

Staff.—On the 31st March, 1933, the staff, disposed as under, numbered eleven dental officers and 205 dental nurses. Twenty-three dental nurses were appointed in March, 1933, but the retirements during the year were greater than usual, and numbered twenty-one. Thus the net increase in the staff for the year is only two.

	Dental Officers.	Dental Nurses.
Director	1	..
District Dental Superintendents	4*	..
Administrative and training staff, Wellington Clinic	3	2
Staff of school dental clinics—		
Auckland District	2†	43
Wellington District	51
Canterbury District	1	37
Otago District	22
Reserve group (Wellington)	27‡
In training	23
	11	205

Training of Dental Nurses.—At the commencement of the year under review (1st April, 1932) fifty-six probationer dental nurses were in training, thirty-five of these being in their second year, and twenty-one in their first year. Of the thirty-five in their second year all completed the course. During the year twenty-seven of this number were transferred to various parts of the Dominion to staff school dental clinics, while eight were retained in Wellington to assist in carrying out treatment at the Wellington Clinic. Of the twenty-one who were in their first year of training, nineteen have now passed into their second year, and two have retired. Although no new probationer dental nurses were appointed in 1932 there has not been a reduction in the amount of treatment carried out during the year at the Wellington Clinic. Moreover, in order to allow the work of this clinic to continue, it will be necessary to retain in Wellington next year the nineteen nurses who are now in the second year of their training. In February, 1933, twenty-three new probationer dental nurses were appointed. These entered the training-school in March, and have now commenced their training. The final examination was conducted by Mr. Millen Paulin, B.D.S., and the Superintendent of the Training School on the 13th and 15th March, 1933. Of the fifteen candidates eligible to sit all passed. Four nurses will sit for a special examination to be held in a few months' time.

Inspection and Supervision.—The system of decentralized control through District Dental Superintendents has now been in operation for fifteen months, and has proved most successful. Good supervision over the work of the clinics has been maintained (although in the larger districts some assistance for the Dental Superintendents is very desirable), and it is evident that the Dental Clinic Committees appreciate the fact that they can now keep in close personal touch with senior officers of the Department. This personal contact between the Department and the Committee has undoubtedly done much to ensure the smooth running of the Service during the past year. It is pleasing to note that the travelling-expenses connected with the supervision of the work are less under the present system than they were under the system of Inspecting Dental Officers. Thus the present system of administration makes for economy as well as for increased efficiency.

SECTION II.—STATISTICS.

Operations performed in the field and in the training school from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1932 :—

<i>Fillings—</i>			
In permanent teeth	139,225		
In "first" teeth	243,064		
			382,289
<i>Extractions—</i>			
Permanent teeth	2,696		
"First" teeth	71,937		
			74,633
Other operations			162,468
Total operations			619,390

The following figures illustrate the progress of the Service during the last four years :—

Year.	Number of Schools under Systematic Treatment.	Number of Children receiving Systematic Treatment.	Total Number of Operations.
1929	775	62,100	370,074
1930	930	67,652	463,204
1931	1,118	68,995	562,759
1932	1,297	72,584	619,390

Total operations since inception : 3,314,402.

* The Dental Superintendent of the Otago District is also in charge of the Central Clinic, Dunedin.

† Native Dental Officers working among Native schools in Bay of Plenty and East Coast districts.

‡ This number will be somewhat reduced by transfers to the field during the next few weeks.