[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Ealing].

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Borough of Ealing



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

1944

THOMAS ORR, M.D., D.Sc.,

Of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law.,

Medical Officer of Health,

School Medical Officer and

Medical Superintendent of the

Isolation and Maternity Hospitals.

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HEALTH SERVICES.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health this Annual Report, as the four previous reports in war years, is of a restricted character but with this difference, that it is now permitted to quote the estimated population of the Borough and the figures or rates based on this population.

The maternal mortality, as anticipated in the previous report, is low for 1944 and counterbalances the high rate for 1943, so that by taking the average of the two years a rate comparable with the low rates of previous years is obtained. The infant mortality rate of 41, although one above that of the previous year, is low compared with that for the whole of England and Wales for which the rate is 46 per 1,000 births.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Service continued to function without interruption during the year except when the flying bombs became active. Ten War-time Nurseries became reduced to nine in July when the South Ealing Nursery was so damaged that it had to be demolished. Fortunately none of the staff or children in the nursery at the time received other than trivial injuries.

Notifiable infectious diseases were low in incidence, the small number of cases of diphtheria, 17 during the whole year, being remarkable, a result which is no doubt attributable to immunisation of the children.

The School Medical Service continued to function as in the previous year in spite of staffing difficulties. Scabies continued to be prevalent although very active measures were taken for its control. Cleanliness of the heads of the children continued to improve and a figure of only 2.5 per cent. of children with dirty heads is especially remarkable in a year in which both parents and children were disturbed by enemy air activity and consequent evacuation.

There have been no signs of impairment of the nutrition of the children who have benefited greatly from meals and milk supplied in school and from the protective foodstuffs supplied by the Government.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Population (Census, 1931)	8,739 117,707 155,580 ,872,491 £7,804
Live Births:— Legitimate Males, 1,484 Females, 1,373 Total, 2,8 Illegitimate Males, 85 Females, 82 Total,	
Birth-Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population	19.4
Still-Births:— Males, 39 Females, 39 Total Rate per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still-Births)	78 25
Deaths: Males, 825 Females, 866 Total	1,691
Death-Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population	10.9
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :— Legitimate Males, 68 Females, 48 Total, 116 Illegitimate Males, 4 Females, 3 Total, 7	123
Death-Rate of Infants under one year of age :— All Infants per 1,000 Live Births Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	41 41 42
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Childbirth:— From Sepsis 1 Death-Rate 1,000 Total Births From other Causes 2 ,, ,, ,,	0.32 0.65
Total 3 ,, ,, ,,	0.97
	Total Deaths
Measles	
Whooping Cough	2
Scarlet Fever	1
Influenza	12
Tuberculosis of Lungs	66
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	12

Causes of Death, 1944.

Command Double	. I	Deaths, 1944			
Cause of Death.	Male	Female	Total	Death 1943	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers			_		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	-	1	3	
Scarlet Fever		1	. 1		
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	4	
Diphtheria	1	_	1	_	
Luberculosis of Respiratory System	41	25	66	90	
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	3	2	1 5	12	
Syphilitic Diseases	4	5	9	12	
and the contract	0	6	12	29	
Measles	4		14	2	
Acute Infectious Encephalitis		12 1		3	
Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph. (M.),;		1			
was seen and the s	13	20	33	27	
1 101 1 10 1	16	26	42	50	
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	10	34	34	29	
3	94	0.0	186	173	
Diabetes	6	. 3	9	20	
ntra-Cran. Vasc. Lesions	69	107	176	162	
Heart Disease	221	194	415	435	
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	29	35	64	75	
Bronchitis	49	42	91	97	
Pneumonia	100/21/21	46	79	100	
Other Respiratory Diseases		12	22	22	
Ilcer of Stomach or Duodenum	13	3	16	26	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5	7	12	. 20	
Appendicitis	1	2	3	3	
Other Digestive Diseases	14	17	31	34	
Nephritis	19	15	34	40	
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	_	1	1	2	
Other Maternal Causes	-	2	, 2	17	
Premature Birth	19	17	36	31	
Congenital Malformations, Birth					
Injury, Infantile Diseases	34	20	54	42	
uicide	6	6	12	14	
Road Traffic Accidents	10	5	15	12	
Other Violent Causes	43	55	98	54	
All Other Causes	64	65	129	148	
Total	825	866	1691	1778	

Table Showing Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and Infant Death-Rate for the Borough of Ealing.

Period	Birth-Rate	Death-Rate	Infant Death-Rate
1921—1925	15.4	10.7.	58
1926—1930	14.5	10.9	49
"1931—1935	14.2	10.1	46
1936	14.4	9.9	49.
1937	14.9	9.6	46
. 1938	14.9	9.3	43
1939	14.8	9.5	48
1940	14.7	12.4	41
1941	14.5	10.9	49
1942	17.2	10.3	48
1943	18.8	11.2	40
1944	19.4	10.9	41

Maternal Mortality per Thousand Births.

Period	Ealing	England and Wales	
1931—1935	4.10	4.12	+3
1936	0.93	3.65	
1937	2.50	3.23	
1938	2.00	2.97	
1939	3.75	2.93	
1940	1.74	2.16	
1941	1.53	2.23	
1942	1.79	2.01	
1943	2.95	2.29	
1944	0.97	1.93	

HOSPITALS.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Clayponds Isolation Hospital at South Ealing, which is under the control of the Ealing and Brentford & Chiswick Hospitals Committee, has a normal capacity of 142 beds. Only 34 beds were available for the treatment of cases of infectious disease, owing to the major part of the hospital being used as an Emergency Hospital.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Perivale Maternity Hospital of 43 beds is also under the control of the Ealing and Brentford & Chiswick Hospitals Committee. Throughout the year this hospital was taxed to the uttermost by the demands for admission, the accommodation being fully booked months in advance throughout the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Now that the restrictions imposed upon the publication of figures relating to population have been removed, it is possible to give the birth-rates during the last four years. In 1941 the birth-rate was 14.5 per thousand of population, this being slightly below that of the preceding four years. In 1942 the birth-rate increased to 17.2, in 1943 it was 18.8, while in 1944 the birth-rate rose to 19.4 per thousand of population. This last birth-rate represents a total of 3,024 births. The demands on the Maternity and Child Welfare Service have shown a corresponding increase as the majority of the mothers make arrangements for their confinements through the Council's maternity service, or attend the Ante-Natal Clinic if the confinement is to take place in a County Hospital. The demand made for admission to maternity hospitals is indicated by the following figures which show the place of confinement in respect of the births in 1944.

