
Fifth Report and Summary of the Education Committee of the Statistical Society of London

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ments, and consequently in the time during which they are exposed to their influence. The fallacy arising from this cause, however, is, in all probability, very slight, and certainly not sufficient to account for the great difference in the age at which consumption occurs in the several kinds of employment. The coincidence of the probabilities established by the two classes of facts, gives the strongest reason for believing that the conclusions which have been arrived at are in accordance with the true state of the case.

The practical rule to be deduced from the preceding observations is, that those persons who have an hereditary tendency to consumption should make choice of occupations which are carried on in the open air; that if they are obliged to choose some in-door employment, it should be one requiring strong exercise, and that they, more than others, should avoid exposure to dust and habits of intemperance.

Fifth Report and Summary of the Education Committee of the Statistical Society of London.

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, 19th June, 1843.]

YOUR Committee appointed to inquire into the state of education in the metropolis have completed their census of schools and scholars in the cities of London and Westminster, in the boroughs of Marylebone and Finsbury, and in the lower parts of the Tower Hamlets. The survey of the parishes of Bethnal Green, Spitalfields, and Shoreditch, is postponed in consideration of the changes which are taking place in the ecclesiastical divisions, and consequently in the educational statistics, of those parishes.

When the above-mentioned parishes are included, the districts visited by the Committee and its agents, from the commencement of their labours, will comprise a population of about 1,000,000 souls. The population of those at present visited is as follows, according to the census of 1841 :—

| | |
|---|---------------|
| In the City of London | 129,251 |
| In the City of Westminster | 229,647 |
| In the Borough of Finsbury, exclusive of the parts north of the Regent's Canal | } 200,661 |
| In the Borough of Marylebone, exclusive of the parts north of the New Road | |
| In Whitechapel, Shadwell, Wapping, &c. (about). . | 91,000 |
| | <hr/> 800,559 |

This number forms but a portion of the entire population of the metropolis; nevertheless it is sufficiently large to serve as a specimen or example of the whole; and being a larger number of souls than are elsewhere found collected in the same space, it possesses an interest even on that account alone.

Within the limits above described, there are 280 charity schools for the education of the poor (exclusive of Sunday schools), and 1,154 private schools. The scholars are 58,861 (35,928 in charity schools, and 22,933 in the private schools). There have also been visited 163 Sunday schools, containing 28,891 scholars; but the census of these

last must be considered only as an approximation to the real number. It is to the *private schools for the education of the poor* that the attention of your Committee has been especially directed; because whilst the charity and Sunday schools are sufficiently known to the public through the reports of the societies to which they respectively belong, the census of private schools has never yet been taken, or a description of them attempted.

Private Schools for the Education of the Poor.

In the accompanying table the private schools for the education of the poor are distinguished as DAMES' SCHOOLS and COMMON DAY SCHOOLS.

DAMES' SCHOOLS is the term usually applied to little schools kept by females of the lowest class, and in which the amount of weekly payment for a child does not exceed 8d. per week. Some of them charge as low as 2d. for a child; but the average sum throughout London generally is 5d.

COMMON DAY SCHOOLS are such as are conducted sometimes by a man who receives only boys, sometimes by a mistress who receives only girls; but in most cases by a mistress who receives both. In this last case they resemble dames' schools, and are only distinguished from them by the difference of the terms of instruction; the price in the former averaging 10½d. or 11d., instead of 5d., per week as in the latter.

The total number of dames' schools is 646, and of common day schools 508. Together they contain 22,933 scholars, of whom 10,601 are boys and 12,332 girls. They are distributed as follows:—

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------------|--------------------|
| In the City of London | 3,411 | or one in 37·7 | of its population. |
| In the City of Westminster . . | 4,743 | or one in 48·6 | „ |
| In the Borough of Finsbury . . | 6,109 | or one in 32·3 | „ |
| In the Borough of Marylebone . | 3,683 | or one in 40·7 | „ |
| In Wapping, Whitechapel, &c. . | 4,987 | or one in 18·2 | „ |

Your Committee can hardly enter into all the details of these schools, and describe the more or less efficient manner in which they are conducted, without repeating great part of their former reports; to which therefore the reader is referred. There are, however, some circumstances which it would be wrong to pass without notice, even in the present summary.

