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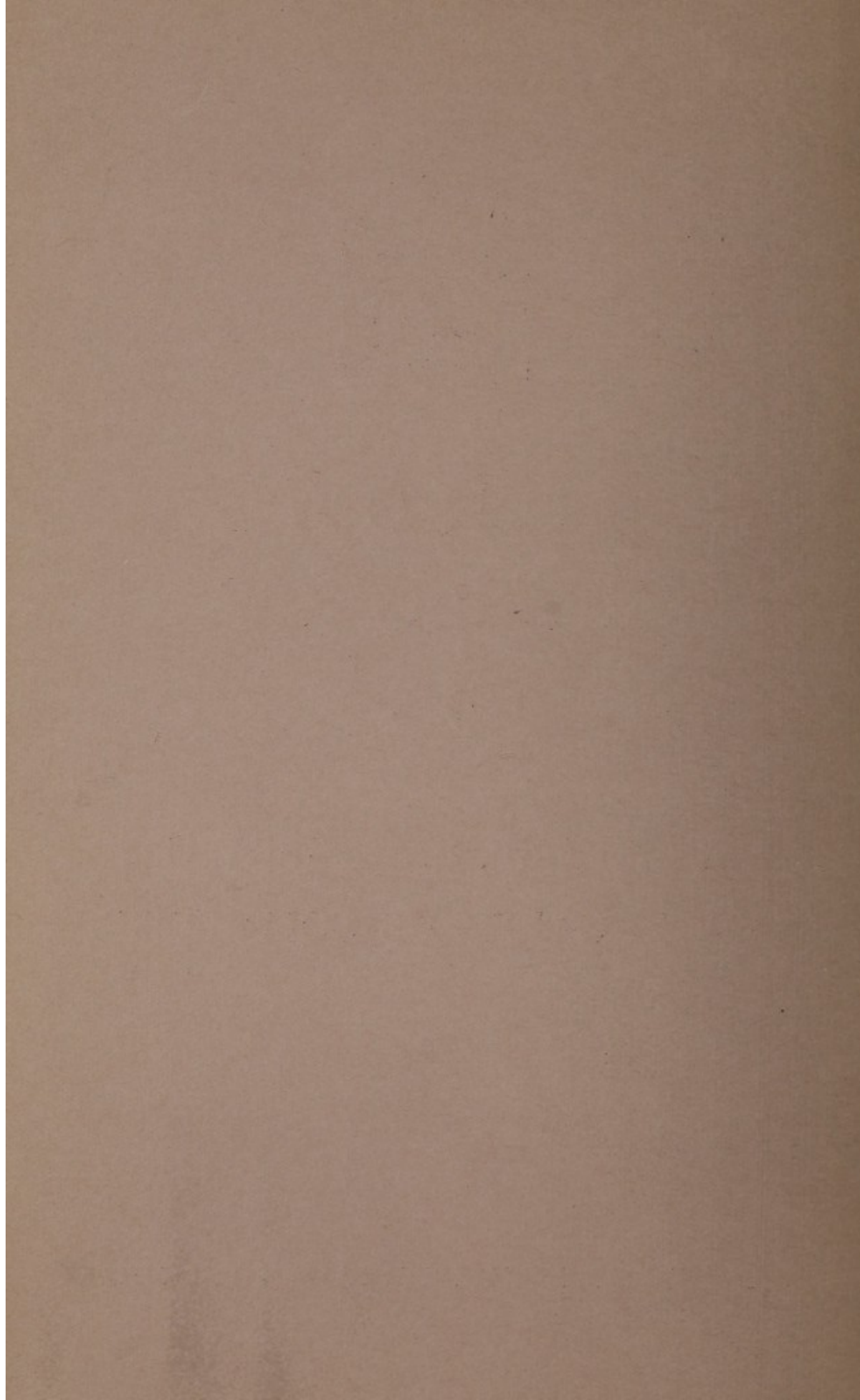
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ANNUAL
REPORT
1957

OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES
AFTER-CARE SUB-COMMITTEE

