

The evening schools inspected during the year were 3,742, containing 4,347 separate departments, as compared with 3,947 last year. The number of principal teachers employed was 3,402 men and 918 women. Most of these teachers were certificated—viz., 3,195 masters and 791 mistresses, as compared with 207 masters and 127 mistresses not holding certificates from the department. There were 298,724 scholars on the registers, as compared with 270,285 in the preceding year. Of these scholars, 108,708 paid no fees; 61,196 (20·48 per cent.) were under fourteen years of age; 163,643 (54·77 per cent.) were between fourteen and eighteen; 38,070 (12·73 per cent.) were between eighteen and twenty-one; and 35,815 (11·98 per cent.) were over twenty-one. Drawing was taught in 1,048 schools, manual or technical instruction in 438, cookery in 531, laundry-work in 47, and housewifery in 9. Dairy-work has only been taken by one school. The total of the grants paid to evening schools was £129,542 6s. 4d., as compared with £112,084 7s. 7d. in the year before. Under the Evening Continuation School Code the grants are based upon the amount of instruction given to each individual scholar.

The following table shows the chief of these figures in a summary form for the years 1894–96 :—

					1894.	1895.	1896.
Schools inspected	...	...	...	...	3,318	3,421	3,742
Departments inspected	...	...	...	...	3,742	3,947	4,347
Principal teachers :—					3,738	3,927	4,320
Certificated masters	...	...	...	...	2,822	2,881	3,195
Non-certificated masters	...	...	...	...	215	217	207
Certificated mistresses	...	...	...	...	623	718	791
Non-certificated mistresses	...	...	...	...	78	111	127
Scholars on the register :—					266,683	270,285	298,724
Under fourteen years of age	...	...	...	...	32,342	43,049	61,196
Percentage	...	...	...	...	12·13	15·93	20·48
Between fourteen and eighteen	...	...	...	...	155,459	153,879	163,643
Percentage	...	...	...	...	58·29	56·93	54·77
Between eighteen and twenty-one	...	...	...	...	41,839	37,640	38,070
Percentage	...	...	...	...	15·69	13·92	12·73
Over twenty-one years of age	...	...	...	...	37,043	35,717	35,815
Percentage	...	...	...	...	13·89	13·22	11·98
Free scholars	...	...	...	...	103,323	98,133	108,708
Schools in which have been taught,—							
Drawing	...	...	...	...	1,213	1,338	1,048
Manual or technical instruction	...	...	...	...	281	399	438
Cookery	...	...	...	...	468	501	531
Laundry-work	...	...	...	...	26	42	47
Dairy-work	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Housewifery	...	...	...	...	23	12	9
Total grant paid	...	...	...	...	£91,540	£112,084	£129,542

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,650 copies), £2 11s. 6d.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1897.

Price 3d.]