

Twelve schools have been constituted "weather-observation stations," and these are supplied with a maximum and minimum thermometer in addition to the ordinary apparatus supplied. Monthly reports are received from these schools and published in the *Leaflet*, with such details as altitude of station, situation with respect to land and water masses, to enable all schools throughout the district to compare weather records and deal with the teaching of climate in the most practical manner.

The scheme of manual and technical instruction in the primary schools aims at providing continuous courses of manual occupations associated on the one side with instrumental drawing and on the other with free drawing. In the junior classes plane geometry is taught through the medium of paper-folding, but in the larger schools carton-modelling may be substituted in S2. In the senior division scale drawing and geometry (plane and solid) are associated with carton or cardboard modelling, or, where facilities are available, with woodwork. The boys alone follow up instrumental drawing along these lines in the senior division. In the case of girls the instrumental drawing is associated with brush design, and scale drawing is not as a rule taken. In addition to the above course in instrumental drawing with the associated handwork, most schools provide a course in plasticine-modelling associated with free drawing (object drawing and design). Unfortunately this course is interrupted, usually at the end of the S2 period, and we do not at present see our way to urge the continuance of the instruction in the senior division.

We have, &c.,

T. B. STRONG,  
JAMES MILNE } Inspectors.  
D. STEWART, }

The Director of Education, Wellington.

#### HAWKE'S BAY.

SIR,—

Napier, 22nd February, 1918.

We have the honour to present the following report on the state of primary education in Hawke's Bay for the year 1917:—

In December there were in operation 145 public schools, ten Roman Catholic schools, and nine private registered schools. As in the preceding year, the primary classes of the local high schools and the Native schools in the district were subject to our inspection. Two new schools were opened during the year and fourteen were closed. All of these were small household schools.

The following table shows the number on the roll and the number present at the teachers' annual examination in December, 1917:—

<i>Public Schools.</i>					Number on Roll.	Present at Examination.
Standard VII	...	...	...	...	141	137
„ VI	...	...	...	...	919	898
„ V	...	...	...	...	1,318	1,288
„ IV	...	...	...	...	1,473	1,442
„ III	...	...	...	...	1,684	1,637
„ II	...	...	...	...	1,668	1,623
„ I	...	...	...	...	1,657	1,606
Preparatory	...	...	...	...	4,375	4,098
Totals	...	...	...	...	13,235	12,729

<i>Roman Catholic Schools.</i>					Number on Roll.	Present at Examination.
Standard VII	...	...	...	...	34	21
„ VI	...	...	...	...	82	76
„ V	...	...	...	...	113	104
„ IV	...	...	...	...	126	126
„ III	...	...	...	...	131	125
„ II	...	...	...	...	126	120
„ I	...	...	...	...	178	164
Preparatory	...	...	...	...	409	382
Totals	...	...	...	...	1,199	1,118

*Registered Schools (other than Roman Catholic Schools).*—In the case of some of these schools information as to enrolment and classification is not given in terms similar to those used in the public schools, and some have forwarded no statement. We recommend that these schools be required to keep records in the registers provided by the Department. The total number on the rolls of these schools was 685; number present at examination, 645.

*School Buildings.*—As a rule the teachers bestow reasonable care on the buildings. The use of schoolrooms for social gatherings is a matter which should receive attention. We have again had complaints concerning the condition in which the premises are left. The new buildings now in course of erection are of a much better type as regards lighting and ventilation. Nothing has yet been done in the matter of open-air class-rooms, although a good deal of open-air teaching is practised.