

Teachers' Training Classes.—Saturday classes were again held during the year at New Plymouth and Stratford, and instruction given in cookery, drawing, cardboard-work, nature-work, botany, physiology and first aid, physiography, and agricultural chemistry. The number on the roll of the several classes must be considered fairly satisfactory, forty being in attendance at New Plymouth and twenty at Stratford, but the regularity, especially towards the end of the session, fell off considerably. At the close of the session six teachers came up for the examination in physiology and first aid, conducted under the St. John's Ambulance Association by Drs. Blackley and Wylie, and four gained the certificate awarded by the society. Examinations in handwork were also conducted at New Plymouth and Stratford by the Education Department's Inspector, and several of our teachers came up for examination. I should again like to impress on teachers the advisability of sitting for such examinations as the City and Guilds and the South Kensington Examinations. Certificates from such institutions are recognised in every part of the world; and it is only reasonable to expect that in a few years' time the Department, instead of appointing special instructors, will require public-school teachers to give instruction in subjects such as cookery, woodwork, &c.; and in making appointments the various Boards will perforce give preference to candidates holding certificates in these subjects.

Technical Classes.

Technical classes were held during the year at New Plymouth, Stratford, and Inglewood. Two hundred and thirty students were enrolled at New Plymouth, 86 at Stratford, and 15 at Inglewood, as compared with 181, 75, and 40 in 1907. This is very gratifying, and indicates that the training afforded by the classes is fully appreciated by the students. As far as possible the course of instruction is mapped out to meet the requirements of the City and Guilds, the South Kensington, the Teachers' D and C, the Matriculation and the Civil Service Examinations. The work undertaken comprised the class preparing for Standard VI, and classes for commercial arithmetic, English (junior and senior), Latin, drawing, painting, building and machine-construction, mathematics, plumbing, dressmaking, cookery, millinery, wood-carving, carpentry and joinery, book-keeping, shorthand, commercial law, electricity, chemistry, and agriculture. Of these classes special mention might be made of the classes recently established in commercial law, millinery, and chemistry of agriculture, which were well attended, and proved both interesting and popular with the students. An examination in plumbing was again conducted at Stratford by the Health Department, when eight students from Eltham, Stratford, and New Plymouth presented themselves. Five of these secured the full pass and two a partial pass. The successes gained in the special examinations and in the examinations conducted by the instructors at the close of the session give a fairly true indication that during the past year good sound work has been done, and that the classes are fulfilling to some extent the object for which they were established.

W. A. BALLANTYNE, Director.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending 31st December, 1908, in respect of Special Classes conducted at New Plymouth.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Capitation on special classes	84	15	3	Balance at beginning of year	512	5	7
Capitation on account of free places	10	16	6	Salaries of instructors	234	19	4
Buildings	317	8	0	Office expenses (including salaries, stationery, &c.)	46	12	3
Rent	9	15	0	Advertising and printing	27	13	0
Furniture, fittings, apparatus	329	2	5	Lighting and heating	11	14	0
Material	44	16	5	Insurance and repairs	13	5	4
Subsidies on voluntary contributions	103	12	11	Examinations, &c.	2	2	0
Fees	176	10	0	Material for class use	32	17	4
Voluntary contributions	70	17	10	Caretaker	18	12	6
Deposit fees	21	17	0	Refunds	16	17	0
Goods sold	0	17	6	Library books	5	19	8
Refunds, &c.	14	1	4	Improving grounds	124	14	11
				Furniture, fittings, and apparatus	59	18	0
				Balance at end of year	76	19	3
	£1,184	10	2		£1,184	10	2

R. G. WHETTER, for Secretary.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending 31st December, 1908, in respect of Special Classes conducted at Stratford.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Capitation on special classes	113	9	6	Balance at beginning of year	155	1	8
Capitation on account of free places	13	1	0	Administration and maintenance—			
Buildings	20	0	0	Salaries of instructors	52	1	6
Rent	6	5	0	Office expenses (including salaries, stationery, &c.)	51	0	5
Furniture, fittings, apparatus	65	19	8	Advertising and printing	7	7	9
Material	9	2	8	Lighting and heating	0	19	10
Subsidies on voluntary contributions	10	0	0	Insurance and repairs	0	1	6
Fees	50	13	0	Examinations, &c.	5	5	0
Voluntary contributions	10	0	0	Material for class use	5	2	6
Deposit fees	2	10	0	Caretaker	8	15	0
Goods sold	2	2	3	Refunds	0	4	2
Rent of rooms	3	0	0	Library books	0	10	0
				Fencing	0	17	6
				Furniture, fittings, and apparatus	4	10	10
				Balance at end of year	14	5	5
	£306	3	1		£306	3	1

R. G. WHETTER, for Secretary.