Births in Perivale Materni	ity Hosp	oital		676
Births in other hospitals			1	,022
Births in nursing homes				418
Births at home				817
Information not available				91
	200		3	,024
				-

In regard to the care of illegitimate children, there has been close co-operation with the Middlesex County Council. Accommodation for the expectant mother before the confinement and for the mother and child after the baby is born, is now available. Every effort is made to assist the mothers to deal with the special problems which arise with regard to illegitimate children, the scheme being operated in close co-operation with the Ealing Deanery Moral Welfare Association.

Following the receipt of Circular 20/44 from the Minister of Health advocating special measures to be taken regarding the care of premature infants, arrangements were made to obtain early information regarding them. The weight at birth is now entered on the notification of birth card. Premature babies in need of special care and treatment can best be dealt with in hospital and the County Medical Officer has agreed that every facility should be offered for the admission of these cases to the County Hospitals. At Perivale Maternity Hospital special provision is made for premature children.

From the 1st June, 1943, the Health Visitors have been responsible for investigating cases of adoption. During the year under review eight cases were dealt with following the receipt of notices under Section 7 of the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939. The Health Visitors also dealt with 56 other adoption cases in which notice had not to be given under the Act.

The special war-time services undertaken at the Health Centres—the distribution of National dried milk, fruit juice and cod liver oil and the booking of expectant mothers for evacuation—were continued. During the year 78 expectant mothers took advantage of the evacuation scheme and thus had their babies at emergency maternity hospitals situated in the country.

Summary of the Visits made by the He	alth	Visitors	S.
Visits to children under 12 months :-		(1943)	(1944)
First visits		2,609	2,456
Return visits		5,912	6,599
Visits to children 1 to 5 years of age		8,348	8,846
Visits to expectant mothers		1,507	1,359
Visits to investigate infant deaths and still-bis	rths	63	67
Special visits or investigations		204	327
Visits to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum		12	-11112
Visits to cases of Measles and Whooping Cough	***	571	325
Visits to cases of Scarlet Fever on discharge f	rom		
the Isolation Hospital		35	84
Inspections of Women's Lavatories		59	67
Visits to children under care of foster-mothers	·	352	313
Other visits		239	117
Total Visits	3	19,911	20,562
	-	-	-
Summary of the Work at the Health (entr	es.	
Mothers.	JOHEL		
Troviors.		(1943)	(1944)
Expectant Mothers attending Ante-Natal Clinics	:		
Attending for the first time		2,180	2,071
Total attendances		12,516	12,701
Nursing mothers attending Post-natal Clinics :-			
Attending for the first time		169	155
Total attendances			161

Children.

Children attending Centres for	the fir	st time	:		,
Under one of age				2,409	2,406
One to five years of age				420	290
Total attendances made by chi	ldren :	_			
Under one year of age				30,364	30,069
One to five years of age				12,933	12,186
Medical Examination of I complete medical exminations of age are indicated in the following	of ch	ildren i	from o	The nune to fiv	mber of ve years

Age-Group			No.	of Exams (1943)	inations (1944)
1 year to 18 months	***	***	 	1,140	964
18 months to 2 years			 	658	474
2 years to 3 years		~	 	576	374
3 years to 4 years	.4.		 	615	389
4 years to 5 years	,		 	518	283
3 air/ 2 131		3		3,507	2,484

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The number of mothers and children treated during the year was smaller than in the previous year. The decrease was due to the evacuation of mothers and children owing to enemy air activity. Attendances of mothers for the first time were 537 and the total attendances made by all the mothers were 2,344. The dental treatment carried out included 507 fillings and 1,722 extractions and other operations, including scaling, gum treatment and adjustments to dentures. During the year 125 mothers received full or partial dentures.

The dental treatment carried out for children under school age consisted chiefly of extractions of teeth causing pain, the mothers coming to the centre with the child at a stage when unfortunately any attempt at conservative treatment is hopeless. The number of young children attending for the first time totalled 149, and for these 434 teeth were extracted and 19 teeth were filled. In all 278 attendances were made by these children.

STEPS TAKEN TO COMBAT INFESTATION.

The following observations submitted to the Ministry of Health subsequent to the issue of the Annual Report for 1943 can be reproduced here as they apply to 1944 with equal force.

For many years very active steps have been taken in the schools to promote the cleanliness of school children and the good effect of these steps on the mothers has been shown in the cleanliness of the children of all ages. Some indication of the improvement may be seen in the figures relating to the head inspections of school children carried out at regular intervals in each year in the schools. The percentage of children found in successive years, in all the schools, to have perfectly clean heads, and by that is meant those whose heads are quite clean, even free from nits, were:—

1005				071		
1935		***	***	97.1	per	cent.
1936				97.2	,,	22
1937				96.7	,,	"
1938				97.0	,,	,, .
1939				97.2	"	"
1940				97.0	. ,,	111
1941				96.0	37	,,
1942				96.7	,,	,,,
1943				97.0	,,	,,
1944	TV			97.5	,,	,,,

These figures are certainly notable. The cleanliness of Ealing children has even been noted by others who have come into touch with them in the Reception Areas for there have been many expressions of appreciation of their condition. The method adopted has been regular inspection, followed by notices regarding those unclean and exclusion of those found to have more than a few nits. These notices have given advice as to the maintenance of cleanliness. The duty of the mothers to keep their children clean has been impressed upon them and they have been told how to do it. No child has been cleansed by the school nurses; the mother has had to do the cleansing. After several warnings a mother who has offended has been prosecuted under the School Attendance Byelaws.

