

Staffs of Public Schools.

The number of teachers in the public schools, exclusive of those employed in the secondary departments of district high schools in December, 1907, and December, 1908, respectively, was as follows :—

TABLE E.—NUMBER OF TEACHERS EMPLOYED.

Adults,—				1907.	1908.		
Men	..	..	..	1,332	1,331	Decrease	1
Women	..	..	..	1,955	2,021	Increase	66
Total				3,287	3,352	Increase	65
Pupil-teachers,—							
Male	..	..	..	172	161	Decrease	11
Female	..	..	..	478	476	Decrease	2
Total				650	637	Decrease	13
All teachers,—							
Male	..	..	..	1,504	1,492	Decrease	12
Female	..	..	..	2,433	2,497	Increase	64
Total				3,937	3,989	Increase	52

For the schools above Grade 0 having only one teacher—that is, schools with 16 to 40 children in average attendance—the average number of children per teacher—or, in other words, per school—was 24·80. Taking all schools with two or more teachers, we find that the average number of pupils per adult teacher, if we reckon two pupil-teachers as equivalent to one adult, was 42·51 ; and with the same assumption the average for all schools of Grade 1 and upwards was 38·42.

Omitting teachers of schools of Grade 0, the ratio of adult men teachers to adult women teachers in 1908 was 100 to 126 ; in 1907 it was 100 to 124.

The rise in the proportion of male pupil-teachers, which had been steady during the previous five years, was arrested in 1908, when the ratio of male pupil-teachers to female pupil-teachers was 1 to 2·96, as against 1 to 2·77 in 1907.

It may be interesting to note the corresponding proportions for primary-school teachers, secondary teachers in district high schools and secondary schools (exclusive of visiting teachers), and for students in training colleges, respectively :—

Number of Women Teachers or Students per Hundred Men Teachers or Students (omitting Teachers of Schools in Grade 0).

	1906.	1907.	1908.
Adult primary teachers	125	124	126
Pupil-teachers	339	277	296
Secondary teachers	80	77	76
Training-college students	350	315	286
All teachers and students	148	142	144

In other words, out of a total of 4,105 persons engaged in the above-named branches of the teaching profession there were in 1908, 1,683 men and 2,422 women.

Remembering that a much larger number of women than of men leaves the profession after a few years of service, we may form some idea of the extent to which New Zealand has been affected by the general tendency all over the world towards the increase of women in the teaching profession.

So far as can be gathered from the reports received from England, Scotland, and the United States, the following statement shows the number of women teachers per hundred men teachers :—

	England.*	Scotland.†	United States.‡
Adult primary teachers	329	252	388
Pupil-teachers	386	456	
Secondary teachers	§	§	117
Training-college students	212	396	321

Full details of the primary staffs of the public schools in the several education districts are given in Table E1 of the report on primary education (E.-2).

* Figures for 1903-7, being last available. † Figures for 1907-8, ‡ From report for 1907. § Not available.