

Consideration has been given to nuclear physics investigations, including surveys for radio-active minerals and the use of isotopes in soil, plant, and animal studies.

It is pleasing to record the generous measure of collaboration accorded to the Department by other Departments of State, the New Zealand University and University colleges, and by Cawthron Institute in many spheres of activity during the year.

EXPENDITURE

The net expenditure for the year amounted to £656,752. The following was the expenditure incurred in the various branches of the Department :—

Permanent services—

Head Office :	Comprising	general	expenses	of	£
administration	..	..	..	..	32,807
Dominion Laboratory and branches	..	..	..	..	75,388
Dominion Observatory	..	..	..	..	4,667
Geological Survey	..	..	..	..	37,221
Magnetic Observatory	..	..	..	..	6,654
Dominion Physical Laboratory	..	..	..	..	169,584
Auckland Industrial Development Laboratories	..	..	..	..	18,218
Apia Observatory	..	..	..	..	4,691
Research investigations	..	..	..	..	275,117
Grants to University agricultural colleges, Cawthron Institute, and research associations	..	..	..	..	46,701
Grants made to research and allied institutions in Great Britain	..	..	..	..	10,350
Other grants, miscellaneous services, including Information Bureau and Scientific Liaison Services	..	..	..	..	63,607
					745,005
Recoveries	..	..	..	..	88,253
					£656,752

PERSONNEL

The personnel of the Department and its disposal at 31st March, 1948, was as follows :—

Agronomy, Botany, Entomology, Grasslands, and Plant Diseases Divisions	142	Fats Research Laboratory	16
Auckland Industrial Development Laboratories	24	Geological Survey	48
Defence Development Section	30	Head Office (including Information Bureau) and district offices	131
Dominion Laboratory and district branches	115	Observatories : Apia, Magnetic, and Dominion	22
Dominion Physical Laboratory	175	Soil Bureau	62
		Miscellaneous	58

Total staff, including clerical officers, typists, technicians, and professional officers, 823 (474 permanent and 349 temporary). During the year there was arranged a large transfer of temporary officers to permanent status. The shortage of experienced research workers, high-grade technicians, and typing staffs has continued and has impaired the output of work in all branches of the Department.

I desire to express appreciation of the high standard of loyalty and service rendered by the staff in all branches of the Department. The fact that this service was given often in difficult circumstances of accommodation and shortages of qualified assistance renders the achievements more meritorious.

F. R. CALLAGHAN, Secretary.