

1878.
—
VICTORIA.

INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY
SCHOOLS.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1 8 7 7.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO "THE NEGLECTED AND
CRIMINAL CHILDREN'S ACT 1864," 27 VICT. No. 216.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 48.

REPORT.

Industrial and Reformatory Schools Department,
Melbourne, 17th May 1878.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit for your information the usual tabulated statements, showing the results of the various operations in the Industrial and Reformatory Schools Department for the year 1877.

The number of admissions during the year was 926. 568 of these were new committals. The number discharged was 916, leaving a net increase of 10 children maintained by the State, including the inmates of the various Institutions as well as the children boarded with foster-parents under the care of the Ladies' Committees.

The number of children sent to service was 296, nearly 100 less than were so disposed of in 1876.

The deaths in the Schools were 25, slightly over 2 per cent. of the daily average strength.

The educational return shows that, despite the disturbing elements affecting these institutions, steady progress has been made in the instruction of the children.

The value of the work performed by the inmates is decreasing correspondingly with the reduction in the number of children available for such work.

The cost per head has increased a little in all the institutions in which industries are taught, caused principally by a decrease in the numbers.

As the statistics of the Department set forth in the various returns clearly show the results of the year's operations, I will address myself to the consideration of some of the erroneous views on the working of the Department, which have been formed, either upon insufficient information or as the result of impressions based upon conclusions too hastily arrived at.

With reference to the education imparted to the children, religious, moral, and industrial, I am afraid that some of the specially unfavorable circumstances under which these institutions are placed have not been taken into consideration before opinions have been formed. If the children had entered the Schools though backward in their learning yet in fair health, the Department might have been blamed if their progress had not placed them nearly on a par with the children attending the State Schools of the colony; but it must be borne in mind that the majority of the children received are such as from the force of circumstances have previously been evading the operation of the Education Act, either wholly or to a very great extent. Many are either mentally or physically unequal to school work. In the Orphanages and other similar institutions to which these Schools have been compared, the health and circumstances of the children are to some extent considered before they are admitted, but no such limitations are allowed to operate so far as the Industrial Schools are concerned. When children under mandate are presented at their doors, whatever their condition, mental or physical, may be—whether the children are imbecile, blind, deaf, afflicted with eye or skin disease, feeble in constitution, as the result of want and neglect or as the heritage of sin, they must be received, frequently bringing employes face to face with duties of a repulsive and even dangerous character, duties which it must be said to their credit are discharged with much kindness and humanity, while unjust blame is more often their reward than that consideration to which a proper discharge of such duties entitle them.

The teachers do what they can for the children under their instruction, but it is up-hill work to get satisfactory results out of the material on which they have to operate, and in face of the difficulties to which I have referred. The figures given in the following table will show the very backward state on admission of many of the children, and when it is remembered that the younger children are, unless physically or mentally incapable, boarded out soon after admission, and that the teachers are left consequently with the elder and ill-taught, as well as the sickly and incapable

children, it will be understood that they have difficulties to overcome which do not fall to the lot of State School teachers.

Standard by Education Department.		Educational Status of Children admitted to Industrial and Reformatory Schools during 1877.									
Class.	Ages.	Royal Park.		Sunbury.		Sandhurst.		Boys' Reformatory.		Girls' Reformatory.	
		No. received.	Average Ages.	No. received.	Average Ages.	No. received.	Average Ages.	No. received.	Average Ages.	No. received.	Average Ages.
1	Under 9	*125	5·6	95	9·2	38	6·764	24	11·6	15	13·9
2	" 9	23	10·9	29	11·4	4	8·75	26	12·11	9	14·2
3	" 10·3	7	13·6	12	12·3	3	11	20	13·8	2	14·5
4	" 11·6	2	13	1	14·1	...	...	8	13·1	1	15
5	" 13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Of these 45 were under 4 years of age, 35 from 4 to 6, 14 between 6 and 7, 6 between 7 and 8, 12 between 8 and 9, and 13 between 9 and 14 years of age.

In connection with this part of the subject, I propose noticing some of the statements made by Professor Pearson in that portion of his Report which has reference to the Industrial Schools. On page 153 there occurs this statement:—"The class teaching in the Boys' Reformatory was some of the worst I have seen in any School in the colony." This School has annually been inspected by the Inspectors of the Education Department, and has almost invariably been reported upon favorably, and, although short of a teacher, at the last examination it showed fair results. On page 154 it is stated that at Sunbury the supply of teachers is inadequate. With an average attendance of about 250 there are five paid and competent teachers engaged, and the percentage of the boys who passed the examination of the School held in 1877 was 81·596, not, of course, taking into account the age standard, which, as may be seen by the foregoing figures, would be impracticable. On the same page it is stated that many of the children have been well trained until their admission to the School. That this is the case only to a very limited extent will be seen by the figures given above. On page 155 it is stated that the aim of the Department is to reduce the instruction given to the minimum allowed by law. Such is not the case. It is difficult to get all sufficiently advanced for licensing out at the proper time, but the teachers have been told to make special efforts to get every boy and girl equal to 4th class work before the time arrives for their discharge, and in doing so to give particular attention to the reading, writing, and arithmetic, in preference to the other subjects.

