

THE DIRECTOR:

On the afternoon of the 6th instant we visited Olontarf unannounced and discussed with the Manager, Bro. Doyle, the comments made by the lady Members of the Children's Court. Bro. Doyle was shown a copy of their letter, also the list of questions arising from it which we wished to raise. He escorted us over the Institution and the following are our replies to the various items:

(a) Brother does not know the exact dimensions of the dormitories, and each one was stepped out, so that the measures which we have given are only approximate:

(i) St. Xavier's.

Boys, 11 yrs. and under - 40 beds.
Dimensions: 66' x 26' x 20' ceiling.
6 windows - 2' x 6'
1 window - 4' x 6'
1 large set of windows - 8' x 10'
2 doors.

(ii) St. Joseph's

12-yr-olds, - 43 beds.
Dimensions: 66 x 36 x 15' ceiling.
9 windows - 6' x 3'
2 doors and archway.

(iii) St. Mary's

14-yr-olds - 30 beds.
60' x 26' x 15' ceiling.
4 windows
1 large set windows - 8' x 10'
4 doorways.

(iv) Sacred Heart

Boys 14 - 15 yrs - 27 beds
54' x 28' x 15' ceiling.
8 windows
5 doors

(v) St. Vincent's

9-yr-olds - 25 beds
45' x 25' x 15' ceiling
7 windows
2 doors

(vi) Verandah "A"

Bed-wetters - 24 beds
10' wide x 120' long
Louvred full-length one side

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(vii) Verandah "B"

Shorter open verandah on sheltered side.
6 beds - 4 occupied by Aquinas students

(viii) Verandah "C"

9-yr-olds - 19 beds
10' x 120' long.
Open verandah on sheltered side

(b) One sheet and pillow slip are laundered each week. Bed linen generally was clean but some pillow slips were grubby. Bro. Doyle's explanation was that some boys use hair oil excessively and some occasionally dodge showers.

(c) No roll-call is made. A Brother reports to the Manager if a boy is noticed missing at meal-time or in school, and each evening the Brother in charge of each dormitory checks the occupants at lights out, between 9.30 and 9.45 p.m. If any boy is missing, the Catholic Episcopal Welfare & Migration Association is notified.

(d) Bro. Doyle asserts that abscondings have not been abnormal and the only persistent absconder recently has been Alfred Formosa.

(e) The punishment book was sighted and the last entry therein was made on the 3rd January, 1942. Bro. Doyle is carrying on the policy of his predecessor in not maintaining this book.

(f) The boys are permitted to write letters as often as they wish provided they have their own stamps and stationery. Otherwise, the Institution provides the necessary stamps etc. for one letter per month. This is done under supervision in school. The boys usually write to people they have visited on holidays, week-ends etc. and if they have no outside contact, the Brother in charge of the class suggests they write a letter to him.

(g) The name of this lad is Richard Peacock, migrant boy, file 1521/52.

(h) Dormitories were clean and tidy; all walls and woodwork have recently been renovated and painted in pleasant pastel shades. Pictures, both secular and religious, are hung on the walls.

A new library is being established in the billiard room and new furniture and steel book-shelving are installed. New books are in the process of being indexed for issue to the boys. The furniture comprises 4 writing desks, 8 tables, approximately 50 chairs and a few lounge chairs.

(i) The lavatories and ablution facilities are clean and in good order, except that two pedestals are temporarily out of action through faulty cisterns, but these are being repaired. There are 12 pedestals and 32' of urinal.

Doyle
PROBATION OFFICER

HW:JY
10.9.54.

Doyle
CLERK-IN-CHARGE, WELFARE.