

European children to the number of 1,025 were in attendance at Native village schools at 1st July, 1938, and are included in the above figures. If these be deducted, the total enrolment of Native children in all primary schools at 1st July becomes 20,868, compared with 20,094 in 1937. In addition there were 103 pupils in the primary department of Maori secondary schools.

The average attendance at Native schools was 86.6 per cent. of the average weekly roll. The attendance was affected to a considerable extent by the illness of pupils caused chiefly by the epidemic of measles. In the circumstances the regularity of attendance, although low when compared with that of previous years, was commendable.

Boarding schools for the secondary education of the Maoris have been established by religious denominations, and the Government provides a number of scholarships tenable at these schools, which are inspected by the Department's officers. There were eight schools at the end of last year with an enrolment of 560 pupils, of whom 229 held Government scholarships. Six Maori boys held University scholarships—two at Auckland University College, and four at Otago University, those at Auckland taking a course in arts and of those at Otago two taking a medical course and two a dental course. Seven Maoris held agricultural scholarships—four being tenable at St. Stephens' College, and three at Wesley College.

Ten Maori girls were holding nursing scholarships—four being held at St. Joseph's School, Napier, two at Queen Victoria School, Auckland, two at Turakina School, Marton, and two at Hukarere School, Napier.

24. REGISTERED PRIVATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The following table summarizes the returns furnished by registered private primary schools with respect to the year 1938 :—

TABLE S.

	Undenominational Schools.	Catholic Church Schools.	Other Church Schools.	Total.
Number of schools	26	226	55	307
Roll at December—				
Boys	389	11,749	1,605	13,743
Girls	599	12,323	1,721	14,643
Totals	988	24,072	3,326	28,386
Average attendance	824	20,729	2,889	24,442
Teachers (inclusive of head teachers)—				
Men	10	60	68	138
Women	60	709	139	908
Totals	70	769	207	1,046

The number of schools at the end of the previous year was 306, and the total enrolment 27,931.

There has been an increase of one in the number of registered private primary schools when compared with the number at the end of 1937.