

TECHNICAL AND CONTINUATION CLASSES

Classes approved under the regulations for manual and technical instruction are held not only in technical schools, but in many secondary schools (in centres where there is no day technical school), and in an increasing number of small centres particularly in the Auckland district. There are now very few continuation classes as the raising of the school-leaving age to fifteen has eliminated the need for the former compulsory classes in English and history. There are, however, examination classes in School Certificate and University Entrance subjects, as well as in subjects for preliminary and higher engineering qualifications. In small centres there are many hobby classes in woodwork and well-attended classes in dressmaking, and frequently classes in commercial subjects. In the larger centres most of the classes are technical in nature—that is, they are directly related to a trade and are designed to improve the trade knowledge and skills of those attending them.

In the Auckland Education District technical classes are held in 13 post-primary schools and in 24 small centres. This latter number is larger than will be found in other districts, and is therefore not altogether typical, but it emphasizes the fact that technical education is reaching the smaller townships, including some that are relatively remote.

At the other end of the scale the Auckland Technical School has approximately 300 technical classes spread over four evenings in two sessions each evening. This is in itself a large school, representing nearly 5,000 weekly attendances, and requiring a large and extremely varied staff. The following analysis will give some idea of the variety of classes offered:

	Classes.
Art classes	8
Commercial classes, including accountancy	64
Homecraft classes	13
General technical classes covering many trades	160
Other classes, mainly for public examinations	50

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

During 1948 there were two consultative committees on which post-primary interests were represented, and whose findings are likely to be of great interest to our schools. One committee investigated the scientific man-power resources of New Zealand. Its report, made available early in 1949, has some comments on the type of training that should be given in the schools to future scientists, and it is of particular interest to note the stress on breadth of education rather than on a narrow specialization. The other committee considered the training of professional engineers. Its report will be available in 1949.

ENDORSED AND HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATES

The numbers of these certificates awarded in the last three years are shown in the following table:

	1946.		1947.		1948.	
	Endorsed School Certificates.	Higher School Certificates.	Endorsed School Certificates.	Higher School Certificates.	Endorsed School Certificates.	Higher School Certificates.
Secondary and combined schools	1,550	367	1,638	469	1,740	547
Technical schools ..	250	34	330	31	359	63
District high schools ..	131	15	142	9	144	17
Endowed and registered private secondary schools	492	87	592	132	472	125
Correspondence School	12	..	19	3	24	..
Totals ..	2,435	503	2,721	644	2,739	752