The School Nurses have followed up other and especially older children and even the mothers in the homes, because it has been found that children after being cleansed have received new infestations from older members of the family. When all other measures have failed to bring about the desired result lethane oil has been supplied free of charge for use by the mother herself or by the girls who have left school. The use of lethane oil has only been advised as a last resort to deal with such contacts. Regular care and attention have been advised or urged as the proper way of keeping school children clean and the same applies to children under school age.

At the same time the Medical Officers and the Health Visitors have been devoting attention to the younger children not yet attending school. Examinations for cleanliness have been carried out in a way not to give offence to the mothers and advice has been given in appropriate cases. The home may be the place where advice on the maintenance of cleanliness can be given when it can give least offence but the examination of children's heads in the home is an action that would court disaster as far as the relations between the Health Visitor and the mothers are concerned.

Informal lectures or talks on cleanliness are always part of the duties of the health visitors at the Health Centres where no mother is singled out for special attention and where the advice is received in the best spirit. In these talks, which are usually followed up in the homes in appropriate cases, the maintenance of general cleanliness and the promotion of good habits are specially dealt with.

As a matter of fact all the points referred to in Circular 2831 of the Ministry of Health, even to the possible use of Lethane Oil, had been considered previously to the receipt of the Circular.

In order to ascertain the effect of the measures adopted in Ealing with reference to children under 5 years of age, a particular examination was made in 1941 of all the children passing through the hands of the medical officers at various Health Centres over a period of several weeks. The results proved to be much better than anticipated. The figures are worth quoting and are as follows:—

Health Centr	e	Number seen by M.O.	Few Nits	- Many Nits	Nits and Lice
Mattock Lane		218	2	_	_
Cherington House		015	4	-	-
Ravenor Park		000	2	_	_
Perivale		117	-	-	-
Greenford Green		149	_	-	-
Islips Manor		149	-		_
	otal	1056	8	_	

These figures speak well for the efficacy of the measures that have been adopted.

WAR - TIME NURSERIES.

At the end of the year there were nine War-time Nurseries in the Borough, seven being whole-time nurseries, open from 6.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., and two being part-time nurseries open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During the year the accommodation at the Culmington Road Nursery was increased from 44 to 82 places, and at Perivale Nursery from 40 to 58 places. In July the South Ealing Nursery was so seriously damaged by a flying-bomb that it was subsequently demolished. Fortunately, although the nursery was full at the time of the incident, the casualties among the staff and children were limited to injuries of a very minor character.

The attendances at the nurseries during the year were as follows:-

	Date opened	Capacity	Days open	Total attendances	Average attendance
Stanhope	17/11/41	70	307	15365	50
Culmington Road	26/1/42	85	307	11317	37
Cuckoo	9/3/42	70	307 .	15731	51
Perivale	5/10/42	58	307	9471	31
South Ealing	5/10/42	40	161	5188	32
Northolt	26/10/42	40	307	10087	33
St. Marks	4/1/43	44	307	10157	133
Oldfields	19/7/43	50	307	11111	36
St. John's	5/10/42	60	255	8879	35
Wood End	5/10/42	28	255	5397	21

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The work of supervision of foster-mothers, carried out by the Health Visitors who have all been appointed Child Protection Visitors, is summarized in the following table:—

Number of children on the register at the beginning of the vear (Number of fostermothers having care of the above children, 68).	85
Number of children registered during the year	40
Number of children removed from register during year	55
Number of children on register at end of year (Number of fostermothers having care of the above children, 61).	70
Number of visits made by Health Visitors	293

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

At the end of the year, 11 midwives were employed by the Council in connection with the domiciliary midwifery service. The cases attended by the midwives were as follows:

The cases attended by the midwive	S Were				
Number of Confinements attended:- (a) as midwife (b) as maternity nurse				548 102	650
SUPERVISION O	F MID	WIVE	SS.		
Number of midwives practising	at end	of year	-		
Midwives in service of Council				***	11
at Dariyale Maternity Hos	spital				12
in independent practice	***	***			5 8
in private nursing homes				41 - C	
All of these midwives possessed	d the c	ertifica	te on	the Ce	Hilai
Midwives Board.					
Number of births attend	ed by m	idwives	:-		
ivumber of our mi	dwife :				
When acting in the capacity of mi (a) In private Nursing Homes			***		119
(b) At the patient's home			****		594
(0) At the passes	aternity	v nurse	e (aa 6	loctor	
When acting in the capacity of m	aceimo	, 110110			
being in attendance).			are to t		259
(a) In private Nursing Homes			*****		132
(b) At the patient's home					
SUPERVISION OF 1	TIRSI	NG H	OME	S.	
SUPERVISION OF A	. TO LED LA	1	72		

The following table gives information regarding mursing homes in the Borough :-

in the Borough :—	No. of Homes	No. of Beds
Number of Nursing Homes on Register at beginning of year Number of New Homes registered Number of Homes discontinued	14 (6)	210 (57) 14 9
Number of Homes discontinuous Register at end Number of Nursing Homes on Register at end of year	14 (6)	212 (61)

^{*} The figures in brackets indicate the number of Homes and the number of beds wholly or partly devoted to the reception of maternity cases.

