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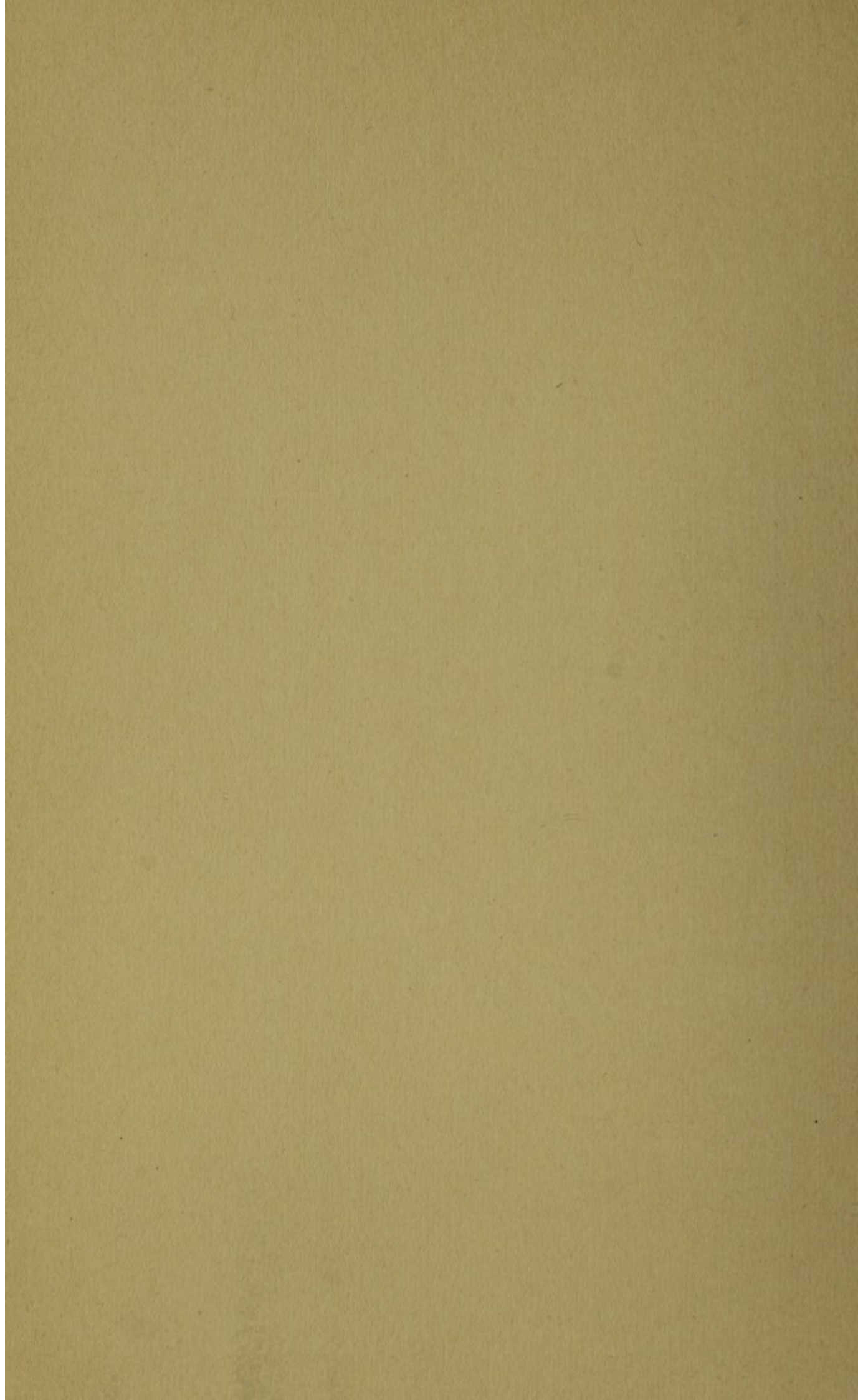
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ANNUAL
REPORT
1958

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 1958

E. L. RUSSELL, *Chief Education Officer*

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE
SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1958**

MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE
SUB-COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR MRS. F. M.
SMALLWOOD (Chairman)

COUNCILLOR MRS. A. M. JOHNSON,
(Member of Education Committee).

COUNCILLOR MRS. H. L. RADFORD,
(Member of Education Committee
and Health (Mental Health Sub)
Committee).

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

MRS. P. H. JONES,
(Member of Education Committee).

MISS D. E. NEWMAN.

MR. S. S. ALDERSON

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MR. B. C. BUCKLEY.

