

237



EDUCATION IN 1934

BEING THE REPORT OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE
STATISTICS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

*Presented by the President of the Board of Education
to Parliament by Command of His Majesty
July, 1935*

LONDON

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PART I

THE REPORT OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR 1934

[All the Chapters of this Report, except Chapter IX, refer to England and Wales. Where separate reference is made to England or Wales, the County of Monmouthshire is to be understood as being excluded from England and included with Wales.]

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO THE KING'S
MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL FOR THE
YEAR 1934

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

WE submit to Your Majesty the Report of the Board of Education for 1934.

1. The present Report deals with the calendar year, carrying the record of the Board's administration down to 31st December, 1934. It is combined with the Board's annual statistics, most of which relate to the period ended in March or July of that year.

2. Steady progress continues to be made with the reorganisation of the elementary school system on the lines of the Hadow Report on the Education of the Adolescent. During the twelve months ended 31st March, 1934, 1103 departments were affected by schemes of reorganisation, and by the 31st of December of that year another 496 were added to this number. These schemes of reorganisation affected children of all ages. The Board have now published for the first time a detailed list (List 49) showing how far individual authorities had by the 31st March, 1934, re-organised the schools in their area on the lines of the Hadow Report, and at that date approximately 53 per cent. of the pupils aged 11 and over were in reorganised schools. This corresponds with a figure of 50 per cent. at the same date in 1933. The process of replacing or improving the premises of Black List Schools continues and during the year 72 schools were removed from the List. We are glad to report that a substantial reduction has taken place in the number of over-large classes. This is a matter to which we have given unceasing consideration and during the year we conducted a special investigation of the circumstances in which, in a number of areas, the elimination of over-large classes appeared to be proceeding too slowly. Two additions during the period under review were made to the list of authorities which have adopted the age of 15 years as the upper limit for compulsory school attendance.

3. The problem of the most suitable education for children attending elementary schools in rural areas is one of some difficulty. During the year the Board published a pamphlet entitled "Education and the Countryside" which is based on a comprehensive survey of the work done in representative county areas, and which concerns itself with the various ways in which schools in rural areas are making the environment of their pupils contribute to the fashioning of a good general education.

4. The teaching establishments proposed by local education authorities under the Code were again the subject of a special survey, and the results of this survey are set out in Chapter I. The quality of the teaching staff continues to improve. After reviewing carefully the prospective opportunities for employment for new teachers, the Board have not felt it necessary to require for 1935 any further reduction in the number of training college students, though they have not found it possible to consider a return to the numbers previously approved. Short courses for teachers in schools of all types have been provided by the Board since 1918, with the object of keeping teachers in touch with developments in their subjects and providing mental stimulus and intellectual refreshment after some years of practical teaching. A full account of the development and working of these courses will be found in Chapter VI.

5. While little change occurred during the year in the total number of secondary schools recognised for grant, the total number of pupils in attendance continued to increase. This increase is due to a considerable extent to the developing demand for secondary education, but it is also influenced by fluctuations in the birth rate in earlier years leading to increased admissions and a reduction in the number of leavers. As a consequence of the increase in numbers there were on the 1st October, 1934, some 350 more classes over the normal limit of 30 pupils than on the corresponding date last year. As long as the effect of the irregular birth rate continues to be felt, the Board realise that special arrangements involving an increase in the size of classes may have to be made in some schools, but they consider this to be only a temporary expedient and will watch the situation carefully.

6. We are glad to report that contrary to the Board's expectation, the number of part-time students attending schools recognised under the Regulations for Further Education has shown a considerable increase and we are confident that this increase will be maintained. The number of full-time students again shows a slight increase. During the year the Board proceeded with the enquiry into the fee arrangements of local education authorities, which was announced in last year's Report. As was perhaps to be expected, the fee arrangements for part-time evening courses have presented more difficulties than the arrangements for full-time courses. The question of the closer co-operation between the educational and the industrial systems of the country has been engaging our active attention and a detailed account of the part that the junior technical school plays in fostering this co-operation is given in Chapter III. The Board have announced the establishment of a scheme of National Certificates in Commerce, the first examination for which will be held in 1936.

7. The passing of the Unemployment Act, 1934, laid on local education authorities for higher education the duty to provide

courses for unemployed juveniles up to the age of 18, as might be necessary, lowered the age of entry into Unemployment Insurance to coincide with the school leaving age and obliged unemployed persons under the age of 18 to attend courses of instruction, if so required by the Ministry of Labour. Your Majesty's Government decided that the experience of the Board in educational matters should be placed at the disposal of the Minister of Labour in order to facilitate the conduct of this new service, and an account of the arrangements made is given in Chapter III. In this Chapter there will also be found a statement of the progress made with the provision of classes for unemployed adults.

8. As mentioned above the Board desire that the schools should in the fullest measure provide for the educational needs of industry and it was to further this object that they issued in December an educational pamphlet on "Industry and Art Education on the Continent." This pamphlet was the outcome of a visit to the Continent earlier in the year by two of Your Majesty's Inspectors, in the course of which six countries were visited and art education in these countries, particularly in its industrial aspect, investigated. It has met with a most favourable reception and it is proposed to deal with it fully in our next Report. Reference was made in last year's Report to the issue of a Circular outlining a new scheme for the organisation of art instruction. The effects of that Circular (No. 1432) are detailed in Chapter IV of this Report.

9. The work of the Board in the field of adult education continues to make steady progress and during the year the Adult Education Committee began its enquiry into "The place of the arts in the liberal education of adults." An account of the co-operation between the Public Library Service and the schools is given in Chapter V.

10. Chapter VIII comprises some details of the progress made in the School Medical Service. A full account of the School Medical Service is to be found in "The Health of the School Child"—the Annual Report of the Board's Chief Medical Officer. Mention may here be made of the inception in September, 1934, of the Milk Marketing Board's Scheme for the provision of milk to elementary school children at the reduced rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for one-third of a pint. This Scheme has met with very great success. It is estimated that prior to the 1st October, 1934, about 1,000,000 children were receiving milk in school, either on payment, or by means of free distribution by local education authorities. By December of that year this number had increased to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions. We desire to place on record an appreciation of the co-operation of the teachers in the arrangements for the sale of milk to the children. The Board took the opportunity afforded by the initiation of this Scheme to issue a Circular setting out their views on the arrangements for the provision of free meals and milk, and emphasising the desirability of periodical survey of the nutrition of all school children.

11. The Board's original estimate for the year 1934-35 amounted to £42,104,018, a net increase of £43,117 as compared with the year 1933-34. The estimate included an increase of £243,700 in pensions to teachers due to the continuous growth of the number of pensioners. Against this there has to be set a decrease in grant to the local education authorities largely due to a fall in the average attendance in the elementary schools. The estimate was prepared on the assumption that the 10 per cent. reduction in teachers' salaries would continue throughout the year, but in consequence of the decision of Your Majesty's Government to provide for the restoration of one-half of this reduction as from the 1st July, 1934, a supplementary estimate of £1,506,000 was introduced in July, 1934. This sum included £6,000 to meet the cost to the Board of the adjustment in the remuneration of Ministers and Civil Servants made from the same date. The Board's total estimate for the year 1934-35 was therefore £43,610,018, an increase of £1,549,117 on that for the preceding year. The cost of the Board's own administration and inspection shows a slight increase, due mainly to the restoration of half the reduction in salary.

12. As is indicated in the body of the Report, local education authorities have during the year made considerable progress with the replacement of old and the provision of new premises in all departments of their administration and during the nine months from 1st April to the 31st December, 1934, the Board gave their approval to proposals involving a capital expenditure of £4,449,212, an increase of £885,678 on the capital expenditure approved for the full financial year 1933-34.

CHAPTER I

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

1. Grant Regulations

13. The Elementary Education Grant Regulations, 1932, (Grant Regulations No. 1) remained in force, the provision under Article 4 (1) for payment of grant to necessitous areas being continued for 1934-35 by Elementary Education Grant Amending Regulations No. 2, 1934.

14. Consequent on the remission of one-half of the 10 per cent. reduction in the salaries of teachers as from the 1st July, 1934, the Regulations were further amended by the Elementary Education Grant Amending Regulations No. 3, 1934. These Regulations provided that as from the 1st July, 1934, the formula in Article 2 of the existing Regulations should be altered as follows:—

- (a) Forty-one shillings shall be substituted for forty-five shillings as the sum to be taken into account for each unit of average attendance in public elementary schools maintained by an authority; and
- (b) Eleven-Twentieths of the net expenditure on the salaries of teachers in those schools shall be substituted for one-half of that expenditure.

15. In order that effect might be given to this alteration of the formula for the period of nine months beginning on the 1st July, 1934, it was provided that the amount of grant to each authority for the full year 1934-35 (exclusive of any additional grant to necessitous areas under Article 4) should be calculated as follows:—

Formula for the Full year 1934-35.

Forty-two shillings for each unit of average attendance in public elementary schools maintained by the authority, with the addition of—

- (a) One-half of the net expenditure on the salaries of teachers in the said schools for the period of three months beginning on the 1st April, 1934;
- (b) Eleven-twentieths of the net expenditure on the salaries of teachers in the said schools for the period of nine months beginning on the 1st July, 1934;
- (c) One-half of the net expenditure ranking for aid to that extent, other than expenditure on such salaries as aforesaid; and
- (d) One-fifth of the remaining net expenditure; less the product of a sevenpenny rate in the authority's area.

2. Educational Pamphlets

16. During the year the Board published a pamphlet (Educational Pamphlet No. 99) entitled "Education and the Countryside." This pamphlet is concerned with the various ways in which schools in rural areas are making the environment of their pupils contribute to the fashioning of a good general education. It is based on a comprehensive survey which involved the securing of information from every county and a detailed investigation of the work done in representative county areas.

3. Reorganisation

17. Satisfactory progress has continued to be made in the reorganisation of schools on the lines of the Hadow Report on the education of the adolescent. Altogether 1,103 departments were affected by schemes of reorganisation during the 12 months ended 31st March, 1934, and a further 496 during the 9 months ended 31st December, 1934.

18. The number of departments classified as "senior" rose from 2,344 on 31st March, 1933, to 2,612 on 31st March, 1934, and of those classified as "junior" from 5,586 to 5,922, while the number of departments classified as "boys," "girls" and "mixed," most of which are all-age departments, fell from 15,715 to 14,984.

