

THE "SCHOOL JOURNAL," OTHER PUBLICATIONS, CHARTS, ETC.

The *School Journal* has now completed its seventh year of issue. It is published monthly except that there are no issues for the months of December and January, when most of the schools are closed for the summer vacation. To provide reading-matter for the time the schools are open during the month of December, the November number is considerably enlarged. The *School Journal* is published in three parts suited to the varying capacities of the pupils; and to public schools, to Native schools, special schools, and certain other institutions more or less under departmental control or supervision, copies are sent in sufficient numbers to provide each pupil on the roll of the standard classes with a copy of the appropriate part. To the institutions just mentioned the *School Journal* is supplied free of cost, and to a very large number of private schools it is supplied at moderate rates. Of the November issue (the last for the year) the number of copies printed was—Part I, 50,300; Part II, 48,000; Part III, 37,900.

In addition to the illustrations appearing in the pages of the *School Journal*, pictures and prints illustrating geography, history, and nature-study are issued separately on cards as aids to oral instruction on modern lines in these subjects. During the year a set of twenty-four pictures dealing with Europe geographically and historically was issued. With the assistance of the Department Messrs. Philip and Son, of London, published a Model Relief Map of New Zealand that has met with general approval. More than 2,000 were bought by Education Boards at a reduced rate arranged between the Department and the publishers, and a number of secondary schools were supplied on the same terms.

"A Manual of New Zealand Mollusca," by Mr. Suter, was published during the year, and further progress was made with the plates in connexion with the "Manual" and also with the plates of New Zealand flora published in connexion with Mr. Cheeseman's "Manual of New Zealand Flora."

The departmental library contains a large number of educational books and papers, most of which are available on loan to Inspectors, teachers of primary or secondary schools, and others interested in education.

Though the *School Journal* has been hitherto read in schools, there was no statutory recognition of it as a reading-book. In the recently issued "Regulations for the Inspection and Examination of Schools" it is, however, prescribed for use in schools.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

(Appendix F of E.—2.)

The result of some years' experience of the medical inspection of school-children in Europe and America has been to show that it is not necessary to examine all the children in a school every year; but that examination twice or three times during a child's school-life is sufficient in the case of primary schools. It has accordingly been decided that in New Zealand children of public schools shall for the present be examined by the Medical Inspectors when in Standard II and again when in Standard V. There is not yet a sufficient number of Inspectors to do more than examine sample children in Standard II in some of the schools, but it is hoped that it may be possible shortly to appoint a sufficient number not only to carry out the plan completely, but to give the necessary attention to special cases, and to give instruction to teachers in connexion with the work of inspection and with other matters that concern the health of the children. Teachers are asked to fill up certain more formal details for all the children; this should be done in each case, of course, by the teacher of the class, and need not take many hours altogether. When the cards are once filled up very little labour will keep them up to date. The advantages to be gained by the teacher's co-operation are obvious: the records of height and weight, the chief uses of which are to indicate defects where they exist, will be much more numerous; teachers have a better opportunity of discovering abnormal cases, and learn to take an intelligent interest in the health of their scholars.