

Insert Cover Ringbinder
2/28 PVC Overlay
A4 BLACK
Re-order Code:1270753

Made in New Zealand
Distributed in New Zealand by
O'Connell New Zealand Ltd
6 Rutland Ave, Mt Wellington, Auckland



SSC
363.
733
ROB

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
PRESERVATION
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Basement

DEPT. OF SOCIAL WELFARE
LIBRARY, WELLINGTON

**DEPT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
LIBRARY, WELLINGTON, N.Z.**

DEPT OF SOCIAL WELFARE, W'TON



A00338923B

1412

THIS SURVEY WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, IN NOVEMBER &
DECEMBER, 1951.

THE WORK WAS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE
DIRECTION OF THE SENIOR LECTURER
OF THE SCHOOL, MISS J.M. ROBERTSON,
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPAR-
ATION OF THIS REPORT.

.....

A SURVEY OF FOSTER HOMES

IN THE

WELLINGTON DISTRICT

OF THE

CHILD WELFARE DIVISION

...

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are appreciative of the readiness with which the Child Welfare Division, both at Head Office and at Wellington District Office have made the figures and information available. We are conscious that many times we have been a nuisance with our insatiable demands for data for tabulation and our numerous questions.

Our thanks are specially due to Mr. Peek for allowing us freedom of the office and of the case records. We are also indebted to Mr. G.C. Burton for making the way easy for us on so many occasions, and to Mr. J. Ferguson and Mrs. Sharpe for so generously allowing us to put part of their Division's work under our microscope, and to the Child Welfare Officers for permitting us to visit their foster homes.

.....

PART I.

1. PURPOSE OF SURVEY

This study was undertaken at the instigation of the Wellington District Child Welfare Office and with the approval of the Superintendent of the Child Welfare Division.

It had been felt that the time was opportune to make, if possible, some estimate of the effectiveness of foster home placement as a method of caring for children deprived of ordinary home care. An investigation was therefore proposed of the foster homes in use in the Wellington district to gain if possible, some indication of the standard of these homes, some idea of the degree to which they were able to replace in a child's life his own home and some picture of foster children themselves. From this it was hoped to deduce, at least to some extent, how far foster home placement as it is carried out at present, is successful; what kind of homes seem to provide the best substitute for real homes; and what kind of children seem to thrive in the foster home atmosphere. It was also hoped to find whether there are children for whom this is not the appropriate kind of care and if so, what kind of children they are and what alternative care could be suggested.

In the course of this study it was hoped to find the answers to two main questions. Are there any consistent features which can be distinguished as essential to a good foster home? What constitutes a poor foster home?

It was felt that an investigation would be likely to be more detailed and objective if carried out by some body not directly responsible for the placements, consequently it was undertaken by the School of Social Science, Victoria University College, who prepared this Report for the Child Welfare Division.

2. METHOD OF CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION

The investigation was carried out under the supervision of the Staff of the School of Social Science, who were assisted by three Social Science students (and for a short time, four students) who were made temporary Child Welfare Officers for the purposes of the investigation. Responsibility for views expressed in the Report, and for the final assessment is accepted by the School itself.

As a beginning, it was felt that the extent of foster home placement should be seen as a whole. We therefore obtained from the files of Head Office C.W.D., the figures concerning foster home placement throughout New Zealand and went on to get a more detailed picture of the numbers of placements each child had had; how many had been in Receiving homes before foster home placement; the age at which committed and so on. These figures are contained in Appendix I.

In this statistical work we are indebted to the applied mathematics section of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for the loan of machines and for tabulating the information and we are particularly grateful to Dr. William for his advice and for his valuable assistance in testing and interpreting the material available.

Against this background of the national picture we went to study the situation in Wellington in detail. Information was gathered by visits to each home, supplemented from the records of the Child Welfare Division and by discussion with individual Child Welfare Officers and filled out for each by visits to the school, and by reference to any other relevant sources of information.

Forms used for recording relevant history are shown in Appendix II.

3. SCOPE OF SURVEY

It should be emphasised that this investigation covers only one district - an urban one - and that the numbers are small. It cannot be assumed to be necessarily true for any other district or typical of N.Z. as a whole. The time available was moreover short (6 weeks in all) and it was not therefore possible to make the careful study of each home and child such as an investigation of this kind demands. We are well aware that we have only glimpsed at the problem and that a fuller study is required. The figures and tables speak for themselves; where judgments and standards are involved, we can only say that it seemed so to us as social workers.

The investigators were hampered by the inevitable comparative brevity of their contacts and by the absence of full information about the children in the files. It was difficult to get a knowledge of the child's early development which would have been valuable in understanding subsequent behaviour. It was in effect, difficult to get a whole picture of the child. We had hoped that it might be possible with some of the children giving difficulties in their foster homes, to have had the benefit of a psychiatrist's opinion as to the depth and inner complexity of their problems, so that we might estimate whether they were suitable for foster home placement at all, but this was not possible to arrange in the time. We would have liked too, to have taken advantage of the kind offer of both Mr. Brew and Dr. Phillip to give us assistance, from their particular angle, on the individual children. Again the pressure of time prevented us from making the careful study of each child we had originally intended.

We were asked by C.W.D. to obtain information for them on whether sex instruction is given by foster parents and we found this out in the ordinary course of our interviews where possible. The information on this is contained in Appendix III.

The number of children and foster homes included in the survey is as follows:-

Total number of children in foster homes in Wellington district at October 24th, 1951, as supplied by C.W.D.		118
Not found to be relevant to survey:	3 in Receiving Home)	
	1 adopted)	
	2 home on Friends licenses.)	
	1 boarding)	
	1 migrant died)	8
Total children to be visited		110
Number of children not visited:	1 visit officially)	
	forbidden by (PTO))	
	1 foster parents)	
	requested no visit)	
	- house removal in)	
	process.)	
	1 repeatedly out.)	3
		<u>107</u>

Number of children finally included in survey	107
Number of children actually seen (1 in camp)	<u>106</u>
(a) Possible number of homes to be visited:	84
No. of Homes visited -	84
No. of Home visits paid -	100
(b) Possible number of foster mothers to be seen:	84
No. of foster mothers seen -	84
(c) Possible number of foster fathers to be seen:	61
No. of foster fathers seen -	54
(d) Possible number of school visits:	78
No. of school visits -	76
No. of ancillary visits -	4

4. SYSTEM OF VISITING

It was felt that every home should be visited and every foster mother seen and that the foster fathers should also be seen, though this last did not prove possible in 7 cases. It was agreed that children should also be seen, if possible, both alone and in the family setting. There was some difference of opinion among the investigators as to whether it was more valuable to see the foster parents separately when they might speak more naturally, or together where their relationship to each other would be significant. In many cases a first visit was made to the foster mother and a second visit when foster father was at home.

Except in two cases (where it was not done owing to distance and shortage of time), a visit was made to the school in every case and the child's temperament and progress discussed with the teacher. Fuller information about a child was sought on occasions from a doctor, a speech therapist, an analytical psychologist, and a visiting teacher.

It was felt that foster parents should have prior notice that a social worker was to call to discuss the child and after the first few visits in the survey, a letter was sent to each foster mother advising of the proposed visit and asking her to reply if the time suggested were inconvenient; as follows:-

6 (From P.2) In one case the investigators were asked by C.W.D. not to visit a home in which a foster child had been for three years as it was now considered by the Department to be an unsuitable foster home and the child was about to be removed. The C.W.D. felt that in view of difficulties which might arise no visit should be made. This home, though not visited, can therefore be assumed to be an unsuitable one, it might even be considered to be a very unsuitable one from the C.W. description of the conditions and the attitude of foster parents. We are not in a position however to assess it from the point of view of this survey, which is to be regretted since if any of the most unsuitable homes are omitted, the final summing up of the situation could be out of line.

"Dear Mrs

We have been asked to help in considering arrangements which have been made available for children who are not able to live with their own parents.

I should like to call to see you about this as you have with you and I will come at on

If this is not convenient for you would you be good enough to let me know either by a note to my home address or by 'phone. If I am not there when you ring someone will take a message for me.

Yours sincerely,

....."

This system proved to have advantages and disadvantages, but we felt that on the whole the advantages outweighed the disadvantages. The advantage of this method is that the foster mother does not feel caught unawares, or "spied upon" and is ready and free from other distractions to discuss the child thoughtfully. We feel moreover, that everyone has a right to know officially that he is to be visited and why and should not be expected to unburden himself to any stranger who might call unannounced. The disadvantages are that the receipt of a letter throws some foster mothers into a panic and caused them undue anxiety. Reference is made at a later stage in the report to some of the implications of this anxiety at the prospect of our visit.

We were careful to make clear the purpose of our visit, to be listeners and never advisers, and never to be pushed into the rôle of the Child Welfare Officer.

In no homes did we fail to be invited in and in the great majority of the homes we were welcomed and even found it difficult to get away. On some occasions the foster mother had taken the precaution, on receiving the letter, of verifying who we were with the C.W.D. A large number of foster parents went to great pains to arrange that they should be available to see us when we called.

5. ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

We have chosen, in writing the Report, to begin by setting forth the impressions which the investigation left in our minds and thereafter to go on to discuss in detail the material on which these impressions are based.

The question which was constantly before us was: can we, in the light of what we are finding, make any constructive suggestions as to methods of making foster home placements? Though it may seem to be putting the cart before the horse to discuss findings before the data on which they are based, we do it because we feel that this arrangement may give shape and clarity to what follows.

We begin then with the question:

6. COULD FOSTER HOME PLACEMENT BE IMPROVED?

We realise that with the shortage of foster homes there may have been no alternative to placement in these homes in many

cases. There are therefore, three questions to be asked. Could additional foster homes be found? Could these homes have been improved as foster homes? Should provisions other than foster homes be made for some children?

These three questions are related. If the importance of the task of foster parents could be enhanced in their own eyes and if prospective foster parents were to feel that they could get a good deal of assistance (of an intangible kind), more might offer, since many are afraid of failure. If some of the most difficult children could be placed under another type of care, fewer foster parents might give up altogether in despair and never take another child. Many too, will not offer for fear they will get a "problem child."

We concentrated first on considering the second of these points.

In What Way Could the Foster Homes We Saw be Improved?

(1)

We make the following observations: We feel that the C.W. approach has tended to emphasize the child in isolation, and the foster parent has been given, to some extent, the feeling that she is being "made use of" rather than being considered as an integral part of the child's development. In truth though, one is putting the child's welfare first when one takes the foster parents feelings into account. It seemed to us that in many cases the C.W.D. had not taken the foster parents into their confidence sufficiently. Foster parents were left with a sense of bewilderment and doubt, sometimes not even knowledge as to the length of the child's stay - days, weeks, years? In such an uncertain situation, it is hard for the foster mother to convey to the child a sense of security. We feel it should be possible to avoid giving foster parents the feeling that they often have, that a child may be whisked away at a moments notice. We found, for example, that on many occasions our proposed visit was equated in the foster parents mind with the possibility of the removal of the child forthwith. Where a placement is known to be of only a short period, we think that the foster parents should be told its likely duration. Often a placement originally stated as required for a few days only drifts into a lengthy stay, so that neither child nor foster mother knows when the bond they are forming is going to be broken.

Another example of the difficulties of indefiniteness, is the woman who is given a baby for an unknown period and feels that she would have preferred to know a definite period of stay, even if probationary, rather than not to be able to plan for schooling, employment and so on, on a long term basis.

We feel that with babies not placed for adoption, an assurance of say 1, 2, or 3 years could be given with advantage (allowing of course for unforeseen circumstances, or errors of judgment as to suitability of the placement). Uncertainty militates against the child both in the long term and in the short term view. Without giving reasonable certainty we seem to be denying to foster parents the very qualities of foresight and normal human possessiveness which we appreciate in good parents. We cannot expect foster parents to treat the children as if they were their own and at the same time constantly remind them that they are not.

(2) Another point we feel to be of importance is the conception of the relationship between C.W.O. and foster parents as being one of partnership and not as one in which the C.W.O. is scrutinising the foster parents. We found that, whether justifiably or not, many foster parents regarded the C.W.O. as an Inspector rather than as an adviser.

We feel this is a weakness in the present system, where the C.W.O. is often unable to convey to the foster parents his real desire to help. This may be a carry-over from the time when a Government official from any Department was always regarded as an Inspector. The number of times we were immediately invited to inspect bedding, clothing and cupboards was revealing. The point previously made, about giving prior notice of a visit is relevant here. A visit without warning can hardly fail to be thought of as inspection or as one made with the purpose of catching the foster mother off her guard. It could be thought of as a disregard of ordinary courtesy. We feel therefore, that the system of making appointments before visiting could, with advantage, be used in many instances. Any difficulties on the part of G.W.O. in keeping to a pre-arranged time-table would be outweighed by the fact that a visit is very much more fruitful when the one visited expects the social worker and is at ease and able to give undivided attention to the problems in mind. The G.W.O.'s have an important task in front of them in overcoming this apparent attitude of some foster parents towards them, which we recognised to be present to some degree in about 30 of our visits.

We appreciate when thinking of what partnership involves, that the amount of information given by G.W.O.'s to foster parents must be influenced by each foster parent's capacity to understand and make use of it. Nevertheless, we think that each case must be gauged individually and that there is very seldom justification in with-holding information which is relevant to the understanding of the child. It may even be dishonest to give the foster parents too rosy a picture of the child so that they are dismayed by unexpected problems which subsequently arise and may even reproach themselves as being the cause of the difficulties. This results in feelings of inadequacy on their part and thus becomes a vicious circle. A child recognising the lack of co-operation between foster parents and G.W.O. may feel torn over his own loyalties, and the situation to be avoided is the one in which a child can play off a G.W.O. against a foster parent or vice versa. Equally a foster parent who feels an absence of appreciation for herself is less likely to share the child with a G.W.O. In the last resort this hidden struggle militates against the most important role of the G.W.O. - in being in the child's mind a representative of the adult world, unfailing and unchanging. In this connection it is important for the G.W.O. to appreciate and accept what the G.W.O. may stand for in the child's mind. No matter how well warranted the Division's action may have been in doing so, they are, in the child's mind, the people who removed him from his own home and may do so again from subsequent homes.

The handling of these intertwined relationships is a very delicate one and the prime importance of the parent-child relationship cannot be over-emphasised. We sensed in the eagerness with which foster parents talked to us of their problems that they would welcome more opportunities for discussion with G.W.O.'s in this way. Routine and hurried visiting is all too liable to resolve itself into "instructions given" rather than "discussion about". It is very easy to hand out advice, it is equally easy for it to be ignored. The aim of these discussions should be to encourage the foster parent to recognise and think out for themselves the implications of day to day problems. This involves in the G.W.O.'s willingness to listen - which is not synonymous with passivity.

This desire in the foster parents for a relationship with a social worker which is at once sustained and sustaining impressed itself upon us again and again in our visits. Here we felt is a sphere as yet relatively undeveloped in the G.W.O. work, and one which calls into expression in the social worker,

concerned, qualities of understanding and insight of the highest order. We can see here the value of there being as few changes of worker as possible. An abstract idea of a beneficent "Child Welfare" can mean little to a foster parent and nothing to a child. Once this relationship between C.W.O. and foster parent has been established they can together meet some of the problems which have to be faced and allowance can be made for timing to suit each person. One good example of this is the important and recurring question of letting a child know he is a State ward or if he is illegitimate. Whatever view is held as to when a child should be told, a plan should be agreed on from the first between foster mother and C.W.O. This would obviate for a foster mother possible years of worry and for a child the possibility of a traumatic experience. Another question which could be worked out together is that of the real parents continuing to see the child. Not only should a foster parent be picked who is capable of sharing with a natural parent, where this is desired, but the whole question must be talked out with the foster parents from the outset, and not left until a disastrous visit of relatives occurs.

The same point applies on the question of when sex instruction should be given and by whom. A point relevant to the whole matter of giving the foster parent as full a sense of responsibility as possible, is the system of buying clothes for the foster children. This sense can be encouraged by allowing the foster parent to choose the foster child's clothes as she would for her own children and we should like to see the practice of doing this used even more widely than at present.

