

year the need of improvements to many of the teachers' houses has occupied the Board's attention. In response to inquiry made lists of requirements in this direction have been forwarded to the Department. In the majority of cases the chief needs were for bathrooms and washhouses, the residences erected many years since being for the most part deficient in these respects. The decision of the Department to grant the necessary relief only in the case of buildings not over twenty years old merely deals with the fringe of the trouble and leaves the main question untouched. This policy, too, seems unfortunate, seeing that it is chiefly the older structures, occupied by head teachers of long experience, that require modern conveniences, not only so that they shall be comfortably housed, but also in order that they shall be in possession of a consideration at least equivalent to the allowance they would receive if there were no house.

MAINTENANCE.—The expenditure on salaries and allowances to teachers engaged in primary departments was £75,389 11s. 8d., the grants to School Committees and other incidental expenses amounting to £6,487 11s. 11d., making a total of £81,877 3s. 7d. The expenditure on salaries, as compared with the previous year, showed an increase of £2,256 5s. 10d. The salaries paid to teachers in secondary departments amounted to £2,686 14s. 8d., being a decrease of £96 15s. 5d. as compared with the expenditure for 1909. Return No. 6* shows the amount spent in each school for salaries and incidentals during the year, and the following table gives the annual† totals under the two headings from 1878 to the present year :—

Year.	Salaries.			Incidental Expenses.			Totals.	Average Attendance Dec. Quarter.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£ s. d.	
1878	31,919	0	0	6,276	6	9	38,195 6 9	10,076
1883	42,240	19	10	6,090	15	9	48,331 15 7	13,462
1888	50,749	14	6	6,400	7	5	57,150 6 3	16,395
1893	56,291	15	9	6,871	14	10	63,163 10 7	17,315
1898	55,390	3	11	5,933	11	1	62,323 15 0	17,152
1901	55,320	19	5	6,579	5	0	61,900 4 5	16,773
1902	57,117	16	2	6,046	14	2	63,164 10 4	16,527
1903	56,748	2	10	5,922	10	7	62,670 13 5	16,462
1904	55,579	11	2	6,027	5	8	61,606 16 10	16,808
1905	57,965	18	7	6,717	16	4	64,683 14 11	17,005
1906	62,939	2	10	6,759	16	3	69,698 19 1	16,759
1907	64,240	10	2	6,694	12	11	70,935 3 1	16,263
1908	65,218	15	9	6,825	12	1	72,044 7 10	17,688
1909	73,133	5	10	7,107	10	1	80,240 15 11	17,821
1910	75,389	11	8	6,487	11	11	81,877 3 7	18,922

There were 592 teachers in the Board's service at the end of 1910, being an increase of twenty-three as compared with the previous year. Of these, 207 (119 males and eighty-eight females) were heads of schools or departments, or in sole charge; 238 (forty-seven males and 191 females) were assistants; 122 (thirty-five males and eighty-seven females) were pupil-teachers; and twenty-five (six males and nineteen females) were probationers. The number of sewing mistresses was fourteen.

The undermentioned table shows the number of schools, the number of children on the rolls, the number in average attendance, and the percentage of attendance at the close of each year† since 1878. The percentage of attendance for the December quarter, 1910, rose to 90·12, showing a gratifying improvement on the previous year (85·51), and being the highest on record in this district, as also was the number in average attendance, 18,922.

Quarter ended 31st December.	District Schools.	Aided Schools.	Total of Schools.	On Roll.	Average Attendance, December Quarter.	Percentage.
1878	106	4	110	13,647	10,076	73·83
1883	139	4	143	17,797	13,462	75·64
1888	155	1	156	20,388	16,395	80·42
1893	175	4	179	21,229	17,315	81·51
1898	186	16	202	20,618	17,152	83·19
1901	185	20	205	19,638	16,773	85·41
1902	185	22	207	19,451	16,527	84·96
1903	183	22	205	19,579	16,462	84·79
1904	184	22	206	19,378	16,808	86·73
1905	187	23	210	19,385	17,005	87·72
1906	189	20	209	19,403	16,759	86·37
1907	192	14	206	19,282	16,263	84·34
1908	195	14	209	20,003	17,688	88·42
1909	196	14	210	20,842	17,821	85·51
1910	194	15	209	20,985	18,922	90·12

* See Appendix E of this Report. † Table condensed into five-yearly periods from 1878 to 1898.