

Those who have followed the over-pressure agitation in England must have observed how largely the evil is attributed to irregular attendance by those who would maintain the results-grant. It is not uncommon to read in English papers that hundreds of school-children are running wild in the streets of London, notwithstanding the fact that £30,000 are annually expended in that metropolis for the enforcement of the compulsory school laws. Irregular attendance is declared to be the bane of the rural parishes, and Mr. Mundella, speaking for the whole country including Scotland, says: "There are 5,200,000 children on the register of the schools. They make now an average attendance of seventy-five per cent. That is a great improvement in the last five years. It, however, means that at least one-fourth of the children are absent every day in all the schools of the kingdom."

It should be remembered that only six-sevenths of the population are included in the class for whose children provision should be made in the common elementary schools; the remaining one-seventh belonging to the upper class, whose children are kept distinct from the rest. Reckoning upon this basis, the committee of Council of Education in England and Wales, in their report for 1884-85, state that the attendance of scholars falls lamentably short of the possible number. With the present population, says the report, there might be 5,426,400 on the registers, and 4,522,075 in average attendance, whereas the returns show only 4,337,321 children on the registers, and 3,273,124 in attendance. "In other words, for every 100 children of school age, for whom 89 school seats have been provided, we have only 80 scholars on the register, and 60 in daily attendance."

The ages of children in school attendance indicates also something of the results that may be accomplished. In England the school age is from 5 to 13 years. Of the number on the register in 1884, there were 3,729,392 between 5 and 13 years of age. Standard IV. marks the leaving point for the majority of children, as it is the standard for exemption. Generally this is passed at ten years of age, and for the four susceptible years following; the young people, more especially the boys, are left to the chances of juvenile labor or juvenile idleness. By what measures day school attendance shall be prolonged and night schools made the efficient complement of day schools, are problems awaiting the decision of the commission. From this part of their labors we may expect much that will be suggestive to school officers and to statesmen of our own country, since these are problems with which we also have to grapple.—*Education.*