

Evening Schools are making the best progress. One hundred and twenty-three schools have libraries connected with them. Of the 74 schools of the first-class only nineteen are devoid of libraries. Of the 101 schools of the second class 58 are yet unsupplied, while 17 of the 463 third-class schools are supplied with libraries.

During the last few years instructors have been appointed for the purpose of improving the teaching of certain special subjects. There are now instructors of needlework, music, drawing and woodwork. Manual training is taught in 47 schools to 1,775 pupils. Needlework is taught in 1,487 schools to 39,521 pupils. So about two thirds of the 62,578 girls enrolled in the schools are taught needlework. There are two needlework instructresses who visit the schools twice a year examining the work and giving instruction. The object of the visit is to see the work in progress, to judge of the classes and teaching and to advise the teachers; the object of the second visit is to examine the work as finished at the end of the school year. Each year an examination is held in needlework, and those who qualify themselves to teach the subject receive certificates. The course of instruction in this subject includes five branches, viz.: Plain needle work, mending, cutting-out, knitting and netting, and dressmaking. Public School teachers who teach this subject receive an extra grant from Government. The average time spent at needlework in each school is 2.39 hours per week. The boys receive on an average 8 16 hours per week in handwork. Drill and physical training is taught in 52 schools to 32,441 pupils. Vocal music is taught in 771 schools to 46,249 pupils. Drawing is taught in 463 schools to 19,221 pupils.

As regards professional training the teachers are classified as follows:

Holders of European Government certificates .....	165
Holders of Cape 1st and 2nd class certificates .....	147
Holders of Cape 3rd class certificates..	1,276
Holders of miscellaneous certificates..	56
Holders of no certificates.....	2,200
Total.....	3,844

The certificated are thus seen to form 42.7 per cent. and the uncertificated 57.3 per cent. Of the 3,829 teachers employed in 1897, 61.5 per cent. were females. It may be mentioned as a comparison that during the same year 66.9 per cent. of the teachers employed in Ontario were females. There are Training Schools for teachers at Cape Town, Wellington, Grahams Town, Bensusvale, Healdtown and Lovedale. There are 45 highly qualified teachers of needlework in the schools of the colony, 5 teachers of woodwork and 26 graduated teachers of music.

The average yearly cost of education for the last four years was £180,229, being £2 5s. 4½d. per pupil. Last year the expenditure was appropriated as follows:

Office .....	£5,010 10s. 7d.
Inspectorate.....	13,571 6s. 8d.
Higher Education.....	10,492 11s. 1d.
Training of Teachers....	7,981 9s. 9d.
Schools.....	167,891 12s. 0d.

Total .....

£204,891 10s. 5d

It is seen that the net sum paid out to schools was £167,891 12s. 0d., so that, taking the average attendance at 88,010, we find that the average rate of grant per pupil was £1 18s. 10½d. The colony is divided into sixteen inspecerial districts. There are 21 inspectors employed, including the music, needlework and woodwork inspectors.

II. NATAL.—Natal was discovered by Vasco da Gama on December 20th, 1497, and hence named by him