

buildings, at an annual rental of nearly \$19,000—a sum quite sufficient to build and equip a new twelve-class primary school house every year. These eighty rooms accommodated four thousand two hundred and seventy-one pupils, or about one seventh of the total enrollment for the year.

NEW BUILDINGS.—The Board of Supervisors has already entered upon the erection and equipment of five new school buildings, all of the most approved design, excellent material, and thorough workmanship, and containing an aggregate of seventy rooms. Though less in number, the superior size of these new rooms will enable them to accommodate a considerably larger number of pupils than the eighty old rented rooms.

LEASE OF THE LINCOLN LOT.—The last Legislature authorized the Mayor, Auditor, and Treasurer of San Francisco to issue bonds to the amount of \$200,000, to constitute a Building Fund for the erection of urgently-needed school buildings. As a Sinking Fund for the redemption of these bonds, as well as to provide revenue for the payment of interest thereon, the Legislature authorized the Board of Supervisors to lease, for twenty years, that portion of the Lincoln School lot, lying two hundred and seventy-five feet on Market Street by one hundred feet on Fifth Street. This centrally-located and already very valuable property was at once sub-divided into eleven lots, each twenty-five by one hundred feet; all of which were promptly, profitably, and permanently leased. The income thus derived not only pays the interest upon the \$200,000 of bonds, but yields a surplus which, safely invested at no more than seven per cent, will amount to nearly \$400,000 at the expiration of the twenty years' lease. This sum will not only redeem the bonds, but leave a balance of nearly \$200,000 for the erection of such additional school buildings as the Department may then require. Thus, by temporarily surrendering the use of this valuable property to the rapidly-increasing business of this central section, the city not only gains the immediate and continued use of ample means for the accommodation of thousands of pupils in the mean time, but retains and eventually resumes the possession of property which, at the expiration of its twenty-year lease, can hardly fail to command at least \$1,000,000.

RATIO OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.—In a total population of two hundred thousand seven hundred and seventy the number of youth under seventeen years old was sixty thousand five hundred and fifty-two; that is about thirty per cent, or nearly one third, of all the inhabitants of the city. Of these, about thirty-five thousand, or considerably more than one half, were of the schoolable age; that is, upward of six. As a matter of fact, however, when reckoning the number of youth actually attending the Public Schools, we must remember that the High Schools *always*, and the upper grades of the Grammar Schools quite generally, contain pupils more than seventeen years old; while the Normal and Evening Schools are largely, if not mainly, composed of such. Hence it is safely within bounds to calculate that the whole number of youth of schoolable age in this city during the last school year, reckoned in round numbers, was nearly, if not quite, forty thousand.

RATIO OF ENROLLMENT.—Of these forty thousand youth the Public Schools, including the Evening Schools, enrolled twenty-nine thousand four hundred and forty-nine, or three fourths of all legally entitled to attend. Of the remaining ten thousand, the denominational, private, Kindergarten, and family schools probably enrolled fully one half. Hence, it cannot be far wrong to say that, with all the excellent facilities furnished by both public and private schools of all kinds, about one eighth of the schoolable youth of the city wholly failed to attend any school whatever. It is, obviously, upon these five thousand boys and girls now growing into unlawful and destructive ignorance that the new *Compulsory Education Law*, when properly constructed and duly enforced, is expected to work its chief benefits, public and private.

AVERAGE ENROLLMENT.—The average number actually belonging was twenty thousand seven hundred and fifty. This fairly indicates, what every public school teacher of any considerable experience in San Francisco knows to be true, that, of the total number enrolled in any year, nearly one third fail to attend regularly enough to retain membership for anything more than an necessarily limited time. This very large percentage of irregular or desultory membership results from sickness, removal, incompetence, leaving school for work or trade, and sundry other minor causes. Of these, probably the fourth is the most generally operative in this money-getting metropolis.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.—This was nineteen thousand three hundred and eighty-one, which, upon twenty thousand seven hundred and fifty, the average number belonging, gave a general percentage of attendance for the entire Department, of ninety-three and three tenths per cent. This was the lowest in nine years, though but one and one tenth per cent below that of 1873, which was the highest ever reached in the history of the Department, indicating a very high general average and a surprising uniformity.

The two High Schools, with an average membership of five hundred and thirty-nine, rose to ninety-six per cent in attendance; the Grammar Schools having an average membership of four thousand seven hundred and ninety, reached ninety-five and three tenths per cent, while the Primaries, with an average membership of fourteen thousand six hundred and eighty-nine, attained ninety-two and five tenths per cent. Considering their vastly greater numbers, together with their far inferior average age, the little ones decidedly bore off the palm in this very important matter of regular attendance.

The average number of pupils to a teacher in the High School was twenty-five and three tenths; in the Grammar Schools, thirty and three tenths; in the Primary Schools, forty-three and eight tenths; in the entire Department, thirty-nine and nine tenths *plus*. This average