

Among old boys, Fred Miles and William Alexander passed the M.A. degree, the former with double first-class honours, and the latter with double honours first and second; Frank Adamson gained the John Tinline Scholarship in English; F. O. V. Acheson and D. S. Smith gained their LL.M. degrees with honours; Frank Simon was a medallist at Trinity College Dublin in essay-work; W. Brownlie won two medals in the medical School, Edinburgh; J. P. Hewat won the Clark Prize in English at Otago University; and John McQueen was gold-medallist at Lincoln Agricultural College.

The following are the examination results of the Girls' School for 1912-13: One girl passed the Junior University Scholarship Examination with credit after a four-years course; of the twenty-two candidates for Matriculation fifteen were successful—one passed in five subjects and two passed in four subjects; thirty-nine entered for the Junior Civil Service Examination, and thirty-eight passed—three with credit—one gaining the highest place in Southland and first place on the Education Board Senior Scholarship list; thirty-seven girls were awarded Senior Free Places; and three were successful in the D certificate examination.

In the public examinations at the end of 1913 one girl gained a scholarship in the Junior University Scholarship Examination, and two matriculated; of the ten candidates for Matriculation six passed, two passed in five subjects, and one passed in four subjects; thirty-nine girls were awarded Senior Free Places by Inspector Gill, and twenty passed the competitive examination, one gaining a Senior Board Scholarship; in the teachers' certificate examination four candidates passed for Class C, two for Class D, and two gained partial D.

Boardinghouses.—As stated in last year's report, the Board found that the cost of erecting and conducting a hostel for girls was beyond its resources, and had therefore reluctantly to abandon the proposal in its original form. The Board has now, however, under consideration the question of providing boardinghouses for both boys and girls, and, provided that the grant made by the Government is still available, the Board hopes to have both buildings ready for occupation during 1915. That there is need for both these buildings is beyond question. There are at present quite forty boys and thirty girls boarding in Invercargill and attending secondary schools, while an equal number have to travel long distances daily by train. There is not another centre in the Dominion with the same population without some public boarding institution for secondary-school pupils, and many smaller centres are provided with excellent boarding establishments under the direct supervision of their teachers. If the public knew the difficulties experienced by our country pupils in obtaining accommodation, and realized the dangers to which these pupils are exposed in lodgings where there is no proper control and supervision, the authorities would be compelled to take such action as would remedy the present state of affairs.

New Sites.—With the view of improving the Boys' School site recently secured at Gladstone, the Board has purchased the leases of five sections fronting on Herbert Street. A large part of this site has been levelled, drained, and sown in grasses to provide a playing-area for cricket, football, and other games. As soon as the Board can dispose of the present Boys' School and site a new building will be erected at Gladstone.

The new Girls' School site, Oteramika Road, has been used for hockey by the girls during the past year, and the Board proposes to erect the new boarding-school there as soon as funds are available.

Inspection.—In October both schools were visited by Mr. T. H. Gill, M.A., LL.B., Inspector of Secondary Schools, and copies of his reports have been received. These reports speak in very favourable terms of the organization, teaching, and general management of the schools, and the Board has every reason to be satisfied with the way in which its teachers are discharging their duties.

Financial.—The Board's financial statements show that the position at the end of the year had improved slightly when compared with the previous year; but, in view of the extensive building program the Board proposes undertaking, the money in hand and in sight is altogether inadequate unless supplemented by a large grant from the Government.

W. MACALISTER, Chairman.

2. WORK OF THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST CLASSES.

Boys' School.

Highest.—English—Shakespeare, Macbeth; Tennyson, Idylls of the King; Macaulay, Johnson and Goldsmith; Palgrave's Golden Treasury; Chaucer, Prologue; Historical Grammar; Composition and Rhetoric. Latin—Readings in Livy, Cicero, Vergil, Horace; unseens in prose and verse; grammar; composition; history; and antiquities. French—Daudet, Tartarin sur les Alpes; Gems of Modern French Poetry; unseens, phonetics, grammar, composition. Mathematics—Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry to University Scholarship standard. Science.—(1.) Chemistry, inorganic; metals and non-metals; qualitative and quantitative analysis. (2.) Electricity and magnetism to University Scholarship standard, with laboratory-work.

Lowest.—English—Reading; Laureata; Macaulay, Clive; grammar, composition, and spelling. Geography—Physical. History—A Brief Survey of British History; The Growth of the British Empire. Latin—Welch and Duffield's Accidence; Gardiner's Translation Primer. French—Moore and Donaldson, Intermediate French Course I. Non-Latin—Book-keeping, commercial arithmetic, European history, elementary agriculture. Non-French—Same as for Non-Latin, without the history. Mathematics—Arithmetic, algebra to factors; geometry as in Barnard and Child's Junior Course. Science—Elementary physics and chemistry, with laboratory-work.