

**[Report 1947] / School Medical Officer of Health, Bedfordshire County Council.**

**Contributors**

Bedfordshire (England). County Council. n 50055519

**Publication/Creation**

1947

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cwsbektu>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

4422  
1  
Bedfordshire County Council

Education Committee

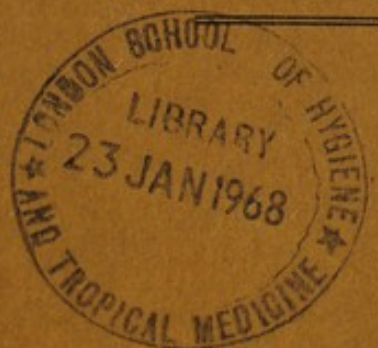
# REPORT

*of the*

School Medical Officer

*for the year ended*

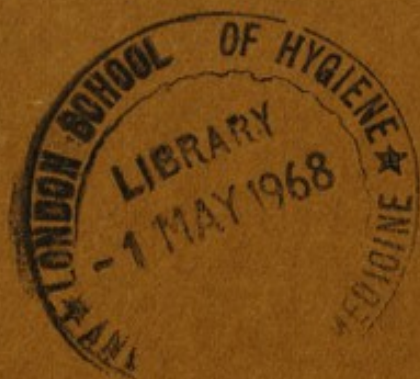
31st December, 1947



BEDFORD :  
HENRY BURT & SON, LTD.



66717





TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BEDFORDSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report on the School Health Service for the year 1947. For the greater part of the year the Service was under the direction of my predecessor, Dr. C. G. Welch, and this report, therefore, is mainly concerned with work done during his tenure of office. I am indebted to him in a number of ways, and in particular for the manner in which he facilitated the transfer of responsibility.

It may be said that on the whole the year gave reasonable grounds for satisfaction, and important steps were taken for the development of the service. Perhaps the greatest reason for a feeling of satisfaction is that the state of nutrition of the children was well maintained. This may be attributed in very large measure, no doubt, to the high proportion of children who took the school milk and meals provided by the Committee. The Child Guidance Service was in operation for the whole of the year, but on a part-time basis. By the end of the year the need for a more adequate service, with a whole-time Psychotherapist and Psychiatric Social Worker available, had become apparent, and the Committee resolved accordingly. Moreover, further to develop the School Health Service, the Committee decided to appoint an Orthoptist, who would be available for the treatment of children suffering from squint. Yet another important step was taken by the Committee. In conjunction with the Health Committee they adopted the principle of a combined School Health-Maternity and Child Welfare Service. The benefits of such a combination are already clear.

There are, however, two disappointing features to which reference must be made. In the first place, it was not found possible to provide an adequate school dental service. In this inability Bedfordshire was by no means alone, but it is none the less disturbing. Secondly, the County suffered severely from an outbreak of poliomyelitis, and once again there was demonstrated the fact that the behaviour of infectious disease is largely unpredictable.

I desire to thank my professional colleagues, the teachers, and the clerical staff for their most helpful co-operation.

To the members of the Education Committee I desire to tender, on behalf of the School Health Department, our most grateful thanks for their sympathetic administration.


I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD,

*School Medical Officer.*

12th April, 1949.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2891353x>



**STAFF.****School Medical Officer**

CUTHBERT G. WELCH, M.D., D.P.H. (retired 26.10.47)

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (appointed 22.9.47)

**Deputy School Medical Officer**

C. A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

**Assistant School Medical Officers**

H. E. C. SUTTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ALISON M. WAREHAM, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.  
(resigned 31.12.47)**Senior Dental Officer**

R. B. T. DINSDALE, L.D.S.

**Assistant Dental Officers**

E. DUNSTAN, L.D.S. (resigned 28.2.47)

M. CATON, L.D.S. (resigned 18.5.47)

A. P. ATKINS, L.D.S. (appointed 12.5.47)

**Ophthalmic Surgeons (part-time)**

H. M. ARMSTRONG, M.B., Ch.M., D.O.M.S. (resigned September, 1947)

H. BENTLEY, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S. (appointed  
September, 1947)

J. WOOD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

**Speech Therapist**

MISS B. D. TOWNSEND, L.C.S.T.

