

3. WORK OF THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST CLASSES.

Highest.—Boys: English—Taine's History of English Literature, Vol. II.; Macaulay, Essays (selected); Lamb, Essays of Elia; George Eliot, Romola; Stead's Penny Poets, Keats, Shelley, Coleridge; Nesfield's Grammar Past and Present; Nichol's English Composition and Rhetoric. Latin—Via Latina; Bradley's Arnold's Latin Prose; Virgil, *Æneid*, Book V.; Horace, Odes; Livy, Book I.; Cæsar, Roman History, Book II. French—Hogben's *Méthode Naturelle*; Molière's *Le Misanthrope* and *Les Femmes Savantes*. Arithmetic—Goyen's Higher Arithmetic. Algebra—Hall and Knight's Advanced Text-book; Hall and Knight's Graphical Algebra. Trigonometry—Lock's, Hall and Knight's. Euclid—Hall and Stevens's, Books I.-IV., and Book VI. Physics—Glazebrook's Heat, Deschanel's Heat. Chemistry—Roscoe and Harden's Inorganic Chemistry; Newth's Inorganic Chemistry. Geology—Bird's Geology, Geikie's Field Geology. *Girls:* English—Nesfield's Past and Present; Morell's Literature; Macaulay's Essay on Warren Hastings; Shakespeare's Hamlet; Chaucer's Prologue, Knight's Tale, &c.; Skeats's Specimens of Early English (selections); and Miscellaneous Selections from Standard Authors. Latin—Bradley's Arnold; Bryans's Cæsar (exercises in prose); Readings from Virgil, Cæsar, Horace, Livy, Cicero, Ovid; Roman History (Merivale). French—Blouët's Composition, Part II.; Saintine's Picciola, Book I.; Chardenal's Advanced Course; Bué's Idioms; Stedman's Examination-papers; Wellington College French Grammar. Arithmetic, algebra, Euclid, trigonometry, mechanics, botany, as for junior University scholarship.

Lowest.—Boys: English—Chambers's Graduated Reader, Book VI.; Bowen's Studies in English; Dunlop's English Grammar; Yoxall's Word Builder and Speller; Nesfield's Oral Composition. Arithmetic—Layng's Arithmetic, Part I. French—Chardenal, Part I. Latin—Elementa Latina, Morris. Algebra—Hall and Knight's Elementary Algebra. Geometry—Eggar's Practical Geometry. Nature-study. *Girls:* Arithmetic—Hamblin Smith's, to decimals; English—Relfe's Sixth Reader; Nesfield's Manual; composition, spelling. History—Miss Buckley's (Henry VII. to George II.). Geography—Longmans', II. Science—Lessons in botany and physiology. Latin—Via Latina, to active verbs. French—Chardenal's First Course, to exercise 80.

4. SCHOLARSHIPS.

Three Education Board scholarships and one free place granted by the Governors were held at the boys' school, and two Education Board scholarships and one free place granted by the Governors at the girl's school.

OTAGO BOYS' AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.

Staff.

Boys' School.—Mr. A. Wilson, M.A.; Mr. M. Watson, M.A.; Mr. T. D. Pearce, M.A.; Mr. J. S. S. Cooper, M.A., B.Sc.; Mr. J. Macpherson, F.E.I.S.; Mr. F. H. Campbell, M.A.; Mr. R. T. Wood, B.A.; Mr. J. Reid, B.A.; Mr. J. G. Fullarton, B.A.; Mr. J. Hanna; Mr. G. E. Butler; Mr. D. Sherriff.

Girls' School.—Miss M. E. A. Marchant, M.A.; Miss F. M. Allan, M.A.; Miss H. Alexander, B.A.; Miss S. C. C. McKnight, M.A., B.Sc.; Miss E. E. Little; Miss F. Campbell, M.A.; Miss L. A. Downes, B.A.; Miss F. M. Wimperis; Miss M. Salmond; Miss S. E. Albert; Miss E. B. Miller; Mr. J. Hanna; Mr. W. E. Taylor, F.R.C.O.; Miss J. C. Longford.

1. REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS.

It is gratifying to find that the acceptance of the Government's offer to provide free places at the high schools under the regulations of last year has, notwithstanding disabilities incidental to the initiation of such an important scheme, been fully justified by the large increase in the attendance at both schools, which are now enabled to give the full benefits of a secondary education to all classes of the community.

While expressing satisfaction with the scheme generally, with the scale of grants under "The Secondary Schools Act, 1903," which will enable it to maintain the efficiency of the teaching staff, the Board is strongly of opinion that the age qualification should be removed, as it bears very hardly on a great number of pupils, especially from the country districts, many of whom, whilst able to pass the education test, are excluded by the age test. The Board is also of opinion that the uniform examination test for all secondary schools referred to in section 12 of the regulations governing free places is not only unsuitable for the great majority of pupils, but that it is undesirable as tending to perpetuate the examination tests that have worked injuriously in the primary schools. The Board suggests that the fitness for continuance should be determined by the Minister from the results of examination-papers set by the several principals of the schools in conjunction with examiners appointed by the Minister.

The Board would again bring under your notice the hardship which is inflicted on the parents of pupils from country districts who have to travel daily by rail past district high schools on their way to the Dunedin High Schools, through the refusal of the Railway Department to grant them passes, and to respectfully urge that steps be taken to remove the disability. We may be permitted to point out that the restriction is unreasonable, inasmuch as some of the pupils in question are offered free education under the Government regulations, but are refused the privilege conceded to other children.

The Board has made arrangements for the readjustment of the school course with a view to suit the requirements of boys who propose to follow commercial or industrial pursuits, and also of those who desire to proceed to the University without taking Latin.

In the girls' school three classes of forty pupils each received instruction in cookery, the work being arranged so as to make a two-years course of thoroughly practical work. In addition to cookery, a fully graded course of technical training has been provided in the sewing and dressmaking classes.