

THE NATIONAL DENTAL COMMITTEE

The National Dental Committee continued to function throughout the year in connection with the control of dental man-power, the release of dental personnel for service with the Armed Forces, and associated problems. With the cessation of hostilities and the return of most of the dental personnel from the Forces, man-power control of dentists was discontinued as from the 31st March, 1946, and the National Dental Committee ceased to function as from that date. The Department of Health, as the convening authority, takes this opportunity of acknowledging the ready co-operation of the representatives of the New Zealand Dental Association and of the Armed Forces Dental Services (and at a later stage of the dental technicians' organization), who, as members of this Committee, devoted much time to its deliberations over a period of some six years.

REHABILITATION OF DENTISTS

The Dental Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation has continued its work in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Board. Numerous cases affecting the rehabilitating of ex-service personnel in dentistry have been referred by the Board for the Committee's recommendation. The Department is indebted to those members of the dental profession who voluntarily give their time to the work of this Committee.

DENTAL TREATMENT OF RETURNED SERVICEMEN

The Department's organization for providing dental treatment for returned personnel of the Armed Forces has continued to operate smoothly and satisfactorily throughout the past year. The work imposes a considerable strain upon the already busy private dental practitioners who undertake the boarding and the treatment, but, nevertheless, the response is good, and there is general satisfaction with the treatment that is given. A particularly heavy burden falls upon those private dental practitioners who act as dental supervisors in the various districts, and during the year under review it was found possible to arrange for these dentists to be granted financial remuneration for their services.

GENERAL

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

The visit of Dr. J. M. Davidson, from the Ministry of Labour and National Service, London, and the publication of his review of industrial hygiene in New Zealand, stimulated interest in this important sphere of public-health work. Largely as the result of his visit, it is hoped shortly to establish the Division of Industrial Hygiene within the Department.

NUTRITION

Dr. Muriel Bell and the Nutrition Committee of the Medical Research Council have given continuous attention and research to matters relating to the nutrition of our people.

MILK-IN-SCHOOLS SCHEME

The total number of pupils participating in the milk-in-schools scheme was 235,941 made up as follows :—

					Pupils.
Pasteurized bottled milk	..	..	..	..	222,678
Malted milk	..	..	..	..	8,234
Cocoa-making	..	..	..	..	5,029
					235,941