CLASSIFICATION, AGE, AND EXAMINATION OF PUPILS.

(E2, Tables C1–C6.)

The classification of school-children has for some years been carried out by the teachers, who have on the whole performed the duty in a wholly satisfactory manner. Experience is, of course, essential for the successful accomplishment of the work, and in the case of young and inexperienced teachers in country schools the assistance and advice of the Inspectors have been necessary to rectify errors of judgment.

The table below, setting forth the ages and classification of the pupils of public schools, demonstrates some interesting facts.

CLASSIFIED RETURN OF THE NUMBERS ON THE ROLLS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE END OF 1915.

Ages.	Class P.		Standard I.		Standard II.		Standard III.		Standard IV.		Standard V.		Standard VI.		Standard VII.		Totals.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5 and under 6 ..	7,577	6,784	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,577	6,787
6 ,, 7 ..	10,100	9,423	118	117	13	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,231	9,545
7 ,, 8 ..	9,527	8,596	1,523	1,513	141	161	8	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,200	10,275
8 ,, 9 ..	5,063	4,294	4,231	4,144	1,393	1,498	125	144	13	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	10,826	10,084
9 ,, 10 ..	1,693	1,319	3,700	3,313	3,998	3,859	1,320	1,374	167	130	5	6	..	1	..	..	10,883	10,002
10 ,, 11 ..	563	395	1,563	1,271	3,474	3,267	3,657	3,588	1,154	1,268	136	116	5	4	..	..	10,552	9,909
11 ,, 12 ..	171	121	512	371	1,623	1,368	3,505	3,159	3,332	3,227	1,104	1,149	115	114	..	4	10,362	9,513
12 ,, 13 ..	75	58	174	152	626	458	1,794	1,505	3,141	2,917	2,806	2,891	790	909	45	35	9,451	8,925
13 ,, 14 ..	36	24	75	66	230	140	794	517	1,679	1,498	2,864	2,818	2,212	2,242	182	198	8,072	7,503
14 ,, 15 ..	10	10	24	16	43	32	159	124	520	393	1,362	1,086	1,880	1,761	396	383	4,394	3,805
Above 15 ..	2	1	6	4	6	6	33	14	93	71	341	216	730	576	548	671	1,759	1,559
Totals, 1915 ..	34,817	31,025	11,926	10970	11547	10794	11395	10430	10100	9,508	8,619	8,282	5,732	5,607	1,171	1,291	95,307	87,907

If the pupil begins his school life at the age of five years, and spends two years in the preparatory classes and one year in each succeeding standard, he should pass out of S6 at the age of thirteen years. It is found, however, that the average age for each class is about one year higher then would be the case if these conditions were universal. This is largely due, no doubt, to the entrance age being very often higher than five years. The figures in the heavy type in the table indicate children whose classification may be regarded as normal in comparison with the average ages prevailing. For example, nine years is the average age in S1 at the end of the year, therefore children between the ages of eight and ten years in that standard may be [regarded as falling within the limits of a normal classification. The numbers above the heavy type figures in the table are above normal classification and represent the brighter children, and those below the heavy type figures are below normal classification, representing cases of retardation. It is not possible from the table to show cases above normal classification in the preparatory classes, or cases of retardation in S7.

An examination of the figures discloses the following results :—

Class.	Normal Classification.	Above Normal Classification.	Below Normal Classification.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Class P	..	..	7
,, S1	67	14	19
,, S2	66	14	20
,, S3	64	13	23
,, S4	64	14	22
,, S5	67	15	18
,, S6	71	17	12
,, S7	..	19	..
Classes S1–S6 ..	66	15	19