

1914.

VICTORIA.

DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND
REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

R E P O R T

OF THE

SECRETARY AND INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1913.

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



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R E P O R T.

DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Melbourne, 30th June, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour, in conformity with the provisions of section 10 of the *Neglected Children's Act* 1890, section 320 of the *Crimes Act* 1890, and Infant Life Protection Acts 1198 and 2102, to submit my report on the work of this Department for the year ending 31st December, 1913, together with the necessary returns, statements of expenditure, and statistical tables.

Statistical Tables.—Reference to Table 1 will show that the total number of children under supervision on the 31st December, 1912, was 7,784; on the corresponding date of 1913 the number was 8,553, an increase of 769. The following list contains the numbers of cases committed for the year and the causes of committal:—

Neglected.

No means	...	...	...	...	1,647
Section 9, Infant Life Protection Act No. 2102	...	...	...	...	126
Section 18, Infant Life Protection Act No. 2102	...	...	...	...	1
Burglary	...	...	...	...	1
Transfer from Scots Church Society	...	...	...	...	3
Housebreaking and stealing	...	...	...	...	3
Transfer from Gordon Institute	...	...	...	...	1
Uncontrollable	...	...	...	...	1
Larceny	...	...	...	...	11
Dwelling with a vagrant	...	...	...	...	2
Shopbreaking	...	...	...	...	2
Placing obstruction on railway line	...	...	...	...	1
Transfer from Church of England Society	...	...	...	...	1
Wilful damage to property	...	...	...	...	1
Unlawfully assaulting a girl	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	1,802

Reformatory.

Larceny	...	...	...	...	15
Housebreaking and stealing	...	...	...	...	8
Forgery and larceny	...	...	...	...	1
Larceny and wounding	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive behaviour	...	...	...	...	4
Larceny in a dwelling	...	...	...	...	1
No means	...	...	...	...	12
Embezzlement	...	...	...	...	1
Indecent exposure	...	...	...	...	1
Shopbreaking and stealing	...	...	...	...	2
Idle and disorderly	...	...	...	...	1
Indecent behaviour	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	48

Transfers from Gaol.

Breaking into a counting house	...	...	...	...	2
Imposition	...	...	...	...	1
Wilful damage and larceny	...	...	...	...	1
Indecent exposure	...	...	...	...	1
Housebreaking	...	...	...	...	2
Shopbreaking	...	...	...	...	1
Wilfully setting fire to stack of hay	...	...	...	...	1
Larceny	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	11

The number of cases of neglected children committed during the year 1913 shows a considerable increase over the number committed in 1912, the figures being 1,676 in 1913, against 1,419 in 1912, the increase being 257: the number of children who became wards of the State through the operation of the Infant Life Protection Act shows a decrease of 51, the numbers being 177 for 1912, and 126 for 1913. The total number of neglected children for the year was 1,802, while that for 1912 was 1,596, an increase of 202.

This increase is accounted for, in my opinion, mainly by the fact that, of the 1,802 committals for the year, 1,231 of the children were left to the care of their mothers. As in the previous year, the high cost of living and the enhanced rents demanded by property-owners have pressed very heavily on the great majority of the mothers who have applied for assistance. A scrutiny of the following table will show that the position of the mothers at the time of the committal of their children was such that, if the children were to be prevented from drifting into undesirable courses, assistance of some kind was an absolute necessity. Such assistance, being forthcoming when it was most needed, has, without doubt, materially helped struggling women to bring up their children decently, and to keep them free from many of the temptations and inducements to evil, to which, were such assistance not forthcoming, the children would almost inevitably be exposed.

The following table shows the positions of the mothers of children committed at the time of committal :—

Number of Cases.						Number of Children.		
254	...	Father	dead	...	Mother	poor	...	679
114	...	"	deserted	...	"	"	...	261
60	...	"	invalid	...	"	"	...	169
22	...	"	in gaol	...	"	"	...	54
15	...	"	in lunatic asylum	...	"	"	...	39
6	...	"	in hospital	...	"	"	...	23
1	...	"	drunkard	...	"	"	...	1
1	...	"	blind	...	"	"	...	3
1	...	"	divorced	...	"	"	...	2
<hr/>						<hr/>		
474								1,231
<hr/>						<hr/>		

The total numbers of committals each year since 1900 are—

1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
874 ...	1,152 ...	842 ...	397 ...	382 ...	495 ...	702 ...	707 ...	1,178 ...	1,219 ..	1,365 ...	1,264 ...	1,596

The number of reformatory committals has increased by 3, the number for 1913 being 59, as against 56 for 1912. This 59 includes 11 cases transferred from gaols; of these 9 were sent to Excelsior Home and 2 to Bayswater. These will all be reported on next year.

Of the 16 transferred from gaols last year, 7 have done well, 5 fairly well, and of those remaining 3 turned out unsatisfactory. The remaining girl is still at Oakleigh.

I have again to call attention to the fact that there is no Reformatory for Roman Catholic boys. The only Roman Catholic Home available for such boys is Straight View Farm, but as only four boys can be accommodated there at any one time, and it is difficult to deal with boys whose tendencies urge them to abscond, the provision for Roman Catholic boys is inadequate.

In my report for 1912, as in that for 1911, I suggested the establishment of a farm house for reformatory boys, where, under careful supervision, they could be trained in the work of a farm. Further experience has strengthened my conviction that such a home is a necessity, and I have seen no reason to alter my opinion that the Wyuna State Farm would prove an ideal place for such an establishment. There is at this farm practically all the accommodation that would be needed for some time to come, and I believe that, with careful management, such an institution would not only be self-supporting, but would also turn out lads well equipped for farm work in the northern districts, and who might reasonably be expected to take up land for themselves.

Mortality.—The total number of deaths for 1913 was 84, while that for 1912 was 124, a reduction of 32 per cent. When the total number of cases (8,553) is considered, it will be seen that the percentage (.9 per cent.) is surprisingly low. Fifty-five of those 84 were under twelve months old.

The rate of mortality last year was 1·26 per cent., and as the percentage for this year is but ·9 per cent., a reduction of ·33 per cent., the result cannot be considered other than satisfactory.

When it is remembered that many of the wards admitted as infants are sickly from birth, and that a large percentage of them are hopeless from the first, it will be seen that no effort is spared to give even those cases in which the chances of recovery are of the slenderest every attention.

Expenditure.—The number of children committed to the care of the Department having greatly increased, it follows that there must be a corresponding increase in expenditure. The actual increase was £11,947 1s. 9d., or the difference between £107,620 9s. 9d. in 1912 and £119,567 11s. 6d. in 1913.

The expenditure in connection with neglected children was £107,925 2s. 8d. Included in this sum is the amount of £47,703 8s. paid to mothers whose children have been boarded out to them. For Reformatory children the expenditure was £4,138 15s. 1d. The expenses of administration amounted to £7,503 13s. 9d.

Collection of Maintenance.—The amount collected during the year for the maintenance of children was £5,209 17s. 8d., an increase of £714 0s. 11d. over the amount collected in 1912. The amount received under court orders was £2,822 15s. 4d., while £2,387 2s. 4d. came in under voluntary agreements.

The amount received under the system of voluntary agreement was £387 17s. 9d. greater than that received through similar channels in 1912. The large amount collected in this way shows that great attention is very properly given to the system of voluntary payments, under which the parents of wards arrange, without publicity or court proceedings, to contribute, according to their circumstances, towards the maintenance of their offspring. In this way the interest of the parents in the children is maintained, while the payments involved are a benefit to the Department.

The amount paid to registered nurses was £11,413 18s. 11d.

The number of families deserted by their fathers is 114, and the number of children in these families 261.

