15 E.—5.

came because their parents paid their fees, and who had no real interest in their work. There is no doubt that the work of the previous year has given the institution a reputation such that only those who were really in earnest and who were prepared to work hard joined the classes last session. The number of examination-papers worked was 407, of which 285, or over 70 per cent., obtained passes, compared with 211 passes out of 395 papers, giving a percentage of 53, last year.

The outlook for technical education in Auckland is decidedly more hopeful that it was a year ago. The City Council has generously given an excellent site for a Technical College, and Auckland students, both in local and "Home" examinations, have shown themselves worthy of a well-equipped up-to-date building, in which they can prosecute their technical studies. That such a building is urgently needed is acknowledged on all sides, and a generous Auckland gentleman, who wishes to remain anonymous, has promised a sum of £500 towards a new building, provided that four others will donate like amounts. The Government seems unwilling to find money for a permanent structure, except in the way of pound-for-pound subsidy on voluntary contributions, and if Auckland is to possess within the next few years a Technical College worthy of the name, it will, I feel sure, be owing to the public spirit of its citizens. In conclusion, I wish to tender my sincere thanks to the Board for the generous manner in which they have received my proposals, and the very free hand that they have given me in the administration of my department. I wish also to express to my staff my deep appreciation of their loyalty to me personally, and of the earnestness and enthusiasm that they have shown in carrying out their duties.

GEORGE GEORGE, F.I.C., F.C.S., Director of Technical Education.

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Year 1904. Augkland Technical School.

AUGREAND TECHNICAL SCHOOL.			
Fees paid by students (less rebates)	18 0 3 4 2	Expenditure. Balance from 1903 Salaries of instructors, &c. Buildings, furniture, fittings, &c. Incidentals Materials Rent and rates	£ s. d 1,137 6 0 1,493 16 9 1,107 12 0 193 14 0 137 5 3 108 5 0
Assets. £ Capitation for 1904	s. d. 18 10 2 13 1 0 18 0 3 12 8	Liabilities. Balance brought down	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Receipts. & & Capitation on account of cookery and woodwork classes	s. d. 7 12 0 0 19 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 15 7 1 3 1 0 9 0 0	Expenditure. Balance from 1908 Materials Incidentals Salaries of instructors Buildings, furniture, fittings, &c Payment to school classes	£ s. d. 1,402 13 0 101 4 9 87 19 9 1,440 6 4 115 13 4 393 13 1
Capitation for 1904	s. d. 1 18 3 7 13 4	Liabilities. Balance brought down	£3,541 10 3 £ s. d. 1,439 11 7 £1,439 11 7

VINCENT E. RICE, Secretary and Treasurer.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT ON THE TECHNICAL AND CONTINUATION CLASSES AT THAMES.

The excellent start that has been made with evening classes at Thames is deserving of every praise and encouragement. The number of students who availed themselves of Junior Technical Scholarships for so small a place was very gratifying. In the choice of subjects too great attention was paid to commercial subjects, and not enough to the engineering and handicraft side; but with the advent of a new Technical and Manual-training School for Thames this will be corrected in the future. On looking down the list of enrolments for each subject one cannot but be struck by the large numbers who took up shorthand and typewriting, compared with those who studied such subjects as commercial geography and commercial arithmetic. In my estimation, this is to be regretted, as shorthand is a subject of very little educational value, and of no practical value whatever to the student until he has acquired that proficiency which will enable him to write it faster than longhand. The knowledge of typewriting, too, is of little value except to those who