

1886.

VICTORIA.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL AND
REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

FOR THE YEAR

1885.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO ACT 27 VICT. No. 216, Sec. 11.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 77.—[1s. 9d.]

APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT.

									£	s.	d.
Preparation--Not given.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70	0	0
Printing (1,335 copies)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
									<u>70</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

I N D E X .

R E P O R T .

	PAGE
COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR :—	
Decrease in Number of Committals	7
Increase in Number Boarded Out	7
Decrease in Number in Schools	7
Increase in Number at Service	7
Decrease in Number in Reformatories	7
MAINTENANCE COLLECTIONS :—	
1. On account of Industrial School (Neglected) Children	7
2. On account of Reformatory Children	7
3. On account of „ contrasted with South Australia and the United Kingdom	7
SCHOOLS AND COTTAGE HOMES :—	
1. Sandhurst Industrial School, closing of	7
2. Yarra Park Training School	7
„ Macedon State Nursery Gardening School	7
3. Dookie Farm School	8
4. Cottage (Woodlands), South Preston, for Reformatory Girls	8
5. Girls' Reformatory, new site for	8
6. Girls' Receiving Depôt, new site for	8
7. Cottages for Invalid Children	8
LEGISLATION, RESULTS OF :—	
Beneficial results of Reformatory and Industrial Schools Acts	9
Economical results of operation of Boarding-out clause	9
FURTHER LEGISLATION—AMENDING BILL :—	
1. Discontinuance of Imprisonment for young offenders	9
2. Grounds for non-conviction and for non-use of penal terms	9
3. Precedents and authority for ditto	10
4. Alternatives to a Committal to a Reformatory proposed in Report of Mr. Chief Justice Way, South Australia	10
5. Extension of Age for Committals	10
6. Duration of Guardianship of Children	10
7. An extended Guardianship essential	10
8. Present Inmates, Guardianship should embrace	10
9. Rescue of Children from Brothels, provision should embrace all between ages 2 and 16	11
10. Provisions <i>re</i> Record of Age at Committal	11
11. Probationary Schools, necessity for and scope of	11
12. Children's Property	11
13. Maintenance Collections, desired provisions	11
JUVENILE STREET HAWKERS	12
BOARDING-OUT SYSTEM, RECOGNITION OF :—	
1. New South Wales	12
2. South Australia	13
PUBLIC SERVICE ACT :—	
Classification of Officers of the Department	13
Inconvenient operation of certain clauses	13
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	13
APPENDIXES	15

APPENDIXES.

APPENDICES.

	PAGE
REPORTS FROM LADIES' COMMITTEES OF BOARDING-OUT DISTRICTS	15
REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF LADIES' VISITING ASSOCIATION	21
REPORTS FROM INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS :—	
<i>Government</i> —Boys' Receiving Depôt, Royal Park	23
Girls' " " " " " "	23
Boys' Farm School (Cashel Experimental Farm)	24
<i>Assisted</i> — Sandhurst	24
Girls', Industrial School (Roman Catholic) Abbotsford	24
" " " " Geelong	25
" Training School (Protestant), Yarra Park	25
REPORTS FROM REFORMATORY SCHOOLS :—	
<i>Government</i> —Boys', Ballarat (by Superintendent)	26
" " (by Visiting Committee)	32
Girls', Coburg (Protestant)	34
<i>Assisted</i> — " Oakleigh (Roman Catholic)	34
REPORT FROM THE VISITING OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT	36
RETURNS :—	
1. Admissions and Discharges Industrial and Reformatory	38
2. Ages of Children Committed " "	38
3. Religions of " " " "	39
4. Parentage of " " " "	39
5. Causes of Committal Reformatory	40
7A*. Service Record Industrial	41
7B. Service Record Reformatory	41
8. Children Boarded Out Industrial	42
9. Farm and Dairy Produce Ballarat Reformatory	43
11. Revenue Collected Industrial and Reformatory	43
12. Expenditure " "	44
13. Cost per Head " "	45
14. Comparative Cost per Head (1881-1885) " "	46
15. Comparison of Numbers and Net Cost (1884 and 1885) " "	46
16. Admissions and Discharges, with Sex Industrial	47
17. Ages and Sex of Inmates " "	47
19. Accommodation and Numbers " "	48
20. Cost of Maintenance " "	48
21. Admissions and Discharges Reformatory	48
22. Ages and Sex of Inmates " "	49
24. Accommodation and Numbers " "	49
25. Cost of Maintenance " "	50
26. Total Net Cost Industrial and Reformatory	50
27. Numbers and Location of Children under Supervision " "	50
* Returns as follow are this year discontinued, viz.:—6, Committing Benches; 10, Articles Manufactured; 18 and 23, Birthplaces and Religions of Inmates of Schools.	
SOME LETTERS FROM AND CONCERNING CHILDREN :—	
1. Between Children in Foster-homes and Relatives	52
2. " Children at Service and Relatives	53
3. " Children in Schools and Relatives	53
4. " Foster-relatives and Mother	54
5. " Children at Service and the Department	54
6. " Relatives of Children and the Department	54

EXTRACTS AND PAPERS :—

	PAGE
(A.) Comparison of Numbers and Cost of Children in Industrial Schools in 1872 and in Foster-homes in 1885	55
(B.) Neglected and Criminal Children's Act, Victoria, 1864 ... ..(Extract)	55
(C.) Reformatory and Industrial Schools Act, Scotland, 1885	55
(D.) Industrial Schools Act, England and Wales, 1861	56
(E.) Industrial Schools Act, Great Britain, 1866	56
(F.) Mistake of regarding Reformatory as a Penal Establishment	56
(G. to K.) Recommendations of the South Australian Destitute Commission :—	
(G.) Alternatives to Committal to a Reformatory	57
(H.) Terms of Committal to Reformatory and Industrial Schools	57
(J.) Term of Guardianship	58
(K.) Intercolonial Legislation required to enforce Maintenance Orders	58
(L.) Enforcement of Maintenance Orders — Law Department's Instructions to Clerks of Courts	58

R E P O R T.

To the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

[No. 2688.]

10th June, 1886.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Report and Returns of the Department of Industrial and Reformatory Schools for the past year.

Comparison with Previous Year.—The committals were less in number than in the previous year by 63, viz., 54 Industrial and 9 Reformatory. There is an increase of 10 children in the number boarded out (with pay) at the end of the year, as compared with 1884, and a decrease of 79 in the numbers then in Industrial Schools, making a net decrease of 69. The number at service, and thus no longer a cost to the Department, has increased by 35. The numbers in Reformatories have fallen from 149 to 123, who are thus distributed, viz.: 70 boys at Ballarat, 33 girls (Protestant) at Coburg, and 23 girls (Roman Catholic) at Oakleigh.

Maintenance Collections.—The maintenance receipts from relatives show an increase of £106 1s. 8d. on account of Industrial School children, notwithstanding the decrease, as above, in the number in charge. There is, however, a falling off of £151 16s. 7d. in the similar collections from the parents of "Reformatory" children, mainly due to the "steady outflow" of boys licensed and transferred from the Ballarat school, which has been found possible from the sustained improvement in their tone and conduct to which the Superintendent and also the Visiting Committee make special reference in their interesting reports annexed.

The position of the maintenance account may be regarded as, on the whole, not unsatisfactory. It must be recognised that "only a small minority of the children thrown on the care of the State have parents from whom, under the best system of administration that can be devised, any part of their maintenance can be recovered."* The boarding-out system, too, while its general effect is distinctly economical, deprives the Department of those opportunities of learning the parent's address, which it had when the children were in institutions and their relatives were allowed periodically to visit them. The decrease in the total of the maintenance collections for the year on account of "Reformatory" inmates is due (as just shown) to a very satisfactory cause. The *rate per head*, however, collected on account of these children contrasts most favorably with that realized on account of the same class of inmates in England and in South Australia; the respective rates being as follow:—

England	£1	3	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ *	}	per head.
Scotland	...	...	...	0	5	11*
South Australia	...	...	...	0	17	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ †
Victoria	...	...	...	3	8	5

The New South Wales Reports do not afford me the means of comparison.

SCHOOLS AND COTTAGE HOMES.

There are, on this occasion, but few changes of importance to record.

(1.) The assisted Industrial School at *Sandhurst* was finally closed on 20th April, 1885.

(2.) The Boarding-out system, respecting which I submit the usual district reports, has throughout the colony now taken so firm a hold on the committees and the elder children that it has been found impossible to get volunteers for transfer from

* (1881.) See Report of Imperial Commission on Reformatories and Industrial Schools, Sec. 60, page 43.

† (1884.) See Final Report of S. Australian Destitute Commission, Sec. 157.

foster-homes to receive the training for service offered to girls by the Committee of the *Yarra Park* Training School, and to boys at the *Macedon* State Nursery. The numbers at *Yarra Park* have fallen to 15, and those at *Macedon*, where there had been many abscondings, to 2.

(3.) The same difficulty has not been experienced at the other country school held at the Experimental Farm, *Dookie*, where the greater attractiveness and variety of the work have always secured a sufficiency of suitable candidates. The lads, as they become eligible for service, are every year more in request with the farmers and selectors, being engaged at higher commencing wages than the ordinary licensed boys. It is understood that, in the event of *Dookie* being made the site of the proposed Agricultural College, and all the available accommodation being required for "paying" students, the Industrial School boys will be provided for on another of the Government Farm reserves at the *Wimmera* or elsewhere. In view of the earlier age at which it is now contemplated that compulsory school attendance under the Education Act shall cease, it will probably be expedient that the teaching arrangements in force at the Reformatories be adopted in the Farm Schools, by which one half of the lads of school age are employed at lessons while the other half are at work on the farm—their positions at the alternative school meetings being reversed.

(4.) A very commodious cottage, "*Woodlands*," has been obtained on lease at *South Preston*, within a mile of the Girls' Reformatory, and placed under the supervision of the Matron of that school for the reception of the better conducted girls, where, as the time approaches for their being sent to service, special training may, for a few months, be imparted, and the inmates be gradually prepared for the freedom of life in service.

(5.) As stated in my last Report, it is exceedingly desirable to effect an early removal of the *Girls' Reformatory School, Coburg*, from its prison surroundings to well-situated country premises, and I beg to ask that early provision may be made for the erection of suitable cottage buildings, that shall admit of more complete classification than has hitherto been possible, and include also such provision as "*Woodlands*" now supplies.

(6.) At the *Girls' Receiving Depot, Royal Park*, additional accommodation is found imperatively necessary to enable the matron at all times to secure isolation on moral as well as sanitary grounds. The Public Works Department, however, represent the impossibility of enlarging, with this object, the accommodation at the Depot, which is circumscribed within the walls of the old powder magazine, and advise the removal from the park of the present inadequate and unsightly erections and the substitution of less confined and altogether more commodious premises elsewhere on the cottage principle; but the Lands Department has not a single site available. There is a small block immediately adjoining the Boys' Depot, but it is undesirably near to the quarters of the old men of the Immigrants' Home, and is of too restricted an area to admit of future extensions. Under the circumstances, I have no alternative but to ask that there may be restored to the Department a portion of the land formerly known as the "*Model Farm*," and appropriated in 1877 to Industrial School purposes (see Order in Council in *Government Gazette* of 12th February, 1877), but of which about 24 acres—including the 8 or 10 acres now desired—have since 1883 been in other hands for the purposes of a calf lymph depot. The site would, in a remarkable degree, fulfil the several conditions of health, convenience, and discipline indicated by the Ladies' Visiting Committee of the school in the report of the Honorable Mrs. Bright on the subject, submitted in 1871 to the then Chief Secretary, Mr. Duffy, at his request, and which I lately brought to your notice. Its high and healthy situation, its ample space for separate cottages, its privacy as compared with the present site, and its nearness to this office, to the railway system, and to the other (the Boys') depot, constitute advantages which every day it becomes increasingly difficult to find in combination.

(7.) I mentioned in my last Report an interesting experiment then in progress in Sydney for the treatment of *Invalid children* in *Cottage Homes*, each holding eight or ten children under a Home mother, instead of placing them, with extra rates, in the care of foster-parents. Further experience has led the New South Wales Department to continue and extend the system, which admits at the same cost of a more constant and frequent medical and other visitation and is calculated to give earlier recovery of

strength. The New South Wales "Homes" now number six, of which one is maintained by private liberality, and the others by the Government.

In the absence of such a "Home," provided by philanthropic effort, I would advise that, in calling for tenders for a new *Girls' Receiving Depôt*, they be invited also for one such "Home" in the vicinity of that depôt, and where it would be under the eye and general supervision of its experienced matron, Miss Wilson.

LEGISLATION, RESULTS OF.

In a former Report (1883, p. 10, and enclosures D and DA), I quoted from that of the Royal Commission some remarkable statistics, showing the extraordinary decrease, both in juvenile and adult offences, which had resulted from the operation of the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Act, introduced in the year 1854, and amended in 1861 and 1866. The introduction of the Boarding-out system in this colony in 1872, and *its extension in 1876*, when, by order of the Honorable Robert Ramsay, the Department *threw off the restrictions that had confined its boarding-out operations mainly to orphan and foundling children*, have already had a signal and beneficial effect—(1) in reducing the number of children chargeable to the State; and (2) in more than proportionately decreasing the cost of the working of the Department. The enclosed table (A) will show that, while the population of the colony has grown from 731,000, at the census of 1871, to now over a million, *the number of these State wards has fallen from 2,384 to 1,999*, and their total cost from £46,669 per annum to £37,279. The adoption of the boarding-out system has also enabled the Department to dispense with the large yearly expenditure incurred in keeping in repair the extensive buildings formerly occupied by the children, and which represented an enormous original outlay.

FURTHER LEGISLATION—AMENDING BILL.

There is every reason to expect even more beneficial results in the future from such further legislation as an experience of the working of our Acts during twenty years has shown to be necessary, and it is gratifying to know that a Bill is now in preparation which will embody many of the important amendments that for several years past I have urged in these Reports:—

(1.) *Discontinuance of "imprisonment" and of "recording convictions" in the case of young offenders.*—One of the most important of those amendments is the proposed omission of the old provision for the passing of the Reformatory child through *a preliminary process of imprisonment*, a process which has long been almost universally condemned; and I venture to urge that the opportunity be taken of making such other modifications in the law and in the forms of mandate for the child's detention as shall relieve magistrates of the obligation of *having a conviction recorded* in the case of juvenile offenders whom they decide to send under its provisions to a school, whether Industrial or Reformatory.

(2.) *Grounds for non-conviction and for non-use of penal terms.*—A considerable number of our wards charged under section 13, sub-section 4, of Act No. 216, with "having committed an offence punishable by imprisonment or a less punishment," have for twenty years past been sent to schools of the former class (Industrial), and have for the most part acquitted themselves subsequently with credit and self-respect. No allusion to "a conviction" occurred in the sub-section under which they were detained (enclosure B). This course could not heretofore be followed in respect of the offenders, less in number, adjudged to go to a "Reformatory"—the hitherto indispensable preliminary imprisonment rendering it imperative that "a conviction" should in each instance be recorded. There have frequently been in the Ballarat school boys of ability and tried good conduct who were only debarred from being accepted as apprentices in the Victorian Navy because of the "conviction" thus standing against their names, perhaps for some trifling offence committed, to use the language of the French law, "*sans discernement*," and for which the parents, where they had parents, were largely answerable. The disgrace and real disability thus experienced will be followed by others more serious, civil and political, in after life. It would seem only consistent, if the punishment of imprisonment be abrogated, as proposed, in regard to these juvenile offenders, that *the rest of the stigma* should also be spared them.

(3.) *Precedents and authorities.*—I append extracts (C, D, E) from three Imperial Acts (one, for Scotland, a Reformatory one), from which it will be seen that, though dealing with offences and offenders, all penal terms are as carefully excluded as in the sub-section of the Victorian Act already referred to. I trust the view I am urging will have your concurrence. It has been very emphatically advocated by Lord Norton, formerly President of the Committee of Council on Education, and one of the pioneers of the Reformatory movement, in his capacity of member of Lord Aberdare's Imperial Reformatories Commission (see my Report of 1883, p. 12, under head "Protest against penal treatment of juvenile offenders").

I submit, in its further support, extract (F) from the valuable and exhaustive Report recently issued by the South Australian Destitute Commission, under the presidency of Mr. Chief Justice Way, containing an earnest remonstrance against the opposite view, and declaring the expression "criminal children," as applied to the boys of the Adelaide Reformatory hulk, to be indefensible, as any punishment incurred had preceded their consignment thereto—a Reformatory not being a place of punishment, but a school, and the detention therein not penal.

(4.) *Alternatives to Committal to a Reformatory.*—The same Commission—following that of Lord Aberdare in deprecating any but a restricted and discriminating use of Reformatories—have recommended the adoption of various alternative provisions for the treatment of juvenile offences. I have thought these of sufficient importance to bring them under your consideration in an appendix (G). The alternatives include the application of the "probation" system of Massachusetts, described in my 1882 report, and of which a modification to meet the case of offenders over the Reformatory age, and below the age of 20, was specially brought under the consideration of your predecessor in that of the following year.

(5.) *Extension of Age for Committals.*—I regard it as important to extend to 17 the age below which offending and other children may be sent by Benches to the care and discipline of the Department. The amending Act of 1874 (No. 435) already extended the age by one year, enabling the Department to receive offenders who were not over the age of 16. That extension has worked well, and the South Australian Commission, already referred to, as well as the State Children's Relief Board of New South Wales in their Report for the past year, have both (Appendix H) strongly advocated the fixing of the age at 17.

(6.) *Duration of Guardianship.*—My proposal that committed children should become wards of the Department till the age of 18, which, it will be seen, has also the support of the above-named authorities, is not a new one, but the guardianship here has been conferred hitherto by executive action under the authority of the amending Acts of 1874 and 1878 (Nos. 495 and 626)—a tedious and circumlocutory process. In France and America, and in the neighbouring colony of New Zealand, it is conferred by statute, and extends two or three years further, viz., either to the age of 20 or during minority. In New Zealand it embraces the longer term, which is also that recommended in the Report of the South Australian Destitute Commission (Appendix J); and it would be expedient, while fixing the ordinary limit at 18, that power should be taken in exceptional cases to further extend it by two years.

(7.) *An Extended Guardianship essential.*—I may remark that this guardianship of the Department is urgently requisite for the protection of its wards from unworthy relatives, as well as for the strengthening and steadying of their own characters, and not with the view of detention in an institution, and that ample facilities are given in the regulations for the earlier discharge of any ward, to respectable relatives or otherwise, by a simple Order in Council. Considerable pains indeed are taken, when we become aware of the existence of relatives of good character, to induce them to take over the guardianship, in the exercise of which the Department is able to lend them its moral and legal support.

(8.) *Present Inmates.*—I would suggest that the Bill in preparation include, as did potentially both of the previous amending Acts already alluded to, THE PRESENT INMATES in its provisions of guardianship. This will relieve the Department of the labour of continually applying for and recording and notifying recommitments and extensions of term for the next sixteen years.

(9.) *Rescue of Infants and Young Persons from Brothels.*—The provisions for the withdrawal of children from residence in houses of ill-fame should embrace all children between the ages of 2 and 17 years. It has been represented to me by several members of the police force that they would often have opportunities of rescuing girls from such houses, even on the very day that they have been drawn into them. At present their power to do so under our Act ceases if the girl is a day over 16. Those withdrawn while of a tender age would be, for the most part, the children of the keepers of the houses, from whom the payment of maintenance could be exacted, and whose children, besides being themselves saved from the inevitable contamination of their mothers' surroundings would, by being withdrawn, cease to be a source of daily infection to their poor but reputable fellow pupils in the State school. The mother could have her children restored to her care on satisfying the Department of her having abandoned her evil courses. The authority to withdraw should be from "residence in a brothel, or a *reputed* brothel." This will help greatly to prevent the provision being evaded.

(10.) *Provisions relating to Age.*—I observe in the English Industrial Schools Act that the ages on committal are stated with the word "apparently" prefixed to them. It might, I consider, in practice be of great convenience both to the police and the courts to make use of this qualification in future legislation.

(11.) *Probationary Schools.*—The establishment of a Probationary school or schools would supply a long-felt need. Such school would form an intermediate stage between the foster-home and the Reformatory, receiving for the purpose of a brief course of discipline—(i.) newly committed children whom it may not be deemed prudent to send direct to a foster-home, and who, also, may possibly prove to need treatment in a Reformatory; and (ii.) some of the younger and more hopeful children from the Reformatory in order to a further trial amid new surroundings prior to their transfer to a foster-home.

I have little doubt that the operation of such schools, as well as the effect generally of the new legislation proposed, would be to year by year reduce the numbers of children in the Reformatories, and to extend to the largest number possible of our neglected children and young offenders the individual treatment of family life.

(12.) *Children's Property.*—The functions of the Secretary, which the Bill will doubtless define, should, I think, include the legal guardianship of the estates (if any) of its wards. The original Act, No. 216, fixed this responsibility on the Superintendents of schools, but most of our wards are no longer in schools, and the Superintendent of a Receiving Depôt cannot conveniently exercise this function.

(13.) *Maintenance Collections.*—The modifications as to parents' maintenance contributions proposed in the 1883 Report* cannot fail, if adopted, to largely augment the collections from this source, so long as the numbers of the children in the care of the Department sustain no serious diminution. I have shown in previous years how large a proportion of the State children have become so by the desertion of their parents, and that Federal legislation is needed to enable the Department to effectually press its claims for maintenance on such of these parents as have transferred themselves to the other colonies. (See Appendix K, showing the course advised by the S.A. Commission.) The local Act should provide for the issue of the maintenance order simultaneously with the order for the child's detention, and allow of the arrest of the debtor, after due notice and without previous distress, when expedient, as well as for his imprisonment, with or without hard labour.

I think it desirable that *the Clerks of Courts*—who are clearly indicated in the "Schedules" to the existing Act as the persons to whom these maintenance moneys are to be paid—be expressly designated in the Act itself (as they were in Mr. Justice Higinbotham's Opinion, published with my Report in 1883; also in the Law Department's instructions of December, 1868, see Appendix L), as being the responsible local officers to take all proceedings against those parents who fail to comply with the maintenance orders of the Bench. The Clerk has the local knowledge of the parents' circumstances and means, and, by the code of Police Regulations, gazetted August, 1877—of which no less than 41 clauses are devoted to their duties in connexion with

* Paper No. 4 of 1885, pages 25 and 26.

the Industrial Schools Acts—the local police are required in every possible way to assist him in the collection of this revenue.