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE
**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE
 SUB-COMMITTEE, FOR THE YEAR 1957**

MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE
 SUB-COMMITTEE

<p>COUNCILLOR MRS. F. M. SMALLWOOD (Chairman)</p> <p>COUNCILLOR H. BENTLEY <i>(Member of Education Committee).</i></p> <p>COUNCILLOR MRS. H. L. RADFORD, <i>(Member of Education Committee and Health (Mental Health Sub) Committee).</i></p> <p>MISS J. DAVID, <i>(Member of Education Committee).</i></p> <p>MRS. P. H. JONES, <i>(Member of Education Committee).</i></p>	<p>MISS D. E. NEWMAN.</p> <p>MR. S. S. ALDERSON</p> <p>MISS F. A. BARLOW.</p> <p>MR. B. C. BUCKLEY.</p> <p>MISS D. M. EDWARDS.</p> <p>MR. G. W. EVANS.</p> <p>MR. G. H. MEEK.</p> <p>MISS B. M. SMITH.</p> <p>Mr. A. E. TANSLEY, B.Sc., M.Ed.</p> <p>MISS G. L. VAUGHAN.</p>
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AFTER-CARE STAFF

<i>After-Care Officer</i>			MRS. J. M. FULFORD, B.A.
<i>After-Care Visitors</i>			MRS. H. K. FINCH. MISS S. D. BIBBY, M.A. MRS. K. WILLIAMS. MISS L. SMITH. MISS J. GOODWIN, B.Com. (until 31.8.57.) MISS B. LAIGHT, B.Com. (from 23.9.57.)

OCCUPATION CENTRES

<i>Supervisor, Erdington</i>			MISS W. M. LUCK.
„ <i>Glebe Farm</i>			MISS M. L. BEINDER.
„ <i>Kingstanding</i>			MISS O. M. WOOLLEY.
„ <i>St. Oswald's</i>			MISS E. LAMB.
„ <i>St. Paul's</i>			MRS. F. E. HOWELL.
„ <i>Weoley Castle</i>			MRS. M. HILL.
„ <i>Wretham Road</i>			MRS. E. A. COOKSEY.

INDUSTRIAL CENTRES FOR SENIOR BOYS

<i>Supervisor, Bell Barn</i>			MR. R. C. SLACK.
„ <i>Moseley Road</i>			MR. J. E. LAMB.

CENTRE FOR SENIOR GIRLS

<i>Supervisor, Bell Barn</i>			MRS. M. B. BUSBY. <i>(Ellis Street until September, 1957)</i>
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957

INTRODUCTION

The Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee of the City Education Committee have pleasure in presenting their fifty-seventh annual report.

The Sub-Committee's responsibility falls into three parts. The first of these is the training at junior and senior centres (or through visiting home teachers) of those who, as children, have been found incapable of receiving education in school; they are also supervised, in their homes, by After-Care Visitors. The second is for young people who, on leaving special schools for the educationally subnormal, have been reported to the local health authority as in need of supervision. The third is for those ex-pupils of special schools for whom such statutory supervision has not been prescribed; they are visited on a quite voluntary basis during their first few years after leaving school. The care and training of the first two groups is the statutory duty of the City Health Committee; for many years in Birmingham the Education Committee have carried out these functions as the agents of the Health Committee.

GENERAL

Unfortunately the financial stringency of 1956 continued into 1957 and, partly for this reason, it has not been possible to provide the new occupation centre which had been hoped for. However, a few more places in occupation centres have been made available and the appointment of a fourth home teacher of the mentally handicapped has made it possible for more children to be taught once a week in their homes.

The employment situation has been a little easier than in 1956, but it is still difficult for the committee's officers to find work for any older man or woman who becomes unemployed after some years in one job.

VISITING

New cases during 1957 numbered 255. The total number under supervision during the year was 3,150. These figures are analysed in Table I. Among those shown as at home and not gainfully employed a high proportion are housewives and many others, especially the women, although not capable of competitive employment are able and useful in their homes. Supplementary tables III—V give details of those discharged from supervision, those who died, and those who have been admitted to mental deficiency hospitals.

