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County Borough of Burton upon Trent

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

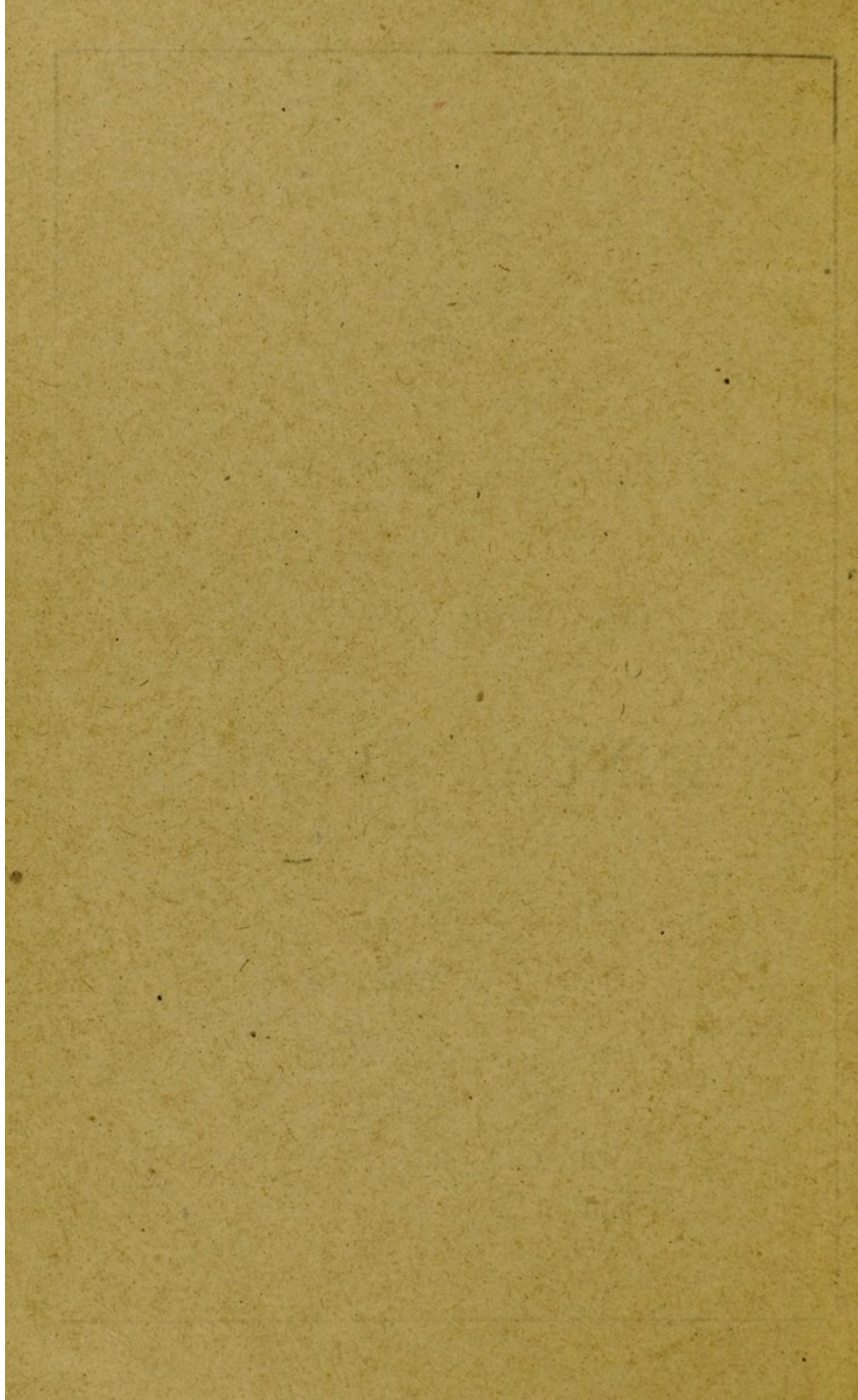
FOR THE YEAR 1944

BY

W. ALCOCK

M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER





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SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Annual Report of the School Medical Officer

TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY
BURTON UPON TRENT

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer for the year 1944, which is again presented in the form of a summary.

The Infectious Diseases Report shows a low level of incidence throughout the year of chickenpox, scarlet fever and diphtheria, the last named affecting only 8 children compared with 74 the previous year.

During the year 199 school children were immunised against Diphtheria. While this is a small figure compared with the previous years, a high proportion of the entrants had been immunised in their pre-school lives. At the end of 1944, 85% of the school population had been protected against Diphtheria at some time in their lives.

Miss J. H. W. Hepburn, L.D.S., commenced a leave of absence on the 19th February, and resigned her appointment as School Dentist on the 31st August. From the 19th February, Mr. E. Wayte, L.D.S., did emergency dental work at the School Clinic on two mornings a week until the end of the year, with the exception of a few days—3rd to the 8th July—when Mr. D. Maurice Flint, L.D.S., worked as whole-time School Dentist and then joined the Forces.

During the Autumn term, Miss M. Hill, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., did some work in the Infant Welfare Centre and Tuberculosis Dispensary to assist the Health Visitors who were depleted in numbers, and as a start of the re-organisation of the duties of the Health Visitors and School Nurses. After this year the Health Visitors are to work in addition as School Nurses.

