

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The free public schools of San Francisco are the pride of the citizens, and their efficiency attract many families to reside in the city in order that their children may reap the advantages they offer. The first English school was established in April, 1847, with about thirty pupils, taught by a Mr. Marston, who is, therefore, the pioneer teacher of the city. Late in the same year the citizens organized a public school, and erected a building on the southwest corner of the Plaza, now Portsmouth Square. In April, 1849, the Common Council established a public school, and John C. Pelton and wife were employed as teachers, and this was the beginning of the system which has continued to the present time. During the fiscal year of 1879-1880 there were 61 schools, employing 686 teachers, and having an enrolled attendance of 38,320 pupils, of whom 20,019 were boys, and 18,301 girls. By the report of the School Census Marshal, June 30, 1880, the number of youth in the city under seventeen years of age is 84,206, being a decrease for the year of 3,898. The number between five and seventeen who are entitled to draw school money is 58,492, a decrease of 3,613 for the year. The number attending private and church schools only during the year (not including Chinese) was 6,652, a decrease during the year of 572. The number between five and seventeen years of years of age (not including Chinese) who have not attended school at any time during the year was 14,828, a decrease from the preceding year of 4,561. The last exhibit—of children not attending any school—is worthy of note. The enrollment at the different schools was as follows: High schools—Boys, 353; girls, 879; total, 1,232. Grammar schools, including some Primary grades—Boys, 6,484; girls, 7,018; total, 13,502. Primary schools, including some Grammar grades—Boys, 11,276; girls, 10,153; total, 21,429. Evening schools—Boys, 1,906; girls, 251; total, 2,157. The financial condition of the Department is represented as follows: The city tax for school purposes in the year 1879-80 was 20.46 cents on each \$100. The total income, including cash on hand at the beginning of the year was \$967,732, an increase over last year of \$111,624 48. The expenditures were \$875,448 47; less than the previous year by \$1,040 67. Cost of instruction per pupil, based on the enrollment, and excluding expenditures for buildings, \$28 28. Cost of instruction per pupil, based on average daily attendance, and including expenditures for buildings, \$28 74. The amount paid teachers' salaries, \$639,259 04; a decrease from the preceding year of \$50,226 84. The estimated value of school property is: School sites, \$1,930,000; buildings, \$920,000; school furniture, \$185,000; libraries, \$13,000; school apparatus, \$25,000. Total, \$3,073,000. The Superintendent, in his Annual Report, calls attention to the unjust discrimination of the Board of Education in reducing the salaries, whereby the Primary and lower Grammar grades will suffer the loss of most of their best teachers; the basis of salaries having been made on the erroneous idea that the higher the grade taught the higher order of talent was necessary in the teacher. The total amount paid for teachers salaries during the past fiscal year was an average for each enrolled pupil of \$16 68. The amount paid as salaries of teachers at the High Schools was \$71,220, or an average charge to the 1,232 enrolled pupils of \$57 89 each. The average cost for each pupil in the primary schools, on account of salaries paid primary teachers, is about \$15 50 per annum. In 1855 California had only 227 schools, with an attendance of 13,000, and 26,077 census children, in 1880 it had 2,803 schools, with an average daily attendance of 100,966, and 215,978 census children, a decrease of 4,229 from the census of 1879. In 1855 teachers salaries amounted to \$181,906; in 1880 the amount paid was \$2,207,043 85. Up to the present time the people of California have devoted to the cause of education, for public schools, \$36,608,391 26. (The total expense of the School Department of San Francisco has been \$11,951,318 92.) Percentage of census children enrolled in public schools, 68.93; percentage in private schools, 6.92; percentage attending no school, 24.17; per cent. of children of native born parents, 46.84; per cent. of children who had one foreign born parent, 14.49; per cent. of children who are of foreign parents, 38.67; school districts, 2,063; number of

male teachers, 1,208; number of female teachers, 2,387; average monthly salaries paid male teachers, \$80.26; average paid female teachers, \$64 73; new school houses erected, 73; institutes held, 31; cost of institutes, \$2,179 51. Total receipts of the School Department from all sources: State and County apportionments, city and district taxes, etc., for 1879, \$3,633,98 99; for 1880, \$3,573,108 32; State apportionment per census child, 1879, \$6 60; for 1880, \$6 94; county apportionments per census child, 1879, \$3 59; for 1880, \$3 30; total receipts of all kinds per census child, 1879, \$16 84; 1880, \$16 54. Total expenditures of the School Department, including salaries, rents, fuel, libraries, apparatus, sites, buildings, furniture, etc., 1879, \$3,010,907 13; 1880, \$2,864,571 42. Cost of tuition per pupil enrolled in public schools, 1880, \$13 91. Total current expense per pupil enrolled, 1880, \$16 84. Total current expense per pupil in daily attendance, 1880, \$26 49. Valuation of school property, 1880, \$6,914,303. By the foregoing it will be seen that San Francisco has about 41 per cent. of the enrolled pupils; pays about 26 per cent. of the teachers salaries; has about 27 per cent. of the children entitled to school moneys, and owns about 45 per cent. of the school property of the State. Of the State University the Superintendent says: "It is a subject for congratulation that the new Constitution has placed the University upon a permanent basis, and has removed it beyond the control of political or sectarian influence. Considering the youth of the State, and by comparison with other States of the Union, it is quite safe to say that the status of the University, as well as its curriculum and equipment, are far in advance of any of the younger States. During the last two years, in the University proper, there has been a falling off in the number of students; this is owing in part to the depression in business; partly to more rigid examination upon or preceding admission, and partly, no doubt, to diminished enthusiasm incidental to a less vigorous and energetic administration than before of the educational affairs of the institution. With an improvement in this latter respect larger numbers will be attracted to it than formerly, and it will fill the measure of anticipation of its special friends and the reasonable demands of the community. The Regents have under consideration several propositions looking to the increased efficiency of the University in its various departments." Of the Normal School the Superintendent says: "The State Normal School is doing very efficient work and is greatly improving the schools of the State. The graduates, and, even many of the undergraduates, are giving us excellent teachers. The destruction of the building with its excellent equipments, while it has subjected the school to great inconvenience, does not seem to have restricted its usefulness. On the night of February 10th the building was burned; on the morning of the 11th the Board of Education of San José generously tendered the State the free use of the High School building for the Normal School until the completion of the new building. The attendance has been between three hundred and three hundred and fifty, exclusive of the training school. The new building in process of erection will be larger and far more commodious than the old, for the Board of Trustees have wisely profited by the experience of the past."

CITY NORMAL SCHOOL.—The Normal Class of this city (October 1, 1880) numbers 163, all graduates.

KINDERGARTENS.—The Deputy Superintendent recommends the establishment of Kindergartens "all over the city." "The excellent work done in that direction by the Silver Street Kindergarten, under the skillful management of Miss Catherine Smith, has shown the possibilities of the system, and I believe that to-day the most valuable and effective change that can be made in our School Department would be the establishment of at least twenty similar schools under trained and competent teachers."

COSMOPOLITAN SCHOOLS.—Professor Herbst reports there are three Grammar and three Primary Schools, in which instruction is given in French to 438 pupils, and in German to 2,065 pupils, besides the English course prescribed for all the Common Schools of the city. There are eight special teachers of German and French, whose aggregate salary amounts to \$6,528. There are 67 classes in which German or French is taught; 44 of these are taught by special