

ROMAN CATHOLIC AND OTHER SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.

In accordance with the policy of the Department to extend the benefits of the scheme to private and other schools who might desire its advantages, arrangements were made for the admission to physical-training classes of *bona fide* school-teachers employed on the teaching staffs of private and other schools subject to inspection. Several Roman Catholic and private schools have availed themselves of this opportunity, and have attended classes at Napier, Hawera, and Masterton. It was found, however, that the dress of certain orders in the former community prevented them from taking part in much of the practical training, and when possible this obstacle has been overcome by holding a private class for their benefit. For instance, in January last (while schools were closed) advantage was taken of a large assemblage of nuns in Auckland District to provide instruction (in private) for a class of fifty-eight. It is not possible, however, to make regular provision for private instruction, and I would suggest that these schools should fall into line with the public schools of their district and close at the same time for the purpose of training. If the female teachers then attended in sufficient numbers to form a separate class it could be conducted with the desired privacy. The male teachers, who do not require privacy for the same reason, should not require separate instruction.

TEST SCHOOLS.

With a view to testing the results of the system, records of 200 children were secured at the District High School, Hawera, on the 12th and 13th March.

A run of twenty-five boys and twenty-five girls from each of Standards III, IV, V, and VI was taken, and the following particulars recorded and individual conditions noted, for the purpose of comparison at a future date, viz.: Height, weight, lung-capacity, chest-circumference inflated and deflated, chest-diameter A. P. inflated and deflated.

A cursory inspection of the girls indicated 15 per cent. of scoliosis, and a closer examination of the boys revealed 34 per cent. of physical defects, classed as follows: 10 per cent. scoliosis; other defects—24 per cent. uneven development of thorax, uneven development of spinal groups of muscles, displaced shoulder-blades, and malnutrition.

These conditions, whether due to pathologic origin or not, are maintained and increased by the influences referred to in the school environment under headings 2 and 3.

The following table shows the extent to which the system was established up to the 31st March, 1914 (omitting private and other schools subject to inspection in Auckland District which have not been inspected and whose totals are not available):—

District.	Teachers trained.			Number of Schools.	Number of Children.	Number of Schools inspected.
	Male.	Female.	Total.			
Hawke's Bay	108	173	281	160	10,000 (approx.)	64
Auckland	293	408	701	220	30,889	220
Southland	112	207	319	161	8,817	161
Wanganui	38	67	105	50	3,126	1
Wellington	39	24	63	38	8,823	..
	590	879	1,469	629	61,655	446

The attached maps will give a more comprehensive idea of the areas and number of schools in which the system is working.

PROGRESS MAP TO DATE.

Dark-shading areas indicate schools represented at training classes and inspected up to 31st March, 1914, viz. :—

Auckland	271 trained.	220 inspected.
Hawke's Bay	160 ..	64 ..
Southland	181 ..	161 ..
Wellington	38
Wanganui	50 ..	1 ..

Lighter-shading areas indicate schools trained to date, but not inspected, viz. :—

Auckland	217
Wanganui	70
Wellington	132

The four black circles each contain one training college and approximately forty public schools, attended by two inspecting instructors.

The white spaces indicate the districts and approximate number of schools awaiting instruction.