

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NAPIER TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

The Technical High School had a record roll this year, the total enrolments reaching 211, as against 130 for the previous year, an increase of 62 per cent. The pupils were distributed over the various courses as follows: Home-science course, 15; combined commercial and home science, 93; commercial, 45; engineering, 49; agricultural, 9. In view of the extreme importance of a domestic training for girls it is disappointing to find so few entries in the home-science section. Too many girls are desirous of learning typewriting and shorthand in preference to the very useful subjects of the home-science course.

The agricultural course was instituted only this year, and a very promising beginning has been made with a roll of nine pupils. The course includes, besides the subjects of a general education, engineering and woodwork as applied to farm-work, agricultural botany, zoology, and chemistry, surveying, wool-classing, and field-work. Owing to the lack of accommodation at the school wool-classing was taken in a room at the Athenæum Buildings, kindly lent by the Napier Borough Council. One of the students gained third prize in the wool-classing competition at the Hawke's Bay Show. Field-work was not begun until July. About an acre of land was lent for this purpose by the Napier Borough Council.

Another new subject introduced into the day school was singing, which was taken by all the girls. All girls had regular instruction in physical culture for two half-hours weekly. Classes were held in Swedish gymnastics twice weekly for boys. An elocution class, held for only one hour weekly after school-hours, was attended by about twenty girls.

Careful attention was given to sports and swimming. On Thursday afternoons lessons stopped at 1.45, when the whole school proceeded to Nelson Park for cricket, or basketball, or football. Girls took part in cricket as well as the boys. When the weather was suitable swimming was taken at the Municipal Baths for one hour weekly. At the life-saving competition for the Edwards Gold Medal held at the Municipal Baths in April all three prizes went to pupils of the school.

The School Cadets had regular training during the year. The Kinross White Cup, which is open for competition among the Senior Cadets of the district, and the gold medal for the district presented by the Miniature Rifle Club were won by students of the school.

Owing to the epidemic of influenza the school was closed, by order of the Health Department, on the 12th November for the remainder of the year. The school entertainment, the annual picnic, the prize-distribution, and the display of work had in consequence to be abandoned. The evening school was not affected, as the session ended on the 31st October. On the request of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board the school became, on the 13th November, the headquarters of the Red Cross Society for the preparation of invalid foods. The school became the scene of the labours of scores of voluntary workers, among whom were representatives from the teaching staffs of almost every local school. Hundreds of parcels were distributed daily by motor-car to the stricken families, and it is almost impossible to calculate the good done by this band of earnest workers.

Evening Technical Classes.—The total number of individual students who enrolled in classes other than those of the Technical High School was 436, made up as follows: Junior free pupils, 49; senior free pupils, 28; compulsory, 110; paying, 74; Hukarere School, 79; Marist Brothers' School, 31; teachers' Saturday classes, 65. The total number of class entries was 862. The teachers' Saturday classes were held under the auspices of the Hawke's Bay Education Board, the subjects being singing, drawing, and hygiene.

Nine returned soldiers enrolled during the year, three taking a commercial course, two wool-classing, two engineering and plumbing, and two general subjects. One of them passed the Health Department's Special Examination in Sanitary Science, and was appointed a Sanitary Inspector.

A matriculation course for evening students was inaugurated at the beginning of the session. The subjects were English, arithmetic, mathematics, French, and science. Twelve students enrolled for the course, though only half of them retained keen interest up to the session. A disappointing feature was the failure of the plumbing class, in spite of the fact that a first-class instructor was in charge. Frequently only one student attended. Master plumbers in Napier say that there are practically no apprentices offering for the trade.

Greater local interest was taken in the work of the school this year as shown by the increase in the voluntary contributions. The Napier Borough Council and the Agricultural and Pastoral Society gave increased grants, and the Chamber of Commerce also contributed for the first time. Thanks are due to these bodies, and also to the Education Board, the County Council, and the Working-men's Club, for their valuable assistance. The Napier Savage Club donated one guinea towards the prize fund. Messrs. Niven and Co. presented the shell of a boiler for the use of the engineering students, and Messrs. Simmonds and Co. supplied free of charge all seeds required by the agricultural class.

Much attention has been given by the Board to the question of providing adequate accommodation for the extension of the work of the school. There is no room on the present site for expansion, and the only solution is the acquirement of a larger piece of land elsewhere on which to erect a technical college worthy of the province.

I. E. NEWTON, Director.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE WAIPAWA TECHNICAL SCHOOL BOARD.

Classes were conducted during the year in cabinetmaking (two classes—one for men and one for women), invalid cookery for nurses, shorthand, and commercial arithmetic. The success of the cabinetmaking classes was due largely to the keenness and enthusiasm of the instructor, who spares no pains. The men's class showed a slight falling-off in the number of students. The attendance of women during one session was quite encouraging. The invalid-cookery class, though a small one, did excellent work. In shorthand and arithmetic good work was accomplished. The attendance at both classes was good, and the instructors were capable.