

EXAMINATION IN STANDARDS.—Of the seventy-seven schools in operation at the end of the school year, seventy-five had been open for twelve months or over, and all these were examined. The number examined in the previous year was sixty-nine. The schools at Paraekaretu, Cheltenham, Pihama, Cardiff Road, and Eltham were examined for the first time; while Moutoa, which was closed for several months in 1886, was examined again last year. New schools at Hunterville, Pohangina, and Te Roti were not examined, as they had not been open for six months at the end of the year. On the days appointed for the examinations there were 6,503 children on the school rolls (629 more than in 1886), of whom 4,102, or 63 per cent., were presented for promotion in the six standards, 2,372 were in the preparatory classes, and 29 had passed Standard VI. Of the 4,102 children presented for promotion in standards, 3,874, or 94 per cent., attended and were examined, 228 were absent, 286 were excepted, 971 failed, and 2,617 passed the requirements. The percentage of failures was 27·06, and the percentage of passes 40·24. With regard to the latter percentage it must be remembered that, according to the new regulations, it is calculated on the number on the rolls; not, as formerly, on the number examined in standards. The percentage of passes on the number examined in standards was 67·5, and on the same number but omitting exceptions 72·94. For the uninitiated the last is the fairest calculation upon which to judge the work done, and, as may readily be seen, it is the difference between 100 and the percentage of failures. The number of pupils excepted owing to irregular attendance, expressed as a percentage of the number examined in standards, was 7·3; but several pupils passed their standards who would have been counted excepted on this group of irregular attendance if they had failed to reach the requirements for a pass. The attendance upon examination days was very good, and it was pleasing to see how the children at well-conducted schools thoroughly enjoyed their work. At many schools in bush districts, where the roads were very bad, I found every child present even on very wet days. Unfortunately, however, the attendance at several schools is very irregular, except when the examination is near at hand. Indeed, it is a common complaint with teachers that immediately after the examination many children are kept at home for weeks, and even for months. The following table (Table A) gives a condensed summary of the examination results during the past two years. Table B shows the results in each standard. Table C [not printed] gives every information with regard to individual schools.

TABLE A.

	1886.	1887.
Number on rolls on days of examination...	5,874	6,503
Preparatory classes	2,146	2,372
Above Standard VI.	24	29
	2,170	2,401
Presented in Standards I. to VI., inclusive	3,704	4,102
Percentage of roll number presented	63·0	63·07
Examined in Standards I. to VI.	3,449	3,874
Absent in standards	255	228
Excepted in standards	249	286
Failed in standards	955	971
Passed in standards	2,245	2,617
Percentage of passes (calculated on roll number)	38·2	40·24
Percentage of failures	29·8	27·06
Percentage of passes on number examined in standards	65·0	67·55
Percentage of passes on number examined in standards, omitting exceptions	70·2	72·94

TABLE B.

No. of Schools examined in each Standard.	Standard Classes.	Presented.	Absent.	Excepted.	Failed.	Passed.	Average Age of those that passed.	Percentage of Failures in Standards.
							Yrs. mos.	
15	S 7 ...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...
42	S 6 ...	164	13	7	50	94	13 11	34·7
57	S 5 ...	313	16	22	97	178	13 5	35·3
71	S 4 ...	642	39	47	219	337	12 9	39·4
69	S 3 ...	838	65	68	253	452	11 9	35·9
72	S 2 ...	1,107	51	77	212	767	10 6	21·7
70	S 1 ...	1,038	44	65	140	789	8 10	15·1
74	P. ...	2,372	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Totals ...	6,503	228	286	971	2,617	*	27·06

* Mean of average age, 11 years 10·3 months.