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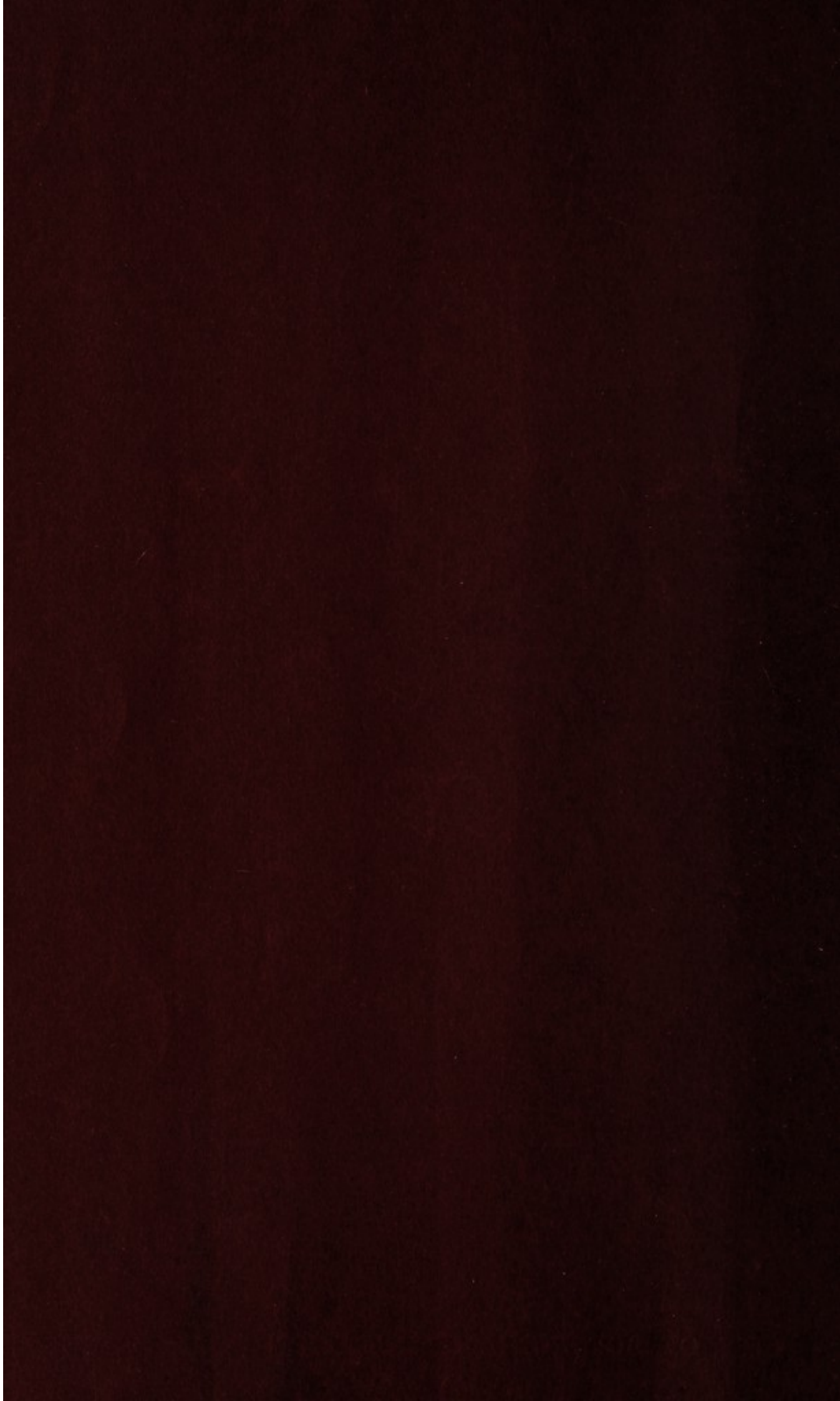
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT
OF THE
SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE
SUB-COMMITTEE

PRESENTED TO THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2nd NOVEMBER, 1953

E. L. RUSSELL, *Chief Education Officer*

MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE SUB-COMMITTEE 1952.