The total number of children who were a cost to the State on 31st December, 1912 and 1913 respectively, was—

	NEGLECTED.		REFORMATORY.	
	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.
Boarded-out ...	5,969	6,786	126	140
In institutions ...	319	311	...	...
Total ...	6,288	7,097		

Of the 6,786 neglected children, 3,090 were placed in foster homes, and 3,696 were left with their mothers, the mothers numbering 1,578. The condition of these mothers is set forth in the following table:—

	Number of Children.		Number of Mothers.	
Father dead ...	2,335	...	1,003	...
„ deserted ...	536	...	253	...
„ invalid ...	551	...	212	...
„ in lunatic asylum ...	143	...	59	...
„ in gaol ...	101	...	41	...
„ hospital ...	20	...	5	...
„ old-age pensioner ...	4	...	2	...
„ drunkard ...	1	...	1	...
„ blind ...	3	...	1	...
„ divorced ...	2	...	1	...
Total ...	3,696	...	1,578	...

Service.—During the year 1913, 102 boys and 63 girls were sent out to service for the first time. Almost all of the girls were sent out to selected domestic service; the great majority to homes in the suburbs, within easy reach for supervision and visitation purposes. Most of the boys, on the other hand, were sent to country homes, which, as in former years, have been selected with much care. Indeed, it might fairly be claimed that during 1913 exceedingly few such homes have been proved unsuitable by subsequent visitation.

The following analysis shows the occupations of employers to whom the boys were sent :—

Farmer ...	...	...	...	...	46
Dairy farmer ...	...	...	...	...	16
Pastoralist ...	...	...	...	...	4
Baker ...	...	...	...	...	1
Butcher ...	...	...	...	...	1
Blacksmith ...	...	...	...	...	1
Garden and household ...	...	...	...	...	9
Viticultural College ...	...	...	...	...	7
Orchardist ...	...	...	...	...	10
Shop or store ...	...	...	...	...	6

During the year some 18 Reformatory boys and 7 Reformatory girls have been sent out to service, most—both girls and boys—going to the country.

There have been comparatively few complaints about the health of the service wards, but a fair proportion of the young people have changed their homes during the year. The Visiting Officers have made favorable reports of the conduct of the great majority.

As regards wages, the upward tendency of the last few years has been maintained ; still, it is the class of home, and not so much the amount of wages, that is the first consideration in the choice of a home. The ruling wage is from 4s. to 5s. for the beginner, to 10s. up to 15s. for an experienced and well-behaved girl or boy of from eighteen to twenty years.

The demand for the services of boys and girls remains much the same as in other years—it far exceeds the available supply.

In regard to the savings of the Service children, I would yet once again bring under notice the desirability of the Department retaining control of savings until the wards reach the age of 21 years.

The provision of a Farm Home in the country, with industrial equipment for the training and disciplining of a certain class of younger Service boys, is still a great need, if the Department would do its best for the backward boy.

We have, during the year, circulated a large quantity of printed matter, issued by the Immigration Branch of the Lands Department, amongst the promising older Service boys, with the idea of encouraging them to be diligent in their situations, to save their money, and acquire useful experience, with the view to taking up a small block in an irrigation area later on.

It has been fairly estimated that an intelligent, well-living, and thrifty boy can acquire the necessary experience, and save the needful cash to take up a block of land (under the favorable conditions provided by the Government) by the time he is 25 years of age.

From time to time we learn of the success in life of former wards, although the Department is not, and cannot keep, in touch with them generally, after their term of control has expired.

As indicative of the intelligent ambition and steady vision of some of the boys now out of their time, the following letter, recently received, may be quoted :—

“ To the Secretary, &c.

Dear Sir,—I respectfully wish to make application to you for my office savings—now that I have reached 18 years of age. As Mr. B— had no more work for me to do on his farm, I have come over to A—, where I am now working on an orchard. This will only be a short job, and when I get my money I intend to buy a horse and cart, for I can find plenty of work carting to the mines around A—. I do not drink, nor gamble, nor keep bad company.

Hoping for an early and favourable reply, yours respectfully,

(Signed) FRANK K—.”

The cheque that was recently sent to Frank amounted to £39 16s. 5d.

The amount banked by the Department to the credit of the Service children for the year amounted to £3,325 19s. 6d. The balance at credit at the end of the year was £8,069 6s. 11d.

Educational.— The policy of encouraging wards of the State to take advantage of the higher educational facilities offered by the secondary and technical schools has been continued, and has been amply justified by its results.

Of these wards attending such schools in 1912, one is still at Castlemaine High School, and one who was at the Sale High School was successful in passing the Junior Public Examination. Of the three who attended another High School, all have entered the teaching service, two of them having matriculated, while the four who were attending Technical Schools are making good progress.

During 1913, 18 wards were in attendance at either High Schools or Technical Schools, 9 at the former and 9 at the latter. All these students obtain good reports, and in many cases gain marks well above their class averages. One boy passed the Junior Public Examination at his first attempt, taking eight subjects, in all of which he passed, and in addition gained distinction in four. This result was equalled by a girl from another district.

Boarded-out with Foster Parents.—Once again I have to report that the results obtained from the system of boarding-out the wards of the State are satisfactory in every way. Owing largely to the great interest taken by the Ladies' Committees in this branch of the work, to the care evinced by them in selecting homes for the purpose, and in the selection of wards to be boarded-out, there have been hardly any complaints from foster parents, and very few requests for the removal of children. The work of these ladies being purely honorary, this Department is under a heavy obligation to them, and the Lady Correspondents, who, in addition, voluntarily take upon themselves the onerous duties of dealing with the correspondence inseparable from this class of work, are above praise.

During the year 692 children were placed on probation with friends or relatives who undertook the cost of maintaining them, and the task of obtaining for them suitable occupation after the wards had passed the limit of school age.

Clifden Home, Wedderburn.—This Home, which is still under the management of Misses Colvin and Brumby, affords a capital example of the class of place suitable for the reception of delicate children. Situated, as it is, in a part of the State where the climate is salubrious and the milk supply plentiful, Clifden Home has fulfilled even the sanguine expectations of its directors, neither of whom has been sparing of effort to make things better for the children placed in their care.

As in previous years, I greatly acknowledge the services rendered to this Department by the officers of kindred Councils and Associations in other States. With these officers I include the Police Department of our own State and those of the neighbouring States, who have given material assistance in making inquiries and supplying information when requested.

Receiving Dépôt, Royal Park.—During the year 1,135 children were admitted. At the end of the year there were in the Girls' Dépôt 46 children, including eight on remand and one reformatory, and in the Boys' Dépôt 26, including three on remand and two reformatory.

The new Nursery and the Isolation ward, which were under construction at the date of my previous Report, have been completed, and I quote from the report of the Medical Officer, Dr. Yule—"It is gratifying to be able to record the fact that, since the opening of the new buildings of the Nursery Department, we have a first-class equipment for the first time to deal with the vulnerable and important class of children in the dépôt. The new buildings came into use in November, and will undoubtedly save to the community lives which under former conditions would have been lost. Some minor improvements remain to be effected, but for the most part everything is in good working order. Part of the new accommodation has been railed off securely for the segregation of syphilitic and infectious cases, which are of course under constant supervision. It must, however, be pointed out that by no means all of the syphilitic children are infective, and it may be wise in the future to send some of them to school, since doing so would involve no risk of transmitting the disease."

The old buildings have been removed to other sites, one part being converted into a gymnasium, and the other into a store.

The gymnasium is largely used, and the exercises indulged in are bearing good fruit in the improved physique of the children.

Both the boys' and the girls' divisions are in need of painting, and the alterations to the fire appliances, standpipe, &c., recommended by the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade are, in my opinion, highly desirable. I trust that these necessary works will be carried out during the present year.

Milk.—23,340 quarts of milk were supplied from the farm, the supply being quite adequate for all purposes. The value of such a supply of fresh milk twice a day to the children at the depôt cannot be overestimated. All fresh vegetables needed at the depôt have been grown in the garden, the work in which has been done by the boys detained at the depôt for short periods. In this way these boys are provided with light work in the open air, which furnishes them with exercise suited to their growth and physical well-being.

