

The number of students in attendance at technical high schools during the year was as follows :—

	Technical High School.						Number of Students.	
							1917.	1918.
Auckland	535	595
Christchurch	453	532
Dunedin	339	422
Wellington	336	414
Invercargill	280	297
Wanganui	250	258
Napier	127	203
Westport	27	26
							2,347	2,747

The enrolment of students for the year, which shows an increase of 400 pupils—17 per cent. on that for 1917—must be regarded with satisfaction when it is recognized that these boys and girls were continuing their education beyond the primary stage, which in all probability would not have been the case had there been no technical high schools. Of the total number in attendance 698, or 55 per cent., received industrial training in mechanical and electrical engineering and allied trades, and 1,482 boys and girls took the commercial course. The number of pupils taking up the various courses provided was as follows :—

Course.							Number of Pupils.	
							Boys.	Girls.
Industrial .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	698	..
Commercial and general .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	390	1,092
Domestic .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	385
Agriculture .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	177	..
Art .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,265	1,482

It will be seen that nearly 54 per cent. of the pupils took commercial and general courses, probably due to the demand for the services of young persons so trained brought about by war conditions, but more probably due, as has been well said, to “the primal curse which demands that as soon as the law permits the children must be turned into money—must become wage-earners—contributors to the family exchequer.” The commercial course appears to be the shortest cut to this desired end; results from the economic standpoint may be questionable.

Capitation amounting to £32,474 was earned in respect of 2,692 pupils (of whom 2,455 were free pupils), as compared with £28,119 in 1917 in respect of 2,303 pupils. The average amounts of capitation earnings per head were £12·56 in the case of free pupils who qualified for capitation, and £6·9 in the case of other pupils.

NUMBER OF PUPILS RECEIVING FREE EDUCATION AT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS UNDER THE REGULATIONS FOR FREE PLACES.

			1918.			1917.		
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Junior free pupils	First year ..	..	700	711	1,411	595	627	1,222
	Second year ..	..	353	449	802	311	378	689
Senior free pupils	First year ..	..	84	152	236	82	115	197
	Second year ..	..	22	27	49	19	18	37
	Third year ..	..	3	3	6	1	4	5
Totals .. .. .	..	..	1,162	1,342	2,504	1,008	1,142	2,150

FINANCIAL.

The total capitation earnings of all classes, including technical high schools, amounted approximately to £67,391 (as compared with £61,868 for the previous year), of which £27,653 was earned by classes conducted by Education Boards, £36,368 by classes conducted by Technical School Boards and Managers, and £3,370 by classes conducted by University Colleges and High School Boards.