**GENERAL STATISTICS.**

*4-800 1948*  
 The aggregate resident <sup>civilian</sup> population of the Urban and Rural Districts, as estimated ~~for the calendar year~~ 1947 by the Registrar General, was ~~291,560~~ *10,100*. Schemes of Divisional Administration operated in both the Borough of Bedford, with a population of ~~51,880~~ and the Borough of Luton, with a population of ~~108,250~~. *108,600* *53,050*

On the 31st December, 1946, there were 144 School Departments in the County area (80 County Primary Schools, 53 Voluntary Primary Schools and 11 Secondary Modern Schools). The number of children on the Registers of the 144 school departments on 31st December, 1947, was 14,634.



## MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The arrangements in force during the preceding years with regard to the inspection of pupils in schools in the County were continued during the year under review.

The number of children examined is given in the statistical tables on page 7.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT.

The various schemes of medical treatment in operation were fully maintained during the year.

With regard to the hospital treatment of schoolchildren, the Education Committee assumed a much larger financial responsibility. Whereas formerly the Committee had accepted responsibility for the hospital treatment of a limited number of conditions, in September 1947 they resolved to bear the cost of treatment of all schoolchildren, with effect from 1st April, 1945.

The Minor Ailments Clinics at Biggleswade, Dunstable and Houghton Regis continued in operation throughout the year.

The defects dealt with are as shown in the statistical tables to be found on page 9.

## GENERAL CONDITION.

The expression "General Condition" replaces the word "Nutrition" which has been in use for a number of years. In part, the change is a recognition that the clinical assessment made by the school doctors is in fact one of the general condition.

In general, it may be said that the figures for the year 1947 show no substantial deviation from those of the previous year.

## INFESTATION.

A statement of the number of "cleanliness" examinations carried out by school nurses during the years 1944-1947 inclusive is given in Table V on page 11.

The percentages of the children examined and found to be infested during these years were:—

<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
9.51	7.98	6.43	4.51



## OCCURRENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMONGST SCHOOLCHILDREN.

The statement below sets out for the years 1945–1947 inclusive the number of cases of infectious disease occurring amongst schoolchildren, excluding the Boroughs of Bedford and Luton.

The steady decrease in the number of cases of diphtheria was most welcome, but the sharp rise in poliomyelitis was alarming. A full account of the poliomyelitis outbreak will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer for the year 1947.

			<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	126	120	130
Diphtheria	...	...	10	6	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	29	45	40
Measles (excluding rubella)			794	155	574
Ac. poliomyelitis	...	...	1	2	17
Enteric or typhoid fever	...	...	19	—	1
Dysentery	...	...	25	13	2
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	1	2	—
Erysipelas	...	...	7	5	—
Ac. pneumonia	...	...	—	—	8
Paratyphoid fever	...	...	—	—	2

### MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

Table VII on page 13 gives a comparative four-monthly statement for the years 1946 and 1947 of the number of schoolchildren taking school milk.

The figures show a sharp rise in the number of consumers in October, 1946, and consumption maintained at a high level afterwards.

### REPORT OF THE SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER.

This report is of a disappointing nature. The Committee's dental service was curtailed in some areas, while in others it ceased completely. The main cause of this was the resignation of two dental surgeons and an inability to recruit more than one in replacement. Moreover, in the early part of the year, owing to bad weather, some rural schools could not be visited.

The figures set out in Table IV on page 11 speak for themselves.

During the year the demand for dental treatment increased, and it was frequently necessary to refer patients to general dental practitioners, whose co-operation was of great assistance.



In the Dunstable area where it was possible to carry out routine inspection and treatment the acceptance rate was high, and this fact may be regarded as indicative of the importance attached to a public dental service by the parents of schoolchildren, and it is hoped, by the children themselves.