Miss Hill resigned her appointment at the end of the year, and Mrs. Stokes resigned her appointment as part-time Cleansing Attendant at the School Clinic, at the end of the year.

During July, as in the previous three years, records were made of the height and weight of selected children for the Ministry of Education survey.

A special feature of this year's report is a report on the state of the mentally-retarded children in Burton upon Trent, which is included as an appendage.

2. **Co-ordination.** During 1944, close co-operation was maintained with the Health, Infant Welfare, Tuberculosis, Mental Deficiency and other services. I have again to thank the General Practitioners, the staffs of the Voluntary Institutions and Associations for their co-operation.

3. **School Hygiene.** There were no changes in the number of departments or Schools.

Average number of children on roll	..	6,409
Average attendance	.. .. .	5,661

4. **Medical Inspection.** Medical Inspection was continued as before.

- (1) Routine inspection of Entrants, Intermediates and Leavers.
- (2) Supplementary inspections of defects found at routine inspections or specially referred by parents, school teachers, or school nurses.

The number of routine inspections in statutory groups was as follows :—

Entrants	..	..	..	..	796
Intermediates	..	..	..	..	611
Leavers	..	..	..	..	592
					<hr/>
					1,999

No separate figure is given this year for the number of inspections at the Nursery Schools. These are included in the above, under Entrants.

Number of supplementary inspections was 7,164.

In addition, the School Nurses made 15,842 examinations during 12 visits to each school.

5. Findings of Medical Inspections.

(a) **Nutrition** is assessed on clinical grounds and the figures are given in Table II at the end of the report.

There does not seem to be any material change in the health of the child school population according to the assessment on clinical grounds. If anything the entrants seem to be rather better nourished compared with the previous year. According to the figures no deterioration is evident as a result of war conditions.

(b) **Incidence of Vermin.** The number of children found unclean was 565 and there were 43 exclusions from school on this account. 558 children were cleansed at the School Clinic under a voluntary scheme.

The number of children found unclean continues to remain at a high level. The policy was continued during the year of reducing the exclusions from school by the use of a medicated hair oil. This has proved popular and successful. The number of cases of Scabies shows a considerable increase. While this is probably a real increase, undoubtedly part of it is due to the increased attention given to the disease and the facilities adopted during the year for the treatment of adults. Whereas in previous years it was only possible to treat the school children, when one or more members of a family are found to be infested now, the policy is to treat all the members of the family, the school children in the day-time and the adults and pre-school children at special evening clinics. The exclusions from school on account of Scabies are usually very short, perhaps 1 to 3 days. The practice is to return the school children to the school as soon as they have a satisfactory coat of benzyl benzoate covering their bodies.

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** 1,183 cases were referred to the Minor Ailments Clinic, to their own Doctor, or to Hospital as a result of inspection. 516 were cases of Scabies and 376 of other skin diseases, chiefly Impetigo. The number of cases of skin diseases, chiefly Impetigo, has sharply risen in association with the increase in the number of cases of Scabies, but the number of exclusions on account of Impetigo and Sores remains much the same as before, which indicates that the skin disease is of a mild character.

(d) **Visual Defects and External Eye Diseases** found at medical inspections to require treatment or supervision were as follows :—

Defective Vision, including Squint ..	260
External Eye Disease	99

(e) **Nose and Throat defects** found were as under :—

Chronic Tonsillitis	97
Adenoids enlarged	3
Tonsillitis and Enlarged Adenoids	3
Other conditions of nose and throat ..	5
	<hr/>
	108
	<hr/>

28 cases with enlarged and inflamed tonsils and 3 cases with enlarged tonsils and adenoids were recommended for surgical treatment out of the above total of 108.

The decrease in the number of nose and throat defects which was found arose from probably a more conservative view of the necessity for surgical treatment.

(f) **Ear Disease and Defective Hearing.** The following defects of this type were found :—

Defective hearing	16
Otitis Media	31
Other ear diseases	10

(g) **Dental Defects.** 951 children were examined by the School Dentist in the course of routine and special inspections. 707 were found to require treatment.

The great decrease in the numbers of children inspected and treatment done is explained by the lack of a whole-time School Dentist.

(h) **Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.** Defects of this type found at medical inspections numbered 57 of which 17 required treatment, and the rest observation.

(i) Supervision continued as in previous years of cases of **Heart or Rheumatic Diseases** and 26 such children are on the Heart Register.

(j) **Tuberculosis.** All Tuberculosis contacts were examined each term in accordance with the practice of previous years.

(k) No **Crippling Defects** were found during 1944.

Exclusions from School					No. of exclusions
Uncleanliness	..	..	..	..	43
Skin Diseases—Impetigo and Sores	..	..	..	..	51
Ringworm : Scalp	..	..	..	..	—
Body	..	..	..	..	2
Scabies	..	..	..	..	516
Herpes	..	..	..	..	—
Miscellaneous Dermatitis	..	..	..	..	9
Ear Diseases—Otorrhoea	..	..	..	..	2
Furunculosis	..	..	..	..	1
Eye Diseases—Conjunctivitis	..	..	..	..	7
Blepharitis and Hordeola	..	..	..	..	8
Myopia	..	..	..	..	—
Throat—Tonsillitis and Sore Throat	..	..	..	..	6
Enlarged Glands	..	..	..	..	3
Other Diseases—Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	3
Rheumatism and Chorea	..	..	..	..	1
Epilepsy	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	36
Total					689

6. Following up.

This procedure was carried out as in previous years with the usual profitable results in most instances. 201 visits were made during the year, including 118 for speech defects, to the homes of School Children.

