

The percentage of holders of proficiency certificates who go on to post-primary schools would appear to have increased in the last two years. This increase, however, coincides with a relaxation of the conditions under which a junior free place may be held and is probably apparent only as the returns did not in those years separate new entrants into those with proficiency certificates and those without.

The ages at which pupils commenced their post-primary course are given in the following table :—

TABLE N.—AGES AT WHICH PUPILS COMMENCE POST-PRIMARY COURSE.

—		Age at which Post-primary Course commenced.										Total Numbers commencing Post-primary Education.	
		Under 12 Years.		12 Years.		13 Years.		14 Years.		15 Years and over.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Secondary ..	60	52	568	655	1,199	1,257	689	600	232	110	2,748	2,674	
Combined ..	2	..	17	13	41	52	26	30	11	12	97	107	
Technical ..	13	17	280	315	939	787	778	532	265	140	2,275	1,791	
District high ..	31	33	272	292	531	514	345	259	108	59	1,287	1,157	
Junior high ..	..	4	41	46	96	97	69	59	23	14	229	220
Totals—1931 ..	106	106	1,178	1,321	2,806	2,707	1,907	1,480	639	335	6,636	5,949	
1930 ..	122	104	1,148	1,155	2,944	2,789	1,960	1,632	686	472	6,860	6,152	
Difference ..	—16	+2	+30	+166	—138	—82	—53	—152	—47	—137	—224	—203	

In 1930 19 per cent. and in 1931 22 per cent. of those commencing a post-primary course did so under the age of thirteen years.

15. DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING SCHOOL.

A summary of the destination returns obtained from the schools, through the various Boards, is given in the following tables :—

TABLE O 1.—PROBABLE DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS DURING OR AT END OF YEAR 1931.

Destination.	Had passed Form II.		Had not passed Form II.		Totals.			
					Boys.		Girls.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.
Post-primary	5,394	4,720	210	190	5,604	53	4,910	51
Commercial occupations—								
(a) Clerical (including typing) ..	32	29	14	13	46	*	42	*
(b) Shop and warehouse assistants	125	71	54	52	179	2	123	1
Trades—								
(a) Engineering	34	..	20	..	54	1	..	..
(b) Building	32	..	27	..	59	1	..	..
(c) Other	90	13	42	17	132	1	30	*
Agricultural and pastoral ..	1,399	146	1,107	84	2,506	24	230	2
Other occupations	278	171	222	175	500	5	346	4
Home	622	2,294	493	1,461	1,115	10	3,755	39
Not known	149	110	203	175	352	3	285	3
Totals, 1931	8,155	7,554	2,392	2,167	10,547	100	9,721	100
Totals, 1930	8,820	8,444	2,300	2,151	11,120	..	10,595	..
Difference	—665	—890	+92	+16	—573	..	—874	..

* No significant percentage.