19. The 2,612 senior departments contained on the 31st March, 1934, 800,651 pupils aged 11 and over, or 39.1 per cent. of the total number of pupils of this age group in public elementary schools, as compared with 699,077 (or 34.7 per cent.) on the same date in the previous year. In addition, 1,322 of the all-age departments were organised with "senior divisions" providing a separate course of instruction for all pupils over 11, and educating approximately 159,000 senior pupils. Thus approximately 47 per cent. of the pupils aged 11 and over were by the 31st March, 1934, either in senior departments or in senior divisions. The position is, however, more satisfactory than these figures indicate, since there were on 31st March, 1934, 129,103 pupils aged 11 and over in reorganised junior departments pending their automatic transfer in due course to senior departments. By the 31st March, 1934, approximately 53 per cent. of the total of pupils aged 11 and over were, therefore, in reorganised schools.

20. The 5,922 junior departments contained 1,241,722 pupils on 31st March, 1934, as compared with 1,171,346 pupils on the same date in the previous year. The number of pupils between 8 and 12 in these departments amounted to 913,039, representing 38.5 per cent. of the total number of pupils of these ages in public elementary schools.

21. The age distribution in junior departments on 31st March, 1934, was as follows :—

	No.	No. of pupils under 8.	No. of pupils 8 and under 11.	No. of pupils 11 and over.
Junior Boys	599	16,327	124,176	23,883
Junior Girls	681	33,908	124,374	23,998
Junior Mixed	4,642	273,879	539,955	81,222

22. The number of departments classified as "infants" fell from 6,314 on the 31st March, 1933, with 1,166,185 pupils, to 6,183 on the 31st March, 1934, with 1,123,755 pupils. It continues to be the Board's policy to encourage separate infants' departments wherever the numbers warrant, and, in fact, 28 new infants' departments were opened during the year. The fall in the number of infants' departments is to be attributed in the main to the general decline in the number of infants which has been proceeding continuously during the last few years. Forty-six infants' departments were closed and some small infants' departments were amalgamated with departments for junior children. In all cases of amalgamation the Board were careful to insist, as in previous years, that the infants should be placed under the special charge of an experienced woman teacher.

23. Voluntary as well as council schools again participated in the scheme of reorganisation. The number of senior departments in voluntary schools rose from 300 on the 31st March, 1933, to 342 on the 31st March, 1934, (257 Church of England, 72 Roman Catholic and 13 others), and the number of junior departments from 2,237 to 2,350, (2,121 Church of England, 161 Roman Catholic and 68 others).

24. In most cases the reorganisation of voluntary schools of the same denomination has been carried out by agreement, but the local education authority have power under Section 34 of the Education Act, 1921, to give directions with the approval of the Board for the reorganisation of voluntary schools of the same denomination in the same locality, and during the year ended 31st March, 1934, 5 proposals affecting 11 schools were approved by the Board under that Section. One proposal affecting 4 schools was not approved.

25. We have published for the first time a detailed list (List 49) showing how far individual authorities had by 31st March, 1934, reorganised the schools in their area on the lines of the Hadow Report. The prefatory note to this list contains a short table, which is here for convenience reproduced, recording the progress which has been made in reorganisation since the issue of the Hadow Report at the end of 1926.

	Senior Departments.		Per-centage of Col. 3 to total number of pupils aged 11 and over.	Junior Departments.			All-age Depart-ments with Senior Divisions.		Per-centage of the total of Cols. 3, 7 and 9 to total number of pupils aged 11 and over.
	No.	Number of pupils aged 11 and over.		No.	Number of pupils aged 8 and under 12.	Number of pupils aged 11 and over.	No.	Number of pupils aged 11 and over.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
March, 1927 ..	649	163,106	8.5	1,776	150,923	10,830	No figures available.		%
" 1928 ..	718	174,574	9.5	1,868	175,778	12,164			
" 1929 ..	883	209,899	12.6	2,518	277,330	15,230			
" 1930 ..	1,017	238,681	15.3	3,212	416,405	26,500			
" 1931 ..	1,352	319,620	19.5	4,049	565,730	62,535			
" 1932 ..	1,915	519,151	28.1	4,994	739,739	95,336	1,225	120,440	24.7
" 1933 ..	2,344	699,077	34.7	5,586	855,549	120,689	1,483	152,052	32.5
" 1934 ..	2,612	800,651	39.1	5,922	913,039	129,103	1,408	162,510	42.1
							1,346	164,450	48.8
							1,322	158,759	53.2

4. Closure and Amalgamation of Schools

26. The question of reducing the number of redundant schools has continued to receive the attention of local education authorities. During the year ended 31st March, 1934, altogether 163 schools were closed as compared with 213 during the previous year. Of these 87 were small schools with an average attendance of less than 30, and 76 were somewhat larger schools with an average attendance of over 30. Sixty-four were Council Schools, 95 were Church of England Schools, 2 were Roman Catholic Schools and 2 were other voluntary schools.

27. The closure of 34 of the smaller schools was disputed and a formal determination by the Board under Section 19 (1) of the Education Act, 1921, was therefore necessitated. In 3 of these cases the Board decided that the school was necessary. In the case of the 76 larger schools closure was usually by agreement, but there were a few disputed cases. It will be remembered that under the Education (Necessity of Schools) Act, 1933, the Board have now power to determine schools with an average attendance of 30 or more to be unnecessary, provided certain conditions are satisfied, notwithstanding that the closure is disputed. During the year ended 31st March, 1934, 4 proposals for closure were submitted for the Board's decision under this Act, in 2 of which the school was determined by the Board to be unnecessary.

28. In addition to the closures mentioned above, 244 departments were discontinued through merger or amalgamation. There seems no doubt that these closures and amalgamations have resulted in increased efficiency and economy.

29. During the 9 months ended 31st December, 1934, 77 further closures and 93 amalgamations have taken place and 4 proposals for closure were submitted for the Board's decision under the

Necessity of Schools Act. In 3 of these cases the schools have been deemed to be unnecessary.

5. School Supply and Improvements of Premises

30. Particulars as to the number of schools and departments are given in Table 5 of the Statistics. On the 31st March, 1934, there were 20,842 schools, containing 29,701 departments, as compared with 20,874 schools, containing 29,959 departments, on the same date in the previous year. There was a net increase in the number of Council Schools of 82, 64 schools being closed, 113 new schools opened and 33 existing Voluntary Schools being converted by transfer to the local education authorities into council schools. The number of Roman Catholic Schools increased by 8, 2 schools being closed and 10 new schools opened. The number of Church of England Schools decreased by 116, 5 new schools being opened and 95 schools closed, while 26 schools were wholly transferred to local education authorities.

31. During the year ended 31st March, 1934, preliminary proposals were approved under Section 18 of the Education Act, 1921, for 86 new Council Schools and 13 new Roman Catholic Schools. During the nine months ended 31st December, 1934, further preliminary proposals were approved for 116 new Council Schools and 20 new Voluntary Schools.

32. The continued need for strict economy resulted in a consequential decrease in the amount of capital expenditure by local education authorities which was approved by the Board. The amount approved during the year ended 31st March, 1934, was £2,719,793. On the other hand the capital expenditure approved for the nine months ended 31st December, 1934, amounted to £3,290,774, thus exceeding the 12 months' expenditure both of 1933-34 and of 1932-33.

33. Altogether during the year ended 31st March, 1934, 86 plans for new Council Schools were approved and 400 plans for enlargement and improvement of existing Council Schools. The building activities of Voluntary Bodies continued. Altogether 177 sets of plans were approved for Voluntary Schools, 20 of these being for new schools and 157 for enlargements or improvements of existing schools.

34. During the year ended 31st December, 1934, 72 schools were removed from the "Black List" of unsatisfactory school premises, of which 44 were Voluntary and 28 Council Schools. The following table shows the actual position of the Black List on 31st December, 1934, the "A" schools being the worst cases and the "B" and "C" schools being those in which either improvements

can be made or the premises can be regarded as satisfactory for reduced numbers.

—	Council Schools.				Voluntary Schools.				Total.			
	A.	B.	C.	Total.	A.	B.	C.	Total.	A.	B.	C.	Total.
(1) Original Totals ..	219	345	150	714	460	1,421	232	2,113	679	1,766	382	2,827
(2) Removed from list on 31st December, 1934—												
(a) Closed or re-placed ..	137	54	9	200	170	94	14	278	307	148	23	478
(b) Defects removed ..	32	172	67	271	130	684	90	904	162	856	157	1,175
(c) Total ..	169	226	76	471	300	778	104	1,182	469	1,004	180	1,653
(3) Removed from list on 31st December, 1933..	161	209	73	443	291	747	100	1,138	452	956	173	1,581

6. School Sites and Playing Fields

35. During the year ended 31st March, 1934, 112 new school sites were approved, and during the nine months ended 31st December, 1934, an additional 120. These sites where possible are large enough to provide playing field facilities as well as for the playground and school buildings. Local education authorities may also acquire separate sites specifically for playing fields, and in the year ended 31st March, 1934, the acquisition of 33 such sites (as compared with 19 in 1932-33) was approved, of which 9 were intended to serve more than one school. During the nine months ended 31st December, 1934, an additional 40 were approved, of which 11 were intended to serve more than one school.

7. Practical Instruction

36. Table 18 of the Statistics gives some particulars of the provision for practical instruction for pupils over eleven years of age actually made on the 31st March, 1934. Practical instruction in one or more subjects was given in all but 25 of the 2,612 senior departments and in 83 per cent. of the all-age departments.

8. School Attendance

37. The total number of children on the registers of public elementary schools on the 31st March, 1934, was 5,576,752, as compared with 5,639,427 in the previous year. This fall in the total number of children was anticipated in our last Report and is due to the "bulge" of children born in the years immediately following the war beginning to pass out of the schools.

38. The following table, showing the number of children under 5 and in the 5-8, 8-11, and 11 and over, age groups during the past five years, gives a general picture of the situation.

—	Under 5.	5 and under 8.	8 and under 11.	11 and over.
31st March, 1930 ..	165,062	1,745,636	2,056,440	1,559,975
31st March, 1931 ..	158,427	1,703,330	2,009,656	1,642,988
31st March, 1932 ..	156,795	1,671,804	1,901,014	1,846,139
31st March, 1933 ..	163,252	1,642,001	1,817,494	2,016,680
31st March, 1934 ..	155,175	1,598,047	1,775,708	2,047,822

It should be remembered that attendance under the age of 5 is entirely voluntary.