MISS E. M. BARLING
(Chairman from 1932 to May, 1952).

COUNCILLOR MRS. F. M.
SMALLWOOD (Chairman, 1952).

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
(Died 10th March, 1952).

MR. G. W. EVANS.

COUNCILLOR MRS. D. M. FISHER
(Member of Education Committee).

ALDERMAN MRS. A. M. HOWES
(Member of Health (Mental Health
Sub) Committee).

MR. G. H. MEEK.

MISS D. E. NEWMAN.

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. SHAW
(Member of Health (Mental Health
Sub) Committee; served until May,
1952).

ALDERMAN MRS. E. V. SMITH, J.P.
(Chairman of Education Committee).

MISS B. M. SMITH.

MISS G. L. VAUGHAN.

COUNCILLOR MRS. A. V. WOOD, J.P.
(Member of Health (Mental Health
Sub) Committee; served from May,
1952).

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

AFTER-CARE STAFF

After-Care Officer	...	...	...	MRS. A. R. EVANS
After-Care Visitors	...	...	...	MRS. H. K. FINCH MISS S. D. BIBBY, M.A. MRS. K. WILLIAMS MRS. C. HUDSON MISS L. SMITH (from November, 1952)
Supervisor, Burlington Hall O.C.	...			MISS W. LUCK
„ Glebe Farm O.C.	...			MRS. M. BUSBY
„ Kingstanding O.C.	...			MISS O. WOOLLEY
„ St. Oswald's O.C.	...			MISS E. LAMB (from April, 1952)
„ St. Paul's O.C.	...	...		MRS. F. HOWELL
„ Wretham Road O.C.	...			MRS. E. COOKSEY
„ Weoley Castle O.C.	...			MISS E. LAMB (till April, 1952) MRS. M. HILL (from April, 1952)
„ Burlington Hall Industrial Centre	...	...		MR. J. LAMB (till April, 1952) MR. R. SLACK (from April, 1952)
„ Moseley Road Industrial Centre	...	...		MR. J. LAMB (from April, 1952)

Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1952

The Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee, who provide supervision for all leavers from Birmingham Schools for the educationally subnormal, and organise training for ineducable children, have pleasure in presenting their 52nd Annual Report.

During the year the work has continued to expand on the same lines as previously. A fifth visitor has been added to the supervisory staff, and two new Centres for training have been opened. Still more expansion is required both in staff and in centres for training before facilities can be considered really adequate, and plans are in hand for 1953.

One hundred children have again been taken on holiday for one week each and the success of this venture is now established.

The main problems encountered during the year have again been due to the shortage of housing and institutional accommodation, and in the second half of the year the problem of shortage of suitable employment began to be really noticeable for the first time since the end of the war.

The Sub-Committee again wish to thank many people and organisations, without whose co-operation this work would be impossible.

CASES DEALT WITH DURING 1952

During 1951, 3,913 cases were dealt with, 3,555 of those remaining on the current file at the end of that year. During 1952 337 new cases were reported for supervision and a further 6 were rediscovered, making a total of 3,898 cases dealt with. Of those, 3,574 remain on the current file. (The sum of columns a, b, c and d on the table on page 6.)

(a) CASES LIVING AT HOME AND GAINFULLY EMPLOYED (Males, 1,356; Females, 697; Total, 2,053).

In the male group as a whole (*i.e.*, including children and unemployable) the percentage of employed has dropped from just over 64 per cent.

in 1951 to about 60 per cent. in 1952, while the female group varies only from 42.5 per cent. in 1951 to 42.1 per cent. in 1952. When each of these groups is subdivided into its different categories an interesting point becomes noticeable: the proportion of employed men and women under voluntary supervision (*i.e.*, generally speaking the highest grade persons) has actually risen during 1952, while the proportion of those employed and under statutory supervision has dropped, the most substantial drop being in the group of men of lowest intelligence.