It is stated on page 155 that the practice of the Department has been to discourage publicity. The opposite has always been the aim. I have frequently complained that so few people have taken the trouble to inform themselves about either the Schools or Reformatories, and the Superintendents and Matrons have instructions to afford every facility for inspection to any respectable persons who may visit at suitable times. To support this charge, however, it is alleged that, "the head master at Sunbury was lately reprimanded for mentioning in his report that he was not adequately supplied with school furniture." The case to which reference is made occurred during my absence in England. The Superintendent had pointed out to the teacher the proper way of applying for required furniture (*i. e.* by requisition), and when the correspondence was submitted to the Acting-inspector, he agreed with the Superintendent, and pointed out that there was "no occasion for teachers to defer asking for anything required until making their educational reports." It is again stated that not long ago some boys, guilty of an attempt to set fire to premises at Sunbury, had been sent to Coburg, and the affair "hushed up." I am not aware of any such case, but I can say that if any boys are guilty of a serious offence, they are as soon as possible taken before a bench of magistrates and either punished by them or remanded to a higher tribunal. Reference is, however, probably made to circumstances which transpired at the beginning of last year, and concerning which Mr. Scott, the Superintendent at Sunbury, writes:—"What is stated with reference to some of the boys trying to set fire to a ward lately is not correct. The 'hushing up' is also a mistake, and the deduction as to the moral tone of the School is necessarily misleading. What did occur was that some of the boys who were a few days previously transferred here from the *Nelson* set fire to some grass in the vicinity of the School. For that two boys were brought before the bench in open court in the adjacent township, and by the magistrates committed to the Reformatory." On page 158 it is stated that the children are employed a few hours a day "in the attempt to repay the State its charges." The Schools were established for the purpose of giving an industrial training to the inmates, as well as imparting to them the elements of an ordinary education, and while

all those of a suitable age are employed as usefully as possible, the effort is not made mainly to make the work of the children remunerative, but to teach them to be industrious, and, as much of their industrial training has to be carried on in the situations to which they are sent on leaving the institutions, every effort is made to get them placed out as soon as possible, so that they may be fitted for the duties of life. It is, however, required that every inmate should have attained the age of 13 years, have completed half the period of detention in the School, and be at least equal to the work of the 4th class before going to service. The idea (which I believe to be a sound one) is to place the children in situations at a sufficiently early age to acquire home feelings and yield readily to the instruction necessary to fit them for the positions they may have to occupy. The payment demanded for such children cannot be large. The effort has been to procure suitable homes rather than to exact high wages, which might lead to the expectation on the part of employers of work in return beyond the strength of untrained children of so tender an age. With reference to the implication that the officers of the institution are allowed to appropriate the work of the children, I may state that the officers are not allowed to do so, and they are neither permitted to keep the children back from employers nor to set them to work which may hinder them in their school lessons. The children employed as officers' servants are licensed out as soon as they become eligible, just as the other children in the Schools are. I consider it an advantage both to the children and their future employers that they should have some idea of domestic duties before leaving the institution, and encourage their occupation in the quarters of the officers with that object in view.

I have no desire to withhold the credit due either to individuals or institutions. Of the Convents at Abbotsford and Geelong it has always been my pleasing duty to report favorably. The care and attention paid to the children by the ladies is most praiseworthy. And of the Orphanage on Emerald Hill I could only speak in terms of commendation. But all the circumstances ought to be taken into consideration when comparisons are made between the Schools of the Department and institutions of a similar character elsewhere. It should be borne in mind that since the opening of the Convents and Orphanages, progress under settled arrangements has been possible in them for many years, while the Industrial School children have been almost continuously placed in temporary and inconvenient buildings, and subjected to the upsetting caused by frequent changes of locality and habitation to meet pressing exigencies, adding necessarily very much to the cost, and seriously interfering with the satisfactory working of these institutions. Beginning with the old wooden buildings at Princes Bridge, where suitable accommodation was impossible; the dilapidated erections at Geelong, which it took years of effort and much outlay to make decently habitable, and where, even to the last days of occupation, the number of sick children continued to be greater than in any of the Schools excepting that at Princes Bridge; Sunbury, inconvenient in consequence of its distance from town, its exposed situation, and its buildings, which are even yet incomplete, and consequently ill-adapted for children. Then the removal to Point Nepean, to utilize the Sanatory Station, which, on account of its situation and want of appliances for the proper treatment of children, had to be abandoned; the ship *Sir Harry Smith*, that, for the young children who had to be sent there, was both dangerous and opposed to the possibility of convenience for home treatment; the School at Ballarat, no doubt a great improvement upon anything that had then been done for the children, but marred by alterations in the plans made—not to promote convenience, but for the sake of economy; the *Nelson*, another mistake for children intended for shore occupation, and necessarily under arrangements depriving them of the humanizing surroundings of an establishment on shore; then, one after another, the Gaol at Geelong, the Barracks on the St. Kilda road, the Receiving Depôt in La Trobe street; the Powder-magazine on the Essendon road, all necessary because of the pressing want of shelter for the children, but much opposed to that satisfactory improvement in their condition for which permanent abodes and settled arrangements would have given scope. The new School at the Royal Park and the Female Reformatory at Coburg are even now the only buildings affording good and suitable accommodation for their inmates.

The Boys' Reformatory has not been without change. First, on board the penal hulk *Deborah*; then the training ship *Sir Harry Smith*; and lastly, as an improvement on anything possible previously, the Jika Reformatory, a suitable place still for criminal boys of bad antecedents and conduct if there were provided as an outlet to it, now that the number of inmates has so much increased, a home in the country for the younger and better behaved Reformatory boys, to which place the badly disposed Industrial School lads might also be sent.

The boarding-out scheme still works satisfactorily, and the children generally are improving in the homes to which they have been sent, under the supervision of the Ladies' Committees, who so willingly and well co-operate with the Department in caring for the children. The thanks of the community are due to the ladies for the attention they have given to their self-imposed duties.

I append to this Report extracts from many of the special reports furnished by the Committees, which, with the exception of an almost unanimous complaint of the decrease in pay as the children reach 13 years of age, speak most favorably of the working of the system. As I have already advised that the rates be altered to the following scale, viz. :—6s. from 1 year old to 10 years, and 5s. weekly thence till the children attain the age of 13 years or are permitted to leave school, it is not necessary that I should here comment upon these reports.

