

- (f.) Half the amount expended by the Board on the conveyance (including ferrying) and board of all children over five years of age in excess of the allowances received under (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

The following represents the expenditure by the Department for the year 1918-19 on the above-named services :—

—				Railway Fares.	Conveyance by Road and Water.	Boarding-allowance.	Total.
				£	£	£	£
Primary	..	..	..	10,974	8,869	1,218	21,061
Secondary	..	..	..	4,948	..	..	4,948
Technical	..	..	..	3,138	..	..	3,138
Total	..	..	..	19,060	8,869	1,218	29,147

The total expenditure for the previous year was £28,614.

CLASS-BOOKS AND SCHOOL AND CLASS LIBRARIES.

The practice of former years of making grants for establishing and maintaining school and class libraries was continued in 1918. These grants come under two heads :—

- (a.) A capitation grant at the rate of 3d. per head on the average attendance was paid to Boards for the purpose of supplying schools with supplementary continuous readers in sufficient numbers for class reading in P to S6 inclusive, and also for the free supply of class-books in necessitous cases or in cases where a newly entered pupil had already purchased elsewhere class-books different from those in use in the school. After provision was made for the supply of such books, the balance of the grant, if any, was spent on approved books suitable for individual reading in school or at home.
- (b.) Further to encourage the establishment and the satisfactory maintenance of school libraries provision is made for the payment of subsidies of £1 for £1 on moneys raised by voluntary contributions. In addition to this departmental subsidy a subsidy is payable by the Education Board under section 37 of the Education Act, but the Board is not required to pay a sum exceeding 3d. for each child in average attendance at a school, or exceeding £5 for any one school. The books purchased are to be suitable for individual reading in school or at home, and are to be approved by the Senior Inspector.

The complaints regarding the expense to which parents are put by reason of their having to purchase new books for their children when they move from one district to another are not so common as formerly, and there are good grounds for believing that the attention drawn by the Department to the provision that in these cases class-books must be supplied free has resulted in the relief of parents with respect to such charges. There are also similar grounds for believing the provision of the free supply of class-books in necessitous cases is being more generally complied with.

SUBSIDIES ON VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

In addition to the subsidies mentioned above with respect to school libraries, under section 159 of the Education Act subsidies of £1 for £1 are payable on voluntary contributions for many other school purposes prescribed by regulation. The total amount approved as subsidies in connection with public schools for the financial year ending 31st March last was £4,617 (as compared with £3,800 in 1917-18), and the annual expenditure will undoubtedly increase as School Committees become more fully aware that any efforts they may make in the direction of providing funds for improving their schools and grounds are recognized by the