

to co-operate with him, and do all in their power to further the laudable object he had in view. The Managers have also from time to time, whenever possible, given their assistance to the various patriotic functions, processions, &c.

The work of the classes, having been fully reviewed in the report of the Director, does not, except in the engineering department, call for any special comment. In both the mechanical and electrical branches of engineering the teaching has, as a result of the appointment of instructors holding special qualifications, been placed on a much more satisfactory basis. It is found, however, that the deficiency of apparatus and appliances for laboratory work in mechanical engineering, and still more so for electrical engineering, seriously hinders the teachers in their efforts. Bearing in mind the extra financial burdens imposed upon the Government during the present crisis, the Managers have refrained from asking for grants, and are doing their best with the means at their disposal. A large expenditure, however, is still required to put the teaching of these branches of engineering on a thoroughly satisfactory footing. In conclusion, the Managers have to place on record their appreciation of the financial assistance rendered by the general public and by local bodies. To the Education Department their thanks are due for the courteous and equitable spirit in which claims made on behalf of the school have always been dealt with by the Hon. Minister and his officers.

THOS. SCOTT, Chairman.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DUNEDIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

The Technical High School was attended by 304 pupils, distributed over the courses and classes as follows: Domestic course—First-year girls, 34; second- and third-year girls, 17; agricultural course—first-year boys, 10; industrial course—first-year boys, 30; second- and third-year boys, 20; commercial course—first-year pupils, 28 boys, 90 girls; second-year pupils, 10 boys, 41 girls; third- and fourth-year pupils, 24 girls.

The subjects comprising each of these courses have been set out in detail in previous reports. Therefore, with regard to the domestic course, suffice it to state that the same sound practical training continues to be given in cookery, housewifery, dressmaking, needlework, laundry-work, elementary science, physiology in connection with hygiene and first aid, together with regular instruction in drawing, household accounts, and English. Second-year pupils of this course have scope for the development of their individuality in table-decoration, in table-setting, and in the serving-up of luncheons and dinners. Further, the provision available for instruction in housewifery and house furnishing and decoration enables the instructors to instil fundamental principles regarding the selection and equipment of a home. In the agricultural course no further development has taken place, the programme of work being the same as that followed in 1914. The science lessons in this course will hereafter be on more practical lines. A plot of ground for experimental work, however, is an urgent necessity. The industrial course, designed to give a preliminary training suitable for lads destined to become handicraftsmen, continues to attract a large number of the lads entering the Technical High School. Most of the pupils of this course have a preference for engineering, and, judging from the remarks of employers, I gather that lads who have taken the course are found on entering the workshops to be not only more skilful in the use of tools, but also alert in comprehending instructions and following directions. The staff of the industrial course was greatly strengthened by the appointment of a teacher from the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, who at the beginning of the year took charge of the engineering department.

The commercial course continues to attract the larger proportion of the pupils attending the Technical High School, and the support accorded this branch of the work has enabled the College authorities to engage a very strong teaching staff of specialists. I have again to report that young people who have passed creditably through a two-years commercial training in the Technical College are regularly sought by business firms. It frequently happens, however, that commercial pupils, either on the reputation of the College or through the influence of friends, secure positions before completing the course, with the result that they thereafter learn special work at the expense of their employers, while their general education is neglected. This premature withdrawal of pupils not only from commercial work, but from all the courses of training is a serious practical hindrance to the full development of our recently established technical high schools. For these schools splendid buildings have been erected, full equipment provided, and the services of competent instructors secured. It is true hundreds of pupils enrol, but the great majority of these, before working half-way through the courses, depart, and their places are taken by others who do likewise. Thus valuable educational work is entered upon but not completed, and consequently the appreciable effect upon the general community is small.

The evening classes were attended by 1,277 individual students. The classification of these students was as follows: Junior free pupils, 209 males, 76 females; total, 285. Senior free pupils, 100 males, 73 females; total, 173. Other than free-place pupils, 355 males, 444 females; total, 799. Scholarship-holders, 15.

Last year the length of the session was increased from twenty-seven to thirty-six working-weeks, provision being made for three terms, instead of for two as in previous years. Owing, however, to unusual causes of interruption—patriotic gatherings, carnivals, &c.—the year was rather a broken one, and did not afford any reliable indication of the effect of the experiment. The commercial classes receive most support, and a satisfactory feature of this branch of the school work is that students, with few exceptions, attend grouped courses of instruction—that is, they receive tuition in two or more allied and dependent subjects—commercial arithmetic with book-keeping, English with commercial correspondence, shorthand with typewriting, &c. The domestic department continues to maintain its reputation, and not only are the classes for cookery, needlework, dressmaking, laundry-work, physiology, and hygiene well attended, but our teachers also