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Houses in South Cork, Kerry, Wick, Wicklow, Wexford, Wicklow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Lark, County, Tipperary N.R., Tipperary S.R., Clare, Galway and Mayo.

The special homes for unmarried mothers, apart from those at Pelletstown and Tuam, are Bessboro' near Cork, under the management of the Sisters of the Order of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and Shan Ross Abbey, Roscrea.

In Bessboro' girls are trained in the various branches of domestic work, dairying, poultry-keeping and gardening. After a period of training, suitable situations are provided, and the girls are thus enabled to become self-supporting. During the year ended 31st March last there were 64 admitted to the Home, 54 discharged (190 to be married). During the same period 79 cases were admitted to the Maternity Hospital attached to the Home and there were 100 births and 88 were discharged. The number of children discharged during the year was 84, 2 boarded-out and 16 died. The matron of the Home reports that the girls placed in situations are getting on very well and that she has received very good reports from their employers. Shan Ross Abbey, Roscrea, is conducted on somewhat similar lines. From the 24th June, 1931, till the 31st March, 1932, 85 girls and 74 babies were received there.

Although every facility is given in the counties mentioned above to induce suitable cases to seek shelter and attention at an early stage and publicity is avoided so far as possible, nevertheless numbers of girls in the last stages of pregnancy.

There is ample evidence that the girls who go to these Homes profit by the training they receive and that the Homes are carrying out useful and necessary work. The natural affection of the mother for the child is fostered and in this lies her greatest hope of safety in the future.

An effort is now being made to establish a Home for unmarried mothers for the Counties of Northern Leinster, Monaghan and Cavan.

With regard to the more intractable problem presented by unmarried mothers of more than one child, the Sisters-in-Charge of the Magdalen Asylums in Dublin and elsewhere throughout the country are willing to co-operate with the local authorities by admitting them into their institutions. Many of these women appear to be feeble-minded and need supervision and guardianship. The Magdalen Asylum offers the only special provision at present for this class.

As a result of several complaints from English Rescue Societies of the number of girls who having got into trouble leave the Free State and go to England, a conference was arranged between representatives

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