The quantity of vegetables supplied from the garden was 18,464 lbs., and 67,580 lbs. of fodder for the cattle were produced at the farm in addition.

Rutherglen Viticultural College.—At the close of the year there were 16 boys at the college, all of whom are doing well. I am still further confirmed in my opinion that Mr. Adcock has exceptional qualifications for training boys in the special work of this college.

Training Home, East Melbourne.—The number of girls in this home at the end of the year was 27. Ten had been placed at service, and of these 6 had given satisfaction to their mistresses.

Albion Home, Glenroy, for Protestant Girls.—There are 49 girls at present in this home. During the year 19 were placed in service homes, and of these 11 are still giving satisfaction. Three were transferred to the Reformatory, the remaining 5 having been returned to the home for further training. The record of this home is very satisfactory, the Matron in charge and her staff showing much tact in the training of the girls.

Bayswater Home for Protestant Boys.—Seventy-six boys were in this home at the end of the year. Nineteen were sent to service, of whom only 3 turned out unsatisfactory. At Boxhill there is an adjunct to this home where the younger children are sent, thus allowing for the classification of the boys. These institutions under the superintendence of Major Smith and Staff-captain Parkes are doing very good work.

Christian Brothers Home for Roman Catholic Boys (Geelong).—This home provides for boys with wayward and absconding tendencies, who are in very few cases suitable for foster homes. Sixty-three boys were in the home at the end of the year. Twenty-two were sent out to service, the great majority of whom have given satisfaction. The Reverend Brothers take keen interest in the work of the home, and pay much attention to the welfare of the boys, both moral and physical.

Industrial School (Abbotsford) for Catholic Girls.—Twenty-five girls were in this school at the end of the year. During the year a number of girls have been sent out to service homes, but, like the boys sent to St. Augustine's, Geelong, many of the girls sent to Abbotsford are unsuitable for foster homes. For such girls the careful control and wise care of the Reverend Mother and the Sisters are eminently suitable, the girls showing marked improvement.

PRIVATE REFORMATORIES.

	<i>Boys.</i>	Inmates on 31st December, 1913.
Bayswater (Protestant)	23
Excelsior Home, Brighton (Protestant and Roman Catholic)	6
Heathfield Home, Apollo Bay (Protestant)	18
Straight View, Harcourt (Roman Catholic)	4
Total	51
	<i>Girls.</i>	
Riddell's Creek (Protestant)	29
East Camberwell (branch of Riddell's Creek)	33
Oakleigh Convent (Roman Catholic)	24
Total	86

Riddell's Creek Reformatory for Protestant Girls.—The number of girls in this home at the end of the year was 29. Seven girls were sent out from the home during the year, five to situations (four giving satisfaction and keeping their places while one absconded), and two to their parents.

The girls at this home are trained in domestic duties, fancy work, knitting, &c. The Matron and her assistants have done excellent work during the year.

East Camberwell Sub-Reformatory.—Thirty-three girls were in this home at the end of the year. During the year eight girls were placed at service, all but one of them giving satisfaction, and nearly all earning high wages. A pleasing feature of these girls is that they visit the home when they can get an opportunity to do so. One of the girls placed at service during the year is now happily married.

The visits of these girls to the home show that they appreciate the training and advice they have received from the Matron and staff.

Oakleigh Reformatory for Roman Catholic Girls.—There were twenty-four girls in this home at the end of the year. Five were in service at the end of 1912 and three were placed during 1913. Only one of these were reported as unsatisfactory.

The least promising cases among the girls are sent here, and the influence of the Reverend Mother and the Sisters has a very beneficial effect, a decided improvement being manifest after the girls have been a short time in the home.

Bayswater Home for Protestant Boys.—Twenty-three boys were in this home at the end of the year. Twelve were placed in service and of these nine gave satisfaction, the remaining three proving unsatisfactory. On my visits to this home I found the boys contented and in good health.

Excelsior Home, Brighton.—At the end of the year six boys were in this home. Four were placed in service during the year, only one turning out unsatisfactory.

Those boys who were transferred from gaol to Mr. Groom's charge have done well, their health, conduct, and general progress being satisfactory. Mr. Groom is frequently visited by different old boys, most of whom are married, and in good positions, or comfortably off. Mr. Groom's earnestness and enthusiasm for his work do not wane.

Heathfield, Apollo Bay (Protestant).—At the end of the year there were 18 boys at this home. The boys sent to this home are usually rather unpromising. A small number sent to service have done well; in the cases of some of the others there is a tendency towards absconding when the boys go out to service. City boys sent to Apollo Bay show great improvement in physique, and Mr. Clyne, the Superintendent, is unremitting in his efforts to assist and encourage the lads.

Straight View, Roman Catholic Home for Boys (Harcourt).—Four boys were at this Home at the end of the year, this being the full number for which accommodation is provided. During the year seven boys were placed at service, all of whom did fairly well. As this is the only Roman Catholic Home for Reformatory Boys, and not altogether suited for incorrigibles, the Department at times is faced with some difficulty in placing boys of this stamp. The boys at this home are well treated, and Mr. McMahon goes to considerable trouble to find them good service homes as soon as they show themselves worthy of trust.

Since the presentation of my Report for 1912, I regret very much to record that Mr. Jas. McMahon, who had had the supervision of this home for some time, was accidentally killed. He and Mrs. McMahon had been very zealous in seeing to the welfare of the boys, and it is confidently expected that, under his brother, who has now taken up the work, there will be no falling off in this respect.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT.

The provisions of this Act are carried out. I am satisfied that the preservation of the lives of many infants is due to the system of boarding out infants to competent registered nurses, all of whom have the services of a medical man available, and the supervision and direction by a trained nurse.

In consequence of the increased number of admissions, there has been an increase in the number of nurses registered, many excellent, experienced women having registered. The low death rate among their charges testifies to the capability of the nurses and to the intelligent care bestowed on the children.

There were 474 children placed with registered nurses, compared with 454 in the year 1912. On 31st December, 1912, there were under the Act 438 children,

which, added to the 474 admitted during 1913, gives a total of 912 children Of this number—

Became wards of the State	...	...	...	...	126
Died	...	...	...	...	45
Adopted	...	...	...	...	47
Removed by parents or guardians	...	...	...	...	146
Reached the age of five years...	...	...	...	...	29
Leaving under supervision on 31st December, 1913	...	...	...	...	519
Total	...	...	...	...	912

The 474 children under the Act on 31st December, 1913, were placed as follow :—

Homes with 1 child	...	...	...	333	=	333 children.
" " 2 children	...	...	...	72	=	144 "
" " 3 "	...	...	...	10	=	30 "
" " 4 "	...	...	...	3	=	12 "
Total	...	...	...	...		519 "

During the year five cases came before the courts for breaches of the Act. The effect of bringing these cases forward has been to make more widely known the conditions of the law dealing with the placing of children with unregistered nurses. As a result of this the registrations for boarding out have increased.

AGES OF INFANTS IN REGISTERED HOMES ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1913.

Age	Weeks.						Months.												Years.					Total.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5			
Children ...	1	1	6	6	...	7	20	28	17	24	23	30	17	17	15	14	93	64	56	28	14	519		

ADOPTIONS.

During 1913 there was a perceptible increase in the number of adoptions registered by the Department. In 1912 there were 90 such adoptions, while in 1913 there were 174.

The Inspectors' reports on these adoptions show that, as a rule, fairly good homes are provided for the infants adopted, but, where unsuitable persons and homes have been met with, there have been no means of removing the child. It is hoped that the Act will be soon amended in the direction of giving the Department power in the future, not only to register, as at present, but also to approve the adoption, but only after it has been clearly shown that the home and the surroundings of the infant are satisfactory. The amendments already suggested will, I trust, at no distant date, be the subject of legislation.

