

478  
106

THE DIRECTOR.

Re Clontarf Orphanage.

The report submitted by Mesdames Fairbrother and Underwood on their recent visit to Clontarf Boys' Town was investigated by Mr. Wood, Clerk-in-Charge Welfare Branch, and Mr. W. Little, Probation Officer, and the report is hereunder.

Re Over-crowding:

Working on the formula of 500 cubic feet with a ceiling of 10 ft. and making allowance for windows and doors, it can be stated that generally speaking the various dormitories are not over-crowded.

Re Punishment Book:

You will note that the last entry in the Punishment Book was in January, 1942. As this is a contravention of the Child Welfare Act a decision should be given as to whether the Department proposes to insist on such a book being kept up to date.

Re Richard Peacock:

In the original report, para. F, Brother Doyle complained that it took 6 months to have a badly disturbed boy examined at the Child Guidance Clinic.

This is contrary to fact, as you will notice if you refer to File 1521/52, pages 6 and 10. This boy's case was brought to notice on the 17th March, 1954 and arrangements were made immediately for the boy to be examined by Dr. Wyatt. The examination actually took place on April 2nd and a report was received on April 8th.

Re Letter-writing:

The policy adopted at Clontarf is quite different from that of the Protestant Institutions, where children are encouraged to write at least once a fortnight and writing materials, stamps, etc. are provided by the Institution. It appears that at Clontarf, if stationery and stamps have to be provided, the boys are limited to one letter per month.

In connection with Felice, para. E, it is inferred that it was 6 months before the Department supplied this youth with writing material, stamps, etc., although his father had made an allotment for this purpose. This statement is also not in accordance with fact. You will notice from file 951/53 that there has been considerable correspondence about a dependant's allowance, but the first amount received by this Department from the British Naval Authorities was on the 25th May, 1954. Allowing for the cheque to be cleared through the Treasury and due to the fact that the Institution Officer did not visit Clontarf earlier, the first pocket-money, air-mail letters, etc. were delivered to Felice on the 2nd August, 1954. Further pocket-money was distributed on the 2nd September, 1954 and the lad will be due for another grant next month.