

the two previous years. This will be clear from the following table:—

	1876-7.	1877-8.	1878-9.	1879-80.
Number of scholars.....	232,765	234,828	239,808	234,705
Average attendance.....	178,621	180,294	183,740	180,315

On comparing, however, the statistics of different branches for the two past years, it will be apparent that while "the number of scholars has not kept pace with the ascending scale of teaching," on the other hand "the teaching has continued to be spread throughout the mass of scholars attending the schools." In other words, though the number of pupils has decreased, those in attendance have pursued a wider course of study.

STATISTICS OF STUDIES 1879-80.

Pupils showing proficiency.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Total 1878-9.
Alphabet to fluent reading.....	26,637	25,353	51,990	54,977
Reading fluently.....	39,815	38,622	78,437	84,985
Reading well.....	50,656	53,622	104,278	99,853
Writing.....	76,977	80,038	157,015	145,119
Arithmetic.....	75,299	78,553	153,852	139,148
Mental Arithmetic.....	62,990	64,613	127,603	105,832
Book-keeping.....	8,530	9,361	17,891	14,932
Mathematics.....	2,858	2,497	5,355	5,270
Mensuration.....	4,535	2,657	7,192	4,827
English Grammar.....	16,810	15,947	32,757	25,743
French do.....	39,427	47,174	86,601	72,097
Orthography.....	57,608	63,745	121,353	118,594
Parsing and Analysis.....	35,543	43,923	79,466	73,243
Letter-writing.....	14,249	23,080	37,329	30,102
Geography.....	33,373	39,439	72,812	67,110
History.....	35,691	44,452	80,143	74,849
Industrial Linear Drawing.....	23,205	27,572	50,777	35,429
Drawing from Nature.....	231	423	654	555
Horticulture and Agriculture.....	12,804	11,988	24,792	22,846
Vocal Music.....	19,207	22,182	41,389	33,140
Instrumental Music.....	909	4,124	5,033	4,770

On looking into these figures more closely, we can see that the number of those taking different branches is greater for 1879-80 in all cases, except in the beginnings of Reading. From this we may draw the inference that, while pupils previously attending the schools continued in attendance, the number of children entering did not keep pace with the number of advanced pupils that had left.