39. The proportion of children who stayed on at school voluntarily after attaining the age of exemption remained much the same. The number of pupils on the registers on the 31st March, 1934, aged 14 years 3 months and over was 53,888, or 1,776 more than on the same date in the previous year. Of these, 39,285 were between the ages of 14 years 3 months and 15 years, 13,034 were 15 but under 16, and 1,569 were 16 and over. More than 72 per cent. of these older children were in senior departments or in departments with senior divisions. Of the pupils who left during the year for purposes other than further education, 83,890, as compared with 80,217 in the previous year, had remained at school for some period after reaching the age of exemption.

40. Two additions were made during the year ended 31st December, 1934, to the list of authorities which have adopted the age of 15 years as the upper limit for compulsory school attendance, viz. Lowestoft and Cheltenham, the latter adopting this limit for a period of three years from the 23rd October, 1934. Proposals for the raising of the school-leaving age to 15 were also received from six authorities, Penzance, Gloucester, Winchester, Denbighshire, Barrow-in-Furness and Workington; Barnsley proposed to adopt the age of 14 years and 6 months as the upper limit. The Board were unable to sanction the proposal of the Barnsley Authority. The proposals of Penzance and of Gloucester have been approved. In Penzance the Bye-law operates as from 17th January, 1935, and in Gloucester for a period of three years from 1st January, 1935. The remaining proposals mentioned above are still under consideration. The returns of the six authorities, East Suffolk, Caernarvonshire, Cornwall, Bath, Plymouth and Chesterfield, in whose areas the age of 15 had been adopted as the limit, indicated that a considerable number of exemptions were still sought, and granted. Prosecutions for non-attendance at school of pupils over 14 years of age were made in 62 cases.

9. Teaching Staff

41. The Board have continued to survey the teaching establishments proposed by local education authorities under Article 11 of

the Code, and, in order to assist in the survey, authorities were asked to furnish particulars of the establishments existing at the beginning of the school year and estimates of the numbers likely to be required at the middle and end of the school year. For the year ending 31st March, 1935, the total number of teaching posts was fixed after scrutiny by the Board at approximately 173,906. This compares with the figure of 174,348 approved for the preceding year. It is anticipated that a material drop in the number of pupils will result in a further reduction in the teaching establishments in the near future.

42. Particulars of the full-time staff as it existed for the country as a whole on 31st March, 1934, will be found in Table 8 of the Statistics. On that date there were in regular employment 130,654 certificated teachers, 28,284 uncertificated teachers and 6,291 supplementary teachers. Corresponding numbers on 31st March, 1933, were 129,330 certificated teachers, 29,143 uncertificated teachers and 6,713 supplementary teachers. The Board are glad again to report a continuance of the improvement in the quality of the staff.

10. Large Classes

43. General statistics as to the size of classes will be found in Table 16.

44. The problem of over-large classes is one to which we have continued to give unceasing attention and during the year under review, in addition to issuing a general instruction to Your Majesty's Inspectors to keep a particularly close watch on the size of the classes in their districts, we conducted a special investigation into the cases of a number of authorities in whose schools the elimination of over-large classes appeared to be proceeding too slowly.

45. Last year we were disappointed to have to report a slight increase in the number of over-large classes. This year we are glad to be able to report a substantial improvement, spread over all types of department, the number of classes with over 50 on the registers having fallen from 8,296 (or 5.5 per cent. of the total number of classes) on 31st March, 1933, to 6,194 (or 4.1 per cent. of the total) on 31st March, 1934. The general all-round improvement which has taken place can be seen from the following table, the figures in brackets being the corresponding figures for the preceding year. It will be observed that the number of areas which had completely eliminated over-large classes rose from 78 to 90, and that there was a substantial decrease in the number of areas with an unusually high percentage of over-large classes.

England and Wales

Percentage of over-large classes on 31st March, 1934

	Nil.	Not over 1 per cent.	Over 1 per cent. but not over 5 per cent.	Over 5 per cent. but not over 10 per cent.	Over 10 per cent. but not over 20 per cent.	Over 20 per cent.	Total.
Counties :—							
Urban parts ..	13	12	21	9	4	—	59
Rural parts..	26	24	10	1	—	1	62
County Boroughs ..	9	8	35	17	10	4	83
Boroughs ..	35	9	55	24	18	—	141
Urban Districts ..	7	4	8	3	5	2	29
London ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total ..	90 (78)	57 (60)	130 (110)	54 (65)	37 (50)	7 (12)	375*

* 59 Counties included twice.

46. Detailed statistics as to the size of classes have been published from time to time in List 44, and the latest edition of this list giving the figures for the year ended 31st March, 1934, was published in the autumn of 1934. As ten years have now elapsed since the issue of the Board's Circular 1,325 in 1924, which urged, inter alia, the elimination of classes with more than 50 on the books, we think it may be of interest to give a summary of the progress which has been made during the decade. This is shown in the following table :—

(1)	No. of classes with over 50 children on the registers. (2)	Total number of classes. (3)	Percentage of Col. (2) to Col. (3). (4)
31st March, 1924 ..	24,958	147,177	17.0
" 1925 ..	21,332	147,866	14.4
" 1926 ..	19,969	150,152	13.3
" 1927 ..	20,201	149,973	13.5
" 1928 ..	16,686	150,444	11.1
" 1929 ..	10,883	150,932	7.2
" 1930 ..	10,017	151,587	6.6
" 1931 ..	8,571	152,062	5.6
" 1932 ..	7,986	152,395	5.2
" 1933 ..	8,296	151,950	5.5
" 1934 ..	6,194	151,961	4.1

11. Maintenance Allowances

47. For 1934-35 fifty-five authorities in all submitted arrangements for expenditure upon Maintenance Allowances for the Board's approval. The total amount included in this item of expenditure in the authorities' estimates for 1933-34 was £68,701 and for 1934-35, £64,206. The amount of actual expenditure for 1933-34 was £60,734. Particulars of the actual expenditure for 1934-35 are not yet available. The number of awards current on 31st March, 1933, was approximately 6,202.

12. Schools recognised under Section 25 of the Education Act

48. These are non-local public elementary schools which receive grant direct from the Board under Article 25 of the Code and are not maintained by the local education authority. Two schools were removed from the List during the year, leaving a total of 34 schools still on the List with 4,852 pupils on the registers on the 31st March, 1934. Separate statistics for these schools are given in Tables 21 and 22.

13. Certified Efficient Schools

49. These are not public elementary schools in the technical sense of that term, but are non-grant-aided elementary schools which are open to inspection and certified to be efficient by the Board of Education under Section 170 (2) of the Education Act, 1921. During the year ended 31st March, 1934, one school was removed from the list of certified efficient schools, bringing the number of such schools down to 19. The number of pupils on the registers on the 31st March, 1934, was 905. Separate statistics for these schools are given in Tables 23 and 24.

14. Poor Law Schools

50. Neither the Board of Education nor local education authorities are primarily responsible for Poor Law Schools. The Ministry of Health is the responsible Government Department concerned, while local responsibility is vested in the appropriate Public Assistance Committee. By arrangement, however, with the Ministry of Health, the schools are visited and reported on by Your Majesty's Inspectors, and also submit annual statistics to the Board; further, in the case of four-fifths of the schools, the local administration has now been assigned to the Education Committee of the local education authority concerned acting as agent for the Public Assistance Committee.

51. The vast majority of children for whose maintenance Public Assistance Committees are responsible receive their education in common with other children in the ordinary public elementary

schools, and the number of Poor Law Schools has for some years past been gradually diminishing. During the year ended 31st March, 1934, three schools were closed. There thus remained on the 31st March, 1934, 30 schools as compared with 33 on the 31st March, 1933, and with 55 on the coming into operation of the Local Government Act, 1929. Of these 30 schools, 19 were ordinary schools educating 4,477 children and 11 were hospital schools educating 439 children. There were thus on the 31st March, 1934, 4,916 children in the schools as compared with 5,791 children in the previous year.

52. The 19 ordinary schools on the 31st March, 1934, contained 24 departments which, according to the returns furnished, were organised as follows:—

Average Attendance for year ended 31st March, 1934.	Number of Departments.							Total.
	Boys (with- out In- fants).	Girls (with- out In- fants).	Senior Mixed.	Junior Mixed.	Mixed (with- out In- fants).	Mixed (with In- fants).	In- fants.	
Over 20 and under 30 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
30 and not over 40 ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Over 40 but not over 100	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	6
„ 100 „ „ 150	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
„ 150 „ „ 200	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	4
„ 200 „ „ 250	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 250 „ „ 300	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	4
„ 300 „ „ 350	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 350 „ „ 400	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
„ 400	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Total	2	1	2	1	1	7	10	24

53. It is satisfactory to be able to record that, although the number of separate senior departments continues to be small, in all cases provision was made for various forms of practical instruction for the older children.

54. The number of full-time teachers in the schools on the 31st March, 1934, was 234, of whom 199 were recognised as certificated and 25 as uncertificated teachers. There were in addition 24 specialist teachers of whom the majority were in part-time employment.

55. The returns furnished show that a total of 1,904 pupils left the non-hospital schools during the year, of whom 15 proceeded to secondary schools and 196 to other institutions providing further full-time education, while 517 left to enter employment.

56. The care and maintenance of Poor Law children as distinct from their education is not a matter which the local authority can

undertake in its capacity as local education authority. This function may, however, be discharged by the Education Committee subject to the general direction and control of the Public Assistance Committee if the latter so decide. The Education Committee is now acting as agent for the Public Assistance Committee in this matter in six counties and twenty-two county boroughs.

15. Canal Boat Children

57. Of the 71 local education authorities in England and Wales having canals in their areas who made returns, 21, all in England, reported the presence of children on boats during 1934. The number of children found on board was 814 as compared with 928 in 1933, and 1,246 in 1932.

No legal proceedings were taken for non-attendance at school.

CHAPTER II

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

1. School Supply and Number of Pupils

58. The number of secondary schools in England and Wales recognised by the Board as eligible for grant on 31st March, 1934, was 1,381, of which 1,228 were in England, as compared with 1,378 (England 1,226) on 31st March, 1933. An analysis of the schools, by type of responsible body, is given in Table 33 of the Statistics. The increase in the number of schools is accounted for as follows:—Seven new Council schools have been recognised, of which one replaced a Foundation school which was closed, two schools (one Council and one Foundation) were closed and the pupils transferred to other schools and two Council schools were amalgamated to form one school. The trusts of one Foundation school were undertaken by the Council for Higher Education for the area in which the school was situated.

