

General Educational Welfare

This side of the activities of R.N.Z.A.F. Educational Services reached its greatest efficiency in the course of the year under review, when the extent of educational and recreational work reached a peak never before approached by any agency for adult education in this country. Nevertheless, the actual numbers engaged on general educational courses and attending classes and clubs decreased rapidly as the strength of R.N.Z.A.F. was reduced after the end of the war, but it is an interesting fact that the percentage of total personnel taking part in these activities continued to increase, and a very creditable level was maintained until the end of the present year. The general educational work of the R.N.Z.A.F. has most fully demonstrated its value during the war. It is hoped that it will be retained as an integral part of the organization of the Interim and Peacetime Air Forces.

The following is a summary of the various general educational activities:—

(i) *A.E.W.S. Study Courses*.—All stocks of these courses are being transferred from A.E.W.S. to the Education Department, but they will continue to be available for the use of servicemen.

(ii) *Other Study Courses*.—In addition to the study courses provided by A.E.W.S., courses are available from the following:—

(a) Education Department's Correspondence School:

(b) Wellington Technical College:

(c) Post and Telegraph Correspondence School:

(d) New Zealand Railways Correspondence School.

(iii) *Courses with Private Colleges*.—These are courses for which initially the students meet the full cost themselves. It is still the policy of the Rehabilitation Department that if such courses are not available under normal conditions from R.N.Z.A.F. Educational Services fees paid may be claimed as a refund from the Rehabilitation Department after discharge, and such application will be granted or not granted according to normal rehabilitation practice. Furthermore, it is now the policy of the Rehabilitation Department that all members of the permanent Forces are now regarded as having returned to a civilian occupation for the purposes of granting rehabilitation benefits.

(iv) *University and Professional Courses*.—The A.E.W.S. textbook service is still in full operation, and marking facilities are available to students reading for the Accountants' Professional Examination. Individual Professors and Lecturers have assisted personnel in many ways, including the supply of special notes and the marking of work.

(v) *Recreational Libraries*.—The recreational library service is still being organized through the A.E.W.S. Library Depots, but most of the books at present available will revert to the control of the National Library Service, where they will continue to be available to R.N.Z.A.F. station libraries. The stocks of books on stations are at present relatively greater in numbers than at any time since the library scheme was inaugurated.

(vi) *School Classes*.—Attendance at school classes reached its peak over the last year, and, although numbers are somewhat reduced, there is still appreciable class activity in a very wide range of subjects. It is again desired to place on record that the principals of the schools have co-operated wholeheartedly in arranging classes for service personnel.

(vii) *Rehabilitation and Vocational Guidance*.—The latest information regarding rehabilitation and prospects in trades and professions has continued to be distributed to all units. A publication which has recently been included is the Rehabilitation Department's newspaper *Change Step*.

(viii) *R.N.Z.A.F. Educational Certificate*.—By means of educational progress-cards a record is kept of courses completed while students are members of the R.N.Z.A.F. On application, personnel may receive a special certificate