An increased demand has also been made by mothers and children under school age who attend the clinic under arrangements made by the Health Committee.

### SPEECH THERAPY.

In the latter part of 1946 a Speech Therapist was appointed to the staff of the County School Medical Officer and she commenced work on the 1st December in that year. The following statement covers the whole of the year 1947.

Sessions were held as follows:—

At 30, Bromham Road, Bedford	...	Monday,	p.m.
		Tuesday,	a.m.
		Wednesday	p.m.
At the Health Centre, Dunstable	...	Friday,	a.m.
		Friday,	p.m.

Fifty-seven cases were referred to the Speech Therapist, and of these 49 were treated. By the end of the year 28 of these had been discharged as cured, or considerably improved.

The total number of attendances was 725.



# STATISTICAL TABLES

relating to the work of the

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

(Administrative County excluding Bedford and Luton)

for the year 1947

### MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

*For comparison purposes figures relating to the previous 3 years are given where available.*

TABLE I

Return of Children Inspected 1st January to 31st December, 1947

#### A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

	1944		1945		1946	1947
	Beds.	Evac.	Beds.	Evac.	Beds.	Beds.
NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS IN THE PRESCRIBED GROUPS—						
Entrants ... ..	1799	99	1738	52	1574	2174
Second Age Group ... ..	1495	147	1511	74	1253	1814
Third Age Group ... ..	1315	141	1189	54	1413	937
Totals ... ..	4609	387	4438	180	4240	4925
Number of other Routine Inspections ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

#### B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections ... ..	1030	113	759	36	558	552
---	------	-----	-----	----	-----	-----

#### C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspections to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)

Group	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the conditions recorded in Table IIA.	Total individual pupils
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Entrants ... ..	54	462	492
Second Age Group ... ..	123	344	450
Third Age Group ... ..	53	110	154
Total (prescribed groups) ... ..	230	916	1096
Other Periodic Inspections ... ..	—	—	—
Grand Total ... ..	230	916	1096



TABLE II

A.—Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the year ended  
31st December, 1947

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease  (1)	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring treatment  (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment  (3)	Requiring treatment  (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment  (5)
4.	Skin ... ..	46	5	7	—
5.	Eyes—				
	(a) Vision ... ..	228	28	63	6
	(b) Squint ... ..	24	9	5	1
	(c) Other ... ..	17	8	9	1
6.	Ears—				
	(a) Hearing ... ..	13	5	3	1
	(b) Otitis Media ... ..	1	2	1	—
	(c) Other ... ..	20	8	4	1
7.	Nose or Throat ...	375	230	65	23
8.	Speech ... ..	10	19	5	1
9.	Cervical Glands ...	18	26	8	3
10.	Heart and Circulation	21	46	7	4
11.	Lungs ... ..	40	39	1	2
12.	Development—				
	(a) Hernia ... ..	15	5	1	1
	(b) Other ... ..	20	13	2	1
13.	Orthopaedic—				
	(a) Posture ... ..	37	16	7	1
	(b) Flat foot ... ..	134	12	8	—
	(c) Other ... ..	61	25	4	—
14.	Nervous System—				
	(a) Epilepsy ... ..	3	4	—	—
	(b) Other ... ..	5	3	—	—
15.	Psychological—				
	(a) Development ...	30	22	12	3
	(b) Stability ... ..	6	1	1	1
16.	Other ... ..	119	52	16	4
	TOTALS ... ..	1243	578	229	54



B.—Classification of the General Condition of Children Inspected during the year 1947 in the Routine Age Groups

Year	No. of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly sub-normal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1944 ... ..	4609 (387)	844 (91)	18.31 (23.52)	3293 (267)	71.44 (68.99)	469 (29)	10.18 (7.49)	3 (—)	.07 (—)
1945 ... ..	4438 (180)	835 (46)	18.81 (25.56)	3226 (115)	72.69 (63.89)	375 (19)	8.45 (10.55)	2 (—)	.05 (—)
1946 ... ..	4240	930	21.93	3052	71.98	258	6.09	—	—
1947 ... ..	4925	(Good) 1048 21.28		(Fair) 3540 71.88		(Poor) 337 6.84			

