

speaking, the students are keen and industrious, but the fact that most of the classes are heterogeneous as regards the attainments of pupils renders class-work difficult, with the result that teachers are compelled often to resort to individual instruction where class-work would be much more effective if all the pupils were all at one stage. This difficulty is due to the small numbers offering in many trades in most of the schools, and can hardly be removed until the population of the Dominion becomes much more dense than it is at present. In the day classes at technical schools this drawback is not very seriously felt, and in the technical high schools it is only noticeable in the higher classes in certain courses. In these schools, usually offering four or five different courses, the senior pupils of more than one course are often taken together for general subjects of instruction, in preference to the pupils in two or three years of one course being placed in one class.

Part-time day continuation classes have not hitherto been encouraged by associations of employers except in the case of painters and decorators in one large centre. It is hoped that such classes will receive the support and encouragement which they deserve from both employers and employees, and that the single example at present in operation will be followed in all trades and occupations. Some form of compulsion may be necessary to secure the regular attendance of apprentices and other young workers at day continuation classes, but it is felt that no such compulsory classes would prove successful if they lacked the sympathy and aid of the masters and men in the occupations concerned.

CLASSES OTHER THAN CLASSES AT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

(NOTE.—All figures for 1921 are exclusive of teachers' classes, which were included in 1920.)

Classes were held at 94 centres. In the previous year the number of centres was 121, and the decrease was probably due to a decrease in the number of wool-sorting classes in country centres.

The number of classes and the number of individual students were as follows :—

Description of Class	Number of Classes.		Number of Students.	
	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921
Conducted by Education or High School Boards ..	913	611	8,221	5,567
Conducted by Technical School Boards or by Managers ..	968	1,111	9,163	10,081
Conducted by University Colleges	198	230	1,244	1,184
Totals	2,079	1,952	18,628	16,832

It is to be noted in comparing the numbers for 1921 with those for 1920 that the Pukekohe, Wanganui, Feilding, and Greymouth Technical Schools, and the Dunedin School of Art, were each conducted by a Board of managers in 1921 for the first time. This caused a transfer in numbers of 151 classes and 1,389 pupils from the first to the second line in the above table.

The following are some particulars of the age, sex, and occupations of students :—

	Seventeen Years of Age and under.		Over Seventeen Years of Age.		Totals.	
	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.	1920.	1921.
Males	4,851	4,998	4,700	4,102	9,551	8,934
Females	4,156	4,207	4,921	3,525	9,077	7,898
Totals	9,007	9,205	9,621	7,627	18,628	16,832

SUMMARY OF OCCUPATIONS OF STUDENTS.

	Number of Students.	Percentage of Totals.
Clerical pursuits	2,214	13.15
Professional pursuits	1,134	6.73
Students	3,965	23.56
Domestic pursuits	2,965	17.62
Agricultural pursuits	490	2.91
Various trades and industries	5,416	32.18
Other occupations not stated	648	3.85
Totals	16,832	100.00