

INSPECTION RESULTS.—The school examinations were all completed before the close of the school year, and the results show an increase in the number of those children who have satisfied the requirements. The Inspector, in his report, speaks highly of the work done by the teachers as a whole, but reference is again made by him to the desirability of more systematic work in teaching the different class-subjects. Recently the Board has adopted regulations having this object in view, and teachers in the Board's service are now required to keep a "Standard Lesson Book" showing the sequence of each subject taught, with the notes prepared upon the subject. The Board hopes by this means to improve the teaching which is now imparted in the schools under its control. The following table shows the number of pupils who have passed in the standard examinations for each year since 1878:—

Year.	STANDARD I.			STANDARD II.			STANDARD III.			STANDARD IV.			STANDARD V.			STANDARD VI.			Total Passes.
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	
1878	272	277	549	61	39	100	57	45	102	7	4	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	762
1879	228	201	429	224	166	390	95	94	189	43	22	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,073
1880	199	174	373	176	158	334	104	103	207	53	40	93	19	6	25	...	...	...	1,032
1881	225	161	386	202	172	374	154	117	271	69	66	135	22	15	37	10	...	10	1,213
1882	213	177	390	184	166	350	171	156	327	86	70	156	44	26	70	12	9	21	1,314
1883	298	264	562	225	196	421	159	140	299	121	89	210	44	28	72	22	13	35	1,599
1884	396	360	754	234	215	451	200	175	375	94	98	192	49	49	98	17	14	31	1,906
1885	332	361	693	294	279	573	198	177	375	140	136	276	35	51	86	34	29	63	2,066

The examination of the pupils in Standards V. and VI., which is held on the same date throughout the district, took place on the 6th November, 1885. Each School Committee where there are pupils for examination appoints two supervisors to give out the papers on the examination-day, and to carry out the instructions issued by the Board. On the results of this examination scholarships are awarded to the pupils in Standard VI. who stand highest on the lists, and who are not more than fifteen years of age. At the recent examination twelve scholarships were awarded.

PUPIL-TEACHERS.—New regulations have recently been approved by the Board having reference to the better training and instruction of the pupil-teachers. Hitherto the annual examinations have been in July, but for the future they will be held in the month of December. This will enable ex-pupil-teachers who remain in the Board's service for a fifth year's course to take the Class E. certificate papers for their final examination. The regulations dealing with the instruction of the pupil-teachers require that "one hour before the ordinary school day begins must be set aside on four days in each school week for the instruction of the pupil-teachers;" and, further, "that there shall be kept a register of attendance, in which each teacher is required to enter the time when he or she arrived at the school for the purpose of giving or receiving lessons." These rules the Board has reason to believe will have the effect of improving still more the efficiency of the pupil-teachers in this district. The Board is pleased to state that the reports received from the Principals of the Wellington and Christchurch Colleges upon the students holding scholarships from the Board continue to be very satisfactory. Oscar Alpers, one of the scholarship holders at the Christchurch Training College, has been successful in obtaining a scholarship at the Canterbury College; and Miss Morgan, another scholarship holder, has received an appointment on the teaching staff of the Wellington Training College. As pointed out last year, the benefits to this district from the granting of Training College scholarships to the ex-pupil-teachers are beginning to be felt, as several of those who have been students are now employed as teachers under the Board.

SEWING.—Sewing continues to receive special attention in most of the schools throughout the district. At the general examination in November twenty-five schools were represented, and 893 specimens of sewing were separately examined for marks by the lady examiners, who give so much care and attention to this important subject. The number of specimens examined in each standard was—Standard I., 250; Standard II., 229; Standard III., 203; Standard IV., 116; Standard V., 74; Standard VI., 21: total, 893. This year the competition for the three prizes annually given by Captain Russell for the best specimens, first, of patching a pair of trousers; second, of darning a pair of stockings; third, of cutting out and making a night-shirt, has been much keener than in any previous year, and most of the competitors sent in excellent work. The suggestive report of the examiners will be found appended. The Board is pleased to state that at the recent Industrial Exhibition in Wellington the schools in Hawke's Bay gained eleven first prizes, nine seconds, four thirds, and five honourable mentions in this important subject.

SAVINGS-BANKS AND EVENING-CLASSES.—No savings-banks or night-schools have yet been established in any of the Board schools. Several attempts have been made to start the latter, but as yet without success. With regard to the former, the Inspector points out "that most of the teachers do not care to attempt anything which does not minister directly to the success of the standard results."

SCHOOL COMMITTEES.—The Board again desires to recognise the efforts made by most of the School Committees to promote the well-being of the schools under their control. In this district the aim of the Board has always been to consult Committees as much as possible where the interests of their several districts are concerned, and the Board has found no cause to regret the adoption of this course. During the year the sum of nearly £750 was collected by them over and above the grants voted by the Board for school purposes. This does not include the moneys collected towards the salaries of teachers in subsidised schools, and which, except in a single instance, do not pass through the Board's accounts.