I would further recommend that the Clerk be empowered *to also employ, if necessary, local Collectors* (to be approved by the Minister), paying them, or rather certifying their claim for, a commission of 10 per cent., or even 15 per cent. In the Dublin district, where the weekly rates are small, collectors are allowed a commission on these moneys of 25 per cent., and in other districts of Ireland 20 per cent. is paid. With regard to, certainly, a majority of the parents of our children, I agree in the opinion enunciated by the South Australian Destitute Commission, in the Report before referred to:—"Looking upon the enforcement of parental contributions as the most efficient check upon committals, it is better that they should be enforced than allowed to lapse, even if the greater part of the amount is absorbed in the cost of collection. The deterrent effects of contribution regularly insisted upon would be most marked on the class of persons who are always ready to shirk their parental liabilities."* My remarks above as to *the inclusion of present inmates* in the new provisions apply also here. It cannot, moreover, but prove very inconvenient and embarrassing in practice that, for a long term of years, half of the debtors should be dealt with under the one statute and the other half under a series of Acts in other respects repealed.

JUVENILE STREET HAWKERS.

The numbers of the neglected children who come ultimately under the charge of the Department are, both here and in England,† considerably reinforced from the ranks of the juvenile street hawkers. The Scotch Elementary Education Act, passed in 1878, to restrain abuses under this head, which had assumed, as they are beginning to assume here, large dimensions, prohibits altogether the employment in this way of children under 10, and limits it in the case of those children between 10 and 14 years of age who have not received their certificate of education, to the hours of 9 p.m. in summer and 8 in winter. The School Board is made the authority for the enforcement of the provision.

I have elsewhere pointed out that the compulsory provisions of the Education Act have largely failed to secure the attendance of this class of children, and suggested that they be required to carry a licence, the retention of it being dependent upon their half-time attendance at a school named therein. If the Education Act were to further provide some simple means for imparting Manual and Technical teaching, it would probably do much to check the growth of larrikinism. I ventured in a former Report‡ to indicate an inexpensive method of meeting this want.

BOARDING-OUT SYSTEM—EXPANSION OF.

The steady growth in these colonies of a strong public opinion in favour of the extension of the *Boarding-out System* and the individual treatment which it affords, demands a word of recognition and congratulation.

New South Wales.—This applies in a very special degree to the colony of New South Wales. The last of the admirable Reports issued by Dr. Renwick, of the State Children's Relief Board, shows that the boarding-out, commenced as recently as 1881, had, at 5th April, 1886, been extended to 1,467 of the State wards, and concludes with the expression of his trust that, "before the next annual Report is printed, the Board will have concluded its operations in regard to the Barrack Asylums of the colony, and every child in them will have been placed under one or other of the natural forms of child-life and training now provided by the State as the most economical, the most satisfactory, and the most reasonable."

Dr. Renwick's Reports embody a mass of correspondence with the Committees, the foster-parents, and the foster-children, also with the teachers of the State schools that the children attend, which must prove full of interest to persons desiring to test the truth of the encomiums passed on the system by all those who have given it a trial under proper conditions. They are calculated to greatly encourage the small

* Page cxiii, Final Report.

† Report of the Imperial Reformatories Commission, par. 55, and Dr. Watts' evidence, 5672-5676.

‡ Report for 1883, page 14. See also Report for 1884, page 8, and Appendix B thereto.

band of workers who, in the face of immense obstacles, arising from public and official apathy and opposing interests, are struggling to establish in the mother-country this most satisfactory, economical, and only natural mode of dealing with the "Wards of the State." My Report for the year 1883 gave (pp. 26-29, and 82) a brief sketch of the position and prospects of boarding-out in Great Britain, and a return showing that the non-criminal children in England and Wales maintained in whole or in part at the public expense amounted, in round numbers, to over 79,000, of whom *less than two thousand* (2,000) were boarded-out; and in Scotland to over 39,000, of whom *less than one-sixth* were boarded-out.

South Australia.—The Chairman of the Destitute Board, Adelaide, estimates the saving which has attended its adoption, so far, in that colony at £36,000; and Mr. Chief Justice Way, as President of the South Australian Destitute Commission, thus states the conclusions of the Commission, after an actual inspection, without notice, of the homes (one-third of them in the city and two-thirds in the country) in which 68 of the children were placed:—

"It would have dispelled the doubts of the most sceptical. We concluded our inspection with the conviction that, great as had been the saving to the public purse which the boarding-out system had accomplished, its other benefits to the community were incomparably greater. We advise then that the Industrial School be closed, and that the inmates be boarded out."

PUBLIC SERVICE ACT.

This Department has now been in existence 21 years, and on various occasions my predecessors in office have urged that, having regard to the onerous and responsible work devolving on its officers, they were entitled to the removal of the exemption which deprived them of the benefits of a standing in the classified service. This, I am happy to say, has now been conceded by their classification under the Amending Public Service Act, which came into operation on 1st February, 1885.

I may perhaps remark that the limitation to 26 years of the age of candidates by the 72 clause of the Public Service Act, has added greatly to the difficulty of obtaining suitable persons for appointment in the non-clerical division, such as attendants, instructors, and matrons, and that the limitation to three months of the time during which such appointments may be provisionally made has increased the difficulty, while that which renders an official, temporarily appointed under section 33, ineligible to act again, except after an interval of three months, in any division of the service, is calculated to deter the better class of candidates from coming forward.

There has been no diminution in the earnestness and success with which the Ladies' Committees generally have devoted themselves to forward the best interests of the children in their care, and I have to acknowledge thankfully the cheerful co-operation at all times of the several Lady Correspondents, the Ladies' Visiting Association, and the officers in charge of the Schools and Receiving Dépôt.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

GEO. GUILLAUME,

Secretary.

APPENDICES.

BOARDING-OUT REPORTS FROM LADIES' VISITING COMMITTEES.*

* NOTE.—The Return No. 8, printed with this Report, shows in tabular form the Boarding-out work transacted in each Visiting Committee's district during 1885.

Our children have been growing up and getting off our hands, so that the home circle is smaller, but we trust to welcome new faces ere long. The review of the year's work in this district for 1885 is by no means depressing. We have seen sickly, puny children, placed in our good homes, develop into sturdy boys and girls, able and ready to take their stand in the ranks of the workers of life. Such results must prove cheering to all interested in endeavouring to give "power to the weak," and to open a path where, by the exercise of industry and self-reliance, success is ensured to all. During the past year we have been wonderfully free from sickness. This, in the face of fevers having been so very prevalent, is rather remarkable.

We have had very little sickness amongst our children, though there has been a good deal in the district. We find, as a rule, that the foster-parents are even more careful of the health and comfort of their foster-children than of their own. We have had no deaths during the year. The homes are good and comfortable, and the children very happy and contented. We have been fortunate in placing, during the year, several children in good homes without pay, and one has been adopted, while some others have been placed in situations. Those who leave their homes in this way are always anxious to visit their foster-parents, and keep up a correspondence with them. We have had no complaints regarding the behaviour of the children, except in the case of A—M—. We have several applications (not yet supplied) for Protestant children. We find no difficulty in providing good homes.

I have great pleasure in reporting upon the satisfactory state of the homes for the boarded-out children. Our special attention has often been drawn to the great care bestowed on the invalids, who are not only the pets of the household, but also of the children of the lady visitors. Many of our service children are in the same situations to which they were first licensed in 1882, and have large sums in the local Savings Bank, one girl having £40. Two boys, who have a delicate sister, made a present of their first year's savings to start an account for her. We considered it very generous. Our "Reformatory" boys are all doing well; are honest, industrious, and good working fellows.

I beg to bear my testimony to the encouraging nature of the work, and the many tokens we have of its appreciation even by *those who are only indirectly benefited* by it. Especially I may mention the case of a young man whose sister was with us some time. Home after home had been tried for her; at last she was placed with one of our foster-mothers, whom she soon loved and respected, and was there trained so well that, when licensed for service, she turned out a respectable, good girl. Her brother came to me and said he could hardly express his gratitude to the ladies who had so kindly looked after and guided his sister. Another case was that of two little girls, taken from an unhappy home, and placed eventually with true loving foster-parents, and afterwards returned to their relatives. The parting from the foster-home was on both sides very painful. That the visitors are appreciated by the children is shown by the case of a young boy, who has just left home for the country, and who, in writing a letter to his foster-mother, saying how dull he is, complains that no lady has been to see him. All our homes do not prove equally happy, and we have had to make some few transfers. It is difficult sometimes to secure generous treatment along with strict discipline, but on the whole the children we have at present seem to be happily placed.

It is our pleasing duty to report that we have good homes for the children boarded out here; they are well-behaved and obedient, and enjoy good health. Our committee are also gratified in being able to state that a warm affection exists between the foster-parents and the children. They all attend school and Divine service regularly. In short, we can express our satisfaction in every way.

I have the honour to forward a statement of the homes and children, and of our work generally, during the year 1885. This district is large and scattered; the homes are often far apart; but this disadvantage is obviated by the members of committee residing in different parts of the district. Our

present foster-homes are very good; three of them have been enlarged lately. The new foster-homes are quite equal to any of those of older date. We consider the children here well placed, having confidence in the foster-parents, who are respectable persons, and have, in many instances, shown much affection for their charges, and been very kind and attentive to the children in time of sickness. Also we have found the foster-parents ready to second our efforts for the welfare of the children. The children are contented, attached to their foster-parents; conduct good, some of the boys having proved themselves most trustworthy as collectors for the Sunday school. They are also making progress in their education, and attend their church and Sunday school regularly. A——B—— and J——S—— took the prizes for the best attendance in the Sunday school during the year. We are very thankful to report that, with the exception of a few cases of fog-fever and whooping-cough, the boarded-out children have been healthy. The changes that have taken place in the past year include the following:—One boy was given up, the foster-parent considering the pay not sufficient; an industrious deserving boy was removed to fill a vacancy in the Macedon State Nursery; another boy went with his foster-parent to reside in South Melbourne; a girl has been taken without pay by her foster-parent; a boy, who had attained the age of 15, has been licensed to service in the district, and is doing well; another boy has obtained his certificate of education, but is too small to go to service yet. To make up our losses through removals, several children have been received into the district, which leaves the number of boarded-out children at the end of the year much the same as at the commencement. We have an application for a little boy still unsupplied. Our service children have generally given satisfaction to their employers; behaviour in most cases good. A few were found unsuitable for the work required of them; these were returned, and the vacancies filled by others, who are going on well. Some of the girls having attained the age of 18, when our (legal) control ceases, remained in service with their employers. Including boarded-out and service children, we have 28 now in the district. It has been a source of much satisfaction to us that we have had no complaints, no troubles, no sad events to record in connexion with our year's work. From personal observation, I have come to the conclusion that the following are very important to the successful working of a district. To fulfil our duties as a committee efficiently, for the good of the children placed under our supervision, we must be very careful in the selection and recommendation of foster-parents, and bear in mind that *regular and systematic visiting is essential* to the well-being of a district, as, by a word in season, little faults are prevented from growing into complaints and grievances. A matter also of great importance to the welfare of the district is the frequent inspection by the *Visiting Officer*. This is of much assistance to the committee; it supports and strengthens their authority over foster-parents and children, and also gives an opportunity of obtaining his opinion and advice on points connected with their work in the district. With reference to children who are *well advanced* educationally, or approaching 14 years of age, I would suggest that these children might be *permitted to remain at home occasionally* to assist their foster-parents, or work at times in the neighbourhood, in order to fit them for service, otherwise the change from school life to constant work, when licensed, sometimes causes them to become wayward and discontented, and to fail to please their employers. I desire to express my sincere thanks for the kind assistance and courtesy received from the officers of the Department.

Many changes having been made in the district, the report for the year presents rather a varied appearance. One little girl, aged 7 years, has been adopted by her foster-mother, and is doing well. Another very engaging child was about to be adopted by a lady when 3 years old, but her mother laid claim to her at the time, having married a respectable selector some miles distant, who was willing and anxious to take charge of the child, and was, therefore, entrusted with her. Two boys have been sent to learn farming at Dookie. Another, who had always conducted himself well when in the district, and was placed at Macedon, absconded from that place, and so effectually that we regret to say he has not been heard of since. Our committee were asked to take one of two brothers, who had to be separated in consequence of giving a great deal of trouble, and continually fighting, and we elected to give the younger one a trial. He was here nine months, and at first was very troublesome, but during the latter portion of the time his improvement was very marked, and, when handed over to his father, would scarcely have been known for the same lad. The greater number of the children were vaccinated early in the year. Sickness has been almost unknown; a few have suffered from their eyes, and two or three cases of measles have occurred. One little delicate infant gives much anxiety, but the medical officer reports the case as improving. Of the large number of children boarded out in this district only a very small percentage has been returned as incorrigible. The committee find when a foster-parent makes frequent complaints, that transferring the child to a new home often makes all the difference, not from any fault in the home or parent, but from the fact that the parent does not understand the peculiar temperament of the child, and, therefore, is unfit to train it; another person is often found who better understands the child's disposition, and in time renders it amenable to discipline. This plan has been very effectively carried out during the year; at the same time many children have been in the same home for years. The children have been successful in gaining prizes at the various Sunday schools. One girl secured first prize for repeating verbatim the first chapter of Genesis; this girl also passed the standard required by the Education Act at the age of 12½ years. The committee strongly recommend that power be given the Department to *withhold the bank pass-books* from the girls, in special cases, until they arrive at

the age of 20 years. Many of the boys and girls, now grown up, evince a great interest in their former homes, frequently visiting them at Christmas or other holiday seasons. Ten girls and four boys have been licensed out during the year. One girl had to be returned to Melbourne, and one sent to her relatives on account of ill-health; the others are in good situations, and are doing well. Emily, who is licensed to Mrs. I—, has grown, and improved much. There are several servants kept in the house, and we think it has had a good effect upon the girl. We regret to report that one of the boys, who was apprenticed to a blacksmith, was accidentally drowned whilst bathing. His employer spoke very highly of him as being a good Christian lad, and after his death had a plate engraved with his name put on the coffin, and in other ways showed the good feeling that existed between them. The committee, in conclusion, beg to express their indebtedness to the various officers of the Department for their kind attention to their communications, and gladly testify to the assistance at all times received.

The working of the boarding-out system in this district has made satisfactory progress during the past year. There has been very little sickness, and only one case of serious illness, in which the foster-mother showed the most unremitting care and attention. The children seem happy and contented, and the homes, with few exceptions, are excellent. I regret to state that we have from time to time had great difficulty in placing the girls in suitable situations, some of them obtaining their certificates long before attaining the age of 15, and while yet unfit for service of any kind. The committee are of opinion that in such cases they should, on the recommendation of the committee, be allowed to remain with the foster-mother for at least six months, in order that they might be taught domestic duties.

In presenting the annual report for last year, there is little of general interest to record. The children are all too young for there to be room for any definite plans for their future, but no doubt the ladies would in a few years be glad to avail themselves of the excellent opening offered for boys at the Dookie and other farm schools. There are now 22 children in the district, but the numbers have fluctuated a good deal, two foster-parents having left the district, another having moved into it, while one fresh applicant has received a child. The Visiting Officer expressed himself as greatly pleased with the homes. Indeed, in many cases, the ladies feel their duties of inspection are almost nominal, so completely have the children been adopted by their foster-mothers.

The children boarded-out in this district have good homes, and are comfortably located, and appear happy. The three children A— have benefited largely by the change to Mrs. F—, an excellent foster-mother, by whom they will be properly trained. The girl H— P—, licensed to Mrs. W—, has grown up a nice girl, although not strong, and troubled with a cough; she will require care. M—D—, licensed with Mrs. A—, gives every satisfaction, and is very happy in her home. Mrs. A—'s home is one of the best that could possibly be selected for the training of children. The boy P— M—, licensed to his mother, and employed at Mrs. A—'s, is spoken of as a good, well-behaved lad. The remainder of the children here I have nothing special to report of. They all appear well, and are comfortable, most of them being treated by their foster-parents as if of the family.

I beg to enclose the reports of the visiting committee, and to add a few remarks of my own. The boarding-out system is still working most satisfactorily. The affection between foster-parents and children is very great; in one case a little boy was adopted, and in another a girl was kept under the licensing conditions, rather than they should be parted with. With reference to one other home, it is certainly a poor one, and not to be compared with many of the others, and on looking at the child one would wonder at any person retaining him, for he is a most peculiar looking boy; indeed, it might be said a miserable object; he suffers from some brain affection, which affects his eyes, so that they roll from side to side incessantly, and he does not seem able to express himself coherently, yet, in spite of his objectionable appearance, his foster-mother has the greatest possible love for him. I had great difficulty in soothing her when she thought he might be removed. It would be a positive cruelty to both to separate them. In some cases, where the homes were not suitable, the children were transferred to others of a better character; and such changes seem to have been for the better. The health of the children has been good, and the reports from school teachers satisfactory in all respects. I do not know of any improvements that could be suggested.

During the year three of the W— family were transferred to Mrs. H—, Mrs. S— having to remove to a smaller house. The children boarded out with Mrs. H— are getting on nicely, except J— W—, whose health is very indifferent; he has been taking cod-liver oil for some time, and is very dull at lessons. We hope to obtain a good situation for E— V— when she is 15, as she promises to make a very good servant, with careful management, but she is very high-spirited. She and her brother took 1st and 2nd prizes in Sunday school.

The ladies' committee are working well. The homes are visited regularly. I may mention that we had during the year very little sickness, and, I am glad to say, no deaths. In one or two instances we have met with refractory children, but we hope to overcome this difficulty. During the last year we

have licensed two girls and one boy, who are in respectable situations, and, I am pleased to say, are giving their employers every satisfaction.

I have the honour to report that the homes in this district are generally satisfactory; that the children have, on the whole, improved since my last report in healthy appearance and growth, some who suffered from unsightly complaints of the head or eyes having got rid of them. The foster-mothers, in all cases which have come under my notice, seemed to be attached to the children, and to take an interest and pride in their appearance and progress, which is a good sign as to their kind treatment. In one case, the foster-mother has adopted a little girl of 2 years old.

The homes have been well and regularly supervised during the year, and the state of the district on the whole shows a decided improvement on last year. We have had to make several changes; one great object kept in view has been to weed out objectionable or doubtful homes and replace them with good ones. Two, in which the faults were untidiness and dirt, have become comparatively clean and neat, owing to the advice and encouragement given by the lady visitors. Against these pleasing results we have had one drawback, viz., that three of our boys, having taken to running away, have had to be sent back to the schools. I should like to record my conviction, based on three years' active work in this district, that the success of the system *depends largely on the amount of trouble taken to secure good homes*, and steadfastly to reject all questionable ones. I would add that the ladies here are strongly in favour of the boarding-out system, as advancing the physical, mental, and moral condition of the children. I am fortunate in having a most active and courteous committee, who render me valuable assistance in our important work.

We carry on the boarding-out of children in our district with the usual success and trouble. Of the latter we have had during the past year a little more than usual, mostly through children who had been in other districts and had not done well there; but on the whole we are satisfied, both with our foster-parents and with the children in their charge. It gives us great satisfaction to know that a good many of our boys and girls are respectable and prosperous young people, are well liked and esteemed by their employers, and come to their foster-parents for a visit whenever an opportunity offers. We think the yearly visit of the Inspector from the office is very desirable, and are always glad to see him in our district.

Our homes generally are very happy ones, and our foster-parents take a deep interest in their young charges, not merely as regards their bodily comfort, but for their spiritual well-being. The great difficulty with which they have to combat is disobedience, with untruthfulness; but when we remember their lack of early moral training we feel it can only be overcome by uniting kindness with firmness. We have had no alarming sickness, which is a cause for deep thankfulness, when we consider the severe epidemic (fog-fever) with which we were visited during the winter months.

This committee have much pleasure in still speaking favorably of the general aspect of the boarding-out system in this district, both as regards children and foster-parents. There are at present out in this district 13 children, 6 girls, and 7 boys, distributed over 5 homes. Both foster-parents and children seem quite satisfied, judging from the fact that no complaints have been made from either side. This committee have had some little trouble to ensure a regular attendance at school. This object has now been fairly attained, and the difficulty is not likely to occur again. The children, on the whole, are exceedingly well-behaved, and we are informed that in school their conduct is in marked contrast to that of some who have known parents' care all their lives. Their progress, too, has been fair. As regards sickness, beyond occasional colds, there has been none. Your visiting officer, Mr. Bond, was struck with the children's appearance of robust health. Church and Sunday school are duly attended. The homes are of the best. Good food and accommodation, and also good clothing, is the rule. The children attend school neat and clean. Though we have had some little trouble and anxiety in one or two cases, as you are aware, we are satisfied that the boarding-out system adopted by the Department has been eminently satisfactory in this district, from all points of view. In conclusion, your committee beg leave to acknowledge the unfailing courtesy, attention, and consideration which has been extended to them by the officers of the Department with whom they have been in communication.

The children in this district are clean, well clothed, and very healthy, with the exception of one child who is suffering from whooping-cough. In two cases they have found trouble in getting the foster-mothers to send the children regularly to school. The other children have obtained a high percentage in their classes. Two of our boys have been licensed into very good homes, with every prospect of doing well.

Our work proceeds smoothly and quietly. The ladies of the committee visit regularly, and the doctor and I inspect the children monthly. The foster-parents give very little trouble, and the children, as a whole, are tractable and obedient. Their foster-parents say they look forward with pleasure to seeing the ladies upon pay day, although for the last year I have discontinued the practice of giving them sweets, as I had been in the habit of doing since I became correspondent, five and a half years ago. Since my last report we have had five (5) deaths, four being wet-nursed infants, who, as I have before explained, frequently come to us in a weakly condition. The fifth death was that of a promising little boy, aged 12 years,

who remained too long in the baths at St. Kilda, and evidently injured his head in some way, as upon reaching home he was very feverish, became unconscious, and never rallied.

