

In schools with two or more teachers—that is, schools of Grade IV and upwards—we find that the average number of pupils per adult teacher, reckoning two pupil-teachers as equivalent to one adult, was 40·22. With the same assumption we find that the average for all schools was 33·62, and for all schools, omitting those below Grade II, 36·61.

The following figures show the ratio of males to females, adult teachers and pupil teachers being considered separately. For purposes of comparison the figures for the previous years are also given :—

	1909.		1910.		1911.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Ratio of adult male to adult female teachers, schools with one to fifteen scholars	100	: 359	100	: 325	100	: 362
Ratio of adult male to adult female teachers, schools with more than fifteen scholars	100	: 140	100	: 141	100	: 142
Ratio of adult male to adult female teachers, all schools	100	: 157	100	: 155	100	: 157
Ratio of male pupil-teachers to female pupil-teachers	100	: 319	100	: 302	100	: 295
Ratio of male to female teachers, all schools	100	: 174	100	: 170	100	: 172

From the above table it will be seen that the proportion of males to females is by no means small, except in the cases of pupil-teachers and sole teachers of small schools. The figures in regard to pupil-teachers show conclusively that a much larger percentage of females enter the service than males; but a great number of these female pupil-teachers leave before completing their period of training. In regard to the large proportion of female teachers to males in Grade 0 and Grade I schools, the maximum salary payable to teachers of such schools is £120, and Education Boards have always found extreme difficulty in procuring suitable male teachers to fill such positions. Indeed, many educationists hold the view that women teachers are more suited to take charge of small schools than are men; for in such schools one-half of the pupils on the average are girls, and, of the boys, half are under ten years of age, and both these groups are consequently more easily and sympathetically managed by a woman teacher; thus 75 per cent. of the average number in attendance at a sole-teacher school are more suited to instruction by a woman teacher than by a male.

If we take into consideration the corresponding proportion for primary-school teachers, secondary teachers in district high schools, and secondary schools (exclusive of part-time teachers), and for students in training colleges respectively, we have :—

Number of Women Teachers or Students per Hundred Men Teachers or Students (omitting Teachers of Schools with 15 or less in Average Attendance).

	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Adult primary teachers ..	125	124	126	140	141	142
Pupil-teachers ..	339	277	296	319	302	295
Secondary teachers ..	80	77	76	82	85	84
Training-college students ..	350	315	285	280	219	197
All teachers and students	148	142	144	158	156	155

In other words, out of a total of 4,814 persons engaged in the above-named branches of the teaching profession, there were, in 1911, 1,889 men and 2,925 women.

It will be interesting to see how these figures compare with those from other parts of the world—England, Scotland, and the United States, for instance. In comparing this Dominion with such old-established countries, it is necessary to bear in mind that in the latter, the population being comparatively dense and the means of communication—the roads and railways—being more complete and efficacious, there are few schools corresponding to our Grade 0 or Grade I schools. Accordingly such schools are not taken into consideration in the New Zealand figures.

	England.	Scotland.	United States.	New Zealand.
Adult primary teachers..	.. 314	245	368	142
Pupil-teachers 313	449	*	295
Secondary teachers 95	*	121	84
Training-college students	.. 211	389	365	197

* Figures not available.