This bears out entirely the impression gained of the year's work. While little difficulty in securing employment has been encountered by those capable of holding their own in the community, the visitors have had a much more difficult task to find suitable work for the more severely handicapped.

Individual trades do not show much variation from the previous year, the only substantial decreases being noticeable in the building trade, where the total number of employed has dropped from 130 to 93; and in hotel and canteen workers, where the number of women employed has dropped from 54 to 38. Other unskilled occupations show slight decreases in the totals, compared with last year. The tendency for the lower-grade to be the first to find difficulty in obtaining work is well illustrated by the figures shown under "Odd jobs and porters," generally speaking an occupation undertaken by those unable to do anything else. The following shows the 1951 and 1952 figures:—

	VOLUNTARY SUPERVISION		STATUTORY SUPERVISION		EXCLUDED		
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1951	12	—	10	4	25	4	55
1952	15	—	18	2	22	2	59

While the total is actually greater in 1952, more jobs are going to the higher grade groups, who in turn may have found competition too much in slightly more skilled occupations.

The following are interesting examples of men and women under supervision:—

"A" is a boy aged 18 who was admitted to a residential special school from an unhappy home at the age of 10. He left at 16 years with quite a good school report and returned to his home, where in a short period all the old difficulties reappeared. With the father's consent and at the boy's urgent request his name was submitted to the Y.M.C.A. for entry to their agricultural training scheme. He spent almost 6 months on various farms, where everything was done to encourage him but with no success. All his employers complained of his being morose, lazy and solitary. Eventually he returned to Birmingham, stating he would neither remain on a farm nor go home. A vacancy was found for him in a men's hostel where he at once settled down very well. He lost several jobs in quick succession, however, and it was only owing to the patience and understanding of the Warden that he was able to stay on at a reduced rate until he could pay his way. Very slowly he became more stabilised and he has now kept a good job for 8 months, and has had a rise. He has paid off his debts, has begun to make friends and has recently been appointed the "caller-up"

in the mornings at the hostel. The friendly but uninterfering attitude of the Warden and his wife seems to have been just the background necessary for "A". The company was there for him when he wanted to accept it, but he was not forced into being sociable before he was ready.

"B" is a woman of 30 years of age, very limited in intelligence. She left school at the age of 16 and obtained a position as ward-maid in a convalescent home. Four years later she was promoted to the position of "Matron's Maid" and has now occupied that position for 9 years. She returns home every week on her day off and both Matron and her family speak well of her. Supervision has now ceased in her case.

"C" is another woman of the same age, but of higher intelligence. After leaving school she worked in several factories but was always unsettled. She then obtained domestic work in private houses but felt it still was not what she wanted to do. She then obtained a domestic situation in a hospital, later became a nursing orderly and then got herself accepted as a trainee nurse. She has recently passed her examination for Assistant Nurse and was pleased to see her success announced in a professional paper. Her parents feel she has now reached her limit and "C" appears happily settled. Supervision has now ceased.

"D" is a girl aged 19 who comes from a good home where she has received excellent care and training. By 1950 she was earning £8 per week on piecework in a factory. She gets up early every morning and does the bulk of the housework before leaving for work. The father is an invalid.

"E" is a man aged 39 who is married and has four children. Prior to and during the war he showed signs of instability and caused unhappiness and distress in the home. He has now been employed for 14 years at the same firm. His wife is capable and manages the home well and the atmosphere is now one of well-being.

