

Repeaters.—Experience, which dispels or increases resentment to authority, may be a factor in encouraging or deterring repeaters. Some of the responsibility for the attitude that is built up, be it good or bad, rests on the police, the probation officer, the staff of the detention home and the judge. The recollection of how he was picked up the first time, how he was handled while awaiting hearing, the opinion of those in whose care he was placed during the process of readjustment, all make an impression on a child.

Over the ten-year period, 1938-47, approximately one in every four children brought before the court for major offences had failed to heed the first warning of the court and had made at least a second appearance. The figures for major offences in 1947 showed that in more than two-thirds of the cases (72.1 p.c.) the children were brought before the court for the first time, 14.4 p.c. were second offenders, 7.0 p.c. third, 2.9 p.c. fourth and 3.6 p.c. were dealt with by the courts five or more times. Previous court experience of boys and girls who were committed for major offences is shown in Table 8, covering the period 1938-47.

8. — First Offenders and Repeaters of Major Offences, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1938-47

Year	Total Delinquents	First Offenders	Repeaters					Total	Percentage of Total Delinquents
			Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth or More	Total		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.		
1938.....	5,055	3,537	767	357	144	250	1,518	30.03	
1939.....	5,018	3,588	709	306	192	223	1,430	28.50	
1940.....	5,298	3,711	813	357	190	227	1,587	29.95	
1941.....	6,204	4,356	994	396	199	259	1,848	29.79	
1942.....	6,920	5,577	669	348	144	182	1,343	19.41	
1943.....	6,494	4,831	865	386	183	229	1,663	25.61	
1944.....	6,529	4,665	943	429	221	271	1,864	28.55	
1945.....	5,758	4,231	812	337	137	241	1,527	26.52	
1946.....	4,949	3,430	799	344	155	221	1,519	30.69	
1947.....	4,683	3,376	673	329	138	167	1,307	27.91	

Disposition of Cases of Major Offenders.—The disposition of cases by the various courts depends on the practices within the courts and on the facilities for court supervision, for institutional care and for other services for children. The practices may vary between courts or from year to year in the same court but generally, the disposition of cases remains much the same. Placing the child on probation of the court or of his parents and suspended sentences accounted for more than one-half of the disposition of cases for major offences in 1947. The cases sent to training schools represented 14.1 p.c.