

TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

The number of students in attendance at technical high schools in 1925 was 5,132, compared with 5,369 in the previous year.

The numbers of pupils taking the various courses provided were as follows :—

Course.	1925.			1924.			Com- parison with 1924.
	Number of Pupils.			Number of Pupils.			
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Commercial	469	1,333	1,802	515	1,255	1,770	+ 32
Industrial	1,330	1	1,331	1,349	..	1,349	— 18
General	606	323	929	720	375	1,095	—166
Domestic	744	744	..	778	778	— 34
Agricultural	280	..	280	332	..	332	— 52
Art	25	21	46	19	26	45	+ 1
Totals.. .. .	2,710	2,422	5,132	2,935	2,434	5,369	—237

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

	1925.			1924.			Com- parison with 1924.
	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	
Junior free pupils { First year ..	1,378	1,226	2,604	1,476	1,202	2,678	— 74
{ Second year ..	815	711	1,526	902	756	1,658	—132
Senior free pupils { First year ..	298	260	558	285	235	520	+ 38
{ Second year ..	82	66	148	90	89	179	— 31
{ Third year ..	27	28	55	36	15	51	+ 4
Totals.. .. .	2,600	2,291	4,891	2,789	2,297	5,086	—195

FINANCIAL.

The total amount due by the Department to the controlling authorities for the salaries and incidental expenses of all technical classes, including technical high schools for the year 1925, was approximately £148,090, made up as follows :—

Salaries of full-time teachers and Directors	100,158
Capitation for part-time teachers	19,643
Capitation for student teachers	1,968
Overtime payments	4,186
Incidental allowances	32,193
	158,148
Less recoveries from tuition fees	10,058
Totals	£148,090

CHILD WELFARE.

During last session the Child Welfare Act was passed by the Legislature. The Act provides for the creation of a special branch of the Education Department to be known as the Child Welfare Branch, and is designed to make better provision with respect to the maintenance, care, and control of children who are specially under the protection of the State, and to provide generally for the protection and training of indigent, neglected, or delinquent children.

An important section of the Act provides for the establishment of Children's Courts, to be presided over by Stipendiary Magistrates or Justices specially authorized to exercise jurisdiction in these Courts. Provision is made for the appointment of honorary associates of either sex, whose function it will be to consider