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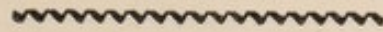
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BOROUGH OF BEVERLEY.



REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

(H. L. MUNRO, M.D.),

For the Year 1919.

Beverley :

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1920.



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee
of the Borough of Beverley.*



Mr. Chairman, Miss Elwell, and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Seventh Annual Report as School Medical Officer for the Borough.

I resumed my duties on my return from active service overseas on January 10th, so that I have been responsible for all the medical work in connection with the Schools during the year under review.

The School Clinic, which had been closed during my absence, was re-opened, and is now working very satisfactorily.

Mrs. Dalton Holmes, who had held the appointment of School Nurse for eight years, resigned in July, and Miss V. Heward was appointed to the vacant post.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. I. MUNRO, M.D.,

School Medical Officer.

February 3rd, 1920.

Annual Report of the School Medical Officer for the year 1919.

The number of elementary schools in the Borough is 10; three belong to the Town Council, three to St. Mary's Church, three to the Minster, and one to the Roman Catholic Church.

No schools were closed during the year owing to infectious disease, and all the schools were regularly disinfected during the holidays by the Sanitary Inspector.

With the exception of the recurrence of influenza in the early part of the year, there was no marked interference with the attendance of children owing to illness until December, when there was an outbreak of measles, which very quickly spread and caused a large diminution in the attendances at the Infants' Schools, so much so that it was considered necessary to delay the re-opening of all the Infant Schools after the Xmas holidays.

Scheme of Medical Inspection.

The system of inspection carried on in previous years has been continued, and the children of the three code groups were all examined. It is satisfactory to note that this was performed during the whole period of the War whilst many other authorities were compelled to make very great modifications in their regular systems.

The Medical Officer is assisted in the work of inspection by the School Nurse, who is also the Municipal Health Visitor. She is present at all examinations. The School Nurse also makes regular visits to the various schools, and inspects all children with respect to cleanliness and skin disorders.

A record of the examinations is kept by means of the Card System.

The Head Teacher assists by filling in the name, age, standard, height, weight, and family history of each child. In almost all cases the Head Teacher is present at the examination, and I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking those teachers for their interest and help. I think that most teachers now realise that the health of their scholars is of the first importance, and that the Officers of the School Medical Service can be a real assistance to them. If those teachers who still regard the Medical Officer and Nurse as a nuisance

would give the question their earnest attention, they would soon become convinced that a healthy child is much easier to teach than a delicate or dirty one, and that one is only endeavouring to lighten their task.

Attendance of Parents.

The Head Teacher is supplied with cards to notify the parents of the time and date of examinations, and these are used in most schools. The total number of parents present during the year was 255, as compared with 215 in the previous year. Only two parents objected to the examinations, and in a few instances it was thought that children had been kept at home to avoid the examination, but they were inspected on the next visit to the school.

The following list gives the number of children examined, and the number of parents present at each school:—

	Children examined.	Parents present.
Minster Boys' School	78	18
Minster Girls' School	89	24
Minster Infants' School	76	49
St. Mary's Boys' School	104	11
St. Mary's Girls' School	89	22
St. Mary's Infants' School	40	7
St. John's R.C. School	21	2
Spencer Council School	79	1
Walkergate Council School ...	67	38
St. Nicholas Council School ...	113	83
	756	255

It will be observed that many more parents were present at the Infants' Schools, whilst the smallest number were present at Spencer Council School and the Roman Catholic School.

Medical Treatment and work ancillary to such treatment.

When a parent or relative is present at the examination, any defects are explained and advice given as to the treatment required and the means of obtaining it. In other cases a card is sent to the parents giving full particulars and requesting them to secure the necessary treatment. Visits are paid to the homes by the School Nurse in order to follow-up the cases.

The Council subscribes ten guineas a year to the Hull Royal Infirmary for the examination of children with defective vision. During the year 28 children were sent for examination.

Spectacles were provided for 11 children in cases where the parents stated that they were unable to afford to buy these.

The Council also subscribes five guineas to the Beverley Cottage Hospital for the operative treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and 16 cases were referred for operation. In addition five cases from the previous year were operated upon, making a total of 21.

The School Clinic was re-opened in January. The number of cases seen there was 477, and the total attendances were 2,297. Minor ailments are treated by the School Nurse, and the School Medical Officer attends twice each week to see cases referred by the Head Teachers and the School Nurse.

The Committee considered the question of the provision of dental treatment, but it has been impossible to secure the services of a dental surgeon. Meantime the School Medical Officer has continued to perform extractions where required, and no less than 123 children have attended for this purpose.

The extent and scope of the Medical Inspection carried out during the year.

The estimated population of the Borough in the year 1919 was 13,800.

The average number of children on the Roll was 2,267.

