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County Borough of Burton upon Trent

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

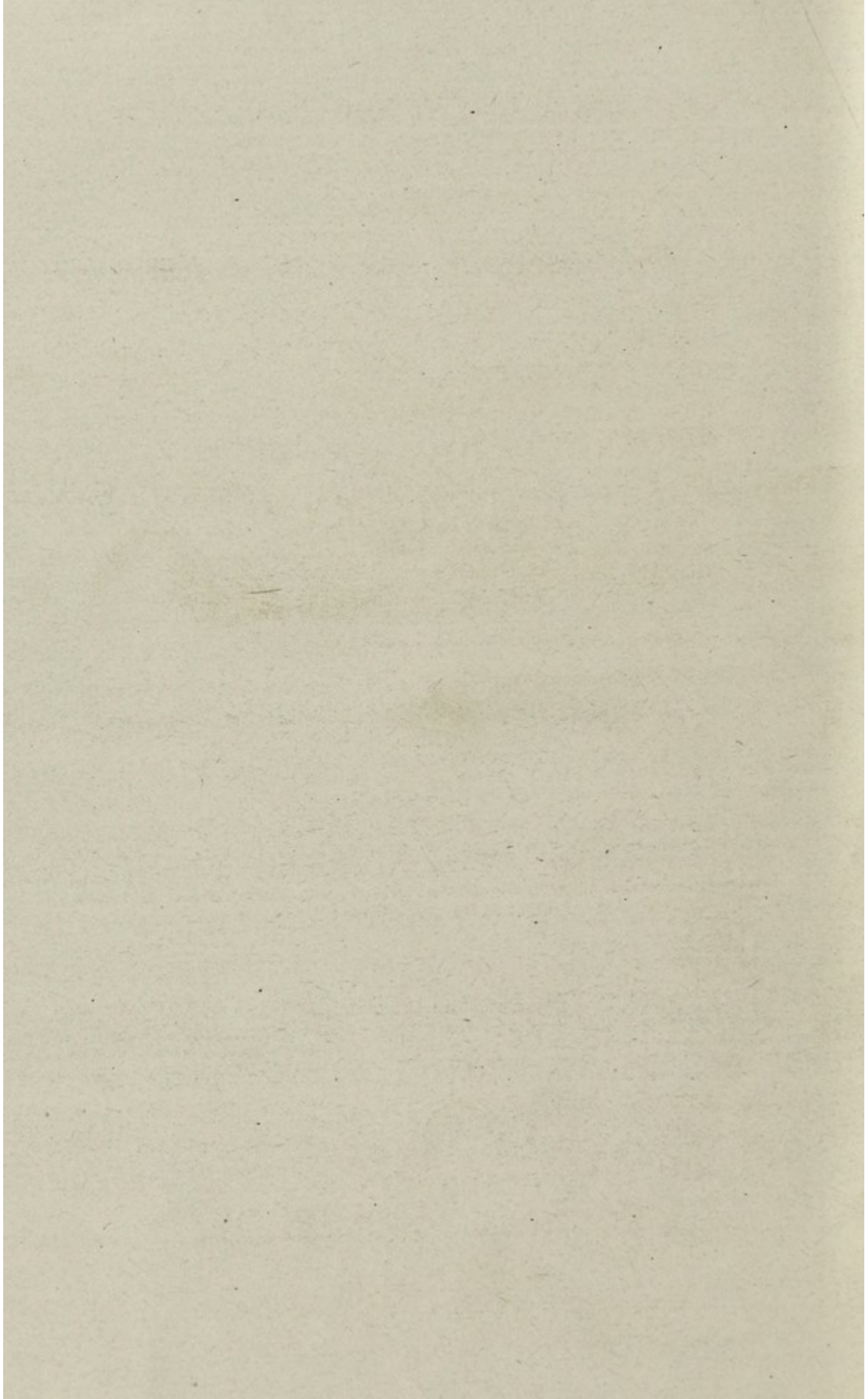
FOR THE YEAR 1946

BY

W. ALCOCK

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

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER



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SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Return of Defects treated during the year ended
the 31st December, 1946

