

Year.	Average Weekly Number on Roll.						Average Attendance.					
	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	Average for four Quarters.	Percentage increase previous Year.	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	Average for four Quarters.	Percentage increase previous Year.
1878 ...	1,520	1,797	1,854	1,985	1,789	...	1,259	1,612	1,580	1,649	1,525	...
1879 ...	2,019	2,082	2,510	2,676	2,322	29·9	1,689	1,650	1,871	2,020	1,807	18·4
1880 ...	2,893	2,979	3,003	3,046	2,980	28·8	2,244	2,220	2,204	2,334	2,250·5	24·5
1881 ...	3,224	3,172	3,092	3,170	3,164·5	6·1	2,481	2,386	2,326	2,199	2,348	4·3
1882 ...	3,351	3,184	3,243	3,320	3,274·9	3·22	2,459	2,239	2,457	2,633	2,447	4·3
1883 ...	3,467	3,505	3,609	3,697	3,569·5	9·0	2,649	2,603	2,826	2,940	2,754·5	12·5
1884 ...	3,995	4,109	4,102	4 170	4,094	14·7	3,228	3,176	3,180	3,281	3,216·25	16·8
1885 ...	4,516	4,669	4,549	4,660	4,598·5	12·3	3,559	3,573	3,620	3,733	3,621·15	12·6
1886 ...	4,839	5,011	5,027	5,059	4,984	8·3	3,845	3,863	3,978	3,941	3,906·75	7·9
1887 ...	5,319	5,615	5,574	5,549	5,514·25	10·6	4,144	4,266	4,414	4,453	4,319·25	10·5
1888 ...	5,902	5,968	5,841	5,758	5,867·25	6·4	*4,686	*4,733	*4,673	*4,627	*4,679·75	*8·3

* Strict average attendance.

INSPECTION.—All the schools under the Board have been examined strictly in accordance with the regulations issued by Order in Council relating to the inspection of schools. As remarked a year ago, it would appear that the difficulties to be surmounted by standard pupils under the new regulations are much greater than they were under the old. It is hoped, however, that these will be overcome in some measure by the improvement which is taking place in the work of the preparatory classes in the lower departments. The Inspector speaks in terms of commendation of the lady teachers who are engaged in the instruction of the junior pupils attending the schools, and he points out that some of the most valuable and permanent training is being done by the teachers who have charge of these classes.

The presentations in standards numbered 67 per cent. of the pupils attending the schools, and the actual passes exceeded those of the previous year by 367. A fair proportion of this increase took place in the upper standards. The summary of results for each school, which is appended to the Inspector's report, points to the encouraging fact that some of the smaller schools are doing very good work, and maintain a high position, even when their results are compared with those of the larger schools in the district. It is satisfactory to notice that few schools are to be found which are really defective in order and discipline; and the improvement reported a year ago as being perceptible in the tone of the schools and in the manners and behaviour of the pupils still continues, and offers evidence that these phases of school keeping, if not as yet quite satisfactory, are receiving careful attention from the teachers. Reports continue to be received as to the improving character of the standard work, and much attention is being given to instruction in what are known as "class" and "additional" subjects. But the Board cannot refrain from expressing the opinion so often expressed before that too many subjects tend to retard the progress of the children, and that it would be well if the instruction in the schools could be arranged and adapted to the special needs of districts.

The standard passes for the year will be found in the following table, which contains the number of passes in each standard for each year since 1878:—

Year.	Standard I.			Standard II.			Standard III.			Standard IV.			Standard V.			Standard VI.			Total Passes.
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1878 ...	272	277	549	61	39	100	57	45	102	7	4	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	762
1879 ...	228	201	429	224	166	390	95	94	189	43	22	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,073
1880 ...	199	174	373	176	158	334	104	103	207	53	40	93	19	6	25	...	...	...	1,032
1881 ...	225	161	386	202	172	374	154	117	271	69	66	135	22	15	37	10	...	...	1,213
1882 ...	213	177	390	184	166	350	171	156	327	86	70	156	44	26	70	12	9	21	1,314
1883 ...	298	264	562	225	196	421	159	140	299	121	89	210	44	28	72	22	13	35	1,599
1884 ...	396	360	754	234	215	451	200	175	375	94	98	192	49	49	98	17	14	31	1,906
1885 ...	332	361	693	294	279	573	198	177	375	140	136	276	35	51	86	34	29	63	2,066
1886 ...	368	357	725	240	277	517	224	178	402	134	124	258	80	61	141	32	27	59	2,102
1887 ...	324	329	653	290	294	584	209	211	420	149	121	270	75	100	175	54	38	92	2,194
1888 ...	428	386	814	318	299	617	255	255	510	167	168	335	97	77	174	42	69	111	2,561

The final examinations of Standards V. and VI. took place on the 2nd November. Two supervisors for each of the larger schools were appointed on the recommendation of the School Committees, and, as far as it is possible to judge, they carried out their duties with care and efficiency. The competition in these standards is very severe between the pupils of the different schools, and the results in many instances display much intelligence and careful training. On the result of Standard VI. examination the Board grants its scholarships, to enable pupils who distinguish themselves to proceed to the high schools for one or more years. Each scholarship is sufficient to provide for the fees charged at the high school; but in the case of country pupils an additional £20 is allowed