59. The number of pupils on 31st March, 1934, in schools recognised for grant, according to the result of the Board's examination of admission registers, was 448,421 (238,062 boys and 210,359 girls), as compared with 441,883 on 31st March, 1933. The increase in school population between those dates, viz., 6,538, is attributable to the extent of 654 only to the recognition of entirely new schools. The main expansion (5,884) took place in schools which were either on the grant list on both dates or which provided alternative accommodation for the pupils displaced by the closure of other schools.

60. The number of pupils admitted to secondary schools on the grant list during the school year 1933-34, excluding those transferred from one school to another, was 92,490, as compared with 92,652 during 1932-33. It is interesting to note that 79·8 per cent. of the pupils admitted to the secondary school system for the first time during 1933-34 had come direct from public elementary schools, and of these considerably more than one-half, viz., 55·2 per cent., were admitted free from the payment of any tuition fee. 80·9 per cent. of the pupils admitted were between the ages of 10 and 13 years.

61. Returns relating to 1st October last show that the number of pupils in grant-aided secondary schools continues to increase, there being 9,600 more than on the same date in the preceding year. The number of admissions at the beginning of the school year 1934-35 shows an increase of 4·5 per cent. as compared with the previous year. The number of pupils over 16 years of age has decreased by 12·4 per cent. during the year. A decrease was expected and was due mainly to the drop in the birth-rate during the period 1916-1918.

62. The number of secondary schools recognised by the Board as efficient, but not as eligible for grant, on 1st October, 1934, was 393 (England 373, Wales 20) containing 67,915 pupils (33,399 boys and 34,516 girls). The number of such schools on 1st October, 1933, was 384 (England 364, Wales 20) containing 66,004 pupils (32,345 boys and 33,659 girls); and the number of secondary schools recognised as efficient, whether grant-aided or not, on 1st October, 1934, was 1,773, and the number of pupils was 535,132 (282,698 boys and 252,434 girls).

63. On 1st October, 1934, 294 preparatory schools containing 19,924 pupils were recognised as efficient; the number of such schools on 1st October, 1933, was 283 containing 19,482 pupils. The preparatory school figures relate only to preparatory schools conducted as independent units; a considerable number of children of preparatory school age are educated in the preparatory departments of secondary schools, and are included in the secondary school figures. As has been explained in previous Reports, the figures do not include a large number of preparatory and secondary schools which are not grant-aided, and have not applied to the Board for recognition as efficient, so that they must not be taken as giving a complete picture of the amount of secondary and preparatory school provision in the country.

2. Free Places and Special Places

64. As was explained in the Report for 1932, new Regulations came into force on 1st April, 1933, under which all provided and indirect grant schools were required to charge fees at approved rates, and Special Places, which carry exemption from fees in the case of need, were to be substituted for the former Free Places which might be and usually were awarded without regard to the means of the parents. In schools in receipt of direct grant, however, the previous Free Place requirements continued to apply generally. Three of these schools which were on the Grant List before 1907 and received grant at a lower rate than the normal remained exempt from the obligation to offer Free Places. With the exception of these three schools (one of which has since been closed), all the schools in receipt of grant on 1st October, 1934, complied with the Board's requirement that they should offer Special Places or Free Places to children formerly educated in public elementary schools to the extent of 25 per cent. of the previous year's admissions or such lower percentages as might be prescribed in particular cases.

65. In Table 36 of the Statistics the schools are classified according to the percentage of Special Places or Free Places actually awarded. It will be seen that in 637 out of 1,381 schools on 31st March, 1934, the percentage of such awards was between 25 and 50 of the admissions in the previous year, while in the case of 273

schools all admissions were either Special Place pupils or Free Place pupils.

66. The total number of admissions to these schools at the beginning of the autumn term, 1934 (including children transferred from other secondary schools), was 85,079, of which 55,363 (65.1 per cent.) were awarded Special Places or Free Places, and the remainder were ordinary fee payers. In the corresponding term of 1933, 53,188 (64.2 per cent.) were awarded Special Places or Free Places and 29,624 (35.8 per cent.) were admitted as ordinary fee payers. Of the pupils who were not admitted as ordinary fee payers in 1934, 42,206 were totally exempt from the payment of fees, 7,717 were partially exempt and 5,445 received no exemption. Corresponding figures for 1933 were 41,307, 6,686 and 5,195 respectively.

67. Of the pupils in the grant-earning schools on 1st October, 1934, 224,981 (48.1 per cent.) were totally exempt from payment of fees, 23,188 (5 per cent.) received partial exemption, and 219,048 (46.9 per cent.) received no exemption. Corresponding figures for the 1st October, 1933, were 225,927 (49.4 per cent.), 16,469 (3.6 per cent.) and 215,198 (47 per cent.) respectively.

3. Fees

68. Reference was also made in the Report for 1932 to the increases in the standard rates of tuition fees charged as from 1st April, 1933, in schools provided or aided by local education authorities. In Table 37 will be found certain information concerning the new fees. It will be seen that there are no longer any schools entirely free and that the number of schools charging fees of 6 guineas or less is 88.

4. Ages of Pupils on 31st March and Length of School Life

69. Of the 448,421 pupils in attendance at grant-earning secondary schools on 31st March, 1934, 345,873 or 77.1 per cent. were between the ages of 11 and 16. The number of pupils over 16 on that date was 72,137, as compared with 80,255 in the previous year, and the proportion of such pupils was 16.1 per cent. of the whole. The number of children under 10 in the schools on 31st March, 1934, was 17,435, a decrease of 945 as compared with the previous year, and amounted to 3.9 per cent. of the total number of pupils in the schools. It is interesting to note that in 372 out of the 1,381 grant-earning schools, the proportion of pupils aged 16 and over to those aged 11 and over was 20 per cent. or more.

70. A full explanation was given in the Board's Report for 1930 of the method now adopted for calculating the length of the school life. On this basis it is found that in the year 1933-34 the average school life after the age of 11 for boys was 4 years 11 months and the leaving age 16 years 8 months, while the corresponding figures

for girls were 4 years 10 months and 16 years 6 months. The figures for boys and girls together were 4 years 10 months and 16 years 7 months, as compared with 4 years 11 months and 16 years 8 months in 1932-33.

5. Staffing and Size of Classes

71. On 31st March, 1934, there were 23,024 full-time teachers employed in grant-aided secondary schools; of these 51·2 per cent. were men and 48·8 per cent. women. The proportion of graduates employed has increased in the case of men to 85·5 per cent., as compared with 84·9 per cent. on 31st March, 1933, and in the case of women to 68·1 per cent., as compared with 67·5 per cent. on 31st March, 1933. The number of classes over the normal limit of 30 increased from 5,274 on 1st October, 1933, to 5,632 on 1st October, 1934. 360 of these latter contained more than 35 pupils, as compared with 316 in the previous year. This increase is due to two main factors, the higher number of admissions and the lower number of leavers during recent years. Both of these factors are a reflection of the fluctuations in the birth-rate in earlier years. It may, however, be noted that the average number of pupils per class in all secondary schools on 1st October, 1934, was 24·9, or only 0·1 larger than a year before.

The Board realised that, to meet the increased numbers, special arrangements would be necessary which might involve a temporary increase in the size of classes. They anticipate that, as the result of a circular which they have recently issued (Circular 1441) drawing the attention of local education authorities and governing bodies to the need for regulating admissions to the schools, there will be a steady and progressive reduction in the number of large classes during the next few years.

6. Advanced Courses

72. The number of recognised advanced courses in grant-aided schools was 485 in 1933-34, as compared with 495 in 1932-33. These courses were held in 332 schools. Of the 485 courses 228 were in Science and Mathematics, 166 in Modern Studies and 37 in Classics. Advanced courses in five groups of subjects were recognised in one boys' school and in three groups of subjects in 17 boys' schools and one girls' school. There was also a substantial amount of advanced work in certain schools in respect of which no application was made to the Board for the formal approval of advanced courses.

7. Further Education or Occupation of Pupils leaving Secondary Schools

73. 43,460 boys and 37,360 girls of eleven years of age and over left grant-aided secondary schools during the school year 1933-34. Excluding pupils who left under the age of 14 and all pupils who

went to other secondary schools or elementary schools, the remaining 40,846 boys and 34,287 girls were accounted for as follows :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Boys and Girls.
	%	%	%
(a) Entered Universities and University Training Departments.. .. .	6·9	4·0	5·6
(b) Entered Training Colleges (other than University Training Departments) ..	1·5	6·9	4·0
(c) Entered other Educational Institutions..	5·5	13·7	9·2
(d) Became Pupil-Teachers, Student-Teachers, Uncertificated Teachers or Supplementary Teachers	1·0	2·9	1·9
(e) Entered a Professional, Commercial or Clerical Occupation	44·4	41·2	42·9
(f) Entered an Industrial or Manual Occupation	20·2	6·1	13·8
(g) Entered an Agricultural or Rural Occupation	3·3	0·5	2·0
(h) Remained at home	0·3	14·0	6·6
(i) Other reasons (going abroad, illness or death, etc.)	2·0	3·5	2·7
(j) Reason not stated.. .. .	14·9	7·2	11·3
	100·0	100·0	100·0

Information regarding the placing in employment of secondary school boys and girls through the Headmasters and Headmistresses' Employment Committees, Local Committees for Juvenile Employment and other Organisations, is contained in the Annual Report for 1934 of the Ministry of Labour (Cmd. 4861).

74. *Pupils proceeding to Universities.*—Particulars of pupils leaving secondary schools on the grant list to proceed direct to Universities are given in Table 47 of the Statistics. Of these 67·1 per cent. were ex-public elementary school pupils, as compared with 66·4 per cent. in the previous year. 760 schools sent from one to four pupils, 211 from five to nine and 83 ten pupils or more.

75. The Board have obtained certain information concerning the previous place of education of candidates :—

- (i) awarded open scholarships and exhibitions during the year ended 31st August, 1934, by Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge Universities; and
- (ii) placed in Class I in the 1934 examinations of the Oxford University Final Honours Schools and the Cambridge University Triposes Part II.

The information is summarised in Tables 48 and 49. It will be seen that 369 out of 674 open scholarships and exhibitions awarded at Oxford and Cambridge were won by pupils at grant-earning

Secondary Schools. Of the 369, 64·8 per cent. were won by pupils who paid no fees in those schools and 59·3 per cent. by pupils who had been previously educated in public elementary schools.

