By Order of the Governor in Council ...	252	273	525	6	1	7	532
" Death ...	80	44	124	...	...	...	124
" Effluxion of time ...	155	140	295	31	24	55	350
" Transfer to Neglected Children's Department ...	...	...	...	10	...	10	10
" " Reformatory Department ...	20	29	49	...	...	...	49
" " Hospital for Insane ...	3	3	6	...	...	...	6
Unreturned absconders ...	41	3	44	17	3	20	64
Total Discharges ...	551	492	1,043	64	28	92	1,135
Number under supervision on 31st December, 1912 ...	3,988	3,609	7,597	77	110	187	7,784
LOCATION.							
Boarded out in foster-homes ...	1,572	1,419	2,991	...	...	...	2,991
* } " " with their own mothers ...	1,532	1,446	2,978	...	...	...	2,978
{ Maintained in institutions ...	185	134	319	41	85	126	445
In service homes ...	312	301	613	19	18	37	650
With relatives and others, without cost to the State ...	376	297	673	15	7	22	695
In Hospitals ...	9	8	17	...	...	...	17
In Gaol ...	2	...	2	2	...	2	4
On a visit to friends ...	...	4	4	...	...	...	4
Total ...	3,988	3,609	7,597	77	110	187	7,784

* In addition to these, 36 (10 males, 26 females) who are free from legal control, are still being maintained by the State, as they are incapacitated.

TABLE II.—DEATHS DURING 1912.

Length of Time under care of Department.	AGE AT TIME OF DEATH.												
	Under 1 Year:	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 6.	6 to 7.	7 to 8.	9 to 10.	14 to 15.	15 to 16.	16 to 17.	17 to 18.
2 days	1	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
3 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
7 "	4	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
8 "	3	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
9 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
11 "	1	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
12 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
13 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
14 "	4	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
15 "	1	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
16 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
17 "	5	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
18 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
19 "	4	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
20 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
3 weeks	6	1	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
4 "	5	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
5 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
6 "	2	1	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
7 "	4	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
2 months	10	1	1	...	..	...	..	...	1	..	...	..	...
3 "	5	2	..	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
4 "	5	1	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
5 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
6 "	2	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
7 "	3	1	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
8 "	4	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
9 "	1	2	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
10 "	...	3	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
11 "	1	1	...	..	...	1	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
12 "	...	2	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
13 "	...	1	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
14 "	...	1	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
15 "	...	2	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
21 "	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	1	...	..	...	..	...
22 "	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	..	...
2 years	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 "	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
4 "	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	1
16 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	89	20	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1

TABLE II.—DEATHS DURING 1912.—*continued.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.			
Acute gastritis	1	Gastro-enteritis and asthenia	1
Acute pneumonia... ..	1	Gastro-enteritis and pneumonia	1
Acute milk infection and exhaustion	1	Gastritis	5
Asthenia and malnutrition... ..	2	Heart disease	1
Bronchitis	2	Inanition and congenital debility	1
Bronchial-pneumonia	7	Inanition and congenital syphilis	1
Convulsions and coma	1	Marasmus, and congenital syphilis	6
Colitis and diarrhœa	1	Marasmus and colitis	2
Congenital debility and exhaustion	1	Marasmus and exhaustion	4
Consumption	1	Marasmus and bronchial catarrh	1
Cerebral abscess	1	Marasmus and congenital debility	1
Colitis	3	Marasmus	6
Convulsions	1	Malnutrition and congenital syphilis... ..	1
Diphtheria	4	Malnutrition and entero colitis	1
Diarrhœa and convulsions	1	Meningitis	2
Debility and malnutrition	1	Meningitis, asthenia, and syncope	1
Entero-colitis and marasmus	1	Measles and pneumonia	3
Entero-colitis and meningitis	1	Pneumonia	9
Entero-colitis and congenital debility	1	Pneumonia and congenital syphilis	1
Entero-colitis and hydrocephalus	1	Pneumonia and meningitis	1
Exhaustion-colitis and syphilis	1	Pneumonia and debility	1
Exhaustion and gastro-entero colitis	1	Pertussis convulsions	1
Encephalitis	1	Prematurity and debility	1
Entero-colitis	8	Run over by a lorry	1
Exhaustion and colitis	1	Syphilis	1
Enteritis	2	Syncope	2
Entero-colitis and asthenia... ..	1	Typhoid fever	1
Entero-colitis and bronchial pneumonia	1	Tabes mesenterica	1
Gastro-enteritis	14	Tonsillitis and gastric catarrh	1
Gastro-enteritis and congenital syphilis	1	Valvular disease of heart	1

Re DEATHS DURING 1912.

