

been discontinued. The Westminster school has been temporarily suspended from local causes, but is likely soon to be re-opened. The monthly average of pupils who have attended all the district schools has been 476, being a small increase of ten above the average of the previous year.

The most gratifying point in connexion with the training school during the past year, is the large increase in the number of children in the parochial schools, which are taken into connexion with the former in order to practise the masters in teaching. Forty-one schools of this class are now taught, this number being an increase of eight schools during the year. The number of children receiving instruction has increased from 1,730 to 3,346. It is important to remark, that the ordinary teachers of these schools are becoming able to impart instruction in drawing. Of the above number, twelve schools, with twenty-eight teachers, are now giving Art instruction to 1000 children. In the central school, 194 schoolmasters were taught drawing; and in the district schools, 251. The sum paid to the Department, for parochial instruction in the Metropolis, was £295. This sum, added to £25 received from the Whitelands Female Training School, and to £32 10s. received for the instruction of schoolmasters, makes, with the receipts of the Central School (£728) a total amount of above £1,080 paid for instruction given by the training school during the past year.

#### *B. Female School of Art, Gower Street.*

This school has experienced a small diminution, both in the number of pupils and in the fees received during the last year. The number of students at the morning classes has been 104 (in the previous year, 122), and in the evening classes, 22; the latter number being the same as in the former year. The fees have fallen from £259 to £240. From the changes made in the exhibitions of the Department, the works of the pupils have not yet been brought into competition, but they have been more numerous than in the preceding year.

#### *C. Museum of Ornamental Art.*

The purchases made for this Museum have, to a considerable extent, been regulated by the desire to render more complete specific sections of the Museum; and, in consequence of this arrangement, the works in metal have been chiefly increased.

The most marked event connected with the Museum has been the display of the remarkable collection purchased from M. Soulages, of Toulouse. The circumstances under which this collection, consisting of 750 specimens, was deposited in the Museum, are somewhat peculiar. A number of gentlemen, interested in the promotion of Art, learning that this well-known collection was for sale, subscribed a guarantee to the extent of nearly £25,000, and purchased the whole collection. As their object was purely disinterested, a clause in the deed of guarantee having rendered profit impossible to them under any circumstances, they offered to deposit the whole collection in the Museum at Marlborough House, with the view of allowing the public to judge whether it should be bought for the nation. This proposal being strictly in accordance with the rules of the