(3) When one sees the work of the C.W.O. in this light, again it is apparent that no aspect of a child's life can be seen in isolation, but the family must always be thought of as a unit. This encompasses the foster father, the natural children, the other foster children as well as the foster mother. We had the feeling that perhaps the foster father tends to be overlooked often in studying the foster home and he has not been given enough sense of responsibility vis à vis the C.W.O. Parental feelings are not peculiar to the mother in the foster home any more than in the natural home.

In order to see the whole family picture with all its inter-relationships, a very full study must be made and constantly added to as knowledge grows. The entire assessment of the suitability of the foster home to have a child has to be made with the greatest care. It was difficult to judge from the case records kept in C.W. Office whether that had been done, since there is a paucity of information on the files about feelings and attitudes and relationships. It is to be remembered that relevant information known should be written down, for then it provides a safeguard and a strength in that more than one person can assess placement in the light of the information available and weaknesses in knowledge become apparent. In this way failures and successes can be checked up against the original situation and assessment of it, and a body of knowledge can be built up.

We feel therefore, that the foster home placement service can be very greatly improved if a fuller study were made, and recorded, of the foster home and of the individual child (including early history and development, his present stage of development, his personality), insofar as this is possible and there should also be reference to the effects of the relationship between child and home.

(4) It has occurred to us that a detailed register might be kept in district offices of all foster homes available in which sufficiently full information is recorded to give an indication

of the suitability as a foster home for a child of a certain personality: out of this register might be drawn those homes which appear to be suitable for children with particular difficulties. A very full study would have to be made of each of these homes and probably a record kept of them nationally. This might minimise to some extent, the practice of having to try difficult children in a number of homes without being reasonably sure first that there is a good chance of adjustment.

(5) One must remember of course, that no social worker can be expected to have sufficient knowledge of specialist fields to make an accurate assessment on every case and will frequently have to look to the specialists for supplementary help. The foster home placement service can be expected to improve as other specialist services develop in the community with their own trained social workers. In some instances we feel that the knowledge of such people as school-teachers, who could be expected to have a great deal of valuable information about the children, could have been tapped more fully and in turn they could often justifiably claim that there was much of value that could have been passed on to them by C.W.O's.

(6) In general, we feel that the intensive case work we have been talking about was needed in all the homes we visited, suitable and unsuitable alike. Though we feel that some of the unsuitable homes could never be made wholly suitable, yet there were many directions in which they might have been made less inadequate. Reassurance and support can do much for the unsatisfactory foster parent. It might be possible for example, sometimes to divert on to the worker some of the fears and resentments which would otherwise have been worked out on the child. An unsatisfactory foster parent can often be helped a great deal too if the social worker knows how to utilise every positive feature in her. By this approach a foster parent is more likely to allow a social worker to help, for example, an adolescent in finding wider outlets, and in some instances we consider that this help might be directed to the child itself where the foster parent situation was not susceptible to change. For example, the child placed with a widow who could be helped by the provision of a father figure, in the shape of the foster mother's male relation, or man school teacher, club leader or man child welfare officer. In the same way, a lonely child's interests and varied contacts with other children might be fostered; or the C.W.O. could do much in getting a strict and perhaps old foster mother to accept the idea that these outlets are healthy.

(7) We consider that available foster homes might be better utilised if they were conserved for the purpose for which they were suited and intended. This brings up the questions (a) of short stay needs and (b) of caring for the specially difficult child.

(a) Some of the hurried placements were seen to have been made on a temporary basis because time did not allow a choice in an emergency. We question whether the use of foster homes as short stay placements is a wise one and favour short-stay institutions for this kind of situation. We found in fact, that a demand did exist for such institutions and was being met by the use of a number of foster homes which are continuously used for short term placements. These are in fact, short stay institutions.

We noted that several other foster homes are in use from time to time as temporary homes. We think therefore that they should be recognised for what they are and that thought should be given as to how a short stay home should be run. In our view, in most instances

a small residential home is preferable to the foster home for a short stay for the following reasons. A child who has to adjust to a number of changes finds it easier to adapt to a short stay placement if it is not too demanding on his emotions. Placement in a foster home involves the setting up of mutual ties, which when broken, make the child feel more than ever rejected. The foster home is too like a real home and is not taken casually by the child. A child who comes under the C.W.D. is inevitably bound to feel some measure of rejection and each successive move is yet another rejection of him by adults and no rejected child can develop easily. The right kind of small residential home does not make the same demands on him and is not so smothering. The staff of such a home would have to be very carefully selected for they must be able to accept negative or unresponsive behaviour and to be unpossessive in attitude.

(b) If foster homes are to be made available for the kind of child who can respond to what they have to offer, then the child who cannot must be catered for in a different way. We noted that there were 11 children in all who it is considered are not at present suited for placement in a foster home, and 8 of these are in the class with frequent changes of home. Some of these come into the group of children who have internalised problems, which makes it impossible for them to respond to an ordinary home without a period of skilled treatment. Others in this category will be children whose outward behaviour is acceptable, yet who have nevertheless, deep psychological difficulties e.g. the child with obsessional illness; the stammerer; the psych-somatic.

The behaviour of both these groups of children is not contingent on the relationships in the home and they need treatment regardless of what the home is like. The kind of provision which is needed for these children is a special residential home with trained staff and specialist workers available of the type provided in Britain and elsewhere for maladjusted children.

Finally

Throughout our survey, each child and home was considered individually, and though we have enunciated certain principles which we would like to see carried out, we would emphasise that these cannot be regarded as a formula to be applied without distinction in every situation. We appreciate only too well, the tremendous responsibility which C.W.O.'s have in placing children in foster homes. We recognise too, the often insuperable difficulties of finding good foster homes and hope therefore, that this necessarily brief study may be of some assistance to them in their daily work.

PART II

THE FOSTER HOMES AND THE

FOSTER CHILDREN

....

7. THE FOSTER HOMES:

The married status of those providing foster homes was as follows:-

Married Couples	61
Widows	17
Married f.m./separated from husband	2
Spinster	4

.... 84

Chart I - shows the composition of the family.

MARRIED COUPLES, WIDOWS, SPINSTERS. Ages of F.mothers & fathers.				
	F.M.	F.F.	Widows	Spinsters
16 - 20	1			
21 - 25	1	2		
26 - 30	4	4	1	
31 - 35	8	7		
36 - 40	6	6	1	
41 - 45	17	12	1	1
46 - 50	6	10	1	1
51 - 55	5	3	4	
56 - 60	9	9	2	1
61 - 65	4	5	3	1
66 - 70		1	2	
71 - 75			1	
76 - 80				

AGES WHEN F.CHILDREN FIRST TAKEN. (foster parents)

16 - 20	1			
21 - 25	4			
26 - 30	7			1
31 - 35	11			
36 - 40	21		2	1
41 - 45	12	2		1
46 - 50	4		1	
51 - 55	5		1	
56 - 60	3	1	2	1
61 - 65	2		1	
66 - 70				
71 - 75				
76 - 80				

1. Foster fathers' ages not known exactly in all cases (these were the cases when the age was not obtained during the visit as reliance was placed on it being recorded in C.W. files and this did not prove so.)
2. Second table, shows the age when these particular foster children, or the eldest of the children included in this survey, were taken. It is not necessarily the age at which foster children were first taken.
3. There are fewer widows in Table 2 as many of the women were married when they took the children.

The distribution of the children among these homes is as follows:-

8	foster children placed with spinsters (2 spinsters having natural children.)
20	" " " " widows
3	" " " " foster mother living apart from husband.
77	" " " " married couples.

What are the Homes Like?

In general we found that the homes offered reasonable material comfort and there was only one which was on the borderline subsistence level. However there were four others where the foster mothers needed to supplement their income and did so by taking children. We felt that this did not necessarily make them unfavourable homes.

The foster homes we noted were in general drawn from the artisan rather than the professional group though there were, of course, exceptions and the professional group invariably were more interested in adoption than in fostering. Though this might seem to indicate that the professional group is untapped as a source of foster parents it has to be remembered that most foster children come from the lower income groups and therefore their placement may be an indication of matching a child's background with his placement.

We noticed that the majority of foster homes were concentrated in the following areas: Brooklyn, Newtown, Lower Hutt and Petone, and that e.g. Karori and Khandallah offered relatively few homes.

Suitability

We asked ourselves what number of these homes could be considered suitable foster homes, what number unsuitable and what the attributes are which determine such an assessment.

In deciding first whether a foster home is suitable to be used as a foster home at all, we classified the homes in three categories:-

(1)	Suitable for any child	-	39
(2)	Suitable for any child subject to certain conditions	-	6
(3)	Unsuitable for any child	-	39

We found that out of our 84 homes, 39 appeared to be suitable for any child, 6 more were borderline cases which might be suitable, making 45 in all.

When we tried to determine what are the qualities which make a good foster home we found that we could not say there was any which could be isolated; there were however combinations of factors which made for a good foster home in our judgment.

(a) Suitable for any Child:

The most important feature in the good foster home is the atmosphere, which is largely determined by the attitude and relationship of the two foster parents. In all the suitable homes the married relationship seemed a happy one, though this is an ineffable quality to judge. They were almost all complete homes in that there was a father and a mother, the exception being five homes in which the foster mother was widowed after the child was placed. We felt that these foster parents were emotionally mature in that their relationship to each other was an inter-dependent one and their desire for children was the need to create a family set-up and not to find a solution to their own difficulties through a child.

It is significant that twenty-three of the foster parents took the children with a view to adoption. Three subsequently decided to adopt and a further two may adopt if all goes well, making twenty-eight out of the thirty-nine suitable foster parents. It seems that a desire to have a child permanently can be considered a good feature in a foster mother.

Love of children we considered, is not enough in itself and in these good foster parents the attitude to the children was one of respect for the individual child and not one of a desire to dominate or possess, nor "make use of" for the benefit of their own child. In these good homes, the child was given freedom to develop in a secure atmosphere. We noted that in most cases it was the young or the young middle aged people who made the best foster parents. Age of foster parents has of course, to be considered relative to the age of the child and emotional and chronological age has to be distinguished. Some people are middle aged at twenty-five while others are vital and responsive at fifty-five. With regard to the personality of the foster mothers, we looked for balanced people who were well integrated and happy in the position of wife and mother.

Among this group there was no persistent ill health, but we felt that even if it were to occur there would be constructive acceptance of it.

The kind of homes we considered good, are illustrated by the following cases:-

1. "Boy aged 3, boarded out in this foster home since he was a toddler. Foster-mother was a widow at the time but has since remarried. She is a large, warm-hearted person who cheerfully accepts in the present family set-up, children of her husband's first marriage, her own son from her first marriage, a small girl of the present marriage and the foster child.

The foster-father is a farmer who is an undemonstrative person and taciturn about his attitudes to life but one feels that he really cares for people and is fond of his foster son.

The home is very pleasant and casually comfortable, but well cared for and is certainly a home and not just a house to live in. All the younger children have hobbies which are pursued for the fun of the thing rather than being instructive and one got the feeling that every person in this mixed family is respected as an individual. The laughing allusions which were made to this or that member of the family being the most favoured or the most important seems to indicate an honest, acknowledged understanding of the inevitable complexities which exist in all family living and perhaps a little more so in families as mixed as this one. Because of such attitudes as this and the very good relationship which obviously exists between these foster-parents, we feel that this is a really good foster home placement."

.....

2. "Boy aged 3 years, who was committed at 3 months and after two foster home placements, was taken into his present home. His second foster mother had found him "undemonstrative and lacking in affection" and asked that he should be removed for this reason.

In his third foster home, this boy has found his niche. The foster mother is a strong and warm-hearted woman, outgoing in her approach who accepts children as individuals. The foster father has a rough friendliness about him and though he allows his wife to "rule" in the house, he by no means accepts a minor role in general. The good married relationship which exists between these foster parents is felt in the vigor and spontaneity displayed in their family life. The five natural children in the

home accept the foster child as one of them and toys are shared by the younger children with the foster child. In this warm family atmosphere the foster child has developed into a friendly little lad."

.....

3. "Two girls aged 7, who had become friends in the Receiving Home were placed together in a foster home. The foster mother took both though she had only intended to have one, as she did not like the idea of separating friends. This might have been a difficult situation in view of possible rivalry between children of same age and sex, each of whom was, in view of her history, desperately in need of love and interest and might not be able to share it with another. Moreover, both children had been in their own way, a considerable problem in the past becoming more difficult in behaviour with each change of home. They were a pathetic little pair, each showing marked behaviour problems.

One, an illegitimate child, brought up in poor conditions, unwanted and unloved by anyone. She was premature and sickly from the start and would have a struggle to survive even in a friendly world. She had had three previous placements with a view to adoption and a period in a Receiving Home. On each occasion the foster mother returned her after a short time, declaring her to be stubborn or difficult and apparently mentally defective. She had outbursts of temper tantrums and was given to wandering from home during this period and showed a variety of symptoms - speech defect, a squint when anxious, masturbating and she "grizzled" perpetually. The foster mother was harsh in trying to force her into a pattern of good behaviour. After several changes, the psychologist's view was that she was too unstable for a foster home at all.

The other, had a similar history. Poor early influences; her mother being a half Maori and said to be mentally defective, as was her husband from whom she was separated. The children of the marriage were all neglected and became State Wards.

This child was undernourished and uncared for. She had a history of ailments, bad teeth and tonsils, recurring deafness (diagnosed as not being organic but a defence mechanism in frightening situations), and a slight speech defect. She had had three previous placements, all prior to present foster home she was reported as dull and difficult by foster mothers who sent her back after short periods. It was thought by a psychologist that only an exceptional foster home would meet her need of unfailing understanding and affection. She was not it would seem at this time particularly loveable.

Both these children, alike in their poor background history and unsettling experiences, were difficult problems for a foster home. Yet a home was found which seems to meet the need of each. It is a family of father and mother and two grown-up sons. The mother, simple in outlook, warm and giving, accepts each child as an individual and different from the other. She does not gloss over the problems they have but quietly gives unfailing understanding and love and the kind of stability and reassurance they both need. "You will live 100 years won't you" one child asked her. The foster father takes his right place in the scheme and

is firm and kind. The two grown-up sons living at home are fond of the children and regard them as an integral part of the family.

Neither of the children has, in the 18 months in this home, entirely lost the symptoms of her emotional difficulties. Speech defects and nervous mannerisms are still there to some extent and yet each child is developing and beginning to adjust socially. At school one is beginning to take part more in what other children are doing instead of being a spectator. The other, the quiet withdrawn one, though less outgoing, is beginning to bloom a little. This child will never be very bright, but the foster mother accepts it and stresses the good qualities in her "slow but thorough." She does not shut off their early history from the children but talks to them of their parents when they want to do so.

Both the children are still hungry for praise, and the assurance of being loved, approved and protected. As they begin to get this in the setting of a stable home and with an understanding class mistress, they are gradually, each in her own way, becoming happy children."

.....

(b) Suitable subject to Certain Conditions:

There were 6 borderline cases which possibly belong to the "suitable" class but we were not wholly satisfied that they could be classified as such unless a certain amount of help of an intangible kind could be given them. This however is a matter of degree to some extent in many of the foster homes and this point is dealt with later in the report.

(c) Unsuitable for any Child:

In considering these homes, we classified as unsuitable those where we felt that there was a high probability that this foster home would not provide the setting for a child's full development. Where there was an element of doubt we have therefore classed them as unsatisfactory. In the category of unsuitable are 39 homes. (It is to be noted that among these are six homes which it is apparently intended by G.W.D. should only be used for temporary placements, but which are in fact used for both temporary and permanent placements.)

In considering what made for an unsatisfactory home, it was the absence of many of the positive features which go to make a normal happy family which stood out. We classified a number of features which made for an unsuitable home but in considering the following table, we must stress that it is not one factor by itself which makes for unsuitability in our minds, but certain combinations of factors which together provide but poor soil for growth.

Reasons:

(1) <u>Age of Foster Parents:</u>			
	Foster Mother too old	5	} 10
	Foster Father too old (& bound to die soon)	1	
	Both Foster Parents too old	4	
(2) <u>Home with only One Foster Parent:</u>		8) 8
(3) <u>Misadjustment in Foster Parents:</u>			
	Selfish Motives in taking Child	6	} 20
	Neurotic Mothers	11	
	Anxiety state in Foster Mother	3	
(4) <u>Marital Disharmony:</u>		1) 1
			<u>39</u>

Since these divisions may seem arbitrary and in fact do merge one with another, we shall explain what we have in mind.