The new school medical record card issued by the Ministry of Education gives a new classification, i.e., "General Condition":—A=Good, B=Fair and C=Poor, in place of the former classification "Nutrition". The comparative recording is as follows:—

A—those better than normal, or "good" (the former "excellent"—A);

B—the normal, or "fair" (the former "normal"—B);

C—those below normal, or "poor" (the former "slightly sub-normal"—C, and "bad"—D).

The figures in brackets refer to evacuees.

TABLE III  
TREATMENT TABLES

GROUP I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V)

	1947
(a)	
Skin—	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-Ray treatment	4
(ii) Other treatment	5
Ringworm—Body	2
Scabies	57
Impetigo	96
Other Skin Diseases	17
Eye Disease	15
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital)	
Ear Defects	9
Miscellaneous	378
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	
TOTAL	585

(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics ... 2602

Total number for:—1944: Beds. 730, Evac. 281; 1945: Beds. 701; 1946: Beds. 765.



## GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint

	1944		1945		1946	1947
	Beds.	Evac.	Beds.	Evac.	Beds.	Beds.
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint) ...	1041	97	835	30	885	786
Other defect or disease of the eye (excluding those recorded in Group I) ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	26
TOTALS ...	1041	97	835	30	885	812
Number of Children for whom spectacles were—						
(a) Prescribed ...	717	61	608	26	533	424
(b) Obtained ...	717	61	608	26	533	424

## GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat

	1947
Received operative treatment —	
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ...	194
(b) for other nose and throat conditions ...	35
Received other forms of treatment ...	358
TOTAL ...	587

## GROUP IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

	1947
a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals or hospital schools ...	50
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g., in clinics or out-patient departments ...	1005

## GROUP V.—Child Guidance Treatment and Speech Therapy

	1947
Number of pupils treated—	
(a) under Child Guidance arrangements ...	17
(b) under Speech Therapy arrangements ...	49



TABLE IV.—Dental Defects

	1944		1945		1946	1947
	Beds.	Evac.	Beds.	Evac.	Beds.	Beds.
(1) Number of Children who were inspected by the School Dental Surgeons—						
(a) Periodic age groups ... ..	9909	126	9719	—	9061	5337
(b) Specials ... ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	137
TOTALS (Periodic and Specials) ... ..	9909	126	9719	—	9061	5474
(2) Found to require Treatment ... ..	5851	47	5628	—	5144	3025
(3) Actually Treated ... ..	3140	—	2978	—	3758	2613
(4) Attendances made by the children for treatment ... ..	3183	—	3020	—	4147	3434
(5) Half-days devoted to—						
Inspection ... ..	123		131		147	77
Treatment ... ..	336		279		526	393
TOTALS ... ..	459		410		673	470
	Beds.	Evac.	Beds.	Evac.	Beds.	Beds.
(6) Fillings—						
Permanent Teeth ... ..	427	—	568	—	2106	1411
Temporary Teeth ... ..	135	—	227	—	545	603
TOTALS ... ..	562	—	795	—	2651	2014
(7) Extractions—						
Permanent Teeth ... ..	1071	—	796	—	775	296
Temporary Teeth ... ..	5629	—	5153	—	3817	1987
TOTALS ... ..	6700	—	5949	—	4592	2283
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for—						
Extractions ... ..	1289	—	1099	—	507	852
(9) Other operations to permanent or temporary teeth (Scaling, etc.) ... ..	227	—	69	—	1203	998

TABLE V.—Infestation

	1944	1945	1946	1947
(1) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses ... ..	5077	5047	3779	5186
(2) Number of individual children found to be infested ... ..	483	403	243	234
(3) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944) ... ..	—	—	—	—
(4) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944) ... ..	—	—	—	—



