

The following is a summary of the examination statistics for 1912 as compared with the figures for 1911 :—

	1911.	1912.
Total roll at time of annual examination ...	162,536	167,800
Present at examination ...	155,244	160,687
Present in preparatory classes ...	56,700	58,202
Present in classes S6 ...	9,742	9,903
Present in classes S7 ...	1,757	2,025
Standard VI certificates gained, viz.,—		
Certificates of proficiency ...	7,212	7,644
" competency ...	1,808	1,610
	9,020	9,254

Details of these figures for each district are given in Table D2.

Average Age.—The average ages of the pupils in the several classes for the two years 1911–12 were as follows :—

	1911.		1912.	
	Yrs.	mos.	Yrs.	mos.
Preparatory classes ...	7	1	7	0
Class S1 ...	9	1	9	1
" S2 ...	10	2	10	3
" S3 ...	11	3	11	3
" S4 ...	12	2	12	3
" S5 ...	13	2	13	2
" S6 ...	13	11	14	0
" S7 ...	15	0	15	1
Mean of average ages ...	9	9	9	9

Details for the several districts will be found in Table D3.

PRIVATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

By section 170 of the Education Act, 1908, the teachers or managers of any private primary school may apply to have the school inspected, and the school thereupon becomes "subject to inspection," and no education given to children between the ages of seven and fourteen is deemed efficient, so as to be legal ground for exemption from attendance at a public school, unless it is given at home or in a school subject to inspection. There is therefore indirectly a compulsion on all private primary schools to become subject to inspection. Such private schools are inspected by officers of Education Boards. The following are the particulars in regard to these schools for the years 1911–12 :—

	1911.	1912.
Total number of schools subject to inspection ...	183	197
Total roll number ...	15,914	13,677
Average attendance ...	14,084	12,086
Total roll at annual examination ...	15,404	13,286
Number present at annual examination ...	14,233	12,322
Number present in preparatory classes ...	5,774	5,410
Number present in S6 ...	928	811
Number present in S7 ...	244	269
Number of proficiency certificates issued ...	581	473
Number of competency certificates issued ...	174	171

The standard of regularity of attendance was very satisfactory, being 88·4 per cent. of the total roll number.

See also Table D5.

CONVEYANCE OF CHILDREN.

Conveyance by Rail.—Since the year 1895 children out of the reach of a primary school, but living near to a convenient line of railway, have been granted free passes to the nearest public school or private school; in 1902 this privilege was extended to holders of scholarships and free places in secondary schools, district high schools, and technical schools; and at the beginning of 1909 the same concession was granted to other secondary pupils who were compelled to travel by rail in order to attend school.