Defective Vision and Squint

	Number of defects dealt with		
	Under Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint)	32	—	32
Number of children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	32	—	32
(b) Obtained	27	—	27

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Medical Inspection Returns

Table 2

A.—Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in
the year ended 31st December, 1946

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					1	14	—	—
EYE	{	Blepharitis	—	—	—	—		
		Other conditions excluding vision and squint ..	—	—	—	—		
		Defective vision excluding Squint	30	159	4	—		
		Squint	—	—	—	—		
EAR	Otitis Media	1	4	—	—			
Tonsils	—	10	—	—				
Enlarged cervical glands (Non-Tuberculous)					—	22	—	—
Bronchitis					—	14	—	—
HEART	{	Organic	—	—	—	—		
		Functional	—	11	—	—		
Rheumatism					—	3	—	—
Defective Speech					—	2	—	—
Defective Teeth					42	5	—	—
DEFORMITIES								
Spinal curvature					2	85	—	1
Other forms					—	13	—	1
Other defects, excluding defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases					7	48	—	2
Totals					83	390	4	4

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

TABLE 1

Return of Medical Inspections for year ended
the 31st December, 1946

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Age	{	Under 9 years	..	18
		9	..	1
		10	..	29
		11	..	107
		12	..	143
		13	..	131
		14	..	109
		15	..	121
		16	..	65
		17	..	34
		18	..	6
				<hr/> 764 <hr/>

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of special inspections	..	..	8
Number of re-inspections	..	..	620
			<hr/> 628 <hr/>

C.—INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN

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

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

TABLE VI

Return of all Blind and Deaf Children in the Area
December 31st, 1946

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
—	—	—	—

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1946, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Table IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist.							
(a) Routine age-groups.							
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,140
(b) Specials	..	..	..	..	..	..	520
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>1,660</u>
(2) Number found to require treatment 1,353							
(3) Number actually treated 846							
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment 1,912							
(5) Half-days devoted to :—							
Inspection	..	..	10				
Treatment	..	..	277				
Total	..	..	<u>287</u>				
(6) Fillings :—							
Permanent Teeth	..	1,157					
Temporary Teeth	..	119					
Total	..	<u>1,276</u>					
(7) Extractions :—							
Permanent Teeth	..	247					
Temporary Teeth	..	927					
Total	..	<u>1,174</u>					
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions 397							
(9) Other Operations :—							
Permanent Teeth	..	837					
Temporary Teeth	..	14					
Total	..	<u>851</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	.. .. .	15,064
(iii) Number of <i>individual</i> children found unclean	.. ..	774
(iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 54 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1944	.. ..	Nil
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—		
(a) Under the Education Act, 1944	.. ..	Nil
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	.. ..	Nil
(vi) Number of Children cleansed under a Voluntary Scheme	..	768

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 960

**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)	254	3	257
Other defect or disease of the eyes (ex- cluding those recorded in Group I.) ..	—	—	—
Total	254	3	257
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
No. of Children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	239	3	242
(b) Obtained	195	3	198

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		
—	124	—	124

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

TABLE I

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Year ended 31st December, 1946

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed groups:—

Entrants	737
Second age group	657
Third age group	514
Total	1,908
Number of other Routine Inspections	—

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections 8,189

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 ..	737	119	16.1	486	65.9	130	17.6	2	0.3
Second Age-group	657	131	19.9	399	60.8	126	19.1	1	0.1
Third Age-group ..	514	69	13.4	335	65.1	109	21.2	1	0.2
Other Routine Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	1908	319	16.7	1220	64.0	365	19.1	4	0.2

			Boys	Girls	Total
Newspaper delivery	..	..	28	10	38
Errands	..	..	4	1	5
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			32	11	43
			<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

The Voluntary Aid Association and the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows granted railway fares in two cases and their help is gratefully acknowledged.

The Committee record their appreciation of the generous help of the Feoffices in giving them a grant of £25 and providing 15 tickets for Convalescent Homes.

