

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE DEPARTMENT.

Details of the personnel of the Department on the 1st April, 1939, compared with that on the same date last year are as under:—

	1st April, 1938.	1st April, 1939.
Permanent Staff		
Administration	14	16
First Division	4,220	4,325
Second Division	5,899	6,223
Message-boys	811	827
	10,944	11,391
Temporary Staff	105	154
Casual Staff	588	666
	11,637	12,211
Non-permanent Staff		
Country Postmasters and Telephonists	1,641	1,603
Postmasters who are Railway officers	83	88
	13,361	13,902

HEALTH OF PERMANENT STAFF.

The following table shows, in comparison with the figures for the preceding year, the average number of days on which officers were absent on sick-leave during the year:

Year ended 31st March,	Number on Staff.	Average Absence per Sick Officer.	Average Absence for each Officer employed.
1939			
Men	10,427	11·02	6·16
Women	964	14·59	9·70
1938			
Men	10,026	11·08	4·64
Women	882	12·63	7·62

Twenty-three officers died during the year.

The higher average sick-leave absence was due entirely to the epidemic of measles experienced throughout the country during the year.

PERSONAL.

Mr. F. J. Shanks, Deputy Director-General, retired on superannuation on the 31st October, 1938, after completing forty-three years' service. He was succeeded by Mr. J. G. Young, Second Deputy Director-General, who was, in turn, succeeded by Mr. W. R. Newall, Divisional Principal, General Post Office.

Mr. J. McDermott, Chief Engineer, retired on superannuation on the 28th February, 1939, after completing nearly forty-two years' service. Mr. McDermott was succeeded by Mr. P. V. R. C. Miles, Superintending Engineer, General Post Office.

Mr. G. McNamara, C.B.E., Director-General, commenced leave on the 1st April, 1939, prior to his retirement on superannuation. Mr. J. G. Young, Deputy Director-General, is acting in control of the Department.

Mr. F. W. Furby, Chief Postmaster, Christchurch, retired on superannuation on the 21st January, 1939, after completing forty years' service. He was replaced by Mr. G. Clark, Chief Postmaster, Palmerston North.

Mr. J. Madden, Chief Postmaster, Wellington, left the Dominion on the 24th February, 1939, to attend the Universal Postal Congress at Buenos Aires. During Mr. Madden's absence Mr. F. G. Nind, Senior Inspector, General Post Office, is acting as Chief Postmaster, Wellington.

VISIT OF ENGINEERING OFFICERS TO AUSTRALIA.

Mr. H. R. Hounsell, A.M.I.E.E., Superintending Engineer, went to Australia in May for the purpose of investigating and studying matters pertaining to field engineering, and particularly underground plant distribution for telephone-exchange subscribers. Mr. Hounsell spent some six weeks in the Commonwealth, where he was extended every privilege and courtesy by the officers of the Postmaster-General's Department, and the information he obtained will prove of great value in dealing with one of the Department's pressing problems.

In December last Mr. E. H. R. Green, M.Sc., A.M.I.E.E., Radio Engineer, also visited Australia. His mission was concerned primarily with arrangements for the projected trans-Tasman air service, in respect of which a Conference of air, meteorological, and radio experts was held at Melbourne. At the conclusion of the Conference Mr. Green spent about a fortnight in Sydney and Melbourne on general inquiries regarding radio services and equipment.