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ANNUAL REPORT

1949

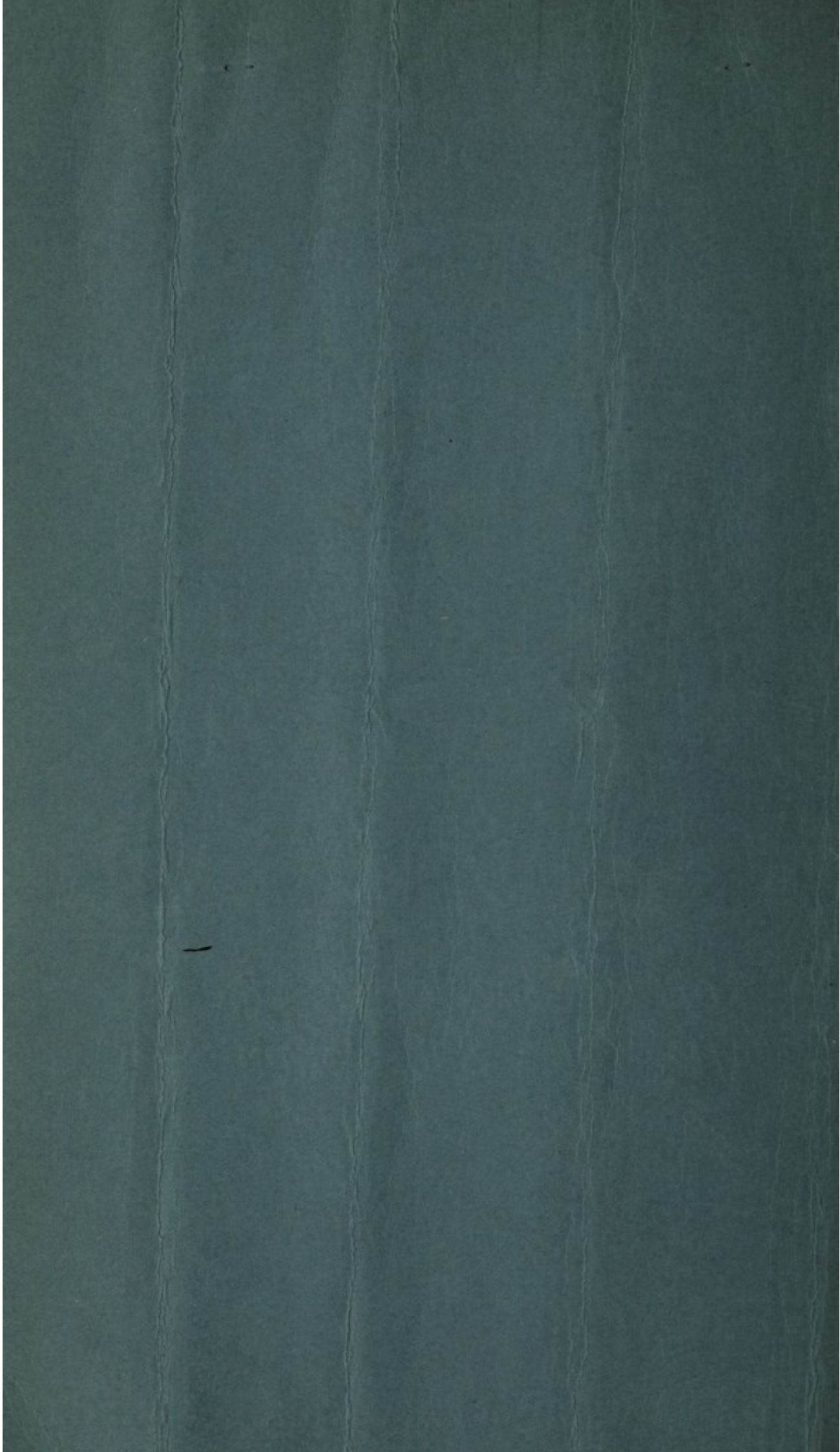
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE SUB-COMMITTEE

TO BE PRESENTED TO THE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2ND OCTOBER 1950

E. L. RUSSELL,
Chief Education Officer

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MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE SUB-COMMITTEE DURING THE MUNICIPAL YEARS 1948-9 AND 1949-50

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(Chairman)

Miss F. A. BARLOW

Mr. B. BRITTAIN.

Mr. B. C. BUCKLEY.