During the year a measure of re-organisation has been agreed upon by the Health and Education Committees. Hitherto there has been no upper age limit for after-care. It has now been decided that after-care as carried out by the Visitors of the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Education Committee shall be regarded as a service given to those still in their formative years to enable them to reach a greater degree of independence.

The arrangements for those under statutory supervision are now as follows. Boys and girls under 18 are supervised by the Visitors of the After-Care Sub-Committee. Between the ages of 18 and 21, if the Case Sub-Committee come to the conclusion that they will need supervision indefinitely, they may be transferred to the supervision of officers of the Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee. At the age of 21 such transfer is automatic for all those who are not able to be discharged from statutory supervision.

Those under voluntary supervision remain the responsibility of the After-Care Sub-Committee; in general it is of course possible to discharge them at a rather earlier age than those who require statutory supervision.

This reorganisation will take some months to effect but a number of older cases were transferred to the supervision of the officers of the Mental Health Sub-Committee before the end of 1957.

Reports for earlier years have referred to the very heavy case-loads of After-Care Visitors. This reorganisation will lighten their loads and enable Visitors to concentrate on the younger people to whom in general they have most to offer, and to make more frequent contacts with them.

EMPLOYMENT

Of the men and boys under supervision in 1957, 66 per cent were gainfully employed; of the women and girls, 43 per cent. This is a slight improvement on the figures for 1956, 63 per cent and 42 per cent respectively. Table VI shows their jobs by categories. The designation "Porters, labourers and odd jobs" includes unskilled workers in factories; "Factory work" denotes those engaged in semi-skilled operations

CASES DISCHARGED FROM SUPERVISION

While the value of this work lies largely in the support given to those—and their families—from whom no great improvement is to be expected, it is encouraging to consider some examples of those who did achieve sufficient independence and stability to be discharged from supervision. The greatest improvement is to be found before the age of 20 or 21 but development may continue well after that age and the following examples are taken from those who were judged ready for discharge between the ages of 20 and 30.

"A" (aged 23, under voluntary supervision) came from a family of ten children and a very poor home. He worked steadily and then served in the army for two years; he is now driving a van. He is married and his wife is a good partner; they have three children. The family live in a poor area but the house is very well kept.

- “B” (25 years, under statutory supervision) lives with his father and grandmother as his mother deserted the family. He has worked at the same firm of shoe repairers for nine years and is now a relief manager. He has not married. His appearance and bearing have much improved over the last few years.
- “C” (aged 21, under statutory supervision) was the youngest of thirteen children. Her father died when she was two and her mother when she was fifteen years old. Three other members of the family have been under supervision. In spite of home difficulties she kept in employment and maintained high standards. She has now been married for three years. She and her husband have their own small house. They have two children, a boy and a girl, and both are cared for well.
- “D” (aged 24, under voluntary supervision) has worked at a firm of bakers and confectioners since she left school. She is now in charge of a number of other girls in the cream department. She is engaged to be married and hopes to emigrate to New Zealand.
- “E” (aged 30, under statutory supervision) was excluded from school and lived with his widowed mother. He has a partially paralysed hand and used to have severe epileptic fits. He was at home for ten years and then started work as a gardener; he has been in the same post for eight years. He does not have fits now; he seems sensible and capable and his appearance is improved.
- “F” (aged 25, under statutory supervision) was excluded from a school for partially sighted children. She has lost the sight of one eye and has only poor vision in the other. She has managed to keep a job as a non-resident domestic worker in a nurses’ home at a hospital. Her family give her good support. Her understanding is limited but she seems to manage well in her own small sphere.

