

Table 20—Comparative Summary of Work Undertaken by Hospital Board District Nurses

	Year Ended 31st March, 1948.	Year Ended 31st March, 1949.
Number of nurses—		
North Island	71	78
South Island	44	45
Total	115	123
Total number of new cases referred from—		
Hospital	3,323	3,378
Private practitioners	7,403	6,996
Patient's own home	12,965	11,999
Total number of cases, including old and new cases—		
Nurses' centre	10,484	9,366
Patient's own home	44,800	46,660
Total number of visits, including old and new cases—		
Nurse's Centre	25,009	20,292
Patients' own home	247,723	281,633

INDUSTRIAL NURSING

The Department's Public Health Industrial Nurses are being added to as their duties are increased. Industrial clinics are being formed on the wharves at Auckland, Wellington, and Lyttelton with the object of reducing the amount of sick-leave.

Regular visits have been paid to all the private manufacturing units where registered nurses are employed, and during these visits educational and group meetings have been organized.

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS NURSING SERVICE

There has been no visit to Fiji this year owing to the fact that Dr. Buchanan, Inspector-General of the South Pacific Health Service, went on leave and then retired, but it is expected that a meeting will be held in the near future.

It has not been easy to maintain this Service, with its heavy demands.

In Fiji extra wards have been opened at Lautoka, which has necessitated the staff being increased.

This year the Samoan Administration has sent two Samoans of full blood to New Zealand to train. The Fijian Administration has also sent a Fijian of full blood. In addition, two or three of the part European and Indian girls who have had the necessary educational qualifications have come to New Zealand to train. The time will soon come when these girls will be ready to return to their island homes. Their status and salary will be important things for decision, and New Zealand nurses will require to be interested in, and help, these girls.

POST-GRADUATE SCHOOL

The year 1948 was an exceedingly busy year at the school. Apart from the usual courses, a special week was arranged for ward sisters which was very much appreciated.

The new obstetrical course is proving popular and is giving those who specialize in obstetrics an opportunity of preparing themselves for administrative and teaching positions.