

contends against obtaining the best results in respect of attendance; nevertheless, the regularity of attendance in New Zealand appears to compare very favourably with that obtaining in other English-speaking countries.

The following figures represent the total number of children (of whom the average weekly roll number was given above) in average attendance at registered schools giving primary instruction:—

Public schools (excluding secondary departments of district high schools)						1918.	1919.
Native village and mission schools	..	..	..	..	..	167,601	172,610
Registered private primary schools	..	..	..	..	..	4,492	4,632
Lower departments of secondary schools	..	..	..	..	..	17,441	18,472
Special schools	..	..	..	..	..	573	608
						248	..
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	190,355	196,322

CLASSIFICATION, AGE, AND EXAMINATION OF PUPILS.

(Tables C1-C7.)

Classification and Age of Pupils.

The classification of pupils takes place usually at the end of the school year, the teachers carrying out the work, in which, when necessary, they may be guided or assisted by the Inspectors of Schools. Although an annual reclassification is the general rule, pupils may be promoted more than once during a year, and in the case of brighter pupils more frequent promotions are encouraged. In the lower classes especially, rapid promotion is often possible.

Educationists in other countries are giving their attention to the matter of shortening the period spent in the primary schools, and so avoiding a waste of time, which in later years becomes a serious matter to the child. The amount of retardation according to the recognized normal classification has been ascertained in many cases, and is generally found to reach a high percentage. In New South Wales it has been ascertained that 42 per cent. of the children in all classes, and 66 per cent. of the pupils of the Sixth Class, are retarded; in San Francisco 44 per cent. of the children are retarded. The following table shows the position in New Zealand. The normal age for S1 pupils at the end of the year is taken as between eight and nine years, and so on through the classes; this is one year younger than has been regarded as normal in previous reports on the subject, but in view of the fact that a child entering school at the age of five should be eight at the end of a year in S1, it appears justifiable to regard children over nine at that stage and over fourteen at the end of a year in S6 as retarded. The difficulty of arriving at a true norm in this matter is acknowledged; in New South Wales a still lower age is taken as being normal.

CLASSIFIED RETURN OF THE NUMBERS ON THE ROLLS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE END OF 1919, EXCLUDING SECONDARY DEPARTMENTS OF DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

Ages.	Class P.		Standard I.		Standard II.		Standard III.		Standard IV.		Standard V.		Standard VI.		Standard VII.		Totals.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5 and under 6 ..	7,860	7,193	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,863	7,193
6 ..	10,581	9,744	132	155	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,721	9,907
7 ..	9,936	8,911	1,603	1,613	113	160	8	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,660	10,689
8 ..	5,154	4,222	4,678	4,674	1,568	1,583	127	153	5	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	11,533	10,635
9 ..	1,724	1,283	3,814	3,331	4,274	4,333	1,408	1,559	114	132	8	5	..	1	..	..	11,342	10,644
10 ..	519	369	1,615	1,211	3,727	3,456	3,974	4,112	1,255	1,338	145	136	6	6	..	..	11,241	10,628
11 ..	175	135	573	389	1,780	1,461	3,704	3,367	3,628	3,603	1,194	1,180	92	91	..	..	11,146	10,227
12 ..	61	48	173	135	673	523	2,030	1,704	3,441	3,169	3,173	3,185	972	904	19	10	10,542	9,678
13 ..	25	23	59	41	232	138	817	684	1,963	1,674	3,254	3,047	2,654	2,592	35	43	9,039	8,242
14 ..	6	4	12	13	51	35	191	129	665	582	1,534	1,230	2,239	2,029	33	55	4,731	4,077
15 ..	..	4	3	3	4	6	22	17	111	87	361	291	806	657	22	37	1,329	1,102
16 ..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	17	10	34	29	95	80	6	12	155	134
Over 17 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	10	1	1	3	16	6
Totals, 1919 ..	36,041	31,936	12,665	11,565	12,434	11,703	12,281	11,733	11,202	10,599	9,705	9,104	6,874	6,361	116	161	101,318	93,162

NOTE.—The number of S6 pupils in this table differs from that shown in Table C2 in E.—2 for the reason that pupils who did the work of S6 but left before the end of the year are included in this table.