

STATISTICS.

Operations performed in the field and in the training-school from 1st January to the 31st December, 1935:—

Fillings—					
In permanent teeth ..	..	..	..	..	205,012
In deciduous teeth ..	..	..	..	..	245,745
					450,757
Extractions—					
Of permanent teeth ..	..	..	..	..	1,964
Of deciduous teeth ..	..	..	..	..	70,818
					72,782
Other operations ..	..	..	..	..	150,835
Total operations ..					674,374

The following figures illustrate the progress of the Service during the last six years:—

Year.					Number of Schools under Systematic Treatment.	Number of Children receiving Systematic Treatment.	Total Number of Operations.
1930 ..	..	..	..	..	930	67,652	463,204
1931 ..	..	..	..	..	1,118	68,995	562,759
1932 ..	..	..	..	..	1,297	72,584	619,390
1933 ..	..	..	..	..	1,430	78,391	623,625
1934 ..	..	..	..	..	1,551	83,433	626,878
1935 ..	..	..	..	..	1,590	84,738	674,374

These figures include the years of acute financial stringency, during which the annual extension of the service to new districts became impossible. It is satisfactory to note that no ground has been lost, and that, on the contrary, the figures disclose a small, but steady, increase each year.

Total number of operations since the inception of the service: 5,239,279.

THE TRAINING OF DENTAL NURSES.

For the year under review there were twenty-nine dental nurses in their first year of training and twenty-four nurses in their second year. The final examination for this latter group was held during March, 1936, the examiners being Dr. R. E. T. Hewat, D.D.S. (N.Z.), of Wanganui, and the Acting Superintendent of the Training-school (Mr. A. D. Brice, B.D.S.). Of the twenty-four candidates, all were successful except two, who obtained a partial pass, and who at a later date will be afforded a further opportunity of satisfying the examiners.

Thirty new probationer dental nurses were appointed in July, 1935, but one was retired almost immediately. Of the remaining twenty-nine all were successful in passing the primary examination held during November, the examiners being Dr. Helen Bakewell and Dr. Phyllis Moir, of the School Medical Service.

WELLINGTON DENTAL CLINIC.

The following is an extract from the report of Mr. A. D. Brice, B.D.S., who is Acting Superintendent during the absence abroad of the Superintendent, Mr. J. B. Bibby, B.A.

Attendance and Operations.—Attendances recorded and operations performed in the Dental Clinic, Wellington, for the year ending 31st March, 1936, are shown below, with the 1934–35 figures in parentheses.

Attendances.	Fillings.	Extractions.	Other Operations.
29,645	20,790	1,822	17,485
(29,565)	(15,139)	(1,700)	(19,046)

Total attendances recorded and operations performed since the opening of the Wellington Clinic to 31st March, 1936, are—

Attendances.	Fillings.	Extractions.	Other Operations.
428,970	286,312	67,929	231,260

Number of Patients under Treatment.—At the 31st March, 1936, the number of patients under treatment was 3,440. Various factors, including a purging of the list of patients for whom treatment had been suspended owing to failure to return within a specified time, have combined to reduce the number of patients on the register from 4,775, as shown in the previous year.

Annual Registration Fee.—Re-registrations of patients during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1936, totalled 2,633. Exemption from payment of the annual registration fee of 2s. 6d. was granted in 452 cases, or 14·3 per cent. of the total re-registrations. This does not include orphanage patients, who are also exempted from payment.

Waiting List.—At present the list of children awaiting admission to the Wellington Clinic stands at 3,526. Nine hundred and twenty-five applications for treatment have been