

ANALYSIS OF 62,222 COMPLETE EXAMINATIONS,

Total number of children examined ..	62,222	Percentage of children, &c.— <i>continued.</i>	
Percentage found to have defects ..	74.29	Nose and throat—	
Percentage with defects other than dental	53.69	Nasal obstruction	3.22
Percentage of children showing evidence of—		Enlarged tonsils	15.61
Subnormal nutrition	5.81	Enlarged glands	10.85
Pediculosis	1.00	Goitre—	
Uncleanliness	1.43	All degrees	15.24
Skin—		Incipient	11.41
Impetigo	1.20	Small	3.26
Scabies	1.67	Medium	0.49
Ringworm	0.18	Large	0.08
Other skin diseases	1.27	Eye—	
Non-vaccination	93.60	External eye-disease	1.37
Heart—		Defective vision (total) ..	3.57
Organic disease	0.71	Corrected	1.92
Functional disturbance	1.47	Uncorrected	1.65
Respiratory disease	1.24	Ear—	
Total deformities of trunk and chest	19.21	Otorrhœa	0.26
Mouth—		Defective hearing	0.33
Deformity of jaw or palate, including irregularity	4.14	Defective speech	0.68
Dental caries	41.43	Mental—	
Extractions of permanent teeth	7.13	Feeble-mindedness	0.31
Fillings	43.36	Epilepsy	0.04
Perfect sets of teeth	3.30	Other nervous defects	0.25
		Tuberculosis—	
		Total	0.15
		Pulmonary	0.10
		Other tissues	0.05
		Notifications to parents	36.63

It is thus evident that in spite of the diminution of staff the amount of routine work done has been well maintained. The reduction and reorganization of staff has resulted in lessened expenditure but has necessitated the concentration of our efforts on routine work and has made impossible the carrying-out of any special investigations as in previous years.

SCHOOL NURSING STAFF.

In pursuance of the system of reorganization mentioned in the report last year, district nurses in outlying areas are now acting as school nurses in increasing number. This arrangement holds throughout the Auckland and East Cape districts, the work of the school nurses proper being therefore restricted to Auckland City and a small part of the country beyond. It is anticipated that this arrangement will not only make for economy, but will ensure better understanding and closer co-operation between the officers of the Department and the local residents. Hitherto School Medical Officers have had limited opportunity for getting into touch with parents in country districts. Visits to remote schools have perforce to be infrequent. For reasons of economy and because of our reduced numbers, it is necessary to concentrate our efforts where the school population is greatest; for the same reasons the follow-up visits of the school nurses have had to be curtailed. The district nurse, however, is always available. She is the friend of every one, and is appealed to for assistance in all local health problems. She has ample opportunity, therefore, of following up the advice of the visiting Medical Officer and ensuring that treatment recommended is obtained. Moreover, though children in remote areas as elsewhere suffer from defects requiring medical or surgical attention, there is also a vast amount of health education necessary which can be carried out only by a nurse living within the area.

There has been a reduction (to 12,377 from 14,885) in the number of visits to homes paid by school nurses. This, while a matter for regret, is an inevitable result of staff reduction. There is an annually increasing demand from health camp organizations for the services of school nurses. During the year sixteen school nurses were on duty at health camps for a period of two weeks or (in a few instances) longer.

In Taranaki the arrangement with the Red Cross Society still holds, by which Misses Corkill and Small carry out combined duty as Red Cross and school nurses. The quality and amount of work done by these officers in their dual capacity is excellent, but, in view of the increasing demand for their services, especially in the form of evening classes, some modification of the present programme is essential.

In Marlborough the arrangement by which Miss Atkinson acts as school nurse and local Child Welfare Officer is working satisfactorily.

The work of the school nurses cannot be assessed in figures. It is pleasing to record that they have not a literal interpretation as to the scope of their duties, but give advice and assistance in many minor problems beyond, thus succeeding in establishing a friendly relationship between the parents and themselves.