

The number of adult teachers may be further summarized thus :—

Heads of schools—							1910.	1911.
Men	..	..	..	..	..	..	712	728
Women	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	85
							784	813
Sole teachers—								
Men	..	..	..	..	..	..	445	452
Women	..	..	..	..	..	..	793	814
							1,238	1,266
Assistant teachers—								
Men	..	..	..	..	..	..	299	313
Women	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,387	1,452
							1,686	1,765

Of the sole teachers, 102 men and 370 women, total 472, were employed in schools of less than 16 in average attendance; the average number of children per teacher being 10·05. The average number of children per teacher in the remaining sole-teacher schools—that is, schools with 16 to 35 in average attendance—was 23·77. It will be seen on referring to the remarks in this report under the head, “Number of Schools” (page 4), that there were 1,336 sole-teacher schools. The difference (70) between this number and the number of sole teachers shown above is accounted for by the fact that 116 half-time schools (in charge of 58 sole teachers) and 12 side schools have been counted separately as sole-teacher schools.

In schools with two or more teachers—that is, schools of Grade IV and upwards—we find that the average number of pupils per adult teacher, reckoning two pupil-teachers as equivalent to one adult, was 40·22. With the same assumption we find that the average for all schools was 33·62, and for all schools, omitting those below Grade II, 36·61.

The following figures show the ratio of males to females, adult teachers and pupil teachers being considered separately. For purposes of comparison the figures for the previous years are also given :—

	1909.		1910.		1911.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Ratio of adult male to adult female teachers, schools with one to fifteen scholars	100	: 359	100	: 325	100	: 362
Ratio of adult male to adult female teachers, schools with more than fifteen scholars	100	: 140	100	: 141	100	: 142
Ratio of adult male to adult female teachers, all schools	100	: 157	100	: 155	100	: 157
Ratio of male pupil-teachers to female pupil-teachers	100	: 319	100	: 302	100	: 295
Ratio of male to female teachers, all schools	100	: 174	100	: 170	100	: 172

From the above table it will be seen that the proportion of males to females is by no means small, except in the cases of pupil-teachers and sole teachers of small schools. The figures in regard to pupil-teachers show conclusively that a much larger percentage of females enter the service than males; but a great number of these female pupil-teachers leave before completing their period of training. In regard to the large proportion of female teachers to males in Grade 0 and Grade I schools, the maximum salary payable to teachers of such schools is £120, and Education Boards have always found extreme difficulty in procuring suitable male teachers to fill such positions. Indeed, many educationists hold the view that women teachers are more suited to take charge of small schools than are men; for in such schools one-half of the pupils on the average are girls, and, of the boys, half are under ten years of age, and both these groups are consequently more easily and sympathetically managed by a woman teacher; thus 75 per cent. of the average number in attendance at a sole-teacher school are more suited to instruction by a woman teacher than by a male.