

retardation according to the recognized normal classification has been ascertained in many cases, and is generally found to reach a high percentage. In New South Wales it has been ascertained that 42 per cent. of the children in all classes, and 66 per cent. of the pupils of the Sixth Class, are retarded ; in San Francisco 44 per cent. of the children are retarded. The following table shows the position in New Zealand. The normal age for S1 pupils at the end of the year is taken as between eight and nine years, and so on through the classes ; this is one year younger than has been regarded as normal in previous reports on the subject, but in view of the fact that a child entering school at the age of five should be eight at the end of a year in S1, it appears justifiable to regard children over nine at that stage and over fourteen at the end of a year in S6 as retarded. The difficulty of arriving at a true norm in this matter is acknowledged ; in New South Wales a still lower age is taken as being normal.

CLASSIFIED RETURN OF THE NUMBERS ON THE ROLLS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE END OF 1919, EXCLUDING SECONDARY DEPARTMENTS OF DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

Ages.	Class P.		Standard I.		Standard II.		Standard III.		Standard IV.		Standard V.		Standard VI.		Standard VII.		Totals.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5 and under 6 ..	7,860	7,193	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,863	7,193
6 „ 7 ..	10,581	9,744	132	155	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,721	9,907
7 „ 8 ..	9,936	8,911	1,603	1,613	113	160	8	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,660	10,689
8 „ 9 ..	5,154	4,222	4,678	4,674	1,568	1,583	127	153	5	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	11,533	10,635
9 „ 10 ..	1,724	1,283	3,814	3,331	4,274	4,333	1,408	1,559	114	132	8	5	..	1	..	..	11,342	10,644
10 „ 11 ..	519	369	1,615	1,211	3,727	3,456	3,974	4,112	1,255	1,338	145	136	6	6	..	..	11,241	10,628
11 „ 12 ..	175	135	573	389	1,780	1,461	3,704	3,367	3,628	3,603	1,194	1,180	92	91	..	..	11,146	10,227
12 „ 13 ..	61	48	173	135	673	523	2,030	1,704	3,441	3,169	3,173	3,185	972	904	19	10	10,542	9,678
13 „ 14 ..	25	23	59	41	232	138	817	684	1,963	1,674	3,254	3,047	2,654	2,592	35	43	9,039	8,242
14 „ 15 ..	6	4	12	13	51	35	191	129	665	582	1,534	1,230	2,239	2,029	33	55	4,731	4,077
15 „ 16 ..	..	4	3	3	4	6	22	17	111	87	361	291	806	657	22	37	1,329	1,102
16 „ 17 ..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	17	10	34	29	95	80	6	12	155	134
Over 17 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	10	1	1	3	16	6
Totals, 1919 ..	36,041	31,936	12,665	11,565	12,434	11,703	12,281	11,733	11,202	10,599	9,705	9,104	6,874	6,361	116	161	101,318	93,162

NOTE.—The number of S6 pupils in this table differs from that shown in Table C2 in E.-2 for the reason that pupils who did the work of S6 but left before the end of the year are included in this table.

In the table the numbers between the heavy horizontal lines represent children of normal classification, those above the upper lines children brighter than the average, and those below the lower lines cases of retardation. An examination of the figures discloses an unsatisfactory position, 50 per cent. of the children being shown as below normal classification. The following figures show the percentage of pupils above and below normal classification in the various classes :—

Class.			Normal Classification.	Above Normal Classification.	Below Normal Classification.
			Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Class P	..	..	..	..	22
„ S1	..	..	39	14	49
„ S2	..	..	36	14	50
„ S3	..	..	33	14	53
„ S4	..	..	33	13	54
„ S5	..	..	34	14	52
„ S6	..	..	39	16	45
Classes S1-S6			36	14	50