

TABLE B.—STUDENTS IN TECHNICAL CLASSES : NUMBERS ATTENDING FROM CERTAIN GROUPS OF OCCUPATIONS.

Year.	Commercial, &c.						Engineering and Building.						Total, Industrial and Commercial.	Professional.
	Clerical.	Shop and Warehouse.	Dressmaking, Millinery, &c.	Tailors and Tailoresses.	Printers, &c.	Total.	Engineers and Mechanics.	Electricians.	Plumbers and Metalworkers.	Woodworkers.	Painters and Plasterers, &c.	Total.		
1913 ..	1,752	1,144	230	84	151	3,361	638	238	601	535	162	2,174	5,535	2,880
1914 ..	1,874	1,187	267	118	170	3,616	644	228	622	521	136	2,151	5,767	2,820
1915 ..	1,996	1,307	241	100	176	3,820	699	214	441	454	126	1,934	5,754	3,285
1916 ..	2,207	1,422	262	127	147	4,165	745	248	377	384	117	1,871	6,036	2,382
1917 ..	2,382	1,373	249	102	176	4,282	784	261	351	315	124	1,835	6,117	3,294
1918 ..	2,173	1,295	227	68	151	3,914	826	316	290	289	101	1,822	5,736	2,684
1919 ..	1,911	1,295	227	102	130	3,665	961	278	362	346	109	2,056	5,721	2,754
1920 ..	2,146	1,300	245	85	119	3,895	876	476	546	506	79	2,483	6,278	2,997
1921 ..	2,214	1,042	240	131	130	3,757	900	408	577	539	107	2,531	6,288	1,134
1922 ..	1,957	1,203	264	86	79	3,589	701	359	511	428	186	2,185	5,774	872
1923 ..	1,972	858	135	83	83	3,131	754	420	634	519	69	2,396	5,527	1,002
1924 ..	2,209	966	168	81	110	3,534	757	446	667	713	103	2,686	6,220	1,187
1925 ..	2,183	928	125	78	125	3,439	757	428	847	827	155	3,014	6,453	858
1926 ..	2,513	1,016	197		147	3,873	812	488	811	905	190	3,206	7,079	800
1927 ..	2,573	1,063	198		188	4,022	979	444	828	971	193	3,415	7,437	676
1928 ..	2,253	1,090	154		175	3,672	912	375	740	825	218	3,070	6,742	650
1929 ..	2,303	1,165	194		131	3,793	885	302	826	782	246	3,021	6,814	625

NOTE.—The 1928 and 1929 figures show roll at the 30th June in each year ; not total enrolments, as for previous years.

II. TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL DAY SCHOOLS.

ATTENDANCE.

The enrolment at technical high schools and technical day schools of full-time pupils taking courses under the Regulations for Manual and Technical Instruction was 7,536 at the 30th June, 1929, as compared with 7,214 at the corresponding date in the previous year. The enrolment of 7,536 consisted of 4,136 boys and 3,400 girls. Of the boys 2,097 took industrial courses, 408 agriculture, 821 commercial work, 704 a general course, and 106 an art course, an increase in each case over the number for the previous year of 3·1 per cent. in the industrial course, 13·6 per cent. in the agricultural course, 8·2 per cent. in the commercial course, 4·3 per cent. in the general course, and 4 per cent. in the art course. Of the girls 1,070 took the domestic course, 1,828 the commercial, 237 the general, and 265 the art course, higher numbers than in the previous year, except in the general course, in which the numbers were almost the same in the two years.

BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT.

Buildings and equipment have been maintained in good order and condition throughout the year, and some necessary additions to buildings have been made.

A certain amount of damage was done to two technical high schools by the severe earthquake of June, 1929. Examination, however, has proved that these two schools are structurally sound, and that the damage was confined to relatively unimportant structural elements. The defects were promptly repaired, and these two schools are now apparently none the worse for the severe shaking they have received.

The question of accommodation in the four larger centres continues to give anxiety. Not only do the rolls of the technical high schools show increases amounting to 4 per cent. over those of the previous year, but the evening schools, attended for the most part by trade learners and apprentices, have great difficulty in accommodating all students desiring instruction. In practically all of such schools, every workshop, laboratory, and classroom is engaged for five nights a week during the session, and the decreased flexibility of the accommodation thus brought about renders the task of organization very difficult.

CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF THE INSTRUCTION.

The work for the most part has proceeded upon lines which have been well tried, and have proved to be no less successful than in the past. While in the theoretical treatment of various subjects in the curriculum a certain degree of versatility is often to be seen, in practical work in the laboratories and workshops undue conservatism is often shown. In laboratory work, for instance, the students for the most part work in pairs or even larger groups. It is true that some experimental work really requires more than one student to make the necessary observations, but in most cases far better training can be obtained by individual work, and, indeed, it is only by such individual work that any training worthy of the name can really be obtained. To do that involves the restriction of the numbers in any class to about twenty students as a maximum, yet one constantly sees classes of nearly double this number