

The net credit balances of the technical-instruction accounts of Education Boards as shown in the above table amount to £8,524. The net debit balances on the technical-instruction accounts of six Education Boards were eliminated by transfers from other accounts of the Boards concerned. Transfers of this kind totalled £9,288.

Of the Technical School Boards or Managers (nineteen in number) eighteen had net credit balances at the 31st December, 1918, totalling £21,083. The statements of accounts for one school—viz., the “Elam” School of Art, Auckland—had not been submitted when the above table was prepared. The statements in respect of this school for the preceding year showed a net debit balance of £2,765.

The following is a summary of the expenditure by the Government on technical instruction during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1919 :—

Capitation	£	66,269
Subsidies on voluntary contributions	1,673	
Home-science bursaries	2,166	
Grants in aid of material for class use	1,885	
Grants for buildings and equipment	5,773	
Grants for rents of buildings	369	
Conveyance of—		
Instructors	£464	
Students	174	
Free pupils	3,138	
		3,776
Examinations	92	
Inspectors' salaries and travelling-expenses	1,108	
War bonus to instructors	2,224	
		85,335
Less recoveries (examination fees, &c.)	76	
	£85,259	

The expenditure was at the rate of £4·3 per student, as compared with £4·8 for the previous year. Included in the total expenditure is £4,000 from national-endowment revenue.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS BRANCH, INCLUDING CHILDREN'S WELFARE.

The Special Schools Branch of the Education Department deals with an extensive field of social work which is of vital importance to the community. The functions of the branch include provision (1) for all destitute, uncontrollable, or delinquent children and juvenile offenders committed by the Courts or admitted by private arrangement under the provisions of the Industrial Schools Act to receiving-homes, probation homes, training-farms, and industrial schools; (2) for the maintenance and supervision of all children who have lost both parents or the surviving parent as a result of the recent influenza epidemic; (3) for investigation regarding the conduct, characteristics, and home conditions generally of delinquent and uncontrollable children and juvenile offenders who are brought before the Courts in each of the four centres of population, and for supervision of children admitted to probation; (4) for the supervision of all infants under the age of six years who are maintained for payment apart from their parents or guardians, or adopted with premium; and (5) for the education and care of deaf, blind, or feeble-minded children over the age of six years.

The following figures show the number of children under the control of the branch at the 31st December, 1918 :—

Industrial schools	3,140
Juvenile probation	249
Infant-life protection	860
Special schools—	
Deaf	104
Feeble-minded	144
Total	
	4,497