The number of children of the three code groups inspected was 756—378 boys and 378 girls. Of these 296 were "entrants," 256 "intermediates," and 204 were "leavers." In addition 32 special cases were examined at school, and 477 cases were seen at the School Clinic.

Five special visits were paid to schools by the School Medical Officer to examine classes in which cases of scarlet fever had occurred.

Regular visits have been paid by the School Nurse to inspect the cleanliness of the children, and 2,218 children have been examined by her for this purpose.

When the 2,297 total attendances at the Clinic are considered in conjunction with these figures, the Committee will appreciate the extent of the work that has been done during the year, and the amount of labour that it has entailed, especially in keeping the records without any clerical assistance.

The following table gives the number of children inspected at the various Schools, and the average attendance at each School for 1919.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Av'ge. Atten.
Minster Boys' School	78	—	78	270
Minster Girls' School	—	89	89	224
Minster Infants' School	37	39	76	228
St. Mary's Boys' School	104	—	104	224
St. Mary's Girls' School	—	89	89	189
St. Mary's Infants' School ...	19	21	40	112
St. John's R.C. School	10	11	21	93
Spencer Council School	35	44	79	324
Walkergate Council School ...	38	29	67	177
St. Nicholas Council	57	56	113	305
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	378	378	756	2146
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

General review of the facts disclosed by examination.

Mental capacity.

Five cases of feeble-mindedness were found, and two were referred to the Local Control Authority.

Clothing and footgear.

A distinct improvement has been noticeable in the clothing of the children of all classes. In the vast majority of cases they are well clad and shod, the clothing is clean and in good repair, and the underclothing is satisfactory. In only two cases examined at school was the clothing found to be insufficient.

In two cases brought to the Clinic by the Police the clothing and bodies of the children were dirty and filthy. In both cases prosecutions were conducted by the Chief Constable, and the parents were convicted. In one case the mother was committed to prison without the option of a fine; in the other the parents were bound over. In such cases I think that it is better that the Police should take action

under the Children's Act than that I should ask the Committee to institute proceedings, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chief Constable for the interest he takes in the welfare of the children of the town.

Nutrition.

In fifteen children the state of nutrition was such as to require representations to be made to the parents. I have noticed that the rationed diet of the War has not had the bad effect on the general condition of the children that I had anticipated, and on the whole we may be well satisfied with the nutrition of the average child.

Nose and Throat.

Enlarged tonsils and adenoids have formed the greater number of affections of the nose and throat.

One girl was found to be a carrier of the bacillus of diphtheria, and much difficulty was experienced in getting the throat clear.

Ear Disease.

Many of the cases of deafness were due to wax in the ears, but 13 cases of otorrhoea were found, and treated at the Clinic.

Teeth.

Only 23 per cent. of the children examined in the course of the routine examinations had sound teeth. Many cases were found where the neglect of attention was causing marked deformity in the second dentition.

Skin diseases.

Scabies has not been so troublesome as during the War when it was so frequently introduced into the home by a soldier on leave.

Impetigo has been the most frequent disease met with at the Clinic, and has necessitated a good deal of exertion on the part of the school nurse. The Head Teachers have sent many cases in an early stage, and this has been a considerable help in stamping it out.

Septic sores and wounds have been numerous at the Clinic, which has now almost taken the place of the out-patient department of the Hospital in the treatment of this class of complaint amongst the children of the town.

Defective vision.

51 children were referred for treatment for defective vision or squint.

TREATMENT.

An examination of Table IV. shows that 639 children were referred for treatment either at school or at the Clinic; treatment was received in 563 cases, in the majority of cases at the Clinic. No report is available in 7 instances as the children have either left school or have departed from the town.

Cleanliness.

It would be a great help if a bath with hot water could be installed at the Office to assist the School Nurse in cleansing cases where necessary.

No facilities exist for disinfecting clothing in cases of scabies and lice. A small steam disinfector is necessary.

Nose and Throat.

21 cases were operated upon during the year.

Vision.

28 children were sent to the Hull Infirmary for examination, and glasses were provided in 11 instances. 4 other children received private treatment.

The School Clinic.

Since its re-opening the work of the Clinic has increased almost each week; the larger number of cases treated there consist of impetigo and various septic sores and wounds. Many are sent from the schools, but a great many are taken direct by parents, who now regard it as a place where they can receive advice and treatment free, and without any formality. The work takes up a very considerable part of the time of the school nurse and is likely to make still further demands upon her.

The Clinic is well equipped for dealing with all such cases as are likely to be met with, and promises to become a very popular institution in the town.

H. L. MUNRO, M.D.,

School Medical Officer.

February 3rd, 1920.

SCOPE OF EXAMINATION.

TABLE I.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1st JANUARY, 1919, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

A "Code" Groups.

