

At twenty-two centres returned soldiers, to the total number of 167, were admitted to free education under the regulations issued in 1916 for the free tuition of accredited discharged soldiers. In some cases where all the facilities were not available at the technical schools to enable soldiers to carry out practical work in the subjects chosen by them arrangements were made by the school authorities with local firms for the use of workshops and equipment.

The following technical schools had roll numbers of more than five hundred exclusive of the technical high schools carried on in connection with some of them :—

School.	Roll Number.	
	1916.	1917.
Christchurch Technical School	1,225	1,267
Wellington Technical School	1,207	1,256
Auckland Technical School	1,329	1,211
Dunedin Technical School	1,204	1,105
Palmerston North Technical School	673	660
Wanganui Technical School	814	654
Invercargill Technical School	475	524

There is no doubt that the fall in attendance at some of these schools was due to the abnormal conditions brought about by the war.

Capitation earnings for the year totalled £33,749, compared with £34,771 for 1916. Included in the total is £9,924 earned on account of free pupils, pupils admitted under regulations for compulsory attendance at continuation classes, and returned soldiers. The rates of capitation vary from 2d. to 8d. for each hour-attendance, according to the nature and standard of instruction. These rates are increased by one-half in the case of classes in remote centres. In addition to the ordinary rates of capitation, a payment of 3d. for each hour-attendance is made on account of free pupils, "compulsory" pupils, and returned soldiers. Payment is not made on account of any student for more than 400 hour-attendances a year, but this maximum is only reached by a small proportion of students.

The technological examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute were conducted at fourteen centres in the Dominion. The total number of entries was 297, and the number of passes 181. On the result of the examinations silver medals were awarded by the Institute to one candidate at Wellington for examination in the subject of telegraphy (final), and to two candidates at Christchurch for gasfitting (final), and plain cookery respectively. A bronze medal was awarded to one candidate at Christchurch for examination in plain cookery. Two candidates—one at Christchurch and one at Dunedin, reached the standard required for a prize in the subjects of cabinetmaking (final) and dressmaking respectively, but by reason of their being engaged in teaching were not qualified to receive the award.

TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

There are eight of these schools of secondary grade which, while giving attention to the subjects of general education, provide a training of a vocational character. They are under the same management as the technical schools of which they form part.

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

Technical High School.	Number of Students.	
	1916.	1917.
Auckland	508	535
Wanganui	250	250
Napier	111	127
Wellington	285	336
Westport	29	27
Christchurch	376	453
Dunedin	315	339
Invercargill	231	280
	2,105	2,347

The enrolment of students for the year in the technical high schools, which shows an increase of about 11·5 per cent. on that for 1916, must be regarded as most satisfactory ; and, further, the fact that 2,347 pupils received a secondary education with a vocational trend appears to indicate that these schools are justifying their existence by providing a type of training suited to the industrial needs of the