(1) Age of Foster Parents:

We ruled out as unsatisfactory a number of homes where the age of either or both of the foster parents seemed too great in relation to the child. We did this for a number of reasons. In some cases the likelihood of the child's foster parents dying before the child reached independence is a risk to his security which should not be taken (in 2 cases death had occurred).

In old age too, chronic ill health is almost to be expected with the resulting depressive atmosphere for a child. Furthermore old people are less adaptable to change and may be unsympathetic to childish activity and in some cases too inactive themselves to meet it. We found this to be true in many cases where the child's real needs tended to be overlooked and his requirements subordinated to the conveniences of the older people. In some of these unsuitable homes the child had been taken as a companion for the foster parents old age. In others an ageing woman seemed to be clutching at life through a young child.

4. "Foster mother aged 65, widowed 10 years ago. She is extremely proud of the devotion of her two sons aged 25 and 22 who have "stuck to her through thick and thin" and of her adopted daughter aged 21 on whom she imposes considerably, expecting her to housekeep and provision for the family while going to work at the same time. She is bed-ridden for long periods and exultant over the fact that she has raised a family who willingly give her all their time and energy - the adopted daughter and foster child stay home every night knitting, listening to the radio and talking to her. During the day when they are all at school or work she amuses herself gossiping over the telephone. She has a fund of information about her neighbours and takes great pleasure in scandal-mongering. The children's plans for work or pleasure are customarily submitted to her and she has the casting vote. The C.W.O. is made use of extensively, but only as she sees fit; in a singularly high-handed fashion she refuses co-operation in the matter of telling the child that he is a State Ward. One feels that no child would be free to strike out in any direction in this house and any enthusiasm or desire is liable to be squashed mercilessly regardless of the child's feelings in the matter. The adoption and fostering are kept secret from the children concerned and could easily be used as weapons for bolstering up foster-mother's authoritarianism. Her barbed tongue is active on the subject of previous foster children; particularly is this so with regard to those who have fought free of her to the extent of founding families of their own and she has not a good word to say for any of them.

She first took children to board 20 years ago and continued to do so after the death of her husband as a means of earning her living. Her home is very comfortable and the material standard is very high but the atmosphere is oppressive because the foster mother is a singularly selfish, dominating and vindictive woman."

5. "This girl of fourteen is with a widow of 71 years. The foster mother was 60 years old and the girl 3 years 2 months at the time of placement. The child had previously been placed with the present foster mother's married daughter of 38 years. The daughter fell ill and her mother took the child but refused to hand her back later and blackened her daughter's character to the C.W.D. who allowed the present foster mother to keep the child. This present foster mother has been married twice and had eleven children. At the time of placement she had been separated from her second husband for nine years and had at home two sons aged 15 years and 20 years.

During worker's visit the foster mother dwelt on how much her children meant to her. It was felt that she had only enjoyed life through her children. When there were only two left at home and then not for long, and there was the additional danger that she might lose some of her sons during the war, she clutched at this small child almost as a drowning man clutches at a straw. It was the one way that she could keep her hold on her enjoyment of life. Not many normal women of 60 years who have brought up 11 children would want a three year old girl so much that they would be prepared to wrest her off their own daughter."

.....

(2) Home with only One Foster Parent:

In this group we included those where the absence of two parents was the predominating characteristic which made it unsuitable.

It might be said that one foster parent alone can never provide the wholly satisfactory substitute family. Indeed though we cannot assume that being single does not mean that one cannot provide a good home, yet the single person who offers to take a foster child is more likely to be unsuitable than not, by virtue of her insensibility to the problem and her apparent disregard of the importance of the natural pattern of family life with two parents. Nevertheless, we have not classed all single persons as unsuitable, it is where it is associated with certain other features that it has been classed as so.

6. "Girl aged eight years - been in present foster home since the age of 3½ months. The foster mother is at first sight a warm-hearted, middle-aged widow but she is in fact a very anxious person. She was married late in life and her first and only baby died at 7 months; the present foster child was taken as a substitute. (This in itself is not necessarily bad, but with an over-protective mother it can result in difficulties for the foster child.) At school the child does not play well with other children and in fact is quite withdrawn in her personal relations. She has a real fear of becoming dirty and will not allow herself to become dishevelled at all, this makes her the butt of some of the school pupils - especially the boys who torment her. At home her room is spotlessly kept and is not in the least like a child's room. This cleanliness is in keeping with the meticulous appearance of the whole house and its spartan atmosphere.

The recent death of the foster father, the over-anxious personality of the foster mother, the meticulous cleanliness of the girl combine to provide the key to the apparent deep inner difficulties of the child.

.....

7. "Foster mother aged 63, widowed 13 years ago. There is no man in the house and the whole attitude to men is rather suspect because the two grown-up daughters are rather unfortunate in their male associations. Foster mother, though she was happily married, has her most poignant memories surrounding her eldest son who was killed overseas in the Air-Force. The two small children belonging to the eldest daughter are made much of and have affection lavished on them by their grandmother. There have been foster children in the home for many years and the foster mother cherishes their continued contact with her. Her rules for their upbringing are extremely flexible and even haphazard at the pre-school age. However, as they get on in years she becomes over-cautious and almost repressive. e.g. insisting that they never go out at night and never associate with the opposite sex under any pretext whatever. Though she seemed quite favourably disposed to sport and entertainment, generally one felt that she cannot now accept the physical factors of social living and simply does not realise the necessity for wider as well as closer contacts. Her health is deteriorating and lassitude of old age and general dreariness contribute to the general atmosphere of depression and negation of life. The foster mother is full of kindness and grandmotherly affection but is quite incapable of changing her outlook."

.....

(3) Maladjustment in Foster Parents:

(a) When we stigmatise a motive as selfish we are thinking of the mother who puts her own need for companionship as a motive for taking a child. Related to this is the mother who expresses her own selfishness by declaring that her own child needs the companionship, thus absolving herself from any bother. In this category we are also thinking of the foster mother who takes a child as a plaything for her own.

8. "Girl aged nine boarded out with a widow in her 50's. Reason given for taking a foster child - her daughters advised her to do so on their leaving home to get married, so that she would have company. The child appeared happy enough when the home was visited, but at the same time it was noticed that the child was most apologetic in regard to any noise she may have made in bouncing her ball against the house when the social worker and foster mother were talking in the front room. Further details are also perhaps of some significance the child in relating a bicycle accident let out that she had been afraid to return to her foster mother immediately after the accident despite the fact that her foot was temporarily painful, because the bicycle suffered somewhat in the spill. The bicycle is hers but not really

hers since she is often reminded that it was once the property of the daughters of the family and the foster mother herself never had a bicycle when she was a little girl etc. There were reminders too, to the child, about the price of matches and the whole box of matches which had been used on Bonfire Night and the expense of visits to the cinema. Finally, although there is a bedroom to spare in this home, this child sleeps in the same room as the foster mother. One would doubt very much whether this child has any separate entity or will experience life in her own right.

.....

9. "Foster parents in early 40's. They have an only son aged 6 who has always had attention, affection and gifts lavished upon him. The foster mother expresses some concern over the fact that she can have no more children. This may go very deep but she relates it particularly to the fact that her son seems very old-fashioned and grown-up in his behaviour and manner of speech and is inclined to be selfish. The child is the apple of the parents eye and is both over-protected and pampered in many ways and subjected to very close scrutiny and criticism.

The parents are tense, reserved and undemonstrative on the whole, and though they both show affection very naturally to their little son, one felt that they were not altogether happy and contented with their life together. They both have memories of poverty in early childhood when they learned to give and take the hard way. Though keen to awaken in their son a desire to share, they are determined not to deprive him of his inherent rights as the child of the house. They thought that it would be a good thing for their son if they adopted a small girl. After being offered various small boys as alternatives they considered that a foster child would meet their needs just as well. They gave him food and a certain amount of attention and encouraged him to share the foster father's knee at story-time and the foster mother's goodnight kiss. Their own son was encouraged to lend his toys and books and the extent to which he would go in this matter was considered a sign of his benefiting from the association. The personality of the foster child was certainly not considered in its own right and the pleasure he took in tree-climbing, playing games like football and cricket out in the street with boy-friends, out of doors in all weathers was considered unhealthy and tough and sometimes outright bad. The expectation that the foster child should conform and develop exactly along the lines of their child, be his companion, and the sharer of all his belongings cannot be otherwise than a severe handicap and restricting influence to him in this household."

.....

- (b) When we talk of neurotic motives we are thinking of deepseated unhealthy motives such as assuaging an abnormal amount of grief or guilt by taking a foster child to replace

one's own who had died. The foster child's wellbeing in this situation is too dependent on the foster mother's unrealistic expectation and needs.

There is also the neurotic mother who works out her own problems via the child. This may be an attempt to weld together a marriage which is breaking up or it may show itself in spoiling the child in order to compensate for early childhood deprivations of the foster mother's own. The inner problems of the foster mother may also show themselves in over-possessiveness and over-protectiveness of the child. A blatant example of the neurotic motive is the religious fanatic who seeks to shape the world in the person of the foster child.

10. "This girl is six years old and was placed with her present foster mother soon after birth. The parents thought that they could not have children and machinery was set in motion for this child to be adopted. For some time previous to this the C.W.O.'s concerned had seriously doubted the suitability of the home for foster children and had every reason to suspect that the foster mother was not co-operating with them. The adoption proceedings have therefore been held up meantime but the child was left in the home.

The personalities of the two foster parents are cast in the same mould to a great extent since they are both devoted members of an extremist religious congregation. They have very repressive methods of child care and aim, as the foster mother put it at "bringing their children under subjection." The little girl is extremely fond of pretty clothes and this is considered a sinful tendency to be completely squashed. She does not like her long hair and takes every opportunity of cutting it. This is also considered to be evidence of vanity and wholly wicked. There is singularly little warmth in the manner of the foster parents to each other and the children (the foster child and own son aged 6 months). The house is devoid of material comfort and though clean enough is being allowed to fall to pieces. By the same token the garden is shoulder-high with weeds and except for a small patch of vegetables and one climber rose, is uncultivated. The little girl is expected to employ herself usefully about the place and is fast becoming proficient in the care of the baby boy and in all manner of household tasks. At home this little girl wears a continual frown and looks strained and care-worn. She speaks to the foster mother in the same domineering tone that the foster mother commonly uses. At school she is quite a different child, smiles a great deal, is pleasant to her companions and teachers and generally enjoys life. The teachers felt that the mother tended to haunt the place and jealously supervise the girl's every movement at school and in the playground. Since the birth of her son they have not seen her and feel that it is a merciful deliverance.

The mother's own attitude to education and in fact to all community matters is very strictly dictated by her religion and she is regarding the child as her little bit of world which can be moulded according to this arbitrary design."

(c) Anxiety State - In some foster homes we sensed over anxious attitudes to life which reflected themselves in the relationship with their foster children. We feel here that the pressure is not directed on the child in particular, but the atmosphere of over anxiety may create timid, insecure children.

For the purposes of classification, we have included in this group one person, who though on the surface stable, yet expressed queer ideas and who might be designated as near psychotic.

11. "Foster mother is a very sympathetic and kindly woman who has never been able to overcome the feelings of inadequacy and helplessness occasioned by something which happened to her 21 years ago. She had always prided herself on her ability to earn her living come what may, and certainly felt extremely competent and independent. It was a great shock to her when her husband's first nervous breakdown coincided with the birth of her daughter and caught her when she was hors de combat. Her financial position would have been quite sound but for the expenses involved in setting up house. Her husband was entitled to a war pension but this took years to come through and she had to do a great deal of pushing before it eventually came to light. She says that she had a very hard struggle to make both ends meet in the intervening period. Then and there she decided that she would never have any more children of her own, the fact that her husband made a good recovery, managed to earn good money so that their circumstances became very comfortable, did not affect her decision and since then she says that she could not respect him or rely on him to any extent. She was anxious however that her daughter should not grow up as an only child. Fostering children met her needs admirably and she has taken great care of this boy of 15 whom she has boarded since babyhood.

She is markedly obsessed with the idea that unless one knows the right person in any concern, public or private, who can pull the string at the appropriate moment, it is no earthly good expecting any help from them; this shows itself in all her dealings and she is extremely hesitant and timid about approaching public utility officers, school authorities, Social Security Dept, State Advances, and in fact expects nothing unless she happens to know one of the heads. Her daughter is independent and out-going and seems to her mother to be quite admirable in the way she has held her own, worked hard, stood on her dignity and achieved some standing in the community. The foster child on the other hand, seems to have been affected by her anxiety. He tends to allow himself to be imposed on without any questioning and while he has ability, is totally unable to assert himself in any way. Foster mother feels that she has needed to support him and push him in everything he has undertaken - even in small things as learning to ride a bicycle. The teachers at school say that he has good powers of expression on paper but that he never opens his mouth in class; although interested in sport he has never played because it requires a keenness and determination which he is quite unable to express.

It is interesting that the foster mother considers that her husband, a builder and most competent tradesman, has cramped the child's style considerably through giving him absolutely no encouragement or patient attention in any matter. Certainly this may be a factor in the boy's development but one feels that the principle implied in her attitude that there is no such thing as a fair deal in life or in the community at large has become implicit in the boy's personality."

12. "Boy of eight, the first foster child to be with these foster parents, who have a son of their own aged 8½ years. Both foster parents are slow-moving, slow talking people. The foster father a deaf man, seems despite his handicap, to be a man of considerable intelligence and better able to accept children. His wife, a tall lank woman lacks colour. Her mood when interviewed by the worker was sombre and dull and one felt that there would be little change if she was met on further occasions; her lack of spontaneity, her dull flatness, seemed indicative of anxiety and perhaps a fear of herself. Since this foster mother was unable to have anymore children, she applied for a girl to adopt but this was not possible at the time and this boy of eight was placed with her, with a view to adoption. He has proved a difficult boy to cope with, being enuretic and the foster mother immediately put him into napkins to avoid continual washing. The boy is also a poor eater. The foster mother complained bitterly about him and she recounted with special horror the occasion when the foster child soiled himself in her presence. The combination of depression in the foster mother's personality and her disappointment at not getting a girl, capped by the further disappointment of having a difficult child, makes for a most disturbed atmosphere one felt in this foster home".

.....

(4) Marital Disharmony:

This scarcely needs comment, since the atmosphere created must reflect in the child.

13. "A baby girl of 1 year has been boarded out with a foster mother of 41 years, whose only child, a married daughter of 25 years is now living in the South Island. The foster mother obviously misses her own daughter and seems to have taken the baby for something to occupy her time and mind. She did start going to work before she took the baby but said that she gave it up because her husband was annoyed as meals were not ready on time. This mother was definitely not happy in her marriage. She felt that her husband expected the house to be run for his benefit and made life uncomfortable for her if it were not. (This may not be the actual situation she may let him push her into the position of household drudge as then she can justifiably have a grievance against him.) One gathered the impression that the husband only let her have the baby on the condition that she manage on its board money. She had suggested to him that they adopt a baby but he replied that he was not going to work to keep another man's child. It would seem that perhaps the husband is also unhappy in the marriage relationship and is hitting back at his wife by not letting her adopt a child when she would like to and in that way depriving her of enjoyment. This atmosphere is bound to have an adverse affect on the child's development. One feels that the foster mother is using the child as a means of gaining the satisfaction she had failed to get out of her marriage. The foster father may unconsciously realise this and resent the child's presence."

.....

It might be argued that many children actually do do well in similar circumstances. However, in the light of present day knowledge of child development the absence of symptoms or behaviour problems is not invariably proof that the child is developing healthily. For example, the child's character may suffer in that though he is not anti-social, he is unsociable or he may be conditioned in such a way as to become a rigid adult.

Another example might be the child, who though not behaving badly, yet does not develop to the full his endowments in the intellectual or creative sphere and he falls short of his inherent capacities.

14. "Two boys at the ages of 3 and 3½ respectively placed with a widow have remained there 9 years. Both had had difficult backgrounds. One had been returned by his previous foster mother as she found him masturbating and considered him "morally deficient." The other boy was also handed back from a foster home because the foster mother was not able to cope with continuous soiling and bed-wetting.

In this present foster home, these difficulties have disappeared and the boys appear to be well settled down. It would be unwise however to assume that their difficulties have been solved, in that they could be expressed in other ways. In fact this has happened. In their early years at school these two boys were found to be wilful and destructive in their behaviour as a contrast to their behaviour in their home. Over the years this acute disobedience in school has gradually declined too and the boys are now much more normal in their behaviour, both however are still scholastically retarded.

