

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL OF TRAINING COLLEGE.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit my report of the Training College for session 1887.

The following was the attendance at the classes :—First-year students: Males, 8; females, 26. Second-year students: Males, 15; females, 39. Third-year students: Males, 3. Fourth-year students: Males, 2.

Thirty-four students were admitted, and thirty-one left. Of those who left, twenty-seven received appointments, and three continued their studies at the Otago University, but not under Training College supervision. These have done as good work as those who were under supervision; but it would be well to place all our students at the University on the same footing as to reports of attendance and work, and so maintain their connection with the Board until they take up their work as teachers. I may say that most of our students do consult with us as to their course, and report their progress, though not required to do so by the regulations.

No change was made on the College staff during the year. I have to thank all its members for the cordial support and co-operation which enabled us to bring a year's work of exceptional difficulty to a very successful termination.

Seventeen students passed the matriculation examination of the New Zealand University. Twenty completed the examination for D Certificate, and one had a partial success registered, passing in all the subjects except spelling. Twenty completed the examination for E Certificate, and ten had a partial success registered. Two failed to improve their position. Of the three prizes open to all candidates in practical science throughout New Zealand, the second was awarded to Mr. W. G. Don, Miss M. E. Moore was highly commended, and Miss C. D. Robertson and Mr. William Burnside were commended. Of the three prizes in drawing, the second was awarded to Mr. William Burnside.

The students holding University exhibitions have kept terms as required, and Mr. James M. Beattie is reported to have passed the first section of the B.A. degree. Mr. Ross has taken an appointment as teacher. The others are entitled to the exhibitions for another year. They have all done practical work while the University was not in session, and commended themselves to the headmasters of the associated schools under whom they taught.

The Training College students attending the Otago University continue to do good work, and occupy creditable positions in their classes. Many of our students who matriculate cannot afford at once to begin their University course; others can afford but one or two sessions. These, failing to secure appointments to city or suburban schools, readily accept places in the country, with the view, in many cases, of saving money with which to return and complete the preparation for their professional work, and at the same time raise their classification. Of present and past students it is reported by cable from London that, in the examination of 1887, six passed for M.A. degree, five of them qualifying for the New Zealand teacher's A Certificate; that five passed for B.A. degree, qualifying for the B Certificate; and that three passed the first section of the B.A. degree, qualifying for the C Certificate.

Careful attention and a large proportion of time has been given during the session to the practical part of the students' preparation for teaching. The Friday afternoons were devoted to model and criticism lessons to Normal School classes, and the students spent every fifth week teaching in city and suburban schools. The following table shows the schools associated with the College for the practical training of students, the scope they afford for practice in teaching, and the amount of skilled supervision and direction of practice :—

					Average Attendance.		Certificated Teachers.
George Street	...	...	...	...	797	...	9
Union Street	...	...	...	...	620	...	7
Albany Street	...	...	...	...	690	...	6
Normal...	...	...	...	...	686	...	7
Normal Model	...	...	...	...	41	...	1
Kensington	...	...	...	...	354	...	5
Macandrew Road	...	...	...	...	578	...	6
Forbury...	...	...	...	...	412	...	5
Caversham	...	...	...	...	636	...	7
Mornington	...	...	...	...	500	...	6
Anderson's Bay	...	...	...	...	109	...	2
					5,423	...	61

During the practice weeks the students were visited by Mr. Chilton, Miss Fitzgerald, and myself, and at the end of each week the headmasters reported in writing on the capacity and work of each student. The relations between the staff of the College and those of the associated schools have been of the most cordial description; the students have been kindly received, every opportunity has been given them of observing the organization, discipline, and methods of the schools, and the headmasters have taken a warm interest in the work, giving to it a large amount of time and care. We are deeply indebted to them for the assistance they and their teachers have given us in this the most important department of our work. The students themselves realise the importance of the practical part of their training, and many of those who have not been pupil-teachers continue in practice after passing the certificate examination and completing the ordinary course of training. At present we have several in practice who are entitled by examination to D Certificate, two who are entitled to B, and two who are entitled to the highest certificate, A.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary, Otago Education Board.

W. S. FITZGERALD, Rector.