There is an improvement in some of the homes since date of last report, and most, if not all of them, now are as good as can reasonably be expected. There is also a decided improvement in the children, and, in some cases, much affection evinced between them and their foster-parents.

This year has been rather a troublesome one to our committee. One boy we were obliged to return to the schools; two were sent to other districts; one we moved to a new home, but in this case the child begged to be allowed to return, and twice ran away to his former foster-mother, who was almost persuaded to take him back; however, he has settled down where we placed him, and is doing well. Another, who had a most excellent home, was handed over to his parents by the Department. Three have been licensed out—two of them to their foster-parents, and one, who is in delicate health, and will soon be 15, will be retained by his foster-parents without pay. Most of our lads are placed on farms, and will be retained in these homes on licence. I would specially endorse the paragraph contained in the Visiting Officer's report for last year, as to making the service children distinctly aware, on going to a situation, of the "Conditions of Service," page 38. We have much pleasure in observing the attachment which exists between children and foster-parents. G—— H——, who was licensed out to Mr. H——, met with an accident, and is now in the hospital: as soon as Mrs. P——, his foster-parent, heard of it, she requested that he might be sent to her directly he was well enough to be removed. I visited the boy in the hospital and told him of the invitation. It was really touching to see how his face lit up. "Oh!" he said, "I would like to go 'home' as soon as I am better, but I have suffered so much." The foster-parents in our district have comfortable homes, and the children seem well and happy. We could place many others equally well. We cannot speak too highly of the boarding-out system; of course there are cases requiring time and thought, but when we consider the future of these children, and that they are now growing up useful and happy members of the community, we feel amply repaid. Many of them have never caused the least trouble, either to their foster-parents or to the committee.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the foster-homes in this district are very suitable; the children are healthy, well conducted, and much attached to their foster-parents, as seen by the reports (quarterly) sent to your Department. The attendance at school, &c., has been very satisfactory. We have had only one troublesome case on hand, and that has been overcome without troubling your Department. The committee are much pleased with the success attending their work, and express their willingness to continue it, though at times it is not a little inconvenient, the homes being some miles apart. Thanking you for your kindness and attention on all occasions.

Everything has worked smoothly and harmoniously during the year. I requested the lady visitors to write what they thought of the boarding-out in this district. Two have responded, whose notes I enclose. Last Friday's paper contained an account of a most successful gathering of our children at Mrs. Cooper's.

"The children are all provided with homes, in which they seem happy and contented. The foster-parents are kind to them, and they are treated as well, and, in many cases, perhaps more wisely, than they would have been under the care of their own parents. All are attending school; no foster-parent in the district has been summoned for default in this respect. There has been no serious case of sickness, and, on the whole, the children are looking well and healthy.

"The boarding-out system seems to be working admirably, and the foster-mothers chosen have quite come up to the committee's expectations with regard to their kindness and care of the children."

The lady visitors have reported favorably, with very few exceptions, of the health and conduct of the boarded-out children, and of the comfortable homes provided for them, and they feel gratified to see the kindly feeling displayed by the foster-parents towards the children, and, in most cases, the attachment of the children to them. The reports from the teachers are also very satisfactory as regards their regular attendance, cleanly appearance, and general progress. W. and E. McD—— were awarded prizes for singing at the annual State-school concert, and several have obtained valuable books as Sunday-school prizes. We have had more than ordinary trouble during the past year with boys absconding; three of the girls also absconded, two hoping to find their mothers, but they were soon found and returned to their homes. The ladies visit the homes with much regularity, and take a great interest in the welfare of the children under their care. Two of our boys have been well placed, one a few months ago to learn the printing business, the other recently licensed to the Venerable Archdeacon Slattery. We have still many inquiries for licensed girls. Those already placed out are in excellent homes, and treated with every kindness by their employers. Although our numbers have greatly increased, we have still eligible foster-homes unoccupied. A great number of Roman Catholic children have been boarded out during the past year, for the most part in excellent homes. Our Medical and Visiting Officers are most attentive, and to

the Secretary and the Department we again desire to offer our sincere thanks for prompt attention to all our wishes.

The condition of the children and their foster-homes, with a few exceptions, is very satisfactory. The general health of the children has been good, although two had typhoid fever, but, with the doctor's care and careful nursing, they soon recovered. Three infants died, of whom two were sickly when received into the district. The number of children received into the district during the year 1885 was eight (8); children discharged to relatives, eight (8); one child was adopted; one boy absconded; and one boy was drowned while bathing in the Yarra; nine (9) were transferred from foster-homes that were deemed unsatisfactory; one boy was apprenticed to the grocery business; and four girls have been placed out in situations, and are giving general satisfaction. We have eighty-eight (88) boarded-out children, thirteen (13) girls in service homes, and five (5) boys apprenticed, making a total of 106 under the supervision of our committee. School results are fairly good. There is one grand qualification in the foster-parent, that is the love she has for the child, or children, that are entrusted to her care. To witness, when relatives come to claim their children (which is the case in some instances), the parting of the child and the foster-mother is very touching. There are exceptions, of course. My experience strengthens my opinion as to the advantages of the boarding-out. In conclusion, I thank co-workers and yourself for their kind attention when communicated with.

The foster-children in this district are going on satisfactorily. The number of children boarded out is at present 15, and 2 are licensed. The children appear happy and contented, and are all at present in good health, with the exception of those suffering from measles and colds. Suitable homes can easily be found for additional children.

Everything has been most satisfactory; the children appear happy, comfortable, and well looked after. With the exception of the boy C—C—, there have been no complaints against any of the children. The school reports show they have attended regularly, and made ordinary progress.

We have so few children in our district that we cannot speak of any noticeable progress or improvements in the homes or children. We have had to remove one boy, who is now doing well, and he, as well as the others, seems happy now and well cared for.

The visitors report favorably of the homes and children in this district. There has been very little sickness during the year; one child died from dentition. I enclose Mr. Hayden's report, which shows that the appearance and attendance of the children attending the State school is very satisfactory. The children appreciate the kindness they receive, and it is pleasant to see the affection subsisting between foster-parents and child in many instances. Of course we have some disappointments, but that is to be expected. The licensed children are also doing well, and, with very few exceptions, give satisfaction to their employers. We have a great demand for licensed girls.

I have not a single case of sickness to report in the past year. I have also pleasure in stating that during our quarterly visits no complaints of misconduct by the foster-parents have been made. The attendance at school has been fair, and the progress satisfactory. In every case the children appear contented and happy, their general appearance giving evidence of their being well cared for.

With one or two exceptions the homes are very good, and the children healthy. One death, that of an infant, has occurred, and one little girl has been adopted in a good home. The children all give evidence of the benefit of being brought up in a family.

The children during the past year have, with one or two exceptions, enjoyed good health, are comfortably clad, and are undoubtedly happy. Two have been placed at service, one at a trade, and another is likely to become a school teacher. In most cases strong attachment exists between foster-parents and children, which is very gratifying. As regards numbers, the boarded-out homes are less than last year, owing to several removals to other districts, the service homes have increased, and the girls are doing well. Four boys were returned to the schools, having stayed away from their homes at night, urged by bad companions at school. The committee would here add that they consider it a great mistake to send either boys or girls to night school, as they are in danger of finding bad acquaintances and being led away. One death has occurred during the year, that of a weakly child from dentition. The homes and children have not been visited as regularly as usual through the want of visitors, but I am pleased to be able to say that our committee has been strengthened by two ladies, who, I am sure, will do their work well. In conclusion, the committee consider the boarding-out system an excellent one, and have to acknowledge their indebtedness to yourself and officers for uniform courtesy.

The committee consider there is nothing wanting for the comfort of the children. They are, without exception, in good homes, are very dear to the foster-parents, and are good and kind to them in return. During the year one boy was placed in a very good situation, another obtained work at 10s. per week, and

arranged to continue to live with his foster-mother, who would not part with him. The foster-mother, in another instance, kept a girl, who attained the age of 15 years, in her own service. These are proofs of good training, and also of the good influence of the lady visitors. If the Secretary could induce some Church of England, or other Protestant ladies, to join this committee in their good work, they would feel thankful.

We had at the close of the year twelve Protestant and eleven Catholic homes, all very satisfactory.

I have much pleasure in stating that we have had another most satisfactory year. The children are in good farm homes, and, as a rule, cause the foster-parents very little trouble or anxiety. Many of the homes have greatly improved during the year, showing that the interest taken has been beneficial both to foster-parents and children. Our district is a very large scattered one. Although a great amount of fever has prevailed, the children have all escaped with one exception, a boy, who has quite recovered, and is now attending school again. The licensed children are also giving the greatest satisfaction.

I have the honour to inform you that the boarding-out system is working very well. Upon the whole the children are cared for and brought up as the other children in the district. Lately we have had some cases of absconding, and it would appear that the children have got the idea that there is some sort of paradise in town. The licensed children, with few exceptions, have turned out very well, and it was a source of gratification to the committee to learn that C—— W—— has now £100 in the bank, and is a useful member of society.

Great care has been taken to keep the homes in an efficient condition. There was but one home that ever made the committee anxious, and now the children have been removed from it. I can justly say that the homes in my district are remarkable for their comfort and the care bestowed upon them.

I have much pleasure in stating that the boarding-out system in this district is most satisfactory. As the children grow up we get situations for them in the neighbourhood, so that they can go to their foster-parents on all their holidays. In some cases, the foster-parents have kept them after the pay has ceased, bringing them up to a trade. I could give the history of nearly twenty who are out at service and in trades doing well.

REPORT OF LADIES' VISITING ASSOCIATION.

I.—ROYAL PARK RECEIVING DEPÔT.

The ladies' visits to the depôt this year have been less frequent, for there is not much call for supervision. Very few fresh applications are received, as the girls mostly go to approved situations, the old employers generally applying for any who may be waiting. To many of these young servants the depôt is their only home, and the Matron and attendants are regarded as friends, to whom they come to spend an occasional holiday, sure of a kindly welcome.

The Matron reports that 30 girls have this year gone out to service. Of these two were in delicate health, and came to the Park to recruit, and then returned to their situation. One girl has been married; three have turned out very badly, and after repeated misconduct have been sent to the Reformatory. Good reports have been received of many. One or two have gone to their friends. Unfortunately these cases are seldom satisfactory, these friends not being generally desirable. Still it is cheering to know that a large proportion of the girls do keep their situations, and become useful and valuable servants.

II.—GIRLS' REFORMATORY, COBURG.

In March, 1885, the Matron, Mrs. Bloxham, returned from her visit to Europe, seeming much benefited by the rest and change. She was warmly welcomed by the girls within the walls, and some who were at service wrote asking to be allowed to come and see her. The additions made to the building have been highly approved of, but it has been thought desirable to secure other quarters for the girls in the "A" class, where they might be gradually accustomed to more liberty. This experiment had been successfully attempted in the Shattesbury Home in Sydney, of which Captain Evans had given so favorable a report that the ladies were requested by the Government to send a deputation with the Matron of the Coburg Reformatory to visit the institution, which is charmingly situated. The girls appeared to be quite under home discipline, but the place is surrounded by high walls, and the Matron confirmed the opinion of the visitors that even a probationary home ought to be safely guarded. A full and careful report of this visit was sent in to the Government in October last.

A property at South Preston had been taken, at which the necessary alterations and additions have been made, and this year (1886) a few girls have been transferred thither. During the past twelve months we have had at Coburg our usual experience of mingled success and failure, and again we notice the failures have sometimes been amongst girls who started well at first. This is no doubt discouraging in one way as it shows how very difficult it is to eradicate the evil tendencies of early life, but on the other hand it

shows that, even with those who fail, the training in the Reformatory does exercise some restraining influence, and implants some desire for better things, which may eventually bear good fruit; indeed, we have had instances of girls doing well after more than one failure. One notably, whose defiant conduct drew down upon her the special reproof of the magistrate before whom she was subpoenaed as a witness, and brought upon her a sentence of two months' imprisonment. From prison she returned to the Reformatory much subdued. After a few months' probation, during which she behaved well, she was, at her own request, admitted for confirmation; and since her discharge she has been earning her own living in respectable situations, with good reports from her employers. The reports at the close of the year give good accounts of 12 girls recently sent out, while there are three or four who have been in service for more than two years, who are doing well. Of course we lose sight of a considerable proportion of the girls after their time is out. There have been seven absconders from service, but in at least two of the cases these appear to have been with friends, and not to have shown any wish to return to evil habits. Unfortunately there are several of the old girls whose term have expired, and who are living in town, who appear to watch for opportunities of leading their old companions into mischief. On this account it is imperative that prompt steps should be taken at once to arrest any girl leaving her situation without permission. There were so many returned from service this Christmas that it was not thought advisable to give such girls any presents, and some were also excluded from the picnic, though all had a share in the usual annual feast provided by the ladies. All the cookery had been done in the establishment under the supervision of Miss Johnson, and samples were served at a tasteful lunch prepared by the Matron and attendants for the visitors. One of these was the Reverend Mr. Bardin, who gave a most earnest and appropriate address to the girls. The ladies desire to take this opportunity of expressing their deep obligations to Mr. Bardin for the truly Christian and conscientious manner in which the responsible and trying work of visiting the girls, undertaken by him at their request, has been carried out. He has been most indefatigable, and they feel convinced his visits have had a beneficial influence, and trust it may be granted to him to see much fruit of his labours.

The Matron and attendants are also anxious in every way to promote the best interests of the girls. This has often been admitted even by those who have most disappointed them: "I know it is all my own fault," has been the confession of more than one offender. The ladies have also to again thank the Visitors, who have continued their good work in carrying on a Sunday school within the walls of the Reformatory.

L. J. A'BECKETT, President.

H. E. JENNINGS, Honorary Secretary.

LADIES' VISITING ASSOCIATION—DEPARTMENT OF GAOL VISITING.

During the year 1885, twelve visits have been paid by members of the Ladies' Visiting Association to Industrial and Reformatory prisoners in the Melbourne Gaol.

Twenty-two (22) prisoners have been seen; some of these are hardened offenders who have served many sentences, some of them are young girls. It is more difficult to make an impression upon the latter or to extract a promise of amendment from them than from the former.

Many of the prisoners are married women—generally they are received again by their husbands on their release from gaol.

It is not unusual for the prisoners to speak of going to the Salvation Army on their release, but they are not, as a rule, long under the influence of that body.

One girl, a Roman Catholic, has been received at the Convent at Abbotsford. One had a situation found for her by the Industrial and Reformatory Schools Department. Vagrancy and drunkenness are the usual charges upon which a girl is committed. It is felt by the Visitors that much more might be done for the prisoners if there was a probationary home to take them to, on or prior to their discharge.

FRANCES A. RIDGWAY, Honorary Secretary.

REPORTS ON SCHOOLS.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

BOYS' RECEIVING DEPÔT, ROYAL PARK.

SIR,

I have the honour, by direction of the Committee of Management of the Immigrants' Aid Society, to submit the following report of the operations of the Industrial Schools Boys' Receiving Depôt, Royal Park, during the year 1885:—

Daily Average.—The daily average number of inmates during the year was 23'072.

Health.—The health was excellent, no illness of a serious nature occurring. Two lads, aged 13 and 14 respectively, died in the Depôt during the year from diseases of long duration.

Conduct and Discipline.—The conduct on the whole was good, and the discipline generally well maintained. The only disturbing element was found in lads repeatedly returned from service on account of indolence or disobedience.

School Instruction.—The method described in the previous report was continued during the period under review.

Religious Instruction.—In the matter of religious instruction, a similar remark to the foregoing is equally applicable.

Occupations.—The enclosing fence referred to in the last report was satisfactorily completed early in the year; a considerable portion of ground was prepared and sown with vegetables. A hundred trees, received from the State Nursery at Macedon were also planted, eighty-nine of which were making good progress in growth at the end of the year. Those trees, *Pinus insignis*, will constitute, in a few years, an excellent shelter from the bleak winds of winter, and also add to the surroundings a pleasant and cheerful aspect. The enclosure affords ample space for healthy exercise for the younger boys, and bracing work for the older ones.

The following statistics may be of interest, viz.:—

1. Number of returned service boys received into the Depôt during the year...	82
2. Number of boys sent from the Depôt to service	126
3. Number of boys returned to the Depôt from foster-homes	118
4. Number of boys sent from the Depôt to foster-homes	165
5. Number of boys absconded from the Depôt	32
6. Number of absconders returned to the Depôt	21

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. S. GREIG, Superintendent.

George Guillaume, Esq.,

Secretary, Industrial and Reformatory Schools, Melbourne.

GIRLS' RECEIVING DEPÔT, ROYAL PARK.

I have the honour to furnish for your information a report on the working of this institution for the year 1885. On the 1st January there were 18 children in the depôt, and during the year the admissions were—178 new committals, 182 re-admitted from boarding-out and service and from other institutions, 20 transferred from Abbotsford Industrial School for boarding-out, and 17 on remand from the courts: total 397. The removals were—229 boarded-out, 77 licensed, 49 discharged to friends, 29 transferred to other institutions, 5 died, 3 absconded: total 392, leaving 23 children in depôt.

The health of the inmates has been good; we have had no epidemic during the year. The deaths were—one young person, who had been suffering with lung disease for a long time, and died of consumption in the early part of the year; the other 4 were infants received in a dying state.

The conduct of the inmates has been good; of the 3 that absconded 1 was a little girl who returned to her mother, and was brought back next day; the other 2 were girls who had been frequently returned from service, when they were found and brought back, and it was found necessary to have them transferred to Oakleigh Reformatory. We have had several girls sent here on remand and also committed to the schools, who should have been sent to the reformatories; their transfers were effected as soon as possible, but while they had to remain here I found great difficulty, owing to the want of a proper place, to isolate them, and I have now recommended the erection of two rooms for that purpose, which will enable me to keep them quite apart from the others.

The value of the work done in the institution has been:—

Needlework, including repairs and manufactures	£174	0	8
Washing	50	8	6
Total	£224	9	2

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. WILSON, Matron.

BOYS' FARM SCHOOL, CASHEL.

[Extract from the Annual Report of the Manager of the Experimental Farm, Dookie.]

Industrial School Boys.—The great object in introducing these boys to the farm was to initiate them into farming pursuits; give them stability of character, and, at the same time, the rudiments of the three R's. About 23 of the boys have now been hired out to farmers, vigneron, and others, and, on the whole, they are turning out well. A great many of them prove to be capital workmen, and some of the first that left the farm are now earning 15s. per week and rations. It must be a blessing for the boys themselves to be able to earn an honest livelihood, instead of being a burden to the State. Their services are very much in request by farmers, vigneron, and others. There are at least twenty applications for each boy we have available for service, and no better proof is required to show that the system is popular, and that the boys are appreciated. They, in fact, fulfil a much needed want amongst farmers, who would rather employ a boy from the farm than half of the men who go knocking about.

M. HERDMAN,
Manager.

BOYS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, SANDHURST.

SIR,

I have the honour to report as under for the period from 1st January to 21st April, 1885:—

Admissions.			Discharges.		
Remaining 31/12/84	...	39	Transferred	...	18
Returned from service	...	4	Boarded-out	...	5
New admission	...	1	Forwarded to service	...	21
		—			—
		44			44
		—			—

In consequence of the reduced numbers, caused by the boarding-out and licensing of the boys, and the opening of farm schools at Macedon and Dookie, the Committee were reluctantly compelled to ask that the remaining inmates might be removed as early as possible. The request was complied with, and on the 21st April the last of the boys was discharged, and the school finally closed.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

P. McILROY,
Superintendent.

The Secretary, Industrial and Reformatory Schools, Melbourne.

GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (R.C.), ABBOTSFORD.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1885.

The number of girls remaining in school on the 1st January, 1885, was 193.

Admissions.			Discharges.		
Remaining in school on the 31st			Sent to service	...	70
December, 1884	...	193	Boarded-out	...	26
Admissions	...	60	Discharged to friends, &c.	...	5
			Died	...	1
			School strength on 31st Decem-		
			ber, 1885	...	149
			Transferred to Girls' Depôt	...	2
		—			—
Total	...	253	Total	...	253
		—			—

The health of the children was good, with the exception of a few cases of chronic ophthalmia and ringworm, which had the constant attention of Dr. Ryan.

The conduct of the girls, while under supervision here, was very satisfactory.

Of 70 sent to service, 53 did well, 17 indifferently.

Mr. Gamble, Inspector of Education Department, visited for examination in December, and kindly reported as follows:—

“Percentage, 92·4.

“The buildings, furniture, and apparatus are in admirable order.

“Classification is correct.

“The instruction has been imparted with the well-known zeal and ability. The general character of the work is excellent. The few weak points are well known to the Sisterhood. The senior girls need not devote much time to practising large-hand writing in copy books.

“Needlework continues to be excellently taught.

“Discipline, all that can be desired.

“Ten obtained certificates of competency.”

Lady Loch visited in July, and seemed much pleased with the management of the school. Before leaving her Ladyship graciously accorded the children a holiday.

Mr. Grant favoured the little ones by allowing them the pleasure of seeing his magic lantern, and for their greater amusement engaged musicians to play between the scenes.

Many kind friends contributed by their presents of confectionery, &c., to make the girls here feel that they were not excluded from the joys of Christmas.

Mr. Peterson's usual gifts were received with much gratitude, as also Mr. Jolley's complimentary cards.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Yours most respectfully,

MARY C. CURTAIN, Superioress.

The Secretary, Industrial and Reformatory Schools Department, King-street.

GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (R.C.), GEELONG.

On the 1st of January, 1885, the number of children in St. Joseph's Industrial School was 32.

During the year there were no admissions; 5 girls were sent to service, namely, Caroline G—, Margaret B—, Johanna C—, Mary Ellen F—, Anne E. S—, who are all giving satisfaction in their respective situations as testified by gratifying accounts received from their employers.

The number present at the end of December was 27.

The children are well conducted and giving every satisfaction, and their healthy, cheerful looks (as often noticed by visitors) give evidence of their happiness and contentment.

M. G. SHERLOCK.

GIRLS' TRAINING SCHOOL (PROTESTANT), YARRA PARK.

I have the honour to lay before you a report of the working of the above institution for year ending 31st December, 1885.

Remaining in the school, 31st December, 1884, 19 girls.

