

The qualification for a bursary is Matriculation or a higher or lower leaving-certificate, and candidates are preferred who have received agricultural instruction during their secondary-school course. In addition, ex-students of teachers' training colleges who desire to specialize in the teaching of agriculture may obtain bursaries to enable them to receive the necessary training in agriculture. Agricultural bursaries are tenable at an experimental farm, an agricultural college, or other approved institution for two years, with a possible extension to a third year. Bursars receive an allowance of £20 per annum with free tuition, and if obliged to live away from home a lodging-allowance of £30 per annum.

Eight bursaries were awarded in 1917, seven of which were held at the Central Development Farm, Weraroa, and the remaining one at Lincoln Agricultural College, Canterbury. Only two bursars completed the two-years course at Weraroa, and as, owing to depletion of staff, the Department of Agriculture will not be able to continue carrying out the course of instruction, bursaries will probably all be held; for the present at least, at Lincoln Agricultural College. Six bursaries were awarded in 1918, and were held at the last-named institution, the progress of the bursars being satisfactorily reported upon at the end of the year. The limited accommodation available made it necessary for a selection to be made from the number of candidates desiring bursaries. The Department's expenditure on account of the bursaries in 1918 was £320.

War Bursaries.

Regulations made in January, 1918, provided for the award of bursaries at secondary schools, technical schools, and University colleges to the dependants of killed or disabled members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces. By the provisions of these regulations such a dependant who is qualified to receive a University bursary or an educational bursary as described above may receive in addition an allowance of £10 per annum, together with a boarding-allowance of £30 per annum if obliged to live away from home while attending a University college. No war bursaries tenable at University colleges have as yet been awarded.

GENERAL.

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS.

(See also E.—8, Report on Examinations.)

The annual examinations were conducted by the Education Department as usual for the various purposes of Junior and Senior National Scholarships, junior and senior free places in secondary schools, district high schools, and technical schools, and teachers' certificates. Also, by arrangement with the Public Service Commissioner, examinations were held for admission to and promotion in the Public Service.

Owing to the influenza epidemic the last November–December series of examinations had to be postponed, and considerable disorganization of the arrangements resulted, particularly on account of the fact that candidates entered for examinations near the schools attended by them and finally were examined at centres near their homes. The Public Service Entrance, the Senior National Scholarship, and the Intermediate (Senior Free Place) Examinations, which are usually held in November, were held between the 5th and 19th January at the same time as the usual January series (the Teachers' Certificate, the Public Service Senior, and the Typists' Examinations). The Junior National Scholarship Examination, usually held at the end of November or beginning of December, was not held until the 20th and 21st February, 1919.

In previous years the Public Service Entrance Examination was held only once a year, in November. In 1918, however, at the request of the Public Service Commissioner, the Department conducted an additional special examination in June. The Public Service Senior Examination of January, 1919, was confined to those candidates who had previously obtained partial success and who desired to