

The table printed below shows the number of samples examined during the year by the Dominion Laboratory and its branches :—

Contributor or Department.	Dominion Laboratory, Wellington.	Auckland Branch.	Christchurch Branch.	Dunedin Branch.
Agriculture	16	3	283	7
Air	543	..	8	..
Army	1,274	172	290	..
Broadcasting	..	..	3	..
Coal Survey	218	..	..	..
Customs	275	13	2	29
Education	..	..	1	..
Forestry	48	..	..	..
Health	2,725	6,772	6,373	2,207
Housing	146	23	6	6
Industries and Commerce	7	4	6	6
Internal Affairs	..	1	..	4
Internal Marketing	12	3	27	1
Island Territories	..	6	..	..
Lands and Survey	..	6	..	3
Local bodies	77	..	70	7
Main Highways Board	42	..	..	..
Marine	7	2	..	..
Mines	83	6	4	..
Munitions	601	..	..	..
Native	69	..	..	..
Navy	5	8	3	..
Plunket Society	273	61	68	..
Police	68	216	109	24
Post and Telegraph	53	4	1	1
Printer	8	..	..	..
Prisons	193	..	..	..
Public Works	384	28	67	18
Railways	10	3	6	41
Scientific and Industrial Research—				
Dominion Laboratory and Branches	35	..	..	..
Dominion Physical Laboratory	34	..	..	..
Geological Survey	108	..	..	..
Manufacturers' Research Committee	..	3	..	19
Plant Research Bureau	95	..	..	..
Radio Development Laboratory	5	..	..	..
Soil Bureau	1	..	..	..
Unclassified	16	354	35	6
Standards Institute	16	..	..	..
State Advances	126	41	27	..
Supply	116	26	31	..
U.S.J.P.B.	76	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	242	..	49	30
Totals	8,007	7,755	7,469	2,409

The total number of samples for the year was 25,640, as compared with 30,176 in 1944. The decrease is due to the smaller amount of work done for the Armed Forces. On the other hand, industrial work, which does not involve a number of samples commensurate with the work done, is increasing steadily.

While it is not possible or desirable to divide the laboratory into completely separate divisions, a great deal of the work of the Wellington laboratory falls naturally into sections which deal with a comparatively restricted range of work. These sections, although specialized, are none the less complex and are frequently required to collaborate with each other on a particular problem. The tendency is for each of these sections to be under the direct charge of a senior man who is responsible to the Director for the work of his section. Free interchange of junior staff between the sections is desirable so that they may have a wide general knowledge of the work of the Laboratory