TABLE VI  
Handicapped Pupils

Category	In Special Schools		In Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools		In Independent Schools		Not at School		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Blind ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (1)
Partially Sighted ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (1)
Deaf ...	5 (3)	6 (5)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	5 (3)	6 (6)
Partially Deaf	— (—)	— (—)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Delicate ...	4 (1)	7 (1)	— (3)	1 (3)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	5 (4)	7 (4)
Diabetic ...	1 (—)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (1)	— (—)
Educationally Sub-Normal ...	4 (2)	— (1)	41 (33)	32 (18)	1 (2)	— (—)	2 (1)	2 (1)	48 (38)	34 (20)
Epileptic ...	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	3 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (1)	— (—)	2 (1)	3 (1)
Maladjusted ...	— (—)	2 (3)	8 (7)	5 (8)	— (—)	— (—)	2 (5)	— (—)	10 (12)	7 (11)
Physically Handicapped	1 (1)	5 (4)	2 (—)	3 (3)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)	1 (—)	3 (2)	9 (7)
Speech Defect	— (—)	— (—)	13 (17)	8 (11)	— (—)	— (—)	4 (3)	— (—)	17 (20)	8 (11)
Multiple Disabilities ...	— (2)	— (—)	2 (3)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	3 (1)	3 (5)	4 (1)
TOTALS ...	15 (9)	20 (14)	68 (65)	56 (48)	2 (3)	— (—)	10 (11)	6 (2)	96 (88)	81 (64)

N.B.—The figures in brackets relate to the year 1946.

TABLE VII.—Milk in Schools

		February		June		October	
		1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
No. of pupils present in school on the day selected	Primary ...	10,780	9,895	11,535	11,250	11,100	11,180
	Secondary	4,087	2,634	3,945	2,854	4,185	3,184
	TOTAL ...	14,867	12,529	15,480	14,104	15,285	14,364
No. of pupils taking milk	Primary ...	8,048	8,928	8,766	10,160	10,483	9,628
	Secondary	2,191	1,735	2,014	1,884	3,242	2,331
	TOTAL ...	10,239	10,663	10,780	12,044	13,725	11,959
Percentage of children taking milk	Primary ...	74.7	90.2	75.9	90.3	94.4	86.1
	Secondary	53.6	65.9	51.1	66.0	77.5	73.2
Percentage of children taking milk in both Primary and Secondary Schools ...		69.0	85.1	69.6	85.4	89.8	83.3



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER**  
(G. K. BOWES, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.)  
of the  
**BEDFORD DIVISIONAL EXECUTIVE**  
for the Year 1947

---

The average school population for the year was 5,063.

**SCOPE OF INSPECTION.**

This remained as in 1946. Children are inspected on entry to a nursery class, and on entry to the ordinary infants school, whether they enter directly or from a nursery class. It has not yet been possible on account of shortage of staff to begin medical inspection of the intermediate and final groups, but arrangements for this will no doubt be made when the re-organisation of the general public health service in accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, has taken place. Meanwhile, School Nurses continue to carry out reviews of these children and refer any children as to whose condition they are not satisfied to the School Medical Officer.

**NUTRITION.**

The nutritional condition of the children remained good.

I am indebted to the Education Officer for the following figures relating to school milk and meals.

The Return made to the Ministry of Education in June, 1947, showed that 89 per cent of the total number of children on the School Roll were having milk as against 88 per cent in October, 1946. The actual number of children receiving  $\frac{1}{8}$  pint bottles of milk per day was 4,189. 52 per cent of the children on the Roll received dinners, the actual number being 2,441 per day of which 150 dinners per day were provided free of cost.

In November, 1947, the Return to the Ministry of Education showed that 85 per cent. of the total number of children on the Roll were receiving milk, the actual number being 4,354 per day. As far as meals are concerned, 57 per cent of the number of children on the Roll were receiving meals, the actual number being 2,774 per day of which 172 were provided free of cost.



## PEDICULOSIS.

The number of individual children found unclean was 265.

