

CONFIDENTIAL.FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION.BOX HILL BOYS' HOME.

This Home was visited by myself and Mr. Stella, Headmaster of the Turana State School on 23.6.66. Mr. Stella's purpose in coming with me was to meet his opposite number at the Institution school, to compare notes and find new channels of co-operation.

The Home itself has changed little and on this chilly day impressed once again as poor, dingy and cold. It was interesting to observe Mr. Stella's horrified reaction to this place immediately after his visit to Bayswater. Staff are reasonably stable and incredibly there has been no change in the cooks - always a problem in this Home and, considering the type of kitchens, understandably so.

In discussing Departmental policy Major Broadstock aired his usual grievances - namely that we are sending him too many dull lads and too high a proportion who have behaviour problems or a history of offences. While agreeing with him that the Home is not really geared either to handling or helping such lads I had to point out that very few others are forthcoming and that the alternative was for him to carry empty beds. I have noticed that any mention of empty beds always produces a horrified reaction here, emphasising again the dependence the Salvation Army Homes have on Social Welfare Branch maintenance. I also discovered that Major Broadstock has been queering his own clothing pitch by sending boys onto home release with a complete Schedule D outfit instead of the stand-up outfit commonly supplied by other institutions.

The internal school at Box Hill, although technically similar to that of Bayswater, impresses as far less efficiently and "tightly" run than the latter. The Headmaster, Mr. ^{Richard} Robinson, although experienced in both remedial and institutional schools lacks the strong personality of Mr. Spencer and his creative understanding. Incidentally, I am amazed that there has apparently been no case of burning at the Box Hill school - the drafty barnlike old school rooms are heated by great log fires in open grates which are unguarded.

No particular plans exist for the future of the Home.

In view of the type of lad mainly coming into residential care - i.e. the educationally-retarded offender - I wonder if it would be desirable for the function of such a Home as Box Hill to be redefined.

D. Jaggs

(D. Jaggs),
Social Worker,
Children's Homes Section.

* I have discussed this with Major Broadstock, who will discontinue this practice. *W.B.H.*
14/7

The Director