

The *modus operandi* of the Society has been so fully set forth in the last two annual reports that it is deemed unnecessary to do so again, and it has therefore been considered sufficient to present to the friends of the Society and the public a short statement or outline of what has been done. This will be given under appropriate headings.

THE WORK DONE.

The work done by the Society includes two branches ; that which comes in through the Police Court—Children's Private Court—and that which arises out of complaints laid by letter and otherwise at the Society's office. From their very nature many of the cases which arise in the Children's Court not only require attention during the time the Court is in session, but also careful investigation at the homes of the children concerned and elsewhere. In this way the officers can often be of great help to the Police Magistrate by obtaining information respecting these offenders which enables him to arrive at a decision suited to the particular case. The Magistrate, in order that these investigations may be made, remands the children—often to the Shelter—for the time being. Remand from week to week is also resorted to by the Magistrate, instead of commitment to the jail, and this is sometimes found to work well, as it often ensures the future good conduct of the child.

COMPLAINTS.

The following table shows the number, character and disposal of the office complaints, also the number and character of the Police Court cases.

Of these it may be explained that many come to the office by letter, some by telephone and others by persons calling or reporting to the officers. There is one great difficulty experienced in dealing with some of the cases complained of, inasmuch as—while the Society is urged to interfere for the children's sake—the communication of complaints are strictly private, and they absolutely decline to testify in Court. As a consequence, the Society is helpless or crippled in its efforts to benefit the children.

TABLE I.

Number of complaints through the Office.....	350
Number of complaints through the Children's Court.....	790
Total for the year.....	1,140
The number of children involved.....	1,407

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