Miss J. DAVID, (Member of Education Committee).

Mr. COUNCILLOR S. E. DAWES (Member of Education Committee).

Miss D. M. EDWARDS.

Mr. E. C. DRACKLEY.

Miss E. M. GOLDING.

ALDERMAN MRS. A. M. HOWES, M.B.E.,
J.P. (Chairman of the Health (Mental Health) Sub-Committee, 1948-9).

Mr. G. H. MEEK.

Miss D. E. NEWMAN.

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J.P. (Member of the Birmingham Education Committee 1948-9).

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(Chairman of the Health (Mental Health) Sub-Committee 1949-50).

COUNCILLOR Mrs. E. WRIGHT, J.P.
(Member of Education Committee).

AFTER-CARE STAFF

After-Care Officer	Miss A. R. RUSSELL
After-Care Visitors	Mrs. O. LE MAGE (to August 1949)
	Mrs. H. K. FINCH
	Miss S. D. BIBBY, M.A.
	Mrs. K. WILLIAMS
	Miss C. WAGSTAFF (from October 1949)
Supervisor, Burlington Hall O.C.	Miss W. LUCK
Supervisor, Farm Street O.C.	Miss O. WOOLLEY
Supervisor, Kingstanding O.C.	Mrs. C. COE
Supervisor, Moseley Road O.C.	Miss V. ROBINSON
Supervisor, Weoley Castle O.C.	Miss E. LAMB

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1949

The Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee, which has been in existence since 1901, has pleasure in presenting its 49th Annual Report. The Committee continues to supervise and assist all persons who attended Birmingham Schools for the Educationally Subnormal, and to provide training for those children incapable of benefiting from education in schools.

The report for 1948 having dealt exclusively with juveniles, the present report covers the full number of cases dealt with to 31st December 1949, and follows on from the 1947 report published in 1948.

One of the main undertakings during the last two years has been to survey the current file after the dislocation and subsequent disappearance of many cases during and immediately after the war. The first step has been to try to retrace many of these cases and this has proved a most difficult task, of which much still remains to be done. Thanks are due to the many people who have given help in this direction. As a result of these efforts, the case load was slightly increased. Secondly, an effort has been made to select as many cases as possible for presentation to the Case Committee as no longer in need of further supervision. In doing this, the main considerations have been social stability over a considerable period and a reasonable chance of security in the future for the person concerned. If, however, any of these cases are later discovered to be in need of observation, advice or care, they can be returned to the current visiting list.

It is hoped that with further reductions, time will become available for more frequent visits to the younger persons up to 18 years of age, particularly those between 16 and 18 years, many of whom find difficulty in adjusting themselves to industrial life for the first time.

Further extensions in training have been provided during the two year period for girls and boys excluded from school as ineducable. Last year's Juvenile Report announced the opening full-time of the Weoley Castle Occupation Centre. In September 1949, Farm Street, for many years run as an afternoon Centre, was opened full-time. In the same month, Burlington Hall was also opened. The number of Occupation Centres in December 1949 was therefore five, with accommodation for 140 children. In addition, plans are complete for the opening of an Industrial Centre on 10th January 1950 to accommodate boys and men over 15 years of age. A sixth Occupation Centre will also be ready to open in April 1950.

Social Science students have been welcomed during the year from the University and Selly Oak Colleges. As well as undertaking visiting duties, they have observed and helped at the Occupation Centres as part of their practical training. Visits have also been made to the Occupation Centres by Health Visitors in training.

The After-Care Sub-Committee takes this opportunity of thanking all departments of the Corporation, other social organisations and staffs of schools, whose willing help continues to be indispensable.

CASES DEALT WITH DURING 1948 AND 1949

During the two-year period, a total of 4,702 cases has been dealt with. Of these, 1,101 have been removed from the current file, leaving 3,601 under active supervision; 610 new cases have been reported during the two years.

This year the table (see Appendix A, page 15) has been set out somewhat differently in the hope that the change may present a clearer and more complete picture of all categories. Groups A and C show how all new cases reported have been dealt with. B and D show how the cases reported previously are placed. A and B give figures for those who attended school until approximately 16 years of age, while C and D analyse those cases excluded as ineducable before reaching school leaving age. Groups *a, b, c* and *d* are still receiving visits, while groups *e, f, g, h* and *i* have now been removed from the current file; *g* and *h* may, however, be returned at any time.