41 died at Dépôt—	1 died in Homœopathic Hospital
34 of them being under 12 months old	2 „ in Infectious Diseases Hospital
7 „ „ between 1 and 2 years	1 „ in Bendigo Hospital
57 died in foster homes	1 „ in Queen Victoria Hospital
10 „ boarded-out with mother	4 „ in Children's Hospital
1 „ on probation	1 „ in Ballarat Hospital
2 „ in Haven, North Fitzroy	1 „ in St. Vincent's Hospital
1 „ in Albion Home	1 „ in Melbourne Hospital

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

Name of Society or Person.	Children under Supervision on 31.12.11.	Admissions during 1912.			Children under Supervision on 31.12.12.
		Court Commitments.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society	283	15	15	13	288
Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society	339	2	0	52	297
Church of England Neglected Children's Aid Society	98	2	2	28	99
Methodist Homes for Children	413	11	3	30	423
Misses Colvin and Brumley, Clifden Home, Wedderburn	81	...	...	...	75
Gordon Institute, Melbourne	131	25	17	17	144
Burwood Boys' Home	77	2	30	3	87
Methodist Boys' Training Farm, Burwood East	66	1	...	29	63
Latrobe-street Ragged School Mission	151	...	...	153	153
Mission Rescue and Children's Home, Ballarat East	45	...	1	9	29
Presbyterian Home for Girls, Elsternwick	18	2	10	2	27
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills	156	...	...	70	157
Mr. W. M. Forster (Try Society), Hawksburn	39	7	...	36	32
Total	1,897	67	78	442	1,874

TABLE IV.—PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED IN 1912.

Particulars supplied with Order of Committal	Neglected.	Reformatory.	Total.
Parents deserted	15	...	15
" poor, of good character	35	26	61
" drunkards	5	...	5
" dead	25	...	25
" unknown	8	...	8
" invalids	1	...	1
" of bad character	1	...	1
Father dead; mother poor, of good character	681	12	693
" " drunkard	4	...	4
" " in lunatic asylum	3	...	3
" " in gaol	2	1	3
" " invalid	6	...	6
" " deserted	2	...	2
" " in hospital	1	...	1
" " unknown ... ..	...	1	1
Father deserted; mother poor, of good character	419	4	423
" " dead... ..	17	...	17
" " immoral	7	...	7
" " imbecile	3	...	3
" " in hospital	3	...	3
" " invalid	4	...	4
Father invalid; mother poor, of good character	116	...	116
" " dead	4	...	4
" " immoral	1	1	2
Father in gaol; mother poor, of good character	59	...	59
" " drunkard	1	...	1
" " of bad character	7	...	7
" " in lunatic asylum	2	...	2
Father of good character, mother dead	15	2	17
" " deserted	8	...	8
" " in hospital	6	...	6
" " drunkard ... ..	...	3	3
Father unknown; mother deserted	8	2	10
" " poor, of good character	27	1	28
" " imbecile	4	...	4
" " dead	3	...	3
" " immoral	1	...	1
" " in lunatic asylum	1	...	1
Father drunkard; mother poor, of good character	12	2	14
" " deserted	2	...	2
" " in hospital	4	...	4
" " dead	10	1	11
Father in lunatic asylum; mother poor, of good character	33	...	33
" " " drunkard	4	...	4
Father in hospital; mother poor, of good character	18	...	18
" " " dead	4	...	4
Father a cripple; mother in gaol	3	...	3
" " " poor, of good character	1	...	1
Total	1,596	56	1,652

TABLE V.—TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN—NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY, 1912.