M. ROWLAND,
Chairman,

January 8th, 1947.

PHYLLIS M. EVERSLED,
Hon. Secretary.

14. Blind, Deaf and Epileptic Children. Three children in the Borough are on the Blind Persons Register. Two are attending no school or Institution and one is in the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. In addition, one partially sighted child who was in the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind at the end of 1945, was discharged during the year.

During the year, the child attending a certified school for the Deaf at the end of 1945 was discharged, and two new cases were admitted. There is one partially-deaf child attending a secondary school.

There is one child attending a certified school for epileptics.

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 different kinds of employment within prescribed limits during 1946:—

The Committee record their appreciation of the valuable service rendered by Mrs. Griffiths for 8½ years and their sincere regret at her resignation.

In June Mrs. L. George was appointed to the Committee.

The Committee met six times during the year. Thirty cases were reported to them and were dealt with as follows:—

1. Boy* aged 6 years. Sent to Convalescent Home, Rhyl for one month.
2. Girl „ 11¼ „ Recommended for special treatment at the Birmingham Children's Hospital. As she left the town particulars were transferred to the Derby School Medical Service.
3. Girl „ 14 „ Recommended for special treatment at the Birmingham Children's Hospital. Did not take advantage of this before leaving school.
4. Girl „ 9 „ Sent to Convalescent Home, Southport, for 1 month.
5. Girl* „ 8½ „ „ „ „ „ „
6. Girl* „ 7 „ „ „ „ „ „
7. Girl „ 10 „ Sent for treatment to the Royal Devonshire Hospital Buxton, for 3 weeks.
8. Girl „ 10 „ Sent to Convalescent Home, Southport, for 1 month.
9. Boy „ 11¼ „ Recommended for Convalescent Home treatment, Prevented from going by illness.
10. Boy „ 11½ „ Sent to Convalescent Home, Southport, for 1 month.
11. Girl* „ 11 „ „ „ „ Bournemouth „
12. Girl „ 8 „ Sent to the Warwickshire Orthopaedic Hospital. Coleshill, for 17 weeks.
13. Girl „ 12 „ Sent to Convalescent Home, Southport, for 1 month.
14. Boy „ 8¾ „ „ „ „ „ „
15. Girl „ 12½ „ Recommended for Convalescent Home Treatment. Went to stay with relatives at the seaside instead, Sent to Convalescent Home, Bournemouth, for 1 month.
16. Girl „ 10½ „ „ „ „ „ „
17. Boy „ 8¼ „ „ „ „ „ „
18. Boy „ 11 „ „ „ „ „ „
19. Girl „ 11¾ „ „ „ „ Southport „
20. Girl* „ 8 „ „ „ „ 3 months
21. Girl „ 8 „ Sent to Convalescent Home, Southport, for 1 month.
22. Boy „ 12 „ „ „ „ „ „
23. Boy* „ 10 „ „ „ „ „ „
24. Boy* „ 12 „ „ „ „ Bournemouth „
25. Girl* „ 9 „ „ „ „ Southport „
26. Boy „ 8 „ Recommended for Convalescent Home treatment. Parents did not wish him to go away.
27. Girl „ 6 „ Sent to Convalescent Home, Bournemouth, for 2 months
28. Boy „ 13 „ „ „ „ „ 1 month
29. Girl „ 12 „ Recommended for Convalescent Home treatment. Parents did not wish her to go away.
30. Girl „ 4½ „ Recommended for Convalescent Home treatment. Waiting for further examination before being sent.

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

In the table below is given particulars relating to the scheme for providing milk in schools.

Number of individual children supplied	
with free milk	5,939
Average number of children supplied with	
milk at a special price (up to 19.7.46)	4,659
Number of one-third pint bottles	
supplied free	448,177
Number of one-third pint bottles	
supplied on payment (up to 19.7.46)	871, 110

13. **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 1946

The Children's Care Committee was re-appointed by the Education Committee in November, 1945, and was constituted as follows :—

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

The Officers were elected for 1946, viz.,—

Chairman—Mrs. Rowland.

