

the amount upon which subsidy is based exceed £50. In this manner the interests of smaller and less prosperous libraries are protected.

The number of libraries participating in the vote in 1920 was 273, the incomes of the libraries from subscriptions, &c., ranging from £2 to £124. The subsidies paid ranged from £8 0s. 3d. to £14 16s. 4d.

In order that the purpose intended to be served by the vote may be attained, it is made a condition that the whole of the subsidy granted to each library must be expended in the purchase of books. It is further enjoined upon the authorities in charge of the libraries that a due proportion of the books purchased shall be books having a permanent value, the ruling high prices of books increasing the necessity of making a very careful selection. An analysis of the literature purchased in the past is not in every case very reassuring as to the value of the books chosen, and greater care and discretion in this matter are urged.

TEACHER'S SUPERANNUATION FUND.

(See also E.—9.)

The position of the fund at 31st December, 1919, and the principal figures concerning the year's transaction, as compared with those for 1918 are given below :—

					1919.	1918.	
Balance at credit of fund at 31st December	..	..	..	..	£526,702	£458,056	
Increase over balance at end of previous year	..	..	..	..	68,646	37,831	
Income for the year							
Members' contributions	..	..	..	..	72,561	60,310	
Interest	..	..	..	..	26,686	22,666	
Government subsidy	..	..	..	..	43,000	17,000	
Total income	..	..	..	..	£142,247	£99,976	
Expenditure					£	£	
Retiring and other allowances	..	..	..	..	57,489	48,354	
Contributions refunded, &c.	..	..	..	..	14,735	13,115	
Administration expenses	..	..	..	..	1,377	677	
Total expenditure	..	..	..	..	£73,601	£62,146	
Number of contributions at 31st December	..	..	..	..	5,019	4,894	
Number of members admitted during year	..	..	..	..	533	420	
Number retiring from the fund during year	..	..	..	..	408	318	
Net increase in membership at 31st December	..	..	..	..	125	102	
Number of allowances in force at end of year	..	..	..	..	784	698	
Representing an annual charge of	..	..	..	..	£63,448	£51,034	
Ordinary retiring-allowances	..	..	..	400	£40,493	336	£30,484
Retiring-allowances under extended provisions of section 12 of the Act	..	..	..	75	£10,533	71	£10,127
Retiring-allowances in medically unfit cases	..	..	..	94	£9,029	81	£7,125
Allowances to widows	..	..	..	117	£2,119	111	£2,011
Allowances to children	..	..	..	98	£1,274	99	£1,287
Funds invested at 31st December					£	£	
At 4½ per cent.	..	..	..	..	59,000	59,600	
At 5 per cent.	..	..	..	..	26,161	26,161	
At 5¼ per cent.	..	..	..	..	38,460	38,460	
At 5½ per cent.	..	..	..	..	385,812	322,200	
Total	..	..	..	..	£509,433	£446,421	

Of contributors who have joined the Expeditionary Force, two were killed in action in 1918 in addition to those previously reported. This brings up the total number of deaths of contributors who have been on active service to ninety-nine.

As previously intimated, the Government has undertaken to pay the contributions of members during the period they are members of the Expeditionary Force. The amount paid in 1919 was £1,600 9s. 8d., making a total during the war of £13,373 0s. 7d.

TABLES RELATING TO COST OF EDUCATION.

In the following tables, A, B, C, D, E, and F, an attempt is made to analyse the public expenditure on the various branches of education, to show under what heads the increase of expenditure in recent years has taken place; and to give the expenditure per head of the population and per head of the roll of schools.