7. Arrangements for Treatment:

(a) **Malnutrition.** Milk is provided free in necessitous cases and mid-day meals in the schools are provided where this is possible. Such provision is now made purely on a financial need and not necessarily on clinical grounds, as was previously the case.

(b) **Uncleanliness.** The cleansing station set up in 1939 at the School Clinic continued in successful operation.

Exclusions for uncleanliness fell from 84 in 1943 to 43 in 1944.

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** Treatment of the above conditions, together with head examinations, necessitated 10,955 attendances at the School Clinic.

(d) **Treatment of Defective Vision.** The following is a tabulated account of the work done by the School Ophthalmologist :—

TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION, 1944

Total number of children attending Refraction Clinics	..	*260
Total number of attendances	.. .. .	684
Number prescribed glasses	.. .. .	†239
Number referred to Infirmary	.. .. .	—
Number found not to require glasses	.. .. .	19
Present glasses suitable	.. .. .	2
Refused treatment	.. .. .	—

* Includes 17 secondary school children.

† Includes 17 secondary school children.

(e) **Nose and Throat Defects.** The Local Education Authority has no special scheme for the treatment of diseased tonsils and adenoids, but such treatment is readily available at the Local General Hospital, and through the courtesy of the Infirmary Staff, we are provided with the information that 153 operations were performed during 1944 upon school children for diseased tonsils and adenoids.

(f) **Ear Disease and Defective Hearing.** The following tables indicate the treatment carried out for ear defects :—

	Number of ear examinations	.. .. .	307
1. Minor conditions—			
	Wax Impaction	.. .. .	11
	Defective hearing	.. .. .	1
	Furunculosis	.. .. .	1
	Foreign bodies	.. .. .	—
	Catarrh of Middle Ear	.. .. .	2
	Otalgia	.. .. .	14

29

2. Otorrhoea. Result of treatment—

(a) Routine treatment.

Ears dry	11
Improved but still attending	1
Ceased attending	7
Transferred to own Doctor	1
Transferred to Infirmary	1
	<hr/>
	21
	<hr/>

(g) **Dental Defects.** Of 707 children found to require treatment 518 actually received treatment during 936 visits.

(h) **Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.** This work has been carried out at the Infant Welfare Centre, Cross Street. Mr. Robert Bewick is in charge of the Clinic, which is held on the last Monday of the month. On three afternoons a week remedial and education clinics are held at the same place by Miss M. J. W. Abbotts.

	Number of new cases	Total number of attendances
Health Committee	2	130
Maternity and Child Welfare Committee	11	426
Education Committee	35	2,939

One child remained throughout the year in St. Gerard's Hospital, Coleshill, suffering from Osteomyelitis. The child admitted to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in 1943, suffering from Perthes Disease, was discharged during 1944.

(i) **Heart Disease and Rheumatism.** No special provision is made for cases of Rheumatism beyond close supervision of their activities at School and advice which is given to parents. The child who was treated at the Liverpool Open Air Hospital, Leasowe, throughout 1943, returned in January, 1944, and then resumed ordinary school life. Another child was admitted to the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital in July, 1944, and spent the rest of the year there largely by the help of the Children's Care Committee.

(j) **Tuberculosis.** Two cases of Tuberculosis of the Spine and one of the Hip in school children were notified during the year

and were admitted to Bretby Hall Orthopaedic Hospital. Four school children notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were admitted to the Outwoods Sanatorium during the year.

8. Infectious Diseases. A table of the common infectious diseases and their distribution throughout the schools is presented below :—

SCHOOLS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Chicken Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria
Clarence Street	3	2	—
Winshill	—	4	1
Horninglow	—	5	—
Broadway	3	—	—
Short Street	14	1	2
Victoria Road	7	2	—
Grange Street	5	2	1
Holy Trinity	—	1	—
Christ Church	4	—	1
Shobnall Road	—	1	—
Hill Street and St. Peter's Street ..	3	3	—
Glebe School, Stapenhill	—	—	—
Wetmore Road	10	—	—
Uxbridge Street	2	6	—
Goodman Street and Stafford Street ..	13	4	—
High School (Girls)	—	3	—
Grammar School	—	—	—
No School	1	21	2
Private School	—	4	—
Bond Street	15	—	—
Intermediate	—	1	1
Technical	—	—	—
St. Modwens	—	1	—
Totals	80	61	8

PHYSICAL TRAINING REPORT, 1944

Training Courses. During the year three training courses were held by the Committee's Organiser of Physical Education. In the Spring Term a course dealing with minor team games and practices leading to major team games, was designed to help teachers in the Junior Technical, Intermediate and Senior Schools. In the Summer a general course of Elementary Swimming took place; this included films on different strokes, land drill for the teachers, and methods of class organisation, with demonstration classes of children in the baths each session. A course towards the end of the Christmas Term, was for Senior and Junior teachers and was carried over into January, 1945. The subject was Dancing, including general technique, National Dancing, and Modern or Central European type of movement.