MISS D. M. EDWARDS.

MR. G. W. EVANS.

MR. G. H. MEEK.

MISS B. M. SMITH.

MR. A. E. TANSLEY, B.Sc., M.Ed.

MISS G. L. VAUGHAN.

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.
		MRS. B. PRYCE, B.Com., (née Laight).

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.
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1958

INTRODUCTION

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

The Sub-Committee continued to be responsible for helping three groups of children and young people. The first group consists of children and adolescents who have been found incapable of benefiting from education in school. These children are visited in their homes, and, in suitable cases, training is provided for them in junior and senior occupation centres or, alternatively, by a visiting occupational teacher. The second group comprises those boys and girls who, having attended schools for the educationally subnormal (and in a few cases other special schools) have been reported to the local health authority as in need of further care and supervision. The third group consists of leavers from special schools who have not been reported for supervision by the local health authority, but who are visited on a voluntary basis for their first few years in the community. In Birmingham the care and training of the first two groups is carried out by the Education Committee as agents of the Health Committee.

GENERAL

During 1958 the work of the Committee's staff continued steadily although again it was not found possible to expand the facilities for training in the city. The finding of employment for those visited was still a problem, and, with the larger numbers leaving ordinary schools and a more difficult employment situation, it was increasingly difficult to place leavers from special schools.

VISITING

There were 264 new cases during 1958. The total number under supervision during the year was 2,229.

Until last year there was no upper age limit for cases under the supervision of the After-Care Sub-Committee but, as the report for 1957 records, twenty-one has been accepted as the upper age limit. Cases are reviewed between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one, and, if the Case Sub-Committee come to the conclusion that they will need super-

vision indefinitely, they are then transferred to the direct supervision of the Health Committee ; any who are not suitable for discharge at the age of twenty-one are automatically so transferred.

During 1958 a large number of older cases have been brought under review, some have been discharged (Table III) and others transferred to the direct supervision of the Health Committee (Table II.K.).

This process has of course reduced the total case load, and After-Care Visitors have found it possible to make some progress towards the goal of more frequent visits and closer personal contact with those in the younger age groups.

The review of cases over twenty-one was not completed during the year but should be completed during the following year.

The visitors are able to help and advise in many different ways when home visiting. Thus, parents of young defective children not attending school may wish to be put into touch with one of the existing welfare agencies in the city. Sometimes some special need, for example a garden or yard for play for a very restless child, may be brought to the housing management department's notice. An appointment at the Dental Hospital may be made for a child too difficult to take to the family dentist. Even if the visitor is unable to solve a problem, mothers of these children are often grateful for the opportunity of discussing their children with a sympathetic listener.

In their early contact with the school leavers the visitors may be able to help them in adjusting to the change from life in school to work in a competitive world. Suitable employment may be found, in co-operation with the Youth Employment Service, and advice given about "signing on" when out of work and applying for benefit. Many of these young people are shy and do not make friends easily. In such cases they are encouraged to join youth clubs or to attend informal evening classes. A number of boys and girls leave school only partially able to read and write, and, at that stage, feel the need of it more urgently ; special evening classes are held in certain schools, and the visitors will encourage suitable young people to attend.

Difficult personal relationships may arise at home, at work or among their companions. These may be sorted out by the visitor, or may seem less important after a friendly discussion. The visitor's aim during the first few months is to establish a good relationship with the child or young person and the parents. With a heavy case load it is impossible for visits to be made as frequently as is desirable, but if confidence in the visitor is established from the beginning a message is often sent requesting a special visit, or a member of the family may call at the office. It happens that a young person who has been discharged from supervision will call to see the visitor they know about a difficulty that has arisen since visiting ceased.

EMPLOYMENT

Of the men and boys under supervision in 1958 63% were gainfully employed ; of the women and girls 47%. In 1957 the comparable figures were 66% of the men and 43% of the women. The lower percentage for the men is to be expected and shows that the number of men in employment who were fit for discharge was rather greater than the number of unemployable men who were transferred to the direct supervision of the Health Committee (See Table II Sections J.K.).

CASES DISCHARGED FROM SUPERVISION

The following are examples of some of the young people who were considered fit for discharge during the year.

" A " (a man of twenty-five) attended a day special school and then a residential school for two years following an appearance before the Juvenile Court for stealing. For a time after leaving school he changed his jobs rather frequently and was very troublesome at home with fits of violent temper. There was little parental control. Before discharge however he had worked as a sprayer at a firm of electrical appliance manufacturers for over 3 years. He was married and living in a furnished bed-sitting room. His wife was also at work and they were saving up to buy their own home. His appearance and bearing were much improved.

