

candidates, 25 certificates of qualification have been issued, 22 of which were second, and 3 first grade, to 16 men and 9 women. The average age of all candidates was $30\frac{1}{2}$ years; their average experience $6\frac{3}{12}$ years. Ten of the whole number were married. The average number of questions given each candidate in all branches, was 80; the average per cent. made, 82; a result of which they may feel justly proud. Indeed, I do not hesitate to say, that our corps of teachers need not fear comparison with the same number of similar grade anywhere.

VISITING AND EXAMINATION OF SCHOOLS.

All the schools were examined during the course of the year; those of the second district, quarterly; those of the other districts, as often as time permitted. Besides which, several of the gentlemen acting as 'Visitors' in my district,* held examinations in their respective schools, when other duties forbid my attendance, and reported the result to the Board; for which I here tender them my thanks. Towards the close of the year, I visited all the schools throughout the county, and personally examined each of the pupils—numbering over 500—in attendance at the time of my call; noting the standing and proficiency of each pupil, and the general condition of the school. The information derived from this examination, and from the annual reports of the teachers, has been embodied in the exhibit marked B herewith annexed, which will perhaps furnish a more correct general view of our schools, than any mere verbal description.

While the schools show a decided improvement on the past, in the faithfulness and zeal of the teachers, and, as a natural consequence, a better attendance and greater studiousness of their pupils, yet I was pained to observe that the classification of the scholars and mode of instruction were still very imperfect. The former indeed seemed as often guided by the size and age of the pupil, as by his capacity and scholarship. Some excuse for this might, however, be found in the want of familiarity on the part of the teachers, with the text books lately introduced, and their consequent inability, till aided by further experience, to adapt the selection to the individual capacity of the child. Be the explanation what it may, the error in question demands prompt correction, and I have accordingly introduced into all the schools, until something better offers, the system of classification exhibited in the statement herewith annexed. It embraces; as you will perceive, a Primary Department and a Grammar Department; the former divided into

* The gentlemen referred to, were Drs. Duke, Dorsey and Sedwick, and Jno. T. Bond, Esq.