

Miss E. Crosby, B.A., who had been absent for some months on sick-leave, took up some of her duties at the beginning of the year, and full work at the beginning of the second term. Miss Ellen Baxter, M.A., who had acted as Miss Crosby's substitute, was retained as a part-time teacher until September, when she received a permanent appointment at the Nelson Girls' College, while her part-time duties were taken up by Miss Margaret Farrow, B.A., also an old pupil of the school.

As the additional rooms made more convenient and thorough arrangements for the classes in domestic subjects practicable, an additional cookery class was arranged for on Monday mornings from the beginning of the third term. This has been well attended by girls taking the home-life course. Arrangements have also been made for dressmaking classes to be held next year during the regular school hours, instead of on Saturdays only as has hitherto been the case.

Owing to her other engagements, Miss Eleanor Easterbrook, who has taught the dressmaking classes with considerable success during the past eleven years, resigned her position at the close of the year. An arrangement has been made with the Governors of the Christchurch Technical College whereby next year the dressmaking and needlework classes will be taught by two teachers from the Technical College staff, Miss Webster, late headmistress of the Training School for Teachers, Wakefield, Yorkshire, England, and Miss Alice Partridge, a teacher specially qualified to teach plain sewing.

By these alterations the classes in domestic subjects have been put on an equality with the special classes for preparatory university or commercial work, and in addition to acquiring a good general education, each pupil can, during the usual school hours, take special classes in the subjects which will probably be of most service to her in after-life. Classes in dressmaking and cookery are still also held on Saturday mornings for those whose hours during the week are taken up with other subjects.

The school was visited during the second term by Mr. Isaac, the Inspector of Technical Classes, and by Dr. Anderson, the Assistant Inspector-General.

In December a thorough examination of all classes below those preparing for the Matriculation Examination was held by gentlemen specially appointed by the Board of Governors. An oral examination was held first, and then written tests were given. The examiners were,—Professor Blunt, Examiner-in-Chief, Latin, French, and German; Dr. Chilton, science; Dr. Hight, English, history, geography, and commercial work; and Mr. Gifford, mathematics. Mrs. Blunt, Mrs. Chilton, and Mrs. Hight kindly examined the work done in plain sewing, dressmaking, and cookery. A detailed report on each subject, and a general one summarizing the results as a whole, was sent in to the Board of Governors, and considered satisfactory.

Owing to the unusually large number of appointments to pupil-teacherships made at the beginning of the year, the Sixth Form was a smaller one than it has been for many years, and no pupil took the Junior University Scholarship Examination. Thirty-five entered for Matriculation, of whom 20 passed. Eleven pupils passed the Junior Civil Service examination, of whom seven were placed in the Credit List. Senior Education Board Scholarships were won by three pupils, Ruby Buchanan, Wilberfield Gunn, and Muriel O'Farrell. Twenty-eight pupils were awarded Senior Free Places and one a Junior Free Place.

At the November Canterbury College examinations the exhibition in French was won by Helen Leversedge, that in economics by Alice Candy, and that in physical science by Edith Jackson, all old pupils of the school; and during the year degrees were conferred on the following: Ellen Baxter, degree of M.A. with third-class Honours in English and French; May Arnott, Millicent Bailey, Margaret Farrow, Clara Firth, Annette Jacobs, Irene Wilson, degree of B.A.; Mary Barkas, degree of B.Sc.

The school boardinghouse has been conducted by Miss Ellis, at 240 Kilmore Street West, seven pupils being in residence all through the year.

The purchase of a new piano for the singing classes has relieved a much-needed want.

The school is indebted to Mr. J. J. Kinsey for the presentation of a fine framed photograph of the "Terminal Face of the Mueller Glacier," to Miss Elsie McMurray for a framed copy of Dicksee's "Child Handel," and to the Education Department for further reprints of New Zealand flora. Such gifts are highly appreciated by the pupils.

The distemping of the old part of the school, which was set in hand as soon as the school year was over, has greatly improved the general appearance of the interior of the building.

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL.

REPORT OF THE HEADMASTER, MR. C. E. BEVAN-BROWN, M.A.

The school roll for 1909 was as follows: For the first term 236, for the second term 228, for the third term 217; this includes the Preparatory Form, which had on its roll 21, 18, 20, for the three terms respectively.

There were 118 holders of free places, 67 junior, and 51 senior. The size of the classes in the Upper School was larger than ever; there were 108 in the Upper School as against 74 in 1906.

The school badly needs a physical laboratory; also a room to act as reading-room and library. The bath fence and verandah on the northern side is untidy and dilapidated, and larrikins can easily climb over into the bath. A staircase should be erected on the southern side of the west wing, both for the sake of safety and convenience of working.

The school sustained the loss of a well-trying master, Mr. J. H. Smith, who died in September last, after a long illness. He had been a master for fourteen years, always loyal, able, and industrious. The work of the school suffered somewhat owing to his long illness, particularly in the French classes.

An effort was made to eliminate French in the lower classes last year, so as to concentrate on other subjects; but the exigencies of the time-table made it necessary after all to retain it.