" B " (a man of twenty-one) attended a day special school. When he was first visited he was very limited in ability, had practically nothing to say and would make no effort to improve. He remained in one job but was unsettled, and in consequence behaved badly at home being truculent and ill-tempered. His parents understood him and helped him within their powers. Before discharge he had been working as an assistant caretaker in a school for 4 years. He liked this work and the caretaker. He was improved in appearance, dressed well, had acquired a number of men friends, and his ability in conversation and his social aptitude had developed considerably.

" C " (a man of twenty-eight) attended a school for deaf children. After leaving school he remained at home and was useful to his invalid parents. They died ten years ago ; he then lived with his married sister and her husband and family. During this period he attended an industrial centre. At the age of twenty-five he was placed in employment with a firm of wholesale tobacconists, but could not manage the work and was only kept for 3 weeks. He was disheartened by this experience and neither he nor his sister were willing to try other work for some time. When he was twenty-seven employment was found for him in a butcher's shop with a sympathetic employer and he has settled down there very well. This man was transferred by the Case Committee to the Health Committee for a few more visits as he had only worked for a short time but has since been discharged.

" D " (a girl of twenty) was the youngest of a very large family. Her father had died while she was at a day special school and her mother re-married. She worked as a "viewer" in the Post Office Factories

Department and attended a day continuation school and evening classes. Her interests outside work included dancing and horse-riding. This girl appeared to have made up for her time lost as a child and to be well settled in adult life.

"E" (a girl of twenty) attended a day special school. Her home was very poor, dirty and bare. Her father was elderly and nearly blind, and her mother a woman of very limited intelligence. The girl was, at first, rather over-confident in her ability to cope with any difficulties. She worked on a hand press at two different firms until her marriage at eighteen years. She and her husband remained with her family until they were allocated a City Housing Department flat in 1958. She now has two children—both boys. Her husband is a "rough and ready" type but is friendly and co-operative. The children are well cared for and the girl has improved considerably in appearance and ability since she had her own home.

"F" (a girl of twenty) was excluded from attendance at school at the age of eleven and attended an occupation centre for 2 years. At sixteen she started work in the warehouse of a firm of glass manufacturers and she was there for 4 years. Her home had been a very poor one but had improved during this period. She married in 1957 and still lives, with her husband, at her widowed mother's house. She seemed happy and settled before discharge.

OCCUPATION CENTRES

During 1958 the committee maintained their seven junior centres, two industrial centres for senior boys and men and one for senior girls, in their existing premises. These continued to be staffed by the supervisors whose names appear on page 1, with 14 assistant supervisors, 9 welfare attendants and 10 meals attendants. Some of the older boys and girls are able to travel to the centre by themselves. Most of the children are accompanied by guides who collect them from their parents at different points in the city and take them on the 'buses to the centres. Some sixty guides were employed for this purpose. As in previous years a taxi service was provided for those too physically handicapped to travel on 'buses. By the end of the year a scheme for the provision of a new junior centre in Fox Hollies Road had been approved and premises had been found, in Aldridge Road, for adaptation to provide an Industrial Centre for boys and men.

At the end of 1958 there were 409 places in senior and junior centres together. The slight increase in numbers was made possible by the appointment of a second assistant supervisor at the senior girls' centre. A number of girls now attend every day, the remainder attend on two or three days a week. Unfortunately there are still waiting lists both for the senior centres and for most of the junior centres.

At the senior girls' centre the large kitchen was equipped during 1958 to make possible simple cookery lessons for some of those attending. This was a new venture and proved very popular. Some laundry work was also done by a few girls at a time. In addition to handwork, em-

broidery and plain sewing, selected girls were able to use a sewing machine. Sessions of singing, country dancing and old-time dancing were held, with games and other physical activities. Speech training and word recognition are given to girls able to benefit.

A fairly wide range of handicrafts were taught at both the senior boys' centres, although scope was restricted by the lack of storage space for equipment and materials, and the necessity in one of the centres to pack away the work each afternoon. The boys were instructed in rug-making, carpentry, leatherwork, cane work, plaster modelling, simple pottery and boot repairing. A few of those attending are not capable of training in these crafts; they are occupied with papier mache work or elementary handwork such as paper craft or simple needlework. The daily or weekly programme includes physical activities, games, music and gardening.