The numbers of cases dealt with in each two-year period since 1941 are also given for purposes of comparison.

(a) CASES GAINFULLY EMPLOYED. (Males, 1,458; Females, 744; Total 2,202).

It is gratifying to note the continued high proportion of persons who secure or retain employment, especially amongst school leavers. Co-operation has been maintained with the Juvenile Employment Department, and the various Employment Bureaux in the City, and the After-Care

staff are much indebted to them for their help with regard to obtaining suitable employment.

An After-Care Visitor attends with the Juvenile Employment representative at each School Leavers' Conference, so that where possible the parent and visitor make their first contact before the boy or girl leaves school.

Appendix B, on page 16, shows how all employed cases are placed.

The highest wages known to be earned are those of two men who are each earning £9 per week. One, aged 23 and under Statutory Supervision, is engaged on piece work at a motor works; he puts his earnings into savings every week. The other, whose twin sister is in Monyhull Colony, was excluded at the age of 14 years. He is 28 years of age and is employed at plating.

Other notable examples are a man under Statutory Supervision who is earning £8 10s. at casting, and seven men earning £7-£8 each and engaged in factory work, the building trade and painting and decorating.

A particularly interesting case is that of "A" aged 20 and under Voluntary Supervision. He has been employed in a boot repairing business since leaving school and is now in charge of the branch, the manager having left to take over another. He has three boys working for him and earns £6 10s. per week, plus commission. A highly complimentary letter was received by the After-Care Department from his employer, stating that he would be willing to employ more lads of "A's" calibre and praising the standard of his work and his general reliability.

Another successful case employed also at boot-repairing, is that of "B," aged 18 and under Statutory Supervision, who has received the highest bonus at his firm for good time-keeping, workmanship and efficiency.

Among the women, are two Voluntary cases, each of whom is earning £6 at presswork and welding respectively. Another woman, under Statutory Supervision, also engaged in welding, is earning £5, and the highest wage earned by an excluded woman under statutory Supervision is £3 10s. in Canteen work.

The lowest recorded wages are those of a youth, under Voluntary Supervision, employed at riveting and drilling, and earning 25/- a week; a youth under Voluntary Supervision (Crippled) employed in rug making at the Remploy factory and earning 25/-; a youth under Statutory Supervision employed in rag-collecting and earning 20/-; a girl under Statutory Supervision employed in soap-making and earning 20/-; a girl under Voluntary Supervision employed in box making and earning 25/-; a girl under Statutory Supervision employed in cleaning and earning 17/6. These cases are all between 16 and 18 years of age.

Smaller amounts are earned in the case of many excluded lads, who receive what is virtually pocket-money from friendly tradesmen. These cases are not included in the number of gainfully employed, but are noted in the following section.

(b) NOT GAINFULLY EMPLOYED. (Males, 414; Females, 825; Total 1,239)

The following table shows how those not gainfully employed are occupied:

Engaged in:	Voluntary		Statutory		Stat. Excl.		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Home duties (whole or part-time)	—	116	1	275	64	50	65	441
Helping local Tradesmen	—	—	—	—	19	—	19	—
Attending Occupation Centres	—	—	—	—	91	69	91	69
Having Home Teaching	—	1	—	1	13	23	13	25
Receiving other tuition	—	1	—	—	3	3	3	4
No occupation	10	25	44	55	169	206	223	286
TOTAL	10	143	45	331	359	351	414	825

HOME DUTIES, 516. The majority of cases under this heading are married women, fully occupied in managing their own homes. The one male under Statutory Supervision keeps a boarding house and takes in lodgers. Most of the excluded cases are unemployable but are able to be of considerable help in the home.

HELPING LOCAL TRADESMEN, 19. Ten of these cases are under 16 years of age. All are unemployable. The majority receive some pocket-money for their services but they are not considered as employees and are not insured. The trades include milk and coal rounds, market gardening, pig farming and helping in local shops. When these lads are 16, they are eligible for, and most of them are receiving, a National Assistance grant.

