

The instruction is to be half practice and half theory, according to the syllabus prescribed by the New Zealand Motor Trade Certification Board.

Two other Committees, Bakers' and Plumbers', have considered new apprenticeship orders. The bakers favour intensive day courses in special schools suitably equipped. In the case of the plumbers, however, the matter is to be referred to the Arbitration Court for decision. It seems probable that some form of practical instruction will be necessary in almost all trades. All trades will be called on to decide to what extent they want apprentices trained in day or evening classes and the type of instruction to be given in both theory and practice. The equipment necessary for the training will depend on the decisions arrived at.

The Education Department is in close co-operation with trade examining bodies where such exist. For example, a representative of the Department is a member of the Motor Trade Certification Board and also a member of the Plumbers' Board.

Already accommodation for classes in trade instruction could be made available for day or extended evening classes in some post-primary schools, but in quite a number of cases some additions will be essential if all apprentices are to attend for a course of instruction. At the present time, post-primary schools are providing trade instruction for apprentices, both theory and practice, in evening classes and to a slight degree in the daytime. The classes are limited only by the demand on the part of the various trades. Further day classes will be started as soon as they are approved by the particular trades. There are some 13,000 trade apprentices in the Dominion, and though additional accommodation and equipment will be necessary for a complete training scheme in all phases of apprentice training, nevertheless day training could be started in many post-primary schools fairly quickly, provided the trades concerned are prepared to give the scheme full co-operation.

(21) CAREERS ADVISERS IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In accordance with recent regulations, a total of 92 careers advisers were appointed in 68 of the larger post-primary schools. During 1947 three courses of instruction for careers advisers, each occupying ten half-days, were held, with attendances as follows :—

May holidays : Auckland, 30 ; Christchurch, 36.

August holidays : Wellington, 40.

In addition to the official careers advisers, several careers advisers from smaller schools and from private secondary schools attended by invitation. All three courses were marked by considerable enthusiasm, and very animated discussion took place.

While it is as yet too early to pass final judgment on the work carried out in the schools by the newly appointed careers advisers, there is ample evidence that many of the schools have welcomed the new regulation and have selected able and enthusiastic teachers for the work. Aided by the vocational information available through the Department's Vocational Guidance Centres, and by the other facilities that the Vocational Guidance Officers are able to place at their disposal, careers advisers should continue to play an important part in assisting young people to make a wise choice of careers.

Careers advisers are not intended to act as a substitute for Vocational Guidance Officers, and, generally speaking, and particularly in the larger centres, the schools cannot hope to make placements with the same assurance as can the Vocational Guidance Officers. Within the schools themselves, however, there is much that can only be done by a teacher who is in a position to know every pupil and to be ever at hand to offer advice. The Department regards the post of careers adviser as one calling for initiative and understanding and providing an excellent training ground for posts of even greater responsibility.