

17. LENGTH OF POST-PRIMARY COURSE.

The returns compiled in 1937 by teachers show also the duration of the post-primary course taken by pupils who have now left school. Summarized, the position is as follows :—

TABLE Q 1.

	Secondary Schools.		Combined Schools.		Technical High and Technical Day Schools.		District High Schools.		All Schools.	
	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.
Leaving in first year ..	681	15	138	18	1,231	31	530	32	2,580	23
Leaving in second year ..	1,270	27	215	28	1,572	39	488	30	3,545	32
Leaving in third year ..	1,182	25	227	29	870	22	287	17	2,566	23
Leaving in fourth year and later ..	1,567	33	192	25	337	8	310	21	2,436	22
Totals, 1937 ..	4,700	100	772	100	4,010	100	1,615	100	11,127	100
Totals, 1936 ..	5,912	..	906	..	4,655	..	2,026	..	13,499	..
Difference ..	-1,212	..	-134	..	-645	..	-381	..	-2,372	..

No returns have been obtained from post-primary schools giving the actual length of school life of each individual pupil, but from the information summarized in the above table it is possible to give an approximation of the average length of the school life of those pupils who left school in 1937.

For this purpose a pupil leaving in his first year is taken to have a school life of one year and so on till those leaving in a fourth year or later are taken as four years only. Some pupils stay for five or six years, but this fact is compensated for when it is considered that many pupils leaving in their first and second year cannot be said to have a school life of one and two years respectively.

The following figures are given, therefore, with the reservation that they are not compiled from exact information, but they are nevertheless not far from being correct :—

						Average Length of School Life.	
						Y.	M.
Secondary schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	9
Combined schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	7
Technical high and day schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Secondary departments of district high schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
All post-primary schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5

Table Q 2 concerns those pupils who commenced and finished their courses in the same year, while Table Q 1 also includes in " leaving in first year " pupils who, though in the first year of their course when they left, actually commenced that course in a previous calendar year or at a private secondary school. This explains the difference in the figures in the two tables.

TABLE Q 2.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO COMMENCED POST-PRIMARY COURSES IN 1937 AND WHO DEFINITELY LEFT IN THE SAME YEAR.

	Secondary Schools.		Combined Schools.		Technical High Schools.		District High Schools.		Totals.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Totals, 1937 ..	318	338	89	47	731	451	270	233	1,408	1,059
Totals, 1936 ..	443	377	96	43	895	579	348	302	1,782	1,301
Difference ..	-125	-39	-7	+4	-164	-128	-78	-69	-374	-232

NOTE.—As the schools opened at various dates owing to the infantile paralysis epidemic, the figures concerning the children leaving in each month of the course have not been included this year.