

Division B, and four University graduates in Division C, have not had any previous experience as teachers. The great majority—103—were ex-pupil-teachers or ex-probationers. In a total enrolment of 115 only twenty-one were males. This reduced proportion is partly due to the war, which accounts for the absence of five men who, under ordinary conditions, would have taken a second year of training. Moreover, three pupil-teachers who had qualified for admission to the College enlisted on the conclusion of their term of apprenticeship.

Only a limited number—the more advanced in scholarship and also of robust physique—took the full course at Canterbury College for a University degree, but several others studied for the purpose of gaining University certificates of proficiency in one or more subjects, with the view of qualifying for a teacher's certificate of Class B. All of the students take one or more courses each year, and enjoy the advantages derived from participation in the life and activities of a University college. The working-conditions of the students at Canterbury College have been greatly improved by the marked forward movement made in the way of structural additions, including the provision of commodious common rooms.

Suitable opportunity for practice in teaching and for observation of methods employed by expert teachers has been afforded to the students on the lines indicated in last year's report. Their teaching of classes or drafts has been closely and effectively supervised, and ample provision is made for individual assistance and criticism. During the two-years course of training each student is offered facilities for studying approved methods in use in practically every class in the main school, as well as in those model schools which more especially deal with the type of work which the student is likely to undertake after leaving the Training College.

In order to avoid interference with their practice in teaching, which is arranged for three separate groups of students at three separate hours of the daily morning session, lectures given by the Principal and Tutor are duplicated—*i.e.*, a lecture delivered at the first morning period is repeated in the third period to another group of students who are not required for teaching practice at that hour. The afternoon periods are devoted entirely to the instruction of students by the several members of the permanent or visiting staff.

Physical instruction has been given by the Department's officers when their services have been available. A good start in this direction was made by opening the College session with a week's continuous course of training. Associated with the work of these classes and with the lectures on school hygiene delivered by Dr. Eleanor Baker, drafts of school-children whose physical defects required special attention were given a daily course of suitable corrective exercises. Under capable and sympathetic instruction the improvement effected in the physique of these children was very noticeable.

The usual correspondence classes were continued during the year, and those teachers in remote schools who worked systematically and industriously made substantial progress. Such teachers should be encouraged by the further concessions made by the Department in the direction of simplifying the steps by which a teacher's certificate may be acquired.

Extensive use has been made by country teachers of the opportunities afforded them for observing the working of the model schools. It would be profitable if local Committees could arrange to close their schools at a time when such teachers as so desire could arrange to observe the working of the model and other schools in the district.

The limitation of space, to which attention has been drawn in previous reports, was especially noticeable during the past year, in which the highest enrolment in the history of the Training College was recorded. The lack of accommodation was recognized by the Hon. the Minister of Education after personally inspecting the premises. A subsequent report on the Training College by the Assistant Director of Education emphasized the urgent need for improved working-conditions. An application made shortly before the beginning of the war for a vote for a new building has been renewed. An excellent site in close proximity to the Normal School was secured over three years ago, and it is to be hoped that a suitable building will be shortly erected thereon. The need for improved sanitary arrangements, the provision for which has been demanded by the local Health Officers, was also brought under the Minister's notice by the Education Board. The urgency of the claim was recognized, and at the present time much-needed improvements are being effected.

Though no structure specially adapted for the purpose is available, yet the arrangement of the school buildings, which enclose an asphalted courtyard, affords valuable facilities for open-air teaching, for which the past season has been notably favourable. In fine weather classes or drafts in suitable forms of work are taught by students under healthy and pleasing conditions. In connection with the classes in nature-study, visits to the public gardens and the Museum have been paid, with beneficial results.

In the course of the year an inspection visit of a week's duration was paid by the Assistant Director of Education. He notes in his report that some of the students at the time of their admission had not passed in some of the ordinary subjects for the D certificate, and that the attempts to repair this omission made an undesirable demand on the time of the College tutor.

A students' class in first aid was conducted by Dr. Borrie, all the members of the class qualifying for the certificate awarded by the St. John Ambulance Association. Swimming classes were held, as in previous years, in the public baths.