1. It is impossible to help being struck with the small proportion of private schools for the poor which exist in the west end of London, and the gradual increase of them as we proceed eastward; Westminster having only one scholar for every 48·6 inhabitants, and Wapping one for every 18·2. This difference is not compensated by a greater number of charity scholars, Westminster showing an equally low ratio in this respect also, viz., one charity scholar in every 28 inhabitants, whilst Wapping, Shadwell, &c., have one in every 15. The different proportions of rich and poor, and the greater number of middle schools in the former district, may account for the discrepancy in some degree, but not, your Committee think, entirely.

2. With respect to the conduct and efficiency of these schools, a considerable difference exists between girls' and boys' schools, or rather between those which are kept by masters and those which are kept by females; for among the younger scholars the sexes are little separated.

The schools which are kept by females may be described as well or ill

conducted exactly in proportion to the efficiency of their respective mistresses. In cases where there is an able, active, middle-aged, motherly female, of mild temper, and accustomed to children, but without any family of her own, and with no employment except the care of the scholars, the children under her perhaps receive a better education, and are more attended to than in any other description of schools. On the contrary, in cases where the mistress has taken up the profession merely as a resource in old age—where she has been obliged to leave her previous situation through continued ill-health, and tries this in the absence of all other means of support, or where she has a large family of her own—in these cases the degree of education which the children receive may be easily imagined.

Of the common boys' schools it is very difficult to speak with impartiality. Devoid of that appearance of cheerfulness and domestic comfort which belongs to schools kept by females, and equally devoid of that kind of interest which attaches itself to charitable institutions, they always give the visitor an unfavourable impression; nor is it until he has been there some time that this impression wears off, and that he is able to give that credit to the master which in several cases he undoubtedly deserves.

3. Generally speaking there seems to be no wish on the part of the proprietors of private schools to avail themselves of those helps to education which are furnished so cheaply by various Societies, and which abridge to so great an extent the labour of teachers.

This disposition to continue in the old routine of school keeping is particularly observable with respect to the books used. It is impossible for the visitor to help remarking the sameness and common-place character of them all. The same unvaried catalogue (Vyse's Spelling-book, Mavor's ditto, Guy's ditto,) is found in all the schools throughout London; and quite as much in the schools of the middle class as in those of the poor.

It will naturally be asked, what can be the cause of this adherence to one routine of books? The cause must certainly not be looked for in any principle of economy; for Vyse's, Guy's, and Mavor's Spelling-books cost 1s. 6d. each; and any of the publications of the Societies, containing quite as much or more matter, would cost 1d. Your Committee apprehend that one cause is to be found in that strong aversion which the middle and lower orders entertain against anything which can in any way be construed into charity. A dame, when asked by one of your Committee what was the reason she did not supply herself with some of the "Society's Cards," in preference to the torn leaves of a Dictionary, from which the children were learning to spell, replied, that such a measure would immediately be followed by the removal of all the children from the school. Another cause is to be found in the large per centage which the publishers of these books allow to the proprietors of the schools—a kind of profit which the masters of the best schools do not hesitate to acknowledge, and which indeed is perfectly understood and allowed by the parents.

4. The Jews' schools, which are frequent in the eastern parts of the City, and in Whitechapel, ought perhaps to be looked upon as an exception to the above remark on the monotony of the private schools. It is a singular and extremely interesting sight to see the children in dames'

schools spelling and reading their Hebrew primers. Every child is taught Hebrew, and there is no distinction of girls or boys in this respect, except that the boys always put on their hats to read. They read it, for the most part, with the German pronunciation; but some schools use the Portuguese or Spanish, there being two races of Jews in London using these different pronunciations respectively. They have no vernacular language of Hebrew, as in Poland; nor can they speak the old Hebrew: it is to them as Greek or Latin to us—a dead language, known merely by books. But it is taught as much as matter of course as we should teach writing or arithmetic.

