

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.

During the year 1,147 applicants for entrance into the teaching profession were examined by School Medical Officers, and the following summary gives details of the examination :—

Summary of Examination of Entrants to Teaching Profession.

Number examined	1,147
Number with any defect of vision	186
Number wearing glasses	135
Number with defective hearing	9
Number with any past or present aural disease	10
Number with nose defect	28
Number with throat defects	75
Number with any enlarged thyroid	146
Teeth—	
Number with any caries when seen	141
Number with one artificial plate	87
Number with upper and lower plates	30
Number with malocclusion	16
Number with any heart or lung condition	10
Number deferred for immediate treatment	140
Number considered as excellent	192
Number considered as average	809
Number considered as fair	131
Number accepted	1,122
Number deferred for further examination	10
Number rejected	15

Dr. Dawson reports : “ Thirty-eight candidates were examined and they were a good average type, physically, mentally, and socially ; they had taken trouble to appear at their best. The examination of candidates in Hawera, Stratford, and Opunake early in the year was very useful, and enabled the candidates to correct minor disabilities.”

Although the examination of prospective applicants for entrance into the teaching profession during their last year of school life was again carried out and it is realized that all candidates cannot be reached in this manner, nevertheless it is regrettable to find 140 candidates presenting themselves at the end of the year requiring immediate treatment ; this number must certainly have included some who had the advantages of the preliminary examination. It is apparent that candidates and their parents fail to recognize that this preliminary medical examination, as well as determining whether the candidates are physically fit for the teaching profession, should serve as an indication that physical well-being is of the utmost importance, and the question arises as to whether candidates should be entitled to the final medical examination unless they have evidence that the defects previously notified have been attended to.

KINDERGARTENS AND PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The routine medical examination of kindergartens was carried out in Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, the result of 335 kindergarten children being as follows :—

Number of children examined	335
Percentage found to have defects	80·30
Percentage with defects other than dental	61·49
Percentage of children showing evidence of—	
Subnormal nutrition	1·79
Pediculosis	0·60
Uncleanliness	0·30
Skin—	
Impetigo	0·30
Scabies	1·49
Ringworm	0·60
Other skin-diseases	2·98
Heart—	
Organic disease	0·30
Respiratory disease	2·69
Total deformities of trunk and chest	5·38
Mouth—	
Deformity of jaw or palate, including irregularity	0·30
Dental caries	35·22
Fillings	8·06
Perfect sets of teeth	33·13
Nasal obstruction	7·16
Enlarged tonsils	22·09
Enlarged glands	23·28
Goitre, all degrees	3·58
Ear, otorrhœa	0·30
Defective speech	0·89

School Medical Officers express appreciation of the unsparing efforts of kindergarten teachers in their care of these small pupils.