ATTENDING OCCUPATION CENTRES, 160. This number includes all boys and girls who attended Occupation Centres during 1948 and 1949, although some of the older ones had left before the end of 1949. The total is therefore greater than the number attending at any one time. The maximum number of places available in December 1949 was 140, as compared with 125 at the end of 1948. In addition, those attending Farm Street have been able to attend full-time since September 1949. 126 of the 160 are still under 16 years of age. Of those who have left the Centres during the two years, the majority have been boys over 16, a few of whom have been placed in work while others are awaiting the opening of the Industrial Centre. A very small number of children had to be excluded from attending any Occupation Centre because their behaviour was endangering other children. These children are awaiting institutional care. No boys over 16 are at present attending the Centres, but a small number of girls between 16 and 25 attend. In some cases,

these girls assist the Attendant and do not take part in the full programme of activities.

RECEIVING HOME TEACHING, 33. Of these, 1 boy and 10 girls are over 16 years of age. The considerable drop in numbers from the 40-60 mentioned in last year's report can be accounted for in three ways. Firstly, all children under 16 and all but 4 of those over 16, now receive a weekly lesson. These four (who are all over eighteen) receive a lesson fortnightly. Secondly, one of the home teachers devotes one afternoon per week to teaching handicrafts to 14 girls over 15. This class is held at the Burlington Hall Centre on Tuesdays. All the girls are unemployable. It is hoped that a similar class will be opened later in another part of the City. Thirdly, children are still taught where possible in groups in each others' homes, but admitting children to new Centres has in several districts reduced the size of existing groups, so fewer children are taught each day.

Of the 33 taught, the 11 over 16 years may later attend the Industrial Centre or the handwork class mentioned above. Twelve are on the Occupation Centre waiting list. In four cases parents have particularly requested individual lessons. Two cases have frequent epileptic fits and could not attend Occupation Centres. Seven are too crippled to use public transport.

RECEIVING OTHER TUITION, 7. Of these, the woman under Voluntary Supervision attends a commercial college. The other 6 are all children under 16 years of age. The parents of three have engaged private tutors; one attends a private school, one is visited and taught by the Institute for the Blind and one attends Carlson House School for Spastics once weekly.

AT HOME WITH NO OCCUPATION, 509. Of this large number, 146 are under sixteen years of age. Fifty-one of these are urgently awaiting vacancies in M.D. Institutions and are unable to benefit either by Occupation Centre training or individual lessons in the home. In 21 other cases, also unsuitable for training, the parents do not want institutional care. 65 are awaiting vacancies in Occupation Centres, of whom 30 will be immediately absorbed in the new Occupation Centre at Glebe Farm, while several now approaching 16 years will attend the Industrial Centre in Aston. In nine cases parents have refused any training. Of those over 16 years of age, many are able to take some part in the domestic life of the home. About 60 could be catered for in an Industrial Centre, and 24 of these will attend on alternate days from 10th January 1950. There is, however, an urgent need for further Industrial Centre accommodation, and some form of training for girls over 16 could also be set up with advantage. Practically all the above cases are now receiving National Assistance grants, varying from 15/- to 30/-, except where the parents have intimated that they do not at present require financial aid. At the request of the Mental Health Services, and with the co-operation of the local branches of the Ministry of National Insurance, forms have been sent out to over 500 parents and guardians to apply, on behalf of the defective, for exception from payment of Health contributions, on grounds of low income. In practically every case the parents were unaware that this was necessary and in the majority of cases help had to be given in completing these forms correctly. As a boy or girl approaches 16 years, the After-Care Visitor now calls and sees that the necessary advice is given.

(c) IN H.M. FORCES, MERCHANT NAVY, AND WOMEN'S LAND ARMY.

	Voluntary		Statutory		Excluded		TOTALS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Army	35	—	2	—	—	—	37	—
R.A.F.	4	—	1	—	—	—	5	—
W.L.A.	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	4
Merchant Navy	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	39	3	4	1	—	—	43	4

It will be noticed that, as might be expected, numbers in the Forces have dropped considerably since 1947. Very few who served during the war still remain in the Forces, but one or two have signed on for a long period, having found that they enjoy life in the Services. There are, included in the total, a few who have been unable to adjust themselves successfully and who were discharged before the termination of service. In two cases, this was at the request of the After-Care Department.

One case is worthy of special mention. "C" joined up with his age group and was posted to a regiment where he settled down satisfactorily. After some time, he learned that he was being transferred to the Pioneer Corps owing to his low educational standard. He wrote a somewhat illiterate letter requesting that the After-Care Dept. should intervene on his behalf and recommend him for an Education Course. The Command Education Officer was approached and the request made. "C" was allowed to take the course and made so much progress by his own efforts that he was recommended by the Army for a second course. He has written twice, in a much improved style, to express his appreciation and is now hoping to return to his regiment.

