

over, girls and boys in an institution, however efficiently it may be staffed, live under a loving supervision that is general rather than personal, and they therefore stand at a disadvantage compared with boys and girls who are brought up under a parental roof. Barnardo accordingly established a system whereby, in private cottage homes of rural England, children are boarded out, singly or in pairs, with selected foster-parents, who receive a monthly payment that covers the cost of feeding and clothing their little charges. This system, which is associated with local supervision by ministers of religion, proved from the outset so successful that it has been adopted on an ever-widening scale, until today it applies to more than half of the children. That is to say, while the Homes have a standing family of over 9,000 young people (a family which, of course, is constantly increasing by new admissions at one end and melting into independence at the other), some 5,000 are boarded out, and the numerous Barnardo institutions are filled to their capacity by the remaining 4,000.

And what proved the more excellent way in England, proves of double excellence in