Received from Government during, 1885 only 3 girls, making 22 in all. Sent to service during the year, 7. Remaining in Home, 31st December, 1885, 15.

During the year 5 girls were placed in the Institute by their friends, who paid for their support; 2 remained in the Home on 31st December, and three returned to their relations after benefiting for several months by the training provided for them.

Several of the girls who had been sent out to service have been received into the Home from time to time during the intervals that occur between their leaving one situation and obtaining another.

The constantly diminishing number of inmates received from the Industrial School Department is a source of the greatest regret to the committee, while those who have been sent or offered to them lately would have had a much greater certainty of improvement in all respects if they had been placed long before. There is again an increase in the proceeds of the laundry work, which amounted, for the year, to the sum of £197.

The health of the girls has been good. We have once more to thank Mr. Peterson for his generous gifts of toys and books.

The ladies of the committee have been most attentive in visiting the school, and given their assistance and advice with their usual kindness.

EMMA BANNER, Matron.

To the Secretary.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

BOYS' REFORMATORY SCHOOL, BALLARAT.

SIR,

Reformatory, Ballarat, 21st May, 1886.

I have the honour to submit for your information a report for the year ending 31st December, 1885.

In my report for the year 1884, I endeavoured to explain the methods adopted for the reformation of the boys received into this institution, their treatment on admission, the transfer to the Industrial Schools of young and comparatively innocent boys, with a view to their being placed in foster-homes under the boarding-out regulations; the systems of classification, correction, licensing to employers, and probationary licensing to relatives; and the means employed to encourage good conduct and industrious habits, and to create and foster a desire to merit the numerous privileges provided for the boys of the best ("A") division.

I also took occasion to make a suggestion on a subject previously referred to by Captain Evans, viz., the desirability of *extending departmental control in certain cases*. I am glad to learn that in the amendments it is proposed to make in the "Neglected and Criminal Children's Act" this very important matter has received attention. I may here be permitted to remark that the experiences of another year have served to strengthen the impression that a change in the direction indicated will materially affect the results of our work.

I now propose to deal with the operations of the year under notice.

Admissions.—The total number admitted during the year was seventy-four (74), *i.e.* fifty-four (54) new committals (a similar number to those of last year); six (6) transfers from the Industrial Schools; six (6) returned from license for misconduct, and one (1) for discharge to his father in Queensland; in six (6) cases it became necessary to recall restless boys in order that they might be more suitably placed; and one (1) boy was admitted as a transfer from the Kew Lunatic Asylum.

Discharges.—The discharges numbered one hundred and eight (108), which, considering the greatly reduced daily average strength, is a large proportionate increase on former years. In my report for 1884 I said, "The success of the system may be judged by the rate at which boys are passed through, and as old ideas become eradicated and the rewards of well-doing become apparent, I anticipate a steady outflow." If this be a reliable test, and I have every reason to believe that it is, I venture to hope that the "steady outflow" of the past year may be accepted as an indication of success.

A perusal of the following table, which I have prepared in order to show at a glance the outgoings for three years, will, I trust, satisfy you that the system pursued in dealing with the boys committed to our care has, so far, worked well.

Year.	Daily Average Strength.	Discharges to Relatives (terms expired).	Licensed.	Placed on Probationary license with Relatives.	Sent to Service (terms expired)	Sent to Sea.	Discharged by Governor in Council on Superintendent's recommendation.	Transferred to the Industrial School to be boarded-out.	Transferred to Eye and Ear Hospital for treatment.	Deaths.	Total passed out.
1883	157	25	19	8	11	1	5	5	1	...	75
1884	132	15	40	19	7	...	3	15	1	...	100
1885	88	2	62	22	1	...	1	19	...	1	108

The satisfactory features here presented are:—

- (1.) A decrease in the daily average strength of the establishment.
- (2.) A decrease in the number of boys who have been detained to complete their terms of committal.
- (3.) A marked increase in the number placed in situations under licensing conditions.
- (4.) A steady increase in the number placed on probationary license with relatives.

To those who have watched the career of the Reformatory since the present system was introduced by Captain Evans—whose ability and foresight have contributed so largely to the measure of success attained—I need hardly say that these results have been mainly brought about by a strict adherence to what may be regarded as one of the fundamental principles of the system, viz., the condition, now well understood by the boys, that the privileges of license, &c., shall be *earned* by good conduct and industry.

The practice of obtaining information regarding each new committal from all available sources has resulted in the transfer, during the year, of 19 boys to the Industrial Schools, to be placed in foster-homes under the boarding-out regulations. By this process of "sifting" the retention of young and comparatively innocent boys in the Reformatory is avoided. In this connexion I may be pardoned for giving expression to the opinion that no system of dealing with the two classes of children placed in the hands of the Department can be complete which does not provide for an intermediate school, where troublesome *non-criminal* children could be subjected to a short disciplinary course, as it is inadvisable to send such cases to a reformatory. The two classes should be kept apart. In giving me the benefit of his advice as to the disposal of a young boy, Mr. Alfred Woolley, of the Visiting Committee, wrote on the 29th September, 1884—"I cannot but express my opinion that this is a case where my idea of an intermediary school would prove useful, and a few months' discipline would prepare the way for more kindly and home treatment." †

† Note by Secretary.—It is proposed to provide for this in the Amending Act, under the title, "Probationary Schools."

Health.—The health of the inmates generally has been very good, and the hospital has frequently been untenanted for weeks together. One unfortunate accident occurred to a boy who was “skylarking” with others in the cricket-field, resulting in the loss of an eye. The influenza, or “fog-fever” epidemic, which was so general throughout the colony during the latter part of the year, affected many of the officers, and the majority of the boys; and I regret to say that in the case of one boy, whose constitution had become impaired by exposure while sleeping away from home, the complaint led to fatal results. This is the only death that has occurred here since June, 1882.

Education.—The school work, as conducted by Mr. Bowe and his assistant, Mr. Joyce, has met with the approval of Mr. Holland, the District Inspector, as may be gathered from the following entries made by him in the Inspectors’ Register:—

“5th June, 1885.—Instruction. Of very good and effective character. Nearly every pupil has been promoted during the past year, and there are other evidences that the pupils are well and soundly taught, and making good progress.

“Organization.—Good.

“Discipline.—Very good. Indeed, excellent in upper classes. Percentage, 81·620.”

“8th December, 1885.—Ordinary inspection.

“Instruction.—The pupils are well and soundly taught. I was much pleased with the work seen to-day, especially the dictation of the 4th class.

“Organization.—Systematic and good. The work is carried on in accordance with the timetable, and under effective supervision.

“Discipline.—Excellent.”

As in former years, the boys have been much stimulated in their studies by the quarterly prizes provided by Mr. James Oddie, the Chairman of the Visiting Committee, whose unbounded generosity in supplying funds to purchase books for the Circulating Library for boys at service, and for many other purposes of a like nature, again excites our warmest gratitude.

Religious Training.—We are much indebted to the Right Rev. Dr. Thornton, Bishop of Ballarat, the Ven. Archdeacon Churchill Julius, and the Revs. H. W. H. Adeney (St. Peter’s), R. Johnson Mercer (St. John’s), H. Stanley Mercer (St. Stephen’s), and E. S. Radcliff (Registrar of the Diocese), for regular Divine Service for the Protestant boys on Sunday mornings and on Good Friday and Christmas Day. The Rev. J. F. Rogers severed his connection with the Reformatory at the end of the year, and I take this opportunity of acknowledging the great obligations under which we have been placed by his unwearied efforts on behalf of the Roman Catholic boys, for whom the Christian Doctrine Society again very generously provided prizes. The Sunday School work has been systematically carried on as usual by the ladies and gentlemen whose voluntary services have proved of immense advantage to the boys and to the institution generally.

Amusements, Privileges, &c.—Besides the usual amusements enjoyed by the boys generally, and the privileges provided for those of the best and most numerous division, we have been the recipients of much kind attention from many sources, some instances of which I will here enumerate. The committees of the Ballarat and the South Ballarat Football Clubs very generously granted the boys the right of entrée to their respective grounds, and the Ballarat Horticultural Society—whose periodical shows invariably attract such wide attention and favorable comment—has missed no opportunity of affording the boys the pleasure of a visit to their exhibitions. Mr. Andrew Anderson, J.P., the President of this Society, in a letter referring to one occasion on which sixty-nine (69) boys of “A” Division were present, wrote under date 25th April, 1885:—“At the late Horticultural Society’s Show you are aware that your boys attended during the day, as on some previous occasions, and then I stopped some of the exhibitors from giving the boys apples from the stands, promising to get a lot of the apples for them after the show was over. This promise I failed to carry out. I wish you would apologise to them for me, and give them the four (4) cases of apples herewith. Permit me to congratulate you on the good behaviour of the boys, as though few people but themselves were about, I believe not a single thing was touched or taken.” A medical gentleman, on the occasion of the “Kruse Concert” in the Alfred Hall, kindly provided tickets for forty (40) boys, and Captain Hennah, of the City Fire Brigade, was instrumental in gaining admission for a party to the annual demonstration in Russell-square.

Members of our staff have in their “off-time” frequently organized walking, boating, and fishing excursions, and accompanied boys to concerts and other entertainments.

Ample funds for the Boys’ Annual Sports, Christmas treats, &c., were, as heretofore, freely contributed, spontaneously, and through Messrs. Woolley, Brind, Ham, and Brophy, of the Visiting Committee, Christmas cards for distribution among old boys and present inmates were again provided by the Misses Woolley, of Melbourne, and Mrs. Murray, and other ladies of Ballarat.

One new and pleasing feature in connexion with the Boxing Day Sports I must not overlook, and that is, that two of the prizes competed for were presented by boys now in situations, twelve of whom spent portions of their Christmas holidays with us. We were much encouraged by the presence, at the annual sports, of a number of ladies and gentlemen, including the Ven. Archdeacon Julius, and Messrs. H. Brind and D. Ham of the Visiting Committee, and by the kindly notices of our holiday proceedings which appeared in the local papers.

Absconders.—I have much pleasure in stating that of the 178 individual boys who were in the institution during the year, *only five* (5) endeavoured to get away by absconding, and these were all re-taken. Twenty-nine (29) boys attempted to regain their liberty in this way during the previous year.

Boys’ Letters.—I append some extracts from a few of the LETTERS RECEIVED DURING 1885, from, and concerning boys who have left the institution, to which I respectfully invite your attention. We have not previously thought it necessary to do more than record the fact that correspondence is maintained between the old boys and ourselves, but the hope that a perusal of the extracts given may help to correct some of the erroneous impressions which exist concerning this establishment, has induced me to lay them before you. The kindly and home-like tone of these letters—the natural, boy-like modes of expression—while showing of what material the cord that binds the writers to the “old school” consists—cannot fail to remove the notion that this is a juvenile prison, with depressing influences and surroundings. Another idea I wish to dissipate is—that the information concerning the “after-career” of Reformatory boys is obtained through official channels.

It is true that in some cases in the interests of boys who are believed to be in moral danger, &c., as a last resource, officers of the police force are asked to report or to act "without making inquiries noticeable," and they invariably do this in a kindly, intelligent manner; but correspondence with boys is carried on in strict privacy—plain envelopes and postage stamps taking the place of the official franked cover.

Results.—The results of reformatory training are obtained by means of information gathered from employers, relatives, and boys' letters and visits, gaol returns (furnished by the courtesy of Mr. Brett, Inspector-General of Penal Establishments and Gaols), newspaper and police reports, &c., all of which is entered in the "After-career Book." This book contains the names of all boys passed out, and the conduct of each boy, as recorded therein, is considered and classified under one of the following headings:—"Good," "Fair," "Doubtful," "Indifferent," "Bad," "Not sufficient information," and "No information." The figures given in the following table can therefore be readily tested.

In order to arrive at comparative results, I have again grouped the years into triennial periods, thus:—1880-1-2, 1881-2-3, 1882-3-4, and 1883-4-5, giving the percentages of satisfactory (*i.e.*, "good" and "fair") cases as ascertained at the end of each of these periods:—

Triennial Period ending—	Percentages of Boys known to be "Good" and "Fair."	
	A. Of all Boys passed out.	B. Omitting those for whom there was not sufficient or no information.
31.12.82	49·189	65·248
31.12.83	56·074	73·170
31.12.84	68·859	83·957
31.12.85	70·588	84·324

As bad conduct invariably comes to the surface in gaol returns, police and newspaper reports, &c., it is obvious that the cases in which information concerning boys is wanting are not necessarily "bad," and cannot fairly be regarded as failures.

In the column A the boys for whom there was not sufficient or no information have been counted against us, and in the column B they have been omitted from the calculation.

In bringing this somewhat lengthy, but, I trust, not uninteresting Report to a close, I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance and advice so readily accorded at all times by the members of the Visiting Committee.

In the exercise of his functions as Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. Jordan, by careful and kindly treatment of the sick, and by ready adaptation to the routine of the establishment, has greatly conduced to our comfort.

I have been well and ably supported by Mr. Bowe, the Assistant-Superintendent, and the encouraging results of the year's work evidence the efficiency of the staff generally.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E. CHAS. CONNOR, Superintendent.

EXTRACTS FROM SOME OF THE LETTERS RECEIVED DURING 1885, FROM AND CONCERNING BOYS WHO HAVE LEFT THE REFORMATORY.

Reference No.	Date of Leaving Reformatory.	
63	7.81	Sister writes:—"H. is with a building contractor, and likes it very much. We can never forget you for the kindness you have done him. . . . He wishes to be remembered to Capt. Evans."
348	3.85	Mother writes:—"You will be glad to hear that I had a letter from ———. . . . He wrote in very good spirits, and from what he says he likes sea-life very much. They were two months in getting to Batavia."
341	2.85	"I am perfectly satisfied with this place that I am at now. Things seem to suit me grand, but I do not intend to praise it up till I know what it is like. I forgot to ask you to send me a book, if you please. You asked me some time ago if I would like to read the 'Australian Abroad.' I answered that I would, but I never received it."
396	10.85	"I am getting on fine at my situation. I like it very well, in fact, better than well. I am very glad I came up here."
28	11.80	"I have been away in Queensland since April, and only returned yesterday. But, nevertheless, I have been ungrateful to you. . . . But write soon and I will answer every one of them. I have had a hard life these eight months, leaving Melbourne and walking every step of the way to Cooper's Creek and half-way back. Then I got work for five weeks at Thorgomindal. . . . I have only been here one day, but still I have got work to start on Monday. I will come to see you at Easter time."

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED DURING 1885, ETC.—*continued.*

Reference No.	Date of Leaving Reformatory.	
155	7.82	"I am on salt-water again, only not such a long run as I was before. I am in a little steamboat now at I shall come and see you on Boxing Day and be back the same night, as I shall have to get steam up next morning."
14	10.80	"I was up in New South Wales when you wrote. . . . I am getting on very well, always plenty of work. I will very likely be in Ballarat after harvest." (This young man has in bank nearly £200 of his savings.)
234	10.83	"I am working with ———, and we have taken some work in the shape of clearing together, and making good wages. I am very sorry for the trouble I caused you from time to time."
367	5.85	Father writes :—"Very grateful for the wonderful improvement in manner and conduct."
293	7.84	Employer says :—"I would trust him with any amount of money. He is quite one of the family, and always talks of <i>our</i> horses, <i>our</i> crops, and so on."
243	12.83	Employer says :—"Excellent in every way ; speaks in most grateful terms of Reformatory."
281	6.84	Father says :—"Gratefully I thank you, yet my pen cannot write the gratitude of my heart for your kindness to my son. He is a good boy, obedient and kind to me in all things. I hope the time is not far distant when he and I will go to see you."
80	9.81	Mother writes to Capt. Evans :—"They had worked late to get the ballast out, and the hatches had been left off, when by some means he fell down the hold the cause of death was concussion of the brain I have one comfort, I know he was safe, and my Heavenly Father knows what is best for us. He had grown so staid and sensible, and he used to send me such beautifully-worded letters. I will get a copy of his photo. for you. I thank you for your words of comfort."
38	1.81	"I am now getting 15s., and an allowance per head for rabbits. I was very nearly getting married in ———, but thought better of it."
207	7.83	Employer says :—"Would on no account part with him."
160	8.82	"I would like to come up on Boxing Day and see the sports. . . . If my knee was not bad I would not stop in Melbourne another day. . . . town is no place for any young fellow. I have got a nice Xmas card to send you."
355	3.85	"There is a man coming to look at the sheep, and if he doesn't buy them, we will go straight to Ballarat, and I will be very glad to see you, and you will like to see me I know quite well. I suppose you are surprised to see how I have got on I know I often felt inclined to run away, but something told me not to."
370	6.85	"I was a very bad boy lately, and gave my master some trouble, but I now mean to turn over a new leaf I see other boys getting on all right and I will try."
313	10.84	"I hope you will excuse me for not writing, as I should have done, to thank you for the nice place that you got me. . . . I mean to stop there as long as they want me. I am glad to see that the boys still keep up to the mark in cricket. 'C' section was 'to let' when I came away, but I daresay you have got tenants for it since."
123	3.82	Mother writes :—"Will you kindly remember ——— to Captain Evans, and tell him there is not a better young fellow in ———. Please God he may keep so."
205	3.83	"I have been wandering about since I wrote to you last. I was in Gippsland about twelve months, and about nine months in Sydney, and have been doing very well. I am working at a very good place at present. . . . I have managed to save a little money."
336	1.85	"I have disappointed you all, as you thought I would be back. I am getting on fine with Mr. ———. We are just in the middle of the harvest, and I am getting £1 a week and treated well. Mr. ——— would be pleased if he could get another good boy, but don't send him a bad one. . . . My brother is getting on fine, and I can see him every week. I mean to stay with Mr. ———."
121	3.82	"I have been plastering about twelve months, and I am getting on well at it. I got 7s. 6d. for a start, and 3s. every six months, but I got on so well that my master is giving me 24s. already, so you see I have not been so slow. I was very interested in the cricket match played up there, and was glad to see the boys were victors. I am in a cricket club called the 'Young Australians.'"
184	12.82	"I was very much pleased to hear the lads had beaten the teachers I have been in a cricket club since I left the school. . . . I have a prize for the best batting and bowling averages."
359	4.85	"I have been stooking in the paddock. . . . How are your crops looking?"
238	11.83	"Would you send me down a book to read. . . . They are going to reduce the public-houses; they are very strict with them, they are not allowed to sell on Sundays. Tell Mr. Reid I have kept the pledge I took from him. People have got up a place of amusement for larrikins to go to on Friday nights."

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED DURING 1885, ETC.—*continued.*

Reference No.	Date of Leaving Reformatory.	
115	2.82	"I have been out of the Reformatory nearly four years now. I am employed under the Corporation of ———. I am also a member of the Y. M. C. Association."
132	5.82	"My father died six weeks before my mother. Since then I had to mind myself and keep to work. I have been working in the iron-trade at the fire-proof safe-making, and I have learnt the trade."
75	9.81	"There are some grand crops up this part, and the yield is from six to ten bags to the acre."
108	1.82	"I started for New South Wales for the shearing, but my horse knocked up when I got as far as ———. I got a place at once, and I wish to keep it for the next twelve months."
362	5.85	"Another thing, you know, I am very much back in my sums when I was in the Reformatory I only knew how to do long division, and forget now because I did not want to learn. But I am very sorry now, because in the store when any one comes for two or three bags of oats it takes me about five minutes to tell him the price. I like reading the books here, and I like the <i>Boys' Own Paper</i> the best, and if you will send them I will be very thankful to you, and keep them clean. I hope the boys are going out now as quick as when I was there."
340	2.85	"We are cutting hay at the present. We have had a very bad season for the crops. They are burned with the sun and the hot winds."
142	6.82	"I send you two cards to show I have not forgotten you. I am with travelling stock for Queensland, and I could not get any ink in camp. Address—none at present—on the road with stock to Queensland."
360	5.85	"I don't think you could have got a better place for me, for I like it very much. I have plenty of fun catching rabbits."
392	9.85	"I am very glad that you are pleased with my writing. I am getting strong and hearty, and harvest will soon be coming on, and the crops are looking beautiful. I went out opossuming, and it was nice sport, and the moon bright. Please send me that book named 'Dick Onslow in the Far West.' Be sure and send that book."
277	5.84	(To Mr. Reid.) "I asked you to try and help me with my little money to get two horses and a waggon to cart wood to town. I would like to be able to keep my mother, for she is at work all day at the wash-tub. All my hope is that I shall be able to keep her and my two little sisters comfortable."
59	6.81	(To Mrs. Evans.) "You will notice that I have been very dilatory about answering your letter. I have spent four weeks under the doctor, and as yet he has done me but very little good. You know there was always something wrong with my left eye. I am still in the farming line, but my wages vary at different times of the year."
117	2.82	"I received the book you sent me, and return thanks for same. I have frequently been going to write to you, nay, in my box now there is more than one letter to you, some of them months old, which have been sealed, stamped, and then torn open again. I am doing very well up here in the tin-mines. I am laying by, on an average, 25s. every week, but now the spring time is coming on I will be able to lay by more, as I keep a horse, and it has been costing me 5s. a week to feed her during the winter. I get 7s. a day (only eight hours). Of course we cook our own food. On a Sunday we take a ride down to the public-house for dinner; for it is bad enough to have to cook your own meals of a week day, but we could not suffer it on a Sunday. I don't suppose you'd hardly know me now. I'm 5ft. 8in., and weigh nearly 11 st. Will you send me the words of 'Oh! hard times come again no more.' I enclose you my photo."
344	2.85	"The weather is nice and warm, just like summer in Ballarat. We have had no rain yet that would fill any of the dams. The water-trust are constructing channels which will be completed in about a month. It has been a bad season for the farmers."
391	9.85	". . . and I like the country. I would not like to go to Melbourne again, and I am going to stop here until my time is done, and after I am here awhile my employer is going to get me a selection of land for myself."
116	2.82	"I am working for ———, butchers. I am getting good wages.' Write as soon as you can, and let me know if you are quite well. As soon as we have a holiday I will come up to see you."
372	6.85	(To Mr. Bowe.) "I am very happy, and I hope you are, too. My master is like a father, and my mistress is like a mother."
130	4.82	(To Capt. Evans.) "I got a good situation at ———, but it did not last long, as there was nothing to do after harvest. I came to Melbourne to try and get a situation, but I could not get one, so I wrote to Mr. ———, my former employer, and he said, 'Come up at once,' which I did, and I am glad to say I like it. Would you let me have my likeness for a week or two, as I wish to have it copied."

