

Intelligent visitors of our City Schools have often expressed themselves as somewhat surprised at the smallness and very young appearance of the majority of the pupils in the Senior Divisions, especially in the Male Departments. This fact is, I think, explained by the consideration that many parents are glad to avail themselves of the earnings of their children, as early as they are qualified for any description of employment in which ordinary School attainments are remunerative, while the few pupils whom their parents propose to submit to higher culture, either compete for Grammar School Scholarships, at our Annual Combined Examinations, or are removed to some one of the several public Classical Schools in this City, which can be entered on reasonable terms.

During the year 1862 there has been no relaxation of long sustained effort on the part of the Teachers and the Local Superintendent, to promote the regularity and punctuality of attendance of the pupils enrolled on the several School registers. Our School regulations provide expressly for the restraint of the opposite evil ; the attention of our Teachers is especially directed to its diminution ; and the Board not only deals with it in the way of penalty, but also liberally provides for the encouragement of regular and punctual attendance by the public award of semi-annual Certificates of Honour to all pupils who combine such attendance with uniformly good conduct, allowance being made for inevitable absence on account of sickness.