Neglected Children.	Average strength	Items of Expenditure.											Total.
		Provi- sions.	Clothing and Bedding.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Stores, Stock, &c.	Medical Attend- ance, &c.	Inciden- tals.	Transport and Travelling Expenses.	Tele- phone Services.	Salaries.	Postage and Tele- grams.	Main- tenance.	
		£ 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 Depots	96	693 11 2*	65 4 8	360 15 6	340 13 6	32 7 6	334 16 3	..	..	2,570 18 2	..	..	4,398 6 9
Abbotsford Industrial School	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	668 17 7
Training Home for Girls	25	..	..	..	..	12 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	325 12 9
Service Children	..	..	381 3 9	..	..	..	..	1,179 8 10†	..	..	..	..	339 2 9
Boarded-out Children	5,784 25	..	1,188 14 4	..	..	4,729 5 7	..	853 4 6	..	..	..	..	90,088 16 10
Telephone Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95 5 1	..	..	..	95 5 1
Total ..	5,951 25	693 11 2	1,635 2 9	360 15 6	340 13 6	4,774 3 1	334 16 3	2,032 13 4	95 5 1	2,570 18 2	..	..	84,313 2 9
Reformatory Children.													
Oakleigh (Girls)	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	712 9 6
Mintaro (Girls) closed 31st March, 1912	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36 7 2
Riddell's Creek (Girls) Excelsior Home, (Boys)	50.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,312 6 4
Kingsbury (Boys) closed 1st July, 1912	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139 1 7
Straight View Farm (Boys)	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9 14 4
Heathfield Home (Boys)	9.75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81 19 3
Bayswater (Boys)	15.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	254 12 10
Service Children	..	..	175 18 9	..	..	..	..	142 3 0	..	..	..	..	403 4 1
Telephone Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99 14 3	..	..	..	319 1 9
Total ..	110 75	..	176 18 9	..	..	..	..	142 3 0	99 14 3	..	..	..	99 14 3
Head Office	..	..	..	7 14 6	92 9 4	..	150 13 3	783 11 4	..	5,697 12 6	368 16 0	..	7,100 16 11
Grand Total ..	..	693 11 2	1,812 1 6	368 10 0	433 2 10	4,774 3 1	485 9 6	2,958 7 8	194 19 4	8,268 10 8	368 16 0	..	87,262 17 10
Deduct— Amount received for Maintenance of Children, £4,495 10s 0d. All other receipts £31 1s. 8d.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,526 18 5
Net cost	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103,093 11 2

* Including Returns for Female Staff from 23rd April and for Male Staff from 1st August.
† £654 13s. 6d. of this expenditure was incurred under Part VIII. of the Neglected Children's Act.

TABLE VI.—AGES, RELIGIONS, AND BIRTHPLACES OF CHILDREN COMMITTED IN 1912.

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	Over 16
Neglected	380	119	120	121	106	109	114	99	106	90	82	64	45	19	8	9	5
Reformatory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	3	2	6	10	30	..
Total	380	119	120	121	106	109	114	99	107	91	83	66	48	21	14	19	35

RELIGIONS AND BIRTHPLACES.

	Number Committed.	Religions.				Birthplaces.			
		Protestant.	Roman Catholic.	Jew	Australia and New Zealand.	England.	South Africa.	Manchuria.	Unknown.
Neglected	1,596	1,156	439	1	1,577	11	2	3	3
Reformatory	56	44	12	..	56	..	..	..	..
Totals	1,652	1,200	451	1	1,633	11	2	3	3

REPORTS OF SCHOOLS.

RECEIVING DEPÔTS, ROYAL PARK.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1912.

I am glad to be in a position to state that our new nurseries are nearing completion, and, when finished, will be a great boon to children and staff. They are a handsome structure, beautifully light and airy, and must prove satisfactory to all concerned.

The old building will be demolished, part of it going to form a storeroom, and part as a gymnasium, for which it was originally built. That the senior boys are to have a room in which to romp and play is most pleasing, as the need of such has long been felt.

Our death rate has been somewhat higher than last year, owing partly to many infants being brought to the Depôt in a dying state, practically beyond human aid, although receiving the best attention from medical officer and nurses. Apart from infants, the health has been exceptionally good, as also, I am glad to say, has the conduct both of boys and girls.