Vice-Chairman—Mrs. Macgilp.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Miss Evershed.

In February Mrs. R. Lorimer was appointed to the Committee.

In May Mrs. Griffiths resigned owing to leaving the town.

10. **Speech Training.** The speech training classes were continued during 1946, and the following tables indicate the beneficial results obtained :—

STAMMERING

Number	Degree			Result			
	Slight	Con- sider- able	Severe	Cured	Much Improved Occasional Difficulty when excited	Im- proved	Un- changed
12	—	8	4	3	6	3	—

DEFECTIVE ARTICULATION

Number	Result			
	Cured	Improved	Slight Improvement	Unchanged
39	14	25	—	—

CLEFT PALATE

Number	Result			
	Cured	Improved	Slight Improvement	Unchanged
1	1	—	—	—

11. Provision of Meals.

SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

The total number of meals served in 1946 was as follows :—

Children	..	..	..	289,281
Staff and Helpers	..	..	..	30,656
Nursery	..	..	..	9,742
Nursery Helpers	..	..	..	1419

Arrangements have also been made during the year with the Recreation Grounds Committee for the weekly markings of one football pitch on the Ox Hay and Uxbridge Street Recreation Grounds. At the latter ground two concrete cricket tables were laid down and these should be a valuable asset as soon as the surrounding outfields have been made playable.

Playgrounds. A start was made towards the end of the year to remove Civil Defence shelters and buildings from the school playgrounds. The reclaimed space will represent a considerable fraction of the small playgrounds of the Borough, but the surfaces still have to be made good, the wire fences replaced, and the yards properly marked-out for physical activities. Until this is effected they cannot be regarded as true playgrounds or education spaces.

Equipment and Clothing. The year has seen an improvement in the supply position and although footwear, clothing and much games equipment was allocated on quota, this has been purchased to the maximum quantities. Along with this, some progress can be reported in the provision of storage cupboards and hampers. The careful use of public equipment and its proper storage after use should be regarded as a practical lesson in citizenship and worthy of inculcating as a habit.

Co-operation with Parents.

It is doubtful whether any other subject demands as much co-operation with parents as the many-sided activities of physical education. The formation of Parents' Clubs has supplemented Open Days in getting across the idea that growing people need the satisfaction of a natural and healthy desire for movement. Discussions at these meetings have done much to spread the habit of basing opinions upon knowledge instead of sentiment and prejudice.

An open-air demonstration was held in June with the main purpose of enlisting public support of the need for increased playing fields, together with adequate changing facilities. A secondary aim was to show the value of team games in an organised games syllabus additional to the National Games.

Conclusion. The raising of the school-leaving age calls for immediate action in the provision of facilities for physical education. The value of this extra year cannot be fully realised so long as the schools must make shift with inadequate indoor and outdoor facilities.

A. H. BLAKE,

Secretary and Director of Education.

Athletics. The development of athletics has been severely handicapped by the lack of an athletic ground in the Borough. Ingenious improvisation has done much to overcome this difficulty and the playing field at Anglesey Secondary Modern Schools was pegged out for both Junior and Secondary Athletic Meetings during the summer term.

Tennis. No tennis courts are available at any of the schools under the Committee's control. As in previous years, arrangements were made for classes from Secondary Schools to use the Newton Road Public Courts. This reservation was extended to one evening each week to enable members of Youth Organisations to participate.

Physical Recreation Classes. Classes continued to be held in the Civic Youth Clubs and the Technical Institute. On the girls' side, the work has been handicapped by the difficulty of getting women leaders. Even on the boys' side only a small fraction of the members took part in the formal Physical Recreation classes. Ballroom dancing is still the main evening physical activity, together with weekend games. Outdoor activities, such as cycling, rambling and youth hostelling are taking an increasingly prominent place in the Youth Club programmes.

Assistance to the voluntary Youth Clubs and Pre-Service Units was given in the seconding of paid leaders and the loan of plimsolls, shorts and other equipment.