CASES DEALT WITH DURING 1952

	a		b		c		d		e		f		g		h		TOTALS		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M and F
A—Cases reported during 1952 for—																			
(1) Vol. Supervision	48	18	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	18	68
(2) Stat. Supervision	67	49	18	24	—	—	—	1	5	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	91	79	170
B—Cases reported prior to 1952 for—																			
(1) Vol. Supervision	377	227	71	133	36	—	9	8	—	—	1	3	21	14	1	1	516	386	902
(2) Stat. Supervision	680	313	89	237	3	—	33	8	8	6	5	8	113	72	2	3	933	647	1580
C—Excluded from school during 1952	—	2	46	44	—	—	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	49	50	99
D—Excluded prior to 1952	184	88	369	337	—	—	32	20	14	24	1	2	—	—	6	2	606	473	1079
TOTALS, 1952	1356	697	595	775	39	—	75	37	28	38	8	14	134	86	10	6	2245	1653	3898
TOTALS, 1951	1387	745	446	691	39	—	72	50	29	24	10	5	168	230	9	8	2160	1753	3913

TRADES FOLLOWED BY THOSE WHO ARE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED

OCCUPATION	VOL.		STAT.		EXCLUDED		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M and F
Assembling and packing ...	27	79	63	59	8	15	251
Bakery and food manufacture	12	14	29	11	7	2	75
Boot repairing ...	23	—	17	—	1	—	41
Building ...	26	—	58	—	9	—	93
Cardboard boxmaking ...	—	4	1	2	—	—	7
Cinema and entertainments ...	5	8	15	5	1	—	34
Cleaning and domestic ...	1	15	7	26	1	13	63
Clerical and office ...	2	6	—	2	—	—	10
Electrical work ...	9	—	11	—	—	—	20
Gardening and farming ...	11	—	16	—	6	—	33
French polishing ...	1	—	2	—	—	—	3
Glass trade ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Hairdressing ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hotel, café and canteen work ...	—	11	3	16	2	11	43
Factory work:							
unskilled and semi-skilled ...	202	65	308	214	93	38	920
Laundry ...	—	10	—	13	—	6	29
Leather trade ...	1	2	1	—	1	1	6
Nursing ...	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
Odd jobs and porters ...	15	—	18	2	22	2	59
Painting and decorating ...	6	—	9	—	—	—	15
Paper manufacture & printing	2	3	8	—	2	—	15
Plating, jewellery & optical trades	4	7	4	2	—	1	18
Plumbing ...	3	—	13	—	—	—	16
Remploy ...	2	—	1	1	—	—	4
Roadwork ...	7	—	4	—	4	—	15
Salvage ...	6	—	25	—	4	—	35
Stabling and kennel work ...	2	1	1	—	2	—	6
Tailoring and sewing ...	—	10	—	2	—	1	13
Transport ...	20	1	59	1	9	—	90
Upholstery ...	2	—	6	—	—	—	8
Window cleaning ...	3	—	5	—	1	—	9
Woodwork ...	20	—	37	—	8	—	65
Salesmen and shop assistants...	6	5	11	2	—	—	24
Painting and spraying ...	4	—	6	3	—	—	13
Sweep ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Firemen ...	3	—	2	—	2	—	7
Garage ...	—	—	5	—	1	—	6
TOTALS	425	245	747	362	184	90	2,053

(b) LIVING AT HOME AND NOT GAINFULLY EMPLOYED
(Males, 559; Females, 775; Total, 1,334).

Engaged in:	VOL.		STAT.		STAT. EX.		TOTAL		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M & F
Home duties	—	106	—	158	—	19	—	283	283
Attending O.Cs or I.Cs	1	1	3	3	170	93	174	97	271
Occupational home teaching ...	—	—	—	—	16	24	16	24	40
Other tuition ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
No occupation ...	36	26	104	100	229	244	369	370	739
TOTALS ...	37	133	107	261	415	381	559	775	1,334

HOME DUTIES, 283. All persons in this category are women fully occupied in managing the home. Practically all are married women.