It is felt that the chances of full personal development had been denied these boys in this home. Although there are no signs of difficulties in these boys now, one fears that the imposition of strict codes of conduct has constricted their full development. Should they come up against adverse circumstances, or be placed in a situation which is too free of restrictions, anti-social or a-social behaviour could ensue. "

.....

15. "Foster parent is an unmarried woman who has two foster children, a boy aged 8 and a girl aged 11; the children have been with her since infancy. This home is also run as a Day Nursery and the predominant note is one featuring a childhood fantasia. The foster mother is a kindly well-meaning woman doubtless, but whose emotions are so overwhelmingly devoted to children that the result is sickly and sentimental. She is, one feels, an over-anxious person who is therefore over-protective with her foster children, explaining it away largely in terms of their delicate health and selectiveness over playmates and their own desire for her company; nor has she any time for men and though she would have liked marriage in order to have a large family of her own she would not have wanted a husband since, as she said, she only likes men when they are

small boys. One would wonder here as to the future development of her foster son.

Neither child shows any behaviour problems, but they are nevertheless over-polite children on first impression and most solicitous about family expenses. At school the girl is regarded as being somewhat of an "exhibitionist" and the sort of child who rushes to do all the dusting and make things tidy. The boy is popular amongst his fellows but seems to play the part of clown a lot and repeatedly is the butt of any accident or incident. Although both these children have needed a great deal of extra care physically (and it is hard not to spoil children under these circumstances) and their foster mother has been a most devoted parent in this way, nevertheless, with her tendency to over-mothering her own problems dovetail adversely with the eventual healthy development of these children. The foster mother also appears to be a person who needs strong positive feelings displayed towards herself and the girl's adult patterns of helpfulness and the boy's inability to hit back if attacked at school may well point to unhealthy attitudes towards their own aggression. Psychiatric examinations would have been most useful here.

We could explain that this foster mother was simply ignorant about the real nature of children, but this would be to over-simplify what would appear to be more of a personality problem in the foster mother. Material well-being and hearty feeding of the children in this house are perhaps not ineptly indicated in a "poem" written by this foster mother for her foster daughter, whose concluding lines are thus ...

Best of all her "Nature",
Will be surpassing sweet,
And so they made "My Baby",
Fit for anyone to eat!

.....

8. METHODS OF OBTAINING CHILD:

We felt it would be of interest to know how it was that foster parents came to take children in the first place, as this might give some indication of motives.

Very little satisfactory information can be gained on this subject, since all children must come through C.W.D. and it is difficult to say what was the precipitating factor which made foster parents apply, or the underlying cause. We noted the following action followed by foster parents in getting a child:-

Foster Parents Action -

In answer to advertisement	: 11
Applied direct to C.W.D. for a child	: 48
Applied direct to C.W.D. specifying this child	: 11
Approached by C.W.D.	: 31
Approached by other organisations or individuals to take a child	: 4
Asked by C.W.D. to take child temporarily and became permanent placement	: 2

We then classified the children to see how many placed were what the foster mother asked for as to age and sex, with the following results:-

What foster mother asked for	:	68
Different age or sex from what	:	21
asked for	:	18
Foster mother did not mind which	:	18
		<hr/>
		107
		<hr/>

One practice we noticed in 5 cases involving six children was that a foster mother's home had been used as a temporary one over a period of years but never considered suitable for long term placement. However in order to reward the foster mother for long service, it would seem, she was ultimately given a permanent foster child.

In other instances a child placed temporarily, in fact drifts into being a permanent placement without apparent planning.

In considering the method of setting about getting a child, one might think the person who wants a child after due consideration, does not wait until she chances to see an advertisement before making enquiries. To reply to an advertisement for a child as though a commodity, seems to indicate a childish sense of values or an impulsive nature. Though the figures may not be significant, of the 11 foster mothers who obtained children through answering an advertisement six are in our "unsuitable" group. In general, appeals to pity conscience or desire to be liked are not likely to call forth the best kind of foster parent and advertising children is not likely to be a good mode of finding foster homes.

Again it is to be noted that out of the 21 children who were placed in homes where the foster parents initially had expressed a wish for a child of a different sex or age, 10 were in homes where we did not think the placement satisfactory.

In thinking of motive, we have seen that 49 of the foster mothers asked for children with the hope that they might adopt them. In this situation we may expect to find a number of foster parents feeling unhappy or frustrated when not allowed to adopt. We came to the conclusion that many people do not want to be foster parents and only do so as a poor alternative to being adoptive parents. A question to which we found no answer was what it is in human nature that inclines someone to want to be a foster parent.

9. THE CHILDREN †

We are well aware that no study of foster homes can be complete without knowing a great deal about the children the foster parents are being asked to take. What kind of children are they? How well matched is foster child and home? How well do they settle down? How many changes of foster homes do they have?

We realise that in the short contact we had, and in the absence of detailed case histories at C.W.D. it would be presumptuous to claim to have a full picture of each child. Our visits to home and school gave us fairly full information about

† Figures concerning the children's race, education, etc. contained in Appendix IV.

the child as he now is and we could distinguish which children were presenting problems in the home. Where our lack lay however, was in not being able to draw on knowledge of early development and experience in previous foster homes in order to assess accurately the present situation.

(1) How Do the Children Settle in Their Present Homes?

After having first studied the homes from the point of view of whether they are suitable as foster homes at all, we viewed the question from another angle and turned to the children to see how far each of them was in the particular home which was suitable for him.

Looking at our "suitable" group of homes, we found that 9 of the children placed in them were not homes suited to them individually. There were various reasons why we did not feel that home and child were completely well matched.

Children in Homes which though in 'Suitable' group are not entirely right for them.

Too dull a child	: 1
Personality difficulties too great for foster parents	: 3
Foster parents too old for child this age	: 2
Personality of foster parents and child incompatible	: 1
Doubtful elements present which indicate incompatibility but more information needed	: 2
	<hr/>
	9
	<hr/>

The following two cases dually illustrate the point. The third emphasises the point by describing an instance where the reverse is true and the home and child are well matched.

16. "Girl, who has an I.Q. of 79, aged 12, boarded out with an elderly couple for the past six years, whilst another child of the same age, who was adopted at the age of nine, lives in the same home. The foster parents are both intelligent, as is their adopted daughter and can take an intelligent interest in books, music, gardening and the school-parent association. Father holds an executive position.

It was felt that the foster parents accept the foster child with affectionate resignation and at the same time regret, and feel guilty, at not adopting her; they have not adopted this girl partly on the advice of the C.W.D. because of her low I.Q. and as they expressed it 'We don't feel she minds because she does not really understand the difference between herself and the other girl! One would ask - can we be sure of this? The pattern of the home is interesting in this sense. The foster girl automatically goes to bed an hour or two hours earlier than the other child, the pretext being that she is growing and needs more sleep - is this in fact in order to leave the 'real family of three' behind? One felt that this girl, although well behaved, docile, perhaps too docile and gentle, looked far from brimming over

with happiness and seems to aim at doing anything which will put her into the position of being the good girl of the family, to compensate for her deficiencies in other ways. Since this foster home is good in many ways, it would seem a pity that this girl had not been placed in a foster home which would have matched her lower intelligence better, leaving this home available for a brighter child to fit more naturally into it."

.....

17. "Two girls board with suitable foster parents. One of the foster children has difficulties. The foster parents, middle-aged to elderly, have had a number of foster children over the years. The foster mother is a friendly large woman; foster father is quiet, restrained and plays a good second fiddle to his wife. Both like children and accept them.

One of the children however, does not fit in easily in the home. It is perhaps because she compares rather unfavourably with the older State Ward who is a rather sweet girl and the obedient elder daughter. The other girl is slightly withdrawn and morose. The foster mother considered this child more 'sulky' than the older girl. It seemed to the worker that the foster mother was much more attached to the older child and unable quite to understand the other girl. The school report on the younger child indicated a lack of self-confidence and some difficulties. The teacher showed some concern for this child explaining how this child did not get on with the other child - was in some ways a busybody and often resentful. It is felt that as the child is not able to show affection in her personal relations, the foster mother is unable to respond to her. "

.....

18. "A boy of 10 years who was committed when he was 6 years old had been placed six times by his mother before he was committed. By the time he was 4 yrs. he was showing signs of maladjustment in that 'he was not demonstrative and appeared to be repressed.' A year later reports state that he was disobedient and telling lies, and showing his need for affection by stealing food and having a gross appetite. By the time he was 6 yrs. he had regressed to infantile behaviour in his search for affection; had become incontinent and on one occasion infuriated his foster mother by soiling on the bathroom floor and then telling a lie about it. He was so severely thrashed for this that his school complained to C.W. He was placed in the Receiving Home and committed as indigent as his mother was finding the paying of his maintenance rather difficult.

The first placement after committal was hardly successful. He was placed with a single woman who had other boys with her who were also State Wards.

It is evident that in this home he did not get the affection he wanted. He tried to punish his foster mother for this by stealing, wetting his bed and clothes, being destructive of his clothes and refusing to eat or behave at the table. He told his foster mother that he would show her up and finally he attacked one of the other foster children so that he was removed to the Boys' Home. He expressed a desire to kill his foster mother and the other foster child (he felt, no doubt, that if it had not been for the other foster child he might have been loved.) His next foster parents did not meet his needs either, and though the bedwetting disappeared, he stole from the chain stores, told lies, and was in trouble at school for both the standard of his work and his behaviour.

In July, 1950, he was placed in a home where his need for affection and his capacity for the giving of affection was responded to. The foster mother was helped to understand the boy's behaviour by a G.W.O. who made frequent visits and interpreted the behaviour to the foster mother. As the foster mother has a slight need for affection herself, she and this boy have fitted into one another's lives very well. The small 5 yr. old boy of the house was lonely and ready to enjoy and appreciate the foster boy, which was just what was wanted. As the foster mother appreciates affection herself, she therefore can appreciate another's need for it and when this boy showed a need for and a response to affection, the success of the placement was assured. Most of his symptoms have disappeared, he is putting on weight, improving in his school work and his foster parents are considering adopting him."

.....

Among these 9 children were 2 whom we feel had inner difficulties so subtle that only an exceptionally understanding foster mother could be expected to deal adequately with them, and it was no reflection on the foster mother that she could not. For this type of child another type of care than foster home placement is indicated and reference is made later to this point. Children who feel that they are rejected often prove difficult as they just cannot believe that anyone loves them and they try to prove that they are loved by trying the parents or foster parents to the last inch. They unconsciously assume that if a parent will put up with their bad behaviour and still love them, then at last they are really loved and accepted. Severely rejected children need unlimited assurance and affection and it is a difficult concept for a foster parent to give the unconditional love that these children demand.

The following is an example:-

19. "A girl now 5 yrs. old, was committed as indigent when she was two months old. She was placed with a woman of 30 yrs. with two children of her own aged 6 and 8 years. This foster mother found the child difficult to feed as she vomited persistently after meals and refused to eat. When this mother became pregnant she asked for the foster child to be removed. The child then spent a year in the Receiving Home and hospital. The matron of the Receiving Home found her a difficult child, nervous

and wilful and hard to handle. She was difficult to feed. She had to be forced to swallow by pinching her nose; cried bitterly whenever food appeared but did not have any tears. She was seen by two doctors who could not find any physical abnormality and were of the opinion that there was a psychological basis for her behaviour. She was then only 18 months old. Further reports say that she was at the time slow in speaking and walking.

When nearly 2 years old she was placed with an elderly woman who takes babies in need of physical building up. This foster mother could not keep the child because of her own-illhealth and thought that she would prove difficult to handle. The child was then placed with a view to adoption with a woman of 39 years. She worried these foster parents as she would not eat and was so difficult that the foster mother was on the verge of a nervous breakdown and had to return the child. By this time this little girl must have felt rejected and not loved.

This child has been with her present foster parents two years. These foster parents have taken a great interest in her but feel that after two years of persevering they have made little progress. This has had a bad effect on them too as they feel that they have failed through some fault of their own, whereas it would be only a perfect foster mother and father who could succeed. One felt that they were keeping the child because they did not like to think that they had failed with her. She bedwets nightly flies into temper tantrums, upsets meal hours, annoys the other children and is often disobedient. Not only is the foster home placement adverse to her development but her presence is having a harmful effect on the parents and on an adopted girl of 7 years.

At school she does not concentrate and upsets the class. The teacher said that she 'was the most extraordinarily naughty little girl that she had ever had.' She felt that this girl was insecure and unstable. The child is aggressive at school, a real little busybody with a streak of real venom in her. Despite this behaviour she is learning well. She shows her need for affection in her attitude to strangers. Most children of her age are a little chary of strangers, but this girl is anxious for attention. Her foster mother worries over this when the child is late home from school as she feels that the child would wander off with any stranger who invited her to do so. A child with so many problems at the age of 5 years needs skilled care that should be available for example, in a hostel for the maladjusted."

.....

20. "This girl of 13 was committed as indigent at 3 months of age. She was placed with a foster mother of 38 years with four boys aged 16, 13, 8 and 5. The foster parents accepted her as one of the family and wanted to adopt her but the natural mother would not consent. She took some interest in her daughter

and often visited the foster home. Her visits however caused some friction as she was often rude to the foster mother, taking the attitude that if she couldn't have the child, then the foster mother couldn't have her, that is adopt her either. This went on for a period of years the natural mother would even waylay the girl on the way home from school in order to see her. The natural mother became pregnant to another man, had a miscarriage in doubtful circumstances, was dismissed from the WAAF's for unreliable conduct with servicemen, became a tram conductress and eventually married a boy of nineteen and got the girl at home on Friend's License. The husband did not like the girl and not long after refused to speak to her for the time she was in the home. He later had a nervous breakdown. The foster mother kept in touch with the child and had her for occasional week-ends and holidays. The child apparently showed a marked preference for her foster mother and must have suffered greatly being torn between two mother figures. She bed-wet nightly. Her mother accused her of being deceitful, lightfingered, and untruthful. After she had been with her mother for a year her mother thrashed her so severely that the school reported the incident to the O.W.D. Five months later the Society for the Protection of Women and Children received complaints about the treatment of the child, who was thrashed often, wandered the streets and was dirty and uncared for. Her teachers held that she was being ruined. In June, 1948, the girl ran away from her own mother and went to her foster mother and refused to go back. The Friend's License was cancelled and she has remained in the foster home ever since.

Those two years with her natural mother left their mark on her. When she returned to the foster home she seemed to the foster mother a different girl. She had bottled up her unhappiness and wept often. She probably unconsciously blamed her foster mother for letting her go away and felt rejected. She could not bear her foster mother to reprove her as that made her think that she was not being loved, and as she was so obviously disturbed the foster mother preferred to spoil rather than upset her. The foster mother was very bewildered as here was the girl she had brought up behaving quite differently, flying into temper tantrums being nervous and unhappy and different from her former self. In these circumstances almost any child would have developed problems.

As her foster mother rather lacks insight, it would perhaps have been advisable if she had been placed in a residential home where she could have had expert care and treatment while maintaining contact with her foster home. The foster mother could have been helped as much as possible to understand the girl's behaviour and when the girl had regained her confidence she would then have been fit to return to everyday life in the foster home. As it is, her unhappiness is still apparent when she can write at the age of 13, the following remark in a school essay. The set essay was "The Worst thing that ever Happened to me". The girl wrote - 'the worst thing that ever happened to me was that when I was born, I lived.' At school her temper is noted as being violent and uncertain.

She is the most unpopular girl in her class, and is always seeking attention. A measure of her unpopularity is the way the boys tease her about being a State ward. The teacher is quite concerned about her. This girl's problems are now deep-seated, whereas if they had been treated at the right time she might now be enjoying life. An examination of this girl by a child psychiatrist would have been helpful."

.....

We next viewed the homes which we had classed as generally 'unsuitable' to see whether there were any in which particularly unsuitable placements had been made from the point of view of the child received.

Unsuitable Homes with Specially
Unsuitable Children.

