

NOTE.—It will be noticed that the number of centres is greater than the number of places at which classes were held. This is accounted for by the fact that in the larger towns there are two or more schools providing technical instruction.

NOTE.—Prior to 1911 what are now known as “day technical schools” were treated as aggregations of classes, whereas they are now regarded as organized schools. This will explain the apparent decrease in the number of classes in operation in 1911.

“Special” classes—i.e., classes conducted by an Education Board or by the governing body of a secondary school—continue to be the most numerous and the most widely distributed. Most of the classes in the smaller places come under this heading. “Associated” classes, or classes conducted by managers representing bodies contributing to the funds of the classes, were held at twenty-seven centres, as against twenty-three in 1910. In only a few cases does a technical classes association conduct classes at more than one centre. “College” classes or classes controlled by a University college have remained practically stationary.

Day technical schools, providing courses of instruction occupying not less than twenty hours a week, were in operation during the year in connection with the technical schools at Auckland (317 pupils), Wanganui (90 pupils), Wellington (268 pupils), Napier (83 pupils), Nelson (10 pupils), Westport (14 pupils), Christchurch (349 pupils), and Dunedin (210 pupils). These schools, which provide fairly full courses in science and technology, domestic economy, agriculture, and commercial instruction, continue to be well attended, and appear to attract a number of young people who probably would not for one reason or another proceed in the absence of such schools to secondary schools. The number of pupils on the rolls of day technical schools was 1,341, of whom 598 were males. Free places were held by 1,260 pupils, including 552 males.

The following table gives the school age and sex of free pupils at day technical schools :—

School Age.		1910.			1911.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Junior free pupils	First year ..	355	381	736	328	422	750
	Second year	112	175	287	176	203	379
Senior free pupils	First year ..	26	64	90	36	70	106
	Second year	12	15	27	9	12	21
	Third year	2	4	6	3	1	4
Totals		507	639	1,146	552	708	1,260

The number of pupils holding Junior Free Places tenable for two years was 1,129, the number holding Senior Free Places tenable for three years being 131. Fifty-one per cent. of the pupils who entered on Junior Free Places in 1910 continued to attend during 1911, while about 30 per cent. of the pupils who completed the second year of their Junior Free Places at the end of 1910 qualified for and were awarded Senior Free Places in 1911.

The courses of instruction taken up by students at day technical schools were as follows :—

					Males.	Females.	Totals.
Industrial	..	..	..	..	362	0	362
Commercial	..	..	..	..	193	499	692
Domestic	..	..	..	..	0	237	237
Agricultural	..	..	..	..	41	0	41
Art	..	..	..	..	2	7	9
Totals					598	743	1,341

Over 50 per cent. of the pupils on the roll of day technical schools attended commercial courses, industrial courses being taken by 27 per cent. and domestic courses by 17 per cent. of the pupils. Courses of agricultural instruction were provided at two of the schools, and were attended by forty-one pupils, or about 9 per cent. of the total roll.