

We have come this evening, primarily, to extend our congratulations and good wishes to those students who have successfully completed their two years training, and qualified for their diplomas, and we hope to entertain you, so long speeches are neither necessary, nor welcome. However, it is fitting to say a few words about the students' training, and the people who have helped with it. Kindergarten work has many facets, and reports of its different activities in different fields may be found elsewhere.

Forty Students commenced training at the beginning of the year, and thirty-six completed the year's work. Of these, 20 were second years, 19 of whom will be given their diplomas, and the badge of the Association, this evening. They are:

Robin Beckett.
Reon Boyens.
Betty Carpenter.
Pauline Cunningham
Nola Downey.
Joyce Fitness.
Elizabeth Harris.
Nancy Hayman.
Christine Hayne.
Zara Headland.
Avis Hodges.
Doreen Johnson.
Noreen Jones.
Naomi Laurenson.
Helen Maslen.
Pamela Richards.
Helen Storey.
Dawn Turner.
Jacqueline Wake.

Three of these girls have been awarded an Honour Diploma... Nancy Hayman, Naomi Laurenson, and Helen Maslen. Shirley Parkes, owing to illness, was not able to sit for the examinations, but will complete hers next year.

We are very fortunate in having our own fine premises for training. The whole of the upper floor of this building has been made available for our use, and in July 1946, we took possession. Since then, we have hoped, and hoped, to have certain alterations made for us, and we are still hoping!... We have, however, just last month, acquired some of the furnishings, which, when completed, will add greatly to the efficiency of the work, and the comfort and convenience of the Students. It has been disappointing for this group of Students not to have enjoyed the furnishing of the balcony as a common-room, as is intended, for in April they organised an afternoon's entertainment and sale of work, in order to raise funds to help with this. The sum of £25 resulted, which has not yet been spent, but they will make that contribution to the Kindergarten life of future students. Some of the Kindergarten Mothers' Clubs have also made generous donations towards our furnishings.

The Students have held social evenings, which were very successful, and at which the Seniors and Juniors took turns at being hostesses. In the winter, at Miss Fair's suggestion, they formed a basket-ball team, and, in a competition, in which various teams competed, they were the victors, bringing back to us a silver challenge cup.

A visitor to some of our Kindergartens, Lady Ellis, mentioned the work of the Patterson Settlement near Suva, Fiji, where a school is being carried on in an area set aside by the Government, to re-establish people from a war devastated region. The Students, with Miss Middleton, who takes them for Handwork, offered to make a collection of toys, partly for the children's pleasure, and partly to give some ideas and suggestions as to suitable toys that could be made from very simple materials. These were packed, and sent to the Settlement, and subsequently, Lady Ellis came and gave the girls a very interesting talk on the work that is being done there.

We stand now on the threshold of changes in the Kindergarten system in N.Z. In October 1945, a Committee was set up by the Minister of Education, to prepare a report, and make recommendations as to future policy, in regard to Pre-School Education. That report is now available to anyone who wishes to read it, and we await with great interest the decision of the Government regarding it. If it is adopted, the future of Kindergarten work should be placed on a more secure basis, and the prospects for girls taking up this work would be similar to those in other branches of the teaching service. It is certain that under our present system we cannot expand fast enough to meet the greatly increasing demands for Kindergartens which are constantly reaching us from all quarters.

What makes a girl want to be a Kindergarten teacher? The question is often asked of applicants for training, "Why do you wish to do this work?" First of all, there must be a love of little children, and a desire to be with them, and no girl will make a success of the work who does not fulfil this essential requirement. The work is often tiring, sometimes discouraging, but it is never monotonous, because human personalities are unpredictable, and no two days are ever the same. It provides lots of fun, and it is extremely satisfying, because it calls for the giving of oneself, and therein lies its reward.

Our Student-training is undertaken on the practical side by the directors of the Kindergartens, and on the theoretical side, by a staff of visiting lecturers, and we have been glad to have with us again this year Dr Houghton, who takes Hygiene, Mrs Ratley, Nutrition, and Miss Makgill, Speech; also Mrs Howie, who is responsible for the girls' musical training. We have welcomed Mr Hutton, who has taken Nature Study with the Juniors, Miss Patterson, who has taken a short course in Literature, and Miss Fair, to whom the girls go for their Physical Education. For this, the Y.W.C.A. kindly allow us the use of their gymnasium. We consider that we have been both fortunate and privileged to have as Art Instructor this year Mr Philip Barclay, who was lent to us by the Education Department. Not only has Mr Barclay made his classes of great interest to all the Students, but he has been more than generous of his spare time in showing them how to make, and use, puppets, constructing the sets himself. We hope to show you these later this evening. Unfortunately

for us, Mr Barclay's promotion next year to a very important position with the Department will preclude the possibility of his continuing with us, but we are very grateful to him for all he has given us.

