

Dr. Barnardos Homes

Mr. Hicks said he was reasonably satisfied with conditions at Barnardos Homes. He said he had received full co-operation from the new Manager, Mr. P.T. Kirkpatrick. He mentioned that Kirkpatrick was keen on "boarding out" children as much as possible but the Executive Committee did not favour the idea.

The fracas at Barnardos some months back when some of the lads were alleged to have assaulted the Superintendent has been settled satisfactorily.

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Inspection of Accommodation and Employment after placement out by Voluntary Organisations.

Mr. Challoner made the point that under Reg. 6 only the duties of custodians were covered and that it was desirable for power to be given to enable Child Welfare to inspect accommodation and employment which may have been arranged by the custodian. For example, Mr. Challoner put the view that the Big Brother Movement is the custodian of "Little Brothers" and that when a "Little Brother" is placed out with a farmer the Child Welfare Department has no legal power to make enquiries from the farmer. Mr. Metcalfe pointed out that the Big Brother Movement as custodians had the responsibility of seeing that employers, chosen by them, realised that Child Welfare Department may make enquiries. It appears this is the normal procedure and that the Child Welfare Department has not in practice been handicapped in its enquiries.

The question of amending Regulation 6 to make this right of inspection secure was approved sometime ago but owing to prolonged negotiations relating to Regulation 4 nothing has yet been done.

Mr. Ordish mentioned that the Minister's delegates in all other States had apparently been able to carry out inspections and in cases arrange employment in conjunction with the voluntary organisations and had not needed a compulsory provision in the Regulations.

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B Standard of Children.

By and large Mr. Challoner and Mr. Hicks agreed the standard was satisfactory, and that the selection overseas was creditable. They felt, however, that voluntary organisations in the United Kingdom could be more careful in initial screening. They mentioned that a few of the lads from the National Children's Homes, London, had been of the recalcitrant type.

Mr. Metcalfe explained the selection procedure in the United Kingdom and the fact that in all doubtful cases I.C. tests were secured at Commonwealth expense.

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C Exemption A.J.W.S.

Mr. Challoner commented that the A.J.W.S. had an excellent organisation and closely attended to the youths they sponsored under the landing permit procedure. Mr. Challoner

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