(d) RECEIVING RESIDENTIAL CARE IN HOMES, ETC. Total, 113.

	Voluntary		Statutory		Stat Excl.		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mental Hospitals	5	3	8	7	16	16	29	26
Infirmaries & Homes	4	3	8	8	6	1	18	12
Sanatoria	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Epileptic Colonies	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Hospitals	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2
Prison & Borstal	3	—	6	—	—	—	9	—
Children's Homes	—	—	1	—	7	4	8	4
	14	7	23	17	30	22	67	46

In the above tables, of the three persons in "Other Hospitals," two are recently excluded cases who are being detained in hospital pending vacancies in M.D. Institutions. The Statutory case is that of an older woman who is seriously ill.

Details of those detained in H.M. Prisons and Borstals are given under Delinquency.

Of the twelve cases in Children's Homes the only one over 16 years of age is a boy—aged $16\frac{1}{2}$ —who is at present in a Remand Home after having broken the terms of probation. The original charge was one of theft.

The other eleven cases are placed as follows:

- 4 in Cottage Homes.
- 1 in Remand Home.
- 2 in R.C. Homes
- 2 in Residential Nurseries.
- 2 in Rudolf Steiner Residential Schools.

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(c) ADMITTED TO M.D. INSTITUTIONS OR CERTIFIED AND PLACED ON LICENCE. (Males, 84; Females, 53; Total, 137).

Fifty-nine cases were certified owing to deterioration of their mental condition, or severe behaviour difficulties. 16 were admitted to institutions as a result of Court action. These are mentioned under Delinquency. 25 were transferred to M.D. Institutions direct from Residential Schools. 12 cases were certified after having been found to have no fixed abode or to be in need of care and protection. 25 were certified from other Homes and Mental Hospitals.

(f) PLACED UNDER GUARDIANSHIP. (Males, 5; Females, 1; Total, 6.)

Of the above six cases, two were placed under guardianship after appearing before the Court for indecent behaviour. Both are males, one aged 23, the other 19. One female and one male, both aged 15, were placed under the guardianship of a parent in order to enable them to receive a grant under the Public Health Committee, the Family Allowance having ceased at 15 years and the National Assistance not being available till 16 years. The absence of any state grant for children between 15 and 16 years who are not attending schools or occupation centres has been discussed fully with the National Association for Mental Health and at present it appears that there are no means of procuring a grant for the defective other than certifying him and placing him under guardianship. Unless the parents are in severe financial straits, most prefer to manage without aid rather than have the child certified solely for this purpose.

The two remaining cases, both males, were placed under guardianship after having been excluded from special schools. One had attended Lingfield Colony for Epileptics.

(g) FURTHER CONTACT IMPOSSIBLE. (Males, 316; Females, 257; Total, 573.)

This category has increased very largely owing to the policy of retaining on the current visiting file only those cases with whom the After-Care Visitors are in present contact. Several hundred cases which had been

lost sight of during the war were therefore removed and placed in this section. A considerable number were traced but were found to have left the district. These, where satisfactory, were recommended to the Case Committee for the withdrawal of supervision but others have been retained so that supervision may be resumed should they return to the Birmingham area.

Another group consists of those for whom the last report is "Site bombed. No trace of family." All efforts to retrace many of these through the Estates Department, the Ministry of Food, the Registrar, and the School Attendance Officers, have failed. Efforts are still continuing in the cases of lowgrade or unstable defectives.

Of the above number, however, many have been and are still being retraced and are being returned to the Current File for renewed visiting when necessary. In some cases it is found that the man or woman has since married and now resents visits. Of those, the cases believed to be satisfactory are also being presented to the Case Committee.

(h) PRESENTED TO CASE COMMITTEE. (Males, 193; Females, 147; Total 340.)

A considerable number of this total consists of cases already referred to above, *i.e.*, those who have not been traced for up to ten years or who have left the district or who resent visits and refuse to co-operate. There are still more of these cases to be presented to the Case Committee and it is hoped that by the end of 1950 only those whom it is necessary to retain for supervision will remain on the current file. The usual cases with satisfactory records have also been presented. Up to date the age for presentation has been thirty years for statutory supervision cases, and twenty-four for those under voluntary supervision. The Case Committee has now agreed that married men and women under Statutory Supervision, who have a reliable record, should be eligible for consideration under the age of thirty.

