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Berkshire Education Committee.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1919.

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AREA AND POPULATION.

The area of the Berkshire Education Authority for Elementary School purposes is 448,058 acres, *i.e.*, the whole Administrative County with the exception of the Boroughs of Windsor, Maidenhead and Newbury.

The total civil population of this area at the middle of the year 1919 is estimated to have been about 140,694, and the number of children on the rolls of the Elementary Schools in June last was about 22,410. There are 203 Public Elementary Schools with 239 separate Departments in the area.

The district is almost entirely rural in character and contains no town with an estimated population over 7,000.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS OWING TO INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

During 1919, 49 closure certificates were issued affecting 34 schools or departments; 4 schools were closed by the District Medical Officers of Health with the approval of the School Medical Officer, and 45 by the Local Education Authority or the School Managers acting on the advice of the School Medical Officer.

Number of schools closed during 1919 :---

2 on account of measles.

5	.,	,,	,,	whooping cough.
2	,,	,,	,,	mumps.
1	,,	,,	,,	German measles.
1	,,	,,	,,	mumps and whooping cough.
1	,,	••	,,	scarlet fever.
24	,,	,,	,,	influenza.
2	,,	,,	,,	{measles. influenza.
4	"	,,	,,	diphtheria.
2	"		,,	fmumps. linfluenza.
5	,,	,,	,,	influenzal colds.

SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOL PREMISES.

Only minor alterations to the sanitation of school premises have been carried out during the year, and have mainly consisted of improvements to drainage and ventilation. The school premises are under the constant supervision of the School Buildings Inspector.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN. FF.

STAFF.

After nearly four and a half years absence on military service I resumed work as School Medical Officer towards the end of February, 1919. For nearly the whole of this period Dr. Sisam, Medical Officer of Health of the West Berks Combined Sanitary District, had carried on the work of School Medical Officer and County Medical Officer in addition to his own duties, and had successfully organised several extensions in the scope of work undertaken, notably eye clinics and home treatment of scabies.

Dr. W. Winslow and Dr. G. R. Lake, whose help as Assistant School Medical Officers during the absence of members of the Staff on military service had enabled inspections to be continued in all the schools, resigned on the return of Drs. Culverwell and Napier, Dr. Winslow ceasing work at the end of June and Dr. Lake at the end of October.

Dr. H. Davies, who was appointed an Assistant School Medical Officer early in 1918, remained on the Staff throughout 1919. Dr. G. H. Culverwell and Dr. L. E. Napier both returned from military service during 1919, the former resuming work on 20th May and the latter on 29th September. Dr. Napier left on 8th November to take up an appointment in India.

The School Nurses include Miss Nott and Miss Thomas, who have done excellent work since their appointment in 1916, and Miss Jenkins and Miss Hessay; the two latter are employed as Health Visitors by the Public Health and Housing Committee, but have devoted about one-third of their time to school work since the beginning of 1919. An additional School Nurse, Miss G. C. Petherick, was appointed during the year and commenced work on 1st November.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Medical inspection was carried out during the year in all but one of the elementary schools, and 87 of the schools were inspected a second time.

In every school visited entrants, leavers, children aged 8 years and special cases were examined.

During recent years it has not been practicable for each Assistant School Medical Officer to adhere strictly to a definite group of schools, but I hope it will soon be possible to resume the system and also to arrange for one day a week to be set aside for re-inspections. FOLLOWING UP AND GENERAL SUPERVISION.

The system now in practice with regard to following up with a view to ensuring treatment is as follows :—The School Nurse visits the homes of all children for whom treatment has been recommended by the Assistant School Medical Officers; if she thinks that local assistance is required in any individual case she then sees someone in the neighbourhood who is likely to take an interest in the family, or else she refers the case to me and I forward the particulars to the local Care Committee.

Originally a full list of children requiring treatment was sent in the first place to the local Care Committee, if one existed, but the result was not altogether satisfactory. Some Care Committees took a personal interest and did their work efficiently; in other instances little or nothing was done. Further, there appeared to be a fairly common objection amongst parents to the following up being left in the hands of a local committee. The present system works smoothly and seems generally more effective.

I hope it will soon be possible to arrange for re-inspections by the school doctors within about three months of the routine medical inspection at a school. The doctors will then be in a better position to advise the School Nurses with regard to the urgency of any particular case previously referred for treatment.

The following summary of the work done by the School Nurses during the year includes visits paid in connection with general supervision as well as following up :—

Numbe	er of	visits to school	ls				 590
,,	,,	,, home	s				 2,649
• •		inspections					 38,509
"	••	instances in v and nits)					
		heads					 2,047
,,	,,	exclusions ow	ing to	vermine	ous con	ditions	 363

TREATMENT.

