

It is gratifying to note a gradual increase in the number of free pupils taking a course of agricultural instruction. In 1908 the number was seven, rising to forty-two in 1910.

Day technical schools consisting of organized classes providing one or more courses of not less than twenty hours a week were in operation during the year in connection with the technical schools at Auckland, Wanganui, Napier, Nelson, Westport, Christchurch, and Dunedin. These schools, which continue to be well attended, provide fairly full courses in science and technology, pure and applied art, domestic economy, agriculture and commercial instruction for pupils who on leaving the primary schools probably would not in the ordinary course proceed to secondary schools. There appear to be good grounds for believing that one result of the establishment of these schools has been a considerable reduction in the proportion of young persons who on leaving the primary school proceed at once to some form of employment. The number of pupils on the rolls of day technical schools during the year was 1,253, of whom 545 were males. Free places were held by 1,146 pupils, including 507 males. Of the free pupils 1,023 held junior free places tenable for two years, while 123 held senior free places tenable for three years.

The arrangement and conduct of these day classes being a comparatively simple matter in comparison with evening classes, it has been deemed expedient to amend the Education Act so as to allow of certain approved day classes being carried on as organized schools rather than as groups of classes. Provision has also been made for a simpler method of capitation payments than necessarily obtains in connection with evening classes in the case of those classes to which the term "day technical school" as defined in the Act is held to apply.

Special grants to Education Boards for the maintenance of training classes for teachers in various branches of manual instruction taken up in public schools were again distributed during the year. Particular attention continues to be given in connection with these classes to subjects bearing on rural occupations.

The science and art examinations of the English Board of Education and the technological examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute were held as usual, the former at fourteen, the latter at seventeen centres. The number of entries for the science and art examinations was 873, the number of passes being 582; while for the technological examinations the number of entries was 427 and the number of passes 291. The proportion of passes to entries, in each case 66 per cent., must be regarded as very satisfactory. There has been a steady increase each year in the number of students coming up for each of these examinations.

The following is a summary of the expenditure by the Government during 1910 on manual and technical instruction:—

				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Capitation—									
School classes..	..	..	..	19,033	2	0			
Technical classes	..	..	..	22,440	12	6			
Free places	..	..	..	8,066	19	9			
							49,540	14	3
Subsidies on voluntary contributions,—									
School classes..	..	..	..	240	3	2			
Technical classes	..	..	..	4,845	14	9			
							5,085	17	11
Grants for buildings, equipment, and rent,—									
School classes..	..	..	..	4,735	2	5			
Technical classes	..	..	..	9,442	5	7			
Grants for material for technical classes	..	..	..	1,622	19	0			
							15,800	7	0
Railway fares of instructors and students	..	..	..				4,848	13	9
Examinations	..	..	..				625	11	0
Inspection and other expenses	..	..	..				1,015	10	9
Total							£76,916	14	8

This total includes £12,915 paid from National Endowment revenue. The total expenditure by the Government by way of capitation, subsidies, and grants was—for school classes, £22,008 7s. 7d., and for technical classes, £46,418 11s. 7d. The expenditure for the previous year was respectively £21,675 11s. 3d. and £49,810 11s. 1d.

Full information regarding manual and technical instruction will be found in a separate paper (E.-5).