

17. LENGTH OF POST-PRIMARY COURSE.

The returns compiled in 1938 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 ..	683	13	194	18	1,190	27	640	32	2,707	22
Leaving in second year ..	1,357	27	321	31	1,717	40	608	31	4,003	32
Leaving in third year ..	1,216	24	311	29	964	22	336	17	2,827	22
Leaving in fourth year or later	1,868	36	232	22	482	11	385	20	2,967	24
Totals, 1938 ..	5,124	100	1058	100	4,353	100	1,969	100	12,504	100
Totals, 1937 ..	4,700	..	772	..	4,010	..	1,645	..	11,127	..
Difference ..	+424	..	+286	..	-343	..	+324	..	+1,377	..

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 1938.

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 10
Combined schools	2 7
Technical high and day schools	2 2
Secondary departments of district high schools	2 3
All post-primary schools	2 6

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 1938 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, 1938 ..	364	301	107	67	708	464	349	273	1,528	1,105
Totals, 1937 ..	318	338	89	47	731	451	270	233	1,408	1,069
Difference ..	+46	-37	+18	+20	-23	+13	+79	+40	+120	+36

NOTE.—As the various schools opened at different dates in 1937 owing to the infantile paralysis epidemic, and also in 1938 owing to the measles outbreak, the figures concerning the children leaving in each month of the course have not been included.