

It is encouraging to find from the reports of the inspectors of technical schools and manual training classes that the work done in the special manual training classes for children in Standards V and VI is showing steady improvement from year to year, while the numbers attending are increasing rapidly. Considerable local interest is taken in these classes, and there is a steady demand for the extension of facilities for special manual training in cookery, laundrywork, dressmaking, woodwork, and metal work. Nature study and rural science occupies an important place in the curriculum of the country child, and the practical work in connection with these subjects, particularly work in school gardens, in experimental plots attached to District High Schools, and in connection with Agricultural Clubs for school children, has been well done under the supervision of travelling instructors in agriculture, of whom twenty-three were employed during the year. The Department's total payments for the year 1922-23 on account of manual instruction, including handwork, amounted to £73,835, the salaries of instructors costing £38,000 and materials and incidentals £21,000.

VISUAL EDUCATION.

The Department has for some time had under consideration the desirability of adopting some effective scheme of visual education in the schools, and only the expensive nature of the equipment has prevented definite steps being taken to install cinematograph machines where electric current is available. At present there are very few machines manufactured specially for instructional purposes. It is considered that no machine that does not provide for any portion of a film being shown as a still picture should be adopted for school use. The supply of suitable films does not present any difficulty, since several English and American firms have produced large numbers of educational pictures.

In the meantime tentative approval has been given to a private company to show carefully selected educational pictures to school-children during school hours. This scheme is at present in operation only in the larger towns. The pupils with their teachers attend one of the public picture-theatres, the subject matter of the pictures having been previously taught in the ordinary school lessons. All pupils are provided by the company with descriptive and explanatory reading-lessons printed in a monthly magazine similar to the *School Journal*.

STAFFS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

(Table E1 in E.-2.)

The number of teachers employed in the primary departments of public schools at the end of 1922 was 6,052, or 236 more than in the previous year. Of the total number 5,465 were adult teachers (1,842 males and 3,623 females) and 587 were pupil-teachers (182 males and 405 females). In addition to the staff of adult and pupil-teachers 767 probationers (171 males and 596 females) were employed as compared with 692 (127 males and 565 females) in the previous year. The increase in the number of teachers is greater than usual, and the substantial increase in the number of males, especially among the pupil-teachers and probationers, is gratifying.

The following table shows the number of adult teachers in each grade of school classified under the headings of sole, head, or assistant teachers:—

NUMBER OF ADULT TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN PRIMARY DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
DECEMBER, 1922.

Grade of School.			Sole Teachers.		Head Teachers.		Assistant Teachers.		Total Adult Teachers.		
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
Grade 0 (1-8)	..	..	18	184	..	..	..	..	18	184	202
„ I (9-20)	..	..	207	489	..	..	..	..	207	489	696
„ II (21-35)	..	..	231	262	22	16	..	28	253	306	559
„ IIIA (36-80)	..	..	18	10	402	124	3	543	423	677	1,100
„ IIIB (81-120)	..	..	..	..	120	3	5	237	125	240	365
„ IV (121-240)	..	..	..	..	109	4	52	277	161	281	442
„ V (241-400)	..	..	..	..	85	4	107	406	192	410	602
„ VI (401-480)	..	..	..	..	25	..	46	147	71	147	218
„ VII (over 480)	..	..	..	..	101	1	291	888	392	889	1,281
All grades	..	..	474	945	864	152	504	2,526	1,842	3,623	5,465