Very much has been written regarding the licensing system calculated to mislead, and to induce the impression that the licensed children are left to their fate or the mercy of whatever kind of employer they may chance to get. Thus Professor Pearson writes in the strongest terms on this subject :—“It is certain that employers frequently regard themselves as armed with excessive power over the children, keep back their wages, beat them, withhold proper food, and over-work them. There is no real security against these abuses. The police are ordered not to interfere if they can avoid it ; the clergy have declined to report on licensed children in their districts, and the visiting committees of ladies are apt to neglect their work, and when they perform it, to question the employers instead of the children, or the children in presence of the employers.” I am somewhat at a loss to understand whether Professor Pearson intends by the above remark to advise that supervision by voluntary workers be altogether done away with, because “there is no *real* security against abuses,” but I will say that a more unjust and ungenerous disparagement of services willingly rendered could not well have been penned. It is, moreover, implied that the agencies of Convents and Orphanages are sufficient to prevent abuses (see page 160 of the Report), whereas, as a matter of fact, the Convent children are under the same supervision as those from the other Schools, all being licensed out in the same manner, while the Orphanage is, I believe, dependent on ladies' committees and clergymen for supervising the children, the same as this Department is. I do not wish to be understood to say that the existing system of supervision is accomplishing all that I could desire. I do not believe any system, however perfect, will entirely prevent abuses, but I am certainly of opinion that the Department has done its best with the means at its disposal to create a system well calculated to prevent the unchecked existence of such abuses. I will as briefly as possible indicate what the system is. In the first place, no child can be licensed (except by Ministerial direction) to an employer resident in a district in which a committee has not agreed to exercise supervision over any child placed therein. Committees consist of not less than three ladies who have voluntarily entered upon the work. The person desiring a child has to send in an application form, bearing the certificate of a clergyman, in which the following is included :—“Should a child be entrusted to care, I agree to exercise pastoral oversight over to see that moral training is duly attended to, and that attends as regularly as possible Sunday school and Church.” Inquiry as to the fitness of the applicant is made when the application comes in, and the Committee are asked if they will supervise in the case. When everything is satisfactory, the child (as soon as available) is placed with the applicant, and a license is issued in due course by the Governor in Council. When not satisfactory, the application is specially considered and dealt with by the Ministerial head of the Department. As soon as a child is placed out the supervising clergyman and the committee are informed and requested to enter upon their work of supervision, the only restriction to the uncontrolled exercise of such supervision being the suggestion to the ladies, “that children be visited not oftener than once a quarter, unless in exceptional cases, and that the lady visitor should strive to impress on the children the importance of fidelity to their employers, and discourage the habit of gossiping or reporting on their private affairs,” while they are asked to encourage the children to write to the visitor whenever they need advice or assistance. In addition to this there is supervision by the police, although, of course, of a very different nature, being directed not only to the prevention of ill-treatment by the employers, but of wrong-doing or the forming of evil associations by the children outside their employers' homes. The duty is a delicate one, but to the credit of the police I must say that in the cases in which they have had to take action they have acted well and unobtrusively. It is true that they are directed not to appear openly in the matter if they can avoid it, but Professor Pearson

does not say, what should be stated, that their directions also tell them that they "are to report any cases that may come to their notice of the ill-treatment or neglect, whether physical or moral, of any such child," and further say, "when it is clear that the child is not properly cared for, there will of course be the less objection to their appearing openly in the matter, though even in these cases it is better they should avoid doing so when the required object can be attained without it." To say that in spite of these precautions cases of ill-treatment have actually occurred, does not, it appears to me, affect the system. So far as my knowledge goes, where they have occurred, they have, with very few exceptions, been quickly found out and stopped, and considering the large number of children (nearly 2,000) scattered over the face of the country under this supervision, it says much for the nature of the precautions taken and the vigilance of the ladies and other workers that so few cases of the kind have arisen. Three cases have been variously referred to as illustrating the evils to which the children are exposed, and it will be as well therefore for me to state briefly the facts of each case.

1. A girl licensed in one of the suburbs.—Information was given by a neighbour that the girl was being beaten and otherwise ill-treated. An officer was at once sent to institute inquiries. He saw the girl, who denied having been beaten. The Ladies' Committee were, however, asked to inquire into the case. They reported that, "the girl looked well, seemed contented, and would not make any complaint. The Visitor does not think there is any reason to suspect ill-treatment. The story seemed to be mere gossip." A second complaint reached this office. I then sent for the girl and her employer, and when they came I saw the girl, first alone, and afterwards with her employer. She appeared to be well-cared for, and persistently denied having been beaten or in any way ill-treated. A third complaint was made shortly after my departure for England, and inquired into by the acting inspector, who informs me that he saw the girl (who was then nearly 16 years of age, and whose term had expired), and she assured him that she was not ill-treated, that she liked her place, and that if she was free to do as she liked would stay with her employers. Her position was fully explained to her, and she was told that if she was subjected to any ill-treatment it was entirely her own fault, as there was no occasion for her to stop. Some three months after this she came to the office and complained of having been turned away by her mistress, also stating that she had not received the allowance of clothes to which she was entitled. Although her time had then expired, the case was gone into with her employers, who with much difficulty were induced to sign a bond to pay the girl the value of the deficiency. Their circumstances since have, however, rendered it useless to proceed further.

2. A boy, 14½ years of age, licensed to a professional gentleman.—This boy absconded and returned to the School. He stated that he had left his place because he had been beaten that morning by his mistress for the twenty-seventh time. The mistress was asked to call at the office. She did so, admitted having chastised the boy with the cane handle of a feather duster, and that she had similarly beaten him five or six times. Provocation was pleaded, the boy having, it was stated, wilfully destroyed some things that were growing in the garden. The Committee's report on this case stated that the Visitor "was of opinion that there might have been faults on both sides, that the boy had been most aggravating, and seemed to wish to get away. The mistress might have been rather injudicious, but the boy's statement cannot be taken as altogether trustworthy." It should be added that the brother of the boy had applied for his discharge, and been refused, and it was believed by his employer had been inciting him to his bad conduct.