(1)	Difficult children with foster mother with too high expectations	: 3
(2)	Young children with old foster parents.	: 1
(3)	Difficult child with too old foster parents	: 3
(4)	Foster mother lacks positive features essential to this child	: 10
(5)	Child needing stable background given so called temporary placement with future separation shock inevitable	: 2
(6)	Foster mother's own problem accentuating child's problem or likely to do so	: 5
		<u>24</u>

Out of this group of 24 we found nine children not suited to foster home placement at all.

When we add together figures of the children in 'suitable' and 'unsuitable' homes who are not happily placed in relation to their own rather special needs, we find 33 children. We asked ourselves what it is that makes these particular children unsuited to these particular homes. This brought up the whole complicated subject of matching child to home. In thinking therefore about the question of 'matching', it is necessary to know something of the stock from which the children spring. Since hereditary factors will have some force, we would want to know about the parents and grandparents; we would want also to know something of the former environment of the child (particularly with older children) which would give us a clue to social standards, extent of habit training etc. Though the files contained many references to real parents being "dull" or "mentally defective" it is not possible with the available

information to judge this accurately.

Certain principles may be said to apply in general. The dull child fitting best into a home without too high intellectual expectations; the bright child into a home which can understand his level of ability; the young child with foster parents of an age to have been its natural parents; the child of an age to remember, placed in a home where social standards are not widely different from those to which he is accustomed.

We were not satisfied that enough care had always been exercised in matching children in this way. An example:-

21. "This small boy has been boarded out in his present foster home for several months. The foster mother has been married twice and has two boys by her first marriage aged 10 and 8, both of whom are somewhat difficult due to their having been separated from their mother during the upheaval of her first marriage; the youngest boy has been tested because of his difficult behaviour and came out with an I.Q. of 157.

Foster mother is an intelligent woman herself, trained as a teacher originally and then - on her telling - married quickly because teaching had been her father's choice for her rather than her own, and this was a way of escape since she was not allowed to do nursing. She was apparently treated very badly by her first husband and finds her second husband everything that is wonderful by comparison. He is however, several years younger than her and in addition to this she has been told that it is very unlikely that she will ever be able to have more children, which is a very great worry to her because her second husband is very attached to children. The foster child has been taken to remedy this deficiency and also the worker felt, because the foster mother is apprehensive lest she fail again in her second marriage and therefore her husband must have no ground for disappointment in her and she puts it - "Foster father is so fond of the foster child that he forgets it is not his own."

There seems to be two difficulties here ... the foster child's background is a dubious one and he is not recommended for adoption which is a source of much grievance to these foster parents in view of the above; but secondly, even though this child has become much less backward since being in this home and looks bright and happy, in view of the high ability of the other children and the fact that foster father too is intelligent and is in a professional job and is described as an ambitious person, how far the foster child will be able to live up to the implicit expectations in this rather complicated family set up would seem a gamble."

.....

We considered the situation of children from squalid houses with low standards being expected to conform quickly in homes with very high standards and though there were no current cases of difficulties on this score, we noted that with three of the children in the survey, this had occurred in previous placements and had the effect of making it difficult for them to settle in their present foster homes.

It has been said that it is very easy to be misled into thinking that children must be fitted into family patterns identical with their own. Since we know so little of the direct effects of heredity and environment, it is dangerous to suppose categorically that poor stock will always produce unstable or dull children, or insanity, illhealth or crime in parents will likewise repeat itself in the behaviour of the children, though these things will have had their effects on the child's upbringing. We feel it is important to guard against assumptions in this whole field of inherited characteristics.

We tried to see next if we could find what it is in these particular children considered in relation to the foster home, which could indicate that they would not fit into the particular home where they found themselves. In our suitable homes, often there was a real love of children and difficulties had been artificially created by putting certain children in them. A middle aged parent cannot manage a particularly indefatigable toddler; a warm simple minded foster mother cannot be expected to understand the behaviour of a very disturbed child. A stolid child cannot fit into a home where the nature of the foster mother demands more vivacity; nor a child into a home where the pursuits and interests of the others are beyond his range.

In two cases in our table, we could do no more than speculate on suitability of the child, for we had doubts whether this foster child would develop as an individual where she was placed in a home with a natural child of her own age and sex. This kind of rivalry is more apparent in a foster home than in an own home where adjustment to siblings has been gradual and continuous. Moreover the fact that the foster parents choice is deliberate may enhance feelings of inferiority in their own child which would create hostility to the foster child. These were the considerations we had in mind.

(2) Changes of Foster Home

One of the measures of good foster home placement service is, the number of placements each child has, since it is agreed that stability of background is one of the most important factors in a child's life. He requires if possible, a permanent placement from the start. Each change is a threat to his security and each makes him less able to adapt to another home. The difficulty causing the changes may lie in the foster home or it may lie in the children themselves, or it may be a combination of both.

The following tables show the number of changes which have occurred in the group of children studied.

Number of Foster Home Changes (Previous to Present Home)

TABLE A.

<u>Number of Foster Homes</u>	<u>Children</u>
0	46
1	25
2	22
3	9
4	1
5	1
6	-
7	2
8	1
	<hr/>
	107
	<hr/>

Table B.

Total number of times child has been moved while under C.W.D. (including move to foster homes, Receiving homes, long term in hospital, Karitans, and other placements).

<u>Moves</u>	<u>Children Involved</u>
0	31
1	18
2	14
3	22
4	8
5	3
6	3
7	5
8	-
9	1
10	1
11	-
12	-
13	-
14	1
	<hr/>
	107
	<hr/>

In considering what these tables reveal we find that 46 of the children have remained in their first foster home. This seems fairly satisfactory, though for some of these we must admit a change might have been an advantage. We noted in our survey that of these 46, there were 12 where there are indications that the placement is not a satisfactory one. Often these children have not been moved from the first home because the problem does not show itself in their being a positive nuisance.

The following case illustrates this point:-

22. "Great difficulty was found in placing this 15 yrs. old boy when he was a baby as he is a quarter caste Chinese. He was finally placed with a single woman aged 42 yrs. who had an illegitimate son of 14 yrs. with two State Wards of 5 and 4 yrs., at the time of placement. She apparently took children in as a means of supplementing her income. The foster mother is full of energy and self-righteousness and is full of the good job she had made of bringing up her boys and gave the impression that she owned them body and soul. She is fiercely respectable, probably as a result of guilt feelings over her past. One also felt that she had rejected her femininity. This feeling was reinforced by the foster mother's remark that she was both mother and father to her boys and also by her enjoyment of doing all the things around the house that are normally done by men. This foster mother has no real love for or understanding of children but uses them to satisfy some need inside herself. Children are only approved of if they fit into her rigid idea of what a good child should be. Two boys whom she brought up from babyhood and who did not fit into her pattern were sent back to C.W.D. as soon as they proved troublesome. Babies and small children are her favourites as they are both lucrative and easy to control. The discipline

is repressive, the children not being encouraged to develop. This had disastrous effects on at least one child, who was in this foster home for the first 4 yrs. of his life.

The quarter case Chinese boy who is now 15 yrs. old treats his foster mother with respect but a lack of spontaneity in the relationship was noticeable. The foster mother speaks to him as if she had absolute right to obedience and respect. Worker felt that the boy had worked out for himself that the best thing for him to do was to fall in with her wishes. There was no evidence of any strong attachment. At school the teachers feel that there is something wrong with this boy but they cannot quite put their fingers on it. One teacher was sure that the discipline was unnecessarily severe. The boy has a reputation for light-fingeredness at school and recently the teacher visited the home as he was under suspicion for a minor theft. The same teacher called later to say that the boy had been exonerated, to find that the foster mother had given the boy a severe thrashing for being under suspicion at all. It was also felt by the teacher that the boy would be thrashed if he were seen talking to girls. The foster mother has a repressive attitude towards sex and mercilessly squashes any interest in the matter on the part of the children. She is a grossly neurotic woman who is bound to have an adverse affect on any child's development. This boy is showing no obvious signs except for his reputation for being light-fingered and the teachers' feeling that he is not happy. His foster mother is known as Mrs. in some quarters and Miss in others. The repressive attitude towards relationships with the other sex will create guilt feelings and militate against his future adjustment in the adult world, and his future relationships with women. This foster mother is so eccentric in appearance and her ideas are so out of touch with those of the modern world, that this boy cannot possibly escape getting a peculiar slant on life."

.....

Our real concern here must be with those children who are subject to very frequent change. We find from Table A that 93 children have had no more than three foster homes (including their present one) and 14 have had more than three. Our concern for these 14 and what we can learn from them is disproportionate to their number however.

It is worth concentrating on Table B since this represents the child's history of change, whether the change is to another foster home or to a Receiving home or other institution, it still represents a change of setting for him. From Table A one might assume that the situation was not unsatisfactory, but when we turn to Table B, we find that there are 44 children out of a total of 107 who have had three or more changes. That is 41% of the children have frequent changes of some kind, and 13% of the children had changed foster homes only. Why did these 44 have to be transferred so frequently? Among them are 8 children who, in our view, are not suitable for foster home placement at all and they illustrate that need for provision for them of a small home with skilled staff of the type provided for maladjusted children overseas. With many of the children, if their

perambulations from foster home to foster home could have been arrested earlier, their difficulties and handicaps might have resolved themselves.

When we consider these 44 children with frequent changes in relation to the homes in which they have been placed, we realise that a careful study of the child's personality can rarely have taken place and his career has been one largely of trial and error, again with accumulating difficulties with each change; to illustrate this from children with numerous changes, we can learn something from the cases of the boy with 14 changes, the girl with 9, and the girl with 8.

23. "This boy is an intelligent handsome lad of 15. At present he is very happy in the home of a young couple with two small children. He identifies himself with the foster father very strongly and wishes to leave school, go to work and become self-supporting, in spite of the fact that his school work is of very high order and his ability, initiative and intelligence very good. His foster father, while reliable and self-respecting, really has no appreciation of the value of education and cannot encourage the boy to make use of his ability in this direction. It is unfortunate that in all his history from committal as a baby he has never fitted well into any other home.

At the age of 2 yrs. he was made available for adoption and was placed with three different families who wished to adopt when they first took him but decided that his good looks could not make up for his bad behaviour and habit of telling lies. Between these placements he was sent to the Boys' Home and Receiving Home. When he was 8 yrs. it was felt that he was a problem and was sent to Dr. Lewis. His opinion was that - 'he would be unlikely ever to settle satisfactorily in a foster home as his last adoptive mother managed him very unwisely.' He refrained from giving a definite opinion at that stage but felt that he might turn out to be a moral defective. The Doctor thought that he might do well at the Presbyterian Boys' Home and agreed with the Department's suggestion that this should be the next move. He was there for five years and was eventually returned to the Department for stealing from shops and leading other younger children into trouble. His report stated that he was a 'smooth boy who can twist grown-ups around his finger and very few realise that he is doing this.' After a month in the Boys' Home he was placed with his present foster parents and has now been there for nearly two years; a very happy arrangement on both sides.

Worker feels that there is quite a bond between the boy and the foster father so that he responds easily and happily to the discipline and control which these young people exercise quite firmly. Should any difficulties arise at the moment there is so little information available on the difficulties and strains imposed on him in his early years that adequate treatment would be difficult."

24.

"This child is a stocky little girl of 15. Her face and features are round and pleasant. Her eyes are her best feature, she seems to realise this and uses them most expressively. Altogether she is quite an actress and at present is playing the role of a dutiful young foster child who is extremely lucky and happy to have a kind old widowed foster mother to give her a home. She carried this off quite convincingly but underneath it all one sensed that she was discontented with her present home. Such an attitude might be natural for any young girl since the restrictions imposed by the foster mother are quite extensive and cramping, e.g. she is never allowed out at night, nor is she permitted to associate with boys or men under any pretext.

The household is made up of women entirely. It consists of foster mother, a married daughter separated from her husband with her two young children, and an unmarried daughter whose suitor is neither approved of nor encouraged to visit. This kind of atmosphere is particularly unhealthy for a child with a history like this one. She has no known parents or relatives apart from a brother two years older who was committed with her in infancy. He has been living continuously with their first foster mother - a widow who was elderly and in poor health to start with and could not cope with the girl for long periods although prepared and pleased to have her for the school holidays. She has built up an idealised picture of this brother and obviously thinks a great deal of him. He is at once her only relative and the only male whom she has any real claim. It is interesting that her first foster mother refused to keep her mainly because she bullied and quarrelled with him, though these early difficulties now seem forgotten and she thinks of him as a handsome young athlete who earns his own living and is well on the way to independence. Her fantasy has some slim basis in fact and was evidently built up during the long periods she has spent in exile from him and from the first foster home. She has spent years in institutions (Receiving Home and Convent) as foster mothers generally found her too boisterous and difficult to manage, wanting her own way all the time and giggling when corrected. Institution staff generally were quite pleased with her and found her obedient - she says that she liked being there if only for the company. Never in her life has she known an adequate father substitute.

She seems cheerful, sociable and outgoing enough but the fact remains that her dreamings and imaginings give her the greatest pleasure. School work gives her no satisfaction and she never works to capacity. Though she enjoys housekeeping, cooking and sewing, she is very absent-minded and slow about anything; she is keen to get out and begin earning her living, to be really grown-up and independent. Her very real problems sometimes seem to overwhelm her, caught off guard her expression is one of extreme unhappiness, rebelliousness and sheer boredom. She might well be one of the children whose needs cannot be supplied by the ordinary foster home placement. She tries very hard to adapt herself to people, to like them and be liked in return, but has never really

recovered from her early experiences of rejection and so could not dare to put down roots in any foster home and really grow there."

.....

25. "This girl was committed nearly five years ago after a series of thefts. She comes from a large family, of whom she was the eldest, is of secondary school intelligence, and has artistic abilities. Since being committed she has had eight foster homes as well as residence in two institutions.

The history of placements seems to run to pattern ... foster families where the natural children were much younger or even babies. This girl's stealing seems to have been very symptomatic of her family situation - resentment of younger siblings, inadequate or ineffectual parental discipline alternating with harshness, feelings of anxiety with the arrival of each new baby, a hostile element in her relationship with her father, and the lack of money. Even though it would seem that this girl was unhappy in her home life, nevertheless her committal and removal from home, seems to have been a very great shock to her. This rejection must have been repeated by the successive foster home placements where apparently matching was at fault in that the foster mother had either not really wanted the girl who was this age, or where the girl's resentment at being asked to help with the younger children was condemned flatly and not understood against the background of her family history. It is possible with specialist treatment and help from the start for this girl and her family, committal might have been avoided. In any case this girl seems to have been so deeply upset about her own family that normal attachments to a new family could never develop easily."

.....

Here it is to be noticed that this girl had hysterical attention-getting symptoms of a short, but just as we would never deny food to a starving child, so to assess this girl on the surface value as a liar, a poseur, and a wish to be in the limelight, is to deny the underlying cause of such behaviour and leaves unexplored and untreated why this girl feels a need to live her life in this way. The rejected child very often 'explains' his rejection to himself by having a bad feeling about himself - he must be bad else otherwise his parents or society or both would want him; his immaturity prevents him from assessing the real situation in the adult. It is not therefore surprising that this girl in talking alone to the social worker, immediately plunged into a defensive account of her 'failures' in previous foster homes, thereby implying that she automatically felt that the social worker was going to draw her over the coals. The delinquent child has to learn that some adults can like them in spite of everything and only dislike what they do. Repeated foster home placements of a child who may have deep psychological difficulties is likely to aggravate the situation; and the best of foster homes anyhow alone cannot cure this situation; so that the help which this girl is now receiving from an analytical psychologist should ultimately be the most effective remedy.

It can be seen that only by patient observation and study of the child's behaviour can we get clues as to what is best for him. A child's provocative behaviour may be a testing out of an adult by an insecure child; and though his awkward behaviour may be curbed by threats, yet it is only by close study that one can feel sure that his basic confidence in adults has been restored. Parallel with this study of the child's needs there has to be careful observation of what the foster home has to offer to meet it.

When a careful study has been made of both child and home, some estimate can be formed as to how lasting this or that placement may be, so that frequent upheavals can be diminished. Though short cut methods may occasionally seem successful, the number of failures in placements present a problem which cannot be ignored. Not all cases are as complex as those we have quoted. In some of those we studied, the inevitability of failure of a particular placement seemed almost self-evident.

APPENDIX I

STATISTICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO FOSTER HOMES & FOSTER CHILDREN.

Purpose of the Survey of New Zealand Placements.

