

If we omit cases of congenital mental deficiency, who are not eligible for admission under this category, voluntary boarders now form slightly over 25 per cent. of our admissions. During 1938 there were 329 voluntary admissions, of whom 269 or 81.7 per cent. were discharged within twelve months. In the case of 26 boarders whose mental disorder became in degree sufficiently pronounced and sustained as to render it improper for them to remain on a voluntary basis, a reception order was granted.

ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Capital expenditure incurred upon new buildings, additions, and improvements during the year amounted to £128,816, and the following summary shows the major items making up the total:

Auckland (£907).

Water-supply has been improved for fire-fighting purposes.
The new kitchen at M. 3 Ward has been completed.

Kingseat (£71,149).

The hospital block is now complete and will be occupied at an early date.
The boiler-house and laundry machinery has been installed and is now in operation. The butchery and bakery will be in use at an early date.
Two male villas and a Nurses' Home are in course of erection.
The workshops block and garages for departmental vehicles are nearing completion.
Residences for the Medical Superintendent and Engineer have been completed.
Necessary roading, water-supply, and telephone services have been extended.

Tokanui (£6,903).

The provision of separate kitchens in wards has been of great advantage.
The water-supply to the institution has been improved.
A new villa for male patients should be ready for occupation during the coming year.

Porirua (£23,948).

The new boiler-house and workshops block will be ready for occupation at an early date.
The new bakehouse and butcher's shop is in course of erection.
A cottage has been provided for an additional Assistant Medical Officer.
The general roading has been improved during the year.

Nelson and Ngawhatu (£15,458).

The Nurses' Home is nearing completion and will be occupied at an early date.
Three new villas are in course of erection.

Hokitika (£1,140).

A commencement has been made with the erection of two additional villas.
A bicycle-shed has been erected for the use of staff.

Christchurch (£5,974).

Extensive alterations are being carried out in the main kitchen block.
A suitable building has been erected which will allow of an extension of occupational therapy work.

Templeton Farm Colony (£810).

The equipment for the new laundry has been installed and will be in operation at an early date.

Seacliff (£2,527).

A new sick-bay with surgery has been erected in F. 4 Ward.
At Waitati a new kitchen and bathroom have been added to F. 1 Ward.

PROGRAMME FOR CURRENT YEAR.

Auckland.—A new entrance porch will be constructed at No. 7 female ward, which is the admission ward, and this will greatly improve the arrangements for visitors to recently admitted patients.

The Mount Albert Borough Council's disused pumping-station is being utilized as a male occupation centre. With certain fairly inexpensive alterations, this building will be very suitable for this purpose.

It is intended to erect a hairdressing saloon.

Kingseat. The Nurses' Home has been commenced and should be ready for occupation by the end of the year. It is hoped to proceed with the erection of quarters for single male staff, and two new villas will be completed.

Tokanui. A very active programme of reconstruction is being carried out at Tokanui, with the view to converting the various wards and groups of wards into separate villas, each self-contained in regard to dining, cooking, &c. This programme should be completed by the end of the year.

It is hoped to erect a new bakehouse, butcher's shop, boiler-house, and laundry.

Porirua.—Plans are almost completed for the erection of several new kitchens in the main building and a remodelling of that at the lower building. This scheme includes an enlargement of the main hall which is very necessary.