

Bursaries have been given to 20 nurses to undertake Plunket training and to 11 nurses to undertake the Post-graduate Diploma in Public Health Nursing. In addition, nurses entering the service undertake the introductory course for District Nurses, receiving salary during the period of this course.

The record of the year's work shows a steady increase in the work accomplished. There is a marked increase in the number of infant and pre-school visits, largely due to the extension of the diphtheria immunization service. The school work also shows a marked increase over the previous year, when there was so much school closure during the early part of the poliomyelitis epidemic.

Table 19—Comparative Summary of Work Undertaken by Public Health District Nursing Service

	Year Ended 31st March, 1948.		Year Ended 31st March, 1949.	
	Maori.	European.	Maori.	European.
School work—				
Hours spent in school work	5,179	29,669	5,704	39,972
Number of schools visited with S.M.O. ..	47	1,360	199	2,128
Number of schools visited alone	3,170	11,625	3,403	15,080
Number of visits to homes of school-children	26,475	21,274	30,452	27,691
Number of visits to homes of pre-school children	27,060	21,585	30,728	24,696
Tuberculosis control—				
Number of visits to homes	17,863	17,413	16,824	17,886
Number of cases seen at home	11,042	9,354	12,163	9,618
Number of contacts seen—				
Adults	14,294	12,351	14,415	12,150
Children	22,857	9,510	26,506	9,453
Maternal and infant welfare—				
Ante-natal cases seen	8,362	2,132	8,717	2,382
Confinements attended	82	12	88	21
Number of visits during puerperium ..	1,433	45	1,167	129
Infants seen at home or clinic	49,924	19,467	50,112	27,507
Attendances and treatments—				
Number attended at cottage or office ..	17,214	16,009	17,822	18,965
Number in own home	42,800	21,740	39,051	26,062
Total number of homes visited for any purpose	132,965	90,693	137,188	102,707
Number of inoculations	19,221	16,382	20,813	16,904
Social welfare cases	2,828	665	2,820	1,097
Pas or settlements visited	18,369	4,956	15,558	6,724
Lectures given—				
To school-children	1,219	4,954	1,333	5,152
To other groups	373	254	190	292

DISTRICT NURSING

The bedside care given by Hospital Board District Nurses also is expanding as more doctors and patients realize the value of this service. From experience it would appear that one nurse can care for up to 6,000 population, provided the area is fairly closely settled (as in a city or town), that she is equipped with a car, and that the hospital has an adequate number of beds. Where the town or borough is smaller in population, a nurse does not have sufficient to do unless she has other duties.

Hospital Boards have been advised to send new nurses to undertake the introductory course for District Nurses, and in consequence a good system of records and procedures is gradually being adopted.