

In addition, the Department provided handwork materials for use in 1928 costing some £9,065, and also refunded to Education Boards the actual receiving and distributing charges, amounting approximately to £1,346, involving a total expenditure of £10,411.

The above figures exclude salaries and incidental allowances payable in respect of manual-training classes conducted by Technical School Boards.

STAFFS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The number of adult teachers employed in the primary departments of public schools at the end of 1928 was 6,341 (men, 2,243 ; women, 4,098), an increase of 111 over the previous year. Included in the foregoing figures for adult teachers are 133 probationary assistants who were employed in public schools completing their training as teachers. The number of such assistants for the previous year was 108. In addition to adult teachers there were employed in public schools at the end of 1928, 572 probationers (males, 142 ; females, 430), compared with 567 at the end of the previous year. The following table shows the number of teachers in the schools of the various grades :—

NUMBER OF ADULT TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN PRIMARY DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
DECEMBER, 1928.

Grade of School.			Sole Teachers.		Head Teachers.		Assistant Teachers.		Total Adult Teachers.			
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	
Grade	0	(1-8)	..	34	190	..	..	..	..	34	190	224
„	I	(9-20)	..	314	450	1	1	..	5	315	456	771
„	II	(21-35)	..	209	248	23	19	..	43	232	310	542
„	IIIA	(36-50)	..	6	11	184	88	4	271	194	370	564
„	IIIB	(51-80)	..	..	..	211	39	4	273	215	312	527
„	IIIC	(81-120)	..	..	..	117	7	7	246	124	253	377
„	IV	(121-240)	..	..	..	126	1	96	412	222	413	635
„	V	(241-360)	..	..	..	72	1	122	369	194	370	564
„	VI	(361-480)	..	..	..	58	..	167	404	225	404	629
„	VII	(over 480)	..	..	..	100	..	388	1,020	488	1,020	1,508
All grades			..	563	899	892	156	788	3,043	2,343	4,098	6,341

Ratio of Men to Women Teachers.—The following table indicates the number of women for each 100 men teachers :—

—	1915.	1918.	1922.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Adult teachers—						
All schools	193	253	197	194	187	183
Schools with roll 1-20	323	523	299	212	202	185
Schools with roll over 20	176	227	182	191	185	182
Pupil-teachers	344	425	223	*	*	*
Probationers	647	688	349	248	236	303
Training-college students	387	488	256	191	213	227

* The position of "pupil-teacher" has now been abolished.

The number of adult women teachers to each 100 adult men teachers in all schools has steadily declined since the years of the Great War, the number in 1928 being ten less than in 1915, and seventy less than in 1918. The diminution in the proportion of adult women teachers employed is particularly marked in the schools with less than twenty-one pupils in average attendance, the number of adult women teachers employed in such schools to every 100 adult men teachers so employed having shrunk from 323 in 1915 to 185 in 1928. This movement is attributable to the comparatively higher salaries paid in sole-teacher schools in recent years, thus inducing male teachers to undertake service in these schools.