There were several prosecutions during the year for breaches of the Act (section 22). These prosecutions, to a great extent, account for the increase in the number of adoptions notified, and have had the effect of enlightening those who were prepared to adopt infants without notifying the Department as to the risks involved.

EXEMPTIONS.

There were but few applications for exemption, the total for the year being only five. In each case small amounts were paid for the maintenance of the child, which was placed with a relative.

MORTALITY.

Though there was an increase in the number of children (912) under supervision over that of 1912 (842), the number of deaths was smaller, being 45 for 1913 against 50 for 1912.

Many of these infants are very frail when placed out, very often as the result of pre-natal conditions. Too often the mother has, for months prior to the birth of the child, been hidden in close confinement, and has not been too well nourished. After the birth of the child it has often been the case that the mother must wean her child prematurely, or not breast-feed it at all, as she is compelled to go to work to provide for her own and her child's maintenance.

Several children, either deserted by their mothers, or whose mothers were in Mental Hospitals, have been placed out, the fathers of such children having no resource but the Department and the registered nurse. Children of this stamp have, as a rule, not had the best of attention.

When these circumstances are taken into account, it will be conceded that the lowness of the death rate is remarkable, and that it says much for the unremitting care and attention bestowed on their charges by the nurses.

Several wet-nurses offered during the year, and their services were readily accepted.

LENGTH OF TIME CHILD IN HOME AT TIME OF DEATH.

Weeks.						Months.												Years.				Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5		
..	4	5	3	...	4	8	6	6	3	1	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45

AGE AT TIME OF DEATH.

Weeks.						Months.												Years.				Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5		
..	2	...	...	10	10	7	3	5	...	3	2	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	45

VARIOUS CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Acute Hydro Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy and exhaustion	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Colitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Entero-Colitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Whooping Cough and Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Enteritis and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Entero-Colitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Syncope and Entero-Colitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gangrenous Inflammation	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Disease and Asthenia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Colitis, Marasmus and Heart Failure	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity and Asthenia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Capillary Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Peritonitis and Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia resulting from Convulsion	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Physiological Starvation	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough and Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions and Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Exhaustion from Heat	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Exhaustion from Congenital Debility	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	45

DISTRICTS IN WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED.

Ballarat	...	...	10
Bendigo	...	...	2
Brunswick	...	...	4
Brighton	...	...	2
Carlton	...	...	2
Coburg	...	...	8
Collingwood	...	...	1
Fitzroy	...	...	1
Footscray	...	...	1
Ferntree Gully	...	...	1
Malvern	...	...	4
Moonee Ponds	...	...	1
Northcote	...	...	1
North Melbourne	...	...	2
Port Melbourne	...	...	1
Kiddell	...	...	1
Richmond	...	...	2
South Yarra	...	...	1
Total	...	...	45

MONTHS IN WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED.

January	...	...	13
February	...	...	8
March	...	...	4
April	...	...	4
May	...	...	2
June	...	...	...
July	...	...	1
August	...	...	2
September	...	...	1
October	...	...	...
November	...	...	4
December	...	...	6
Total	...	...	45

INSPECTORS.

There has been no increase in the number of inspectors (6). All of them are keenly interested in their work, which is carried out in a highly efficient manner.

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 1913.

	Neglected.			Reformatory.			Grand Total.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Number under supervision on 31st December, 1912	3,988	3,609	7,597	77	110	187	7,784
ADMISSIONS.							
Court committals	902	774	1,676	36	12	48	1,724
Section 9, Infant Life Protection Act No. 2102	57	69	126	...	...	...	126
Transfers from Gaol ... ..	...	...	...	11	...	11	11
" " Neglected Children's Department ... ..	...	...	...	17	21	38	38
" " Reformatory Department	10	...	10	...	...	...	10
Returned absconders	17	2	19	6	...	6	25
Total Admissions	986	845	1,831	70	33	103	1,934
DISCHARGES.							
By Order of the Governor in Council	311	321	632	6	...	6	638
" Death	55	29	84	...	...	...	84
" Effluxion of time	167	109	276	28	35	63	339
" Transfer to Neglected Children's Department ... ..	...	...	...	10	...	10	10
" " Reformatory Department	17	21	38	...	...	...	38
" " Hospitals for Insane	3	3	6	1	...	1	7
Unreturned absconders	27	3	30	17	2	19	49
Total Discharges	580	486	1,066	62	37	99	1,165
Number under supervision on 31st December, 1913	4,394	3,968	8,362	85	106	191	8,553
LOCATION.							
* { Boarded out in foster-homes	1,618	1,472	3,090	...	...	...	3,090
" " with their own mothers	1,916	1,780	3,696	...	...	...	3,696
{ Maintained in institutions	177	134	311	53	87	140	451
In service homes	290	276	566	16	14	30	596
With relatives and others, without cost to the State	380	295	675	12	5	17	692
In Hospitals	11	6	17	...	...	...	17
In Gaol ... ..	...	...	...	4	...	4	4
On a visit to friends	2	5	7	...	...	...	7
Total	4,394	3,968	8,362	85	106	191	8,553

* In addition to these, 36 (8 males, 28 females) who are free from legal control, are still being maintained by the State, as they are incapacitated.

TABLE II.—DEATHS DURING 1913.

Length of Time under care of Department.	AGE AT TIME OF DEATH.											Total.	
	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	5 to 6.	6 to 7.	7 to 8.	9 to 10.	12 to 13.	13 to 14.	14 to 15.		17 to 18.
1 days	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
4 "	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
8 "	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
9 "	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
11 "	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
12 "	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
13 "	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
16 "	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
20 "	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
21 "	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
4 weeks	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
5 "	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
7 "	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
2 months	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
3 "	9	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
4 "	4	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
5 "	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
6 "	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
7 "	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	7
8 "	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
9 "	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
11 "	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
12 "	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
2 years	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
3 "	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
4 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
5 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
6 "	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
9 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
11 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
13 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
TOTAL	55	10	3	2	1	2	1	1	3	4	1	1	84

TABLE II.—DEATHS DURING 1913—*continued*.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				
Abscess in throat	1	Gastro-enteritis and exhaustion	5	
Acute bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia ...	1	Gastro-enteritis and heart failure	1	
Asthenia	1	Gastro-enteritis and meningitis	1	
Athrepsia	1	Gastro-enteritis and pneumonia	1	
Bronchitis	1	Gastro-enteritis and syncope	1	
Bronchitis and paralysis	1	Gastro-entero colitis and exhaustion	3	
Broncho pneumonia	1	Heart disease	1	
Broncho pneumonia and exhaustion	1	Heart disease and ileo colitis	1	
Burns and shock	2	Ileo colitis and exhaustion	3	
Catarrhal pneumonia, whooping cough, and exhaustion	1	Ileo colitis and toxæmia	1	
Cardiac disease, with meningeal symptoms ...	1	Inanition	1	
Colitis	1	Malnutrition and malassimilation	1	
Compound fracture of femur	1	Marasmus	2	
Congenital syphilis and exhaustion	1	Marasmus, colitis and syphilis	1	
Congenital nephritis and uræmic convulsions ...	1	Marasmus, entero-colitis and congenital syphilis	1	
Convulsions	3	Marasmus and exhaustion	2	
Diarrhœa and convulsions	1	Marasmus and gastro-enteritis	1	
Diphtheria	3	Marasmus and heart failure	1	
Drowned	2	Marasmus and ileo colitis	1	
Entero-colitis	1	Meningitis	2	
Entero-colitis and toxæmia	1	Otitis media and septic meningitis	1	
Exhaustion	1	Pneumonia	5	
Exhaustion and colitis	1	Pneumonia and meningitis	1	
Fracture of base of skull	1	Prematurity and asthenia	1	
Gastritis	2	Raynaud's disease	1	
Gastritis and exhaustion	2	Scurvy and broncho pneumonia	1	
Gastro-enteritis	2	Shock (accidentally drowned)	1	
Gastro-enteritis and asthenia	2	Ulcerative endo carditis	1	
Gastro-enteritis and bronchitis	1	Whooping cough and convulsions	1	
Gastro-enteritis and cardiac failure	1			
		Total	84	

Re DEATHS DURING 1913.