Of the 322 candidates who were placed in Class I of the Final Honours Schools or Triposes, 149 received their previous education at grant-aided secondary schools and 126 at other schools in England and Wales. The First Classes awarded to these 275 candidates were distributed between the several faculties as follows :—

	From Grant-earning secondary schools.	From Efficient and other schools.
Science (including Engineering) ..	44	29
History	26	18
Mathematics	21	16
Classics or Lit. Hum.	17	30
Other Languages	14	11
Other Subjects	27	22

8. Miscellaneous

76. *Full Inspections*.—In 1934, 207 schools were fully inspected by the Board, 39 for the first time. These figures compare with 207 and 50 during 1933. Of the schools fully inspected, 201 were in England and 6 in Wales. In addition, there were 9 Interim Inspections of schools in England in respect of which reports were issued to the governing bodies of the schools.

9. Schemes for Secondary Schools under the Charitable Trusts Acts and Endowed Schools Acts

77. Information relating to Schemes under these Acts is contained in Appendix III.

10. Secondary School Examinations

78. As regards the grant-earning schools it is interesting to note that the average number of pupils who sat for an approved First Examination per school sending candidates was 39·4, and the corresponding figure for an approved Second Examination was 8·5. Comparable figures five years ago were 35·8 and 7·0 respectively.

Expressed as a percentage of the pupils aged 11 years and over in all the grant-earning schools, the total number of pupils from those schools who sat for an approved First Examination was 13·1 and for an approved Second Examination was 2·6.

79. The following Report has been made by the Secondary School Examinations Council for the year 1934 :—

During the year 1934 the Council held 4 meetings and its Standing Committee also met on 2 separate occasions.

The only change in the personnel of the Council has been the appointment of Mr. G. T. Hankin, H.M.I., as one of the Board's Assessors in place of Mr. D. A. Macnaughton, H.M.I.

The past year has been spent mainly in continued consideration of the recommendations contained in Part I of the published Report of the Investigators on the eight approved School Certificate Examinations held in 1931. In accordance with the resolution of the Council in regard to Recommendation 66 (ii) (recorded in their last Report) consideration has been given to the question what subjects should fitly be included in Group IV for the purpose of that resolution. The Council decided that for this purpose Group IV should be constituted as follows :—

1. Art.
2. Music.
3. Technical Drawing.
4. Handicraft.
5. Domestic Subjects.

Questions of detail in the working of the new arrangements are at present engaging the attention of the Council.

As regards Recommendation 68 (v) the Council has decided, after careful consideration, that it cannot approve the proposal contained therein.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Investigators contained in Paragraph 68 (viii), Examining Bodies have consulted together and have reported to the Council that the difference between the methods adopted for compensation by the various Bodies is less than appears at first sight. The Council understands, however, that steps are being taken to reduce this difference. A further review of the matter is to be made after a period of 12 months' working of the new arrangements.

It is of interest to record that the Council has approved a revised syllabus in Music submitted by certain of the Examining Bodies which has been framed in co-operation with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. The Aural Tests are so designed as to be given to all candidates together and do not involve the separate examination of individual candidates. The main object of the revised scheme is to promote the teaching of Music as a Form subject at the School Certificate stage. Having regard to the statement contained in the Report of the Investigators referred to above that " only the specially gifted pupils at a small proportion of schools are presented for examination in Music " the results of this attempt to foster the study of the subject by whole forms will be awaited with interest.

Statistics in respect of the First and Second Examinations held in Midsummer, 1934, similar to those included in previous reports of the Council, are given on the following pages.

First Examination.

The number of candidates entered for the examination was 66,410, of whom 47,616, or 71·7 per cent., obtained certificates. This is the second year in succession showing a decrease in the number of candidates presented for the examination. In 1932, 69,343 candidates were entered and in 1933, 68,406.

The following table shows the number of entries (including candidates not entered for a full certificate) and the percentages of passes with credit in the principal subjects of the examination :—

Subject.	Number of entries.	Percentage of passes with credit.	Percentage of entrants offering the subject.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
English	67,205	57·0	99·0
History	56,179	49·6	84·6
Geography	44,782	48·2	67·4
Religious Knowledge	11,941	48·6	18·0
Economics	272	47·8	0·4
Latin	27,686	45·0	41·7
Greek	2,258	59·0	3·4
French	63,275	53·6	95·3
German	6,465	52·1	9·7
Spanish	1,152	54·3	1·7
Welsh	3,023	63·6	4·6
Mathematics	62,428	55·0	94·0
Additional Mathematics	3,415	54·1	5·1
Botany	11,102	47·0	16·7
Chemistry	25,502	51·3	38·4
Physics	18,747	50·6	28·2
Physics with Chemistry	5,216	49·2	7·9
General Science	2,842	46·0	4·3
Mechanics	1,691	46·8	2·5
Heat, Light and Sound	2,744	51·1	4·1
Electricity and Magnetism	2,354	48·0	3·5
Biology	7,383	46·9	11·1
Domestic Science or Hygiene	458	48·5	0·7
Music	979	64·4	1·5
Art	25,388	54·3	38·2
Handicraft	1,594	64·2	2·4
Domestic Subjects	3,151	53·5	4·7
Commercial Subjects	1,543	43·9	2·3
Geometrical and Engineering Drawing	296	54·4	0·4

In addition 48 (25) candidates offered Ancient History, 167 (115) Italian, 22 (16) Russian, 39 (20) Zoology, 141 (67) Agricultural Science, 78 (66) Geology, 113 (62) Mechanical Engineering.

The figures in brackets denote the number of passes with credit in the subject.

Second Examination.

The number of candidates entered for the examination was 12,434, of whom 8,266, or 66·5 per cent., obtained certificates.

The following table shows the number of entries and the number of certificates awarded in each of the groups :—

Group.	Number of entries.	Number of certificates awarded.	Percentage of col. (3) to col (2).	Percentage of col. (2) to total number of candidates.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Classical	870	554	63·7	7·0
Modern Studies	6,258	4,217	67·4	50·3
Mathematics and/or Science	5,167	3,395	65·7	41·6
Combined Groups	33	19	57·6	0·3*

* The remaining 0·8 per cent. took Group E in the examination held by London University.

The following table shows the number of entries and the number of passes in the principal subjects of the examination :—

Subject.	Number of entries.	Number obtaining a pass.	Percentage of col. (3) to col. (2).	Percentage of entrants offering the subject.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Latin	2,668	1,886	70·7	21·5
Greek	943	637	67·6	7·6
Ancient History	879	582	66·2	7·1
French	4,760	3,634	76·3	38·3
German	608	472	77·6	4·9
Italian	10	10	100·0	—
Spanish	153	129	84·3	1·2
Welsh	133	86	64·7	1·1
English	4,828	3,610	74·8	38·8
History	4,023	2,994	74·4	32·4
History with English	6	3	50·0	—
History with French or German	34	21	61·8	0·3
Economics	190	133	70·0	1·5
Mathematics	5,519	3,855	69·8	44·4
Physics	3,914	2,971	75·9	31·5
Chemistry	3,784	2,841	75·1	30·4
Physics with Chemistry	121	91	75·2	1·0
Botany	831	550	66·2	6·7
Zoology	454	309	68·1	3·7
Biology	315	234	74·3	2·5
Geography	1,580	1,217	77·0	12·7
Geology	16	16	100·0	0·1
Art	90	76	84·4	0·7
Music	29	29	100·0	0·2

CHAPTER III

TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL EDUCATION

1. General

80. The numbers of full-time and part-time students in England and Wales attending the various types of schools and classes (other than Art Schools) recognised under the Regulations for Further Education are shown in the following table :—

Type of School or Course.	Full-time Students.		Part-time Students.	
	1932-33.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1933-34.
Senior College Courses ..	7,138	7,072	1,634	1,727
Technical Day Classes ..	2,604	2,589	24,707	25,427
Junior Technical Schools (including Junior Housewifery Schools) ..	21,445	22,158	—	—
Schools of Nautical Training	926	932	—	—
Day Continuation Schools ..	—	—	15,976	15,638
Evening Classes in Colleges	—	—	198,851	199,624
Evening Institutes ..	—	—	615,314	642,701
Courses for Teachers ..	—	—	32,193	53,574
Totals ..	32,113	32,751	888,675	938,691

Note.—Schools of Nautical Training are now included in this table, owing to the fact that as from 1st April, 1934, such schools were brought under the Regulations for Further Education.

81. The total number of full-time students again shows a slight increase. As regards part-time students, in last year's Report, after a review of the various factors affecting the situation, we expressed the opinion that an increase in the total numbers for 1933-34 should not be looked for and that indeed there might be some further reduction, but that it was not unreasonable to hope that for the session 1934-35 the numbers would begin again to rise. We are glad to find that our anticipation in regard to the session 1933-34 has been falsified, and that the upward tendency which we hoped would occur in the session 1934-35 has begun in 1933-34. The increase is principally in connection with Evening Institutes and Courses for Teachers. It is gratifying to find that the increase in the number of children leaving the elementary schools for employment in the year ended 31st March, 1934, has been reflected so quickly in increased numbers of students at Evening Institutes. We confidently anticipate that the numbers for the session 1934-35 will show a considerable further increase.

82. The following table gives particulars of the number of class entries in the various types of work conducted at Evening Institutes and Evening Classes in Colleges for the sessions 1932-33 and 1933-34, together with the percentage increase or decrease in 1933-34. The increase in the number of part-time students in 1933-34 referred to in the previous paragraph is reflected in an all-over increase in the number of class entries. It is interesting to note that there are considerable percentage increases in physical training, manual subjects, art and music, a group of subjects of the recreative or hobby type. It is also interesting to observe that the decreases referred to in last year's Report in professional and commercial subjects and in English have been arrested, but that languages and, to a less extent, mathematics show a further diminution.

Total Number of Class Entries at Evening Institutes and Evening Classes in Colleges
(Related to Table 68 of the statistics)

	Total No. of Class Entries.		Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) in 1933-34.
	1932-33.	1933-34.	
English ..	222,715	224,856	+ 1.0
Languages (other than English) ..	82,837	76,996	— 7.0
Social Sciences ..	19,177	20,389	+ 6.3
Mental and Moral Sciences ..	2,841	3,259	+ 14.7
Mathematics (including Practical Mathematics) ..	259,003	257,949	— 0.4
Natural Sciences ..	103,657	102,473	— 1.1
Industrial Subjects ..	269,577	286,568	+ 6.3
Nautical Subjects and Subjects for Fishermen ..	278	411	+ 47.8
Professional and Commercial Subjects ..	415,203	415,883	+ 0.2
Rural Subjects ..	2,076	2,409	+ 16.0
Domestic Subjects ..	273,319	278,196	+ 1.8
Hygiene ..	47,755	46,159	— 3.3
Physical Training ..	135,043	153,190	+ 13.4
Manual Subjects ..	96,667	107,644	+ 11.4
Art (other than in Art Schools) ..	38,690	41,853	+ 8.2
Music ..	60,755	64,865	+ 6.8
Miscellaneous ..	9,403	10,479	+ 11.4
Total ..	2,038,996	2,093,579	+ 2.7

Note.—The figures represent class entries, not individual students.

