

STATISTICS.

Operations performed in the field and in the training-school from 1st January to 31st December, 1936 :—

Fillings—					
In permanent teeth ..	..	..	..	..	225,015
In deciduous teeth ..	..	..	..	..	273,106
Extractions					
Of permanent teeth ..	..	..	..	..	1,600
Of deciduous teeth ..	..	..	..	..	70,488
					498,121
Other operations					
..	..	..	..	..	72,088
					154,860
Total operations					725,069

The following figures illustrate the progress made during the last seven 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
1936 ..	..	..	..	..	1,629	89,803	725,069

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, 5,964,348.

RATIO OF EXTRACTIONS TO FILLINGS.

The number of teeth extracted as unsavable as compared with the number of fillings performed shows a further gratifying decrease. The figure for the year under review is 14·6 extractions per 100 fillings. The steady decrease since the inception of the service is shown in the following table :—

					Fillings.	Extractions.	Ratio : Extractions per Hundred Fillings.
1921-22 ..	..	..	..	..	13,047	14,939	114·5
1922-23 ..	..	..	..	..	24,603	25,436	103·3
1923-24 ..	..	..	..	..	47,610	37,978	79·7
1924-25 ..	..	..	..	..	59,322	43,181	72·6
1925-26 ..	..	..	..	..	61,506	41,339	67·2
1926-27 ..	..	..	..	..	84,723	53,232	62·8
1927-28 ..	..	..	..	..	116,916	66,523	56·8
1928-29 ..	..	..	..	..	146,354	76,555	52·3
1929-30 ..	..	..	..	..	190,934	71,128	37·2
1930-31 ..	..	..	..	..	258,546	75,973	25·5
1931-32 ..	..	..	..	..	334,827	80,389	24·0
1932-33 ..	..	..	..	..	382,289	74,633	19·5
1933-34 ..	..	..	..	..	397,437	69,208	17·4
1934-35 ..	..	..	..	..	399,560	70,207	17·5
1935-36 ..	..	..	..	..	450,727	72,782	16·1
1936-37 ..	..	..	..	..	498,121	72,088	14·6

TRAINING OF DENTAL NURSES.

The following is an extract from the report of the Acting Superintendent of the Wellington Clinic and Training-school for Dental Nurses (Mr. A. D. Brice, B.D.S.) :—

“ The Superintendent, Dr. J. B. Bibby, returned from his extended tour abroad in December, 1936, since when he has been engaged on special duty, chiefly in connection with the development of the plans for the new building.

“ The year under review has been a momentous one by virtue of the appointment of the largest number of student dental nurses in the history of the training-school. It has not been without its difficulties. This has been especially the case as regards accommodation. Various temporary measures and a series of changes were necessary in order to provide sufficient space in which to carry on the successive steps in the training course. Although the instructional staff was augmented, its task was unusually heavy on account of the problem presented by cramped accommodation, not to mention the preponderance of junior over senior students. There have been seventy-nine dental nurses, twenty-nine being in the second year, and fifty in their first year. The latter is the largest