Visits to Schools and Youth Clubs. H.M. Inspectors of Physical Education have visited the Borough during the year, and regularly visits have been made by the Committee's Organiser giving help and advice.

Sports. Inter-School Sports were held on the 21st June, 1944, on Clarence Street School Playing Field. Eliminating jumps took place during the week prior to Sports Day; the competition was on the same lines as in previous years with the exception of the Skipping Event: this was not included as the surface of the field was not sufficiently level.

Youth Sports were held in the early Autumn; competitors were entered from the Guides, Scouts, Broadway Youth Club and Victoria Youth Club.

Swimming. This subject was put on a different basis, the principle behind the change being that every child should have the opportunity of learning to swim, provided he or she was physically fit. The arrangement now is that during the Summer Session all top classes in Junior Schools and all lower classes in Senior Schools take swimming as an integral part of their training in Physical Education, thus providing a two-year course. Several extra classes were arranged in the Senior Schools. Winter Swimming remains voluntary. The introduction of tests of proficiency resulted in much enthusiasm and a raising of the standard in style; it should be noted that in no case

does speed or endurance enter into these tests, such tests being regarded as unsuitable for children of school age.

Reservations at the baths amounted to 43 weekly classes in Summer and 12 in Winter. A comparison between the attendances in 1943 and 1944 under the new scheme may be of interest :—

(a) Summer Session, April to September, 1943	..	12,844
(b) Winter Session, October, 1943, to March, 1944		4,825
(c) Summer Session, April to September, 1944	..	23,364
(d) Winter Session, October, 1944, to January 18th only		4,694

Some extra assistance was provided for teaching these large numbers.

A successful Gala was held in the Autumn by Clarence Street Senior Boys' and Girls' Schools.

Youth Organisations benefited under a new arrangement whereby each member paid 2d. only for entry to the first-class baths, the Education Committee paying the difference. 3,571 attendances were made during the Summer Session.

Tennis. Tennis was introduced into two of the Senior Schools during the Summer ; ten courts being reserved each week. The shortage of balls makes this a somewhat precarious venture.

Recreative Physical Training. The Youth Organisations continue their interest in physical activities but are still rather limited in outlook. It is hoped to encourage more cycling, walking, youth hostelling, and camping in the lighter months, but here suitable leadership is a limiting factor in many cases.

Equipment and Clothing. Restrictions on supplies continue, and the small stocks available to Schools and Clubs necessarily hamper activities. A comparatively small quantity of material has been obtained throughout the year for the making of shorts and a type of "sun-top," and all Schools have been making up these garments, which remain the property of the Education Committee.

Plimsolls have been a continual source of worry, and an attempt was made to repair these ; the cost, however, did not justify the labour, neither was the repair of much lasting value. A further allocation of Rag Waste Plimsolls was made by the Ministry of Education, full advantage of which was taken.

Accommodation, Playgrounds and Playing Fields. Towards the latter part of the year much of the accommodation in Schools taken over by the Civil Defence has been handed back to the Education Authority, but the work of clearing concrete and other obstacles has been hindered by labour problems ; air-raid shelters still remain on playgrounds, and allotments on Playing Fields. An attempt was made to have the Outwoods Recreation Ground seeded for grass, in view of the length of time it would take before it could be used for playing purposes, but to no avail. It was recommended that the culvert running across the Clarence Street School Playing Field should be levelled, thus providing greater space for the increased numbers using the premises ; this has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Education and is to be proceeded with forthwith.

General. The work in the Borough continues with interest and energy, but suffers from the lack of men trained to take physical activities, and from overwhelmingly large classes owing to shortage of teachers.

10. Speech Training. The speech training classes were continued during 1944, and the following tables indicate the beneficial results obtained :—

STAMMERING

Number	Degree			Result			
	Slight	Considerable	Severe	Cured	Much Improved Occasional Difficulty when excited	Improved	Unchanged
6	—	3	3	3	3	—	—

DEFECTIVE ARTICULATION

Number	Result			
	Cured	Improved	Slight Improvement	Unchanged
35	18	17	—	—

CLEFT PALATE

Number	Result			
	Cured	Improved	Slight Improvement	Unchanged
2	—	2	—	—

11. Provision of Meals.

SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

The School Meals Service has now been extended so that all the Schools have facilities for providing a mid-day meal for any scholar who desires to avail himself of the service. During the year the following Schools commenced serving school meals :—

Hill Street Senior Mixed .. 21st February, 1944

St. Peter's Street Junior Mixed
and Infants 21st February, 1944

Wetmore Road Junior Mixed and
Infants 31st July, 1944

The total number of meals served in 1944 was as follows :—

Children	Staff
285,782	24,387

In the table below is given particulars relating to the scheme for providing cheap milk in schools and also for the giving of free milk when the family income falls below a prescribed limit.

