

The pupils who have retired or who have not reported themselves this session are as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Graduated from willow shop	2	..	2
Graduated from piano-tuning department...	4	..	4
Found employment in factory (partial course)	1	..	1
Left or about leaving Ontario	1	2	3
Graduated in industrial work (advanced in other classes) ..		4	4
Detained at home for operations or ill-health	2	2	4
Excluded (imbecile)		1	1
" (for cause)	1	..	1
" (fair vision)		3	3
Detained at home for domestic reasons	1	1	2
	12	13	25

This shows the number of pupils of last session who have returned to be 109, represented by 57 males and 52 females. To these have to be added two re-admissions of former pupils who were not on the register of 1898-9, one male and one female, and nine new pupils, five males and four females as follows:

Ages	Males.	Females.	Total.
Thirty years	..	1	1
Twenty-three	1	..	1
Twenty-two	1	..	1
Twenty-one	1	..	1
Fifteen	1	..	1
Twelve	..	1	1
Ten	..	1	1
Seven	1	..	1
Six	..	1	1
	5	4	9

The complete return will therefore stand as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pupils of 1898-9	57	52	109
Re-admission of former pupils	1	1	2
New pupils	5	4	9
	63	57	120

This is just one less than was shown by the return at the same period last year. With those who are temporarily detained, all or nearly all of whom may be expected to report themselves at the New Year, if not earlier, and cases that are now the subjects of enquiry or correspondence, it is probable the numbers of last year will be nearly or quite sustained. I may repeat the opinion, however, expressed in former reports, that the supply of those eligible for the advantages of the Institution is gradually lessening, and that, too, irrespective of the increase of population. The causes for this probably are:—(1) Prompt attention to the condition of the eyes in the earliest days of the child's existence, (this has been the subject of legislation in the States and Great Britain); (2) The progress of ophthalmic science, and the establishment of infirmaries for eye treatment attached to our principal hospitals; (3) increased intelligence on the part of the public, leading to recourse being had to skilled oculists, and the discrediting of quacks; and (4) greater discrimination in regard to the encouragement of immigration. In this last particular I have noticed a remarkable change of late years. Applications to admit immigrants as pupils who, after a comparatively short residence in Canada had become blind,