

Quarter ended	District Schools.	Aided Schools.	Total of Schools.	On Roll.	Average Attendance.	Percentages.
December 31 1878	106	4	110	13,647	10 076	73·83
„ 1879	116	4	120	15 230	11 381	74·72
„ 1880	121	2	123	16 437	12,233	74·42
„ 1881	128	1	129	16 051	11 760	73·26
„ 1882	133	2	135	16,907	12 747	75·39
„ 1883	139	4	143	17,797	13,462	75·64

TEACHERS.—Return No. 7* gives a list of the teachers in the Board's service at the close of 1883, with the salaries and allowances payable to them, and the positions they hold in their respective schools. The total number was 446, besides 38 teachers of sewing. Of these, 130 were head-masters; 89, mistresses, 52 (19 males and 33 females) assistant teachers and 175 (45 males and 130 females), pupil-teachers. The regulations respecting pupil-teachers have undergone revision during the year, and many changes made in the programme of instruction and examination. The principal alterations are the substitution of a selection from English literature for the grammar formerly required, and the addition of Latin and modern history as optional subjects. The amended regulations are published in the appendix.

INSPECTION.—A joint report by the two Inspectors, Mr W L. Edge and the Rev J Cumming, is appended.† In one respect it shows a decided improvement on the report of last year as the general percentage of success in the examinations has risen from 74 to 82. This improvement is noticeable in all the standards above the Second, particularly in the Fifth. In the other standards there is no material difference.

The following table gives the number of children presented and passed, the average age, the percentage of passes, and the number of schools in which children were presented in each standard :—

	Number presented.	Number passed.	Average Age.	Percentage.	No. of Schools at which Pupils were presented.
			Yrs. mos.		
Standard I.	2,038	1,931	9 6	95	133
Standard II.	2,136	1,808	10 0	84	131
Standard III.	1,982	1,460	11 7	74	124
Standard IV	1,119	776	12 6	69	108
Standard V	499	382	13 6	76	82
Standard VI.	146	113	14 2	77	38
Total	7 920	6,470		82	

NORMAL SCHOOL.—The lady engaged in England as head-mistress of the practising school, who had just arrived at the date of the Board's last report, resigned in December on account of her marriage. Her loss is to be much regretted, as she had proved herself a very capable and excellent teacher. The Board, having failed to obtain suitable applications for the post within the colony, has resolved on sending to England for her successor. Towards the end of the year, after a careful inquiry into the organization and working of the practising school, the Board determined on a partial remodelling of the system, involving a small addition to the staff and some important alterations in the relations subsisting between the principal teachers. The changes thus made take effect from the beginning of the current year and it is hoped will act beneficially in increasing the efficiency of the school. The arrangements introduced in 1880 for enabling pupil-teachers who have completed their term of service to enter as students in the normal school continues in very successful operation, the majority of pupil-teachers gladly taking advantage of the opportunity thus afforded them of passing a year in study and technical training before entering on the active practice of their profession. The number of students at the end of the year was 43—14 males and 29 females. The following are particulars respecting the number of students who entered or left the normal school during the year, and their present occupation :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Students in 1883—			
Remaining from 1882	14	27	41
Admitted in 1883	8	21	29
Left during 1883	8	19	27
On the books, December, 1883	14	29	43
Left during 1883—			
Teaching in public schools	7†	17	24
Teaching in other schools	0	2	2
Occupation not known	1	0	1
	8	19	27

* See ante, p. 26.

† See E.—1B.

‡ Including one student temporarily out of employment.