

II. Curriculum.

The curriculum should include attendance at the University College in English and in some other subject approved for each student by the Principal of the Training College; and, in considering the course to be taken up by any student, the requirements of the Teachers' Certificate Examination, and, if possible, of a University degree, should receive due weight. The curriculum should also include—

(i.) The several branches of the subject of education, as defined by the regulations for the examination of teachers in classes A, B, and C, the instruction being given either at the University College or at the Training College, except as regards methods of teaching, which must be given at the Training College.

(ii.) A special course of kindergarten work and science for public schools.

(iii.) A course in drawing, singing, needlework, &c.

(iv.) A course in other subjects of manual instruction.

(ii.), (iii.), and (iv.) would be given at the Training College.

(v.) Practice in teaching at the school connected with the Training College.

III. Staff, Salaries, &c.

The following grants would be available:—

1. The statutory salaries in a school of the size of the practising school and in a small model country school (that is, two schools) in accordance with the Public-school Teachers' Salaries Act, with the house-allowances under the same Act.

2. £150 a year out of the grant already given to the Boards for special instruction of teachers in the manual instruction suitable for public schools, and the capitation payable for such classes under the Manual and Technical Instruction Act.

3. The district-high-school grants which would be payable in the secondary class of a district high school of not more than forty pupils, as referred to under clause (k) of the Committee's report.

4. A sum of £600 out of the Consolidated Fund.

5. A sum of £100 to be paid to the Principal if selected as Lecturer on Education at the University College. (See clause (f) of the Education Committee's report.)

6. The allowances already referred to for students.

It is suggested that the sums 2, 3, 4, and 5 should be allotted partly as additions to the salary involved in strengthening the staff of the school as a practising school for the Training College, so that the staff should be sufficient for the school without the assistance of either students or pupil-teachers, and partly to provide for the instruction in special work, including that of providing a tutor for those who require special attention to enable them to profit by the lectures at the University College.

IV. Size of School.

It is suggested that the best size for a practising school attached to the Training College should be one of about two hundred and fifty pupils, but local circumstances may make it desirable that this number should be increased to, say, not more than four hundred pupils.

I should be glad to have an early reply to this letter, in order that the next steps may be taken in the establishment of the Training College. The report of the Education Committee is annexed.

G. HOGBEN,
Secretary for Education.

No. 4.

REPORT ON NORMAL SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH.

SIR,—

I have the honour to present my report on the work of the Normal School for the year 1903.

At the beginning of the year 21 pupil-teachers who had completed their course as such entered the Normal School as students. Of these, 16 were females and 5 males. Five of the previous year's students were retained for a second year. Of the new students, 3 had already matriculated (of whom one had also obtained D) and 2 had passed higher University examinations. In addition to these the Board admitted 9 other students (8 being females and 1 male) who had not been pupil-teachers, but who were University undergraduates at various stages of the degree course. Of these, all except one took up some work at Canterbury College, and at the end of the year 1 of them passed her final B.A. examination, 2 passed the first half of the B.A., and 1 passed the second year at Canterbury College, while 4 others sat for the Departmental examination for D.

Of the students who had been pupil-teachers, 1 passed the B.A., another passed the first half of the B.A., and another passed first year at Canterbury College. Twenty-two sat for the Department's certificate examination, as also did the 4 non-pupil teachers before referred to. The result was that 6 obtained full D, 10 obtained partial D (including one who also obtained full E), and 7 obtained partial E. These results are such as I, for my part, cannot regard as satisfactory. But they are quite as good as I anticipated, for in arranging the work for the year I had to accept a plan not in accord with my own judgment. Some allowance, however, must be made for the time lost through the epidemics of the year, one of which—sore throat—always requires care in the case of a teacher to prevent the sufferer from having later relapses, entailing periodical absences from school, and consequent additional expense to the Board.

At a time when it is the fashion to declaim against the certificate examinations as being of no difficulty whatever it is instructive to note that of the four University undergraduates who sat for the D examination, and who had not been pupil-teachers, not one succeeded in passing for a full D, and one obtained only a partial E.