Number of individual children supplied with free milk	171
Average number of children supplied with milk at a special price	5,084
	and 98 evacuees
Number of one-third pint bottles supplied free	45,582
	and 689 evacuees
Number of one-third pint bottles supplied on payment	1,543,362
	and 24,631 evacuees

13. (a) **Co-operation of Parents.** The number of parents present at the Medical Routine Inspection of children in the age groups was approximately the same as in the previous years.

We should like to thank the teachers for their ready help with the medical inspections and the reference of cases.

The School Attendance Officers have again been very helpful and the Voluntary Aid Association, and the Children's Care Committee have again given generous help to necessitous children.

A report of the work of the Children's Care Committee is appended.

CHILDREN'S CARE COMMITTEE

Report for the year 1944

The Children's Care Committee was re-appointed by the Education Committee in November, 1943, and was constituted as follows :—

Mrs. Curzon, Miss Evershed, Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. Macgilp, Mrs. Piddocke, Mrs. Rowland, Mrs. Slator, Mrs. Templeman, Mrs. F. G. Thompson and Mrs. Walley.

The Officers were elected for 1944, viz. :—

Chairman—Mrs. Slator.

Vice-Chairman—Mrs. Rowland.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Miss Evershed.

The Committee met five times during the year.

Seventeen cases were reported to them, and were dealt with as follows :—

1. Girl aged 13 years. Maintained at the Liverpool Open-Air Hospital for Children for 18 days.
2. Boy Recommended for Convalescent Home treatment.
Parents did not allow him to go.
3. Girl Recommended for Convalescent Home treatment.
Parents did not allow her to go.
4. Girl „ 9½ years Sent to Convalescent Home, Southport, for 1 month
5. Girl „ 9 „ „ „ „ 1 month
6. Girl* „ 6 „ „ „ Rhyl 1 „
7. Boy „ 11 „ „ „ Southport 1 „
8. Girl „ 9 „ „ „ „ 2 months
9. Girl „ 7 „ Maintained in the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital for 5 months, parents contributing towards cost.
10. Boy „ 10 „ Sent to Convalescent Home, Southport, for 2 months
11. Girl „ 8 „ Recommended for Convalescent Home treatment.
Guardian did not allow her to go.

12.	Boy	aged	5	years	Sent to Convalescent Home, Southport, for 1 month
13.	Girl	„	5	„	„ „ „ „ 1 month
14.	Boy	„	12	„	„ „ „ „ 1 month
15.	Boy	„	11	„	„ „ „ „ 1 month
16.	Boy*	„	7	„	„ „ „ „ 1 month
17.	Boy	„	7	„	Provided with Surgical Boots.

The two cases marked * were sent by the *Burton Observer* "Uncle Jack" Fund to Convalescent Homes, the Children's Care Committee visiting them, after examination at the School Clinic by the School Medical Officer.

The Voluntary Aid Association granted railway fares in cases where required and this help was much appreciated.

The Feoffees gave a grant of £25 and provided 11 tickets for Convalescent Homes. The Committee appreciated this continued generous help.

A child, who had been kept in the Liverpool Open-Air Hospital for Children for a year and eighteen days, when discharged was greatly improved in health, and able to return to school.

JUSTINA M. SLATOR,

Chairman.

PHYLLIS M. EVERSLED,

Hon. Secretary.

14. Blind, Deaf and Epileptic Children. Four children in the Borough are on the Blind Persons Register. Two are attending no school or Institution and two are in the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. In addition, one partially-sighted child is in Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.

There are two children attending certified schools for the Deaf, and no partially-deaf children attending elementary schools.

15. Nursery Schools. The Nursery Classes at Christ Church, Stafford Street, and Short Street Schools continued in operation throughout the year.

16. Secondary Schools.

(a) Medical Inspections were carried out along the lines indicated in previous reports. At the end of this report is a table showing a detailed return of defects found at routine inspections.

(b) Medical Treatment. There was no change in the treatment available in previous years.

17. Employment of School Children. The following table indicates the number of children examined and passed fit for several kinds of employment within prescribed limits during 1944 :—

	Boys	Girls	Total
Newspaper delivery	73	3	76
Errands	15	—	15
Dairy Assistant	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	89	3	92
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

18. The Assistant School Medical Officer has been responsible for the preparation of this Report, and his assistance in this respect is hereby acknowledged.

W. ALCOCK,

School Medical Officer.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

TABLE I

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Year ended 31st December, 1944

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed groups :—

Entrants	796
Second age group	611
Third age group	592
Total	1,999

Number of other Routine Inspections —

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections 7,164

TABLE II

B.—Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups

Age-groups	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ..	796	174	21.8	527	66.2	92	11.5	3	0.4
Second Age-group	611	120	19.6	394	64.5	93	15.2	4	0.6
Third Age-group ..	592	113	19.1	357	60.3	117	19.7	5	0.8
Other Routine Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	1999	407	20.4	1278	64.0	302	15.0	12	0.6

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

TABLE III
TREATMENT TABLES

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

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during
the year under the Authority's Scheme 1,183

**Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye
Defects Treated as Minor Ailments.—Group I)**

	No. of Defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint)	260	—	260
Other defect or disease of the eyes (ex- cluding those recorded in Group 1.) . .	—	—	—
Total	260	—	260
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
No. of Children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	239	—	239
(b) Obtained	220	—	220