3. A boy and girl with one employer.—The police reported under date, 21.6.77, that they had reason to believe that the boy and girl were ill-treated. The report reached this office on the 22nd June, and the same day was sent back with this minute:—"If the police are of opinion there has been ill-treatment, I shall feel obliged by their removing the children and sending them in to this office."* The children were removed accordingly.

These three cases which have been quoted so freely against the departmental vigilance and interest in the children's welfare may, I think, be fairly left to speak for themselves. I have only to add that the voluntary workers who are now helping the Department in this branch of its work are not, I think, negligent as is implied, but discharge their duty (one, be it remembered, requiring much care and discrimination,

* This is the case, I may remark, in which Professor Pearson stated that Mr. Neal told him he would not have removed the children but that the employer swore. The above minute, written by Mr. Neal some time prior, I understand, to Professor Pearson's visit, does not bear out that statement.

for it would not do to accept as true all the tales that are told) with praiseworthy earnestness and discretion. The number of children sent to service last year was less than in the previous year, caused to some extent by the fever in the Schools preventing children being placed out during the latter part of the year. Applicants for Protestant children continue as numerous as ever, but no more Catholics apply than can be readily supplied. As far as possible, wages at the rate of 4s. per week during the first month and 5s. weekly afterwards, in lieu of pocket-money and clothing, are obtained for the children, but very many applicants refuse to pay such wages. Those who are willing to do so, however, get the preference. The general result will be seen in the license return.

The School in the Sandhurst Asylum still speaks well for the care bestowed on the children by Mr. and Mrs. Dorman, and the Convent Schools continue to give evidence of the careful and kindly management which the ladies of those institutions exercise in dealing with the children under their control. From observation since my return from England at the end of the year, I am convinced that, with much difficulty and discouragement, the officers in the Department of all grades have steadily and well discharged their several duties. I must bear testimony to the tact, judgment, and attention which Mr. Neal, the acting-inspector, must have exhibited in carrying on the work of the Department while left with increased responsibility to contend with unusual difficulties during my absence; and I think it my duty now to state in connection with correspondence which has taken place between that gentleman and Professor Pearson, that some erroneous impressions must have been produced on the mind of Professor Pearson when he is led to state, on page 159 of his Report, that Mr. Neal had informed him, that he did not think the fact of an employer having thrashed a boy ten or twelve times in a year any reason why that employer should not have children assigned to him. The probabilities are all against such a statement having been made by Mr. Neal, as no one knew the regulations of the Department better than he did; the action taken in the few cases of improper treatment which have come under observation was opposed to such a mode of dealing with unfeeling persons, and a statement of the kind would be quite away from the spirit displayed at all times by him when cases of alleged cruelty were brought under notice in the office.

The amount collected by the different courts for maintenance this year is less than the previous year's collections by £205. I would repeat here the suggestion I made some time ago to improve the plan for the collection of maintenance arrears. It was that in each district a constable should be specially entrusted with the collection of arrears and looking after defaulters, a small allowance being made him in proportion to his collections. At present it rests with clerks of petty sessions to enforce the orders made by the benches, and although they have, of course, the services of the police at their disposal, the result is not as satisfactory as could be wished.

The pressure upon my time since my return from England, and the various matters calling for notice in this Report, have prevented me referring to the home and American institutions at this time, but I purpose, as soon as circumstances permit, presenting a separate report relating thereto.

From what I have learned recently, it appears to be the intention of the Government that my connection with the Industrial and Reformatory Schools should terminate. If I had been animated in the discharge of my duty otherwise than by an earnest desire to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of the children, I might have submitted to such an arrangement without regret, as one which would set me free to give greater attention to the no less important and onerous work of caring for the inmates of the prisons. But, as I have not only labored to obtain the approval of the public, but more especially to further the well-being of the children, my interest in them cannot cease without considerable pain to myself, and I consider I would neither be discharging my duty to them nor to the Government did I not, in the event of my retiring, suggest a successor in the work. I therefore beg to recommend Mr. Neal as my successor under such a contingency, an officer who has exhibited a personal interest in the Industrial School work, and who, from his experience, as well as his application to duty, from a higher motive than mere gain, is likely to carry out the views of the Government most beneficially to the children of the State.

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

GEO. O. DUNCAN,
Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

APPENDICES.

No. 1.

BOARDING-OUT REPORTS.

Thirty-four committees have sent in special reports concerning the working of the system and the condition of the children in their respective districts. Fourteen of these reports simply show the children to be well cared for and doing well. The others are epitomised below :—

“Works well in every respect but one, and that is when the children attain the age of 12 they (the foster-parents) only receive 3s. per week, although the children are obliged to attend school. Two of our boys have already been sent back, and we are afraid that more will unless this is altered.”

“The system, so far as I have seen it, works so well that it is a real blessing to the children.”

“Consider that this system might be greatly extended in this district were applications more promptly answered.* The applicants, who are of a respectable class, and not altogether dependent upon the children, get tired of waiting. A gathering, which it is hoped will be an annual one, of the children and foster-parents took place, and the mayor and several ministers, as well as other friends interested in the work, being present, and expressing themselves highly pleased with the appearance of the children. It is complained that many of the children are dull of learning, but a few are reported to be clever.”

“Eminently satisfactory. There is no distinction made by the foster-parents between their own children and those placed under their care.”

“One disadvantage we find in our up-country districts is the distance we have to travel in order to visit the children, and yet we prefer the country homes for them, for they look so ruddy and well, and seem so contented.”

