

The returns this year are disappointing, as it would appear that in spite of the care recommended and being given, although there have been no major epidemics, there were a large number of cases of gastro-enteritis and dysentery and also that there was an increase in the number of septic fingers. Both these conditions are preventable.

	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Number of training-schools ..	37	38	40	37	38
Number of pupil-nurses .. ..	3,194	3,400	3,280	3,210	3,138
Number of registered nurses ..	1,366	1,500	1,347	1,199	1,228
Number of nurses suffering from—					
Septic fingers .. ..	356	244	250	207	261
Tonsillitis .. ..	388	445	429	418	315
Gastro-enteritis and dysentery ..	250	152	290	300	458
Pulmonary tuberculosis .. ..	34	43	48	42	43
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis .. ..	4	3	4	5	6
Pleurisy .. ..	26	22	15	22	25
Erythema nodosum .. ..	13	19	29	22	24

#### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

During the year there has been a slight increase in the number of District Nurses employed by Hospital Boards to give bedside nursing on a visiting basis. Now that the number of doctors practising in the community has increased, the Hospital Boards were circularized to the effect that District Nurses could only be employed under the social security benefits if the patients cared for were under supervision of a medical practitioner, so that it should be only necessary for nurses to make an initial visit without, except in cases of emergency, the patient being under medical supervision.

The following table gives a summary of last year's work :—

#### *Comparative Summary of Work Undertaken by Hospital Board District Nurses*

	Year ended 31st March, 1948.	Quarter Ended 31st March, 1947.
Number of nurses—		
North Island .. ..	71	..
South Island .. ..	44	..
Total .. ..	115	80*
Total number of new cases referred from—		
Hospital .. ..	3,323	591
Private practitioners .. ..	7,403	1,325
Patient's own home .. ..	12,965	3,488
Total number of cases, including old and new cases—		
Nurses' centre .. ..	10,484	2,365
Patient's own home .. ..	44,800	9,615
Total number of visits, including old and new cases—		
Nurses' centre .. ..	25,009	2,376
Patient's own home .. ..	247,723	33,208

\* Including 1 part-time.