

drawing to 22,746 children in elementary schools. In the corresponding returns of the previous year, 10,510 students attended the schools, and 18,988 children were taught. A more rigorous system of inspection and examination has been introduced into the schools, with beneficial results.

The separate schools of science and public lectures in connexion with them were attended by 11,661 persons; the number for the corresponding period in 1855 being 9,128. Examinations have been instituted in connexion with the public lectures, and have much increased their efficiency. Separate instruction in science is not given in elementary schools through the agency of the provincial scientific schools; but classes for the instruction of schoolmasters have been opened, and apparatus for scientific illustration has been extensively furnished at a reduced cost to the teachers who are able to show that they can use it by passing a prescribed examination.

A Gallery of British Art, founded by Mr. Sheepshanks, who has munificently given his valuable collection of paintings and drawings to the nation, is now in course of erection, and will shortly be completed. A new Museum of educational appliances has been organized, and will be opened to the public next month. Various public bodies and societies have co-operated with the Department to render the iron Museum at South Kensington instructive to the public. The Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851 will display a Museum of animal products. The Commissioners of Patents have formed a new Museum of patented inventions. The Architectural Museum exhibits a valuable collection of casts and models; and the Institute of British Sculptors, illustrations of the works of British sculpture.

LYON PLAYFAIR.

Appendix B.

ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART IN ENGLAND.

It may not be uninteresting to give in conclusion the following abstract of a recent address delivered at Kensington by Henry Cole, Esq., C. B., under the direction of the Earl of Granville.

THE HISTORY AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT, BY
MR. HENRY COLE, C. B.

Mr. Cole said,—It has seemed right to the Lord President of the Council and the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, to direct that a series of introductory explanations of the science and art department should be given, when, since the occurrence of several changes, most of its functions may be said to have come fairly into action. At the beginning of this year the department was a branch of the Board of Trade, now it is a division of the Committee of