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED DURING 1885, ETC.—*continued.*

Reference No.	Date of Leaving Reformatory.	
70	8.81	(To Capt. Evans.) "Since I came to New Zealand I have worked mostly black-smithing, so that I have become a fair striker; but things were very bad in ———, and even the harvest in most places was not up to much. You speak of Mabel; she has grown a fine big fat girl . . . and you may guess I am proud of her. My wife is in good health."
235	10.83	(To Mr. Reid.) "I am very glad to hear about the Sabbath-school. I also am glad that you are still keeping Friday night meetings, and I hope the boys will reform. . . . The boys are diminishing rapidly. It shows they are not all bad."
48	2.81	"I think I shall take a trip to Ballarat this winter with the ——— football club, as our secretary is trying to get an engagement there."
367	5.85	"Will you send me my cards that Mr. Bowe has in the schoolroom, and send me my pledge-card, and will you write so I can read it. I cannot read your writing. I had to get my master to read it."
211	6.83	"Mr. ——— let me go and see my father, and I enjoyed myself very much, being a fortnight away. I hope everything is well with the boys. I have been two years from you, and I will try and stop away altogether."
54	4.81	(Written in Pentridge Gaol.) "I am very grateful for your kindness in writing to me. When I opened it and saw who it was from I could hardly believe it, for, although I often think of the schools, I took it for granted I was forgotten long ago. So, when I received your kind letter, it was a glad surprise to me. I well remember how I and a few others used to spend our Sunday evenings in your dining-room. . . . I often say to myself, 'I wonder what good Mrs. Connor would think if she knew that one of her Bible-class was in such a place as this.' It is, as you say, Melbourne that ruins most of the boys that come there. When I came down on foot, with only a few pence in my pocket, I met with some of my old mates, poor fellows! I was soon as bad as any of them. . . . It is kind of you not even to reproach me for being here. I am sure that I richly deserve it, and it is kinder of you to offer to help me when I come out."
3	6.82	(To Mrs. Evans.) "I am very well, at present, at the same place. I pass by your place very often. I want to know can I come and see you now and again. I would like to see you and the captain and children."
292	7.84	Father writes:—"My son has been a very good boy up till the present, and has received a very good situation on the railway as a block signal boy. I have much to thank you for in bringing him on so well in his education, as he passed the examination very easily, where many failed."
5	7.80	"I was very glad to hear from you. . . . I have selected 151 acres of splendid land, and I think I will fence it in about two months. My horse took a £16 prize at the ——— show."

RETURN of Boys Licensed, &c., from Reformatory, Ballarat, during 1883-4-5, *within twelve (12) months* of the date of reception, with particulars as to dates of birth, terms of commitment, and offences:—

Reference No.	Date of Birth.	Term of Commitment.	Offence.	Remarks.
	1883.	Years.		
1	.68	1	Revoltng offence... ..	} Licensed.
2	12.12.70	2	Stealing from dwelling	
3	31.5.70	4	Stealing a watch	
4	6.6.67	2	Stealing clothing... ..	
5	.67	1	Intent to commit felony	
6	10.8.67	1½	Obtaining money under false pretences	
7	13.3.68	2	Stealing One pound	
8	22.11.68	1	Stealing gun	
9	6.2.68	1	Committed to Industrial Schools as a neglected child, and forthwith transferred to the Reformatory on account of bad character. Described as "utterly unfit" for Industrial School. Late employer gave very bad character.	
10	10.12.65	Till 18 yrs. old	Insulting conduct and bad language. Transferred from Industrial Schools.	Sent to sea.
11	7.4.74	5	Assault... ..	} Transferred to Industrial Schools to be boarded out on Superintendent's recommendation..
12	18.7.72	5	False representations and stealing money	
13	17.3.72	5	Larceny	

RETURN of Boys Licensed, &c., from Reformatory, Ballarat, during 1883-4-5, &c.—*continued.*

Reference No.	Date of Birth.	Term of Com-mittal.	Offence.	Remarks.
1884.				
14	24.12.68	Years. 1	Stealing reticule and money	} Licensed.
15	7.4.69	1½	On premises with intent to commit a felony	
16	4.11.67	1	Stealing five (5) ducks	
17	.7.67	2	Housebreaking	
18	.68	1	Threatening by letter to accuse of crime, with intent to extort money	
19	.6.70	Till 17 yrs. old	Larceny	Discharged to friends on Superintendent's recommendation.
20	20.6.76	2	Larceny	} Transferred to Industrial Schools to be boarded out on Superintendent's recommendation.
21	7.6.73	5	Stealing boot-protectors, value 30s.	
22	.73	5	Stealing gun	
23	10.8.74	1	Stealing £25 from a hut	
24	6.1.72	4	Stealing locket	
25	12.6.73	5	Stealing locket	
26	.73	3	Stealing fowls	
27	24.3.71	1	Insulting behaviour	
28	1.6.74	4	Stealing duck	
29	17.6.72	1	Stealing two goats, value 15s.	
1885.				
30	21.10.69	2	Assault	} Licensed.
31	.5.9.68	1½	Stealing watch and chain, value £10	
32	29.5.70	2	Larceny, cigar-box and 5s.... ..	
33	27.9.68	2	Stealing goods, value £20	
34	4.7.69	3	Breaking into store and stealing salmon, &c.	
35	1.3.69	1	Leading a depraved life. Previously up for stealing bags.	
36	18.4.73	2	Larceny from shop, two charges	
37	.5.70	2½	Drunk and disorderly. Previously proceeded against for larceny, insulting behaviour, &c.	
38	8.6.71	Till 17 yrs. old	Stealing crimean shirt. Leader of a gang of young thieves who robbed miners' huts, &c.	
39	21.7.68	2	Stealing money and goods	
40	7.3.72	4	Stealing rope, value 6s.	
41	27.6.72	3	Stealing £40 from employer	
42	20.4.69	Till 17 yrs. old	Larceny. "Notorious young thief." (<i>Vide</i> Police.)	
43	9.11.70	2	Stealing £3 10s.... ..	} Transferred to Industrial Schools to be boarded out on Superintendent's recommendation.
44	31.7.74	1	Stealing railway-tickets	
45	30.6.76	7	Leading a depraved life	
46	.5.72	2	Stealing gold brooch	
47	.72	1	Stealing railway-tickets	
48	19.5.77	8	Stealing box of lollies	
49	8.8.74	2	Larceny	
50	15.11.76	7	Stealing watch, value £2 10s.	
51	17.1.73	2	Stealing money	
52	24.5.75	5	Larceny of a watch	
53	1.2.73	5	Stealing bridle	
54	2.12.75	7	Stealing wheelbarrow	
55	.74	6	Stealing saucepan	
56	.12.75	5	Stealing two footballs and purse	
57	24.4.76	4	Stealing money	
58	16.5.75	6	Stealing money	
59	17.5.75	2	Stealing six (6) pigeons	

VISITING COMMITTEE'S REPORT, BOYS' REFORMATORY.

SIR,

Ballarat, May, 1886.

We, the members of the Reformatory Visiting Committee, have the honour to furnish a further report on the Boys' Reformatory, Ballarat.

In our report of the 30th April, 1884, we stated that we had adopted no systematic plan of visiting the Reformatory, but preferred to inspect it at uncertain times, and this course is still being followed. The local members are enabled to more frequently do this than was practicable when the whole committee resided in Melbourne, but the continued interest taken in the school by the non-resident members, together with their occasional visits and consultations with those living in the Ballarat district, have, we hope, been advantageous to the institution.

Admissions and Discharges.—The new committals for 1885 have been fifty-four (54) in number. For purposes of comparison the following table of committals will be useful:—

1881	...	93	committals
1882	...	80	„
1883	...	61	„
1884	...	54	„
1885	...	54	„

The total number of admissions for the year was seventy-six (76). This includes transfers from Industrial Schools, &c., and boys returned from situations, &c. The discharges have been very numerous, and considering that boys are required to merit the privilege of license before being permitted to leave the Reformatory, it is with a sense of genuine satisfaction that we find that of the 110 boys who were sent out in 1885, no less than 84 were licensed during the currency of their terms of detention, 22 of this number being placed with their parents under probationary licensing conditions. These results are, we believe, mainly due to the excellence of the classification, &c., under which reformatory work is carried out at the Ballarat institution, and we earnestly trust that no mistaken ideas of economy will be allowed to interfere with the system.

Punishments.—The punishments (principally extra work, termed “fatigue”), as recorded in the Punishment book, appear to have been most judiciously awarded. In only two instances have boys appealed against the decisions, and in each of these the action of the Superintendent has, after careful inquiry, been upheld.

Absconders.—The fact that only five (5) boys absconded, or attempted to do so, during 1885, as against 29 for the previous year, speaks volumes in support of the management, and to a large extent disposes of the strong objection so repeatedly urged against shore institutions, ere the system adopted at Ballarat had had time to be properly understood by the boys.

Education.—Mr. Holland, the District Inspector, paid two visits during the year, and on each occasion left on record his satisfaction with the discipline and the progress made under Mr. Bowe, and his assistant, Mr. Joyce.

Results.—We have before expressed our opinion as to the soundness of the system on which the results of the work of the Reformatory are based. The “After-career Book,” in which is noted everything that transpires concerning the boys who leave the establishment, is of much value, and, as a record, gains in interest every year. The percentage of good results is yearly increasing. Mr. Connor has informed us of a very satisfactory visit he recently paid to boys and employers in the Donald district, an account of which, we understand, he has already furnished to you. We are of opinion that at times when other duties are not pressing, boys in other districts would be encouraged and benefited by a visit from the Superintendent.

Boys' Mess-room.—The boys' mess-room walls have been made very attractive by the additional pictures which have been hung thereon, but we would like to see an improvement in the means of admitting daylight. Larger sky-lights appear to be required in the verandah of this room and of the school-rooms, which are also very dark.

Probationary System.—We are pleased to learn that it is intended to include in the proposed amendment of the *Neglected and Criminal Children's Act* provision for the extension of the probationary system for criminal boys, introduced with Ministerial sanction, some years ago, by Captain Evans. Reference is made to the success of the system (known in the Department as “licensing to relatives”) in each of the Annual Reports of the Reformatory from 1882. As already mentioned, no less than 22 boys were thus allowed to return to their relatives on account of good conduct during 1885. In 1884 the number was 19, and in 1883 eight (8).

Secretary's Report, 1884.—We have read with much pleasure the remarks of the Secretary of the Industrial and Reformatory Schools concerning the Reformatory in his Report for 1884 (page 14), and fully endorse the opinion there expressed as to the “solid progress” that has been made under the system pursued at Ballarat.

General Remarks.—Concerning a recommendation made to the Government by the Committee in 1879 (when we were authorized by the Hon. the Chief Secretary to select officers for the Reformatory) that the Superintendent should have sole executive control, subject to the Minister of the Department, we are now in a position to inform you that the system, after more than six years' trial, has worked well, and has been productive of the happiest results, and we would strongly deprecate any alteration of this feature in any future legislation.

We would express our satisfaction at the way in which Mr. Connor, the Superintendent, has carried on the onerous duties of the institution. He has been ably seconded by the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Bowe, and the good order so apparent shows that Messieurs Dominey and Joyce, and the officers generally, have supported the exertions of their leaders.

We cannot close without again recording our thanks to the many ladies and gentlemen who have—by their voluntarily conducting church services on Sunday, superintending and carrying on the work of the Sunday-schools, initiating and giving concerts, providing means for amusement and healthful exercise in the play-grounds, &c., &c.—done so much to try and bring home to the minds and hearts of the boys that they are not aliens or outcasts, but simply younger brothers, who, having strayed from the paths of moral rectitude, have it within their power not only to retrieve the past, but in the future to live lives of happy usefulness.

We have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servants,

JAMES ODDIE, Chairman.
GAVIN G. BROWN, Vice-Chairman.
A. L. BROWNLESS, M.D.,
ALFRED WOOLLEY,
JOHN W. INGLIS,
HENRY NEILD,
DAVID HAM, } Members.

To the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

GIRLS' REFORMATORY SCHOOL, COBURG.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1885.

My twelve months' leave of absence to visit Europe having expired on the 6th of March, I again took charge of the school from Miss Wilson, who had managed the institution admirably in my absence.

Strength.—On the 1st January there were 26 inmates; 20 girls were sent to service, 4 discharged to their friends. There were 9 new admissions, and 2 transferred from other institutions, and 20 re-admissions during the year; leaving, on the 31st December, 33 girls in the Reformatory.

Health.—No serious case of illness occurred during the year. Typhoid fever has been prevalent in the district, but no epidemic of any kind has found its way into the institution at any time, owing largely, doubtless, to the sanitary measures constantly practised in the school.

Conduct.—On the whole, good while in the institution, but, I regret to say, there have been a large proportion of re-admissions from service during the year. This, I think, may be partly accounted for by the fact of the girls having been sent out almost before they were properly fit for discharge to service. It is only just to add, however, that several girls have remained in their situations for a length of time, and are still giving satisfaction.

Education.—Mr. Tynan inspected and examined the girls on the 9th of October. Reported satisfactory progress. Discipline good; buildings, &c., properly kept; percentage of passes, 83.606. Several girls have obtained certificates for singing on the Tonic Sol-fa system.

Work.—Value of work done during the year:—

Needlework	...	...	...	£66	3	11
Washing (private)	...	...	...	98	11	1
„ (institution)	...	...	...	60	0	0
				£224 15 0		

Religion.—The Sunday-school teachers continue to attend regularly, and the Rev. C. Bardin comes, as a rule, once a week for the purpose of imparting religious instruction. The practice of attending church is continued regularly.

Rewards.—The girls engaged in laundry work receive monthly a small monetary reward when the work is done satisfactorily. Those who have gained the good conduct badge are placed in class A, which entitles them to an occasional holiday, to go out for a walk, or otherwise enjoy themselves. The Sunday-school annual treat took place on the 19th December, when several girls got prizes for proficiency and good conduct in Sunday-school. The whole of the inmates (with the exception of a few who had absconded from their situations, and had been brought back) were taken to "Woodlands" on the 22nd December, to enjoy the usual picnic treat given by the ladies of the Committee. Mrs. Peterson's Christmas gifts were distributed on Boxing Day, and were much appreciated by the children who received them.

Library.—The library is well supplied with good and suitable books; and a monthly supply of interesting pictorial periodicals is obtained from the Diocesan Registry, and is a source of great enjoyment to the inmates.

COTTAGE HOME, SOUTH PRESTON.

A cottage has been taken at "Woodlands," South Preston, for the purpose of training the more promising of the girls as domestic servants, and it is at the present time occupied by five girls, in charge of two efficient officers of the department.

Committee.—The ladies of the Committee continue their interest in the girls while they remain in the institution, and also after they leave to go to service; and I am sure that many have cause to be thankful for the continued kindly supervision thus exercised.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

M. F. BLOXHAM, Matron.

The Secretary, Industrial and Reformatory Schools, Melbourne.

GIRLS' REFORMATORY SCHOOL (R.C.), OAKLEIGH.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit for your information a report of this institution for the past year.

On 31st December, 1884, there were 19 inmates. Since then:—

Admissions.			Removals.		
New admissions	...	11	Terms expired while in the school...	...	3
Returned from service	...	18	Sent to service	...	21
Transferred from Girls' Depôt, Royal Park	...	2	Licensed without pay to friends	...	5
Returned from license to friends	...	2	Absconded	...	1
Returned absconder	...	1			

Remaining on 31st December, 1885, 23.

The health of the girls has been excellent. Their conduct, for the most part, has been good. Satisfactory reports of nearly all those at service have been received.

The 21 girls sent to situations during the year may be classed thus:—11 good, 7 fair, 2 indifferent, 1 bad, 1 not sufficient information, as can be seen from the annexed "Table of Results," which shows also the conduct of girls at service during the preceding year. As far as practicable regular correspondence has been kept up with the girls after their removal from the school to service or otherwise. It is a gratifying fact that even when their terms of control have expired, many of the girls continue to write and visit, and

frequently return, as to their "home," to remain here for a period when out of employment, or in other ways needing shelter. As many as eight at a time have availed themselves of the protection thus afforded. Mr. J. E. Laing, Inspector from the Education Department, visited the school and examined the classes on July 31st, 1885. He reported as follows:—

- " Visited and examined for results; present, 12.
- " Inspector's percentage, 69·072.
- " Buildings.—The school-room, as usual, is in excellent order.
- " Furniture and apparatus sufficient for requirements, and well kept.
- " The classification is correct, and the arrangements generally satisfactory.
- " Instruction.—The school has passed a very fair examination, but the percentage has suffered owing to its being held earlier this year.
- " The children give evidence of being under careful and diligent instruction.
- " Discipline good, &c., &c."

While alluding to the education of the girls in the Reformatory, I beg respectfully to submit my opinion with regard to the school attendance of those over fifteen years of age. I have always considered study as a loss of time, more or less, for girls who, at the age named, are so backward as the majority who are committed to the Reformatory School, and for whom I consider household and other work far more profitable. It would greatly aid in training these girls for service, &c., to have the compulsory school attendance dispensed with. I take the liberty of here inserting the following brief extract from the opinions kindly expressed on the matter by the Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools and Public Charities, on the occasion of his recent visit to this institution:—"The inmates of the school are mostly stalwart girls, and I have very strong doubts as to whether it is advisable to continue the present system of devoting five half-days of the week to school attendance of those over school age. In my opinion it tends to make the girls lazy, and occupies time that might be more advantageously devoted to their preparation for the position they will be placed in when leaving, &c., &c."*

We are indebted to Mr. Peterson for his usual generous contribution of Christmas gifts. Also to several other kind friends who liberally supplied sweets and treats during the year. A special word of thanks is due also to Messrs. Jolley and Co. for their kind thoughtfulness in sending Christmas and New Year's cards.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

MARY S. STOKES.

The Secretary, Industrial and Reformatory Schools Department.

OAKLEIGH REFORMATORY SCHOOL.

TABLE OF RESULTS showing Conduct of Girls who were sent to service and licensed to friends during 1884 and 1885. Each Girl is represented by the number of page on which particulars concerning her are entered in the "After-career Book."

Reference page in "After-career Book."	Good.	Fair.	Indifferent.	Bad.	Not sufficient information.	No information.	Doubtful.	Reference page in "After-career Book."	Good.	Fair.	Indifferent.	Bad.	Not sufficient information.	No information.	Doubtful.
No. 1	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	No. 1	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 3	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	" 5	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
" 5	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	" 7	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
" 7	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	" 25	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 9	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 27	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 11	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 29	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
" 13	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	" 31	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
" 15	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	" 33	...	...	...	I	...	...	...
" 17	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	" 39	...	...	...	...	I	...	...
" 19	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 41	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 21	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	" 53	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
" 23	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 55	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 25	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 65	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 27	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 69	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 29	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	" 73	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
" 31	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 77	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 33	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	" 81	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 35	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 85	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
" 37	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 89	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 39	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	" 93	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 41	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	" 97	...	...	...	I	...	...	...
" 43	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	" 101	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
" 45	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 103	...	...	...	...	I	...	...
" 47	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 105	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 49	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	" 109	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 51	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	" 113	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 53	...	...	I	...	...	...	...				
" 55	I	...	...	...	...	...	...		
" 57	I	...	...	...	...	...	...		
" 61	I	...	...	...	...	...	...		
" 62	I	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Total 31	16	7	6	...	I	I	...	Total 26	14	7	I	2	2	...	...

* Note by Secretary.—The Mother Prioress has been informed that there is nothing in the rules to prevent effect being given to the views above expressed

VISITING OFFICERS' REPORT.

SIR,

We have the honour to submit our Report for the past year.

<i>Statistical.</i> —The number of foster-homes throughout the colony is	...	...	1,006
„ children boarded out under supervision	...	...	1,944
„ „ „ with pay	...	...	1,744
„ „ „ without pay	...	...	104
„ „ „ with relatives and parents	...	...	96
Total	...	...	1,944
Number of children at service on 31st December, 1885	...	...	958

Health.—The districts, numbering 81, have been visited during the year. The health of the children generally has been very good, with the exceptions of the ailments incidental to childhood, viz.:—Measles, scarlatina, fog-fever, &c.

Clothing.—The clothing supplied to the children during the year has been of an improved quality, and the additional articles added to the kit have been much approved of by the ladies' committee and foster-parents.

Homes.—A gradual improvement in the foster-homes and class of foster-parents throughout the various districts is very observable. Complaints are made by many of the lady correspondents that they cannot get children from the department for the homes they have under offer, although specially recommended, and some of a superior class. These ladies are under the impression that other districts are favoured and theirs neglected. The explanation given is that the number of committals are about equal to the discharges and transfers to situations when the children become of age, &c., so that when a family or child is removed from a foster-home for any of these causes, if the home be a good one, it is again filled up before supplying new applicants.

Conduct.—The children's conduct on the whole will bear favorable comparison with the children of the foster-parents and others.

A good many of the foster-parents complain about the children being untruthful, and it gives them much anxiety. Dishonesty is not so often met with; in most of the cases where this has happened, it has been almost in every case the fault of the foster-parent in allowing the children to collect small sums owing to them for milk, &c., that the children may have to deliver to the foster-parents' customers. Many cases come under notice of the children's trustworthiness. A little fellow of twelve years of age in one of the suburbs used to be sent into the city to pay monies into the bank, and also the weekly instalments to a building society for the foster-parent, never making a mistake or betraying his trust; his mother applied for him and got his discharge. The foster-parent was very sorry to lose him.

Morality.—An instance came under notice during the year of a girl committed at the age of six years, and who, after being three years in a good home where there were no other children, was being carefully taught, the foster-parent intending to adopt her if she would improve, but it seemed impossible to get her to forget the sights indelibly photographed on her mind when living in the slums of Melbourne. The mother lived with a Chinaman, and the child saw men going in and out of the house at all hours. The child tells this to the foster-parent. This, we think, is a case in point showing the necessity of putting the law in force and removing a child from an unnatural parent before the mind can form evil impressions.

