

Three out of the four training colleges had during the year 1909 nearly their full complement of students. At the fourth the number in attendance was still less than half the number for whom provision was made; but steps have now been taken to bring it on a level with its fellows in this respect, and the returns for the current year will in consequence show a notable increase, no less than eighty-two students being now reported as admitted thereat at the beginning of 1910. To secure this increase, however, a sacrifice has had to be made in respect of the length of the period of training, a number of ex pupil-teachers being admitted for one year only. Consequently, the condition of things is not yet quite satisfactory at the training college in question; that so marked an increase should be secured only by the relaxation of the conditions of training is a matter to be regretted, and it is to be hoped that the expedient will be only a temporary one. There seems still to be a danger that some of the students may subordinate their legitimate training as teachers to the object of taking a university degree. It does not seem expedient, in the interests of the efficiency of the teaching profession in the Dominion, to shorten the regular two-years course of training, except in the case of those who have already graduated in the University, and who may therefore be considered as requiring only professional training in the colleges. For them one year would probably be sufficient. There is, of course, no desire to cut off any suitable students from the pursuit of a university course; but, after all, the training colleges exist to train teachers for their professional work, and it is not desirable to confuse the aims of a training college with those of a university college.

At the close of the years 1908, 1909, the students in training numbered 274 and 319 respectively, as follows:—

	1908.			1909.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Auckland	23	25	48	20	25	45
Wellington	14	64	78	21	70	91
Christchurch	13	59	72	19	70	89
Dunedin	21	55	76	24	70	94
Total	71	203	274	84	235	319

The amounts paid to Education Boards in 1908 and 1909 for the training of teachers were as follows:—

I. Training colleges,—

	1908.		1909.	
	£	£	£	£
Salaries of staffs (half charged to public-school salaries)	5,925		6,283	
Students' allowances	10,666		13,210	
University fees of students	2,276		2,776	
Libraries	188		92	
Apparatus	26		40	
Buildings	13,565		5,691	
		32,646		28,092

II. Other training,—

Grants for special instruction in handwork, including agriculture, of teachers other than training-college students	2,900		2,340	
Railway fares of teachers and instructors	5,422		5,020	
		8,322		7,360
Totals		£40,968		£35,452

Public-school Cadets.

The Cadets, hitherto known as the "New Zealand Public-school Cadets," have by the coming into force of the Defence Act, 1909, become part of the "Junior Cadets," which include all boys who have resided in New Zealand for six months and are British subjects, from twelve to fourteen years of age or to the date of leaving school, whichever is the later. This includes all private schools, and all boys who are not attending any school until they are fourteen years of age.