AGE	ENTRANTS					Other Ages	Total	INTER-MEDIATE	LEAVERS				
	3	4	5	6	8				12	13	14	Other Ages	Total
BOYS	12	43	46	41	8	150	140	80	8	..	88	378	
GIRLS	7	40	62	26	11	146	116	112	4	..	116	378	
TOTALS ...	19	83	108	67	19	296	256	192	12	..	204	756	

B. Groups other than "Code."

	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years)	Special Cases	No. of Children Re-Examined
BOYS	272	6
GIRLS	237	10
TOTAL	509	16

TABLE II.

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

Defect or Disease	Code Groups		Specials	
	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
Skin Malnutrition	15	2)	..	..
Uncleanliness:				
Head	5	..	..	..
Body	4	..	..	..
SKIN.				
Ringworm:				
Head	2	..	7	..
Body .....	..	..	2	..
Scabies	3	..	7	..
Impetigo	11	..	91	..
Other Disease	2	..	87	..
EYE.				
Defective Vision and Squint	24	..	27	..
External Eye Disease	2	..	..	..
EAR.				
Defective Hearing	6	..	..	..
Ear Disease	3	..	31	..
TEETH.				
Dental Diseases	42	..	101	..
NOSE AND THROAT.				
Enlarged Tonsils .....	..	..	..	..
Adenoids .....	..	..	..	..
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	30	..	11	..
Defective Speech .....	..	..	..	..
HEART AND CIRCULATION.				
Heart Disease:				
Organic	3	2	..	..
Functional .....	..	..	..	..
Anæmia	1	..	..	..
LUNGS.				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
Definite	1	..	..	..
Suspected	2	..	..	..
Chronic Bronchitis	5	..	..	..
Other Disease	7	..	3	..
NERVOUS SYSTEM.				
Epilepsy .....	..	..	..	..
Chorea .....	..	..	..	..
Other Disease .....	..	..	..	..
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis:				
Glands	2	..	..	..
Bones and Joints	1	..	..	..
Other Forms .....	..	..	..	..
Rickets	3	..	..	..
Deformities	1	2	..	..
Other Defects or Diseases	10	..	64	..

TABLE III.

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

	Boys	Girls	Total
BLIND (including partially blind).			•
Attending Public Elementary Schools .....	..	..	..
Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	1	..	1
Not at School .....	..	..	..
DEAF AND DUMB (including partially deaf).			
Attending Public Elementary Schools .....	..	..	..
Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	1	..	1
Not at School .....	..	..	..
MENTALLY DEFICIENT.			
Feeble Minded—			
Attending Public Elementary Schools .....	..	..	..
Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children .....	..	..	..
Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during year	2	..	2
Not at School .....	..	..	..
Imbeciles—			
At School .....	..	..	..
Not at School .....	..	..	..
Idiots—			
EPILEPTICS.			
Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	..	1
Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics .....	..	..	..
Not at School .....	..	..	..
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—			
Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	3	5
Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children .....	..	..	..
Not at School	6	1	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis—			
Attending Public Elementary Schools .....	..	2	2
Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children .....	..	..	..
Not at School	2	2	4
Cripples others than Tubercular—			
Attending Public Elementary Schools	4	6	10
Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children .....	..	..	..
Not at School .....	..	..	..
DULL OR BACKWARD.			
Retarded 2 years	13	10	23
Retarded 3 years .....	..	..	..

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1919.

CONDITION	No. of defects for which Treatment was considered necessary			No. of defects for which no final report is available	No. of defects treated	Results of Treatment			No. of defects not treated	Percentage of defects treated
	From previous year	New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing	4	4	..	4	4	..	..	..	100.
Footwear	4	4	..	4	4	..	..	..	100.
Cleanliness of Head	5	5	..	5	5	..	..	..	100.
Cleanliness of Body	8	8	..	8	8	..	..	..	100.
Nutrition	15	15	..	15	15	..	..	..	100.
Nose and throat	12	41	53	2	26	21	3	2	25	47.1
External eye disease	2	2	..	2	2	..	..	..	100.
Ear disease	34	34	..	30	18	..	12	4	88.2
Teeth	143	143	..	123	123	..	..	20	86.
Heart and Circulation	3	3	..	3	3	..	..	..	100.
Lungs	15	15	..	15	12	..	2	..	100.
Nervous system
Skin	210	210	..	210	210	..	..	..	100.
Rickets	3	3	..	3	3	..	..	..	100.
Deformities	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	100.
Tuberculosis—non-pulmonary	3	3	..	3	3	..	..	..	100.
Speech
Mental condition	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	0.
Vision and squint	51	51	..	32	32	..	..	14	62.7
Hearing	6	6	..	5	4	..	1	1	83.3
Miscellaneous	74	74	..	74	60	..	14	..	100.
Total	12	627	639	7	563	503	55	5	69	88.1

TABLE V.

INSPECTION, TREATMENT, ETC. OF CHILDREN DURING 1919.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child).	1265
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	24
(3) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	618
(4) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	542

