

The Board has arranged at the breaking-up of the school to have the sports-ground drained, levelled, and grassed; also for asphaltting the assembling-ground and the formation of an asphalt tennis-court for the girls, at a total cost of about £150. The most important matter for the near future is the providing of boarding-accommodation. During the summer months some twenty pupils are boarding in various parts of the town; during winter this number is increased. The advantages would be great if the whole of those whose homes are distant from the school could be provided with accommodation in one building under the supervision of those who are concerned in the welfare of the pupils and the school. It would also desirably limit the number of those who now travel daily by train, and unquestionably more parents would take advantage of the High School privileges if only they were sure of such supervision when their sons and daughters were away from home. The problem with the Board is one of money.

The duties of the Board have been made pleasant by reason of the willing co-operation of both the staff and the Department.

G. HERVEY, Chairman.

2. WORK OF THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST CLASSES.

Highest.—English—Nesfield's Historical English and Derivation; Shakespeare's Hamlet; Macaulay's Essay on Milton; Milton's Comus, L'Allegro, Il Penseroso, and Lycidas; Palgrave's Golden Treasury. Latin—Bradley's Arnold's Composition; Cicero, Second Philippic and Pro Milone; Virgil, Georgics, Book III; Wilkin's Roman Antiquities; Merivale and Pullar's History of Rome. French—Siepmann's Public School Primer; Dechamel's Prose Composition; Berthon's Specimens of Modern French Prose and Specimens of Modern French Verse; Wellington College French Grammar; Vecqueray's French Papers. Arithmetic—Workman's (the whole subject). Algebra—Hall and Knight's. Geometry—Hall and Stevens's. Trigonometry—Pendlebury's. In mathematics the work for the Junior University Scholarship Examination was covered. Electricity—Hadley's Elementary Electricity and Magnetism. Chemistry—Jago's Elementary Chemistry.

Lowest.—English—Nesfield's Oral Exercises in English Composition; Palgrave's Golden Treasury; Yoxall and Gregory's Word-builder and Speller; Scott's Talisman. Latin—Elementa Latina; Beresford's First Latin Reader. French—Siepmann's Primary French Course, Part I. Arithmetic—Workman's (omitting harder examples). Algebra—Hall and Knight's, to p. 107. Geometry—Hall and Stevens's, to p. 78. Geography—Longmans' Series, Book V; Elementary Physical Geography; Mills's Elementary Commercial Geography. History—Meiklejohn's History of England. Botany—C. Laurie's Elementary Botany. Physiology—Furneaux. Electricity—Hadley's Electricity and Magnetism for Beginners; Hadley's Exercises in Electricity and Magnetism. Chemistry—Varley's Progressive Chemistry; Donnington's Practical Exercises in Chemistry.

Commercial Side.—Shorthand—Pitman's Shorthand Commercial Course; Aesop's Fables in shorthand. Book-keeping—Thornton's Primer of Book-keeping; Thornton's Easy Exercises in Book-keeping. Precis-writing—Pitman's Indexing and Precis-writing.

SOUTHLAND HIGH SCHOOLS.

Staff.

Boys' School.—Mr. T. D. Pearco, M.A.; Mr. J. Williams, B.Sc.; Mr. J. P. Dakin, B.A.; Mr. J. S. McGrath, B.A.; Mr. J. B. Struthers, M.A.; Mr. P. C. Edmondson, B.A.; Mr. I. Galloway; Mr. J. Dickson.

Girls' School.—Miss N. Jobson, M.A.; Miss M. H. M. King, M.A.; Miss G. L. F. Opie, M.A., M.Sc.; Miss E. E. Law, M.A.; Miss V. C. Farnie, M.A.; Miss M. F. Dale, M.A.; Miss I. Laycock; Mr. I. Galloway; Mr. J. Dickson.

1. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

In accordance with the provisions of section 98 of the Education Act, 1908, the Southland High Schools Board of Governors has pleasure in placing before the Minister of Education the following brief summary of its proceedings for the year ended 31st December, 1912:—

The Board.—The personnel of the Board as at present constituted as follows: Mr. W. Macalister, B.A., LL.B. (Chairman), His Worship the Mayor of Invercargill (Mr. W. B. Scandrett), and Messrs. R. A. Anderson, A. F. Hawke, and J. Crosby Smith, F.L.S. Of the membership, Messrs. Macalister and Smith represent the Southland Education Board, Messrs. Anderson and Hawke being appointed as representatives of the Government. The Board held nine meetings during the year for the transaction of ordinary and special business, the attendance of members at which was quite satisfactory. The Board is gratified to be able to report another year's successful operations.

Teaching Staffs.—In the Boys' School the staff has undergone no change during the year, while in the Girls' School the only change was the appointment of Miss I. Laycock (Otago University) to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss A. M. Griffin, who retired from her position after some years of useful and acceptable service.

Attendance.—The attendance at the Boys' School showed an increase—the total enrolment being 179, of whom eighty-five were new boys—and this notwithstanding the fact that another institution (the day Technical College, under the jurisdiction of the Southland Education Board) was established early in the year. The Board is pleased to be able to report that the experience of the past year has shown that two such institutions as the Boys' High School and the day Technical College have each a sphere of educational influence and activity in which they may operate for the good of the whole community.

Inspection.—The schools were visited by Secondary Inspectors Dr. Anderson and Mr. T. H. Gill, M.A., in the month of September last, and their reports of the work done during the year and the general management of the schools were distinctly favourable.