

The examinations were held at eighty centres in 1927. The total number of entries for all examinations was 10,130, of which number 9,585 candidates actually presented themselves for examination. A certain proportion of the absentees is due to the practice of the accrediting principle by which candidates for senior free places may be exempted from an external examination, as may also training-college students who are candidates for the teachers' examinations. 4,664 candidates were exempted in this manner from the necessity of passing the Intermediate Examination. The number of candidates actually presenting themselves for the various examinations during the last three years is shown below :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
Junior National Scholarships and junior free places	2,687	2,775	2,791
Public Service Entrance, Senior National Scholarships, and Intermediate Teachers D and C	5,097	4,759	4,386
Kindergarten Certificate Examination	3,393	2,689	2,384
Special Public Service Entrance Examination in July–August	3	4	10
London University Examinations	121	219	..
Handicraft Teachers' Certificate	2	2	1
	14	13	13
Totals	11,317	10,461	9,585

Of the 2,640 candidates for Junior National Scholarships in 1927, 266 obtained the scholarship qualification, 1,072 qualified for a free place in the scholarship examination, and 1,568 failed. There were also 151 candidates for free places only, of whom 9 qualified and 142 failed.

Of the 941 candidates for Senior National Scholarships 140 gained scholarships, 727 qualified for senior free places, and 214 failed.

There were 1,285 entries for the Intermediate Examination, 1,157 candidates presenting themselves, of which number 365 passed and 792 failed to do so.

The number present at the Public Service Entrance Examination was 2,288, 1,117 of the number passing and 1,171 failing the examination.

The number of candidates who sat for the different stages of the teachers' certificate examinations was 2,384 (635 for the whole or part of Class C and 1,749 for Class D). Of the total number 359 obtained complete passes in Class D, 118 in Class C, and 6 in Class B. 1,233 improved their status and 668 failed to improve their status.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION FUND.

The position of the fund at the 31st January, 1928, and the principal figures concerning the transactions for the year, compared with those for the year ended 31st January, 1927, are given below :—

	1926–27.	1927–28.
	£	£
Balance at credit of fund at end of year	1,083,155	1,134,015
Increase over balance at end of previous year	74,332	50,860
Income for the year—		
Members' contributions	*147,028	*131,872
Interest	73,420	68,053
Government subsidy	71,428	71,228
Total income	£291,876	£271,153
Expenditure—	£	£
Retiring and other allowances	184,707	188,553
Contributions refunded, &c.	26,590	26,075
Administration expenses	3,147	3,845
Bad debts on realization of securities and reserve	3,100	1,820
Total expenditure	£217,544	£220,293

* The sum received in contributions was less last year than in the previous year on account of the larger amount paid in that year by way of arrears of contributions on house allowance (section 115 of the Public Service Superannuation Act, 1927).