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat

Number of Defects			
Received Operative Treatment		Received other Forms of Treatment	Total number treated
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Author- ity's Scheme		
—	153	—	153

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Table IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist.		
(a) Routine age-groups.		
Total	.. .. .	599
(b) Specials	.. .. .	352
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	.. .. .	<u>951</u>
(2) Number found to require treatment		707
(3) Number actually treated		518
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment		936
(5) Half-days devoted to :—		
Inspection	.. .. 5	
Treatment	.. .. 78	
Total	.. .. <u>83</u>	
(6) Fillings :—		
Permanent Teeth	.. 166	
Temporary Teeth	.. 43	
Total	.. .. <u>209</u>	
(7) Extractions :—		
Permanent Teeth	.. 52	
Temporary Teeth	.. 577	
Total	.. .. <u>629</u>	
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions		290
(9) Other Operations :—		
Permanent Teeth	.. 289	
Temporary Teeth	.. 54	
Total	.. .. <u>343</u>	

Table V.—Verminous Conditions.

(i)	Average number of visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses	12
(ii)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	15,842
(iii)	Number of <i>individual</i> children found unclean	565
(iv)	Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	Nil
(v)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	Nil
	(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	Nil
(vi)	Number of Children cleansed under a Voluntary Scheme ..	558

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**TABLE VI****Return of all Blind and Deaf Children in the Area****December 31st, 1944****BLIND CHILDREN**

A blind child is a child who is too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children

At a Public Elementary School	At an Institution other than a Special School	At no School or Institution	Total not receiving suitable Education
—	—	2	2

DEAF CHILDREN

A deaf child is a child who is too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school

At a Public Elementary School	At an Institution other than a Special School	At no School or Institution	Total not receiving suitable Education
—	—	—	—

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1944, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

TABLE 1

Return of Medical Inspections for year ended
the 31st December, 1944

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Age	{	Under 9 years	..	72
		9	..	23
		10	..	32
		11	..	93
		12	..	132
		13	..	139
		14	..	127
		15	..	116
		16	..	47
		17	..	36
		18	..	5
				<hr/>
				822
				<hr/>

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of special inspections	..	..	8
Number of re-inspections	..	..	524
			<hr/>
			532
			<hr/>

C.—INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN

Found to require treatment	..	..	40
(excluding uncleanliness and dental diseases)			

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Medical Inspection Returns

Table 2

**A.—Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in
the year ended 31st December, 1944**

DEFECT OR DISEASE		Routine Inspections		Special Inspections	
		No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
		Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment
SKIN DISEASE		3	6	—	1
EYE	Blepharitis	1	—	—	—
	Other conditions excluding vision and squint ..	—	—	—	—
	Defective vision excluding Squint	26	147	—	1
	Squint	—	—	—	—
EAR	Otitis Media	1	5	—	—
Tonsils		—	6	—	2
Enlarged cervical glands (Non-Tuberculous)		—	8	—	1
Bronchitis		—	11	—	—
HEART	Organic	—	—	—	—
	Functional	—	23	—	—
Rheumatism		—	7	—	—
Defective Speech		—	5	—	—
Defective Teeth		31	8	—	—
DEFORMITIES					
	Spinal curvature	5	10	—	—
	Other forms	—	—	—	—
Other defects, excluding defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases		5	97	—	3
Totals		72	333	—	8

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Return of Defects treated during the year ended the 31st December, 1944

Defective Vision and Squint

	Number of defects dealt with		
	Under Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint)	17	—	17
Number of children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	17	—	17
(b) Obtained	14	—	14

Private and Confidential.

Town Hall,

Burton upon Trent.

28th February, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MENTALLY- RETARDED CHILDREN IN BURTON UPON TRENT

Since May, 1942, a survey has been in progress of the mentally-retarded children in Burton upon Trent. This is, of course, a continuous process and will continue to be so, but it was thought advisable to make a report on the state at the end of 1944, as a convenient time, in view of the imminence of operation of the Education Act, 1944. Section 34 of this Act states that "it shall be the duty of every local Education Authority to ascertain what children in their area require special educational treatment." The procedure under the new Act will be considerably modified from that at present in force.

The present procedure is that head teachers are specially asked to refer all children whom they might think to be educationally retarded and the teachers' views on the educational attainments of the child are set down on Form 41D. Incidentally, one is always astonished at the accuracy with which the teacher estimates the mental age of the child. Then, a special appointment is made for the attendance of the parent and child at the School Clinic. On the whole, the mothers have attended well with their children, but in a few cases it has been necessary to visit the homes to obtain the mother's history of the child's illnesses and general intellectual progress. In a very few cases, it is necessary to point out to the parents that it is a duty under the Education Act, 1921, for them to present their child for examination at the School Clinic.