“Can give a very favorable report. Committee are more and more convinced of the necessity of extreme care being exercised in the first choice of homes. Foster-parents become much attached to their charges, and dread their being taken from them.”

“Continues to work satisfactorily, and the committee invite any persons interested to the local town hall when the monthly inspection is made, or to the homes of the various foster-parents. Committee take this opportunity of thanking the officers connected with the Industrial Schools office for their courtesy and readiness to assist them in any difficulty that arises.”

“As a rule, children get much attached to the foster-parents, and the latter to the children. This, of course, applies to the good ones. Sorry to say there have been two or three exceptions, in which kindness seemed thrown away. Committee unanimously of opinion that the money paid for the elder children is too little. Consider that if the foster-parents could procure a light place for a boy, even supposing he has not got a certificate, he should be allowed to go to the night school until he does get it. Would not suggest this for girls, as they can always make themselves useful to foster-parents after school hours. Regret to say that children in Roman Catholic schools do not appear to get on in their education at all; sad to see how backward they are compared with those who attend a State school.”

“Find a difficulty in getting homes for the children when they attain the age of 13 years, at which pay ceases, although they are still required to attend school. With this exception, consider the system to be working most admirably.”

“With few exceptions, the system has worked well, and given pleasure to foster-parents and committee. The delay in applicants being supplied with children after their applications have been sent in is one exception. Another is the rule which allows only two children to be placed with a foster-parent who has not any of her own, while the foster-parent who has four of her own can also receive two. Consider the pay of 3s. per week should be extended another year.”

“System has worked well. Consider one great defect to be the lowering of the rate when the children reach the age of 12 years. This has caused the return of several of our girls just at the age when the influence of a kindly home would most benefit them. Hope the pay of 5s. per week may be continued till 14, or till children obtain educational certificate. Also consider that more than two children might be allowed to a person having good accommodation and no family, or only one or two of her own. Committee also consider, with reference to Clause 5, Schedule 1, that there should be no more risk in mixed families of girls and boys in well-regulated homes, where the young children would grow up as brothers and sisters, than in the ordinary intercourse of school or otherwise.”

“Still think the system, when properly carried out, is the best that could be devised for the benefit of the children concerned, but also think that a good foster-parent ought to be allowed at least four children, whether of the same family or not, and also that the pay should not be reduced at 12 years of age.”

“Suggest the desirability of granting to the Ladies' Committees a discretionary power in the placing out of those who will soon be of an age to provide for themselves. It is our opinion that each case of apprenticeship should be arranged by the ladies, with special attention on their part to the ever-varying circumstances and character of the children.”†

“Continues to work satisfactorily, subject, however, to the same objection, the smallness of remuneration as the children advance in years.”

“Continues to work very well. The old difficulties connected with the decrease of pay as boys and girls are getting up in years and require more food and clothing, together with the enforced attendance at day school when they have arrived at an age to be useful, are frequently turning up. On the whole, however, we find that foster-parents are most unwilling to part with children after a period of two or three years, even when their retention must be a pecuniary loss. The absurd school regulations that compels stupid children to attend there year after year, when they are incapable of gaining any benefit, prevents them learning housework.”

“System works well; only hindrance we encounter is the clause in the Education Act which compels children to attend school after they are thirteen years of age.”

“Works satisfactorily and for the benefit of the children until they approach the age of 12 years, when the expense of keeping them becomes a burden to the foster-parent, the rate of payment being then quite unequal to the cost of maintenance. Still urge the necessity of payment being continued until attendance at school ceases.”

* Applicants have, in nearly all cases, to wait a considerable time for their turn, consequent upon the fact that they outnumber the children available.

† The placing of boarded-out children, when eligible for service, is a matter that is left entirely to the committees, the department not interfering therein so long as the regulations are complied with. This committee has been so informed.

"As the children grow up, the question of their future is a very difficult one; work of a remunerative nature for half-grown girls and boys being very hard to get, and however willing the foster-parent may be to keep them, they cannot do so on the diminished rate of payment. In this district the only two boys who have attained the age when adequate payment ceases have been provided with partial employment; yet we look forward with grave fears to the future, when we may have to deal with the difficulty. Another stumbling block in our way is the long delay in the placing out of children after the applications have been sent in."

"Find it impossible to place out children on license when they are required to attend school half-time."

"Consider it a pity that nothing is paid for girls over 13 while they are obliged to be sent to school, and if the intention of the scheme is to give them real homes, their return at the age of 13 will be fatal to their progress and undo the work of years."

No. 2.

ADMISSIONS and Discharges, 1877.

Particulars.	Industrial Schools wholly supported by Government.	Reformatory Schools wholly supported by Government.	Industrial Schools partially supported by Government.	Reformatory Schools partially supported by Government.	Total.
<i>Admissions.</i>					
New Admissions	377	118	61	12	} 653
Re-committals	76	...	9	...	
Returned from Service (licensed in previous years)	97	4	9	1	111
Returned from Boarding-out (sent out in previous years)	124	...	3	...	127
Returned from Wet-nurse (sent out in previous years)	11	...	...	...	11
Returned Absconders	17	...	...	1	18
Returned from Eye and Ear Institution	1	...	...	...	1
Casuals	2	...	...	...	2
Total of Admissions	705	122	82	14	923
Remaining in Schools on 1st January 1877	791	198	194	21	1,204
Total	1,496	320	276	35	2,127
<i>Discharges.</i>					
To Relatives	100	59	16	3	178
To Employment	228	31	27	12	298
Apprenticed	10	...	...	...	10
Placed out under the Boarding-out Regulations	185	...	18	...	203
Placed out to Wet-nurse	38	...	...	...	38
By Expiration of Term (re-committed)	76	...	9	...	85
By Expiration of Term	7	8	1	...	16
By Expiration of Term (left)	1	1	...	...	2
Absconded and not returned	33	...	...	...	33
Died	21	...	4	...	25
To Melbourne Hospital	1	...	...	...	1
To Kew Lunatic Asylum	3	...	...	...	3
To Eye and Ear Institution	2	...	...	...	2
To the Refuge	1	...	...	...	1
To Abbotsford Convent Preservation Class	...	...	...	1	1
Committed to Reformatories	20	...	...	...	20
Casuals	1	...	...	...	1
Total of Discharges	727	99	75	16	917
Remaining in Schools on 31st December 1877	769	221	201	19	1,210
Total	1,496	320	276	35	2,127
CHILDREN ON CHARGE.					
In the Schools on 31st December 1877	...	...	...	...	1,210
Boarded-out and at Wet-nurse	...	...	...	...	1,165
Total	...	...	...	...	2,375
DEATHS.					
In the Schools	...	...	...	...	25
While Boarded-out	...	...	...	...	8
While at Wet-nurse	...	...	...	...	8
Total	...	...	...	...	41