20 died at Depôt—
 18 of them being under 12 months
 old
 2 „ „ between 1 and 2
 years
 37 died in foster homes
 13 „ boarded-out with mother

7 died in Children's Hospital
 2 „ in Melbourne Hospital
 1 „ in Alfred Hospital
 1 „ in Bendigo Hospital
 2 „ in Haven, North Fitzroy
 1 „ in St. Augustine's Orphanage,
 Geelong

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 31.12.12.	Admissions during 1913.			Children under Supervision on 31.12.13.
		Court Commitments.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society	288	12	5	21	282
Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society	297	9	3	56	226
Church of England Neglected Children's Aid Society	99	4	1	18	92
Methodist Homes for Children	423	14	4	15	422
Misses Colvin and Brumley, Clifden Home, Wedderburn	75	...	...	...	65
Gordon Institute, Melbourne	144	18	19	14	156
Burwood Boys' Home	87	5	32	4	86
Methodist Boys' Training Farm, Burwood East	63	...	1	22	48
Mission Rescue and Children's Home, Ballarat East	29	...	...	...	15
Presbyterian Home for Girls, Elsternwick	27	6	6	...	31
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills	157	...	...	67	164
Mr. W. M. Forster (Try Society), Hawksburn	32	...	...	46	37
Total	1,721	68	71	263	1,624

TABLE IV.—PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED IN 1913.

Particulars supplied with Order of Committal.	Neglected.	Reformatory.	Total.
Parents dead	23	1	24
" deserted	18	...	18
" poor, of bad character...	1	1	2
" unknown	10	4	14
" poor, of good character	49	29	78
" in lunatic asylum	1	...	1
" in gaol	2	...	2
Father dead; mother immoral	5	...	5
" " deserted	2	...	2
" " poor, of good character	682	9	691
" " unknown	1	...	1
" " a cripple	1	...	1
" " an invalid	3	...	3
" " a drunkard	2	...	2
" " in gaol	2	...	2
" " imbecile	1	...	1
Father poor, good character; mother in hospital	8	...	8
" " " a drunkard	3	1	4
" " " in lunatic asylum	4	...	4
" " " immoral	4	...	4
" " " dead	22	6	28
" " " deserted	6	...	6
Father invalid; mother dead	2	...	2
" " " poor, good character	182	1	183
Father deserted; mother poor, good character	535	3	538
" " " poor, drunkard	3	...	3
" " " in hospital	2	...	2
" " " in gaol	2	...	2
" " " bad character	4	...	4
" " " in lunatic asylum	9	...	9
" " " doubtful character	3	...	3
" " " invalid	1	...	1
" " " dead	22	...	22
Father in gaol; mother poor, good character	57	...	57
" " " dead	4	...	4
" " " immoral	1	...	1
" " " deserted	2	...	2
Father in hospital; mother poor, good character	16	...	16
Father unknown; mother deserted	17	...	17
" " " poor, good character	13	1	14
" " " imbecile	2	...	2
" " " dead... ..	7	...	7
" " " blind	1	...	1
" " " in lunatic asylum	1	...	1
" " " immoral	3	...	3
Father drunkard; mother poor, good character	4	...	4
" " " in gaol	4	...	4
" " " dead	10	1	11
Father poor, doubtful character; mother poor, fair character	...	1	1
Father in England; mother dead ... ..	...	1	1
Father in lunatic asylum; mother poor, good character	43	...	43
Father divorced; mother poor, of good character	2	...	2
Total	1,802	56	1,861

TABLE V.—TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN—
NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY, 1913.

Neglected Children.	Average strength	Items of Expenditure.												
		Provisions.	Clothing and Bedding.	Fuel, Light, and Water.	Stores, Stock, &c.	Medical Attendance, &c.	Incidentals.	Transport and Travelling Expenses.	Telephone Services.	Salaries.	Postage and Telegrams.	Maintenance.	Total.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Boys' and Girls' Receiving Depôts	80	835 2 0*	251 9 5	289 7 5	227 16 10	55 14 5	340 3 5	..	..	2,683 9 4	..	..	4,683 2 10
Abbotsford Industrial School	37	..	..	..	..	18 0	..	..	..	..	..	617 13 5	618 11 5
Training Home for Girls	28	..	..	..	..	16 6 5	..	..	..	..	..	369 4 6	385 10 11
Service Children	..	..	458 3 9	..	..	..	..	1,765 5 0†	..	..	..	..	1523 9 9
Boarded-out Children	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Telephone Services	6,610 ⁵	..	1,074 11 5	..	..	5,255 13 11	..	818 13 8	..	..	..	93,509 9 3	100,658 8 3
Total ..	6,755 ⁵	835 2 0	1,784 4 7	289 7 5	227 16 10	5,328 12 9	340 3 5	1,883 19 8	55 19 6	2,683 9 4	..	94,496 7 2	107,925 2 8	
Reformatory Children.														
Oakleigh (Girls)	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	799 17 0	799 17 0
Riddell's Creek (Girls)	64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,683 1 1	1,683 1 1
Excelsior Home, (Boys)	8 ⁵	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226 5 10	226 5 10
Straight View Farm (Boys)	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84 17 1	84 17 1
Heatfield Home (Boys)	13 ⁵	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	350 14 7	350 14 7
Bayswater (Boys)	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	553 4 4	553 4 4
Service Children	..	..	247 8 1	..	..	..	..	125 2 4	..	..	..	..	372 10 5
Telephone Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68 4 9	..	..	..	68 4 9
Total ..	140	..	247 8 1	..	..	..	..	125 2 4	68 4 9	..	..	3,697 19 11	4,138 15 1
Head Office	..	..	..	8 5 4	132 1 5	..	340 1 8	747 4 11	..	5,766 18 10	509 1 7	..	7,503 13 9
Grand Total ..	..	835 2 0	2,031 12 8	297 12 9	359 18 3	5,328 12 9	680 5 1	2,756 6 11	124 4 3	8,450 8 2	509 1 7	98,194 7 1	119,567 11 6
Deduct—														
Amount received for Maintenance of Children, £5,209 17s 8d.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,300 4 4
All other receipts £90 6s. 8d.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Net cost ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114,267 7 2

* Including Rations for Staff at Boys' and Girls' Depôts.
† £564 12s. 7d. of this expenditure was incurred under Part VIII. of the Neglected Children's Act.

TABLE VI.—AGES, RELIGIONS, AND BIRTHPLACES OF CHILDREN
COMMITTED IN 1913.

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	Total.
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
Neglected	381	167	121	146	140	132	132	131	100	108	83	69	53	20	7	9	3	1802
Reformatory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	3	4	4	15	18	48
Transfer from Gaol	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	11
Total	381	167	121	146	140	132	132	131	100	110	84	70	56	24	11	25	31	1861

TABLE VI.—AGES, RELIGIONS, AND BIRTHPLACES OF CHILDREN COMMITTED IN 1913—*continued.*

RELIGIONS.

				Protestant.	Roman Catholic.	Hebrew.	Total.
Neglected ...	...	...	...	1,306	496	...	1,802
Reformatory ...	...	...	...	35	12	1	48
Transfer from Gaol ...	...	...	...	8	2	1	11
Totals	...	...	...	1,349	510	2	1,861

BIRTHPLACES.

		Australia and New Zealand.	England.	Scotland.	South Africa.	India.	Wales.	Unknown.	Total.
Neglected ...	...	1,735	30	14	13	2	4	4	1802
Reformatory ...	...	47	...	...	1	...	...	...	48
Transfers from Gaol ...	...	9	2	...	.	...	...	...	11
Total ...	...	1,791	32	14	14	2	4	4	1861

REPORTS OF SCHOOL.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' RECEIVING DEPÔT, ROYAL PARK.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my annual report.

