

the compulsory-attendance law. The following are the ages in England and some Australasian Colonies:—

Countries.	Children may attend School and earn Grants between	Children must be sent to School by Parents between
England	3 and 18	5 and 13
Scotland	3 " 18	5 " 13
New Zealand	5 " 15	7 " 13
Victoria	3 " 16	6 " 15
Queensland	5 " 14	6 " 12
New South Wales	4 " 14	6 " 14

The following were the ages of children attending school at the end of 1882 in—

Victoria—Three years and under four	...	...	...	3,550
Four " five	...	...	...	9,862
Five " six	...	...	...	15,199
Six " fifteen	...	...	...	178,035
Above fifteen years	...	...	...	11,524
Total	...	...	...	216,890

New South Wales—Under four years	...	...	...	2,148
Four years and under six	...	...	...	20,576
Six " fourteen	...	...	...	129,991
Over fourteen years	...	...	...	15,274
Total	...	...	...	167,989

The following is the summary for New Zealand for 1883:—

AGES OF SCHOLARS. (E.—1, 1884, p. iv.)

Table No. 5 of the Appendix shows the ages of the scholars of both sexes who belonged to the schools of the different Board districts during the quarter ending 31st December, 1883. The following is a summary of the ages of the scholars in the whole of the schools:—

TABLE B.—AGES OF SCHOLARS AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentage for Four Years.			
				1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.
Five and under seven years	10,791	9,735	20,526	22·20	22·64	22·73	22·33
Seven and under ten years	17,814	16,202	34,016	36·78	35·56	35·41	35·99
Ten and under thirteen years	13,750	13,060	26,810	29·00	30·09	30·39	30·25
Thirteen and under fifteen years	4,629	4,685	9,314	10·07	9·82	9·60	9·66
Over fifteen years	720	1,090	1,810	1·95	1·89	1·87	1·77
Totals for 1883	47,704	44,772	92,476	100·00	..	100·00	100·00
Totals for 1882	45,082	42,097	87,179	..	100·00	..	..
Increase	2,622	2,675	5,297	..	..	..	..

The last four columns of the table show that the proportion of scholars at the different ages remains much the same from year to year. As compared with 1882, there was an increase last year in the proportion of those between seven and ten years, and a corresponding decrease in the number between ten and thirteen years.

I attach an extract from the American Cyclopædia on the subject of school age.

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EXTRACT FROM THE [AMERICAN] CYCLOPÆDIA OF EDUCATION.

School Age, or Scholastic Age.—The age fixed by law during which pupils may attend the public schools. This varies considerably in different countries, both as to its commencement and termination. Thus, in Prussia the school age is from 5 to 14 years; in France, from 7 to 13; in Switzerland, from 6 to 13; and in England, from 3 to 18. In the latter country the rule is as follows: "Attendances may not be reckoned for any scholar above 18, or in any day school under 3, or in an evening school under 12 years of age." The legislation on this subject in the different