MANUAL-TRAINING CLASS, NORMAL SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH.

INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

SIR,— Normal School, 4th January, 1898.

I have the honour to report on the manual-training classes for the nine months ending the 31st December, 1897, as follows:—

The first quarter commenced on the 3rd April, and was attended by seventy-two masters, students, and pupil-teachers, and 130 boys, formed into ten classes, seven of which were held in the afternoons, one in the morning, and two in the evening to suit masters, pupil-teachers, and students at the Normal School. The second quarter commenced on the 12th July, and was attended by fifty-seven masters, &c., and 150 boys, formed into eleven classes, two of which were held in the evening. The third quarter commenced on the 4th October, and was attended by 125 boys and thirty teachers, formed into nine classes. During this quarter the Normal students did not attend. A fee of 2s. 6d. for boys and 5s. for masters has been charged. This keeps away a great many who would attend if it were free, but at the same time it improves the class of boys who come, by weeding out a number of those who have no liking or aptitude for the work.

Taking the work as a whole, it has been very satisfactory. The drawing of the boys is much better than I expected to find it, and the whole of the classes have shown great aptitude with the tools. I have kept specimens of the work done for your reference, and for future comparison. The discipline has been excellent, and reflects very favourably on the training given at our schools. I am much indebted to the masters for their selection of boys as sent to the classes.

A number of teachers have made application to take the first-year examination under the London and City Guilds examiners, which is to be held in June next. The work done by the teachers is very good; in many cases it is excellent. This is to be expected from men who give a whole day and travel (as many do) thirty or forty miles for two hours' instruction.

I am indebted to the department in Wellington for a number of specimens of New Zealand timber, also to several of the masters—viz., Messrs. Cookson, Withell, Watson, and Sydney Smith—for specimens of colonial and foreign woods.

I trust that in the near future Fifth Standard boys will be admitted, as boys from the Seventh Standard do not stay long enough to reap much benefit, many of them leaving to go to work.

I have, &c.,

The Chairman, Normal School Committee. F. W. SANDFORD, Instructor.

The following table shows the number of teachers and boys that attended at the Normal School, with the number of classes held during each quarter:—

Quarter commencing	Number of Classes.	Roll-number.		Total Roll-number.
		Teachers.	Boys.	
3rd April	10	72	130	202
12th July	11	57	150	207
4th October	9	30	125	155

BALANCE-SHEET for the Year ending December, 1897.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	*Expenditure.*	£	s.	d.
To Government grant for fitting up workshop	172	10	0	By Instructor's salary	78	10	0
Fees	79	17	6	Fitting up room	69	1	6
Capitation grant from Government ..	41	7	6	Tools	85	0	6
				Lathe	16	10	0
				Timber for use in school	14	0	8
				Gas	8	5	0
				Stationery, &c.	9	6	8
				Balance	13	0	8
	£293	15	0		£293	15	0

Fees charged per term: Masters, 5s.; school-children, 2s. 6d.

MANUAL-TRAINING CLASS, LEESTON.

INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

SIR,— Normal School, 4th January, 1898.

I have the honour to report on the Leeston manual-training class, held on Saturday evenings, for the past quarter, ending 18th December, 1897:—

I held ten classes on separate nights, each lesson being of three hours' duration, from 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. The class is mainly composed of masters in the district schools surrounding the Leeston School, several of whom have to travel several miles. Considering the distances I think the attendance is very satisfactory. The work is above the average of any other class which I instruct. This is, I think, due to the fact that the pupils are enthusiasts, and do a great deal of "home-work"; this enables them to show good results at class. I expect good results from this class at the forthcoming examination.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary, Board of Education, Christchurch. F. W. SANDFORD, Instructor.