It is most gratifying to be in a position to record steady progress in the comfort of the children and to feel that one's wishes and suggestions are so readily carried out by those in authority, as since my last report we are occupying our new nurseries, which are most beautiful up-to-date buildings, their wide verandahs making an ideal sleeping-out place for delicate babies.

I have no hesitation in saying they are equal to all, and superior to most, structures of their kind in Australia.

Besides which a gymnasium for senior boys, a store room, drying ground, and isolation ward at Boys' Depôt have all been provided, so that the year has been most prolific in improvements.

The health of the children has been most satisfactory, even amongst our infants, the death rate being much less than in previous years. The conduct of children also is exemplary.

Our sincere thanks must be given to Mr. Legge and members of the Congregational Church, Moonee Ponds, who have for years past given the children a great deal of pleasure at Christmas time.

Children attend church regularly, religious instruction being imparted by the Rev. C. Brewer and Mr. Delany to the Protestant children, and by Father Ellis and the Nuns to the Roman Catholics.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

LILIAN RIORDAN, Matron.

16th June, 1914.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

I have the honour to report as follows anent the medical work at the Neglected Childrens' Depôt Royal Park, during 1913. During the year, 1,135 children were admitted, many of them in an exceedingly unsatisfactory state of health, particularly among the infants. Nevertheless the deaths have only numbered 21, several of whom were practically in *articulo mortis* on entering the Institution. All were under the age of fifteen months, 16 of them under eight months.

It is most gratifying to be able to record the fact that, since the opening of the new buildings of the Nursery department, we have a first-class equipment for the first time to deal with the most vulnerable and important class of children in the depôt. The new buildings came into use in November, and will undoubtedly save to the community lives which would under former conditions have been lost. Some minor improvements still remain to be effected, but for the most part everything is in good working order.

Part of the new accommodation has been railed off securely for the segregation of syphilitic and infectious cases, which are, of course, under constant supervision. It must, however, be pointed out that by no means all of the syphilitic children are infective, and it may be wise in the future to send some of them to school, since doing so would involve no risk of transmitting the disease.

It is still the invariable practice to take a Wassermann test as to the presence or absence of syphilis in every child admitted under the age of twelve months, and in every child of any age showing suspicious symptoms. During 1913, 108 such tests were taken, showing the result of four "positives," eight "partials" and "feeble partials," and 96 "negatives."

For the examination of these cases, and for testing "swabs" from various other cases of suspected illness, I am much indebted to Dr. Bull and his assistants at the University Bacteriological Department.

The health of the children during the past year has, on the whole, been very good, the only epidemic being one of measles, and that a slight one—nine cases with no *sequelae*.

In the junior boys' department there have been three or four troublesome cases of eye disorders which it has been necessary to segregate from the other children. No cases of infection in the depôt have occurred. Their treatment has been conducted under the expert advice of the honorary oculists at the Eye and Ear Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital, while occasional advantage has also been taken of the opportunity to send special cases of sickness to the Children's Hospital. We are indebted to the medical men attached to these hospitals for help thus given.

Several cases of mentally defective children appear from time to time in the depôt. In many cases, such have to be sent to an asylum, from the want of a special institution for the care of the feeble-minded. It is, indeed, eminently desirable that such a home may be soon provided for this class of child.

The work of the nursing staff and attendants has on the whole been carried out in an efficient and kindly manner, which, with the better facilities now available for the proper accommodation and treatment of the infants and "toddlers," should go far to make the lives of these wards of the State as happy as circumstances will allow for the future.

J. SANDISON YULE, M.D.,
Medical Officer.

RECEIVING DEPÔT, ROYAL PARK.

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1914.

We have much pleasure in reporting that all the branches have been regularly visited by members of the Committee during the year, and that the health of the children generally has been very good.

The children are well cared for by the attendants, and every effort is made to make their brief stay at the depôt as much home-like as possible.

We would recommend that a change be made in the name from "Receiving Depôt" to "Receiving Home".

We are pleased the Committee's recommendations have been acted upon; and are glad to note that the new nursery, with its up-to-date equipments, has been completed and is now fully occupied; an isolation ward for infectious cases erected; and the building used as a nursery removed, and divided, one portion being used as a gymnasium; and the other as a storeroom.

The grounds surrounding the nursery have been laid down with grass lawns, flowers and shrubs planted, the whole presenting quite a cheerful appearance.

Our attention was called during the year to want of sufficient sleeping accommodation to allow the younger boys to be kept apart from the elder ones; and we are glad to report that arrangements were made by which such accommodation to allow of complete separation should be, and has been, provided.

The State school on the premises is being successfully carried on by a certificated teacher supplied by the Education Department, and all the children of school age are in daily attendance during their residence in the Home.

The Reformatory boys and those over the school age are kept profitably employed, under proper supervision, in gardening and growing vegetables needed for the institution; and the girls find useful employment in the laundry, kitchen, and needlework.

JOHN S. WALKER, Chairman.
T. C. CAMM, Correspondent.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary of Victoria.

BALLARAT CITY, TOWN AND DISTRICTS.

The Secretary.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending December, 1913. During the year I have paid two half-yearly inspections under boarded-out conditions, interim visits for special reports, interim visits for report on homes, where applications have been made for children to become wards of the State, also visits with interim cheques, visits under service conditions, probation homes, homes of adoption, and visits under infant life.

Districts.—Besides Ballarat proper, City and Town, the districts visited have been Portland, Ararat, Hamilton, Stawell, Maryborough, and 33 others.

Homes for Adoption.—I found each excellent and the little one wanted.

Service Homes.—These are very satisfactory, and here I must say the thanks of the Department are due to our Committees. All our children are doing well, and with the girls, with two exceptions, each has her little blue bank book. Apart from the 1s. per week sent down to the Secretary, one girl proudly showed me her book with a credit for £9, another with £3, others with £2—the latter having only recently started. They are in excellent homes, carefully guarded and trained to be upright, thrifty, and honorable. Two of the mistresses have arranged for lessons in dressmaking one afternoon a week, and the money is being saved to buy a sewing machine. I had the pleasure of taking a cheque for £20 15s. 6d. to one of our girls who had come of age. This was sent from the Secretary with a kind and encouraging letter. The 1s. a week sent down had accumulated. All our children on going to service homes start with a wage of 5s. per week at the age of 14 years, and in January of each succeeding year they receive 1s. a week rise. This annual rise works well, and is an incentive to the children to get on.

Probation Homes.—These are all satisfactory, with the exception of two, which I have reported on, as I consider better supervision can be arranged.

Boarded-out Homes.—I have twice inspected and reported on thirteen homes, Buninyong district, representing 25 children, 12 foster mothers, 1 own mother; Ballarat West, 107 homes, representing 224 children, 77 homes to own mothers, 23 foster mothers, 5 grandmothers, 1 sister, 1 aunt; Ballarat East, 94 homes, representing 184 children, 48 homes to own mothers, 42 foster mothers, 3 grandmothers, 1 aunt—in all, 214 homes and 433 children.

With seven exceptions, the homes were all in good order, and clean—care being exercised in keeping windows opened (from the top) and beds clean—nourishing food provided, and such good clothes and boots as the mothers could provide.

Attainments.—Our children hold their own, for they have sensible, ambitious mothers, and in the second place they have every encouragement and help from the Secretary. Scholarships are given for the High School to those boys and girls who have any proclivities for study. There are three students here at present. One lad of a studious nature has chosen the church, and has gone to a sister State to pursue his studies.

Change of Name.—I know of a few score of mothers who will gladly welcome a change of appellation for their children in place of "Neglected Children."

Health.—Notwithstanding during the year we have had all the ills of flesh that children are heir to not one death has occurred.

