

satisfactory response at the hands of the farming community. That a good deal is being done by the bodies charged with the administration of primary, secondary, and technical education to create an intelligent interest in rural pursuits is shown by the fact that recognized classes for subjects related to agricultural and pastoral pursuits were attended during the year by some 15,000 pupils on the rolls of primary schools, by about 650 pupils on the rolls of secondary schools and district high schools, and by about 1,600 students of technical schools.

TABLE JC.—NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING GROUPED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION OCCUPYING NOT LESS THAN FOUR HOURS A WEEK AND EIGHTY HOURS A YEAR.

| Course of Instruction.                                           | Number of Students. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Elementary commercial .. .. .                                    | 1,033               |
| Higher commercial .. .. .                                        | 208                 |
| Practical mathematics and science .. .. .                        | 117                 |
| Mathematics and science applied to trades and industries .. .. . | 1,037               |
| Domestic science .. .. .                                         | 268                 |
| Art and art-crafts .. .. .                                       | 541                 |
| Total .. .. .                                                    | 3,204               |

Reference was made in last year's report to the provision made in 1910 for capitation payments at higher rates in respect of attendances of students taking up definite courses of technical instruction. During 1911 capitation on the attendances of such students was earned by twenty-six schools in nine of the thirteen education districts. The total number of students taking grouped courses was 3,204, representing 25 per cent. of the total roll. This must be regarded as satisfactory in view of the comparatively short time the regulations governing grouped courses in technical schools have been in operation. It is probable that the current year will see a considerable increase both in the number of schools offering grouped courses and in the number of students taking such courses.

The number of students who voluntarily attend evening classes, particularly in the larger centres, is distinctly encouraging, as also is the increase in the proportion of those who find it worth while to attend on several evenings a week. Following are the roll numbers for 1911 of some of the larger schools (exclusive of the day technical schools that are carried on in connection with some of them):—

| School.                                   | Roll Number. |       |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
|                                           | 1910.        | 1911. |
| Auckland Technical College .. .. .        | 1,060        | 941   |
| "Elam" School of Art .. .. .              | 360          | 446   |
| Wanganui Technical College .. .. .        | 636          | 487   |
| Palmerston North Technical School .. .. . | 498          | 530   |
| Wellington Technical School .. .. .       | 1,110        | 1,131 |
| Napier Technical College .. .. .          | 225          | 231   |
| Christchurch Technical College .. .. .    | 910          | 984   |
| Canterbury College—School of Art.. .. .   | 357          | 365   |
| Timaru Technical School .. .. .           | 256          | 359   |
| Dunedin Technical School .. .. .          | 896          | 857   |
| Dunedin School of Art .. .. .             | 180          | 289   |
| Southland Technical College .. .. .       | 344          | 369   |

As stated last year, there is a movement in certain education districts in the direction of the establishment of compulsory continuation and technical classes under section 18 of the Education Amendment Act, 1910. Regulations requiring the attendance of young persons between the ages of fourteen and seventeen who are not otherwise receiving a suitable education, or who are not specially exempted from attendance have now been approved for certain school districts in Taranaki, Wanganui, and Hawke's Bay. The operation of these regulations, which it is expected will shortly be put into force, will be watched with much interest in view of the attention now being given to the question of the further education of adolescents in other parts of the world.