In the junior centres the staff try, with the different types of activity, to cultivate a sense of independence in the children. The younger boys and girls are encouraged to wash themselves; to find their own outdoor clothes and shoes; to tie their shoelaces and the like. To achieve such results may take many weeks of patience. The importance of resisting the temptation to offer unnecessary help to the slower and less able children is fully understood by the staff, though not, alas, by all parents. The path leading away from helplessness can only be trod by the child; the sense of achievement afforded by ability to manage things which seem trivial to a normal person may lead on to further successes. With the same object in view even the younger children take it in turns to serve the others at dinner time, to help in collecting up plates and cutlery, and generally to be useful and co-operative in helping in the centres.

Classes are taken for short periods in elementary speech training, word recognition, singing, dancing, percussion band and physical education sometimes to music. Sense training apparatus is used, as it is with nursery school children, to help the boys and girls to develop better manipulative skill and better muscular co-ordination. Carefully graded handwork is taught to the children with a similar aim and also to give them confidence and the satisfaction of making something of their own—however simple.

Open days were held at some of the centres during the year to which parents and other interested people were invited. They were able to watch some of the activities usually included in the centre sessions and to look at completed handwork. Before Christmas parties were held in all the centres and some centres arranged visits to a circus or a pantomime. In the summer term one-day outings were made to the seaside or to the country by children and parents, staff and guides.

As in former years three parties from junior centres and two from senior boys' centres spent a week's holiday at Windmill House, Weather-oak. As a new venture in 1958 a small party of senior girls from the Bell Barn Centre stayed at a boarding house in Rhyl for a week in May. Expenses for this holiday were paid partly by the parents and partly by the Health Committee.

TRAINING AT HOME

Four occupational home teachers are now employed by the Committee and some 55 children and young people were visited each week by one of them. Some of the children are too physically handicapped to go to a centre even by taxi ; some are awaiting places ; and the parents of a few children are at present unwilling to let them attend a centre.

OCCUPATION CENTRE STAFF

From 1956 until 1958 an in-service course leading to the diploma awarded by the National Association for Mental Health was held in Birmingham. This course was designed to meet the need for training among staffs of occupation centres and mental deficiency hospitals in the West Midlands who were not able to take full-time training.

Six members of the committee's occupation centre staff enrolled for this course. Unfortunately two were unable to continue owing to ill-health. The remaining four students (one supervisor and three assistant supervisors) were successful in obtaining their diplomas.

CONCLUSION

As in other years the Sub-Committee's staff both in the After-Care section and the occupation centres have been helped considerably in their work by ready co-operation of officers in other departments of the corporation, and of workers in voluntary associations. Many of the younger children received beautiful toys and presents from the Friends of the Children at Christmas : generous gifts have been made to the centres by the National Association for Mentally Handicapped Children : many of the centre children enjoyed a day's outing provided by the Pearson Fresh Air Fund ; and the Women's Voluntary Services have helped many families with clothing. The Sub-Committee would wish, once more, to thank all these and many other friends who have not been mentioned.

TABLE I
SUMMARY OF CASES ON VISITING LIST DURING 1958

	A		B		C		D		E		F		
	At home and gainfully employed		At home and not gainfully employed		In H.M. Forces		In Homes and Hospitals		In Prison, Borstal or Approved School		M.	F.	Total, categories A—E
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M. and F.
1. Reported (on leaving school) during 1958 for : (1) Vol. Supervision (2) Stat. Supervision	95 17	63 7	15 8	3 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	110 25	66 9	176 34
2. Reported (on leaving school) before 1958 for : (1) Voluntary Supervision (2) Statutory Supervision	347 336	145 165	23 35	62 83	14 —	— —	6 12	3 12	19 7	2 —	409 390	212 260	621 650
3. Excluded from school during 1958	—	—	27	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	27	54
4. Excluded from school before 1958	48	12	341	260	—	—	18	14	1	—	408	286	694
5. Totals, 1958	843	392	449	437	14	—	36	29	27	2	1369	860	2229
6. Totals, 1957	1204	560	553	730	17	—	32	33	20	1	1826	1324	3150

TABLE II
SUMMARY OF CASES REMOVED FROM VISITING LIST IN 1958

	G		H		J		K		L		M		N		P		
	Admitted to Mental Deficiency Hospitals		Further Contact if possible		Discharged by Case Committee		Transferred to supervn. by Health Committee		Died		Referred to other Local Authorities		Discharged under Education (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1948		Total, categories G-N		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. Reported (on leaving school) during 1958 for :																	
(1) Vol. Supervn.	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
(2) Stat. Supervn.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	4	1	5
2. Reported (on leaving school) before 1958 for :																	
(1) Vol. Supervn.	1	—	4	5	104	91	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	109	98	207
(2) Stat. Supervn.	8	8	4	5	254	189	66	50	1	1	2	—	—	—	335	253	588
3. Excluded from school during 1958	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	11
4. Excluded from school before 1958	14	25	1	2	50	25	114	144	6	7	3	3	—	—	188	208	396
5. Totals, 1958	32	38	10	12	408	305	180	194	8	10	5	4	—	—	643	565	1208
6. Totals, 1957	45	33	14	7	171	148	25	26	15	16	7	10	1	—	278	240	518