The Medical Officer in charge of the supervision of Nursing Homes made 26 special visits during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH.—The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

GENERAL.			
Number of Premises inspected on Complaint		2,013	
Number of Nuisances observed by Inspectors		64	. 1
Number of Premises inspected in connection with In	fectious		
Disease		343	
Number of Premises visited by Periodical Inspection			
sheds, Dairies, Slaughterhouses, Factories, etc.	.)	161	
Number of Houses inspected under House-to-House	Survey		
Food Inspections		- 1,663	
Total Number of Re-inspections	The same	5,540	
Other Inspections		380	
Total Number of Inspections and Re-inspections		10,164	
Number of Intimation Notices given		606	
Number of other Letters written		1,400	
Number of Statutory Notices served	· franci	arkad 44	irles
Proceedings before Magistrates			

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—There were no infringements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations. No meat is sold from stalls in the Borough.

There are three private slaughterhouses but no animals were slaughtered in them during the year.

There is no public slaughterhouse in the Borough.

The Meat Depot which was established in a central position at the beginning of the war still serves a large area in Middlesex, embracing Ealing. The Sanitary Inspectors have had to inspect a large quantity of meat there daily. The following table indicates the amount of the various foodstuffs which have been condemned by the Inspectors as unfit for food in the course of their inspections at the meat depot and at the various food premises in the Borough:—

-				0		11-	
						lbs.	
	Beef			***	 	3,512	
	Pork				 	1,1631	
	Mutton				 	566	
	Veal				 	2811	
	Offal				 	5161	
	Bacon				 	7823	
	Fish				 	4,3251	
	Sausages			h.	 	4,1421	
	Tinned Meat	***			 	1,463	
	Fruit and Vege	etables			 	15,2221	
	Confectionery				 	1,255	
	Cocoa				 	4,226	
	Cereals				 	1,1331	
	Assorted Food		***		 	12,1611	
						50,7503 1b	s.
				/			
	Milk (tins)		0		 	2,644	
	Fish (tins)				 	2,415	
1	Assorted Artic	les		3	 	1,301	
	Elggs				 	2,391	
	Assorted tins,	iars an	d pack	ets	 	2,978	
ľ	Tinned Fruit				 	629	
	Parenton Franco		,				

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION (ACT) 1919. INFESTATION ORDER 1943.

The Minister of Food under the Defence (General Regulations) 1939 made the Infestation Order on the 6th May, 1943. Under Section 5 of this Order every local authority was instructed to undertake a survey of its district, and to make a report to the Minister with respect to the extent to which land in its area was subject to major infestations by rats and mice. Subsequent to this report, which was submitted in June, 1943, the Ministry of Food organised a campaign in which they solicited the help of the public in giving information regarding the prevalence of rats. This campaign lasted from October to the end of December, 1943, and at that time 422 complaints of rats had been received at the Public Health Department.

As the Middlesex County Council were still the authority under the Rats and Mice Destruction (Act) 1919, all the complaints were sent to the Rat Destruction Officer of the County Council, who was overwhelmed with complaints and consequently unable to deal with them.

The Minister of Food issued instructions for this Council to take over on 1st February, 1944, the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction (Act) 1919, and the Infestation Order 1943, and so a burden of 422 complaints of rats had immediately to be dealt with.

A Rodent Operative and an assistant were appointed to commence work at the beginning of February, and took over this large number of complaints which had, however, by this time, been reduced in number by the Sanitary Inspectors, who had visited the sources of the complaints and had eliminated those which were not in immediate need of attention, or which could be resolved with other complaints into a smaller number of centres of infestation.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Rodent Operative, acting under the direct supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, from the 1st February to the end of the year:—

Complaints (in addition to those already	mentioned)	443
Premises inspected		667
Premises found to be infested with:		
(1) Rats		448
(2) Mice,		61
Re-visits to premises		1,111
Estimated number caught:		
(1) Rats		1,198
(2) Mice	1	1,294
Fees received for treatment	. £356. 12s	. 6d.
Premises treated free of charge		44

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious Disease occurring in the Borough.

Disease	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
'Smallpox	-	_	-		100	1	_	-	_	_	-	_
Diphtheria	71	195	228	52	123	142	92	33	48	28	13	17
Scarlet Fever	476	493	400	408	317	383	303	116	166	180	448	228
Enteric Fever (including												
Paratyphoid)	4	3	7	8	5	2	5	4	5		1	
Puerperal Fever	3	3	7	3	4	-	-			-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	28	14	11	9	24	46	40	30	30	39	41	42
Pneumonia:												
Primary '	56	72	59	85	60	83	50	66	.97	105	123	142
Influenzal	00	17	11	14	37	18	26	10	27	17	40	. 9
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	-	1	2	7	6	1	- 1	9	2	2	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	7	15	5	1	-
Malaria	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
Dysentery '	-	-	1	1	5	12	2	-	3	. 6	5	24
Erysipelas	36	43	28	28	27	41	37	29	26	36	41	30
Polio-Encephalitis	-	1		1		-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis ·-				150				1000	1		Line I	
Pulmonary	154	139	157	139	178	142	149	156	195	223	233	173
Non-Pulmonary '	23	24	23	22	37	33	38	30	28	38	51	30
*Ophthalmia	1	18.10			201							
Neonatorum	8	5	3	4	-7	15	16	5	2	8	4	3
Total	895	1010	936	777	832	924	759	488	653	689	1004	700

The following non-civilian cases of infectious disease are included in the above table:

Scarlet Fever, 3 Whooping Cough, 1

Diphtheria, 3 Measles, 1

Scarlet Fever.—Out of 228 cases of scarlet fever only 64 cases were removed to hospital. Since the outbreak of war accommodation for cases of scarlet fever in the Isolation Hospital has been much reduced and only in exceptional circumstances have cases been admitted. There was one death from the disease.

DIPHTHERIA. All of the 17 cases of diphtheria were removed to hospital. There was one death from this disease.

Diphtheria Immunization—The protection of children by means of immunization is considered on page 30.