OCCUPATION CENTRES

In September 1957 the Senior Girls’ Centre was moved from the Cotton Youth Institute to the ground floor of the Bell Barn Centre in Bristol Street. The building, and in particular the hall, is now shared with a Senior Boys’ Centre. This arrangement, though an improvement, is regarded as a temporary expedient only. Premises for the boys’ centre are being sought in North Birmingham. If they can be found then there will be a senior boys’ centre in each half of the city and there will be more room for senior girls at Bell Barn. There have been no changes in the accommodation for junior centres in 1957.

At the end of 1957 there were 393 places in senior and junior centres together. There are still long waiting lists for both and it is a matter for regret that the provision of a new building has again had to be deferred.

In the hired premises used for most centres it has only been possible to grade children, for separate training according to their ability, to a rather limited extent. In order to relieve their parents it is necessary to admit a number of children who are virtually untrainable and this means that less time can be given to those who would derive greater benefit from training. It would be easier to strike this difficult balance if the two types could be more effectively grouped.

In the junior centres the activities include some physical training, elementary speech training and word recognition, painting and drawing and many varied types of handwork graded according to the child's ability. Sense training apparatus is used extensively. Music and movement, simple dancing, and musical games play an important part in the training of the children, most of whom respond well to rhythmic activity. Children of subnormal intelligence are unable to maintain their interests for long in any one activity and for this reason only short periods are spent by each group on one subject. In all that they do the occupation centre staff have sought to inculcate good habits and manners and a simple sense of community.

In the senior boys' centres more time has been spent on handicrafts: woodwork, leather work, rug making, cane work, boot repairing and simple modelling in clay. In both centres time is set aside for physical activities and a number of boys attend each week for gardening instruction.

In the senior girls' centre the staff have been able, among the other activities, to give simple domestic training to girls able to benefit from it. The Bell Barn centre has a large kitchen and simple laundry work can be done. Some of the girls have produced excellent handwork and plain sewing and a number have made garments for their own use. Classes in music, musical games, singing and dancing are generally enjoyed.

During the year a number of the centres held open days to which members of the sub-committee, staff, and parents were invited to see some of the training activities and to look at completed handwork. The usual outings to the seaside and the country were held in the summer term and there were Christmas parties and visits to a pantomime and to a circus in the winter.

Two parties of children from junior occupation centres and one party of senior boys spent a week's holiday at Windmill House, Weather-oak. A fourth party had to be cancelled because of the influenza epidemic, but arrangements were made for this group to go to Windmill House for a few days in March, 1958.

TRAINING AT HOME

Home teaching or training for one hour each week has been provided in 59 cases. These children and young people are either severely handicapped physically so that it is difficult or impossible for them to attend a centre or are awaiting places at centres. A fourth home teacher was appointed in 1957 to enable more children to be visited than in previous years.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

During the year the chairman and officers of the After-Care Sub-Committee attended conferences organised in London and in Manchester by the National Association for Mental Health. The Manchester conference, which was addressed by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, considered the report of the Royal Commission and the increased responsibility which local authorities may be asked to bear for the care, in the community, of mentally handicapped people.

CONCLUSION

The Sub-Committee would wish once again to thank the many friends in the City who make the work of the After-Care Staff and Supervisors easier. Colleagues in other departments of the corporation have been most helpful and gifts of money, clothes and equipment have been received from the National Association for Mentally Handicapped Children, from the W.V.S. and from anonymous persons.

TABLE II
SUMMARY OF CASES REMOVED FROM VISITING LIST IN 1957

	G		H		J		K		L		M		N		P		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total, categories G—N
1. Reported (on leaving school) during 1957 for :																	
(1) Vol. Supervn.	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(2) Stat. Supervn.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
2. Reported (on leaving school) before 1957 :																	
(1) Vol. Supervn.	—	8	7	3	62	52	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	70
(2) Stat. Supervn.	13	—	5	3	97	79	4	—	3	3	2	7	—	—	—	—	124
3. Excluded from school during 1957	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
4. Excluded from school before 1957	28	19	—	1	12	17	21	22	10	11	5	2	1	—	—	—	77
5. Totals, 1957	45	33	14	7	171	148	25	26	15	16	7	10	1	—	—	—	278
6. Totals, 1956	39	29	13	8	149	102	—	—	9	7	5	8	—	—	—	—	215
																	154
																	369

