

to students in New Zealand. Four of these came to teachers in this district. Eighty-four teachers and probationers, including several teachers from private schools, were also present at the Easter classes, where first aid and ambulance, botany and nature-study, agricultural chemistry, model-drawing, and design were among the subjects dealt with. An additional room for science would greatly improve our Technical School. Mr. Bruce met the farmers in conference in several places. Small evening classes met at Blenheim in shorthand, book-keeping, English, arithmetic, and wood-carving. At Canvastown book-keeping, commercial history, commercial geography, commercial arithmetic, and English were taught; and at Havelock book-keeping, English, and arithmetic.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending 31st December, 1908, in respect of Special Classes conducted at Blenheim, Canvastown, and Havelock.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Balance at beginning of year ..	92	3	4	Salaries of instructors ..	234	3	7
Capitation on special classes ..	84	10	6	Office expenses (including salaries, stationery, &c.) ..	0	8	4
Capitation on account of free places ..	3	19	3	Advertising and printing ..	2	10	0
Furniture, fittings, and apparatus ..	39	9	3	Lighting and heating ..	1	8	3
Material ..	3	10	7	Material for class use ..	17	4	9
Grant for training of teachers ..	120	0	0	Refund of fees ..	2	0	0
Fees ..	35	16	8	Cleaning ..	1	15	10
				Architect ..	0	10	6
				Furniture, fittings, and apparatus ..	51	7	6
				Balance at end of year ..	68	5	10
	£379	9	7		£379	9	7

E. HYLTON, Secretary.

NELSON.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE EDUCATION BOARD.

Manual and Technical.—Instruction has materially developed during the past year, and the appointment of the Director of Technical Schools has been the means of placing the department more in line with the work carried out in larger centres. The Nelson Technical School is remarkably well attended, and the Board trusts that the engineering day-school about to be commenced at Westport will prove of benefit in every way. The number of schools taking manual-training subjects continues to increase, elementary agriculture, woodwork, cookery, swimming, and physical measurements receiving special attention. The policy of securing, where possible, the services of efficient permanent instructors is proving advantageous in every way. A commodious laboratory was during the year added to the Nelson Technical School, and the erection of a Technical School at Westport commenced. The Director's report will afford full details of the work carried on during the year.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

Elementary handwork was taken in thirty-six schools, modelling in plasticene and brush drawing being the branches most generally taught. In fourteen schools controlled by male sole teachers the work is carried on under the Manual and Technical Regulations by paid visiting teachers. Classes for woodwork, cookery, dressmaking, agriculture, physiology and first aid, swimming and life-saving, and physical measurements were recognised in connection with thirty-nine schools.

As we have been anticipating such an extension of the system as would place the benefits to be derived from a training in these useful branches of manual instruction within reach of all our larger schools, we regret to find that the numbers attending are fewer than previously. The failure to form a cookery class at Westport District High School this year in anticipation of the early completion of the Technical School accounts for a large part of the difference. It is at the district high schools that manual and technical subjects, through their special suitability to pupils who have finished their primary course, need most development. Further encouragement towards the formation of classes is given by a recent regulation removing the restriction upon the amount of capitation it is possible to earn by scholars in the secondary department. We notice in last year's report that the Wanganui District could boast of seven district high schools, of which five each possessed a laboratory, woodwork, and cooking-room, and the two others were each shortly to be equipped with a laboratory and a cookery-room. Our four district high schools have as yet had the advantage of a woodwork and a cookery-room at only one of them—Reefton. The chemical laboratory recently erected at the Nelson Technical School is now practically equipped and ready for use. Its fittings, well designed and neatly finished under Mr. Bruce's personal supervision, afford every convenience for thorough science-teaching. The study of elementary agriculture, a course especially suited to a large part of the district, is, under the Instructor's direction, extending, thirty school gardens having now been established. Some excellent products of the school garden have been exhibited at local agricultural and horticultural shows, and, as a mark of appreciation as well as for encouragement, the horticultural societies of Marlborough have for that district generously voted a substantial sum as prizes, both for children's exhibits and for the best-managed gardens. The Instructor considers that experimental plots might be further developed, and suggests that each class should specialise in regard to the growth of such cereals, grasses, or fruit-trees as would best suit the requirements of the district. In addition to the work of the vegetable-garden and of the experimental plot, the girls especially, by the cultivation of flowers and shrubs, have