

education, not by any public school fund or state tax, but, as in Prussia and Holland still, by the requirements of law in regard to each township and neighbourhood. No provision was made for a school fund in Massachusetts until 1834; as late as 1863 the annual amount of that fund was only \$49,044 and the amount apportioned in aid of schools in 1865-6 was \$62,649.

2.—PRESENT SYSTEM IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The fundamental principles of the Massachusetts school system remain as established more than two hundred years ago: but in 1837 it was organized into a state system, and, as such with sundry legal and practical improvements it is now administered. At the head of it stands

The Board of Education, which was first established in 1837, and which is composed of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and eight persons appointed by the executive for the term of eight years, one member retiring annually, and his place supplied by executive appointment. The duty of the Board is to prescribe the forms of returns, appoint a Secretary; appoint the officers of the Normal Schools; collect and diffuse information as to the best methods of rearing and extending education. The expenses of the Board are paid out of the public treasury. The Board presents an annual report of about 60 pages on the state of the Normal Schools and of Schools generally—to which is appended the Secretary's Report and abstracts of local reports of school committees. These abstracts (many of them admirable essays on school education and management) occupy upwards of 300 pages. To these are added tabular and statistical returns filling upwards of 100 pages. The Report of the Secretary of the Board, occupying between 100 and 200 pages, is a document of great value, on his own proceedings, the state of education, and the best means of improving and extending it. Besides the Secretary, the Board appoints Agents to visit, lecture, &c. Spending a day or more in each town, examining schools in the afternoon and lecturing in the evening—also attending associations and institutes of teachers.

Institutes, first organized in 1846, may be established where 50 or more teachers express a desire to unite and sustain one. The sessions are limited to five days. Three thousand dollars are appropriated from the school fund to aid in defraying the expenses of Institutes; but the apportionment to each is limited to \$350. The Secretary of the Board usually attends them.

County Associations of teachers are also encouraged by an allowance to each of \$25, provided its session be held two days and a half in the interest of public schools.

Normal Schools.—The first State Normal School was opened in 1839; two others were opened in 1840; another was opened in 1853. The towns where these four Normal Schools are established, provided the premises and buildings, for the sake of the local advantages of the schools. Two of these Normal Schools are for females; and two for both sexes. The teachers of the Normal Schools are appointed by the State Board of Education. Tuition is free.