

is comparatively small. Excellent results were obtained in the examination conducted by Mr. F. de J. Clere, F.R.I.B.A., who speaks highly of the work done.

PLUMBING CLASSES.—These classes have been conducted as formerly. The numbers in attendance have been very satisfactory. Mr. Mack resigned his charge of the practical class at the end of the second term, Mr. Scott being appointed to the vacancy. The members of the class presented Mr. Mack upon his retirement with an illuminated address and a gold pendant cross suitably inscribed. Large numbers have availed themselves of the opportunities of examination under the City and Guilds of London Institute, with satisfactory results, and I am glad to find a considerable number working for the advanced and honour stages of the work, thus insuring an efficiency of workmanship hitherto unknown in the colony. A board of control has been established in connection with these classes, as follows: Messrs. J. R. Blair (Chairman), A. D. Riley, and J. Campbell, as representatives of the Board of Education; Messrs. W. Mack and A. Ramsay, representing the Master Plumbers' Association; and Messrs. F. Dryden and C. W. Martin, representing the Journeyman Plumbers' Association. Regulations have now been defined with regard to the nature of the examinations, ages, and qualifications of apprentices and candidates for examination, and other matters of importance to the trade and classes. The City Council have, as heretofore, contributed to the cost of maintenance, to the extent of £60 13s. 5d. for the year's work.

CARPENTRY, WOOD-CARVING, AND MODELLING.—These classes have continued in operation throughout the year with highly satisfactory results. In the wood-carving section many very useful and handsome pieces of furniture have been carved, and I think they will prove a revelation to the public when collected for exhibition. Carving in marble has also been commenced by one of the lady students, and much good work has been done by students who are interested in their work from a trade point of view. The carpentry class has also proved successful, and I earnestly hope will, now that the usual first rush is over, steadily increase in numbers. The provisions for instruction in drawing as applied to carpentry and manual instruction are now complete.

PRACTICAL PLANE GEOMETRY AND PERSPECTIVE CLASSES have been conducted as in previous years, and have been well attended; but I am anxious to see the junior students make greater use of the facilities offered in this direction for obtaining a thorough grounding in the principles of their work. It is all very well to shirk this as drudgery in the first year's course, but the want of this knowledge, especially in mechanical pursuits, will plague them as long as they live. I would urge all students joining the school to master these essential principles first, and so save themselves a considerable amount of time in after-work.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.—The numbers in attendance at the College have been respectively twenty-nine, thirty-five, and thirty-two in the three terms, the work being confined to practical plane geometry and elementary design. The classes in manual instruction in woodwork have also been conducted by Mr. Barrett, as Instructor of the Technical School. The numbers under instruction were thirty-eight for the first term, and forty-one for the second and third terms.

The Girls' High School class numbered sixteen, eighteen, and nineteen respectively for the three terms; the subjects of instruction being freehand, model, and light-and-shade drawing, still-life, and elementary design. Steady progress has been made throughout the classes; but it would be advisable to divide the College classes, in order that the instruction may be more efficient.

Examinations.

I take this opportunity of stating that examinations in our case are not like ordinary examinations, inasmuch as it is impossible to cram for the event. Further, in all cases it is a question of showing actual knowledge and power of doing work with instruments, pencil, or brush, within a reasonable time, and in a businesslike manner. Our certificates are now being recognised by various trades, and consequently are of commercial value. Further, our students have the privilege of obtaining certificates from the Science and Art Department and the City and Guilds of London Institute, either of which are valuable as being recognised and accepted by any body or society throughout the world.

The usual examinations were held during the year. As showing the increase in the work of the school, I may state that the number of papers examined during the year was 7,982, and 408 of these were scholarship papers. The increase upon last year's papers is 1,292. The number of sectional certificates issued was 4,535, and full ones 269. The number of certificates issued in all grades since the school was established in 1886 is 24,262, subdivided as follows: Primary or first grade, 19,282; intermediate or second grade, 2,782; higher or third grade, 905; South Kensington, 1,238; and City and Guilds of London, 55.

SECOND GRADE (LOCAL).—Total number of papers taken, 572, subdivided as follows: Freehand, 214 candidates—163 passed, 51 failed; geometry, 88 candidates—48 passed, 40 failed; perspective, 64 candidates—37 passed, 27 failed; model, 160 candidates—117 passed, 43 failed; memory, black-board, 46 candidates—21 passed, 25 failed: total, 572 candidates—386 passed, 186 failed: 17 "excellent," 45 "good." Number of individual candidates examined, 350; and successful, 252.

The freehand and model papers were undoubtedly "good." The perspective papers were "very fair." Practical geometry was unsatisfactory, the paper set requiring a knowledge of the principles of the work. Those candidates who merely worked through the text-book without applying the principles would find the paper difficult. In the majority of failures the two problems in solid geometry were not attempted, particularly so in the case of candidates outside Wellington. As solid geometry is of the utmost importance from an industrial and constructive point of view, one of the two problems should be answered, and in future this will be required.

THIRD GRADE (LOCAL).—The results were satisfactory, especially in outline from the cast, and models, light and shade, and colouring. In the second examination in plumbing there was a distinct advance in the theory. Number of papers taken, 280: passes, 165; failures, 115. Individual candidates, 136; individual passes, 100. Papers "excellent," 19; papers "good," 37.