

addition to the number reported as receiving instruction in handwork of various forms, which brings the increase under this heading during two successive years to a total of nearly 43,000, an increase of over 30 per cent. of the roll-number. On the other hand, reductions are found in geography, history, needlework, and in nature-study and elementary science. Of these the decrease under the last heading, as the representative of the object-lessons and elementary science of the earlier returns, is much the greatest. This does not of necessity mean that less attention is given in the schools to such an all-important feature; it probably means in part that the instruction under this heading in the smaller class of school has taken a different form, definite lessons, which under the circumstances were often of doubtful value being now dropped, and their place taken more or less by such incidental cultivation of an interest in nature as may be secured in various ways—*e.g.*, by the teacher's informal chats, by the adaptation of other subjects to the purpose, and by the use of nature notebooks recording the children's own observations.

In part also the difference is explainable on the ground that in an increasing number of the larger schools science classes have, with an improvement in the methods adopted, been recognised under the Regulations for Manual and Technical Instruction as handwork classes, the relative positions of science and handwork being thus affected rather in name than in fact.

At the same time, from a comparison of the returns in the light of the practical alternation permitted in the schools between science and handwork as additional subjects of the course, some real sacrifice of the one to the benefit of the other must be taken to be denoted by the figures submitted.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The number of schools open at the end of 1905, counting 90 half-time schools as 45, was 1806, or 21 more than at the end of 1904.

In Table E1 the schools are classified, as for 1904, according to the yearly average attendance. The classification is in accordance with the grades in Part I of Schedule I to "The Public-school Teachers' Salaries Act, 1901," as re-enacted by "The Education Act, 1904."

TABLE E1.—NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, DECEMBER, 1905.

Grade.	Auckland.	Taranaki.	Wanganui.	Wellington.	Hawke's Bay.	Marlborough.	Nelson.	Grey.	Westland.	North Canterbury.	South Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Total Number of Schools.	Total Number in 1904.
0 ..	26	2	21	17	12	32	22	12	14	10	2	17	16	203	131
1 ..	79	12	38	26	17	10	35	6	8	46	14	37	31	359	424
2 ..	63	11	13	19	7	2	10	1	2	24	16	32	19	219	378
3 ..	95	23	37	27	11	6	16	5	3	38	15	37	44	357	187
4 ..	44	8	18	12	7	2	9	..	1	24	12	20	11	163	168
5 ..	29	7	18	14	9	3	5	4	2	15	3	22	13	144	143
6 ..	15	..	13	6	10	..	6	..	..	7	4	13	5	79	79
7 ..	9	5	6	8	7	2	1	1	..	12	1	7	7	66	65
8 ..	6	..	5	3	3	3	1	1	..	5	1	6	5	39	38
9 ..	11	1	3	6	3	..	1	1	1	4	1	4	2	38	38
10 ..	5	..	3	..	1	1	3	..	1	5	1	2	3	25	24
11 ..	5	2	3	3	1	..	2	..	..	3	..	6	1	26	25
12 ..	3	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	9	9
13 ..	2	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	11	13
14 ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	2	1	8	7
15 ..	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	3	1	2	..	12	13
16 ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	4	4
17 ..	4	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	1	14	14
18 ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	5	5
19 ..	3	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	9	9
20 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	2
21 ..	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	6	6
22 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
23 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
26 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
27 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
Totals, 1905 ..	406*	73†	184‡	154	94	61	112	32	32	205†	74	219‡	160†	1,806	1,785
Totals, 1904 ..	391	73	178	152	92	60	118	33	32	204	74	221	157	1,785	..
Difference ..	15	..	6	2	2	1	-6	-1	..	1	..	-2	3	21	..

* Includes 72 half-time schools, counted as 36. schools, counted as 1.

† Includes 6 half-time schools, counted as 3.

‡ Includes 2 half-time