At the interview, an estimate of the Intelligence Quotient is made by means of the Revised Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale in all cases where it is possible. Medical examination is done in all cases where certification is necessary and a survey of the previous medical records,

together with the teacher's and the mother's views is made before making a recommendation as to the most suitable form of tuition for the child. In some cases two or more examinations are made and very occasionally the child is regraded. This again is a continuous process, especially in cases on the borderline between imbecile and mentally defective and normal. In these cases the figures of the I.Q. refer to the latest examination. Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to implement the recommendations, owing to the lack of a special school; the special classes for backward children in two of the school departments go a very small way to meet the need. During the period under review, Miss Mary F. Cleugh, Ph.D., Educational Psychologist of the Provincial National Council for Mental Health, visited the town between September and December, 1943, for a survey of the nature and extent of problem children in Burton schools, and her report naturally touches on the general problem of providing suitable tuition for mentally-retarded children, whether problem children or not. While Miss Cleugh was concerned only with problem children and attempted to exclude from her survey all those who were mentally retarded, some of this latter class were examined by her, and are included in the report. This report deals with the mentally-retarded children, but the two are at times very close together, as some of the retarded children show anti-social tendencies as part of their mental disorder, and two of the children mentioned in this report are detained in institutions because of their anti-social conduct.

153 children were examined and this report refers to 128 of them, and 12 imbeciles and idiots. Six of the total lived out of the Borough but were attending schools belonging to this Education Authority, and two children (G.M. and S.C.), who lived out of the Borough have been referred to the Staffordshire County Council, as in need of special tuition. The 25 who are not included in the report had I.Qs. over 80. Some of these children had I.Qs. which showed them to be very nearly normal but they had apparently been referred because of their behaviour difficulty in the school, e.g., the twin brothers M.O. and G.O. at the age of 12 could read very little, but although showing different mental characteristics in the reactions to the tests, it turned out that they had almost identical I.Qs. of 92 and 91 respectively.

The 140 children include all those examined who were found to have an I.Q. under an arbitrary level of 80. It must not be thought

this is necessarily a fixed and binding level for the selection of children for special tuition. Miss Cleugh suggested a level of 85 and in practice it would be probable that one would think of special tuition when a child's quotient was reduced to this figure, but for the purpose of this report it has been decided to list all the children about whom there could be no possibility of doubt as to their need for special tuition. Equally well, an I.Q. of 70 is usually spoken of as the dividing line below which a child would probably be considered as feeble minded, but this level is in practice a fairly elastic one and it was thought better to refer for re-examination in twelve months all children who were on the borderline of this level so that their progress or otherwise could be ascertained.

Although the I.Q. should not vary much, with some re-testing, it is found (as was pointed out in Miss Cleugh's report), that mental retardation is cumulative, that is, as the child gets older, it falls more and more behind in competition with its fellows and so tries less and less. Its actual achievements, therefore, tend to be less as the years go on and the dull and defective child works less to its intellectual capacity, e.g., in eighteen months the I.Qs. of children dropped from 70 to 60 and 74 to 68. With another child in two years the I.Q. dropped from 75 to 63, and with yet another child, the I.Q. dropped from 89 to 68 in $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. Some children, for various reasons, work to capacity even though they are surrounded by brighter children and a child with an I.Q. of 63 in 1940 was found to have an I.Q. of 64 in 1943, and another one with an I.Q. of 66 in 1938 had an I.Q. of 70 in 1943.

Conversely, it is possible for children not to be working to their capacity at the first examination and to show an apparent improvement at their second examination. It is usually possible, however, for the examiner, during the course of the testing, to be aware of this and to arrange a subsequent test when the child would show to a better advantage. Such a one was S.B.O. who improved from an I.Q. of 78 in 1942 to 90 in 1944, and P.W. improved from an I.Q. of 74 in 1941 to 85 in 1943, and the improvement was maintained as was shown by a figure of 87 in 1944.

For the sake of completeness Table 1 shows the imbeciles and idiot that have been notified to the local authority together with an analysis according to age groups.

Table 1

**Imbeciles and Idiots below the age of 16 notified to the
Local Authority**

Analysis according to age groups								
1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	Total
1	0	1	1	3	2	3	1	12

A justifiable conclusion that can be drawn from this Table is that it may be expected that one or two imbeciles (or idiots) will be born in Burton each year. It is, of course, a duty of the Local Authority to provide for these, but in view of opinions which have been expressed for the advisability of an occupation centre, the numbers are set down in Table 1.

There are 18 children who are over school age and below the age of 16 who are certified mental defectives.

Table 2A.

Children of school age who are certified Mentally Defective

Analysis according to age groups								
1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	Total
6	12	11	7	13	7	9	1	66

Tables 2A and 2B show the 44 children who are certified mental defectives but are still in attendance at the ordinary elementary schools, with the 18 children who are over school age but below the age of 16. The exceptions are numbers 43 and 46 who should probably be re-certified as imbeciles. No. 43 is, in addition, blind and attempts are being made to provide him with institutional care. No. 69 has proved rather difficult. At one time she was thought to be a borderline imbecile but she is now in process of testing, and it may be proved that she is actually feeble minded. No. 68 is at an approved school.

Table 2B

The same children as Table 2A

Analysis according to school attended

Left	Not at School	Clarence Street	Goodman St.	Winhill	Victoria Rd.	Stapenhill	Shobnall	Horninglow	Uxbridge St.	Grange St.	Christ Church	Broadway	Short St.	Total
18	4	6	5	1	3	6	1	4	11	4	1	1	1	66

The analysis of the children according to schools shows that of the 44 certified mental defectives who are at school, 11 are at Uxbridge Street School, and this does seem an undue proportion at any one school.

