

The following parallel findings sent by Dr. Turbott are also of considerable interest.

“The comparative health of Maori and white children as judged by routine school examinations is readily seen from the following table, the results being given as rate per 1,000 children seen :—

	Maori.	White.
Heart—Organic disease .. .. .	12·8	12·6
Respiratory disease—Unhealthy chests .. .. .	23·3	11·2
Physique—		
(a) Nutrition—		
First class .. .. .	60·1	275·6
Subnormal .. .. .	7·2	11·2
(b) Total deformities, trunk and chest .. .. .	29·3	51·9
(c) Poor posture .. .. .	6·4	22·9
Pediculosis .. .. .	157·9	11·2
Skin conditions—		
(a) Scabies .. .. .	99·9	5·0
(b) Septic sores and impetigo .. .. .	64·3	24·9
(c) Other skin-diseases .. .. .	14·0	50·4
Vaccination performed .. .. .	20·2	25·5
Dental hygiene—		
(a) Defects in jaw or palate .. .. .	0·8	3·7
(b) Perfect sets of teeth—		
Primary .. .. .	36·2	15·9
Secondary .. .. .	108·9	9·7
Enlarged tonsils .. .. .	208·5	359·0
Enlarged cervical glands .. .. .	89·3	195·6
Goitre—		
Incipient .. .. .	41·8	261·8
Small .. .. .	4·8	9·6
Medium .. .. .	..	2·0
Large .. .. .	..	1·0
Total .. .. .	46·6	274·4
Special senses—		
Ears—		
Deafness .. .. .	4·0	4·6
Otorrhœa .. .. .	4·0	4·0
Eyes—		
(a) Conjunctivitis .. .. .	14·6	5·6
(b) Squints .. .. .	..	..
(c) Defective vision .. .. .	28·1	64·1
Hernia .. .. .	3·6	4·6
Phimosis .. .. .	..	2·05

In considering the above returns comparatively it is necessary to take into account not only the personal equation of the observer, but the fact that they refer to groups of Maoris in different environments. A large percentage of Dr. Turbott's Maoris are near the sea-coast and lead lives modified accordingly.

#### SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

The subject of school buildings was dealt with fully in the last annual report. The reports from School Medical Officers will be referred to the Education Department in order that they may be considered in the education districts concerned. The circular “Suggestions to School Committees and Teachers *re* the Cleaning and Sanitation of Schools” has been revised.

#### OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS.

Each year shows a substantial increase in the number of open-air schools erected. These vary in type in different educational districts, and space forbids discussion as to their relative advantages. The Fendalton type, inaugurated by Dr. Phillipps, which was responsible for creating much of the Dominion interest in open-air schools, continues to hold its own, especially in Canterbury. It is all to the good, however, that keen and widespread interest is focused upon the subject. Observations with regard to school conditions prevailing in various seasons, school attendances, &c., are being recorded and should be of value for future guidance.

#### FREE KINDERGARTENS.—EXAMINATION OF THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD.

Medical examination of children attending the free kindergartens throughout the Dominion is now undertaken by the School Medical Service. Approximately twenty free kindergarten schools were examined last year. School Medical Officers speak appreciatively of the capability and enthusiasm of kindergarten-teachers and of the instruction in health matters given by them.