The following table shows the progressive improvement in cleanliness that has taken place in recent years; an improvement largely due to the enthusiasm the School Nurses have shown for this work.

<i>Year.</i>			<i>Number Unclean.</i>
1941	...	...	1,133
1942	...	...	883
1943	...	...	575
1944	...	...	468
1945	...	...	408
1946	...	...	382
1947	...	...	265

Fifty-eight children were cleansed at the Cleansing Station of the Bedford Borough Public Health Department. This really means that children of habitually dirty families regularly attend for cleansing at the beginning of each term. It may be said that this policy is quite wrong, that it is taking responsibility from the parent, and that parents should be educated to a higher standard; but facts are what they are, and it must be recognised that some parents cannot be educated to the standard of present day civilisation and cannot be made to accept responsibility; and at least the policy ensures that the number of foci of infection are diminished and the risk of infecting clean children is reduced.

Legal action was not taken during the year. The pitfalls of such action are so numerous, the probable results so small and so out of proportion to the trouble and time which would have to be expended on a prosecution, that the writer does not generally favour this course except in quite exceptional cases.

## RINGWORM.

Ringworm still continues troublesome. 15 new cases of ringworm of the scalp were discovered. 10 children received X-Ray treatment for this condition at London Hospitals.

## SCABIES.

Special inspections are carried out to discover children suffering from this condition, which still remains troublesome though its incidence is diminishing. 18 children were discovered at inspections at the schools and clinics. An additional 70 were discovered by notification from doctors or as a result of enquiry by health visitors.

Eighty-eight children received treatment as definite cases at the Cleansing Station of the Bedford Public Health Department; and an additional 12 received treatment as a precautionary measure as contacts.



## **HOSPITAL TREATMENT.**

### **GENERAL.**

Eighty-seven children received treatment as in-patients and 392 children as out-patients for diseases other than those affecting the ear, nose and throat to which reference is specially made below. Treatment was given under the agreement between the County Hospital and the Local Education Authority.

### **TREATMENT OF TONSILS AND ADENOIDS (AND ALLIED CONDITIONS).**

Forty-four children received operative treatment at the County Hospital for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis and 12 for other nose and throat conditions; 197, mostly in addition to the above, received advice as out-patients or treatment after their operations. Deafness and disease of the ears are often related to unhealthy conditions of the nose and throat, and 80 children received treatment for diseases of the ear in addition to any such cases which have already been included in the figures relating primarily to diseases of the nose and throat.

The number of operations for chronic tonsillitis and adenoids shows a reduction on the figures for the previous year, namely 70 in 1946 and 44 in 1947. This reduction was mainly due to the fact that these operations were postponed during the prevalence of acute anterior poliomyelitis as they were considered to increase the risk of this infection.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

### **Measles.**

Measles was prevalent during the spring and summer of the year and 315 cases occurred among school children.

### **Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.**

There were 48 cases of scarlet fever compared with 35 in 1946, and 2 of diphtheria compared with 1 in 1946.

### **Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.**

In connection with the epidemic of poliomyelitis during the year 9 cases were notified among school children of which the details are as follows.



Age and Sex.	Date of Onset.	Stage of Illness.	Remarks including site affected and final state of recovery.
Girl ... Age 7	27.6.47	Paralytic ...	Paralysis of flexor muscles of left hand. Treated in Oakley Isolation Hospital and Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital. On 28.10.47 residual paralysis of left hand.
Boy ... Age 10	16.7.47	Paralytic ...	Died after treatment in iron lung in Oakley Isolation Hospital.
Boy ... Age 7	29.7.47	Non-paralytic	Treated in Oakley Isolation Hospital.
Boy ... Age 5 ...	2.8.47	Paralytic ...	Paralysis left thigh. Treated at Oakley Isolation Hospital and Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital. On 23.2.48 no residual paralysis.
Boy ... Age 12	27.8.47	Non-paralytic	Treated at home.
Boy ... Age 11	2.9.47	Non-paralytic	Treated in Oakley Isolation Hospital.
Girl ... Age 14	3.9.47	Paralytic ...	Slight paralysis left thigh. Treated in Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital. On 23.2.48 complete recovery.
Girl ... Age 12	10.9.47	Non-paralytic	Treated at home.
Boy ... Age 13	23.9.47	Paralytic ...	Paralysis left thigh and leg. Treated in Oakley Isolation Hospital and Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital. On 8.3.48 on discharge from hospital residual loss of power in left leg and unable to dorsiflex foot. Developed osteomyelitis left fibula, for which he received treatment in Bedford County Hospital.