Up to 1918 the only treatment undertaken at the expense of the Education Committee was X-ray treatment of ringworm. This disease was formerly treated at three centres—Reading, Newbury and Oxford; but owing to circumstances arising out of the war only the first has been available during the past three years. Twenty cases were treated in 1919. The Managing Committee of the Newbury District Hospital recently decided not to re-open the Newbury Centre for X-ray treatment of ringworm. No definite reply has at present been received with regard to the Oxford Centre.

In February, 1918, treatment of scabies by means of soft soap and sulphur ointment (half B.P. strength) was instituted, the treatment being limited to cases not receiving medical attention.

The School Nurses distribute the soft soap and ointment, and give directions as to their proper use and as to the necessary disinfestation of clothing, bedding, etc.

During 1919 the number of cases under treatment by the School Nurses was more than double the number reported in 1918; this increase may to some extent be due to greater vigilance on the part of all concerned, but I am inclined to think that this disease has become so generally disseminated that it will be many years before the incidence is reduced to its pre-war level.

The 184 cases under treatment (2 carried on from the previous year) occurred in 89 families and 57 different localities. Twelve of the children were still under treatment at the end of the year, the remaining 172 were cured. Of the 172 cured cases, cure was effected within a month in 52 cases, six weeks in 34 cases, two months in 38, and three months in 19. Of the remaining 29 cases that were cured, treatment was not finally effective until four months in 14 cases, five months in 8 and six months in 7.

In the 184 cases under treatment the probable source of infection could not be ascertained in 91 cases. In 16 instances it was ascribed to school mates, in 12 to soldier brothers, and in 65 to other relatives or members of the household.

In 1918 a scheme for travelling eye-clinics for the estimation and correction of errors of refraction in elementary school children was approved by the Education Committee and sanctioned by the Board of Education.

Arrangements were therefore made for holding refraction clinics at convenient centres, and Mr. Adams, Honorary Surgeon to the Oxford Eye Hospital, and Dr. Charsley, Assistant Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, were appointed for the purpose—the former for the north and west of the county, the latter for the south and east. During 1919, 56 sessions were held at 13 different centres. The total number of children examined was 664; glasses were prescribed in 546 cases and were obtained in 485 cases. No contribution towards the cost of the glasses was made by the Education Committee; in the majority of cases the parents were able to afford the cost and in some of the remainder assistance from charitable persons was forthcoming.

The selection of children for examination by the specialists was carried out by the School Nurses in consultation with the Head Teachers and assisted by the records of previous medical inspections. In addition, the School Nurses arranged for the administration of Atropine preliminary to examination, assisted at the clinics and followed up the cases in order to ensure that the glasses were obtained and correctly used. The Ophthalmic Surgeons arranged for any necessary re-examination of cases.

During 1919, a scheme for dental treatment was submitted to the Education Committee and approved. The scheme provides for the appointment of a whole-time dentist and also part-time work. For the first year it is proposed to limit inspection and treatment to the 6—7 year old group of children, but in each subsequent year to include children who have been previously examined or who belong to an age group previously examined. Quite apart from any question of expense, an all inclusive scheme for treatment is rendered impracticable at the moment by the very limited number of dentists available, and the object of beginning with the younger rather than with the older children is to ensure that as many children as possible shall have facilities for treatment from the commencement of their second dentition.

The appointment of a whole-time dentist has been temporarily postponed, but local arrangements have been made for the Abingdon and Clewer school children, the Education Committee having appointed Mr. F. S. Dunkin School Dentist at Abingdon and Mr. H. Treleaven School Dentist at Clewer. Work in both places was commenced in December, but treatment was not completed until after the beginning of the New Year.

In the Parish of Aldermaston gratuitous dental treatment has been available for many years through the generosity of a private individual, and in two other areas special terms for the dental treatment of elementary school children have been arranged by the local Care Committees.

> GERARD C. TAYLOR, School Medical Officer.

Reading,

May, 1920.

TABLE 1.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1st JANUARY, 1919, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1919. A. "CODE" GROUPS.

			Entrants.								
	Age.	-	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total			
Boys				65	1188	369		1622			
Girls				54	1029	362		1445			
Total	s			119	2217	731		3067			

Age.	Inter- mediate Group.	Leavers.								
	8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	Grand Total.			
Boys	1476	1182	232	15		1429	4527			
Girls	1258	1202	258	26		1486	4189			
Totals	2734	2384	490	41		2915	8716			

B. GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-examinations (<i>i.e.</i> , No. of Children Re-examined).
Boys	 197	498	32
Girls	 160	532	31
Totals	 357	1030	63

INSPECTION, TREATMENT, &C., OF CHILDREN DURING 1919.