Measles and Whooping Cough.—Measles and whooping cough became notifiable under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulation, 1939. The following numbers of cases were notified:—

Measles 127 Whooping Cough 380

There were 2 deaths from whooping cough, but none from measles.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and the number of deaths which occurred were as follows:—

		New C	ases	10	Deaths				
Age Periods	Pulm	ionary	Non-Pulm'y		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y		
	Male	F'male	Male	F'male	Male	F'male	Male	F'male	
0—1									
- 1-5	1	2	_	2	_	-	-	2	
5—10	3	-	4	1	1	-		-	
10—15	3	4	2		-	-	-	-	
15-20	9	15	3	4-	1.	1		-	
2025	12	18		2	1	4	1	-	
25-35	24	18	-	2	10	10	-	-	
35-45	17	15	1	5	9	4		-	
4555	14	2	1	1	10	1	T	-	
5565	10	4	-		4	- 5	-	-	
65 upwards	2	-	1	1	5	2	-	-	
Total	. 95	78	12	18	41	25	3	2	

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

The School Medical Service continued to function as in the

previous year.

Diphtheria immunization proceeded on the lines previously described. With the co-operation of the Head-teachers special efforts were made to bring immunization to the attention of the parents by sending fresh letters to the homes in instances where children were still not immunized.

Owing to the renewed enemy aerial activities large scale evacuation took place during the summer months involving special medical examinations of all those taking advantage of the Government Scheme.

The Child Guidance Centre was opened in October, being staffed by a team of three, consisting of a Psychiatrist, an Educational Psychologist and a Psychiatric Social Worker.

STAFF.

Dr. Josephine Webb, temporary Assistant School Medical Officer, resigned at the end of the year and Dr. Marguerite Perry was appointed in her place.

Mr. H. J. Wooldridge, part-time Dental Surgeon, unfortunately

died suddenly. He was succeeded by Mr. F. W. E. Wagner.

Miss Penney, temporary School Nurse, commenced duties on the 1st May in place of Mrs. James who resigned in the previous December.

EVACUATION.

Owing to enemy air activity large scale evacuation was resumed on the 4th July, 4,506 mothers and children being medically examined prior to evacuation and 116 of these being re-examined owing to various conditions which made them unfit in the first instance.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Medical Inspection included (1) the routine inspection in the schools of children in the only two age-groups: (a) entrants, and (b) children at 13 years; (2) the special inspection of children referred by the Head-teachers, School Nurses and School Enquiry Officers, and (3) the annual examination of physically defective children and of children requiring to be kept under observation.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Among the 3,514 children examined in a routine manner there were 335 defects, excluding uncleanliness and dental disease, requiring treatment and 539 requiring to be kept under observation. The examination of the 5,297 children submitted specially revealed 3,221 defects requiring treatment and 820 requiring to be kept under observation.

Of the 3,514 children examined at the routine inspections, 307 or 8.7 per cent. were found to require treatment for one or more defective conditions other than defective teeth or verminous condition.

NUTRITION.

The state of nutrition of the children examined at routine medical inspection is shown in Table II. The classification is in accordance with the suggestions of the Board of Education as set out in Administrative Memorandum No. 125 of 1935. Of 'the 3,514 school children examined 7.3 per cent. were classified as of excellent nutrition, 89.3 of normal nutrition and 3.4 slightly subnormal.

The School Nurses continued to visit the schools at monthly intervals to survey the children and to enquire from the Head-teachers whether there were any children whose condition was not entirely satisfactory. Appointments were made where necessary for selected children to be seen at the Health Centres by the Medical Officers.

UNCLEANLINESS.

Cleanliness surveys were made, as usual, on three occasions during the year and additional visits were paid at the Head-teachers' request where the usual standard of cleanliness was not being maintained.

The results of these were found to be very satisfactory, only 2.5 per cent of the children being found to have nits or vermin on the head. In the following table the results are tabulated for comparison with those of previous years.

Year	Average Number on Rolls	No. of examina- tions for verminous condition	Number of children excluded	Number of warning notices issued	Total Number of unclean children excluded or warned	Percentage of children unclean whether excluded or not	Legal proceed- ings taken under attend- ance Bye-laws
1938	18,107	43,372	731	584	1,315	3.0	18
1939	18,174 (End of August)	29,357	520	303	823	2.8	6
1940	8,600	25,615	466	325	791	3.0	1
1941	(Nov.) 14,100	25,956	557-	480	1,037	4.0	6
1942	16,542	39,937	674	639	1,313	3.3	61
1943	16,900	44,607	675	646	1,321	3.0	32
1944	14,367	38,546	535	447	982	2.5	25

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT.

MINOR AILMENTS AND DISEASES OF THE SKIN.—The treatment of minor ailments carried out at the Health Centres is shown in Table 3, Group 1 (page 34). As many as 92 per cent. of the children found to be suffering from minor ailments on medical inspection attended the Health Centres for treatment.

The number of cases treated and the total number of attendances made were as follows:—

Condi	tions T	reated	1		No. of cases treated	Total attendances made
Skin:	,		T luci			
Ringworm					12	45
Scabies					473	525
Impetigo					121	806
Others					310	1,148
Minor eye defects					240	790
Minor ear defects					282	2,052
Miscellaneous : Minor injuries				(The state of
Sores :				- 1	1,002	4,767
Others			3	(
					12	
		Total			2,440	10,133

The treatment of cases of Scabies at the Health Centres was continued, benzyl benzoate being used. During the year there were treated 473 school children, 121 pre-school children and 483 cases referred by general medical practitioners and factory medical officers, making a total of 1,077 cases treated. Twenty-one of these cases required re-treatment.

The Assistant School Medical Officers again visited the schools and examined all the children present for scabies, 15,032 children being inspected, 32 being found to be suffering from the disease and 134 being referred for further examination.

All who attended the Health Centres for treatment were encouraged to bring their relatives or friends living in contact with them if there was any suspicion that they were suffering from the same condition.

The following table shows how the number of cases of scabies in school children has been increasing since before the war :—

Number of School Children treated for Scabies.

