

nurse under the Department, acts in the district as a whole-time school nurse. By this arrangement it is hoped to obtain better co-ordination of health activities in the district and closer co-operation with the work of voluntary societies.

FIGURES RELATING TO WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

The following summary serves to indicate the extent of work accomplished during the year:—

Schools inspected—		
Of roll under 100	669	
Of roll 100 to 500	316	
Of roll over 500	152	
		1,137
Children examined—		
Complete examinations	62,750	
Partial examinations	42,114	
		104,864
Number of notifications sent to parents	34,251	
Number of addresses to school-children	748	
Number of parents interviewed	11,507	
Number of lectures or addresses to parents	25	
The figures for the work of the school nurses are as follows:—		
Number of days assisted Medical Officer in schools	1,496½	
Number of days engaged wholly in clerical work	1,721½	
Number of children examined for medical schedule (H. 529)	88,275	
Number of children re-examined after Medical Officer's inspection	35,280	
Number of visits to homes in—		
Large towns	7,274	
Small country towns	1,767	
Scattered districts	1,405	
		10,446
Number of children taken personally to hospital	301	
Number of children taken personally to dental clinic	567	

COMPLETE EXAMINATIONS.

Total number of children examined ..	60,275	Nose and throat—	
Percentage found to have defects ..	82.92	Nasal obstruction	3.54
Percentage with defects other than dental	50.89	Enlarged tonsils	18.53
Percentage of children showing evidence of—		Enlarged glands	11.33
Subnormal nutrition	7.14	Goitre—	
Pediculosis	1.88	All degrees	18.57
Uncleanliness	1.68	Incipient	14.66
Skin—		Small	3.32
Impetigo	1.46	Medium	0.54
Scabies	1.26	Large	0.05
Ringworm	1.18	Eye—	
Other skin-diseases	1.00	External eye-disease	1.65
Non-vaccination	58.06	Total defective vision	3.19
Heart—		Corrected	1.51
Organic disease	0.63	Uncorrected	1.68
Functional disturbance	0.44	Ear—	
Respiratory disease	0.74	Otorrhœa	0.24
Total deformities of trunk and chest	17.16	Defective hearing	0.43
Mouth—		Defective speech	0.64
Deformity of jaw or palate, including irregularity	6.75	Mental—	
Dental caries	55.12	Feeble-mindedness	0.38
Extractions of permanent teeth ..	7.96	Epilepsy	0.03
Fillings	27.19	Other nervous defects	0.17
Perfect sets of teeth	3.72	Tuberculosis—	
		Total	0.10
		Pulmonary	0.04
		Other tissues	0.06

Figures giving the result of 2,025 complete examinations and of 850 partial examinations by Dr. Mecredy in Taranaki, and of the result of the examination of 450 pre-school children by Dr. Gunn in Wanganui, came to hand later and are therefore not shown in the above return. The total number of children completely or partially examined last year therefore approximates 108,000.

Routine work has proceeded satisfactorily and the figures given serve to show our findings resulting therefrom. Available statistics show that New Zealand children compare favourably with those of other countries with regard to growth and physique, and there is no doubt but that in general health and freedom from defect also they occupy a good position. I propose to use the space at my disposal to comment on one or two special aspects of the work rather than to repeat observations made in previous reports and equally applicable this year.