The following figures must consequently be given with some reserve, but they are probably not far from the truth :—

	Average Length of School Life. Yrs. m.
Secondary schools	.. 2 8
Combined schools	.. 2 5
Technical high and day schools	.. 2 1
Secondary departments of district high schools.. ..	.. 2 2
All post-primary schools	.. 2 4

In the case of pupils who enter upon post-primary courses and leave during the same year, the Department has been furnished with information showing in months the duration of the period of attendance of such pupils, and this information is tabulated below. The totals shown in the table are slightly below those shown as leaving in the first year in the table immediately preceding. This difference is due to the fact that the table below concerns only pupils who commenced and terminated their post-primary courses in the same year, while the table above includes under " first year " pupils who, though in the first year of a post-primary course when they left, actually commenced that course in a previous calendar year or at a private secondary school.

TABLE Q 2.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO COMMENCED POST-PRIMARY COURSES IN 1931 AND WHO DEFINITELY LEFT IN THE SAME YEAR.

Type of School.	During First Month of Course.		During Second Month of Course.		During Third Month of Course.		During Fourth Month of Course.		During Fifth Month of Course.		During Sixth Month of Course.		During Seventh Month of Course.		During Eighth Month of Course.		During Ninth Month of Course.		During Tenth Month of Course.		During Eleventh Month of Course.		Total.	
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
Secondary schools	5	5	7	5	11	12	12	16	12	9	17	16	32	19	18	10	27	12	20	23	191	249	352	376
Percentage	1		2		3		4		3		5		7		4		5		6		60		100	
Combined schools	3	6	1	1	2	2	1	—	1	—	2	—	6	12	—	1	—	1	..		..		16	23
Percentage*	23		5		10		3		3		5		46		3		3		..		..		100	
Technical schools	12	9	18	7	21	16	33	24	24	17	29	28	36	25	38	17	30	29	40	32	299	350	580	554
Percentage	2		2		3		5		4		5		6		5		5		6		57		100	
Secondary departments of district high schools	6	15	12	9	13	6	12	11	8	11	26	14	34	17	30	21	27	16	25	23	143	152	336	295
Percentage	3		3		3		4		3		6		8		8		7		8		47		100	
Totals	26	35	38	22	47	36	58	51	45	37	74	58	108	73	86	49	84	58	85	78	633	751	1,284	1,248
Percentage	3		3		3		4		3		5		7		5		6		6		55		100	

* The percentages given here for combined schools have little statistical value as both schools concerned were badly affected by the Hawke's Bay earthquake, and conditions were abnormal.

18. FREE PLACES IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The following table gives the number of free-place holders in post-primary schools in 1930 and 1931 :—

TABLE R.—FREE-PLACE HOLDERS AS AT 1ST JULY.

	Secondary Schools.		Combined Schools.		Technical High and Day Schools.		Secondary Departments of District High Schools.		Junior High Schools.		Maori Secondary Schools.*		All Post-primary Schools.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Junior free places	5,636	5,115	169	145	3,716	2,978	2,079	1,864	159	155	65	73	11,824	10,330
Senior free places	3,213	2,262	91	56	996	728	675	605	..	..	5	..	4,980	3,651
Totals	8,849	7,377	260	201	4,712	3,706	2,754	2,469	159	155	70	73	16,804	13,981
Grand totals, 1931 ..	16,226		461		8,418		5,223		314		143		30,785	
Grand totals, 1930 ..	16,056		..		7,853		4,564		172		167		28,812	
Difference	+170		+461		+565		+659		+142		− 24		+1,973	

* As at end of year.