

school for salaries and incidentals during the year, and the following table gives the annual totals† under the two headings from 1878 to the present year :—

Year.	Salaries.			Incidental Expenses.			Totals.			Average Attendance.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1878 .. ..	31,919	0	0	6,276	6	9	38,195	6	9	9,641
1883 .. ..	42,240	19	10	6,090	15	9	48,331	15	7	12,844
1888 .. ..	50,749	14	6	6,400	7	5	57,150	6	3	15,920
1893 .. ..	56,291	15	9	6,871	14	10	63,163	10	7	17,543
1898 .. ..	55,390	3	11	5,933	11	1	62,323	15	0	17,580
1901 .. ..	55,320	19	5	6,579	5	0	61,900	4	5	16,591
1902 .. ..	57,117	16	2	6,046	14	2	63,164	10	4	16,747
1903 .. ..	56,748	2	10	5,922	10	7	62,670	13	5	16,227
1904 .. ..	55,579	11	2	6,027	5	8	61,606	16	10	16,712
1905 .. ..	57,965	18	7	6,717	16	4	64,683	14	11	16,923
1906 .. ..	62,939	2	10	6,759	16	3	69,698	19	1	16,876
1907 .. ..	64,240	10	2	6,694	12	11	70,935	3	1	16,232
1908 .. ..	65,218	15	9	6,825	12	1	72,044	7	10	17,536
1909 .. ..	73,133	5	10	7,107	10	1	80,240	15	11	17,634
1910 .. ..	75,389	11	8	6,487	11	11	81,877	3	7	18,063
1911 .. ..	77,493	7	0	6,693	7	7	84,186	14	7	18,920

TRAINING COLLEGE.—It is with great regret that the Board has to report the death of Mr. E. Watkins, B.A., Principal of the Christchurch Training College, which took place on the 13th April of the present year. In losing the services of its late Principal the Board has been deprived of an able administrator who has made his influence felt throughout the Dominion. Appointed in 1895, after a long and well-proved service as tutor, Mr. Watkins held the position of Principal for nearly seventeen years, during the whole of which period he applied himself to his onerous duties with great assiduity and with a whole-hearted devotion that has commanded the respect and esteem of all who have been closely connected with him. The changes that have taken place during recent years in the management of the training colleges, resulting in the issue of regulations by the Department, have brought anxieties to those directly responsible for the training of our young teachers. It is not perhaps always possible for a central authority, located at a distance, to fully realize the difficulties that are met with in actual practice. That the management of the Christchurch Training College has been attended by more than ordinary difficulty of late years is well known, and it is therefore all the more a matter for congratulation that the Board at such a time can unhesitatingly express appreciation of the sound professional training its students have received under the wise and kindly control of the late Principal. Applications for the vacancy will be invited forthwith, and in the meantime, in order that the work of the College, both in the training and practising departments, may be continued with as little interruption as possible, the Board has appointed Mr. T. S. Foster, M.A., Acting-Principal. Mr. Foster's report, which is appended,‡ gives the number of students admitted during the year 1911, and other statistical information. During the year the Board decided to establish a junior kindergarten class in connection with the Training College, so as to afford facilities to those students who are desirous of taking up this branch of school-work. A start was made at the commencement of October, under a specially qualified assistant mistress.

SCHOLARSHIPS.—Thirty-two candidates (of whom twenty-seven qualified) sat for the Board's Senior Scholarship—viz., nineteen boys and thirteen girls. In the junior class there were sixty-six candidates (thirty-six boys and thirty girls), of whom only thirty-five qualified. One hundred and thirty-eight candidates (seventy-two boys and sixty-six girls) sat for the Junior National Scholarship Examination, of whom eighty-one qualified. For the Gammack Scholarships there were ten candidates. The first four in order of merit qualified for and elected to take either a Junior University or Senior National Scholarship. The fifth in order of merit having been awarded a military scholarship, the Board's awards of Gammack Scholarships fell to two scholars, both of whom obtained, in that order, credit in the examination.

Lists of scholarships, mainly of local interest, have been omitted.

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE.—In his report for the year 1911 the Truant Officer points out that up to August the attendance was very good, but that afterwards sickness among the children reduced it considerably. The names of a great many irregular attenders were submitted by head teachers, and notices were sent to parents representing 3,012 children. It was not found necessary to take Court proceedings in more than fifty-one cases, in twenty-nine of which fines were inflicted. From Mr. Blank's report the Board gathers that the absence of children from school on the plea of ill health is not always justified, and that in some cases where the Court had been asked to believe that children nearly fourteen years of age were unfit to attend school the supposed invalids, on reaching the age exempting them from the provisions of the Act, were discovered by their parents to be fit for farm life or work in a factory. It is admittedly difficult to deal with cases of this kind, which, however, the Board trusts are few in number.

MANUAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.—The report of the Director of Manual Training on the school classes held in Christchurch, and the reports from the several outlying centres on manual and technical classes generally, are appended. The lease of the building known as the School of Domestic Instruction (Christchurch), in which cookery and laundry-work classes have been carried

\* See Appendix E of this Report.

† Condensed into five-yearly periods from 1878 to 1901.

‡ See Appendix D of this Report.