Some of the handwork done by the girls, with Miss Middleton and Miss Jean White, will be on exhibition downstairs.

We are ending the year on a sad note, for with this epidemic anxiety stalks abroad for parents of young children. There is a very happy atmosphere in Kindergartens when Christmas preparations are in progress, and the spirit of it has a special contribution to make to a student's development and outlook on life. We are all very sorry to miss our Christmas parties, but can only hope that precautions taken early will prevent the spread of the disease.

I should like to express grateful thanks to our Education Committee, the strength of whose personnel enriches our Association... Mrs Gillies, Miss Anderson, Mr McChesney, Mr East, Mr Lee. A great deal of work falls to this committee. Frequent meetings are held, and there is much to be done between meetings. The members have given unstintingly of their time and counsel...and their sympathetic understanding.

To Mr D.C.O'Halloran, our Secretary and Treasurer, I should like to extend a word of appreciation. He has shown great interest and patience, and has never been too busy to attend to our many requests. He has thought of various ways in which improvements could be made, and his attitude towards our needs has been most helpful.

To the Kindergarten staff my sincere thanks are due, for their loyalty and co-operation, without which the harmonious organisation and running of the Kindergartens would be impossible....and a special "thank you" to the Assistant Principal, Miss Cawkwell, whose help has been invaluable, and for whom nothing has been too much trouble.

In the United States, Graduation is usually called Commencement, and to you girls, with whom I have spent two happy years, I wish you, at the Commencement of the career you have chosen, success....and what is more important, the happiness and satisfaction that come from the dedication of a life, whether for a long or short period, to the service of little children, trusting that you will keep always before you the ideal of the responsibility and privilege of your high calling.

5th December 1947.

Principal Says Kindergartens Need State Support

KINDERGARTEN DIPLOMAS

"We stand on the threshold of changes in the kindergarten system in New Zealand," said Miss C. M. Colegrove, principal of the Auckland Kindergarten Association, at the annual presentation of diplomas to students at Myers' Kindergarten last night.

If the report of the committee set up by the Minister of Education in October, 1945, on pre-school education was adopted, the future of kindergarten work would be placed on a more secure basis and the prospects for girls to take up this work would be similar to those in other branches of the teaching service, Miss Colegrove said.

The Mayor, Mr J.A.C. Allum, spoke on the activities of the kindergarten.

Following the presentation of diplomas to the 19 successful students, musical items were presented by the girls, and six puppet plays, which they produced, were of outstanding interest.

The diploma-winners were:—Misses Robin Beckett, Reon Boyens, Betty Carpenter, Pauline Cunningham, Nola Downey, Joyce Fitness, Elizabeth Harris, Nancy Hayman, Christine Hayne, Zara Headland, Avis Hodges, Doreen Johnson, Noreen Jones, Naomi Laurenson, Helen Maslen, Pamela Richards, Helen Storey, Dawn Turner, Jacqueline Wake. Honours were gained by the Misses Hayman, Laurenson and Maslen.

"I feel that it is only by the State taking over our kindergartens that we will be able to expand any further," said Miss C. M. Colegrove, principal of the Auckland Kindergarten Association, at the annual presentation of diplomas to students at Myers' Kindergarten last night.

Miss Colegrove said that if the report of the committee set up by the Minister of Education in October, 1945, on pre-school education was adopted, the future of kindergarten work would be placed on a more secure basis and the prospects for girls would be more attractive and similar to those in other branches of the teaching profession.

Diplomas were presented to 19 successful students, and Miss Colegrove wished them success at the commencement of their careers. This type of service to little children called for the giving of oneself, she said, and in this lay its reward.

Puppets made by the girls under the direction of Mr. Philip Barclay were operated by them in six amusing plays, a feature which had not been introduced at the kindergarten before.

The Mayor, Mr. Allum, spoke on the work of the kindergarten.

The diploma winners were:—Misses Robin Beckett, Reon Boyens, Betty Carpenter, Pauline Cunningham, Nola Downey, Joyce Fitness, Elizabeth Harris, Nancy Hayman, Christine Hayne, Zara Headland, Avis Hodges, Doreen Johnson, Noreen Jones, Naomi Laurenson, Helen Maslen, Pamela Richards, Helen Storey, Dawn Turner, Jacqueline Wake. Honours were gained by the Misses Hayman, Laurenson and Maslen.

"Need More Kindergartens"

"We would reach more children by the State taking over the kindergartens," said Miss Colegrove in an interview this morning. "The clamour for children to be placed in kindergartens is such that we have waiting lists at some of them greater than the number of children attending them."

"At one kindergarten there is a waiting list of 80 children, while there are about 50 at the kindergarten. In these days of almost no domestic help, the kindergartens perform a service to the mothers as well as the children, and we could do with at least three times the number we already have."

Miss Colegrove added that it was difficult these days to attract girls to a profession which was poorly paid, yet which was, in itself, worthy of offering high remuneration.