Playing Fields. The playing fields, under the control of the Education Committee at Clarence Street, Watson Street and Belvoir Road, have been fully used for full-time day pupils and for the Youth Organisations. In the opinion of the Superintendent of Recreation Grounds they have been grossly over used. This will obtain until additional acreage enables the load to be spread more evenly and until the pitches can be periodically rested.

There are still no facilities for field organised games in either Winshill or Stapenhill. The Watson Street field is totally without lavatories or a changing room, while a surface A.R.P. shelter has been pressed into use as a changing room for the Belvoir Road field. Even so, the position is an improvement upon 1939 when the position was : 1 hockey pitch and 1 football pitch. To-day there are 4 hockey pitches, 7 football pitches and 2 grass netball pitches available. The Superintendent of Recreation Grounds has undertaken all work on these grounds, including the weekly marking-out.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION REPORT, 1946

Staffing. The mainspring of physical education depends upon an attitude of mind towards the subject and in the last resort the aim of physical education is an attitude to life on the physical side. The head teachers, staffs, older pupils and parents can alone bring these about. The return of the men teachers from the Services has therefore been a vital contribution to the physical education of the boys. Their return has also allowed an over-due respite for those teachers whose duty it was to form the skeleton staffs during 1939-45.

Visits to Schools. The schools, clubs and institutions under the Committee's control were visited by the man and woman organisers of physical education. Instruction in the many forms of physical activities was observed and was followed by discussions with the head teachers and the responsible teachers. During the Ministry of Education's survey of the Youth Service, Mr. Rodgers, H.M.I., observed the physical activities in the Youth Organisations and made himself familiar with the Committee's plans for improving the Physical Education facilities for both full-time day education and the Youth Service.

Swimming. The Public Baths were used fully during the summer months and 46 classes made regular weekly attendances from May to the end of October. The summer session terminated with the holding of swimming proficiency tests, while a joint gala was staged by the Anglesey Secondary Modern Schools.

The winter session started in November with 29 classes. These classes are made up of 24 classes of secondary school pupils and 5 classes of junior school pupils. In the previous year 9 classes from secondary schools had participated in winter bathing.

From January, 1946, the Transport Department was able to provide special buses for transport to and from the Baths. The principle adopted was that conveyance should be provided for secondary schools more than 1 mile from the Baths and for primary schools more than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away.

The Youth Organisations were encouraged to use the Baths during their leisure hours by issuing reduced-rate season tickets for one evening each week from May to November. A paid coach was present and the average attendance throughout the season was 90 bathers. The season ended with a team of Burton swimmers competing in the Derby Youth Gala. For the winter, arrangements have been made for a group of Sea Cadets to receive weekly coaching in speed swimming.

1945, one died during the year and the other two were still in Hospital at the end of 1946.

Three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified in school children during the year, and in addition, one school child came to live at Burton from another area where she had already been notified as a case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the year, one school child received treatment in the Outwoods Sanatorium for Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

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

SCHOOLS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Chicken Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria
Clarence Street	—	5	—
Winshill	—	5	—
Horninglow	8	5	—
Broadway	12	1	—
Short Street	26	7	—
Victoria Road	10	4	—
Grange Street	6	5	—
Holy Trinity	—	—	—
Christ Church	14	6	—
Shobnall Road	2	1	—
Hill Street and St. Peter's Street ..	2	—	—
Glebe School, Stapenhill	—	—	—
Wetmore Road	1	2	—
Uxbridge Street	3	10	—
Goodman Street and Stafford Street ..	3	5	—
High School (Girls)	—	1	—
Grammar School	—	4	—
No School	7	26	3
Private School	—	—	—
Bond Street	—	1	—
Intermediate	1	1	—
Technical	—	1	—
St. Modwens	1	1	—
Totals	96	91	3

Hospital, and through the courtesy of the Infirmary Staff, we are provided with the information that 124 operations were performed during 1946 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	..	..	..	165
1.	Minor conditions—				
	Wax Impaction	..	..	..	9
	Defective hearing	..	..	..	—
	Furunculosis	..	..	..	1
	Foreign bodies	..	..	..	—
	Catarrh of Middle Ear	..	..	..	—
	Otalgia	..	..	..	7
					<hr/> 17 <hr/>
2.	Otorrhoea. Result of treatment —				
	Ears dry	..	..	..	8
	Improved but still attending	..	..	..	—
	Ceased attending	..	..	..	1
	Transferred to own Doctor	..	..	..	—
	Transferred to Infirmary	..	..	..	2
					<hr/> 11 <hr/>

(g) **Dental Defects.** Of 1,353 children found to require treatment 846 actually received treatment during 1,912 visits.