Dr. Guthrie forcibly puts the case when, complaining of the scant recognition extended to Ragged schools in an Act of the Imperial Parliament, he writes:—“The Act says to us—‘Don't take a child and send him to a Ragged school when you may prevent him from becoming a criminal. Don't take him while he is on the edge of the precipice, but wait till he has fallen down. Wait till he has become a criminal. If you attempt to save a child from becoming a criminal, I will help you with a penny a week; but if you will allow the child to become a criminal through your neglect, and then try to rub out the mark, you will get 7s.’”

Committals.—The Report for the year 1884 shows the number of committals in Melbourne and suburbs are more than in the rest of the whole colony. This of itself is a strong argument that the children should be placed in country homes as much as possible, where they will be cut off from all their former associations and companions, and be free from the temptations of city life.

School Attendances, &c.—The reports we receive from the head teachers of the State and Sunday-schools compare very favourably with those of the other children attending them, and many prizes have been gained by our boys and girls during the year. It is very gratifying to see with what pride the foster-parents get the children to produce their rewards and prizes gained by them at the State and Sunday-schools. Two of our children, a boy and a girl, in the same district, but not of the same family, carried off the first and second prizes for theory of music and singing. The boy got the first and the girl the second for 1885. The same boy carried off the second prize the year before for the same subject.

Licensing.—There are now a very large number of children placed at service, 958 of whom are still under the supervision of the department. As a rule, the children are well placed, and are giving satisfaction. At times it is, of course, found necessary to seek a better situation for a child who may not be as well treated as the State demands for its ward. The children are all encouraged to save, and nearly all have banking accounts. Their accumulated savings now amount to over £3,900.

Most of the children go to service direct from their foster-homes, and the members of the committees and their foster-parents continue to take a great interest in their welfare, frequently after the departmental control ceases, indeed, in some cases, after they marry.

We are very pleased to hear that it is contemplated to have the Education Act amended, so as *to reduce the age up to which children are required to continue at school*. It not unfrequently happens that the strong and healthy of our children are quite fit to go to service at a much earlier age than at present; but, on account of mental dulness, a great many of them never obtain school certificates. The after usefulness of this class of children is often impaired thereby, from the fact that they contract idle habits through not being afforded the opportunity of engaging in their proper sphere earlier in life.

Visiting Committees.—In a few of the districts, it was found the homes were not visited by the lady visitors so frequently as some of them required, difficulty having been experienced in getting ladies to take an active part in the work of supervision. Most of the districts were found under careful and systematic supervision. The lady correspondent of one district requested that the visiting officer be sent more than once a year to inspect the homes and children, as the lady visitors were unable to supervise them as often as required, on account of the bad roads and long distances to the homes.

Note.—A number of subjects in connexion with our work was so fully gone into in last year's Report, that it is considered unnecessary to repeat them, viz.:—Tie between Foster-parents and Children Homes and Changes, Children's Relatives, Homes under Offer, Local Supervision, Special Visits, Term of Control, Condition of Service, and Removal of Adopted Children.

We have to tender our sincere thanks to the lady correspondents and lady visitors for their untiring and hearty co-operation and assistance, also to the clergy and teachers for their courtesy and readiness to assist us when inspecting the districts.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

THOMAS CAIRNCROSS,
AUGUSTUS S. BOND,
Visiting Officers.

The Secretary, Industrial and Reformatory Schools.

1885.

RETURNS.

No. 1.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.

Particulars.	Government Schools.						Assisted Schools.					Total.
	Industrial Schools.				Reformatory Schools.		Industrial Schools.				Reformatory School.	
	Receiving Depôts, Royal Park.		Boys' Farm Schools.		Boys', Ballarat.	Girls', Coburg.	Boys', Sand- hurst.	Girls' (Roman Catho- lic), Abbots- ford.	Girls' (Roman Catho- lic), Gee- long.	Girls' Training (Protes- tant), Yarra Park.	Girls' (Roman Catho- lic), Oak- leigh.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Dookie.	Macedon.								
<i>Admissions.</i>												
New Admissions	96	192	...	...	52	10	1	...	...	...	11	362
Re-admissions	159	106	...	...	14	11	2	43	1	...	15	351
Transferred from Ind. Schools—												
To other Industrial Schools ...	20	1	8	16	...	...	...	10	...	2	...	57
" Reformatory Schools ... ..	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	2	9
Transferred from Ref. Schools—												
To other Reformatory Schools ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Industrial Schools	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Total Admitted	292	299	8	16	71	23	3	53	1	2	28	796
In Schools on 1st January, 1885	10	12	17	12	104	26	39	193	32	19	19	483
Total	302	311	25	28	175	49	42	246	33	21	47	1,279
<i>Discharges.</i>												
To Service Homes	98	52	5	7	60	13	20	58	5	5	20	343*
" Relatives, finally	9	22	...	...	3	2	...	5	1	...	...	42†
" " on probation ... ..	...	1	...	3	20	1	...	6	...	...	4	35‡
" Foster and Adopted Homes ...	139	163	...	...	...	...	4	23	...	...	...	329
" Wet-nurse ... ..	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Transferred to Industrial Schools—												
From other Industrial Schools ...	21	9	2	1	...	...	18	2	...	1	...	54
" Reformatory Schools ... ..	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Transferred to Ref. Schools—												
From other Reformatory Schools ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Industrial Schools	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
To Lunatic Asylum ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Hospitals	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	6
" Refuge ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
By Death	2	5	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	10§
" Expiration of term of committal	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
" Absconded	12	...	1	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Total Discharged	277	290	9	26	105	16	42	97	6	6	24	897
In Schools on 31st Dec., 1885	25	21	16	2	70	33	...	149	27	15	23	381
Total	302	311	25	28	175	49	42	246	33	21	47	1,279

* 106 were, in addition, placed at service direct from foster-homes.—† 29 were, in addition, discharged direct from foster and service-homes.—‡ 59 were, in addition, discharged on probation direct from foster and service-homes.—§ 27 other children died, viz., 22 in boarding-out homes, 3 in hospital, 1 while at service, and 1 while with parents on probation.

No. 2.

AGES OF CHILDREN COMMITTED.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.

Schools.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15	15 to 16	16 and up- wards.	Total.
Industrial	44	21	13	12	21	20	21	25	25	22	21	10	12	10	8	3	1	289
Ballarat Reformatory ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3*	5*	4*	4*	11	10	7	8	...	...	52
Jika Reformatory ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	4	3	1	...	...	10
Oakleigh Reformatory ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	4	3	...	...	11
Total Reformatory ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	7	5	12	15	14	12	...	...	73
Total	44	21	13	12	21	20	21	25	28	27	28	15	24	25	22	15	1	362

* 13 of these were transferred to the Industrial Schools for boarding-out.

No. 3.

RELIGIONS OF CHILDREN COMMITTED.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.

Schools.	Church of England.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan.	Baptist.	Independent.	Methodist.	Bible Christian.	Lutheran.	Protestant (not specified).	Jew.	Roman Catholic.	Total.
Industrial ...	107	23	22	1	1	1	3	3	26	4	98	289
Ballarat Reformatory	17	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	25	52
Coburg Reformatory	5	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	10
Oakleigh Reformatory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
Total ...	129	28	29	1	1	1	3	3	29	4	134	362

No. 4.

PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.

Schools.	Number Admitted.	Both Parents Alive.						One Parent Alive.						Both Dead.	Both unknown.
		Both in Colony.	Both Deserted.	One Deserted.		One unknown.		Father.	Mother.	One Deserted.		One unknown.			
				Father.	Mother.	Father.	Mother.			Father.	Mother.	Father.	Mother.		
Industrial ...	289	52	10	56	20	18	...	25	46	23	4	6	...	15	14
Reformatory, Ballarat	52	38	1	1	...	...	...	2	6	4	...	...	...	...	...
Reformatory, Jika	10	6	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Reformatory, Oakleigh	11	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	3	...
Total Reformatory Schools	73	47	1	3	...	...	...	2	11	6	...	...	...	3	...
Total ...	362	99	11	59	20	18	...	27	57	29	4	6	...	18	14

Particulars of Parentage as stated in Depositions.	Industrial Schools.	Ballarat Reformatory.	Jika Reformatory.	Oakleigh Reformatory.
Parents dead ...	15	...	...	3
" unknown ...	14	...	...	...
" deserted ...	10	1	...	...
" in gaol ...	9	...	...	...
" poor ...	16	24	4	3
" drunkards ...	2	3	...	...
" in fair circumstances ...	8	6	1	...
" in good circumstances ...	...	3	...	...
Father dead, mother poor ...	37	6	1	4
" " in Immigrants' Home ...	1	...	...	...
" " in gaol ...	6	...	...	...
" " deserted ...	4	...	...	...
" " in Lunatic Asylum ...	2	...	...	...
Father unknown, mother deserted ...	8	...	...	...
" " in Lunatic Asylum ...	3	...	...	...
" " dead ...	6	...	...	...
" " a prostitute ...	3	...	...	...

PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED—*continued.*

Particulars of Parentage as stated in Depositions.	Industrial Schools.	Ballarat Reformatory.	Jika Reformatory.	Oakleigh Reformatory.
Father unknown, mother in hospital	3	...	...	...
" " in Immigrants' Home	1	...	...	...
" " poor	5	...	...	...
" " in gaol	1	...	...	...
" " a drunkard	1	...	...	...
" " weak intellect, in gaol	1	...	...	...
Father deserted, mother dead	23	2	...	1
" " poor	37	1	1	...
" " a drunkard	2	...	...	...
" " in gaol	5	...	1	...
" " in Immigrants' Home	1	...	...	...
" " in Hospital	1	...	...	...
" " a bad character	2	...	...	...
" " in good circumstances	1	...	...	...
" " in fair circumstances	1	...	...	...
Father in gaol, mother poor	2	...	...	...
" " in Lunatic Asylum	1	...	...	...
" " dead	2	...	...	...
" " deserted	5	...	...	...
" " a prostitute	3	...	...	...
Father a drunkard, mother dead	8	...	...	...
Father poor, mother dead	11	2	...	...
" " deserted	4	...	...	...
" " a prostitute, in gaol	3	...	...	...
" " of dissolute habits	4	...	...	...
" " in Lunatic Asylum ... ..	...	2	...	...
Father in Lunatic Asylum, mother poor	2	...	...	...
Father in Hospital, mother deserted	3	...	...	...
Father in New South Wales, mother a bad character	3	...	...	...
Father in Ireland, mother poor	2	...	...	...
Father in Adelaide, mother dead ... ..	...	2	...	...
Father in England, mother dead ... ..	...	...	1	...
Father in Tasmania, mother poor	1	...	...	...
Father in good circumstances, mother poor	1	...	...	...
Father in fair circumstances, mother dead	4	...	...	...
" " in gaol	1	...	1	...
Total	289	52	10	11

No. 5.

CAUSES OF COMMITTAL.—REFORMATORY.

Schools.	Larceny.	Vagrancy.	Illegally on Premises.	Idle and Disorderly.	Assault.	Indecent Assault.	Stone-throwing.	Intent to Commit Felony.	Illegally using a Horse.	Housebreaking.	Uncontrollable.	Setting Fire to a House.	Total.
Ballarat Reformatory	40	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	52
Jika Reformatory	3	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	10
Oakleigh Reformatory	4	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	11
Total	47	8	1	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	73

No. 7A.*

RECORD OF CHILDREN SENT TO SERVICE DURING 1882, 1883, 1884, AND 1885, WHO WERE UNDER SUPERVISION ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1885, WITH REPORTS OF CONDUCT.—INDUSTRIAL.

Schools.	1882, 1883, 1884.	1885.	Total under supervision on 31/12/85.	Nature of Service.				Conduct during 1885.				
				General.	Farm.	Trade.	Total under supervision on 31/12/85.	Good.	Indifferent.	Bad.	Total under supervision on 31/12/85.	
From Government Schools :—												
Boys' Dépôt	35	31	66	20	41	5	66	60	4	2	66	
Girls' Dépôt	10	3	13	13	...	...	13	10	1	2	13
Dookie Farm	12	5	17	...	17	...	17	16	...	1	17	
Macedon State Nursery ... ..	...	4	4	4	...	...	4	4	...	...	4
Total	57	43	100	37	58	5	100	90	5	5	100	
From Assisted Schools :—												
Sandhurst (Boys)	55	16	71	7	64	...	71	63	3	5	71	
Abbotsford (Girls)	55	25	80	80	...	...	80	75	5	...	80
Geelong (Girls)	1	4	5	5	...	...	5	5	...	...	5
Yarra Park (Girls)	3	1	4	4	...	...	4	2	...	2	4
Total	114	46	160	96	64	...	160	145	8	7	160	
From Foster-Homes { Boys	150	59	209	89	90	30	209	191	14	4	209	
{ Girls	111	56	167	167	...	...	167	158	4	5	167
Total	261	115	376	256	90	30	376	349	18	9	376	
Full Total	432	204	636	389	212	35	636	584	41	21	636	

No. 7B.

RECORD OF CHILDREN SENT TO SERVICE DURING 1882, 1883, 1884, AND 1885, WHO WERE UNDER SUPERVISION ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1885, WITH REPORTS OF CONDUCT.—REFORMATORY.

Schools.	1882, 1883, 1884.	1885.	Total under supervision on 31/12/85.	Nature of Service.				Conduct during 1885.							
				General.	Farm.	Trade.	Total under supervision on 31/12/85.	Good.	Fair.	Doubtful.	Indifferent.	Bad.	Not sufficient information.	No information.	Total under supervision on 31/12/85.
From Ballarat (Boys)	87	60	147	7	136	4	147	75	30	1	5	9	14	13	147
„ Coburg (Girls)	13	10	23	23	...	...	23	11	...	...	4	8	...	...	23
„ Oakleigh (Girls)	9	9	18	18	...	...	18	13	...	...	3	2	...	...	18
Total (Girls)	22	19	41	41	...	...	41	24	...	...	7	10	...	...	41
Full Total	109	79	188	48	136	4	188	99	30	1	12	19	14	13	188

* Returns as follow are this year discontinued, viz.:—6, Committing Benches; 10, Articles Manufactured; 18 and 23, Birthplaces and Religions of Inmates of Schools.

BOARDING OUT OF CHILDREN, REMOVALS, ETC.—*continued.*

Districts.	Number of Children out on 1st January, 1885.	Number placed out during Year 1885.	Transferred from other Districts.	Total.	Removed.								Number remaining out on 31st December, 1885.	
					To Training School, Dookie or Macedon.	For Discharge.	For Service.	On account of Illness.	Died.	Absconded.	Other Causes.	Transferred to other Districts.		Total.
Richmond	82	17	...	99	...	9	7	...	4	2	1	3	26	73
Sale	33	2	1	36	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	4	32
South Yarra	23	3	2	28	...	3	1	...	1	1	7	...	13	15
Steiglitz	5	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
St. Kilda	23	6	4	33	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	2	7	26
Sandhurst	61	26	1	90	...	9	9	...	...	1	1	2	22	68
Shepparton	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
South Melbourne	49	24	5	78	...	3	2	3	...	3	3	2	16	62
Stawell	4	8	...	12	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	10
Smythesdale	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tullamarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Taradale	3	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	4
Toorak and Prahran	13	1	3	17	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	4	13
Talbot	101	22	...	123	...	9	8	...	...	...	3	...	20	103
Wangaratta	3	1	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Williamstown	18	3	...	21	...	2	1	3	2	...	1	...	9	12
Wellington	13	2	...	15	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	4	11
Winchelsea	5	...	...	5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Warrnambool	6	1	...	7	...	...	2	...	...	1	4	...	7	...
Woodstock-on-Loddon	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Warragul	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yarrawonga	2	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total	1,860	435	59	2,354	13	94	138	28	24	58	91	59	506	1,848

No. 9.

FARM AND DAIRY PRODUCE, BALLARAT REFORMATORY, FROM THE 1ST APRIL, 1885, TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1886.

Articles.	Quantity.	Rate.	Amount.
Butter	409 lbs.	11 ⁵ / ₈ d.	£ s. d. 19 5 7
Hay	40 tons	7os.	140 0 0
Ditto	10 tons 19 cwt.	5os, 55s.	27 19 11
Milk	11,687 pts.	2d.	97 7 10
Oats	5 bush.	2s. 6d.	0 12 6
Potatoes	3,657 lbs.	4s. 11d. ⁴ / ₁₀₀ cental	8 19 9
Straw	1 ton	4os.	2 0 0
Vegetables, Mixed	8,587 lbs.	1d.	35 15 7
Total	...	...	£332 1 2

No. 11.

REVENUE COLLECTED FROM THE UNDERMENTIONED SOURCES.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.

Items.	Amount.		Total.
	Industrial Schools.	Reformatory Schools.	
Maintenance Fees recovered from Parents	£ s. d. 900 5 11	£ s. d. 468 13 10	£ s. d. 1,368 19 9
Sale of Produce, Stock, &c.	14 15 6	147 16 10	162 12 4
Miscellaneous Revenue, &c.	27 18 4	134 16 9	162 15 1
Total	942 19 9	751 7 5	1,694 7 2

NO. 12.

EXPENDITURE.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.

Items.	Industrial Schools.										Reformatory Schools.				Total.		
	Head Office.	Boys' Depot.	Girls' Depot.	Sandhurst (4 months).	Abbotsford.	St. Joseph's.	Servants' Training Institute.	Macedon.	Dookie.	Boarded-out Children.	Licensed Children.	Total.	Ballaarat.	Coburg.		Oakleigh.	Licensed Children.	Total.
Provisions	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Clothing and Bedding	152 19 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	177 16 4	..	..	..	627 0 6
Fuel, Light, and Water	50 7 1	..	126 11 11	22 15 2	11 4 3	..	1,186 5 6	238 18 7	..	..	121 7 4	53 12 0	168 2 11	..	710 12 3
Stores, Stock, &c.	96 1 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	397 17 5	137 8 8	..	..	535 6 1
Medical Attendance, Medicines, &c.	22 19 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	304 17 3	43 15 2	..	..	348 12 5
Incidentals	66 4 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100 6 6	..	..	..	100 6 6
Transport and Travelling Expenses	9 5 8	12 16 10	3 6 4	5 15 7	14 15 6	9 17 0	302 14 2	171 0 6	..	127 16 8	145 9 1	..	..	273 5 9
Salaries and Wages	458 0 8	..	..	..	..	100 0 0	100 0 0	464 5 6	..	..	1,555 10 0	609 6 6	..	..	140 5 11
Teaching	430 0 0	..	..	..	2,164 16 6
Trade Instruction	445 8 0	..	..	..	430 0 0
Maintenance	103 1 3	2,174 14 4	390 11 3	237 4 0	140 19 2	205 11 0	..	..	..	..	..	265 17 10	..	445 8 0
Expenses of Boarding Children	334 12 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,262 7 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	265 17 10
Total	4,809 5 1	334 12 9	840 12 9	112 6 11	2,314 3 1	416 12 9	254 3 10	255 14 8	315 8 0	27,215 12 2	409 19 1	37,278 11 1	4,274 17 6	1,275 6 9	323 4 7	168 2 11	6,041 11 9

No. 13.

AVERAGE COST PER HEAD FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.

Items.	Industrial Schools.										Reformatory Schools.			
	Boys' Depôt.	Girls' Depôt.	Sandhurst (Four Months).	Abbotsford.	St. Joseph's.	Servants' Training Institute.	Macedon.	Dookie.	Foster-homes.	Ballarut.	Coburg.	Oakleigh.		
	22	26	16	168	30	17	9	16	1,856	89	28	20		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Provisions ...	...	5 17 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 1 0	6 7 0	...
Clothing and Bedding ...	...	1 18 9	...	0 15 1	0 15 2	0 13 2	...	...	0 12 9	4 2 7	4 6 8	2 13 7
Fuel, Light, and Water ...	...	3 13 11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 9 5	4 18 2	...
Stores, Stock, &c. ...	...	0 17 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 8 6	1 11 3	...
Medical Attendance, Medicines, &c. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 2 6	...	...
Incidentals ...	...	2 6 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 8 9	5 3 11	...
Transport and Travelling Expenses ...	...	...	0 11 7	0 1 6	0 2 2	0 6 10	1 12 10	0 12 4	0 3 3	1 1 8	1 8 8	0 3 9
Salaries and Wages ...	...	17 12 4	...	...	...	...	11 2 3	6 5 0	0 5 0	17 9 11	21 15 3	...
Teaching ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 16 7	...	...
Trade Instruction ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 1	...	...
Maintenance ...	...	...	6 8 10	12 18 11	13 0 5	13 19 0	15 13 3	12 16 11	...	...	...	13 5 10
Expenses of Boarding Children ...	15 4 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13 12 3	...	...	...
Gross Cost ...	15 4 3	32 6 8	7 0 5	13 15 6	13 17 9	14 19 0	28 8 4	19 14 3	14 13 3	48 1 0	45 10 11	16 3 2		
Add— Value of Labour, &c., performed by other Schools ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 5 6	...	...
Deduct— Value of Labour, &c., performed by School Value of Labour, &c., supplied to other Schools Maintenance ...	...	5 5 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 16 1	1 9 4	...
Value of Produce, &c., sold All other Receipts ...	0 8 4	0 8 4	0 8 4	0 8 4	0 8 4	0 8 4	0 8 4	0 8 4	0 8 4	3 8 5	3 8 5	3 8 5		
Net Cost ...	14 2 6	26 12 10	6 12 1	13 7 2	13 9 5	14 10 8	28 0 0	19 5 11	14 4 7	39 0 7	36 5 3	12 14 9		

No. 14.

COMPARATIVE COST PER HEAD FOR MAINTENANCE, AND REVENUE RECEIPTS
FOR THE YEARS 1881 TO 1885.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.

