

CRIMINAL REGISTRATION.

This branch of the Department continues to be of great value to the Police Force.

During the year the *Police Gazette* increased in volume by 33 pages of printed matter; 518 photographs were taken by the photographers; the portraits of 1,478 prisoners were dealt with; 296 photographs of discharged prisoners were reproduced in the *Police Gazette*; the finger-impressions of 3,216 prisoners were received, classified, and searched, and 270 prisoners were identified as previous offenders in this Dominion, Australia, England, India, &c. The identity of three deceased persons was established by their finger-prints.

On the 31st March last the finger-print collection consisted of the impressions of 16,682 offenders, being an increase of 1,380 on the previous year.

The following table shows the increase of the finger-print collection and prisoners traced thereby since the introduction of the finger-print system of identification in March, 1903 :—

Year.							Number of Prints in Collection.	Increase on Previous Year.	Prisoners traced as Previous Offenders.
1904	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,500	3,500	117
1905	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,200	700	72
1906	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,000	800	88
1907	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,151	1,151	104
1908	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,622	1,471	123
1909	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,718	1,096	138
1910	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,919	1,201	140
1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,905	986	148
1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,097	1,192	178
1913	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,552	1,455	183
1914	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,302	1,750	230
1915	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,682	1,380	270

CANDIDATES FOR FORCE.

Eighty-four men were taken on during the year, their nationalities, religions, and occupations being as follows :—Nationalities : England, 10; Scotland, 9; Ireland, 21; New Zealand, 43; Australia, 1. Religions : Church of England, 26; Presbyterian, 28; Roman Catholic, 25; Methodist, 4; Baptist, 1. Occupations : Asylum attendants, 3; blacksmith, 1; bushman, 1; butcher, 1; cabinetmakers, 2; carpenters, 4; carrier, 1; clerks, 2; dredge hand, 1; engine-drivers, 3; ex-constables, 19; farm labourers, 9; hairdresser, 1; labourers, 21; miners, 4; mechanics, 2; plate-layer, 1; railway-porter, 1; slaughtermen, 2; stable-keeper, 1; telegraph-linemen, 2; tram-conductors, 2.

FIRST AID TO THE INJURED.

During the year ended 31st March, 1915, 72 probationers presented themselves, at the conclusion of their course of training at the depot, for examination in "first aid to the injured," the examinations being held under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Association.

Of the 72 men who sat, all passed, the average number of marks gained being 81.64 (maximum, 100; bare pass, 50).

The lecturer was in each case Dr. Henry, Police Surgeon, and the examiners different medical men appointed by the Association.

POLICE BUILDINGS, ETC.

During the year the following works in connection with police-stations have been carried out by the Public Works Department :—

New Buildings erected.—Ngaruawahia, Northcote, Patutahi, Tokomaru Bay, Raurimu, Taihape, Coalgate, North Dunedin (sergeant's residence), and Kaitangata.

New Buildings in Course of Erection.—Hamilton, Martinborough, Wellington (new central station), Wellington (Taranaki Street), Picton (lock-up), Ahaura, and Charleston.

Properties acquired.—Mount Roskill (site and building), Mount Eden South (site and building), Hamilton (Inspector's residence), Manunui (site), Tuakau (site), Te Araroa (site), Whangamomona (site and building), Island Bay (site), Karori (site), Inangahua Junction (site), Nightcaps (site and building).

Additions, Alterations, and Improvements have also been effected at the following stations : Kaitaia, Auckland (central), Birkenhead, Newton, Motu, Opotiki, Port Awanui, Mokau, Normanby, Mangaweka, Wanganui, Masterton, Kilbirnie, Eketahuna, Kimbolton, Wellington South, Upper Hutt, Matiere, Nelson, The Port, Okarito, Culverden, Lawrence, Naseby, Ranfurly, Waikouaiti, Invercargill, and Riverton.