2. Revision of the Regulations for Further Education

83. During the course of our review of fees in schools recognised under the Regulations for Further Education we found that the

regulations were not sufficiently precise in certain respects, and revised regulations were accordingly made which clarified the position. These regulations came into operation as from the 1st April, 1934. We took the opportunity to bring Schools of Nautical Training under the main regulations. These schools had hitherto been recognised under a separate body of regulations which had been in force for many years and were becoming out of date. Provision was also made for the revised classification of institutions giving instruction in Art, viz.: Art Colleges, Art Schools and Art Classes.

3. Fees

84. We dealt with this subject at length in last year's Report. During the year under review we have proceeded with the inquiry into fee arrangements in institutions conducted under the Regulations for Further Education. So far as full-time courses are concerned, negotiations with local education authorities are now completed except in regard to one or two minor matters. Fees of not less than £3 for junior departments and of amounts approximating to the local secondary school fees in the case of senior departments are now in operation generally, coupled in each case with suitable arrangements for special places to meet the needs of poor students.

85. The fee arrangements for part-time evening courses have, as was to be expected, presented more difficulty. As was indicated in our last Report, our inquiry has disclosed not only a wide variety in the actual rates of fee charged by comparable authorities, but also considerable divergence in the principles upon which the fee rates have been determined. While we are far from considering that absolute uniformity in the rates of fee charged in different areas is either feasible or even desirable, we feel strongly that there should at least be consistency of principle, and we have given special attention to this point in our correspondence and discussions with local education authorities.

86. In our view the fee arrangements in any area should satisfy the following criteria as far as possible:—

- (a) They should be based on definite principles; they should be simple to understand and self-consistent.
- (b) They should be suitable to normal times but flexible enough to permit of—
 - (i) adaptation to conditions of depression in industry, or financial hardship among the students, without the necessity for altering the main framework or, indeed, the actual rates of fee. This is important because of the part which custom plays in establishing a particular rate of fee in the normal expectation of students;
 - (ii) adjustment, without administrative or educational dislocation, to rectify what experience proves to have been mistakes in framing the arrangements.

(c) They should take account in a general way of the prospects in, as well as the immediate attractiveness of, the occupations to which they are severally related.

(d) They should be designed to facilitate the progress of students through the various years of continuous courses.

87. In our view these conditions are most nearly satisfied when the fees for continuous courses are graduated according to the stage and type of the course, and where at the same time there is in operation a suitable system of remissions so devised that no student is debarred from taking a course by inability to pay the fee. By this combination fee income automatically expands with increasing prosperity and at the same time hardship to individual students is avoided.

88. Some of the considerations which point to a graduated scale, under which a slightly higher fee is charged for each year of a course, as being the most suitable arrangement were discussed in our Report last year. In our discussions with local education authorities we have found that with comparatively few exceptions there has been agreement on the validity of this principle. The large majority of authorities have now adopted it, and it is anticipated that next year fee arrangements based upon it will be in operation generally, though, of course, the actual rates of fee will vary somewhat according to the particular circumstances of the different areas.

89. Whilst consideration of the fee arrangements is approaching completion, the question of remissions has proved to be more complicated as well as more important than appeared at first sight, and it was therefore decided to treat it as an issue distinct from, though of course very closely related to, that of fees. A special survey was made of the practice of local education authorities generally, and this survey suggested that unless some general agreement were arrived at in regard to the principles upon which remissions of fees should be based, the rates of fee, and, indeed, fee arrangements generally, might have little significance in practice. We accordingly invited the Associations of Education Authorities in England and Wales and the London County Council to confer with us on this matter. As a result we are glad to be able to report that agreed principles have been decided upon to come into operation generally in the session 1935-36.

4. Junior Technical Schools

90. In recent years far-reaching changes have taken place in the educational system of this country. The abolition of half-time attendance at school, the raising of the statutory school-leaving age to 14 years, the reorganisation of the elementary schools and the remarkable increase in the numbers of children drafted into central

and secondary schools for prolonged education have affected the social and industrial life of the nation to an extent not yet fully appreciated.

91. Owing to the rapidity of these changes and the general preoccupation with the economic problems presented by the War and the subsequent industrial depression, industry has naturally found it difficult to keep in touch with the developments in education. As a result many employers do not realise that the conditions affecting recruitment to their industries are no longer what they used to be.

92. The present improvement in certain industries, however, is beginning to reveal problems that will become clearer and more pressing as the recovery proceeds. In some industries shortage of juvenile labour is already foreseen as possible, and it is stated that the number of young persons in training for skilled craftsmanship is in some cases insufficient, even for present needs. There is always the danger that prolonged attendance at school may tend to divert boys and girls from industrial occupations, or, if they do enter such occupations, to lead them to the office rather than to the workshop. The decay of apprenticeship has, of course, contributed to these difficulties, and they are increased by the removal of those who are in the main the most intelligent children from the pool from which industry has been accustomed to draw the bulk of its recruits. It is clear that some readjustment of the relations between industry and the schools will be necessary if industry is to maintain its efficiency.

93. In this connection two movements of comparatively recent origin are significant. On the one hand, the secondary schools in some areas are attempting to give their pupils training for industry by means of what are known as alternative technical courses. On the other hand, certain industries are trying to make good the loss of the old type of apprenticeship by the establishment of a new one. The training of the young worker is no longer left to the employer alone, but is shared between the employer and the technical school according to an agreed scheme in which the functions of both parties are clearly defined. As yet, however, these efforts to bring industry and the schools into closer association are local and more or less tentative.

94. Nevertheless, there is amongst our full-time day schools a very important point of contact with industry. The junior technical school, with its congeners the junior commercial school and the junior housewifery school, is well known to employers and cordially supported by them. In the districts where these schools exist they provide industry with valued recruits, and there is considerable competition for their output. Their importance is not to be measured by their numbers, but by their contribution to

the industrial efficiency of the country. In the year 1933-34 there were in England only 181 schools of this type, containing 21,118 pupils. In that year they produced some 8,900 recruits for industry. In addition to the schools named above there were 35 junior departments in art schools with 2,010 pupils preparing to enter the artistic trades. These schools, however, do not come within the scope of this section of the Report.

95. It may be well to draw attention to the fact that the schools grouped together officially as junior technical schools actually fall into two distinct categories, namely, the junior technical schools proper and the trade schools. The former prepare for entrance to industries, such as the engineering and building industries, without restriction to one particular branch of the industry. The latter prepare for such highly specific occupations as cabinet making, silversmithing, printing, trade tailoring, trade embroidery, hair-dressing and photography. A full list of these occupations appears in Table 55. Both types have this in common, that they set out definitely to prepare boys and girls for skilled occupations. In general, therefore, a school is not established unless the demand of a particular industry or trade is sufficiently great to absorb the output of the school, and the number of pupils annually admitted to the school is restricted to the absorptive power of the industry or trade for which it prepares.

96. The essential difference between the curricula of these two types of school lies in the proportion of time devoted to the vocational work. In the junior technical school proper this is usually not much more than 20 per cent., but in the trade school it may be as much as 50 per cent. and even more if the term "vocational" is widely interpreted. Both types of school "provide for the continuance of the moral, intellectual and physical education given in public elementary schools", but the junior technical school is able to devote more time than the trade school can to such subjects as English, history and geography, which would find a place in any scheme of liberal education, and to such subjects as science and mathematics which, while also forming part of a good general education, may at the same time be regarded as ancillary to the vocational subjects. The fact that all the pupils in the school are preparing for the same occupation or anyhow the same type of occupation makes it possible to treat all the subjects in such a way as to connect them with the realities of that common aim, and the absence of any over-riding external examination allows the teachers considerable freedom in this respect.

97. One of the happiest features of these schools is the zest and purposefulness with which the pupils in general go about their work. They all know exactly what is their immediate objective, although many have their eyes set on a more distant one. They realise that their school work leads directly to these points, and the

result is a spirit of industry which it would be hard to parallel in any other type of school. They take pride in their work because it has to be above the level of amateurism and capable of bearing comparison with industrial and business standards.

98. Moved by a desire that the schools should render the greatest possible service to the industries of this country, we decided in 1932 to send two of Your Majesty's Inspectors to several foreign countries for the purpose of visiting trade schools and studying the arrangements for training recruits for the various industries. The description of the tour and the conclusions that were drawn from the practice of the countries concerned will be found in the pamphlet entitled "Trade Schools on the Continent"*. In this pamphlet the effects of the changes in the educational system of this country upon industrial recruitment and training are also discussed in some detail.

99. Two of the conclusions of the Inspectors may be set out in full:—

- (a) It would be a mistake to replace the junior technical school, as it exists in England, by any form of pre-employment training seen on the Continent. This type of school should be maintained in its present form as a valuable part of our educational system, which serves to render smooth the transfer from full-time schooling to full-time employment of a number of recruits to such constructive trades as engineering and building. The number of junior technical schools in the country is not great, and it is desirable that more of them should be established, not only for the constructive trades, but for others whose conditions are, or become, suitable.
- (b) Trade schools, which prepare for a single occupation rather than for a group of related occupations, scarcely exist in England outside London, where they undoubtedly fulfil a very useful function. There are room and need for a considerable development of this type of school, particularly in the provinces. Proper provision should, of course, be made for the continuance of the pupils' general education. The London trade schools are, in fact, excellent models.

100. Before coming to any conclusions in regard to these matters, however, we deemed it necessary to review carefully and more completely than had hitherto been possible the present provision of junior technical schools and trade schools throughout the country. This review was intended to furnish evidence as to how far these

* Board of Education Educational Pamphlets, No. 91 (Industry Series No. 11)—Trade Schools on the Continent. H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s. 0d. net; by post, 2s. 2d.

schools were fulfilling their functions, and as to what readjustments, if any, might be required if their numbers were to be materially increased.

101. Accordingly, between Easter 1933 and Midsummer 1934, Your Majesty's Inspectors carried out inspections of some 80 junior technical and junior commercial schools. In addition to the information collected at these inspections, full statistical data of each of the London schools of this type were furnished by the London County Council, whether the schools were inspected during the period or not. A full report giving the findings of the Inspectors is in course of preparation and will be published as soon as possible.