TABLE III

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

CASES DISCHARGED IN 1958 AS NOT NEEDING FURTHER SUPERVISION

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Stat. Cases</i>		<i>Vol. Cases</i>		<i>Excluded Cases</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
21 years or less	43	47	47	32	1	4	91	83
22—26 years	159	75	45	27	18	11	222	113
27—35 years	34	38	7	17	17	4	58	59
Over 35 years	18	29	5	15	14	8	37	52
TOTAL	254	189	104	91	50	27	408	307

TABLE IV

(See Table II, Column "L")

DECEASED IN 1958

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Statutory</i>		<i>Voluntary</i>		<i>Excluded</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Under 16 years	2	—	—	—	4	4
17—21 years	—	1	2	—	1	2
22—30 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
30—50 years	—	—	—	—	1	1
Over 50 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	1	2	—	6	7

The causes of death were as follows :—

3 general physical deterioration	1 carcinoma
1 general physical deterioration and epilepsy	4 bronchial pneumonia
1 following intense epileptic fits	1 pneumonia and cerebral haemorrhage
1 paralytic condition following fits	1 heart disease
1 meningitis	1 heart disease and puerperal fever
1 peritonitis	2 road accidents

TABLE V

(See Table II, Column " G ")

CASES ADMITTED TO MENTAL DEFICIENCY HOSPITALS IN 1958

There were 70 children and young people admitted from those under supervision. They were admitted for the following reasons :—

Beyond control of parents	.....	20
Deterioration in physical and mental condition.....		8
Relatives unable to give adequate care	.....	26
In need of care and training	.....	7
Following a criminal charge	.....	3
Deterioration in behaviour	.....	4
Transferred from Children's Home	.....	2
		<hr/>
		70
		<hr/>

TABLE VI
TYPE OF WORK FOLLOWED BY THOSE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED

<i>Type of Work</i>	<i>Under Voluntary Supervision after leaving school</i>		<i>Under Statutory Supervision after leaving school</i>		<i>Under Statutory Supervision after having been excluded from school</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Assembling and Packing	28	46	16	38	5	1	49	85
Bakeries, Breweries and Food Manufacture	22	31	6	27	3	—	31	58
Boot Repairing	23	—	6	—	1	—	30	—
Building and Decorating	26	—	38	—	3	—	67	—
Cinema and Entertainments	4	4	7	3	—	—	11	7
Clerical Work	2	1	—	2	—	—	2	3
Delivery and Sales	30	3	40	—	1	—	71	3
Factory Work	137	59	110	54	9	3	256	116
Farming and Gardening	9	1	6	—	1	—	16	1
Hotel, Cafe and Canteen Work	5	11	1	9	—	2	6	22
Domestic work, Sewing	1	13	2	15	—	1	3	29
Public Services, Gas, Electricity, Transport, Salvage, etc.	8	—	21	2	6	—	35	2
Laundry	1	6	1	4	—	2	2	12
Outwork—Remploy	1	1	2	2	—	—	3	3
Warehouse	20	4	11	2	1	1	32	7
Woodwork	23	1	12	—	1	—	36	1
Window Cleaning	2	—	3	—	—	—	5	—
Porters, Labourers and Odd Jobs	58	5	49	4	16	1	123	10
Maintenance	21	—	11	—	1	—	33	—
Miscellaneous	21	22	11	10	—	1	32	33
TOTALS	442	208	353	172	48	12	843	392

TABLE VI
TYPE OF WORK FOLLOWED BY THOSE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED

Type of Work	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Manufacturing	22	22	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Transportation	21	21	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Wholesale and Retail Trade	20	20	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	19	19	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Food and Kindred Products	18	18	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Health and Welfare	17	17	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Education and Culture	16	16	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Government	15	15	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Arts, Sciences, and Professions	14	14	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Service	13	13	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Unemployed	12	12	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Retired	11	11	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Other	10	10	—	11	11	—	1	—	—
Total	200	200	—	172	172	—	48	—	—