Year	At Health Centre	s Otherwise	Total Cases
1934	12	2	14 m
1935	12	The state of the state of	12
1936	25		25
1937	97	_	97
1938	128	7.	135
1939	86 .	23	109
1940	141	8	149
1941	328	19	347
1942	501	_	501
1943	622	3	625
1944	473	_	473

DEFECTIVE VISION AND DISEASES OF THE EYE.—The following is the report of the Ophthalmic Surgeon, Dr. Freeman Heal, for the year:—

COLUMN PRODUCTION TO BE

During 1944, 457 new cases were examined. Of these, 208 were seen at Mattock Lane, and 249 at Ravenor Park Health Centre. Re-inspections totalled 780, of which, 389 were made at Mattock Lane, and 391 at Ravenor Park.

Summary of Work:

Prescriptions for glasses were	issued	 	744
Pairs of glasses were supplied		 	734

Congenital Abnormalities.		New Cases.	Re-i	nspecti	ons.
Squint		80		230	
Congenital nystagmus		5		10	
Congenital obstruction nasal		6		1	
Congenital cataract				6	
Progressive myopia		1		2	
Congenital ptosis		-		2	
Albinism		_		1	
Congenital paralysis (externa	al				
rectus)	***	1		-	
Congenital opacity of the co-	rnea	-		1	

Abnormalities due to Infe	ction.				-
			4		. 2
Blepharitis		100	3		_
Follicular conjunctivi	tis		0 -		
Sub-acute conjunctivi	itis		3		
Keratitis			3		-
Interstitial keratitis			-	A THE	2
. Phlyctenular conjunc	tivitis		2		-
Chronic conjunctiviti	s		1	No.	-
Episcleritis		122	1		
Sebaceous cyst			1		
Meibomian cyst			1.		
Abnormalities due to Tra	uma.				1 1
Subconjunctival haer		e 7	2		
				- 1	17 1
Abnormalities of unknow	n Etiolo	gy.			
Optic atrophy			. 1		1
District bulbi			1		-
Phthisis bulbi	***				

Infective diseases of the eyes found during the year were few in number and mild in degree which appears to indicate a continued maintenance of good health and nutrition.

treatment of children suffering from defects of the ear, nose and throat was continued during the year at the Mattock Lane and Ravenor Park Health Centres by Mr. Arthur Miller, F.R.C.S.

Special advice and treatment were provided for school children referred from routine and special school inspections and for children attending the Child Welfare Centres.

The total number of attendances was 538. Of these 495 were made by school children and 43 by children under five years of age. Embraced in these figures were 229 new cases of whom 18 were under school age.

The children were referred on account of deafness, nasal catarrh, epistaxis and unhealthy tonsils and adenoids. The common abnormalities of the ear present were dry and moist perforations of the tympanic membrane, retracted and scarred ear drums, granulations and polypi. Treatments consisted of cauterisation of polypi, regular installation of ear drops, the insufflation of iodized boric acid, politzeration and ionization as well as diastolization.

The removal of tonsils and adenoids was recommended in 204 cases, seven of whom being children under five years of age.



The new cases were classified as follows :-

Suppurative otitis m	edia				20
Post-suppurative oti		edia			9
Catarrhal otitis medi	ia				12
Unhealthy and enlar	ged to	onsils ar	nd ader	noids	128
Deflected septum		* ***	***	***	8
Rhinitis					7
Other conditions			****		20
Deafness					15
Epistaxis					5
Nasal obstruction ·				***	5

Owing to war damage sustained by Clayponds Emergency Hospital in July, 1944, operations for enlarged tonsils and adenoids had to be temporarily discontinued but were resumed in January, 1945. During the year 49 school children and 10 children of preschool age were operated on for the removal of enlarged tonsils and adenoids.

Dental Defects.—All the elementary school children were inspected during the year, and the parents of those found requiring treatment were notified and given appointments. The number of children inspected was 794 less than in the previous year. This reduction is accounted for by the further evacuation of children. Altogether 14,638 children were inspected.

The number found to require treatment was 6,256, this figure being smaller than in the previous year, when 7,338 required treatment. The number that received treatment totalled 4,158, this figure being smaller than the preceding year, when 1,265 more were treated. The number of children treated in each year of the war was smaller than in the years just before the war. This was on account of the fluctuating number of sessions given by the part-time dental surgeons. Many days were lost owing to sickness of two members of the dental staff and owing to the delay in filling a vacancy caused by the death of one of them. The sessions lost by these different causes are reflected on the numbers treated.

The work carried out was, as usual, fillings, extractions and other minor operations. The number of permanent extractions was 790, this figure being smaller than in the previous year, when 1,316 teeth were removed. The number of temporary extractions was 5,956, this figure being smaller than that of the previous year by 3,025. The number of fillings inserted in permanent teeth totalled 3,081; this figure is smaller than that of the preceding year when 3,780 were inserted, a reduction of 699 fillings.

Other treatments included dressings for temporary teeth, the regulation of orthodontic appliances, the treatment of gums for acute gingivitis and other conditions of the mouth. For these treatments 924 attendances were made at the Centres. During the year 19 new cases were referred for orthodontic treatment, this figure being smaller than that of the previous year when 37 new cases were fitted with orthodontic appliances with satisfactory results.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.—The Orthopaedic Surgeon attended the Mattock Lane Health Centre once every month in 1944.

The Masseuse attended on five sessions in each week.

The work of the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year may be summarised as follows:—

Orthopaedic Clinic.

	School hildren	Children under five	Total
ttendances by Surgeon fumber of children seen for first time otal number of children examined	121 396	61 182	12 182 578
ttendances by Masseuse fumber of cases treated fumber of attendances by children	130 1,245	47 300	227 177 1,545
hildren admitted to hospital for special treatment hildren supplied with special boots or	17	5	22
surgical appliances	34		13

DEFECTIVE SPEECH.—The following is the report of the Speech Therapist (Miss Doreen Bissell) for the year :—

On the 10th January, Speech Centres were opened at the Mattock Lane, Cherington House, Perivale, Greenford Green and Ravenor Park Health Centres, and in September at Oldfields School. The children had been selected during visits to the schools and had had medical examinations. The parents were interviewed and some of them came to watch the treatment.