5. The characters of the masters and mistresses who keep private schools for the poor classes is a subject deserving all the attention which can be bestowed upon it; because it must be remembered that this is the class of persons whom any general system of education will displace; and it is surely worth our while to consider, before displacing them at an immense cost, how far such a change is likely to be an improvement on the present state of things.

Most of the masters and mistresses of private schools professed at least to give religious and moral instruction to their children; but how far this profession was really carried into practice it is impossible for your Committee, or for any other human beings, to say. It is certain that a very large number, as well of masters as of mistresses, were persons of a decidedly religious character, and seemed well to understand the importance of laying this foundation as the only real basis on which to rest any system of morals.

On the other hand, there was one master who kept a school for Socialist principles; and there might be in the whole ten or twelve more who spoke upon serious things in a manner which indicated that their principles were more or less infidel.

The religious persuasions of 1086 out of these 1154 teachers were ascertained, to be as shown in the following table:—

Table showing the Religious Sects of Proprietors of Private Schools.

| Religious Denominations. | City London. | City of Westminster. | Borough of Finsbury. | Borough of Marylebone and Pancras. | Eastern District. | Total. | Per Centage. |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| Established Church . . | 85 | 197 | 200 | 125 | 122 | 729 | 67.14 |
| Evangelical Dissenters . . | 41 | 51 | 87 | 43 | 87 | 309 | 28.44 |
| Various Protestant Sects . . | 1 | .. | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | .73 |
| Romanists | .. | 2 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 1.57 |
| Jews | 13 | .. | .. | .. | 9 | 22 | 2.04 |
| Socialists | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .08 |
| Total | 140 | 250 | 295 | 172 | 229 | 1,086 | 100.00 |

6. A remarkable circumstance respecting the proprietors of private schools is the immense preponderance of females, there being 1038 female teachers to 115 males, although the girls under their tuition are but as 12 to 10. And this seems to arise from a general opinion or feeling which exists among parents, that all children, even boys, are taken better care of, and in every point, except that of writing, better educated by females than by men. The circumstance is surely worth

taking into our consideration, at a time when large sums are hazarded on so precarious an undertaking as the moral and religious training of young men, and so little attention is devoted to the training of future schoolmistresses.

7. The following curious information, drawn from the reports on Westminster and Finsbury, may tend to throw some further light on the character and habits of this class of persons. Being the result of answers given to direct questions, they may be relied on for their accuracy; and although they may perhaps appear at first sight to be unnecessarily minute, a reader who takes an interest in the subject will not despise them on that account:—

Of 500 who were asked whether they had been brought up to the employment of teacher, only 125 (25 per cent.) answered in the affirmative; the rest had not been brought up with any view to that employment.

Of 500 who were asked how long they had been engaged in teaching, 194 (38·80 per cent.) answered that they had been engaged in that occupation for a period of less than 5 years 99 (19·80 per cent.) had been engaged for a period between 5 and 10 years; 111 (22·20 per cent.) between 10 and 20 years, and only 96 (19·20 per cent.) more than 20 years.

Of 317 schools which were visited in the year 1838, only 45 (or one-seventh) dated their commencement from a period previous to 1820; 58 (or about one-sixth) were opened between the years 1820 and 1830, and 214 between the years 1830 and 1838.

Of 544 teachers who were questioned as to the place of their nativity, 322 (59 per cent.) were Londoners, 12 were Irish, and 3 were foreigners. The remaining 207 (or 39 per cent. of the whole number) came from various counties of England, Wales, and Scotland; a majority, as might be expected, coming from the counties nearest to London. Hence there would appear to be no foundation in fact, for the idea which has sometimes been expressed, that schoolmasters and schoolmistresses come from one district more than from another. Such is certainly not the case with respect to the proprietors of common day schools; and the inquiries which your Committee made amongst the proprietors of middling day schools led to the same result with respect to them also. Of 540 schoolmasters and schoolmistresses who were asked whether they had any other occupation than their schools, 260 (or 48·1 per cent.) answered that they kept a shop or took in washing or needlework, or had other laborious employment: the rest answered that they had no other occupation than their schools. But although they might not have any other ostensible occupation, it can hardly be supposed that they were in a condition to devote their whole energies to their scholastic duties. On the contrary, the mistresses of the common day schools were sometimes young persons unable to go to service from ill-health, or desirous of staying at home with a sick or aged parent, and glad to add something to their means of maintenance: some again were mothers of large families; and, in all cases, even the most favourable, the female teachers had their own household work to attend to. A very large portion of the masters of common day schools, and still more of middling day schools, were men in distressed circumstances, or who had, at some time or another, failed in trade, and seemed to have taken up

