

Table C is a condensed form of Table No. 1 in the Appendix; it gives the roll-numbers arranged for age and sex. A comparison of this table with the corresponding table in last year's report does not reveal any features that seem to call for remark; the proportion of boys to girls in the public schools of the colony remains about the same, 51·9 per cent. to 48·1 per cent. The number below the age of ten is to the number above ten as 51·8 is to 48·2.

TABLE C.—AGE AND SEX OF PUPILS, DECEMBER, 1899.

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.
Five and under six years ..	5,323	4,852	10,175	7·8	7·7	7·6	7·4	7·4
Six and under seven years ..	6,881	6,355	13,236	10·1	10·1	10·0	9·9	9·8
Seven and under eight years ..	7,533	7,075	14,608	11·1	11·2	11·2	11·2	11·6
Eight and under nine years ..	7,768	7,076	14,844	11·3	11·4	11·2	11·6	11·5
Nine and under ten years ..	7,830	7,282	15,112	11·5	11·4	11·6	11·6	11·6
Ten and under eleven years ..	7,763	7,224	14,987	11·4	11·7	11·5	11·5	11·6
Eleven and under twelve years ..	7,833	7,409	15,242	11·6	11·2	11·1	11·3	11·4
Twelve and under thirteen years ..	7,273	6,699	13,972	10·6	10·5	10·7	10·6	10·5
Thirteen and under fourteen years ..	5,602	4,895	10,497	8·0	8·1	8·3	8·1	7·9
Fourteen and under fifteen years ..	3,095	2,789	5,884	4·5	4·5	4·5	4·5	4·4
Over fifteen years ..	1,300	1,458	2,758	2·1	2·2	2·3	2·3	2·3
Totals ..	68,201	63,114	131,315	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Table No. 2 in the Appendix shows the numbers in the several classes for the various districts, and Table D is a summary of the same figures for the whole colony. The proportion of pupils in the preparatory classes shows an increase for the year; taking into account the pupils of all the classes below Standard III., we find the proportion practically unchanged from that shown in 1898; the proportion of pupils in the Standard VI. classes has also increased; the other classes present a slight decrease. The percentages of pupils in the Standard Classes I. to VI. for the years 1898 and 1899 were respectively 71·36 and 70·84.

TABLE D.—CLASSIFICATION BY STANDARDS, DECEMBER, 1899.

Standards.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.
Preparatory classes ..	17,461	15,490	32,951	25·09	24·52	24·58	24·91	24·94
Class for Standard I. ..	8,306	7,525	15,831	12·06	12·32	12·30	12·68	13·01
" " II. ..	8,534	7,797	16,331	12·44	12·77	12·85	13·13	13·41
" " III. ..	9,632	8,752	18,384	14·00	14·15	14·30	14·46	14·80
" " IV. ..	9,232	8,694	17,926	13·65	13·67	14·10	14·11	13·90
" " V. ..	7,451	7,075	14,526	11·06	11·17	10·90	10·53	10·35
" " VI. ..	5,125	4,898	10,023	7·63	7·28	7·26	6·75	6·27
Passed Standard VI. ..	2,460	2,883	5,343	4·07	4·12	3·71	3·43	3·32
Totals..	68,201	63,114	131,315	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Table E gives the average ages at which children passed the various standards; these, on the whole, are lower than in the previous year.

TABLE E.—AVERAGE AGE OF PUPILS AT STANDARD EXAMINATIONS IN 1899.

Education Districts.				Average Ages for Standards.						Mean of Ages.	
				I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	1899.	1898.
				Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.	Yrs. mos.
Auckland ..	..	..	..	8 11	10 2	11 2	12 3	13 2	13 11	11 7	11 8
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	9 3	10 7	11 9	12 10	13 10	14 8	12 1	12 2
Wanganui ..	..	..	..	9 1	10 1	11 5	12 7	13 5	14 2	11 9	11 11
Wellington ..	..	..	..	8 8	9 11	10 9	11 10	12 9	13 10	11 4	11 3
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	8 11	10 1	11 3	12 4	13 2	14 0	11 11	11 8
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	8 6	9 11	11 0	12 6	13 5	14 3	11 7	11 7
Nelson ..	..	..	..	8 5	9 11	10 10	11 10	12 10	13 10	11 3	11 4
Grey ..	..	..	..	8 9	10 1	11 0	12 5	13 4	14 4	11 8	11 8
Westland ..	..	..	..	8 11	10 0	10 11	12 0	12 11	13 11	11 5	11 6
North Canterbury ..	..	..	..	8 7	9 8	10 11	11 11	12 11	13 9	11 3	11 3
South Canterbury ..	..	..	..	8 7	9 5	10 8	11 8	12 9	13 8	11 1	11 2
Otago ..	..	..	..	8 6	9 6	10 3	12 0	12 5	13 7	11 1	11 3
Southland ..	..	..	..	8 9	9 9	10 9	12 0	13 0	13 9	11 4	11 4
Mean ..	..	..	..	8 9	9 11	11 0	12 2	13 1	14 0	11 6	11 6
Range (difference between highest and lowest) ..	..	..	..	0 10	1 2	1 6	1 2	1 5	1 1	1 0	1 0
Mean in 1898 ..	..	..	..	8 10	9 11	11 1	12 3	13 1	14 1	11 6	..
Range in 1898 ..	..	..	..	1 0	1 0	1 2	0 11	1 2	1 2	1 0	..