

PART III.—SCHOOL HYGIENE.

I have the honour to report on the work of the Division of School Hygiene for the year ended 31st March, 1934.

STAFF.

There has been no recent alteration in the personnel of the school medical and nursing staff, which consists of a Director, ten School Medical Officers, and twenty-five school nurses. In the East Cape, North Auckland, and Taranaki districts, Doctors Turbott, Cook, and Champtaloup respectively continue to act as both Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer for the district.

The work of the school nursing staff has been carried out with interest and capability.

It was found impracticable to continue in Taranaki the arrangement with the Red Cross Society, by which Miss Corkill (Red Cross nurse) and Miss Small (school nurse) carried out combined duty as Red Cross and school nurses. Public confidence in these officers resulted in an excessive demand upon their services, so that reorganization became necessary and arrangements were made for Miss Small to carry on duty as school nurse in North Taranaki, Miss Corkill relinquishing her school nursing duties, and Miss Jewiss being appointed district nurse with headquarters at Opunake; Miss Small and Miss Jewiss now work under the direction of the Health Department only.

The arrangement by which district nurses now act as school nurses has resulted in better supervision and care of the health of children in outlying districts. The district nurse may be appealed to for assistance in all local health problems, and is able to deal with them directly and to utilize without delay all available facilities for prevention and cure.

Arrangements have been made for Miss Hodges, who has been acting as school nurse, Wellington, to be transferred to the position of district nurse and school nurse in the Wairarapa, with headquarters at Masterton, with the object of giving closer attention not only to the school nursing work of the district but also to the various Maori communities scattered throughout that area.

FIGURES RELATING TO WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN 1933.

The following summary serves to indicate the extent of work accomplished during the school period February to December, 1933 :—

Schools inspected—					
Of roll under 100	..	..	..	..	817
Of roll 100 to 500	..	..	..	..	385
Of roll over 500	..	..	..	..	120
					— 1,322
Children examined—					
Complete examinations	..	..	..	..	57,566
Partial examinations	..	..	..	..	51,876
					— 109,442
Number of notifications sent to parents	..	..	..	..	37,543
Number of addresses to school-children	..	..	..	..	575
Number of parents interviewed	..	..	..	..	9,355
Number of lectures or addresses to parents	..	..	..	..	54

The figures for the work of the school nurses are as follows :—

Number of days assisted Medical Officer in schools	..	..	..	1,704½
Number of children examined for medical schedule (H. Sch. 14)	..	..	..	90,858
Number of days engaged wholly in clerical work	..	..	..	1,036½
Number of children re-examined after Medical Officer's inspection	..	..	..	39,001
Number of children examined by special request	..	..	..	12,096
Number of visits to homes in—				
Large towns	..	..	..	7,580
Small country towns	..	..	..	2,871
Scattered districts	..	..	..	1,569
				— 12,020
Number of children taken personally to hospital, &c.	..	..	..	981
Number of children taken personally to dental clinic	..	..	..	419
Number of health talks given	..	..	..	961