ATTENDING OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRES, 271. This number has risen since 1951 by 42, the increase being accounted for by the opening of a seventh Occupation Centre and a second Industrial Centre during the year. The number includes all children who attended during the year and is, therefore, slightly greater than the number attending at any one time. The total capacity of the Occupation Centres is 210 and of the Industrial Centres, 50. At Easter, 1952, the Occupation Centre at the Friends' Institute, Moseley Road, was moved to its new premises at St. Paul's Church Hall, Balsall Heath, where the children now have much improved facilities, including the use of a good-sized playground. The building is all on the ground floor level and is used for Occupation Centre purposes only. At the same time the old premises at Moseley Road were adapted for use as a second Industrial Centre, the disadvantages to the younger children not being applicable to men and senior boys. The following month a new Occupation Centre was opened at St. Oswald's Church Hall, Small Heath. This was filled to capacity immediately by children living within easy reach who had previously had to travel to centres further afield. This in its turn afforded vacancies at several other Centres and thus relieved the waiting lists for the whole City.

The children continue to receive the same benefits—school meals, school milk, medical examinations and use of clinics—as school children in the City.

The number of physically handicapped children transported to the Centres by taxis rose during the year from 14 to 18 or 20 at different periods.

RECEIVING OCCUPATIONAL HOME TEACHING, 40. These children receive a morning or afternoon's lesson from the visiting home teachers, and where situated close enough are taught in small groups so that they can begin to get used to the company of others and the sharing of the teacher's attention. They are taught as much as possible on Occupation Centre lines, and it is noticeable that children admitted to Centres who have first had home teaching settle down and respond more quickly.

RECEIVING OTHER TUITION, 1. One parent pays fees to a tutor for his child to receive regular instruction at home.

NO OCCUPATION, 739. This number has increased by 125 over that shown in 1951, and includes the unemployed. No separate estimate has been made of the unemployable and the unemployed as, in many cases, it is impossible to tell just which men and women are capable of work, because this depends so much on what kind of work is available. But the number includes many men and women who have been able to find employment in other years. Only persons who have been unoccupied for the major part of the year are included; a small number of these are unsettled persons who have had many changes of employment with short periods of unemployment between each. The most serious rise is in the unemployed men under statutory supervision, in which group the figure has risen from 43 in 1951 to 104 in 1952. As those excluded and placed under statutory supervision include all children, the disparity is not so noticeable, particularly as most of these each year are absorbed into the Occupation Centres. One somewhat surprising factor is that the number of women under voluntary supervision without occupation has dropped from 53 to 26 while the number of those engaged in home duties has risen from 69 to 106. This appears to be due partly to a higher proportion of women marrying and partly because, owing to the fall over the last five years of female school leavers placed under voluntary supervision, there is an increased proportion of older (and therefore marriageable) cases.

The severely handicapped and difficult children awaiting admission to institutions continue to be a serious problem. Most of these are not capable of being trained in Occupation Centres, although a few children unable to benefit to any appreciable extent have been admitted in order to give a little much-needed relief to the mothers.

(c) IN H.M. FORCES, 39.

Thirty-six of those serving are under voluntary supervision. Of the three under statutory supervision, one volunteered for 3 years' service at the age of 19 and is at present serving in Germany. The other two were called up in error; the discharge of one is pending and no complaints have been received about the third.

(d) RECEIVING RESIDENTIAL CARE IN HOMES, ETC.

	VOL.		STAT.		STAT. EX.		TOTAL		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M & F
Mental Hospitals ...	6	6	21	8	21	16	48	30	78
Infirmaries and Homes ...	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	3	4
Epileptic Colonies ...	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	1	3
Prisons and Borstals ...	3	—	9	—	—	—	12	—	12
Children's Homes ...	—	—	—	—	12	3	12	3	15
Residential Nurseries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	9	8	33	9	33	20	75	37	112

The majority of those in Mental Homes and Infirmaries are persons who will require residential care for the rest of their lives, but a few are short-stay cases.