(h) **Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.** Mr. Robert Bewick, who is in charge of the Orthopaedic Clinic, continues to see cases at the General Infirmary.

The child who was in the St. Gerard's Hospital at Coleshill at the end of 1945 was discharged during the year.

(i) **Heart Disease and Rheumatis..** No special provision is made for cases of Rheumatism beyond close supervision of their activities at School and advice which is given to parents.

(j) **Tuberculosis.** Of the three cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis who were receiving institutional treatment at the end of

7. Arrangements for Treatment:

(a) **Malnutrition.** Milk was provided in schools at a special price and also was allowed free in necessitous cases up to 19th July, 1946. After 6th August, all school milk was provided free of charge, the quantity being one-third of a pint of milk for each child daily. While undoubtedly this penalises some of the children who would otherwise be having two-thirds of a pint of milk daily, some good is being done by encouraging others to take milk, who previously refused it for various reasons.

(b) **Uncleanliness.** The cases of uncleanliness diminished from their peak of the year before, to the more usual figure.

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** Treatment of the above conditions, together with head examinations, necessitated 8,683 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, 1946

Total number of children attending Refraction Clinics	..	*254
Total number of attendances	.. .. .	626
Number prescribed glasses	.. .. .	†239
Number referred to Infirmary	.. .. .	—
Number found not to require glasses	.. .. .	11
Present glasses suitable	.. .. .	4
Refused treatment	.. .. .	—

* Includes 32 secondary school children.

† Includes 32 secondary school children.

The numbers show a marked rise above those of the previous year, owing to the fact that the Ophthalmic Surgeon was able to make a normal number of attendances this year. With the changing conditions an increasing number of Grammar and High School children are taking advantage of the services of the Authority's Ophthalmic Surgeon.

(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

These figures refer to seven months' work by the whole-time School Dentist.

(h) **Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.** Defects of this type found at medical inspections numbered 52 of which 5 required treatment, and the rest observation.

(i) Supervision continued as in previous years of cases of **Heart or Rheumatic Diseases** and 15 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 1946.

Exclusions from School	No. of exclusions
Uncleanliness	55
Skin Diseases—Impetigo and Sores	67
Ringworm : Scalp	1
Body	1
Scabies	226
Herpes	3
Miscellaneous Dermatitis	17
Ear Diseases—Otorrhoea	5
Furunculosis	—
Eye Diseases—Conjunctivitis	14
Blepharitis and Hordeola	12
Myopia	—
Throat—Tonsillitis and Sore Throat	16
Enlarged Glands	3
Other Diseases—Bronchitis	1
Rheumatism and Chorea	2
Epilepsy	1
Miscellaneous	51
Total	<hr/> 475 <hr/>

6. Following up.

This procedure was carried out as in previous years with the usual profitable results in most instances. 221 visits were made during the year, including 120 for speech defects, to the homes of School Children.

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** 960 cases were referred to the Minor Ailments Clinic, to their own Doctor, or to Hospital as a result of inspection. 237 were cases of Scabies and 400 of other skin diseases, chiefly Impetigo. The number of cases of skin diseases has increased, but this seems to be due to the fact that children are being sent for treatment at an early stage of their disease. The consequence has been a diminution in the number of exclusions from school on account of skin diseases.

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

Defective Vision, including Squint ..	254
External Eye Disease	82

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

Chronic Tonsillitis	61
Adenoids enlarged	3
Tonsillitis and Enlarged Adenoids	5
Other conditions of nose and throat ..	47
	<hr/>
	116
	<hr/>

Nine 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 116.