Committees.—In Ballarat we have two splendid working committees, and the members take the keenest interest in their work. To each lady is given ten homes, and the best results have been achieved. At the quarterly meeting the visiting papers with reports are given in showing that every home has been visited, suggestions are made for bettering the conditions of homes, names given in of sons and daughters

out of work and wishing for employment, mothers' names given in for a parcel of drapery from the Ladies' Benevolent Clothing Society, or for a load of wood from the Benevolent Asylum, arrangements for babies to be placed in the Crèche and mothers recommended for work. Very few know of the far-reaching good of the work of the local ladies' committees.

Rate of Pay.—On all sides we hear of the absolute necessity of raising the pay from 5s. to 6s. or 7s. Owing to the very high price of living, of boots, rent, wood, and all the necessities of life, mothers will not be able to do justice to the children. We all hope their money will be raised, for, after all, the money is only circulated.

Infant Life.—I have about 40 registered nurses to supervise. All are honorable, straightforward women, devoting their time and energies to the preservation of the little lives entrusted to their care. During the year 1913 now ending I have paid 380 visits under Infant Life, and the nurses have paid me 248 visits, for the greater part bringing the babies along for me to see how they are taken out. The nurses vie with each other as to whose baby looks best, and they all look so nice and are so loved and well cared for, it would be hard to judge. I visit the nurses at all hours, and, when sickness is in the house, even up to midnight, and so encourage them to persevere. The doctors are most attentive, and cheerfully give as many visits as they think are necessary in a day in extreme cases.

The Ballarat Committees appreciated very much the kindly remembrance of the Secretary in his Report in mentioning the good work they were doing for the Department.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours obediently,

C. JULIE GUTMANN,

F. Inspector, Infant Life and B.O.H., and
Lady Correspondent, Ballarat West

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

I have the honour to forward my report for the year ended 31st December, 1913.

With scarcely an exception, the conduct of the boys has been very satisfactory. The main object of the Brothers is to give to those committed to their charge a sound literary, religious, and moral training. The marked improvement that generally takes place in the manners and behaviour of the boys is the more gratifying when one considers their past associations and the wayward circumstances in which many of them were placed.

Very satisfactory progress was made in the various classes during the year. At the annual examination all were advanced to higher standards. The Brother Examiner expressed his satisfaction at the high standard attained.

A wholesome spirit of earnestness and perseverance diffuses itself throughout the whole establishment, which contributes in no small degree to the success of each department.

The general health of the boys was excellent, not a serious case of illness having occurred during the year. This, no doubt, is largely due to the fact that every facility is given the boys to indulge in healthful games, such as cricket, football, handball, and other popular games.

During the summer swimming is much indulged in. At considerable outlay a large swimming bath has been constructed on the premises, and every encouragement is given the boys to become expert swimmers.

Several persons of distinction visited the home during the year, among them being His Grace the Most Reverend Dr. Carr, Archbishop of Melbourne, accompanied by the Most Reverend Dr. Mannix, Coadjutor Archbishop. The latter, in reply to an address presented to him, expressed his admiration, not only of the magnitude of the place, but also the splendid opportunity afforded the boys of learning the various trades to fit them for after life. The institution was also visited by Sir Alexander Peacock, the Minister for Education, attended by the Director of Education.

Addressing the boys, the Minister remarked that it was a real treat to come and see the place and notice how effectively the smallest details were worked out. He added it was quite a revelation to go through the workshops where the boys were being trained for useful callings which gave them an opportunity of becoming good and useful citizens.

During the year, through the generosity of some kind friends, the boys were enabled to attend various entertainments, sports, &c., but the annual picnic held at Black Rock is regarded as one of the chief events of the year. This year the excursion was particularly enjoyable. After driving a distance of 14 miles, and indulging in sea bathing and other forms of amusement, the boys returned in the evening, much pleased with their trip.

J. D. O'DONOGHUE, Manager.

The Secretary,
Neglected Children's Department,
Melbourne.

ROMAN CATHOLIC INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, ABBOTSFORD.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward my report for the year ended 31st December, 1913.

The number of girls remaining in the School on 31st December, 1913, was 25.

ADMISSIONS.		REMOVALS.	
Remaining in School on 1st January, 1913	25	To service	62
Admitted (including re-admission)	53	On probation	1
" from dépôt	5	To mother	1
" " office	1	For holidays	6
" " foster homes	7	To reformatory	3
" " probation	2	Absconded	2
" " holidays	5	Remaining, 31st December, 1913	25
Returned absconders	2		
	100		100

In furnishing the returns for the year under review, I am happy to inform you that the blessing of good health was enjoyed by the girls of your Department who are under our care. Nineteen of their number being on the school roll have attended regularly, and were examined on 3rd December by Inspector A. L. Burgess, with satisfactory results reported at length in the school register. Several of the State pupils have done work to be displayed in the Scholastic Exhibition to be opened in February, 1914.

Enjoyable recreations were provided during the year in the various school fêtes held, and through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. O'Connor, also Dr. and Mrs. Maurice MacGillicuddy and other kind friends, who treated the girls to two biograph and concert entertainments. Among the pictures shown were several of a highly instructive and educational class, dealing with nature study, manufactures, Antarctic expedition, &c.

Another source of pleasure was the gift to the school of a Columbia gramophone, the generous donors being Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Terry.

Christmas was, as usual, rendered merry for the girls by the distribution of useful gifts and toys from the Christmas tree, plentiful supplies of festive "good cheer" in the refectory, &c.

The Sisters cordially thank you, dear sir, and the officers of your Department, for the courteous attention and help rendered them in dealing with the various cases; and to the Visiting Officer, Miss Berry, special gratitude is due for her valuable assistance and indefatigable labours in the interests of the girls at service under her supervision. Nothing could exceed her attention and self sacrifice in all conducive to their welfare.

Hoping the year upon which we have entered may bring ever-increasing prosperity and happiness to you and all connected with the great work for the benefit of Victoria's children,

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

MARY V. KENNEDY,

Provincial Superioress.

TRAINING HOME FOR GIRLS, EAST MELBOURNE.

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

The work during the year has been satisfactory; most of the girls have done well.

The general health has been remarkably good; people constantly remark on the girls' healthy appearance. We have had no epidemics and very little sickness.

Drs. W. R. and T. H. Boyd are still our honorary doctors, and are most kind and attentive. Mr. F. H. Baker is the honorary dentist, and has done a great deal for the girls' teeth.

It is gratifying to report that the conduct of the girls has been excellent. We are greatly encouraged by the improvement in the manners and behaviour after a few months in the home.

I am glad to state that most of the service girls are doing very well, but regret that several had to be removed through bad conduct. The home is only for girls of good character.

We endeavour to keep in touch with the service girls and to advise and help them. Their appearance is always most satisfactory; they always dress neatly. They visit the home constantly, generally twice a week, and enter into the amusements provided for the inmates during recess and evenings.

The laundry is well equipped and up to date, and with the assistance of adult laundresses the girls are taught to do their work well; the result is, they generally become good laundresses.

Special care is taken in the teaching of cooking, and in this department the girls show considerable ability, plain and fancy cooking being taught.

Mrs. Kiss, of the Gas Company, gave the girls special lessons during the winter months, and speaks most highly of them, both in ability and conduct.

Considerable interest was shown by the public in connexion with the recent Children's Welfare Exhibition and the display of needlework, cooking, and laundry work, the object of which encouraged the girls in their work and compensated greatly for their efforts.

The Automobile Club generously provided for the motor picnic again this year; the girls greatly enjoyed it.

The Committee are grateful to the many friends and subscribers who have helped us, and to the ladies who came from the Missionary Training Home to give the girls religious instruction.

The Christmas tree provided by the service and old girls was held as usual this year and was a great source of pleasure to all the old and present girls.

LILIAN M. WATSON, Matron.

SALVATION ARMY "CATHERINE," GLENROY.

I have the honour to submit to you our annual report for the year 1913.