The children spent a happy Xmas. A Xmas tree proving a source of enjoyment, toys for which were supplemented by Mrs. Legge, to whom we return our sincere thanks, and also to ladies and gentlemen of Congregational Church, Moonee Ponds, who gave a most enjoyable concert and have been to see and entertain the children by sacred music on different Sundays.

Religious instruction is given regularly to the Protestant children three times weekly by Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Delaney and Sister Muriel, and by the nuns and the Rev. Father Keenan to the Roman Catholic children.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

LILIAN RIORDAN,

Matron.

Depôts, Royal Park,
6th October, 1913.

RECEIVING DEPÔTS, ROYAL PARK.

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE.

We have much pleasure in submitting our annual report.

During the year the members have regularly and continuously visited the Depôt; on each occasion they found the children well cared for, and instead of the dull and listless appearance so evident a few years ago, it is very pleasing to note the cheerfulness that is now manifest among them.

There is great improvement in that direction; the Institution is now much more like a home, and the children play and enjoy themselves to their hearts' content. A gramophone has been purchased for them, and has proved a great source of pleasure.

We are very pleased to see that the new nursery is near completion, and the long-needed want of sufficient accommodation for the infants will soon be a thing of the past.

The Committee are much surprised that no provision has been made for a hot water service, and that there are no fireplaces in the new building, which are absolutely necessary for sick infants.

We wish again to impress upon the Department the urgent necessity that exists for a gymnasium for the boys, and would advise that the old nursery be utilized for that purpose, and not sold for removal, as was previously done with a valuable building, which would have suited the purpose admirably.

A storeroom is much needed, and the committee trust that a suitable building will be erected for that purpose.

As soon as the infants are accommodated in the new nursery, we would recommend that the vacant lane surrounding the old site be laid down with grass lawns, which could be used as a play ground. With suitable oversight, a great deal of this work could very well be done by the elder boys.

The buildings need painting throughout, and we recommend that this work be undertaken without delay.

The Committee would appreciate a change of name in the title of the Institution from "Depôt" to that of "Home."

JOHN S. WALKER,

Chairman.

T. C. CAMM,

Correspondent.

The Secretary,
Department for Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools,
Secretary's Office, Melbourne.

ABROTSFORD INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, R. C.

Sir—

I have the honour to forward my report for the year ended 31st December, 1912.
The number of girls remaining in the school on 31st December, 1912, was 25.

ADMISSIONS.				REMOVALS.			
Remaining in school on 1st January, 1912	...	28		To service	...	...	46
Admitted (including re-admissions)	...	42		To dépôt	...	...	2
From dépôt	...	13		To reformatory	...	...	2
From office	...	2		To asylum	...	...	1
From holidays	...	1		For holidays	...	...	2
				On probation	...	...	3
				Discharged	...	...	5
				Remaining on 31st December, 1912	...	...	25
		—					—
		86					86

The school records for the year do not show any events of unusual interest. The girls have enjoyed robust health, except two who were invalided for a short time; and their conduct has been satisfactory, with the very regrettable exceptions of a few who failed while out at service to realize their obligations or to put into practice good lessons received. As a general rule the girls do well, and keep their situations, but some are always to be found who cannot be induced to make any effort towards improvement—girls naturally lacking in laudable ambition.

The school was visited last August by Sir Henry Barron, Governor of Tasmania, who takes keen interest in philanthropic works, and during the year by other persons of note, members of Parliament, &c.

Mr. P. J. O'Connor provided a very enjoyable entertainment in the school before Christmas in the form of a fine display of moving pictures, among them the "Expedition to the North Pole," and "Ireland of To-day."

Christmas was enlivened as usual by a visit from "Santa Claus," and distribution of toys and other gifts supplied by kind friends of the Convent.

With reference to the children on the school roll, they were examined on 28th March, 1912, by Mr. Betheras, who accorded the following report:—

"Visited for general inspection of school; present, 21.

The schoolroom was in very good order in regard to cleanliness, ventilation, and tidiness. There was a sufficient supply of teaching apparatus, text books, and ordinary supplies.