After the increase of the previous year, the figures for tonsillitis have reverted to the former level.

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

Defective hearing	27
Otitis Media	26
Other ear diseases	3

(g) **Dental Defects.** 1,660 children were examined by the School Dentist in the course of routine and special inspections. 1,353 were found to require treatment.

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

Entrants	..	..	..	..	737
Intermediates	..	..	..	..	657
Leavers	..	..	..	..	514
					<hr/>
					1,908

Number of supplementary inspections was 8,189.

In addition, the School Nurses made 15,064 examinations during visits to each school.

5. Findings of Medical Inspections.

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

The figure for the entrants showed a noticeable increase on those found to be of subnormal nutrition, which was matched by a diminution of those found to be of good nutrition. This may prove to be a passing phase, or it may be the influence of war conditions, now becoming manifest for the first time. The second age group of the routine age groups examined showed figures almost identical with those of the previous year, but in the third age group there was a decline in the number of children of excellent nutrition, which was matched by an increase of those found to be of normal nutrition. Again, this may be because of the increasing strain of modern conditions.

(b) **Incidence of Vermin.** The number of children found verminous was 774 and there were 55 exclusions from school on this account. 768 children were cleansed at the School Clinic under a voluntary scheme.

The numbers of children found verminous shows a welcome drop, and it is hoped that the strenuous efforts on the part of the School Nurses and Cleansing Staff are at last beginning to show a reward. It has not been found necessary to take any legal action for the compulsory cleansing of children, parents being only too thankful to take advantage of the services of the Cleansing Department at the School Clinic. The number of cases of scabies has diminished and one hopes that this is a sign that normal conditions are obtaining in the homes, with better supervision of their children, on the part of the parents.

During the year, the Orthopaedic Clinic continued to lack the services of a physiotherapist, and children requiring orthopaedic treatment had, therefore, to be referred to Mr. R. Bewick, the Authority's Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at the General Infirmary, Burton upon Trent. In this way, it has been possible to ensure that all children requiring urgent orthopaedic care, obtained treatment at the Infirmary.

During the year consideration has been given to the implementation of the Education Act, with regard to Handicapped Children. There seems to be a need for a school of an open-air character. Some possible sites have been examined, but no actual project has been approved. Similarly, there seems to be a need for a special school in this town, but no suitable buildings are yet available.

The Authority continues to lack an Orthoptic Clinic, in spite of strenuous efforts to secure the services of a trained Orthoptist. For the care of other special categories of handicapped children, such as the Blind, Deaf, and Epileptic, the Authority continues to look to larger Authorities for places in their special schools.

2. **Co-ordination.** During 1946, 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.

Average number of children on roll	..	6,234
Average attendance	.. .. .	5,619

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.

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 1946.

During the course of the year an attempt was made to encourage parents to take advantage of a reinforcing dose of A.P.T. as a further protection against diphtheria, on first entry of the child into the school, and 177 children were so treated. The response has been very poor, although, when it is known that a case of diphtheria is in the town, this acts as a marked stimulus to recalcitrant parents. It is proposed in the future that each Head Teacher of the Infant Departments should offer the facilities of immunising to the child on his first entry into the school ; either a primary immunisation or a reinforcing dose of A.P.T.

In August, 1946, Mr. W. C. Griffiths, L.D.S., resigned his post of whole-time Dental Surgeon, and since that time, Mr. E. Wayte, L.D.S., has carried out emergency dental treatment at the School Clinic on two mornings a week.

Miss I. W. Stevenson, S.R.N., S.C.M., commenced duty as Health Visitor and School Nurse on 1st October, 1946, and the arrangement of the combined post of Health Visitor and School Nurse obtained until 3rd December, 1946. On this day, Miss S. Lacey, S.R.N., commenced duty as whole-time School Nurse and the three Health Visitors and School Nurses reverted to their previous duties as Health Visitors only. This arrangement, which is to some extent a retrograde step, was forced on the Authority by the shortage of Health Visitors. It is hoped that it will be temporary because of the obvious advantages of the former arrangement.