the profession of schoolmaster as a last resource.* Your Committee *hardly ever* entered, for any length of time, into conversation with the proprietor of a common or middling day school but he or she began to talk of having been "*in better circumstances*" and of "*unforeseen difficulties*."†

8. With respect to the lowest schools which were visited, your Committee did not observe in them any poverty or dirt similar to what was described in the Manchester and Liverpool reports, nor indeed, except in a very few cases, anything approaching to it. The houses in which the dame schools were held were, generally speaking, as good as others in the same locality; and the room in which the school was kept was more often than not the front room on the first floor.

Of Middling Schools.

Your Committee visited 290 *middling schools*, by which term are meant schools for the children of shopkeepers, in which the charge for education varies from 4*l.* to 6*l.* per annum. There are probably more than the above-mentioned number of such schools within the limits of your Committee's inquiry; but the number visited was sufficient to enable them to form a tolerably good notion of the kind of education given; and the chief object of your Committee in visiting them at all was that they might be thus enabled to judge where to draw the line between the schools of the middle classes and the schools of the poor. For all the information which was obtained respecting middling schools the reader is referred to the Fourth Report of the Education Inquiry, (viz. that on Finsbury,) in which he will find the subject set forth and discussed at length. It is only further necessary to add, that this class of schools is rapidly declining, and that the proprietors of them complain bitterly of their scholars falling off. This decline of middling schools is to be attributed to the diocesan or commercial schools which are now instituted in most of the large parishes in London, and which hitherto have been very successful. One diocesan school in the City of London has already 400 scholars.

Charity Schools.

Your Committee visited 280 charity schools containing 35,928 scholars. By the term *charity schools* are to be understood *endowed schools*, *National*, *British and Foreign* and *Infant schools*, as well as *schools in prisons*, and those of *workhouses*, where the children are actually educated in the house; but in cases where the children are sent from the workhouse to Norwood or other distant schools, such children are not included in the present census.

* The little estimation in which the proprietors, and more especially the mistresses, of schools hold their profession, is shown by the circumstance, that whenever they had any other trade or calling, they entered that other trade by preference at the census of 1841. Thus a woman who took in needlework would be almost certain to describe herself as "dress-maker," not as "school-mistress." When the whole of the census of 1841 is published, it will probably be found that the figures under the head of "School-masters, &c." will bear a very small proportion to the real number. An inspection of the census schedules leads us to believe that the same kind of prejudice holds good for and against many other professions also.

† Those who are familiar with the middle classes in towns will probably recognise the same trait as being very general.

General Table of Schools and Scholars in London.

| Date of Survey. | District. | Population in 1841. | Dames' Schools. | | | Common Day Schools. | | | | Charity Day Schools. | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|---------------------|-----|-------|--------|----------------------|-----|--------|
| | | | No. | Boys. | Girls. | Total. | No. | Boys. | Girls. | Total. | No. | Total. |
| 1841 | City of London | 129,251 | 84 | 587 | 828 | 1,415 | 80 | 921 | 1,075 | 1,996 | 46 | 7,400 |
| 1837-8 | City of Westminster | 229,647 | 130 | 801 | 1,019 | 1,820 | 129 | 1,373 | 1,550 | 2,923 | 55 | 5,606 |
| 1839 | Borough of Finsbury | 200,661 | 180 | 1,088 | 1,605 | 2,693 | 137 | 1,656 | 1,760 | 3,416 | 60 | 6,359 |
| 1842 | Borough of Marylebone† | 150,000 | 77 | 617 | 761 | 1,378 | 97 | 1,086 | 1,219 | 2,305 | 22 | 4,937 |
| 1843 | Whitechapel and Wapping District‡ | 91,000 | 175 | 1,184 | 1,722 | 2,906 | 65 | 1,288 | 793 | 2,081 | 32 | 5,412 |
| | Total | 800,559 | 646 | 4,277 | 5,935 | 10,212 | 508 | 6,324 | 6,397 | 12,721 | 215 | 29,714 |