Though our foster home survey concerned only the children in the Wellington district, it was felt that some account of the placements of all State wards in New Zealand might be interesting; this gives some idea of the scope of the foster home system as it operates at present and serves as a background for our particularised study.

The cards on which was recorded the information on foster home placements also contained further facts which we noted at the same time. We went through the cards of the children who were actually in foster homes on 24th October, 1951, and extracted certain other details which we considered significant. For each of the children we recorded the sex, date of birth, legitimacy or illegitimacy, district, date, and charge on committal, number of times in a receiving home or boys' home, whether or not they were placed in such institutions before going to a foster home, the number of foster homes they have been through, the number of times they were placed in private institutions, hospital, training centre school for the deaf, or on Friend's License, and whether they were at a Post Primary school or had been to one.

From the information recorded we were able, with the help of a statistician, to draw up the composite tables attached.

Comments on the Material in the Background Survey.

The statistical survey of children who are currently in foster homes as on 24/10/51 was punched on Powers Samas cards. The information punched on these cards was taken from the Kardex at C.W. Head Office and the 1,863 children at present in foster homes were considered. There was some difficulty over the definition of a foster home and the figure above may not be entirely accurate. If anything it may be an underestimate as it was not always clear from the cards whether children on Service Agreement were in fact in foster homes or were merely at board; where this was doubtful they were excluded. It can be appreciated that when almost two thousand children were involved it was impossible to check every card with the appropriate file.

Other information on the Kardex was often difficult to interpret especially when estimating the number of foster homes a child may have been through as it was not always clear whether the entry indicated a fresh placement or merely a return to the previous home. The statistician advised that a random 5% of the cards be checked against the files to find if all the information was accurate. It was found that though there was some degree of error this was not statistically significant but it was great enough to be approaching significance.

Accuracy of the Punched Information.

1. On the 92 cards in the random 5% sample the average number of foster home placements was found to be overestimated by 9:92 i.e. 10%. But testing this by a t-test it was found not to be significant statistically, although approaching significance.
2. The average number of receiving home placements was overestimated by 6:92 i.e. 6.5%. A t-test gave which again is not significant.

3. In sum, though the information on the Kardex system is not accurate in every case, the error is not large enough to fault the final findings. However Kardex information about children who had been previously under notice was found to be inaccurate when checked with the files; for this reason all information on this point was discarded.

Of the cards in the 5% check only one-third of them contained information about previous notice.

....

TABLE I

AGE GROUPS OF CHILDREN BY DISTRICTS

District of Committal.	<u>Males</u>			<u>Females</u>		
	0 - 6	7 - 13	14 - 20	0 - 6	7 - 13	14 - 20
Whangarei	4	16	20	4	20	7
Auckland	24	95	70	31	64	51
Hamilton	10	31	49	13	19	25
Rotorua	6	9	11	5	14	7
Gisborne	2	16	21	6	14	19
Napier	9	21	10	9	12	7
New Plymouth	3	20	14	7	17	7
Wanganui	4	8	8	5	9	9
Palmerston N.	7	17	12	8	22	13
Masterton	2	6	8	8	8	2
Wellington	18	55	64	18	27	25
Nelson	5	2	8	8	11	6
Greymouth	3	9	4	4	9	4
Christchurch	38	76	67	20	64	45
Timaru	1	18	9	4	10	4
Dunedin	26	42	29	24	27	23
Invercargill	8	22	15	4	20	15
	170	463	419	178	367	269

Totals for both males and females.

<u>0 - 6</u>	<u>7 - 13</u>	<u>14 - 20</u>
348	830	688

% of total -

18.6%	44.4%	34.7%
-------	-------	-------

RACIAL GROUPS OF CHILDREN - BY DISTRICTS

Key to Diagram

<u>RACE</u>	1.	European	6.	Half Indian
	2.	Full Maori	7.	Half Maori - $\frac{1}{2}$ Indian
	3.	Half Maori	8.	Islander
	4.	Less than half Maori	9.	Jewish
	5.	Half Chinese		

District of Committal.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Whangarei	13	48	4	5					
Auckland	243	35	25	13	3	1	3	4	
Hamilton	78	40	11	11		1		1	
Rotorua	8	30	10	1				2	
Gisborne	31	36	4	3					
Napier	47	6	7	1				1	
New Plymouth	44	15	5	2	1				
Wanganui	25	13	1		1				
Palmerston N.	53	7	11	2	2			1	
Masterton	21	6	2		1				
Wellington	168	9	11	6	2			1	2
Nelson	31		4	3					
Greymouth	29			1				1	
Christchurch	265	9	26	3	1				
Timaru	43	1	1	1					
Dunedin	160			1					
Invercargill	71		1	5					
<u>TOTALS</u>	1330	255	123	58	11	2	3	11	2

Total 1795 - This is less than the total number of children in Table 1. Discrepancy is due to inadequate information on the Kardex.

<u>% of Total</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>
	74.09%	13.4%	6.7%

the others are not worth working out.

MOVEMENT OF CHILDREN BETWEEN DISTRICTS

DISTRICT OF COMMITTAL	PRESENT DISTRICT													TOTAL				
	Whangarei	Auckland	Hamilton	Rotorua	Gisborne	Napier	New Plymouth	Wanganui	Palmerston North	Masterton	Wellington	Nelson	Greymouth		Christchurch	Timaru	Dunedin	Invercargill
Whangarei	68		1	2														73
Auckland	27	238	26	31	1	4	1	2	2	2	2	1						337
Hamilton	2	2	106	30	1	2		1	1	3								148
Rotorua			7	41	1	1		1										51
Gisborne		4	5	1	60	7			1									78
Napier		1	1	1	3	47			3	10						1	1	68
New Plymouth		3		2			57		2		1	1		1	1			68
Wanganui		2	4	2	1	1	2	32		1	1							43
Palmerston N.	1			4	1	1	2	5	52	6	3		1	3				79
Masterton			1		2				3	26	1					1		34
Wellington	3	4	10	3	2	11	4	7	24	24	106	5			2	2		207
Nelson		1	1		1	2	1				1	32			1			40
Greymouth												5	22	5	1			33
Christchurch	2	1		1		4				1	2	1	8	279	6	4	1	310
Timaru											1			3	35	4	3	48
Dunedin		2					1		1		1			3	8	14	11	171
Invercargill.	1										1				6	4	73	85

Shaded portion - children remaining in District of committal.

The majority of the children committed in any one district are able to stay there because there are sufficient suitable homes for them (see shaded section.)

It is interesting to note the percentages of the total number of children committed in some districts who have to be accommodated in other districts.

Auckland	28 1/2%
Gisborne	23 1/2%
Wellington	48 1/2%
Christchurch	10 1/2%
Dunedin	14 2/7ths%

REASONS FOR COMMITTAL - MALES & FEMALES

SEX	Charge	Indigent	Det. Env.	Neglected	N.U.P.C.	Delinquent	Breach of Supervision.
MALE		499	150	99	227	73	1
FEMALE		353	185	111	151	9	4

X^2 test shows a significant difference between the sexes in Detrimental Environment and Neglected charges, particularly, and to a lesser degree in all the others.

....

TABLE V

REASONS FOR COMMITTAL BY AGE GROUPS

CHARGE	Age on Committal																
	0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16
Indigent	455	113	70	40	33	31	27	16	15	14	6	9	9	7	6	1	
Det. Env.	43	31	39	31	29	35	26	12	13	13	15	12	14	13	3	4	
Neglected	34	35	35	23	14	19	10	12	6	2	5	6	3	3	3	0	
N.U.P.C.	35	38	34	26	27	31	21	18	31	18	22	26	14	23	10	2	2
Delinquent	1	1						2	6	6	6	13	16	17	9	2	2
Breach of Supervision						1		1					1		2		

.....

YEAR OF BIRTH & AGE AT COMMITTAL

Age of Committal	Year of Birth																					TOTALS
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	
- 1		5	7	15	19	26	44	50	55	58	34	36	30	35	34	30	28	2	39	44	18	569
1 - 2			3	2	5	4	10	10	15	15	10	7	18	12	9	18	14	42	18	6		218
2 - 3		1	3	6	3	3	9	12	9	15	11	11	14	9	11	9	11	24	7			168
3 - 4			1	3	5	6	8	4	15	8	9	10	6	14	10	13	5	3				120
4 - 5		1	1	3	3	7	7	7	3	9	5	9	6	13	13	11	5					103
5 - 6			2	5	2	11	14	6	10	8	9	6	13	20	11							117
6 - 7			1	5	3	6	4	9	7	7	8	5	13	11	5							84
7 - 8				1	5	4	5	6	9	7	5	7	10	2								61
8 - 9			1		6	6	5	9	10	6	7	18	3									71
9- 10			1	1		7	12	5	7	11	6	3										53
10-11			1	5	5	4	7	7	12	10	3											54
11-12			1	2	9	9	13	15	13	5												67
12-13			1		2	13	24	14	3													57
13-14		2		3	7	20	30	3														65
14-15	1			4	12	11	7															34
15-16		1		2	5	1																9
-16		1	1	1	1																	4
TOTALS	1	11	24	58	92	138	199	157	148	139	107	112	113	116	93	82	63	71	64	50	18	1856
Age of Chn.	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Under	
	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	y.	1 yr.

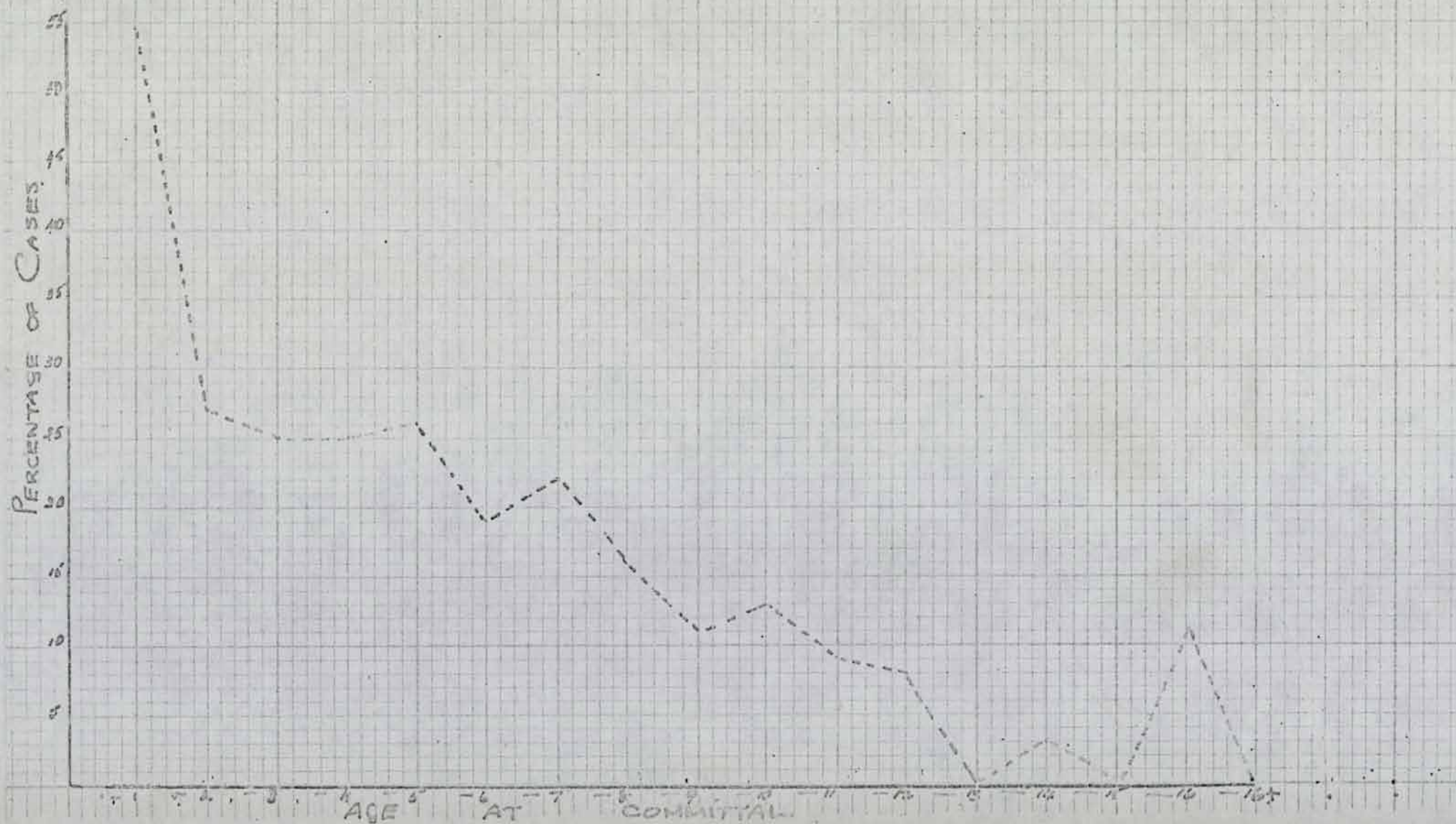
In the last twenty years 30.6% of the children committed and who are still in foster homes, were committed under the age of one.

69.7% of the children at present in foster homes were committed under the age of 6 years.

42.4% of children at present in foster homes were committed under the age of 2 years.

Graph showing percentages of children in each congenital age range whose placement rate has been 1 in 4 years or less.

1 in 4 years was taken as it is the median group for children committed before the age of 1 year old.



EXPLANATORY NOTES WITH TABLES 7, 8, 9, & 13.

Explanations of scale used in Tables 7, 8, 9, and 13. "Foster homes per year" was difficult to arrive at as the children are still in foster homes and there is no way of estimating how long any child will stay in his present foster home.

Because all the children are currently in foster homes, the estimate of the number of foster homes per year cannot be regarded as an unbiased sample of a typical foster home (long placements will tend to be over-represented). However, in Table 7 this does not affect the general conclusion that the peak of the distribution moves towards shorter average placements as the age of committal increases (since all distributions are affected in the same way.)

Scale	1 in 20	means one	foster home	in 20 years.
1 - 10	"	"	"	" 10 years.
3 - 20	"	three	"	" 20 years.
1 - 5	"	one	"	" 5 years.
1 - 4	"	one	"	" 4 years.
3 - 10	"	three	"	" 10 years.
7 - 20	"	seven	"	" 20 years.
2 - 5	"	two	"	" 5 years.
9 - 20	"	nine	"	" 20 years.
1 - 2	"	one	"	" 2 years.
11 - 20	"	eleven	"	" 20 years.
3 - 5	"	three	"	" 5 years.
7 - 10	"	seven	"	" 10 years.
8 - 10	"	eight	"	" 10 years.
9 - 10	"	nine	"	" 10 years.
1 - 1	"	one	"	" 1 year.
6 - 5	"	six	"	" 5 years.
7 - 5	"	seven	"	" 5 years.
17 - 10	"	seventeen	"	" 10 years.
2 - 1	"	two	"	" 1 year.
5 - 2	"	five	"	" 2 years.
3 - 1	"	three	"	" 1 year.

NUMBER OF FOSTER HOME CHANGES BY AGE OF COMMITTAL

No. of F.H.'s Per Yr.	Age of Committal.																	
	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-12	-13	-14	-15	-16	16	
1 - 20	87	13	5	4	4	1	1											115
1 - 10	68	9	5	5	5	6	5	2	3	1	3	1						113
3 - 20	46	13	12	5	4	4	3	3	1	2	1	1						95
1 - 5	69	11	10	7	7	5	1	1	2	3	1							117
1 - 4	47	13	13	9	7	7	9	4	2	1		4		2		1		119
3 - 10	22	19	13	9	2	7	3	3	3	1	1	3	1	2	1		1	91
7 - 20	20	11	15	8	4	8	6	2	5	4	1	1	1	1				87
2 - 5	22	8	10	8	6	5	4	1	4	3	5	2	2	2				82
9 - 20	23	6	5	3	5	5	2	3		1		1	2				1	57
1 - 2	23	7	6	10	7	10	2	6	1	4	1	4	1	2				84
11 - 20	17	14	8	5	4	5	4	5	4		7		1	2	2			78
3 - 5	17	10	9	7	8	9	5	5	3	1	4	3	8	4	3			96
7 - 10	26	14	14	3	1	7	2	2	5	4	3	4		3				88
8 - 10	10	13	9	3	3	2	5	3	2		2	7	2	1	1			63
9 - 10	11	15	7	8	6	9	5	2	3	3	2	6	3	4	4	1		89
1 - 1	17	8	8	6	6	6	5	4	4	6	2	3	5	5	3	1		89
6 - 5	9	7	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	2	4	6	5	4	2		68
7 - 5	11	8	7	3	8	5	5	2	4	4	8	7	6	7	2	1	1	89
17 - 10	1	4	7	4	3	4	4	2	7	2	3	2	5	5	3			56
2 - 1	3	3	1	3	3	3		2	5	3	2	5	4	5	3			45
5 - 2	10	4	4	1	2	4	3	2	1	2	2	1		6				42
3 - 1	19	8	6	5	5	2	6	3	9	4	4	8	10	9	9	3	1	111
TOTALS	578	218	178	120	103	117	84	61	71	53	54	67	57	65	35	9	4	1874

Shows group within which the median case falls.

