

“ The expanded course in dental health education is being pursued, and there is a noticeable increase in the interest displayed by students in this subject. In this connection I desire to acknowledge the very generous assistance of the Principal of the Wellington Training College, Mr. F. Lopdell, and his staff, whose co-operation in again arranging a course of lecture-demonstrations in ‘ Methods of Teaching ’ has been greatly appreciated.

“ WELLINGTON DENTAL CLINIC.

“ *Attendances and Operations.*—Attendances recorded and operations performed in the Wellington Dental Clinic for the years 1934–35 to 1937–38 are shown below :—

		Attendances.	Fillings.	Extractions.	Other Operations.
“ 1934–35	..	29,565	15,139	1,700	19,046
“ 1935–36	..	29,645	20,790	1,822	17,485
“ 1936–37	..	23,588	15,748	1,444	17,569
“ 1937–38	..	47,238	31,014	3,141	31,931
“ Increase since last year		23,650	15,266	1,697	14,362

“ Total attendances recorded and operations performed to 31st March, 1938 :—

Attendances.	Fillings.	Extractions.	Other Operations.
“ 499,896	333,064	72,514	280,760

“ The number of patients under treatment, as at 31st March, 1938, is 4,979.

“ The number of admissions for the year is as follows :—

“ New patients commenced	..	..	..	..	..	2,747
“ Transferred <i>from</i> other centres	..	..	..	..	..	85
“ Total	..	..	..	..	..	2,832

“ The total loss of patients during the year :—

“ Patients reaching maximum age for treatment— <i>i.e.</i> , twelfth birthday..	465
“ Patients transferred to other centres	85
“ Treatment lapsed through failure to attend	204
“ Total	754

“ The net increase of patients under treatment is therefore 2,078.

“ As there has been over the past five years a steady decrease in the number of patients under treatment (due to the small number of dental nurses), the substantial increase shown is encouraging.

“ *Waiting List.*—As indicated in the above section of this report, 2,747 new patients commenced treatment during the year.

“ The number of names remaining on the waiting list as at the 31st March, 1938, is 1,095.

“ The number of names remaining on the waiting list as at 31st March, 1937, was 3,398.

“ It was not until June, 1937, after a lapse of nearly four years, that the treatment of new entrants was recommenced. At this stage the number of names on the list stood at approximately 3,500, and approximately half of this number had been on the list over three years.

“ At present, of the 1,095 names on the list, none have waited more than seven months.

“ It is anticipated that the length of the waiting-period will be steadily reduced, and that by the date of the next annual report the waiting list will have been eliminated.

“ *Clinical Statistics.*—Attached hereto is a summary showing the incidence of dental caries in various age-groups. The summary has been compiled from the records of the initial examination of 707 children at the Wellington Dental Clinic.”

Incidence of Dental Caries in various Age-groups.

(1) Age-group (Years).	(2) Number of Children in Group.	(3) Number of Perfect Sets in Group.	(4) Normal Number of Teeth for Age per Child.	(5) Normal Number of Teeth for Age for Whole Group.	Actual Number of Teeth for Whole Group.		Number of Sound Teeth for Whole Group.		Number of Carious Teeth for Whole Group.	
					(6) Number.	(7) Percentage of (5).	(8) Number.	(9) Percentage of (6).	(10) Number.	(11) Percentage of (5).
Over 10 and under 11	5	..	24	120	102	85.0	38	37.3	64	62.7
“ 9 “ 10	26	..	24	624	574	92.0	298	51.9	276	48.1
“ 8 “ 9	54	..	24	1,296	1,144	88.3	485	42.4	659	57.6
“ 7 “ 8	69	..	24	1,656	1,471	88.8	672	45.7	799	54.3
“ 6 “ 7	97	..	24	2,328	2,023	86.9	785	38.8	1,238	61.2
“ 5 “ 6	106	..	20	2,320	2,143	92.4	899	42.0	1,244	58.0
“ 4 “ 5	132	1	20	2,640	2,601	98.5	1,299	49.9	1,302	50.1
“ 3 “ 4	130	4	20	2,600	2,578	99.2	1,969	76.4	609	23.6
“ 2 “ 3	82	10	20	1,640	1,583	96.5	1,172	74.0	411	26.0
“ 1 “ 2	6	4	16	96	87	90.6	84	96.6	3	3.4
Total ..	707	19	..	15,320	14,306	93.4	7,701	53.8	6,605	46.2

Summary.—(a) 2.7 per cent. of the children examined had perfect sets; (b) 97.3 per cent. of the children examined had carious teeth; (c) in the whole group 93.4 per cent. of the normal number of teeth were actually present; (d) of the total number of teeth present 53.8 per cent. were sound; (e) of the total number of teeth present 46.2 per cent. were carious.”