Table 3A

Analysis of age groups of school children who have I.Qs. below 80 not certified Mentally Defective, also cases found by Miss Cleugh during her visit. (Excluding children who have left school.)

1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	Total
12	8	7	6	11	5	2	1	52

Some of these children have I.Qs. of 70 or below, but for various reasons it has not been thought desirable to certify them. A few children are on the list who have left school, and who have rather low I.Qs. In fact, however, these children were so little suspected of gross mental retardation that they were all referred within a few months of their leaving school and it was usually impossible to acquire the necessary information in time before they left school.

Table 3B

The same children as Table 3A

Analysis according to schools attended

St. Modwen's	St. Peter's St.	Clarence St.	Goodman St.	Victoria Rd.	Stapenhill	Shobnall	Horninglow	Uxbridge St.	Grange St.	Christ Church	Broadway	Short St.	Wetmore Rd.	Stafford St.	Hill St.	Total
1	2	3	5	5	6	4	2	4	8	1	2	3	4	1	1	52

Tables 3A and 3B show the analyses of school children who are not certified mentally defective but who have I.Qs. below 80 and according to age and to the school attended. This shows that a further number of children in Burton can be expected each year (between 6 and 12), who will be found to be very dull.

The schools seem to have a fairly equal distribution of these children with a maximum concentration in Grange Street. One might

perhaps expect a greater number in Uxbridge Street, in view of the great incidence of defectives.

It may be of interest to note that mental backwardness seems to have a strong family incidence in Burton, as elsewhere, and the following pairs of children belong to one family:—54 and 55, 29 and 44, 99 and 100, 49 and 73, 20 and 34, 28 and 122, 15 and 140, 45 and 130, 25 and 56, the three children 67, 70 and 113, and 7 and 8 are aunt and niece, making 11 families in all. Others may be, and possibly are, related, but without more searching enquiry it would be impossible to say exactly how many. Of the total of 140, 75 are boys and 65 are girls. The slightly greater incidence of boys is probably to be explained as was done in Miss Cleugh's report by the fact that mentally backward boys tend to make a nuisance of themselves, while girls in the same state tend to "just sit."

Conclusion.

It seems, therefore, that there are the following children to be provided for, excluding the idiots and imbeciles who are so backward that they are not capable of profiting from the education in the ordinary school. In age groups they are as follows, i.e., Table 2 + 3, with 10 children between the ages of 14 and 16 years, who had I.Qs. below 80.

Years	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	Total
Nos.	9	19	23	15	20	13	20	6	2	1	128

These children are about equally divided between those certified as defectives and those who are very dull. It is probable that the actual number should be 50% in excess of this. Obviously the figure of 9 for the dull and defective children born in 1929 is too small, and equally at the younger ages all the dull and defective children have not yet been referred for examination. Dullness is cumulative in its effects, and whereas in the infants departments a dull child of eight will play happily with five year old material, at twelve it is a great handicap not to be able to read when those about him derive a great part of their instruction from the printed word. Miss Cleugh suggested a figure of 200 for the number of children who would be found to have an I.Q. of 80 or less, and this seems not unreasonable from the findings of this report. If one averages the figures from 1930 to 1935, which seem to be consistent and probably represent nearly all the dull in those age groups, a figure of 18 is obtained. This means that for ten yearly age

groups from five to fourteen, a total of 180 is obtained of those at present at school, which with twelve idiots and imbeciles, makes 192.

These 180 children are scattered throughout the school departments of the town, in hopeless competition with their fellows and a positive drag on their progress.

It would seem desirable that they should be collected under one roof where, at least they would be amongst kindred spirits. With this number of children, the size of some of the present school departments, it should not be too difficult to organize them into groups who were capable of similar work according to their ability, since the accent would be predominantly on handicraft. It might be found possible to improve the ability of some of the children at the school so that they would be able to resume their places at the ordinary elementary school. Some children who were tried at the school might be found to be best cared for by an institutional life and others might not be suited for the school by reason of immoral or anti-social tendencies. At the other end of the scale, the school should not be dumping grounds for the educational misfits, but should be for the benefit of the grossly educationally retarded. At one time it was thought that entry to such a school should have a lower I.Q. limit of 60 or thereabouts, which would exclude some 35 of the 180. If the Local Authority did ever set up an occupational centre for these imbeciles, some of these 35 might be better employed there, but to exclude them from the school in the first instance, which would mean exclusion from all school life, would deprive them of any hope of improvement and would merely add to their parents responsibility. It should be emphasized that children of low intelligence can rarely be judged by their facial appearance or bodily development alone, otherwise the task of the examiner would be considerably easier ; on the contrary, some of the children who form the subject of the report are most engaging and socially very pleasant to deal with. There should, therefore, be no obvious social stigma attached to the attendance at such a school from the mere appearance or behaviour of the children who form its inhabitants.

At the examination of the dull and defective children mention was made of the possibility of special tuition and practically all the parents expressed their willingness to allow their children to take advantage of it. It is felt as a result of this survey, that a suitable scheme should be initiated with as little delay as possible, so as to enlist the enthusiasm of parents and teachers before it has time to cool.

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