During the year, t	he following	children received	treatm	ent:
Stammerers	109	Cleft Palate		4
Speech Defects	83	Others (Rhinola	alia,	
		Chorea, etc.)		4
	Total	200		

Many of these attended twice weekly, and until the air raids, the attendance was most satisfactory. Unfortunately, 55 children were evacuated and only 28 had returned by December.

During September treatment was given in 14 schools until it seemed safe for the children to resume their attendance at the Centres.

Fifty-two special school visits were paid to discuss the progress and to see new cases of speech defects. The teachers sent reports after six months, and these showed that the children had gained self confidence and sociability. On February 23rd, a talk on "The work in the Speech Centre" was given at a meeting of Head Teachers at which the School Medical Officer presided. A similar talk was given to the Staff at North Ealing School and afterwards two Head Teachers visited a Centre.

One hundred and ninety home visits were paid—126 of these during the Flying Bomb period when very few children attended—to obtain the home co-operation which is essential if the treatment is to be wholly satisfactory.

The Centres were also visited by students of speech therapy from the Central School of Speech Training and the Therapist worked in close co-operation with the Child Guidance staff.

CHILD GUIDANCE CENTRE.

The Child Guidance Centre opened on the 1st October, 1944, in temporary premises. Its function is the diagnosis and, where possible, treatment of psychological disorders arising in the school population. Referrals come mainly from Head Teachers, Medical Officers, the Juvenile Court and the Juvenile Employment Bureau. Many children are examined in the first instance by the Psychologist, sometimes in conjunction with the Psychiatric Social Worker. A number of these cases can be disposed of by giving advice in the appropriate quarters; the remainder proceed to a full clinical examination, involving the participation of the Psychiatrist. The figures which follow immediately below refer only to those children who received such full examinations during the period of the report.

I.—Problems as referred.

Stealing	 		7
Problems of behaviour	 		6
Backwardness	 		8
Anxiety manifestations	 		1
Habit disorders	 	*	2
Physical symptoms	 		1
			25

Some of these terms may require explanation. "Problems of behaviour" has been used to cover complaints relating to disobedience, rudeness, pugnacity, destructiveness, etc. It is quite distinct from the technical term "behaviour problems," as used below, which indicates that whatever the symptom may be, it has been diagnosed as the reaction of a normal child to an abnormal environment. "Anxiety manifestations" has been used to cover such symptoms as fears, phobias, timidity, night terrors, etc.

II.—Diagnoses (or Underlying Disorders).

Psychoneurotic condition	S	 	12
Psychopathic conditions		 	5
Behaviour problems		 	4
Intellectual disability		 	3
Education interrupted		 	1
Physical disorders		 	0
			25

In general it may be said that the psychoneurotic conditions are likely to respond to some form of psychological treatment, unless home influences are too unfavourable and unmodifiable. The conditions diagnosed as psychopathic have a strong constitutional element which usually, though not invariably, renders them unsuitable for such treatment. The remedy lies in providing special environment. The behaviour problems call for readjustment, or, if necessary, change of home conditions, the intellectual disabilities for special educational methods, or when extreme, for special care and appropriate occupational provision. The treatment of the last group cannot be effectively carried out until special schools or classes become available, while some members of the group are incapable of profiting from any form of education.

No cases of physical disorder were examined during this period, but the category is included because cases of epilepsy, thyroid disorder, etc., may be referred in the future.

Treatment usually extends over 3 to 6 months at least, so that the only cases closed during this period were those deemed unsuitable for treatment, 5 in number, who received a diagnostic service only. They were dealt with as follows:

Recommended for residential placement ... 2
Report made 2
Examined, but parents refused cooperation ... 1

The remaining 20 cases, after diagnosis, were accepted for some form of treatment, are still open, and are classified as follows:

Forms of Treatment supplied:

Supervision	***			6
Remedial teaching				4
Individual treatment				3
Play therapy				-0
Awaiting treatment				7
				-
	Lin Jan	the lan	1	20

Play therapy was not inaugurated during the period, but is included in the table since it is a most valued resource of a Child Guidance Centre, and likely to play an important part in future developments.

It is useful to tabulate the age of children at their first appearance at the Centre:

Age at time of examination:

5-6	years				2
6-7	. ,,				1
7-8	***			***	6
8-9	"				2
9-10	***				2
10-11	"		•••		4
11—12 12—13	"	•••	• • • •	***	3
13—14	"	***	***		0
14—15	"		•••		3 2
11 10	"			***	-

As with most other disorders, early diagnosis and treatment is of the utmost importance. It is therefore satisfactory that the largest group in this table is that of the seven-year-olds, and it is to be hoped that in time, as the Centre becomes established and expands so as to afford a more adequate service, the proportion of children under 10 will increase and that of children over 10 will dwindle.

(The above account of the work of the Child Guidance Centre has been submitted by the Educational Psychologist, Mrs. Anthony.)

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT.

The beds reserved at Convalescent Homes by arrangement with the Invalid Children's Aid Association were cancelled at the outbreak of war and applications for vacancies were only made as required. During the year 7 children were sent away for convalescent treatment.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The returns forwarded each week by the head-teachers giving particulars of all new cases of infectious disease coming to their knowledge included 1,558 cases of measles, 338 of whooping cough, 1,036 of chickenpox and 144 of mumps.

Children to the number of 400 were excluded under Article 20 (b) of the Education Code for the following conditions:—

Impetigo	 	 84
Ringworm of body	 	 3
Scabies	 	 300
Other skin diseases	 	 2
Ringworm of head	 	 . 1
Conjunctivitis	 	 10
		400

No closure took place under Article 22 or 23 (b) of the Code Grant Regulations.