(i) DECEASED. (Males, 25; Females, 20; Total, 45.)

Causes of death include:

Epilepsy	5
Cerebral tumour	2
Tuberculosis	8
Pneumonia	4
Meningitis	1
Gastric Ailments	2
Bright's Disease	2
Missing, now believed killed in action	3
	<hr/>
	27
	<hr/>

Those who died from causes not reported, number 18.

OCCUPATION CENTRES

The Settlement, 610 Kingstanding Road.
 Friends' Institute, Moseley Road.
 Community Centre, Weoley Castle Square.
 Friends' Hall, Farm Street.
 Burlington Hall, Aston High Street.

Four of these five Centres are providing accommodation for approximately 30 children. Farm Street can at present accommodate only 17-18 but it is hoped that more space will shortly be available.

In spite of the extra number provided for during the last year, the waiting list has increased from 60 at the end of 1948 to 65 at the end of 1949. Meanwhile, new cases requiring training still continue to be reported. At the other end of the scale fewer cases are leaving the Centres than are being admitted, with the result that once a new Centre is filled subsequent vacancies are few. Industrial Centre accommodation will help this situation and will also provide a more suitable occupation and environment for boys over fifteen years.

The main difficulties in opening the new Centres have been, firstly, the acquisition of suitable premises and, secondly, the shortage of trained or experienced staff. Two of the five Supervisors hold the N.A.M.H. diploma and it is hoped that other members of the staff may later be able to attend the full year's training course. The best use is being made of other available short training courses which might prove helpful. In July 1949 two Supervisors and two Assistant Supervisors, attended a week's refresher course run by the N.A.M.H. in London. Five more staff are to attend a second similar course at Easter 1950. Several have also attended courses in the City run by the Education Committee on such subjects as percussion band, rhythmic work and toy-making. Visits have been made to Occupation Centres in other areas, and further ones are being arranged. Visits have also been made to local nursery schools, infant schools which organise free activity classes, and a private residential school for defective children.

Since the introduction of the School Meals Service in every Centre, a Welfare Attendant has been appointed in place of a Cook; the services of such a person have left the Supervisor and Assistant freer from hygiene duties and able to concentrate more fully on other forms of training.

Inspections have been made at each Centre by officers of the Board of Control and satisfactory reports received. Visits have been made also by the organiser of education courses at the N.A.M.H. to the Centres from which staff attended the Courses.

Routine medical and cleanliness inspections have been made at each Centre and children requiring treatment have been referred to the School Clinics.

PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF AFTER-CARE.

The shortage of housing accommodation in the City constitutes a major problem in After-Care no less than in other branches of social work.

For married defectives it creates a situation of peculiar difficulty. Living with parents-in-law tends to impose a severe strain both upon the young married couple themselves and upon the family of the house, and frequently results in friction in the home in addition to overcrowding. The type of situation which may arise is illustrated by the case of a young woman defective whose marriage was at one time jeopardised when her husband refused to remain at her parents' home on account of his failure to agree with her family. Alternative lodgings were found and husband

and wife finally re-united. Another married woman is living in great discomfort and on strained relations with her husband in her own home which contains a total of seventeen occupants.

Many are living in lodgings under difficult conditions, for example, a married couple, both defective, whose efforts to bring up their child in a single-roomed lodging were handicapped by a refusal to grant them lighting or cooking facilities.

Lastly, there are the cases of low-grade defectives living in overcrowded homes, where conditions are neither suitable nor adequate for them to receive the necessary care or comfort. Wherever possible in such cases assistance is given and constant co-operation is maintained with the City Estates Department. In view of the present rate of house allocation, however, no early alleviation of the problem can be expected.

A further problem which has become acute during the post-war years is the extreme shortage of vacancies in institutions for the mentally defective.

The present lack of accommodation is particularly serious in the case of young children suffering from severe defects. The case of a helpless child or of a child who does not appear to benefit by any available form of training frequently proves an intolerable burden to parents who are faced with other home and family responsibilities. Several mothers in extreme ill-health are being forced to continue the care at home of these children often for long periods with little or no help.

The lack of vacancies for adult cases is especially disadvantageous for young males, many of whom would derive benefit from a period of institutional training and discipline.

