

the teacher simply used whatever the children chose to bring. In 1878 there were only two school buildings in the colony belonging to the Government. There are now, in villages and country districts, 25 school buildings erected, equipped and maintained by the Government. Another school for girls, to cost nearly £18,000, is being built at Durban.

The kindergarten has taken its place in the school system of Natal, and, according to Mr. Russel, the Superintendent of Education, the infant schools are in a flourishing condition. He says: "In 1897 I went to the annual display of what the Chief Inspector of English schools describes as one of the best kindergarten and Froebel training schools in London, England. What I saw there cannot for a moment be compared, either in variety or excellence, with the exhibition of school handicraft held in June last in the Art School at Maritzburg. In all the kindergarten schools I visited in England and on the Continent I saw very little that is not to be found in our own schools. By the favor of the Scandinavian Government, I made myself acquainted with the details of Sloyd, as taught in the state schools of Sweden. With the exception of working in metals, all the exercises of this craft are taught under other names in our best Government Schools."

Provision is made in Natal for sending promising pupils in the primary schools to secondary or High Schools by means of bursaries. Ten of these are now annually given—four of £40 a year for three years, and six of £20 a year for the same period. There are 519 schools under Government inspection—303 European schools, 184 native schools, and 32 Indian schools, with an aggregate attendance of 22,137 (11,

373 boys, and 10,764 girls), consisting of 8,675 Europeans (4,588 boys, and 4,087 girls), 10,248 natives (4,208 boys, and 6,040 girls), and 3,214 Indians (2,577 boys, and 637 girls).

The average daily attendance is, in European schools, 87 per cent. of the members enrolled; in native schools, 75 per cent., and in Indian schools, 80 per cent. Of the 519 schools, 24 have been established and are maintained exclusively by Government. All the other schools are either private, denominational or boarding schools, receiving grants varying from £10 to £250 a year each. Nearly all the native and Indian schools are directly connected with the various religious bodies in the colony.

The average cost to the Government for each child is about £1 18s. 11d.; each European child costing £3 19s. 7d.; each native child, 12s. 8d., and each Indian child, 12s. 2d.

In many of the Government Schools, art, science and technical instruction receive much attention. Among the subjects noted on the curriculum of these schools are carpentry, physiography, shorthand, type-writing, botany, practical cookery, physiology, agriculture, chemistry, drawing, bookkeeping, sewing and astronomy.

From this brief and incomplete sketch it will be found that the educational progress of Natal has been steady, substantial and rapid. Perhaps no other British colony has made such strides during the last two decades. On reading the course of studies pursued in the schools, we note that above all else the object of the Education Department is to give the children of Natal a practical education, so that the boys, on leaving school, can use to advantage more muscles than those that wag the tongue and wield the pen, and the girls will have such a knowledge