

The number of candidates shows a slight decrease from that of 1899, there being 36 less. On the other hand, the number of successful candidates is much greater, and is an increase of 328 over the figures of 1899, and 670 over those of 1898.

For the M. P. Q. subjects 565 candidates presented themselves. Of these 59 obtained first rank, 268 second rank, 214 third rank, and 24 failed entirely.

THE NEW REGISTER, AND STATISTICS.

The School Registers which are now being distributed, to be ready for use at the beginning of next school year, have very considerable changes made in the statistical columns. All the "returns," etc., for the same year will have to be reprinted to correspond.

A new feature appears in the provision made for taking certain special statistics occasionally, instead of every year. Blank columns are left for such information, and they are to be filled in in answer to questions numbered to correspond in the April *Journal* issued before the close of each school year.

The new Manual of the School law is expected to be published by next Spring.

SHORT HAND.

From the new *General Prescriptions* of the Courses of Study, it will be seen that Sir Isaac Pitman's Shorthand is one of the optional subjects which can be introduced into any school with the consent of the trustees.

The Education Department does not at present propose to issue certificates for proficiency in this subject. These can be obtained after examination from organizations already granting them. The certificate issued by the *Business Educators' Association of Canada* on the Sir Isaac Pitman System can be accepted by every one for what it represents. Also, the following certificates issued by the Phonetic Institute, Bath, England, viz :

THIRD CLASS or ELEMENTARY CERTIFICATE.

SECOND CLASS or THEORY CERTIFICATE.

FIRST CLASS or SPEED CERTIFICATE.

Circulars of information can be obtained free from "*Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Bath, England, or Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 33 Union Square, New York City.*"

CRITICISM OF "D" SCIENCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The EDUCATIONAL REVIEW (*Editor, Geo. U. Hay, St. John, N. B.*) of November, 1900, contains a very full criticism of the questions and answers of the last Grade "D" Science Examination, by the Provincial Examiner. It is too long for republication in the JOURNAL, whose function is properly the publication of the financial items for public audit and notices of changes and other important features of the school law and its administration. The article will be found to be extremely valuable to those who are interested in good science teaching and its correlative, the passing of a good examination.

Teachers should not fall into the habit of thinking, that because in Nova Scotia a copy of the JOURNAL OF EDUCATION is sent free to each school section, that therefore it is not expected they should subscribe to some good school paper? A teacher who does not regularly read at least one good educational paper, is not likely to be a fit and proper person to be in charge of a school, no matter what class of License he or she may at some time have obtained; and our Canadian educational magazines have a special function not found in the best foreign ones.

SOME NEW BOOKS.

Principal Bradford of the "St. Andrew's school, Annapolis Royal, has published some notes on English grammar, designed to simplify difficulties for pupils,