In order to test whether there is real difference in the degree of permanence of placements of children who are committed between the ages of 6 and 14 years (in the age group 1 to 3 years the difference is obvious from inspection) the cards for all children who had been in more than one foster home and who were committed at 6, 9, 12, and 14 years were extracted and the length of time from date of committal to date of placement in the current foster home was calculated and divided by the number of homes they had each been through in this period. (i.e. ignoring the current foster home.)

This gives some measure of the stability of the placements at the various ages. We note however, that it cannot be regarded as a direct estimate of the average period between placements because by excluding the current homes, stable homes with no changes have been excluded and it is therefore biased downwards.

Recognising that for the above reason it is not a very satisfactory measure, the statistician did an analysis of variance which showed that the differences between average-intervals between changes was highly significant for the different ages of committal; the average intervals being:-

Age of Committal	6	9	12	14
Average interval in half-months	39.3	27.4	17.8	18.6

The difference between 12 and 14 is not significant, but it seems fairly certain that the difference between 6, 9, and 12 years are significant.

Table 7 shows clearly that the rate of change from one foster home to another goes up as the age of committal rises - or put in another way, the number of unsuccessful placements is relatively much higher with children committed late in life than with children committed in infancy.

In the table, the group in each committal-age range which contains the median case, has been underlined. This shows that, while 50% of children committed at the age of less than one year have foster home placements less often than 3 in ten years, 50% of those committed at 13 years have foster home placements less often than 6 in 5 years. Extracting this information in table form, we find that:-

Committed at age of	Median frequency of F.H. placements.
Up to 1 year	1 in 4 years (5:20)
" 2 "	1 in 2 " (10:20)
" 3 "	1 in 2 " (10:20)
" 4 "	1 in 2 " (10:20)
" 5 "	1 in 2 " (10:20)
" 6 "	11 in 20 " (11:20)
" 7 "	3 in 5 " (12:20)
" 8 "	3 in 5 " (12:20)
" 9 "	8 in 10 " (16:20)
" 10 "	9 in 10 " (18:20)
" 11 "	7 in 10 " (14:20)
" 12 "	9 in 10 " (18:20)
" 13 "	6 in 5 " (24:20)
" 14 "	6 in 5 " (24:20)
" 15 "	6 in 5 " (24:20)
" 16 "	6 in 5 " (24:20)
" 17 "	6 in 5 " (24:20)

This information is put another way on the graph showing the percentages of children in each committal-age range who have a F.H. turnover rate of 1 in 4 yrs, or less. This shows clearly that children committed in infancy have a far lower turnover rate in placements, or conversely that those committed later have many unsuccessful placements. This means either that these children are not at present being placed in foster homes suitable for them, or that the foster home system is not sufficient to cater for these children.

FOSTER HOME CHANGES BY CHARGE

FOSTER HOMES PER YEAR.	CHARGE	Indigent	Det. Env.	Neglect	N.U.P.C.	Delinquency	Breach of Super-vision.	TOTALS
1 in 20 ys.		89	9	12	5			115
1 in 10 "		76	10	9	18			113
3 in 20 "		61	13	9	9	1	2	95
1 in 5 "		68	14	6	20			108
1 in 4 "		55	12	22	29	1		119
3 in 10 "		38	11	19	19	4		91
1 in 20 "		33	15	15	23	1		87
2 in 5 "		<u>42</u>	18	7	13	2		82
9 in 20 "		31	12	2	11	1		57
1 in 5 "		38	18	<u>13</u>	12	3		84
11 in 20 "		28	18	12	20			78
3 in 5 "		38	<u>23</u>	8	<u>19</u>	7	1	96
7 in 10 "		38	21	9	18	2		88
8 in 10 "		27	10	6	17	3		63
9 in 10 "		40	14	12	17	6		89
1 in 1 "		31	21	12	19	6		89
6 in 5 "		21	13	4	21	2		68
7 in 5 "		35	24	6	20	4		89
17 in 10 "		11	12	7	17	8		55
2 in 1 "		10	6	4	17	7	1	45
5 in 2 "		13	10	6	12	1		42
3 in 1 "		29	30	10	22	15	1	107
TOTALS		852	334	210	378	81	5	1859

Shows group in which median case falls
 Those committed for delinquency have a
 much higher foster home turnover than
 those committed on any other charge.

FOSTER HOME CHANGES - LEGITIMACY AND ILLEGITIMACY

FOSTER HOMES PER YEAR.	LEG. ILLEG.	
	1 in 20 yrs.	24
1 in 10 "	31	81
3 in 20 "	39	55
1 in 5 "	49	58
1 in 4 "	58	60
3 in 10 "	55	35
7 in 20 "	59	27
2 in 5 "	43	33
9 in 20 "	29	26
1 in 2 "	52	31
11 in 20 "	50	28
3 in 5 "	61	31
7 in 10 "	43	45
8 in 10 "	41	19
9 in 10 "	56	28
1 in 1 "	61	26
6 in 5 "	49	15
7 in 5 "	73	15
17 in 10 "	42	13
2 in 1 "	34	8
5 in 2 "	26	14
3 in 1 "	83	27
TOTAL	1053	765

Shows group in which median falls. See table with charge and legitimacy above. 72/87 of the illegitimate are committed as indigent and Table 9 illustrates that these children have more chance of being included in the relatively stable foster home placement group. 25.7% of the legitimate children are committed as indigent.

TABLE X

.....

REASONS FOR COMMITMENT - LEGITIMATE & ILLEGITIMATE CASES

LEGITIMACY	CHARGE	Indig-ent.	Det. Env.	Neglect-ed.	N. J. P. C.	Delin-quent.	Breach of Prop-er Supervision	TOTALS
Legitimate		271	249	160	301	69	3	1053
Illegitimate		567	77	41	68	10	2	765
								1818

This total does not coincide with the number of children in the survey as in some cases there was no information on Kardex concerning legitimacy. With indigency excluded, χ^2 test shows that other charges do not differ significantly for legitimate and illegitimate.

NUMBER OF RECEIVING HOME PLACEMENTS BY DISTRICTS - MALES

No. of Receiving Home Place-ments.	DISTRICT	Whangarei	Auckland /	Hamilton /	Rotorua	Gisborne	Napier ::	New Plym.	Wanganui	Palm.N. /	Masterton	Wellington /	Nelson	Greymouth	Ch.Ch. /	Timaru	Dunedin /	Inv'gill.
0		8	14	41	26	35	23	31	17	19	18	9	15	10	80	21	32	37
1		27	48	20	15	3	9	3	1	11	13	31	1	3	53	8	33	8
2		7	34	23	15	1	5	1	3	6	7	16	1	2	18	1	9	2
3		5	20	4	4		4		3	3		9		3	9	3	5	2
4		1	13	4	3	1	3	1	1	1	3	2	1		1		6	
5		2	3	4	1	1	5		1	1	1	2		1	1		2	1
6			1	2	1		1			1		1	1		2	1	1	1
7			2	1				1								1	1	
8									1			1						
9																	1	
10																1		
11																		
12				1														
13																		
14				1														

/ These districts have receiving homes.

:: Napier had a receiving home once.

This table shows that even in districts where there are no receiving homes some children in those districts have, in fact, been in receiving homes. This is explained by remembering that some children shift from one district to another. See table 3.

NUMBER OF RECEIVING HOME PLACEMENTS BY DISTRICTS - FEMALES

No. of Receiving Home Place- ments.	DISTRICT	Whangarei	Auckland /	Hamilton /	Rotorua	Gisborne	Napier ::	New Plym.	Wanganui	Felm.N. /	Masterton	Wellgtn. /	Nelson	Greyouth.	Ch.oh. /	Timaru	Dunedin /	Inv.gill.
0		17	18	4	20	28	19	27	18	19	22	15	23	10	59	21	32	31
1		19	57	12	20	2	4	2	2	9	3	15		2	33	2	18	4
2		5	28	13	2	1	2		1	10	3	5	2		16	2	6	1
3		2	8	11	7		2	1		2	3	6		1	12		5	
4		1	2	6	2		1			2		4			6		1	
5			2	4			1			3		3	1				2	
6			2	2											3	1	4	
7			1	4			1								1			
8			1	1														
9			1														1	
10										1								
11																		
12																		
13																		
14												1						
15																		
16					1													

/ These districts have receiving homes.

::: Napier once had a receiving home.

See notes to previous table.

.....

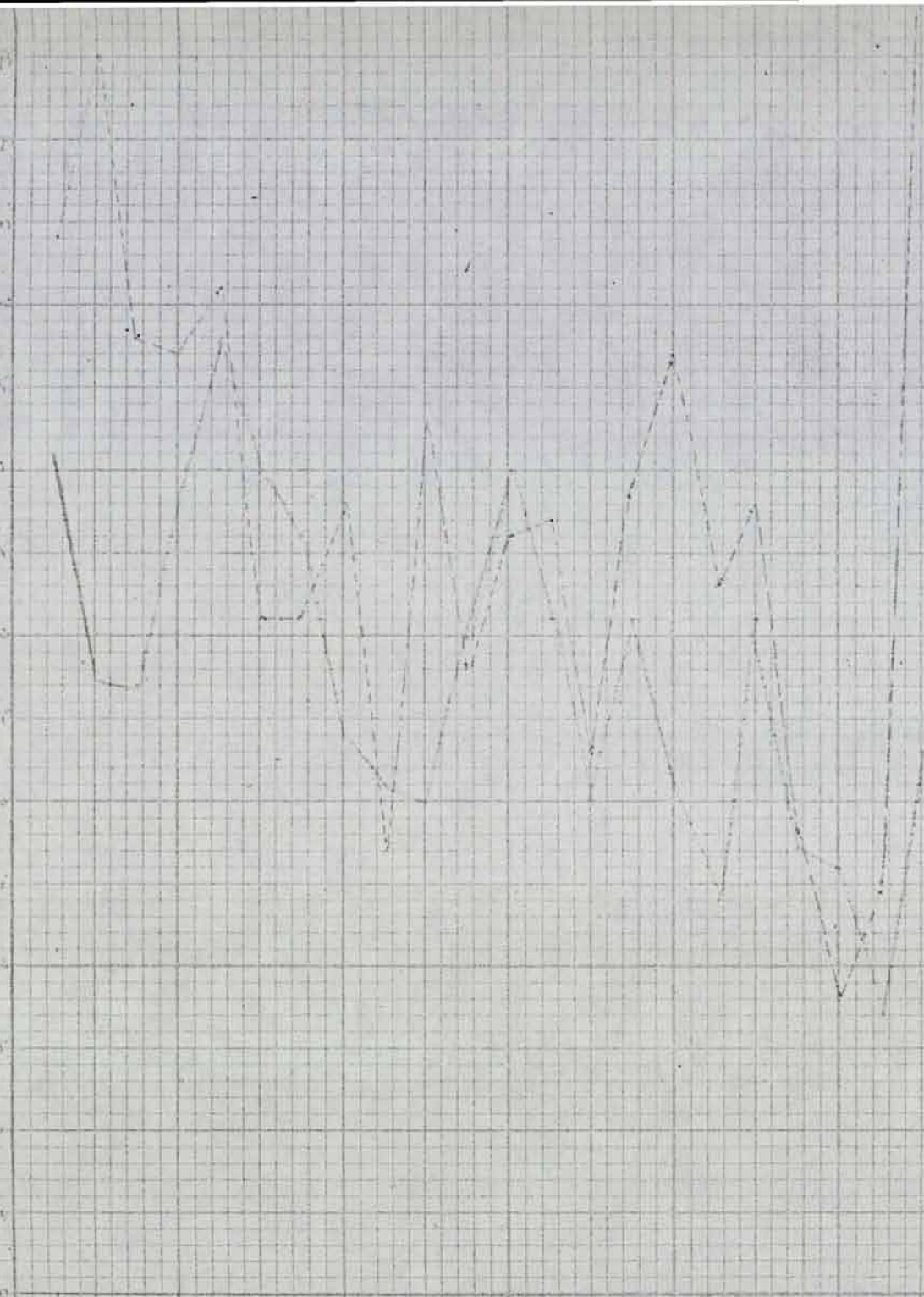
FIRST
CHANGES OF FOSTER HOME OF CHILDREN PLACED IN
FOSTER HOME ON COMMITTAL

No. of Foster Homes per Year.	DISTRICT																		TOTAL	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
.05	1-20	1	10	1			2	3		1	1	2	2	2	17	8	10	4	65	
.1	1-10	2	7	3	3	1	4	1	1	2	2	6	2		27	6	3	5	75	
.15	3-20		6	2	1	3	1	3		5	1	1	1	1	17	3	8	5	58	
.2	1-5		4	2	2	1	3	2		2	2	4	4		11	4	7	9	57	
.25	1-4	3	5	3	4	2	2	2		4	1	1	3	3	16	4	3	5	61	25%ile
.3	3-10	2	1	1	2	1		1	2	2	5	2			7	2	5	8	41	
.35	7-20		2	2	1	3	1	4		2	1	2	2	2	7	4	4	4	41	
.4	2-5	2	4	2	2	2	4	2	3	1	3	1			12	2	4	4	48	
.45	9-20		1	1	1	2		1	2	1		3	3	4	2		4	1	27	
.5	1-2	5	4	2	1	1	2	7	3	1	1	3	4	2	11	1	5		53	
.65	11-20	7	1	1	2	4	1	4		3		2	4	1	5	3		4	38	50%ile
.6	3-5	2	2	8	2	7		2	4	3	1	1	2	1	6		5		46	
.7	7-10		2	4	3	6	2	2	1	3	3	4	2	2	5	4	3	1	47	
.8	8-10	3	3	3		4	1	1		3	2		3		6		2	2	33	
.9	9-10	5	2	2	6	4	3	6	2	2	2	1	2		3	1	2	6	49	
1.0	1-1	5		5	3	3	4	6	2	3	7	1	2	1	8		4	3	57	75%ile
1.2	6-5	2		3	5	5	2	3	1	1	2	2	1		5	1	5	5	43	
1.4	7-5	1	3	5	5	2	2	3	3	8	2	1	1		9		3		48	
1.7	17-10	3		2	4	4	1	2	1	1	1				1	2	2	4	28	
2.0	2-1	2	1		2	3	1	3	2	1	1				2				18	
2.5	5-2			1	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	25	
3.0	3-1	2	2	11	10	9	12	4	9	2	3	1		1	5		4	3	78	
																			1035	

.....

