

results from dividing the average attendance by the number of regular teachers, excluding, of course, all special teachers not having constant charge of any one class. This low average resulted largely from the inferior size of a considerable part of the rooms occupied, not only in some of the older buildings belonging to the Department, but more especially in many of those which it was compelled to rent. Doubtless the ambition of some principals whose salary was made to depend upon the number of classes they could contrive to maintain, and the unfortunate necessity of keeping up some classes chiefly to give employment to sundry impecunious and importunate teachers and silence their clamorous constituency, may have partially accounted for no inconsiderable portion of these superfluous classes. The very judicious consolidation of classes already effected by the present administration, together with the completion and occupation of the larger rooms in the new buildings, will very considerably increase the average number of pupils taught by each teacher during the current year.

COST OF INSTRUCTION.—Including the salaries of teachers, janitors, carpenters, and other employes of the Department, rents, fuel, lights (for evening schools), books, and supplies, the average annual cost of instructing each scholar, including all grades, was \$29.76. In the Primary Schools each pupil cost the city \$19.20; in the Grammar Schools about \$31.25, and in the High School, \$79.80! These very high averages chiefly result from four causes: 1st. The extremely high salaries paid to Primary and Grammar assistants, as already noted. 2d. The unusually large amount spent for repairs and new furniture. 3d. The very small average number of pupils to a class in several of the Primary and Grammar Schools. 4th. The large amount consumed in paying for rented rooms. Upon the completion, equipment, and occupation of the new buildings, the second of these causes will become much smaller, while the third and fourth will be almost extinguished.

RATIO OF SCHOOL EXPENSES.—Out of a total municipal expense of \$3,197,808.30, for the year, the total expense of the School Department was \$689,022, or twenty-one and five tenths per cent of the whole. This was nearly two per cent higher than that of the preceding year and just three and five tenths per cent below that of 1871, when the ratio of expense for Public Schools was the highest ever known in the city. Considering the number directly connected with the several departments, this ratio of expense is, relatively, much less than that of either the Fire Department or Police.

RAPID GAIN IN MEMBERSHIP.—"The average number belonging to the Public Schools in August, 1874, was twenty-two thousand one hundred and ninety-five and five tenths, which was three thousand three hundred and thirty-six more than the membership in the previous December. The number of teachers employed, at the same time, was four hundred and eighty-two, which was sixty-three less than in the December preceding." These two statements, from the Superintendent's last report (p. 39), require explanation to prevent their conveying wrong impressions. To compare August of one year with December of the preceding year might easily give a wrong idea, because the attendance in December, which is always the close of the first term, and just before the holidays, is much smaller than at any other time of the year, except in May, which is the close of the second term and the end of the school year—as June is the long vacation. On the other hand, August, coming as the second month of the school year, and sufficiently long after the opening of the year to enable all the grades to have received nearly or quite their full complement, is that one month of all the year in which the enrollment is commonly the largest, or very nearly so. Hence, to compare the month of highest enrollment with the month of lowest enrollment in the same school year, involves a fallacy which needs only the statement to become plainly apparent. Had the Superintendent compared the enrollment in December, 1874, with that of August, 1874, the result would have indicated a very slight gain, if indeed it had not shown an actual loss. Neither of these methods of comparison is the just one. The true way is to compare the enrollment in any month with the enrollment in the same month of the year before, and at the same time in the month. While there was a decided gain, it was by no means as great or as sudden as one might conclude who should read that statement without due information and reflection.

The New Classification, which was practically a consolidation of nearly seventy classes and parts of classes into about half as many full ones, took place in July, and was one of the best steps toward increasing the efficiency of the Department, and introducing practical economy into it, which any Superintendent and Board have ever taken.

COSMOPOLITAN PARENTAGE.—Among the curiosities, if not the actual incredibilities, of the School Census of 1874, appears the report that, of the sixty thousand five hundred and fifty-two children or youth reported, only twelve thousand two hundred and thirty, or about one fifth of the whole number, were children of parents who were both native born. Forty thousand and fifty-six, or nearly two thirds of all, came of parents both of whom were of foreign birth, and five thousand nine hundred and fifty-six had one parent foreign born. In the face of such a fact no one can dispute the claim of San Francisco to be pre-eminently the most cosmopolitan city of America.

NATIVITY OF THE CHILDREN.—Although fathered and mothered from nearly all the civilized nations, the children themselves are nearly all native born. Of the whole sixty thousand five hundred and fifty-two, only two thousand two hundred and ninety-nine, or less than four per cent, were born in foreign countries.

NON-ATTENDANCE.—The number of children and youth, of legal age, who were not attend-