The Children's Homes include private homes, residential nurseries and homes run by the Children's Committee. Those children who are in the last type of home are usually only retained until a vacancy arises in a Mental Deficiency Institution.

(e) ADMITTED TO M.D. INSTITUTIONS DURING 1952, 66.

This number is an increase of 13 over last year's number. The following are typical examples of some of the cases for whom the Mental Health Committee were able to find vacancies:—

girl aged 16, found to be in state of neglect;
 girl aged 21, who had two illegitimate children and would not work;
 girl aged 15, from Children's Committee Home;
 boy aged 14, violent and restless, mother a widow;
 boy aged 16, unable to keep any job. Poor home where inadequate care given;
 boy aged 14, charged many times with theft;
 boy aged 6, incontinent and crippled, mother helpless invalid;
 boy aged 16, showing deterioration mentally and physically;
 boy aged 7, a serious danger to other children.

Of the 66 admitted, the conditions were as follows:—

following illness or death of parent	...	8
„ Court cases	... ..	5
as a result of deterioration	... ..	23
„ „ „ „ refractory behaviour	... ..	14
in a state of neglect	... ..	4
transferred from Prison	... ..	1
„ „ a Mental Hospital...	... ..	1
„ „ Children's Homes	... ..	6
„ „ residential E.S.N. school	... ..	4
		—
		66
		—

(g) PRESENTED TO CASE COMMITTEE, 220.

The Case Committee consider the cessation of visits where men and women appear to be reasonably stabilised and secure and when reports have shown a steady record for several years.

Of the 220 presented during 1952,

113	were	men	under	Statutory	Supervision
21	„	„	„	Voluntary	„
72	„	women	„	Statutory	„
14	„	„	„	Voluntary	„

(h) REPORTED DECEASED DURING 1952, 16.

Causes of death are believed to have been as follows:—

General deterioration	...	5
Tuberculosis	... ..	2
Epilepsy	... ..	1
Heart disease	... ..	4
In childbirth	... ..	1
Carcinoma	... ..	1
Pneumonia	... ..	2
		—
		16
		—

Six cases were children of 8 years or less; the others varied from 21 to 54 years.

DELINQUENCY

Seventy-four charges were brought against 60 persons during 1952 (compared with 58 against 50 in 1951). Seven persons were charged on two separate occasions, two of those having already had a previous conviction in an earlier year; and one person was charged on three occasions during the year. In all, 16 were second convictions and 8 were third convictions.

The number of women charged was 6 as compared with 2 last year.

Of the total number of persons charged

6 were 16 years of age				
19	„	17	„	„
8	„	18	„	„
6	„	19	„	„
7	„	20	„	„
3	„	21	„	„
11	„	22 to 37 years of age.		

The following are the offences with which they were charged:—

Larceny	...	...	...	...	38
Breaking and entering	...	...	...	...	18
Indecent behaviour	...	...	...	...	6
Assault	...	...	...	...	3
Receiving	...	...	...	...	2
Drunk	...	...	...	...	2
Importuning	...	...	...	...	1
Aiding and abetting	...	...	...	...	1
Forgery	...	...	...	...	1
Driving without licence	...	...	...	...	1
In need of care and protection	...	...	...	...	1
					74

The following list shows results of the proceedings:—

Placed on Probation	...	...	...	...	31
Fined	...	...	...	...	15
Committed to Borstals	...	...	...	...	9
Imprisoned	...	...	...	...	4
Committed to Approved Schools	...	...	...	...	2
Bound over	...	...	...	...	2
Discharged absolutely	...	...	...	...	2
Discharged conditionally	...	...	...	...	2
Certified	...	...	...	...	1
					68

Note: The difference between the totals is accounted for by the fact that in some cases more than one charge was dealt with at the same time.

12-15-50
The following information was obtained from the records of the
Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, on 12-15-50.

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