

attending such schools, in England and Wales, was 1,566, of which 158 were evening scholars; and in Scotland, 1,142, there being again no return for evening scholars.

In England and Wales, the increase in the number of certificated teachers was 592; of assistants, 92; of pupil teachers, 1,315; in Scotland, there was an increase of 182 certificated teachers, and 353 pupil teachers, but a decrease of 23 assistants.

After some general remarks on the various classes of schools, one of which is entirely independent of Government control, two are only partially subject to it, and one alone in full connection with the Department, the Report proceeds to state that the average number of day scholars attending schools of this class, in Great Britain, during the year ending August 31st, 1868, was 1,163,368, or 4·6 per cent. of the estimated population for 1868. The number (1,685,168) of scholars on the books of the same schools was 6·7 per cent., and the number (1,914,440) of scholars whom they would hold was 7·6 per cent. of the same population. The maintenance of annual grant schools, during the same year, cost £1,552,542, of which £484,010 came from Government; £66,812 from endowments; £508,779 from scholars' fees; £492,941 from the voluntary contributions of 194,745 persons, who, having at heart the right education of their countrymen, not only give this large sum, but perform gratuitously all local duties in connection with the schools. And in addition, £144,547 was subscribed for building schools, and £28,540 was raised for the support of Training Colleges, about £5,800 of which was paid as fees by students or their friends. An addition at the rate of 52,104 per annum has been made, during the last three years, to the annual average number of day scholars in annual grant schools, and an addition of 83,971 per annum to the number present on the day of inspection.

My Lords then notice the simple inspection schools.

Last year the Inspectors had on their lists 2,779 such schools, and visited 748, and found in them 45,520 day scholars. The process of changing them into annual grant schools is constantly going on. Quotations are made from the reports of twelve Inspectors in various parts of England, Scotland, and Wales, to show that such schools are far inferior as a rule to those schools which receive annual grants. Indeed though some consider simple inspection as producing a good effect upon schools, others (Mr. Bellairs for example) regard it as, in most cases, wasted. My Lords notice with approval a scheme described by Mr. Perez, as existing in the Diocese of Carlisle, for aiding small schools not receiving Government grants, by making money payments to Teachers on a system of payments for results, similar to that of the Revised Code. These payments vary from 5s. to £3 or £4. And after calling attention to the fact that the simple inspection schools are not unfavourable representatives of that part of elementary education lying outside of the annually aided schools, they speak of the grave consideration that the description of the state of the children in such schools applies to 1,017,632 other children in other schools not inspected.

Building.—On this head the report states that £179,010 was spent in the year ending December 31st, 1868, of which £34,463 was public money. Thus 208 new schoolrooms and 82 Teachers' residences were built, 73 schools were enlarged or improved, accommodation provided for 29,811 children, showing an increase under each head on the previous year. Out of 103 Church of England Schools built nine were under a Conscience Clause.

Examinations.—In the year ending 31st August, 1868, there were 1,685,168 children on the registers of annually aided schools in Great Britain, of whom 747,898 were examined; 512,973 or 68·59 per cent. passed without failure. From the investigations of passes and failures in the respective standards, with regard to the age of the children examined, the conclusion is drawn that of four-fifths of those about to leave school, either no account, or an unsatisfactory one, is given by an examination of the most elementary kind; while with respect to those not examined there are many reasons for thinking these less proficient than those examined. My Lords again therefore call the notice of Her Majesty to the small proportion of scholars over ten years of age who pass with complete success in any one of the three higher standards.

Reading.—In Great Britain, 91·03 per cent. passed.

Writing.—In this subject 88·49 per cent.; and in

Arithmetic, 77·7 per cent. passed.

In each case a slight increase is shown on the returns of the preceding year; and in each case the results were better in Scotland than in England and Wales. But considering that 20·7 per cent. of children over 10 years of age were examined in Standards I. and II., My Lords don't regard the increase with much satisfaction, though they allow the arduousness of the task of securing that the great majority of any scholars shall reproduce fairly well the instruction received.