The fine grounds are at the disposal of the children; the garden furnishes excellent illustrations for nature study and general observation.

The organization, as arranged by Sister Gleeson, was very good; all classes were kept busily employed at suitable work. The course of education follows the Education Department's programme. The grades have been formed in accordance with the new programme.

The promotions are very satisfactory. The scholars are making good progress.

I examined the grades to gain some idea of the standard of attainment of the scholars, the accuracy of the work, and the sufficiency of the ground covered. The junior classes did very well, especially in reading and writing. The intermediate classes showed some excellent writing. They worked the test sums on the whole very satisfactorily. I recommend plenty of oral practice in arithmetic. The senior classes have been very well taught. The gaining of four Merit Certificates shows that very good attention has been paid to the senior girls. It is very pleasing to note such good results. The work of all classes as shown in the books was good. The supervision is careful, and a fine interest is shown by all the teaching staff in the work of every scholar. The trend of the teaching is towards accurate thorough work in all the subjects undertaken. The needlework was very good.

J. H. BETHERAS,
Inspector of Schools."

We take this opportunity of expressing to the Secretary and Officers of the Department our heartfelt thanks for their uniform kindness and assistance at all times.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Yours respectfully,

MARY V. KENNEDY,
Provincial Superioress.

14th January, 1913.

BAYSWATER NEGLECTED CHILDREN'S HOME.

I am pleased to be able to report that during the past year we have been gratified to see the success that has attended our work put in on behalf of the boys of this Home. A beautiful new Home has been built in place of the one that was burnt down, and altogether the boys are very happy, and are interesting themselves in their little gardens.

They are doing very well at their school, and the improvements in many cases are very marked, and when we consider the material that we have to deal with, and how backward so very many of them are when they come to us, we feel all the more encouraged to go on.

The boys love their game of football or cricket, and many of them are quite good at the game.

The boys are encouraged to interest themselves in everything that will help them in their future, and during the year we have been able to send quite a number of them out to situations.

Yours faithfully,

T. F. SMITH,
Superintendent.

To the Secretary,
Neglected Children's and Reformatory Department,
Melbourne.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S HOME FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC BOYS, GEELONG.

I have the honour to forward my report for the year ended 31st December, 1912.

The conduct of the boys on the whole was very good. When one considers the previous association of the boys he wonders how they conduct themselves so well. Good progress was made in the school during the year. At the annual examination the Brother Inspector expressed his satisfaction at the high standard attained. The chief object of the Brothers is to give the boys a good religious and moral training. The health of the boys was excellent.

During the year several persons of distinction visited the home. Mr. Graham (president), Mr. Hyman (secretary) of the Eight Hours Executive Committee, accompanied by some lady and gentlemen friends, paid us a visit, and expressed pleasure and surprise at what they saw. The Summer School held in Geelong last summer was attended by a large number of teachers. A great many of them paid us a visit, and were very pleased with what they saw.

The Canadian Cadets paid us a visit, and were shown over the institution. They expressed much pleasure at what they saw, and were particularly interested in the trades' classes.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Andrew Fisher, and Mr. Graham, Minister of Agriculture, visited the institution, and expressed themselves as agreeably surprised at what they had seen. The boys were assembled in the large study hall, and were addressed in turn by the Prime Minister and Mr. Graham.

It is not all work and no play here. The boys are encouraged in good healthful games—cricket, football, handball, swimming, and other popular games. Football is the most popular game, and some of the boys would play it all the year round. They look forward to all the League matches played here. Besides the football matches the boys go to the various sports, show, &c. When our band plays at the open-air concerts in the park, the boys are brought down to them, and enjoy the pictures very much.

The annual picnic was held at Black Rock. The weather was delightful, and the boys had a real good time feasting, bathing, &c., and returned home after a most enjoyable trip.

M. D. L. KERRINS,
Manager.

The Secretary,
Neglected Children's Department,
Melbourne.

TRAINING HOME FOR GIRLS, EAST MELBOURNE.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1912.

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

The work at the Home has gone on peacefully and well, we have had no trouble with the girls in the Home.

