

by the several districts differ by 5 months only, the lowest age being found in Auckland, 13 years 7 months, and the highest in Hawke's Bay, 14 years 0 months. As to the age at which pupils in this standard obtained certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency respectively no precise information is available, but the average already given in conjunction with the proportion receiving one or other class of certificate in this standard—84 per cent. of those present—serves to show that the pupils failing to obtain such a certificate before attaining the age of fourteen years must be comparatively small.

TABLE C3.—AVERAGE AGE OF PUPILS IN 1905 AT THE TIME OF ANNUAL VISIT.

| Education Districts. | Average Ages of the Pupils in each Class. | | | | | | | | Mean of Ages. | |
|---|---|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | P. Yrs. mos. | I. Yrs. mos. | II. Yrs. mos. | III. Yrs. mos. | IV. Yrs. mos. | V. Yrs. mos. | VI. Yrs. mos. | VII. Yrs. mos. | 1905. Yrs. mos. | 1904. Yrs. mos. |
| Auckland | 7 3* | 9 2 | 10 4 | 11 4 | 12 2 | 12 7 | 13 7 | 14 4 | 11 4 | 11 2 |
| Taranaki | 7 0 | 9 2 | 10 1 | 11 5 | 12 2 | 13 3 | 13 11 | 14 4 | 11 5 | 11 6 |
| Wanganui | 6 11 | 8 10 | 9 11 | 10 11 | 11 11 | 12 10 | 13 9 | 15 5 | 11 4 | 11 3 |
| Wellington | 6 11 | 8 8 | 9 9 | 10 11 | 11 11 | 13 0 | 13 9 | 14 7 | 11 2 | 11 2 |
| Hawke's Bay | 7 5 | 8 8 | 10 0 | 11 2 | 12 2 | 13 1 | 14 0 | 14 6 | 11 4 | 11 6 |
| Marlborough | 6 11 | 8 9 | 9 11 | 10 11 | 11 11 | 12 10 | 13 9 | 15 1 | 11 3 | 11 3 |
| Nelson | 6 11 | 8 10 | 9 10 | 11 0 | 12 1 | 12 11 | 13 9 | 14 9 | 11 3 | 11 3 |
| Grey | 6 9 | 9 1 | 9 10 | 10 10 | 11 10 | 13 0 | 13 9 | 14 5 | 11 2 | 11 4 |
| Westland | 7 4 | 9 1 | 9 7 | 11 2 | 12 2 | 12 7 | 13 10 | 15 6 | 11 5 | 11 6 |
| North Canterbury | 7 0 | 8 11 | 10 0 | 11 0 | 12 1 | 12 11 | 13 9 | 14 7 | 11 3 | 11 3 |
| South Canterbury | 7 0 | 8 10 | 9 11 | 11 0 | 11 10 | 12 9 | 13 8 | 15 0 | 11 3 | 11 2 |
| Otago | 6 11 | 8 11 | 9 11 | 11 0 | 12 0 | 12 10 | 13 9 | 15 0 | 11 4 | 11 4 |
| Southland | 7 1 | 8 10 | 9 10 | 10 10 | 11 11 | 12 9 | 13 8 | 14 10 | 11 3 | 11 3 |
| Average for Colony .. | 7 1 | 8 11 | 10 0 | 11 1 | 12 0 | 12 10 | 13 9 | 14 9 | 11 3 | 11 3 |
| Range (difference between highest and lowest) | 0 8 | 0 6 | 0 9 | 0 7 | 0 4 | 0 8 | 0 5 | 1 2 | 0 3 | 0 4 |

* Average for 1904.

TABLE D.—NUMBER OF PUPILS INSTRUCTED IN SEPARATE SUBJECTS, DECEMBER, 1905.

| Education Districts. | Numbers belonging at End of Year. | English. | Arithmetic. | Drawing. | Singing. | Physical Instruction. | Geography. | History. | Nature Study and Elementary Science. | Handwork. | Needlework. |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|------------|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Auckland | 31,639 | 31,639 | 31,591 | 31,381 | 29,829 | 30,033 | 16,449 | 13,813 | 26,501 | 21,727 | 9,867 |
| Taranaki | 4,952 | 4,952 | 4,952 | 4,952 | 4,607 | 4,952 | 2,650 | 2,014 | 4,509 | 3,459 | 2,041 |
| Wanganui | 12,486 | 12,486 | 12,486 | 12,409 | 11,080 | 12,381 | 7,532 | 5,701 | 10,736 | 10,489 | 4,843 |
| Wellington | 16,255 | 16,255 | 16,215 | 15,941 | 15,467 | 15,534 | 10,654 | 8,185 | 15,254 | 13,491 | 6,244 |
| Hawke's Bay | 8,870 | 8,870 | 8,834 | 8,824 | 8,363 | 8,622 | 5,691 | 3,934 | 8,229 | 5,645 | 3,475 |
| Marlborough | 1,896 | 1,896 | 1,896 | 1,860 | 1,783 | 1,860 | 1,237 | 1,020 | 1,335 | 1,422 | 767 |
| Nelson | 5,574 | 5,574 | 5,556 | 5,272 | 5,328 | 5,453 | 3,456 | 2,513 | 4,721 | 3,282 | 2,498 |
| Grey | 1,592 | 1,592 | 1,592 | 1,514 | 1,473 | 1,487 | 807 | 674 | 1,302 | 808 | 589 |
| Westland | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 667 | 702 | 902 | 596 | 464 | 943 | 422 | 321 |
| North Canterbury | 19,385 | 19,385 | 19,312 | 19,074 | 18,242 | 18,267 | 11,446 | 9,095 | 17,599 | 11,315 | 8,591 |
| South Canterbury | 5,146 | 5,146 | 5,146 | 5,146 | 4,917 | 5,078 | 2,984 | 1,836 | 4,709 | 3,668 | 2,094 |
| Otago | 19,206 | 19,206 | 19,206 | 18,719 | 18,628 | 13,267 | 10,831 | 8,824 | 18,515 | 10,010 | 7,651 |
| Southland | 9,598 | 9,598 | 9,598 | 9,387 | 9,211 | 9,530 | 5,648 | 1,883 | 7,687 | 7,827 | 3,796 |
| Totals for 1905 | 137,623 | 137,623 | 137,408 | 135,146 | 129,630 | 127,386 | 79,981 | 59,956 | 122,040 | 93,565 | 52,777 |
| Totals for 1904 | 135,475 | 135,475 | 135,013 | 131,976 | 125,486 | 119,624 | 84,626 | 62,483 | 129,873 | 77,294 | 53,299 |
| Difference | 2,148 | 2,148 | 2,395 | 3,170 | 4,144 | 7,762 | -4,645 | -2,527 | -7,833 | 16,271 | -522 |

In Table D are given the numbers of children receiving instruction in the several subjects. For the purpose of this return reading, spelling, writing, and composition are grouped together under the heading "English," and some other alterations are made which are rendered necessary by alterations in the programme prescribed. "Object-lessons," for instance, disappears, as it has disappeared from the syllabus of instruction, and its place is taken by "nature-study," which is here grouped with "elementary science," from which in general it is not to be distinguished.

In English and arithmetic the numbers returned remain practically identical with the roll-numbers, following them in the upward grade; under the heading "physical instruction" a further marked increase is shown in the number receiving some definite course of training, and drawing and singing also include a somewhat larger proportion of the whole; but the most notable increase is again shown in the