

Two other recommendations of the Commissioners are to the following effect :

"1. That the said colleges shall not in any way be under the jurisdiction or control of the Senate of the New Zealand University further than as regards the regulations for qualifications for the several degrees or other University distinctions; the said colleges being, in all other respects, subjected only to the provisions of the University Act, and the regulations of their respective governing bodies or councils.

"2. That the office of Visitor of the University and the University Colleges, we think, should not be of a merely honorary nature, but should be brought into connection, in some degree, with the general system of education in the colony. Believing that the progress of the University and its colleges will be watched with great interest by the people, we suggest that the Minister of Education should be the Visitor of all these institutions, in order that in his place in Parliament he may be able publicly to give such information respecting them as occasion may require."

The other questions submitted to the Commissioners are barely touched upon, and are to form the subject of a subsequent report.

"PAYMENT BY (OR FOR) RESULTS."

(Old and New Plans.)

In his report on the Training of Teachers in the colony of Victoria, the head of the training institution thus contrasts the old and new systems of "payments by (or rather for) results" in vogue in England. He says:—

"A consideration of the broad phases through which elementary education has passed in England since the introduction of Government aid is suggestive, when we are considering what to look for and how to obtain it. At first schools were subsidized on the report of the inspector as to their general condition. There was no individual result examination, but the school was judged by its efficiency as a whole. Under this plan the schools blessed with good teachers were often excellent, but the work of the average school was loose; depth in a few points was sacrificed to superficiality in many; numerous subjects were taken, but few were thoroughly taught; sharp and clever scholars made rapid progress, but the class teaching was indefinite, and the result, as far as the entire elementary school system of the country was concerned, was comparatively poor.

"A complete change was inaugurated after a few years. Grants were now made conditional on the results of the examination of the individual scholars in reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic, and for a while no recognition was made of anything else. This reaction against superficiality and hazy teaching, in favor of thoroughness and definiteness, secured attention to the required subjects and unlimited grinding at them, whilst it drove almost all others out of the school curriculum. Good scholars deteriorated, medium scholars remained stationary, bad schools improved; the best teachers had been attending to the individual scholars before, but all teachers now found substantial gain, though it was lessened by unfortunate drawbacks—a limited syllabus, a tendency to sacrifice the brighter children for the sake of those who were dull, a

satisfaction with a very low standard, and the loss of intellectuality in the teaching.

"During the last few years the aim of the English education department has been to maintain definiteness and thoroughness in the three R's and in spelling, to cultivate an improved style of class-teaching, and to introduce the study of higher subjects and an approximation to scientific method in dealing with them, where it can be done profitably. There is therefore an individual examination of all the scholars in reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic, an examination of classes (and practically of class-teaching), in geography, grammar, history and needlework, and an individual examination of advanced scholars in certain special subjects in those schools which deserve and desire it, and grants are made conditionally upon success in these three divisions. This is exclusive of the work of the Science and Art Department, which has its own subjects, its syllabus, its examinations and its scale of payments for results."

—The Annual Report of the Science and Art Department of the Committee of Council on Education gives the following summary of results:—The number of persons who have, during the year 1878, attended the schools and classes of science and art in connection with the Department, are as follows, viz.:—57,230 attending science schools and classes in 1878, as against 55,927 in 1877; and 727,874 receiving instruction in art, showing an increase upon the previous year of 117,254, or more than 19 per cent. At the Royal School of Mines, there are 36 regular and 189 occasional students; at the Royal College of Chemistry, 303 students; at the Metallurgical Laboratory, 74. At the Royal College of Science for Ireland, there were 22 associate or regular students, and 53 occasional students. The lectures delivered in the Lecture Theatre of the South Kensington Museum was attended by 5,491 persons. The evening lectures to working men at the Royal School of Mines were attended by 1,685 persons, being 458 more than last year; and 169 science teachers attended the special courses of lectures provided for their instruction in the new science schools at South Kensington. The various courses of lectures delivered in connection with the Department at Dublin were attended by about 1,421 persons. The total number of persons, therefore, who received direct instruction as students, or by means of lectures, in connection with the Science and Art Department, in 1878, is 794,547, showing an increase as compared with the number of the previous year of 113,180, or more than 16 per cent. The attendance at the Art and Educational Libraries at South Kensington, and at the National Library of Ireland in 1878, has been 76,064, or an increase of 1,732 over that of last year. The museums and collections under the superintendence of the Departments in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, were last year visited by 2,329,877 persons, showing a decrease of 218,899 on the number in 1877. The returns received of the number of visitors at the local art and industrial exhibitions, to which objects were contributed from the South Kensington Museum, show an attendance of 513,986. The total number of persons who, during the year 1878, attended the different institutions and exhibi-