

Nutrition would seem to be back to its pre-war average level of about 5 per cent. of subnormal nutrition in our children (pre-school, 6·7 per cent. ; school-children, 5·08 per cent. ; Maori children, 4·75 per cent.). Posture has improved to this extent, that, while the slight impairments remains high, about one child in three being affected in the school years, the gross defects are almost halved from the previous year. The amount of goitre in the child population continues to decline in pre-school, school, and Maori children. In European school-children there was a new low level of 3·49 per cent. ; in these children ten years ago 15·12 per cent. of goitre was reported. This fall is gratifying, and undoubtedly the result of health education effecting the increasing and continuous use of iodized salt in the community.

Table 16—The Medical State of Primary-school Children

	European.		Maori.	
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Number of children examined	100,861	..	9,247	..
Number of children found to have defects	30,942	30·67	3,969	42·92
Number with defects other than dental	24,522	24·31	2,761	29·85
Children showing evidence of—				
Subnormal nutrition	5,125	5·08	440	4·75
Skin-diseases	1,929	1·91	843	9·11
Heart and lungs (European, 48,340 ; Maori, 843)—				
Heart—				
Organic disease	262	0·54	17	0·20
Functional disease	626	1·30	53	0·63
Respiratory disease	600	1·20	34	4·03
Posture—				
Slight impairment	36,757	36·44	2,519	27·24
Gross defect	274	2·72	123	1·33
Deformities of trunk and chest	1,325	1·31	98	0·10
Mouth—				
Defect of jaw or palate	4,315	4·27	127	1·37
Dental caries	7,146	6·08	1,760	19·03
Extractions of permanent teeth	433	0·42	109	1·17
Fillings	75,101	74·45	5,824	63·00
Perfect sets of teeth	4,321	4·28	654	7·07
Gums: Gingivitis or pyorrhœa	321	0·31	202	2·18
Nose and throat—				
Nasal obstruction	2,790	2·76	115	1·23
Enlarged tonsils	9,934	9·84	1,080	11·67
Goitre—				
Incipient	3,104	3·07	102	1·10
Small	411	0·41	27	0·29
Medium or large	15	0·01	3	0·003
Total amount of goitre	3,530	3·49	132	1·42
Eye—				
External eye-disease	529	0·52	66	0·71
Squints	331	0·33	11	0·11
Defective vision—				
Uncorrected	2,408	2·38	288	3·11
Corrected	1,609	1·59	37	0·40
Ear—				
Otorrhœa	120	0·11	77	0·83
Defective hearing	273	0·27	84	0·90
Defective speech	444	0·44	21	0·22
Mental—				
Retardate	205	0·20	22	0·23
Feeble-mindedness	139	0·13	1	0·01
Epilepsy	17	0·16	1	0·01
Nervous defects	403	0·39	6	0·06
Digestive system defects	113	0·11
Phimosis	77	0·07	1	0·01
Undescended testicles	349	0·34	38	0·41
Number of parents present at medical examination ..	31,602	31·33	885	9·57