102. An account of the origin and development of the junior technical school and of its present position in the educational system, together with a discussion of its future possibilities, is to be found in the pamphlet entitled "The Junior Technical School"*. This pamphlet sets forth the causes of the evolution of a type of school that appears to be outside the main stream of educational organisation, and gives reasons for certain characteristics that are often misunderstood. The forthcoming report is intended to show how the principles laid down in the pamphlet work out in the schools themselves.

103. Certain matters of general interest have emerged from this systematic survey of the junior technical schools throughout the country. It has been pointed out already that very few trade schools are to be found outside London. There are, in fact, 31 trade schools in all, and 27 of them are in or near London. The chief reason for this is, of course, that a school that prepares for a specific trade must be so placed as to be able to draw upon a large population. Nevertheless, it is surprising that schools of this type have not been established in other great centres of population. This may be due, in part at least, to the fact that those areas are not, like London, administered by a single education authority, but are divided amongst a number of authorities which have not yet co-ordinated their resources. The provision of trade schools in the provinces appears to depend to a considerable extent upon the development of schemes of regional co-ordination.

104. The junior technical schools proper (excluding junior commercial schools), to a total number of 98, are more widely distributed. They are to be found in all but two of the seventeen county boroughs in England with a population of over 200,000, but in only eight of the twenty-three with populations between 100,000 and 200,000. The remainder of the schools are distributed about the country in the smaller towns. There are thus seventeen county boroughs and many other towns of considerable size in England where junior technical schools do not exist. It is true that some of

* Board of Education Educational Pamphlets, No. 83—The Junior Technical School. H.M. Stationery Office, price 6d. net; by post, 7d.

these towns are not sufficiently industrialised to warrant the establishment of such a school, and that in others an attempt is being made to achieve the same end by modifying the curricula of the senior and secondary schools. Nevertheless, it seems reasonable to suggest that there must be many towns, especially amongst those with a population of 60,000 and over, where a fuller appreciation of the needs of industry would lead to the provision of junior technical schools. Vigorous schools already exist in towns much smaller than this, and serve not only the town itself but also the surrounding area. Generally speaking, such schools prepare for the engineering and constructive trades, and it is found that work of this type appeals to those who are engaged in agricultural pursuits as well as to town dwellers.

105. It is very satisfactory to find throughout the country that the junior technical schools (including the trade schools) have gained the approval and support of the industries that they are intended to serve. There is abundant evidence in all quarters of the interest of employers in the schools and of their readiness to accept their output into their works. One of the most important firms in the country recruits its trade apprentices approximately in the following proportions :—

From senior elementary schools ..	55%
From junior technical schools ..	30%
From selective central schools ..	10%
From secondary schools	5%

In interpreting this table the comparative numbers of the various types of school should, of course be borne in mind. This example is typical of many that could be given.

106. In recent years the industrial depression has made it difficult, even for juveniles, to secure skilled employment. Nevertheless, the junior technical, junior commercial and trade schools have been remarkably successful in placing their pupils, as the following table shows. The figures were obtained from the schools inspected and from all the schools controlled by the London County Council. It will be observed that the figures for the second triennium are even better than those for the first, in spite of the increasing difficulties that beset the industries of the country.

Numbers placed in	1926-29.	1929-32.
Engineering	4,868	5,156
Building	1,182	1,222
Commerce	2,090	3,111
Women's Trades	1,969	2,424
Other Trades	1,983	2,064
Unknown	1,862	2,093
	13,954	16,070

107. Since its inception the junior technical school has undergone certain modifications and adjustments, the chief of which are due to its success in fulfilling the requirements of industry. Originally these schools were intended to train the rank and file of industry, and it was not contemplated that they would do more than this. Employers soon found, however, that the training was so wide and thorough that while it provided good craftsmen it fitted them for early promotion to posts of greater responsibility. Thus the industrial horizon of the schools has widened considerably, and many of their ex-pupils now hold highly responsible positions in industry. Many instances could be given, but it will be sufficient to quote the experience of the important firm to which reference has been made above. In this firm the proportion of trade apprentices from junior technical schools who rise to junior staff positions is high, only about 9 per cent. remaining in the ranks of craftsmen until the age of 21. Of trade apprentices from elementary schools, however, 82 per cent. remain as craftsmen to that age. A large proportion of the ex-pupils of junior technical schools continue their studies in evening classes, in National Certificate and similar courses, and prove to be amongst the most satisfactory students in the higher institutions. By this route many have achieved the professional status that results from securing admission to the great professional institutions.

108. In some places where the industries are numerous but in comparatively small units junior technical schools of a more general character than the normal have emerged. Generally speaking, they are not in close contact with the industries, and, therefore, lack the direct support and guidance that come from such a contact. Indeed, in many respects, they are hardly to be distinguished from central or secondary schools. Their chief justification is that being unfettered by the conditions of these schools they are able to devote themselves to providing a curriculum with a general industrial bias, as distinct from the specific bias that marks the normal junior technical school.

109. The reorganisation of elementary schools under the Hadow scheme has had its effect on the junior technical schools, and in some places has produced a situation which calls for careful administrative handling. The age of entry to these schools has been deliberately fixed at about 13 because that is considered to be the lowest age at which it is safe to expect a child to choose his future occupation. It is interesting to observe that this view is obtaining wider acceptance than it has done hitherto. With the development of secondary schools and of free places in them a great increase took place in the number of children who were drafted into secondary schools at about the age of 11. The field of recruitment for junior technical schools at 13 years of age was, therefore, reduced to those who were unable, or did not desire, to pass on to a secondary school. It was found, however, that there still remained a sufficiently large number

of children of ability, especially of practical ability, to provide the junior technical schools with a stream of suitable entrants. With the spread of reorganisation a new situation has arisen, especially in those areas where a relatively small number of senior departments now perform the function previously performed by a much larger number of unreorganised schools with an age range of 5 to 14 years. The new senior departments are often housed in modern buildings, with playing fields and other amenities that make them very attractive. Externally at least the junior technical school is almost inevitably at a disadvantage, and in addition to the material attractions a number of other forces come into play which tend to prevent transfer from the senior schools to the junior technical schools. There are some who advocate lowering the age of entry to junior technical schools to about 11 years, the age at which children move on from the junior to the senior school and selection for the secondary schools takes place. There is much to be said for the view, however, which has hitherto been held, that the age of entry to a school preparing for a specific industry ought not to be lower than the age at which it is safe for a boy to be allowed to choose his future occupation. A further discussion of this problem will be found in the report soon to be published.

110. In view of this and other questions that have recently arisen touching the organisation of junior technical schools it is not irrelevant to point out that these schools represent a partnership between the educational and industrial systems of the country. On every occasion when industry has had an opportunity of expressing its opinion of the schools it has announced its approval of them as they now exist. It seems to be reasonable, therefore, to submit that any change, especially if proposed for administrative reasons, should be approached with great caution, and, as far as possible, with the knowledge and concurrence of the industries concerned.

111. The Consultative Committee are at present considering a reference from the Board regarding the organisation and interrelation of schools, other than those administered under the elementary code, which provide education for pupils beyond the age of 11+, "regard being had in particular to the framework and content of the education of pupils who do not remain at school beyond the age of about 16". In connection with this inquiry, the Committee are collecting a large body of evidence regarding junior technical schools and junior commercial schools and their place in the national system of education, and will doubtless discuss the function and province of such schools at some length in their report.

5. National Certificates, etc.

112. The year has been signalised by an addition to the number of National Certificate schemes in operation. We are glad to be able to report that negotiations which have been in progress for some

considerable time have resulted in the establishment of a scheme under which the Board co-operate with the Textile Institute in the award of National Certificates in Textiles to students attending technical colleges and schools in England and Wales, on the successful completion of approved part-time courses. The first final examinations under this scheme will be held in 1935. The scheme has aroused considerable interest, and a number of institutions containing textile departments in Lancashire, Yorkshire and the Midlands have already submitted courses for approval.

113. It will be seen from the following table that the total numbers of candidates taking the final examinations for part-time courses in 1934 show an increase over those for 1933, but that there is a small reduction in the numbers taking the final examinations for full-time courses.

		Part-time Courses.				Full-time Courses.			
		Ordinary.		Higher.		Ordinary.		Higher.	
		Candi- dates.	Passed.	Candi- dates.	Passed.	Candi- dates.	Passed.	Candi- dates.	Passed.
Mechanical Engineering	{ 1933	2,021	1,104	631	457	75	47	27	23
Electrical Engineering	{ 1934	1,952	1,017	677	471	74	53	29	25
Building ..	{ 1933	1,249	707	489	319	38	28	14	12
Chemistry	{ 1934	1,358	804	586	353	29	18	13	9
Naval Architecture	{ 1933	595	385	188	145	23	14	17	16
	{ 1934	666	466	213	159	23	16	5	5
	{ 1933	230	124	83	56	There are no full-time courses in connection with these schemes.			
	{ 1934	197	102	76	56				
	{ 1933	32	23	5	4				
	{ 1934	9	4	7	6				
Totals ..	{ 1933	4,127	2,343	1,396	981	136	89	58	51
	{ 1934	4,182	2,393	1,559	1,045	126	87	47	39

The corresponding figures for Grouped Course Certificates in Gas Engineering and Gas Supply endorsed by the Board are:—

		Part-time Courses.			
		Ordinary.		Higher.	
		Candidates.	Passed.	Candidates.	Passed.
Gas Engineering	{ 1933	53	29	75	32
Gas Supply ..	{ 1934	43	27	94	63
	{ 1933	110	79	52	35
	{ 1934	104	79	54	35
Totals ..	{ 1933	163	108	127	67
	{ 1934	147	106	148	98

(There are no full-time courses in connection with these Certificates.)

