

STATISTICS.

Operations performed in the field and in the training-school from 1st January to 31st December, 1937 :—

Fillings—					
In permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	261,672
In deciduous teeth	..	..	..	..	273,769
					535,441
Extractions—					
In permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	2,212
In deciduous teeth	..	..	..	..	66,620
					68,832
Other operations	..	..	..	..	155,600
Total operations	..	..	..	..	759,873

The following figures illustrate the progress made during the last eight 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
1937	..	..	..	1,568	89,483	759,873

Total number of operations since the inception of the service, 6,724,221.

RATIO OF EXTRACTIONS TO FILLINGS.

The number of teeth extracted as unsaveable as compared with the number of fillings performed shows a further decrease. The figure for the year under review is 12·9 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
1937-38	..	..	..	535,441	68,832	12·9

The above figures include both permanent and deciduous teeth. For permanent teeth alone, the ratio is 0·8 extractions per 100 fillings.

TRAINING OF DENTAL NURSES.

Mr. A. D. Brice, B.D.S., who, in the absence on special duty of Dr. J. B. Bibby, is acting as Superintendent of the Wellington Dental Clinic and Training-school for Dental Nurses, reports as follows :—

Staff.—At the date of this report the staff of the training-school consists of seven dental surgeon instructors, the Matron, one Senior Dental Nurse, and three acting Senior Dental Nurses. The services of two of the dental surgeon instructors—Dr. R. M. S. Taylor and Mr. J. F. Fuller, B.D.S.—will shortly be lost, the former on transfer to take charge of a district, and the latter to enter private practice. In view of the increase in the number of student dental nurses it was necessary to augment the staff of dental surgeon instructors by appointing a number of trained dental nurses in the temporary capacity of Dental Nurse Instructors. These officers were appointed in groups of not more than three at any one time, and their services have been of the utmost value.