| Date of Survey. | District. | Population in 1841. | Infant Schools. | | Sunday Schools. | | Middling Schools. | | | Total of Schools visited. | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|--------|---------------------------|-------|-----------|
| | | | No. | Total Scholars. | No. | Total Scholars. | No. | Boys. | Girls. | Total. | No. | Scholars. |
| 1841 | City of London | 129,251 | 13 | 1,930 | 35 | 2,542 | 28 | 245 | 508 | 753 | 286 | 16,036 |
| 1837-8 | City of Westminster | 229,647 | 17 | 2,273 | 40 | 6,267 | 129 | 2,152 | 1,999 | 4,151 | 500 | 23,040 |
| 1839 | Borough of Finsbury* | 200,661 | 15 | 2,293 | 37 | 7,992 | 108 | 1,639 | 1,772 | 3,411 | 537 | 26,164 |
| 1842 | Borough of Marylebone† | 150,000 | 12 | 1,626 | 23 | 6,200 | 14 | 189 | 204 | 393 | 245 | 16,839 |
| 1843 | Whitechapel and Wapping District‡ | 91,000 | 8 | 992 | 28 | 5,890 | 11 | 171 | 217 | 388 | 319 | 15,160 |
| | Total | 800,559 | 65 | 9,114 | 163 | 28,891 | 290 | 4,396 | 4,700 | 9,096 | 1,887 | 97,239 |

* Exclusive of the suburb north of the Regent's Canal.

† Exclusive of the suburb north of the New Road.

‡ Comprising the parishes of St. Mary, Whitechapel; St. George's in the East; St. John, Wapping; and St. Paul, Shadwell.

From the above number of schools are also excluded the diocesan or commercial schools under the superintendence of the church, Christ's Hospital, St. Paul's School, and other schools of the same class, which, although properly speaking charity schools (at least it would be difficult to frame any definition of the term charity school which would not include them), yet must not be confounded with schools for the education of the lower orders.

In the accompanying table the charity schools as above defined are divided into two columns, viz. *Charity Schools* and *Infant Schools*. In the latter class the sexes of the children are not distinguished, but the number of each sex is nearly the same. In the former it will be observed that the boys predominate as much as the girls predominate in private schools.

To each of their first three reports your Committee have added an Appendix, in which every charity school is described and commented upon separately: and in a future report your Committee hope to describe, in the same manner, all the remaining charity schools of the metropolis, as well as to give a further and more accurate census of the Sunday schools: their chief object in the present, has been to throw light on the subject of the private schools for the education of the poor, considering this to be the subject hitherto least known, and, consequently, of the greatest interest.

Progress of Crime in the United Kingdom: abstracted from the Criminal Returns for 1842, and the Prison Returns for the Year ended at Michaelmas, 1841. BY JOSEPH FLETCHER, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Honorary Secretary.

UNDER the name of "Tables showing the number of Criminal Offenders committed for trial or bailed for appearance in each County, and the result of the Proceedings," are now annually published, during each Session of Parliament, the statistics of crime for the past year for England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, made out by order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in a mode as nearly uniform as the methods of judicature in the several parts of the empire will permit. Those for the year 1842, which have just appeared, present results calculated to awaken great solicitude; and we make no apology, therefore, for here introducing an abstract of these painful records. The gaol returns for 1841, likewise printed in the present session, will afford some valuable additions to this abstract, which will thus present the results comprised in nearly 500 folio pages. The classification of offences in the criminal tables issued from the Home Office is into:—

1. Offences against the Person.
2. Offences against Property committed with violence.
3. Offences against Property committed without violence.
4. Malicious Offences against Property.
5. Forgery and Offences against the Currency.
6. Other Offences not included in the above Classes.