

TABLE D.—CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, DECEMBER, 1911.

Classes.				Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentages for Five Years.				
							1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Class P ..	..	..	..	32,034	28,266	60,300	31.11	34.27	36.66	37.15	37.30
" S1 ..	..	..	..	10,334	9,610	19,944	12.05	11.96	12.25	12.17	12.34
" S2 ..	..	..	..	9,895	9,340	19,235	12.10	11.61	11.82	11.94	11.90
" S3 ..	..	..	..	9,715	9,019	18,734	12.04	11.98	11.34	11.44	11.59
" S4 ..	..	..	..	8,899	8,044	16,943	11.46	11.20	10.78	10.39	10.48
" S5 ..	..	..	..	7,344	6,756	14,100	10.24	9.65	9.08	9.10	8.72
" S6 ..	..	..	..	5,223	4,809	10,032	7.79	6.87	6.56	6.16	6.21
" S7 ..	..	..	..	1,118	1,242	2,360	3.21	2.46	1.51	1.65	1.46
Totals..	..	..	..	84,562	77,086	161,648	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

More detailed information in regard to the classification of pupils can be obtained on reference to Table B appearing on page 4. A study of this Table shows how much quicker girls pass through the standards than do boys. It will also be noticed that a larger proportion of girls than boys remain in Standard VII.

The following is a summary of the examination statistics for 1911:—

Total roll at time of annual examination	...	...	...	162,536
Present at examination	...	...	...	155,244
Present in preparatory classes	...	...	...	56,770
Present in classes S6	...	...	...	9,742
Present in classes S7	...	...	...	1,757
Standard VI certificates gained, viz.,—				
Certificates of proficiency	...	...	7,212	9,020
" competency	...	...	1,808	

Details of these figures for each district are given in Table D2.

Average Age.—The average ages of the pupils in the several classes for the two years 1910–11 were as follows:—

				1910.		1911.	
				Yrs.	mos.	Yrs.	mos.
Preparatory classes	...	...	...	7	0	7	1
Class S1	...	...	...	9	2	9	1
" S2	...	...	...	10	2	10	2
" S3	...	...	...	11	3	11	3
" S4	...	...	...	12	3	12	2
" S5	...	...	...	13	1	13	2
" S6	...	...	...	14	0	13	11
" S7	...	...	...	15	0	15	0
Mean of average ages	...	...	...	9	10	9	9

Details for the several districts will be found in Table D3.

The Inspector-General of Schools has felt it his duty once more to bring under notice (see page 24) the gradual increase in the proportion of children in preparatory classes. During the year he has obtained fuller information on the subject, and has accordingly been enabled to define the position more accurately. He points out that, while the percentages of children on the school roll from 5 to 8 years of age have increased in the years 1905–11 from 29.8 to 31.4 the percentage on the roll of the preparatory classes has risen from 28.3 to 37.3, an increase of 9 per cent., as against 1.6. The following figures show how much more rapidly the number of pupils in preparatory classes has increased than those of five to eight years of age:—

				<i>Roll.</i>	
				Children 5 to 8 Years of Age.	Children in Preparatory Classes.
1905	...	...	...	39,781	36,823
1911	...	...	...	50,742	60,300
Increase	...	...	...	10,961	23,477

Several Boards consider that this exceptional increase is not an occasion for alarm or anxiety, as comparatively few pupils proceed to the secondary schools, and the long wait in the preparatory classes compels the average pupil to spend longer at school before reaching the standard of exemption. There can be no doubt, however, that from the point of view of the community at large no benefit can accrue by keeping back pupils capable of more advanced work.