1965

Number of Cases



First placed after committed in R.H. BH

NUMBER OF FOSTER HOME PLACEMENTS PER CHILD PER YEAR

CHANGES OF FOSTER HOME OF CHILDREN FIRST PLACED IN
RECEIVING HOME OR BOYS' HOME ON COMMITTAL

No. of Foster Homes per year.	DISTRICT	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17.																	TOTAL	
		.05	1-20	2	17	4						2	1	11			10			
.1	1-10		14	3		1					3	5			6	2	4	38		
.15	3-20	1	17	5	1						1	2	1		5		4	37		
.2	1-5	1	10	5	1	3					4	9	1		9	3	1	2	49	
.25	1-4	11	21	3	3	2					2	4			9	1	2	58	25%ile	
.3	3-10	7	13	6	1	5				1	1	4			6	1	5	50		
.35	7-20	3	13	5	2	1				3	2				10		4	3	46	
.4	2-5	1	12	4	4	1					3	2			2		5	34		
.45	9-20	3	8	1	3	3				1	1	4			6		1	31		
.5	1-2	2	8	6	5	1	1			1		1		1	2	1	1	30	50%ile	
.55	11-20	8	5	6	7	1				1	2		1		6	1	1	1	40	
.6	3-5	2	10	7	5			1		3	2	3		1	3	3	8	2	50	
.7	7-10	2	8	8	3	1		2		2		3			8		4	41		
.8	8-10	2	4	1	2	2	2				1	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	30	
.9	9-10	1	3	3	3	3		4		1	1	5			6		11	41	75%ile	
1.0	1-1	6	5	3	3	2				3		1		1	4		3	1	31	
1.2	6-5	2	6	4	4		1			1	1	1				1	2	2	24	
1.4	7-5	1	4	5	2	1				9	1	7			4	1	5	1	41	
1.7	17-10	2	5	8	5					2	1	1		2	1			27		
2.0	2-1	1	4	4	2	2	1	1	2		2			2	3		2	26		
2.5	5-2		3	1				2	3	1					4		3	17		
3.0	3-1	2	5	2	3	2					1	12		1	2		3	33		
																		<u>825</u>		

Comparing this table with that for children first placed straight into a foster home, it appears from the distribution that there may be some slight advantage in first placement in a Boys' Home or Receiving Home - the percentile rankings indicate some minor difference. 48% of these children have an F.P. turnover rate higher than 1 placement in two years, as against 50% for children first placed into a foster home, and 20.3% of those first placed in R.H. or B.H. at committal have changes more often than once per year, as against 23.1% for the other group. What factors cause this difference, if significant, it is difficult to say.

TABLE XV

NO. OF TIMES IN A RECEIVING HOME SET AGAINST
NO. OF FOSTER HOMES PER CHILD.

Foster Homes	RECEIVING HOME PLACEMENTS:															
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
1	240	39	7	3			1									
2	115	81	27	6	4	2	3									
3	63	63	40	5	5	1	2	2								
4	38	22	24	13	12	1	2		1			1		1		1
5	16	18	13	16	6	5	2									
6	10	8	9	7	7	5										
7	4	9	4	8	1	5	3									
8		3	3	4	5				1							
9	1	2	5	1	1	4	2	1	1							
10	1	1				2										
11	2	2		1	1											
12			1													
13								1								
14				1							1					
15																
16	1			1							1					

Children who have never been in a Receiving Home are excluded from this table.

It must be remembered that not all districts have receiving homes.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN COMMITTED BETWEEN
1932 AND 1951 - FEMALES

Year of Commitment.

F. Homes R. Homes	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	TOTAL
1	1		1		1	4	3	4	3	5	5	5	15	7	8	9	8	26	34	36	195
2	1			2	5	3	5	4	2	7	7	4	7	7	6	13	19	23	26	29	170
3			1		1	4	2	4	4	7	7	4	12	4	6	5	17	12	19	10	119
4		1				3	2		5	1	5	5	10	1	13	7	13	8	12	2	88
5				3			4	3	7	3	7	6	6	7	5	3	6	9	7	1	77
6				1		1	2		4	4	5	4		1	3	3	8	3	3		42
7				1	1	2	4		1	1		3	6	4	1	3	5	3	2		37
8						1			1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	4	3	1		21
9				1		1	1	1	2	4	3	2	2		1	2	1	1	1		23
10						1		1	1	1		3		1	3	1					11
11							1		1	1	1	1		2	1	2	1	2			12
12						2			1			3		1		3				1	11
13					1		2	1	3	1					1						9
14									1	1											2
15							1					1									2
16									1	1		1									3
17							1														1
18									2												2
20													1								1
24										1											1
																					807

FEMALES

No. of children 13 or over on 31st December, 1951, at P.P. School 227 - or have been 67.

No. of children 14 or over on 31st December, 1951, at P.P. School 217 - or have been 67.

.....

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN COMMITTED BETWEEN
1932 and 1951 - MALES

F. Homes R. Homes	Year of Committal																				TOTAL
	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	
1			2	3	4	1	6	7	5	10	8	3	10	7	8	9	7	24	33	33	180
2	2		2	3	3	8	8	19	8	7	8	6	18	12	13	13	26	31	41	32	260
3		1	2	2	4	3	8	5	8	3	13	4	4	15	7	10	11	19	21	14	154
4				2	2	2	4		8	2	5	11	8	10	8	9	15	8	14	10	116
5	1	1		2	1	3	6	3	1	4	7	3	5	6	3	14	17	10	10	2	97
6			2	2	2	4	6	2	1	4	5		2	2	6	4	8	9	10		69
7				1	1	3	1	4		3	4	2	2	5	6	1	1	2	3		41
8						4	1		2	3	2	2	5	3	4	4	1	2	2		35
9		1		1			2	2	4	1	1	2	3	5	2	1	3	2	3		33
10				1			1	1	1	1		1	1	2		2		3	1		15
11			1		1	1	2	4	2		1	2	4		2	2					22
12				1	1	1		1		1		1	2	1		1		1			11
13						2		1	2	1								1			7
14								1			2										3
15				1			1	1							1						4
16		1					1				1			1							4
17							1	1													2
18																1					1
19																					-
20							1														1
21							1														1
																					956

MALES

This table is not a rate of turnover, but an absolute number of placements. Now while 31% of girls have more than 4 placements, and 6.8% more than 9 placements 25.7% of boys have more than 4, and 7.3% more than 9. But since more boys than girls are committed in adolescence, their period as state wards would be less, and therefore even if their turnover rate were greater, their absolute number of placements could be fewer. This could account for the insignificant difference above.

TABLE XVIII

Number of children placed in private institutions - 143

Number of children on Friend's or temporary licence - 344

Times in hospital

No. of children.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
433	162	47	36	13	6	3	1	2

- 703

...

SOME COMMENTS ON THE STATISTICS IN APPENDIX I.

As will be seen from the 'Comments on the Material in the Background survey', there was some difficulty in obtaining accurate statistical information for the country as a whole. I would suggest therefore, that the two points specifically mentioned (1) the failure to distinguish clearly foster homes from other forms of care and (2) the failure to show clearly previous foster home placements, ought to receive attention because, from the Departmental point of view, any significant error in these two items of information could easily be misleading for the development of future policy.

In the tables, a variety of information has been compiled which, it is hoped, will be of value and of interest. Table I shows clearly the enormous range of problems with which the Department is faced, in that it has to deal with such a wide range group though the majority of children in foster homes appear to be over 7 years of age.

Table II showing the children by social groups, is of interest in that it shows, for example, that the necessity to look after Maori children extends virtually over the whole country. Thus Christchurch has nearly as many full Maori and half Maori children on its books as Rotorua.

Table III is most valuable in that it shows the difficulties the Division has in keeping foster children in foster homes in their own districts. Thus, for example, Wellington has over 48% of the children committed in Wellington in foster homes in other Districts, Auckland has over 28% in other Districts, and so on. There are doubtless, innumerable reasons for transferring children and this Table brings out clearly that all districts use foster homes in other districts to some extent whilst a few districts notably, Wellington, Auckland and Gisborne, use other districts to a greater extent. It is interesting to find that Whangarei and Invercargill use other districts for such a small proportion only of their cases. It would I suspect, be valuable to know the reasons for the variation in the use of other districts.

Table IV adds little to the information normally published in the Annual Report but it does show the reasons for committal of the persons under the care of O.W.D. at a particular time which may be quite different from the annual figures.

Table V re-emphasises the spread of age groups and shows the very high proportion of very young children committed for Indigency.

Table VI shows clearly the high proportion of children in foster homes who were committed at a very early age. As shown in the summary the results for a twenty year period are of interest. Of those now in foster homes, one 30% of the children were committed under the age of 1 year; over 40% were under 2 years, and over 69% were under 6 years. These figures emphasise the length of time for which the Division has the control and care of these children.

The explanatory notes with Table 7 show the difficulty of statistical analysis of foster home changes when the children are still in foster homes. However the conclusion reached from Table 7 is that a large number of children have frequent changes of foster homes during their period under the Division's care. The further, and as important, conclusion is that in general, children committed at an early age have less foster home changes than children committed at a later age. Thus, for example, approximately 55% of the children now in foster

homes who were committed before they were 1 year of age, had changed their foster homes once every four years or less (some had been in the same foster home for 20 years.) On the other hand, of the children who were 9 years of age when committed, some 11% only had changes once every four years or less, whilst the majority had frequent changes (e.g. nearly 10% had had 17 different foster homes in 10 years.)

The general conclusion therefore, that there are relatively more successful placements of younger children should not obscure the fact that many children have frequent changes. Indeed as a very rough guide, it might be said that approximately 30% of all children have changed their foster home either once in four years or less than once in four years; that approximately 40% have changed their foster home once every 2 years or less (but not less than once in four years) and approximately 30% have changed their foster homes three times in one year or less (but not less than once every year).

Table VIII shows clearly that those committed for delinquency have a much higher number of foster home changes than those committed for other reasons. It can be seen that the median number of changes for delinquents is six foster homes in five years whereas, the median for indigency is two foster homes in five years.

Table IX shows that the illegitimate children have relatively more chance of stable foster home placement than legitimate children. This is partly accounted for by the fact that most of the illegitimate children are in the indigent group and that very few of the delinquents are illegitimate as shown in Table X.

Table XI and XII show the number of children who have spent some time in Receiving homes and as can be seen there are some children who have been in and out of Receiving homes as many as 7, 8, or 9 times and there are two exceptional cases among the boys in which they have been 12 times in one case and 14 times in the other.

Tables XIII, XIV, and XV., show the number of foster homes which have been changed following on first placement in a foster home or first placement in a Receiving home. It would appear that the children first placed in a Receiving home experience fewer subsequent foster home changes than those first placed in a foster home.

Tables XVI and XVII, show the number of foster home placements of all boys and girls committed between 1932 and 1951. From these tables it appears that in general, more girls have had more than four but less than nine foster home placements than boys, but that more boys than girls have had more than nine foster home placements.

Table XVIII, simply shows the number of children placed in private institutions or on licence and the number of times children have been in Hospital. Approximately 37% of all children have been in Hospital some time but the majority once only.

FOSTER HOME

HOME VISIT:

DATE: BY

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

HOME CIRCUMSTANCES - (MATERIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, ECONOMIC LEVEL
ETC.):

ENVIRONMENT: (NEIGHBOURHOOD, SCHOOLS OF RIGHT TYPE, CLUBS ETC)

HOUSE & HOME (ATMOSPHERE, PROVISIONS FOR PLAY, PETS, ETC.)

COMPOSITION OF FAMILY (e.g. 2 PARENTS, OTHER CHILDREN, AGE
OF F.P.'s ETC.):

F.P.'s PERSONALITIES:

F. MOTHER:

F. FATHER:

MARRIED RELATIONSHIP:

MOTIVES FOR TAKING CHILD (INCLUDING F.FATHER'S ATTITUDE):

METHOD OF OBTAINING CHILD:

ATTITUDE TO CHILD:

DISCIPLINE:

F. MOTHER'S ACCOUNT OF CHILD:

(a) FEEDING, TOILET, SLEEPING ETC:

(b) PLAY & RECREATION:

(c) ATTITUDE TO SCHOOL:

(d) ATTITUDE TO F.P.'s:

(e) ATTITUDE TO FOSTER SIBLING OR SIBLINGS:

(f) BEHAVIOUR & PERSONALITY:

SOCIAL HISTORY OF CHILD

1. PAST HISTORY: (include all relevant information attainable prior to present situation).

DATE OF BIRTH

REASON FOR COMMITTAL:

AGE AT WHICH COMMITTED

HISTORY OF F.H. OR OTHER PLACEMENTS (WITH DATES):

EARLY DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES:

PREVIOUS SCHOOLS:

HEALTH, SIBLINGS:

PREVIOUS F. P.'s:

PARENTS:

ANY HISTORY OF BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS (GIVE DETAILS & OCCASIONS):

(OVER)

2. CHILD AT PRESENT:-

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

PERSONALITY & BEHAVIOUR:

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHILDREN:

(a) AT HOME

(b) OUTSIDE HOME

RELATIONSHIP WITH ADULTS (e.g. PARENTS & OTHER RELATIVES)

ATTITUDE TO F. P.'s:

ANY APPARENT BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS:

APPARENT CONTENTMENT WITH F. HOME:

SUMMARY OF PRESENT SCHOOL REPORT:

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL HISTORY

SUMMARY OF ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORTS:

NOTE: Attach the full medical, school, psychological reports to this form.

ASSESSMENT

FOSTER HOME:

(1) IS IT IN YOUR VIEW SUITABLE FOR ANY CHILD?

(2) IF NOT, GIVE REASONS:

(3) IS IT SUITABLE FOR THIS PARTICULAR CHILD?

(4) IF NOT, GIVE REASONS:

(5) DID F.P. GET THE KIND OF CHILD SHE WANTED:

(6) DO YOU FEEL SHE WOULD HAVE WELCOMED OR RESENTED MORE VISITS BY C.W.O.?

CHILD:

(1) IS HE/SHE SUITABLE FOR PLACEMENT IN A F.H. AT ALL?

(2) IF NOT, GIVE REASONS:

(3) WHAT KIND OF ALTERNATIVE CARE SHOULD HE/SHE HAVE HAD?

(4) IF SUITABLE FOR F.H. PLACEMENT, WHAT TYPE OF F. HOME WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR HIM?

(5) ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

APPENDIX III

SEX INSTRUCTION:

- (a) Information Obtained on Extent to which Sex Education given by Foster Parents.

This was obtained at the request of the Child Welfare Division. The survey had begun before the request came, and therefore the information was not sought on all visits. The information was obtained in 54 instances, in the remaining 30 it was not, for the following reasons:-

Circumstances of visit not propitious	:	11
Child too young for question to be relevant.	:	11
Not asked (early in survey)	:	8
		<u>30</u>

This involved 41 children.

.....

- (b) Information Obtained from 54 Foster Homes as to How Sex Instruction Imparted

	By both F.P.		By F.M.		By F.F.		By C.W.O.		By School		By Others
	B's.	G's.	B's.	G's.	B's.	G's.	B's.	G's.	B's.	G's.	Girls.
1. Has been fully given.	1		3	10	5				3	2	3
2. Partially Given.	1	2	1	2							
3. F.P. see need for it but want it done by others.									2	4	
4. Willing to give it as it arises	4		2	4	3						
5. Did not believe in it being given.	3	1	6	3							

It is difficult to comment on these figures, since the age of the child considered influenced whether it had yet been told and the desirability of it being told.

In Group 5 however, which is an important one, we note that nine foster parents, who had in their homes thirteen children, did not appreciate or feel sympathetic to the children's need for help in this matter. These children included four adolescents, a boy of nineteen, a boy of fourteen and two girls of fourteen. The other children in this group were aged five to eleven.

Some of these parents felt that it was not information children ought to have, others stated that what was good enough for them was good enough for the children, that is haphazard acquisition of sex knowledge. Three foster parents expressed repugnance to the whole subject of sex.

(c) Case Illustrating a Foster Mother's Unhealthy Attitude to Sex.

"There are two foster children in her home, a boy aged 8, and a girl aged 11; the foster-mother is an unmarried woman in her early 40's. The foster-mother also runs a Day Nursery in her home, so that it was felt not inappropriate or impossible, to ask the foster-mother if the children have, for example, asked where babies came from. The foster-mother's reply to this question was that she has not told the children anything, since she feels that sex is not a 'nice' topic for children and that her children are 'pure-minded'. For herself she is very fond of children, but has not any regrets about marriage since this would necessitate a husband and she dislikes grown up males and only accepts them as boys."

....

APPENDIX IV.

RACE:

(a)

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
European	53	45	98
Full Maori	3		3
Half Maori	4	1	5
Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ Maori	5		5
Chinese $\frac{1}{2}$ or whole			
Indian $\frac{1}{2}$ or whole			
Maori-Indian			
Islander $\frac{1}{2}$ or whole			
Jewish	1	1	2

Five not marked.

.....

CHARGE:

(b)

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Indigent	46	33	79
Detrimental Environment	3	4	7
Neglected	6	3	9
Not under proper control.	15	7	22
Delinquent	1	2	3

(c)

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	34	37	71
Illegitimate	21	27	48

(d) Children at Post Primary School.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
At Post-Primary	4	5	9	
Have been	8	3	11	
	12	8	20	TOTAL