

VII.—PROVISION FOR TRAINING OF YOUTHS.

Harbour

128. We recommend that in the event of the additional accommodation required for Boys being provided on shore as proposed, two of the Training Ships set free should be appropriated for the training of Youths, and that arrangements should be

made to moor them, connected by a bridge, at Harwich in the position occupied by "Ganges II." It is proposed that it should be left to the Inspecting Captain of Boys' Training Ships to suggest the particular ships considered most suitable for retention. The present accommodation in each ship is approximately as follows:—

"Impregnable II."	-	-	-	-	-	-	450 to 500.
"Impregnable III."	-	-	-	-	-	-	400.
"Ganges II."	-	-	-	-	-	-	450.

Two of these vessels would, therefore, provide adequate accommodation for all the Youths likely to be entered, and it would be practicable to secure more favourable hygienic conditions by reducing the nominal accommodation of each ship, limiting the numbers to be received in the combined Establishment to say 650 or 700. With an annual entry of 1,500 Youths, it is probable that the numbers borne in the Harbour Establishment at any one time would only reach this maximum occasionally, in the periods of most prolific recruiting, generally during the September and March quarters of the year. The average bearing throughout the year would be considerably less than 650.

129. It is recommended that favourable consideration should be given to any reasonable demands for such structural improvements as may tend to secure the best hygienic conditions possible, having in view the limits of age for entry (*viz.*, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 18 years), the rapidity with which Youths are passed through their preliminary training in the Harbour Establishment and the reduction in the numbers to be accommodated on board.

130. It is proposed that the recreation ground, which it was contemplated providing on shore at Shotley for "Ganges II.," should be secured for the new Establishment.