Schools.		INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS AND FOSTER-HOMES.									
		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.	
		Average Strength.	Amount.	Average Strength.	Amount.	Average Strength.	Amount.	Average Strength.	Amount.	Average Strength.	Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Melbourne	{ Boys' Depôt } { Girls' Depôt }	38	23 15 8	47	28 18 3	{ 17 } { 25 }	28 1 8 28 7 8	17	13 7 1*	22	14 2 6
Sandhurst	...	76	16 18 11	73	15 19 4	99	13 14 0	61	15 13 9	16	6 12 1†
Abbotsford	...	237	12 6 8	258	12 9 4	248	12 10 4	220	12 16 9	168	13 7 2
Geelong	...	33	12 8 6	38	12 14 6	34	12 15 4	33	12 10 10	30	13 9 5
Girls' Training School	...	24	10 10 2	24	12 15 7	25	12 7 5	19	14 8 3	17	14 10 8
Macedon	...	...	...	...	...	13	19 10 1	12	20 17 9	9	28 0 0
Dookie	...	...	...	...	...	16	17 1 6	15	21 13 7	16	19 5 11
Foster-homes	...	1814	13 13 10	1802	14 4 11	1829	14 9 8	1816	14 10 5	1856	14 4 7
General Average	...	2222	13 15 6	2242	14 7 3	2306	14 9 9	2217	14 11 7	2160	14 6 10
Revenue Receipts	...		£890 os. 4d.		£1,059 14s. 6d.		£1,018 5s. 3d.		£803 os. 9d.		£942 19s. 9d.

Schools.		REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.									
		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.	
		Average Strength.	Amount.	Average Strength.	Amount.	Average Strength.	Amount.	Average Strength.	Amount.	Average Strength.	Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Ballarat	...	162	28 1 8	168	30 16 6	157	32 11 1	131	32 19 5	89	39 0 7
Coburg	...	37	21 14 11	40	25 3 11	32	32 9 6	26	45 16 0	28	36 5 3
Abbotsford	...	21	12 6 8	31	11 14 8	26	11 13 0	...	...	...	...
Oakleigh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	13 11 7	20	12 14 9
General Average	...	220	25 10 3	239	27 8 2	215	30 0 4	184	31 9 0	137	34 8 9
Revenue Receipts	...		£162 7s. 4d.		£233 10s. 4d.		£611 12s. 6d.		£803 18s. 1d.		£751 7s. 5d.

* Boys' Depôt, average cost £13 17s. 1d. The great reduction in this item is owing to the transfer of the Boys to the care of Mr. Greig, the Superintendent of the Immigrants' Aid Society, to be paid at the Boarding-out rate of 5s. † Infant boys up to the age of six years are still placed at the Girls' Depôt. —† For four months only.

No. 15.

COMPARISON OF NUMBERS AND NET COST FOR 1884 AND 1885.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.

Year.	Schools.				Boarded-out Children.	Total.	Net Cost to the State.	
	—	Government.	Assisted.	—			Amount.	Total.
1884	Industrial	51	283	1,860	2,194	£ 32,987	} 42,718	
	Reformatory	130	19	...	149	5,647		
	Expenses of Administration and Inspection	...	...	...	...	4,084
1885	Industrial	64	191	1,848	2,103	31,526	} 41,625	
	Reformatory	103	23	...	126	5,290		
	Expenses of Administration and Inspection	...	...	...	...	4,809

No. 19.

ACCOMMODATION AND NUMBERS.—INDUSTRIAL.

Industrial Schools.	Accommodation.			Average Number of Children during Year.
	No. of Wards.	Cubic Feet in Wards.	No. of Beds.	
In Government Schools—				
Boys' Depôt, Royal Park	2	24,600	27	23
Girls' Depôt, Royal Park	2	18,116	30	27
Experimental Farm, Dookie	6	6,530	16	15
State Nursery, Macedon	1	6,778	12	8
In Assisted Schools—				
Girls', Servants' Training School, Yarra Park (Protestant) ...	2	7,000	21	20
„ Abbotsford (Roman Catholic)	9	134,629	228	167
„ Geelong (Roman Catholic)	3	40,124	36	30
Total	25	237,777	370	290

No. 20.

COST OF MAINTENANCE.—INDUSTRIAL.

Head of Expenditure.	Amount.	Total.
GOVERNMENT.		
Boys' Depôt, Royal Park	£ 334 12 9	£ s. d.
Girls' Depôt, Royal Park	840 12 9	
Experimental Farm, Dookie	315 8 0	
State Nursery, Macedon	255 14 8	
		1,746 8 2
ASSISTED.		
Boys', Sandhurst	112 6 11	
Girls' Training School, Yarra Park (Protestant)	254 3 10	
„ Abbotsford (Roman Catholic)	2,314 3 1	
„ Geelong (Roman Catholic)	416 12 9	
		3,097 6 7
Total Industrial Schools ... ..	...	4,843 14 9
Boarded-out children	27,215 12 2	
Outfits for children nominated for service	409 19 1	
		27,625 11 3
Total ... ..	...	32,469 6 0
Cr. Collections paid into Treasury—		
For maintenance fees recovered from parents	900 5 11	
For sale of farm produce, &c.	42 13 10	
		942 19 9
Net ... ..	...	£31,526 6 3

No. 21.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.—REFORMATORY.

Year 1885.	Sex.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
Number of Children at beginning of Year :—			
In Government Schools—			
Boys', Ballarat	104	...	104
Girls', Coburg (Protestant) ... ..	...	26	26
In Assisted School—			
Girls', Oakleigh (Roman Catholic) ... ..	...	19	19
At service and licensed to relatives on probation	104	45	149
	157	49	206
Total	261	94	355

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.—REFORMATORY—*continued.*

Year 1885.	Sex.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
New committals during the Year	52	21	73
Number discharged during the Year:—			
To relatives finally	3	2	5
To relatives on probation	20	5	25
By expiration of term	2	...	2
Discharged from situations, terms having expired	18	5	23
To hospitals	2	...	2
Died	1	...	1
Total	46	12	58
Number remaining at end of Year:—			
In Government Schools—			
Boys', Ballarat	70	...	70
Girls', Coburg (Protestant)	...	33	33
In Assisted School—			
Girls', Oakleigh (Roman Catholic)	...	23	23
	70	56	126
At service	147	41	188
At service with relatives on probation	50	6	56
Total	267	103	370
Mean of Numbers at beginning and end of Year	264	98½	362½
Mean of Numbers admitted and discharged	49	16½	65½

No. 22.

SEXES AND AGES OF INMATES ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1885.—REFORMATORY.

Sex.	All Ages.	9 to 10.	10 to 11.	11 to 12.	12 to 13.	13 to 14.	14 to 15.	15 to 16.	16 and upwards.
Males ...	70	1	...	3	7	18	17	15	9
Females	56	...	1	2	...	7	9	11	26
Total	126	1	1	5	7	25	26	26	35

No. 24.

ACCOMMODATION AND NUMBERS.—REFORMATORY.

Schools.	Accommodation.			Average Number of Inmates during Year.
	Wards.	Cubic Feet in Wards.	Beds.	
In Government Schools—				
Boys', Ballarat	6	111,368	150	88
Girls', Coburg (Protestant)	4	47,600	45	28
In Assisted School—				
Girls', Oakleigh (Roman Catholic)	2	50,306	32	20
Total	12	209,274	227	136

No. 25.**COST OF MAINTENANCE.—REFORMATORY.**

Head of Expenditure.							Amount.			Total.		
							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
GOVERNMENT.												
Boys', Ballarat	...	...	...	...	...	4,274	17	6				
Girls', Coburg (Protestant)	...	...	...	...	...	1,275	6	9				
ASSISTED.												
Girls', Oakleigh (Roman Catholic)	...	...	...	...	...	5,550	4	3				
						323	4	7				
Outfits for children nominated for service							...					
Total										5,873	8	10
										168	2	11
Cr. Collections paid into Treasury—												
Maintenance fees recovered from parents							468	13	10			
For sale of farm produce, &c.							282	13	7			
Net										751	7	5
										£5,290	4	4

No. 26.**TOTAL NET COST.—INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY.**

Head of Expenditure.							Amount.			Total.		
							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Boarded-out children	...	...	...	...	...	27,215	12	2				
Outfits for children on going to service	...	...	...	...	...	578	2	0				
										27,793	14	2
Industrial Schools—												
Government							1,746	8	2			
Assisted...							3,097	6	7			
										4,843	14	9
Reformatory Schools—												
Government							5,550	4	3			
Assisted							323	4	7			
										5,873	8	10
Expenses of administration, inspection of schools, and official visits of foster-homes							...					
										4,809	5	1
Total												
										43,320	2	10
Cr. Collections paid into Treasury—												
For maintenance fees recovered from parents							1,368	19	9			
For sale of farm produce, &c.							325	7	5			
										1,694	7	2
										£41,625	15	8

No. 27.**NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION.**

RETURN showing the Number of Children under Supervision on the 31st day of December, 1884 and 1885 respectively, and where located.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Location.	31st December, 1884.			31st December, 1885.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Government Schools—						
Boys' Receiving Dépôt, Royal Park	10	...	10	25	...	25
Girls' " " "	1	11	12	...	21	21
Boys' Farm School (Cashel Experimental Farm)	17	...	17	16	...	16
Boys' " (Macedon State Nursery)	12	...	12	2	...	2
Totals (Government Industrial Schools)	40	11	51	43	21	64

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION—*continued.*INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS—*continued.*

Location.	31st December, 1884.			31st December, 1885.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Forward	40	11	51	43	21	64
In Assisted Schools—						
Boys', Sandhurst	39	...	39	...	...	...
Girls', Abbotsford (Roman Catholic) ... ..	...	193	193	...	149	149
„ Geelong „ ... ..	...	32	32	...	27	27
„ Yarra Park (Protestant) ... ..	...	19	19	...	15	15
Totals (Assisted Industrial Schools)	39	244	283	...	191	191
In Foster-homes—						
Boarded-out*	1,001	733	1,734	907	837	1,744
„ without pay	98	128	226	102	98	200
In Service-homes—†						
Licensed	328	288	616	357	291	648
Apprenticed under indentures	30	1	31	33	1	34
Totals (in Homes)	1,457	1,150	2,607	1,399	1,227	2,626
Totals (Industrial)	1,536	1,405	2,941	1,442	1,439	2,881

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Location.	31st December, 1884.			31st December, 1885.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Government Schools—						
Boys', Ballarat	104	...	104	70	...	70
Girls', Coburg (Protestant) ... ..	...	26	26	...	33	33
Totals (Government Reformatory Schools)	104	26	130	70	33	103
In Assisted School—						
Girls', Oakleigh (Roman Catholic) ... ..	...	19	19	...	23	23
In Homes on Licence†—						
Boys' (from Ballarat)	157	...	157	197	...	197
Girls' (from Coburg) ... ..	...	21	21	...	27	27
„ (from Oakleigh) ... ..	...	28	28	...	20	20
Totals (in Homes)	157	49	206	197	47	244
Totals (Reformatory)	261	94	355	267	103	370
Total Number of Industrial and Reformatory School Children under Supervision ... }	1,797	1,499	3,296	1,709	1,542	3,251

* At a maintenance rate (with certain exceptions) of 5s. per week per child. Includes some few children back from service awaiting situations.

† Embraces all children at service on whose account wages have still to be paid to the Department; also children licensed to their parents without wages.

SOME LETTERS FROM AND CONCERNING CHILDREN.

1.—BETWEEN CHILDREN IN FOSTER HOMES AND RELATIVES.

Rolle, 1st November, 1885.

My dear niece K—,—If you could only know how much pleasure your little letter gave me, as well as the photographs, where one sees a brother and sister well united. Your progress at week day as well as Sunday school rejoices us, and if your dear father could see the goodness of God to his dear family, his heart would also rejoice. What we like to think of and to thank God for is, that the fear of God dwelt in his heart; and now we contemplate with gratitude, that for his family, his dear children, that word is accomplished—"The children of the just, who walk in His uprightness, shall be blessed after Him." My dear K—, although we do not yet know you very well, we love you much, as well as dear E—, A—, and M—. I hope we shall be able to correspond together and reciprocate news, until if God permits, we shall perhaps some day be able to speak to one another. My dear brother S— at C—, in France, will be very glad to read your letters. And now, dear K— accept the best wishes of your uncle who embraces you heartily. P. D—. Always retain a sacred recollection of those who have befriended you.

B—, 6th November, 1885.

My dear K—,—I was charmed with the few lines that you addressed to me, and I hope that when we have made further acquaintance you will write me very long letters, in which you will tell me what you do and what you learn, and speak to me of your kind friends, in whom we also feel interested. I am very glad, my dear child, that you have had some prizes; I hope this will encourage you to do always your best, in order to give satisfaction to those persons who have been willing to take charge of your education. In regard to this, you no doubt are aware, that it is to God you must look to obtain the strength necessary to enable you to fulfil your duties. Oh, that He may bless you and make you grow and prosper in His holy service. Do you remember your dear father whom we so much regret, though we do not forget that he is much happier with God, where we hope one day to see him again in the land of happiness which never ends. It is only a short time since I have been able to write to you, not having until lately been able to procure your address. My dear little K—, we have hastened to send you each a letter, hoping that they will arrive for Christmas. It will be a little writing from our pretty Switzerland, which if it please God you will one day see, if it is His will that we meet and embrace one another. I advise you to often write to M— and E—, in order to keep up the family lives. Aunt M— will write to you another time. She lives far from us in the mountains. She was such a good sister to your dear papa when he was a little boy. I am waiting to close my letter when I have received one from uncle S—, who lives far from this in a country called France, in the south, where it is very hot. He has two nice little girls, very intelligent. I was very glad to receive your photographs. I hope some day we shall be able to send you ours. In the meantime, my dear K—, I embrace you very warmly. Your devoted aunt. My address—Mademoiselle D—, Ecole Infantine. B— Canton, V—, Suisse, Europe.

My dear Mother,—You will think me very unkind not to have written to you before. I have intended to do so several times, but I kept putting off. I hope this will find you and my sisters well. I am glad to say I am quite well, but sometimes I suffer from growing pains. I am growing such a tall, awkward-looking girl, people say, but I suppose when I get one or two years older, I will fill out more, and not look as tall. You should just see how I can eat. I had a letter from A— a little while ago; from what she says I think she must have a very hard place. Mrs. A— has got another little girl from the schools, a regular little chatter-box, ten years old. M— is still here, Mrs. A— has her for a servant. Things are very dull about here. I am still going to school; my time will soon be up. I am sorry I have not made the progress which I ought to have made. I hope you will write to me soon. With kind love to you and my sisters, I remain your loving daughter.

Dear Mother,—I received your most welcome letter. I am glad that I can send you my portrait; I would like to get your portrait too. The Mistress* has a big garden of fruit, flowers, and potatoes, and she is very kind to us, and treats us with great kindness. I send my best love to A— and J—, and accept the same yourself. I'll never forget you; I am always thinking about you all. A— and I are going to school every day; we are in the fifth class. We got a prize from school. I will soon be able to see you. We are all well up here. I am growing a big boy since I left you. A— and I are trying to get our certificate in May. The Mistress says I am getting a good milker, nearly as good as herself, only I get the easiest. A— can't manage the milking at all. Dear mother, I hope you will like my portrait; please let us know what you think of them. Hoping to hear from you soon, I must now conclude by sending my best love to you all.—Your ever affectionate son.

My dear Mother and Brother,—You must forgive me for not answering your last letter, for we have all been ill. Thank God we are better now. I was sorry when I heard that dear father was dead. But he is in a better and happier world, and I hope that some day we shall all meet him in heaven. I hope that dear W— and R— is quite well. Our garden is looking so nice, dear mother, and we have a lot of green peas; everybody admires our garden, for it is so pretty. Our gooseberry trees are loaded, and our rhubarb is growing now, and we are so glad, for we all like rhubarb and gooseberry pies. We have had a great deal of rain, but I think the weather is finer now, and I am so glad when the warm weather comes so that we can go bathing, and if mother* keeps strong enough this summer she will come down with us, for we like mother going down with us. I hope you are all well. I send a card to dear R— and dear A—. Will send one to dear W—. I send my best love to you all. I hope that R— and W— are strong, so that they can work for you and comfort you, and I pray to God that He may give them strength. I have no more to say at present, dear mother. Give my dear brothers my best love. Hoping that I can see you all some day.—I remain your loving daughter. Write soon and tell me how you are all getting on.

Dear Mother,—I write these few lines to you hoping to find you quite well, as it leaves me at present. I was very glad to receive your letter. E— and L— were christened lately by Mr. W—. We go to church and Sunday school every Sunday. We are all quite well, although A— was in the hospital a long time ago. I should be very glad to see you, and I hope you will be able to get a home, so as you will be able to get us back, dear mother. Next time you write, please put our ages, because we don't know when our birthdays are. E— is growing tall, and he soon will be as tall as J—. We are all fat except A—. I don't think you would know us if you saw us, dear mother. We are having a splendid time of it here. Aunty and uncle† are so kind to us, as though we were their own children. The children are all good, as far as I know. Please write back and tell me how you and my aunts and uncles and grandmothers are, as I am very anxious to know. Dear mother, have you ever heard anything of father, or do you know where he is living? A— is at service now; he was fifteen on Saturday. I think I have told you all I have to tell at present.—From your affectionate daughter.

* Foster-mother. † Foster-parents.

2.—BETWEEN CHILDREN AT SERVICE AND RELATIVES.

Dear Mother,—I now take the pleasure of writing these few lines to you, hoping you are all well. I arrived safely. Mr. and Mrs. B— were there to meet me; it is seven miles out of Melbourne. It is a very nice home I am in, I like the place very much indeed. Mr. and Mrs. B— are very kind indeed to me, I could not have a better mistress; I will try to please her. We are having hot weather just now. I suppose the flowers are growing nicely; we have a nice garden here. M— will be a big girl, she will have forgotten me now; kiss her for me. I suppose B— will be in the third class.

My dear aunt L—,—Dear father told us that he would take us to Switzerland, he often used to tell us about you all, and dear grandmamma. He had your portraits, and used to show them to us. I will try and get them when I go up to S—. I am going to try and get a nice box of curiosities to send to you, and I should like to send you as many of dear father's letters and books as possible. I remember dear father's death. My sister and I were at a picnic enjoying ourselves, and when we had just got home I saw a policeman coming up the road towards our home; he came up and told mother that poor father was dead. I saw her fall on the ground, but I do not remember what followed, only that we were four fatherless children; but since that time, dear aunt, we have been well taken care of and watched over, we have very good and faithful friends, and I am sure that you need not be anxious for us. The day that we went to the picnic we wanted dear father to come, but he could not, because he had to go to his work. Oh, how often have I wished that he had come, but it was God's will that he did not. I know that I ought not to wish him back in this sinful world, but I hope that when God calls us to live with Him father will meet us all there, where there is no more sin and suffering, but everlasting life for those who have served Him and kept His commandments. Dear father was always anxious that we should go to church, and be brought up in the knowledge and fear of God; he used to take us to church on Sunday mornings, it was such a long way from our house. I am very happy, dear aunt, in my situation, and I always go to church on Sunday morning. I hope we shall see one another some day, I am sure I should feel so glad. And now, dear aunt, I must say good-bye, with love to all.—Your affectionate niece.

Bursins, 6th November, 1885.

My dear M—,—I was very glad to receive your letter and your photograph. I hope it will not be long before we are able to send you ours. It does me good to know that you have not forgotten your dear papa. Tell me all that you can remember concerning him. Can you remember if he received a letter from us shortly before he died, and whether any one has taken care of the letters which he received from us. We should be glad to have them. I am glad to learn that you are happy in your situation, after having succeeded with your studies. I pray that God may help you more and more to please those who are set over you, and to do all for Him. Write me soon a long letter, as well as to your uncles, aunt M—, and above all to dear grandmamma, who loves you so much. She is very aged, and will perhaps not live long. She is sad, and so are we, at not having seen again your dear papa. We so much regretted having allowed him to leave us for Australia, where he suffered much; but God sustained him, and has disposed kind hearts to take care of his dear children. There is a blessing promised to the children of those who serve Him in truth. I would advise you, dear M—, never to begin the day without communing with Him for some moments, and reading at least one verse of the Book of God, you will then see how your day will be blest. Write also as often as you can to E— and K—, and also to dear M—. Can you give me her address, and get her to write to me. I wish we had her photograph. Tell me if your dear papa read the Bible with you, and whether he had any intention of bringing you some day to Europe. Do you know who lives now in the pretty house you lived in at Pleasant Creek? Try, dear M—, to answer all my questions, and in my next letter I will try to tell you where I live, and what I do. In awaiting the pleasure of seeing you some day, if God will, believe in my affection sincere and devoted. You will find in me, in spite of the distance, a friend and aunt who will never forget you, and who regrets that you cannot participate in our feast of the New Year as well as K— and E—. Your aunt L—. My address, Mademoiselle D—, Ecole Infantine, B— Canton, V—, Suisse, Europe.

R—, November, 1885.

My dear Grand-daughter M—,—You may rest assured of my profound affection for you, as well as for your brother and sisters, and also of my gratitude towards those persons who have interested themselves in your behalf, and who still continue to do so. I rejoice greatly to see that you are all brought up in the fear of God. Be kind enough to tell me whether the correspondence we addressed to your dear father has been preserved. I wish you to improve your leisure moments by studying, if possible, French, and also the map of our beautiful Canton of Vaud. I trust that the tender affection which exists between you may be strengthened more and more, and, in my deep affection, I implore the blessing of God upon you, and embrace you heartily.—Your Grandmamma.

My dear Father and Mother,—I now write to you hoping to find you quite well, and the boys. Mother, I am writing this letter from my heart, to ask you if you will give up the drink. I wish every hotel was closed, and then there would be happiness all over the world, for it has ruined your life. I hope H. or W. will not take it, for I curse the drink. I did get the bag and card. I hope you are all well. I cannot say much, for I am late. Give my love to Father, H., and W., so no more from your loving daughter C—.

3.—BETWEEN CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS AND RELATIVES.

My dear Mother,—I now take the pleasure of writing to you. Last October (the 21st) we had a sale at the farm, and they sold sheep and a lot of young cows, and bulls, and some horses and wine. There is eleven cows milking. We have five young fowls. We are busy making a silo to preserve green crops. The crops was almost faded away, but we have got some rain, which will nourish them a little. There are about 200 acres of crop in this year, including five acres of linseed. The manager is very kind; he lets us go out and snare opossums, and make money of their skins. Last year I made £1 5s. on their skins, and I put £1 in the bank. They are going to begin to shear on Monday. I have learned to bind, dig, prune vines, work a driller, strain wire, and a good many other things. I hope L— and W— will get on all right. This is all I have got to say at present. Hoping you are in good health, I remain your dear son.

