

NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING GROUP COURSES.

Course of Instruction.	Number of Students.	
	1914.	1915.
Elementary and higher commercial, and general (including public examinations)	2,117	2,523
Practical mathematics and science	97	159
Mathematics and science applied to trades and industries ..	1,378	1,417
Domestic science	583	855
Arts and art-crafts	646	684
Totals	4,821	5,638

Group courses occupying not less than four hours a week and eighty hours a year were provided at forty-six schools, an increase of 18 per cent. About 30 per cent. of the students took such courses, the total number doing so being 800 more than in the previous year. The attendance at domestic courses shows an increase of 46 per cent., at commercial courses of 19 per cent., and at industrial and science courses of 7 per cent.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE EDUCATION UNDER THE REGULATIONS FOR FREE PLACES.

	1914.			1915.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Junior free pupils { First year ..	847	510	1,357	850	501	1,351
{ Second year ..	555	365	920	549	358	907
Senior free pupils { First year ..	374	306	680	447	348	795
{ Second year ..	247	208	455	305	262	567
{ Third year ..	95	77	172	162	109	271
Totals	2,118	1,466	3,584	2,313	1,578	3,891

About one-fifth of the students in attendance held free places as above. The total number of junior free pupils was 2,258, a decrease of 19, and of senior free pupils, 1,633, an increase of 326. Over 45 per cent. of the students who entered on junior free places in 1914 continued to attend in 1915. Of the total number of senior free pupils in their first year 30 per cent. had previously completed two years at technical classes as junior free pupils. The remainder were admitted either from technical high schools, secondary schools, or district high schools. In addition to the students holding Government free places, 465 students held scholarships or free places provided locally. Regulations requiring the attendance of young persons between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, who are not otherwise receiving a suitable education or who are not specially exempted from attendance, were in force in seven school districts in Auckland, in six in Wanganui, and in one in Taranaki and Hawke's Bay respectively. The number of students attending under these regulations was 858, an increase of 422. Of this number 526 were males.

Capitation payments for the year on account of free technical education amounted to £7,771.

The following technical schools had roll numbers of 500 and over, exclusive of the technical high schools carried on in connection with some of them:—

School.	Roll Number.	
	1914.	1915.
Auckland Technical College	1,620	1,451
Dunedin Technical College	1,195	1,277
Wellington Technical College	1,119	1,163
Christchurch Technical College	1,295	1,156
Wanganui Technical College	741	984
Palmerston North Technical School	545	566
Dunedin School of Art	617	535

The slight fall in the attendance noticeable in the case of some of the schools may fairly be ascribed to withdrawals as the result of enlistment.

The attendance generally must be regarded as satisfactory in view of the fact that it is for the most part voluntary. It is gratifying to note that the proportion of students who take up definite courses involving attendance on three or more evenings a week continues to be maintained.