114. We have for some time past been conscious of the need for the establishment of a scheme of National Certificates in Commerce. The desirability of such a scheme was emphasised by the Departmental Committee on Examinations for Part-time Students in 1928, and contemplated also by the Committee on Education for Salesmanship in 1931; but in the absence of a generally acceptable professional institution or association representative of Commerce as a whole with which the Board could co-operate for this purpose it seemed to be impracticable to proceed with such a scheme. Recently, however, a Joint Committee was appointed by the Association of Technical Institutions, the Association of Principals of Technical Institutions and the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions to consider the position afresh with a view to working out a practicable scheme. We have been glad to co-operate with the Joint Committee through Your Majesty's Inspectors. This Committee drew up a report embodying a scheme for the establishment of "Board of Education Endorsed Certificates," under which the Board would themselves undertake, in addition to the duties falling upon them in a National Certificate scheme, the duties which in such schemes are carried out by the professional body concerned until such time as a generally acceptable professional body representative of Commerce emerged. We have been glad to be able to adopt practically unaltered the scheme suggested by the Committee, who deserve great credit for finding a solution of an extremely difficult problem, and a circular has already been issued announcing the establishment of the scheme, which will come into operation in the session 1935-36, the first examinations being held in 1936. We have, of course, had in mind in this connection the valuable work which has for many years been done by the Royal Society of Arts, the London Chamber of Commerce and the Local Examining Unions in conducting examinations in commercial subjects. We do not anticipate, however, that this work will be materially affected by the new scheme, which is designed for a comparatively small number of students aiming at posts of responsibility in Commerce and taking grouped courses of work of a relatively high standard. We have been in close touch with all the bodies referred to, who have expressed their readiness to co-operate in the working of the scheme. We are convinced that the scheme, even though for the present it is not a full National Certificate scheme, will be of value to those engaged in Commerce, and we are confident that employers, students and others concerned will appreciate the advantages of the national standard of attainment which will thus be established.

115. Particulars of the previous full-time education of candidates at the examinations held in 1934 for the five National Certificate Schemes shown in paragraph 113, together with the corresponding information relating to the candidates at the examinations held in 1933, are contained in the following table:—

Type of previous full-time education.	Part-time Courses.				Full-time Courses.			
	Ordinary.		Higher.		Ordinary.		Higher.	
	Percentage of total candidates.	Percentage of total passes.	Percentage of total candidates.	Percentage of total passes.	Percentage of total candidates.	Percentage of total passes.	Percentage of total candidates.	Percentage of total passes.
Public Elementary School	1933 43·8	40·0	37·1	36·3	16·9	16·9	20·7	23·5
Secondary School	1934 43·8	41·6	37·0	36·7	15·1	16·1	19·1	17·9
Junior Technical School	1933 37·1	40·4	44·2	45·5	53·0	61·8	43·1	41·2
Other types (including unspecified)	1934 39·0	41·5	43·2	44·1	57·1	57·5	63·9	64·1
	1933 16·1	16·7	15·8	15·4	19·1	11·2	24·1	27·5
	1934 15·6	15·3	17·7	17·6	22·2	19·5	17·0	18·0
	1933 3·0	2·9	2·9	2·8	11·0	10·1	12·1	7·8
	1934 1·6	1·6	2·1	1·6	5·6	6·9	—	—

For 1933 candidates whose previous full-time education was received at "Public Schools" were included under "Other types," but for 1934 such candidates have been included under "Secondary Schools." In view of the small number of candidates taking full-time courses, the percentages relating to such candidates should be used with caution.

6. Previous Full-time Education

116. In our Report last year we referred to the increase in the number of ex-secondary school pupils attending technical institutions, and said that we were taking steps to obtain for the session 1933-34, and regularly in future, particulars of the previous full-time education of students in attendance at the principal institutions recognised under the Regulations for Further Education. This information, which relates to institutions recognised as Colleges for Further Education, the principal Art Schools and the more important Evening Institutes, but does not include junior full-time schools and courses specially designed for teachers, has now been obtained in respect of the session 1933-34, and a summary is given below.

Type of previous full-time education.	Percentage of total number of students in the institutions concerned.
Public Elementary School	% 53·7
Secondary School	36·0
Junior Technical (including Junior Commercial) School, Junior Art Department or Junior Housewifery School	4·8
Other types (including unspecified)	5·5

117. It will be seen that, whereas not so long ago the students in technical institutions were overwhelmingly drawn from the public elementary schools, we have now reached a position in which 40 per cent. of the total number of students in such institutions are ex-secondary or ex-junior technical school. It is probable that the proportion of students coming from secondary or junior technical schools will continue to increase still further, and the figures in this statement will, we feel sure, be watched with interest from year to year in view of the importance of the tendency which they reflect.

7. Release of Students by Employers during Working Hours

118. In our Report for 1933, as in those for 1931 and 1932, we emphasised the importance from the point of view of future developments in technical education of the release by employers of their young employees in order to enable them to attend during working hours courses of instruction relating to their occupations. Particulars were given in our Report for 1933 on a new and more reliable basis of the numbers of employees in various industries and occupations who had been given such facilities during the session 1932-33. In the following table we give comparative figures both for that session and for 1933-34.

Industry or Occupation.	Number of Students released.					
	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	1932-33.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1933-34.
Architecture	310	279	14	7	324	286
Artistic Trades	71	70	11	7	82	77
Book, Paper and Printing Trades	2,547	2,386	300	351	2,847	2,737
Building	2,715	2,414	8	11	2,723	2,425
Chemical	773	1,042	1,276	1,355	2,049	2,397
Clothing	108	206	208	275	316	481
Commercial and Professional	1,664	1,473	215	193	1,879	1,666
Engineering and Allied Trades	6,971	7,098	2	4	6,973	7,102
Food and Drink Trades	1,338	1,778	1,230	1,746	2,568	3,524
Furniture and Cabinet Making	134	106	2	2	136	108
Mining	375	364	—	—	375	364
Municipal and Government Staff	1,157	1,422	800	821	1,957	2,243
Pharmacy	1,297	1,424	255	251	1,552	1,675
Retail Distribution	1,028	1,212	299	408	1,327	1,620
Textiles	307	408	439	587	746	995
Miscellaneous	275	318	167	286	442	604
Total	21,070	22,000	5,226	6,304	26,296	28,304

"Miscellaneous" includes leather, musical instruments, optical, personal service, rural industries, transport, welfare centre and

nursery staff, and several other occupations, in each of which the number of students released was comparatively small.

119. It will be seen that there is a small increase as regards both males and females which is welcome as far as it goes. The aggregate total, however, (28,304), still represents only about 3 per cent. of the total number of part-time students in attendance at institutions recognised under the Regulations for Further Education.

8. Provision for Unemployed Boys and Girls

120. For two main reasons the passing of the Unemployment Act, 1934, meant an important development of the provision made for unemployed juveniles. In the first place a specific duty was for the first time laid on local education authorities for higher education to provide courses for these juveniles up to the age of 18, as might be necessary. In the second place the age of entry into unemployment insurance was lowered to coincide with the school leaving age and an obligation was laid on all unemployed persons under the age of 18 to attend courses of instruction if required by the Minister of Labour. As regards the second point, it should be remembered that prior to the passing of the Act the only pressure which could be exercised on unemployed juveniles to attend a junior instruction centre or class was by withholding unemployment benefit if a requirement to attend the centre or class was disobeyed. As the age of entry into insurance was 16 years, and as benefit was not payable for another 30 weeks after attaining that age, attendance under any form of compulsion was confined to persons between the ages of roughly 16½ and 18. Though younger boys and girls attended voluntarily in fairly substantial numbers in some areas, it is broadly true to say that the centres could not effectively meet the problem of the unemployed juvenile between leaving school and the age of 16½.

121. The placing of a duty upon all authorities to make the necessary provision for this service, and a great increase in the number of juveniles to whom compulsion is applicable, involved the establishment of many more centres and classes, and the Government decided that the Board of Education should be closely associated with the Minister of Labour in the conduct of the service. The object was, of course, to put at the disposal of the Ministry the Board's experience of educational matters, including the administration of education, and steps have been taken to secure close and continuous contact between the two Departments, both at headquarters and throughout the country.

122. Up to the present our officers have been mainly concerned with the arrangements submitted by authorities for meeting their obligations under the Act, and this has meant the scrutiny of a large number of proposals for curriculum, staffing and premises. For this purpose Inspectors have been specially detailed and a number of

Women Inspectors have been associated with them in order to secure expert consideration of questions relating to the provision made for girls. Some inspection of individual centres and classes has already been undertaken; this will become more frequent when the service is fully established, and it is hoped that eventually it will be possible to include it in the ordinary work of Your Majesty's Inspectorate as a whole.

123. The purpose of the courses has been defined by the Ministry of Labour as "to give the boys and girls a real interest in life; to keep their minds and fingers active and alert, and their bodies fit; to teach them something which will be of real use to them, whether at home or at work; and, without trying to train them for specific occupations, to give them the type of mental and manual instruction which will help them to become absorbed or re-absorbed into employment as soon as an opportunity may occur." It is unnecessary to emphasise the importance of making the provision for the young unemployed as comprehensive and effective as possible. Ways have to be found of arousing the interest and gaining the co-operation of boys and girls, many of whom have matured rapidly as the result of direct and often hard experience of the realities of life. Difficult problems can arise, but when they are solved, as they have been in a number of cases in the past, success is correspondingly gratifying and often suggests lessons of no small interest and importance for the educational service as a whole. We are very sensible of the responsibility which devolves on the Board in this matter, and we shall continue to make every effort to give the Ministry of Labour the assistance for which they look on all the educational aspects of the work for unemployed juveniles whether in junior instruction centres or elsewhere. So far as instruction can suitably be provided in technical and similar institutions under our administration we are doing our best to secure that facilities are made readily available.

9. Classes for Unemployed Adults

124. Last year we reported that a number of local education authorities, in addition to the now common arrangement of admitting unemployed adults to their ordinary evening classes free of charge, had arranged for the provision of classes specially intended for unemployed adults. We have encouraged the formation of these classes and are glad to be able to report that during the educational year ended 31st July, 1934, there was a considerable expansion both in the number of special classes and of the authorities providing them, 429 special classes having been recognised under the Regulations for Further Education as compared with 116 in the previous year, whilst the number of providing authorities rose from 29 to 41. Authorities which made a liberal provision were London, Lancashire, Gloucestershire and Cumberland among the counties, and among the county boroughs Blackburn, Kingston-upon-Hull, Liverpool,

Manchester and Wigan. In Cumberland alone no less than 47 special classes were provided. The classes, as in the previous year, were held mostly in the day time, when the time is found to hang specially heavily on the hands of the unemployed, and were, as a general rule, practical in character, the most popular subjects taken being for the men, carpentry, boot and shoe repairing, woodwork, wireless and physical training; and for the women, dressmaking. About 50 of the classes were held in occupational centres provided by voluntary bodies under the ægis of the National Council of Social Service. There is no doubt that these special classes are serving a most useful purpose, and a number of encouraging reports have been received from Your Majesty's Inspectors testifying to the value of the work which is being done in them.

For the 5 months ended 31st December, 1934, 323 classes specially devised to meet the needs of unemployed men and women had been recognised. The number for the corresponding period in 1933 was 274.