

are unable to attend a high school. In making his selection of the subject to be taught, the head teacher is guided by the probable future needs of the pupils. The total number of children enrolled in the higher primary classes in the early part of the year was 202, and of these 216 completed the full year's work. There is no doubt that these schools are serving the purpose for which they were established, and it is gratifying to report that the demand for them is increasing.

Primary Education.

One of the most effective agencies for improving the teaching strength of the larger schools is the staff meeting. It is a pleasure to note that the inspectors report that such meetings are now generally held, and that they do much to kindle enthusiasm, to encourage co-operation, to improve methods of teaching, and to remedy defects by the interchange of ideas, and free discussion. Staff meetings after the terminal examinations are specially valuable, inasmuch as they afford an opportunity for discussing the strength and weakness in the various subjects of instruction. Generally speaking, the reports of the inspectors indicate steady progress in all departments of school work. In most cases the schools are well organized; the teachers' efforts to decorate the rooms with suitable pictures and pot plants, to render their teaching realistic by the use of suitable aids, and to foster the love of good literature by a judicious control of the school library are appreciated by both pupils and parents. The returns for the year show that 902 schools have libraries, with an aggregate of 104,026 volumes, besides 4,823 magazines. The general discipline of the schools is favourably reported upon, and the efforts of the teachers to inculcate habits of order, neatness, obedience, self-reliance, industry, and cheerfulness, and to mould the manners of the children received well-merited recognition. The efforts of teachers (especially the assistants in the large schools) in organizing and supervising the cricket, football, basketball, hockey, and other field games, merit commendation, and receive full recognition when their work is appraised at the annual inspection. The value of manual training goes beyond giving the children the power to handle tools. School exercises in cardboard, clay, or wood, tend to combine hand power and seeing power with thought power. They encourage constructiveness, curiosity, ingenuity, the power of continuous thinking, and of working to a plan, and they develop patience, neatness, and accuracy. Woodwork was taught in 36 schools and at nine centres to 2,460 boys, 353 of whom received certificates indicating that they had attended the course regularly for two years and satisfactorily completed the prescribed models, with the dimensioned drawing of each, and had given evidence of satisfactory knowledge of timber and tools. The work of the teachers at the Abattoirs and Brinkworth schools deserves special recognition. Instruction in domestic arts was given at 13 centres to 1,111 girls of the primary schools and 753 of the high schools. In order that the extent of the facilities offered by the department for the education of outback children may be fully realized, attention is drawn to the fact that during 1922 no less than 503 schools with an average attendance of less than 20 scholars each were maintained. Of these 28 had an average attendance of less than 10 scholars. In its endeavour to provide education for the children in country districts, South Australia compares very favourably with other countries, for not only are its small schools numerous and widely distributed, but they are open for longer periods. In several cases, schools were closed because of the inability or unwillingness of the residents to find suitable board and lodging for the teacher. The difficulties encountered by the department in filling small isolated schools are great, and it might be observed that several teachers resigned their positions rather than take up appointments in undesirable localities. During the year, the department paid for the conveyance of 400 children to school. The corresponding school continued to provide educational advantages for children living in remote localities. The enrolment for the year was 532, of whom 359 remained on the roll at the close of the year. The abolition of the old Boards of Advice, which acted for groups of schools, and the substitution therefor of Local School Committees each acting for one school only, has been more than justified by the splendid results achieved in many parts of the State. There are schools where the improvement to school grounds, the provision of playground equipment, the maintenance of the school garden, the decoration of the schoolroom, the establishment or extension of the school library are in no small measure due to the splendid work done by these school committees. The best thanks of the department are due to them.