

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

		Technical High Schools.			Technical Day Schools.			Comparison with 1925 Technical High Schools only.
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Junior free pupils	First year ..	1,717	1,298	3,015	239	333	572	+411
	Second year ..	917	839	1,756	108	206	314	+230
Senior free pupils	First year ..	329	291	620	34	55	89	+62
	Second year ..	134	118	252	9	24	33	+104
	Third year ..	54	61	115	2	5	7	+60
Totals.. ..		3,151	2,607	5,758	392	623	1,015	+867

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 1926 was approximately £167,085, made up as follows:—

Salaries—		£	£
Full-time Principals and assistants .. ..	..	107,201	
Full-time student teachers .. ..	..	1,583	
Overtime for full-time teachers .. ..	..	6,944	
Capitation for part-time teachers .. ..	..	20,539	
Capitation for part-time student teachers .. ..	..	920	
			137,187
Incidentals .. ..	..		40,621
			177,808
Less recoveries from tuition fees .. ..	..		10,723
			<u>£167,085</u>

It is to be noted that from 1st February, 1926, the allowances for incidentals were increased from 26 per cent. to 30 per cent. of salaries, and that special grants for material were abolished. The above figures also include salaries and incidentals payable in respect of manual-training classes conducted by Technical School Boards (£5,930, approximately).

CHILD WELFARE.

FUNCTIONS OF CHILD WELFARE BRANCH.

The passing of the Child Welfare Act during 1925 marked an important stage in the progress of child-welfare work as carried out by the State. The Act provided for the creation of the Child Welfare Branch, whose function it is to maintain and train destitute, neglected, and delinquent children and young offenders. In addition to these functions the Branch provides for (1) the training of all afflicted children (deaf and feeble-minded) who cannot remain in their own homes and attend the special day classes for such cases; (2) investigations by Child Welfare officers regarding the conduct, family history, and home conditions of all children brought under the notice of Children's Courts, or young persons charged with offences; (3) investigation of all applications for the adoption of children; (4) preliminary inquiry regarding the suitability and *bona fides* of applicants for widows' pensions; (5) supervision by experienced female officers of all infants and young children under the age of six years who are maintained apart from their parents or guardians; (6) the oversight of all young offenders who are placed under supervision by the Children's Courts; (7) for the supervision of all illegitimate births, to ensure that these infants are properly placed and properly cared for (at the same time the Child Welfare officers carrying out this work endeavour to assist the single