

TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

These schools, eight in number, are of secondary grade, and provide industrial, commercial, and general domestic, agricultural, and art courses. They are under the same management as the technical schools, of which they form part.

The number of pupils in attendance during the year was as follows :—

Technical High School.							Number of Pupils.	
							1914.	1915.
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	..	397	464
Wanganui	..	..	..	..	..	..	185	185
Wellington	..	..	..	..	..	..	285	254
Napier	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	108
Westport	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	20
Christchurch	..	..	..	..	..	..	414	421
Dunedin	..	..	..	..	..	..	288	304
Invercargill	..	..	..	..	..	..	177	199
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,839	1,955

The total enrolment for the year, which shows an increase of 6·3 per cent., must be regarded as satisfactory, indicating that the schools are catering successfully for a number of young people who would not otherwise proceed to schools of secondary grade.

The number of pupils taking up the various courses provided was as follows :—

Course.							Number of Pupils.		Totals.
							Males.	Females.	
Industrial	..	..	..	..	..	..	489	1	490
Commercial and general	..	..	..	..	..	..	333	688	1,021
Domestic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	327	327
Agricultural	..	..	..	..	..	..	115	..	115
Art	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	937	1,018	1,955

Over 52 per cent. of the pupils took commercial and general courses, industrial courses being taken by 25 per cent. and domestic courses by 16·7 per cent. There was an increase of twenty-four in the number of pupils taking agriculture. Seven of the schools offered industrial, commercial, and domestic courses; in addition, four offered an agricultural course and one an art course, while one school (Westport) offered an engineering course only. Capitation payments totalled £20,985, being at the rate of £10·7 per pupil. The rates of capitation vary from £12 10s. a year for first-year pupils to £15 for third-year pupils in the case of free pupils and from £8 5s. to £10 in the case of other pupils.

NUMBER OF PUPILS RECEIVING FREE EDUCATION AT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS UNDER THE REGULATIONS FOR FREE PLACES.

		1914.			1915.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Junior free pupils	First year ..	465	489	954	501	505	1,006
	Second year	238	303	541	267	266	533
Senior free pupils	First year ..	57	91	148	60	121	181
	Second year	13	16	29	15	26	41
	Third year	1	1	2	1	7	8
Totals ..		774	900	1,674	844	925	1,769

Of the total number of pupils in attendance 90 per cent. were receiving free education under the Regulations for Free Places. Junior free places were held by 1,539 pupils, an increase of forty-four, and senior free places by 230 pupils, an increase of fifty-one. Of the junior free pupils admitted in 1914, 48 per cent. continued to attend in 1915, while about 21 per cent. of the pupils who completed the second year of their junior free places in 1914 qualified for and were admitted to senior free places in 1915. Of the pupils who left on completing their junior free places 16 per cent. qualified and were admitted to senior free places at evening classes.