The general health has been good, we had a mild epidemic of measles, which were treated at Coode Island and one or two cases of diphtheria, but no second case at the same time. The doctors and nurses speak most highly of the girls behaviour while in the hospital, the committee are grateful for all the care they received.

Most of the senior girls have given satisfaction, but some have been sent away for bad conduct, but even these girls often write after and say how sorry they are, and ask to be allowed to visit when doing better.

There has been a growing interest in the Home and through the kindness of subscribers and friends we have had many improvements.

The girls are taught all kinds of domestic work, laundry-work, cooking, house-work and needle-work, all form part of their duties and we have much to encourage us, and especially in their manners and behaviour, as I said before we have no trouble with the girls while in the Home, the trouble often begins when they go to service.

The classes are still continued on Sunday by the trainees from the Missionary Training Home, the girls are very much attached to their teachers and love their lessons.

Drs. W. R. and T. H. Boyd are still our Honorary Doctors, and Mr. F. H. Baker is the Honorary Dentist, and are always most kind and attentive.

The girls have a number of treats during the year, including trip to the Beach, and a picnic to the Zoological Gardens, but the best treat of all is the Motor Picnic given by the Automobile Club, which is always such a success, the generosity shown is wonderful.

The girls had the usual Christmas Tree at Christmas given by old girls, this year two girls were dressed up as Father Christmas and Santa Claus and drove up in a cab, and presented the gifts. Some of the children firmly believed it was really Father Christmas.

The Committee feel they have much to be thankful for and hope for more success in the future.

LILIAN M. WATSON,
Matron.

GIRLS' REFORMATORY, RIDDELL.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1912.

The past year has been one of progress in many directions in this Home. One very encouraging item is the large increase in the number of girls under our care. We started the year with fourteen inmates, nineteen new girls were received from the Department during the year, five were sent out to suitable situations; leaving our number 23 at the close. The girls on the whole are very contented and happy, and anxious to improve. Most of them have had a trip to the city in the care of an officer as a reward for good conduct. The Bioscope Co. from our Head-Quarters spent a week end with us and delighted the girls with their specially selected pictures, music, and singing. Commissioner and Mrs. Hay and party also came and gave us a Christmas treat, when every girl received presents and enjoyed herself immensely.

The girls in situations are doing well and their mistresses speak well of them.

The prospects for the future of the Home are very bright. Two of the old girls were kept on as employes in the Home, and both of them aspire to becoming officers in the ranks of the Salvation Army at no distant date.

ADA. M. YOUNG,
Matron.

GIRLS' REFORMATORY, EAST CAMBERWELL.

I have the honor to submit my report for year ending 1912.

During the year we have moved from Murrumbeena to East Camberwell. While feeling many regrets at leaving the old place where so many happy years had been spent, yet it was with thankfulness that we took possession of the new "Home," where our work can be carried on under much more favourable circumstances. At East Camberwell there is accommodation for a greater number, the dormitories are more airy and the many up-to-date conveniences considerably lighten our labour.

We are thankful for the measure of success that has attended our efforts during the year. The girls in situations are doing credit to their training, and there is an all-round improvement in those still remaining in the Home. They are mostly contented and happy and desirous of learning all that will be helpful and useful in the future. Every opportunity is given them to become proficient in all branches of housework, needlework, &c.

We are grateful to the kind friends who so often give up their Saturday afternoons to join in games with the girls and in many other ways bring sunshine into their lives.

We have much to encourage us during the past year, and start on a new one full of hope for still greater achievements.

MARGARET LOWERY,
Matron.

GIRLS' REFORMATORY, OAKLEIGH.

The Secretary, Neglected Children Department.

Sir,

I am pleased to report that during the past year the work among the girls has been of an encouraging nature.

The general health has been all that could be desired, and their conduct on the whole very good. When one considers their previous associations one wonders how they behave so well.

Three were sent to service for the first time, one transferred from one situation to another, and one placed with parents on probation. All are doing well.

Many improvements have been made during the year:—notably the installation of electric light in part of our building and playground, which is a wonderful convenience. Additions of a most modern style, according to the plans, and under the personal supervision of Mr. Hart, the Government expert, have been made to the poultry farm, which make it one of the most up-to-date runs in the State.

