

appended. As a number of teachers held office for a portion of the year only, the sums entered as income in such cases are for less than the whole year. A reference to the last column of the table will show the length of time for which the salaries set down were paid.

The following is an abstract of the attendance at the Dunedin district schools, and the other elementary schools of Otago, from the institution of the Otago education scheme, in the year 1856, to the present time:—

YEAR.	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Pupils who attended at all in the Course of the Year.			Average Daily Attendance for the Year.			Attendance at the Close of the Year.		
			Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.	Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.	Dunedin.	All other Schools.	Totals.
1856-57	5	7	...	...	...	115	121	236	...	...	...
1857-58	9	11	...	...	...	128	195	323	...	...	...
1858-59	13	15	...	...	...	114	333	447	...	...	...
1859-60	17	19	...	...	...	127	456	583	...	...	...
1860-61	18	20	220	744	964	125	486	611	...	...	...
1861-62	20	22	228	1,021	1,249	129	632	810	205	705	910
1862-63	23	30	1,024	1,366	2,330	653	758	1,411	734	907	1,641
1864	38	51	1,418	2,148	3,566	771	1,148	1,919	996	1,500	2,496
1865	46	65	1,295	2,416	3,711	918	1,415	2,333	1,046	1,747	2,793
1866	51	71	1,193	2,754	3,947	888	1,680	2,568	934	2,136	3,070
1867	56	85	1,216	3,151	4,367	897	2,045	2,942	919	2,436	3,355
1868	68	103	1,262	3,622	4,884	953	2,325	3,278	1,047	2,763	3,810
1869	77	119	1,431	4,017	5,448	1,085	2,472	3,557	1,149	3,206	4,355
1870	97	150	1,423	5,496	6,919	1,151	3,529	4,680	1,215	4,416	5,631
1871	116	175	1,647	7,015	8,662	1,257	4,449	5,706	1,355	5,391	6,746
1872	127	190	1,631	8,197	9,828	1,315	5,376	6,691	1,309	6,448	7,757
1873	140	219	1,762	9,688	11,451	1,393	6,032	7,425	1,495	7,676	9,171
1874	154	266	2,176	11,505	13,681	1,467	6,886	8,353	1,592	8,073	10,665
1875	157	288	2,620	13,477	16,097	1,710	8,112	9,822	2,001	10,107	12,096
1876-77	165	329	3,094	15,256	18,350	2,067	9,143	11,210	2,378	11,159	13,537
1877	173	356	3,191	16,422	19,613	2,176	9,573	11,749	2,585	11,943	14,528

The figures for the year 1877 show that, taking all the schools under the Board's management into account, the average number of attendances made by every child that attended at all during the year amounts to 62 per cent. of the possible attendances. In the Dunedin schools this average was as high as 67 per cent., while for all the other schools in the Board's district taken together it did not rise above 60 per cent. The Board believes that the above average number of attendances for every pupil at school at all would have been considerably higher but for the prevalence, in many districts, during the year of epidemic scarlet fever.

AGES OF PUPILS.

The following is an abstract of the ages of the pupils who attended the elementary schools during the last quarter of 1877:—

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Under five years	...	...	...
Over five and under ten years	...	...	...
Over ten and under fifteen years	...	...	...
Over fifteen years	...	...	...
	168	153	321
	4,254	3,636	7,890
	3,420	2,893	6,313
	131	116	247

These figures show that, of the pupils in attendance for the last quarter, rather more than 2 per cent. were under five years of age; 53 per cent. were between the ages of five and ten years; 43 per cent. between ten and fifteen; and nearly 2 per cent. over fifteen. It is remarkable that, under each of the above heads, the number of boys considerably exceeds the number of girls.

FINANCE.

Appended hereto is an abstract of the income and expenditure of the Board for the year 1877, certified by the Auditor appointed by the Governor. A table showing the respective amounts contributed towards the current expenses of the district schools for the year by the Board and the several School Committees is hereunto appended (*see* Appendix B). The sum contributed by the Board towards district and grammar schools for salaries, pupil-teachers, poor scholars, rents, &c., exclusive of buildings and repairs, was £27,294 17s. 1d., while the aggregate amount raised by the districts from school fees and voluntary contributions, including the sum of £1,411 3s., fees of the practising department of the Normal School, was £22,239 6s. 2d.

INSPECTION.

The reports of Messrs. Petrie and Taylor—the Board's Inspectors of Schools—are appended. These reports deal only with the nine months from 1st April to 31st December, 1877; and as the three months thus left out of account are almost wholly devoted to continuous examination of schools for results, the number of schools so examined is much smaller than usual. There are several points brought out in these reports which the Board cannot but regard with great satisfaction. It will be