

PART III.—SCHOOL HYGIENE.

I have the honour to report on the work of the Division of School Hygiene for the year ended 31st March, 1937.

STAFF.

During the year Drs. Bakewell and Abbott left New Zealand on extended leave of absence. The following new appointments were made to the staff:—

School Medical Officers.—Dr. M. H. Deem, Hamilton; Dr. A. H. Platts-Mills, Wellington; and Dr. S. Mulholland, Christchurch.

School Nurses.—Miss E. M. Armstrong, Auckland; Miss G. E. Barclay, Christchurch; Misses M. E. Browne and A. F. Smith, Wellington; and Miss E. MacGregor, Wanganui.

FIGURES RELATING TO WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN 1936.

The following summary serves to indicate the extent of work accomplished during the school period, February to December, 1936:—

Schools inspected—					
Of roll under 100	..	..	..	..	748
Of roll 100 to 500	..	..	..	..	330
Of roll over 500	..	..	..	..	104
					— 1,182
Children examined—					
Complete examinations	..	..	..	..	63,851
Partial examinations	..	..	..	..	35,079
					— 98,930
Number of notifications sent to parents	..	..	..	..	39,362
Number of addresses to school-children	..	..	..	..	482
Number of parents interviewed	..	..	..	..	14,512
Number of lectures or addresses to parents	..	..	..	..	27
The figures for the work of the school nurses are as follows:—					
Number of days assisted Medical Officer in schools	..	..	..	..	1,520
Number of children examined for medical schedule (H. Sch. 14)	..	..	..	..	94,187
Number of days engaged wholly in clerical work	..	..	..	..	836½
Number of children re-examined after Medical Officer's inspection	..	..	..	..	31,756
Number of children examined by special request	..	..	..	..	10,706
Number of visits to homes in—					
Large towns	..	..	..	..	6,290
Small country towns	..	..	..	..	1,210
Scattered districts	..	..	..	..	1,699
					— 9,199
Number of children taken personally to hospital, &c.	..	..	..	..	276
Number of children taken personally to dental clinic	..	..	..	..	194
Number of health talks given	..	..	..	..	1,215

SUMMARY OF COMPLETE EXAMINATIONS.

	European.	Maori.
Number of children examined	63,435	4,896
Percentage found to have defects	68.84	76.34
Percentage with defects other than dental	51.23	58.82
Percentage of children showing evidence of—		
Subnormal nutrition	4.31	6.45
Pediculosis	0.68	9.27
Uncleanliness	1.08	3.37
Skin—		
Impetigo	1.18	5.53
Scabies	0.66	22.99
Ringworm	0.22	0.22
Other skin-diseases	1.52	2.45
Heart—		
Organic disease	0.62	0.36
Functional disturbance	1.08	1.47
Respiratory disease	1.32	1.47
Total physical deformities	12.13	15.80
Mouth—		
Deformities of jaw or palate, including irregularity	3.40	2.43
Dental caries	33.67	47.16
Extractions of permanent teeth	5.21	3.02
Fillings	52.37	12.78
Perfect sets of teeth	5.33	18.01