

"The Manual and Technical Elementary Instruction Act, 1895," provides for the granting of subsidies to classes established for instruction in such branches of science and art as are encouraged by the South Kensington Department and by the City and Guilds Institute, and also to workshops connected with public schools; and the same Act allows part of the ordinary school time to be given to elementary manual instruction.

A circular was issued in January, 1896, containing information with respect to the development of manual instruction in England; and another is now in the press, being a reprint of that part of the report of the London School Board for 1895 which treats of the same subject.

The annual report on the Goldfields of New Zealand (C.-3), issued by the Department of Mines, will include information with respect to schools of mines; the annual report of the Department of Agriculture will give particulars of the dairy school; and the reports of the University of Otago (E.-6) and Canterbury College (E.-7) will show what is being done by the Medical School and the School of Mines at Dunedin, and by the School of Engineering at Christchurch, and the School of Agriculture at Lincoln.

2. TECHNICAL SCHOOL, WANGANUI.—ART MASTER'S REPORT.

SIR,—

Technical School, Wanganui, 1896.

I have the honour to submit the following report in connection with this school for 1895:—

In my last report I referred at considerable length to the increased accommodation required and the appointment of a competent teacher to assist me in the work. In May, 1895, the Board appointed a committee to consider my application for this enlargement and assistance, the report being as follows: "We find that the school is suffering from lack of accommodation and from inadequate teaching power. Even with the present numbers attending, with the subjects undertaken it is impossible to overtake the work, while urgently-needed extension of the work cannot be thought of till more accommodation and help are provided." In March, 1896, the executive committee of the Board reported with reference to this matter, that "towards the cost of the enlargement and furnishing £619 is available, leaving a deficiency of £200."

I think it is much to be regretted, in the face of the finding of the committee in May, 1895, quoted above, that the Board has not seen its way to proceed with the enlargement of the school, and place it on the same standing as regards its relation to education as the schools at Wellington and Otago. Any deficiency in the income in connection with these two schools is made up solely from the money voted by Parliament for primary-school education. The masters of these schools certainly have duties in connection with the primary schools of the State which amply repay the expenditure, if any be incurred beyond the fees received by these institutions, and the same result would obtain in this district without doubt if this school were put on the same footing.

ATTENDANCE.—The number of students who attended the different classes of this school during the three terms respectively was as follows: Morning class for drawing and painting, 9, 9, 6; evening class, 30, 28, 27, of which 3, 4, 3 were engineering students; Girls' College—Drawing, 58, 57, 58; Girl's College—Painting, 7, 9, 8; Saturday drawing class for primary-school teachers and others, 47, 28, 44; Saturday-afternoon science lectures for primary-school teachers and others, 37, 13, 16: total, 188, 144, 159. The courses of instruction have been the same as in former years, with the addition of science lectures on Saturday afternoon.

As I intimated in my report last year, drawing is now a compulsory subject for pupil-teachers under the Board at their annual examination in June. At the request of Inspector Bindon I conducted the examination. As this was the first year the standard of pass was rather low; several candidates, however, failed to obtain the necessary marks.

At the local annual examination in December for drawing certificates accepted by the Education Department for E the following were the results:—

Freehand	...	...	15 candidates	15 passed	0 failed.
Model	...	...	14 "	9 "	5 "
Geometrical	...	...	10 "	5 "	5 "

At the South Kensington examination held in June the following results were obtained:—

Second Grade.

Freehand	...	40 candidates	11 first class	15 second class	14 failed.
Model	...	6 "	2 "	2 "	2 "
Light and shade	...	6 "	4 "	2 "	0 "
Perspective	...	2 "	1 "	1 "	0 "
Geometrical drawing	...	...	4 candidates	3 passed	1 failed.