Delinquency itself is not a major problem as is shown by the comparatively small number of cases who have appeared before the Courts. During 1948 and 1949 there were 94 such persons, out of a total of 4,702, of whom only nine were women. The following were the offences with which they were charged:

Theft	33
House, Shop and Factory breaking	21
Indecent behaviour	11
Drunk and disorderly	8
Inflicting bodily harm	4
Neglect of children	4
Beyond parental control	3
Arrears of wife's maintenance	2
In need of care and protection	1
Aiding and abetting	1
Obtaining goods under false pretences	1
Damage to property	1
Breaking terms of probation	1
Begging	1
Arson	1
Forgery	1
TOTAL	94

The following list shows the results of the proceedings:

Placed on Probation	26
Fined	15
Admitted to M.D. Institutions	16
Committed to Prison	11
Committed to Borstal	8
Committed to Quarter Sessions	5
Bound over	5
Placed under guardianship	2
Sent to a training home for mothers	1
Dismissed owing to lack of evidence	5
	—
TOTAL	94
	—

Eight of the 94 are under voluntary supervision; these are all males. The other 86 are all under statutory supervision. Fifteen appeared before the Juvenile Court, of whom all were males except one girl in need of care and protection.

The majority of offenders are between 16 and 23 years of age. The noticeable increase in the number of offenders illustrates the current trend in the City, but whereas 25 of the 70 cases charged during 1946 and 1947 were juveniles, in the past two years only 15 out of 94 have appeared before the Juvenile Court.

With regard to the decisions taken by the magistrates, where 23 were committed to the M.D. Institutions during the previous period, only 16 were committed during the present period. This may be partly because of the increasing difficulty in securing accommodation in institutions. The number sent to Prison and Borstal has risen correspondingly. In the present period eleven have served, or are serving, sentences in Prison or Borstal compared with three and two respectively for the previous period. The number placed on probation has risen from 14 to 26. Thanks are due to the Probation Officers for their co-operation and help with cases placed temporarily under their care.

What constitutes a more serious problem than those actually charged with offences is the number of irresponsible young children and unstable adolescents who do not actually appear before the Court but who are, none the less, a constant source of anxiety and trouble to their parents, neighbours and employers. The fact that greater numbers are not charged with offences is due largely to the sympathy of the public who hesitate to cause further distress to an already distraught parent by reporting a miscreant to the Police.

Among adolescents is a small number of malingerers who require a great deal of supervision. This often means daily visits at an early hour, for a period, to ensure that the young person leaves for work. Several have improved in reliability as a result of continued vigilance on the Visitor's part. "X" is one such girl, aged 16. The home is poor; the father dead, the mother unreliable and two brothers have deserted from the Army. After a period during which she was visited daily, this girl now receives weekly visits and at present is attending work regularly. "Y"

is a youth aged 18. In spite of all efforts to encourage him, this boy absented himself from work constantly. When unable to collect wages at the end of the week, he usually found alternative means of procuring money, after which he might not return home for several nights. He eventually appeared before the Court charged with breaking into gas meters and has now been committed to Borstal.

"Z" is an example of another type of problem. She is an attractive girl whose parents are seriously worried by her returning home late at night. So far "Z" has not been in serious trouble and frequent visits are made to try and prevent this occurring. Other cases, similar to "Z," have appeared before the Court, and one girl charged with wandering abroad and having no fixed abode has since been admitted to a M.D. Institution. A small number of girls have given birth to illegitimate children thus providing a further problem, that of the future of the child. In most cases the children have been adopted, but in a few cases the girl has preferred to keep the child and assume responsibility for its upbringing.

Finally, the case of "O" might be mentioned. She is an example of a rare type of problem. Charged with neglect of her three children after her husband's suicide, she was sent to a training home and since returning has been able to care for her children more happily and efficiently. She is given help and encouragement and would seem to be trying to do her best for the family.

CONCLUSION

Some of the work undertaken by the After-Care Department has been indicated in the foregoing pages; but many hours are also spent on tasks which cannot be included under any heading in a report and yet are none the less indispensable. The After-Care Department is used by many persons as a bureau to which they come when beset by almost every imaginable type of problem affecting not only the defectives themselves but directly or indirectly their whole families. Enquiries are made on their behalf relating to the provision of housing, clothing, fuel, milk, medical and legal aid, and where necessary the inquirer is introduced to the person or society who is best able to deal with his specific requirement. Many of their more serious problems cannot immediately be solved but the knowledge that there is always someone whom they can approach for help and friendly advice does much to alleviate the anxiety with which these handicapped families or individuals are afflicted.