Diagnosis may be regarded as practically certain in all the non-paralytic cases. There were in all 4 non-paralytic cases, and 5 paralytic cases; of the latter one died, 2 showed some residual paralysis, while in 2 recovery was complete.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The policy with regard to diphtheria immunisation is now to give the complete course a little before the age of 1 year, to give single reinforcing injections on entry to the infants school and at about the age of 10-11 years. If the complete course has not been given in pre-school life this is given as soon as possible during school life. The Head Teachers continue to give their valuable and essential help in this work.



The following table shows the work carried out among school children:—

Received full course	...	...	...	186
Begun but did not complete full course	...	...	...	5
Received single reinforcing injections	...	...	...	427

### ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT TREATMENT.

Ultra violet light treatment is given at the Welfare Clinics as before, and is found most useful for such conditions as general debility, poor appetite, catarrhal conditions and some infections of the skin.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out at the centres:—

	<i>Sessions held.</i>	<i>Total treatments.</i>	<i>Number of individual children treated.</i>
3, Brereton Road ...	131	1,684	191
29, Barford Avenue ...	161	1,637	157

The following table shows the conditions for which this treatment was prescribed and given. With very few exceptions there was no doubt as to the beneficial effects of treatment when a course was completed.

<i>Number of children treated.</i>	<i>Condition for which treatment was given.</i>
117	Diseases of the ear, nose and throat.
51	General debility.
35	Diseases of the skin.
18	Bronchitis.
16	Enlarged cervical glands.
15	Poor appetite.
14	Other conditions of the lungs.
8	Malnutrition.
7	"Nervous" illnesses.
6	Rheumatism.
6	Anaemia.
4	External eye complaints.
51	Other defects and diseases.

### ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

Eight children received treatment as in-patients and 115 as out-patients during the year. Most children received treatment as out-patients at the Bedford County Hospital. In-patient treatment is usually undertaken at the special orthopaedic hospitals such as Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital near Northampton or other hospitals.



## SPEECH THERAPY.

This work is undertaken by Miss B. D. Townsend, who, in addition to the treatment of children, visits schools in order to discuss with the Head Teachers the need of children for treatment. 40 children in all received this treatment.

Two children were sent in April, 1947, to the newly opened special residential school at Oxted, Surrey. One of the children was found not to benefit from the treatment provided and was returned in December, 1947. The other is still at the school.

## DISABILITY OF MIND.

Twelve children were examined for disability of mind with the following results.

No disability of mind	...	...	1
Maladjusted ...	...	...	1
Educationally subnormal	...	...	6
Unfit for education within the school system	...	...	4

Apart from these children who are unfit for education and are referred to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts, there is usually little practical results from these examinations; for under present conditions it is impossible to make arrangements for most educationally sub-normal children who require special educational treatment.

## CONCLUSION.

There is little change in comparison with the previous years.

I am indebted to the Education Officer and his staff, to the staff of the School Health Service, and to the Head Teachers for their help and co-operation in the work of the School Health Service.

G. K. BOWES,

*School Medical Officer.*

Town Hall,  
Bedford.



# MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS

(BEDFORD DIVISIONAL EXECUTIVE)

For the year ended 31st December, 1947.

TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

## A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS—

### *Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups—*

Entrants	...	...	...	...	475
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	—
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	—
Total					475

### *Number of other Periodic Inspections—*

Nursery Classes—Children under 5 years	...	188
Grand Total	...	663

## B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS—

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	663
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	1,952
				<hr/>
		Total	...	2,615

## C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT—

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL PUPILS FOUND AT PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA. (3)	Total individual pupils. (4)
Entrants ... ..	—	103	103
Second Age Group ...	—	—	—
Third Age Group ... ..	—	—	—
Total (prescribed groups)	—	103	103
Other Periodic Inspections	—	30	30
GRAND TOTAL ... ..	—	133	133

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR  
ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1947.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not requiring treatment.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4.	Skin ... ..	5	3	99	12
5.	Eyes—(a) Vision ...	—	3	75	1
	(b) Squint ...	7	6	15	3
	(c) Other ...	—	2	21	1
6.	Ears—(a) Hearing ...	2	1	8	1
	(b) Otitis Media ...	—	5	21	2
	(c) Other ...	1	1	15	5
7.	Nose or Throat ...	53	53	55	8
8.	Speech ... ..	5	—	4	—
9.	Cervical Glands ...	13	13	13	—
10.	Heart and Circulation	4	1	2	1
11.	Lungs ... ..	15	8	12	—
12.	Developmental—				
	(a) Hernia ...	—	—	—	—
	(b) Other ...	—	—	—	—
13.	Orthopaedic—				
	(a) Posture ...	1	—	1	1
	(b) Flat foot ...	—	—	—	—
	(c) Other ...	4	1	9	—
14.	Nervous system—				
	(a) Epilepsy ...	—	—	—	—
	(b) Other ...	3	6	1	2
15.	Psychological—				
	(a) Development	—	—	—	—
	(b) Stability ...	—	—	—	—
16.	Other ... ..	29	20	206	68
	TOTALS ...	142	123	557	105



**B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED  
DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.**

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants ... ..	475	74	15.6	378	79.6	23	4.8
Second Age Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Third Age Group ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Periodic Inspections ... ..	188	7	3.7	155	82.5	26	13.8
TOTALS ...	663	81	12.2	533	80.4	49	7.4

**TABLE III.**

**TREATMENT TABLES.**

**GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V).**

(a)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.
SKIN—	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-Ray treatment. If none, indicate by dash	10
(ii) Other treatment ... ..	4
Ringworm—Body ... ..	7
Scabies ... ..	88
Impetigo ... ..	59
Other skin diseases ... ..	—
Eye Disease ... ..	19
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital.)	
Ear Defects ... ..	45
Miscellaneous ... ..	851
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	
TOTAL ...	1,083
(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics ... ..	6,060



GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

	<i>No. of defects dealt with</i>
Errors of Refraction (including squint) ... ..	278
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) ... ..	—
Total ...	<u>278</u>
No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were (a) Prescribed ...	176
(b) Obtained ...	156

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

	<i>Total number treated.</i>
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ... ..	44
(b) for other nose and throat conditions ... ..	12
Received other forms of treatment ... ..	277
Total ...	<u>333</u>

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals or hospital schools	8
(b) No. treated otherwise, e.g., in clinics or out-patient departments ... ..	115

GROUP V.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT AND SPEECH THERAPY.

No. of pupils treated (a) under Child Guidance arrangements	—
(b) under Speech Therapy arrangements	40

TABLE IV.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

1. Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—	
(a) Periodic age groups ... ..	5,339
(b) Specials ... ..	327
(c) TOTAL (Periodic and Specials) ... ..	<u>5,666</u>



2. Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	1,993
3. Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	1,742
4. Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	...	2,526
5. Half-days devoted to: (a) Inspection	...	...	...	...	43
(b) Treatment	...	...	...	...	307
				TOTAL (a) and (b)	350
6. Fillings:					
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	902
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	1
				TOTAL	903
7. Extractions:					
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	311
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	2,588
				TOTAL	2,899
8. Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	...	...	...	...	1,227
9. Other Operations: (a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	522
(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	—
				TOTAL (a) and (b)	522

TABLE V.

## INFESTATION.

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	...	...	...	14,143
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested	...	...	...	265
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	—
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	—