

EXPENDITURE

The net expenditure was £498,439, which was £35,011 below estimate, the difference arising from delay in delivery of outstanding overseas orders of new instruments and materials to build up stocks depleted during the war. Unfortunately, these orders carry on into the ensuing year and swell the estimates accordingly. The expenditure of the Department during the year was as follows :—

Permanent services—

Head Office : Comprising general expenses of						£
administration	..	..	..	..	..	25,336
Dominion Laboratory (with branches)	..	..	..	..	..	60,993
Dominion Observatory	..	..	..	..	..	2,534
Geological Survey	..	..	..	..	..	33,586
Magnetic Observatory	..	..	..	..	..	5,533
Dominion Physical Laboratory	..	..	..	..	..	106,446
Auckland Industrial Development Laboratories	19,593
Apia Observatory	2,642
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						256,663
Research investigations	230,908
Grants and miscellaneous services, including Information						
Bureau and Scientific Liaison Services	93,311
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						580,882
Recoveries	82,443
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						<u>£498,439</u>

Grants made to research and allied institutions in Great Britain, £6,785.

PERSONNEL

The personnel of the Department and its disposal at 31st March, 1947, was as follows :—

Auckland Industrial Development Laboratories	..	..	25	Geological Survey	..	..	40
Dairy Research Institute	..	..	28	Head Office and district offices	..	..	75
Defence Development Section	..	..	33	Information Bureau	..	..	15
Dominion Laboratory and district branches	..	..	98	Industrial Psychology	..	..	4
Dominion Physical Laboratory	..	161		Observatories : Apia, Magnetic, and Dominion	..	..	19
Canterbury Project	..	27		Plant Research Bureau and five Divisions	..	..	125
Fats Research Laboratory	..	12		Soil Bureau	..	..	51
Fruit Research	..	6		Miscellaneous	..	..	21

Total staff, including clerical officers, typists, technicians, and professional officers, 776 (312 permanent and 464 temporary). A considerable deficit of experienced research officers exists in almost all branches of the Department, and as a consequence work of national importance is either seriously delayed or cannot be undertaken at all.

A committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Mr. T. H. McCombs, M.P., to study the scientific man-power questions of the Dominion.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS

The policy regarding research associations directly responsible to industry has been actively pursued, and, in addition to those previously reported, the Pottery and Ceramic Research Association is now firmly established, and a Fertilizer Research Association also. Further research associations are under discussion dealing with (a) laundry and dry-cleaning, and (b) hops.