

The Canterbury College School of Art maintained the steady progress of recent years, the number of students increasing from 437 in 1921 to 513 in 1922. Excellent work was done in several branches of art, notably in life drawing and painting, and in such crafts as embroidery and needle-work. The school is strong on the painting side, but modelling has been relatively neglected owing to lack of accommodation. The growth of the school and the more perfect organization now possible demand that better provision should be made for modelling and for crafts, especially as architectural design is definitely a part of the school curriculum. With a view to strengthening this side of the work the College Council has made arrangements for obtaining the services of a competent modeller and craftsman from Great Britain.

The Christchurch Technical School shows a considerable increase in numbers—the Technical High School of over one hundred pupils, as compared with a drop of thirty in the previous year, and technical classes an increase of thirty-five on the numbers for the previous year. The enrolment comprised 651 Technical High School pupils and 1,670 technical-class students, a total of 2,321 individual students. During the year a range of new workshops was added to the buildings, which now contain some 21,400 square feet of workshop-space. As in the other principal centres, the Technical High School curricula are so arranged as to lead to the higher leaving-certificate and to qualify pupils for University bursaries in agriculture, engineering, and home science. As in previous years, special instruction in the subjects of domestic economy was given in connection with the Girls' Hostel.

A noteworthy feature of the technical-class work was the course for painters and decorators, attended during day hours by some fourteen trade apprentices, who were given time off by their masters for the purpose. A wide extension of this principle has long been advocated by technical-school directors as well as by most of the workers and some employers.

The evening trade classes were exceptionally well attended, there being, for example, some eighty apprentices in the woodworking trades attending special evening classes, while the plumbing and engineering classes were also well attended. A class in typography for trade learners deserves special mention. The staff of the school consists mainly of skilled and experienced teachers, and good work was evident in all departments. Voluntary contributions were received during the year from thirty-three bodies, the largest contribution being £300 from the City Council, a contribution which has been regularly made for a number of years.

Throughout the Canterbury District a number of small technical schools were conducted by local managers, as in previous years, though the numbers attending were largely reduced by restrictions imposed by the Government as a measure of economy. For the most part the classes dropped consisted mainly of adults, and in many instances the classes, though useful in themselves, were of no great educational value. Of the smaller schools, Timaru, with an enrolment of 451 pupils, was the largest, Ashburton, with 377, being next. Ashburton suffered as compared with the previous year through compulsory-attendance regulations being placed in abeyance, but did excellent work notwithstanding, and should soon recover its position and be stronger than before.

The Greymouth Technical School classes were somewhat smaller than in the previous year, the principal courses, as before, being engineering and commerce. At the end of the year the District High School was disestablished, and a Technical High School established in new buildings costing some £13,000, and erected on a site of about 5 acres, part of a Corporation reserve given by the town for the purpose.

Classes were held also at Kaiapoi, Pleasant Point, Temuka, and Waimate under the respective Boards of Managers in these places.

#### OTAGO DISTRICT.

The Home Science School of Otago University, under Professors Rawson and Strong, made, in the opinion of your Inspectors, a distinct advance during the year 1922 in the arrangement and content of the courses taken by both diploma and degree students, though the numbers in attendance were some twelve less than in the previous year. An important conference of past and present students was held during the year, largely to consider the present syllabuses of examinations in home science for secondary and technical-school pupils and the courses for training-college students.

A strong demand existed during the year for teachers of home science, and no difficulty was found in placing those who completed their courses.

Other classes in Otago University which earned capitation under the Manual and Technical Regulations were those for students of commercial subjects, of whom 114 attended, as compared with 100 each in Auckland and Canterbury in the same subjects.

The Dunedin Technical School, with which is now incorporated the Dunedin School of Art, shows an increase of pupils in the Technical High School and a slight decrease in evening classes. During the year the Art School was reorganized under two instructors trained at the Royal College of Art, London, with whose aid it is expected that this department will take the position which a school of art ought to occupy in a city of the size and importance of Dunedin.

Another important step taken by the managers during the year was to arrange for the completion of the main buildings by the erection of the G. M. Thomson wing, containing home-science lecture-rooms and laboratories. The cost of the new wing will be £7,060, part of which will be found locally and part granted by Government. The total cost of the buildings, excluding the Burt Hall, will then be about £39,500, of which £18,561 6s. 8d. will have been provided from Government grants. The buildings are convenient, economical to keep in order, sufficiently extensive, and well equipped; and the staff is capable in all branches and well balanced, with the result that the work in both day and evening classes is solid in character and on good practical lines.