No. 3.

TABLE showing the Ages of Children Admitted into the Industrial and Reformatory Schools during the Year 1877.

Number of Children Admitted.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 6.	6 to 7.	7 to 8.	8 to 9.	9 to 10.	10 to 11.	11 to 12.	12 to 13.	13 to 14.	14 to 15.	15 to 16.	16 and upwards.	Total.
	Industrial Schools	47	16	16	34	39	37	36	32	32	46	50	37	41	35	20	5		...	523
Reformatories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	12	9	17	28	32	17	4	130
Total	47	16	16	34	39	37	36	32	35	54	62	46	58	63	52	22	4	653

No. 4.

TABLE showing the Religion of Children Admitted into the Industrial and Reformatory Schools during the Year 1877.

Number Admitted during the Year.	Denominations.												Total.
	Church of England.	Roman Catholic.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan.	Baptist.	Lutheran.	Protestants not specified.	Independent.	Primitive Methodist.	Bible Christian.	Unknown.		
Industrial Schools	182	193	26	30	6	2	67	...	4	1	12	523	
Reformatories	45	57	5	5	...	...	14	3	1	...	...	130
Total	227	250	31	35	6	2	81	3	5	1	12	653	

No. 5.

TABLE showing Particulars relative to the Parentage of Children Admitted into the Industrial Schools during the Year 1877.

Number of Children Admitted.	One Parent living.	Both Parents living.	Neither Parent living.	Unknown.
523	217	261	32	13

CIRCUMSTANCES as stated in Depositions.

Parents drunkards	2	Father deserted, mother living in adultery ...	1
Parents unable to support	19	Father deserted, mother in hospital ...	4
Parents unable to control	11	Father unknown, mother in Refuge ...	1
Parents dead	32	Father unknown, mother a prostitute ...	1
Parents deserted	17	Father unknown, mother in lunatic asylum ...	2
Parents unknown	13	Father unknown, mother deserted ...	11
Parents in gaol	10	Father unknown, mother dead ...	7
Parents in lunatic asylum	4	Father unknown, mother in hospital ...	1
Father dead, mother unknown	1	Father unknown, mother in gaol ...	3
Father dead, mother in hospital	8	Father unknown, mother unable to support ...	2
Father dead, mother a prostitute	1	Father unknown, mother in Magdalene Asylum ...	1
Father dead, mother unable to support	58	Father unknown, mother in New Zealand ...	1
Father dead, mother in gaol	32	Father in employment, mother in hospital *	1
Father dead, mother in lunatic asylum	7	Father in employment, mother dead *	16
Father dead, mother in employment *	3	Father in employment, mother a bad character *	1
Father dead, mother in Refuge	1	Father in employment, mother a drunkard *	2
Father dead, mother in N. S. Wales	1	Father in employment, mother living with him *	5
Father dead, mother deserted	7	Father in employment, mother deserted *	8
Father dead, mother in New Zealand	2	Father in employment, mother in gaol *	6
Father in gaol, mother unable to support	7	Father in employment, mother in lunatic asylum *	4
Father in gaol, mother in lunatic asylum	2	Father in Immigrants' Home, mother dead ...	5
Father in gaol, mother deserted	2	Father in Benevolent Asylum, mother in gaol ...	1
Father in gaol, mother dead	5	Father in lunatic asylum, mother unable to support ...	3
Father in gaol, mother in hospital	1	Father in hospital, mother in gaol ...	4
Father in England, mother unable to support	3	Father in hospital, mother dead ...	5
Father in New Zealand, mother a prostitute	1	Father unable to support, mother in lunatic asylum ...	1
Father in New Zealand, mother unable to support	3	Father unable to support, mother dead ...	24
Father in Ireland, mother unable to support	1	Father unable to support, mother deserted ...	6
Father in N. S. Wales, mother unable to support	2	Father unable to support, mother in gaol ...	1
Father in N. S. Wales, mother in hospital	1	Father unable to support, mother a prostitute ...	3
Father in N. S. Wales, mother dead	1	Father unable to support, mother a drunkard ...	1
Father in Tasmania, mother dead	1	Father unable to support, mother of weak intellect ...	2
Father in South Australia, mother unable to support	2	Father unable to support, mother in hospital ...	1
Father in South Australia, mother in gaol	3	Father at sea, mother in gaol ...	1
Father deserted, mother of weak intellect	1	Father a drunkard, mother dead ...	1
Father deserted, mother in gaol	23	Father a drunkard, mother deserted ...	7
Father deserted, mother unable to support	47	Father a solicitor, mother dead *	1
Father deserted, mother dead	30	Father of weak intellect, mother unable to support ...	2
Father deserted, mother a prostitute	3	Father of weak intellect, mother a bad character ...	1
Father deserted, mother in lunatic asylum	1		
Father deserted, mother a drunkard	6		
		Total	523

* Maintenance enquiry has been made in forty-two of these cases, and orders obtained in forty; eighteen of which have been complied with, and eleven only partially so. The remaining thirteen are at present under query. In two cases the fathers could not be found, and in one the child died shortly after being admitted to the schools. In the remaining two the children were illegitimate, and their mothers had not obtained affiliation orders against their putative fathers, consequently no action could be taken. One child has been discharged to his parents, two have been sent to service, and two have died.