Objections made by Inspectors to the working of individual examinations are then noticed. In spite of these, My Lords hold that no other method will equally well secure that the greatest possible number of the scholars shall be raised to the point of passing. And they declare their opinion that the school which obtains fewer passes is *pro tanto* the worse school; that it is the Manager's own loss if the number presented does not bear a proper proportion to the average attendance, and that it is the Inspector's fault if the higher Standards are evaded; and that however unpopular deductions from the grant may be, public money should not be paid under circumstances where it was never meant to be given.

The Revised Code is generally regarded with favour by the Inspectors, though some complain that there is no serious increase in the number of inspected Schools.

The complaints of some Inspectors about the management of schools, lead My Lords to notice that this uncertainty of voluntary action is its weak side, and causes a heavy burden to the clergy, who as the visible representatives of a common duty, are often left to choose between seeing it go undone, or doing it themselves in some wholly disproportionate degree. This difficulty exists in an even greater degree in Roman Catholic Schools, where the population is usually immigrant, very poor, and the priests frequently changed, and a larger area of management is recommended, with district boards of clergy and laymen for particular schools.

The Inspectors generally report favourably of certificated teachers. The employment of mistresses as recommended strongly by Mr. Tregarthen and Mr. Pryce, for rural and mixed schools, is approved by My Lords. The increase in the number of pupil-teachers, viz., 1,982, and the steady rise of salaries—specially those of masters—are matters of congratulation. Five Inspectors' reports are referred to as still complaining of the difficulty of procuring pupil-teachers and the decline in their attainments; and five others, as noticing recovery, or the beginning of it. Three are quoted as insisting upon the superiority of girls over boys for the office of pupil-teacher.

The difficulty of procuring pupils is asserted to be, to a considerable extent factitious, and to proceed from the practice of school farming, which is strongly condemned. And it is stated, that, while deductions under Art. 52 Cap. 1, were made last year, to the amount of £2,695, the income of the school had, in more than one instance, been improperly (to use no harsher term) exaggerated in the returns. Mr. Corry's Minute (28th Feb., 1867, Arts. 46, 54, 99) is approved in principle by all Inspectors, and though its conditions are said to be too intricate, yet the Minute promotes efficiency, and has produced considerable effect. The sum of £13,235 has been granted under it. Small schools having an average below 64 specially benefit by it, and 744 got extra grants: 1,870 larger schools also received grants. Altogether 9,073 schools or departments (*i. e.*, 28·8 per cent. of those examined) were paid extra sums under it, being an increase of 10·7 per cent. on those examined in the five months of 1867, during which the Minute was in operation. The grants for evening scholars have risen to £17,664 on 52,499 scholars examined, against £14,134 on 40,572 scholars in the year before. The estimate for this year is 23,395. The increase arises from the permission given to the Managers to conduct the examination (Arts. 142-9). The result of these examinations is not considered satisfactory, because of the lowness of the Standards in which the scholars were presented, and the number of the failures. In Standard I and II, 56·9 per cent. were presented.

In Reading—7·98 per cent. failed;

" Writing—15·69 " "

" Arithmetic—19·92 " "

taking the whole number in all the Standards.

The Inspectors who notice the subject of Compulsory Education are favourable to its principle. Mr. Tregarthen speaks of it as regards attendance of scholars and provision of schools. Mr. Routledge and Mr. Du Port concur with Mr. Tregarthen in recommending indirect compulsion in rural districts in the form of an enactment prohibiting the employment of children who have not passed some educational test. Mr. Sandford shows that without a local rate the poorer class in his district cannot be educated, nor schools properly provided with assistant and pupil teachers. Mr. Bowstead says that 300 additional elementary schools are wanted in his district, and cannot be provided by the action of the present system within any reasonable time. Mr. Mitchell, Mr. French, Mr. Howard, Mr. Waddington advocate some kind of compulsion. Mr. Steele, while pointing out a defect in the Factory Act, agrees with the proposal of requiring some education to have been given to a child ere he is permitted to labour.

The sum of money granted to Normal Schools last year was—

£72,045 13s. 10d. meeting

28,540 14s. 3d. from other sources.

There were 906 male students and 1380 females resident, while