

NUMBERS COMMENCING SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND AGES AT WHICH COMMENCED.

The question of the percentage of children who take up secondary courses after leaving primary school, and the ages at which such courses are commenced, was frequently discussed during the year. The numerical position regarding these matters in 1927 was as follows :—

Class of School.		Age at which Secondary Course commenced.								Total Numbers commencing Secondary Education in 1927.	
		Under 13 Years.		13 Years.		14 Years.		15 Years and over.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Secondary ..		501	428	1,252	1,118	936	875	236	236	2,925	2,657
Technical ..		176	162	740	608	722	626	331	247	1,969	1,643
District high ..		185	210	447	436	337	288	114	78	1,083	1,012
Junior high ..		..	6	17	22	35	34	11	13	63	75
Totals ..		862	806	2,456	2,184	2,030	1,823	692	574	6,040	5,387

From the above table it will be seen that 11,427 children (6,040 boys and 5,387 girls) commenced secondary courses in 1927. Of these children 441 (183 boys and 258 girls) came from private schools.

Returns furnished by Education Boards show that 21,470 children left public primary schools in 1926. Assuming that, with few exceptions, the children who commenced secondary education in 1927 completed the primary course in the previous year, it is found that of the children who left public primary schools in 1926 51 per cent. commenced secondary courses in 1927. It must be noted, of course, that not all the 21,470 children who left public primary schools in 1926 were entitled to admission to secondary schools. The number of such children who had qualified for admission to secondary schools by passing Standard VI was 16,106, and allowing for children entering secondary schools from private schools it will be seen that 10,986, or 68 per cent., of the number so qualified actually did embark on secondary courses in 1927.

STAFFS AND SALARIES.

The number of full-time teachers on the staffs of the forty-one secondary schools at the end of 1927 was 587, compared with 568 in 1926. There were 27 male and 14 female Principals and 293 male and 253 female assistants.

The average rates of salary at the end of the year were as follows, the figures for 1923 being also shown :—

	1923.	1927.
Principals—	£	£
Men	713	723
Women	546	559
Both sexes	651	667
Assistants—		
Men	370	392
Women	271	283
Both sexes	324	342
All teachers—		
Men	399	420
Women	287	298
Both sexes	348	364

In addition, male Principals for whom a residence was not provided received house allowance of £60 per annum.