

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE : SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES DURING PAST YEAR.

The statistical section of this report shows that steady progress has been made during the period under review. The total number of operations shows an increase over the previous year—namely, 826,598, as against 759,873 for 1937-38. The number of patients under treatment at the end of 1938 was 94,261, as against 89,483 in 1937.

New school dental clinics were established during the year at twenty-two centres—viz., Aniseed ; Beresford Street, Auckland ; Cornwall Park, Auckland ; Howick ; Kaponga ; Katikati ; Kawakawa ; Mercury Bay ; Morningson, Dunedin ; Oaro ; Ohura ; Okato ; Opunake ; Phillipstown, Christchurch ; Rawene ; Tairua ; Tahuna ; Takapuna ; Te Karaka ; Tuakau ; Tokaanu ; and Whangamomona. In addition to these new centres, the following eleven existing centres were reinforced : Beckenham ; Dannevirke ; Ellerslie ; Linwood ; Napier ; Rotorua ; Tauranga-Te Puke ; Thames ; Warkworth ; Wellsford ; Westland ; and Whangarei. In the case of Warkworth-Wellsford and Tauranga - Te Puke, the additional staff was appointed to Wellsford and Te Puke respectively, thus giving these former sub-bases the status of main-treatment centres.

Forty-nine new clinics have been authorized at centres which were not served before, and thirteen existing centres are to be reorganized in the immediate future, and their scope extended, by the appointment of additional staff. Details of these are given in another section of this report.

In order to facilitate the control of the rapidly increasing number of clinics the dental districts have been reorganized, and a new one created, with headquarters at Hamilton. This district (the South Auckland Dental District) includes the South Auckland, East Cape, and Taranaki Health Districts. The former Auckland and Wellington Dental Districts have been reduced accordingly.

STATISTICS.

Operations performed in the field and in the training-school from 1st January to 31st December, 1938 :—

Fillings—					
In permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	262,546
In deciduous teeth	..	..	..	..	308,653
					571,199
Extractions—					
In permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	2,154
In deciduous teeth	..	..	..	..	65,818
					67,972
Other operations	..	..	..	..	187,427
Total operations	..	..	..	..	826,598

The following figures illustrate the progress made during the last nine 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
1938	..	..	..	1,620	94,261	826,598

Total number of operations since the inception of the service, 7,550,819.

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 11·9 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
1938-39	..	..	..	571,199	67,972	11·9

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