The general health of the children has been good.

The school children have made very fair progress during the year, the Inspector's report being highly satisfactory. A number of girls have been placed at service; the majority are doing well. The sewing and cooking classes have been most successful, the former in supplying the dresses, underclothing, and many useful and artistic household requisites, besides accepting the responsibility of mending, darning, &c., the latter producing many dainty dishes, also preserves, sauces, scones, and cakes.

There have been many visitors during the year, among whom were Dr. Smith, of the Teachers' Training College, Mrs. McRae (Inspector), seventeen students from the Teachers' Training College, Drs. Greig and Barrett, Commissioners Hay, Richards, and Lamb, all expressing their pleasure with both home and school arrangements.

Many pleasures have come our way, including a week at the seaside, visits to the Zoo, a motor ride, with afternoon tea at Mordialloc; the treat (arranged by Commissioner Hay and at which every child received a beautiful Christmas gift from "Santa Claus"), the Home birthday party and Christmas festivities concluded the somewhat lengthy list of gaieties participated in and enjoyed by the young folk here.

WINIFRED HORSLEY, Matron.

BAYSWATER BOYS' INDUSTRIAL HOME.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1913.

When we consider how some of these boys have been brought up and their surroundings throughout, we have to say the conduct is remarkable. Of course, they have their outbursts, but they are taught to curb themselves, and it is remarkable after a few months in the home how they improve, some being very anxious to improve themselves.

They continue to do well at their schooling, and, with a little patience over them, they come on very well indeed; and when we consider that some of them have scarce been to school before coming to us it is all the more remarkable how they improve.

They are all there for their little outings and picnics which they have from time to time, and they are ever ready for their outdoor recreation. They enter into everything with such determination that it does one good to watch them at their play.

We have sent quite a number out to situations, and, as a whole, it has been a very successful year.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

T. F. SMITH,

Superintendent.

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

GIRLS' HOME, RIDDELL.

An encouraging year as far as this institution is concerned closed on 31st December, 1913.

Much earnest and prayerful toil has been put in by the staff of workers in endeavouring to train the girls under their care for useful futures. Good progress has been made on the lines of general household duties and laundry work, also knitting, fancywork and plain sewing.

Most of the girls express an earnest desire for a higher and purer standard of living than their past has been, and are endeavouring by Divine help to attain to better things.

During the year several girls were placed in selected situations, all but one giving satisfaction to their mistresses. Letters are often received from the latter saying how well pleased they are with the conduct and work of the girls from the institution. One girl, returned to her home and parents on probation, has done well and given evidence of the thorough change wrought in her life through the training received whilst in the institution.

The Biorama Company paid us a week-end visit towards the close of the year. The carefully selected pictures shown on Saturday night gave much pleasure, whilst "The Life of Christ," depicted in moving pictures on the Sunday evening, had a solemnizing and uplifting influence.

Father Christmas visited the Home during the yuletide season, accompanied by Mrs. Commissioner Hay and a party of officers from Melbourne, and delighted the girls with suitable presents. Prospects are bright for the future.

ADA M. YOUNG.

GIRLS' HOME, EAST CAMBERWELL.

Another year's work has been put in with very encouraging results.

The first year in our new home has been a busy yet happy one.

Our efforts to influence the girls for good has borne fruit. It is pleasant to notice how desirous the girls are to live good lives.

During the Christmas festivities prizes were awarded for good conduct and work.

Good reports come to hand of the girls in service and on probation. Many whose terms have long expired are constant visitors at the Home.

In the midst of our work we have found time for pleasure and recreation, such as camping for a week at Mentone, a motor ride to Mordialloc, the Christmas treat in the City Temple.

These outings were arranged by Commissioner and Mrs. Hay, who take a very keen interest in the work amongst the girls.

Our thanks are due to many kind friends, and particularly to Dr. McColl and Mr. Byrnes, dentist, of Clifton Hill, for free professional services.

MARGARET A. LOWERY, Matron.

OAKLEIGH REFORMATORY SCHOOL.

To the Secretary.

SIR,

The year just closed has been very satisfactory on all points.

The conduct of the girls, with few exceptions, has been very good, and the general health excellent. Fortunately, we escaped all contagious epidemics, and passing ailments that required medical advice were treated by Dr. Dunkley, to whom our grateful thanks are due.

Various musical entertainments have been provided from time to time as extra recreations, and the annual picnic ranked amongst the principal treats of the year. The latter is held in a beautiful park adjoining the grounds, and looked forward to with great interest and pleasure each time.

Aided by the unusual generosity of many kind friends and well-wishers, we were enabled to make the Christmas holidays a time of happiness and good cheer.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours respectfully,

MARY I. LOWREY,
Mother Superior.

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

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE.

The annual visit was made this day. The inmates appear very happy and in excellent health.

The buildings, &c., are in excellent order, and are noteworthy for their cleanliness. We are glad to place on record the absence of any serious illness amongst the children during the year.

Great praise is due to the nuns for the care bestowed by them on those placed under their charge, as well as the sound training given by them to the inmates.

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

BAYSWATER REFORMATORY FOR BOYS.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward my report for year ending 31st December, 1913.

We have had quite a number of boys both in and out of the Home this year, and I am pleased to state that quite a good percentage of those that have been sent out to situations are at the present time doing well, and several of them have been back to the Home to see us, and express themselves as thankful for what their term in the Home has done for them. As for the health of the boys, this has been exceptional, there only being one or two cases of very mild sickness. They seem very much to enjoy the open-air work on the farm and dairy, more so in the orchards, which I feel will fit them for future usefulness in the State. They also have plenty of outdoor exercise in the way of their recreation, which keeps them, not only robust, but in good spirits.

And last, but not least, no effort is spared by the officers to help the boys to form a good spiritual character, which will help them in the future.

We are, in all, a very happy family, which has helped the success of the year.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

T. F. SMITH,
Superintendent.

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

"EXCELSIOR HOME," ELWOOD STREET, BRIGHTON.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1913.

The number of boys received during the year was small. Those transferred from gaol have done well; health, conduct and general progress satisfactory. The school reports are good. Those at service and on probation are doing well, and we have been much encouraged by visits from many of our old boys during the year—some in good positions, others married and comfortable. I again thank Dr. Weyall and Mr. Davy, also the officers of your Department.

W. GROOM,
Superintendent.

The Secretary, Neglected Children and Reformatory Department,
Melbourne.

“Alandale,”
Cochrane street, Elsternwick,
24th October, 1913.

Dear Mr. Groom—

Having completed one year's teaching of the boys in your Home in the Sunday School class held every Sunday afternoon, I would be pleased if you would allow me to say that, during all the year, I have found them most attentive to the lessons, and their conduct has been all that I could desire. Both the boys at present in the class and those who have left during the year have always treated me with respect and even courtesy. In fact, I cannot speak too highly of their general conduct.

I sincerely trust that the lessons which we have had together may prove of some practical value to them in helping them in their future lives.

Wishing you every success in your good work,

Yours sincerely,
J. A. ASTON.

HEATHFIELD HOME, APOLLO BAY.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1913.

We have had an average of fifteen boys for the year, and only five absconded, three of whom were brought back within a few hours. The conduct of the boys on the whole has been good, also the health, no serious illness having occurred.

Out of fourteen boys sent to service, only three have been returned, and two of these are now shaping very well. I have some good testimonials from some of their employers, which is encouraging.

They had their usual Christmas treat and sports and concert on Boxing Day, which they greatly appreciate.

In conclusion, I wish to sincerely thank the officers of the Department for their kind attention and assistance at all times so cheerfully rendered.

H. CLYNE,
Superintendent.

STRAIGHT VIEW FARM REFORMATORY SCHOOL, HARCOURT.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1913.

The health of the boys has been excellent, there not being a single case of illness for the year.

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

JAMES McMAHON,
Superintendent.

Secretary Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools,
Melbourne.