No certificate was issued under Paragraph 15 (ii) of the Administrative No. 51 of the Board of Education.

Diphtheria Immunization.

Immunization of school and pre-school children was continued at the Health Centres and when the numbers justified it the Medical Officers attended the various schools for the purpose.

The following table shows the amount of immunization work carried out in 1944:—

Schick tests	 66
School children immunized .	 183
Children under 5 years immunized	 1,549
Children re-immunized	 . 2

The total number of children of all ages immunized at the Health Centres and in the Schools in 1944 was thus 1,734.

MILK AND MEALS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

When the children are medically inspected at the School or at the Health Centre, the drinking of milk for school children is strongly recommended to the parents by the Medical Officers.

The milk is supplied in one-third pints at the cost of ½d. or at half cost or free of charge according to the level of the family income in the sliding scale approved by the Board of Education.

The following figures supplied by the Director of Education show the number of children taking milk on the 28th February, 1945:—

Number of children on roll		15,546
Number of children receiving free milk 1/3rd pint		248
Number of children receiving free milk 2/3rd pint		87
Number of children paying for milk 1/3rd pint	***	3,640
Number of children paying for milk 2/3rd pint		5,634

School meals are provided at a cost to the parents of 6d. or at half price or free of charge according to the level of the family income in the same way as the school milk.

The following figures supplied by the Director of Education show the number of children who were receiving meals in school on the 28th February, 1945:

Number of children on roll	***	 	15,546
Number of children receiving free meals		 	189
Number of children paying for meals		 	4.485

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Medical inspection was carried out as in former years on behalf of the Middlesex Education Committee in the five County Schools in the Borough.

During the year 1,051 routine inspections and 25 re-inspections were made at the Schools.

Ophthalmic treatment was given to 152 pupils and for 128 of those glasses were prescribed, '116 being supplied through the school medical service before the end of the year.

The Orthopaedic Surgeon examined 11 pupils and 8 of them made 71 attendances at the Centre for massage and special exercises.

Forty-one children made 266 attendances for treatment of Minor Ailments.

-The following is the report of the School Dental Surgeon :-

Dental Inspections were carried out at five County Schools during the year. It was found from inspection that nearly fifty per cent. of the children required treatment, and of this number two-thirds approximately received treatment at the Health Centres. The work carried out consisted of fillings, extractions and other operations. The number of fillings inserted were 1,060, a slight increase over the preceding year. The total number of extractions amounted to 285. Five children were supplied with dentures, and two other children had appliances fitted for regulation purposes. Other work consisted of scaling, gum treatment, adjustments to orthodontic appliances and dressings to permanent teeth. The number of attendances required for this work amounted to 142.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

The number of children examined in connection with their employment out of school hours was 111 and of this number two were found to be unfit for employment. The nature of the employment of those considered as fit was:—

Boys.	Errand boy	 	43
	Milk round	 	14
	Newspaper round	 	27
	Baker's round	 	2
	Others	 	5
Girls.	Shop assistants	 	14
	Others	 	4
			100

These children are submitted to re-examination when routine medical inspection is being carried out in the school and if it is found that employment is detrimental to their health, sanction to employment out of school hours is withdrawn. At routine inspection 51 children were found who had not obtained the necessary permission to engage in employment; 6 of these were found to be unfit for employment and two were under age.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is usual to group under this heading the medical examinations which are made of candidates prior to their appointment on the teaching staff of the Education Committee and of other candidates on appointment to various branches of the Council's technical and clerical staff and of manual workers. All these examinations are carried out by the school medical staff assisted by the school nurses. During the year 54 teachers and 10 other candidates were medically examined.

7377

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

TOWN HALL, EALING, W.5.

November, 1945.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

The Tables required by the Board of Education are as follows :-

TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

A. Routine Medical Inspections.

Number of Inspections :-						1 000
Entrants						1,909
Second Age Group						304
Third Age Group						1,301
	,-				Total	3,514
Number of other Routine I	Inspec	tions				
						3.
В.	Other	Inspec	tions.			
Number of Special Inspect	ions a	nd Re-	Inspec	tions	'	12,410

TABLE II.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE-GROUPS.

Number	(Exce	llent)		B mal)		htly ormal)	(B	ad)
of Children Inspected	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
3,514	256	7.3	3,140	89.3	118	3.4	-	

TABLE III.

Group I.—Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanliness).

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme ... 2,79

Group II .- Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	1,210
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	27
Total	1,237
Number of children for whom spectacles were (a) Prescribed	744

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received Operative Treatment	 	 49
Received other forms of treatment	 	 -
Total number treated		 49

TABLE IV.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1)	Number of children inspecte (a) Routine age-groups (b) Specials	ed by t	the Der	tal Su	rgeons	:		14,597
	(c) Total (Routine and	1 Spec	ials)					14,638
	as I - found to require to	reatme	nt					6,256
	Number found to require to							4,158
(3)	Number actually treated							5,842
(4)	Attendances made by children	en for	treatm	ent.				0,012
(5)	Half-days devoted to :— Inspection Treatment					86 646	Total	732
(6)	Fillings :— Permanent Teeth Temporary Teeth					3081 21	Total	3,102
(7)	Extractions: Permanent Teeth Temporary Teeth Administrations of general	anaest	 thetics	for ext		790 5,956 ns	Total	6,746 1,787
(9)	aut Otions:					924	Total	924

TABLE V.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

	Average number of visits per school made during the year the School Nurses or other authorised persons		3
(2)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools School Nurses or other authorised persons	by	38,546
(3)	Number of INDIVIDUAL children found unclean		794
(4)	Number of Individual children cleansed under Section of and (3) of the Education Act, 1921		-
(5)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken		25
	(a) Under the Eddettendance Byelaws		20

TABLE VI.

BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are NOT at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs.

	-	At a Public Elementary School	At an Institution other than a Special School	3 . At no School or Institution
Blind Children		-		- 1
Deaf Children				1



