

thing they have to supply themselves with is stationery. The classification is by age. Children can enter the Infants' Department at the age of three. When they are four years old they go to the next higher grade, and so on until seven years of age, when they enter the First Standard. This system has its disadvantages as well as its advantages. For instance, if a child enters a school at the age of seven years, although he may not even know his alphabet he is placed in the First Standard, in which the children are reading "from a book not confined to words of one syllable," and are able to work addition and subtraction in the simplest form. It is left to the teacher to work this child, in the short space of one year, up to the same standard that the other children have taken four years to attain.

For promotion to a higher standard the pupils are examined by the Government Inspector in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and are required to make at least fifty per cent. on *EACH* subject, before they can pass into a higher standard. For every child that passes this examination a Government grant is allowed, provided a minimum of 75 per cent. of the scholars pass, and of this grant half of the whole amount for the girls' school goes to the Head Mistress, while the other half is divided equally among her assistants, and the same in the boys' school. This they get in addition to their regular salary, and the Head Mistress told me that her share of the grant for the preceding year was £150, making her salary come to £300 for that year, while that of the Head Master was nearly double that amount. This, I make no doubt, is a greater incentive to the teachers to work their scholars up to the necessary standard, though enlightened persons of this nineteenth century of ours tell us that regard for

"filthy lucre" should have no place in the teachers' mind, but the small number of men and women who would be found to teach for the "mere love of it" might, I fancy, rather surprise these philosophers.

The London Board Schools are divided into three departments, viz.: The boys' school, the girls' school, and the infant school, in which boys and girls are together. All these departments are in one building. There is a Head Master over the first and a Head Mistress over each of the others. These have no set class to teach, but go about constantly from room to room inspecting the work of the assistant and pupil teachers. In the infant school pupils are received up to the age of seven years, then after passing the required examination they are promoted to the upper school. The order throughout the school, even to the little three-year old children, many of whom could not speak plain, was remarkably good. The children in the infant school are taught entirely on the kindergarten system, and they had not the wearied, tired-out look that so many of the very young children in our schools often wear. They played their games with zest, and appeared to feel none of the restraint of being in school. I happened to be present in the room when they were marching to the song "Little drop of sparkling dew," and it was amusing to hear the tiny tots in their infantile fashion, render it "Wittle dop of tarkling dew."

Every teacher seemed to be thoroughly capable of doing the work assigned to her, and the sympathy between teachers and scholars appeared most marked.

The writing was good throughout, but the reading was simply atrocious. They dropped their H's and picked them up again, not by the bushel, but by the cart-load, while the pecu-