

this year's Table C, compared with the similar table of last year, proves (so far as the accuracy of these tables can be relied on) that at least 15,842 really new pupils were admitted, and 14,682 retired. A similar investigation of Tables D and G for the two years show at least 14,764 admitted, and 13,604 retired. The details are as follows:—

Entered between the ages of	5 and 6	...	...	...	10,061
"	6 " 7	...	...	...	3,536
"	7 " 8	...	...	...	1,853
"	8 " 9	...	...	...	143
"	9 " 10	...	...	...	160
"	10 " 11	...	...	...	89
					15,842
Left between the ages of	11 and 12	...	...	...	460
"	12 " 13	...	...	...	748
"	13 " 14	...	...	...	2,974
"	14 " 15	...	...	...	4,533
Left, being over 15 years old	...	...	...	...	5,967
					14,682

Gain ... 1,160

The result obtained by comparing Table D for 1896 with Tables D and G for 1897 is not very different:—

New pupils in preparatory and First Standard classes	...	14,436
" class preparing for Standard II.	...	328
		14,764
Losses from	III.	793
"	IV.	2,121
"	V.	2,487
"	VI.	2,274
" class above Standard VI.	...	5,929
		13,604

Gain ... 1,160

It seems fair to conclude from these statements that about 43·6 per cent. remain in the schools for a while after they have passed out of the Sixth Standard class, that 16·7 and 18·3 per cent. leave after passing the Fifth and Fourth Standards respectively, and 21·4 without passing the Fourth; and that 40·6 per cent. of those that leave are above the age of fifteen on leaving, while only 8·2 per cent. are under the age of thirteen.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

Table J shows that the number of schools increased during the year from 1,533 to 1,585, and that the number of schools is growing faster than the number of pupils, there being on an average less than 70 pupils to each school. The number of schools with less than 25 pupils each was increased during the year by 55. The number of half-time schools remains about the same as it was last year.

TABLE J.—NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, DECEMBER, 1897.

(In this enumeration every couple of half-time schools is reckoned as one school, except in the column for number of such schools.)

Education Districts.	Schools open.	Average Attendance in Fourth Quarter.	Mean Average for One School.	Number of Schools in which the Average Attendance for the Quarter was—											Number of Half-time Schools.	Number of Subsidised Schools.	Schools abolished in 1897
				Under 15 Pupils.	15 and under 20 Pupils.	20 and under 25 Pupils.	25 and under 30 Pupils.	30 and under 35 Pupils.	35 and under 40 Pupils.	40 and under 45 Pupils.	45 and under 50 Pupils.	50 and under 55 Pupils.	55 and under 60 Pupils.	60 Pupils and upwards.			
Auckland .. ..	338	22,613	66·9	44	42	56	104	30	13	14	18	9	8	42 as 21	20	6	
Taranaki .. ..	60	3,018	50·3	7	4	11	23	7	2	3	2	1	..	..	2	..	
Wanganui .. ..	127	8,352	65·8	10	9	19	39	21	3	13	9	4	..	..	19	..	
Wellington .. ..	181	11,647	88·9	20	15	13	35	13	7	9	8	4	7	..	15	..	
Hawke's Bay .. ..	68	6,396	94·1	9	4	6	19	7	7	5	6	2	3	..	7	..	
Marlborough .. ..	61	1,823	29·9	36	4	4	7	4	3	..	2	1	..	..	39	6	
Nelson .. ..	116	4,800	41·4	28	17	18	24	13	6	4	6	..	..	..	38	2	
Grey .. ..	29	1,423	49·1	9	4	3	5	5	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	
Westland .. ..	33	1,263	38·3	15	6	2	4	2	1	1	2	..	..	2 as 1	22	..	
North Canterbury .. ..	198	17,588	88·8	21	17	25	59	24	14	12	12	9	5	3 as 1	16	2	
South Canterbury .. ..	65	4,548	70·0	4	1	11	28	10	3	1	3	3	1	..	16	..	
Otago .. ..	220	19,128	86·9	27	20	23	61	33	19	9	9	12	7	..	3	1	
Southland .. ..	189	7,924	57·0	11	17	22	48	15	9	7	8	..	2	12 as 6	28	2	
Totals for 1897 ..	1,585	110,523	69·7	241	160	213	456	184	88	78	86	46	33	59 as 29	225	19	
Totals for 1896 ..	1,533	109,253	71·3	208	171	180	454	195	80	85	82	44	34	57 as 28	208	14	
Difference .. ..	52	1,270	-1·6	33	-11	33	2	-11	8	-7	4	2	-1	2 as 1	17	5	