

Termination of Kindergarten Class.—It is to be recorded, I think with great regret, that our kindergarten class of the Normal School is to cease its existence with the current year. This class, established many years ago, has rendered admirable service in the training of students as well as in the education of its children.

Third-year Students.—For the first time in the history of the College we have had a number of students taking a third-year course. As the arrangement for their remaining in College came on us unexpectedly towards the end of the year, no well-organized scheme of work had been prepared. However, the students proved themselves individually capable of making good use of their time, and took full advantage of the opportunity for useful study both in College and at the University. One regret in regard to the third-year course in 1927 has been the lack of sufficient opportunity for practice in teaching in secondary grade. In many ways the third-year students proved of great help in College, so that I hope it will be possible for us always to have some third-year students.

Students' Social Life.—The students again have shown remarkably fine capacity for organizing their sports and general social life. The well-being of College is largely dependent on this. It is very satisfactory to realize that the majority of students are living a vigorous healthy life with its accompanying happiness. The senior teams in all our sports reached a standard of skill of which the College may well be proud.

Once again I record my appreciation of the kindness, consideration, and courtesy of the Chairman and officers of your Board, and of the officers of the Education Department. To my own staff I am deeply indebted for their loyal and efficient service in a trying year, and I take great pleasure once more in expressing the admiration and pleasure with which I realize their unity and good-fellowship as the strongest factor contributing to efficient College work.

WELLINGTON.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the work of the College for the year 1927.

New Students.—There was again a marked improvement in the qualifications of the Division A students admitted at the beginning of the year. It is obviously quite an opportune time to raise the standard of admission to that of the University Entrance Examination, which is recognized by all authorities as the minimum standard for entrance to the learned professions.

Accommodation.—The most pressing need to-day is for increased accommodation in certain departments which are quite inadequately provided for. An additional laboratory for science work, staff-rooms and students' common rooms are urgently required to provide conditions suitable for efficient organization.

Staff.—There have been numerous changes in the staff since 1926. At the end of the second term Mr. Gould resigned from his position as Principal of the College to become Professor of Education at Victoria University College. In his new capacity he becomes a member of the Board of Advice, and therefore remains closely associated with the work of the College. I was called upon to act in the capacity of Acting-Principal for the remainder of the year. Miss Aitken, Lecturer in English, left at the end of the first term for England to be married, and her place was taken at the beginning of the third term by Miss Paterson, M.A., Edin. Univ. Miss Joyce resigned her position as Lecturer in Nature-study at the end of the year. Miss Sheppard and Mr. Thomas, who had been on the staff for four years as Lecturers' Assistants, terminated their connection with the College at the end of the year.

Warden of Women Students.—A new departure was inaugurated by the Department in the creation of a Warden of women students in each of the Training Colleges. Miss Irvine-Smith, M.A., was selected for the position at this College.

University and College Work.—Owing to the fact that science classes at the University are held during the daytime, the attendance of students at College lectures and at teaching practice is seriously interfered with. The provision of a third-year studentship for certain science students who elect to remain has not solved completely this difficulty, and the position still presents one of the unsolved problems respecting our organization.

Students' Teaching Practice.—There has been a distinct departure from the scheme operating last year. All student practice was previously limited to the Normal Schools and to such class-rooms where the associate teaching system obtained. This necessitated the placing of two or more students under each teacher almost continuously, with the result that the amount of actual training available to each student was all too limited. The new regulations requiring the schools of the city and its environs to provide teaching practice as required came into being at the beginning of the year. The headmasters were asked to co-operate. In general, the plan adopted was as follows: The Kelburn Normal School and Thorndon Associate School continued as hitherto, but the number of students to each class-room was more restricted. The outside schools and the Colleges undertook for a month each term to place one student under one teacher as far as it was found necessary.

Owing to the fact that travelling-expenses have not been allowed to students, the schools in the immediate neighbourhood have carried more than their fair share of teaching practice. A more equitable distribution of this work over all the schools could be obtained at a very moderate cost to the Department if travelling-expenses were provided. With this one reservation as to the incidence of teaching practice it may be said that the new system is entirely satisfactory. This measure of success is due in no small degree to the wholehearted spirit of co-operation shown by the headmasters and their staffs. I cannot adequately express my appreciation of their efforts on our behalf.

Model Schools.—The most important part of the students' teaching practice is that obtained in the model schools at Thorndon, since this is the commonest type of school the young teacher is called