No. 6.

TABLE showing the Causes of Conviction and Character of Parents of Children committed to the Reformatories in 1877.

CAUSE OF CONVICTION.

Vagrancy.	Theft.	Embezzling.	Burglary and House-breaking.	Intent to commit Felony.	House-breaking with Intent to commit Felony.	Unlawfully on Premises.	Insulting Behaviour.	Drunk and Disorderly.	Throwing Stones.	Dwell in a Brothel.	Assault.	Assault and Stealing.	Destroying Government Property.	Setting Fire to Grass at Sunbury Schools.	Uncontrollable.	Idle and Disorderly.	Total.
29	70	3	5	3	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	130

CHARACTER OF PARENTS.

Parents dead	8	Father unknown, mother of bad character ...	1
Parents deserted	2	Father unknown, mother a drunkard ...	1
Parents unknown	26	Father unknown, mother deserted ...	1
Parents drunkards, and otherwise of bad character	4	Father a drunkard, mother of good character ...	1
Parents of bad character (rest of children in family of bad character)	2	Father a drunkard, mother dead ...	2
Parents of good character	17	Father of good character, mother dead ...	3
Father dead, mother of good character	9	Father of good character, mother in lunatic asylum ...	1
Father dead, mother of bad character	3	Father of good character, mother a drunkard ...	2
Father dead, mother in gaol	1	Father of bad character, mother unknown ...	2
Father dead, mother unknown	11	Father in gaol, mother deserted ...	1
Father dead, mother a drunkard	1	Father in gaol, mother dead ...	2
Father deserted, mother dead	4	Father in gaol, mother unknown ...	1
Father deserted, mother of bad character	7	Father in gaol, mother a drunkard ...	1
Father deserted, mother of good character	1	Father in Tasmania, mother dead ...	1
Father deserted, mother unknown	2	Father in Tasmania, mother unknown ...	1
Father unknown, mother dead	10		
Father unknown, mother in lunatic asylum	1	Total	130

No. 7.

COMMITTING Benches, and Periods of Commitment.

Committing Benches.	Terms of Commitment.																Total.
	1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15	15 to 16	
Ararat	2	1	...	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ballarat	1	4	1	2	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ballarat East	5	1	3	1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Beechworth	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Brunswick	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Broadmeadows	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bright	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Buninyong	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Brighton	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Beaufort	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Castlemaine	1	...	1	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Chiltern	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Collingwood	2	2	3	...	2	...	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	24
Casterton	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Camperdown	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chewton	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Daylesford	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dunolly	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
Emerald Hill	4	3	3	1	4	3	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Echuca	3	...	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Eaglehawk	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fitzroy	3	...	1	...	1	1	1	4	2	3	1	3	1	...	22
Fryerstown	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Geelong	1	...	1	...	4	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Hotham	4	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Heathcote	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kyneton	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	...	8
Kew	1	1
Kilmore	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	6
Learmonth	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maldon	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Melbourne ...	5	22	35	46	22	18	20	67	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	239
Majorca	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Newstead	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Portland	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Prahran	2	1	1	3	4	2	3	3	2	2	1	3	...	1	3	31
Richmond	1	...	1	1	3	1	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	14
Rokewood	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Raywood	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
St. Arnaud	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sandhurst	3	2	1	1	1	4	1	2	5	...	3	1	1	3	28
Sandridge	1	2	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
St. Kilda	1	3	1	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Stawell	1	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Shepparton	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smythesdale	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Scarsdale	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sale	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shelford	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sunbury	3	1	5	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Taradale	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Terang	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wangaratta	1	...	...	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Wodonga	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wood's Point	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Williamstown	6	...	...	2	6	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Walhalla	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Warrenheip	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yackandandah	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total ...	5	51	63	91	46	80	42	195	8	11	15	6	15	7	7	11	653

No. 8.

TABLE showing the Admissions and Discharges for the past Five Years, from 1873 to 1877 inclusive.

Year.	Admissions.	Discharges.						Total.
		To Relatives.	To Employment.	For Re-committal.	Died.	Absconded and not returned.	Left on Expiration of Term, &c.	
1873	806	230	434	163	37	27	35	926
1874	943	188	416	128	37	13	16	798
1875	917	208	409	152	38	9	23	839
1876	890	214	404	93	27	25	39	802
1877	923	178	308	85	25	33	47	676

No. 9.

TABLE showing the Visits of Clergymen and authorized Laymen to the undermentioned Industrial and Reformatory Schools to conduct Religious Service during 1877.

Denomination.	Sunbury.	Geelong.	Jika Reformatory.	Sandhurst.	Royal Park.	Total.
Church of England	28	1	9	...	19	57
Roman Catholic	23	1	16	12	32	84
Presbyterian	8	...	10	...	10	28
Wesleyan	13	...	2	...	9	24
Baptist ... ..	...	...	...	...	9	9
Independent ... ..	...	...	...	...	5	5
Total	72	2	37	12	84	207

No. 10.

TABLE showing the Ages of Children in the Industrial and Reformatory Schools on 31st December 1877.