As in former years kind friends have aided in providing extra recreations in the shape of musical and other entertainments; a specially appreciated one being the occasion of the visit of Doctor Maud, Mrs. MacGillicuddy and friends, at the conclusion of which sweets were distributed to the inmates by the lady visitors.

We have to express our sincere thanks to the many well-wishers of the Institute, who by their generosity contributed so largely to make the closing festivities of the year, a bright and enjoyable time for all.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed)

B. O'ROURKE,
Superiress.

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE.

The annual visit was made to-day. The inmates appear very healthy and happy. The building and appurtenances are in very good order and scrupulously clean, and the surroundings generally leave nothing to be desired.

The greatest care is exercised by the nuns of the Good Shepherd, in attending to the wants of the children placed under their care. There are at present in this Institution 163 girls of whom 27 are wards of the State.

We were pleased to see the report of Mr. Backhouse, LL.B., of the 23rd June, 1912, on this Institution, and heartily indorse every word of it.

(Signed) } H. J. CALLAGHAN,
DAN WHITE,
EDWARD O'DONNELL,
T. O'LEARY.

BAYSWATER REFORMATORY FOR BOYS.

Sir—

I am pleased to be able to report to you that our work for the past year has been very encouraging indeed, the boys showing a great desire to do well, and learn all they can by the time of their going out. They take a great interest in the different kinds of work taught them, and should, I feel satisfied, be able to go out and take their place in the world, and would be a valuable acquisition to any farmer needing their services.

The general health has been very good, there not being a single case of serious illness for the year. They are encouraged to self improvement, and it has been a pleasure to see the way they enter into their out-door games, and the good fellowship, one towards the other, which exists amongst them, enables them to enjoy their out-door recreation ever so much better.

The object of the officers of the Home is to give these boys a good religious and moral training, so that in the future they may go out and make a mark for themselves in the world, and thus get right away from their past failings and do well.

Yours faithfully,
T. F. SMITH,
Superintendent.

Secretary, Neglected Children's and Reformatory Department,
Melbourne.
1st October, 1913.

"EXCELSIOR HOME," ELWOOD STREET, BRIGHTON.

The Secretary,
Neglected Children's and Reformatory Department.

Sir—

I have the honour to hand you our report for the past year's work. While our number has been smaller than usual, we have had much to encourage us. With one exception, we found the boys amenable to discipline.

A watch is kept on those at service and on probation, and in most cases they are giving satisfaction.

We had five of our old boys visiting us during the year, four married, with children, and it was most cheering to find them all in fairly good positions.

Our boys debated with a local Sunday school class twice since our last report, subjects being the "Federal Capital" and "Cremation." We were pleased with the results.

We have many kind friends who are deeply interested in our work, but I should make special mention of Judge Moule's and Mr. George Maxwell's visits. The advice they give is most helpful to the boys, who are nearly all transfers from gaol. Father Ryan and Mr. Aston do splendid work here on Sundays.

Dr. Gerald Weigall and Mr. Davy are still most attentive to our wants, for which we are truly thankful. We must also thank the officers of your Department for the help and assistance they so readily give.

W. GROOM,
Superintendent.

HEATHFIELD HOME, APOLLO BAY.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1912.

The health of the boys has been good, no serious illness having occurred.

The conduct has been remarkably good. Some of these boys, unfortunately, will not stay at their situations. They work for a few weeks and then make their way back to the city; there are others that are doing remarkably well.

We have frequent visits from some of our boys who are living near enough, and others write occasionally.

The boys greatly appreciate the amusement they get at the seaside, and it has a very beneficial effect on their health, as every boy soon puts on weight after being here a few weeks.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the officers of the Department for their kind assistance and attention.

H. CLYNE,
Superintendent.

STRAIGHT VIEW FARM REFORMATORY SCHOOL, HARCOURT.

Sir—

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1912.

The health of the boys has been excellent.

The conduct of those in the Home has been very good, and those placed at service fairly satisfactory.

JAS. McMAHON,
Superintendent.