

year. Even in the Arithmetic of the lower grades the answering has been fairly satisfactory, and these were, perhaps, the most difficult of the papers. There has been a very marked improvement in the Dictation papers, both in appearance and careful spelling; but the Geography in the lower grades has not yet been raised to the standard to be looked for. The attention given to Latin is re-assuring, and a very respectable average was made in nearly all of the academies. The numbers for French are a slight improvement on last years, but it would be well that closer attention to the prescribed course should be given. Euclid and Algebra are studies which evidently receive careful attention, while our first experiment with Physiology and Hygiene has been very successful. The fact that over fifty per cent. has been made by every pupil presented for examination, and that nearly half the number of our schools have been able to have all their pupils pass without a single failure, shows that and a fair mean has been reached in preparing the papers, in keeping their scope well within the requirements laid down by the prescribed course of study. Indeed the greatest care has been taken in the matter of arranging the questions, in view of the criticism to which such are not unreasonably subjected by those for whose work they are prepared as a test; and the fact that the schools have made such an excellent showing at the late examination, indicates, to some extent at least, that the examination papers have fairly tested the knowledge which the pupils are expected to acquire on the various subjects in the programme of school studies.

In connection with the tabular form which the sub-committee appointed to scrutinize the returns from the various schools have prepared and which is attached as part of this report, it has been thought advisable to reduce the inspection notes in regard to the condition of the schools, the grounds, apparatus, specimens of work &c, to a numerical value, and to apportion to such schools as have been reported on favourably an additional grant. This action must recommend itself to all who are interested in seeing an improvement in our schools in these respects, and I only trust that by another year the Committee will be able to increase these additional grants very materially.

The A. A. examination marks have been received from the Board of Examiners in connection with the University School Examinations, and the number of Academies which have sent up candidates this year gives earnest of the success which is about to be realized as a result from the assimilation of such an examination with that for Grade III Academy. These marks I have reduced to the standard of marks fixed by the regulations of the Committee, as may be seen from the individual reports from each school represented at the examination.

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