(1)	Total number of children medically inspected	10103
(2)	Number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than un- cleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	329
(3)	Number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (exclud- ing uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.)	3895
(4)	Number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c)	1530

TABLE 2.

		Code	Groups.	Spe	cials.
D	efect or Disease.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
Malnutrition		. 413	20	78	8
Uncleanliness	1 Head 9 Body	260	20 3	113 93	1
Skin	Ringworm Head Scabies Impetigo Other Disease	. 8 . 78 . 81	···· ···· ···	1 15 17 8	
Eye	Defective Vision & Squin External Eye Disease	2.4	28	134 10	5
Ear	Defective Hearing	. 16 . 28	2	12 13	2
Dental Disease		. 419	22	47	2
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils Adenoids Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoid	1 Carl Carl	102 29 28	106 40 13	63
	D. C. Mine Count	7	5	2	3 2
Heart and Circulation	Heart Organic Disease Functional Anæmia	. 14	6 5 1	4 6 44	2 1
Lungs	Pulmonary { Definite Suspec'ed Chronic Bronchitis	26	5 1 4	18 13 2 4	4 1 3
Nervous System	Epilepsy Chorea Other Disease	. 9	 1 	3 2	
Non-Pulmon. Tuberculosis	Glands Bones and Joints Other Forms	. 3	2 2 1	14 1 3	
Rickets		. 10		1	1
Deformities		34		6	1
Other Defects a	and Diseases	163	15	22	5

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION, 1919.

TABLE 3.

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA IN 1919.

			Boys.	Girls	Tota
Blind (inclu partially	iding blind).	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for the Blind Not at School	3	1 6 1	2 9 1
Deaf and D (including deaf).	umb g partially	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf Not at School	15	 4 	 19
Mentally	Feeble	Attending Public Elementary Schools	33	17	50
Deficient.‡	Minded.	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children Notified to the Local (Control) Authority	1		1
		during the Year		 14	 39
	Imbeciles	At School	01	23	
	Idiots.		2	3	5
Epileptics.		Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics Not at School	12 3 9	6 5	18 3 14
Physically	†Pulm. Tuber-	Attending Public Elementary Schools	14	24	38
Defective.	culosis.	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School	10 4	6 11	16 15
	†Other	Attending Public Elementary Schools	5	4	9
	forms of Tuber- culosis.	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	3 9	2 5	5 14
	Cripples	Attending Public Elementary Schools Attending Certified Schools for Physically	62	54	116
	than Tuber- cular.	Defective Children Not at School	1 8	 5	1 13
Dull or Bac	kward.*	Retarded 2 years Retarded 3 years	Inf	ormat	

* Judged according to age and Standard.

† Notified cases only.

‡Over 5 but under 16 years of age.

TABLE 4.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS, 1919.

In the following table are set out particulars obtained as to the number of defects treated, and the results of such treatment.

	for wh was		Contraction of the second	of defects for which eport is available. . of defects treated.		Results of Treatment.			ts	of ted.
Condition.	From pre- vious year.	New.	Total.	No. of defect no report is a	No. of defects treated.	Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.	No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated
Clothing	. 1	8	9	3	6	1	3	2		66.6
Footgear										
Cleanliness of head	. 58	413	471	92	369	115	175	79	10	78.3
Cleanliness of body	. 69	296	365	98	253	61	119	73	14	69.3
Nutrition	87	592	679	175	463	43	319	101	41	68.2
Nose and throat	128	861	989	269	552	155	116	281	168	55.8
External eye disease	. 17	64	81	20	54	7	31	16	7	66.7
Ear disease	6	46	52	9	39	4	28	7	4	75 [.] 0
Teeth	. 40	398	438	140	195	59	24	112	103	44.5
Heart and Circulation	8	50	58	12	41		17	24	5	70 [.] 7
Lungs	. 19	127	146	16	123	21	96	6	7	84.2
Nervous system	. 2	22	24	8	15	1	10	4	1	62.5
Skin	4	195	199	67	129	84	30	15	3	64.8
Rickets		5	5	2	3		1	2		60.0
Deformities		15	15	5	9		3	6	1	60.0
Non-pulmonary		13	13	2	10		6	4	1	76.9
tuberculosis Speech	10000	13	13	3	10		3	7		76.9
Mental condition		13	13	5	6		3	3	2	46.1
Vision and squint	. 69	672	741	162	522	317	171	34	57	70.4
Hearing	. 1	15	16	2	13	1	7	5	1	81.2
Miscellaneous	13	320	333	113	183	86	-76	21	37	54.9
Totals	. 522	4,138	4,660	1,203	2,995	955	1,238	802	462	64.2

