

DIVISION OF SCHOOL HYGIENE

Medical inspection of children continued throughout the year to the extent possible with the limited medical personnel available. The Department was unable to recruit additional medical officers, and operated at approximately half the authorized strength. Much work was accomplished nevertheless.

The Medical State of Primary-school Children, 1945
(European and Maoris)

	European.		Maori.	
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Number of children examined	70,387	..	5,207	..
Number of children found to have defects	28,158	40·00	2,403	46·14
Number of children with defects other than dental ..	22,422	31·85	1,697	32·59
Children showing evidence of—				
Subnormal nutrition	6,682	9·49	414	7·94
Skin-diseases	1,425	2·02	541	10·38
Heart—				
Organic disease	282	0·40	13	0·24
Functional disease	544	0·77	12	0·23
Respiratory disease	388	0·55	34	0·65
Posture—				
Slight impairment	19,370	27·51	875	16·80
Gross defect	2,154	3·05	40	0·76
Deformities of trunk and chest	846	1·20	25	0·48
Mouth—				
Defect of jaw or palate	3,284	4·66	73	1·40
Dental caries	6,513	9·25	969	18·60
Extractions of permanent teeth	790	1·12	71	1·36
Fillings	54,677	77·68	2,498	47·98
Perfect sets of teeth	2,107	2·99	335	6·43
Gums: Gingivitis or pyorrhœa	135	0·19	65	1·24
Nose and throat—				
Nasal obstruction	2,890	4·10	83	1·59
Enlarged tonsils	9,639	13·69	514	9·87
Enlarged glands	4,515	6·41	166	3·18
Goitre—				
Incipient	6,545	9·29	223	4·28
Small	1,207	1·71	17	0·32
Medium or large	64	0·09	2	0·03
Total amount of goitre	7,816	11·09	242	4·63
Eye—				
External eye-disease	445	0·63	21	0·40
Squints	280	0·39	10	..
Defective vision—				
Uncorrected	1,390	1·97	93	1·78
Corrected	1,020	1·44	12	0·23
Ear—				
Otorrhœa	59	0·08	49	0·94
Defective hearing	204	0·28	52	0·99
Defective speech	274	0·38	10	0·19
Mental—				
Retardate	221	0·31	6	0·11
Feeble-mindedness	56	0·07
Epilepsy	8	0·01
Other nervous defects	100	0·14	4	0·07
Digestive system defects	65	0·09	8	0·15
Phimosi	50	0·07	4	0·07
Undescended testicles	133	0·18	14	0·26
Hernia	112	0·15	7	0·13
Number of parents present at the medical examination	18,741	26·62	642	12·32
Number of children notified as defective	19,117	..	1,943	..