TABLE III

(See Table II, Columns "J" and "N")

CASES DISCHARGED IN 1957 AS NOT NEEDING FURTHER SUPERVISION

Age	Stat. Cases		Vol. Cases		Excluded Cases		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
21 years or less	11	13	21	19	1	1	33	33
22—26 years	54	38	34	24	3	4	91	66
27—35 years	24	20	5	6	4	8	33	34
Over 35 years	9	8	2	3	4	4	15	15
TOTAL	98	79	62	52	12	17	172	148

TABLE IV

(See Table II, Column "L")

DECEASED IN 1957

Age Groups	Statutory		Voluntary		Excluded	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 16 years	—	—	—	—	5	7
17—21 years	—	—	1	—	1	—
22—30 years	1	2	1	1	2	2
30—50 years	1	1	—	—	3	1
Over 50 years	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	2	4	2	1	11	11

The causes of death were as follows :—

4 epilepsy	1 tuberculosis
5 pneumonia	1 anaemia
6 physical deterioration	1 enteritis
4 heart disease	1 dropsy and heart failure
1 cerebral disease	1 killed in road accident
2 carcinoma of lung	1 drowned in an accident
1 carcinoma	1 bronchitis and heart failure
1 tubercular meningitis	

TABLE V

(See Table II, Column " G ")

CASES ADMITTED TO MENTAL DEFICIENCY HOSPITALS IN 1957

There were 78 admitted to hospital from those under supervision. They were admitted for the following reasons :—

Beyond the control of parents	.....	.....	.....	29
Inadequate care and supervision	.....	.....	.....	2
Deterioration in behaviour	.....	.....	.....	5
Deterioration in physical and mental condition	.....	.....	.....	4
Neglected at home	.....	.....	.....	2
In need of care and training	.....	.....	.....	16
Following death of one or both parents	.....	.....	.....	3
Transferred from Children's Homes	.....	.....	.....	2
Criminal charge	.....	.....	.....	4
Unemployable—sexual tendencies	.....	.....	.....	1
Admitted from General Hospital	.....	.....	.....	1
Following illness of parents	.....	.....	.....	7
Very poor home conditions	.....	.....	.....	1
No home in the community	.....	.....	.....	1
				—
				78
				—
				TOTAL
			
				78
				—

TABLE VI

TYPE OF WORK FOLLOWED BY THOSE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED

Type of Work	Under Voluntary Supervision after leaving school		Under Statutory Supervision after leaving school		Under Statutory Supervision after having been excluded from school		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Assembling and Packing	28	35	18	36	4	2	50	73
Bakeries, Breweries and Food Manufacture	12	30	35	33	3	7	50	70
Boot Repairing	25	—	14	1	—	—	39	1
Building and Decorating	38	—	78	—	7	—	123	—
Cinema and Entertainments	3	3	9	5	—	—	12	8
Clerical Work	2	3	—	2	—	—	2	5
Delivery and Sales	39	7	54	8	7	—	100	15
Factory Work	170	80	204	132	45	15	419	227
Farming and Gardening	7	—	4	—	3	—	14	—
Hotel, Cafe and Canteen Work	2	6	2	—	—	3	4	9
Domestic work, Sewing	—	19	2	32	4	12	6	63
Public Services, Gas, Electricity, Transport, etc.	7	—	43	2	18	1	68	3
Laundry	1	6	—	11	—	4	1	21
Outwork, Remploy	—	2	2	3	2	—	4	5
Warehouse	13	6	13	5	—	—	26	11
Woodwork	25	—	16	—	6	—	47	—
Window Cleaning	2	—	4	—	—	—	6	—
Porters, Labourers and Odd Jobs	45	4	68	7	35	2	148	13
Maintenance	15	—	14	—	2	—	31	—
Miscellaneous	27	17	23	17	4	2	54	36
TOTALS	461	218	603	294	140	48	1204	560



