

(18) TECHNICAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

The Technical Correspondence School was opened on 1st July, 1946, to provide for correspondence courses in vocational and technical subjects for apprentices and advanced students. The school, which has a wide field to cover in vocational work, is an outgrowth of the Army Education Welfare Service. It uses the trade and agricultural courses prepared by that Service during the war and has taken over also a number of trade and engineering courses developed in recent years by the correspondence section of the Wellington Technical College. Its premises adjoin the Wellington Technical College and it shares certain teachers with the college.

Progress in the initial stages has been hampered by the difficulty of securing technically qualified staff, but eight new subjects have been added to the curriculum since July, 1946. These include several subjects for the Survey Board's examinations—namely, forestry, geology, physics, survey computations, town-planning, and engineering surveying. It is intended to provide courses in all the chief subjects needed for professional examinations in surveying and in civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering; provision needs to be made also for several important trades, and the preparation of new agricultural courses has been authorized.

At 31st March, 1947, there were 615 enrolled students; the staff comprised 5 full-time teachers, 5 clerical assistants, and 14 part-time instructors who deal with specialized subjects.

(19) EXTENSION OF WORK OF CAREERS ADVISERS IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Advantage was taken of the new Salaries Regulations to provide on a more rational basis for the appointment of careers advisers in post-primary schools. Hitherto, careers teachers have been paid only in post-primary schools in the four main centres. Preliminary arrangements were made during 1946, however, for the appointment of careers advisers in all post-primary schools, including the secondary departments of district high schools, in which the total number of full-time pupils on the roll is at least 200. These appointments will not, however, become effective until the beginning of 1947 and will be contingent upon the person recommended for appointment attending and satisfactorily completing a special course of instruction arranged for careers advisers. Preliminary arrangements have been made for three such courses during 1947. The two booklets published by the Department during 1946, entitled "Careers for Girls," and "Careers for Boys," cover the whole field of employment, giving an outline of qualifications, training, and prospects for work of all kinds. These booklets will be of great value to careers advisers already appointed and to be appointed in post-primary schools.

(20) DEVELOPMENT OF MOTOR TRAINING IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The motor-traders of New Zealand have been very active in recent years in taking steps to improve the training of motor mechanics responsible for the care of public and private vehicles. To that end the New Zealand Motor Trade Certification Board was set up with a full-time technical organizer. The Education Department has encouraged collaboration between the Board, the organizer, the Inspectors of Technical Schools, and the school authorities, and the organizer has been permitted to see the technical classes in motor engineering, to confer with the Department in relation to these classes, and to report back to his Board his views on the results of his observations. The Certification Board, moreover, just recently invited the Director of Education, or his nominee, to become a member of the Certification Board as a representative of the Education Department.