APPENDIX A

CASES DEALT WITH DURING 1948 AND 1949

	a		b		c		d		e		f		g		h		i		TOTALS	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
A —Left school at approx. 16 years during '48 & 49 and placed under (1) Vol. Sup'v'n	111	71	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	112	79
(2) Stat. Sup'v'n	150	70	5	16	—	—	1	—	18	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	174	92
B —Left School at approx. 16 years prior to '48 under (1) Vol. Sup'v'n.	353	190	10	139	39	3	14	7	3	4	—	—	214	171	133	117	7	4	773	635
(2) Stat. Sup'v'n.	640	318	40	315	4	1	22	17	11	8	—	—	93	76	60	30	9	3	879	768
C —Excluded as ineducable during 1948 and 1949	2	1	58	53	—	—	7	1	16	10	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	86	67
D —Excluded as ineducable prior to 1948	202	954	301	298	—	—	23	21	36	21	4	1	7	9	—	—	8	12	581	456
TOTALS	1458	744	414	825	43	4	67	46	84	53	5	1	316	257	193	147	25	20	2605	2097
TOTALS for 1947	1137	698	931	1051	162	2	56	44	108	67	4	2	27	27	135	63	21	16	2581	1970
TOTALS for 1945	1309	799	765	973	201	6	59	57	75	54	2	2	21	15	107	96	45	23	2584	2025
TOTALS for 1943	1302	840	716	889	232	17	28	25	130	120	—	—	42	71	161	163	29	14	2640	2139
TOTALS for 1941	1492	1000	689	979	170	4	13	14	116	77	—	—	36	51	239	148	23	19	2778	2292
																				5070

APPENDIX B

OCCUPATION	VOL.		STAT.		EXCLUDED		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Assembly and Packing	21	64	19	76	7	23	47	163
Bakery and Food Manufacture	11	16	33	31	7	7	51	54
Blacksmith	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Bookbinding	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Boot Repairing	22	—	17	—	1	—	40	—
Brick Making	2	—	2	—	—	—	4	—
Building	35	—	89	—	8	—	132	—
Cardboard Box Making	—	7	—	12	—	2	—	21
Chemical Trades	7	—	2	—	—	—	9	—
Cinema Work—Operators & Attendants	9	6	13	4	2	1	24	11
Clerical Work	2	2	4	—	—	—	6	2
Crane Driving	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Day Nursery	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	3
Dental Work	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Distributive Trades	22	7	46	6	16	—	84	13
Domestic—Day and Residential	—	16	1	27	—	12	1	55
Electric and Radio Work	5	—	10	—	3	—	18	—
Factory Labouring	29	—	74	—	46	—	149	—
French Polishing	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Garage Work	5	—	9	—	—	—	14	—
Gardening and Agriculture	11	—	17	—	2	—	30	—
Gas Works	3	—	1	—	2	—	6	—
Glass Blowing	1	—	3	—	3	—	7	—
Guide to the Blind	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Hairdressing	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	3
Hotel, Café and Canteen Work	1	15	6	34	2	10	9	59
Laboratory Work	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Laundry	—	8	1	1	1	65	2	28
Leather Work	6	3	2	3	1	—	9	6
Machine Work—Semi-skilled	162	93	287	149	52	28	501	270
Nursing	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5
Odd Jobs and Errands	—	1	7	1	13	2	20	4
Optical Work	2	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
Painting and Decorating	8	—	10	—	1	—	19	—
Paper Manufacturing	3	—	3	1	1	—	7	1
Plating and Jewellery Trade	6	7	9	9	1	3	16	19
Plumbing	6	—	5	—	—	—	11	—
Printing	—	2	1	2	3	—	4	4
Rag Collecting	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Remploy Factory	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Road Work	11	—	14	—	7	—	32	—
Rubber Work	4	—	4	3	2	1	10	4
Salvage	3	—	6	—	2	—	11	—
Stabling and Kennel Work	4	—	5	—	2	—	11	—
Tailoring and Sewing	—	9	1	6	1	—	2	15
Transport	23	—	30	1	5	—	58	1
Upholstering	4	—	6	1	—	—	10	1
Window Cleaning	6	—	7	—	4	—	17	—
Woodwork	25	—	37	1	8	—	70	1
	464	261	790	388	204	95	1458	744



