

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, is still frequently discussed in view of its bearing on the various suggestions for the reorganization of the education system. The numerical position regarding these matters in 1928 was as follows:—

Class of School.		Age at which Secondary Course commenced.								Total Numbers commencing Secondary Education in 1928.	
		Under 13 Years.		13 Years.		14 Years.		15 Years and over.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Secondary ..		575	533	1,320	1,263	997	776	342	231	3,234	2,803
Technical ..		270	273	851	755	723	557	237	183	2,081	1,768
District high ..		237	209	484	429	350	288	135	66	1,206	992
Junior high ..		9	16	36	44	35	41	12	14	92	115
Totals ..		1,091	1,031	2,691	2,491	2,105	1,662	726	494	6,613	5,678

From the above table it will be seen that 12,291 children (6,613 boys and 5,678 girls) commenced secondary courses in 1928. This represents an increase of 864 over the number for 1927. Of the children who commenced secondary education in 1928, 491 (230 boys and 261 girls) came from private schools.

Returns furnished by Education Boards show that 22,497 children left public primary schools in 1927. Assuming that, with few exceptions, the children who commenced secondary education in 1928 completed the primary course in the previous year, it is found that of the children who left public primary schools in 1927 52 per cent. commenced secondary courses in 1928. It must be noted, of course, that not all the 22,497 children who left public primary schools in 1927 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 17,628, and allowing for children entering secondary schools from private schools it will be seen that 11,800, or 67 per cent. of the number so qualified actually did embark on secondary courses in 1928.

STAFFS AND SALARIES.

The number of full-time teachers on the staffs of the forty-three secondary schools at the end of 1928 was 623, compared with 587 in 1927. There were 28 male and 15 female Principals and 312 male and 268 female assistants.

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

	1923.	1928.
Principals—	£	£
Men	713	726
Women	546	556
Both sexes ..	651	667
Assistants—		
Men	370	390
Women	271	289
Both sexes ..	324	344
All teachers—		
Men	399	418
Women	287	303
Both sexes ..	348	366

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