CHILDREN	IN	RESIDENTIAL	SPECIAL	SCHOOLS	DURING 19	19.
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	Ase in Years.	Co	ndițion.		Name of Institution.	Admitted.
				BLI	ND	
R.A.C., boy (bro-	15	Partial	lly bli		Brighton Asylum for the	4/6/13
ther of A.R.C.)					Blind (Eastern Road)	(Left 25/6/19)
D.E.L.C., girl	16	Ditto			Swiss Cottage Institution	
1.0					for the Blind	Liability for main
						tenance taken ove by Higher Educa
						tion Sub-
						Committee from
						January, 1920)
A.R.C., boy	14	Ditto			Brighton Asylum for the	15/9/14
					Blind (Eastern Road)	
5.L.H.T., boy	12	Ditto	***		Edgbaston Royal Institu-	14/10/14
WN how	15	Ditto			tion for the Blind School for the Blind, West-	5/9/16
C.W.N., boy	15	Ditto			bury-on-Trym, Bristol	5, 9,10
B.S., girl	8	Ditto			Edgbaston Royal Institu-	11/9/16
Dioi, Bitt					for the Blind	
E.E.A., girl	10	Ditto			School for the Blind, West-	16/1/17
					bury-on-Trym, Bristol	
D.A.A. girl (sis-	8	Ditto			Ditto	28/8/17
ter of E.E.A.)	8	Ditto			Exeter Institution for the	8/3/18
K.J., girl		Ditto			Blind	0/5/10
.B.G., girl	11	Blind			School for the Blind, West-	11/3/20
and gene					bury-on-Trym, Bristol	
					ND DUMB.	
L.M.H., girl	15	Deaf a	nd du	mb	Royal Institution for the	
DATE and al	15	Ditto			Deaf and Dumb, Derby Ditto	
B.A.T., girl B.N.P., girl	15 16	Ditto			Ditta	23/8/11 21/8/12
B.N.P., girl	10	Ditto			Ditto	(Left 18/12/19)
G.H.P., boy	12	Ditto			Ditto	29/8/13
G.A.S., boy	14	Ditto			Edgbaston Royal Institu-	
					tion for the Deaf and	
	10				Dumb, Birmingham	2/0/12
A.E.M., boy	13	Ditto		100	Ditto	3/9/13
S.J.N., boy:	14	Ditto		***	Royal Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Derby	16/1/14
L.F., boy	15	Ditto			Royal School for Deaf	
bit it boy	1.5	Ditto			Children, Margate	
L.J.C., boy	12	Ditto			Ditto	1/1/15
A.J.P., boy	12	Ditto			Edgbaston Royal Institu-	
					tion for the Deaf and	
I II have	11	Ditto			Dumb, Birmingham	20/8/15
L.H., boy	11	Ditto	A.A.A.		Royal Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Derby	
L.P., boy(brother	10	Ditto			Ditto	26/8/16
of G.P.H.)						
P.H.F., boy	14	Ditto			Edgbaston Royal Institu-	
					tion for the Deaf and	
	-	The			Dumb, Birmingham	10/0/17
E.E.P, boy (bro-	9	Ditto		***	Royal Institution for the	
ther of B.N.P.) M.A.F., girl (sis-	10	Ditto			Deaf and Dumb, Derby Royal School for Deaf	
ter of L.F.)	10	Ditto			Children, Margate	1/5/11
S.H.C., boy	9	Ditto			Royal Institution for the	29/8/18
					Deaf and Dumb, Derby	
J.E.H., boy	9	Ditto			Royal School for Deaf	
	Sector States	Contraction of the			Children, Margate	

	Age in Years,	Condition.	Name of Institution.	A dmitted,
			D DUMB.	
B.M., girl	9	Deaf and dumb	Roval School for Deaf Children, Margate	2/9/18
E.O.G., girl E.W.J., boy	12 7	Ditto Ditto	Ditto Royal Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Derby	
W.N., boy	11	Ditto	Royal School for Deaf Children, Margate	
		Epile	PTIC.	
E.W., boy	16	Epileptic	Maghull Colony for Epi- leptics	17/2/15 (Liability accept ed by Easthamp stead Guardian 23/12/19)
R.McC., boy F.C.D., boy	14 9	Ditto Ditto	Much Hadham, Herts Chalfont Colony	1/10/17 21/12/18 (Left 6/3/19)
A.E.G.E., boy	13	Ditto	Lingfield Colony	16/4/19
G.W.G.B., boy	14	MENTALLY Feeble-minded	DEFECTIVE. Littleton House, Cambridge	27/4/14
A.W.S., boy	7	PHYSICALLY Birth Palsy	DEFECTIVE. Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey	15/10 19

CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS DURING 1919-Contd.