R—, November, 1885.

My dear A—,—You have in Switzerland a grandmamma, an aunt, and an uncle who often think of you and love you much. We are happy in thinking that you are in a home where you are well cared for. I hope that you sometimes see your brother and your sisters. We sincerely thank the matron who takes care of you. Accept, dear A—, the kisses of your uncle and your grandmamma.

B—, 6th November, 1885.

My dear E—,—I was very glad to receive your letter. I should have written to you long ago had I known where you lived. Now I hope we shall write to each other as often as possible, long letters. As soon as we can we shall send you our photographs. Yours gives us much pleasure; while we hope, if God wills it, that we may be able to see each other and speak together of your dear father, who loved you so much, and who worked so hard to bring you up. I hope, dear E—,

that you will always walk in the good way in which he walked. I am glad to know that you read your Bible and go to Sunday school. You will never regret having been to it and having read much the Holy Scriptures. May God bless the reading of it. The trade you are learning—is it according to your tastes, and are you improving in it? Take pains to learn all that you can, for there is only one time for this. Relate to me a little of what you do and what you see in your rambles on Saturday afternoons. Have you some friends to play with? Never go with any except those who can do you good. When you go to Mount M—, gather some flowers to make a bouquet, and send me one in a letter if it does not weigh too much. I will do the same another time. I wish much that you could study French, in order that grandmamma may be able to read easily your letter, which one is obliged to translate. I recommend you, dear E—, to write often to your sisters, and if possible to dear mamma. I hope you will receive this letter at Christmas; it is very hot with you and very cold with us; the ground is covered with snow, and every one is dressed in warm clothes. I give a grand feast at Christmas to the children of my school. I hope to tell you more fully about it in my next letter. I am also occupied in a large Sunday school. I live alone, one hour's distance from R—, where dear grandmamma and uncle P— live. Hoping that my letter will find you in good health, I embrace you, my dear nephew, with all my heart, and remain, your affectionate aunt. My address, Mademoiselle D—, Ecole Infantine, B— V—, Suisse, Europe.

4. BETWEEN FOSTER RELATIVES AND MOTHER.

Dear Mrs. P—, In reference to your letter, which we received to-day, I am pleased to tell you that your two little ones are quite well, and are at present playing with a neighbour's (the superintendent of the Sunday school which they attend) children. They often talk about you, and C— is not willing to call my mother "mother," as she is elderly, not at all like his mother. He says my eldest sister is like you. He did not say it at all disrespectfully. He is a very good boy, very affectionate as you say, good-tempered and obedient. J— is a dear little girl. She sleeps in mother's room, so that if she wakes in the night and wants anything, mother is able to hear and give it to her. C— sleeps in a room by himself. J— does not, as mother thinks she is too young yet. C— is very good and kind to her. I am sure you would be pleased if you could only see their home. It is very hard that you cannot, but you see it would not do to let the parents of all the children know where they are, and the rule could not be altered in your case. We are very sorry for you, as we believe by the tone of your letter, and also by the way your children have been trained, that you are a good mother. But don't fret and worry more than you can help, as that may prevent your leg getting better. Write as often as you like and we will answer your letters; also tell us what is the matter with your leg. Both the children are hearty and healthy, and are quite fat. You must not get well too soon, as father and mother would not like to part with them, as they are very proud of them both. We would be very glad to hear of your getting well and able to take them home. I said the preceding that you may know that they are thought so much of here. You see father and mother have only four children, who are all grown up. Two married and two away almost all the year, so that they feel a little lonely, and like to hear the prattle of your children. They say in their prayers what you wished, and C— always says grace before meals. You see by my letter that I think a great deal of my home and mother, but I am sure you would think that pardonable if you knew her, and considering that I am obliged to be away from home mostly. Hoping you will soon be better. We will tell the children what you wished about their desks. C— is in second class.

5. BETWEEN CHILDREN AT SERVICE AND THE DEPARTMENT.

Sir,—I received your letter and two magazines, for which I thank you most sincerely. I will read them carefully, and at the end of twelve months, if all is well, I hope to be able to continue to read them at my own expense. I am in a good situation, and Mrs. M— is well pleased with me, and I am trying my best to please her, and I am very comfortable. I hope the Department will not regret the assistance and care they took of me.—I am, Sir, yours truly, F. J. W. 5th July, 1886.

To the Secretary,—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure to inform you that I received your magazine, and also the letter. And would be very thankful to you for sending them, for time mentioned. I am also very thankful to you for the cautions I received in your note. Dear sir, I like my place very well, and also my master. I have learned to milk, ride, drive, and bind, and many other things that are necessary on a farm. I drove the horses in the reaping machine, a good deal this year, and I drove very well. I also did a lot of binding.

Sir,—I have now an opportunity of writing you a few words. I am glad to tell you that I am getting on well with my place, and I am also glad to tell you that I received your kind and welcome books. My work is not very hard. I have a good master and a good mistress, and please will you mind sending me a few pictures. I have not any in my bedroom, and I would like to make it look as well as I can. I must now conclude this letter at present.

6. BETWEEN RELATIVES OF CHILDREN AND DEPARTMENT.

A Monsieur Guillaume, Secretary of Industrial Schools.

B—, 6 Novembre, 1885.

Très-honoré Monsieur.—J'ai l'avantage de vous aviser réception de la bonne lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser, laquelle était accompagnée de quelques lignes du Consul Suisse, de trois photographes représentant mon neveu et mes trois nièces et les lettres qu'ils m'ont adressées; le tout en bon état. Je ne puis vous exprimer, Monsieur, combien nous vous sommes reconnaissants, mes parents et moi, pour la paternelle sollicitude avec laquelle vous vous êtes occupé de cette affaire, qui nous tenait tant à cœur. Nous sommes heureux des nouvelles que nous avons reçues de ces chers enfants, et de pouvoir correspondre avec eux, en souvenir de leur brave père, dont l'absence prolongée et la mort sont une grande douleur pour nous. Nous sommes bien reconnaissants envers Dieu, qui a pris un si tendre soin de ces orphelins et a disposé des cœurs amis en leur faveur. Nous remercions bien sincèrement le Département pour tout ce qu'il a fait, et fait encore pour eux, ainsi que toutes les personnes qui ont eu la bonté de s'occuper d'eux, la Matrone de l'établissement en particulier, puis qu'elle a la persévérante bienveillance de soigner notre chère Amélie. Nous pensons que si cette jeune fille avait une forte émotion de joie, elle guérirait peut-être subitement. Nous sommes aussi très-reconnaissants envers la personne qui a traduite et voudra bien encore cette fois traduire nos lettres en anglais. Je fais mon possible pour étudier cette langue de façon à pouvoir moi-même l'écrire une prochaine fois, afin, Monsieur de diminuer votre tâche, quoique vous fussiez cela, nous le voyons, de si bon cœur. Vous avez eu la bonté de m'offrir de faire parvenir nos lettres à ces chers enfants. En vous réitérant nos remerciements et nos excuses pour toutes la peine que nous vous donnons, nous vous présentons, très-honoré Monsieur, l'assurance de notre respect et de notre très-haute considération.—L. D—, Ecole Infantine, B— G—, Canton de V—, Suisse.

EXTRACTS AND PAPERS.

(A.)

ECONOMY OF THE BOARDING-OUT SYSTEM.

COMPARISON Showing the Numbers of Industrial School Children maintained by the Department in 1872, when Boarding-out began, and in 1885 respectively, and their Cost to the State.

LOCATION AND NUMBERS.	On 31st Dec. 1872.		LOCATION AND NUMBERS.	On 31st Dec. 1885.	
	Number.	Total.		Number.	Total.
In Government Schools—			In Government Schools—		
Melbourne	357		Boys' Depôt, Royal Park	25	
Ballarat	218		Girls' Depôt, Royal Park	21	
Geelong	349		Boys' Experimental Farm, Dookie	16	
Sunbury	643		Boys' State Nursery, Macedon	2	64
H.M.V.S. <i>Nelson</i>	362				
Nursery	109				
		2,038			
In Assisted Schools—			In Assisted Schools—		
Sandhurst	153		Girls' Servant's Training	15	
Abbotsford	149		Abbotsford	149	
Geelong	34		Geelong	27	
		336			191
Total in Schools		2,374	Total in Schools		255
Boarded-out in Foster-homes		10	Boarded-out in Foster-homes		1,744
		2,384			1,999
Expenditure for Year (gross)	£46,669	0 0	Expenditure for year (gross)	£37,279	0 0
Average net cost per head, based on the average daily strength		17 18 10	Average net cost per head, based on the average daily strength... ..		14 6 10

To the saving above shown must be added the large sums represented by the interest on the costly school buildings required for the children under the old system, and the heavy outlay needed to keep them in repair.

(B.)

NEGLECTED AND CRIMINAL CHILDREN'S ACT (VICTORIA), 1864.

(27 Vict., No. 216.)

Section 13.—Every child who answers to any of the descriptions hereinafter mentioned shall be deemed to be a "neglected child" within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act.

Sub-section 4.—"Any child who, having committed an offence punishable by imprisonment or some less punishment, ought nevertheless, in the opinion of the Justices, regard being had to his age and the circumstances of his case, to be sent to an Industrial School."

FORM OF MANDATE.—(SCHEDULE II.)

(To Wrr.) To all constables and to the Superintendent of the School at in the said colony. Whereas A. B., a boy under the age of fifteen years, has been this day brought before us, the undersigned, two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for, and charged with being a neglected child under Section 13 of the Neglected and Criminal Children's Act, No. 216, sub-section 4, for that he, &c.; and whereas we have directed the said child to be sent to the said school for the term of thence next ensuing. These are to require you the said constable to take the said child at the earliest opportunity to the said school, and to deliver him to the said Superintendent thereof, and you the said Superintendent are hereby required to receive the said child into the said school, there to be detained for the said mentioned term, unless such child shall in the meantime be discharged by due course of law.

Given under our hands and seals at in the said colony this day of

(C.)

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS ACT (SCOTLAND) 1855.

Act of further provision for rendering Reformatory and Industrial Schools more available for benefit of vagrant children.

(19 and 20 Vict. c. 28.)

Section 3.—Where young people are brought up under any Police Act procedure may go on till order for transmission to schools And this Act shall be held as incorporated in such Police Act to the effect of enabling such Sheriff or Magistrate sitting as Judge of Police if he shall

think fit to pronounce in the form of Schedule A an order for transmitting such young person to any such Reformatory or Industrial School or other institution as aforesaid instead of any sentence which under such Police Act it would have been competent for him to pronounce.

FORM OF MANDATE.—(SCHEDULE A.)

At the day of I, A.B., Sheriff or Magistrate of J.P. of (as the case may be) under the provisions of the *Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Scotland) Act 1855* hereby order that C.D. apparently of the age of years be taken to the school at thereat to remain under the power and provisions of such Act for the period of or until he be discharged therefrom or attain the age of fifteen years.
Given under my hand, date and place aforesaid.

(D.)

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS ACT (ENGLAND AND WALES) 1861.

Act for amending and consolidating the Law relating to Industrial Schools, England and Wales, 6th August, 1861.

(24 and 25 Vict. c. 113.)

Section 9, sub-sections 1-4, define children who may be sent.

Sub-section 3.—“Having committed an offence punishable by imprisonment or some less punishment, who ought, nevertheless, in the opinion of the Justices, regard being had to his age and the circumstances of the case, to be sent to an Industrial School.

Section 10.—“Any person may bring before Justices any child that is hereinbefore declared liable to be sent to an Industrial School, and the Justices shall make full inquiry into all the facts of the case, and, if satisfied that this Act applies and that it is expedient to deal with him under its provisions, may order such child to be sent to an Industrial School.”

SCHEDULE FORM.

Order sending Child to Industrial School.

To Wit. } To the Constable of and to the Managers of the certified Industrial School at

Whereas a certain child named A. B. was this day brought before us, H. M.'s Justices of the Peace for the in Petty Sessions assembled: Now therefore we, the said Justices, being satisfied that the said Act applies to such child and that it is expedient to deal with him [or her] under its provisions, order you, the said constable, in pursuance of the said Act to take the said child and him [or her] safely convey to the certified Industrial School at aforesaid and there to deliver him [or her] together with this order; and we do hereby command you the said manager to receive the said child into your charge in the said school and there to detain, educate, clothe, and feed him [or her] for the period of from the date hereof.

Given under our hands and seals this day of at in the county aforesaid.
[Signatures and Seals of Justices.]

(E.)

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS ACT (GREAT BRITAIN) 1866.

(29 and 30 Vict. c. 118.)

An Act to consolidate and amend the Acts relating to Industrial Schools in Great Britain.

Section 15.—“Where a child apparently under the age of twelve years is charged before two Justices or a Magistrate with an offence punishable by imprisonment or a less punishment, but has not been in England convicted of felony or in Scotland of theft, and the child ought in the opinion of the Justices or Magistrate (regard being had to his age and to the circumstances of the case) to be dealt with under this Act, the Justices or the Magistrate may order him to be sent to a certified Industrial School.”

FORM OF MANDATE (SCHEDULE A.)

“To Witness
Be it remembered that on the day of in pursuance of the Industrial Schools Act, We, two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said of do order that A. B. of being a child subject to the provisions of Section of the said Act be sent to the certified Industrial School at and that he be detained there during ”

(F.)

MISTAKE OF REGARDING REFORMATORY AS A PENAL ESTABLISHMENT.

Section 95.—“In judging of the hulk as a reformatory school, it is well to consider the reformatory methods adopted. These may be said to be: separation from vicious associates on shore, physical training, direct religious teaching, the moral influence of the place, education, and industrial training.

Before discussing these, we desire to point out an error which appears to us to underlie the whole administration of the place. According to the law of this colony, as well as the law of England, a Reformatory School is *not a place of punishment*. The detention there is *not penal*, but is intended to

reclaim the offender. A third of the inmates of the hulk—boys committed as destitute or neglected children—have not been convicted at all. The English Commissioners, desirous of keeping up this distinction, express the opinion that children ‘committed to Reformatories should be subjected to some short but sufficiently sharp punishment before the Reformatory treatment begins.’

Unfortunately, on the hulk this elementary principle seems to be overlooked. The management of the hulk has apparently been founded on the mistaken notion that the detention there is penal. The boys are called ‘criminal children’ in the Annual Reports.

This confusion of ideas as to the real nature of the Reformatory is necessarily destructive of all *esprit de corps* among the boys, and of the gratitude, not to speak of the pride and affection with which the scholars of Mettray and other Reformatories regard the institutions which have reclaimed them.”

Section 119.—“To the disadvantages inseparable from the unsuitableness of the building at Magill were added, until recently, the same mistake as to the penal character of the institution, and the same defects in the superintendence, as we have mentioned with respect to the Fitzjames. In December, 1882, a request that the Catholic girls might go to church under the charge of a wardswoman was refused, because it was ‘considered undesirable for any of the Reformatory girls, who are virtually convicts under detention, to attend any religious services outside the institution.’ Both Protestant and Catholic girls in the first and second classes now attend their respective churches on alternate Sundays.” *Final Report of the South Australian Destitute Commission.*

(G.)

ALTERNATIVES TO COMMITTAL TO A REFORMATORY.

Recommendation of the South Australian Destitute Commission.

Section 138.—“As alternatives we recommend that, in addition to the power of dismissing the information after parental chastisement, as provided by the ‘Minor Offences Procedure Act of 1869,’ the Justices should have the following powers:—

- (a.) To order the offender, if a boy under 16, to be whipped:
- (b.) To commit the offender, if under 14, to the Industrial School:
- (c.) To take recognizances from the parent that the child shall come up for judgment when required, and security for the child’s future good behaviour:
- (d.) To place the child, although remaining at home under the observation for a limited period, not of the police, but of an officer of the Department having the charge of children under the care of the Government:
- (e.) To impose a fine on, or direct compensation by, the parent; with imprisonment in default.

Most of these recommendations have the support of the English Commission, and of many of the school boards, and of magistrates of great experience in England. In particular, the responsibility of the parent for the child’s delinquencies, when, as so often happens, they are traceable to parental neglect, is not a novelty of American legislation, but is the law in Germany and other European countries.” (Final Report, 1885, p. xevi.)

(H.)

TERMS OF COMMITTAL TO REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

(I.) *Recommendation of South Australian Destitute Commission.*

“We think that to fix the ultimate limit of direct control at eighteen is a satisfactory compromise, and that it is useless to commit at a later age than seventeen. At seventeen there may be some small hope of reclamation, but the experiment is at least worth trying. We propose that as to both boys and girls the term of committal should not begin later than seventeen, nor end later than eighteen. The English Commission propose that no committal shall be for less than three years, or end earlier than at sixteen. We prefer all sentences ending at eighteen, partly because of the dissatisfaction which different terms of detention seem to occasion amongst the inmates, but chiefly because the continuance of the term is not with a view of prolonging the confinement of the child within the walls of a Reformatory, but is intended to secure for the child, at the most critical time of its life, adequate protection and control. In cases in which there are friends to whom the child can be safely restored, the child can be discharged or licensed to them.”

Section 144.—“We agree with the principle recognised in the present Destitute Persons Act, that the period of direct control should be the same for neglected and destitute children committed to the Reformatories, and we therefore recommend (and for the same reasons) that the period of control of destitute and neglected, as well as of criminal children, end at eighteen years.” (Final Report, 1883, p. xcix.)

(II.) *Recommendation of the New South Wales State Children’s Relief Board.*

“Before leaving this division of my subject, I may remark that I think it would be well if the age at which juvenile offenders could legally be subjected to Reformatory instead of penal treatment were extended from sixteen years (as it now is under our Reformatories Act) to eighteen years. At present if a lad of sixteen years is convicted of his first criminal offence, however venial it may be, a magistrate or a judge has no alternative than to send him to gaol, where there are no means of effectually separating him from the confirmed criminals.

Thus we had a boy under seventeen years of age, a few weeks ago, sent to prison for the first time, whose character was shown to have been previously most exemplary; and there were at that time also a number of young lads undergoing imprisonment in Darlinghurst Gaol, which was then so overcrowded that any attempt at isolation or classification of the prisoners was simply impossible. Our Judges (notably Mr. Justice Windeyer) have frequently drawn attention to the evil of thus indelibly stamping the prison brand upon young criminals.”

(J.)

TERM OF GUARDIANSHIP.

Recommendation of the South Australian Destitute Commission.

Section 155.—“There has been considerable difference of opinion as to the age when the official oversight of children who have been brought up at the public expense should finally cease. In our view the balance of authority, and of argument is in favour of extending the period of control—when the child cannot safely be restored to the guardianship of its parents—until the age of twenty-one. This rule is advocated by persons of much experience in England, and it has been adopted in Massachusetts and other parts of the United States.

The English Commission recommend—That the control of the managers over Industrial School children . . . should supersede that of the parents, and continue till the age of eighteen years; and in the case of the inmates of Reformatories, either for two years after the expiration of their sentence of detention, or, if at such expiration they are over nineteen, then until the age of twenty-one.

This, if the other suggestions of the English Commission are adopted, will practically extend the period of control in Reformatory cases until twenty-one. In New Zealand, where the law on the subject is more clearly stated in the statute book than in any of the Australian colonies, the guardianship of every inmate of the schools (which though called ‘Industrial’ include Reformatory cases) is taken from the parents and vested in the manager whilst the child is in the school, licensed out, or apprenticed; and, until it attains the age of twenty-one, the manager has all the powers of a guardian of the person of an infant appointed by the Supreme Court. At any time the Governor can transfer the guardianship to any person, and therefore to the parents or relatives—a power which is an excellent safeguard against departmental routine. This provision we recommend to be adopted here, substituting the permanent head of the department for the school manager. The guardianship, of course, should terminate on a girl’s marriage.”

Section 156.—“The establishment of the relation of guardian and ward in the case of children, whose term of detention has expired, will impose the duty of supervision upon the guardian, and give him the right to interfere when the child wants protection or guidance; whilst it will encourage the child when in difficulty to apply to the guardian for advice and assistance.” (Final Report, 1883, p. cix.)

(K.)

INTERCOLONIAL LEGISLATION REQUIRED FOR ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS.

Recommendation of the South Australian Destitute Commission.

Section 27.—“At present the maintenance order is only enforceable in the colony in which it is made. We propose that orders for maintenance made in the colony in which the deserted wife or children are left, should be enforceable in the same way as if made in the colony in which the man or his property may be. To give the man an opportunity of disputing an order made in his absence, proceedings under it should be suspended on his giving proper security; or the proceeds of any sale of his property, by virtue of the order, should be held for a sufficient time to enable him to apply to the Justices making the order for a re-hearing should he be desirous of so doing.

Intercolonial legislation will, of course, be required to carry this proposal into effect.”

(L.)

ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS.

Instructions issued by Law Department to Clerks of Petty Sessions, 31st December, 1868.

85.—*Enforcing Decisions.*—“It will be the duty of the Clerk of Petty Sessions to see that convictions and orders made by the Bench of Magistrates, and in which the Crown or any local public body is interested, are duly carried into effect. All fines and penalties imposed by the bench, whether payable to the revenue, to local bodies, or to others, are to be collected, when collection is possible, by the clerk.”

86.—“It is particularly required that in each case where an order for payment of maintenance of a child sent to an Industrial School is made by the bench, and the person against whom it is made is able to comply with it, the clerk shall take the necessary steps to enforce the order. When such person leaves the district, the clerk is requested to have him kept in view by the police, and the order enforced so long as he is able to pay the amount awarded. When it is ascertained to what district he has removed, the clerk in whose hands the order is, must transmit it to the clerk of such last-mentioned district, to be by him enforced or otherwise dealt with, as if such order had been issued by the court which he attends, and such transmission must be reported immediately to the Inspector of Industrial Schools. To prevent the risk of maintenance being levied for a period after the child has ceased to be an inmate, early notice will be given by the Inspector of Industrial Schools of the release of any child in respect of whose maintenance the clerk would have to enforce an order; but to obviate as much as possible any such risk, it will be well to allow one week’s maintenance to be in arrear.”