Schools.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 6.	6 to 7.	7 to 8.	8 to 9.	9 to 10.	10 to 11.	11 to 12.	12 to 13.	13 to 14.	14 to 15.	15 to 16.	16 and upwards.	Total.
Sunbury	1	2	2	8	9	16	38	69	101	79	54	25	18	422	
Royal Park	1	7	10	11	15	13	8	10	12	21	29	48	32	31	15	17	280
Sandhurst	1	...	1	...	1	1	6	5	24	16	9	...	...	...	64	
Boys' Reformatory	1	4	8	10	27	33	46	25	24	178	
Girls' Reformatory	1	2	1	2	9	11	12	8	46	
Abbotsford Industrial	3	3	6	13	12	14	15	19	20	20	16	11	13	5	3	173
Abbotsford Reformatory	2	1	6	2	6	2	19
Geelong Convent Industrial	1	...	2	2	3	...	3	1	3	3	3	5	...	1	1	28
Total	1	12	13	21	32	31	31	44	58	116	150	207	175	157	89	73	1,210

No. 11.

TABLE showing the Educational State of Children in the Industrial and Reformatory Schools during the Year 1877.

Particulars.	Classes.						Total.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	
Remaining on 31st December 1876	239	248	380	301	31	5	1,204
Admitted during the year	457	132	152	139	36	7	923
Total	696	380	532	440	67	12	2,127
Discharged during the year	263	92	311	218	22	11	917
Remaining on 31st December 1877	259	234	348	315	34	20	1,210
Total	522	326	659	533	56	31	2,127

No. 12.

TABLE showing the Religion of Children in the Industrial and Reformatory Schools on 31st December 1877.

Schools.	Denominations.											Total.
	Church of England.	Roman Catholics.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyans.	Baptists.	Protestants Unspecified.	Independents.	Lutherans.	Unitarians.	Primitive Methodists.	Jewish.	
<i>Industrial Schools.</i>												
Sunbury	121	198	37	16	2	45	...	1	1	...	1	422
Royal Park	96	94	13	17	1	55	...	3	...	1	...	280
Sandhurst	11	34	4	1	...	13	...	...	...	...	1	64
Abbotsford Convent Industrial ... ..	...	173	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Geelong Convent Industrial ... ..	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Total of Industrial Schools	228	527	54	34	3	113	...	4	1	1	2	967
<i>Reformatory Schools.</i>												
Boys' Reformatory	64	70	13	5	1	18	6	...	...	1	...	178
Girls' Reformatory	27	6	1	2	...	9	1	...	...	...	...	46
Abbotsford Reformatory ... ..	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total of Reformatory Schools	91	95	14	7	1	27	7	...	...	1	...	243
Total	319	622	68	41	4	140	7	4	1	2	2	1,210

No. 18.

TABLE showing the Increase and Decrease in Cattle, &c., at the Royal Park and Sunbury Industrial Schools, from the 1st April 1877 to the 31st March 1878.

Description of Animals.	On hand 1st April 1877.	Increase.			Decrease.				Amount realized by Sales.	Number on hand 31st March 1878.
		Sup- plied.	Reared.	Total.	Died.	Sold.	Trans- ferred.	Total.		
Horses	6	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	£ s. d.	6
Cows, Steers, Calves, &c.	58	14	46	118	8	12	...	20	9 8 4	98
Bulls	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pigs	52	...	71	123	18	35	...	53	47 18 10	70
									57 7 2	

No. 19.

TABLE showing the Revenue Collected from the undermentioned Sources during the Year 1877.

Item.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Maintenance of Children	1,566 14 6
Sale of Produce, Stock, &c....	924 13 9
Miscellaneous Revenue, &c....	38 11 0
	2,529 19 3

No. 20.

TABLE showing the Cost per Head for the Maintenance of Children in the Industrial and Reformatory Schools in 1877.

	Schools.						
	Royal Park.	Sunbury.	Reformatory.	Sandhurst.	Abbotsford.	St. Joseph's.	Boarding-out.
Daily Average Strength	267	438	218	74	191	29	1,187
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Provisions	6 14 3	7 1 5	7 3 1	...	...	...	...
Clothing and Bedding	2 2 3	2 16 0	3 1 7	...	...	...	0 8 6
Fuel, Light, and Water	2 13 11	1 14 1	1 6 8	...	...	...	...
Stores, Stock, &c.	1 14 10	1 7 7	0 14 1	...	...	...	...
Medical Comforts	0 3 11	0 1 3	0 0 11	...	...	...	...
Transport	0 11 1	0 10 1	0 1 1	0 4 3	...	...	0 1 8
Incidentals	0 14 4	0 2 1	0 3 7	0 0 5	...	...	0 0 1
Salaries and Wages	6 15 8	4 8 9	7 7 3	...	...	...	...
Teachers	0 19 11	2 2 8	1 0 0	...	...	...	...
Trade Instruction	0 6 2	1 8 4	1 6 9	...	...	...	...
Maintenance ... ..	...	...	...	17 7 3	12 19 11	12 18 9	16 4 3
Gross Cost	22 16 4	21 12 3	22 5 0	17 11 11	12 19 11	12 18 9	16 14 6
Add—							
Value of Labor performed by other Schools	0 11 4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Value of Produce, &c., supplied ...	0 12 7	0 5 2	0 6 5	...	...	...	...
	24 0 3	21 17 5	22 11 5	17 11 11	12 19 11	12 18 9	16 14 6
Deduct—							
Maintenance	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0
Value of Labor performed for other Schools	...	0 0 3	0 13 4	...	...	...	...
Value of Labor performed for other Government Departments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Value of Produce supplied to other Schools	0 9 6	0 4 6	0 11 6	...	...	...	...
Value of Produce sold	1 1 0	0 19 8	1 1 0	...	...	...	...
All other Receipts	0 1 4	0 2 1	0 1 7	...	...	...	...
	21 15 5	19 17 11	19 11 0	16 18 11	12 6 11	12 5 9	16 1 6

